

THE BRAUNSTONE FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT

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A note from the Chairperson **Michael Cooke**

Welcome to the Annual Report of The Braunstone Foundation charity. We are now 19 years old and a registered charity for eight of those years, grouped with our wholly owned trading company, b Inspired Trading Co. Ltd.

I hope you enjoy reading the next few pages, which provide a glimpse into yet another busy year. There has been much to celebrate! Despite the ongoing challenges facing our sector and the ever increasing demand for our charitable free services, we have experienced a growth in income and ended the financial year in a positive position.

Notable achievements during the 2018/19 year have included the much awaited transfer of ownership into our charity of the Braunstone Health and Social Care Centre. A building that was created and wholly funded by the previous regeneration scheme New Deal for Communities. Whilst Braunstone has benefited from the surplus rents from the building via the Braunstone Foundation charity since 2010, the ownership was still with a third party. The transfer was finally completed on 03/07/2018 and marks a key acquisition as a capital endowment to the charity, to ensure its protection as an asset that will provide an income for many years. In addition, we really hope that our ownership of the facility will provide some leverage to develop more community based health services to Braunstone.

We also bid and was successful in a Community Asset Transfer of the Grove (former Youth Centre) from Leicester City Council. Following consultation with local residents we have exciting plans for the building and attached Football pitches, to turn the centre into a Community Hub for community businesses, including a major refurbishment with completely upgraded Multi-Use Games areas. Read more about this later!

We are very pleased again with the performance of our wholly owned trading company, b Inspired Trading Co. Ltd, continuing its upward trend in profitability achieved through high sales activity. The Business Box facility maintained around 100% occupancy during much of the year and our two Business Box Plus units on Oswin Road were given a real makeover and upgrade during 2018 and have remained fully occupied. We also implemented an operational review of staffing arrangements at the Business Box, which has resulted in an improved front of house offer throughout the day. The Board wishes to congratulate staff on their hard work and commitment and to the success of the trading income for the year. 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 2018/19, with the exception of the resignation of Gwen Abraham MBE at the end of May, due to ongoing ill health. So we bid Gwen a very fond farewell and a big thank you for all her support and commitment over many years.



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. Special mention and huge thanks must go to our Volunteers, without which many of our community projects could not operate. We are lucky to have loyal Volunteers, gifting on average105 hours between them each week. We would like to thank our partners, supporters and funders too many to mention here but see the back page...

And last but certainly not least, I express my huge thanks and gratitude to the Trustees and staff, for their continued commitment, loyalty and hard work this last year.





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."

Trustees

Michael Cooke Chair (Independent) Gwendolen Abraham MBE (Resigned 31/05/19) Pauline Hurd (Independent) **Henry Thompson** (Palmers of Leicester Representative) Cllr Elaine Halford (LCC Representative) Keith Beaumont (Independent) Rev Keith Magee (St Peters Church Representative) Barry Thompson *Independent* Advisor to the Board

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



Sport and Physical Activities

2018/19 saw our final year of the Active Leicester BRF project and proved very successful. The sessions held within the community have now become an integral part of participant's lifestyles.

We have delivered a variety of sessions within the community such as multisport, Rounders, Dance, Yoga, and Weight sessions. We have also increased our younger provision by adding 2 additional Youth Football sessions at The Grove, which has successfully engaged different cultural communities.

The 3 year project has delivered 3,352 sessions within the community, engaging with just under 3,000 residents. Our sessions have been accessed 34,107 times by local people whose aim was to have fun, lose weight and become more active. New friendships have formed within these classes with social events taking place based on new social interactions.

Our family fun day this year was a resounding success with nearly 300 local people attending the event. There was a multitude of activities available on the day such as inflatable slides, gladiator duel, bungee run and zorb football taster sessions.

The project was due to finish in January 2019, however we have managed to continue the sessions until March and will be implementing a small cost to each class to allow it become self-sustainable going forward into the next year. Also the successful acquisition of The Grove via asset transfer from the council, will allow a varied timetable of classes taking place on a weekly basis in the planned fitness studio.

Apprenticeships

In 2018, our 6th cohort of learners on the b-inspired apprenticeship programme successfully completed their Advanced Level 3 Supporting PE and School Sport qualifications. This group had seven learners, undertaking a range of additional courses including Level 3 Employment Rights, First Aid, Dodgeball coaching and Functional Skills.

Through the apprenticeship, learners where able to make invaluable contributions to schools across Leicester and Leicestershire. This included setting up after school provision, running curriculum physical education lessons and putting in place holiday camps.

At the end of their courses, learners were supported to take the next steps in their careers. Learners from this group went on to the following destinations:

- FOUR Apprentices gained employment within their schools, with one of these apprentices also taking a university course alongside this
- TWO Apprentices have gained employment with sports coaching companies
- ONE Apprentice is taking a gap year to travel before hoping to go to university

At the end of 2018, a new cohort of five learners came on to the programme. This has included working with two new schools as placement providers. All learners have made strong starts to their time in the schools helping to increase physical activity provision for pupils. All learners are currently on course to complete the apprenticeship and will be supported in making decisions on what they would like to do next to develop their careers.

Apprenticeship Case Study: **Ryan Moore**

Ryan had just completed his GCSE's and had a great interest in both Sport and teaching. For his next step he looked at a range of college courses before coming across the b-inspired apprenticeship. Ryan was interested in the opportunity to take qualifications within Physical Education whilst also gaining experience and the apprenticeship offered the perfect chance to do this.

For Ryan's apprenticeship, he undertook a placement at The Meadow Community Primary School. Ryan fitted straight into the team at the school and soon built up his responsibilities within PE, with support from teaching staff and his in school mentor. The apprenticeship gave Ryan his first experience of working within a primary school as well as providing him with the experience to independently lead sport and physical activity to large class groups. Ryan felt that the apprenticeship allowed him to build essential skills when both working with children and teaching sport.

After completing the apprenticeship, Ryan was accepted by Northampton University to study a Learning and Teaching course. This is a 2 year course, followed by a further one-year course which together combine to complete a BA Honours degree. Ryan enjoyed the practical route that the apprenticeship had provided and wanted to continue this as he works towards a career in teaching. Therefore, the University course is structured with one day at University and four days working within a school to further Ryan's experience.

Looking to the future, Ryan endeavours to have a career as either a Physical Education (PE) teacher or general primary school teacher. He hopes the experiences that he has gained through his apprenticeship will help him achieve this. We wish Ryan all the best in his career!



Neighbourhood support

This service is based at the Neighbourhood Support Office at our 45 Wellinger Way site. It also takes the lead in community engagement through a range of media and the delivery of high quality community events. The service supports a wide range of volunteers who undertake a variety of roles across all services and 4544 volunteer hours were gifted to the local community last year (excluding the Befriending and Talk Time service). A brief summary of some of the key areas of delivery are highlighted below:





Volunteer Training

Some of the main changes to the teams work has been through the support offered to new and existing Volunteers. The new Training Support Worker has undertaken a review of the training opportunities on offer to ensure that volunteers have the opportunity to develop their skills through non-accredited and accredited training. This ensures that Volunteers can fulfil the legal requirements for their duties plus enhancing individual projects, increasing their employment skills and qualifications. General courses offered include Health & Safety, Food Hygiene and First Aid. For more 'specialised' roles the project can support either group or individual training in Customer Service and other employability skills e.g. Manual Handling. Or undertake the ASDAN – nationally recognised 60 hour training scheme that records and recognises the work of volunteers and leads to nationally recognised certification. To further enhance opportunities referral pathways have been made to other adult education providers so that volunteers can be referred for additional support in English, Maths, Digital and Employability Skills.

During a 3 month period in Janmarch 2019 – 36 potential or actual volunteers have taken part in training and received advice and guidance from the Training Support worker.

Befriending

The Befriending scheme funded by the Foundation maintained social activities for older Braunstone Residents through its twice weekly Talk time social group and befriending visits to the home. Talktimers and befrienders are regularly encouraged to join community events hosted by b-inspired and local service providers throughout the year, broadening the social opportunities for older people in the community.

The Talktime sessions offer space and time to socialise. These are clearly enjoyed by participants and the sessions maintain high participation rates. Last year regular attendance totalled 1740 participation hours for members of both groups during the year. The sessions were supported by a total of 469 hours gifted by our volunteers.

In addition regular befriending volunteers gifted 471 hours to people who are unable to leave their home. Talktimers and befriendee's are regularly encouraged to join wider community events hosted by b-inspired and local service providers throughout the year to maximize community engagement. At the end of 2018/19 two funding applications were made to the National Lottery Community Fund and the Masonic Charitable Foundation, both of which were successful. This funding will enhance the Foundations current contribution and see significant growth in the next 2-3 years to transform the service. The work will start in June 2019. The funding provides for a full-time coordinator to enable the scheme to increase volunteers' opportunities, resident engagement and the range of social activities available.

Befriender Case Study: **Sandra**



Sandra also told us about the difference it made to her Befriendee Susan and her fond memories of her...

"Susan would ring me ahead of the lunch club to tell me excitedly what was on the menu. She was a perfect befriendee for me. She was funny and made me laugh. I also joined a sewing group and Talktime with her. Susan loved to play boccia (indoor bowls). She won at bingo many times and cherished the prizes. Befriending helped Susan but it also helped me. Susan was my best friend – it was a shame she was so poorly however, I know that the last few months we made a huge difference to her life."

"Befriending expanded Susan's Social Circle and she also met people she known previously through joining the groups. A small touch of the hand steadied Susan's Parkinson's Shakes. Sometimes she felt overwhelmed so we would sit in a quiet corner for a chat if we were out and about. Susan was adored by the groups she met... "It was always a handshake on first meet – then cuddles– giggles – there was an instant connection".



Braunstone Foodshare **keeps on giving**

Now in its 8th year, Braunstone Foodshare (Foodbank) has been supporting families on low incomes through its twice weekly sessions. Following the introduction of the new GDPR policy the Foundation responded by formally taking the management of this service in-house to ensure that the data held about its many members is securely kept. Now housed within the Neighbourhood Support base on Wellinger Way, Foodshare is a huge undertaking requiring lots of volunteer and staff time. However, we are committed to continuing this essential work and happy to report that the service has received a food hygiene rating of 5 from environmental health for every inspection, which shows the professionalism and determination of all those involved in its delivery.

The service is always evolving and the introduction of smart bags, giving larger amounts of food depending on family size has been well received, with feedback from the members letting us know that their wellbeing has increased as a result of this added support. Further to this during the year we made renovations to the room with better flooring and extraction fans and in March 2019 we were happy to receive a grant via Action Homeless, which allowed us to put in commercial fridges and freezers.

Going forward we are relocating to a larger premises at Gallards Hill site, introducing access to on site advice, guidance and support services and lastly, the introduction of a new data system which will help us compile reports which can be used as evidence of need.

The service is only made possible through food donations primarily through our affiliation to Fare Share Leicestershire but also to many other donors who we would like to thank including: local Schools, Churches, Community Groups, LASS, individuals, the Wonky Veg Man, Sainsbury's, Tesco and ASDA.





FoodshareCase study - WJ

After moving into Braunstone following 10 years of homelessness, WJ found himself having a roof over his head but no furniture or anything to cook on. Awaiting his first Universal Credit he found his way to the Neighbourhood Support Base and Foodshare. We were able to put together not only food items but helped him to access furniture and cooking facilities, soon WJ was up and running and quickly found himself a full time job.

The service is supported by a range of partners including:

CALS providing a Welfare Advisor one day per week, along with

Reaching People Food Bank Plus project providing a support worker for volunteers and service users one day per week and Severn

Trent Trust providing regular outreach sessions to assist with water bill debt. We are extremely grateful for their ongoing support.





Talent Match and Work. Live. Leicestershire project

December 2018 saw the end of our 5 year Talent Match Programme delivery. The project has been very successful and has reached across the City and County of Leicestershire, supporting adults aged 18-25 years who have been NEET (Not in employment, education or training) for over 12 months.

The final year saw a shift in focus to supporting young people that were already signed up to the programme. Alongside working hard on the evaluation and the legacy that the project could provide. The project looked at the impact that a support worker could have on supporting the most 'hard to reach' young people to retain employment, and the importance of working hand in hand with employers to ensure that they work with employees to understand barriers they face, turning them into loyal, committed and motivated employees. B-inspired were heavily involved as the support worker's within a pilot project, providing supported employment placements with Neovia a packing company based at Desford.

After first six weeks within the warehouse in a safe zone, giving the employee an understanding of the job but in a controlled environment; as they reached the level required they were integrated fully into the warehouse, creating space for further young people to start. As the result the following outcomes were achieved:

- Six young people have remained in post and are now fully integrated into the warehouse team.
- Neovia were delighted with the programme and have rolled it out into their Northamptonshire distribution centre.
- In addition to this, the project received The Princes Trust Central area Community impact award 2019.

Building on the Talent Match project and legacy, b inspired were successful in securing a contract with Vista on the Building Better Opportunities –rural isolation funding stream (ESF/NLCF Lottery), to deliver support to young people requiring support into employment and training living in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and North West Leicestershire District council until June 2020. The project started in January 2019 and is called Work. Live. Leicestershire (WiLL). Things have gotten off to a good start with early results of young people securing employment outcomes.

Power to **Change**

We have now completed year two of our five year project as catalyst on the Power to Change Empowering Places programme. The project is set to realise a vision to grow and create new community businesses in Braunstone. Our five Year Plan articulates a vision that recognises that local people are the best people to shape services which will benefit the local area. We aim to achieve some key outcomes:

- To have grown existing community businesses in Braunstone and created up to five new ones.
- Providing a self-supporting cluster of Community Businesses, offering a range of goods and services that local people can afford.
- To have brought into community hands at least one local asset (The Grove) that has been invested in, to provide the space for community businesses to form and grow.
- Community businesses that offer improved pathways to learning and work and increased local job opportunities.
- To have created community business solutions to help tackle the enduring health inequalities in Braunstone, promoting healthier lifestyles and access to better food.

Year two of the Braunstone Empowering Places project has performed well and achieved its major goals by completing the transfer of the Grove building through Community Asset Transfer from Leicester City Council, along with the adjoining four Football pitches (on a five years licence). Our intention is to redevelop the building and outside facilities into a Community Hub, responding to what local people have told us they want for the area. It will house a Community Café and Social Bar (both run as community businesses), along with creating a dance and fitness studio, training facility and space for hire. The internal re-furbishment is

being made possible by a grant of £150,000 kindly made by the Garfield Weston Foundation - 60th Anniversary Fund. In addition, a further grant from the Power to Change Community Business Fund of £233,000 will provide the capital funds needed to carry out a complete re-placement of the 2 x Multi-Use Games Areas on the Grove site and improve the outside facilities. Along, with some capital funds to help with internal equipment costs and a revenue grant to assist in the first year of operation and new staff costs.

In tandem with this we have worked hard to develop two new community businesses that will be based at the Grove and integral to its viability and success: ER Dance Crew (Dance Group) and Braunstone 18 FC (Football Club). Both groups have benefited from a bespoke start up community business training programme delivered by CASE (Cooperative and Social Enterprise development). They are also receiving mentoring from our staff and ongoing support to undertake the transition from voluntary group to community business, so that they can trade freely to earn more income to achieve better viability and sustainability. Also, it is our intention to free up the ground floor of the Wellinger Way site, in order to create the space for a full time community shop, focussing on re-cycled clothes, household items, used appliances and more.













Moneywise **Plus**

As part of the Reaching People consortium, during 2018/19 b-inspired was funded via ESIF to provide a quality and monitoring element to the Moneywise Plus project which is delivered across Leicestershire. Providing support and training to delivery organisations in order to ensure a consistent approach and the capture of outcomes.

Moneywise Plus supports individuals to improve financial and digital skills recognising where they could benefit from further education and training and aims to increase employability skills.

Looking to the future...

2019/20 is already a very busy year as we complete the transfer of the Grove asset transfer and set about delivering a major re-furbishment of the interior and exterior. Alongside transferring our Neighbourhood Support Service to the Gallards Hill site and freeing up the Wellinger Way shop building so a full time community shop can be created.

We will be working hard with many local people to nurture and support them in their journey to setting up and running community businesses to make these facilities a success.

We will be extending our services to tackle loneliness and isolation by offering more for Older People through Befriending Scheme, enhancing Talk Time social groups and creating a new Men's group.

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In order to save resources and protect the environment, we have made this report available electronically on our website. Please let us know if you would like further copies.

THE BRAUNSTONE FOUNDATION Company Number 04029394 Charity Number 1139537













INVESTORS IN PEOPLE













