

The Braunstone Foundation

Annual Report

2016/17



The Braunstone Vision in 2000 (for 2020)

Braunstone will be a beautiful place to live.

Local people will enjoy good quality housing, services and facilities.

We will be confident, well educated and hard working.

We will be fit and healthy and live without the fear of crime.

We will be fully involved in, and own, the process of improving our estate, and will work with others who share our vision.

We will share our brighter and better Braunstone with the rest of the world.

The Braunstone Foundation Mission

To be the Community Anchor and champion for Braunstone, now and in the future, able to support our neighbourhood and its citizens to reach full potential by harnessing its strengths and responding to its needs. By making a difference.



THE BRAUNSTONE FOUNDATION

COMPANY INFORMATION

Company Number 04029394

Charity Number 1139537

Trustees during 2016/17

Please note that prior to the formation of the Braunstone Foundation charity in 2010, a number of the following Trustees were previously long-standing Directors of Braunstone Community Association (BCA) and were transferred to Trusteeship of the Braunstone Foundation in 2010 (Gwendolen Abraham and Pauline Hurd). The appointment dates shown below are the dates at which those Trustees were re-appointed under the new charitable body at the four years re-election point:

Gwendolen Abraham MBE (Retired as Chair 06/07/15)	Re-appointed 13/4/2015
Michael Cooke (Elected Chair 06/07/15)	Appointed 13/5/13
Pauline Hurd	Re-appointed 02/12/13
Imogen Gordon	Appointed 24/6/13
Henry Thompson (Palmer's of Leicester Representative)	Appointed 01/12/14
Elaine Halford (LCC Representative)	Appointed 4/4/16
Keith Beaumont	Appointed 1/2/16
Rev. Keith Magee	Appointed 5/12/16

Senior Management Team

Chief Officer & Company Secretary	Angela Wright
Head of Operations	Linda Grubb



Foreword by the Chairperson

Welcome to the Annual Report of The Braunstone Foundation charity.

We celebrated 17 years as an organisation in 2017 and our sixth year as a charity, with our wholly owned trading company, b Inspired Trading Ltd.

Over the next few pages we have provided the headlines for what has been a very busy year, which I am pleased to say has brought a good deal of successes and fewer challenges. The accompanying Statutory Accounts to this report reveal an improved financial position, as we achieved a surplus and reversed the trend of the past few years. This move into surplus is in line with a 3 year Business Plan (2016 to 2019) that the Board of Trustees approved in March 2016, which targets improved surpluses year on year.

The Board have been extremely pleased with the performance of our wholly owned trading company, b Inspired Trading Co. Ltd, which has again surpassed its trading results on the previous year and achieved its best trading year to date. Once again the Board wish to congratulate staff on their hard work and commitment to growing our trading income. This is a vital source of income to the charity through donations from the trading company, which allows the charity to continue to provide much needed services in Braunstone.

The Board of Trustees remained stable during 2016/7, with the addition of Rev Keith Magee as a representative from our member, St Peters Church (Braunstone). Keith was welcomed onto the Board in December and has brought much knowledge and experience gained through a variety of roles and now has a local resident.

During this busy year we continued to deliver key services to the community and maintain our crucial role as guardian of the legacy of regeneration and Community Anchor for Braunstone. As part of this role we maintained the Braunstone Neighbourhood Management Board, continued to be key players in local forums and work to deliver more in partnership. In this age of austerity that we operate in, it has become even more crucial to share and work with others, so that we can deliver vital services to our community. We would like to thank our funders, partners, supporters and volunteers for helping us to make a difference during 2016/17.

I would also like to express my sincere thanks to the Trustees and staff, for their continued commitment, loyalty and hard work this last year



Michael Cooke
Chairperson



Employment and Support Services

Talent Match (18 to 24 years)

During 2016/17 we continued to support and enable young people, who are furthest away from being work-ready, to secure employment or take up enterprising opportunities through the BIG Lottery funded Talent Match programme.

Whilst the number of Young People has decreased for many of the same reasons as our employment support experienced, our specialist staff continued to serve those needing holistic and often intense support. Of the 62 Young People engaged on the project last year, 19 were assisted into secure employment and the remainder either took-up Apprenticeships or gained qualifications.

A universal service offered to Braunstone Residents, provided a 5 days a week as a drop in/appointment service. The service was open to any Braunstone residents who required it and ran from our Gallards Hill site.

In 2016/17 we continued to run a Matrix accredited one-stop shop for Braunstone residents requiring employment and training support. However, the service experienced a decrease in demand related to a number of factors, for example new major projects funded by ESF/ DWP/SFA as part of the European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF). These factors combined with the end of any core funding through grants or contracts for our employment support service, led the Board of Trustees to undertake an operational review of services.

This review took place at the latter end of 2016 and resulted in the closure of the 5 day a week service for employment support. This was a very difficult decision for the Board as the service had been in operation for 16 years and has been valued by many thousands of local people over the years. But the decision to close the service was necessary in order not to risk continued viability of the charity. Staff involved in the review remained professional and committed throughout the process and worked individually with clients to ensure they had referral pathways to move on to. Staff working at the centre were highly skilled and all of them found new roles before the centre finally closed and therefore no actual redundancies were required.

The trustees would like to take this opportunity to express their gratitude and thanks to all the staff and partners that have provided the employment support service (originally known as Braunstone Working) over the past 16 years. We are proud to have provided a high quality accredited service to the people of Braunstone and across the city and county (via previous contracts). And proud of our reputation borne out of the results we have achieved in helping so many people into work, training and self-employment.

Whilst still in operation during 2016/17 the service assisted 75 people into employment and many more into training and volunteer opportunities.



Hayley's Story

I had been unemployed for over 12 months, and was claiming Universal Credit, which was being sanctioned at each appointment; this was demotivating and made me feel that I wasn't moving forward. I was applying for jobs and wasn't hearing back from any applications and was told I wasn't trying hard enough.

I was recommended to Talent Match by a family friend and introduced to my Advisor, Paula who explained the support that could be offered. I felt better after meeting Paula and I could talk about everything and was being listened to. We set realistic goals and created an action plan to look at different career paths and approaches. I felt instantly comfortable and empowered after my one to one appointment.

Paula recommended a four week Personal Development Course to build on my confidence and social skills as this was my biggest barrier. I was supported to produce a professional CV, tailored to each sector I was applying for and interview skills and researching bus time tables for a catering position within Leicester City Centre. I was successful in securing a fixed term contract for 9 months.

Before this contract ended I made contact again with my advisor to update my CV and to gain support moving forward and I now have the confidence to recognise my own skills and my abilities.

I have now moved into the care sector as a Community Care Assistant and I am gaining new skills and opportunities whilst building on transferable skills.

Without the support of Talent Match I would still be going around in circles not getting anywhere. Talent Match had a positive impact that I would recommend to others including my brother, who is gaining support moving into employment and helping him to reach his full potential.



Sport and Physical Activity

After a successful bid to Sport England in partnership with Leicester City Council we launched Active Leicester: Braunstone and Rowley Fields (in February 2016). With an aim to get local people who are currently doing little or no activity, into some sort of sport and/or physical activity at least once a week. The aim is that they will progress and continue to do more.

To date, the project has delivered over 1,000 sessions within the community, as well as 10 community sport / physical activity events. This has seen us engage with over 1,000 local residents, with just under 9,100 repeat attendances at our project sessions.

Sessions have been delivered throughout the week at a range of times and venues, to ensure that we can work with as many people as possible. Within these sessions, we have delivered a variety of activities, ranging from Zorb Football and Legs, Bums and Tums; to Zumba and Armchair Aerobics.

A key aspect of the projects work so far has been the partnerships that we have been able to create with local services and facilities, including the local Children's Centre, schools, weight management groups, Talk Time groups (Older People), City Council facilities (i.e. Braunstone Leisure Centre, Brite Centre), community facilities (i.e. the Oak Centre, Holy Apostles Church & West End Working Men's Club). These partnerships have allowed us to work a wide range local people and promote the message of the project.



Marina's story

Marina Brissett-Saridaki is a single mother with two daughters who has lived in Braunstone for 15 years. Before joining Active Leicester: Braunstone and Rowley Fields, Marina did not do much activity individually or with her family. She stated that as she was on a low-income wage, she was unable to pay for a gym membership and even if she could, they were too far away for her to get to.

She saw the project advertised on Facebook and so registered straight away. Her main reasons were that she wanted to get healthier, to help her motivate her children to learn the importance of keeping themselves healthy and active and also to develop a stronger body and build her self-esteem. The free sessions meant that she didn't have to worry about cost and the majority of sessions she was interested in were local to where she lived.



Marina and Daughters with inspired Instructor Mandy

The project has helped me so much, I am definitely healthier, much stronger and I have noticed that my confidence has grown. My lifestyle has changed to a degree that is significant. The activities that are being delivered by the fantastic instructor have allowed me and my family to get active together and also have a lot of fun! The project has been a life changer and I plan to make it a way of living for me and my family!

Apprenticeships

During 2016/17 we continued our highly successful Apprenticeship programme and recruited 7 Apprentices to our 5th cohort, who studied for a NVQ Level 2 in Activity Leadership and the Level 2 Certificate in the Principles and Preparations for Coaching. The Apprentices also undertook NGB Level 1 and 2 Dodgeball courses, a Level 2 Employment Awareness Course and a whole range of minimum operating standards qualifications e.g. Safeguarding, Equity, First Aid.

As part of the apprenticeship, learners took up placements in schools across the city and county, both Primary and Secondary. The group made a very positive impact on school sport provision, working on curriculum physical education and providing further opportunities such as morning, lunchtime and after school activities.

We had a 100% success rate in retaining our Apprentices and all of them passed their qualifications – the follow on outcomes for the 7 Apprentices were as follows:

3 apprentices have continued onto advanced apprenticeships in schools (Level 3) with b-inspired

2 apprentices have gained employment at their placement schools, continuing to provide sports provision

1 apprentice has taken up an advanced apprenticeship in classroom based teaching (Level 3)

1 apprentice has gained employment teaching trampolining.



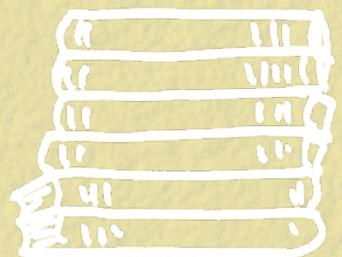
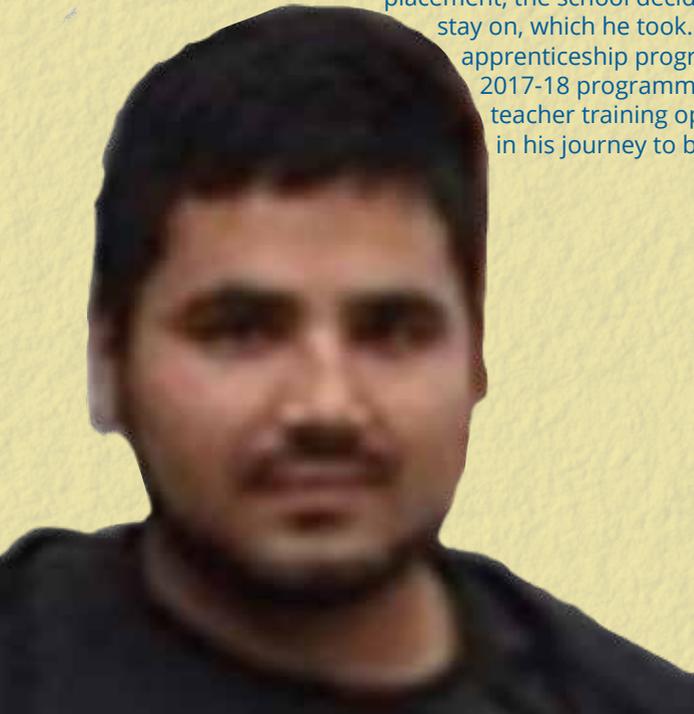
Amir's story...

Amir started his Sports Apprenticeship with b-inspired in September 2016. Before starting his apprenticeship, Amir had always held a strong interest in sport, undertaking a BTEC in Sport at College and also a number of coaching courses to help grow his understanding. Amir felt that he would like to work towards a career in sports teaching and saw an apprenticeship as an ideal opportunity to gain experience and further qualifications.

Amir's placement was at Soar Valley College, who b-inspired have worked with successfully for a number of years. Amir immediately showed great initiative and desire to develop himself within the school, quickly getting to a level where he was able to lead on curriculum activities and took responsibility for a range of after school clubs.

Throughout his time in the school, Amir planned his time well to ensure he kept up with his coursework and was in regular contact with b-inspired teaching staff to ensure he was meeting his course requirements. This led to Amir completing his NVQ in Activity Leadership and Certificate in the Principles and Preparations for Coaching, as well as an Award in Employment Awareness, Dodgeball Level 2 qualification and a First Aid course.

Due to Amir's success in the school throughout his placement, the school decided to offer him the chance to stay on, which he took. Amir is now on an advanced apprenticeship programme with b-inspired for the 2017-18 programme, and is beginning to look at teacher training opportunities as the next step in his journey to becoming a teacher.



Neighbourhood Support Services

This service is based at the Neighbourhood Support office at our 45 Wellenger Way site. It provides support to local residents through informal learning methods to engage actively in their community and to volunteer. It also takes the lead in communications with the community through a range of media and delivers high quality community events.

2016/17 was another busy year for the team. They continued to co-ordinate and support The Braunstone Neighbourhood Management Board (NMB) and maintained its balance of service providers and Residents Network members. The NMB met every six weeks and still has a membership of over 30.

The team continued to work closely with the innovative Braunstone Blues project, including continued support for the successful Befriending scheme for over 55's – re-launched in 2016. During the year we received 22 referrals, including: 18 women, 2 couples and 2 single men – resulting in 10 people receiving the befriending service. The partnership between B-Inspired and Braunstone Blue, has meant that referrals for vulnerable older people are sent through following their routine healthy, safe, secure visits. Other agencies also refer, such as Age UK, social services, care navigators, housing officers, neighbours, friends and families.

In addition, a new Talk time group was established in April 2016 at the Oak Centre, which re-located in July to St Peters Church in July 2016.. The group meets weekly on Thursdays from 11am to 1pm and has a fluid range of activities which are decided upon by those attending.



Janet (Jan) starting volunteering with b-inspired in November 2015 after her daughter had told her about the Community Volunteering Course (CVQ). Jan said “it sounded great and I wanted to give it go”. Jan had experience, skills and knowledge of putting on events as she had organised a lot of outings and activities for the elderly over in Sunny Spain, where she lived for a while. She was ‘brilliant’ on the course, taking the lead in sub groups and was a great support for some of the others in the group.

Jan grew in confidence from then onwards and started to volunteer for other things like, the Braunstone Foodshare and the Resident’s Network weekly garage sales. When the neighbourhood Support Team were recruiting volunteers for focus groups, events and training courses we hear Jan shout from the garage “Put me name down, I’ll do that”. Jan will give anything a go and is always up for a challenge. She is now a trained Befriender, Foodshare volunteer, Resident’s Network Committee Member and volunteer’s every week for the garage sales, community events and rumour has it that she is going to be a model for our up and coming fashion show!

The Braunstone Foodshare

In February 2017 the team secured funding from Braunstone Blues, with match funding from the Near Neighbours Fund commissioned by the Resident Network, to start a 'Pride in Braunstone' campaign. The campaign intends to address low-level ASB as identified in the Neighbourhood Action Plan. This funding will enable the team to have a 12 month campaign to engage residents and recruit volunteers to tackle litter on the streets by direct action and raising awareness with local schools. In March we launched with a litter pick with residents/volunteers gifting 29 hours around one of the local shopping areas. This was followed up with an interactive assembly with 300+ pupils from BCPS who asked for an after school litter pick.

A second element of the campaign is to undertake simple garden makeovers for residents who are vulnerable and cannot maintain their gardens due to ill-health. In doing this it benefits the street environment and increases social contact for the recipient. Reducing the number of untidy gardens that will help to maintain and improve the overall environment.

The Braunstone Foodshare initiative continued to be supported by the Neighbourhood Support Team and during 2016/17 Foodshare continued to support local residents with a bi weekly collection and distribution of food for members. The Foodshare is a formally constituted group which we support to raise funds and donations. Foodshare is a member of FareShare (National charity set-up to stop food going to landfill and to tackle hunger) along with weekly supplies from FareShare, our Foodshare scheme has a whole variety of donors, including the "Wonky Veg" business owner who kindly donates 10% of stock to us regularly, many local Schools, Churches, Temples and businesses collect and donate for us, as do individuals.

In order to supplement supplies of fresh food we continued to grow vegetables through our Growing Communities Together project at the donated Yennards Farm site in Enderby until March 2017. The project was funded mainly via a grant from Leicestershire County Council (Shire grant) and included an innovative approach whereby volunteers were recruited from Braunstone and in the county. Individual volunteers were offered additional services with Debt management, IAG and Work Club support to enhance their opportunities for further volunteering, learning and paid work. The project was also supported again through the Leicester City Council Food Plan and the Leicester City Council Community Meeting Ward Funds.



Other activity

In December 2016 we were approached by The Power to Change Trust (a BIG Lottery endowed Trust) to bid to deliver a 3 month Learning Grant in Braunstone, to consult on the interest in Community Business in the area. They awarded us £10,000 to carry out the project until early April 2017. We undertook three workshops and interviewed a range of local people and stakeholders about: their interest in Community Business; ideas for new Community Businesses in the area; and what barriers there might be to progressing those ideas. A large amount of interest came out of the project and we were asked to progress on to the next stage to bid for a 5 years project.

Following joining the Leicestershire VCSE Consortium - Reaching People, which brings together frontline delivery partners from the Voluntary and Community Sector in Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland. Working together, it develops and provides high quality contract delivery, business and funding opportunities in fields that include health and wellbeing, homelessness, advice and guidance, education and training, and community services. The Chief Officer has continued to be a Trustee of the Board.

As a result of being a member of the consortium, we were invited to tender to become the delivery partner for quality and monitoring on the Reaching People ESIF funded project Moneywise Plus, which we were awarded late in 2016. Moneywise Plus is a 3 year project funded by the Big Lottery Fund and the European Social Fund and aims to improve the on-going digital and financial skills of individuals; to support them in moving towards employment, education or training.



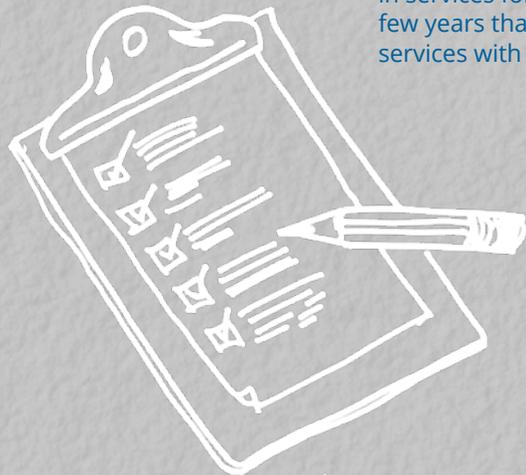
Looking ahead...

The Board of Trustees approved a Business Plan for 2016 to 2019 where we fully acknowledge the challenges we face as a charity in the current climate of austerity and ever fiercer competition. But we feel confident in our ability to earn more of our own income year on year and continue a trend of tipping the balance from grant and contract reliance, to self-sustainability. Throughout 2016 we consolidated our services and use of buildings so that we can be more efficient and maximise the return on our assets.

We have a major investor through the Power to Change (Lottery Funds), who have committed to a potential £1 Million project over the next 5 years, so that we can grow our own community business activities and develop new ones. This project could help us fulfil our dreams for Braunstone to take more control of local services through the transfer of key community assets and services. Growing the local economy in Braunstone and keeping that spending power local will be key to our success.

We also intend to grow and expand our Sports and Physical Activities service through partnerships with Sport England, Public Health and the Police. Whereby we can capitalise on our great reputation for using sport as a vehicle to tackle many issues e.g. health, crime, ASB and education.

We also plan to realise our ambitions for growth through a Lottery funded BIG Potential project in late 2017, which will help us better understand the market for Apprenticeships and business support services and make some informed decisions on social investment models. This will allow us to increase our trading activities whilst providing more social impact and to continue investing in services for Braunstone. We have proven over the last few years that a balance can be struck between providing services with a real social impact and earning income.







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*In order to save resources and protect the environment, we have made this report available electronically.
Please let us know if you would like a copy.*