ANNUAL REPORT 2025/6

Leeds Older People's Forum



STRATEGIC REPRESENTATION

Leeds Older People's Forum (LOPF) represents the third sector at a strategic level in Leeds. We have represented our members at the Proactive Care Programme Steering Group, the Prevention Diagnostic Steering Group, the Third Sector Leaders Group, Third Sector Partnership, West Yorkshire Dementia Ready Housing Task Force, Leeds Carer Partnership, Leeds Community Healthcare Third Sector Strategy Group and the CST -mCST group (Cognitive Stimulation Therapy / maintaining Cognitive Stimulation Therapy). This forms part of our work with Volition on the Forum Central partnership.

TRAVEL CONNECTIONS



LOPF secured funding from the Motability Foundation to work in three areas: Age and Dementia Friendly taxis, travel confidence and strategic influence. This work started in April 2024.

Travel Connections brings together third sector delivery partners, older people, disabled people and other stakeholders in Leeds to focus on three transport themes.

TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE

Five third sector delivery partners are funded to enable older people and disabled people to increase their confidence in travelling independently by providing a travel trainer/buddy for up to 12 weeks to support independent travel. To date, the TWC programme has supported 284 people.

AGE & DEMENTIA FRIENDLY TAXIS

This year, LOPF secured an agreement to provide taxi training for drivers in Leeds, an e-learning platform tender opportunity that attracted 9 bidders, and a clear programme of work for Year 3. Through this work, we have spoken to 69 people about taxis, what works well, and what needs improvement.

LETS TALK TRANSPORT

Older people and disabled people took part in the following consultations: Local Transport Plan (in partnership with WYCA), Mass Transit in the city, input into social value as part of bus companies tendering to run the Weaver bus network, and Transport Hub (in partnership with the Department for Transport), all of which will form part of the legacy of our project.

FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES



Leeds Older People's Forum is one of Age Friendly Leeds' partners with Leeds City Council. LOPF's role grew from our strong community connections, our ability to engage with and capture older people's voices in Leeds, and our relationships with community organisations.

This work was funded by Leeds City Council and Zurich Foundation, the latter ending in the first quarter of 2026.

AGE FRIENDLY STEERING GROUP

This group meets monthly and consists of about 15 older people who are consulted on age-friendly matters, help shape services for older people, and help ensure the public realm is age-friendly.

AGE FRIENDLY AMBASSADORS

We signed up our 500th Age Friendly Ambassador on the 31st March. Age Friendly Ambassadors are adults of any age who take action to raise awareness and spread the Age Friendly message.

AGE AND DEMENTIA FRIENDLY BUSINESSES

There are 285 businesses signed up to this scheme, including University of Leeds School of Psychology, Discovery Inn Hotel, Kippax Ash Tree Primary School, Sporting Memories Foundation, libraries and the Council's Community Hubs.

WISE UP TO AGEISM

Training was delivered to 19 organisations, reaching 214 people overall.

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY LEEDS

This campaign raises awareness of dementia and makes services more accessible. We held a Dementia Leeds event for the public to learn more during Dementia Awareness Week at Pudsey Civic Hall.

DEMENTIA FRIENDS

The Friendly Communities team made 349 Dementia Friends this financial year.

COME IN AND REST

We recruited 34 organisations, bringing the total to 245 organisations signed up for our Come in and Rest scheme.

ENHANCE PROGRAMME



LOPF secured funding for a fourth year of the Enhance programme from Leeds Community Healthcare (LCH); however, this was significantly reduced given the financial climate statutory partners faced. As a result, the number of delivery partners was reduced to four, working across five LCH neighbourhood team geographies, with a concentration on IMD 1 and 2.

The programme aims to support people at home receiving community-based healthcare with person-centred, holistic support. The programme links third-sector delivery partners with Neighbourhood Teams to prevent delayed discharges and readmissions and to strengthen capacity across the system. In its fourth year, the Enhance programme received 445 referrals, with 66% being referred from IMD 1 and 2.

The delivery model was also revised, with the new model focusing on increasing attendance at community-based LCH health hubs with the long-term aim of encouraging progression to Neighbourhood clinics.

MEN'S HEALTH UNLOCKED



Men's Health Unlocked is the Leeds-based network for individuals, projects, and organisations supporting men's health and wellbeing in Leeds. LOPF coordinates the project and works with three delivery partners across the city. They began delivering for MHU between April and June 2024.

- Directly engaged 1958 men about their health and wellbeing via our outreach strands
- Circulated 7500 copies of our Zine to around 200 outlets across the City
- Recruited 19 additional "Manbassadors"
- Delivered 13 sessions, engaging 203 men in our health awareness sessions
- Signposted 545 men to activities and support as a result of our engagement
- Held the Northern Man Festival with 2800 attendees across 19 events
- Contributed to the national Men's Health Strategy and held two Men's Health Strategy Debriefs

GRANT MAKING



LOPF supported the third sector and older people by launching several successful grant programmes.

HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND

Launched via our Forum Central Partnership with Volition, LOPF led the development and oversight of this project. In 2025, £622,500 was distributed to third-sector delivery partners to help them support households in crisis, particularly with food, fuel and household essentials.

HEY NEIGHBOUR

Leeds City Council (LCC) commissioned us to run Hey Neighbour for a fourth successive year. The project distributes grants to projects that bring people together for the common good. It uses a process that meets the needs of the project, rather than the other way around.

CREATIVE HEALTHY AGEING

With funding from Public Health, we funded partners to continue delivering this community arts intervention project for a second year. LOPF led the project, which awarded 5 grants: 4 to community-based organisations working with older people to deliver public health messages, including Burmantofts Community Friends, Fall Into Place, MHA Communities Pudsey and Yorkshire Dance. The Performance Ensemble received a grant to create a film of the project.

WINTER VACCINATIONS

Leeds Council funded LOPF to distribute NHS funding to support older people's uptake of winter vaccinations, including Flu, COVID-19, pneumococcal, and Shingles. 12 grants were awarded, with 7,500 older people benefiting, including 560 supported to make a vaccination appointment and 369 receiving vaccinations whilst attending vaccination events, with 490 events being held across the areas funded.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PEOPLE

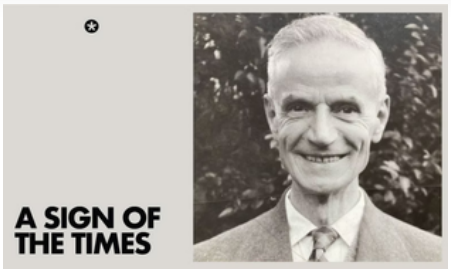
Leeds City Council and LOPF funded 9 organisations to celebrate the International Day of Older People, with the theme “The part we play,” highlighting the integral role of older people in our communities.

PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF LEEDS

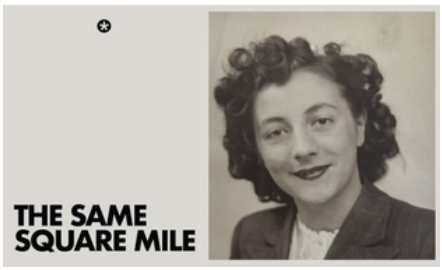


LOPF secured funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to tell the city's stories through the voices of its older citizens. We tell an alternative history of the city and a more personal story. The first volume was launched in January 2026 at Hyde Park Book Club. A second volume will be launched in the summer of 2026.

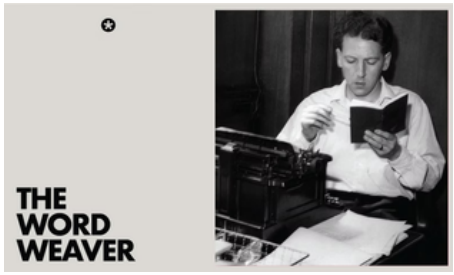












RESEARCH CAPACITY



In 2025, LOPF secured funding from the Dunhill Medical Trust (now Vivensa Foundation) to build our capacity to participate in research with academic colleagues.

We also secured funding from the NIHR to work with the Community Rehabilitation Research Network to produce a toolkit for use by community organisations; successfully bid to UKRI with the University of Leeds to research Gambling Harm in Later Life; and submitted a bid to the NIHR with Sheffield Hallam University to research the adoption of Individual Service Funds.

EQUALITIES HUB



Leeds Older People's Forum (LOPF) has hosted four meetings where older people met with City leaders on topics important to them.

TOPICS

Conversations were lively, covering the following topics:

- Testing Public Health messaging on smoking cessation
- Planning and Leeds Local Plan
- Age Friendly Hospitals
- Access to energy support
- Housing for older people and new developments
- Communications: how do older people find out what's happening in Leeds?
- Transport

MEMBERSHIP

LOPF has 99 members. All our members are invited quarterly to the Age Friendly Partnership, which we manage in collaboration with the City Council's Public Health team. They are also invited to the quarterly Third Sector Health and Care Leaders Network, which LOPF organises in collaboration with Volition as part of our Forum Central partnership. The Network keeps members updated on the developments in the Health and Care system.

Forum Central

Leeds Older People's Forum












AGAINST AGEISM
AGE PROUD
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HAPPY

