



Mad Keen on Crochet

Annalise's story with What's Your Big Idea?!

“ Thank you so much for awarding me the generous quantity of cash... which has enabled me to give my mini enterprise a boost.”

Annalise, aged 15, is involved with Youth Scotland member group Friends of Inverness Royal Academy (FIRA). Describing herself as “mad keen on crochet”, she had already displayed amazing initiative, a keenness to learn

and discipline when she got in touch with Youth Scotland via her group to apply to our What's your Big idea?! fund.

“Currently everything I do is on a budget to keep my overhead costs to an absolute minimum... everything's self-funded by my feeble pocket money allowance.”

After hearing her story and receiving pictures of the amazing (and adorable) products she was creating, we were delighted to award a grant and to see what she would do with it!

The Youth Scotland What's your Big Idea?! Fund supports young people's ambitions by giving them £50 to invest in their own big idea. This can range from a project they design, a business venture or skill development.

Through their member group, people aged 12-25 can apply and benefit from this initial small grant as well advice from experienced mentors in the youth work sector.

The fund was launched in honour of Audrey Milan, who was Chief Executive of Youth Scotland and sadly passed away in 2019. It is operated by former friends and colleagues whose lives were touched by Audrey and is administered by Youth Scotland.

Successful applicants can also apply to receive a further £150 if they let us know how their project is going and tell us how the further £150 would benefit them.

Annalise got back in touch with us with updates on her small business and we were delighted. The initial £50 had allowed her to buy new chunky and Aran wool so she could expand her product range to plushie bears,

woodland friend foxes and make more sheep dogs. She also invested in professionally designed business cards to hand out at the market, fun product packaging such as decorated paper bags and stickers and finally a massive bag of Fiberfill stuffing.

Annalise told us that: "Already my self-confidence has grown as a result of these priceless tweaks... each improvement made my nerve to put myself out there & promote my products on social media."

A further £150 could be used to make further improvements to her market stall she told us - banners, table covers, display hampers, business card holders etc.

Her story shows how impactful something seemingly small to some - £50 - can make a big difference to others.

Inspired by Annalise? To find out more about the What's Your Big Idea?! Fund, including how to make an application, visit and tell us - [**What's Your Big Idea?!**](#)

