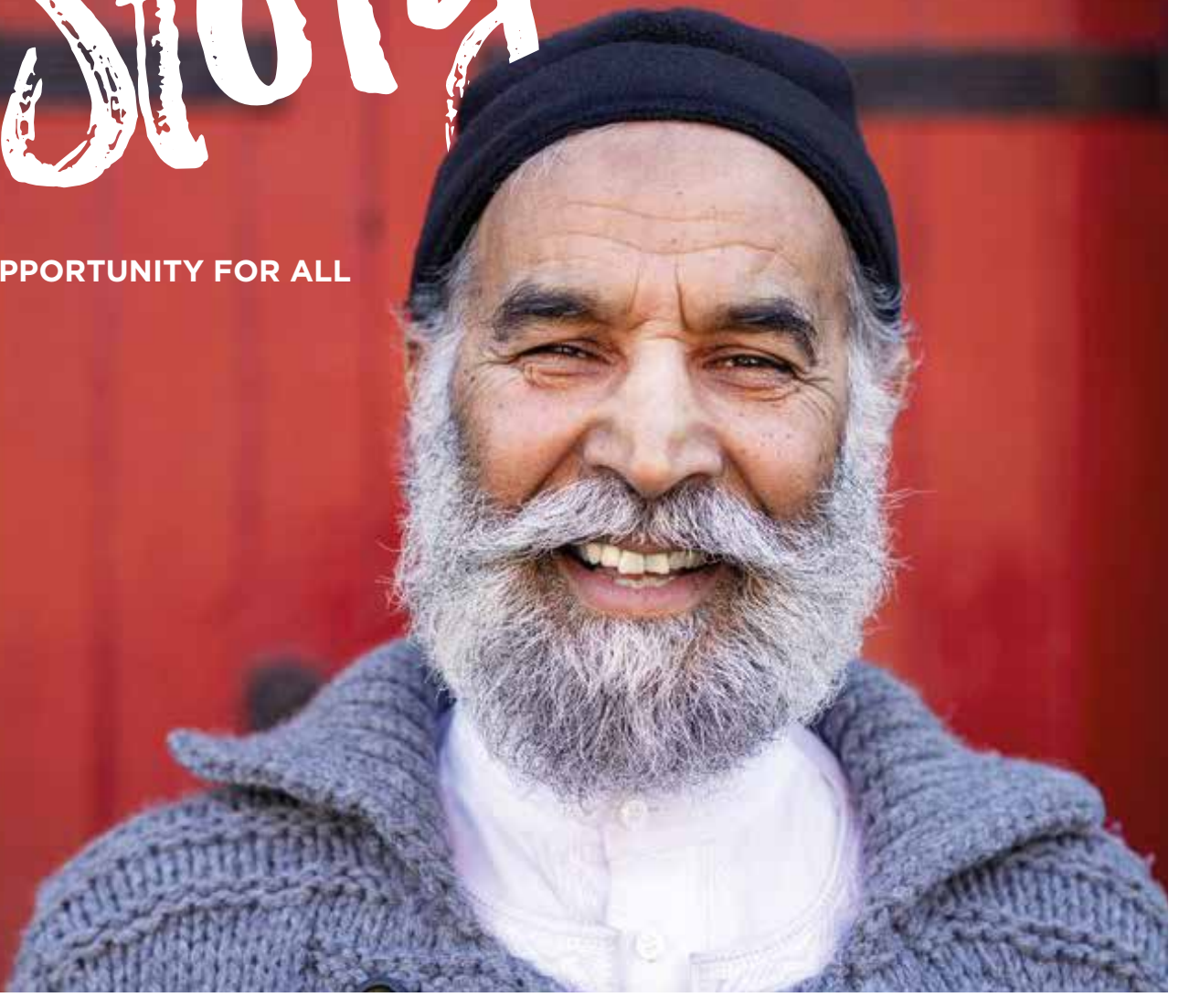
Our Story

CREATING CITIES OF OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL



Leeds Community Foundation

Welcome

It is a real honour to introduce 'Our Story' for 2018/2019 on behalf of the staff team, volunteers, board, supporters, ambassadors and patrons. It is also testament to the hard work of our previous Chair, Rachel Hannan, that we have seen some strong results and developments as we transitioned CEO for the first time since the Foundation's creation.

Kate's first full year as CEO has seen the Foundation renew our focus on delivering our mission to create cities of opportunity for all, and exploring the best possible ways to deliver impact for the stakeholders and communities we serve. We invested time and thought into creating a new five year plan: Plan 2024 Ambitious for All, and we redefined our vision.

We invested in restructuring our internal team and refreshing the Foundation's website, and benefited from a complete office refurbishment courtesy of Styles & Wood (part of Extentia Group).

We consulted with our colleagues across the Third Sector Organisations we serve, and built on existing strong partnerships with public and private sector partners prepared and able to invest in communities.

The Foundation worked hard to distribute **£4.1m** across **634 grants**, supporting **371 Third Sector Organisations**. The team has used the knowledge gained in that process to inform future decisions and coordinate our support to communities, alongside that of other funders and partners.

Our Story 2018/19
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We are proud to report that this brings the total amount we have distributed to date to over **£42m**, supporting hundreds of thousands of people in some of the most deprived communities of Leeds and Bradford.

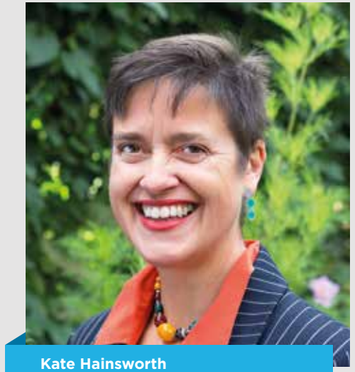
For our most vulnerable communities, the economic and social outlook remains unpredictable and austerity continues to bite during these uncertain times. The Foundation strives to ensure there is essential support, a platform for growth, and access to opportunity for those in our communities who need it most.

A huge thank you to everyone helping make a positive change in our communities across Leeds and Bradford - with your help we look forward to making an even greater contribution in the future.

Nick Lane Fox
Chair

Kate Hainsworth
Chief Executive

Nick Lane Fox



Kate Hainsworth

OUR TRUSTEES

Carolyn Black

Tom Bridges

Craig Burton

Roohi Collins

Tony Cooke

Mark Emerton

Lorraine Hallam

Cleveland Henry

Mike Jackson

Nathan Lane

Corrina Lawrence

John McGhee

Sharon Orr

Helen Thomson

OUR PATRONS

Ed Anderson
HM Lord-Lieutenant of West Yorkshire

Gabby Logan
BBC Sport

OUR AMBASSADORS

Stevie Ward
Leeds Rhinos

Christine Talbot
ITV Calendar

Junior Frood
World Freestyle Street Dance Champion and Anti-Bullying Campaigner

Richard McCann
Motivational Speaker and Founder of the iCan Academy

Our Vision

Leeds Community Foundation is creating cities of opportunity for all. We work together with partners to create positive change with the communities that need it most, by investing funding and expertise to build a better future now.

In many ways, Leeds and Bradford are thriving cities and districts, but they are also areas of great contrast and inequality where not all people and communities enjoy equal health, income and opportunities to thrive.

Our 'Theory of Change' is a framework which encapsulates our approach to fulfilling our vision. It helps us set priorities and focus our investment and resources by targeting activities, assess the effectiveness of our grant-making and ensure decision-making is aligned to our strategy.

CREATING CITIES OF OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

- PEOPLE ARE HEALTHY AND WELL
- PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES THRIVE AND ARE SAFE
- PEOPLE ARE LEARNING, WORKING AND FINANCIALLY WELL
- PEOPLE ARE EXPERIENCING AND PLAYING

PILLARS
These are the overarching outcomes that we want all people in our cities to be able to enjoy. They are closely related and often interdependent.

LEEDS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT-MAKING IS A CONDUIT TO INCREASED CAPACITY AND A STRENGTHENED OFFER OF THE THIRD SECTOR

PLATFORM
We invest in Third Sector Organisations and their expertise to help us achieve our pillars, as they are best placed to provide grassroots solutions.

- INCREASED PHILANTHROPY
- INCREASED PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS AND WITHIN SECTORS
- INCREASED EXPERTISE IN LEEDS AND BRADFORD

FOUNDATION
Increased investment from donors enables us to connect them with the causes they are passionate about and create stronger sustainable sources of vital grant-making funds.

FOUNDATION
We are passionate about joining up the efforts, knowledge, resources and commitment of our public, private and third sectors, as well as our communities.

FOUNDATION
By ensuring our expertise is robust, we can efficiently and effectively address the needs of local communities and individuals.

Highlights

HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE TO ACCESS HIGHER EDUCATION

Go Higher West Yorkshire (GHWY) worked with Leeds Community Foundation to provide funding to communities as part of a larger programme, which aimed to increase the number of young people aged 13-19 moving into Higher Education from areas where progression rates are currently low.

The GHWY Fund distributed £130,000 to 14 community organisations, supporting over 393 people across West Yorkshire. The programme delivered innovative projects that developed young people's knowledge of the benefits of Higher Education. It built their resilience to negotiate the challenges of accessing and succeeding in college or university life, and empowered parents, carers and other family members to support young people in doing this.

SUICIDE PREVENTION

Suicide Prevention is a national priority. In Leeds, men are five times more likely than women to take their own lives. In partnership with Leeds City Council, we are now delivering a three year programme supporting social activities for men, determined by local men, and providing outreach work with targeted communities in order to reduce social isolation.

The Leeds Suicide audit cited relationship problems, living alone, social isolation, worklessness and financial difficulties as some of the contributing factors to why men in Leeds self-harm and take their own lives. To date, £134,000 has been channelled into Third Sector Organisations to provide outreach activities in areas of Leeds that need the most support.

HEALTHY HOLIDAYS FOR THOUSANDS ACROSS LEEDS AND BRADFORD

The Healthy Holidays programme launched in 2018, through funding from Leeds City Council and Jimbo's Fund, to support some of the 1 in 5 children who live in poverty in Leeds.

With over 5,200 schoolchildren supported and 5 tonnes of intercepted food distributed to projects in summer 2018, the fund gave access to healthy activities and meals, reducing the impact of holiday hunger and other pressures on families. It provided a wealth of new opportunities and experiences for young people in the areas of greatest need.

In 2019, we secured further funding from Leeds City Council, Asda Foundation and the Department of Education, enabling us to support over 79 projects in Leeds, totalling over £550,000.

We were also able to launch the GiveBradford Healthy Holidays programme, where we distributed over £270,000 to local groups to help some of the 17,000 schoolchildren needing support across the Bradford district.

TACKLING LOCAL HEALTH ISSUES THROUGH THE POWER OF COMMUNITIES

Our £2.3m NHS-funded Third Sector Health Grants programme provided convincing evidence that voluntary organisations are well-placed to improve the health and wellbeing of people and communities in Leeds.

This resulted in the launch of a £250,000 Harnessing the Power of Communities Fund in 2018, supported by the West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership.

9 projects received funding to deliver creative, tailored and holistic approaches to health and wellbeing. A young dementia cafe, a new carer support group, disability advice and peer-support at foodbanks, wellbeing outreach for 16-25 year olds with mental health issues and new men's support groups are just some examples of the projects addressing loneliness and isolation, carer support and health inequalities in our communities.

Our Impact
2018/2019

Leeds Community Foundation has distributed over £42 million in grants to date across Leeds and Bradford, enabling positive change in the lives of hundreds of thousands of people in our communities.

We distribute grants, share advice and use our specialist knowledge to help Third Sector Organisations thrive, so they can make an even greater impact and create opportunities for people to be Healthy and Well, Thrive and be Safe, Work, Learn and be Financially Well, and Experience and Play.

634
number of grants

£4.1m
grants distributed across Leeds and Bradford

£5,000
typical grant size

Give Bradford

GiveBradford was launched in November 2017 to support local communities across the district, enabling positive change and improving the lives of local people.

This year we have distributed £835,000 (more than ever before), supporting those that need help the most.

The GiveBradford 100 Club is continuing to engage with businesses and individuals wanting to make a difference in the area in which they live and work. We seek to attract further investment to enable us to create a city of opportunity for all across Bradford.

Key to the success of GiveBradford has been securing continued investment through funds, including:

- Building A Stronger Britain Together
- Community Partnering Fund
- Henry Smith Charity
- High Sheriff of West Yorkshire
- #iWill Youth Social Action Fund
- Liz and Terry Bramall Foundation Fund
- Pears Youth Fund
- Provident Social Impact Fund

as well as attracting new funds, including:

- Bradford Youth Fund
- Healthy Holidays
- Go Higher West Yorkshire
- Manjit Wolstenholme Fund
- Nationwide Community Grants

£835,000
GRANTS DISTRIBUTED

77
NUMBER OF GRANTS

£5,000
TYPICAL GRANT SIZE

The Leeds Fund

Leeds Community Foundation launched The Leeds Fund in 2016 to attract investment from businesses and individuals who want to give back to the city in which they live and work. This enables us to distribute key funding across the city in a targeted way by distributing grants to community groups that can have an immediate impact on the ground.

There are three types of grants available from The Leeds Fund: Micro, Small and Strategic.

THE LEEDS FUND – MICRO GRANTS (UP TO £500)

These grants provide funding to trial innovative ideas that make positive changes in local communities. A Micro Grant can have a real impact on people's lives. Something that starts out as a pilot can become a lasting project.

In 2018/2019, **17** Micro Grants supported around **500** people through a diverse range of projects, such as: a creative writing course, digital literacy, getting isolated young mums to 'Gym or Swim', gaining edible gardening skills to create a community herb garden in a neglected former bin yard, a school uniform recycling scheme, Little Free Libraries in unexpected places and projects getting communities together and talking.

THE LEEDS FUND – SMALL GRANTS (UP TO £2,500)

These grants support local community activities that address a specific need. Recent rounds have prioritised young people's mental health and building cohesive communities where diversity in background and circumstance is valued and positive relationships are strengthened.

In 2018/2019, **4,300** people were supported through a range of activities, including: a youth cafe in Harehills, a welcome hub in Crossgates shopping centre, outings for people with learning disabilities and autism, and a theatre production around domestic violence and abuse. These are just some of the creative approaches successfully piloted.

MEET SHARON

"It all started with my son bringing a letter home, advertising the cookery club. At the end of each year, my son used to bake buns to give to the teachers and his classmates. I thought it would be a good idea for him to learn more about cooking. He was a fussy eater, but he really enjoyed it and even started trying new food. I loved it too and it was good for me to get out.

I'd suffered from depression for a long time. Before I'd started the club, I would drop him off and go back home then I'd sit in my pyjamas all day. I had been a full-time carer for my husband and I spent almost every minute of every day looking after him. When he passed away, I had all this time which I didn't know what to do with. I lost interest in everything.

Cooking club set me a goal to start doing things again. It made me feel important and valued again. After cooking club, I became a volunteer at Flourishing Families. It gave me pleasure knowing that I could go out and help somebody else, like Flourishing Families had helped me on my road to recovery."

Flourishing Families' vision is to see children growing in confidence and fulfilling their potential, parents well supported and whole families equipped to connect well with each other and the community. With funding from The Leeds Fund Small Grants, they were able to set up parent-led cookery clubs in Bramley, where parents and children of different racial heritage and backgrounds learn to cook food inspired by the cuisine of local communities, learning about nutrition and healthy diet.

The Leeds Fund

THE LEEDS FUND – STRATEGIC GRANTS (UP TO £25,000)

The Leeds Fund Strategic Grants programme aims to fund innovative and creative projects that bring people together to achieve positive outcomes across the city. Strategic Grants are themed and based on the 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 convener and catalyst for change in the city.

The first priority for Strategic Grants was centred around Mental Health (2016/2017); we distributed **£615,000** and supported **1,585** people to improve the mental health and wellbeing of Leeds communities.

"In a city 800,000 people call home, imagine feeling you're all alone."

LONELINESS AND INCLUSION: THE LEEDS FUND STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2018/2019

With over **37,000** people in Leeds affected by loneliness and around **160,000** people living in neighbourhoods that are amongst the 10% most deprived in England, we are committed to supporting community-based projects that build a happier, healthier and more connected city.

Already this year, we have distributed **£159,000** to **7** Third Sector Organisations in the city, supporting a range of people who are lonely and need our support including: young people, older people, asylum seekers and refugees and those who may be considering taking their own lives.

37,000
people in Leeds are affected by loneliness

MEET MARIE

"I had been off work due to ill health. I first came to LS14 Trust when I started to look for work again. I wanted help in applying for jobs online and I didn't know anything about computers. They helped me search and write it all down. When I lost my husband about two years ago, I needed something to get me out of the house. They had a knitting group here which I joined. After the ten weeks, we all felt strongly about still meeting up, and that's when Trust Leeds came and spoke to us about Self-Reliant Groups (SRGs), and we set up the Glitter Fairies.

I'm the oldest fairy in the group. We've all got our own wings and colours. We hold events where we sell things we've made, handcraft items like cards and things. We all pay a small amount into the kitty every week and the money goes towards paying for anything we need. We all have different ideas and we'll bring them to the group. For example, with our savings we bought a candy floss maker earlier this year. We use it at our events; it goes down a treat! It supports the community and the people here. The SRG has helped me a lot and given me confidence to come out of myself. I'm proud."

Trust Leeds help people to change their lives by building self-reliance, confidence and financial independence. With funding from The Leeds Fund Strategic Grants, they were able to set up 7 Self-Reliant Groups, creating a sustainable framework to address loneliness, self-reliance and financial resilience through purposeful friendship groups.

Strengthening the Third Sector

We are proud to have supported a fantastic range of projects across Leeds and Bradford this year. We provide vital funding and advice to strengthen local community organisations which enables them to develop, consolidate and expand their offer, making a difference to thousands of people every day.

THE WELLBEAN CAFE – HOPE IN A CRISIS

Touchstone applied for funding to set up a 'crisis' cafe evolving from a conversation with homeless, hungry and cold people sleeping in their doorway. Through two Leeds Community Foundation Winter Wellbeing grants, the cafe strengthened its offer, and thanks to its volunteers, provided food, a safe environment, befriending and one-to-one support and care.

The impact was immediate, with rough sleepers no longer seeking help at A&E, forming friendships with local residents and the police reporting reduced anti-social behaviour. As a result of the work, the local health authority awarded £330,000 over 3 years for a wider project pilot.

Hope in a Crisis now supports up to 15 people with complex needs with a permanent staff team.

371
Third Sector Organisations supported

Our funding enables Third Sector Organisations to strengthen their offer and create opportunities for people to be Healthy and Well, Thrive and be Safe, Learn, Work and be Financially Well and to Experience and Play.

Our work helps:

INCREASE ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY

Third Sector Organisations are better resourced to offer high quality services through increased or specialised staffing, growing their volunteer base or receiving capital investment and 'mission critical' (core) costs.

ENHANCE EXPERTISE

Through enabling Third Sector Organisations to upskill their staff and volunteers, increase their understanding of their communities by delivering pilots and new services to address needs, and improve their skills and capacity for measuring and evaluating the impact of their work.

IMPROVE CONNECTIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Encouraging and nurturing closer relationships with other Third Sector Organisations, bringing together grantees within a programme to share knowledge, resources, opportunities and strengthen partnership working, potentially leading to partnership grant applications.

INCREASE SUSTAINABILITY

Helping Third Sector Organisations to become partially or fully self-funding through generating alternative income streams (social enterprise model) or accessing increased or recurring funding from statutory organisations and larger funders.

Healthy and Well

The highest standard of health is a human right for all. Health and wellbeing have a significant impact not only on individuals, families and communities, but also on the economy. Leeds and Bradford are vibrant and bustling places to live and work, yet health and wellbeing remains unequal across the populations of Leeds and Bradford.

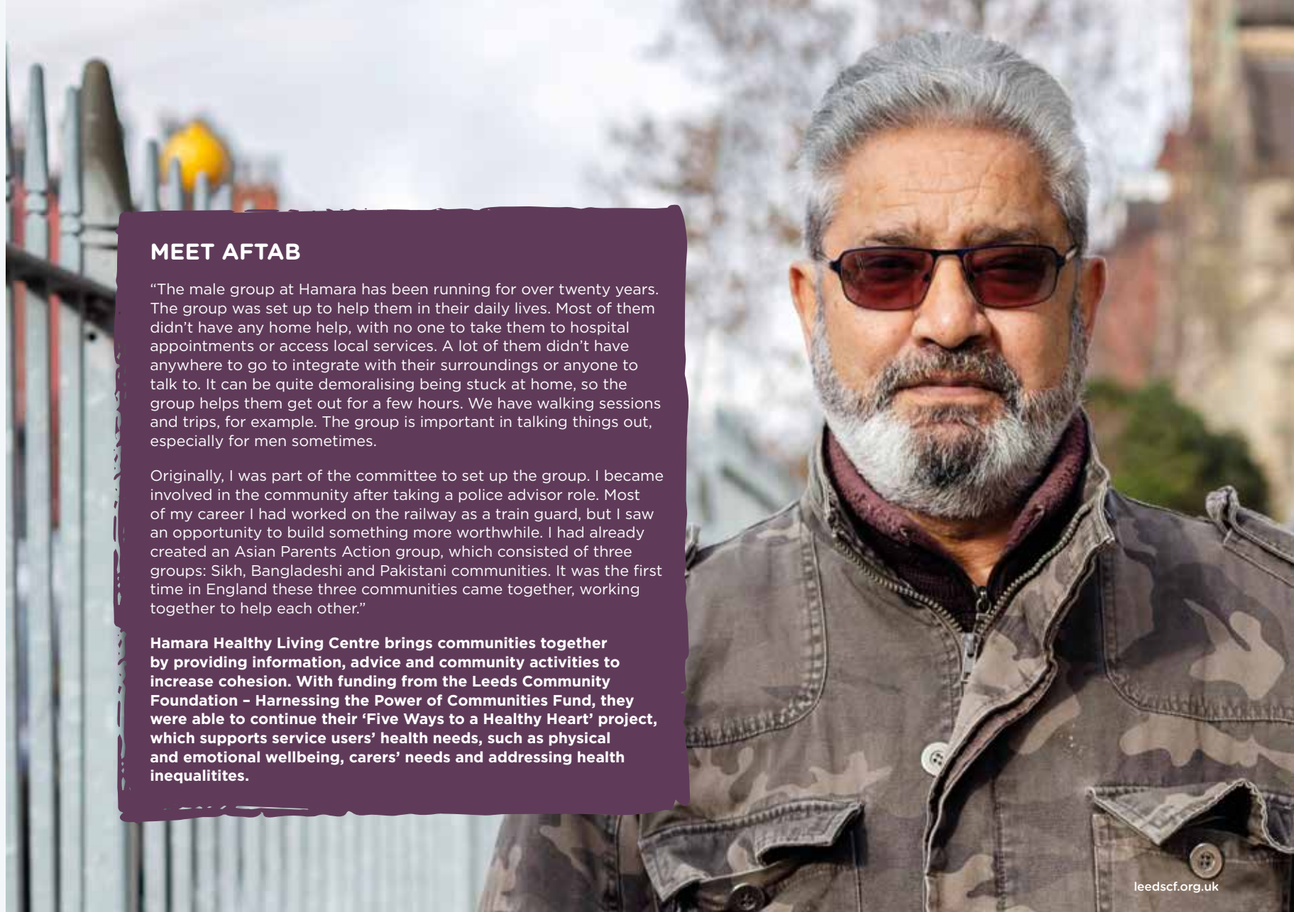
- In Leeds, 60% of residents living in an area near Roundhay Park report having very good health, compared to only 35% of those living in an area of Morley
- Black women, asylum seekers, refugees, and Gypsy and Traveller women have higher rates of common mental health issues than other women and are less likely to receive mental health treatment

Many of our grant programmes provide much needed funding for community organisations that help people to be healthy and well: to help improve their physical and mental health and wellbeing, increase their resilience and self-care, and reduce loneliness and isolation. The groups we fund are well placed to reach into communities, nurture positive relationships based on trust and provide holistic, tailored support to people who, in some cases, have multiple and complex needs.

47% of our grants supported people to be Healthy and Well

Our Programmes helping people to be Healthy and Well include:

- Children Looked After Fund
- Community Partnering Fund
- Healthy Holidays
- Henry Smith Charity
- Ideas that Change Lives
- #iWill Youth Social Action Fund
- Jimbo's Fund
- Liz and Terry Bramall Foundation Fund
- Provident Social Impact Fund
- Solutions for an Ageing Society Awards
- St Chad's Fund
- The Leeds Fund
- Time to Shine Small Funds
- Wesleyan Fund
- Winter Wellbeing



MEET AFTAB

"The male group at Hamara has been running for over twenty years. The group was set up to help them in their daily lives. Most of them didn't have any home help, with no one to take them to hospital appointments or access local services. A lot of them didn't have anywhere to go to integrate with their surroundings or anyone to talk to. It can be quite demoralising being stuck at home, so the group helps them get out for a few hours. We have walking sessions and trips, for example. The group is important in talking things out, especially for men sometimes.

Originally, I was part of the committee to set up the group. I became involved in the community after taking a police advisor role. Most of my career I had worked on the railway as a train guard, but I saw an opportunity to build something more worthwhile. I had already created an Asian Parents Action group, which consisted of three groups: Sikh, Bangladeshi and Pakistani communities. It was the first time in England these three communities came together, working together to help each other."

Hamara Healthy Living Centre brings communities together by providing information, advice and community activities to increase cohesion. With funding from the Leeds Community Foundation – Harnessing the Power of Communities Fund, they were able to continue their 'Five Ways to a Healthy Heart' project, which supports service users' health needs, such as physical and emotional wellbeing, carers' needs and addressing health inequalitites.

Thrive and be Safe

Local communities in Leeds and Bradford are constantly changing through geographical migration and localised changes in the economy and infrastructure, such as transport and housing. There are many factors that affect whether people and communities thrive and are safe.

- Some areas and communities enjoy stronger community cohesion than others:
  - Those living in parts of Harehills have a poorer sense of belonging compared with those in parts of Horsforth, who have a higher sense of belonging than the national average
  - 63% of people living in Bradford agree that their local area is a place where people live harmoniously, but only 39% of people living in Keighley West share this view

24% **of our grants supported people to Thrive and be Safe**

- Incidents of antisocial behaviour and crime can vary dramatically across and between neighbourhoods:
  - 257 incidents of antisocial behaviour took place in one year in parts of BD1 whilst only 32 took place in parts of BD3
  - In the last year, areas of Middleton in South Leeds experienced 10 times more antisocial behaviour offences than more rural areas such as Barwick and Scholes in Leeds North East

Leeds Community Foundation works to create opportunities to improve relationships, leading to reduced offending, antisocial behaviour and conflict, and positive change in behaviour. Thrive and be Safe is also about increasing people's understanding of diversity and embracing of other cultures, enhancing their confidence in, and sense of belonging to, their community and nurturing volunteering and social action.

Our Programmes helping people to Thrive and be Safe include:

- Building A Stronger Britain Together
- Henry Smith Charity
- High Sheriff of West Yorkshire Fund
- #iWill Youth Social Action Fund
- Jimbo's Fund
- Pears Youth Fund
- Provident Social Impact Fund
- St Chad's Fund
- Wesleyan Fund

MEET GARRON

"I first started coming to the School of Rock and Media (SORM) around seven years ago. I was still at college and we had a small fledgling group. SORM is a rehearsal place for bands and singers. After we had been singing together for a while, I realised there was potential for something more. We talked about singing parts and a story started to come together. We were given the idea of playing good vs. evil and the performance focused on an LGBT love story. Eventually the idea got bigger and bigger and it turned into an entire show. It had gone from a handful of people on a stage to a West End show (at least in my head). We did our first interpretation of it three weeks later. We had done everything ourselves: the costumes, the stage and the whole story. It was a proud moment for all of us. It was the best night of my life.

A lot of the young people I work with are from an LGBT background. Some of them have been through hard times, either not being accepted or still living in fear in some way. The other day, one of the kids was talking about things getting really tough, saying they couldn't deal with it anymore. I told him that 'You have to. Being an LGBT+ person is never going to be easy. You're always going to have to fight. You're going to have to be a warrior.' And that's why the work we're doing with this group is so important; it gives them a voice."

SORM (School of Rock and Media) uses music and multimedia as a tool to empower young people, building vital skills, heightening aspirations and tackling disengagement. With funding from the GiveBradford #iWill Youth Social Action Fund, they developed a piece of theatre, which involved young people working in creative ways to address the needs and voices of the LGBT+ community.

Learn, Work and be Financially Well

The need to secure inclusive growth and narrow the equality gap across Leeds and Bradford remains critical. There are parts of Leeds and Bradford where people find it very difficult to manage on their income, where educational attainment is lower and people have reduced opportunities to be economically active, affecting physical and mental wellbeing and quality of life.

- There are 100 neighbourhoods in Leeds that are in the most deprived nationally
- 29% of children in the Bradford District live below the poverty line, compared with 20% nationally
- 12.6% of people aged 16+ living in Leeds do not have level 2 qualifications (5 GCSEs at A*-C grade) but in 6 of its most deprived neighbourhoods this rises to 17.2%
- Across the Bradford District, 38% of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic women of working age are in employment, compared with 67% of white women

Many of Leeds Community Foundation's grant programmes provide opportunities for people to learn, work and be financially well. This might be through increasing access to education, developing or consolidating numeracy, literacy and/or practical skills, strengthening capacity and confidence around work, finances and learning, or increasing employability.

15% of our grants supported people to Learn, Work and be Financially Well

Our Programmes helping people to Learn, Work and be Financially Well include:

- Ann Maguire Arts Education Fund
- Community Partnering Fund
- Go Higher West Yorkshire
- Ideas that Change Lives
- #iWill Youth Social Action Fund
- Jimbo's Fund
- Liz and Terry Bramall Foundation Fund
- Pears Youth Fund
- Provident Social Impact Fund
- St Chad's Fund
- Wesleyan Fund

MEET ROISIN

"We first came to the Smilers group here at Cafe 21; it's a singing group with young adults. We did speech and language therapy as part of Sunshine & Smiles. From there, we decided to try Cafe 21. Roisin works alongside all the staff here and has grown in confidence so much. She loves it; I couldn't be more proud of her. She's made lots of friends. They're all the same age and it's nice to see them get reacquainted after all this time and it's bonded their friendships even more.

Without the cafe, it would be very difficult for her to get any work experience, there just isn't that opportunity, but she has the chance here. I can't believe how well she works. As a mum, it's lovely to see her flourish in this environment. I've seen the difference in her personality; she's more upbeat and looks forward to working and she's learnt so much. The journey for us has been very up and down; she has a lot of health problems but she keeps going. She will reach her full potential."

Sunshine & Smiles supports children and young people with Down syndrome in Leeds. Their aim is to improve the lives and opportunities of people with Down syndrome. They offer a broad range of activities and groups such as speech and language therapy, social and recreational opportunities and individual family support. With funding from the Leeds Community Foundation – Ideas that Change Lives Fund they set up Cafe 21, which gave 6 young adults with Down syndrome the opportunity to gain work experience, customer service skills and learn about working in a hospitality environment.

Experience and Play

Leeds Community Foundation believes that everyone has the right to live, rather than just simply 'exist'. Culture, heritage, sport, nature and the environment all offer experiences that broaden horizons and add new dimensions to people's lives, but barriers still exist to accessing opportunities.

- The poorest neighbourhoods in Leeds have only 3% of green space, less than half of the average across Leeds and Bradford
- Less than a third of people in Leeds and Bradford spent time doing a creative, artistic, theatrical, musical or craft activity last year, less than the national average

Several of the programmes and projects we ran support people, whatever their background, circumstances and ability, to be creative, to have enriching hobbies and pursuits and to enjoy life experiences. Whether it's supporting Children Looked After and Care Leavers to embark on a life-changing land and water journey with the Outward Bound Trust, enabling young siblings to showcase their dancing and acting skills, providing a stimulating musical show in a 360 degree sensory dome for those with Special Educational Needs, taking part in a brass band and youth choir, or discovering the art and fun of storytelling, there are numerous ways in which people are experiencing and playing, thanks to our funding.

14% of our grants supported people to Experience and Play

Our Programmes helping people to Experience and Play include:

- Ann Maguire Arts Education Fund
- Children Looked After Fund
- #iWill Youth Social Action Fund
- Jimbo's Fund
- Pears Youth Fund
- Wesleyan Fund

MEET LANRAY

"I found out about the chapel when they were first renovating it in 2014. I did a summer broadcast course a few years later. It had everything I liked in terms of technology and products. I had the idea to do an African-themed radio show, I'm from a Nigerian background; I asked one of the producers and they thought it was a great idea. He said it would be bringing something new to the station. It was very popular; there was always a group of people in the studio and the atmosphere was brilliant.

Last year, I was doing some web design work for the Eilidh MacLeod Memorial Trust. After I'd finished, I wanted to give something back. If there's one thing the mentoring programme taught me, it's that you can do anything as long as you put your mind to it. So, I decided to run a music event here for the Trust. It's to remember the victims of the Manchester Arena bombing. For me, it wasn't just to raise money for the charity but also show that love always wins."

Chapel FM is a community arts organisation based in Seacroft that inspires individuals and communities to improve potential and achievement. With funding from the Leeds Community Foundation – Pears Youth Fund they were able to give young people the opportunity to produce their own radio show talking about issues and topics relevant to them, such as mental health, healthy living and identity.

"A £3m grant from Jimbo's Fund enabled the purchase and renovation of The Old Fire Station, Gipton, Leeds into a fantastic multipurpose community hub."

Power of People and Place

THE OLD FIRE STATION

The Old Fire Station in Gipton, Leeds, was purchased and renovated into a fantastic multipurpose community centre with a £3m grant from Jimbo's Fund. Opened in 2017, it is proving to be a thriving hub in the heart of East Leeds, bringing local people and the community, volunteer organisations and charities together to meet changing local needs in creative and impactful ways.

It provides a base for six local charities, along with rooms available to hire, a cookery school and a cafe for all the community to enjoy. Its packed programme includes a support club for young carers, cookery classes, film nights, a nursery and crèche, a board games club, housing support drop-in sessions, health and fitness opportunities and summer creative camps.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH HALL

St. Mary's Church Hall in Whitkirk, Leeds has been transformed from an underutilised 1960s hall into a thriving Centre at the heart of the community with help from a £100,000 grant from Jimbo's Fund.

Previously too expensive to run and maintain, the refurbished building now not only provides pleasant, modern, flexible and safe facilities, but is attracting a wider range of groups from Whitkirk and the surrounding area. The community has access to after school clubs, get-togethers for lonely older people, fitness classes, financial advice sessions, theatre and film nights and weddings.

Leeds Community Foundation occasionally has the opportunity to allocate significant investment into a place, a building and its people. This can be transformative and provide a legacy for years to come.

THE ANCHOR PROJECT

Thanks to three year funding from The Henry Smith Charity to build capacity in the community, The Anchor Project in Bradford is making a real impact on the local community and people's lives – from isolated older White British residents and young refugees to Asian elders and young mums. Anchor has hosted 'Empowering Mothers against Radicalisation and Grooming' courses, women-only English lessons which have already helped one participant to get a job and arranged trips to the Dales for people not able to access the countryside themselves, including a trip to help a farmer at lambing time. It also organised a garden festival where 200 people of 19 different nationalities and all ages attended.

The far-reaching impact of Anchor is not just providing a safe place that is welcoming to all with a great range of advice, support and activities, but helping to transform inner city Bradford.

NEW WORTLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

New Wortley Community Association (NWCA), Leeds, is one of the few community-based facilities in the area providing a range of services for local people of all ages, abilities and ethnicities. The Henry Smith Charity has provided multi-year funding to help meet mission critical costs in one of the most deprived areas of Leeds, with the highest suicide rate in the city, high unemployment and significant health issues.

The centre provides: a community cafe, laundry service, meeting rooms, job club, social events and activities, counselling and general advice services. NWCA uses a variety of methods to help engage local people and, having built up trust, they encourage them to volunteer in the community, as well as, where relevant, support them into training or employment. To be powerful and successful in helping to transform the lives of local people, places like this need dedicated staff, which The Henry Smith Charity has helped to fund.

Help us to make a difference

Leeds Community Foundation supports thousands of charities and voluntary groups across Leeds and Bradford, tackling inequalities and working together to create opportunities for those that most need help. We invest in these groups by distributing grants and sharing advice – acting as a catalyst for positive change.

The Foundation relies on the generosity of individuals, businesses and public sector organisations to help local people gain the support they need now, while investing in a brighter future for all.

Leeds Community Foundation is responsible for raising 100% of our core costs. We need to ensure that we cover all our overheads, including the costs of governance and of advising and administering any funds. We take a management contribution on all funds managed by the Foundation, which is re-invested in staff time to run our efficient and effective grant programmes, conduct full due diligence on grant applications and provide practical support and advice to local community projects.

"When you have achieved a certain level of success, you have a responsibility to invest your own time, money or energy back into your community."

Lyn Ayrton, Lake Legal

"I came here eight years ago. At first, it felt like I was in prison, I had no one to talk to. I was very lonely. I found the friendship and singing group at Leeds Refugee Forum. I started learning to speak English, I made friends and I'm very happy. I love coming here, they keep me busy and help me to learn."

Cecilia

"We are determined to contribute to the Foundation to change lives and to make a difference across Leeds and Bradford."

Max Joy, Sweco

The 100 Club

Our supporters club for individuals and businesses enables the Foundation to support core costs, so we can become increasingly resilient, boosting our grant-making role and ensuring we are able to commit long term to community groups across Leeds and Bradford.

For an annual donation of £1,000 a year, supporters are not only demonstrating their commitment to the Foundation and the work we do, but also have the opportunity to attend quarterly events showcasing the work of the Foundation and engaging with other organisations, individuals and third sector groups all interested in making a difference across their cities.

Named Funds

Named Funds provide a simple alternative to establishing an independent Charitable Trust, allowing you to give back to your local community and make a genuine and positive impact now and into the future.

We manage a portfolio of Named Funds across Leeds and Bradford on behalf of individuals, families, businesses and statutory organisations, as well as national funders. Leeds Community Foundation handles the investment, correspondence, compliance and governance checks, helping to direct funding to charities and community projects that match fundholders' values. Our aim is to help you to support high impact grassroots groups, that make a real difference in our communities.

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 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 our role as a convener and catalyst for change in the city. The priority for the first series of strategic grants was focused on Mental Health and, in 2019/2020, the strategic priority is Loneliness and Inclusion.

Since its inception, The Leeds Fund has attracted significant investment from organisations and individuals wanting to make a real difference. The Foundation strives to attract and increase investment into The Leeds Fund to ensure we can continue to distribute significant grants to community groups across the city that are having real impact in supporting those that need help the most.

Our Supporters

A huge thank you to all our supporters. The work we do would not be possible without the commitment of individuals, businesses and public sector organisations. We look forward to continuing to work together to provide opportunities for those that most need help across Leeds and Bradford.

THANKS TO 'OUR STORY' SPONSOR:

Craig Burton, Managing Director, The Works

"The Works is a recruiter and large employer of many skilled and mid skilled workers. Leeds Community Foundation support many projects that instil confidence, improve lives and provide a stepping stone in the preparation for the world of work for those furthest from the job market - and that can only be great news for employers of the future. Everyone's lives are better, if everyone's lives are better. It's really that simple. That's why we, a regional recruitment firm, are behind this wonderful organisation"

the works recruitment.com

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YPP

leedscf.org.uk

"One of my key aims as Lord-Lieutenant is to promote the work of the voluntary sector across West Yorkshire. Leeds Community Foundation uses its local knowledge to energise and support charities and grassroots projects to bring about real and positive change for those in need. This is why I'm delighted to be Patron of the Foundation and work with the team to promote the importance of charities in supporting local communities across Leeds and Bradford."

Ed Anderson, HM Lord-Lieutenant of West Yorkshire

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Leeds Community Foundation