

Intelligence Gathering of Third Sector Disability Organisations in Leeds

May 2017



**Physical and
Sensory
Impairment
Network**

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Introduction

This independent project involved intelligence gathering of third sector disability organisations in Leeds, on behalf of the PSI (Physical and Sensory Impairment) Network. The research and report was carried out by Freya Demmery, a final year student, of the School of Geography, University of Leeds.

The PSI Network supports third sector organisations that work to improve the lives of disabled people in Leeds. The network promotes the social model of disability, and the inclusion, independence and equality of disabled people.

The PSI Network is a network of third sector, not-for-profit organisations that support, work with or provide services for disabled people with physical or sensory (hearing or sight) impairments in Leeds. The PSI Network is one of the partners delivering Forum Central, the single health and social care forum service for the third sector in Leeds.

The PSI Network became an independent CIO (charitable incorporate organisation) in March 2016. The membership of the network has been growing steadily ever since.

This project was carried out with the organisations that were members of the PSI Network up until March 2017 and is based on responses from the 29 organisations that provided information.

This project aimed to understand more about the PSI Network's members by investigating:

- What third sector organisations do in Leeds,
- Who the third sector organisations work with and who the organisations' services are for,
- How are the third sector organisations organised, and finally
- What issues do third sector organisations face.

Furthermore, the project aimed to find out:

- Which organisations are run by smaller scale local charities, and which are run by larger national charities and have support groups based in Leeds.
- How many disabled people were involved within the organisation, and if this varied between national and local charities.
- How many organisations were aimed at those specifically with impairments compared to those organisations that are open to all.
- How many organisations focused on one particular issue, compared to those offering a wide range of services.



Ultimately the aim of this project is to understand the PSI Network of third sector organisations in Leeds in more detail. Understanding this will enable a real difference to be made in years to come. Understanding this will also help the PSI Network and Forum Central offer better support and attract new members.

To see the full membership of the Forum Central partners, go to www.forumcentral.org.uk/members



Intelligence Gathering

This project involved understanding the third sector PSI services in Leeds. To do this, conversations with the network members took place, a survey was sent out which achieved 29 responses and one-on-one meetings were set-up enabling detailed and interesting conversations about a particular organisation.

The survey asked for:

- Contact details and social media links
- What the organisation did
- Who the organisation was for
- If there were any organisations that had a particular focus
- Where they were based
- And, who was involved in the organisation

The survey prompted a wide range of answers, gathering this data gave a good detailed picture of the current PSI network members in Leeds.

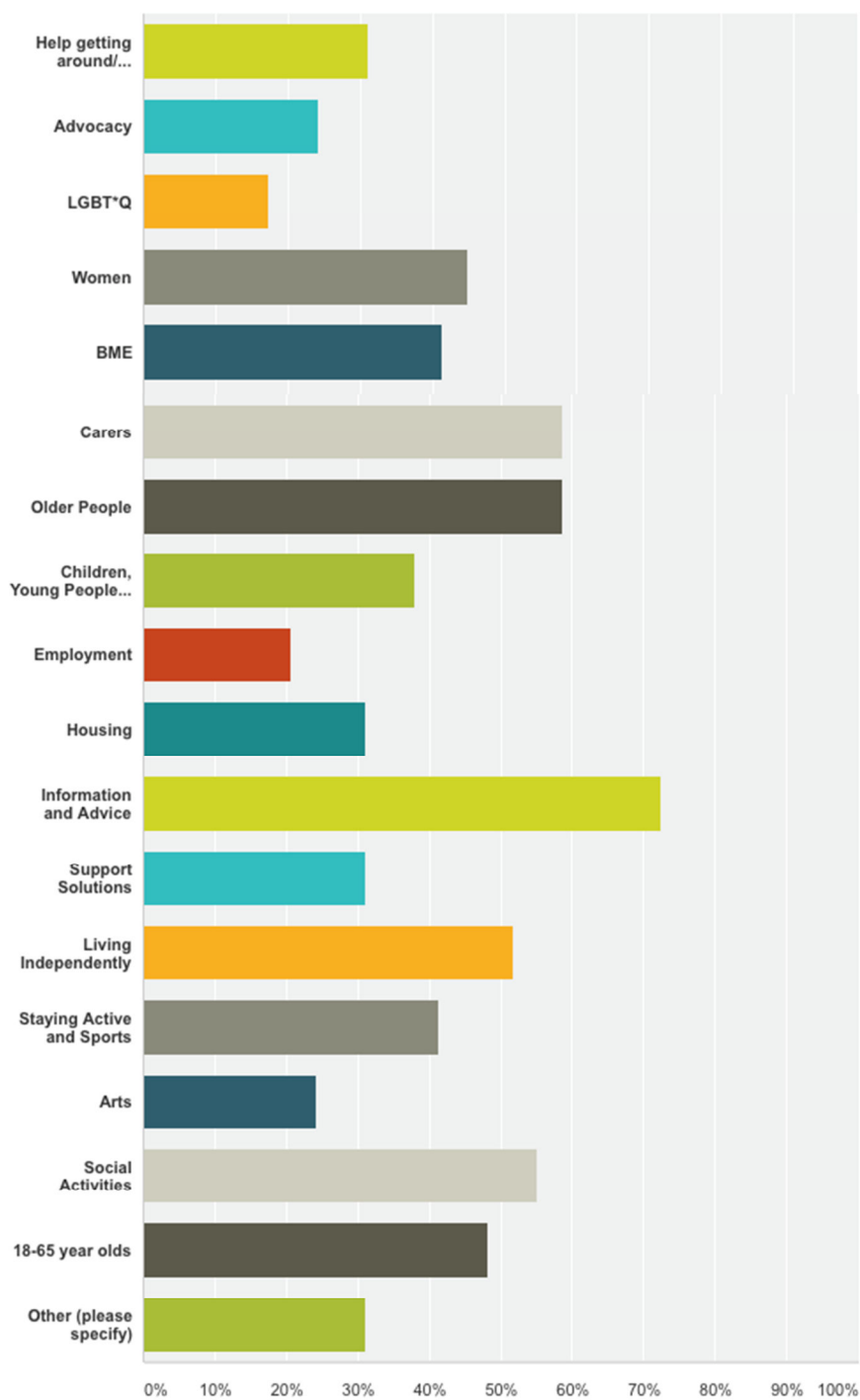
A list of those organisations involved in the survey can be found at the end of this document, with their contact details and social media links if provided.



Results

What third sector organisations do in Leeds

Each organisation was asked to put their services in categories so the variation in third sector services could be further understood, in Leeds.





It is clear to see the wide range of services that are offered in Leeds, both from national and local level organisations. LGBT*Q, employment and advocacy organisations and services are the fewest in their numbers whilst carers, services for older people and information and advice services frequent the PSI network a lot. Positively for Leeds and the PSI network, all services were covered quite well by the organisations in Leeds, with even the fewest responded to categories totaled 5 or 6 organisations offering those services.

Answer Choices	Responses
▼ LGBT*Q	17.24% 5
▼ Employment	20.69% 6
▼ Advocacy	24.14% 7
▼ Arts	24.14% 7
▼ Help getting around/ transport services	31.03% 9
▼ Housing	31.03% 9
▼ Support Solutions	31.03% 9
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 31.03% 9
▼ Children, Young People and Families	37.93% 11
▼ BME	41.38% 12
▼ Staying Active and Sports	41.38% 12
▼ Women	44.83% 13
▼ 18-65 year olds	48.28% 14
▼ Living Independently	51.72% 15
▼ Social Activities	55.17% 16
▼ Carers	58.62% 17
▼ Older People	58.62% 17
▼ Information and Advice	72.41% 21
Total Respondents: 29	

Those responding in the 'other' category included support with IT and technology services, activism, volunteering opportunities and learning disability services. Some of the organisations in the PSI network cross over with those in the Tenfold network supporting those learning disabilities.

Who the third sector organisations work with and who the organisations services are for

Again, wide ranges of people are catered for in Leeds. The majority of the organisations provide services for lots of people and are non-specific, about 18 of the organisations are non-specific. About 11 of the PSI network member organisations offer services for a more select group of people.



Some of the non-specific organisations include:

- Get Cooking who provide support for all types of disabled and non-disabled people through cooking courses.

Some of the more specific groups include:

- North and West Yorkshire ASBAH (Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus) is an organisation providing services for those with Spina Bifida and/or Hydrocephalus and their families and carers.
- Pyramid of Arts, an organisation that runs art-based classes for all types of groups, mainly based on age, but focus on those with learning difficulties. They have a YoYo group for children up to 18 years old, to a Legends group for those aged 55+.

There is no correlation between whether or not the organisation provides specific or non-specific services and if they are a national or local organisation. It can be assumed that services try and meet peoples needs wherever possible, rather than turning them away.



How are the third sector organisations organised and funded

Many of the organisations did not disclose information about how they are funded, however a clear difference between how national and local organisations are organised emerged. Local organisations had many more disabled people involved in the organisation compared to national organisations. In fact, only about half of the national organisations had at least one person who would consider themselves to be disabled in the organisation, approximately 4 out of 8 national organisations. About three quarters, 16, of the local organisations had at least one disabled person involved. Moreover, the local organisations had considerably more disabled people within the organisation than perhaps just one or two people that are involved in the national organisations.

Examples of how national organisations are organised:

- Saint John of God Hospitaller Services, a national organisation, is an example of this. Currently there are no disabled people on the board or management committee. They have found that “the nature of the work makes it difficult to recruit people with significant disabilities”.
- Age UK, also a national organisation, similarly has little disabled representation. Age UK has only one disabled employee out of 51 staff and currently has no disabled trustees.
- This is not the case with all national organisations though, PLUS is organised and run by 50-60% disabled people.

Examples of how local organisations are organised:

- Advonet, a local organisation, reserves 3 of 12 places on the board for current or former members of their services and actively encourages volunteering.
- About 30% of the Yorkshire Sport Foundation considers themselves to be disabled.
- Specialist Autism Services employ 5 staff members with autism.
- The Sage Project states that some disabled people are involved in all three organisations that comprise the project.



What issues do third sector organisations face

Every organisation faces their own difficulties, but in the current economy more challenges are faced by local organisations than national organisations.

An example of this would be the local organisation DIAL. At their annual AGM their funding challenges were made clear to the disheartenment of many of the audience and people who use their services.

A conversation with J from Parkinson's UK, a national organisation, can demonstrate the ease that national organisations have of providing services that local organisations do not have the infrastructure to be able to always provide. From the conversation (can be read below) it makes it clear that Parkinson's UK offers many services, some that Joyce does not even feel she needs to use. An assumption can be made that the national organisations have more backing from higher up bodies or organisations enabling more security in the services they offer, a luxury that sometimes is not the case for local organisations.



Case Study: A Conversation with J discussing Parkinson's UK.

J's role in the organisation: she uses their services and often helps out with ongoing Parkinson's research.

What services do they offer?

"Art Classes, exercise classes, once a month meetings to support people with Parkinson's. The newly diagnosed meeting is very useful as it involves having trained Parkinson's nurses tell you things you don't always get from the doctor, it is more personable and social, it also helps you to meet others with Parkinson's which is very important. It is a misunderstood disease and so it is good to talk to other people and discuss things. This also helps me see the positive things not just the negatives that the doctors tend to focus on more. They also have a carers lunch, Christmas lunch, everyone is invited, it is social and fun and not just about getting rid of the disease but instead learning how to live with it, and living with it positively."

How did you find Parkinson's UK?

"Found Parkinson's UK through the internet, which my daughter actually found for me. The Doctor didn't suggest anything other than the medication." J considers the social side of Parkinson's UK vitally important and so did not understand why the doctors failed to mention this service.

What services do you use, and how beneficial are these?

"I use the exercise class, and also saw a speech therapist who came to my house to see if I needed any help. Turns out I didn't but it was very useful and good to have lots of support."

"There are lots of different locations in Leeds, which really helps the number of activities I can attend"

This conversation highlights the importance the organisations and the services they offer are to those in Leeds. It also demonstrates, in some ways, the benefits that large national organisations have over smaller local organisations in terms of being able to run services and having the infrastructure to do so.



Summary

The survey was very useful in determining more about the PSI networks members. It can now be understood:

- What third sector organisations do in Leeds: A wide range of services are offered in Leeds, and many of the services are offered by multiple organisations.
- Who the third sector organisations work with and who the organisations services are for: it was determined that more of the organisations offered non-specific services in Leeds, but similarly to the last questions, a wide range of services are on offer to a large group of different people.
- How are the third sector organisations organised and funded: A difference between national and local organisations is noted here whereby national services involve less disabled people than local organisations.
- What issues do third sector organisations face: Again, a difference is noted between national and local organisations. National organisations may have more infrastructure and security in their organisation, which a local organisation may not have.

As the members of the PSI network continually grow, this data will have to be re-evaluated to assess if any change has happened.



Organisations

Advonet

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Arthritis Care

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DREAM

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Leeds Involving People

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Leeds Jewish Welfare Board

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Twitter: @LJWBLeeds

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Parkinson's UK

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Sage Project

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Specialist Autism Services

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Twitter: @SASautism

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Touchstone

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William Merritt Disabled Living Centre

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