



# Positive Impact Partners (PIP)

Progress Report January 2018



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



## About the University's Social Responsibility



### Being a Positive Partner in Society

At the University of Leeds, we are acutely aware that we have the ability to help influence the world in and beyond Leeds. Being a positive partner in the local community and helping to have a lasting impact on society is a key (fundamental) aim. Equally, we are fully committed to building knowledge and capacity through meaningful collaborations.

We collaborate with a wide range of civic, community and cultural partners to ensure our activities have a lasting positive impact on society, both in Leeds, the UK and internationally.

We take an innovative approach to embedding social responsibility into operations, teaching and learning and research.

In practice this means co-creating research that addresses community challenges, sharing our professional skills and resources

with third sector partners, supporting our students to be active citizens and embedding social responsibility into our teaching and learning opportunities.

It also means benefiting from the partnerships we develop; creating new opportunities for research and teaching throughout the city and beyond.

We are proud of our commitment to being a positive partner in

society, and with our track record of delivering programmes that create positive change.

 [Sustainability@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:Sustainability@leeds.ac.uk)

 [/UOLSustainability](https://www.facebook.com/UOLSustainability)

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## About Positive Impact Partners (PIP)

The University launched its Community Mentoring Scheme in November 2015 as our flagship programme to increase collaboration with the Third Sector, build capacity and positively contribute to Leeds communities.

The pilot ran for 18 months with some inspiring and positive outcomes for individuals, the Third Sector and University. To further build on this success, the Positive Impact Partners (PIP) programme was launched in June 2017 with a focus on creating a real partnership approach that would increase value for the community and the University.

### Provide Opportunity

The programme connects local Third Sector organisations together with staff at the University to create new collaborative partnerships, designed to bring mutual benefit. We match the personal, professional or research skills profiles available at the University with those of the Third Sector to create new partnerships that generate organisational and

personal development opportunities for everyone involved.

Once partnered, the University staff member and Third Sector organisation work together to meet their individual objectives, but with the needs and development of the Third Sector as their primary purpose.

### PIP Network

Once part of the PIP programme, the participants collectively form the PIP Network who all have the ability to interact together, share experiences and form additional collaborative partnerships supported through our networking events and a group shared email. They are further supported through induction training workshop and a programme of skills development workshops and training, capitalising further on the skills and expertise of PIP Members.

 [Sustainability.leeds.ac.uk/  
positive-impact-partners/](https://sustainability.leeds.ac.uk/positive-impact-partners/)

**# Positive Impact Partners**





# Positive Impact Partners (PIP)

## How It Works

PIP supports University colleagues and Third Sector Organisations to form new collaborative partnerships that build capacity and create positive social change.



### PIP Programme Offers Third Sector

#### Training and support

Expertise from professional, teaching and research staff

Guidance on how to access University support

Networking opportunities with the University and beyond

Managed, formalised and supported relationship with University



### Third Sector Partners Benefit

Encouragement and support to realise potential

A critical friend to test out innovative ideas

New expertise and insights to grow capacity, skills and capabilities

Help to realise and develop resourcefulness



### Staff Partners Benefit

Access to the Region's vibrant and diverse Third Sector

New insights and expertise on the Third Sector and the communities they work with

Practical application for research, professional or workplace knowledge

Skills development including stronger leadership and management skills

## This supports the Third Sector and University to:

Support and build capacity in the Region's diverse and vibrant Third Sector

Contribute to making Leeds a socially responsive, culturally and environmentally vibrant City

Create a welcoming University open to collaboration

Increase collaboration leading to positive social change and more sustainable futures

Develop University staff capabilities and increase productivity

Support Staff to create University capacity



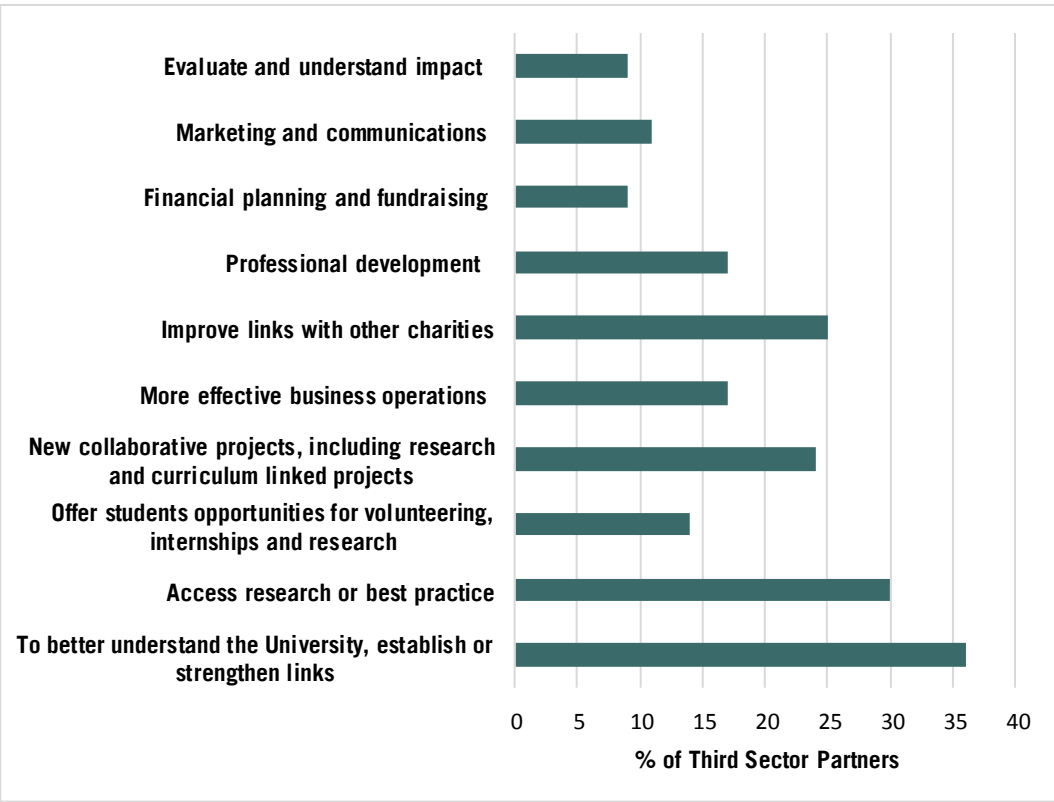


# PIP Supports and Builds Capacity in the Regions Vibrant and Diverse Third Sector

Providing expert knowledge and support, and access to additional University resources, brings invaluable and direct benefits to the Third Sector. This equips them to build their capacity and capabilities and run their organisations in a more sustainable way.

The support provided by teaching, professional or research staff is wide ranging. It is based on the individual needs identified by each PIP Third Sector partner. Whether they have identified an in-house skills gap, an operational or business advice need, or have identified a specific project but require our input to deliver it.

## What our Third Sector partners requested our help with





# PIP Contributes to Making Leeds a Socially Responsive, Culturally and Environmentally Vibrant City

PIP is open to the staff, trustees and volunteers from any Third Sector organisations. This includes everything from voluntary organisations, community groups, charities, social enterprises, community interest companies and community activities undertaken by faith groups.

These organisations are driven primarily by a social purpose and are responsible for everyday

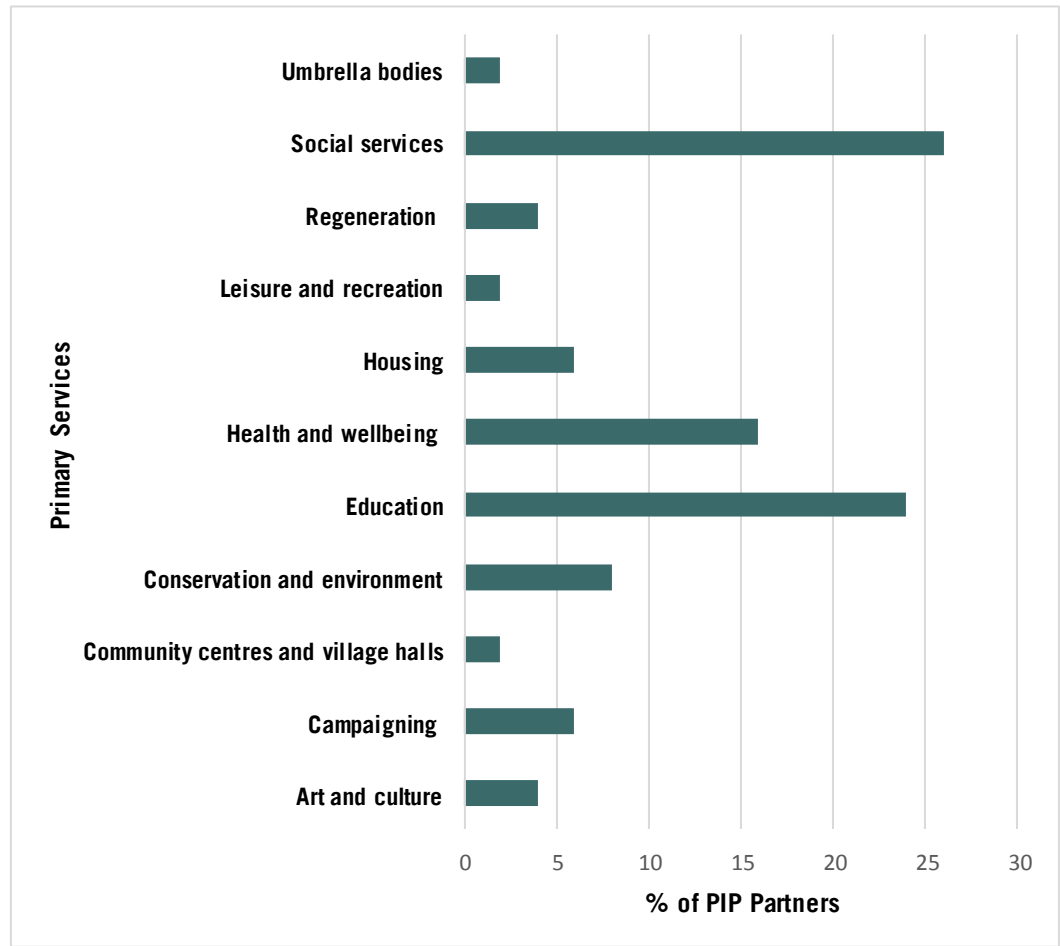
community services in the City. They support people at various stages in their lives through their services, and are key to the health and wellbeing of the community.

The sector is well-known for its vibrancy and innovation, its passion for making a difference to the lives of people in Leeds and its ability to engage with people to help them increase their capacity to do good things.



47 Third Sector Organisations involved with PIP

## What our PIP Third Sector partners do





## Case Study: Wakefield District Sight Aid

Wakefield District Sight Aid is a registered charity providing support, help and advice to people with sight loss across the Wakefield district. They work with visually impaired people, their families, carers and sight impairment professionals to help visually impaired people maintain their independence and quality of life. They are the only charity in the Wakefield District providing direct services for the visually impaired.

### Developing A Strategic Focus

Wakefield District Sight Aid's Chief Executive joined PIP as he had identified a need to become more business focused with their planning and ensure they are able to fulfill the growing needs of their members.

Katheryn Watson, Research Impact Manager from Leeds University Business School was partnered with the charity to help with developing a business plan.

Katheryn attended board meetings and met regularly with the CEO in order to give independent and

fresh insights into the charity's ways of working.

As a result of their PIP Partnership the charity was able to improve their commercial acumen at an important time of change in the charity sector.

With Katheryn's support the charity have developed a more robust approach to generating income. This led to an immediate increase in funding with the charity receiving £8000 from a successful grant application. The charity expect the year end income to exceed previous year's totals.



**"I'm very satisfied with the scheme. There is help in the business community, if your not afraid to ask."**

***Graham Bell, CEO of Wakefield***





# PIP Increases Collaboration Leading to Positive Social Change and More Sustainable Futures

PIP is actively promoted across the City encouraging the Third Sector to engage and work with the University. We identify and approach Third Sector organisations which would benefit from the PIP programme. The programme is recognised and supported by organisations and groups providing support services and specialist advice to Third Sector organisations across the Leeds City Region, including Voluntary Action Leeds. Through PIP we have engaged and recruited new Third Sector partners to work collaboratively with the University to develop and build capacity.

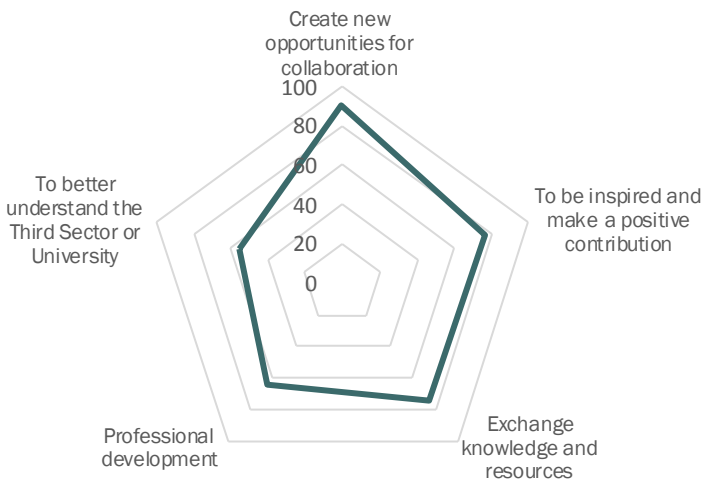
30 New Collaborative Partnerships Formed

PIP partners have contributed 441 hours since June 2017

83 Members of PIP Network

40 PIP partners attended training and induction workshops

## PIP Partnership Themes



90% of PIP Third Sector and University partners reported that they were looking to create new opportunities for collaboration through their partnership.





## Case Study: International Mixed Ability Sport

International Mixed Ability Sport (IMAS) are a community interest company delivering social inclusion and education through sport. They offer guidance, training and resources to sports clubs and educational establishments on using the Mixed Ability Sport model. The model encourages social inclusion by removing barriers to participation for people who feel unable to join mainstream grassroots clubs or groups due to

physical or mental health issues, size, shape, age, disability, prolonged inactivity, or a perception of “not being good enough”.

IMAS was partnered with Ben Williams from the Research and Innovation Service, who gave his advice to help them grow and develop their organisations capabilities. This included support to expand their activities to Europe and new areas of sport.

“We got involved in the mentoring scheme as we are a very small and young organisation and it seemed like an amazing opportunity to tap into expertise and get advice in areas where we are lacking capacity.

It is great to have someone to talk to who has a proven track record. Our University partner also has an extensive network within the University that he can refer us to should he think of others who might be able to help in other ways. It is amazing how many chance links come up in conversation that might lead onto opportunities and avenues to explore.

We would urge any organisation to take up the opportunity of working with a friendly individual who is offering their time and expertise for free!”





## PIP Creates a Welcoming University Open to Collaboration

The University is made up of great collection of people, expertise and resources. PIP creates a platform to increase access to these resources, enhance knowledge and experience the University's social responsibility in action. It creates a culture where the University is open and welcoming and where collaboration with the Third Sector is the norm.

The PIP Programme offers the Third Sector a structured, formal and managed relationship with the University.

Opening up and increasing access to the University's wide range of resources as well as offering support uniquely tailored to each Third Sector partner's particular and unique needs.

PIP offers the unique opportunity to strengthen networks, building new collaborative approaches, share resources, challenge ourselves and others, and meet the needs of the City and wider region.

**"I am personally motivated by the University of Leeds' motto 'Et augebitur scientia' and would like to engage in activities where my experience and knowledge can benefit communities."**



## The wide range of professional services and academic schools involved





## PIP Develops University Staff Capabilities and Increases Productivity

University staff also benefit from working collaboratively with a wide range of inspirational individuals and organisations beyond Campus. A key benefit of working with the Third Sector is the personal development that it brings staff.

PIP gives staff the opportunity to reflect on their role and ways of working. Staff also gain insights from their partner's background and history that can be used in their own personal and professional development. PIP differs from other training and development opportunities as it is self-led and tailorable to meet individual staffs development needs.

Through the PIP registration process staff are supported with developing their own partnership objectives and with evaluating and reporting on their development.



## Skills developed through PIP



**“I’m really enjoying my role as a Positive Impact Partner. As well as providing support to my Charity partner, I have also developed leadership skills that will be really useful to draw upon in my day to day role.”**

**“PIP is a good scheme. It helps me take time to analyse my role and gives me ideas, as well as giving me the chance to help someone else.”**



## Case Study: IntoUniversity Leeds South

IntoUniversity is an educational charity which provides local learning centres where young people are inspired to achieve. Their second Leeds centre opened in autumn 2015 in partnership with the University of Leeds and The Queen's Trust.

Based in the Hillside Centre in Beeston, the centre offers a wide-range of programmes that supports young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to attain either a university place or another chosen aspiration.

Three of the centres staff were matched with University staff partners through PIP. Support was provided with development in a range of professional skills areas.

This included: providing advice with finding new networking and professional training opportunities; creating strong community engagement; and managing their relationship with corporate partners.



**“My whole team applied for the scheme- they are hardworking and motivated individuals who are always aspiring to increasing their knowledge.**

**It is a fantastic way to build your team’s confidence and utilise the broad expertise and knowledge within the University. The greatest benefit in taking part to us is the contact and relationship building. The scheme has greatly supported our relationships with the University. We have met more contacts and been put in touch with lots of different groups within the University which has really benefited the work we do in the community.**

**It has also given us some really beneficial time to reflect on our own work with someone outside the organisation.”**

***Eleanor Rowley, Team Leader,  
IntoUniversity Leeds South***





## PIP Supports Staff to Create University Capacity

Through providing access to work with and better understand the Third Sector and the communities that they work with, PIP supports staff to create University’s capacity through their roles in a wide range of different areas.

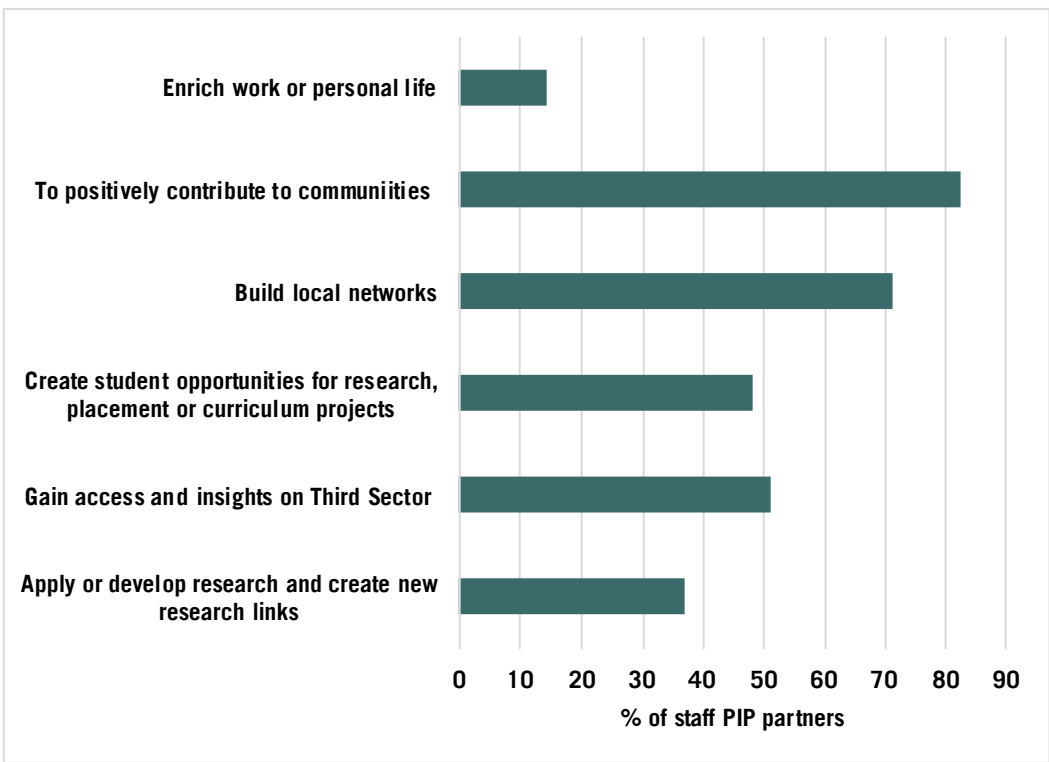
This can include anything from developing new research projects that link to local need; new curriculum linked projects to give students a practical basis for their learning, student opportunities for research; volunteering or placements to enhance their employability; or helping research staff to meet some of the knowledge exchange requirements set out in the Research Excellence Framework (REF).



“I appreciate the opportunity to be able to use my research and applied experience. Through guided discussions with organisations I am able to facilitate idea development for overcoming challenges and view opportunities holistically. I also learn a lot from them about how research does or does not apply!”

“It is of benefit to understand Third Sector needs in Leeds, to see whether there are opportunities where the Business School could contribute to the sector’s development. This includes projects where students could reciprocally gain professional experience.”

### What staff were looking to gain through their PIP partnerships





## Acknowledgments and Contributions

### Thanks to all of our Third Sector partners – we love working with you!

Kirkstall Valley Development Trust	Jamyang Buddhist Centre Leeds
Foundation	People in Action
Artlink West Yorkshire	South Seacroft Friends & Neighbours
Leeds Children's Circus	William Merritt Disabled Living Centre
Leeds Fairtrade Group	Leeds Community Homes
Knowledge4UsByUs CIC	Leeds Citizens
Clarity Social Enterprise	AIM Education
Wakefield District Sight Aid	Headingley Development Trust
Oblong	Pavilion
Touchstone	Royal Horticultural Society
Carers Leeds	Mill Hill Chapel
Community Links	Corporate SR CIC
Leeds Food Partnership	IntoUniversity Leeds South
The Orchard Project	Swarthmore Centre
Leeds Tidal	Get Technology Together C.I.C.
Growing Better CIC	International Mixed Ability Sport (IMAS)
Freedom4girls	Guiseley Community Foundation
Connect in the North	DIAL Leeds
Royds School	Marginal Lands Project
Leeds North And West Foodbank	MAP (Music and Arts Production)
GIPSIL	Foundation for Digital Creativity
Leeds Chinese Community Association Ltd	Communication Matters
West Yorks Community Accounting Service	Leeds Older People's Forum
Home-Start Leeds	Feel Good Factor (Leeds)
Phoenix Health and Wellbeing	IntoUniversity Leeds East
GIPSIL / Engage Leeds	Hyde Park Source
Leeds Involving People	Special Needs and Parent Support Yorkshire
Rainbow Junktion Community Cafe	
Leeds Older People's Forum (LOPF)	



### And thanks to all of the University Staff who have supported us and given their time along the way.

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