

NEWSLETTER

LEEDS INVOLVING PEOPLE 30TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION!

We give a voice to residents and support the improvement of health, social care and community services.



**WELCOME TO
OUR
NEWSLETTER**

Welcome to the 30th Anniversary edition of our newsletter! Here, we highlight the voices of Leeds residents and focus on improving health, social care, and community services.

For 30 years, our independent, user-led organisation has been bringing patients, service users, carers, and the public into the conversation about service redesign. We're proud to be so connected to the communities we serve, ensuring their experiences and perspectives are always at the centre of what we do.

A big thank you to our members, partners, and funders for your ongoing support. Together, we can keep making a real difference.

CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

This past year brought significant challenges, alongside important achievements. We said farewell to long-serving trustee Helen Crockett and thank her warmly for her many years of service. We also welcomed Paul Abraham, Garry Fitt, Gill Keddie, and Russell Williams to the Board, bringing valuable skills and perspectives.

We were deeply saddened by the sudden passing of Annette Morris, a highly respected colleague and involvement lead for the Community Mental Health Transformation Project. Her contribution to the Leeds Third Sector was enormous and was marked by an outpouring of respect at her funeral and at a dedicated FRESH meeting.

During the year, the Mental Health Transformation Programme transitioned to Leeds and York Partnership Foundation Trust as the Community Mental Health programme. As a result, NHS funding for LIP's mental health engagement ended. Despite this, LIP maintained its Together We Can group, ensuring that service user voices continued to be heard and that inequalities were challenged.

Under the leadership of CEO Sharon Burke, LIP strengthened its commitment to race equality and broadened engagement with diverse communities, introduced accredited First Aid for Mental Health training (Levels 2 and 3), and developed stigma awareness programmes. Our outreach continues to highlight barriers including poor communication of service information, language barriers, and digital exclusion.

LIP remains committed to amplifying members' voices, influencing providers to deliver person-centred services, and working with communities to reduce inequalities.

Further information can be found at: www.leedsinvolvingpeople.org.uk

Dr Margaret Wilkinson - Chair of the Board of Trustees

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS!

In this section, we will be highlighting some of the exciting work Leeds Involving People has completed since our last celebration event marking 20 years. These projects reflect our continued commitment to empowering communities, improving services, and advocating for those whose voices are often unheard. From supporting the Deaf community through Leeds DEAForum (Deaf Action Forum), to influencing mental health services with Together We Can, and promoting race equality in health and social care through FRESH, our work remains as vital and impactful as ever.

St Gemma's Hospice Steering Group

LIP has helped St Gemma's Hospice make its services more accessible to diverse communities, organising outreach events and ensuring cultural sensitivity in service delivery.

Barnsley Deaf Community

LIP worked with the Barnsley Deaf Community to improve social inclusion and access to services, including organising Deaf Awareness workshops and supporting social events for Deaf residents.

Digital Angels Project

LIP supported the Digital Angels project, with Age UK, helping older people to combat social isolation by teaching them how to use the internet and social media to stay connected with family and services.

Transport Accessibility Audits

LIP carried out accessibility audits for transport infrastructure in Leeds, ensuring that public transport services are accessible for people with disabilities, the elderly, and other vulnerable groups.

Social Prescribing Branding and Surveys

LIP contributed to the branding of the Social Prescribing Service in Leeds, conducting surveys and focus groups to ensure the service reflects community needs and expectations.

Personalised Care and Direct Payments Workshops

LIP delivered workshops on direct payments and personalised care, ensuring that service users understood their options and could better navigate the adult social care system.

Winter Antibiotics Campaign

LIP led a successful winter antibiotics awareness campaign, distributing thousands of leaflets and holding talks to educate the public on antibiotic usage, reaching diverse communities across Leeds.

Day Services Consultation

LIP coordinated consultations with diverse communities to gather feedback on day services, ensuring that service delivery reflects the diverse cultural needs of Leeds' population.

Children's Physiotherapy Service Review

LIP helped the Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) gather feedback from over 100 children and parents to assess the effectiveness of the Children's Physiotherapy Services, improving patient care and service delivery.

Mental Health First Aid Training

LIP has been instrumental in delivering First Aid for Mental Health training, increasing the number of community members trained to support peers, helping to reduce stigma and improve mental health support in everyday settings.

Dementia and Living Well Film

LIP contributed to the "Living Well with Dementia" film, launched at the Dementia Dance event. The project aimed to raise awareness and promote the voices of people with dementia, improving understanding and care for this group.

Leeds Equality Assembly Participation

LIP's participation in the Leeds Equality Assembly ensured that issues related to race, accessibility, and inclusivity were at the forefront of discussions on social care and health services in the city.

Active Participation in NHS Mental Health Strategy

LIP actively engaged with the NHS to contribute to the development of the Mental Health Strategy, ensuring that the lived experiences of service users shaped mental health service delivery in Leeds.

Mental Health Collaborative

LIP has been an active participant in the Mental Health Collaborative, working on projects like improving GP access, addressing mental health in the Youth Justice system, and ensuring members are equipped with the skills needed to engage in mental health system transformation.

Inclusive Research Participation

LIP supported inclusive research efforts, working with the National Institute of Health Research to ensure diverse voices were included in health studies.

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Public Health and Wellbeing Campaigns

LIP supported several public health initiatives, including campaigns on the importance of mental health care, wellness initiatives, and public education on chronic conditions.

NHS Mental Health Workstreams

LIP worked across several NHS mental health workstreams, including urgent care and mental health crisis support, advocating for the inclusion of lived experience in service delivery.

The Listening Project

LIP ran engagement sessions with Leeds City Council to identify why certain communities were not accessing Adult Social Care, resulting in targeted interventions to improve accessibility.

The Starting Point Centre

LIP supported outreach and awareness efforts for The Starting Point Centre, helping engage communities across Leeds in understanding the services offered by the Centre.

Unpaid Carers Project

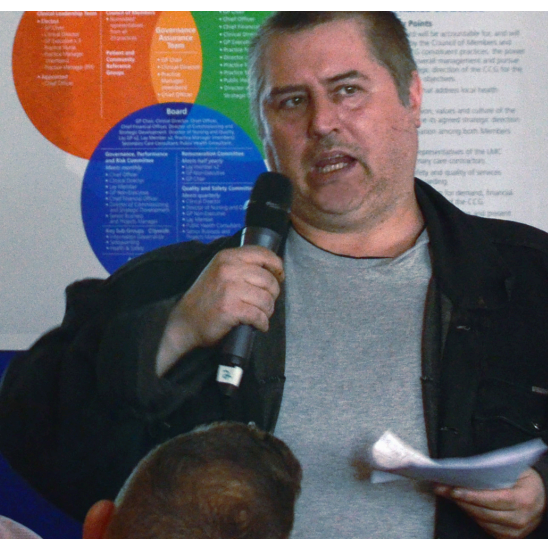
LIP worked with unpaid carers to ensure they were included in decision-making around health and social care, helping to promote better recognition of carers' needs and rights.

The Equipment and Telecare Service User Group (TETSUG)

LIP worked with TETSUG to provide feedback on Leeds Community Equipment Services, focusing on improving service delivery and ensuring telecare services met user needs.

GP Accessibility

LIP and the DEAFForum worked to improve Deaf community access to GP services, advocating for text relay systems and expanded Sign Live availability. Recommendations included staff training on Sign Live and maintaining iPads to ensure accessibility.



10 YEARS OF IMPACT

TOGETHER WE CAN

For a decade, Together We Can has brought people with lived experience into the heart of mental health decision-making in Leeds—helping shape services, policies, and practice so they're more inclusive, responsive and fair. Through working together, mutual support and meaningful participation, our members make sure community voices are heard where it matters.

Key Work

- Refreshed the Leeds Mental Health Strategy - TWC members co-produced and refined the "I" Statements, ensuring service-user voice runs through the new strategy—especially around GP access and closing service gaps.
- Crisis & urgent care redesign - Ongoing workstreams have centred accessibility, timeliness and clear pathways so people get help when they need it.
- Dual diagnosis focus - Members' lived experience informed approaches that better support people facing both mental health challenges and substance misuse.
- MindWell development - TWC helped make Leeds' mental health information hub more user-friendly and genuinely useful.
- Recovery College - From launch to growth, members supported course development and recruitment, strengthening co-produced learning for recovery and wellbeing.

TWC STEERING GROUP

Come along to the next meetings of the steering group, open to all service users/carers with lived experience of mental health.

**Monday 27th Oct 2025
1pm-3pm**

Unity Business Centre

**Mon 24th November
1pm-3pm
Unity Business Centre**

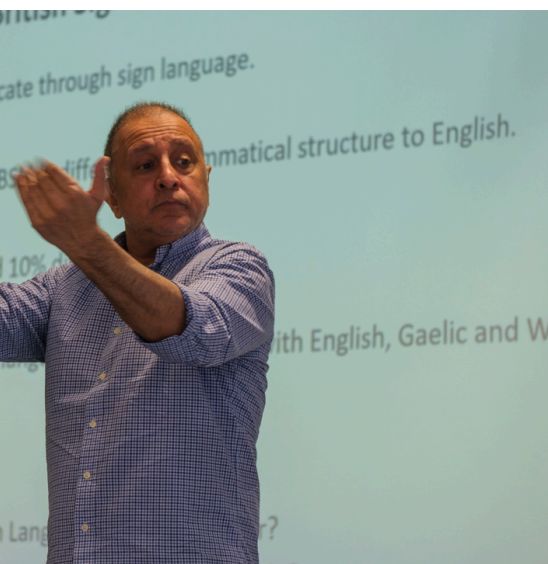
- Community events that connect:
 - Feel Good Festival (three-day programme of workshops, talks and activities)
 - Celebrating Neurodiversity (raising awareness and championing inclusion)
 - Informal spaces like Craft & Chat and Talkin' THC that surface real-world feedback and bridge conversations with commissioners.
- Skills & confidence building: Training on confidence, anxiety management, winter wellbeing and resilience—helping members contribute with impact.

What We've Talked About (Key Themes)

- Inclusion & accessibility - Services that work for neurodivergent people, disabled people and underserved communities; practical access to GPs and wider support.
- Equity & cultural competence - Tackling mental health inequalities in diverse communities and promoting culturally informed support.
- Poverty & mental health - Highlighting the impact of housing, low income and other social determinants on wellbeing.
- Mental health & addiction - Pushing for integrated, person-centred support for co-occurring needs.
- Lived experience in decisions - Not just “listened to”, but actively involved at every stage—design, delivery and evaluation.

As we look to the next 10 years, TWC is committed to continuing its work to improve mental health services in Leeds. The focus will remain on ensuring that mental health care is accessible, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of all communities, particularly those who are often overlooked. By continuing to work in partnership with commissioners, service providers, and service users, TWC aims to create a mental health care system that truly works for everyone.





LEEDS DEAF ACTION FORUM (DEAFORUM)

Over the past decade, Leeds Deaforum has made significant strides in raising the profile of the Deaf community in Leeds, ensuring that their needs are heard and met by service providers. We've worked tirelessly to ensure that the voices of Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals are represented, creating real change in accessibility and communication across various sectors.

Some of the key work we've done includes:

- We have worked to address communication barriers within healthcare services, advocating for the implementation of text relay systems and ensuring that GP surgeries have access to BSL interpreters for appointments.
- We've been involved in consultations about improving mental health services for Deaf people, ensuring that service users have access to appropriate support and that communication is not a barrier to accessing care.
- Leeds DEAForum has actively contributed to improving accessibility at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust by providing feedback and suggestions for improving communication with Deaf patients, including the use of video relay services.
- Through campaigns like the #BSLActNow rally, we've raised awareness of the need for better legal recognition of British Sign Language (BSL) and its importance in everyday life for Deaf people.

LEEDS DEAFORUM

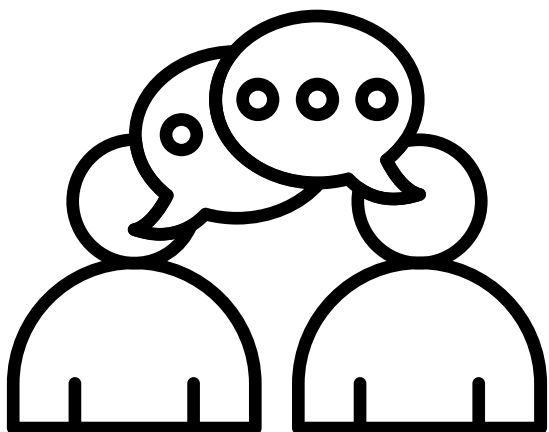
Come along to the next meeting of the DEAForum.

**Thurs 13th Nov 2025
10.30am-12.30pm
Unity Business Centre**



- We've worked closely with the city's public services to ensure they meet accessibility standards for Deaf individuals. Our involvement has included advocating for the accessibility of public buildings, transport systems, and ensuring that Deaf people have access to information in a format they can understand.
- Leeds DEAForum has facilitated training sessions for public services, such as GPs, police officers, and social workers, to improve their understanding of the needs of the Deaf community and how to effectively communicate with them.
- We've hosted events and workshops to raise awareness of the issues affecting the Deaf community in Leeds. These events have allowed Deaf people to voice their concerns and suggest solutions, bringing about change in how services are delivered.
- Leeds DEAForum has collaborated with Leeds City Council to ensure that Deaf individuals' concerns are addressed, particularly in relation to the accessibility of local services and amenities.

By continuing to engage with key stakeholders and advocating for the Deaf community, Leeds Deaforum has played a crucial role in shaping services and making Leeds a more accessible and inclusive city for Deaf people. We will keep pushing for greater representation and access, ensuring that the voices of Deaf individuals are at the heart of decision-making processes.





FORUM FOR RACE EQUALITY IN SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH (FRESH)

Over the past decade, the Forum for Race Equality in Social Care and Health (FRESH), formerly known as SCCFRE, has been a key player in ensuring that marginalised racial communities in Leeds have their voices heard and their needs addressed in the shaping of health and social care services.

Key Work

- FRESH has worked with commissioners and healthcare providers to improve service delivery for racially minoritised communities, advocating for culturally sensitive care and the removal of barriers to access.
- FRESH has facilitated ongoing community consultations to ensure that the voices of racially minoritised groups are heard and considered in the development of health policies and services.
- The forum has played a crucial role in encouraging healthcare professionals to adopt cultural competence training, ensuring services are tailored to meet the diverse needs of the communities they serve.
- FRESH has driven efforts to address mental health challenges specific to racially minoritised groups, working to reduce stigma and increase access to culturally appropriate mental health support.
- FRESH has actively highlighted systemic racism in health and social care, pushing for policy changes that remove discriminatory practices and ensure equitable access to services for all.

FRESH DATES

**Come along to the next
meeting of the Forum
for Race Equality in
Social Care & Health.**

**Weds 26th Nov 2025
5.30pm-7.30pm
The Community
Wellbeing Hub**

- The forum has empowered racially minoritised communities to take leadership roles in health advocacy, providing training and opportunities to actively influence service delivery.
- FRESH has worked with local authorities and healthcare providers to identify and address accessibility barriers for racially minoritised communities, ensuring that these groups can fully access the services they need.

Key Topics Discussed

- FRESH has discussed the need for culturally competent mental health services to address the specific needs of racially minoritised groups and reduce the mental health disparities they face.
- FRESH has focused on the barriers preventing racially minoritised communities from accessing healthcare, such as language barriers, discrimination, and cultural misunderstandings, and has worked to find practical solutions.
- FRESH has emphasised the need for healthcare services that are sensitive to the cultural values and practices of racially minoritised communities, advocating for health professionals to be trained to provide respectful and inclusive care.
- FRESH has been at the forefront of addressing the health disparities faced by racially minoritised groups, advocating for policies and initiatives aimed at closing the health gap.
- FRESH has actively worked to uncover and address systemic racism within health and social care systems, pushing for structural reforms that ensure all individuals are treated equally.
- The forum has been instrumental in advocating for inclusive policy-making processes that ensure racially minoritised communities have a direct role in shaping the policies that affect their health and well-being.
- FRESH has organised educational initiatives for healthcare providers to raise awareness about the challenges faced by racially minoritised communities and promote best practices for inclusivity in healthcare settings.
- FRESH has empowered community members to become leaders in advocating for better health services, giving them the tools and support to influence health policies and practices that affect their communities.



BETTER LIVES BOARD

The Better Lives Board is a key partnership between Leeds City Council and local stakeholders, aiming to improve the lives of people who require social care, health, and support services. Over the years, LIP has played an active role in the Board, representing service users and ensuring that their voices are heard. We've supported the development and delivery of workshops and engagement activities that have addressed topics like health inequalities, mental health, and access to services.

One of our key contributions has been the involvement in the Better Lives Strategy, which sets out Leeds' vision for personalised care, integrated services, and supportive communities. LIP has helped gather feedback from service users, particularly those from seldom-heard communities, to shape this strategy and ensure it is responsive to people's needs.

Throughout our work with the BLB, we have been involved in discussions about digital tools and technology, good housing, connected thriving communities, and tackling poverty. We have supported workshops and forums that ensure service users are at the heart of decision-making, helping to influence how services are delivered to meet the diverse needs of people in Leeds.

LIP has also played an important role in ensuring that information is accessible, that services are inclusive, and that culturally competent practices are adopted across the Board's activities. Our involvement has contributed to the ongoing evolution of the Better Lives Strategy and has helped shape a vision that is truly reflective of the voices and needs of the people it serves.



PARTNERSHIP WITH CONNECTING LEEDS

Over the past 8 years, Leeds Involving People has been a key partner in the Connecting Leeds initiative, working alongside Leeds City Council and other stakeholders to ensure that transport planning in the city is inclusive and accessible for all. LIP's role has involved engaging with underrepresented communities, particularly those with disabilities and sensory impairments, to gather their views and experiences regarding current and proposed transport systems. Through a range of consultation events, focus groups, and surveys, LIP has ensured that the voices of those most affected by transport infrastructure decisions are heard, providing vital input into the development of new projects such as road improvements, cycle lanes, and public transport upgrades.

In addition to consultations, LIP has been instrumental in ensuring that accessibility remains at the forefront of the Connecting Leeds strategy. From advocating for accessible transport routes to addressing concerns around bus stops, train stations, and pedestrian crossings, LIP has worked tirelessly to ensure that transport infrastructure is designed to be inclusive. By participating in planning workshops, audits, and discussions, LIP has helped shape policies that promote equal access for people with mobility challenges, ensuring that the city's transport system can be navigated by everyone, regardless of their abilities. This ongoing partnership continues to influence transport planning across Leeds, aiming to create a city where everyone can move freely and independently.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 24/25

This Executive Summary provides an overview of Leeds Involving People's (LIP) activities and achievements during the year ended 31 March 2025. It highlights key developments, challenges, and impacts across our work, showing how we have delivered on our charitable objectives.

Our Purpose

LIP exists to relieve and support people disadvantaged by physical or mental health conditions or other inequalities. We do this by promoting the voices of service users and carers in planning, delivery, and monitoring of health and social care services across Leeds. Our approach is grounded in the Social Model of Disability and principles of co-production.

Highlights from 2024–2025

- Continued commitment to charitable objectives, ensuring all activities amplify lived experience and reduce inequalities.
- Supported the Together We Can service user group despite loss of NHS funding, maintaining a vital platform for peer support and influence.
- Introduced accredited Mental Health First Aid (Levels 2 and 3) and Stigma Awareness Training, led by our CEO, to build resilience and understanding in communities, where 36 people have achieved accreditation.
- Strengthened engagement with diverse communities, particularly focusing on race equality and reducing barriers to services and inequalities.
- Actively contributed to four Leeds City Council Adult Social Care initiatives: Better Lives Board, FRESH, DEAForum, and the Listening Project.

Project Achievements

- Better Lives Board: Co-chaired by LIP, influencing key service priorities and promoting access to information.
- Leeds DEAForum: Addressed accessibility issues, secured practical improvements such as the BSL icon on Merrion House systems, and promoted use of interpreter technology.
- FRESH: Recognised as best practice in co-production; community members redesigned carers' assessment forms adopted by Leeds City Council.
- Listening Project: Provided insight into barriers around information access, emphasising Conversation Cafés for seldom-heard communities.
- Visible Project: Supported survivors of child sexual abuse to share experiences through podcasts and newsletters, creating a legacy of awareness for service providers.

Additional Work

- Partnered with Connecting Leeds and Streets for All to support public consultations.
- Worked with National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) to identify barriers to disabled people's participation in research.
- Continued involvement in the Synergy partnership, hosting a part-time member of staff and tackling stigma and inequality, particularly for Black and Asian men in mental health services.
- Chaired the West Yorkshire Police Hate Crime Scrutiny Panel.
- Represented service users on the Leeds Mental Health Partnership Board.

Looking Ahead

Despite challenges, LIP remains steadfast in its commitment to its charitable objectives. We will continue to champion co-production, ensure seldom-heard voices influence services, and work with partners to build a fairer, more inclusive health and social care system in Leeds.



LIP IN 2025

FRESH continues to work tirelessly to champion race equality in social care and health services throughout Leeds in 2025. This year, the forum has placed a significant emphasis on creating culturally competent service provisions and ensuring that diverse communities are not only heard but actively involved in shaping services. Through regular work with the Local Authority and other organisations, FRESH has played a pivotal role in shaping policies that directly affect the lives of individuals in Leeds, addressing gaps in service provision and fighting for the inclusion of race equality at all levels of decision-making.

Together We Can (TWC) has made significant progress in 2025, continuing to strengthen its role in shaping the future of mental health services in Leeds. Members of TWC have remained actively involved in key workstreams, including feedback about Leeds Mental Health Strategy and the Mental Health Act 2024. TWC members have also provided vital input into strategic mental health decisions, ensuring that the lived experience of mental health service users remains at the heart of the ongoing transformation of mental health services in Leeds.

In 2025, Leeds DEAForum has been at the forefront of working for the needs of the Deaf and hard-of-hearing communities across Leeds. Key highlights include ongoing efforts to improve access to GP services, with a particular focus on breaking down communication barriers in healthcare settings. The forum has also been instrumental in pushing for better interpreting services, as well as advocating for the continued expansion of BSL (British Sign Language) services. Working with local authorities and healthcare providers has created meaningful change, ensuring Deaf individuals can access services in a way that respects their needs and preferences.

The Better Lives Board has made great strides in 2025 to help shape Leeds into a more inclusive and supportive city for all residents. The board's work has focused on improving



social care, housing, and community engagement, particularly for those with disabilities and long-term health conditions. In 2025, it has played a key role in driving the integration of health and social care services, while also ensuring that the voices of service users and carers are central to all conversations. Their ongoing commitment to addressing poverty, mental health, and inequality has contributed significantly to shaping policies that enhance quality of life for some of the city's most vulnerable populations.

In 2025, LIP successfully completed a Level 3 Mental Health First Aid course with a cohort of dedicated individuals. This training empowered participants to take on a more active role in mental health support within their communities. The course not only provided in-depth knowledge about mental health but also equipped attendees with the skills and confidence to offer first aid support and be key figures in mental health awareness. This initiative aligns with LIP's ongoing commitment to enhancing mental health literacy, reducing stigma, and ensuring that individuals are prepared to help others in need.

We are working closely with the Leeds African Women's Collective to create a safe space for African women to share their lived experiences and influence how services are shaped. This work focuses on building trust, tackling stigma around mental health, and ensuring that support reflects the realities of their communities. At the most recent session, members met with West Yorkshire Police to talk openly about safety concerns, community trust and the changes needed to help women feel safer. By bringing women together with key partners and decision-makers, LIP is helping turn lived experience into practical action that can improve both mental health support and community safety.

We recently worked with West Yorkshire Combined Authority on a major community engagement project to shape the region's future transport plans. Over the course of the programme, we engaged with more than 600 people across Leeds, focusing on communities who are often underrepresented in formal consultations. Through focus groups, conversation cafés and outreach sessions, we gathered lived experiences and feedback on key themes including accessibility, safety, affordability, reliability and greener travel options. By bringing the conversation directly to communities, this project made sure local voices informed the Combined Authority's approach to transport planning and investment.

LIP, working in partnership with Leeds Black Elders Association and Calm & Centred, will soon launch Roots and Rising — a community-led project designed to tackle inequality, improve wellbeing and strengthen local connections. Using an asset-based approach, the project will bring people together through asset mapping workshops, cultural storytelling events, wellbeing circles and elder cafés, focusing on areas with high levels of deprivation and exclusion. Fifteen peer leaders will complete accredited training to develop the skills and confidence to lead activities in their communities. By building trust, amplifying lived experience and supporting community-led action, this project will leave a lasting legacy of stronger connections, empowered residents and increased local leadership.

To mark International Day of Older People, Leeds Involving People partnered with Leeds Black Elders Association to celebrate and recognise the contributions of older people in our communities. The event brought together older residents from across Leeds for a day of connection, conversation and wellbeing. Attendees enjoyed a lively chair-based exercise session, health checks from Leeds Health Awareness, and intergenerational conversations capturing their experiences and stories. The celebration created a warm, inclusive space where older people felt valued, heard and connected — helping to reduce isolation and strengthen community bonds.

Leeds Involving People continues to support the work of Synergi–Leeds, which focuses on tackling ethnic inequalities in mental health. Through this work, we help create spaces where racially minoritised communities can share their experiences, influence decision-making, and shape more inclusive services. A key part of this involves the Remembering What's Forgotten project, which highlights lived experiences through storytelling and creative expression. A new pop-up version of the exhibition is being developed to take these stories out into the community, spark conversation, and raise awareness of inequality and change.

Thank You to Our Members, Funders, and Partners

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to all of our members, funders, and partners for their continued support over the past year. To our members, thank you for your unwavering dedication and involvement – your voices and experiences shape the work we do and make a real difference in Leeds. We also appreciate the flexibility and trust of our funders, whose support allows us to carry out our vital work. Lastly, a big thank you to our partners who collaborate with us to bring about positive change, ensuring that services are accessible, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of our communities. Together, we are making a lasting impact.





SPOTLIGHT ON...

COPRODUCTION

Co-production is all about working together, with everyone involved having an equal say in what happens. It's about listening to people who use services and making sure their voices shape the decisions being made. In co-production, people aren't just asked for their opinions; they're active partners in creating services, from the very beginning to the very end.

Instead of just professionals making decisions about services, co-production brings in the people who use those services; they know what works, what doesn't, and what needs to change. That's why co-production is so powerful. It's not just about asking, "What do you think?" It's about saying, "Let's do this together."

At Leeds Involving People (LIP), co-production is at the heart of everything we do. It's about working together with communities to design services that actually meet people's needs. When people with lived experience are involved, services get better. Co-production makes sure that everyone, no matter who they are, has a chance to be part of shaping the services they rely on.

Key Principles of Co-production

- **Equality** - In co-production, everyone's voice matters equally. No one is higher up the chain. People who use services are treated as partners, not just recipients.
- **Reciprocity** - Co-production is about giving and receiving. It's not just about professionals asking for feedback, it's about everyone sharing what they know and learning from each other. It's a two-way thing.
- **Accessibility** - For co-production to work, it needs to be accessible to everyone. We break down the barriers – whether that's making meetings easier to get to, offering sign language interpreters, or providing materials in formats people can understand. Everyone deserves to be heard.

- Empowerment - Co-production gives people a sense of control. Instead of just being told what to do, they're helping create solutions. This leads to more confidence and a sense of ownership over services.
- Sustainability - Co-production isn't just a one-off thing – it's ongoing. It's about building relationships and ensuring that services keep evolving to meet people's changing needs.
- Collaboration - Co-production is all about working together. When we collaborate, we get better results. Communities, service users, and professionals all bring something important to the table.

Why Co-production Matters

Co-production brings countless benefits, not just in improving services but in making people feel more connected to the services they rely on. When people have a say in the decisions that affect them, they're more likely to engage and benefit from those services. Co-production ensures that services stay relevant and effective by continuously evolving based on real, lived experiences.

At LIP, we've seen firsthand how co-production transforms services. It's about more than just policies or procedures – it's about creating services that reflect the needs and knowledge of those who use them. We are dedicated to working alongside communities, listening to their experiences, and making sure their voices are always at the heart of service design and delivery.

Co-production is at the core of everything we do at LIP. It's not a passing trend for us – it's how we've been working for over 30 years, making sure that the services in Leeds meet the needs of all of our communities.



CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS: MILAN GHOSH RECOGNISED FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION

Volunteers are at the heart of Leeds Involving People. They bring passion, dedication, and lived experience to everything we do. This year, we were proud to see one of our long-standing members, Milan Ghosh, recognised for his incredible contribution to volunteering across Leeds.

Milan received a Volunteer Award celebrating his commitment to amplifying community voices and improving health and social care services. Over many years, he has given his time generously to a range of involvement activities—helping shape strategies, supporting engagement events, and ensuring seldom-heard communities are represented in decision-making spaces. His warmth, reliability, and insight have made a lasting difference, both to LIP's work and to the wider city.

This award is a well-deserved recognition of Milan's dedication and the impact volunteers can have when their voices are valued and supported. We're proud to celebrate his achievement and grateful to all our volunteers who make our work possible every single day.



THANK YOU FOR READING!



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Thank you to Paul Abraham (<https://www.theartfulrambler.com/>) and Resh Rall (<https://www.reshrall.co.uk/>) for the images featured in this newsletter.