

SoundCafe

Leicester



Annual Report 2017/18



Executive Summary

SoundCafe Leicester (SCL) is a registered charity providing a safe creative space for adults who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, vulnerable or socially isolated as a consequence of their living arrangements.

SCL offers opportunities to promote feelings of well-being, confidence and self-esteem by enabling people to take part in creative activities such as singing together, poetry, crafts, drawing and painting.

Over 30 volunteers including Samaritans support SCL's work. Since the launch of SCL in October 2014 the numbers of people, our guests, attending have grown from 18 to over 40 per session.

SCL welcomes everyone regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender or ability. SoundCafe provides the opportunity to explore the Christian faith for those who wish to do so.

SoundCafe's Patrons are: the Bishop of Leicester, the Rt Rev Martyn Snow; Mrs Janet Arthur; and Cllr Manjula Sood, Assistant City Mayor.

Other supporters include: The West Leicester Mission Partnership, St. Martin's House, Leicester Cathedral, The Samaritans and Groby Sings.

The trustees of SCL include those with experience of working with rough sleepers, long term homeless, socially isolated people, those with drug or mental health issues and those who are destitute. This experience has shown us that we need to provide creative solutions to meet the diverse needs of those who are or were once homeless.

Homelessness and the effects of it cannot be solved by a short term stay in a hostel nor by one organisation. Therefore, SCL is planning a development of a range of services and opportunities:

- café sessions
- a choir combining the talents of guests and volunteers
- arts and crafts expression
- finding a voice through poetry, art and music
- raising the profile and awareness of homelessness

SCL is aware of similar projects work in other parts of the UK and know that with the right support and backing we can offer respect, dignity and security to those suffering from and surviving homelessness in Leicester.

Roz Burch, Chair of Trustees

c/o St Martins House, Peacock Lane Leicester

07940819403

soundcafeleics@gmail.com

SoundCafe Leicester is a charity registered in England and Wales.

Registered number: 1162987

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The Main Aim of SoundCafe

SoundCafe aims to inspire people who are homeless or socially isolated by providing a safe creative space to explore, grow and express their artistic talents. We are a diverse and inclusive community who are learning to reflect on our experiences, that through this, personal lives may be transformed and empowered.

Paid staff – Line management is by the Chair of Trustees

Activities Report – Operational matters by SCL's vice-chair and Chaplain

SoundCafe Choir

SoundCafe Choir have had another amazing year. We spent much of the first part of the year preparing for the Tapestry of Life festival which was held at Leicester Cathedral in the summer of 2017. The choir sang Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat as a finale to the whole days activities and were supported by members of Cantamici. This was a significant step for the choir in terms of the complexity of the piece and the skills needed to sing it which shows just how much the choir has developed over the three years it has been running. the cathedral was full for the free concert and the audience were encouraged to join in the singing and the celebration of the day which was a great success.



There was not much time to take a break after this epic event as SoundCafe then performed at The Y Theatre in Leicester as part of the Musicians against homelessness concert, a charity concert which invited semi-professional bands to perform to raise awareness about homelessness. This was a huge success and SoundCafe sang to great acclaim, again supported by members of Cantamici.



The time since these two big outings has been spent building the expertise of the choir to be able to sing without any accompaniment which gives the choir greater flexibility in terms of *what* they can sing and *where*. SoundCafe also has been building its relationship with Leicester Cathedral and now regularly rehearses *in* the cathedral to enable the choir to experience the excellent acoustic and ambience of the building. This has without doubt improved the singing and the professional approach to their singing and performance.

What has been exciting to see over the last year is not just the increase in numbers of the choir (it now has over 30 singers that attend regularly) but the increased confidence and self esteem of the singers. SoundCafe Choir now has a very strong identity as a choir that they know is held in high regard across the city and county. That is quite a remarkable thing to achieve in under less than 3 years. As this report is written the choir is preparing to sing in it's first open air performance on Good Friday as part of the Leicester at the Cross event in the city. As always the SoundCafe Choir are always up for the challenge in raising awareness about homelessness and being a voice for those who are marginalised in our society. Conducting this choir is a huge privilege.

**Rev'd Helen Hayes, Pioneer Priest working with people who are homeless.
Conductor of the SoundCafe Choir.**

Trustees

SoundCafe's Trustees are:

Mrs Roz Burch (chairperson)

Rev'd. Helen Hayes (vice-chair and chaplain)

Mr Geof Pearce (health and safety focus)

Mr David Piper (secretary and pastoral focus)

Mrs Sandie Sobieraj (treasurer)

SCL is governed by a board of Trustees who all act on a voluntary basis. The Trustees between them have over 30 years of experience of working in the not-for-profit sector in a variety of settings. Trustees have experience of health & safety, running charities, providing advice and support services for homeless and vulnerable adults, financial and educational management.

How SoundCafe Leicester recruits trustees:

- By reviewing the skills and experience needed
- By seeking appropriate people in the community – especially from Groby Sings, our own contacts and networks and West Leicester Mission Partnership churches

Volunteers

The future recruitment of volunteers will be tailored to the identified gaps in support required to run SCL.

<u>Team</u>	<u>Leader</u>
Welcome Team	Geof Pearce
Catering	Carol Knill
Front of House - upstairs	Chris Beange
Pastoral	David Piper
Music & Choir	Rev. Helen Hayes
Sound system	Heather Newcombe
Poetry	Richard Byrt
Art	Pat Pearce
Crafts	Gwen Toon
Volunteer Co-ordinator	Cathy Goddard/Carol Knill

The Objectives of SoundCafé Leicester – ‘the steps we are going to take to achieve our aims’

- increase the number of weeks that SCL is open and provide weekly available sessions all year round
- organise regular gatherings and events for SCL’s choir to practice and perform
- develop a platform for information and communication to support ‘signposting’ services
- support people who are homeless develop feelings of well-being, confidence and self-esteem
- identify new ways of supporting people who are homeless to gain confidence and skills.
- Develop our arts, crafts and poetry through designated workshops to give greater opportunity for ‘finding a voice’
- ensure that the network of homelessness provision in Leicester is aware of SCL’s services
- ensure that the ‘homeless voice’ is heard promoting the work of SCL at different forums and events

A Safe Creative Space is our “strapline”

Inspiration within SoundCafe

multiplies its’ Creativity and

feeds its Diversity while regular

Reflection leads to

Empowerment of both its’ guests

and of its’ volunteers”

(This statement is our Impact Statement from a Transformational Index training session held in 2016)

Behind-the-scenes Activities this Year

September 2017 saw the first Growth Fund report submitted by SCL to Leicester Diocese. This was a key milestone as it brought together a summary analysis of the key work undertaken by SCL and its volunteers and truly demonstrated the difference that SCL makes to the lives of its' guests. The resourcing of a development Worker post was focused on: *to oversee, develop and grow the vision of SoundCafe. . . to strengthen links with other city agencies. . . enable the ministries of the Cathedral . . . who can co-ordinate and develop it and enable the dreams and visions for the future to happen.*

With the appointment of a Development Worker at the end of 2016 we have:

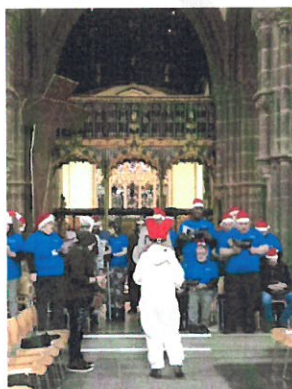
- Developed and approved working policies in respect of Lone Working; Safeguarding; Equality & Diversity and Data Protection embracing the new recommendations of the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).
- Volunteer support; weekly communication sessions; designated training and a new volunteer handbook issued in June 2017.
- Introduced new monitoring and evaluation methods for understanding the numbers of guests attending sessions; their 'homeless history'; current housing and health challenges. This is providing a sound basis for our future development and plans to ensure we address the needs of our guest group.



Developed an annual calendar for SoundCafe sessions, including speciality sessions which this year have focused on saints festivals; other cultures feasts; and specific days including Homeless Sunday; Racial Justice day; and World Poetry day.

A key emphasis on our work throughout the year has been giving the opportunity for our guests to 'find a voice' through singing, poetry and art. This was made possible through our Arts Festival, Musicians Against Homelessness and working with the Y.

SoundCafe choir performed at the service for the Archbishop of Canterbury and Christmas 2017 saw the choir undertake a carol-a-thon in the Cathedral which was aimed at raising awareness of the challenges facing people who are: homeless; on the edge of society; and fleeing oppression. It also saw the choir as an integral part of the cathedral and gave guests an identity and belief in their own self-worth. A bid for resources enabled the purchase of t-shirts for all choir members which gave the choir a corporate identity.





Over 2017 SoundCafe has worked with the Cathedral on a number of events and the theme of 'Home' at Advent provided an opportunity to work in partnership displaying the work of our guests and sharing the message of Christmas and the place of home. The choir now regularly rehearse in the Cathedral and have been welcomed into this setting by staff and visitors alike.

Achievements and Outcomes /Benefits

In excess of 40 guests regularly attend SoundCafe, the highest number attending to date in any one session has been 52. The benefits however extend beyond numbers, to that of transforming people's lives and giving our guests the confidence and self esteem to value what they do and be able to perform in a public setting.

Our guests have commented on the benefits of attending SoundCafe as follows:

'There is a lovely atmosphere at SoundCafé. I love the music and the poetry, especially when we all sing together, and I have made some new friends. It helps me to feel less lonely and more confident in talking to people. It lifts me up.'

'I enjoy all the music, and I look forward to coming to SoundCafé because it is welcoming and helps me to feel a bit less isolated. It gives some structure to my week, and I feel I can offload here and still be accepted.'

'Coming to SoundCafé has made me more confident and encouraged me to look after myself better so I feel healthier.'

'One thing Soundcafe has taught me is that the healing power of talking is immensely strong.'

'There is a lovely welcome here, and I feel more peaceful after I have been. Being able to stand up and read my poetry here has been a real learning experience.'

'It is very relaxed so you can be yourself here for a couple of hours, and I have made some new friends. Singing in the cathedral especially was a great night. I now help out with setting up, and I get a lot of satisfaction from being able to do something myself.'

There are also key benefits to our volunteers for example for some it gives them purpose to their week; combats loneliness; and our volunteer training enhances skills and opportunities for working together.

Our volunteers have said

'I'm giving something back to society and it makes me realise how lucky I am'

'Because it lifts my spirits and its lovely to see all our guests happy'

Receipts & Payments Account	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Year 3
Receipts					Rounded to the nearest pound
Donations from Individuals and companies	3856.02			-	3856
Donations at SoundCafe Sessions	91.52	-	-	-	92
Monthly standing order donations	1116.00	-	-	-	1116
Grants	6650.00		39550.00	-	46200
HMRC Gift Aid	329.88				330
SoundCafe Events	1167.24	-	-	-	1167
Donations - CDs, mugs, snowballs and hedgehogs	436.50	-	-	-	436
Refunds	345.17				345
Total Income	13992.33		39550.00		53542
Payments					
Room Hire – and Refreshments St Martins House and St Andrews House		-	6348.00	-	6348
Development Worker Salary, NIC, Payroll and Office Costs		-	16129.29	-	16129
Parking at Sessions	69.92				70
Consultancy and Support at Sessions	260.00				260
Refreshments at Sessions incl extra Christmas Christmas Gifts	327.71				328
Arts, Crafts and Writing Groups	331.55				332
Arts Festival	1284.52				1285
Sound and IT Equipment for Sessions	628.41				628
Equipment and First Aid for Sessions	652.90				653
Stationery, Postage	71.12				71
Fundraising Costs and Commission Paid	1275.00				1275
Volunteers including Training and Uniform	1374.38				1374
Insurance	489.70				490
Refunds and Bank Charges	270.00				270
Total Expenditure	7035.21		22477.29		29513

SoundCafe Leicester balance to carry forwards at 10 March 2018

Details	Amount
Income 2017-2018	53542.33
Less Expenditure 2017 -2018	29512.50
Balance as at 09 March 2018	24029.83
Add Cash brought forward from 2016 -2017	42567.92
Total cash to carry forward for 2017 -2018	66597.75

Details	Amount
CAF Bank Balance at 09 March 2018	38204.75
CAF Bank Bacs paid into account but shown after 09/03/18	16014.02
Co-op Bank Ltd Balance at 09 March 2018	4097.61
Petty Cash – held by Treasurer at 09 March 2018	67.75
Petty cash – held by Development Worker at 09 March 2018	49.14
Growth Fund balance at 09 March 2018	8164.48
Total of Funds held by SoundCafe Leicester at 09 March 2018	66597.75

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Details	Amount
Restricted Funds – held at CAF Bank	25136.00
Restricted Funds held by Growth Fund	8164.48
Total of Restricted Funds	33300.48
Unrestricted Funds – CAF Bank (includes £8000 Reserve)	29082.77
Unrestricted Funds – Co-operative Bank	4097.61
Unrestricted Funds – Petty Cash	116.89
Total of Unrestricted Funds	33297.27
Total of Funds held By SoundCafe Leicester at 09 March 2018	66597.75



Notes to accompany the Financial Report – March 10 2017 – March 09 2018 – presented to the Trustees of SoundCafe Leicester on 3rd July 2018.

A total of £53542 was received in the 12 months from March 10 2017 – March 09 2018

The net result was an increase of receipts over payments, of which with the funds carried over from the previous year, amounts to £66597 to carry forward on 10 March 2018.

Of these funds, £33297 is classed as unrestricted and £33300 as restricted

The accounts have been prepared on an Income and Expenditure basis in accordance with the 'Charities Statement of Recommended Practice'

Funding

As we were fortunate to receive a three year grant from the Leicester Diocese Board of Finance, we have been able to employ a Development Worker for three days a week. With her expertise and enthusiasm she has had an extremely positive effect on the running of the charity.

The balance of matched funding needed to match this Growth Fund Grant was received from the Henry Smith Charity. We now need to secure matched funding of 13500 to secure the third year of the Development Worker from November 2018.

We were also fortunate in receiving £16000 from the Leicester Adult School Union in order to extend our Drama and Arts and Crafts activities.

Reserve Policy

It is the intention of SoundCafe Leicester to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds of three months operating costs, which equates to £8000. This will be reviewed in the summer months.

Investment Policy

Apart from maintaining the Reserve Fund the majority of the charity's unrestricted funds are to be spent in the short time on our charitable objectives. After discussions with the trustees it was decided that we would not invest any of these funds at the moment.

Trustees Remuneration and Related Party Transactions

No member of the Trustee Board received any remuneration or travel costs during the year.

No trustee or any person related to them had any personal interest in any transaction entered into by the charity during the year.

Assets

SoundCafe Leicester owns no land, building, furniture, investments or trading stock.

We own a small amount of equipment, necessary for the running of the Charity but this has little financial value and is treated as expenditure in the year of purchase.

Volunteers

We are really grateful to our volunteers, guest helpers and Samaritans who work tirelessly to make SoundCafe Leicester such a creative, welcoming and diverse charity. At the moment we are still not in a position to repay the expenses of volunteers, guest helpers or Samaritans.

Liabilities

At the end of this financial year there was a liability for one week of the Development Worker's salary. This amounted to £301.20 and will be paid at the end of March 2018.

Sandie Sobieraj, Treasurer.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SOUNDCAFE LEICESTER CIO

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 9th March 2018.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiners

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

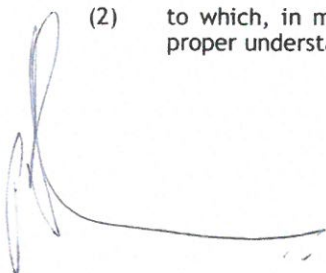
Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act,

have not been met, or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P D Carver".

P D Carver FCA
8 Wakes Close
Dunton Bassett
Lutterworth
Leicestershire
LE17 5LL

Date: 2nd May 2018

Summary Report from the Chair of Trustees: Looking ahead

As always SoundCafe Leicester has “punched above its’ weight” and we have achieved so much in this year. A HUGE well done to all who have made this happen. I am **so** proud of them all. We are really grateful to our volunteers and guest-helpers who work so hard to make SoundCafe Leicester such a welcoming, diverse and creative charity.

Looking ahead – on the horizon we can see the possibility of becoming a broader organisation in what we do and how we do this and in how we are supported. Our Business Plan is developing as I write and we hope to branch out eventually beyond meeting once a week. We would love to be able to offer more targeted services on different days to try to meet the needs of Guests. The challenge is always to pace ourselves and to find the funding appropriate to our development. For example, invitations for our choir to perform must be carefully considered – otherwise guests and volunteers will stop enjoying and benefitting from the performance aspect of SoundCafe.

We also recognise the need to be constantly supporting and recruiting volunteers, so we hope we can develop two teams and improve our way of coordinating what the volunteers do and how they do it. In this way we want to ensure they are well supported and don’t find themselves over-burdened. Equally we need to boost the Trustee board and we are actively seeking more Trustees with specific skills and experience.

SoundCafe's Arts and Crafts

SoundCafe Arts & Crafts section has developed over the last 12 months. "Tapestry of Life Festival" in July 2017 provided a showcase for everyone who visited Leicester Cathedral to experience the Crafts, Artwork and Poetry so ably produced and demonstrated by our Guests.

Handmade crafts and other small items were available at our first sales table event in February 2018. This was suggested and run by one of our SoundCafe Guests who was supported by a Volunteer from the Arts/Crafts section. This proved to be popular and well received with requests for this to continue in the future.

Guests who regularly visit the Arts/Crafts section are being encouraged by volunteers to work together in developing their own particular interests and to continue enjoying each others' company and friendship.

Pat Pearce and Gwen Toon, SoundCafe Volunteers

SoundCafe Leicester's Guests' Poetry

Aims of the "Writing/Poetry Table"

Making Writing Available to Everyone: Creative writing and other Arts give SoundCafe Guests a voice, which has often been denied them in the past. SoundCafe enables a democratisation of the Arts, as a means of enjoyment, fulfilment and expression. SoundCafe is committed to enable Guests to have a voice. SoundCafe demonstrates that writing and other Arts are not just for a privileged, "cultured" few, but for all of us to enjoy and take part in.

In the past year, SoundCafe Guests have produced a considerable quantity of writing, mostly poems. The main aim of the "writing/poetry table" is to enable Guests to enjoy expressing themselves through poetry and prose. In addition, help has been given in the development and editing of writing. In response to some Guests' requests. Overall, Guests have produced work which is often very moving, and of a high standard. However, everyone is very welcome at the writing/poetry table, whether or not they decide to write.

Pictures to inspire poems, and anthologies of poetry are made available. In addition, "talking tablecloths" enable Guests to write or draw (and, for one Guest, compose music) to express their thoughts and feelings. Creative writing has extended beyond the writing/poetry table, with several Guests writing on other tables, and often also engaged in arts, crafts, singing, and playing musical instruments.

Specific Events and Projects

Several Guests have recently written poems on people experiencing homelessness. These have been converted into lyrics for several songs, which have been set to music by the Guest who suggested this project.

17 Guests wrote poems, or in a few instances, prose, for the SoundCafe "Tapestry of Life" Festival in Leicester Cathedral in July 2017. Work produced was displayed in the Cathedral, and read aloud by, or for, Guests. Guests participated actively in this event with other local, published, writers. SoundCafe are considering whether it is possible to publish a collection of Guests' visual artwork and poetry, to include work from the "Tapestry of Life" Festival.

Thanks to an idea of a SoundCafe volunteer, members of the public visiting the “Tapestry of Life” Festival were invited to write thoughts on luggage labels. These contributions, including five in various non-English languages, were incorporated into a “group poem”. Poems have also been written for SoundCafe to remember people on National Holocaust Day, and those affected by the 1947 Partition of India.

Several Guests have participated in local poetry events, including Pinggg...K! WORD! and the People’s Arts Collective (PAC). 7 Guests wrote poems which were read aloud to the audience in a PAC Arts event, as part of Everybody’s Reading Festival, in Leicester Museum in October, 2017. Four of these poems were incorporated into a booklet. Two Guests also played musical instruments, and two actively helped with this event – an indicator of progress for Guests who often struggle with issues of confidence and self-esteem.

Future Work

Our plans include:

- Consideration of SoundCafe Guests’ ideas for developing and publishing Guests’ work.
- Recruitment of Guest Helpers and volunteers to facilitate and deputise when the main facilitator is away.
- In response to an idea from another SoundCafe volunteer, providing books, donated by volunteers and others, for Guests to borrow, and, perhaps, keep.

Thank You

I am inspired by the commitment of so many Guests to their writing, and by Liz Gray, who pioneered creative writing in SoundCafe from its inception, and has been our Poet in Residence. I am very grateful for the opportunity to help facilitate creative writing at SoundCafe. It is hard work, but very rewarding. I learn so much from Guests and other participants.

Richard Byrt, SoundCafe Volunteer

Words in this report however still fall short of capturing the true essence of what we hope to achieve but this is perhaps best demonstrated in some of the poetry of our guests.

A Considered Life

By Sean

Anticipate good things to come to you
And a hopeful spirit will be
Your companion.
Never let a hopeless situation
Separate you from your love for God.
Do all you can to be helpful
And God will see that you are helped
In time of need.
Remember there is virtue in
Every good seed you plant.
But remember to avoid
Association with weeds.
We are made up of body soul and spirit.

Homeless

By Graham

You often see people in the street.
It's not their fault, they need food to eat.
They need a warm place to live,
Shelter from the storm:
A place to keep them warm.
These things they need to survive.
They shelter in the door
To protect them from the storm:
A place to keep them warm.
Sleeping in the street.
Will their life slowly fade away?
Will they be alive next day?
I hate to see folk on the streets.
Empty stomachs, nothing left to eat.
No warm coat upon their back,
Covered up in an old mac.
I've seen people shiver away.
Will they see another day?
I've seen supermarkets
Throwing food away.
Police move homeless people on,
Out of every doorway.
They still shiver, wondering
If they can survive another day.

The Benevolent Dictator in the Sky

By Greg

Love is not a biased view,
not something you can be dictated to,
by a line in a dictionary,
it's extraordinary.

Love is endlessly describable,
but it's unconditional,
totally undefinable,
like the words of God in the bible,
totally undefinable.

The bible is not a biased view,
if only felt as a compassionate love poem,
from God to you.

Heartache

By Mikey

A lot of heartache in my mind,
Thinking about the ones I have hurt and left behind.

Riddled with temptation,
Riddled with grief,
Feel insignificant and no sense of belief.

Striving, striving through the day,
But Feel there's no other way
Except to go back to where I was before
Wanting the drink and drugs more and more.

Everyday seems the same,
Same excuse but who to blame?
God take this confusion that's in my heart,
Because it feels like I'm being
Ripped Apart.

Thank You to our Donors

The following people and organisations have made a difference to SoundCafe Leicester this year with donations in cash or "kind"

6 "Friends" of SCL with regular donations

Diocese of Leicester – Growth Fund

Anchor Foundation

Henry Smith Charity

The Samaritans (Leicester)

The Church of the Martyrs

St Martins House, Leicester

Leicestershire Adult School Union

A HUGE Thank You!

Approved by Trustees
R. Burch
3.7.18

