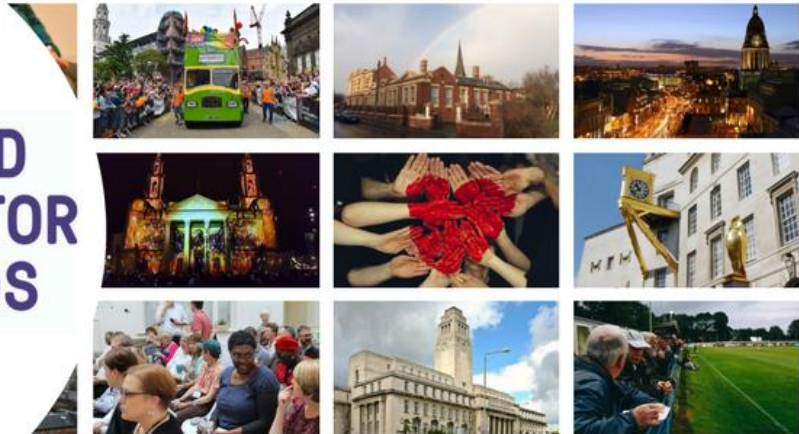


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**Chris Hollins, Independent Chair,
Third Sector Leeds**

A note from our Chair:

When I became Independent Chair of Third Sector Leeds in 2017 my priority was to ensure that it raised its voice more to argue for a city that puts challenging inequalities first.

While I know the key role for TSL lies in advocating for the interests of the third sector, I also felt that we need to make a wider case for a different kind of economy and continued investment in the services that support communities.

In my time as Chair, TSL has played a leading role in sharing key information at the beginning of Covid. Increasingly, it has become the independent body that key decision makers approach when they want views about the third sector's strengths, and an honest view about where it has room to develop further.

However, the last two years of the pandemic and its disproportionate impact on our most vulnerable communities have shown that despite progress, we still have a long way to go, as TSL, as a sector and as a city.

This will be my last Round Up, as after four years, I feel the time has come to pass Chairing duties to someone else. Before I step down, I hope to see many of our members at Spring event – but if I don't have that opportunity, I'd like to take the opportunity to say thank you for all that you do to make the lives of people in Leeds better.

In this round up we talk about:

[Planning for the future of TSL](#)

At TSL our planning follows the financial year, so the time before Christmas is the time when we take the opportunity to look back at what we've achieved and look forward to where we want to go next.

[TSL's contribution to the City Ambition conversation](#)

In recent months the Intelligence and Policy Service at the Council have been leading a conversation to create a new 'Ambition' document to describe the key challenges that Leeds faces and the way that it intends to meet these challenges

[Update on the change in the Health System](#)

The work to develop new structures in the Health and Care system is continuing. The shadow governance arrangements to establish Leeds Health and Care Partnership are in the process of going to each partner board for sign off.

[West Yorkshire Assembly discussions](#)

In September, around 100 third sector people came together from across the whole of West Yorkshire to discuss how we might respond to the election of Tracy Brabin as West Yorkshire Mayor.

[All about LOOP](#)

'LOOP' is a project that aims to bring together the major databases that store information about the third sector in one place.

[Climate Action Leeds – a third sector response to delivering a more sustainable city](#)

The Lottery funded Climate Action Leeds programme is embarking on its second year, out of the five and is really starting to have an impact.

[Revising the Talent Plan for Leeds](#)

TSL recently received an update on the development of revised Talent Plan for Leeds.

Planning for the future at TSL

At TSL our planning follows the financial year, so the time before Christmas is the time when we take the opportunity to look back at what we've achieved and look forward to where we want to go next. As part of this process of review, we are always keen to ensure that we hear the views of our members, so we have produced a survey that asks you about the things we should treat as priorities from April 2022 and how you want us to hear your views.

Our planning is particularly important this year because, as you'll read above, our Independent Chair, Chris Hollins has decided to step down after 4 years of service. Chris has really taken TSL forward and his are big shoes to fill. So, we're casting the net wide for people that know the third sector but aren't employed by third sector organisations working in Leeds.

We'll be introducing our new Chair, sharing our Annual Report and the feedback you gave us through the survey at an event in the spring.

How can you help:

- Fill out our member survey (below) and help us to respond to things you care about
- Find out about the [role of Independent Chair of TSL](#) here – and please forward the opportunity to anyone that might be interested

[Complete Members Survey](#)

TSL's contribution to the City Ambition conversation

In recent months the Intelligence and Policy Service at the Council have been leading a conversation to create a new 'Ambition' document to describe the key challenges that Leeds faces and the way that it intends to meet these challenges.

This document will replace Leeds' Best City Plan (the Council's long-term plan) and the intention is that the new document will be something that draws together all the key partners in the city that can help to deliver it's aims.

TSL, and other third sector organisations like Forum Central and Voluntary Action Leeds, have been working to ensure that the third sector's role in our city is included in this plan. TSL held a series of events in October and November and the feedback that we received from these events was turned into a [formal paper](#).

Our key points were that Leeds needs to work together to:

- give tackling the climate emergency a stronger focus in its future plans
- explore how the third sector can shape local services through community (neighbourhood) based organisations
- find new ways of engaging citizens in discussions about the future
- prioritise investment in businesses that are good corporate citizens and/or have social aims

Discussions are ongoing about the final shape of the new document and we'll make sure we keep you up to date on what it says.

How can you help:

Let us know your thoughts about the actions Leeds needs to take to be a more equal, more sustainable place by contacting:

Richard.warrington@val.org.uk

Update on changes in the Health System

The work to develop new structures in the Health and Care system is continuing. The shadow governance arrangements to establish Leeds Health and Care Partnership (the body in Leeds that will shape health services in the city) are in the process of going to each partner board for sign off and have been approved by [Forum Central](#), Leeds' health and care infrastructure organisation, on behalf of the Third Sector, as discussed in the TSL leadership group.

Forum Central have worked closely with health system partners to ensure that the third sector has a voice in the future partnership as well as in important discussions, like the 'One Workforce' approach to ensuring that everyone that works in health and care is properly supported.

Shanaz Gul, Operations Director at Hamara, has been appointed as the Third Sector advocate on the Shadow Board which will meet from December. The appointment of third sector advocates on each of the Population Health Boards (which will be where resource allocation decisions will be made) is being supported by Gabby.Voinea@forumcentral.org.uk working closely with colleagues from the Clinical Commissioning Group (Health service).

How can you help:

If you wish to find out more about changes in the health system...

- [This document](#) from Forum Central gives an overview of where things have got to

- You can contact Francesca Wood or Pip Goff
francesca.wood@forumcentral.org.uk or pip.goff@forumcentral.org.uk,

- You can visit Forum Central's
webpage <https://forumcentral.org.uk/health-care/>

- You could attend Forum Central's regular Third Sector briefings by contacting hello@forumcentral.org.uk

West Yorkshire Assembly discussions

In September, around 100 third sector people came together from across the whole of West Yorkshire to discuss how we might respond to the election of Tracy Brabin as West Yorkshire Mayor. The new Mayoral arrangements, as well as other changes like those to the health system, offer real opportunities for the third sector to influence how decisions are made at a regional level. There was lively debate at the event, with broad support for the establishment of an Assembly to bring together third sector voices. You can read the report from the event below.

A key recommendation was that initially, the Council's for Voluntary Sector across West Yorkshire should begin to think through how an Assembly could work. As this work continues we'll keep you up to date

[Read the report](#)

How can you help:

- We'd like to hear about your experience of working at the West Yorkshire level and how it's changing since the election of the Mayor
 - If you'd like to join Voluntary Action Leeds' mailing list for organisations interested in West Yorkshire arrangements please contact donna.cremin@val.org.uk
-

All about LOOP

'LOOP' is a project that aims to bring together the major databases that store information about the third sector in one place. Bringing this data together should make it easier for everyone to find out which third sector organisations are doing what in which places.

The project has been underway for a couple of years, but currently faces an uncertain future.

TSL, along with our colleagues at Forum Central and Voluntary Action Leeds have produced this briefing (below) about Loop.

[Read LOOP briefing](#)

How can you help:

- If the LOOP project continues, it'd be helpful to talk to organisation about the information they might be able to provide to make sure it remains as up to date as possible.

To share your thoughts

contact jenny.bull@forumcentral.org.uk or Richard.warrington@val.org.uk

Climate Action Leeds – a third sector response to delivering a more sustainable city

The Lottery funded Climate Action Leeds programme is embarking on its second year, out of the five and is really starting to have an impact.

The programme includes a range of different of themes work including:

Local Hubs in Beeston, Garforth, [Otley](#) and Seacroft with a fifth Hub in Armley just getting established

Local Hubs bring together community members and climate action supportive third sector organisations to get people energised and active in changing things at a neighbourhood level. There are lots of ideas and activity planned by the hubs for the new year, including a pledge party, plant and seed libraries, connecting and networking, school bulb planting and a local climate forum event with Chapel FM.

You can read the TSL blog about the Seacroft Hub [here](#)

Transition partners are organisations which have a particular focus or specialism, and are working to understand more and campaign about the changes we need to make in our city around different areas of climate action; *energy, housing, food, nature, work & economy, youth & education, and transport.*

Some examples of their work so far include demonstrating a low carbon lunch, beginning to develop a climate curriculum and a series of workshops for young people and site visits with People Powered Homes to understand the ways in which the new Citu housing development meets the highest climate standards.

Building a movement is the backbone of the project bringing climate activists, people that care about climate change and people that just want to know more together. They do this through 6 monthly 'Assemblies' which offer an opportunity for all citizens to get involved with the activity of the programme, make connections and influence and inspire each other and Leeds' decision makers.

CAL's movement makers also provide learning events – and in the near future a city centre hub that will be an inclusive and welcoming place to find out about the work of Climate Action Leeds.

How can you help:

We hope as many citizens and organisations as possible will get involved in this crucial work.

Have a look at the Climate Action Leeds website [about page](#) for background information about how the project has come to be.

Revising the Talent Plan for Leeds

TSL recently received an update on the development of revised Talent Plan for Leeds.

To date there have been two rounds of consultation through an online message board and a range of stakeholders have been involved in shaping the future document.

In the first conversation:

- Contributors were most engaged with two topics: ***Skills in demand & Support needed from the city***
- Two main overarching challenges for the future of work were identified: the need for **Employers to be more adaptable** in working practices, leadership styles and cultures & the need to **Transform education** both in what and how it delivers.

From this starting point, 8 key areas of action were developed and checked through the second conversation:

- Good sustainable jobs, nobody left behind, skills for the future, skills for life, employers of the future, education fit for purpose, council as an enabler, city of the future.
- Broadly speaking, the majority of participants in the validation conversation strongly agreed with the action plan.

Next Steps

In the New Year the final draft of the plan will be developed and a set of actions

will be co-created with stakeholders with the aim of signing off the plan at the Council's Executive Board in Spring 2022.

How can you help:

TSL is keen to share examples of good practice around talent and skills development in the third sector.

Please contact Richard.warrington@val.org.uk to share your story.

Want to share good news from your community?

[Doing Good Leeds](#) is a great place to share your successes and promote the work of the third sector in building strong and resilient communities in Leeds.

[Click here](#) to register and take the first step in sharing your news, events and training.

