

Reaching People



Commitment to
Lasting Change

Reaching People

Floor 3

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Press information

Immediate release

Local Access

Leicester has been invited to be part of a blended social investment programme called *Local Access*. This programme is being jointly run by [Big Society Capital](#) and [Access – The Foundation for Social Investment](#). It aims to support the growth of local social economies to help reduce poverty and inequality.

Leicester is one of twelve places that have been invited to develop plans for how a blend of grant and repayable investment, alongside enterprise development support, could strengthen the local social economy. It is expected that five will go on to receive investment. The total grant and repayable investment provided by the programme will be worth at least £33m, and split across these five places.

Working in partnership The City Council, Case, the LLEP, Reaching People and VAL will be engaging local sector providers in driving forward our collaborative vision for the local social sector over the next 10 years. We will specifically be looking at how a blend of finance can make a significant difference to people in most need locally and what role community groups and social enterprises have in making significant changes for the future.

For more information on how to get involved contact Jenny Hand at Reaching People jenny@reachingpeople.co.uk tel 0116 2552071/07920234788.

The twelve places are: Bradford, Bristol, Calderdale, Coventry, Dover, Gainsborough, Hartlepool/Tees Valley, Leicester, Plymouth, Southwark, Wigan and Greater Manchester.

Notes to editors

ABOUT BIG SOCIETY CAPITAL

Big Society Capital improves the lives of people in the UK by connecting social investment to social enterprises and charities.

We know that investment can help social enterprises and charities achieve more. We believe the greatest chance to improve lives comes when investors and enterprises are both motivated by social mission.

We engage with investors, fund managers, social enterprises and charities to make it easier to use social investment. With our co-investors, we have made over £1.7bn of new capital available to organisations with a social mission, through investments into fund managers and social banks. We have a special focus on: providing homes for people in need; supporting communities to improve lives; and early action to prevent problems.

www.bigsocietycapital.com

[@BigSocietyCap](#)

Press Contact

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ABOUT ACCESS

Access – The Foundation for Social Investment works to make charities and social enterprises in England more financially resilient and self-reliant, so that they can sustain or increase their impact.

Access does this by supporting the development of enterprise activity to grow and diversify income, and improving access to the social investment which can help stimulate that enterprise activity.

Access will be around for a decade, but the need for this work will continue well beyond that. So our approach is to work through others to create partnerships which can outlive us, test and learn from new approaches, and generate knowledge which improves the work of others seeking the same goals.

Set up in 2015, Access was endowed with £60m by the Government to support more organisations to access social investment. It also runs blended finance programmes, including the Growth Fund which supports small scale lending to the sector on behalf of the Big Lottery Fund and Big Society Capital.

www.access-socialinvestment.org.uk

[@si_access](#)

Press Contact

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ABOUT REACHING PEOPLE

Reaching People strengthens VCSE organisations through collaboration and partnership to address inequalities whilst supporting people who are disadvantaged locally.

We are stronger together, harnessing unique skills, expertise, diversity and commitment of our members.

We work together to:

1. Strengthen the VCSE through capacity building and change management to enable growth and improved provision for the future.
2. Support and enable communities and organisations to influence and improve the way services are provided.
3. Lead on and participate in initiatives that improve collaboration, co-delivery and share expertise, resources and experiences to reach more people.

www.reachingpeople.co.uk

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