

# Leeds Third Sector Partnership

Plan on a Page 2020 - 2021

## Key area of focus

**The Policy and Operating Framework for a thriving third sector**

**Infrastructure to support a diverse and thriving third sector**

**Investment in and Commissioning of the third sector**

**City Leadership : The third sector shaping and delivering on the city priorities**

## Workstreams

### Third Sector policy and operating arrangements:

- ◇ Development, review and overview of the implementation of policy and operating arrangements as agreed by TSP  
Currently this includes:
  - \* Leeds Third Sector Ambition Statement—describes the third sector that Leeds needs
  - \* Compact for Leeds— sets out principles and guidance for working relationships with the third sector
  - \* Commissioning Code of Practice—sets out values and guidance for commissioning of the sector and beyond
  - \* Working Together Code of Practice —presents good practice for collaboration and partnership workin
  - \* Leeds Social Value Charter and the Leeds Pledge to Strengthen Civil Society
- ◇ Championing the role and potential of the third sector, valuing it's size, scope and reach and maintaining a focus on the diversity of communities and geographies

### Infrastructure to support the Third Sector

- ◇ Encourage partners to develop and invest in a coherent and collaborative generic and specialist infrastructure support offer which meets the needs of the third sector, including: organisational development, governance, financial management, volunteer management and brokerage, funding support, networking, voice and influence arrangements, organisational and sector leadership
- ◇ Ensure that there is a focus on and investment in engagement with and support for emerging, and established small and community groups and minority and marginalised communities and neighbourhoods, including: creating an operating environment where smaller groups can equitably participate in consortia and sub contract as part of large contracts
- ◇ Encourage promotion and communication about the range of infrastructure support on offer

### Investment in and Commissioning of the third sector

- ◇ Oversight of TS investment and commissioning, including:
  - \* Commissioning Code of Practice: annual update on implementation with a review and refresh as necessary
  - \* Maintaining a focus on grants as an appropriate part of the commissioning mix
  - \* Encouraging partners to develop collaborative investment strategies and arrangements to support coherent commissioning, service delivery and third sector led activity and a healthy third sector ecosystem
  - \* Encourage collaboration between partners to secure sustainability of key services
- ◇ Oversight of city wide, local and specialist TS funding support arrangements and infrastructure, including:
  - \* finding information, advice and training, support with bid writing, project planning and organisational readiness
- ◇ Maximising external funding into Leeds, including encouraging partners to:
  - \* Proactively and collaboratively engage with funders to maximise investment into the city

### Third Sector leadership in the city

- ◇ Advocating and supporting appropriate TS representation within the city partnerships and decision making infrastructure
- ◇ Ensuring that the Third Sector Partnership is aware of and if appropriate used as a forum to critique policy and other developments of relevance to the sector, including inviting lead partners to attend TSP or other forums
- ◇ Promoting the role of the third sector in delivering on key emerging or challenging agendas, including convening task groups to bring together relevant parties, where no other partner is taking action or where there is a specific role for the third sector to play

## 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

### LEEDS THIRD SECTOR AMBITION STATEMENT

**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 also 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**