



Who we are



We are an infrastructure organisation – what used to be known as a ‘council for voluntary service’.



Our work enables voluntary and community groups and organisations to do their work well and supports people to volunteer.



We want communities across the city to thrive and work with volunteers, groups and organisations to make this happen.

What we do



Our vision is that there is a thriving voluntary and community sector in Leeds, which works with communities to enable positive social action.



Our mission is to strengthen and champion groups, organisations and movements to lead on achieving positive social change.

Our strategic priorities



Working to enable voluntary and community groups and organisations to be sustainable, resilient and well-led.



Providing platforms for the voice of voluntary and community groups and organisations to be heard and have influence.



Championing community-led activity and solutions across the city.

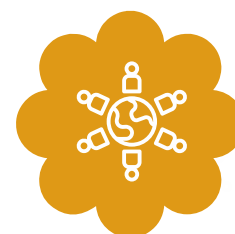


Maintaining the stability of our own organisation so we can continue to deliver our priorities.

Our values



Equity



Diversity



Accountability

How we work

We are a positive organisation and demonstrate our values by working in the following ways:

- We do what we say we will – and if we can't, we explain why.
- We are flexible and responsive when things change.
- We play our part in tackling systemic disadvantage and inequality.
- We are innovative and look for solutions that collectively address complex issues.
- We seek to use our position to be an ally to marginalised groups and communities – and want to learn how to do this well.
- We value collaboration over competition by working in partnership with others.
- We believe in 'generous leadership' – sharing our knowledge and expertise – and encourage others to work in this way.
- We engage with a diverse range of voices and perspectives to shape our work and direction.
- We believe people's lived experience should be central to developing solutions to complex issues.
- We work as a team – within VAL, the groups and organisations we work with, and with strategic partners.

Our place and role in the city

- In delivering on our strategy, we recognise that the world we live in is complex and fast-changing.
- We seek to use the experience of the pandemic to advocate for community-led solutions to challenges and opportunities.
- We believe this approach needs to inform how we work as a city and our continuing response to the inter-linked challenges of the climate crisis, economic, social and health inequalities.
- We want there to be a positive legacy from the city's response to the Covid crisis – a response founded on trust, care for others, collaboration and creativity.
- We commit to working in partnership with other key organisations in the city providing infrastructure services to ensure a coherent offer and best use of our shared resources.
- Through our work with groups and organisations across the city we have a unique insight and perspective which we seek to share to deliver our overall mission - a thriving voluntary and community sector in Leeds, which works with communities to enable positive social action.



How we approach challenges and opportunities



We recognise that the operating environment is challenging for voluntary and community groups and organisations and our public sector partners.



We want to respond to this by exploring new opportunities to ensure voluntary and community groups and organisations have influence, access to new partnerships and funding opportunities.



Our energy will be focused on the following opportunities – with flexibility as new challenges and opportunities emerge:

- Devolution and the West Yorkshire Mayor.
- The private sector's commitment to social value.
- Continuing to focus on the value of community-led solutions.



How we practically deliver our priorities

Working to enable voluntary and community groups and organisations to be sustainable, resilient and well-led.



- Funding and governance advice
- Payroll services
- Research and evaluation
- Training

Providing a platform for the voice of voluntary and community groups and organisations to be heard and have influence.



- Forums and networks
- Communications / Doing Good Leeds website
- Strategic partnerships

Championing community-led activity and solutions across the city.



- Volunteer brokerage services
- Forums and networks
- Research and evaluation

Maintaining the stability of our own organisation so we can continue to deliver our priorities.

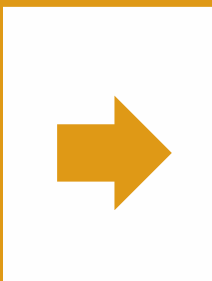


- VALYOU services
- Finance
- Governance
- Human Resources



How we measure our strategic impact

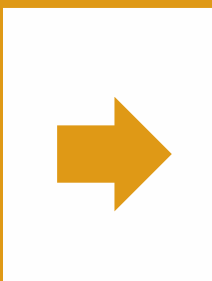
Working to enable voluntary and community groups and organisations to be sustainable, resilient and well-led.



Monitoring and evaluating feedback from:

- Groups and organisations accessing our services.
- VAL members about our approach.

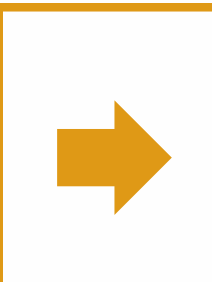
Providing a platform for the voice of voluntary and community groups and organisations to be heard and have influence.



Monitoring and evaluating feedback from:

- Forums and networks we work with.
- Strategic partners we work with.

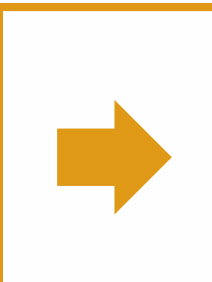
Championing community-led activity and solutions across the city.



Monitoring and evaluating feedback from:

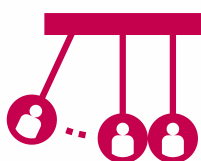
- Key networks in the city we work with.
- Strategic partners we work with.

Maintaining the stability of our own organisation so we can continue to deliver our priorities.



Monitoring and evaluating:

- Growth of earned income.
- Staff and volunteer satisfaction.
- The diversity of our board.



In recognition of our key role in the city, we commit to sharing the overall impact our work has had through publication of an annual report as a key part of reviewing our strategy on an ongoing basis. We also commit to regularly sharing our work, progress and impact through creative routes including social media, case studies and blogs.

