

LEEDS THIRD SECTOR AMBITION STATEMENT

Approved by Leeds Third Sector Partnership March 2014

City partners acknowledge that Leeds needs a thriving third sector able to rise to current challenges and opportunities and work alongside all partners to deliver the Best City ambitions. To achieve this, Leeds needs a culture that is creative and brave enough to embrace new ways of working with the third sector. The Third Sector Ambition Statement has been developed to help create that culture and enable partners to understand what is meant by a 'thriving third sector'.

The Leeds Third Sector Ambition Statement:

- provides a general description of the type of third sector that Leeds needs and wants to invest in and nurture
- sets out ambitions in order to influence practice, and
- provides encouragement and clear expectations about doing business in new ways with the third sector

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The success of Leeds and the wellbeing of all of its citizens is dependent on having thriving private, public and third sectors, each independently successful but working effectively in partnership.

The City's ambition is to have a sustainable, diverse third sector economy, with organisations from the smallest self-help group through to larger, local and national service providers. The ambition is to use the Leeds pound to invest in a local infrastructure that has a legacy beyond the life of any single funding programme.

Leeds needs a third sector that is:

- enterprising, responsive, sustainable, resilient, professional and civic minded
- diverse in its activities and the size, type and governance of its organisations
- inclusive, with extensive participation and broad reach into all neighbourhoods and communities
- confident in its strong and mutually beneficial relationships with the public and private sector
- driven by the needs and priorities of people and communities in Leeds
- able to champion and advocate for citizens, communities and causes
- led by local people
- able to evidence outcomes and be recognised for quality delivery and impact

Leeds also needs:

- a vibrant and active community and self-help sector operating at the grassroots level in local neighbourhoods and across communities of interest
- an effective third sector support and development infrastructure that can help to grow the third sector that Leeds requires
- the conditions that allow small, neighbourhood and community groups to emerge, develop and grow

A thriving and sustainable third sector will include:

- National and regional third sector organisations delivering in Leeds
- Leeds-based organisations able to compete for and win major contracts in Leeds and beyond
- Local voluntary organisations: evolving to meet local needs, sustainable and flexible enough to respond to changing circumstances, with the potential to grow
- Small Voluntary, Community and Self Help groups often volunteer-run with low running costs and high impact

Leeds commits to create the conditions for a *Thriving Third Sector* that can play its role in the City

Partners are invited to endorse the Third Sector Ambition Statement