



Sheffield Business Together

Annual Report

1 April 2020 -
31 March 2021

Foreword from our Chairs

The global pandemic has had such a significant impact on so many aspects of our lives and the past year has obviously been challenging for many communities, individuals, charities, and businesses.

Without doubt, one of the positives to emerge has been the desire for so many people to step forward and help those who need it most. Sheffield Business Together (SBT) was formed, in part, with the intent to unlock greater collaboration between businesses and the non-profit sector and the coordination of both activity and effort for greater impact on the issues where it is needed the most. As this report illustrates, we have continued to move forward over the past year, working with members and in partnership with others to make a real difference. I am immensely proud that we have completed over 50 projects and worked with over 50 charities from the Sheffield City Region. The Covid-19 Sheffield Food Bank Campaign has really demonstrated the power of working together.

The next year is likely to see further post pandemic challenges and at SBT we are positive as to the role that we can play. We are very excited to be partnering with Sheffield Chamber of Commerce as we work with the Chamber's leadership team to support their members with their corporate social responsibility (CSR) activity.

We both look forward to opportunities the year ahead will bring for businesses and our communities to work collaboratively to support those in need.



Louisa Harrison Walker



Martin Singer

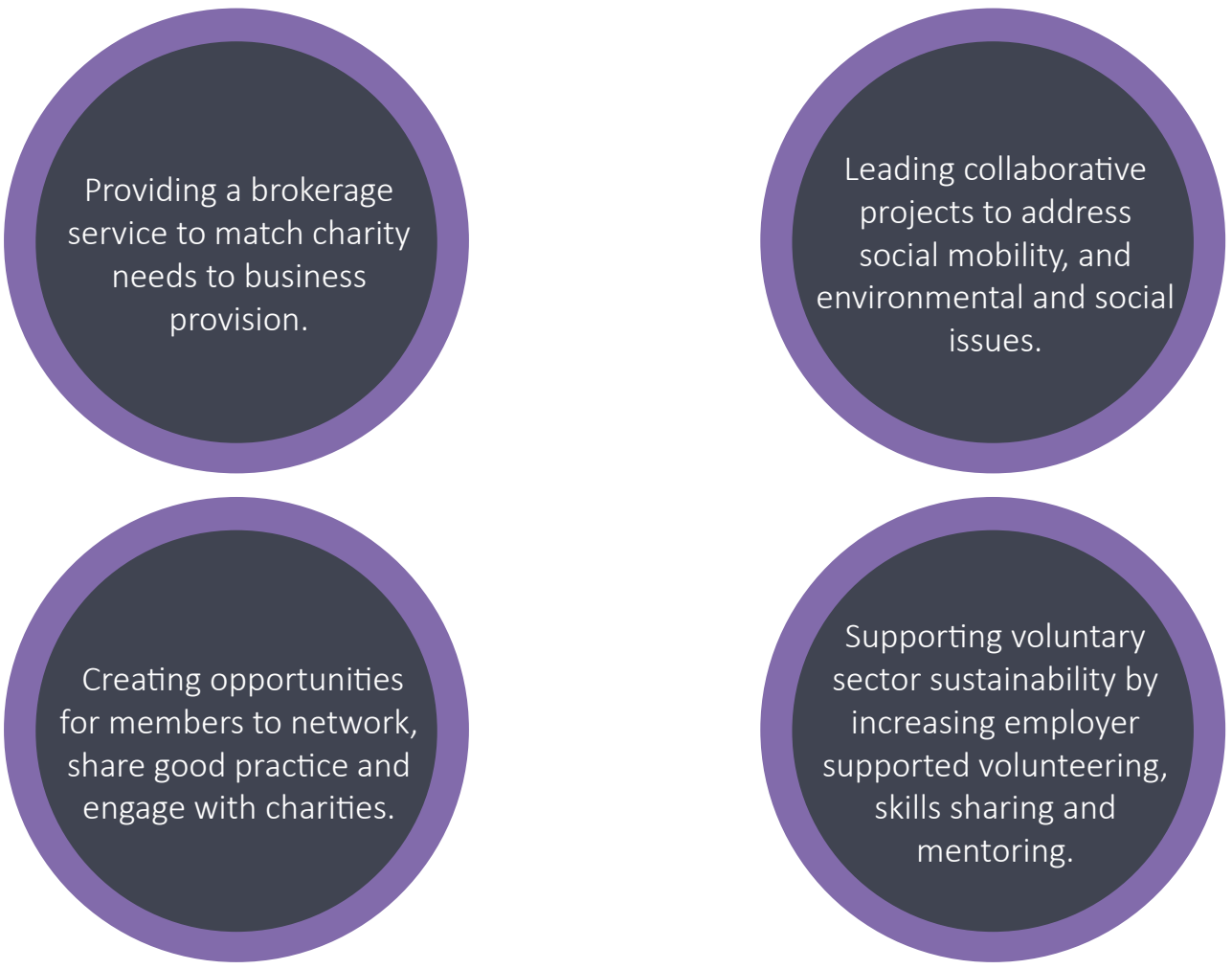
Co-Chairs of SBT

Sheffield Business Together

SBT was formed in 2018 with a mission of bringing like-minded businesses together to collaborate, connect, share and harness resources to address some of the key challenges facing our city and communities.

Covid-19 has had a seismic effect on communities and businesses across Sheffield and has shone a spotlight on the inequalities in our society. SBT was uniquely placed to support the response to the needs in our communities due to the relationships we have forged with businesses, the public and voluntary sector. We are very proud of our role in bringing sectors together to help our city and communities at this challenging time.

We endeavour to fulfil our mission in 4 key ways:



Providing a brokerage service to match charity needs to business provision.

Leading collaborative projects to address social mobility, and environmental and social issues.

Creating opportunities for members to network, share good practice and engage with charities.

Supporting voluntary sector sustainability by increasing employer supported volunteering, skills sharing and mentoring.

Overall Performance

Delivery

Our mission is to bring like-minded businesses together to collaborate, connect, share and harness resources to address some of the key challenges facing our city and communities.



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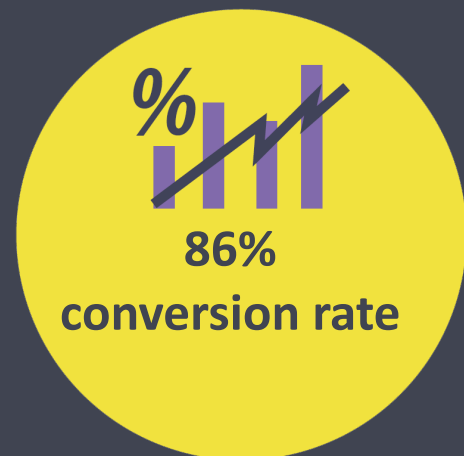
35 completed



11 ongoing



4 in the pipeline



Engagement

23 businesses engaged in the delivery of projects

90+ charities benefited from projects



Leverage value

Leverage value of £8.19 for every £1 spent.



Social action

Leading collaborative projects to address social challenges within Sheffield.

This was a key area of focus for SBT as we worked to collaboratively address the many challenges the Covid-19 pandemic posed for our communities.

Helping Support Foodbanks: At the outset of the pandemic in March 2020 the SBT steering group felt the immediate priority was to ensure our food banks had adequate food to help the most vulnerable in the city. Donations had been severely reduced by panic buying and demand had increased by 300% at some food banks. In partnership with the Sheffield Food Bank Network and the S2 Food Poverty Network we launched a financial campaign to support the 16 food banks in the network. Given most businesses had implemented some form of home working we asked those not in hardship to donate a week's bus fares, fuel or parking. In total 1,200 donations were received totalling £132,000 (including £25,000 donated by South Yorkshire Community Foundation and £10,000 from the Sheffield Town Fund).

In response to Covid 19 Business in the Community (BITC), established the National Business Response Network, to identify community needs across the UK and match them to the right support. Due to SBT's network and partnership with BITC, we were able to arrange delivery and distribution of the donations to benefit a range of local charities and communities. In total 10 business donations were received with a point of sale value of £95,000, benefiting over 50 charities across the Sheffield City Region. The donations ranged from food, to clothes, to sanitizer & face masks.

Supporting Christmas Campaigns: the ADIRA Christmas Campaign delivering 500 food hampers to those in need. ADIRA is a BAME mental health charity. Covid-19 has disproportionately impacted the BAME community in both fatalities from the virus and unemployment, due to many BAME people working in the service industries. Adira have seen a 60 percent rise in mental health referrals from the black community as a result. To try and take the stress out of Xmas and bring a little joy to people in need they provided 500 Xmas hampers. Businesses within the SBT network provided food donations and we helped source the packaging and secured volunteers to deliver the parcels. The contribution was valued at over £2,000.

Supporting Community Projects: SBT board members, John Lewis and Henry Boot also supported Meadow Nursery, an Early Years Community Research Centre based in Shirecliffe. The Centre embodies an innovative partnership between Watercliffe Meadow School, Save the Children UK and Sheffield Hallam University. The businesses helped to bring to life the indoor and outdoor play spaces at the nursery which has been designed to support all

Social action

aspects of learning and healthy physical development for the young children. The objective of the Centre is to build evidence of what works to narrow the early learning gap in the early years, with a particular focus on parental engagement and the home learning environment.

Supporting Mental Health for Young Black People: Thanks to a donation from SBT board member, Arm, Adira has been able to support 6 young black people with direct specialist mental health support which enabled a positive impact on those people's lives.

Bringing Organisations Together: Due to the SBT networks, successful partnerships between like-minded organisations have been brought together, such as Forge House Bakery providing bread and pastries to the social supermarket set up by Timebuilders at St Marys Church.



We have handed out over 1800 food parcels feeding approximately 4,500 people. We would not have been able to meet this level of increase in demand without support from our donors such as SBT. The relief that is seen on some faces as they receive the food delivery tells the true meaning"

– Rachel from Burngreave Food Bank

Voluntary Sector Sustainability

Creating a thriving voluntary sector in Sheffield through cross sector sharing of skills and resources.

SBT is proud to provide a brokering service to match charity need to provision and increase the sharing of resources, skills, mentoring and volunteering between business and charities. In doing so, we play an important role in enhancing the sustainability of our local voluntary sector. Below are some examples of this support:

Providing a Ventilation Engineer: SBT board member, Arup, provided a ventilation engineer to Green Top Community Circus to advise on how to properly ventilate the building to enable COVID secure services to be offered. Green Top is a leading provider of social circus in social settings. They focus on health and education and their programmes are designed to support both adults and children in the local area. They work closely with a number of schools, offering programmes to support the least active and most obese children to become engaged.

Providing a Graphic Designer: SBT board member, Irwin Mitchell provided a graphic designer to support Roundabout with marketing their inaugural fundraising events in 2021. Roundabout are South Yorkshire's local youth housing charity providing shelter, support and life skills to young people aged 16-25 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Social Media classes: @HelpSheffield provided a virtual session on using Twitter for 6 small charities in Sheffield with the aim of providing skills on using Twitter to attract more interest in their organisations.

Project Management skills: SBT itself with Voluntary Action Sheffield provided support to Adira in the provision of project management skills and specialist resource to help develop a sustainable governance and operations structure.

Employment and Education

Improving social mobility by engaging 13-18 year olds with employers to increase attainment, aspiration and readiness for work.

We seek to improve social mobility by engaging 13-18 year olds with employers to increase attainment, aspiration and their readiness for the world of work, targeting outreach where it is needed the most, and sharing best practice in diversity and inclusion. Employer encounters in schools are proven to help raise attainment and aspiration and 4 or more encounters mean young people are 86% less likely to be “NEET” (Not in Employment, Education or Training). Below are examples of how we have achieved this:

Partnerships with Longley College & Springs Academy: We have created partnerships with Longley College and Spring Academy, both of which are based in Sheffield constituencies of lowest social mobility. We have developed a deep relationship and unique partnership allocating dedicated Enterprise Advisers and engaging businesses directly in outreach. This has included offering mock interviews, mentoring, ‘how to sell brand me’ sessions and a virtual Cabinet Office work experience with students getting a letter from the Prime Minister. We also collaborated with our partners to develop an interactive Labour Market Information map to support young people to identify job opportunities and career routes in their local area.

Book Donations: Through donation of books from Twinkl, we were able to distribute over 1,000 children’s books across 15 different charities in Sheffield.

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion: With respect to equality, diversity and inclusion, in partnership with the Sheffield City Region Chambers of Commerce, Business in the Community and DWP we hosted 2 events on diversity and inclusions which were attended by a total of 100 businesses and charities. The first event and focused on awareness of EDI sharing best practice on creating an inclusive workforce. The second event focused on, unconscious bias and micro aggressions and how they impact decisions and recruitment and retention in organisations.

Looking to the future

Whilst we are proud of what SBT has achieved in 2020, we are now determined to look to the future and how we can address the continuing challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic for our communities and local voluntary sector.

In June 2021 we announced our new partnership with Sheffield Chamber of Commerce. This partnership will broaden our network to include over 900 business members of the Sheffield Chamber. It will enable the Chamber's members to access and support our campaigns, projects and brokerage service which will mean that we can tailor professional support to a greater number of organisations in need. It will create a stronger and more collaborative relationship between our local business community and voluntary sector to address the challenges and opportunities facing our communities.

The logo for 'arm' in a bold, lowercase, blue sans-serif font.The logo for 'ARUP' in a bold, uppercase, black sans-serif font.The logo for 'BENCHMARK' in a bold, uppercase, white sans-serif font, centered within an orange rectangular background.The logo for Sheffield Hallam University, featuring the name in a bold, purple, serif font.The logo for 'Henry Boot' in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within a dark blue rectangular background.The logo for 'irwinmitchell', featuring a stylized 'IM' in blue and grey, followed by the name in a lowercase, sans-serif font.The logo for 'South Yorkshire's Community Foundation', featuring a stylized 'S' and 'Y' in green and red, followed by the name in a bold, sans-serif font.

The
University
Of
Sheffield.

The logo for 'SHEFFIELD BUSINESS TOGETHER', featuring a stylized 'X' in black, followed by the name in a bold, uppercase, sans-serif font.The logo for 'vas', featuring the name in a bold, lowercase, purple sans-serif font, with the tagline 'supporting community action' in a smaller, lowercase, sans-serif font below it.

Our partners

Our Steering Group – The businesses that have brought our vision to life and provided support

- Arm
- Arup
- Benchmark Recruitment
- Business in the Community*
- Henry Boot
- Irwin Mitchell
- John Lewis
- Mantra Media
- Sheffield Hallam University
- South Yorkshire Community Foundation
- Voluntary Action Sheffield
- University of Sheffield

Other businesses that have supported our voluntary sector and schools/colleges

- Aviva
- BJSS
- Bond Bryan
- City Taxis
- Co-op
- Department of Education
- Department of Work and Pensions
- @HelpSheffield (Phil Vintin)
- HLM Architects
- Greggs
- Keebles
- Keep Your Fork
- Kier
- Nestle
- Next
- McVities
- LNER
- Sainsburys
- Tripad
- Twinkl
- United Utilities
- Waitrose

Examples of some of the voluntary sector organisations and the schools/colleges who were supported

- Springs Academy
- Adira
- Archer Project
- Ben's Centre
- Carer Leavers
- City Hearts
- Darnall Forum
- De Paul
- Ellesmere Children's Centre
- Flourish
- Foodworks
- Green Top Community Circus
- Longley College
- Mums in need
- Pitsmoor Adventure Playground
- Roundabout
- Salvation Army
- Sheffield Foodbank Network (15 Foodbanks: Burngreave Foodbank, Church on the Corner, Firth Park Potential, St. Cuthbert's PCC - Fir Vale, Handsworth Foodbank, Gleadless Valley
- Foodbank, International Christian , The Philadelphia Centre - S6 Foodbank X2, S20 Food Bank, Hope Family Arbourthorne – Spires, Stannington Foodbank, New Hope Foodbank, St. Saviour's - High Green Foodbank, S2 Food Poverty Network)
- Sheffcare
- Sharrow Community Forum
- SOAR
- Springs Academy
- Timebuilders
- Voluntary Action Sheffield
- Watercliffe Meadow Nursery
- Zest

Join our mission

Be part of something special and collaborate with like-minded, socially aware businesses in Sheffield.

To find out more and get involved get in touch via



sbt@vas.org.uk



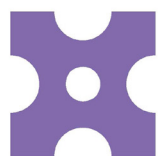
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