



St George's

IMPACT REPORT 2024-25

ST GEORGE'S WORKS WITH



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**ST GEORGE'S
ISN'T JUST A
PLACE — IT'S A
TURNING POINT.
FOR MANY,
WALKING
THROUGH THE
DOORS MARKS
THE BEGINNING
OF A NEW
CHAPTER.**

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INTRODUCTION

Well, 29 years in the making but the St George's project keeps on growing. It has grown not only in size, but in the breadth of its impact, which this report clearly demonstrates. It makes me very proud that, along with the other trustees, our CEO Berni, staff and volunteers, I have been able to play a part in making important things happen within our community.

I'm sure you'll agree that, during the past year, parts of the world have become a bit more uncertain and possibly quite worrying. I know that there will always be a need for places and people which offer stability, kindness and care, and I think that such a need has never been greater. That's what we've tried to do over the past year, and this report shows just how much we've succeeded. For me, above all else, it's been the way in which we've offered a degree of stability which has meant so much. We've been here, we've welcomed, we've encouraged and, I think, we've gained the trust of so many people, young and old. In fact, we've played our part as a genuine community anchor.

On the way our family has attracted many new members and, along with some wonderful partnership organisations, we've helped local people to make new connections and take notice of what good things the world can offer. Many of those people have learned new things, developed the confidence to be more active and some have found opportunities to give back through volunteering, and that's been great.

So, if, when you read this, you think that St George's could play a part in your life, just call into our centre, have a coffee and chat to some of the folks who are there. I can guarantee that, yes, you'll find kindness and care, but I'll go as far as suggesting that your visit might just open up positive and really fulfilling opportunities and experiences for you too.

See you there!

4/5

use more than
one of our
services

99%

feel safe at
St George's



Mike Holt, Chair

OUR STAFF

In 2024 we rolled out a new staff wellbeing survey. This helped us to:

- identify concerns,
- recognise strengths,
- acknowledge challenges,
- recognise need.

To address the findings, we have registered as Mindful Employer Plus, which includes a 24/7 employee assistance programme. We are also registered Disability Confident Employer and progressed towards Living Wage status (granted in April 2025). We have also reinvigorated staff training and team development sessions.



An encouraging environment

Courtney's first experience of working for St George's was as a student when she did a placement as part of her Childcare studies at college. She then joined us as an apprentice at Broadway. Her day-to-day life was study, work, repeat. She says the team at Broadway are good practitioners who push one another to better themselves, and her manager Debbie has always been supportive. With their encouragement Courtney became a qualified early years practitioner.

Left: Courtney and Kerstin pose with a Living Wage Employer sign.

70%
of staff have
learnt new
things at work

Right: Helen, Ellen and Avis pose with the wreath they made at our "stafternoon"

Over the years she gained confidence and experience. This led to Courtney being promoted to Room Leader. Courtney has now been working for St George's for almost 8 years. She currently has team members in the same position she was in all those years ago.

Now she is the one supporting them with their development and coursework. A full circle moment!

42%
of our staff are
part of under-
represented
groups

**A GREAT,
SUPPORTIVE
PLACE TO
WORK, AND I
FEEL PROUD
TO WORK
FOR AN
ORGANISATION
THAT HAS SUCH
AN IMPACT ON
THE LOCAL
COMMUNITY.**



VOLUNTEERING

Our volunteers are at the heart of what we do - each bringing their own unique knowledge, skills and experience.

This year in addition to the usual supervisions we arranged monthly volunteer coffee mornings for people to get to know one another.

This year's volunteer celebration event got a glow-up, with opportunities to decorate cupcakes, design tote bags, go on a wellbeing walk, practice reiki, and have a game of darts or dominoes.

Volunteers were included in our wellbeing survey and learnt more about the outcomes and offers for support at a special Time to Talk Day tea.



This page:
lunch and
cupcakes at
the
volunteer
celebration
event.



Opposite:
volunteer
helps a
child play
tin can alley
at our
Summer
Funday.

91
current
volunteers



100%
feel supported
+ enjoy
volunteering

Elizabeth's experience

"I was looking forward to retirement, but after a while I missed doing things. A friend recommended volunteering at St George's. They offered me a voluntary role in nursery where I could apply the skills I already had from work.

Over the course of my volunteering, I have tried out other roles too. I did some Befriending, where I learnt how to crochet, and I am now supporting in the Food Pantry. I have interacted with people of different age groups, and different walks of life.

Through volunteering I have connected more with the community, kept active, and take better notice of what's on offer around me in the area. I've also learnt new things through doing courses such as Food and Hygiene training, and I am constantly giving back through volunteering.

Volunteering keeps me feeling fulfilled, and I enjoy helping others in the community."

**I ENJOY MY
VOLUNTEERING.
IT GETS ME
OUT OF THE
HOUSE WITH A
PURPOSE!**

23

new
volunteers



CHILDCARE

St George's run four local nurseries. Our Childcare team has two full-time nurseries - Broadway in Lupset, and Sandal in Agbrigg and Portobello. We also run two sessional nurseries - St Swithun's in Eastmoor and Sunbeam in Lupset.

Our caring and professional teams support families as well as their little ones.



Wow!

100% agree we:

- ✓ offer high quality childcare
- ✓ make their child feel safe
- ✓ provide value for money
- ✓ help their child make progress

Inclusive environments putting families at ease

"Sunbeam nursery is an amazing setting in the middle of the Lupset community.

The staff are always friendly and also were gentle with me. I had some anxiety about my child starting nursery due to their disability.

Since they started they've come on so much and really come out of their shell. They absolutely love coming to nursery and playing with the other children. I'm so grateful my child got to experience this regardless of their disability."

- parent



Above: children at Sandal visit the local library and its gardens.

**THE STAFF ARE
WONDERFUL AND
FEEL MORE LIKE
FAMILY. THEY
ARE TEACHING
MY SON SO
MANY NEW
THINGS ABOUT
THE WORLD AND
HE HAS
THRIVED
THERE!**

57%

of families
received additional
support from our
team

79%

said our childcare
helped them stay
in employment

CHILDCARE

More happy, independent children

This year Sandal welcomed a new Nursery Manager. There's been lots of positive changes, including newly improved rooms, investing in more resources and building stronger partnerships with parents. The children have truly flourished in their newly improved environments.

The rooms have been redesigned to encourage independence, exploration and creativity. In preschool this means children are taking more responsibility, choosing their activities and learning valuable life skills. The toddler room now has new toys, learning areas and cosy spaces for quiet play.

The fresh learning materials have sparked curiosity and imagination. The new educational and sensory resources have delighted across all age groups, as have the increase of inclusive materials that reflect our diverse community.

The staff have also been investing in training and development to get the most out of the new resources.

The nursery has offered parent surveys to better understand parent's perspectives, leading to more regular updates and a lending library with books and activities to borrow to help reduce screen time at home. The end result of all this is happier children: their smiling faces and laughter say it all!





**I LIKE DRAWING,
BEING THE BUDDY
AND PLAYING IN
THE KITCHEN AT
NURSERY.**

Cracking Communications

Childcare @ St Swithun's pride ourselves on delivering a personalised approach to education. We carefully tailor our approach to meet each child's individual needs, so they can thrive and reach their full potential.

We are recognised as an excellent communication environment. This year we introduced the "Cracking Communications" programme. It's had a positive impact already! Our 2024-2025 annual data assessment found a 6% enhancement in communication and language achievements. The children in our care develop strong communication skills, confidence, and self-expression - regardless of background or abilities.

We believe all children deserve the very best start to their educational journey. Our highly qualified and dedicated staff meticulously plan and deliver next steps in learning to ensure every child meets the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). At Childcare @ St Swithun's, we are fully committed to nurturing children's development. We are delighted to be an Ofsted outstanding provision.

ORAL HEALTH CHAMPIONS

St George's runs the Wakefield Supervised Toothbrushing Scheme which supports nurseries with children's oral health, commissioned by Public Health. This is Carly and The Red Roof Children's Day Nursery in Kinsley's experience of being involved.



Did you know?
1 in 4 children in England
have tooth decay.

Our nursery is in a highly disadvantaged area and each academic year we have a child or two who are hospitalised for teeth removal – sometimes for as many as six in one go. The Supervised Toothbrushing Scheme initially seems such an unrealistic idea in a busy, fast-paced nursery with children who don't always want to be still. However, we wanted to set all our children up for a healthy, happy life so we gave it a try.

It was surprisingly easy to fit into our schedule. We fell into doing toddler room toothbrushing in 2 sittings on a morning whilst the other group did communication and language activities and then swapped over. Preschool toothbrushing was done after their dinner time.

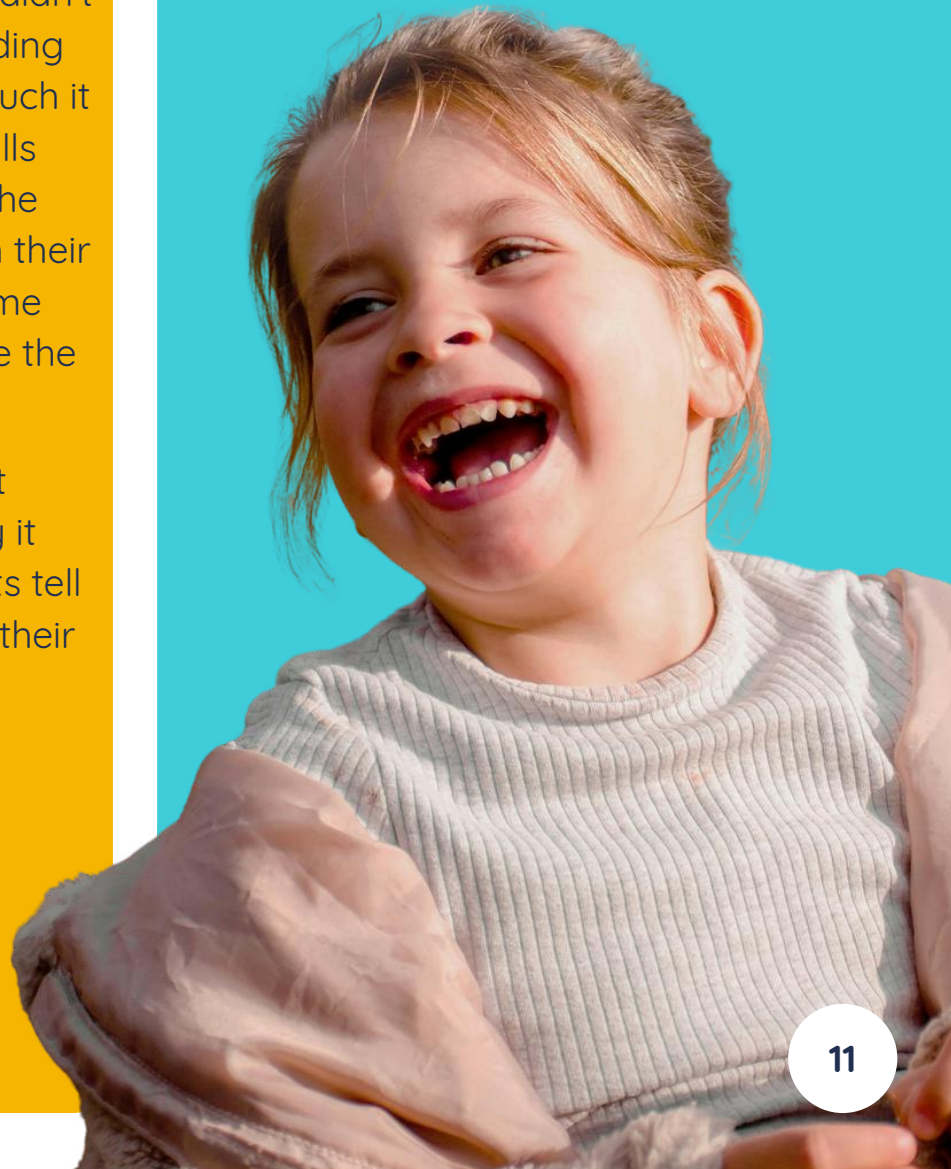
54 nurseries across Wakefield District have signed up to the scheme.

This scheme is now being rolled out to reception classes in local schools too.

When we started some children didn't take part - whether they sat holding their toothbrush or refused to touch it completely. But the children's skills have increased massively over the year. They now all eagerly brush their teeth, and we regularly send home certificates and stickers to praise the children on their efforts.

Staff were amazed at how well it fitted into our day and how easy it was for them to manage. Parents tell us about how it has also helped their routines at home.

This academic year is the first in many that we have not had any children hospitalised for teeth removal, and we're set to take this forward for the years to come.



UNDER FIVES + FAMILIES

St George's provide groups for babies, their parents and guardians.

These groups support little ones with:

- early socialisation,
- experiencing new environments,
- different toys to play with.

They also give their families a local social space that is baby-friendly, non-judgemental and supportive.



Weigh and Play

Free weigh-in for little ones from birth to 12 months with the opportunity to stay and play with other local families. The group is often visited by local organisations sharing information and support for parents and guardians too.

Maternal Journal

Sessions for exploring the joys and challenges of pregnancy and being a mum using drawing, painting, collage and other creative activities. No experience necessary, and little ones are welcome too!

Baby Massage

Parents can learn a new skill from an experienced session lead and meet other families in the area with this short course. A friendly, supportive environment for children from 4 weeks old to crawling and their parents or guardians.



Above: families at Weigh + Play.
Below: a local mum and her baby.

**ST GEORGE'S
ARE A KEY
PART OF THE
COMMUNITY
AND VERY
MUCH
NEEDED.**

57
sessions
run



404
attendances
across the
year!



YOUNG FUTURES

Our Young Futures team offer friendly and accessible activities for children and young people aged 5-25.

From Tech Zone providing access to the web, gaming and more to youth work around Lupset on foot and in the van, the core term-time sessions have been going strong. Sessions also ran in the Christmas, Easter and Summer holidays as part of the Wakefield Happy Healthy Holidays programme.



1649

attended in
total





Above: Lesley joins in the games with Evergreen Active as part of this summer's activities.

Below: Our young people at the Build Our Futures Summit in May.

Opposite: Having fun at our Easter Happy Healthy Holidays sessions.

**I HAD
SOOOOOOO
MUCH FUN! I
MADE NEW
FRIENDS, I
ENJOYED ARTS
AND CRAFTS
AND THE FARM
WAS
AMAZING!**



YOUNG FUTURES

This year the team also launched three new groups - Spokes bike repair and maintenance, St George's Scooters and the Girls' Group.

This page: young people visit local skate parks as part of the St George's Scooters sessions.

105
young people
attended
term-time



Spokes bike club

Spokes bike club runs Thursday afternoons after school, encouraging local young people to work on recycled bikes or fix their own bikes. The Young Futures Team and our trusted volunteer help them learn various jobs that help keep their bikes on the road.

Spokes supports young people to travel independently and sustainably. Learning how to fix issues with their bikes fosters problem-solving skills, reduces waste and helps keeps our young people active.



We've also seen how the sometimes slow work of repair and maintenance can help develop focus and patience. The confidence boost this gives our young people is amazing to witness!

How do we make this happen? Our staff and volunteers bring their own learning and experience to mentor the young people. Members of the community kindly donate bikes to the project for young people to fix up. Spokes also received support from the Mayor of West Yorkshire's Safer Communities Fund, and now has further funding from WACCL.



Pop-up bike stamping session with the Police.

**THE STAFF
AND
VOLUNTEERS
ARE AMAZING.
MY SON
ENJOYS
EVERY
SESSION HE
ATTENDS.**

FUTURE SELPH

This partnership project is now in it's third year. Future SELPH supports local 16-25 year olds to discover an improved sense of mental and emotional wellbeing.

The team offer one-to-ones and optional small group activities, with additional trips like summer's Mam Tor walk (pictured below).

Wanting to be mum AND me

A young mum living in Lupset was referred to Future SELPH via a local baby group. At the time she was living with her son, mum and stepdad. She looked after her boy Monday-Friday and worked Saturday and Sunday. She had no time for herself and work was her only break from being mum. She was eager to learn more about herself and her possible neurodivergence.

It felt nice to have someone to talk to in her one-to-ones with Future SELPH.



33

young people
gained
employment

9

now
volunteer

She felt motivated to pursue her ADHD diagnosis, and to look into childcare funding options.

Since then, our local mum has received a diagnosis of ADHD and started medication to help manage her symptoms. Her son now attends nursery two days a week, using Government funding. This allows her to have a day to herself and another for working.

She now feels more focused and has a life and identity outside of being a mum.



22

in improved
housing

18

entered
further
education

**FUTURE SELPH
IS LIFE
CHANGING.
I HAVE COME
OUT OF MY
SHELL AND
FEEL SO MUCH
MORE
CONFIDENT
WITH THEIR
SUPPORT.**

SUPPORT SERVICES



80%
have saved
money

over half
have increased
their income

We continue to offer a variety of support services to the community. These services are often an entry point for people to access broader support, thanks to our holistic approach.

For example, 100% of our food pantry users agree we provide high quality items as well as emotional support and information.



Help at the Hub

Local people can come to St George's for drop-in and bookable appointments on their doorstep. This includes support for all sorts of concerns, such as benefits, debt, employment and health.

This year we invited various organisations to hold stalls at our summer funday. This gave the hundreds of locals attending the option to get information and support (as pictured left).



Walk-in Wardrobe

Essentials like everyday clothes, school uniforms, footwear and toiletries can feel like an unaffordable extra for some. The Walk-in Wardrobe offers these items for free to locals of all ages.

112

emergency
food parcels
provided



£29,680

community
savings via the
food pantry

Food Provision

For emergencies we offer food parcels to local residents in need. Our Food Pantry offers longer-term support, typically for a number of weeks, to help people get back on their feet. Members pay £5 a week and choose their products from the range available.

Prosper Together Fund

This year was the third round of this fund. It helps distribute funds for household support where other assistance is not available. We were able to support local people in dire need to get white goods, doors, furniture, bus passes and more.

**I HAVE HAD POOR
HEALTH THAT
LEFT ME
HOUSEBOUND...
AS PART OF MY
RECOVERY, I
STARTED TO
ATTEND
ST GEORGE'S.
IT HAS PLAYED AN
IMPORTANT ROLE
IN MY REHAB AND
RECOVERY.**

CONNECT

Connect West Wakefield supports local people who feel isolated, those who struggle to get out and anyone who wants to meet new people but aren't sure where to start.

It is open to people aged 18+ living in the West Wakefield area, or who are registered with Chapelthorpe, Lupset, Middlestown, Orchard Croft, or Ossett GP services.

People can be referred or refer themselves.

100%
agree Connect
has boosted their
mental health

Right:
Community
Connector
Kathryn
with Waterton
Bear at our
summer
funday.

From struggling to socialising

"I lost a close friend, and couldn't face doing things without them. I was lonely and miserable, only leaving the house once a week. I couldn't get motivated and I felt like I was just surviving rather than living.

Then Live Well Wakefield referred me to Connect. I wouldn't have gone to groups like the coffee morning without your support to meet new people, I was so nervous at first. Now I am so comfortable in the sessions I called out the bingo numbers in TLC the other week!"



Jacqui's story

"Before coming to St George's I was bored, fed up and lonely. It was a lot to take in finding out I have Parkinson's, my life changed overnight. I felt I lost my independence. My daughter suggested I contacted St George's.

I was a bit nervous to do anything as I'd lost confidence, so when Kathryn said that she could get on buses with me and find things for me to do it gave me some hope.

Bit by bit I got my confidence back and now I can travel those bus routes on my own. It helped that Kathryn supported me to the groups for a few weeks until I was comfortable to attend alone.

I now go to TLC and lunch club on my own and enjoy them both. I have been on trips on the mini bus with the groups too and tried the accessible cycling group. Life feels so different now, I am so glad that I started coming to St George's."

**KATHRYN IS
EASY TO TALK
TO AND I
THINK I WOULD
STILL BE SAT IN
THE HOUSE IN
MY DRESSING
GOWN IF I
HADN'T LET
HER COME
THAT DAY.**

COURSES

Our community centre offers a number of accredited adult education courses throughout the year, including:

- ✓ CSCS Construction
- ✓ English + Maths
- ✓ ESOL
- ✓ SIA Security

10

different
providers

1479

learning hours
provided



“If I didn’t come to St. George’s, I may still be struggling with life” - Mina’s story

Mina was feeling very depressed and nervous without a job. Then somebody introduced her to St George’s. She enquired about a volunteer role in the nursery. The team made her feel very welcomed and supported in her volunteer role.

While volunteering Mina learned that there was a Teaching Assistant course starting at St George’s, and she signed up to it. The tutor and other student were also very supportive.

From there, Mina has found a job as a Lunch Time Supervisor in a school, and has also started volunteering in the classrooms.

Left: successful ‘Route to Success’ bus driving students with their tutor.

We also offer a variety of interest courses, such as:

- ✓ Cooking
- ✓ Cupcake decorating
- ✓ Reiki and meditation
- ✓ Yoga

96%

agree our
courses are
high quality

82%

completion
rate



Above: happy course attendees pose with their decorated cupcake bouquets.

**MY LIFE HAS
CHANGED
BECAUSE OF
ST GEORGE'S
AND I HAVE
MOVED ON
WITH MY
CAREER.**

WELLBEING

St George's offer a variety of social and hobby groups for local adults, including mainstays like Friday Lunch Club, our coffee morning (right) and Thursday Leisure Club (TLC).

This year we also ran a variety of workshops based on consultations we did with the community.

250
TLC attendances
across the year



Recipe in a bag

We provided 32 recipes in a bag to members of the community. A great way for them to try new things at no expense! This project was run by some of our fantastic volunteers.



80%
have met
new people

Chair-based exercise

These weekly sessions have a core group of attendees who often enjoy a cuppa together afterwards.

“Chair-based exercises are so much fun to do while giving the body a workout too.”



Craft workshops

We ran a variety of workshops throughout the year, from festive wreaths (above) to decoupage bunnies, mosaic coasters to beeswax candle-making (below), sewing to Fakeaway Masterclasses (far left).



68

workshop
attendances

**IT'S A
WONDERFUL
LITTLE
COMMUNITY
CENTRE WITH A
WIDE VARIETY
OF ACTIVITIES
FOR JUST
ABOUT
EVERYONE.
IT'S A JOY TO
GO!**

NO BULLS HIT

This year our Community Learning and Employability Service Manager Wayne decided to set up a dedicated men's group. No Bulls Hit is a darts and dominoes social that runs weekly in the evening.

Primarily a social space, the games allow the men to get to know other people, have a laugh and break down barriers. This then opens up a friendly and non-judgemental space to share experiences.

The informal peer support that takes place during a game of darts or over supper helps the lads find strength through sharing. The group also offers the guys real role models. No Bulls Hit is full of local people with varied yet similar lives, who have built a welcoming and supportive community.



Phil's journey with the No Bulls Hit men's group

While attending a training course at the centre, Phil noticed an advertisement for the No Bulls Hit men's group and approached Wayne to learn more. Phil felt very anxious about joining, as he wasn't used to being in group environments.

Despite his initial hesitation, Phil decided to attend. Over time, as he began to feel more comfortable and accepted by the group, his confidence grew.

He now attends every week. Phil credits the supportive atmosphere and sense of community at NBH for helping him come out of his shell.

Phil now feels he has friends—people he can talk to and trust. This sense of belonging has helped him engage more positively with others. He's also received practical information and resources that could be beneficial personally and professionally.

**SINCE COMING
HERE, I'VE STARTED
TO BELIEVE IN
MYSELF AGAIN. I'VE
TAKEN PART IN
GROUP ACTIVITIES,
MADE NEW
CONNECTIONS,
AND EVEN STARTED
THINKING ABOUT
GOALS THAT ONCE
FELT OUT OF
REACH.**

COMMUNITY

Each year we host a number of community events for people in the local area, with free and cheap activities (think pocket money prices). This included:

- Pumpkin Party on 29th October,
- Christmas Funday on 7th December
- Summer Funday on 30th May,
- Annual Celebration on 25th June.

We had some great luck with the weather for our first ever Pumpkin Party! After offering free pumpkins to local families they brought their decorated pumpkins back to us for judging, which we held in the community allotment. We also offered other seasonal activities, and free homemade soup and pumpkin pie. Yum!



Above: decorated pumpkins displayed in the allotment.

Below: Santa and his elf Christmas '24.
Opposite: top and middle: families enjoy the Summer Funday, bottom: attendees at our Annual Celebration.





**THEY ARE A
KEY PART
OF THE
COMMUNITY
AND MUCH
NEEDED.**



Our community are highly likely
to recommend St George's to
friends and family.

A family affair

Sam and Ray live locally and have one daughter, Cassidy. They've always been the kind of neighbours you could go to for help, whether that's a lift somewhere or help fixing something up. Between this, work and school Cassidy didn't often have room to socialise. This worried Sam and Ray. Then they heard about a tea and toast breakfast club running here at St George's. They thought this was worth a try as Cassidy had come to our nursery when she was little. Cassidy went along and soon enough was taking part in all sorts of sessions after school with our Young Futures team.



Cassidy (far left) with other young people at this summer's football activity.



Ray and Sam (top far and middle left) with the Spokes group after a 6km local bike ride.

Staff noticed Sam and Ray had a lot of skills and would casually help out with things. One year Ray stepped in last minute to drive the minibus so the children could go to the youth Christmas panto. This led to him volunteering as a driver and that giving back to the community became more of a regular thing, with Sam joining in too.

As their skills developed and the service grew, job opportunities opened up which meant they could get paid for work they enjoyed as well as more training. The youth work qualifications were hard-earned, but they worked together to make time for it and with each other and Lesley's support they did it.



Cassidy (far left) with other Young Helpers, Lesley, Emma and Berni.

It's been 7 years now, and Cassidy is following in her parents' footsteps. In addition to helping the Young Futures scooters project get funding, she's supported our community events, including being Santa's elf! She recently completed training to become a Young Helper with us.

**ACTIVITIES AT
ST GEORGE'S
OFFER SO
MANY
OPPORTUNITIES
TO CREATE
LIFE-LONG
SKILLS AND
LASTING
FRIENDSHIPS.**

CONCLUSION

Another year brings another superb Impact Report, capturing the remarkable achievements of the 8 teams working across St George's. Throughout these pages you will see many numbers — 404, 42%, 1649 — to name just a few. Now, some of you may have heard the phrase “6-7” sweeping the nation. But what does it actually mean? Well, very little, according to my research — it's simply a viral, humorous expression with no real definition. The numbers in our report, however, do have meaning. They help measure our impact and track the difference we are making. And behind every statistic sits a story.



Berni O'Brien, CEO

I am privileged to witness so many of these moments first-hand: the interactions, the small breakthroughs, the personal journeys shared throughout the year. Reading this report reinforces why, in our little corner of the world, the work we do matters so deeply to so many — young and old. I am proud to hear staff describe St George's as “a great supportive place to work.” I am moved when parents say that “staff feel more like family.” I smile hearing a young person say, “I had so much fun!” And I am humbled by those who describe their experience as simply “life-changing.” So, while “6-7” may not mean anything at all, one thing certainly does: however you engage with St George's, you will make memories, you will add to our numbers, and — most importantly — you might just have a little fun along the way. Thank you to all our staff, volunteers, Trustees, and members of the community for making this Impact Report such an inspiring read.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

If you're feeling inspired after seeing the positive impact we're making with our community, why not get involved?

Feeling part of something bigger than ourselves boosts our wellbeing and increases life satisfaction. Through good times and bad it's our local community we turn towards and we're here with them every step of the way.

From donations to volunteering, offering services or holding stalls to following us on social media, there's plenty individuals, groups and businesses can do to support local people.

**ST GEORGE'S IS
WHERE PEOPLE FIND
ENCOURAGEMENT,
BUILD CONFIDENCE,
AND DISCOVER
OPPORTUNITIES.**

89%

agree St George's
gives them
opportunities to
give back

95%

feel St George's
makes a significant
difference for them
+ their families



To find out more please get in touch using the details on the reverse.



St Georges is a really valuable asset for the local community and offers a diverse range of services to meet local need. The staff are very passionate about the work that they do, the community that they support and the partnerships that they develop with other local services.

- partner organisation

📍 St George's Community Centre, Broadway, Lupset, Wakefield WF2 8AA

✉ info@stgeorgeslupset.org.uk ☎ 01924 369 631 🖱 stgeorgeslupset.org.uk