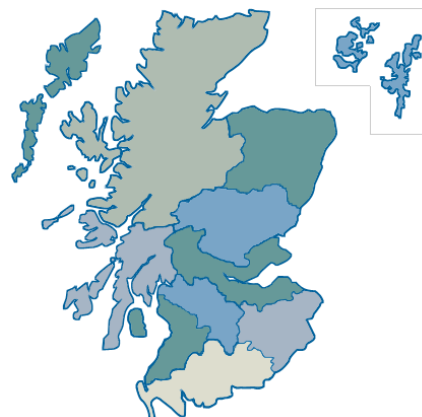


## Helping rural communities to access funding

The Scottish Government launched Rural Direct in 2008 as a service designed to help rural community organisations to access funding from a range of sources, in particular the Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP). Rural Direct is a national service delivered locally through the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO).

Rural communities already have access to advice from their local Third Sector Interfaces, local authorities and a range of other sources including the Scotland National Rural Network website, which is content managed by SCVO. With recent changes, the funding landscape has become both more complicated and richer with opportunities for community groups. The Rural Direct service has been funded to complement and add value to existing sources of information and support and to help rural community groups identify and make the most of funding opportunities.



Scotland is divided into eleven RPAC areas (see map).

- Northern Isles
- Tayside
- Ayrshire
- Highland
- Forth
- Borders
- Outer Hebrides
- Argyll
- Dumfries & Galloway
- Grampian & Moray
- Clyde Valley

Rural Direct staff aim to work closely with LEADER staff and RPAC Case Officers and liaise with local Third Sector Interfaces to promote the service and highlight funding opportunities through events, road shows and briefings. They will provide support in person, by phone and by email for groups who request help in identifying appropriate funding, developing applications and building local development strategies. For applicants to the SRDP Rural Priorities scheme, Rural Direct can assist with the early stages of getting a Business Reference Number, and also with the online application process.

Please feel free to get in touch if you want to find out more or let us know of any events or issues we should be aware of.

Overall management responsibility for the service lies with Norman MacAskill, SCVO's Head of Rural Policy and the service is delivered across Scotland by the following team.

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