

2022/3 Annual Report



SHEFFIELD
BUSINESS
TOGETHER



Forward from our chair



Thank you for taking the time to read about how we support the valuable work charities and voluntary sector organisations do, and how we assist and amplify through encouraging collaboration between sectors.

There is no doubt that organisations in the third sector continue to face significant headwinds as the cost-of-living crisis deepens. The voluntary organisations we support have seen an increase in demand for their services, but often this is coupled with a decrease in available funding and reduced income from fundraising in a very competitive market. The work of Sheffield Business Together in 2022/2023 has been so important, to harness the resources and expertise available in the private sector for the benefit of the local community at a time of extremely high demand.

As this report illustrates, we continue to make significant progress in terms of the volume of our work, business input and recipients benefiting from our brokerage. I am immensely proud that we have completed over 449 projects and worked with over 130 voluntary organisations from the Sheffield City Region. Two major projects to highlight this year include the cross-city collaborative project; Levelling up Futures in Sheffield (LUFIS) programme delivering 124 employer engagements to disadvantaged students. Following a growing realisation that many enquiries we triaged were facilities and building related we created a sub-group of SBT which focuses on the built environment called 'The BFG' (Built Environment for Good). With over 20 active companies they have made a significant impact with projects delivered and ongoing at Meynell Primary School and Ellesmere Children's Centre.

I am so proud to be the chair of SBT and see the impact that our collaboration and projects have had in the community, working in the fields of Education, Environment and Social Action.

We look forward to expanding our programme of work with the support of the additional partners that have joined us in the last year and with the additional financial support that we are seeking to raise through our own South Yorkshire Community Fund.





Sheffield Business Together

Since our launch in 2019, Sheffield Business Together (SBT) has brought together like-minded businesses to collaborate, connect, share, and harness the resources of businesses and charities to address some of the key challenges facing the city and our communities.

In 2022 we have continued to focus on our strategic themes, Social Action, Education and Environment. Particularly supporting charities and community groups that work with young people, refugees, the homeless, ethnic minority communities and the ongoing challenge to mitigate food poverty.

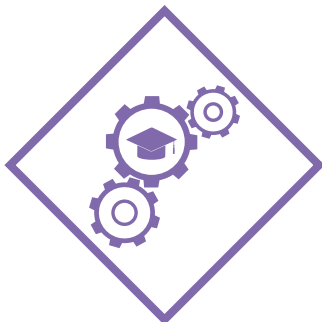
Overall outcomes 2022/2023

Projects delivered : 161

Business volunteers: 650+

Hours volunteered: 3,569

Leveraged value £217,574k



Education

124



Social Action

33



Environment

4

Educational Outreach



After successfully winning a community renewal fund bid, the main focus of our activity in 2022 was educational outreach. Working with 16 schools and colleges in areas of deprivation and low social mobility to raise attainment, aspiration and work readiness of our young people. The programme was a unique cross-sector partnership and co-delivery model between SBT (Business in the Community, and Sheffield Chamber of Commerce), Sheffield City Council and Sheffield Hallam University. Throughout the year 124 employer outreach activities were delivered, providing tailored employer engagements (i.e. mock interviews, sector insights etc).

Highlights included a site visit to The Heart of the City Development with Henry Boot and HLM Architects for students at Longley Park College. Mock Interviews for over 150 students at Astrea Academy, a whole programme of events for National Careers Week at Bents Green Special School and a Speed Networking session at Sheffield College with unLTD. We also held a large careers and employability fair in partnership with The Source. Over 119 employees took part to promote their opportunities and talk about the skills needed for their sector.

619
volunteers

152
employers

124
engagements

7,220
students

16 schools/
colleges

The feedback from volunteers, educators and students has been extremely positive. Our research partner KADA conducted a comprehensive evaluation and reported that 82% of students who took part said the interventions helped to make them aware of the skills they require for the future and 94% said that talking to employers

helped them to develop the skills they need to achieve their career goals. 100% of teachers involved believed that the project helped their student improve their employability skills.



The programme has been so successful and impactful that SBT has now decided to continue the partnership by co-delivering the See it Be it programme.

Employers have a key role to play in educational outreach and we know if young people have 4 or more encounters with an employer they are 86% less likely to be NEET (Not in education, employment or training).

So a massive thank you to the 152 employers that made this happen.

Sheffield Business Together

Social Action



With the cost-of-living crisis, the voluntary sector has been facing a triple hit with spiralling costs, increased demand for services and reduced donations. We worked closely with Sheffield City Council to advise employers on how they could support their people, charities and customers through the cost-of-living crisis as well as continuing to promote our Foodbank campaign which raised £50,142 this year.

SBT has continued to support the VCSE through various projects in order to address some of the key city challenges. We have also delivered a successful age-friendly event to help employers unlock the labour market crisis with government advisor on age Mary Brighth. We also partnered with Miles Kelly to deliver 1,500 books to primary schools in areas of deprivation.

Built Environment for Good Forum

- In September 2022 we launched the Built Environment for Good Forum, bringing together 20 businesses in the built environment sector to collaborate to deliver projects that address the key city challenges and have impact and legacy.
- Since inception, we have helped businesses achieve their social value objectives in line with social value frameworks. Opportunities delivered include educational outreach, establishing a self-care hub for the Black community, designing a sensory garden for primary school students and undertaking a structural survey and making safe a nursery building roof. We have a number of projects in the pipeline and look forward to undertaking more projects over the coming year.

ADIRA's Self Care Hub

- An example of one of the projects we have undertaken this year is supporting ADIRA a Black mental health charity, establish a self-care hub. The hub provides culturally appropriate toiletry and other products to the African Caribbean community in Sheffield and above all provides some self-care to those hardest hit by the cost of living crisis.
- A big thank you to Henry Boot who helped establish the hub by redecorating the basement, putting up shelves and a handrail on the steep stairs.





Environment

This year SBT has worked in partnership with the South Yorkshire Sustainability Consortium to deliver four themed events. These ranged from procurement to how to avoid green washing. We will continue to work alongside the consortium to support charities and businesses on their sustainability journey.

To scale the Green Barriers project to block and absorb traffic pollution and green school playgrounds, we are continuing the partnership with environmental scientists at the University of Sheffield. Work has started to scope the requirements for green barriers at Hillsborough and Lowfield schools and we are working with Sheffield Council to identify priority schools with a view to delivering 4 green barriers a year.



Forward Look

A massive thank you from Katie, Lou and I to everyone who has worked with us over the last year to make our city a better place for all. We really couldn't have done it without you.

Since our launch in 2019, Sheffield Business Together has gone from strength to strength. When we set out on this journey our network comprised of 7 founding employers, 4 years later we now have 250+ employers in the network who are generously giving back in our amazing city.

The challenges for our people and communities, with the cost-of-living crisis, have never been greater and we remain a deeply divided city.

If you want a fairer and greener Sheffield, we urge you to join us and champion and promote us to your supply chain and networks. Every business and employer no matter how small can make a difference by supporting one of our campaigns. We make it super easy for you to get involved, all we need is your time, expertise, and whatever resources you can provide.

We are better and can achieve so much more when we come together.

Carolynn McConnell, Sheffield Business Together Strategic Lead



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Sheffield Business Together is brought to you by Business in the Community and Sheffield Chamber of Commerce



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