

CARAIDEAN UIBHIST

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"The Accelerate staff were reliable, approachable and diligent in the work undertaken. The assessment has put us in a stronger position when going for funding, and we have been successful!! The Report was an essential part of our larger, pre-funding strategy, and the results have paid off – so a big thank you!"

- Caraidean Uibhist

Background

Caraidean Uibhist, based on Benbecula, is a Befriending Service providing well-being support to people within the island communities of North Uist, South Uist, Benbecula, Berneray and Eriskay.

The service is available to anyone over the age of 16 who finds themselves isolated or lonely for whatever reason. They do this through three core activities:

- Befriending (including telephone and digital)
- Off Island Accompaniment
- Dementia Support

Being reliant on short term, annualised funding, Caraidean Uibhist was keen to explore ways to ensure the services' longer-term sustainability.

Internal discussion identified a need to 'raise their profile', bringing together all activities into a single document to be used to support dialogue with existing and potential stakeholders.

What we did

Caraidean Uibhist accessed the Accelerate Programme to help put together a Social Impact Report that could be used to support such discussions.

In producing the Report, Accelerate engaged with staff, trustees, volunteers, referral agencies as well as the people who directly benefitted from the service, highlighting the impact of Caraidean Uibhist's services. It also identified areas to be strengthened to ensure it can meet current as well as future needs and demand.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with particular reference to: its value-based approach; placing service users at the heart of its activity; being tailored to the needs of individuals; and a committed and caring team of staff and volunteers.

Through its engagement with Accelerate, Caraidean Uibhist has an important tool that can contribute significantly to its longer term funding strategy.

 accelerate

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