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ABCD in Leeds

Six year Social Return on Investment analysis

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This summary presents the results of an update of a study to estimate the social value funded ABCD Pathfinder sites, as part of Leeds City Council's Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) programme between 2019 – 2025.

The six ABCD pathfinder sites included in this analysis were:

- Better Action for Families (BAFF), Beeston.
- HFT, Horsforth.
- LS14 Trust, Seacroft.
- Opal, Cookridge.
- St Lukes Cares, Beeston Hill.
- Touchstone, Lincoln Green.

What was the Social Return on Investment?

With all the adjustments in place, the estimate of SROI across these six sites is between £2.69 and £36.90 of social value returned for each £1 invested. For the longest established site, the SROI range had more than doubled from £5.27 - £14.02 in 2021, to £19.11 - £36.90 in 2024.

What is social value?

Social value describes the wider economic, social, and environmental effects of organisations' actions. When organisations work to make these effects positive, they can add social value which contributes to the long-term wellbeing and resilience of individuals, communities, and society in general.

What is Social Return on Investment?

Social Return on Investment (SROI) is a tool which looks at outcomes (changes). It helps organisations understand and measure their social value and by working closely with them and the community. It aims to show the value of a wide range of outcomes (changes), whether these already have a financial value or not. The result of the calculation states how much social value (in £) is created for every £1 of investment.

Calculating the Social Return on Investment (SROI)

The SROI looked at how much money was spent on the ABCD programme and the social value the programme produced.

Social values were applied to the latest data available for each of the six pathfinder sites for the following outcomes:

- Number of Community Connectors
- Number of people who say they have made a new friend.
- Decisions made to change something in an area e.g. changes to a park, social activities, micro-economic business.

There was a range of published social values for each outcome, based on pre-existing economic studies.

Money spent on ABCD across the six sites = **£150,000**

Social value of ABCD work:	
Outcomes	**Social value**
People have good friends	£1850[1] - £15,500[2] per person per year
Communities identify and work to bring about the changes they want to see.	£1400[3] per person per year
Wellbeing benefits of volunteering to the volunteer	£13,500[4] per person per year
Time given by Community Connectors	£12.21 per hour (National Minimum Wage)

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[1] HACT, 2025
[2] Powdthavee et al., 2008
[3] Sense of autonomy and control (GVE)
[4] Fujiwara et al., 2012