



March 2018

Dear Supporter

I hope this newsletter will be a ray of light in the winter season! Let us hope we don't get too much more snow!

HSJ Awards 2017

We were very proud to be a finalist in the workforce category for this award in collaboration with Leeds Hospitals.



Gill Chapman on the left leads the Hidden Talents programme in Leeds Hospitals, Rose McCarthy third from left is from the Refugee Council. Dick is our Chair! Beauty and Diako are two of our great customers.

This scheme is very well known in Leeds and many customers have recommended it to their friends and family which is always a good sign. What sets this scheme apart is that Leeds Hospitals are willing to pay our customers a living wage. We have yet to find other partners in the NHS who will do this.

We did not win an award on the day but some of our customers were able to attend the award ceremony in London and had great fun! Diako managed to get hold of someone's trophy..... She is a great ambassador for Growing Points.



New Funding for our Growing Points community in Sheffield

We were delighted to receive a very generous donation from Gerry Quinn at Vulcan Engineering to fund our work in Sheffield. We are now exploring how we can invest that money to best effect to ensure that we offer a great and sustainable service in Sheffield.

Update from one of our Associates

Sufyan a customer who finally got into medical school has been in touch with his Guardian about his experiences now he has started at Bart's. He is enjoying his studies and is pleased he is not the oldest person on the course! He will make a great doctor.



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One of our successful customers said recently *"Thank you so much. I am so excited and can't wait to start soon. Now I can see light in my life. This is life changing and the best thing ever"*

Moving into Leicester

The University of Leicester who aim to be a University of Sanctuary very kindly hosted an event for us on 24 January on campus. Many thanks to Phil Horspool Pascale and Alocs from Leicester University for their support! I am really pleased to report that we have recruited a good number of great Guardians in Leicester as a result of that initiative so we are in a good position to offer a great service to our customers there.

Flourishing Families

Dick met a group of people in Leeds in the Autumn who all want to lift themselves out of poverty. They have lots of great ideas about setting up in business but need some help to do that. One of our Associates, Tesfalem, facilitated the meeting and we are now getting the members of the group connected to good advice from Tern.
<http://www.wearetern.org/>

Once they have formulated their business plans we are putting them in touch with another charity Restart who specialise in lending refugees capital to set up in business. We never cease to be amazed by customers' resourcefulness and resilience.

Hidden Talents

I was extremely pleased to attend an event in Leeds on 17 January 2018. We were very fortunate to be offered a venue by Beachcroft Solicitors and are very grateful to Diane Hallett and her team for their support! There were lots of customers who want to do our Hidden Talents programme. Four candidates were successful in Cohort 3 and we have 20 people about to apply for Cohort 4. We already have a waiting list for cohort 5 so the demand for this programme continues.



Many thanks to Gill Chapman from Leeds Hospitals who told us about the key criterion for this programme – having a caring attitude.

I came away from the event feeling very enthusiastic about the work we do in Leeds with our partner organisations and very impressed with the calibre of our customers.



We are on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/ambitionandaction/>

And Twitter [@growingpointsuk](https://twitter.com/growingpointsuk)

For more information on any of the above contact the Director Jane Rennie
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