



AVSED Annual Report 2023 - 2024

Leading the
way in supporting
Aireborough Seniors





Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Charity Details | 3 |
| Charity Background | 4 |
| The AVSED team | 5 |
| Chair's Farewell | 6 |
| Manager's report | 7 |
| Finances | 8 |
| Supporters & Partners | 9 |
| Progress & Performance | 10 |
| What's on the horizon for next year | 11 |



Charity Details

"AVSED is a local charity working to prevent social isolation and loneliness for Aireborough Seniors, by supporting happy, healthy and independent living. We strive to be the best we can and the go-to place for all Aireborough Seniors."

Debbie Fawthrop
Scheme Manager



Charity Address:

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Our Vision

To be known as the go-to place for all seniors in Aireborough

Our Mission

To support the changing and complex needs of Aireborough seniors

Our Values

Resourceful
Efficient
Smart
Proud
Effective
Creative
Team player

Aims and Objectives, as set out in our 'Articles of Association'

AVSED is established for the following charitable purposes for the benefit of older people (over 60 years of age) living in the community of Aireborough (LS19 & LS20 postcodes) in the city of Leeds.

- 1.) For the public benefit to relieve the charitable needs of older people particularly but not exclusively by relieving their loneliness and isolation and promoting and supporting their independence.
- 2.) To promote the social inclusion of older people by preventing them from being excluded and assisting them to better integrate into society.
- 3.) To promote the health & wellbeing of older people for the public benefit.

Strategic Aims

Adapt to change in need & capacity

Secure long term financial stability and sustainable growth

Increase happiness, improve health services & enable independent living

Achieve excellence

Enhance community development



Charity Background

AVSED: Overview and Operations

AVSED's founding charity was established in July 1992 by a dedicated group of local individuals who recognised the loneliness and isolation faced by older residents in Leeds. This founding charity – 'Aireborough Voluntary Services to the Elderly with Disabilities' – first became a registered charity in 1995 (Charity Number 1048902).

Growing and developing, the new organisation 'AVSED – Aireborough Voluntary Services to the Elderly' was registered as charitable company on February 29, 2016 (Charity Number 1165792) and incorporated on November 20, 2015 after inheriting the assets and contracts of the former charity. AVSED is managed by the Board of Trustees, consisting of nine volunteers who play a crucial role in guiding and supporting the Scheme Manager to deliver the day to day operations of the organisation. AVSED employs a small team of eight dedicated staff and is privileged to have of an ever-growing team of volunteers who are the heart of all our activities and services.. The team, including Board, staff and volunteers, reflect the diversity of the organisation, made up of a high percentage of older, local residents.

Membership with AVSED is free to everyone over the age of 60 residing in the boundary area of Yeadon, Guiseley & Rawdon. As an independent charity AVSED operates under the Leeds Neighbourhood Network, which consists of 34 distinct organisations throughout the city supported by Leeds City Council.

To support its financial stability and activities, AVSED additionally relies on income from both individual and charitable donations and grants. Its major funders in the past year included Leeds City Council, The National Lottery and The Motability Foundation.

The AVSED Team

The AVSED team is made up of:

- a Board of Trustees that supports the strategic management of the organisation,
- the Scheme Manager who oversees the day to day running, general operations and fundraising,
- the staff who coordinate and deliver the activities, services and support our members,
- the volunteers who help run things on the day and bind all the aspects of AVSED together.

Our Trustees include:

- Ken Elliott – retiring Chair
- Elaine O'Brien – Chair Elect
- Richard Gray – Treasurer
- Sheila Bower – Vice Chair
- Wendy Hanson – Secretary;

along with Christine Pearce, Graham Latty, Roy Blanchard & Susan Doubtfire.

Our Scheme Manager, Debbie

Fawthrop, supports the staff including:

- Ella Baxter – Activities Coordinator
- Michelle Murphy-Fell – Volunteer Coordinator
- Stacey Battle – Membership Coordinator
- Deborah Archer – Office Coordinator
- Judith Colley – Dementia & Inclusion Lead
- Perry Mercer – Driver
- Jonathan Brady – Driver.

AVSED is supported by 100 volunteers – whose roles include: drivers, passenger assistants, group support, handyman, befrienders, delivery support, fundraisers and advocates – and without whom we wouldn't be able to support our 800+ members to live happy, healthy and independent lives.



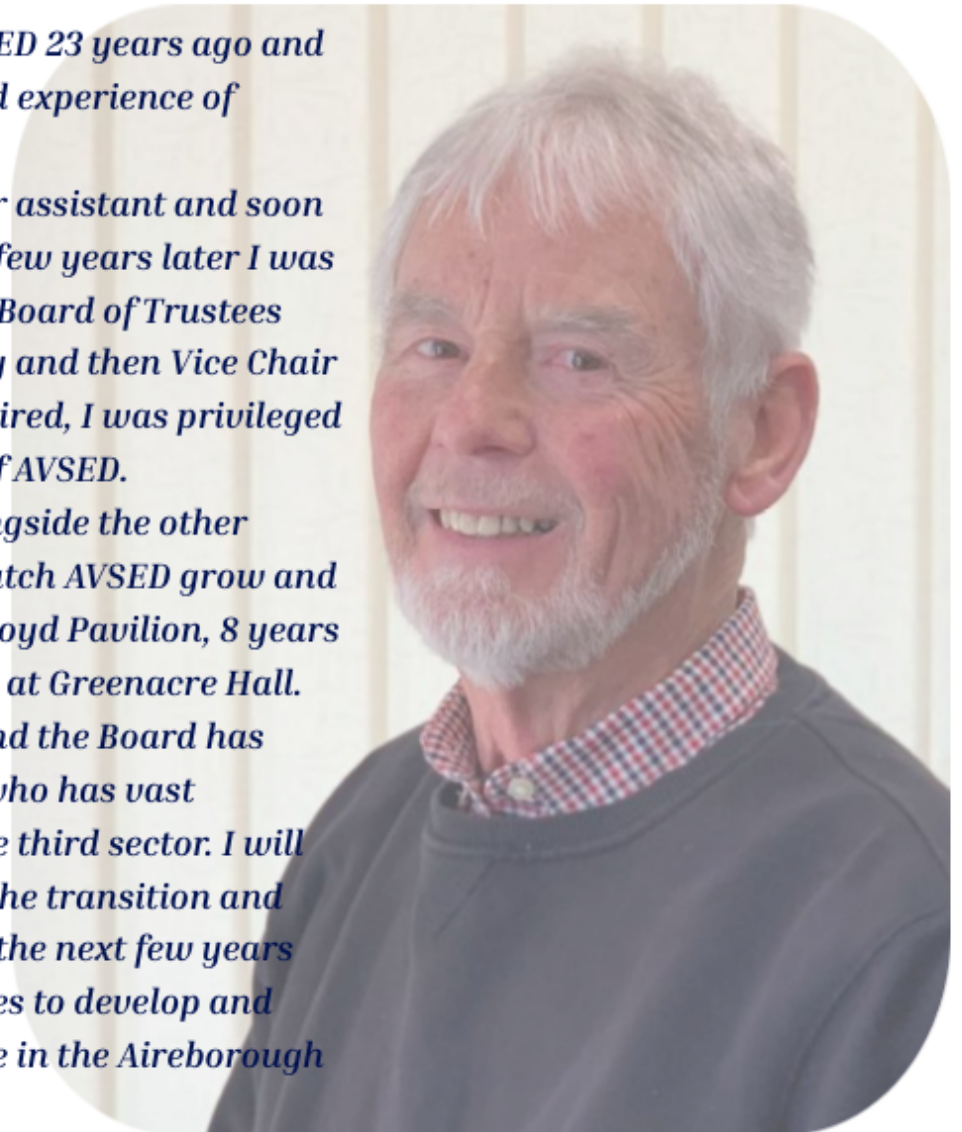
Chairman's Farewell

"I became a volunteer with AVSED 23 years ago and have enjoyed every moment and experience of running the charity.

I started as a minibus passenger assistant and soon progressed to minibus driver. A few years later I was invited to join the Management Board of Trustees and took on the role of Secretary and then Vice Chair to Brian Myers and, when he retired, I was privileged to take on the role of the Chair of AVSED.

It has been an honour to sit alongside the other Trustees for many years and watch AVSED grow and develop - first moving into Nunroyd Pavilion, 8 years ago, and latterly, our new home at Greenacre Hall. I am standing down this year and the Board has appointed a new Chair, Elaine, who has vast knowledge and experience in the third sector. I will be staying around to help with the transition and looking forward to seeing what the next few years holds in store as AVSED continues to develop and continues to strengthen its place in the Aireborough Community".

Ken Elliott
Retiring Chair



Manager's Report

What a full and exciting year we have had here at AVSED!

Our last AGM saw us take up home at Greenacre Hall, moving the staff into their new office and all of our activities and services into a bigger and better space to allow us to increase capacity, reduce waiting lists and explore new and exciting ideas and plans.

We listened to our people.

At the end of 2023 we conducted some consultations and feedback questionnaires with members, volunteers and wider stakeholders. It is always refreshing to hear about the great work you feel AVSED does on your behalf and encouraging to have positive and constructive feedback about what you need, want and desire in the future. Some of the things you told us include:

- More activities and services needed for people with memory issues and support for carers
- Activities including food are wanted
- Support services like shopping, gardening and check-ins would be beneficial.

We are working hard to review all of services and planning to increase our programme to include your suggestions.

- 'AVSED +' launches in the new year, providing full day support to those with dementia.
- 'Let's do lunch' – AVSED's brand new lunch club opens in November.
- We are reviewing all of our services and looking at how we can offer more. The first phase of the review is going to look at our transport. We are very happy with our new transport project in partnership with OPAL, which has seen us take ownership of a new wheelchair accessible car. To increase services, we need to be efficient and effective in using the vehicles and ensure we are supporting those that need our transport to get out and about – so our new transport assessment will be introduced from November to streamline our transport provision and ensure we are helping those that need our vehicles the most.

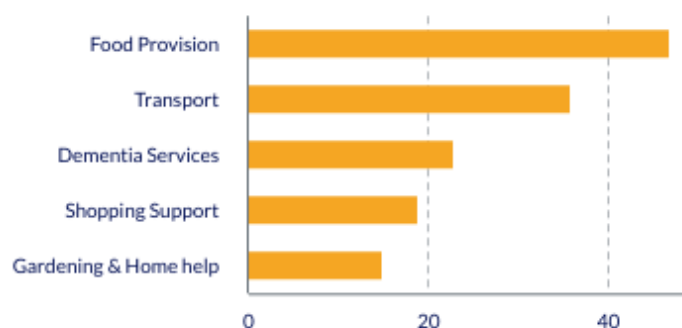
Supporting a high-calibre, professional and proficient staff team.

All of the plans, changes and developments we are putting in place could not be possible without the hard work, high standards and exceptional effort of the AVSED staff team. I am tremendously proud of everything they do to pull things together and make things happen – It is a pleasure everyday to work alongside talented and dedicated people who put everything into making AVSED the best it can be, Thank you

Developments

AVSED is in the process of requesting an Asset Transfer of Greenacre Hall. We have submitted a Business Plan to the Council with full support of local people, our stakeholders, Ward & Parish Councilors and the Trustees and current users of the Hall. This request will see AVSED take over the lease of Greenacre Hall long term, providing security and sustainability for AVSED, along with providing a community building to meet the needs of local people. We are also increasing our role within 'Aireborough Together', our Community Anchor; developing new projects within Health under the 'Enhance project'; and widening our scope within the Local Care Partnership. All of this establishes AVSED as a leading third sector organisation within Aireborough.

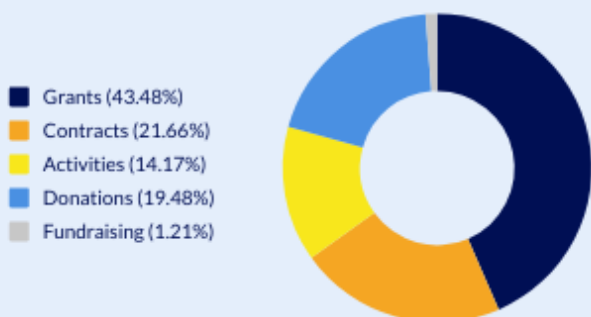
Top 5 Activity/Service requests (Annual Questionnaire)



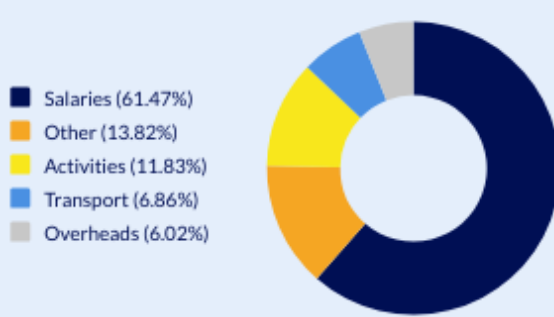
Transport Project – vehicle fleet

Finances

Income – £398,381



Expenditure – £319,244



AVSED is pleased to have our new Treasurer, Richard, on the Board. He has been instrumental in designing new financial reports, supporting the Manager on financial matters and ensuring prudent financial planning.

This year we can report a positive financial outlook, with a net income of **£79,137**, achieved through successful grant applications and increased revenue from our operational activities. The leadership team emphasises that the majority of our funds are either reserved or designated to projects that support our charitable operations and capital purchases.

We greatly accept donations of all sizes, whether from grant applications, sponsorships or community fundraising. Every penny helps us to provide our essential activities and services.





Funders

Supporters & Partners

AVSED would like to thank all our funders, supporters and partners for your continued support during the past year. Small charities are struggling in the current climate to keep on top of grant processes, funding wars and tightened budgets. It is wonderful to have local, regional and national support for our organisation – it means so much to all of us that you believe in what we do and can support us financially.

Thank you

- Leeds City Council
- The National Lottery – Community Fund
- Motability Foundation
- Leeds Older People's Forum
- Leeds Community Anchor Network
- Leeds Community Foundation
- The National Lottery – Awards for All
- Frank Parkinson Trust
- Hedley Foundation
- Voluntary Action Leeds
- Violition
- Local Care Partnership
- Ward Council – Mice Money
- Wavelength
- Ghyll Royd Care Home
- Power Personal Training Gym
- Leeds Bradford Airport
- Morrish Solicitors
- Yeadon Charities
- Morrisons Foundation

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the families of those who have supported AVSED through funeral collections and legacy gifts. It brings us great comfort to know we were able to assist your loved ones, and we are deeply honoured that they chose to remember us during such a difficult time. These contributions help keep their memory alive by supporting our efforts to help others in the community.

Progress & Performance



Membership increased by 170 people this year

1632

Hot meals provided through Fish & Chip delivery and the Umbrella Club

192

Physical exercise classes completed

154

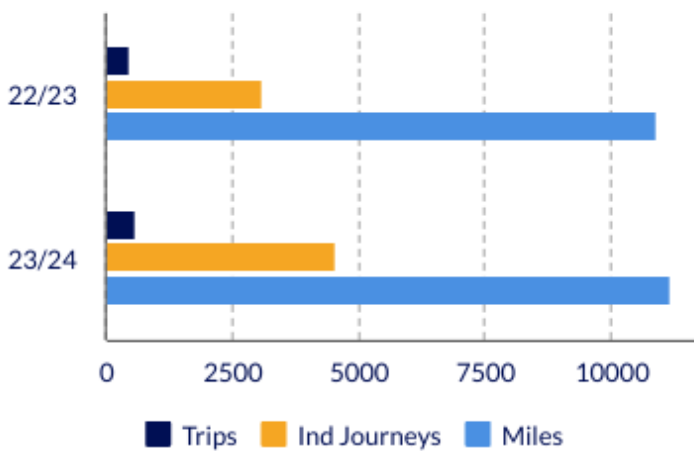
Social & Friendship groups provided
28.6% of members attend a regular activity

12.3%

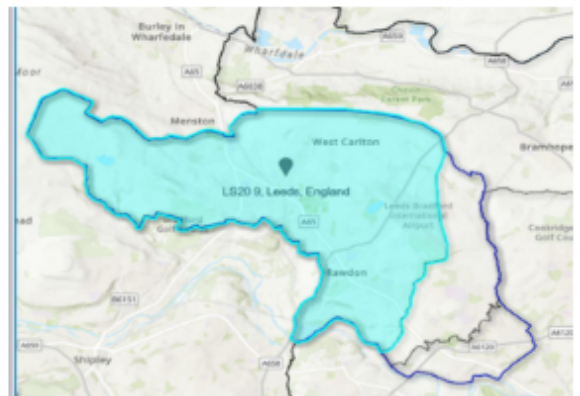
of members attended one of our 95 health groups

Capacity has increased by 32% this year

Transport Numbers



Our Reach



The AVSED boundary covers Guiseley, Yeadon and Rawdon. With over 9500 over 60's in Aireborough, we currently support 784 Members:

- Guiseley – 251
- Yeadon – 385
- Rawdon – 133
- Out of Area – 15



Making Memebers happy one day at a time



What's on the horizon for next year?

Current reach for AVSED membership is around 8% of over 60s engaging with our charity – we are aiming for 20% over the next few years.

Increase Membership & Volunteering

Start to earn our own income

We are well underway with plans to launch our new Dementia Activity Service and other paid for services will be coming soon.



We have listened and acted – new Lunch Club starting in November; new Super Socials start in January. Proactive intervention!

Develop New activities & Services

Increase Community Presence

Our business case for taking on Greenacre will put us in the heart of the community venue – and all collaboration is underpinned by our Anchor Network.

The staff team will increase to include a new cook and a dementia project lead

New volunteer campaign to increase capacity and support in all groups

Review the transport system to assess needs and ensure we are supporting those most in need

The upcoming year holds immense potential and exciting opportunities for AVSED. As we enter the final phase of our relaunch, focusing on the development of Greenacre and our Community Anchor, we are thrilled to introduce new groups and activities. Additionally, we will streamline our transport and support services, marking the beginning of a new chapter as we start AVSED plus. Throughout this journey, we remain committed to the core values that define AVSED, and the people we serve, ensuring that our small but mighty charity continues to flourish and thrive for the benefit of all.

As a leading third sector organisation in Aireborough, AVSED is dedicated to becoming a primary resource and go-to place for all seniors in the community. We are actively working to raise awareness of our services and increase membership, ensuring that we continually provide the highest standards in all our business. Furthermore, we are committed to promoting our charitable objectives to the wider community, which is essential for attracting both awareness and crucial funding for our Charity.

Contact

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