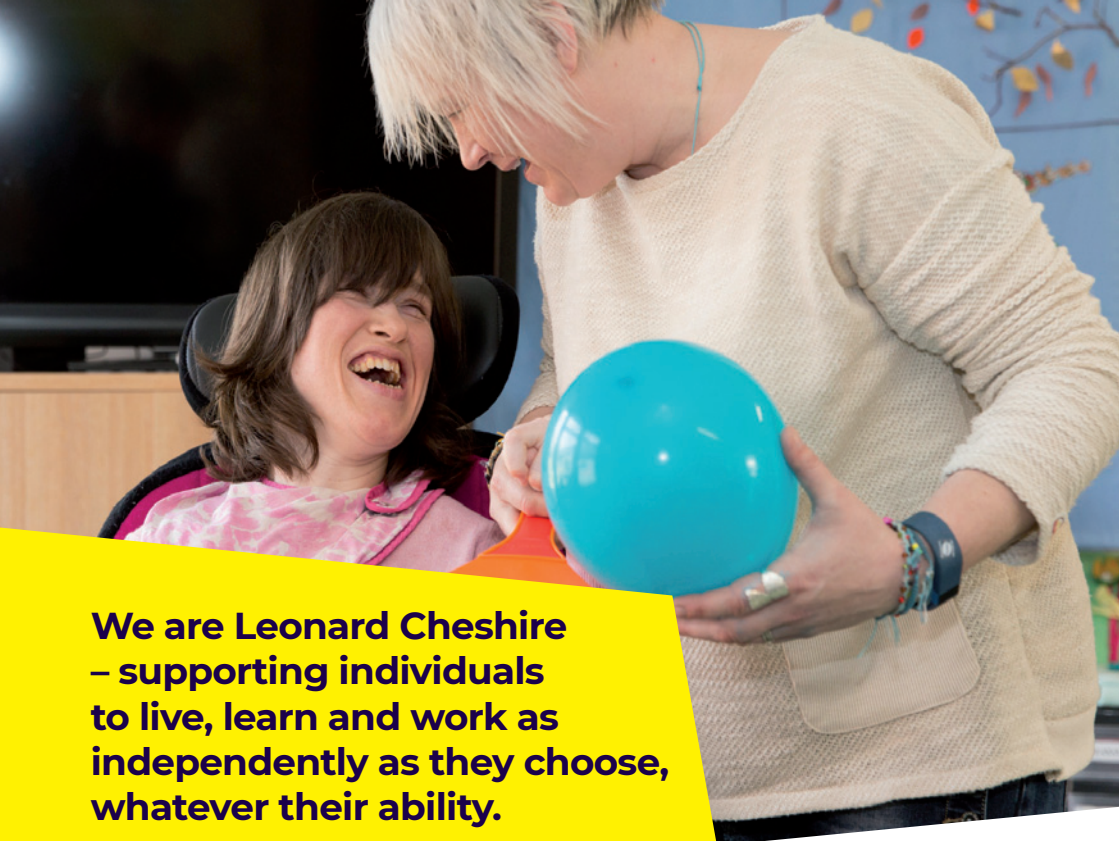




Leonard
Cheshire

What we've achieved together

Our impact 2017/18



**We are Leonard Cheshire
– supporting individuals
to live, learn and work as
independently as they choose,
whatever their ability.**

Our inspiring founder, Leonard Cheshire, captured hearts and minds with his belief in creating a fairer, more inclusive society. In 2017 we celebrated the centenary of his birth with a series of special events, and the enthusiasm of our supporters was incredible. Without you and your fellow Leonard Cheshire supporters, we wouldn't be here – with homes and services around the country, and indeed across the world. Here's a snapshot of what we've been able to achieve in 2017/18, thanks to the generosity of supporters like you.

I hope you'll enjoy reading about those you've helped - including the Ferguson family, who, thanks to the kindness of our supporters, managed to avoid being separated from each other.

We support
more than
30,000
individuals in the UK,
Africa and Asia

Thanks to you we remain more ambitious than ever

In 2018
110 people
ran the
London Marathon
for us

The government helps cover the cost of basic care, but it's thanks to people like you that we're able to provide the extra things.

Those things that make life vibrant and meaningful and allow us to transform the lives of disabled people, across the UK and around the world.

This year our supporters have quite literally been “going the extra mile”. On Sunday 22 April 2018, 110 runners took to the streets of the capital for the London Marathon. An incredible £210,967.81 was raised and will go towards helping more disabled people to live, learn and work as independently as they choose, whatever their ability.

Whether you run marathons, leave a gift in your will, hold bake sales or make regular donations – you're helping

us to work towards a more inclusive society, one that recognises the positive contributions we all make.

Thank you so much for being part of our vision, opening doors to opportunity, choice and support in communities around the globe.





Live

Getting out and about is really important, but we know that thousands of disabled people are struggling to get the support they need to get involved in community life.

Through our residential care homes, we support around 3,500 people every day. But we want to help more people, and this means getting out into communities too.

We're encouraging volunteers to support people to access their local community. We're also partnering with local organisations to create new volunteering opportunities – making sure everyone can get involved however they wish.

By increasing community support, we're helping people to live as independently as possible.

We support
around

3,500

people in the UK
every day

Dancing all the way to the final

With your help, we recently gave people in Wales the opportunity to take part in the first ever national inclusive dance competition.

Teaming up with dance company Step Change Studio, we introduced Strictly Cymru.

The competition was a huge success - 150 disabled people took part, including many from Leonard Cheshire's Welsh services.

At the fifth and final heat, the judging panel had to choose just two acts to go through to the grand final. We were delighted when they announced that Helen, a resident at our Dolywern service, was one of the two. She was so happy and surprised:

"It was a fun event to take part in. I'm amazed I'm in the final!"

Helen has an acquired brain injury and experiences extreme short-term memory loss. Before the competition, her speech was limited to "hello, how are you?" and she very rarely engaged in conversation.

Since coming joint third in the final, Helen's memory has significantly improved,

and her range of vocabulary has grown. Her family feel that Helen's involvement in Strictly Cymru has helped bring this about. Such encouraging progress has given her more confidence, and now she's really enjoying being part of a conversation.

Mark Isherwood AM, Assembly Member for North Wales, commented:

"What a great event. Once again Leonard Cheshire continues to break down barriers to sport and exercise for disabled people. The people who took part are truly inspiring. Their creativity and enthusiasm was reflected in their dances; you really could see the positive impact it was having."

You can watch the video at:

leonardcheshire.org/strictlycymru





Keeping the Fergusons together

Nearly half of the donations we receive come from gifts in wills - however large or small, they are vital to the disabled people we support.

Thanks to gifts in wills, siblings Grant (39), Kerry (37) and Scott (35) Ferguson managed to avoid separation.

All three have physical and learning disabilities and had lived with their father, but in November 2015 he sadly passed away from cancer. The family home had to be sold and Grant, Kerry and Scott moved to Leonard Cheshire's Parkside Guesthouse.

They only ever imagined it would be a short-term solution, but when the council were unable to find a suitable property where they could live together and independently, their stay at Parkside grew longer.

The siblings built close relationships with everyone there but living in a guest house never truly felt like home.

Now, thanks to legacy donations to Leonard Cheshire in Scotland, they've moved into a suitable house. Somewhere that with the continued support of Leonard Cheshire, they'll be able to live independently, in a place they can call home.

They're so excited about their new home. Scott said:

"We can't thank Leonard Cheshire enough for their support, and the gifts in wills that made this possible."

Nearly

50%

of the donations we
receive come from
gifts in wills

Learn

Learning opportunities for disabled people in the UK and internationally can be limited. Training and education experiences are often inaccessible, and very rarely are they prepared to adapt or provide alternative options.

With the help of supporters like you, and the companies and institutions that choose to support our work, we're able to offer programmes that build people's skills and provide volunteering opportunities.

Programmes like Can Do and Discover IT.



Can Do

Can Do gives young disabled adults the opportunity to grow their confidence and learn new skills by volunteering in the community.

Corporate partner, Howdens Joinery, funds 17 Can Do locations across England, Scotland and Ireland. And so far, with their funding we've managed to help 906 disabled people, including George.

George is 23 and has cerebral palsy. He was referred to Can Do through a youth group that he had outgrown.

Since starting Can Do, George has been able to pursue his passion for film and the cinema. He's been volunteering with Portsmouth Film Society, dealing with their general enquiries and enjoying chatting to members of the public - his confidence has really grown:

"I am very confident now and I volunteer for everything. I have a lot to thank Can Do for."

87%

of Can Do participants improved their confidence





Discover IT

Our Discover IT programme helps disabled people learn vital computer skills. Since 2010, the programme has supported over 9,000 people – providing access to the digital world and all the life changing benefits this brings.

Thanks to a generous donation from The William Brake Charitable Trust, we were recently able to help 17 more people – providing adapted hardware and training in the comfort of their own homes.

Those we've helped include Stephanie. In 2011, Stephanie had to leave her career in politics to become a full-time carer for family members. She's ready to go back to work now but needs to update her IT skills. However, Stephanie has a degenerative condition which affects her vision, and she's been finding this difficult.

Following advice from her local job centre, she explored the support we could offer through our Discover IT programme.

By supplying Stephanie with a wide screen laptop and adapted software, she now has the specialist equipment she needs to be able to improve her IT skills. This equipment along with email support when she needs it, is enabling Stephanie to pursue her future career goals.

“I have found all the staff at Leonard Cheshire to be straightforward, sympathetic and very professional. Discover IT@Home has made such a difference to my life.”

Together we're helping people to learn and get involved with the things they are interested in.

In 2017/18

1,600

people were supported through digital inclusion programmes



Work

At the age of 26, disabled people are nearly four times more likely to be unemployed than non-disabled people - we think that needs to be put right.

We offer support through training and skills development, work experience and internship opportunities so that disabled people can develop their skills and fulfil their potential. But on its own that isn't enough - we need to get the government on board and make employers aware of the wealth of talent disabled people can bring to the workplace.

Our community of campaigners has been talking to anyone and everyone about our Untapped Talent campaign, to raise awareness of the huge pool of skilled and experienced disabled people out there.



Our Untapped Talent campaign reached over

57,000

people online

Meet Anil

Anil has cerebral palsy and is an active member of our campaigns community.

He's been involved in political events, including delivering speeches to Ministers, MPs and disability organisations about the barriers he has faced in finding employment.

Having struggled to complete application forms, he feels disheartened when, despite being shortlisted for interviews and receiving excellent feedback, he doesn't get the job.

Anil would like to see all application forms digitised, which will make it easier for disabled applicants to complete and submit them. And he believes employers should offer more apprenticeships – providing an opportunity for disabled people to familiarise themselves with workplace culture.

As a result of meeting with his local MP, he was able to spend time carrying out work experience at her office.

Anil said, **“It has been a fantastic and rewarding experience, working in the office of Emma Reynolds MP, one which I will cherish for the rest of my life.”**

By supporting our campaigns, you're helping us to ensure disabled people continue to get opportunities to enter the world of work.

Find out more about our Untapped Talent campaign at leonardcheshire.org/untappedtalent



A photograph of a man, Nyadru, in a black tank top, holding a large fish over a woven basket. He is standing in a grassy field with trees in the background. The image is part of a promotional material with a yellow banner at the bottom.

A world of opportunity

Finding employment in the UK can be a challenge for people with disabilities. But globally there are even more challenges to overcome. In some countries 80% of people with disabilities, and quite often more, have no independent income.

So far, we have supported over 26,000 people with disabilities into paid or self-employment in Africa and Asia, and provided skills training for over 67,000.

But we're not stopping here. We want to give more people like Nyadru Godfrey the full range of support they need when looking for jobs or becoming self-employed.

Meet Nyadru

Nyadru is 28 and lives in Northern Uganda with his mother. At the age of 14, he developed epilepsy which became so severe that he had to stop attending school.

With limited education, but needing to support his family, he started a business selling fish. However, Nyadru told us:

"Because I didn't have the knowledge, the business collapsed. I didn't know how to manage it properly."

Leonard Cheshire supported Nyadru with training and a loan to help him restart his business.

The training he received taught him the vital skills he needed to improve the business and support his family:

“I have a brother and I contribute to his school fees. I have other siblings and I buy them their school materials and a light, so they can read at night.”

Nyadru's mother said:

“When Nyadru got the support, I think he dropped some of his stress and became relieved. He doesn't get seizures anymore because of this. Before Leonard Cheshire came in, we used to struggle a lot with life and suffer so much.”



Our research

A lot of the help we're able to provide internationally relies on the research that we do. Working in partnership with the University College London, our research gives invaluable insight to help develop our international work.

For example, with evidence that being in employment improves the lives of disabled people, we created our Livelihoods Resource Centres. Providing training and career guidance, these centres are helping people like Nyadru support his family.

And most recently we partnered with The Department for International Development to

launch a ground-breaking new data portal. The Disability Data Portal tackles gaps in data on disability and is allowing us to identify areas that still need our help.

With access to such detailed information and the continued kindness of our supporters, we'll help more people to live as independently as they choose, wherever they are in the world.

If you'd like to learn more about the portal, please visit www.disabilitydataportal.com.



 **Leonard Cheshire**

 **@LeonardCheshire**

 **@leonardcheshire**

Leonard Cheshire

66 South Lambeth Road
London
SW8 1RL

020 3242 0200

info@leonardcheshire.org

Leonard Cheshire Disability is a registered charity no: 218186 (England and Wales)
and no: SC005117 (Scotland) and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England no: 552847.
VAT no: 899 3223 75.

Registered office: 66 South Lambeth Road, London SW8 1RL