Our Story 2017-2018

Creating a city of opportunity for all

Welcome

As Chair and Chief Executive of Leeds Community Foundation, we are hugely proud to introduce ‘Our Story’.

We are indebted to those prepared to give their time, expertise and money to make a difference in our communities.

Colleagues, partners, donors, advocates, sponsors and Third Sector community groups are all working together to achieve our vision.

It’s an honour to work in a city region which understands and recognises need, and is willing to act to make a difference.

As well as a year of achievements, it has also been a year of change. Our founding CEO, Sally-Anne Greenfield, made the decision to step down after 13 years, during which she made a huge contribution to both the Foundation and the city. Her commitment, passion and ability were extremely important in helping make the Foundation the strong, vibrant and impactful organisation it is today and we offer our sincere thanks.

In 2017-2018 we distributed over 600 grants – an increase of 17% on last year - which benefitted over 100,000 people across Leeds and Bradford.

We are proud to be able to say that this takes the total amount we have distributed to date to over £38m, the real impact of this being that it has enabled positive change in the lives of hundreds of thousands of people in our communities.

We have had a busy year with many exciting and significant highlights and we’d like to draw your attention to some of the stellar moments – particularly the opening of the Old Fire Station, Gipton.

We hope that the projects and activities featured in this report illustrate our commitment and showcase our core value of being ‘ambitious for all’.

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

Rachel Haman
Chair

Kate Hainsworth
Chief Executive

A sincere thanks to Rathbones for sponsoring this publication.

Leeds Community Foundation

Our Vision

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

Sponsored by:

Rathbones
Look forward

Leeds Community Foundation works with businesses, public bodies and individuals to target their donations towards grassroots organisations that are making a big difference to local people’s lives, every day.

We use our specialist knowledge and unique position to help small projects grow and create opportunities for people to:

Be Healthy And Well · Work & Learn · Thrive & Be Safe · Experience & Play

As part of a national network of Community Foundations, we invest in community groups by distributing grants and sharing advice - acting as a catalyst for positive change.

Leeds Community Foundation relies on the generosity of our supporters to help local people gain the support they need now, while investing in a brighter future for all.

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Leeds Community Foundation

Highlights

Royal seal of approval for The Leeds Fund

In 2017, we were proud to welcome Prince Harry, the Duke of Sussex, to address the city's business and civic leaders at our annual Leeds Fund Lecture. The event highlighted the mental wellbeing of our city's young people and celebrated some of the amazing work being delivered across Leeds. Prince Harry's visit enabled us to secure further investment for The Leeds Fund.

Healthy Holidays for thousands of schoolchildren in Leeds

Working in partnership with Leeds City Council, we launched the Holiday Hunger campaign to help support some of the 30,000 schoolchildren in Leeds whose families and carers struggle to feed them in the school holidays, when there are no free school meals. Through our Healthy Holidays grant programme, we are providing access to healthy activities and meals for 4,500 schoolchildren across the city.

Investing in young people with The Pears Youth Fund

In partnership with The Pears Foundation, a new £100,000 fund was established to bring together projects across Leeds and Bradford that give young people a voice. In 2017, 15 projects increased opportunities for young people to engage in their communities and influence their peers.

GiveBradford campaign launch

The GiveBradford campaign has been established to enable local communities across the district gain the support they need to create positive change and improve the lives of local people. The Bradford 100 Club has seen over 28 businesses and individuals sign up to make a difference across the Bradford district.

Celebrating the impact of our Third Sector Health Grants

Working in partnership with the NHS Leeds Clinical Commissioning Groups, over 8,000 people in Leeds directly benefitted from £2.3 million of investment in local charities. Through this unique programme, a wide variety of innovative projects supported local health and wellbeing priorities and demonstrated positive health outcomes.

Grand opening of The Old Fire Station

In 2017, thanks to a £3 million investment from Jimbo's Fund (the late Jimi Heselden's legacy), we opened the doors of The Old Fire Station in Gipton, Leeds, which has been renovated into a fantastic multipurpose hub of activity serving the local and wider community.

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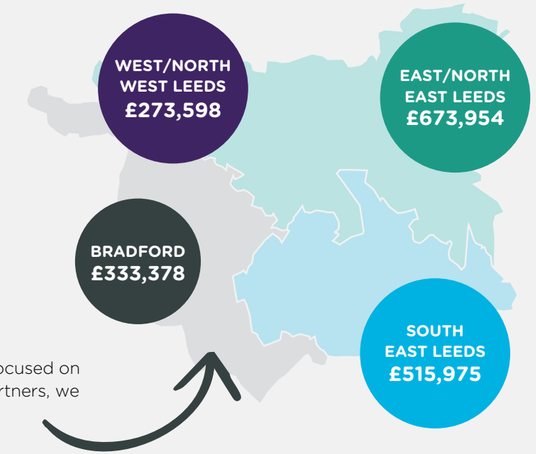
Our Impact

Investing in our communities

While many of our grants are given to citywide projects, others are focused on specific areas, as shown. This year, thanks to some of our national partners, we also distributed grants in Wakefield and the North East of England.



£5,406 average grant size

615 grants awarded

100,000 people benefitted

Beneficiaries by group:

- Older People **20%**
- Children/Young Adults **16%**
- People living in poverty **9%**
- Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic **9%**
- Families/parents/lone parents **5%**
- Women **5%**
- Long-term unemployed **5%**
- Men **5%**
- Refugees/asylum seekers/ immigrants **4%**
- People with health issues **3%**
- People with disabilities **3%**
- Ex-offenders **3%**
- Other **13%**

Total grants awarded 2017-18

£3,324,678

+ £3 million towards The Old Fire Station

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The Leeds Fund

We established The Leeds Fund to help bridge the gap between those in need and those with the ability to help in a targeted way. The Leeds Fund accepts contributions from individuals and companies that want to support the city in which they live and work. By utilising our expertise as a grant-maker and working in partnership with the Third Sector, we have an overview of needs in the city.

The Leeds Fund responds to needs in the city by distributing grants to community groups that can have an immediate impact on the ground. There are 3 types of grants available:

- **The Leeds Fund Strategic Grants** – Up to £25,000 for projects that aim to bring groups together to achieve positive outcomes across the city. The priority for strategic grants since the launch of The Leeds Fund has been mental health.
- **The Leeds Fund Small Grants** – Up to £2,500 to support new and emerging activity across Leeds.
- **The Leeds Fund Micro Grants** – Up to £500 to develop and implement ideas that benefit Leeds residents.

The Leeds Fund Small Grant: **Purple Patch Arts**

Meet Liam

Purple Patch Arts works with over 150 people with learning disabilities each week to improve their life chances by creating inclusive learning environments in which people can thrive. Their Leeds Fund Small Grant allowed them to run 4 workshops utilising art, drama and music to promote good mental wellbeing and provide participants with an understanding of the symptoms and triggers surrounding mental health issues.

"Here at Purple Patch Arts, I'm involved with the lifelong learning programme. We pick a different theme each year. Next week we're going to choose a new theme which we'll work on for the whole of the next academic year. We have groups all over and each group will put forward their favourite ideas. We all have tasters on each topic at Beamsley, our annual residential trip, and then we vote on the one that we like. We even have a workshop on movement, looking at new moves to incorporate into our morning warm-ups.

At Purple Patch Arts, we do a movement warm-up and a sign-language cool-down. It's very accessible, no matter what people's abilities are. We all help each other in the group and try to push ourselves by exploring more challenging tasks and exercises each week. I love coming here; I get to meet my friends, laugh and have fun!

Recently, I've started to see myself as an artist in my own right, something which I've struggled with in the past. At high school, we would be given a blank piece of paper and told to draw something. Because of my autism, I'd freeze and couldn't do it. But recently, I've had work shown internationally, with 3 successful funding bids. I want to make art more accessible to people with autism; change the perception of it. I'm passionate about supporting people and I'll continue to do so."

The Leeds Fund Micro Grants

The Leeds Fund Micro Grants programme provides the opportunity to trial new and innovative ideas. From social entrepreneurs and community activists to caring neighbours, in 2017 our Micro Grants gave 42 individuals and emerging community groups the chance to make positive changes in their local communities. Whether it's a pop-up hairdressing station at the Reginald Centre in Chapeltown for people going to job interviews, litter picking with local schoolchildren, funding the cost of installing a Little Free Library or a project caring for elderly neighbours' gardens on the Broadlea Estate, our Micro Grants have funded small interventions that make a significant difference in people's lives.

The Leeds Fund Small Grants

Since 2016, over 1,500 local people have benefitted from a fantastic range of activities funded by The Leeds Fund small grants programme, including enhancing skills, promoting inclusion and encouraging people to be better neighbours. From singing groups, arts, gardening and healthy cooking sessions, to cycle maintenance training, Zumba classes and peer support groups, 28 projects have enabled local people to feel connected and confident to get involved in community activities.

Thanks to a generous donation from HARIBO, in 2018 this grants scheme focused on improving the emotional and mental wellbeing of young people across Leeds. This has enabled The Leeds Fund Small Grants programme to distribute over £30,000 to support 14 community projects that sought to give young people the tools they need to keep their minds healthy.

The Leeds Fund Strategic Grants

Our first series of The Leeds Fund Strategic Grants were distributed in 2016 and addressed mental health as a key priority for Leeds. Through generous support from Asda Foundation, nearly £500,000 was invested in 22 community organisations to provide innovative and targeted approaches to improving mental health and wellbeing in Leeds communities.

Building on the success of these projects, this year we have invested a further £144,000 in 9 of these community groups to allow them to extend, strengthen and develop their mental health projects. This has enabled the organisations to build on the positive relationships and partnerships achieved, further develop support for the most marginalised groups, and increase their capacity and offering to the communities they serve.

As a result of The Leeds Fund Strategic Grants:

- **1,781** people benefitted directly from this funding to address mental health issues
- **620** people reported improved mental health and wellbeing
- **603** people reported increased self-confidence and self esteem
- **792** people had improved social networks and connectivity
- **96** new volunteers were recruited, thereby increasing capacity and engagement
- **115** people moved into volunteering or employment

The Leeds Fund Strategic Grant: **Touchstone**

Meet Juliana

Touchstone provides a range of innovative services to improve the health and wellbeing of culturally diverse communities in our city. Their Leeds Fund Strategic Grant enabled them to provide an intensive 24 week mental health coaching programme called IN:CHARGE, specifically for Black, Minority and Ethnic individuals in East Leeds with lived experience of mental health issues. The project saw a number of individuals become fully trained mental health coaches for their communities, building their leadership and employability skills and helping to reduce stigma and raise awareness among local people.

"I was introduced to IN:CHARGE through a friend. She works for Leeds City Council and she got an email telling her this course was starting. It was a new project being run for people to learn and develop as Mental Health Coaches. I went to the open day and signed up there and then. Myself and Kal were two of the few who managed to complete the six-month course. It was a big commitment but we loved it. The course not only made us look at everybody else, to understand their mental health issues without judging, but asked questions of ourselves. I realised that we'd all been through something.

For example, I had suffered a lot of stress and anxiety as part of my previous job. The course tutors were amazing and their knowledge was fantastic.

After finishing, we wanted to use our skills to benefit others and the community, so we started a group called CHUMHI (Community Help Understanding Mental Health Issues).

We were lucky that Touchstone wanted to back us. They saw what we were trying to do and knowing that they were so encouraging made us realise that we were doing something right."

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GIVEBRADFORD
TOGETHER STRONGER

Over the last 5 years, Leeds Community Foundation has invested over £3.8 million to create positive change in local communities across the Bradford district. The GiveBradford campaign has been established to give greater visibility to this work and grow our impact by helping businesses and individuals give back to the place in which they live and work.

With over 41,000 children living in poverty and with Bradford ranked as the 5th most income deprived local authority in England, there is much that needs to be done to support the area.

Since its launch at Salts Mill in November 2017, the GiveBradford Campaign has welcomed over 28 businesses to our 100 Club supporter scheme, which reinforces the campaign and helps raise awareness of our work. Key to the success of GiveBradford is growing our portfolio of funds available to community groups across the district. So far, over £250,000 of new funding has been distributed and a further £4 million of funds identified to be brought into our grant-making programme.

Thanks to generous financial support from Provident Financial Group, and further funding and advocacy from individuals and organisations across the district, the GiveBradford campaign continues to build momentum and attract further investment to reach the communities that most need help.

Give Bradford

Third Sector Health Grants

Leeds Community Foundation is proud to have partnered with the NHS Leeds Clinical Commissioning Groups to develop a new Third Sector Health Grants programme, which saw £2.3 million invested in over 50 community organisations that work to improve local people's health.

This programme resulted in 77 varied and innovative projects that engaged our city's diverse communities around wellbeing and reducing health inequalities, including Black and Minority Ethnic groups, children and young people, carers, sex workers, ex-offenders, Gypsies and Travellers, and people with learning disabilities.

From one-to-one intense mental health support to group learning around parenting and healthy eating, the programme promoted the importance of improving health and wellbeing in a range of diverse settings.

To enhance the legacy of this health programme, we hosted a celebration event and launched a report.

This provided a rare chance for key health and local authority partners to connect with those who delivered the work and share best practice. The work achieved continues to highlight the Third Sector health offer and the need for longer-term funding.

£2.3m

invested in over 50 community organisations since 2015

Outcomes:

- **8,000** people in Leeds benefitted directly and 12,000 indirectly
- **2,341** people were supported around their mental health, including 746 carers, 429 people with long-term conditions, and 1,520 children and younger people
- **1,309** older people were supported around their health and wellbeing
- **139** case studies capturing the health journeys of Leeds residents were carried out
- **822** volunteers benefitted through these projects, which research shows in turn helps their overall wellbeing

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The Old Fire Station

In September 2017, we opened the doors of The Old Fire Station in Gipton, Leeds, which has been renovated into a fantastic multipurpose community hub. Providing a base for 6 local charities and 2 local enterprises, the building also has rooms available to hire, a cookery school and a café for all of the community to enjoy.

Back in 2014, the West Yorkshire Fire Service commissioned a new fire station in Killingbeck and decommissioned their existing stations in Gipton and Stanks. 2 locally-based community organisations approached the Foundation to see if the building could be saved for the community by converting it into a community and enterprise hub.

Following discussions with the Heselden family, we were able to make a £3 million grant from Jimbo's Fund to finance the purchase and renovation of this former fire station.

Leeds based entrepreneur, the late Jimi Heselden, felt passionately about supporting his local community, so this is a very appropriate way of acknowledging his tremendous generosity.

With the look and feel of the original fire station preserved, the building has become a fantastic asset for East Leeds. With fireman's poles, old pumps and even some of the original flooring and tiles still intact, the building has been transformed into a modern, bright hub of activity, busily serving the local and wider community.

GIPSIL · Elevate · Zest · Leeds Cookery School · healthwatch Leeds · The Feel Good Cafe · SPACE2 · People in Action · Believe in children Barnardo's

375

Average number of visitors attending activities, events and training

111

Average number of monthly activities and events

Nominated for a RICS Award "Best Regional Community Project"

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Healthy & Well

Leeds is a vibrant and bustling place to live. Despite this, loneliness is an all too common issue and many people experience isolation, lack support systems and face stark health inequalities.

Leeds Community Foundation supports groups who are best placed to use their local knowledge and expertise to reach out to people in their communities. These vital services bring people together from all walks of life to meet, socialise and take part in healthy activities, all of which have a lasting impact on individual wellbeing.

The Time to Shine Small Funds programme, in partnership with Leeds Older People's Forum and the Big Lottery Fund, was established to reduce social isolation among older people and, since 2015, has supported 27 creative projects across the city.

Whether it's arranging accessible travel to increase older people's independence, inviting young people to become befrienders, or simply providing a place for people to share a meal and catch up, the initiatives funded through this programme have been able to make a profound difference to the wellbeing of many older people in the city.

- **Social isolation** is as damaging to your health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day (Holt-Lunstad, 2015)
- **Over half** of all people aged aged 75+ live alone (Office for National Statistics, 2011)
- **825** older people in Leeds have been reached to date through the Time to Shine Small Funds programme.

£1,441,992
invested in this theme

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Healthy & Well:
Armley Helping Hands

Armley Helping Hands is a local charity that supports older people by providing a variety of activities and services. Having received a Lunch Club Grant from the Foundation, they were able to provide a weekly meal and a rare chance for the area's older residents to interact. By providing advice, support and healthy living activities within the Lunch Clubs, they help over 80 older residents to gain independence and actively participate in their communities.

Meet Edith

"Twenty-seven years I've been on my own. It's been difficult at times but I've managed. I do believe that doing a bit of exercise and getting out and about does you the world of good. I keep myself fairly fit - I try to anyway. I was very active before. I used to go swimming and I've done a marathon bike ride to Scarborough. That's how I met my late husband, through cycling.

I used to bring my elderly step-father, Frank, to Armley Helping Hands after he was diagnosed with dementia. I was his carer. I've looked after them all: my gran, my husband, my mother, my brother and his wife and lastly my step-father. Everyone always says 'Who's going to look after you?' And I always reply that I don't need anyone; I can look after myself. You've got to. You've got to put your mind to things and just get on with it. I like my independence; I do like to do what I want. Coming to the Thursday club, for example. I wouldn't plan anything on this day because I enjoy coming here. Talking round the table, exchanging views and catching up, good or bad. These places are wonderful, they're a Godsend. They provide such a lifeline for those of us here. I hope they can keep going."

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Work & Learn

While the Leeds economy continues to grow, develop and diversify, the need to ensure that this growth is inclusive remains critical, as does the need to reverse the trend towards a wider inequality gap in our city.

Indicators show that people from deprived backgrounds typically have lower educational attainments and greater health issues. This year, a quarter of the groups we funded across Leeds and Bradford targeted young people, helping them to achieve their potential through addressing financial capabilities, educational achievement and access to employment, as well as supporting them to engage in volunteering.

Our Employability Partnership saw over 295 people supported and 61 employment outcomes achieved for those furthest from the labour market through funding of pioneering projects that supported a wide range of groups.

- **28,000 young people** in Leeds are out of work (Leeds City Region Labour Market Report 2017)
- **8,000 workers** in Leeds are on zero hours contracts (Leeds City Council, Public Health Annual Report 2017/18)
- **Only 16% of disadvantaged pupils in Leeds** go on to higher education (Leeds City Region Labour Market Report 2017)

£602,760
invested in this theme

Leeds Community Foundation

Work & Learn:
Lighthouse Futures Trust

Meet Dan

Lighthouse Futures Trust help equip young people on the autistic spectrum with the skills, qualifications and confidence to progress into employment. The Foundation supported the school through our Employability Partnership, enabling them to develop job opportunities for 18 students with companies such as Yorkshire Water, building aspirations and allowing them to lead more independent lives.

"After leaving college, I was having trouble finding work. I was offered the internship at Yorkshire Water. College life is very different from work life and we learnt about work skills and life skills; how to dress and communicate. My role at the moment is carrying out background research. Yorkshire Water go out and give presentations to schools and other places. They talk about the environment and clean water. I help with organising those.

One of the hardest things to overcome has been my own confidence. At college, I didn't interact with anyone much. I was quiet, reserved and didn't have many friends. I remember I was really nervous going on buses. But now I catch 2 buses to get here and spend almost 2 hours each way.

I like it here and want to be here. I like to try and make an effort and I want to give the job everything I've got. The job has given me confidence to do a lot of things on my own, like taking my uncle's dog out for walks every day. I talk to other people while I'm out; I wouldn't have been able to do that a couple of years ago."

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Thrive & Be Safe

Leeds Community Foundation works across the region to help communities become better, safer and more positive places in which to live and work.

Leeds is a vibrant and diverse city, but with crime rates rising in a number of areas, safety and community cohesion remain key issues for many local people.

From creating community allotments and social spaces for people to meet and talk, to helping young people with offending histories gain the skills needed to progress into employment, we invest in projects that help communities come together and develop from the ground up.

Through the High Sheriff of West Yorkshire Fund and the Building a Stronger Britain Together programme, we have awarded over £373,000 to grassroots projects working to build resilience and trust in local communities.

- **5,422 hate crimes** were reported in West Yorkshire between April 2017 and January 2018 (Hate Crime Update Report 2017/18, West Yorkshire Police)
- **16,000 women in Leeds** have reported experiencing extensive physical and sexual violence and abuse (Leeds City Council, Public Health Annual Report 2017/18)
- **Over 9,000 crimes** were reported in Leeds in March 2018 (West Yorkshire Police)

£823,379
invested in this theme

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Thrive & Be Safe:
Shantona Women & Family Centre

Meet Rabia

Shantona Women & Family Centre is a diverse, multi-cultural charity offering women and young children an open, transparent service that builds upon their skills and helps bridge the gap between societies. Having received a Building a Stronger Britain Together grant from the Foundation, they delivered a 20-week programme for 3 groups of mothers and daughters from diverse communities in Harehills to protect vulnerable women who, due to isolation and inequality, are at higher risk of developing extreme views.

"I was born and brought up in Leeds. My parents are from Bangladesh; I come from a big family. We grew up on the same street and my siblings all live in that street; 3 brothers and 3 sisters. Before I got married, I had a variety of jobs, from childcare and admin to working in a chemist. But after having my children, I decided to dedicate my time to them. I have 6 children in total. They were the most important thing in my life. 16 years I spent at home, bringing them up.

I first came to Shantona when my youngest started nursery. I'd been isolated from the community for a long time. I didn't have the confidence initially, but I enjoyed meeting and socialising with the women here. It suited my outgoing personality. I started volunteering and doing training courses. By coming to Shantona, I've been able to start my own groups, everything from confidence-building classes, to safeguarding children and classes about domestic violence. I'm passionate about helping the women in my community and making them feel welcome, wherever they're from and whatever their background. I want people to mix and enjoy the activities. The way they helped me, Shantona had a massive impact on my life. I've been able to apply and push myself. It's like a second home for me."

Experience & Play

Leeds is increasingly seen as a centre for culture and sport, playing host to a number of international events. Despite this, many young people and families still face barriers to accessing creative opportunities and leading healthy, active lifestyles.

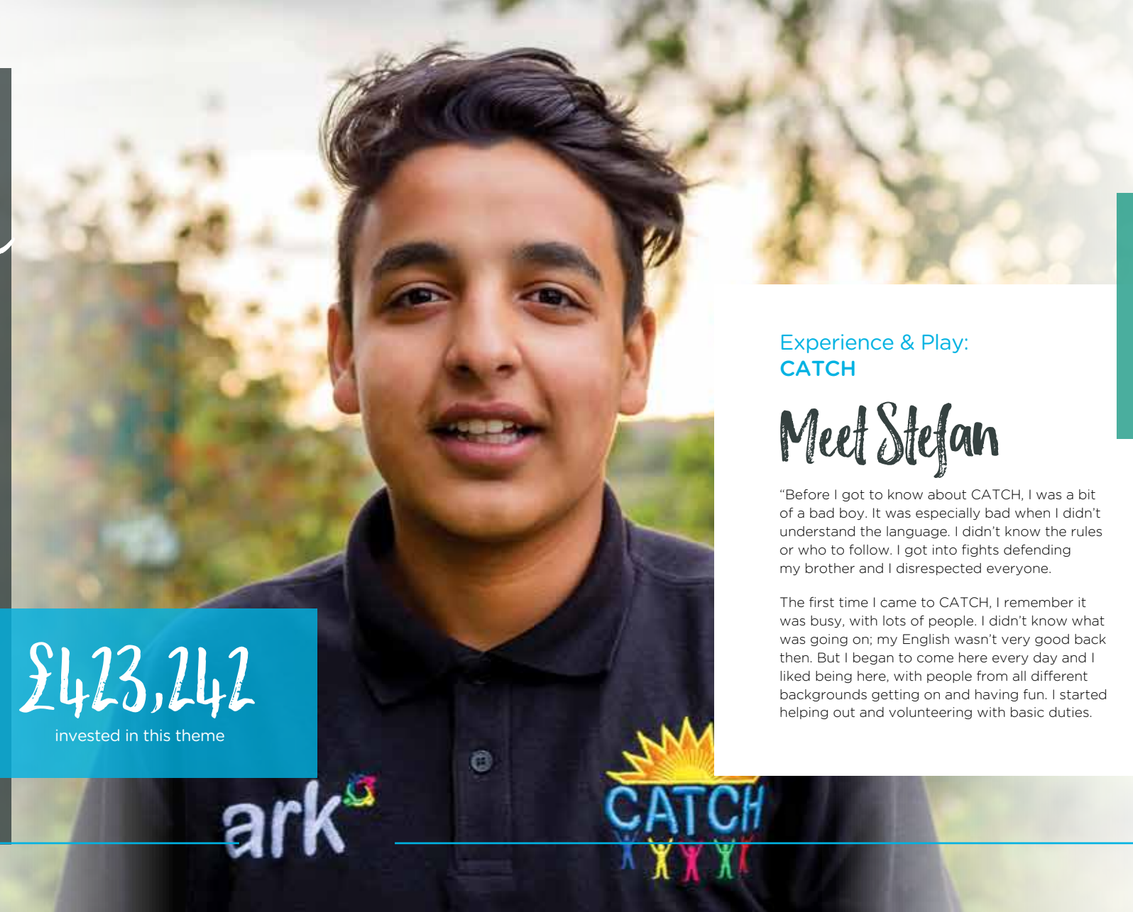
We support grassroots groups to help more children and young people broaden their horizons and reach their potential by offering new opportunities, activities and healthy options.

Through our work with the Pears Foundation, we were able to offer a offer funding to encourage projects to actively involve young people in the design and delivery of activities that focus on voice, engagement and influence.

This year also saw the launch of the Healthy Holidays grant programme which provides healthy meals and activities in the school holidays, when many families struggle due to lack of free school meals.

- **Over 30,000 children** in Leeds are living in poverty (Local Children Poverty Indicators Report 2018, End Child Poverty)
- This year, we distributed **over £150,000** through the Healthy Holidays grants programme to help tackle this issue
- **4,500 schoolchildren** in Leeds are being supported as a result of the Holiday Hunger Campaign

£423,242
invested in this theme



Experience & Play: CATCH

Meet Stefan

CATCH is a volunteer led organisation based in Harehills that works to raise the aspirations of local young people. The Foundation supported the organisation through a Healthy Holidays grant, enabling attendees to broaden their food horizons and gender attitudes towards cooking, as well as offer nutritious meals to over 90 young people that attend their weekly Youth Club.

"Before I got to know about CATCH, I was a bit of a bad boy. It was especially bad when I didn't understand the language. I didn't know the rules or who to follow. I got into fights defending my brother and I disrespected everyone.

The first time I came to CATCH, I remember it was busy, with lots of people. I didn't know what was going on; my English wasn't very good back then. But I began to come here every day and I liked being here, with people from all different backgrounds getting on and having fun. I started helping out and volunteering with basic duties.

Soon, my English improved and I was helping others out, giving advice and translating for them. I really enjoy doing that. That's my favourite part of being here, because I know what it's like being in their position, not understanding or knowing what to do sometimes. Also, I'm like a role model to a lot of the younger boys and girls, especially my cousins and nephews. It makes me proud of how I've been able to change myself, to help others. And not just here; I help my parents out with letters and papers they get. They see I've changed and they tell me they're really proud of me - it's nice to hear that."

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Leeds Community Foundation

Strengthening a Thriving Third Sector

We believe in giving a hand up, not a hand-out. As an experienced grant-maker, we provide funding and advice to strengthen local community projects and increase sustainability, so they can keep on making a vital difference to thousands of people every day.

We are proud to have supported over 615 projects across Leeds and Bradford this year.

From funding specialised workers and providing opportunities to learn and demonstrate impact, to supporting with core costs and major capital projects, our grants go beyond being purely just about money. The grants we give enable organisations of all shapes and sizes to pilot new approaches, build up their infrastructure, establish connections, share best practice and help develop a more coordinated local Third Sector.

1

Growing expertise

Our Third Sector grants programme enabled 50% of grantees to access health funding from the NHS Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group partnership for the first time. Through this funding, Purple Patch Arts, who provide creative activities for people with learning difficulties, were able to strengthen their applications for future funding.

2

Going from strength to strength

From first gaining an Ideas that Change Lives grant and a Solutions for An Ageing Society Do-It Award, emerging social enterprise, Words for Wellbeing, have gone from strength to strength. Words for Wellbeing have now secured a Time to Shine Small Funds award of £10,000, and through the Foundation's support, can continue to offer its valuable 'Book Chat' workshops, which help improve local older people's mental health and wellbeing.

3

Increasing learning and sustainability

From a Third Sector Health Grant of just £5,000, Women's Health Matters piloted a project to explore and understand the health needs of refugees and asylum seeking women living in Leeds. With a significant £30,000 investment from The Leeds Fund Strategic Grants programme, they went on to effectively address these findings and support the mental health and resilience needs of this group of women. Building on this success, Women's Health Matters has now secured funding from Lloyds Bank Foundation and Leeds City Council, as well as The Henry Smith Charity, to ensure the sustainability of their work with vulnerable women.

Help us to make a difference

The 100 Club

Aimed at individuals and businesses, The 100 Club is a popular supporter scheme in Leeds and Bradford that invests in the Foundation to enable us to help communities across the region.

For an annual donation of £1,000, supporters are not only demonstrating their commitment to Leeds Community Foundation and the work we do, but they also have the opportunity to attend exclusive quarterly events showcasing the work of the Foundation and engaging with fellow supporters.

The Leeds Fund

The Leeds Fund accepts contributions from individuals and businesses who want to support the city in which they live and work. Launched in 2016, The Leeds Fund aims to bridge the gap between those in need and those with the ability to help.

The fund is divided into three grant programmes: Micro, Small and Strategic. Strategic grants are themed and based on the priority needs of the city. The first series of Strategic grants were around Mental Health and, in 2018, the strategic priority will be around Loneliness and Inclusion.

The Leeds Fund has attracted significant investment from key organisations in the city, including John Lewis, Asda and HARIBO.

Named Funds

Named Funds provide a simple and cost effective alternative to establishing an independent charitable trust. With a minimum donation of £25,000, Leeds Community Foundation handles the investment, correspondence, compliance and governance.

We manage a portfolio of funds across Leeds and Bradford on behalf of individuals, families, businesses and statutory organisations, as well as national funders such as The Pears Foundation.

Our aim is to help you to support high impact grassroots groups, making a real difference in our communities.

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Leeds Community Foundation

Our Supporters

The work we do would not be possible without the commitment of our supporters. Thank you.

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"I have been so impressed by the commitment of this City and Leeds Community Foundation in focusing on mental health. You have been leading the way in bringing funding and expertise together in support of local community solutions."

– Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex

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