

PRESS RELEASE
FRIDAY 21st JUNE

LEEDS BUSINESSES HIGHLIGHTING LONELINESS IN THE CITY

During National Loneliness Week, supporters including businesses and individuals from **Leeds Community Foundation** were invited to take part in a unique event which brought to life some of the community projects and groups that have been supported by the foundation in the city and learn more about **The Leeds Fund** which aims to tackle loneliness and inclusion in 2019/2020.

The half day event supported by **First Leeds**, who supplied the transport for the event, provided the opportunity for guests to meet and engage with some of the inspirational groups that have benefitted from **Leeds Community Foundation** funding, visiting projects that make a real difference to the lives of those that need it the most in the city and hearing the personal stories from those that have benefited directly.

Tom Riordan, Chief Executive of Leeds City Council hosted a welcome breakfast at The Civic Hall alongside **Kate Hainsworth, Chief Executive of Leeds Community Foundation** who talked about the importance of partnership and collaboration in the city. Kate said: *“To attract ongoing support, it is vital that we make the link between our supporters and donors and Leeds Community Foundation’s role in distributing those funds to the groups that are delivering the most amazing work on the ground and reaching the people and communities that are most in need”*

Guests visited projects including: Solace, Holbeck Elderly Aid and New Wortley Community Association.

ENDS

Notes to Editor

Leeds Community Foundation

Leeds Community Foundation connects people who want to make a real difference to our city. Thousands of charities and voluntary groups across the city work tirelessly to address these inequalities and help their communities. 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 relies on the generosity of businesses and individuals who care about their city and want to ‘give something back’. www.leedscf.org.uk

The Leeds Fund

The Leeds Fund welcomes financial contributions from individuals and businesses who want to support the city in which they live and work. The Leeds Fund bridges the gap between those in need and those with the ability to help. The fund has three levels of grants: micro, small and strategic. Strategic grants are themed and focus on current priority needs of the city. These are identified by working in partnership with the third sector and key public and civic organisations in Leeds, in our role as a conveyor and catalyst for change in the city. The priority for the first series of strategic grants was Mental Health and, in 2018, the strategic priority for the city is Loneliness and Inclusion. www.theleedsfund.org.uk

Solace

Solace provides psychotherapy, complementary therapies and advocacy support to the survivors of persecution and exile living in the Yorkshire and Humber region. Many of their service users have been traumatised by torture, rape, the death or disappearance of loved ones and often combinations of all of these and other atrocities. Unsurprisingly, a very high proportion of asylum seekers and refugees suffer from mental health problems, including anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress, which are often exacerbated by living in exile where their future is uncertain.

They provide help in a number of ways to adults, children and families, including one-to-one counselling, group therapy, family therapy, anxiety and stress management and activities' groups, as well as complementary therapies, such as massage and scaro-cranial massage to address physical pain and tension in the body. They also help with many of the practical problems they face in their lives by providing advocacy services.

Solace has been funded by Leeds Community Foundation through: Leeds Third Sector Health Grants, Jimbo's Fund, The Henry Smith Charity and Power of Communities.

Holbeck Elderly Aid

Holbeck Elderly Aid aims to improve quality of life, alleviate social isolation, and improve physical and mental health for older people in Holbeck.

Holbeck Elderly Aid's programme of social and leisure activities includes family outings, lunch clubs, craft sessions, games afternoons, swimming club, singing group, dance club and cinema club.

Holbeck Elderly Aid provides health and wellbeing support: advocacy clinics, wellbeing workshops, a befriending programme, advice and information, out of hours 'Listening Line' telephone service, a meals on wheels service, and a café based in the local community centre providing hot nutritious meals for free or at greatly subsidised cost for anyone who needs them.

Their Outreach Service provides homes assessments, guidance, signposting to other agencies and referrals to Adult Social Care. They also run a community transport service operating 7 days a week for people who are unable to get out and about independently, and provides twice weekly shopping trips.

Holbeck Elderly Aid has been funded by Leeds Community Foundation through: The Leeds Fund, Ideas that Change Lives, Lunch Clubs, The Henry Smith Charity, Leeds Third Sector Health Grants and Power of Communities.

New Wortley Community Association

New Wortley Community Association provides services and support that promote the well-being of the neighbourhood; aiming to improve their health, educational, social and recreational opportunities.

They run and manage a vibrant community centre that acts as the local hub for support and services hosting a range of activities, groups and partnership work delivering much needed support services in New Wortley - one of the 6 priority neighbourhoods in Leeds and the only one in West Leeds.

They offer a wide range of support, opportunities and activities for all within their community including cooking, youth clubs, a sports cafe, a bike library, community walks, community gardening, advice and support, job clubs, creative arts and much more. The centre is community-led and local people determine what activities they want to engage in. The Centre also operates a number of social enterprises including a community cafe, catering service, hire of room facilities, a community shop and laundry service.

New Wortley Community have been funded by Leeds Community Foundation through: The Leeds Fund, Winter Wellbeing, Ideas that Change Lives, The Henry Smith Charity, Healthy Holidays, Lowell Fund, Pears Youth Fund, Time to Shine, Nationwide, Lunch Clubs and Men's Suicide Prevention Grants.

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