THE LEEDS FUND: COST OF LIVING

Helping people in Leeds when they need it most

Leeds
Community
Foundation

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITIES?

People are struggling to make ends meet. Nearly two thirds of people couldn't afford at least one essential item in the first half of 2026. And in Leeds, more than 39,000 people who're having to claim Universal Credit are in work.

Community organisations like Simon on the Streets are seeing the impact of this first-hand.

"As the cost of living rises and disposable income shrinks for many, we've seen an influx of individuals facing not only homelessness but also mental health struggles, addiction and trauma."

These organisations are already embedded in our communities, providing trusted support to people when they need it most. But demand for their services is growing and so are their own costs, leaving many struggling to keep up.

Financial pressures mean more than 70% of Leeds community organisations might have to reduce or close some of their services.

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BRIDGING THE GAP

We've created The Leeds Fund: Cost of Living to help bridge the gap.

It's a collective fund, where we'll pool together donations of all sizes and channel them towards one goal – making the effects of increased living costs more manageable for local people.

It's not the first time we've brought the people of Leeds together when we needed each other.

In 2016 we launched The Leeds Fund with the theme of mental health. We raised more than £615,000 that funded 22 community projects to improve people's wellbeing and self-esteem, increase awareness of mental health issues and reduce stigma.

Since then, we've invested more than £4 million in local communities through 128 strategic grants from The Leeds Fund, focusing on the issues that matter most to local people. From loneliness and inclusion to enterprise and employability, and organisational resilience.

WHY CHOOSE LEEDS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION?

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EXPERT INSIGHTS INTO COMMUNITY NEEDS

We take the guesswork out of giving. Our strong relationships with locally-rooted community organisations and public sector partners give us the intel on what communities need now. We've got our ear to the ground, and we make sure your giving goes where it's most needed.

MAXIMISE YOUR IMPACT, AND SEE IT

Giving to a collective fund means your donation can be matched multiple times over. Pooling that investment makes your giving go further, and your impact greater. We'll send you a report showing you what you've helped to fund, and the difference it's made for local people.

CONNECT WITH OTHERS WHO CARE

When you give to The Leeds Fund, you join a community of people who want to see our city thrive. Our supporter events bring donors and community organisations together, giving you the opportunity to learn, connect and see the impact of your giving firsthand.

“We place great value on Leeds Community Foundation’s ongoing support. Our grants over the past few years have funded vital project activities and at the same time wider organisational development for furthering our goals to support and empower vulnerable members of local communities.”

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HEAR IT FROM DIAL LEEDS

DIAL Leeds empower disabled people to overcome discrimination and disadvantage. We’ve awarded them 24 grants since 2015, investing more than £213,000 in the organisation so they can provide essential support to people like Kay.

Kay has learning disabilities and kidney problems. Her Personal Independence Payment (PIP) was withdrawn following a review of her claim, leaving her and her partner trying to make ends meet on Universal Credit.

“They came to our foodbank support sessions regularly and we were able to help them to access Trussel food parcels. Our supported referral to Money Buddies resulted in them accessing supermarket vouchers and credits to their gas and electric meters.”

As well as meeting Kay’s immediate needs, DIAL Leeds also represented Kay at a face-to-face tribunal hearing for PIP.

“The tribunal awarded her enhanced rates of both PIP Daily Living and Mobility for 5 years. Her weekly PIP income is now £187.45 and they will have the Carer Amount of £201.68 per month reinstated on their Universal Credit. The arrears of benefit will total over £14,000.”

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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By giving to The Leeds Fund: Cost of Living, you'll help us fund vital support like food, fuel and household essentials, and welfare rights, debt and benefits advice. We'll work with community organisations in Leeds to decide exactly how we'll give out the money we raise, so it makes the most difference for local people. These are some examples of the kinds of thing your donation could support.

£2,500

could fund a seasonal project like Caring Together in Woodhouse and Little London's 'Soup and a Roll'. They ran weekly advice drop-ins during the winter months, offering people a warm meal, a friendly face and practical advice to help them navigate challenges with benefits, housing, fuel costs and health support.

£15,000

could fund 7 months of strategic support for a local organisation like Gateway Church. The funding helped strengthen the staff, volunteers and systems behind their food bank, fuel bank and community café, so more people can access the support they need now and in the future.

£35,000

could fund a neighbourhood-wide project like 'Living Well in Seacroft' for a year. Delivered by the We Are Seacroft collective of 9 locally-rooted community organisations, 'Living Well in Seacroft' tackled food poverty, fuel poverty and social isolation through various cooking, advice and social activities.

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TWICE THE IMPACT

For every pound you donate to The Leeds Fund: Cost of Living, we can unlock the same in match funding.

£2,500 becomes	£15,000 becomes	£35,000 becomes
£5,000	**£30,000**	**£70,000**

All the way up to £500,000.

And the impact you have will be doubled, too. We can make twice as many grants, fund twice as many organisations, and make sure twice as many people get help with the essentials they need.

GIVING MADE EASY

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Giving to The Leeds Fund is a simple, hassle-free way to support communities across Leeds through the cost of living crisis.

STEP I. DECIDE HOW MUCH YOU WANT TO GIVE

You can give any amount to The Leeds Fund, and your donation will be pooled with others, so it goes even further. You can make a one-off donation or commit to an annual gift, so you're guaranteed to make a difference every year. Your annual donation will always support The Leeds Fund's theme.

STEP 2. GET IN TOUCH AND WE'LL SET THINGS UP

Contact our team to let us know how much you'd like to give and how often. We'll send you details on how to make your donation, including Gift Aid if you're eligible.

STEP 3. EXPERIENCE YOUR IMPACT

We'll let you know where your donation goes, and the impact it has. And you can join our regular events to meet and hear from the organisations we fund.

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READY TO GIVE?

By giving to The Leeds Fund: Cost of Living, you'll join others who care about Leeds and want to make sure support reaches local people when it's needed most.

Contact Josh, our Director of Philanthropy and Partnerships, who'll support you every step of the way.

Email: josh@leedscf.org.uk

Call: 0113 242 2426