



AVSED

Aireborough Voluntary Services to the Elderly

Annual Report April 2020 to March 2021

The year of the pandemic

This year has seen the whole world thrust into a global pandemic caused by the Coronavirus. Business, work, life and daily routines have been turned upside down and so too have our services. Throughout the pandemic, AVSED has remained open and supported our members, volunteers and the wider community to stay safe, stay well and stay connected.

This year's report shows AVSED stepping forward to help our whole community, swiftly changing our services to offer emergency relief and becoming a front-line service for all in the community.



Charity No: 1165792
Company No: 9882948

Helping Older People in Aireborough

Charity Background

AVSED is a charitable company and was registered with the Charity Commission on 29th February 2016 (number 1165792) and the company was registered on 19th February 2016 (company number 09882948). The charity commenced operations on 1st April 2016 and inherited the assets and contracts of the former charity, also known as “AVSED” (Aireborough Voluntary Services to the Elderly with Disabilities, Charity Number (1048902). This founding charity was initiated in 1992 by a group of caring local people who recognised the loneliness and isolation of older people living in Leeds and first registered as a charity in 1995.

AVSED is managed and run by five paid staff and supported by a team of registered volunteers. The Management Committee consists of ten volunteers who help to guide and support the staff team and ensure the charity is a going concern. The board is made up of older members, reflecting the makeup of the organisation.

Two local Councillors sit on the board meetings to provide local information, give support and advice.

Membership is free to everyone in the registered area over the age of 60.

AVSED is an independent registered charity, working within the Leeds Older People’s Neighbourhood Network which consists of 37 separate organisations spread across the city.

AVSED relies on income, charitable donations and grants to financially secure its position and activities. Its main funders during the year were Leeds City Council & the National Lottery Community Fund.

Charity Team

115
AVSED Volunteers
& over 400 Covid
Hub Volunteers

5 Staff
Ella - Activities
Michelle - Volunteers
Perry - Driver & Covid support
Sharon - Members
Debbie - Manager

480
Members
(nearly 200 increase
from last year)

10 Board
Members

100's of Supporters,
Community helpers and
Fundraisers

Charity Operational Reports

Manager's Report

As I began my new adventure with AVSED, never could I have imagined the year we have endured. The whole ethos of our charity was disrupted from service delivery to staffing, right through to enforced lockdown and isolation - the very thing we are here to prevent!

Our team of staff and volunteers have worked non-stop and tirelessly throughout the whole pandemic. Their flexibility and determination to carry on despite the changes and fears of the virus are applaudable and inspiring. We were a frontline service, supporting the community in the emergency crisis, and I am immensely proud and thankful to everyone who helped us get through these 12 months.

This time allowed us to deliberate and discuss our ideas for the future and, whilst we became the Community Care Hub for Aireborough, we opened up doors to community development and cooperative partnerships, building our reputation and standing in the Aireborough community.

At the heart of all our work this year has been our members - whose resilience and spirit in these terrible times has been heart warming and comforting. Everyone has pulled together and supported each other in many different ways.

This has been a tough year for all, and one we are glad to report we have survived and come through fighting stronger.

Chairman's Report

The 20/21 financial year has been a challenging period for the work of AVSED with Covid-19 being the major factor in us not providing our normal activities to our members throughout Aireborough.

We became a Hub for our area, helping clients referred to us by Leeds City Council plus our members with shopping, general duties, doctors' visits and even dog walking. To help with this we had 400 volunteers in the area through LCC. All our funders agreed to continue funding the work of AVSED throughout the pandemic; we also received extra funding to help with supporting all the costs related to our Covid-19 work from LCC and Voluntary Action Leeds (VAL). This has all helped our funding position as no income could be generated and any new funding grants were related to Covid-19.

During this period the board of trustees used Zoom meetings to discuss all the relevant decisions that had to be made, ensuring we operated within the Covid-19 regulations, which in some cases changed daily.

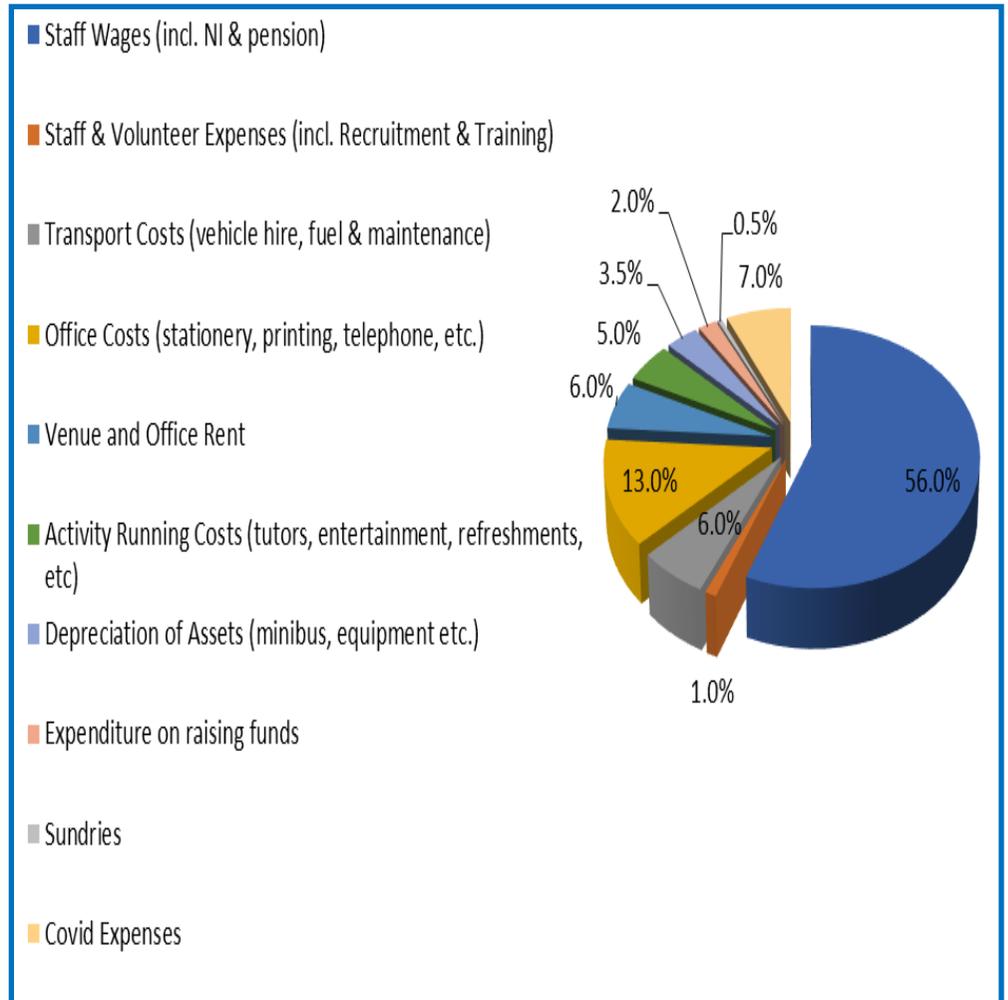
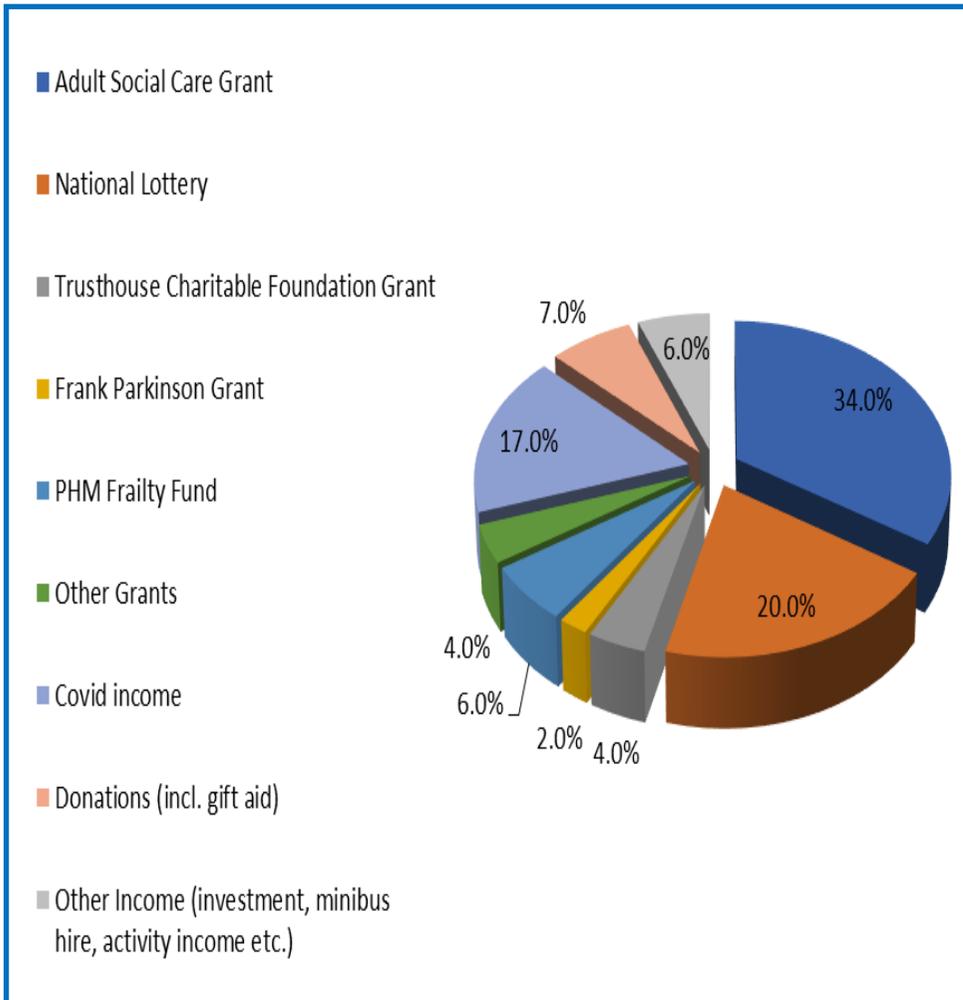
Our new Manager, Debbie Fawthrop, joined us in March 2020 at the start of Covid-19 and worked with the staff, who have been brilliant, creating a programme of activities online via ZOOM and other digital interactions to keep everybody entertained, active and healthy.

The impact of the pandemic on AVSED's workload and service delivery has presented huge challenges, but so much positivity, innovation and inspiration have emerged too.

Charity Finances

Annual Income 2020/2021 - £275,646

Annual Expenditure 2020/2021 - £211,182



- New income stream directly supporting the Covid Hub
- No subscription fees
- Donations increased mainly due to AVSED 22

- New expenditure on Covid support and shopping for the Hub
- All expenses reduced due to regular activities stopping
- Office costs increased due to additional newsletter editions

Charity Fundraising



The AVSED 22 walking team - together with members and volunteers raised over £8500



Henry started running and raised over £500



Tudor Freight - raised £200 with a Xmas jumper day



Receiving a £400 donation from The Billing Belles WI

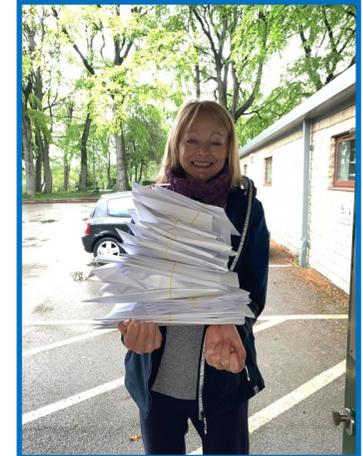
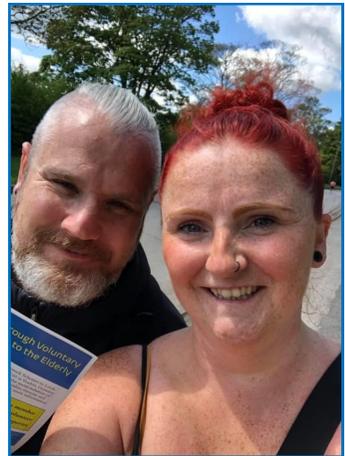
A huge thank you to all our supporters, grant makers and friends this year

- Leeds City Council
- National Lottery
- NHS
- Frank Parkinson's
- Trusthouse Foundation
- Leeds Older People's Forum
- Leeds Community Foundation
- Good Things Foundation
- 100% Digital Leeds
- Inner Wheel Foundation
- Aireborough Pacers & Chevin Chase
- Billing Belles WI
- Henry & family
- Tudor Freight
- Rotary Club
- Howdens
- Tesco Bags for life
- Guiseley Community Foundation
- Rasoi Takeaway
- Barclays Digital
- Givto, Paypal, & Virgin giving sites
- Christ in Crisis
- Little Fisherman
- Local Councillors
- AVSED 22 sponsors
- Family Funeral Collections

Charity Volunteering

This year has been like no other for our volunteers. 1st – the lockdown and all regular work ceasing. 2nd - the Covid Hub, where many regular AVSED volunteers joined an army of 400 new recruits from the community. 3rd - the community call for help with Covid vaccination clinics and a team of AVSED volunteers supported the local GPs, plus much more.

We have delivered over 20,000 pieces of AVSED info: from Newsletters to VE Day invites, Winter Warrior leaflets and Xmas Packages; not to mention shopping, prescriptions and over 1500 hot meals delivered to our members throughout the lockdown.
Thank you very much.



Charity Volunteering



YORKSHIRE #TheRealWithYou
Evening Post
YORKSHIREEVENINGPOST.CO.UK CHAMPIONING LEEDS SINCE 1890 TUESDAY MARCH 23 2021 90P (TOP 10 SUBSCRIBERS)

Each and every one of them are our city's HEROES

AS THE NATION MARKS ONE YEAR SINCE THE FIRST LOCKDOWN WE HONOUR OUR CITY'S KIND-HEARTED ARMY OF VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE WORKED TIRELESSLY DURING PANDEMIC. SPECIAL REPORTS PLUS 8-PAGE SUPPLEMENT INSIDE TODAY

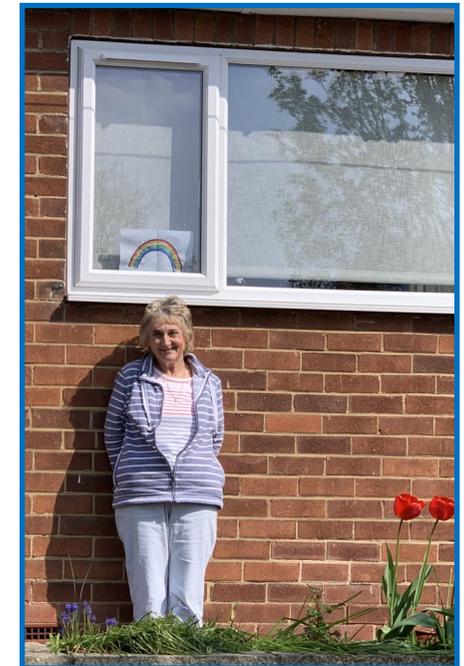


Charity Activity

Throughout the whole of this year, our regular AVSED activities were suspended. No groups or face to face services were allowed.

But that didn't stop us from keeping our members informed, connected, safe and entertained. We completely changed the way we do everything and adopted brand new services that brought people together remotely and supported safe isolation and wellbeing for all.

We managed to maintain emergency contact and home visits when needed and called all our members. We increased our newsletter production and discovered digital platforms along with doorstep and window visits and increased membership support throughout the year.



Charity Activity

Behind the scenes

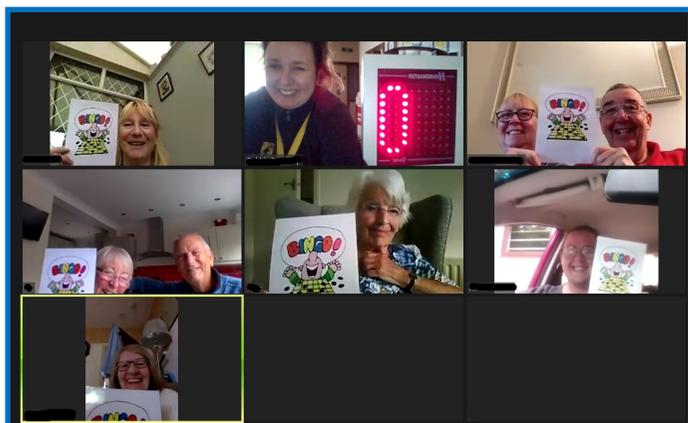


- 10 Covid Newsletters
- 50 Activity Packs
- 50 Exercise Packs
- 100 Random Acts of Kindness
- 70 Digital Devices
- Mobile Library
- Activity Bus
- Transport to Appointments
- 187 New Membership Referrals
- 158 Food Parcels
- 453 Shopping Deliveries
- 123 Care Packages
- 1500+ Hot Meal Deliveries
- 331 Prescription Deliveries
- 1000+ Welfare Calls
- VE Day Celebrations
- Zoom Sessions

Charity Activity

Zooming Brilliant

Nothing stopped us from getting together - even the pandemic!
We just needed to find a new way to do it and Zoom was our answer. For many months we met up virtually and enjoyed bingo, parties, dancing and sing-a-longs.



Charity Activity

We didn't forget Christmas



VE Day Celebrations

The pandemic didn't stop us from partying! With restrictions in place, indoor gatherings were not allowed, so we encouraged local residents to have street parties all over Aireborough and a sing-a-long to Vera Lynn's We'll Meet Again.



Farewell to Friends

This year we have lost members, friends and colleagues. Whilst most we lost due to natural causes, the pandemic meant we were unable to say goodbye in the usual way. Condolences to all who have lost a loved one in these very difficult times. We have all endured such great sacrifices trying to keep safe, not able to see friends, family and loved ones. Everyone has been extremely selfless in their fight with the ups and downs of the pandemic and we are thankful our AVSED community has come through this terrible year resiliently .



Thank you

There are so many people that have helped AVSED keep going and make it through this year. Our ***funders*** have allowed flexibility and understanding so we could swiftly adapt to the ever-changing restrictions and keep our members safe. Our ***volunteers and supporters*** have stood by us through difficult times and helped us ensure we delivered a needed service in unimaginable circumstances. Our ***staff team*** has remained on the front line and dedicated their time to keeping our aim of supporting our members at the heart of everything we do.

