

VAL Helping people change their lives for the better



ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT 2018

Making a difference in our local communities

Serving local communities for over 50 years

Voluntary Action LeicesterShire (VAL) has been helping to change lives for the better in Leicester and Leicestershire for over half a century. Originally founded in 1965 as the Council for Voluntary Services, VAL is now a charity with an income of over £3.5million which delivers multiple projects and contracts that drive social good in local communities.

Over the last three years, VAL has adapted to the changing economic climate by diversifying our income and delivering projects that directly improve the lives of the people we work with. We are the lead partner on two projects funded by the National Lottery Community Fund and the European Social Fund, and we have delivered national services like Healthwatch and SENDIASS in our local area.

VAL, as well as the wider voluntary sector, adds significant value to the economy of Leicester and Leicestershire.



£2.27m

added to Leicester and Leicestershire's GVA by staff and volunteers in VAL and its partnership projects



£4.1m

added to the local economy through helping 177 people into work



£1.62m

in funding for local voluntary groups through VAL's support

Our Projects



VAL's Voluntary Sector Support Service is funded by Leicester City Council and Leicestershire County Council to provide support and advice to local Voluntary and Community Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE) organisations.



For 20 years, VALUES has provided people with learning disabilities a chance to learn new skills, make friends and have fun. The service currently supports over 120 clients.



SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice and Support Service) Leicester and Rutland offer free, confidential and impartial information, advice and support to parents and carers of young people aged 0-25 with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) as well as young people themselves.

Choice Advice Service

The Choice Advice Service (CAS) Leicester is an independent service that offers free, confidential and impartial information about the schools admissions process.

Technical Assistance

Improving VCSE outcomes for EU funding

The Technical Assistance Project is funded by the European Social Fund to offer advice, support and guidance for VCSE groups who are interested in accessing the European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF).



The YES (Youth Employability Support) Project is funded by the European Social Fund and the National Lottery Community Fund to support young people aged 15-24 to find work and training.



The GREAT (Getting Ready for Employment and Training) Project is funded by the European Social Fund and the National Lottery Community Fund to support families to find work and training.

VAL'S ECONOMIC IMPACT

WHO WE EMPLOY



£2.19m
annual salary added to Leicester and Leicestershire's Gross Value Added (GVA)¹ by VAL and its partners



41 staff
in partner projects



74 paid
members of VAL staff

SUPPORT FOR GROUPS

3,157 hours
Support for groups

- 1,084 hours of direct support
- 1,075 hours of training
- 998 hours of events

VOLUNTEERING



£78,329

delivered annually from 38 volunteers supporting VAL services²

£1.62m
in funding for 36 voluntary groups through support from VAL



1,758

volunteer opportunities are added annually in Leicester & Leicestershire

LEARNING DISABILITIES SERVICES

£2.27m Up to £2.27 million potentially saved by VALUES clients compared to using other similar day services²

£110k potentially saved for the NHS for VALUES clients who no longer access NHS support

OUR VOLUNTARY SECTOR

VAL supports a voluntary and community sector worth an estimated **£195m** of Leicester and Leicestershire's GVA.

Volunteers across Leicester and Leicestershire contribute 6.1 million hours a year which can be valued at **£88.15m³**.

1. NCVO, UK Civil Society Almanac 2018, <https://data.ncvo.org.uk/a/almanac18/economic-value-2015-16/>. ONS, Regional gross value added (income approach), UK: 1997 to 2015, <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/grossvalueadded/gva/bulletins/regionalgrossvalueaddedincomeapproach/latest> - Leicester and Leicestershire GVA per head is £23,365

2. NHS Digital, Adult Social Care Activity and Finance Report, England 2016-17: Reference Data Tables, Table 13: Gross current expenditure, by age band and primary support reason, for Long and Short Term care combined, 2016/17 - £70,124,000 spent on Learning Disability Support in Leicester and Leicestershire. Based on a cost of £3680 per individual (£70m expenditure of learning disability in Leicester and Leicestershire divided by 19,056 people with learning disabilities in Leicester and Leicestershire)

3. Volunteering valued at £14.43 per hour - ONS, "Billion pound loss in volunteering effort", (2017) <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/articles/billionpoundlossinvolunteeringeffort/2017-03-16>. Formal volunteers give 11.6 hours per month - NCVO, UK Civil Society Almanac 2016, <https://data.ncvo.org.uk/a/almanac16/volunteer-overview/>.

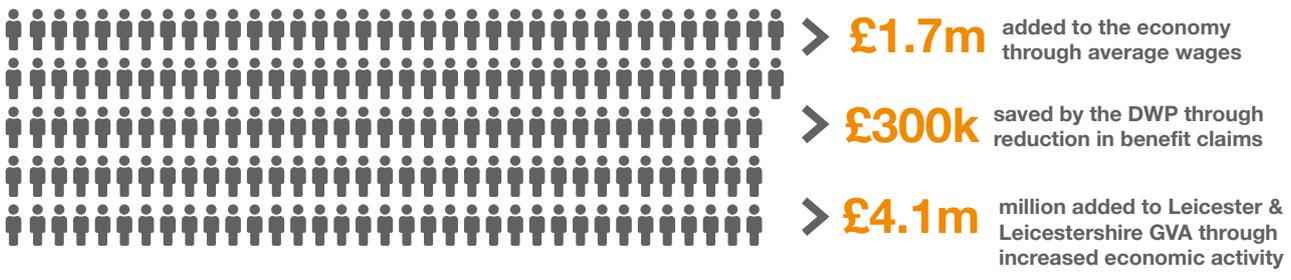
BUILDING BETTER OPPORTUNITIES

Building Better Opportunities (BBO) is funded by the National Lottery Community Fund and the European Social Fund. It aims to help those people who are furthest from the labour market back into work and training.

BUILDING BETTER OPPORTUNITIES



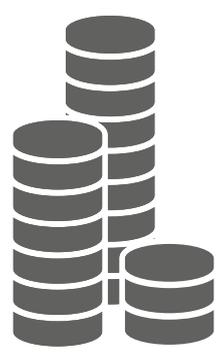
177 supported into employment through YES & GREAT



The YES project will have distributed

£1.3m

to VCS partners by the end of the 3-year programme



The GREAT project will have distributed

£502,806

to VCS partners by the end of the 3-year programme

Supporting people into work & training

Building confidence to get back into work



“All my shyness is completely gone... I need confidence to be able to go out of the house, school meetings... the confidence part goes through all your whole life”

As a single parent with two children, Emma had started to feel isolated in her own community. There were a number of barriers that she felt were limiting her from finding work, but one of the most difficult was a lack of confidence.

Emma’s original goal was to exit the project into job searching so that she could secure work in the future. One of the most significant activities she got involved in was a three-day confidence building programme.

Not only did Emma find a job as a PA for a fellow GREAT Project participant with a disability, her confidence has soared and she was even elected as the Liberal Democrat councillor for her area.

Innovative approaches to generating income



“The surgery at VAL was pivotal to... introducing us to Key Fund. With their help, we got our social enterprise ‘The Bridge to Hope’, a wholly-owned Community Interest Company (CIC) up and running quickly.”

The Bridge – Homelessness to Hope has been helping homeless people to turn their lives around since 2009. Like most charities, they are restrained by finances; although successful at bidding for new projects, funding core costs is impossible.

They attended VAL’s Funding Fair to learn more about how they could seek support through social investment from funders like the Key Fund, a social investor that provides flexible grant and loan packages to support VCS organisations, social enterprises and charities.

The support they received enabled them to set up Ernie, a mobile coffee wagon believed to be the first of its kind in the charity sector outside of London.

Changing lives for the better

Celebrating 20 years of VALUES



In 2018 VALUES celebrated 20 years of supporting people with learning disabilities with a combined Christmas and birthday party.

From a small service with just a handful of clients, VALUES now supports over 120 clients, with more than 30 full and part-time staff delivering up to 50 sessions each week.

Sessions can include anything from cooking to music, maths, travelling or work skills. Clients can build their confidence, make new friends and develop skills to help them improve their day to day lives.

A lifeline for young people with SEND and their families

It can be difficult for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), as well as their families and carers, to find the right advice and support.

That's where SENDIASS comes in. SENDIASS Leicester has been supporting parents and carers in Leicester City since 1999. VAL also now delivers the SENDIASS service in Rutland.

In the joint local area SEND inspection report for Leicester City, released in June 2018, feedback for SENDIASS Leicester was very positive.

“The local area’s SENDIASS is run well. The staff are well trained and have a good knowledge of the law concerning matters related to SEN and/or disabilities. Parents and carers say that the support they receive is valuable [which enables them] to have a strong voice and help to resolve issues quickly.”

1,673 parents and carers supported by SENDIASS Leicester between 2016 and 2018

2,684 parents and carers supported by the Choice Advice Service between 2016 and 2018

Get in touch

If you're interested in any of the services VAL offers, we would love to hear from you.

 0116 257 5050

 helpline@valonline.org.uk

 www.valonline.org.uk

