

**THE PEOPLE'S
PROJECTS**



IMPACT REPORT

2023 - 2024



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INTRODUCTION

And what this is all about

What a year! This is our first full Impact Report and coincides with the end of our one-year funded lottery project. We've written a couple of impact reports before, but these have been specific to our rewilding work in Garforth.

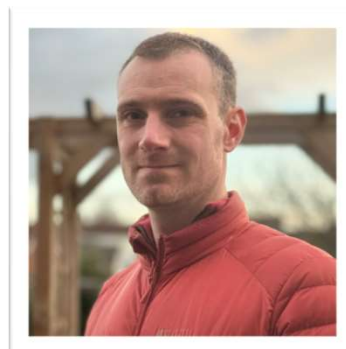
This report builds on an increasing amount of data and stories that show, for the very first time, the incredible(!) determination and resilience of an increasing number of communities in Leeds.

Thanks to the National Lottery Community Fund, through the People's Projects, Incredible Edible Leeds has been able to double its groups by inspiring a network of local people to come together and give growing a go.

The numbers in this report are staggering and are just the beginning. It is rare for a project to cut across so many outcomes including improving Physical and Mental Health, reducing Food Miles and Food Waste, increased access to fresh & healthy food... I could go on, but I will let you read for yourselves!

It's an honour to lead this organisation and to be creating edible landscapes across the city of Leeds. Together, we will continue to create kind, confident and connected communities.

Dan Robinson, Volunteer & Director.



“Incredible Edible has brought me a sense of worth and belonging again. I've connected with my community with the best of all my new skills that I've acquired is passing these on within our primary schools. I've educated KS1/KS2 on where our food comes from and how to grow healthy food. Seeing all those excited little faces, is all I need to feel that as a volunteer, I'm making a difference.”

Project Participant



THE STORY OF OUR PROJECT THIS YEAR

How the funding has helped us

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

Our core offer was our work in Connecting Communities. It is a peer-to-peer support model that supports local leaders to network first with those in their area and then subsequently as part of the larger Incredible Edible Leeds network. This in turn, supported new Incredible Edible projects to be community-led by focussing on a collaborative approach and a sense of place.

Prior to the project commencing in July 2023, we had 10 groups who were being supported on a best endeavours basis by volunteer board directors of Incredible Edible Leeds. Once the project began, our Project Coordinator was able to better support these groups to be their main point of contact and work with them to support their ambitions for their community.

We developed a handbook and assets to support volunteer inductions so that we had a standardised process to cover off important aspects such as safeguarding and assessing risks for using hand and power tools.

From July 2023 to June 2024, we launched seven new groups. We enabled the groups by providing equipment and materials so they could create raised beds and have the basic gardening tools to help growing activities. We supported local leaders of these groups to build their own army of volunteers and invited them to be part of the wider Incredible Edible Leeds network.

Due to the project delays as detailed in the 'what we've learnt' section, the project crept into July as we launched two new groups during this month. Our final new area, that will take us up to our committed ten groups, will likely launch by September 2024. This slight delay is due to a great opportunity that has developed

due to it being truly community-led. We will talk more about this in the learning section below but suffice to say, it's a true partnership model with ourselves, an anchor institution based out of a community support centre in the ward and the Local Authority.



Activities were planned and delivered based on local needs for the new and existing Incredible Edible Leeds groups. Some groups focussed on working with primary and secondary schools within the area to help grow fruit and vegetables and educate on healthy eating. Other areas build publicly accessible raised beds and ran bed building days, or seed planting sessions where skills were shared and fruit, vegetables and herbs were planted.

We also worked with other organisations to bring new skills and knowledge into the team. One of the biggest, and proudest, collaborations was with another social enterprise; Leeds Wood Recycling. We took ten of our local leaders from communities across Leeds and taught them basic woodwork skills. They then went back into their communities and built a flat pack kit that Leeds Wood Recycling had prepared; to enable them to build additional raised beds or Little Veg Libraries to share seeds, seedlings and surplus fresh produce.



THE STORY OF OUR PROJECT THIS YEAR

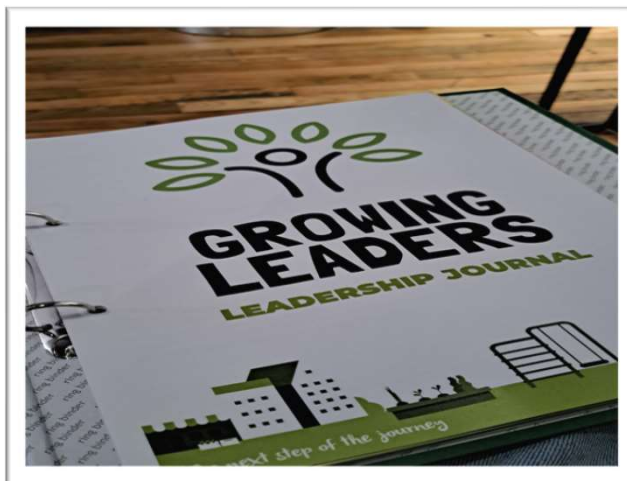
How the funding has helped us

GROWING LEADERS

Growing Leaders is a modular leadership development programme focussed on the needs of local Incredible Edible group leaders. It draws them together into a local leadership team and offers training on leadership, community development and team working skills. Learning the skills to support others on their leadership journey is not always easy and we have started to deliver a train the-trainer model to support grassroots leaders.

We will talk more about the successes and challenges of this programme in our learnings further in the report, however we are proud to have started this programme, and are three quarters of the way through. A committed group of six leaders are still working through and are learning all about how to tell their stories, celebrating what their communities have in terms of Asset-Based Community Development and how they can create stakeholder maps to be more resourceful and resilient.

We are working with Leeds City College to have this course accredited, once the pilot has been completed.



WE ARE ALL CONNECTED

How we've involved people from our community

SARANN'S STORY

I really think there's an inherent joy we all get from seeing food grow and we've definitely experienced this with the project and the buzz it has created in our community.

The amount of locally available resources and help has blown me away, we built a pea-frame using bamboo from someone's garden, the local welder made us some pegs for our rope support, people have gifted plants and seeds and helped with watering and so many people are taking the produce.

One of my favourite things so far has been raising awareness of what organic, pesticide-free veg actually looks like, with all its nibbled bits and imperfections it's very different to the supermarket, but so much better in other ways and people really understand that.

We've done seed and plant swaps at the local market, learned how to build planters and helped build others, grown from seeds (and mystery seedlings!), shared knowledge and made friends. This has only been our first year but it feels like we've hit the ground running and we're learning all the time, I'm so proud of all we have achieved.

Spotlight on



WE ARE ALL CONNECTED

How we've involved people from our community

ALI'S STORY

Getting people started with growing their own veg and herbs is fun, satisfying and community spirited.

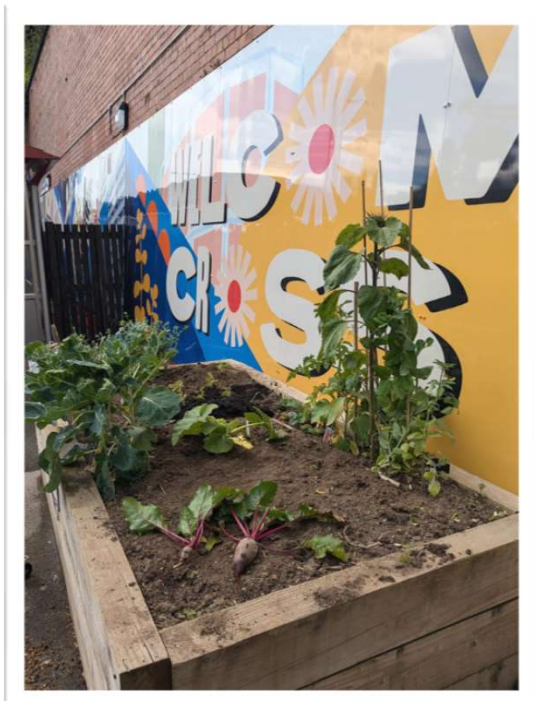
From our first veg bed in 2021 we've learned a lot. That bed is now full of herbs that can withstand cold winters and hot, dry summers. We have two other more conventional veg beds and this year, two Little Veg Libraries.

Our monthly table-top is part of a local community event and we've shared and swapped hundreds of seeds, seedlings, recipes and advice.

Our latest volunteers are from the businesses where our beds are located. Next up is a community orchard that's in the planning stage.

Being part of something bigger is crucial to our success and IE Leeds have supported us every step of the way.

Spotlight on



WE ARE ALL CONNECTED

How we've involved people from our community

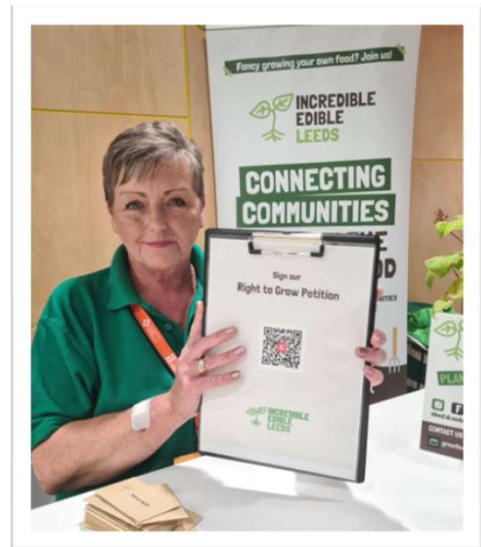
JOY'S STORY

It gives me a great sense of achievement being part of Incredible Edible. I've become more active, become part of an amazing team and learnt to grow a variety of vegetables from seed. I'm working with a team and have regained a sense of self-worth.

The knowledge amongst our team is fantastic! I've learnt how to plant saplings, built a dead hedge, helped build our pond and planted bulbs. I've gained knowledge on composting and the steps to organise and set up events within the wildlife area.

I'm totally relaxed and at ease within the wildlife area and appreciate nature growing food for our community. I've helped and watched it transform to a space where we can all enjoy the wonders of nature with pathways, an area for holding events, a den building area and wildlife cameras to capture our birds, hedgehogs and more.

Spotlight on



WE ARE ALL CONNECTED

How we've involved people from our community

LYNN'S STORY

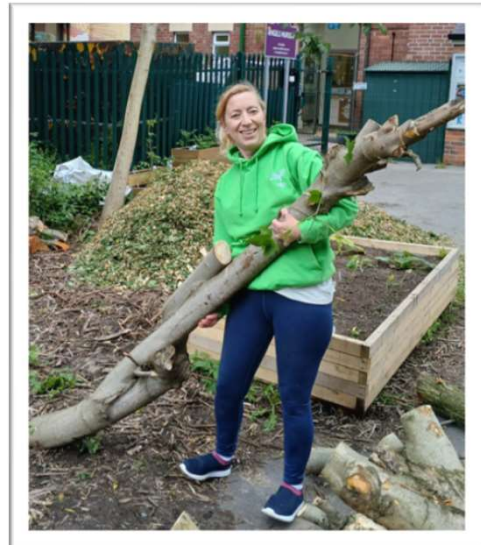
I love being a part of the Incredible Edible team! I can follow my passion of linking communities and growing food sustainably with them and also connect me to other projects and people in the local area who have the same passion, positivity and like-minded ideas that we can share together.

The strength of what we can achieve together is awesome. I began as a volunteer which led me to enrol on the Growing Leaders programme. I initially was unsure what to expect from the training but found it has been a huge eye opener. To upscaling ideas, to starting from the beginning and looking at the bigger picture of how an individual or small group can really make a difference. I have been able to use this knowledge given to create meaningful spaces in areas that were once viewed as waste land.

I have gained in strength and mindset through Incredible Edible, now connecting with local councils and other asset-based groups which I would not have even thought about or had the knowledge or desire to otherwise do without the support and advice from my peers at Incredible Edible.

I have then been inspired to build a local community garden with the support of IE Leeds and awaiting fruit trees in the Autumn to start an orchard! It has been quite a journey for me so far! But one that I'm very lucky to have so far.

Spotlight on



WE ARE ALL CONNECTED

How we've involved people from our community

JUDE'S STORY

I used to grow lots of vegetables, I even had an allotment filled with tasty food. But when my Mum died suddenly, I found that I didn't want anything to do with the thing that we'd spent so much time talking about and doing together. It was as if my grief, love and gardening were all one painful mess.

Being part of Incredible Edible helped me reconnect with the thing that I loved. It gave me a sense of achievement and purpose. Now, thanks to the encouragement and support of the amazing people in Incredible Edible I can feel the joy of growing again. I can also pass that excitement onto others.

We've run a plant themed Storytime in the local Library, seed planting sessions with the Beavers and Cubs, started a seed swap, planted our own raised bed and gave away 50 strawberry plants.

Gardening is happiness again!

**BELIEVE IN
THE POWER OF
SMALL ACTIONS**

Spotlight on



WE ARE ALL CONNECTED

How we've involved people from our community

ALY'S STORY

I don't recall a starting point to my growing journey - I've always grown. My Mum's family were farmers, and my Dad always had an allotment on the go. My current garden is the first I have had where I could make space for a small patch of veg.

The beds we have created have receive so much positivity. When I look at the progress we have made, I can't believe only 3 months ago we were clearing brambles from an unloved patch in our park, and now we have 3 beds containing over 20 different varieties of edibles.

These beds don't just provide free food for our community – they provide so much more. Every time I visit, people come over to chat about how great the resource is, and how the park has been improved as a result of the beds. Kids ask amazing questions, parents ask how to pick and what to cook, even the dogs are making new friends as their owners' chat. It's turned into a vibrant social space – and is connecting our community in ways I didn't anticipate. We've already had a successful plant sale with Shadwell Shows... pebble bug painting, and a bring a bucket of muck campaign to fill bed 3 – and we've lots of ideas to get people involved.

This volunteering is now central to my own wellbeing, getting me out of the house when I work from home, giving me a purpose, and helping me meet new people in my neighbourhood. To say I'm blown away by what our small crew of regular, resourceful volunteers have achieved is an understatement.

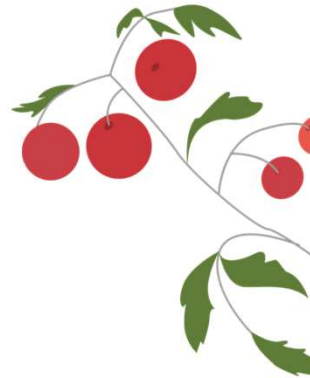


Spotlight on



THE DIFFERENCES WE'RE MAKING

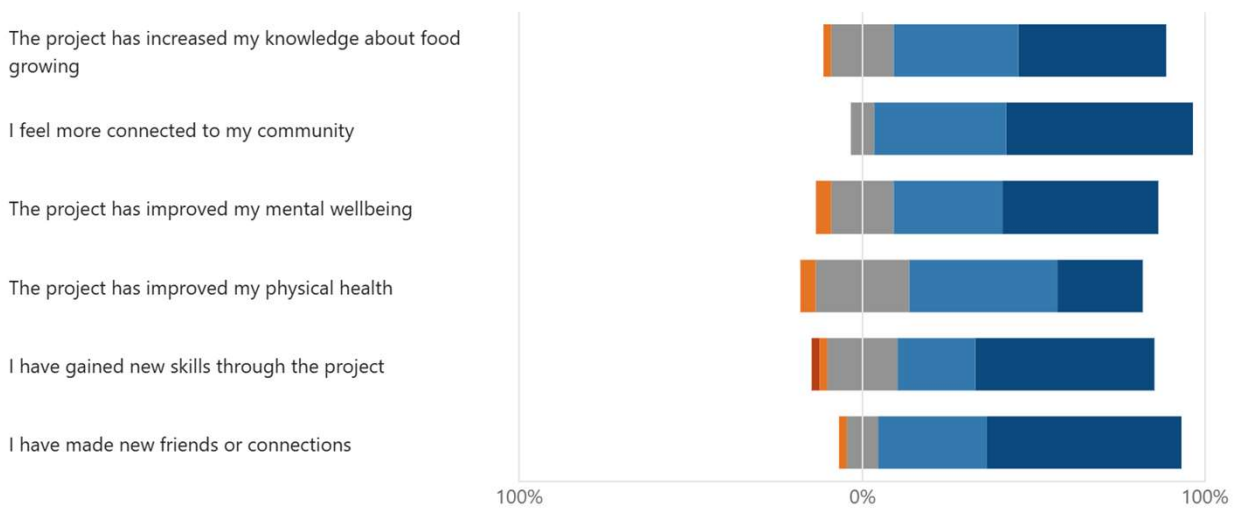
Both big and small



FEEDBACK FROM VOLUNTEERS

How much do you agree with the following statements?

■ Strongly disagree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Neutral
 ■ Agree
 ■ Strongly agree



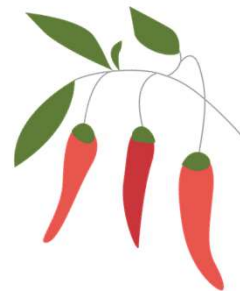
What was the most significant change you experienced as a result of participating with Incredible Edible?

11 respondents (31%) answered **community** for this question.



THE DIFFERENCES WE'RE MAKING

Both big and small



FEEDBACK FROM VOLUNTEERS

What do you like most about Incredible Edible?

11 respondents (29%) answered **community** for this question.



What do you like least about it?

4 respondents (11%) answered **work** for this question.



THE DIFFERENCES WE'RE MAKING

Both big and small

FEEDBACK FROM VOLUNTEERS

Can you share a personal story or anecdote that illustrates how Incredible Edible has impacted you or your community?

- " *Every time I go to the beds people come to chat, or ask about donating items, it's ridiculously positive!*
- " *Children eating incredible edible strawberries and learning that food isn't from a shelf wrapped in plastic.*
- " *Just by being able to grow food for the community has helped. A friend of mine really wanted some strawberries and couldn't afford them so I told them to check out the beds because most of them have strawberries in them.*
- " *Lots of positive comments from everyone passing the veg beds.*
- " *Meeting point in midst of our village community and the interest from all ages.*
- " *It brightens up my day seeing the care and attention that goes in to creating a wonderful connected and healthy community. I'm looking forward to being able to give my time when I can.*
- " *Greatly improved the somewhat neglected space in our local playground. Many users have appreciated our efforts, and some have become actively involved in our slamm group. It's very enjoyable to see how interested young children are in our beds.*
- " *New connections and positive comments from neighbours.*



"Following a significant family breakdown after the death of my Father, and then the Covid lockdowns, my mental health was the lowest it had ever been. Incredible Edible has been truly incredible for me, it has allowed me to learn new skills, and connect with others that i may not otherwise have done. It brought me back to Earth and I genuinely feel like a butterfly that has emerged into a bright new world."

"We wanted to make good use, of bad space."



THE DIFFERENCES WE'RE MAKING

Both big and small

FEEDBACK FROM VOLUNTEERS

Can you share a personal story or anecdote that illustrates how Incredible Edible has impacted you or your community?

" I love going to the community garden in Garforth. My 12-year-old comes too so it's a chance to do something together with no screens or devices in sight. It's such a peaceful time in the garden and it's changed so much over the last year, and it's been wonderful to know I've contributed a small bit towards that.

Helen and Edie.



" It's the first time I've planted anything. Are there more things to plant? It's exciting!

Keisha - aged 19

" It's hard to say - meeting people at a local event (tabletop sale in a church) every month has meant we've established regular visitors, who even though they don't volunteer, have become more engaged with the local community and growing food. Sharing ingredients and recipes has been a real highlight! It definitely helps me think about what's best to grow to engage the community. It's been heartening to see comments on fbook about community growing, even though it's usually about locations other than ours, it's a good opportunity to let people know we're doing something, and that they can get involved.

" We've been so excited to pick salad and herbs for our local food bank, and to help the after school club with their garden. So many people have stopped to say thanks when we're looking after the beds, and one man even stopped his car and got out especially say thanks for what we do. One of the staff at the pre school in the community centre came out to the garden today and said 'Thank you so much for creating the garden, its just amazing, it's made such a difference to the centre, you have a magic touch! Every time I come out here I feel great, it just lifts me.'

" Incredible Edible has always made me feel welcome, understood, and accommodated. I feel very safe and comfortable and enjoy the opportunity to spend time with plants and people in a friendly and accessible environment.

" A friend of one of our group recently moved house and offered plants, pots and other useful items. It was great to be given these and to know that the donor was really happy to have helped us.

" We have a regular monthly stall at our local table top sale and over the past year we've gained quite a few regular returners. They tell us about progress with growing seeds that we've given them and bring us little gifts including a lemon plant grown from a pip, powdered home grown chillis and methi seeds. It's really heartwarming.

" I get pleasure every time I pass the bed we planted by Waitrose & feel proud that I was part of the project.

" Incredible Edible brings communities together in so many ways. I have made more friends with local people, I feel more connected to what's happening in the village. It has been great to see people not only giving their time, share knowledge but also donating a range of garden / food related things to benefit others which is the very heartbeat of what Incredible Edible is all about.



THE DIFFERENCES WE'RE MAKING

Feedback from Schools

FEEDBACK FROM TEACHERS

100% of Year 6 students felt happier and more relaxed after one of our planting sessions!

" *I just wanted to email you and say thank you so much for such a fantastic visit yesterday. I have come back to school and told the other staff all about your wonderful place. I am going to write a post for our newsletter about what we did and also where you're located.*

Kimberley, Year 6 Class Teacher (Key Stage 2)

" *This is all brilliant, I know the kids have really enjoyed it so far. We'll keep up to watering the plants in the poly-tunnel and can't wait to see everything grow.*

Jivan, Reception Class Teacher (Key Stage 1)

" *The children from the Strawberry Fields eco-council visited the Wildlife Area in April this year. The children loved seeing the creative use of the space and were amazed to find such an area of peace and tranquillity in the heart of their community. They were really interested in the work that had been done already, for example to install bee hives and a composting toilet and found items of interest to sketch. They were really proud to plant sunflowers, which they were then able to take home. The visit helped to foster their enthusiasm for growing, for nature and for looking after the environment within our own communities.*

Tim Bradley, Deputy Head



FEEDBACK FROM CHILDREN

Tell us something you have enjoyed in the session?

" *Planting pea seeds.*

" *I did planting with my friends.*

" *I have really enjoyed planting kilenjila (calendula) at the start of the session.*

" *I enjoyed working with plants – best thing ever*

" *It was perfect*

" *I loved getting sticks and putting them into the hotel for bugs.*

" *I saw a frog in the pond.*

" *I liked the bridge that went over the pond.*

" *My favourite part was all of it because I love being outside.*

" *We got to draw and colour what we could see and that was my best bit.*



THE DIFFERENCES WE'RE MAKING

Feedback from Partners

“Over the last 12 months Leeds City Council’s Climate Energy and Greenspaces (CEGS) teams have worked with Incredible Edible (IE) to support increasing the number of community planting opportunities for Leeds residents. The approach has been to work in collaboration with IE to agree suitable spaces in some of the city’s parks for raised beds, facilitate discussions around supporting community growing at some of the city’s existing orchard sites as well as adding IE to the ‘Grow Your Own’ section of the LCC website to redirect public enquiries to the opportunities across the city for community growing.”

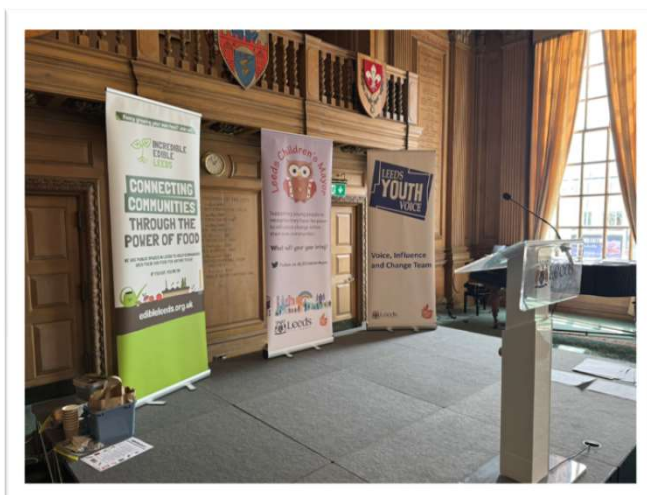
Claire Dalton Nobbs, Senior Project Officer – Leeds City Council

“I have had the pleasure of working with IE on several projects across the east of the city from Alwoodley down to Lofthouse. The support and dedication they provide is invaluable to local groups and people and seeing the groups flourish is testament to the work of IE. Having a great anchor organisation we can turn to, to help with projects is proving invaluable and I look forward to working with them on many more projects to come.”

Vicky Nunns, Senior Technical Officer – Leeds City Council

“Incredible Edible have gone above and beyond to work towards Leeds’ ambition to be a child friendly city. They have recently demonstrated their commitment to the Child Friendly Leeds wishes by supporting the Leeds Children’s Mayor’s manifesto. They worked in partnership with Ireland Wood Primary School to deliver workshops to their eco-council, as well as establish a composting scheme and build raised beds for plants, fruits and vegetables. This has helped the school’s eco council develop a clear focus for their work that can continue for years to come. In addition, Incredible Edible delivered a workshop at the Leeds Children’s Mayor summit and as a result, 95% of young people said they felt a little more or more confident about engaging in climate activity at their school.”

Emily Alderson, Voice and Influence Coordinator – Leeds City Council



THE DIFFERENCES WE'RE MAKING

Feedback and Statistics

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

" *Fantastic - what a total treat*

" *Great day*

" *I loved this workshop*

" *Absolutely brilliant*

SEND CAREERS WORKSHOP

100%

SAID THEY HAD LISTENED AND SPOKEN TO NEW PEOPLE

100%

SAID THEY HAD WORKED AS A TEAM

95%

FELT THEY HAD LEARNT ABOUT A JOB THEY CAN DO WHEN THEY LEAVE SCHOOL

95%

FELT HAPPIER AFTER THE WORKSHOP

WOOD WORKING WORKSHOP



6 OUT OF 7 SAID THEIR CONFIDENCE INCREASED



100%

100% TOOK PART TO LEARN NEW SKILLS AND REPORTED AFTERWARDS THAT THEY HAD.



BUDGET SPEND

Over £14,000 spent in the local supply chain!

46%

SPENT WITH VCSES (VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY OR SOCIAL ENTERPRISES).

18%

SPENT WITH MSMES (MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES).



We have 20 groups growing food across 71 sites, in a total of 148 raised beds.



That's over 425sqm of public land used to grow over a tonne of free food for the people of Leeds



WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

Project Delivery

CHALLENGES

Our project officially started in the middle of the growing season on 1st July 2023. Whilst our kick-off meeting with the lottery was on 4th August, we had already started to make plans but found that many people were away for the summer holidays. Unfortunately, September meant that the growing season was coming to an end but that did give our volunteers time to plan for Spring 2024. With a wet start to 2024 however, it wasn't until late April and May in some cases, that our groups were able to start growing food in their communities. This meant that many activities spilled into July when the project meant to finish at the end of June.

SUCCESSSES

Despite the challenges, we absolutely achieved what we set out to achieve. We have doubled the number of Incredible Edible groups growing food in public places across Leeds, taking this from 10 groups in July 2023 to 20 groups at the time of writing. However, this is soon to be 21 groups as we have plans in place with the local authority to transform a piece of unused and unloved land into a community garden over the next few months.

We saw an increase in volunteer numbers. This rose from barely 30 people to over 100 across the city.

We've worked really closely with communities but also other key stakeholders such as the local authority and universities, in order to transform the food system; prioritising urban food growing as an answer to the climate crisis, as well as tackling other health & wellbeing challenges across the city and wider region.

Finally, we took time to make sure that this project would last beyond its funding. We worked with local leaders to ensure that they were well supported in our vision to create kind, confident and connected communities.



WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

Project Coordinator

CHALLENGES

It took us a bit of time to draft our role description. Having to combine the role of a Project Lead, Volunteer Coordinator and Administrator into something that would help us meet our goals across the year was really important to us. Once that was done, we worked with a HR Consultant to put the role out to market and were delighted to receive 75 applications! It took a bit of time for us to blind shortlist and interview the final four candidates and it wasn't until November that we were able to make an offer. This was our first ever paid member of staff and we wanted to make sure we got it absolutely right. We were really proud of how we managed the process, even down to calling each of the unsuccessful candidates that made it to the interview stage to provide them with feedback and to thank them for their time.



SUCCESSSES

We were delighted that Gemma, the person who we hired, was actually known to us. She had applied for the role without us knowing, made it all the way through the blind shortlisting and, despite her being an existing volunteer, we still found out new things about her during the interview stage.

This really made our day. We always said when we set up Incredible Edible, that if we can create jobs through this project – by creating kind, confident and connected communities – then we know we will have succeeded.

Gemma has been transformative for our little project. She has been the constant for all of our volunteers and volunteer group leads. She has made new connections and taken on the bulk of work that we, as volunteer directors, were struggling with capacity for.

The challenge for us now, is to find continuation funding so that Gemma stays with us into 2025 and beyond!



WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

Project Coordinator

FEEDBACK FROM GEMMA

I began working with Incredible Edible Leeds in November 2023, with the principle objective of doubling the number of Incredible Edible Projects operating around Leeds, with 12 months in which to achieve this. Eight months in and we have achieved the target! It has been wonderful to meet and work with so many lovely people, that are doing amazing things in their community and for their community. This has been my biggest success – Supporting volunteers with guidance, encouragement and practical support – from liaising with council departments on their behalf to shovelling soil! I've been part of developing a stronger network for existing volunteers, building strong relationships with project leaders and other volunteers within the organisation.

I've also developed strong working relationships with other social interest organisations, with the University of Leeds Sustainability team, and with several teams across Leeds City Council. We have worked together on projects such as developing the University Sustainability Garden, building food planters in public places, building little veg libraries and developing a city-wide seed sharing service through seed libraries.

Through my role as project coordinator, I organised the resources, volunteers and logistics to enable us to be a main partner at the 2024 Yorkshire Sustainability Festival.

There have been challenges along the way. Working with volunteers on their project is great, as people are giving their free time and energy to something they are passionate about, but as volunteers their time is limited, which can make coordinating activities, gathering data and managing admin tasks difficult. It has been

crucial therefore to develop strong relationships with all volunteers and be flexible around their schedules and working styles.

Working with the local authority has also given us challenges – due to the nature of our pioneering projects, there has often been no set procedure to follow in order for us to get permission and support from the council. We have however worked hard to become a reliable trusted partner, and we have worked with the council departments to develop procedures to enable us to get our projects 'off the ground' efficiently.

A memorable piece of work I have undertaken was to work with Leeds Children's Mayor to make his manifesto pledges a reality. Whilst working with Mohammed and the pupils at his school, I have been inspired and encouraged by their interest and passion for developing sustainable systems and educating others about the benefits of growing and sharing food.



WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

SHOWCASING WHAT WE DID

YORKSHIRE SUSTAINABILITY FESTIVAL

On 18th & 19th June 2024, two weeks before the project was due to come to end, we were given the amazing opportunity to attend Yorkshire Sustainability Festival as its Community Partner.

On the run up to the event, our volunteers across each Incredible Edible group in Leeds, grew food in buckets. On the day of the conference, over 120 buckets were placed in City Square in Leeds, as a very visual reminder of how food can be grown in public places.

An edible landscape was created for two days in a very public place to showcase where food comes from and crucially, what people can do with it. We worked with Season Well, a local social enterprise, who ran cookery demonstrations using the food that had been grown.

"I just wanted to email to say thank you so much for partnering with us on Yorkshire Sustainability Festival 2024. It was a real pleasure to work with you and the brilliant Incredible Edible team on the event and I'm so grateful for your support in helping to bring our vision to life!"

Kate Hutchinson, Founder & CEO - The Sustainability Community



WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

How we're changing what we do

CHALLENGES

Our Growing Leaders programme took a bit of time to get off the ground. However, when it finally got going, we found that the biggest challenge was aligning diaries! Unfortunately, we lost a couple of participants who couldn't commit to the 12 hours (6x, two-hour sessions) but the biggest feedback we found was that it was a great course, it should just be run outside of the growing season (ie. September to March). We will look to do this going forward.

OPPORTUNITIES

Usually, our projects support communities to grow their own food by us funding a raised bed, then sharing knowledge to get the group up and running.

However, a local organisation operating in the Richmond Hill area of Leeds, had already secured funding for setting up a group. After working with both them and the local authority, we have helped to expand their project to include a therapeutic element.

We have been able to provide equipment and resources to create a calm, safe and well equipped outdoor growing area. They have in-house therapists who will refer clients for one to one and group therapeutic food growing sessions in this specially adapted space. We can use this project as a pilot scheme to inform our planning for our therapeutic work going forward.

SUCCESSES

We saw a huge opportunity to develop the project in a way that would empower communities in a much greater way than we originally intended.

Whereas previously, we would go out and build raised beds for the community, we took a decision to lean into the fact that we could teach communities to build these beds for themselves.

Then something magical happened. After teaching one area to build their own raised bed, they built two more on their own. Not only that but when another area a couple of miles away wanted to build their own raised bed, we weren't involved in building it at all. The communities came together to manage it themselves – we just helped with sourcing the materials.

This was not an isolated event. Communities across the city are coming together more often to support each other with activities under the Incredible Edible umbrella. Whether it's building new realised beds, lending tools, sharing knowledge or running joint events, it genuinely feels like the whole city is more confident and better connected.



WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

How we're changing what we do

DO YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS TO HELP US IMPROVE?

3 respondents (14%) answered **volunteers** for this question.

easily teach fruit trees health and safety trees/bushes inductions re health
 Resource training **good volunteers** plants times available
 start ups session times resources for LVL plant labels small signs
 new volunteers water butts current headspace public land basic food





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WITH THANKS TO THE

NATIONAL LOTTERY

COMMUNITY FUND



Want to get involved with our work?

Email: grow@edibleleeds.org.uk

