

Leeds Community Committees Annual Report 2020/21



“Bringing people together to make a difference for local people and their communities”

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Welcome: Councillor Mary Harland

We are immensely proud of the work our 10 Community Committees continue to do for the residents of Leeds. This work has continued throughout the past year, despite the continued challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key themes have continued to emerge over the last 12 months as a result of Coronavirus. The Community Committees have responded proactively to these key themes; listening to all our communities throughout the city and allocating resources and funding where it has been most needed during the pandemic; helping to protect the most vulnerable, helping to keep people safe from harm, assisting people with financial hardship and helping tackle social isolation and inequality.

The commitment to locality based working has been demonstrated once again over the course of the last 12 months in the broad range of projects that the Community Committees have funded, spending nearly £2 million in 2020/21, totalling over 400 separate grants that were provided to local grass route organisations, voluntary groups and charities, to tackle the immediate and specific needs of our communities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our Community Committees have also played an essential role in providing a responsive information service to all our diverse communities in the city, by being a key source of reliable and up to date information throughout the pandemic. The Coronavirus Help Facebook Groups were set up as a way of promoting services, supporting communities and cascading information in an attempt to tackle the pandemic. The pages were also there to generate discussion and debate but also facilitate conversations around being neighbourly during the national pandemic and assist in some of the volunteering efforts in the city.

The Community Committees continue to work with many partners from different sectors to meet the needs of our communities and the challenge now as we look ahead to next year and the recovery phase of COVID-19, is how we continue to do this successfully despite the significant challenges that the pandemic has provided. Our work may need to be delivered differently but the Community Committees will continue to work hard to ensure that every voice is heard and that we are impacting positively on all our local communities in Leeds.



Councillor Mary Harland

Executive Member for Communities



Introduction

The city of Leeds, situated in the centre of the country is the third largest and one of the fastest growing, diverse cities in England. Leeds City Council itself is the second largest metropolitan district in the country, covering 217 square miles with over three quarters of a million residents.

During the course of 2020/21 Leeds City Council has continued its vision to make Leeds the best city in the UK, by being compassionate and caring with a strong economy, tackling poverty and reducing inequalities.

This ambition has been tested over the last 12 months as a result of the continued and ongoing challenges that COVID-19 has presented the city. Leeds City Council however has remained focused on its vision of creating a distinctive, sustainable, ambitious and of particular relevance this last year, a safe city, by working tirelessly with our 10 Community Committees and our 99 elected members.

Normally each year all 10 Community Committees set out their priorities, identifying target areas that need to be addressed over the next 12 months. These targets are identified by using local data that provide valuable information on various issues such as unemployment, health, crime and anti-social behaviour. COVID-19 however meant that there was an urgent need to tackle the immediate and specific effects of the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Council, led by elected members, delivered an extensive programme of support across all areas of the city; keeping residents safe, protecting the most vulnerable and ensuring that local communities got the support they needed. The work that took place through our Community Committee structures proved invaluable in making sure our approach was tailored to meet the direct needs of our local communities in a responsive and effective way.

This report covers some of the progress of all 10 committees and demonstrates how they helped provide local residents with a voice. It also provides examples of real life human stories from the pandemic and how some of the projects the committees have funded have benefitted local communities across Leeds in 2020/21, contributing towards the Best Council Plan ([here](#) for the latest version) and the council's overall aim of creating safe, strong communities.



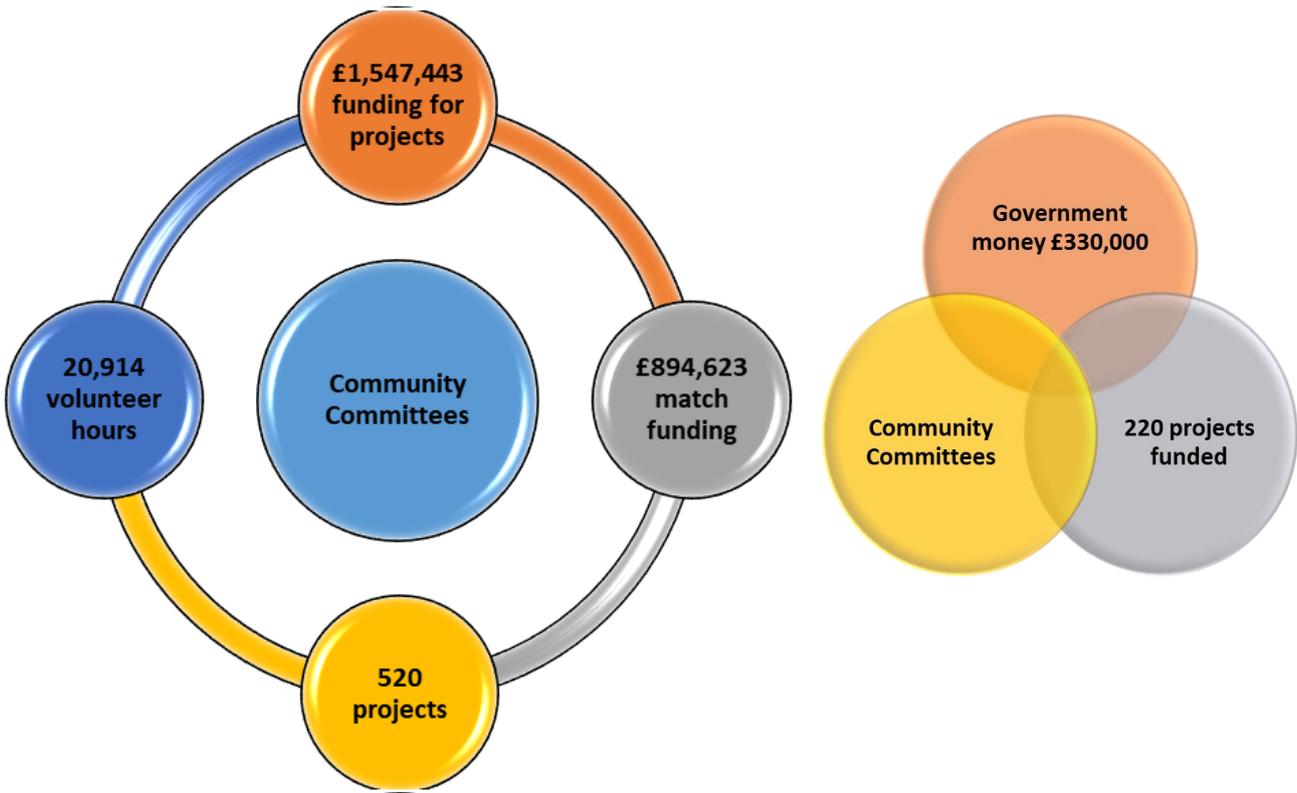
Spending Money Locally

Community Committees play an important role in understanding and addressing issues of concern to local people. One of the many ways they do this is by funding projects that address local priorities.

In 2020/21 this was even more apparent as the COVID-19 pandemic affected Leeds. With it came some very specific and immediate needs for our communities; challenges that the Community Committees aimed to address by funding much needed projects that tackled the immediate effects of the pandemic in each of the 33 wards in the city.

At the start of each year, every committee is allocated a dedicated sum of money known as the Wellbeing Fund and Youth Activities Fund. This money is provided for local projects and activities and can often be increased through match funding from other sources, although last year the situation was understandably different.

The seriousness of the situation in Leeds as a result of COVID-19 and some of those specific challenges was once gain highlighted in December 2020, when the Community Committees were provided with another £10,000 per ward, £330,000 in total from central Government, to tackle the ongoing effects of COVID-19 in the city.



Inner East

Kidz Klub Home Visiting Project

The Inner East Community Committee awarded £4,664.72 to Kids Klub to deliver their Home Visiting Project. Kids Klub usually runs a youth bus that picks young people up across the 3 Inner East wards and takes them to the Kidz Klub youth activity sessions at Bridge Street Church in Burmantofts, however due to the COVID-19 pandemic these sessions were unable to take place.

The team at Kids Klub were keen to still provide support to young people and their families and therefore delivered the Home Visiting Project where Kidz Klub staff and volunteers made regular socially distanced visits to young people on their doorstep and delivered them a weekly activity pack. The packs provided activity and engagement with positive messages and were a way to get out useful information that parents and carers might need, as well as providing an opportunity to signpost to other organisations offering support in response to the pandemic.

The visits and activities have been a lifeline of connection through the pandemic and the children have really looked forward to receiving them every week. The packs provided a talking point for follow up visits or calls and were key to Kidz Klub maintaining and building relationships with young people across Inner East. One little boy saved up all 6 months' worth of his beautifully completed colouring sheets to show the team on their next visit, who were all really touched by this.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LCCInnerEast>



Inner South

Ciaran Bingham Foundation Trust

Ciaran Bingham Foundation Trust seeks to reduce the social isolation of older people living in South Leeds by filling the gap in support which results in older people being left alone at weekends, evenings, Christmas and other public holidays. They run 4 weekend luncheon clubs at the Vale Circles, Beeston and also provide social activities, trips, craft activities and a listening ear.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 lockdown at the end of March 2020, the charity had been seriously restricted in the way that it could offer events for their service users. The hub that they normally used at the weekend had closed, with the result that they couldn't cook and serve Sunday lunch for the many people that relied upon its services. In addition, many of their service users were also self-isolating and couldn't leave their homes, being clinically extremely vulnerable.

With the help of the COVID-19 Wellbeing Fund grant of over £1,200 from the Inner South Community Committee, the organisation was able to start supplying a cooked, 2 course meal to their service users across all 3 wards, delivering up to 40 hot meals each Sunday. Between September 2020 and the end of December 2020, the organisation delivered a total of 706 meals in the Inner South area, with the help of their volunteers.

A satisfied service user commented; "I love the food, we get a good hearty meal which some people, like myself, wouldn't go through the trouble of making and it is something to look forward to. This charity means everything to me! You look after me and I really enjoy your functions and being involved and I am really grateful for what you do."

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Inner West

Hollybush Wellbeing in Wellies

Funding of £8,000 was approved by the Inner West Community Committee for The Conservation Volunteers to deliver a programme of work to make the Inner West Hollybush Site COVID-19 safe, along with 90 Environmental Action Days to engage Inner West Leeds residents.

The programme of work consisted of residents engaging in 500 workdays; running 1 'virtual' open day, looking after green spaces, as well as improving community activity and health in the Inner West area, which supports Leeds City Council's Climate Emergency and Get Set Leeds agendas.

Despite the challenges presented by the Coronavirus pandemic and the ever changing restrictions, The Conservation Trust staff and volunteer team at Hollybush responded with real creativity and commitment, with a definite desire to support the local community.

As COVID-19 restrictions eased and they were allowed to commence some of their activities, the organisation worked hard to make Hollybush compliant as a Covid-19 secure workplace. They also exceeded their target of local Environmental Action Days with volunteers, as demand to volunteer outdoors remained popular, despite the pandemic, with activities including greenspace management, health and well-being walks and litter picks, all with safe social distancing restrictions in place.

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Inner North East

Dance Active Communities Project

The Inner North East Community Committee awarded nearly £2,000 to fund online active communities' fitness/dance classes. The primary aim was to get adults and elderly people from the BAME community active during the pandemic, by offering them online fitness classes via Facebook Live.

RJC Dance based in Chapeltown offered the classes to people living in the committee area. The RJC Dance Active Communities Project provided 7 weekly 1 hour online sessions for adults & elders, using the art form of dance as a vehicle to encourage and motivate, with movement and exercise enhanced by music. The project reactivated bodies and minds that had become inactive during the pandemic and the lockdown period. It also combatted social isolation that many people have experienced.

The sessions were a great success, targeting people who have health and mobility issues in particular, preventing mental health from deteriorating as it provided them something to be involved with on a weekly basis. The sessions supported creative expression, physical fitness and enabled positivity.

A satisfied service user commented; "It's a real tonic "; "Tricia is a lovely teacher and uses the music so cleverly, it inspires us to move in ways we wouldn't otherwise think of"; "Cheering "; " Inspiring " and " Invigorating " .

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Inner North West

Rainbow Junktion Project

The Inner North West Community Committee awarded £4,000 to fund Rainbow Junktion Café at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. They switched their service to takeaway only and started a free shop and delivery service for those self isolating as a result of COVID-19.

The shop expanded to include fresh food, tinned/dry goods, baby products, cleaning products, toiletries, pet food, clothes and sanitary products. They also added a signposting service which, like everything else at Rainbow Junktion was run by volunteers but also, in addition to this, helped with a wide range of issues from emergency housing, substance abuse, mental health crisis, fuel bills, organising appointments and debt.

Some people that came to Rainbow Junktion said they hadn't been able to feed their family for several days as a result of the financial challenges that the pandemic created and were obviously under incredible stress. They also often mentioned how important it had been that Rainbow Junktion volunteers had been a 'friendly face', remembering their names and asking them how they were doing, as they provided an informal check in service, which, during times of crisis and social isolation, benefitted the communities that were in need of their services.

Volunteers also expressed how important the project had been for their own sense of purpose, greatly benefitting their own mental health and well-being during COVID-19.

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Outer East

Youth Services

The Outer East Community Committee awarded over £24,000 to Leeds City Council Youth Services to deliver a range of activities and services to young people, across all 4 wards in the Outer East area. Due to COVID-19 the majority of planned trips and activity days were postponed and/or cancelled. The Youth Service had to come up with new ways of engaging young people therefore, all while adhering to Government guidelines and restrictions regarding COVID-19.

In the Crossgates & Whinmoor and Temple Newsam wards, Youth Workers delivered activity packs throughout the Government lockdowns. These packs included information on mental health and included a number of wellbeing tips, quizzes and links to helplines and one to one Zoom support sessions with The Market Place, Teen Connect, ChildLine, Kooth, Mind Mate and Young Minds. In addition to this they provided arts and crafts sessions when planned trips could not go ahead.

In the Garforth & Swillington and Kippax & Methley wards activity bags were created for the purpose of giving the young people something to do in school holidays. In summer 2020 the Youth Service funded a "Guide to Lockdown Life" which included a booklet of activities, stress ball making kit, cress head making kit, various arts & crafts and some sweet treats. These were made up into a "goodie" bag and delivered to young people who requested one through the Youth Service social media accounts.

Youth Workers in all areas also undertook welfare checks on young people who were shielding due to additional health conditions, providing them with a safe space to discuss any issues affecting them. Over the last year Youth Workers have conducted around 300 welfare calls to young people, offering positive support in particular during school closures.

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Outer South

Outer South Garden Maintenance Service

Morley Elderly Action in 2020/21 was commissioned by the Outer South Community Committee to deliver a 1 year gardening scheme to cover the 4 wards of Outer South; Ardsley & Robin Hood, Morley North, Morley South and Rothwell, to anyone over the age of 67, especially those with a disability or anyone unable to cope with gardening due to old age. The main objective of the scheme was maintenance gardening; grass cutting, 'strimming', hedge cutting, cutting back bushes and small trees and weeding.

Funding of £30,000 was given by the committee to provide 4,120 hours of gardening at a subsidised rate to elderly customers, with the remaining funding towards the cost of the project being provided by the Outer South Housing Advisory Panel. This was an additional amount of funding to previous years, meaning that the gardeners were also able to providing regular updates to customers regarding the ever changing COVID-19 guidance and regulations.

During the pandemic careful management and budgeting allowed the service to operate throughout the year; one of the few scheme that was able to run. This was a real lifeline to clients, as gardeners for some of the scheme's elderly residents would be their only connection to the outside world. This helped to safeguard some of its most vulnerable and socially isolated community members, often done via a simple 'check' in, in amongst the gardening service, or through phone calls from the project coordinator. Gardeners were sympathetic with clients who suffered from memory problems including Dementia, as they had received Dementia Awareness Training and were 'Dementia Friends', often 'going that extra mile' for their clients; this could be from changing a light bulb to putting out bird food.

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Outer West

Support for the Elderly Community

Throughout a challenging year in 2020/21, the Outer West Community Committee ensured that support for elderly residents was a key priority, funding £3,500; £1,600 towards bowling clubs and £1,900 to Neighbourhood Action. Due to the lockdown and ongoing social restrictions, the bowling greens in the area were not able to open and as a result were left in difficult financial circumstances. The Outer West Community Committee provided key funding to a number of greens in the Outer West area, recognising the extensive support the clubs provide to elderly people and the wider community, both in keeping active and reducing social isolation.

In the Calverley & Farsley ward, both Westroyd Park Bowling Club and Victoria Park Bowling Club made use of the funds to invest in essential membership drives for the upcoming summer season, enabling them to achieve better self-sufficiency going forward.

In the Pudsey ward, Pudsey Park Bowling Club and Tyersal Park Bowling Club were able to introduce much needed updates to the venues to make them COVID-19 safe for members and visitors, with anti-bacterial stations, outdoor seating and other sanitising equipment. A spokesperson at Tyersal Park Bowling Club commented that “this money has helped to improve our club greatly, has created a lot of interest in new members for next year and now the future for the club looks a lot rosier”.

In the Farnley & Wortley ward, essential funding was provided to Neighbourhood Action Farnley, New Farnley and Moor Top, to ensure key support services to the elderly community could continue. This came in the form of food deliveries, check-in calls and the provision of digital laptops to help keep elderly people connected. Online events such as Zoom quizzes and Zoom bingo sessions were extremely well received by participants, bringing people together and contributing to a feeling of strong community in the area.

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Outer North East

Police Resources (Electric Pedal Cycles)

The Outer North East Community Committee funded the Outer North East Neighbourhood Policing Team nearly £5,000 to purchase two electric pedal cycles, to be used in the Harewood and Wetherby wards.

Both wards have a large rural population; residential as well as business, which understandably takes a great deal of time and effort to cover. Because of these challenges, on some occasions police cars are used to transport officers to the outer areas of Leeds, as the Police Community Support Officers have a very limited number of bicycles to use.

The funding from the Outer North East Community Committee meant that by purchasing electric pedal cycles, officers were able to cover a larger geographical area during each working shift. This also freed up police vehicles to attend to other operational matters in the Outer North East Neighbourhood Policing Team area.

The deployment of the electric pedal cycles has meant there has been an increase in use of the cycle paths in the ward, which has also increased community engagement generally, largely with other cyclists but also other members of the local community. The electric pedal cycles have become a talking point, with members of the public stopping to chat with the Police Community Support Officers and this has enabled them to deal with more issues in these local neighbourhoods.

The pedal cycles had police livery applied to provide enhanced visibility in the community and the model used by the Outer North East Neighbourhood Policing Team also has an extended life battery, with a high level of safety features, meaning that money has been spent wisely. Funding for this particular project fits in with the safer and stronger communities agenda.

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Outer North West

Affordable After School Activities and Holiday Clubs

The Outer North West Community Committee provided over £5,000 of funding for affordable after school activities for young people in the Outer North West area. In particular it focused on providing artistic and creative activities to be completed during home learning, particularly relevant in 2020 due to the closure of schools and after school clubs because of the Coronavirus pandemic.

As a result of the many health and wellbeing challenges that young people faced during the pandemic, the project focused on 'providing the fun and opportunities to express creatively'. Oddballs Theatre & Hullabaloo Children's Orchestra partnered with Guiseley Theatre to develop a home learning website looking at life and roles within the theatre. With each role they developed a video and worksheets for young people to complete at home. This was promoted and used in schools and home learning during the national lockdowns.

The project group also created 3 children's literature pieces; a child would receive a book and a box containing worksheets, crafts activities and links to web pages, with additional learning and performance activities. These packs contained an average of 10 hours' worth of activities for young people and were designed to encourage reading, promote creativity and imaginative thinking. 200 young people in the Outer North West Committee area benefited from these packs.

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Community Voice and Influence

Youth Summits

Youth Summits are an opportunity for young people aged 8-17 years living in Leeds to learn about local democracy and influence decision making by taking part in a consultation exercise that informs the Community Committee's Youth Activity Fund budget spend for the following year.

Building on our commitment to engage and involve children and young people in decision making in their own communities, young people have once again been involved in choosing which activities should be supported by the Community Committees' Youth Activity Fund in 2020/21, albeit in a slightly different way as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As Youth Summits could not be delivered in their normal manner, Community Committees agreed that because of COVID-19, an online consultation survey on budget spend priorities would be coordinated across the city. Capturing this feedback would ensure that young people were still able to inform the Youth Activity Fund spend for each committee in 2021/22 and in this respect the survey would produce the same outcome as a physical Youth Summit.

Promotion of the survey was publicised far and wide across the Community Committee areas, with information being posted on the Community Committees Facebook pages, publicity being sent out to all school & cluster contacts, youth groups and any other organisations that are funded, or work with young people in the Community Committee areas, as well as being circulated to local Councillors and the committees mailing lists. As schools started to reopen from the 8th March 2021, schools were also made aware of the survey and its importance.

Although things were done differently, the online consultation survey has been a big success, with around 1,300 responses from children and young people across the city. These responses will all feed in to each individual committee area for Elected Members to consider when making decisions on the Youth Activity Fund budget spend in 2021/22.



Community Voice and Influence

Youth Activity Consultation Survey

All the consultation that took place fed into an online survey, with responses providing a citywide picture for activities across Leeds. Children and young people told us that their top 5 funded activities in 2021/22 should be: 1) sports clubs (such as rugby and football); 2) cooking; 3) dance; 4) youth clubs; 5) outdoor activities.

The feedback showed that the majority of young people wanted youth activities on offer in venues such as community centres, youth clubs and sport centres, as well as activities delivered outdoors. Young people also wanted the majority of provision taking place regularly after school, in the evenings and on the weekend, as well as ensuring that all activities are inclusive of friendship groups, have refreshments available and have good quality staff.

Feedback from children and young people involved in Youth Summits has always been very positive, so a priority this year for the Community Committees will be for them to deliver physical events for children and young people, as long as it is safe for us to do so.



Responding to the Pandemic

Community Committee Meetings

As a result of the Coronavirus pandemic Community Committees were not able to meet and a number of meetings at the end of March 2020 were cancelled as a result of 'lockdown'. Constitutionally, Community Committees are council meetings held in public, however the practicalities of holding public meetings as a result of the pandemic were not realistic, so committees decided to meet virtually in order to be able to respond proactively to the immediate challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic, Community Committees have played a pivotal role in providing leadership in the co-ordination and delivery of local relief efforts and it was agreed in April 2020 that whilst moving to virtual consultative forums, the focus of committee meetings would be on addressing local challenges related to the pandemic, which included the spend of delegated budgets.

Whilst the committees continued to meet virtually using the Zoom Pro platform, formal committee meetings resumed from the winter cycle of meetings, in-line with other Council committees, boards and panels. Committee meetings were then scheduled in to the Council Calendar with a link attached, to allow members of the public to observe the meeting on the Council's You Tube channel.

As committees were keen to engage with communities, as part of the standard 'open forum' agenda item, members of the public were invited to put forward a written submission. These covered a number of issues including council budget saving proposals and issues relating to anti-social behaviour. Some of the written submissions related to city wide issues and where this was the case, these were passed on to the appropriate service and also fed in to any consultation that was taking place in relation to the issue being raised.

All Community Committees had varying amounts of engagement in relation to this new way of working during the pandemic, however COVID-19 has provided a real opportunity for the committees to look at how they actively engage in the future with a much wider audience and discussions are ongoing around future meetings, looking at alternative ways of engaging with the public.

YouTube: [Leeds City Council - Committees, Boards and Panels - YouTube](#)



Stay Safe

Responding to the Pandemic

£10,000 Wellbeing Budget Coronavirus Grants Pots

In recognition of the need to have an immediate and agile response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Executive Member for Communities and Director of Communities and Environment in March 2020 approved the use of 2020/21 Wellbeing funds (£10,000 per ward) to support COVID-19 related activities. This was underpinned by a fit-for-purpose decision making process, with committee members deciding on spend for each ward. At the end of March 2021, almost 200 separate grants had been awarded by Community Committees, totalling just over £260,000. Grants awarded covered a wide range of local support needs and activities.

£10,000 Government Coronavirus Grants Pots

Following Leeds being moved in to Tier 3 in November 2020, all 33 wards in the city were allocated an extra £10,000 from central Government to tackle the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic in their communities (this was additional money to the Community Committees Wellbeing ring-fenced COVID-19 monies). In an attempt to ensure that the money was spent before the end of the 2020/21 financial year, given the short timescales that applied to this funding, the criteria used for the COVID-19 Wellbeing ring-fenced monies was applied. At the end of March 2021, over 220 separate grants had been awarded by Community Committees, totalling £330,000. Grants awarded cover a wide range of local support needs and activities.

Temporary Youth Activity Fund Revised Criteria

As a direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic, in November 2020, the Executive Member for Communities agreed to apply some temporary flexibility until the end of the financial year to the current Youth Activity Fund criteria. This was done in order to enable Community Committees to provide additional support to children and young people who were experiencing greater disadvantages as a result of the pandemic and associated government restrictions/guidance.



Stay Safe



Responding to the Pandemic

Digital Inclusion

Over the last year the Community Committees received many requests to fund digital equipment for children and young people from the COVID-19 monies. Clearly there was a need for digital devices and data was a significant barrier during the COVID-19 pandemic, with less prevalence of data support available.

As Community Committees were interested in spending monies on this really important issue, which had clearly been exaggerated by the pandemic, Elected Members utilised a checklist to make an informed decision on whether to support a funding request for digital equipment and data.

Community Committees looked at a number of options when considering funding projects that addressed digital exclusion in our local communities, including; MiFi (a MiFi device can be connected to a [cellular network](#) and provide Internet access for up to 10 devices), dongles to supplement device distribution, or support to families with devices who were unable to afford data.

This coordinated approach across the Community Committees ensured that digital equipment and data was going where it was most needed in our local communities; working with schools and clusters who were best placed to assist in the distribution of devices and data order, by identifying families who were not logging on to remote learning, or those who had expressed difficulties due to having large families; <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-laptops-and-tablets-for-children-who-cannot-attend-school-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19>; <https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/devices/how-to-order>

As digital inclusion was not an exclusive issue for children & young people, the committees also used a similar checklist when other requests for funding were received, as there were various equipment gifting schemes and other types of grant schemes that had been made available during the pandemic; <https://leedsdigitalinclusion.wordpress.com/support-for-organisations/toolkits/>; <https://leedsdigitalinclusion.wordpress.com/support-for-individuals/equipment-and-connectivity/>.

Over the course of 2020/21, the Community Committees spent in excess of £100,000 on digital equipment in our local communities. This included Chromebooks, laptops, tablets and internet access and helped to address some of the digital inequalities experienced in Leeds as a result of COVID-19.



Stay Safe

Responding to the Pandemic

Community Care Volunteers/Volunteer Hubs

The COVID-19 pandemic quickly brought to the fore a large number of specific and immediate needs across all our communities in Leeds. To address some of these needs Voluntary Action Leeds in partnership with Leeds City Council launched a new volunteering programme, Community Care Volunteers.

The response was excellent and at its peak, the programme attracted sign ups from nearly 8,000 people across the city. Of these 8,000 people, 5,400 went on to fully complete all parts of their induction, meaning they were ready to be deployed.

In order to ensure that volunteers could be deployed to support people locally, Voluntary Action Leeds worked in partnership with Leeds City Council Communities Team to set up a new network of volunteer 'hubs' across the city. Discussions were facilitated with a range of third sector organisations who were interested in being a ward level hub and leading the response to meeting needs at a local level. 27 third sector organisations confirmed their intent to participate in the programmes and the volunteer response commenced.

Whilst the Leeds City Council Community Hubs closed following the onset of the pandemic, Customer Access and Welfare worked hard to maintain their support to local communities, through their key role in this programme of work. The COVID-19 Helpline was established alongside the existing Local Welfare Support Service. Both helplines recorded food referrals and systems were put in place to ensure food and support was provided and accessible to those most in need and impacted by COVID-19. In addition to food parcels, the service offered other support with shopping, prescriptions, fuel, hygiene products, baby products, dog walking and welfare/befriending telephone calls.

Following the launch of a central Leeds City Council COVID--19 Telephone Helpline in late March, accompanied by a citywide distribution of leaflets to 330,000 households to promote it, the Volunteer Hubs took on the responsibility of responding to referrals for support from people living locally to them.

The following stories provide some examples of how locality working partners have responded during the COVID-19 crisis, which Elected Members and Community Committees have played an essential role in.

THANK YOU!

Stay Safe



Responding to the Pandemic

Volunteer Hubs

The 'lockdown' in Leeds and the rest of the country happened at the end of March 2020 and this presented the Community Committees, as well as the whole city with some significant challenges. The pandemic had a massive impact on many sectors and organisations globally and unfortunately the council and the Community Committees were no different.

Since the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic, the response from local communities has been unprecedented, with around 2,000 people volunteering their time, expertise and experience to support local relief efforts. The sense of pride in being a citizen of Leeds and supporting local people brought about a new sense of civic responsibility and engagement. Key to the mobilisation of our communities has been the civic leadership that's been demonstrated through our elected leaders, who have worked diligently to ensure that local communities have been kept safe and furnished with the things they need, when they need them.

It is also clear that strong, effective partnerships have been developed through the work of the Community Care Hubs. These partnerships have flourished and in many cases are continuing to progress, with some now offering wider support to meet local needs: [Microsoft Word - Scrutiny Report Volunteering SM FINAL.doc \(leeds.gov.uk\)](#)

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/OAEubQ9xUNc>



Stay Safe



Responding to the Pandemic

Inner East: Burmantofts & Richmond Hill (Mencap)

Ten local organisations came together under the leadership of Leeds Mencap, to coordinate the local volunteer and welfare response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This partnership have worked together very effectively over the past year, providing essential support to people in the ward that have been adversely affected by the pandemic. The work of the partnership is evolving as the impacts of COVID-19 change; the number of referrals being taken by the council helpline is steadily decreasing but the economic and psychological impacts remain a significant challenge. Leeds Mencap have been successful in securing Lottery Funding, which they will use over the coming months, enabling them to continue their leadership and coordination role for the partnership. The main focus of this project will be moving people away from emergency support and connecting people with the relevant support they need as they recover from the lockdown phase of the pandemic.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LeedsMencap/posts/2752902041499675>



Stay Safe



Responding to the Pandemic

Inner South: Beeston & Holbeck (Slung Low)

A theatre company, Slung Low, with the help of volunteers, became very busy picking up shopping and prescriptions, delivering food parcels and hot meals, dog walking and carrying out welfare calls during the COVID-19 pandemic. They also put together the beautiful LS11 Art Gallery where local people submitted artwork, which Slung Low used to line the streets. This was a far cry from their usual role producing large community theatre performances, showcasing the work of artists in Holbeck and running their Cultural Community College. The Slung Low Team have discovered new areas of the local community which they previously had little contact with, new partnerships have formed with organisations they'd never been in touch with and amazing individuals have stepped up. Slung Low have now returned to doing some of their day-to-day work, albeit in a COVID-19 secure environment, such as outdoor performances to families and even a drive thru show, which are all making a massive impact in the local community.

Website: <https://www.slunglow.org/>



Stay Safe



Responding to the Pandemic

Inner West: Armley (New Wortley Community Centre)

New Wortley Community Centre worked through 'lockdown' delivering essential services to the community as the local hub for Armley. Through this work, they reached a wider audience and engaged with new people, which emphasised an ambition to have a greater reach into the local community and highlighted a previous low level of engagement with the BAME community. The centre was awarded £63,000 from the National Lottery to deliver a 6 month COVID-19 Response Project to meet the changing needs of local people during the pandemic. The project continues the existing Building Blocks provision but also funds a Mental Health Support Worker and a dedicated Development Worker targeting the BAME community, who will develop a range of support and learning opportunities appropriate and relevant to need.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TeamNewWortley/>



Stay Safe



Responding to the Pandemic

Inner North East: Moortown (InterACT)

Community Care Volunteering in the Moortown Ward was coordinated by InterACT Church and Community Partnership. InterACT is a Charitable Incorporate Organisation formally made up of 5 partner churches and are a well-established third sector organisation that have worked closely with Leeds City Council and communities over many years. Along with other Volunteer Hubs InterACT were kept busy during the pandemic, offering a 7 day service to community members that needed support and assistance with various tasks, including shopping for those who were self isolating, delivering hot meals, becoming a 'phone buddy' service for the socially isolated, as well as giving out shopping vouchers and food parcels. InterACT's experience and pragmatic approach enabled them to navigate a challenging initial period and maintain an excellent level of support for the community. Whilst there was a reduction in the number of referrals coming through the Leeds City Council Helpline as time progressed during the pandemic, this did not reflect the list of repeat support clients that the organisation assisted on a weekly basis.

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/pg/InteractCCP/photos/?ref=page_internal



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Responding to the Pandemic

Inner North West: Weetwood (Older People's Action in the Locality)

Older People's Action in the Locality is a registered charity and was established in January 2002 as part of the Leeds Neighbourhood NetworkS. They support older people in a number of areas to live safe, healthy, independent lives without isolation but in March 2020 were the designated COVID-19 Volunteer Hub for Weetwood, working with 2 other organisations who provided support; Interact and Step. Older People's Action in the Locality assisted its most disadvantaged community members with a wide range of tasks, including shopping for those who were self isolating, delivering hot meals, becoming a 'phone buddy' service for the socially isolated, as well as giving out shopping vouchers and food parcels. Communication between organisations working in the ward increased during the pandemic and Step are now hopeful that a good percentage of their referrals for the over 60's will join them in their regular activities once all COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. Other partnerships have developed through the use of digital technology over the last year, such as Zoom, with various meetings arranged with St Paul's Church Ireland Wood who were awarded funding from the Healthy Holidays Fund. Effective partnership working has been established, ensuring effective support to all sections of the community.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OPALLeeds16/>



OPAL
 OLDER PEOPLE'S
 ACTION IN THE LOCALITY

Stay Safe



Responding to the Pandemic

Outer East: Garforth & Swillington, Kippax & Methley (Garforth Neighbourhood Elders)

Garforth Neighbourhood Elders operated as the lead Volunteer Hub organisation across 2 wards; Garforth & Swillington and Kippax & Methley. During the pandemic they were operating 5 days a week, with 359 volunteers and 10 staff doing a range of activities in their local communities. Volunteer Telephone Befrienders made outgoing calls to clients and emergency food packs were delivered, which Councillors were extremely helpful with, identifying a suitable venue for distribution purposes via a lockup premise which was secured in Allerton Bywater. Other services included Bespoke Volunteer Shoppers, a service provided to those that were receiving 'end of life care'; Emergency Shoppers for client's with extreme dietary needs; daily pick up of prescriptions and driving the elderly to hospital appointments.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/garforthnet/>



Stay Safe



Responding to the Pandemic

Outer South: Ardsley & Robin Hood, Morley North, Morley South (Groundwork)

Groundwork was appointed as the Volunteer Hub for Ardsley & Robin Hood, Morley North and Morley South. Monday to Friday they had 2 dedicated staff members leading service delivery. One of these led on volunteer engagement whilst the other led on client tasks. Tasks were predominantly shopping and prescription pick-ups but they did start to see a growth in other tasks such as dog walking. They also provided daily check-ins and telephone support for a growing number of clients, as they started the process during lockdown of widening the volunteer base with more volunteers allocated for telephone support. They also provided energy advice to clients through their Green Doctor Service and plan to further expand this into a more pro-active service as it provides another form of social interaction for clients who would benefit from this. They are continuing to look into developing a number of other social interaction initiatives, with an aim of developing a programme of support activities that volunteers and staff can support clients with.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GroundworkYorkshire/>



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Responding to the Pandemic

Outer West: Calverley & Farsley, Pudsey (Pudsey Community Project)

Pudsey Community Project were the Volunteer Hub for the Calverley & Farsley and Pudsey wards, responding to an average of 100 referrals a week. A total of 150 volunteers were assigned to Pudsey Community Project via the Voluntary Action Leeds Community Care Volunteering Programme. Due to the level of local referrals they were initially using up to 35 volunteers at the start of the pandemic, however the volunteer numbers steadily increased as the weeks progressed. The remaining volunteers who had not been deployed provided neighbourhood packs, which included tips on how they could offer support and help to their neighbours and community in a safe manner. Pudsey Community Project were influential in establishing and delivering essential services within the local community, including; collection points which were established at St. Wilfred's, St. Johns and St. James Churches, for goods such as food, drink, toiletries, pet food and basic medicines; transportation of the above collections to the main hub at Pudsey Parish Church, as well as responding and adapting to emerging needs to provide a wider range of services, including welfare calls to isolated individuals and dog walking.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pudseycommunityproject/>



Stay Safe



Responding to the Pandemic

Outer North East: Harewood, Wetherby (Wetherby in Support of the Elderly)

Wetherby in Support of the Elderly (WiSE) is a registered charity organisation whose aim is to improve quality of life for the over 60's by providing community-based activities, information, help and support. It is one of the 37 Neighbourhood Networks across the city. WiSE realised that their normal way of setting up a project during the COVID-19 pandemic was not possible and like other organisations, had to improvise; "the challenge was that normally when a project starts there's time to plan, trial and then run it". The organisation during the pandemic assisted with food supplies, vouchers and prescriptions. The Leeds City Council telephone referral system slowly followed with the e-voucher shopping system and later the e-portal. For food supplies WiSE worked with Fareshare and topped up supplies by using the grant money from Leeds City Council to buy food. Referrals started to come in at the same time as volunteers through the Community Cares Volunteers and along with WiSE's existing volunteers, tasks were allocated to those best suited for the job required. WiSE worked alongside other groups who were operating in the wards.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/wetherbywise/>



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Responding to the Pandemic

Outer North West: Otley, Yeadon (Otley Action for Older People)

Otley Action for Older People is a long-established community-based organisation working on behalf of the older population of Otley, Pool and Arthington and is part of the Leeds Neighbourhood Networks. When Otley Action for Older People became a Volunteer Hub it meant several challenges; they needed to expand and represent all age ranges, as well as the area that they covered needed to widen. The change meant that they were working 50 hour weeks at the beginning of the pandemic. The method of referrals reflects their speedy COVID-19 response; because of the leaflet drop Otley Action for Older People and other local organisations were rung directly rather than going through the Leeds City Council Helpline and although referrals from Leeds City Council were 7 a day at their peak and a total of 175 as of 12th June 2020, the direct referrals totalled 100 a week with 50 regular requirements a week as well as an additional 51 weekly extra requests. As well as coordinating the volunteers, locals were entertained with quizzes, virtual art exhibitions, recitals and comedy events.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OtleyActionForOlderPeople/>



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Responding to the Pandemic

Cultural Food Hubs

In responding to the COVID-19 crisis, the council identified that there were residents in Leeds who needed help and support with emergency food, which better met their cultural needs. Hamara were initially identified in May 2020 to act as the Cultural Food Hub, in addition to being a Community Care Hub, providing culturally appropriate emergency food parcels for the city. In July 2020, Infinity/Give a Gift became the Cultural Food Hub for the East of the city, in recognition of the growing delivery footprint and the high density of the population in that area. The Cultural Food Hubs have aided residents who are less willing to contact the council helpline to access food, through direct referral to the Cultural Food Hubs, or through frontline services supporting communities with emergency food provision. The Cultural Food Hubs have acted as catalysts in forging strengthened relationships with other third sector organisations and enabled greater community connections with residents from diverse communities and ethnicities.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HamaraCentreLeeds>



Hamara
Bringing Communities Together

Infinity

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Responding to the Pandemic

Reflections from 2020/21

The COVID-19 pandemic caused a number of complications for activity providers that work with our local communities in Leeds. It has been a particular challenge for organisations to keep up to date with the changing Government advice and guidance regarding COVID-19.

Community Committees have been mindful of the seriousness and fluidity of the situation in Leeds and understand that they played an essential role in the response and recovery to the pandemic in the city.

The Community Committee Team, on behalf of the committees, spent a large proportion of their time liaising with organisations that despite all these challenges, still wanted to work with people; making sure that projects were able to demonstrate that they were ready to deliver their activities in accordance with Government guidance and legislation regarding COVID-19; making sure that organisations had the correct policies, procedures and risk assessments in place.

Leeds being moved in to Tier 3 in November 2020 and then again, another full national lockdown commencing in December 2020, once again signalled the seriousness of the situation in the city and the rest of the country. In light of the news from central Government on the new national lockdown, the Community Committee Team consulted with colleagues in Public Health on this matter on this occasion and separately, a number of other occasions over the year, to ensure that the committees were being provided with consistent advice in relation to projects taking place.

Community Committees, in partnership with organisations have continued to adapt to the challenges that the pandemic has presented them and the people they work with, often working very differently, for example by moving their activity provision to an online virtual platform.

In some areas, activity packs have also been provided via the Youth Activity Fund. The packs were provided to young people and included a 'Youth Service Guide to Lockdown Life' (as well as a range of contacts and websites that young people may need), mindfulness activities, exercise advice, a time capsule to remember 'This Time in The Future', crosswords, puzzles and diary pages.

Adapting responses and approaches for projects to meet the needs of individual communities demonstrated the committee's and the organisations flexibility and willingness to be agile in an ever changing environment, as well as the desire to reach out and connect with all our communities in Leeds during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Responding to the Pandemic

#Team Leeds

Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, the city of Leeds has been working together to support local people. Over the last year the NHS, Leeds City Council and voluntary sector have worked with local people to address the challenges of Covid-19, we call this approach #TeamLeeds.

Introduction to Covid-19

In December 2019 a new disease was identified in Wuhan, China. Within three months the disease had spread across the world and impacted on the lives of every person on the planet.

Here in Leeds, public and voluntary health and social care services have been working together to understand how the pandemic is affecting our residents. We have been listening to people's feedback and working as one health and care system to help and support local people.

This document outlines some of the things people in Leeds have told us since the start of the pandemic and how we have responded.

Covid-19 stats (21 April 2021)

143,887,883
global cases to date

3,062,658
global deaths to date



In Leeds

62,387
cases

1,692
deaths

Over 5,000
people with Covid-19 admitted to Leeds hospitals since the beginning of the pandemic

On 22 April 2021, there were 27 Covid-19 patients in Leeds hospitals, with 3 in critical care - the lowest number for six months.

Leeds population stats

Cancer deaths account for 30% of the life expectancy gap between Leeds and the rest of the country

104

different languages spoken

169
nationalities living in Leeds

18%
of the population are from an ethnic minority background

106,000
people experience anxiety and depression

1 in 5 children live in poverty



26%

of people living in Leeds live in the 10% most deprived areas in the country



Total estimated population
866,000



Responding to the Pandemic

In Pictures



THANK YOU!

SUMMER SPORTS SESSIONS

AGES 11-17

PARENTAL CONSENT REQUIRED
(12 young people per session).
Consent forms available on the day. All provision will be in accordance with current regulations around social distancing.



PARTNERS



FUNDED BY



WHEN AND WHERE

WEDNESDAY Victoria Park - Calverley 2:30 - 4:00 (Aug 5/12/19/26 Sep2)
WEDNESDAY Sainsbury Moor - Pudsey 11:00 - 12:30 (Aug 5/12/19/26 Sep2)
FRIDAY Halesworth Park - Farsley 13:30 - 15:00 (Aug 7/14/21/28/sep4)
FRIDAY Queens Park - Pudsey 11:00 - 12:30 (Aug 7/14/21/28/sep4)

DELIVERED BY LEEDS YOUTH SERVICE AND PE PARTNERS



FEATURING - FOOTBALL - ROUNDERS - FRISBEE CHALLENGE JAVALINE - DODGE BALL - BADMINTON -
For more information please ring : 07891276104 or 0113 3785073

WWW.WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ *FEDSYOUTHSERVICEWNN



Responding to the Pandemic

In Pictures



Stay Safe



Looking Forward

COVID-19 has had a massive impact on the city of Leeds and work has been taking place to understand and get a picture of the disproportionate, or differential impact on inequality that is happening due to the pandemic.

The emerging evidence highlights that the COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated social and economic inequalities and we need to further understand what these impacts are on our communities in Leeds. What it tells us so far mirrors national evidence and the local narrative that COVID-19 does have a disproportionate impact based on; where you live, your gender, your ethnicity and your job.

The community narrative reflects the diversity of the city and key themes are continuing to emerge; financial inclusion, digital inclusion, mental health & wellbeing, social isolation, communication/ language barriers and cultural issues. It is becoming increasingly clear that the impacts of the pandemic are greater for some of our most disadvantaged communities.

Considering how we can address and provide reassurance to the issues that are being uncovered will form a key strand of activity in the city's recovery arrangements but are likely to last far beyond any immediate transition to a 'new' normality.

In 2021/22 Community Committees will continue to play a key role in addressing some of these challenges in our local communities in Leeds and the programmes that they develop will form a key part of the recovery work that is being undertaken in each of the 33 wards throughout the city. This, alongside delegated budget spend for each committee will help to address a further widening of the inequalities gap that has been identified by COVID-19.

The momentum brought about by the pandemic will continue, ensuring that the local leadership provided through our elected members and Community Committees continues to be at the heart of developing local and city wide structures.



Stay Safe



Leeds City Council's Community Committees

How do Community Committees work?

There are 10 Community Committees in Leeds made up of local councillors that are elected to represent an area, from each of the 33 wards in the city. They hold 4 meetings a year in public and are an important part of the council's decision-making process.

The meetings provide an opportunity for local people to discuss key issues of concern with elected members and help influence decisions on matters of local interest, such as environmental improvements, community safety, health and wellbeing and employment.

How can you get involved?

1. Attend a meeting
2. Contact your local Councillor
3. Ask a question or take part in a discussion through our social media pages

Meetings are held at different locations across the city and generally start in the early evening and last a couple of hours. All meetings are open to the public and are usually themed around a particular topic.

Meetings are published on our website and can also be found on our social media pages (along with other local information and activities) and all decisions are recorded for public reference on the democracy website: <http://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/mgListCommittees.aspx?bcr=1>

Want to know more?

Please contact the Community Committee Support Team for a chat on 0113 3785808 or email us at communitycommitteefunding@leeds.gov.uk



Leeds City Council's Community Committees

Inner East Community Committee

Wards:

Burmantofts & Richmond Hill
Gipton & Harehills
Killingbeck & Seacroft

Councillor Denise Ragan

denise.ragan@leeds.gov.uk



Inner West Community Committee

Wards:

Armley
Bramley & Stanningley
Kirkstall

Councillor Hannah Bithell

hannah.bithell@leeds.gov.uk



Outer South Community Committee

Wards:

Ardsley & Robin Hood
Morley North
Morley South
Rothwell

Councillor Robert Finnigan

robert.finnigan@leeds.gov.uk



Outer North East Community Committee

Wards:

Alwoodley
Harewood
Wetherby

Councillor Norma Harrington

norma.harrington@leeds.gov.uk



Inner South Community Committee

Wards:

Beeston & Holbeck
Hunslet & Riverside
Middleton Park

Councillor Angela Gabriel

angela.gabriel@leeds.gov.uk



Leeds City Council's Community Committees

Outer East Community Committee

Wards:

Cross Gates & Whinmoor
Garforth & Swillington
Kippax & Methley
Temple Newsam

Councillor Pauline Grahame

pauline.grahame@leeds.gov.uk



Inner North West Community Committee

Wards:

Headingley & Hyde Park
Little London & Woodhouse
Weetwood

Councillor Javaid Akhtar

javid.akhtar@leeds.gov.uk



Outer North West Community Committee

Wards:

Adel & Wharfedale
Guiseley & Rawdon
Horsforth
Otley & Yeadon

Councillor Paul Wadsworth

paul.wadsworth@leeds.gov.uk



Outer West Community Committee

Wards:

Calverley & Farsley
Farnley & Wortley
Pudsey

Councillor Amanda Carter

amanda.carter@leeds.gov.uk



Inner North East Community Committee

Wards:

Chapel Allerton
Moortown
Roundhay

Councillor Mohammed Shahzad

mohammed.shahzad@leeds.gov.uk



For further information:

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Carl Hinchliffe, Community Committee Team Manager

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07712 216480



Twitter @_YourCommunity

[www.leeds.gov.uk/
communitycommittee](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/communitycommittee)

Inner East
Outer East
Inner North East

Inner West
Outer West
Inner North West
Outer North West

Inner South
Outer South
Outer North East

