



Our Impact

Making a difference

At the heart of the community



From our Chair

2017-2018 saw Leeds Mencap consolidate and build on the successes of the previous year.

We settled into The Vinery Centre and it has truly become the vibrant, lively, inclusive place we set out to create and now feels like home. We are delighted that use of the centre and Jimbo's Community Nursery has grown and are very conscious of the difference this makes both to the local community and to groups and people from all across Leeds. Our progress so far points to a positive future.

At The Rookery too we continued to develop our personalised approach to supporting the residents in having as much independence and choice in their lives as possible and providing a high quality of care, which was rewarded by a rating of 'Good' in our CQC inspection. We've seen many of the residents grow in confidence through being supported to be active members of their local community. The programme of refurbishment, completed this year, has given residents the chance to make both their rooms and the space they share their own.

Our achievements this year, as in any year, have only been possible as a result of the support so many people and organisations have given us. Our volunteers continue to enable us to do more and bring a diverse mix of skills and experience which enriches what we can offer. Our staff team is dedicated, hard working and committed to improving the lives of people with learning disabilities and their families.

And lastly, we are enormously grateful to the companies, individuals and funders who support us financially and also by donating equipment, volunteering hours and their skills, saving us time and money. We never cease to be inspired by the efforts and achievements of our supporters.

So, on behalf of all the Trustees, I'd like to say thank you to everyone for a great year.

Martin Staniforth, Chair of Trustees



What matters to us

Giving children the best start in life

Supporting parents and carers to get the best for their children

Being here for the whole family

Widening our impact

Supporting people to have full and active lives

Building a strong future

Thank you to our supporters

We can't thank everyone here but we are hugely grateful to all of you who supported us in 2017-18. Whether it was a donation, volunteering or any of the many other ways people have helped Leeds Mencap, your support really does make a difference to the lives of people with learning disabilities and their families.

Sovereign Health Care, The QBE Foundation, Holbeck Charitable Trust, The George A Moore Foundation, Wade's Charity, The Henry Smith Charity, The Alchemy Foundation, The Barbara A Shuttleworth Memorial Trust, Boshier-Hinton Foundation, Children in Need, Dorothy Pamela Smith CIO, Leeds City Council, David Solomons Trust, February Foundation, HSBC Service Recovery Teams, Barclays, Zurich, Ambiente Tapas Leeds, Winston Solicitors LLP, Leeds Chartered Accountants Student Society, Danny McGuire (Betfred Man of the Match donation), Persimmon, Rich Welsh, Ben Milner, TSN Barristers and Solicitors, Neville Albert Osborn, Hawthorn families, First Response Group



Highlights

2017-18 was a fantastic year with loads of highlights. Find out more about a few of them below.

Extending our reach

An extra 1,100 people came to The Vinery Centre in 2017/18 compared to the previous year for clubs and activities run by a wide range of community groups. This helped people become less isolated and lonely and as a result increased their happiness. We also held a number of events over the year designed to bring people together, such as our community fun day.

Learning Disability Week

We got up to loads in Learning Disability Week 2017. We had a train station collection which included a performance from *The Outsiders*, a Zumbathon, supermarket bag packs and a sponsored nature trail, as well as much more!



Christmas fun

We ran an accessible Christmas Grotto this year for the children from our nurseries, youth clubs and local community. Over 85 families attended, met Santa and got a present!



Giving children the best start in life

Jimbo's Community Nursery

Jimbo's has been providing affordable childcare in East Leeds since 2016. In 2017-18, we provided childcare to 136 local children from the ages of 0-11. This included daytime care, afterschool care and holiday clubs.

Jimbo's has helped ensure local children are able to access a high quality education at a vital stage in their lives and we were rated as 'Good' in our most recent OFSTED report.

'Thank you so much for everything you have done for our family over the last 18 months. Your nursery is amazing and we will very much miss seeing you every week.'

Nikola whose child attended Jimbo's

£60 would give local families one day of affordable afterschool childcare.



£1,233 supports a child like Elijah for a whole year to make positive progress in his development.



Hawthorn Specialist Playroom

In 2017-2018, 36 children aged 0 – 3 years benefited from specialist support.

The Hawthorn Specialist Playroom is for children aged 0-3 with learning disabilities and complex needs. The first three years of any child's life are crucial and the expert team help each child to reach their potential through bespoke play, care and support.

Elijah's Story

Lucy, whose son Elijah attends Hawthorn, talks about the difference it has made to her family:

'As a family we are lucky to have support from those around us but it is not the same as knowing what it is like to have a child with complex needs. At Hawthorn they work to develop skills with each individual child; the steps are broken down nicely. The support I get from the staff is difficult to explain; whatever I or Elijah need they find a way to help. We cannot thank the staff enough.'

There is no other place like Hawthorn.'

Supporting the whole family

Family Support

In 2017-18, 120 families received tailored one-to-one advice and guidance.

Raising a child or young adult with a learning disability and complex needs can be extremely demanding, with parents facing a huge range of challenges. Supporting everyone in the family to overcome these challenges is critical. The knowledge and confidence families gain through our Family Support gives their children the best chance in life and leads to happier families with more positive futures.

'I think the support I have received from Leeds Mencap has been fantastic. It's reassuring to know the worker never gave up on us. She's always been there and at the end of the phone and I am truly thankful to her.'

Parent and carer support groups

In 2017-18, our parent and carer support groups helped 58 families by offering a relaxed, friendly space for parents and carers to discuss their worries and fears.

This peer support allows families to share knowledge and experience and provide vital emotional support to each other, stopping many of the negative effects of social isolation.

£7,000 provides families with vital peer support and reduces isolation for a whole year.

'The opportunity to speak to other parents in a similar situation is a life saver.'

£315 will give one day of expert help and advice to families.

£1,200 increases a family's understanding of their child's needs through 8 weeks of training.

E-PAtS

15 families attended our Early Positive Approach to Support Programme (E-PAtS) in 2017-18.

This programme gives parents and carers the skills and confidence to support their child and understand their behaviours, leading to happier, more confident families who are better able to deal with the challenges they will face.

Siblings

In 2017-2018, 19 children aged between 7 and 14 attended Siblings, a weekly social club for children who have a sibling with a learning disability.

This group provides a fun, supportive and safe place where siblings can meet their friends and share their experiences with others who understand.

'My son, Adam, has been attending the group for over a year now, and in that time it has become a very important, special place for him. He said that the group is HIS time and the one place where the other children understand him.'





The Vinery Centre has hosted a wide range of groups, activities and courses in the centre and in doing so has helped to achieve the following outcomes:

Reduced isolation for over 370 individuals

Improved employability for over 100 adults with learning disabilities

Improved health and wellbeing for over 200 individuals

Helped over 320 individuals to come together for fun days and social activities

Widening our impact

Since we opened The Vinery Centre it has become a real focal point for the local community in East Leeds and the learning disability community across the whole city.

In 2017/18 we have had 2,900 individuals attending events, meetings, services or activities at The Vinery Centre (not including our nursery or Leeds Mencap services). This is an increase of 61% from the previous year, when we had 1,800 visitors.



- 29% of these were from the local community
- 47% were from the learning disability community
- 24% were other locals and individuals

Feedback from Cerebra

'I just wanted to reiterate how incredibly helpful and supportive you all were yesterday for our sleep seminar. Please can you pass this on to all the staff that were helping yesterday, nothing seemed too much trouble!'



£290 provides a safe and welcoming home for the local and learning disability communities of Leeds for one day.

Supporting people to have full and active lives

Our work with young people

We run social clubs for children, teenagers and young adults as well as holiday playschemes. In the clubs we offer a wide range of activities, including sports days, quiz nights, trips out and much more.

These groups enable the children and young people to socialise with their friends, have new experiences they might not normally be able to, develop key social and practical skills and build their confidence.

'Brilliant group! Brandon has made lots of new friends and looks forward to it every week.' Brandon's Mum

In 2017-18

43 children and young people aged from 9 – 18 enjoyed our youth clubs

35 young adults aged 18 -25 came to Friday Club

98 came to one of our holiday playschemes

£300 pays for one session where our Friday Club members get to have fun with their friends, go on exciting trips and learn vital skills.



Friday Club is a place where young adults aged between 18-25 can socialise, have fun and develop their independence all whilst navigating the difficult transition into adulthood. It also provides crucial respite for families.

Quotes from Friday Club Members

'I enjoy meeting new people and making new friends'; 'I like it because I feel grown up'; 'I like coming because I get to play my guitar at open mic night.'

The Rookery

The Rookery is our residential home and supports 12 people. The focus of The Rookery is on the individual and our trained staff help the residents achieve a happy and contented home life by treating them with dignity and respect.

'This year the focus has been on personalisation and involvement, with residents taking part in the redecoration of the building. This involved them voting on choices for shared living spaces, including new furniture, carpet and decoration. Feedback from the residents and their families has been positive, and we were rated 'Good' at our most recent CQC inspection.'

Michelle Wilks - Manager

'I like it here, I have my own room and television, and can listen to my music when I want. I do cooking, my own washing, jobs around the house and feed the cat Harvey.'
Sam D – Resident

Our Supporters

Learn more about some of our fantastic supporters below.

Winston Solicitors LLP

'As an established Leeds law firm we are proud to support a local charity providing much-needed resources for children and young adults with learning disabilities across the city. We have seen for ourselves the important work Leeds Mencap does to help people with learning disabilities and their families and appreciate how vital these services and activities are.' – Jonathan Winston, Managing Partner

Nicky Manu

'I ended up volunteering for two weeks in Leeds Mencap's Playschemes which was a hugely enjoyable and eye-opening experience for me. In terms of why I decided to participate in this fundraising event, I'd always wanted to try something like skydiving and what better way to do this than by raising money for a valuable cause?'

Leeds City College

'The students have enjoyed taking part and developing valuable independent living and employability skills on a charity of the year partnership. Leeds Mencap has been fantastic, and delivered a fundraising workshop to kick off the year, that enthused the students taking part. This gave the students encouragement to think of their own ideas and they have taken part in Christmas fayres, selling crafts they have made. They have organised tombolas and raffles at Leeds City College, White Rose Centre and Trinity Centre. At the end of the year the students thoroughly enjoyed their presentation event and receiving a certificate for their hard work.' - Beenish, Course Leader

How you can help



If you're inspired to get involved, whatever your idea, it would be great to hear from you. We are a small, independent charity so any help we get makes a real difference. To get involved, or find out about anything in the Impact Report, please contact our friendly team at The Vinery Centre.

Phone us on 0113 235 1331, email us on info@leedsmencap.org.uk, write to us or simply pop in to see us.

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www.leedsmencap.org.uk

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