



# LaunchMe

## Investment Readiness Programme

# End of Year Report 2025/26



**Firstport**

[Firstport.org.uk](https://firstport.org.uk)

# 2025/26 Full Year Overview

- LaunchMe is Firstport's investment readiness support programme – we support ambitious social enterprises to get ready to apply for social investment.
- The programme started in 2014, and to date 139 organisations have participated in the programme, including 40 in 2025/26.
- Q4 focus was working 1-1 with Autumn 2025 participants, delivering the bespoke support needed to address challenges and get ready to apply for investment. We continued to support the Spring cohort and alumni from earlier programmes as required.
- Current and past participants have continued to engage with support, reflected in the 305 hours of support provided by the LaunchMe team across the year, plus 24 hours of workshops, 37 hours peer social sessions, and 61 hours expert partner support.
- LaunchMe support has focussed on governance (policies, board packs, frameworks), cashflow (reviewing models), business development and investment application reviews.
- Partner support has included financial/cashflow, governance, pitching, social impact and AI/operations.
- Our support has helped participants in 2025/26 to raise £558k investment already, with more participants actively applying.

**2025/26**

1 April – 31 March 2026

**48**

New applications

**30**

Assessments

**40**

LaunchMe  
Participants

**£558,000**

Investment/funding  
raised by participants

**305**

Hours LaunchMe  
1:1 Support

**24**

Hours of LaunchMe  
workshops

**37**

Hours peer-to-peer  
support sessions

**61**

Hours of 1:1 expert  
partner support

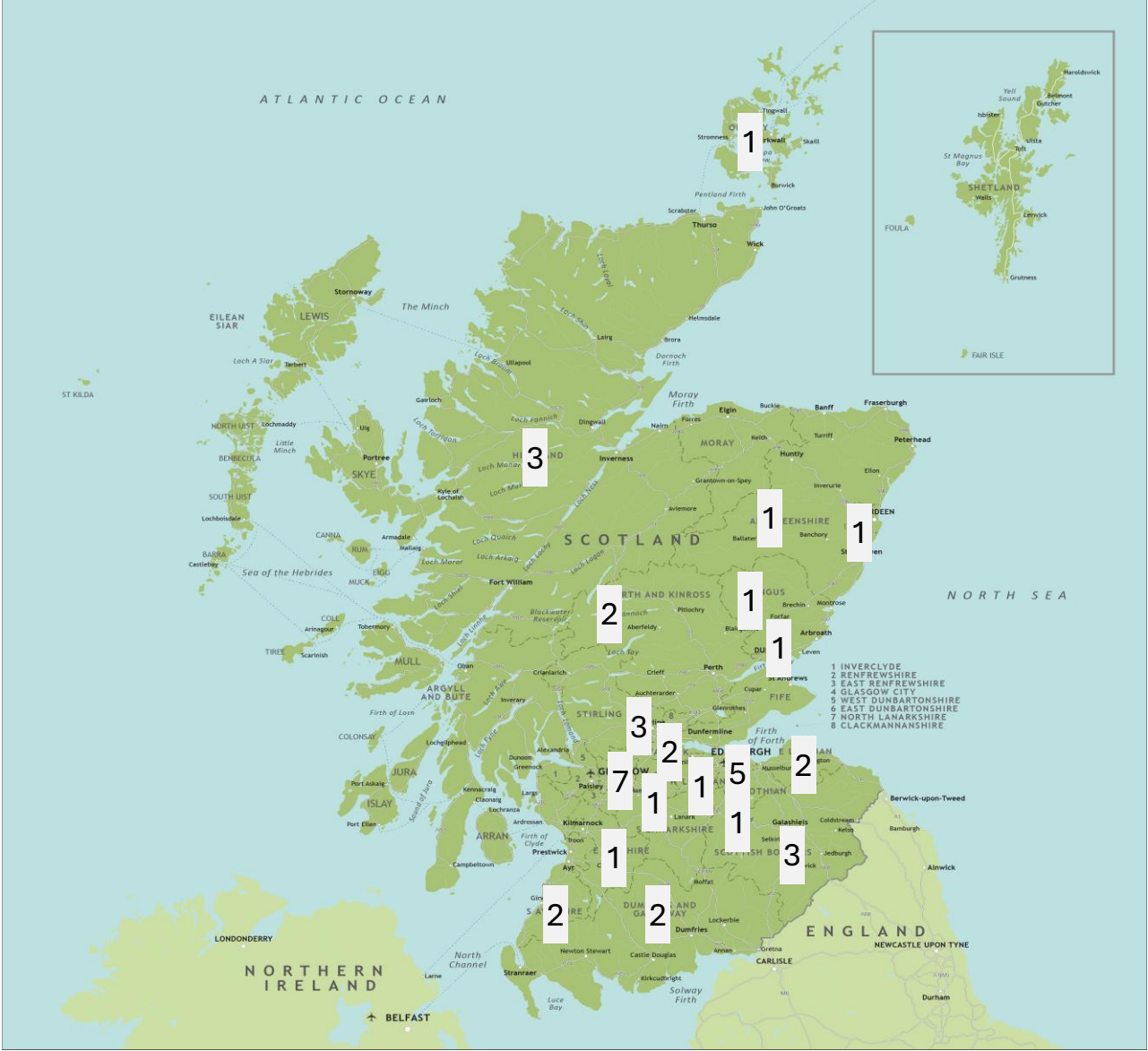
# LaunchMe: Sector Split

There were 40 LaunchMe participants in 2025/26. The prominent sectors were **Health and Social Care, Community Centres and Halls, and Education Training and Employment.**

LaunchMe 2025/26 participants by Sector



# Geographical Reach 2025/26



| Location              |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| Aberdeen City         | 1  |
| Aberdeenshire         | 1  |
| Angus                 | 1  |
| City of Edinburgh     | 5  |
| Dumfries and Galloway | 2  |
| Dundee                | 1  |
| East Ayrshire         | 1  |
| East Lothian          | 2  |
| Falkirk               | 2  |
| Glasgow City          | 7  |
| Highland              | 3  |
| Midlothian            | 1  |
| North Lanarkshire     | 1  |
| Orkney Islands        | 1  |
| Scotland Wide         | 2  |
| Scottish Borders      | 3  |
| South Ayrshire        | 2  |
| Stirling              | 3  |
| West Lothian          | 1  |
| Grand Total           | 40 |

# Looking forwards

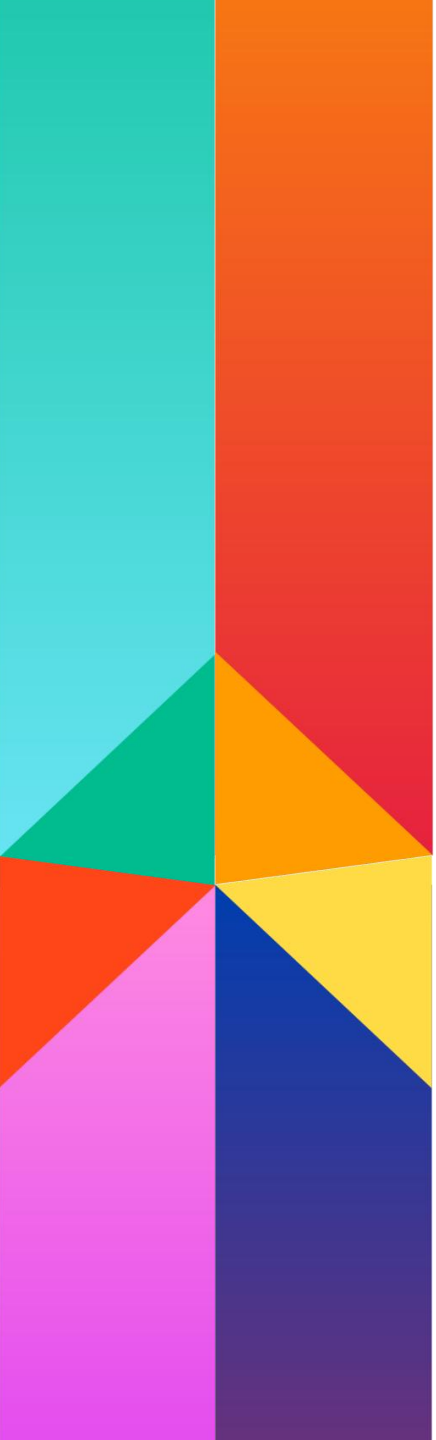


## **Aims for 26/27:**

- Enhanced onboarding process - New healthcheck assessment and support plan templates
- Summer 2026 cohort: ~18 August start, up to 20 participants
- Rolling programme with focus on effective bespoke support - additional 20 participants
- In-person regional events planned for June, October, and January
- Higher % of participants successfully applying for investment by the end of the financial year
- Further development of LaunchPad, including collaborations with sector partners

## **What's changed:**

- Intensive 1-2-1 work on strong foundations - cashflow and governance - support needs identified early and 1-1 support put in place early
- LMe support more aligned with Firstport investment products
- The team: Investment Readiness Manager supported by Investment Associate with financial expertise
- Closer collaboration with sector partners on regional outreach events
- Consistent messaging with partners on key investment terms



# Feedback and Impact

- “The guidance provided was incredibly tangible and practical. I really value the depth of business experience behind it”, LaunchMe participant 2025/26 and Step Up investee
- “The support has been outstanding - consistent, encouraging, and genuinely uplifting throughout the process.”, LaunchMe participant and Step Up investee
- “The programme has been absolutely fantastic... every single webinar was useful... it’s given me so much more confidence.”, LaunchMe participant 2025/26
- “It’s been great, really, really helpful.”, LaunchMe participant 2025/26
- “The programme has been really useful and really good... there’s so much value in each session.”, LaunchMe participant 2025/26
- “This is amazing and exactly what we need... so hard to find anything that actually helps.”, LaunchMe participant 2024/25, bespoke support 2025/26



# Thank you



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