



PRESS RELEASE
28 March 2019

High Sheriff of West Yorkshire Fund celebrates the achievements of young people

Fifteen community groups from across the region have been delivering projects with young people aged 5 - 25 to combat crime and create safer communities, as a result of receiving financial Awards from the High Sheriff of West Yorkshire Fund.

Thanks to a continued partnership and support from The Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire and Chief Constable, this year's Fund has been able to distribute over £35,000 to support community-led projects across West Yorkshire which are working closely with young people to address crime and promote community cohesion.

The High Sheriff of West Yorkshire, C. Richard Jackson MBE DL, hosted an Awards celebration yesterday at West Yorkshire Police Training and Development Centre in Carr Gate to bring together the Fund recipients and hear more about the fantastic work they are delivering.

Managed by Leeds Community Foundation, the Fund distributed grants of up to £2,500 to a range of youth and adult led community groups across the region. Successful projects include:

- **The School of Rock & Media**, who are delivering a youth-led music, drama and film project exploring stories of young victims of crimes such as cyber bullying, child sexual abuse, and sexual grooming.
- **Deighton into Sport Project**, who will be running a Midnight Soccer Club which utilises local coaches and volunteers who can be good role models for young people in Huddersfield, providing them with the tools to grow in confidence and to be aware of local issues, as well as teaching them how they can play a part in reducing anti-social behaviour.
- **Bangla Square Youth Project**, who will be supporting young people to integrate into British Society by helping with their studies at school, reducing isolation and giving opportunities to try new activities.

- **Hunslet Initiative**, who are creating a Belle Isle Crime Youth Forum as place for young people to come together, share their experiences, learn from one another and gain a better understanding of crime and local issues in their neighbourhood.

Advancement of Community Empowerment, BEAP Community Partnership, Black Health Initiative, CATCH Leeds, Eccleshill Adventure Playground, ISPACE5, Manningham Mills Sports and Community Association, Mary Magdalene CIC, Neighbourhood Resource Centre, The Valley Project and Sky Positive Minds were the other groups to receive Awards.

West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Mark Burns-Williamson, said: "I am delighted to be able to support the High Sheriff of West Yorkshire Fund which continues with our aim of supporting projects that keep our communities safe.

"These projects will work with our young people to provide positive and diversionary activities to ensure they are being supported and encouraged to stay safe to help fulfil their potential, which is our aim for all young people."

The High Sheriff of West Yorkshire, C. Richard Jackson MBE DL, said: "I'm truly grateful to West Yorkshire Police for their continued support of the High Sheriff of West Yorkshire Fund. Through their additional financial support we have been able to fund and present Awards to fifteen fantastic projects. It has been a pleasure to meet with the passionate individuals and young people involved with the projects and learn more about their work. I look forward to following and seeing all the great things they achieve."

Kate Hainsworth, Chief Executive of Leeds Community Foundation, which manages the Fund, said: "It has been an honour to work with the High Sheriff and West Yorkshire Police on this year's Fund. It is important that we continue to listen to and give young people a voice in our local communities to ensure they have the support they need to create safer communities. The High Sheriff of West Yorkshire Fund provides the funding to do just this and we hope the Fund can continue in future years to support even more worthwhile projects."

-ENDS-

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Laura Mason, Leeds Community Foundation: 0113 242 2426 (laura@leedscf.org.uk)

PHOTO CAPTION:

Successful applicants from this year’s High Sheriff of West Yorkshire Fund Awards 2019, alongside Chief Executive of Leeds Community Foundation (Kate Hainsworth), High Sheriff of West Yorkshire (C. Richard Jackson MBE DL), West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner (Mark Burns-Williamson), Temporary Chief Constable (John Robinson), former and future High Sheriffs.

NOTES TO EDITOR:

Role of High Sheriff

The Office of High Sheriff is an independent appointment that runs for a single year. Dating back to Anglo Saxon times, more recently High Sheriffs have been particularly active in encouraging crime reduction initiatives, especially amongst young people. Many High Sheriffs also actively assist local charities and Community Foundations working with vulnerable and other people, both in endorsing and helping to raise the profile of their valuable work.

Leeds Community Foundation

Leeds Community Foundation invests in these groups to support Leeds now and in the future. We do this by distributing grants, convening debates, sharing advice: we are a catalyst for positive change in Leeds. The Foundation is delighted to manage The High Sheriff of West Yorkshire Fund.

High Sheriff of West Yorkshire Funded projects

Name of organisation	Area of support
Advancement of Community Empowerment CIC	Park Ward, Halifax
Bangla Square Youth Project	Beeston, Holbeck, Leeds
BEAP Community Partnership	Bradford
Black Health Initiative	Chapelton, Harehills, Leeds
CATCH Leeds	Harehills, Leeds
Deighton into Sport Project	Ashbrow and Dalton Wards of Huddersfield
Eccleshill Adventure Playground	Bradford
Hunslet Initiative	Belle Isle, Hunslet, Leeds
ISPACE5 CIC	Wakefield
Manningham Mills Sports and Community Association	Bradford
Mary Magdalene CIC	Bradford
Neighbourhood Resource Centre	Barkerend, Bradford
Sky Positive Minds	Dewsbury
The School of Rock and Media	Bradford
The Valley Project	Holme Wood, Bradford