

TSL development

TSL has continued to develop as a network. Key messages for networks to use in communicating with their members have been produced, and two meetings convened specifically for the senior managers of medium to large organisations.

During the year, TSL has brokered meetings between Leeds City Council Chief Executive and leaders from the BME Sector. This recognised that action was needed to make sure that the Third Sector's work reflected something of the diversity of the city. Plus we've now got a twitter account!

What's next?

There's still lots of work for us to do. During 2012 we will be working with Leeds City Council on budgets. In order to do this we need your help. We have launched a survey on the impact of cuts which we need as many groups as possible to fill in - visit www.val.org.uk

We'll also be continuing to work with commissioners to ensure a fair process and strengthening our representation. We will be conducting an evaluation to help us set our goals for next year which we'd value your input.

Get in touch

To find out more about Third Sector Leeds please:

Email: info@thirdsectorleeds.org.uk

Phone: **0113 297 7920**

Visit our website where you will find updates on TSL, resources and documents: www.thirdsectorleeds.org.uk

Follow us on twitter: [@thirdsectorleeds](https://twitter.com/thirdsectorleeds)



Following the merger with Leeds Voice, the TSL Secretariat is provided by Voluntary Action Leeds and funded by Leeds City Council.
We are grateful for their support.



Stringer House, 34 Lupton Street, Hunslet, Leeds LS10 2QW 12/11



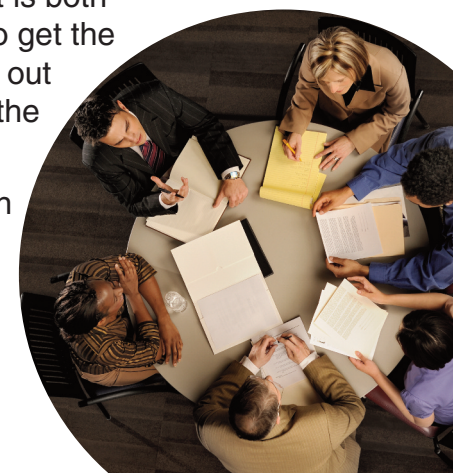
What We Have Achieved

Introduction

There is no doubt that it's been a difficult year for the Third Sector in Leeds. Funding cuts have really started to bite and some groups are struggling for survival. The sector is changing - the merger between Voluntary Action Leeds and Leeds Voice and the consortia being developed to work with the new Clinical Commissioning Groups are good examples of leadership in tough times. Changes from national level come thick and fast, many of them controversial. The relationships the sector has with its local partners – Leeds City Council, the NHS and others are more important than ever.

Third Sector Leeds (TSL) is in the thick of things, making the Third Sector's case, and doing that in a way that is both challenging and constructive. It's difficult to get the balance right every time. This booklet sets out what we have achieved and also some of the challenges that lie ahead.

The headings are based on the priorities in our work plan: **cuts, commissioning, Big Society and other government initiatives, partnership engagement and TSL development.**



Cuts

Some of you will remember the Open Forum event last November when over one hundred people from the Third Sector had the opportunity to hear from and question Leeds City Council.

Since then, Third Sector Leeds has worked hard to keep the Third Sector and its services at the forefront of decision makers' minds. We reached an agreement with Leeds City Council that the cuts to the Third Sector this year were in the range ten to fifteen per cent, depending how this was calculated.

We have already begun discussions with Leeds City Council over next year's budget and have just launched a sector-wide survey on the impact of cuts. Overall TSL has been successful in getting Leeds City Council to share information with us, but less successful in getting the evidence of impact needed from the Third Sector.

Commissioning

Our main piece of work on commissioning has been to draft a commissioning statement stating what we feel would aid the commissioning process for Third Sector organisations.

The three key points raised were:

- the need for a consistent approach to commissioning services to people across Leeds City Council, in line with the Compact for Leeds
- a greater recognition of the added value delivered by locally based organisations
- a review at the end of each commissioning exercise to allow every body to contribute to identifying what well and lessons learned

The response we received was a positive one. We have taken the statement to the Third Sector Partnership Group and Corporate Commissioning Group and will continue to use it as a tool.

The Leadership Group has received regular updates from the [Supporting Links to Commissioning Project](#) throughout the year. The support it provides is highly valued, and we work very closely with the project. If you have experiences about commissioning that we you to share with TSL, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Big Society and other government initiatives

TSL has supported the development of the Leeds Involvement Strategy, which aims to make Leeds the best city for volunteering, giving and participation - principles which underline the 'Big Society.'

It has been hard to keep an overview of many different initiatives coming from the Office of Civil Society – Community Organisers, Community First, and many others. Discussions have taken place at the Third Sector Partnership group about how we can take a more strategic approach in Leeds.

TSL played an active role in the Leeds response to Transforming Local Infrastructure and made contact with the Office of Civil Society through its Local Intelligence Team. At its request, initial comments on the Community First Programme were provided.

Partnership engagement

TSL has made huge progress in partnership engagement this year. We now have representation on the new Leeds Initiative Board plus all five strategic partnership boards and the three area leadership teams covering different parts of the city.

The engagement we now have throughout the structure is notable. The challenge is to use it and the 'Compact for Leeds' to good effect both to influence thinking and demonstrate the Third Sector's role in delivering the priorities for the city.

TSL is committed to ensuring that equality, community engagement and sustainability are clearly reflected in the way partnership business is done.

New Third Sector forums have been maintained or developed for the first time – the Crime Prevention and Reduction Forum and the Economy Forum. TSL has also taken part in a number of round table discussions about the Leeds City Region and its new Local Enterprise Partnership. None of this work could happen without the commitment of those in the sector who volunteer to do a difficult job. TSL is indebted to them all.