



EMPOWERING  
PEOPLE IN LOCAL  
COMMUNITIES



# EMPOWERING PEOPLE IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

At Investec, it's a fundamental part of our culture and values to contribute to society, and our extensive community support reflects this.

Our community programme in the UK, Ireland and the Channel Islands focuses on education, entrepreneurship and the environment. We deliver this with community partners, and through the active volunteering of our people, who helped select these three focus areas.

In entrepreneurship, we champion Investec's roots by supporting start-ups that want to make a sustainable positive impact in their communities. We do this through the award-winning Beyond Business programme.

In education, we aim to empower young people to achieve their goals in life. While academia is important, our education programme also focuses on improving life, employability, and interpersonal skills.

Finally, as part of our community support, we engage our people with volunteering opportunities that help improve the environment of the communities around us.

This booklet shares the exceptional stories of people touched by these programmes, as told by our volunteers and partners in the communities that we operate.

**Foreword by Susie Steyn,  
head of Corporate Responsibility –  
Community, Investec Bank plc**



## KEY ICONS



### EDUCATION

Our education programme aims to empower young people to achieve their goals in life. While we recognise that academics are important, our community partners also focus on life, employability, and interpersonal skills.



### ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Our roots are based in the spirit of entrepreneurship and we look to nurture an entrepreneurial spirit in our employees, our clients and in our local communities.



### ENVIRONMENT

As part of our community programme, we engage our employees with volunteering opportunities that help to improve the environment for our local communities.

All stories are correct as at June 2018



# LONDON ARRIVAL EDUCATION

## CLIMBING A LADDER THROUGH THE CEILING

As a teenager, I was frequently in trouble at school. So much so, I was on the brink of permanent exclusion.

Arrival Education stepped in at a crucial time in my life and had a huge impact on my outlook, my motivation and my self-belief. They're a social enterprise and community partner of Investec and they introduced me to a new and inspiring world that hadn't existed in my family or community life before.

My coach, Chris Meyer, was from Investec. He selflessly dedicated much of his time to me, sharing what he knew about what it takes to be successful, helping me to crystallise goals, and supporting my achievements. I was so fortunate to have this guidance at the right times.

I was exposed to opportunities which ignited a burning fire within me, to strive for nothing but the very best. I began to recognise psychological barriers I had created about what I saw as possible for my life. My vision of success suddenly became so much more tangible and I refused to be defined by society's stereotypical expectations of what was possible for someone of my ethnicity and background.

With the support and resources I needed to climb the ladder of success, I kept on climbing, refusing to be trapped by the glass ceiling of my generation. I believe that every individual has the potential to flourish and take their life in a powerful direction. But without any access or exposure to what it really takes, dreams simply remain dreams.

It is through the generosity of Investec people working alongside Arrival Education that I was fortunate enough to understand what it takes to close the gap between my aspirations and reality. To date, I have graduated with a first-class degree in BSc Psychology, from Queen Mary University of London. I am also very proud to say that I am now part of the Investec family, having joined the business a few weeks after graduating from university. After spending a year and a half learning and developing in the Private Bank's Operations team, I have now moved across to the Banking Team and have a new role as a graduate banker.

I will forever be thankful for the belief and support shown to me from Investec in partnership with Arrival. I urge my colleagues to get involved in Investec's initiatives in the community, and be a part of someone else's transformation.

**Channon-Allen-Gulley,**  
**Investec Bank plc,**  
**& Arrival Education alumnus**



## INVESTEC'S AWARDS WITH ARRIVAL EDUCATION

### 2018

Global Good Awards,  
gold for Best Education Project,  
bronze for Best Partnership in  
the Community.

### 2018

Business Charity Awards,  
highly commended for Charity  
Partnership – Financial Services.

### 2017

Financial Innovation Awards,  
winner for Innovation in  
Social Responsibility.

Over the years, Investec's volunteers have invested more than 5,400 hours with Arrival Education students, forming more than 100 coaching relationships. Together, empowering young people to expand, and then achieve, their definition of success, we are helping to develop the high performers and wealth creators of the future.



Investec supports Cricket for Change in partnership with The Change Foundation. An exciting programme in the cricketing calendar for a diverse group of young Londoners, it aims to increase community cohesion. It culminates in a competition each summer at Lord's Cricket Ground, with our volunteers taking part.

## LONDON THE CHANGE FOUNDATION

### IT'S NOT JUST CRICKET – IT'S OPPORTUNITY

Manish has a great personality. He's driven, with a love for cricket.

Coming from an estate in London where potential bad influences are on his doorstep, he often found himself surrounded by negativity.

When Manish was 16 years old, he received the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to join the Inner City World Cup, part of Cricket for Change, a programme which Investec has supported since 2009.

It was his chance to play the sport he loved, at Lord's, the home of cricket, representing his country of origin. It was a moment of pride, and an opportunity to meet new people, from diverse backgrounds.

Interacting with Investec volunteers, Manish became interested in what they do and the City. From being unsure about his career of choice, over the years he developed an interest in finance and went on to study accountancy.

Today, Manish is a qualified accountant, a role model and personable leader. The support and guidance from Investec helped him make the right decisions to set him on the path to success. To date, Manish continues to return to and support the Inner City World Cup, and his passion and organisational skills have played a pivotal role in the event's success.

**Alex Bassan, head of training and development, The Change Foundation**



# LONDON MORPETH SCHOOL



## INVESTING IN MY FUTURE

One of the main things I learnt from Investec is how important it is to be curious and inquisitive.

When I was in sixth form, I was selected to join Investec's Invest for Success programme. It was an immersive experience, which lasted six months. Each student team gets to choose and trade mock portfolios over this time, while receiving support and advice from Investec investment experts. I knew Investec from taking part in the Young Apprentice programme, which Investec runs for students at my secondary school, Morpeth.

Throughout my experience with Invest for Success, I had to make sure I asked Investec volunteers the right questions, in order to know which businesses would be best to 'invest' in. I was able to develop my presentation skills — sharing results actively and effectively can be harder than it seems! After six months of practice at Investec, public speaking has become one of my main strengths.

Taking part in these programmes has been instrumental in helping me plan for my future. They've given me deep insights into the world of finance, as well as skills, experience and confidence which helped me gain a five-year higher apprenticeship in accountancy, which I'm now entering with a major consultancy firm in the City.

In the future, I hope to be a Chartered Accountant, and perhaps with the lessons learned from Invest for Success, I will invest in some shares on my own!

**Monsur Ali,**  
Morpeth School alumnus



Morpeth School is one of Investec's education partners in London, supported since 2002. Investec runs volunteer-led programmes and educational activities for students with the aim of empowering young people to achieve their career and life goals.

# LONDON STARFISH GREATHEARTS FOUNDATION

## LEADING SUPPORT, GIVING A VOICE

Sakhile was struggling with school, particularly with basic language skills. A Grade 6 student in South Africa, he was falling behind in lessons and felt excluded from his peer group.

Sakhile lives with his grandmother, and she tried to help him. With frail health and

poor education, however, she found his school work a challenge. She worried that without basic skills, he would drop out of school and struggle to find employment. When a teacher suggested that Sakhile join the Starfish education support programme, his grandmother encouraged him to join straight away.

Since then, Sakhile has benefitted from regular access to help with his homework – Starfish Greathearts care workers offer him

mentoring both individually and as part of a small group. He is provided with stationery supplies, school uniforms, and other items for him and his grandmother, such as food parcels and toiletries. More than that, Sakhile really enjoys the opportunity to learn. “The generosity of Investec employees and their fundraising initiatives enable Starfish to provide education support for hundreds of children like Sakhile, helping them to escape the vicious cycle of poverty”, says Stephanie Kitson from Starfish. “The clear developments in Sakhile’s academic performance and social skills have been wonderful to watch. Sakhile himself recognises a great improvement in his English language skills, which really excites him, and motivates him to keep on applying himself.”

**Stephanie Kitson,**  
**Starfish Greathearts Foundation**



Starfish Greathearts cares for over 17,000 children across South Africa and operates from Investec’s London offices. Investec has supported Starfish for more than 10 years with management expertise, free office space, volunteering support, and fundraising.

## A FULL NIGHT’S SLEEP

After their mother died, Mlungisi and his brother lived with their sister, who laboured as a domestic worker in Swaziland to support the family. As she was paid very little, she would often not have enough money for clothes, soap or even food. The boys would often have to wait for others to finish their washing to use their leftover soapy water, and would regularly go to bed hungry.

“We used to put dried mealies [corn kernels] on the fire until they turned black, then we would take that and put it in a mug with hot water. That was our tea to fill us up.” says Mlungisi.

Mlungisi and his brother were not able to take part in formal education as the schooling was too expensive for them.

A Starfish care worker visited the family and managed to obtain the correct legal documents for the boys to be enrolled at school, while also providing them with seeds and the necessary training to grow their own vegetable garden.

“We couldn’t believe it when we saw Starfish coming back with food and school uniforms,” Mlungisi says. “Starfish care workers organised places at Mpontshini School for us. We are both in a boys’ club where we sing, talk, play and dance. We like it very much.”

Thanks to support from Investec, Starfish can help children like Mlungisi and his brother to receive an education, so they have a brighter future to look forward to.

**Stephanie Kitson,**  
**Starfish Greathearts Foundation**





Marino College is a school supported by Investec in Dublin. The school offers courses for Second Level, Further Education and Evening Course students and is committed to encouraging lifelong learning for all.

## DUBLIN MARINO COLLEGE

### SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS

Paul Ivanov was a good student and worked well through his fifth year at Marino College, Dublin. However, in year six, Paul became increasingly distracted from his studies. His school noticed that he wasn't as engaged, and was at risk of dropping out.

In an attempt to get back on track, Paul decided to apply for a mentor from Investec. After going through a competitive selection process, he was matched with one of the 22 Investec volunteer mentors that year, John Carroll. John has been a mentor every year for the 10 years that Investec has supported Paul's school.

With John's help, Paul got through school and completed his Irish Leaving Certificate. While being mentored, Paul had expressed an interest in aviation. John took the time to organise for Paul to talk to someone in an Investec-owned aviation business, and it was this connection that encouraged Paul to go on and apply for a college engineering programme.

"It was such a rewarding experience to see my student mature so much over the two years and start on the next stage of his education," says John. Lisa Curtin, who also volunteers as a mentor, adds that by being open and willing to share, students like Paul give their mentors a true understanding of the challenges they face. "The experience not only benefits them,"

she said, "it broadens our perspectives, enhances interpersonal skills and delivers a sense of accomplishment in helping a young person achieve their potential."

Paul continues to work with John and Investec, and 2017 marked the final year of his engineering programme.

**Fedelma O'Farrell, regional coordinator, Business in the Community**



## MANCHESTER BACK ON TRACK

### A LITTLE SUPPORT TO GET BACK ON TRACK

When someone is going through a difficult time and lacks the resources and skills to turn their lives around, it can be hard for them to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

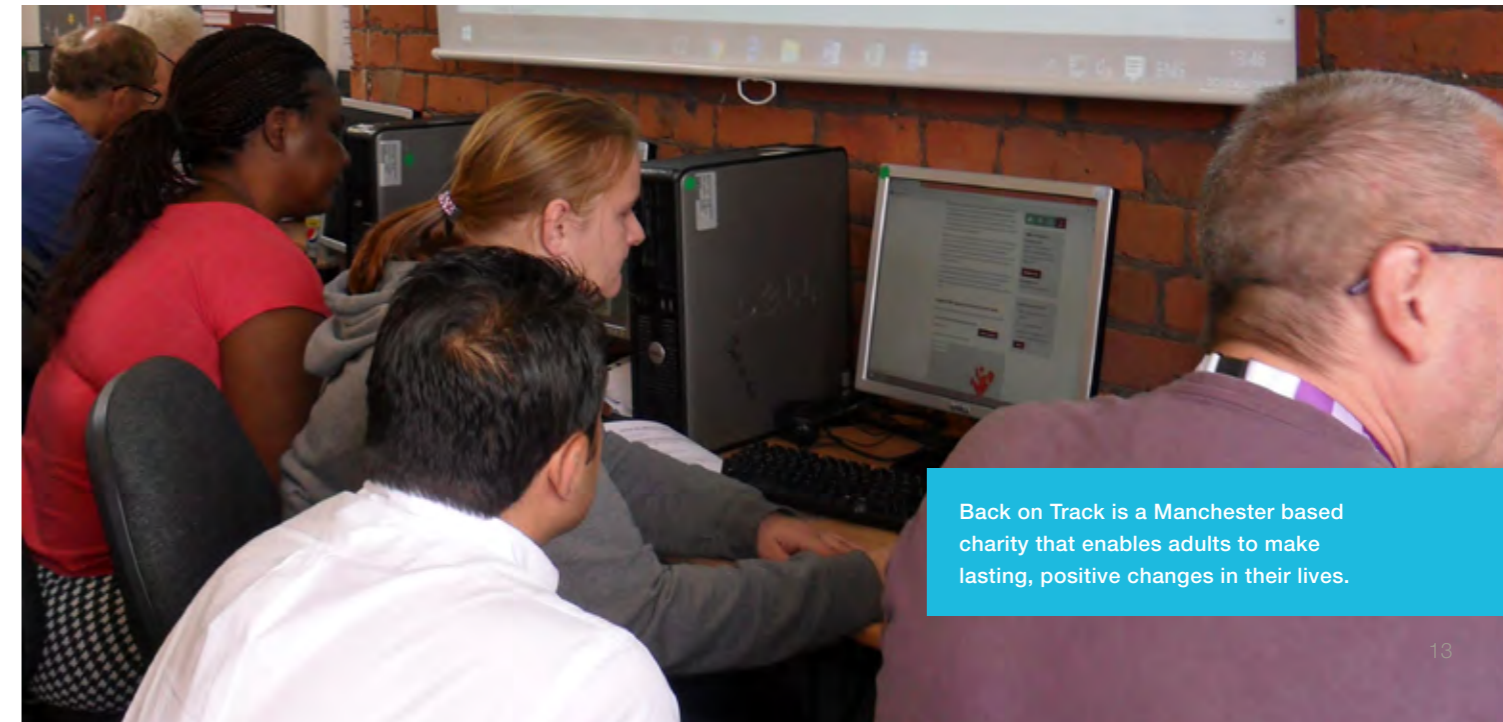
This is what drew us to volunteer for Back on Track, a charity local to Investec's Manchester office. The charity aims to equip people who are going through addiction recovery or rehabilitation with the skills they need to get their lives back.

Myself and another Investec volunteer, Saf Hafeji, joined the 'Moving On' group, a weekly session to help individuals explore options, receive advice and build up skills and confidence to apply for work or education. We spent time with two participants who needed our help.

Saf's client wanted to understand why they had not been successful in previous applications, and to get advice on next steps. My client had an impressive set of skills and qualifications, and needed suggestions on how to transfer them to jobs and career paths which were currently available. Saf and I found the environment supportive

and collaborative. The commitment by charity workers and the participants is inspiring. We're already planning our next volunteering day and encourage others to do the same

**Maria Adam, and Sarfraz Hafeji, Investec Wealth & Investment**



Back on Track is a Manchester based charity that enables adults to make lasting, positive changes in their lives.



# READING SPORT IN MIND

## THE POWER OF PLAY

I recently challenged myself to take part in Investec's volunteering initiatives. I have friends who recently suffered with mental health issues, so I chose a cause that is close to my heart.

It felt rewarding to be part of a charity that enriches people's lives, helping them to develop the skills and confidence to move forward in a positive direction.

**Thomas Sialwiindi,**  
Investec Asset Finance



I signed up for Sport in Mind, an independent Berkshire charity which uses the power of sport to improve mental health. Many colleagues at Investec regularly attend sports sessions with them, but I had no idea of what it would be like, as I had never volunteered before.

It was an enjoyable and eye-opening experience. It made me realise how mental health can affect people from all walks of life. The people I played badminton with told me that they really looked forward to these regular, inclusive sessions. Not only the physical activity, but also the interaction with others in an informal setting, are proving very helpful for them.

Sport in Mind are a Reading-based charity which, since 2011, has helped people with mental health problems to use sport and physical activity to move their lives forward in a more positive direction.





# GUERNSEY LA MARE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## THE BEST START IN LIFE

At Investec, we learn not to take success for granted. We are constantly learning, improving and evolving.

Over six years, the Investec team in Guernsey supported a local primary school, Amherst, for more than 50 days a year with breakfast, reading and maths clubs. Amherst is one of two social priority schools on the island.

In 2016, we took the lessons learned from this successful partnership, and decided to focus our support on the other social priority school, La Mare. We now support La Mare's students with weekly reading, maths and coding sessions, a daily breakfast club and ad-hoc outdoor, gardening and community activities. Every day for at least an hour there's one employee from Investec who volunteers at the school.

Last year, a large group of us helped students take part in the Guernsey tradition of creating compost from seaweed –or 'vraic'. In Autumn, we helped the children collect vraic from a local beach and put them onto vegetable boxes to rot down over the winter. We then went back to help with gardening classes and planting for Spring.

The feedback from La Mare has been fantastic. They are delighted with our support and this is reflected in the recent 'excellent' review that they have received from external school inspectors. The inspection report specifically mentions the positive change as a result of the Investec partnership, and how it's benefiting students and the community.

It's hard work, but also fun and enriching. More than a third of all Investec employees in Guernsey volunteer at La Mare, and we're looking forward to building on this success.

**Michelle Le Clerc,**  
Investec Channel Islands



# LONDON BROMLEY BY BOW CENTRE

## BIG BUSINESS, LEARNING FROM SOCIAL START-UPS

It's not easy building a business from the ground up. In the UK, only about half of new businesses are still trading after three years.

At Investec, we've grown from a handful of entrepreneurs 40 years ago, to an international business employing just short of 10,000 people today. It's been a fantastic journey, and definitely not easy. One of the things that got us where we are is the entrepreneurial spirit that makes us different.

Since 2011, we've been privileged to run Beyond Business, a social enterprise incubation programme, in partnership with the Bromley by Bow Centre, a renowned economic regeneration charity from east London. To date, the programme has helped to launch 35 social businesses, creating 246 new jobs so far. Around 82% of Beyond Business enterprises have gone on to trade beyond their third year, which is so rewarding.

What makes Beyond Business so special is that these budding entrepreneurs share our values, including making an unselfish contribution to society. They dedicate to build businesses that not only make a sustainable profit, but, as importantly, have a real and measurable positive social impact in their communities.

The five latest extraordinary start-ups which joined Beyond Business were shortlisted out of more than 200 applicants from our local, but unfortunately deprived London boroughs of Hackney, Newham and Tower Hamlets. They perfected their business plans with the help of the Bromley by Bow Centre, as well as volunteers from our business. They then made their successful pitches to a panel including Investec's own Linda Brown, Ian Wohlman and Arjun Chopra, who, like me, are impressed with their passion and potential.

Each of these businesses will receive up to £17k to fund their launch. More than that, they were invited to our Beyond Business College, to receive valuable one-on-one support from our volunteers in areas of their expertise, from legal and business finance to branding and digital marketing.

I find Beyond Business particularly relevant because it empowers local people to help themselves. It also helps our own people at Investec to keep that entrepreneurial mind-set which, four decades on, remains as important to us. As we help clients who are in different stages of growing their businesses, it's a delight to work with social entrepreneurs and start-ups. It reminds us of where we came from.

**David van der Walt,**  
CEO Investec Bank plc



### BEYOND BUSINESS IN NUMBERS

35  
enterprises launched

£3.3m  
collective turnover

246  
jobs created

82%  
success rate since 2011



## THE DREAM IS NOW REALITY

Having an idea is one thing, but taking the action to turn it into reality is another. This is what I did when I registered for Beyond Business.

After passing an interview, I started working on my business plan. This got me to really think about things in depth – marketing, human resources, cash flow – before that, I had nothing but a dream!

I can't explain the happiness when I won a place on the Beyond Business programme. That's when I knew I'd have the support I needed to start my business.

The seed funding was amazing, but the support I received from the Bromley by Bow Centre team and Investec volunteers was invaluable. At the Investec Beyond Business College, you learn so much – everything you are concerned about is covered. I'm extremely grateful to the Investec volunteers that took time to support my journey. Being an entrepreneur can be really lonely, but with Beyond Business you're part of something special.

At Find A Balance, we offer mental health support for young people who are not at work or education, focusing on those from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds. We aim to help them overcome challenges and community stigmas and return to education or employment.

Since joining Beyond Business in late 2016, Find A Balance has supported ten young people to transform their lives. Of these, three are completing work experience, four are starting their own businesses and one has begun a career in the music industry

**Samantha Francis,**  
founder of Find A Balance



## THE HUMAN ELEMENT

In 2017, Investec was chosen as the Bromley by Bow Centre's Partner of the Year. This reflects a deep-seated and hugely valued partnership with very dear friends and between two organisations that are kindred spirits.

This is the first time a corporate business has ever won our Partner of the Year award. Given that we have over 60 different projects and that many of them are delivered in partnership with multiple agencies, it's quite a competitive field. Our partners cover a broad spectrum of frontline services in mental health, social care, housing, welfare, the arts, employment and skills. In 2017, our delivery partnerships ranged from Macmillan Cancer Support to the NHS and the National Theatre!

We first started working with Investec over 10 years ago. They came on board to support us on a therapeutic horticulture project to improve mental health and the environment here in East London. Today, our key partnership is Beyond Business, which enables the start-up of new social enterprises. With Investec's support, the programme has been exceptionally successful.

'Exceptional' is the one word I'd use to sum up our relationship with Investec. It's all about the human element. It doesn't feel like a charity-to-business relationship, and not even business-to-business. Across Investec, not only with the Corporate Responsibility team but all the people who volunteer to our gardening projects, the Dragon's Den panel, and everyone involved in supporting our businesses and making sure they succeed – it's a people-to-people relationship. This is what makes our relationship with Investec truly exceptional.

**Rob Trimble, CEO,  
Bromley by Bow Centre**



## BEYOND BUSINESS AWARDS 2017

**Business Charity Awards**  
Investec was named Business of the Year, as well as winning the award for Community Impact.

**Lord Mayor's Dragon Award**  
The Bromley by Bow Centre won the Community Partnership Award for the partnership with Investec.

**Business in the Community**  
Winners of Business in the Community's Experian Building Stronger Communities Award.

**National CSR Award**  
Investec won the Best Community (Legacy) Project Award for Beyond Business.



"We are immensely proud of Rob Trimble for his well-deserved inclusion in the New Years Honours list. This is testament to humble, values-based leadership, the Bromley by Bow Centre and all the tireless heroes who empower local people to solve community problems, restoring well-being and dignity in the process."

Susie Steyn, head of Corporate Responsibility – Community, Investec Bank plc'



# LIVERPOOL MOWLL

## OPENING UP NEW HORIZONS

Marina can be quite reserved with new people and takes time to open up. With mutual respect and positive interaction, however, we've seen her flourish.

Marina has been coming to Moving on with Life Learning (MOWLL) for three years. We're an organisation born in Liverpool – like Investec's Wealth & Investment business – that supports people with learning disabilities through social inclusion. Since Marina became one of our 'self-advocates' three years ago, she's built her confidence and skills.

Marina thoroughly enjoys the support from Investec's volunteers. She's felt comfortable meeting many of the team, joining in their activities, such as cookery and photography classes, and having a good time. We've seen her being open and engaging in conversation with them, and this has been extremely positive for her personal and professional development.

We're keen for Marina and other self-advocates to be able to live independently, and we're thrilled with the selfless support from the people at Investec to make that happen. For example, one of the Investec volunteers saw that we had very basic equipment in our

kitchen, where the cookery classes take place. She galvanised employees in the office to donate dozens of items and also arranged for Investec to cover the costs of larger items, including a fridge. Also, the Investec team supported the launch of Soul Fillers, our future social enterprise project. We hope to offer catering services and give employment opportunities to our brilliant self-advocates.

Volunteers are the backbone of MOWLL. We can't thank the people at Investec enough for the knowledge and expertise they offer, their willingness to get stuck in, their shared passion for nurturing the entrepreneurial spirit, and the change they make to someone's life, like they've done to Marina's.

For us at MOWLL, Investec is more than a partner. As one of our self-advocates says, they're "part of the family – or even the furniture!"

**Loretta Essery-Touray,**  
programme development  
manager, MOWLL



Moving on with Life Learning is a Liverpool-based charity that works to give adults with learning disabilities the confidence to live in, enjoy and contribute to their local communities, to have control over their lives and to live their lives safely and with dignity.

# LIVERPOOL YOUNG ENTERPRISE

## LEARN TO EARN

Thanks to the help of Investec volunteers, the Young Enterprise charity has been able to offer workshops and 'Learn 2 Earn' day sessions for secondary school students in Liverpool.

In the course of these workshops, led by Young Enterprise staff, students are asked to analyse their needs and wants and to cost these up. They are then encouraged to start thinking about their future earning potential. This is a simple, but powerful exercise for the students, because they start to realise that, to achieve the lifestyles they aspire to, they need to put in a lot of hard work and effort.

Working for a global finance business such as Investec was a career unknown to most students and even Young Enterprise employees before the sessions. We're most grateful for the time and support from Investec volunteers, which we believe had a very positive impact on students, giving them plenty to think about when starting to make informed decisions about their future.

**Anthony Brown,**  
Young Enterprise



Young Enterprise is a charity that makes the connection between school and the world of work, enabling young people to develop the knowledge and attitudes they need to succeed, building on eight key skills: communication, confidence, financial capability, initiative, organisation, problem-solving, teamwork and resilience.



# LONDON TREES FOR CITIES

## FROM SMALL SHOOTS

Creating a new woodland involves planting thousands of trees, which is hard work. It's even more challenging when you have a project to plant 20,000 of them with very difficult ground conditions and chilly winter weather!

Having a team of 55 volunteers from Investec Private Bank join us in February 2017 made all the difference in the creation of an edible woodland, providing food for the local community, at our new urban site in London. We had fallen behind schedule after a weekend community planting day, but the hard work from the Investec volunteers ensured we got all of our young whips (young tree shoots) in the ground, rescuing them before their roots could dry out.

At Trees for Cities, we aim to strengthen communities and inspire children to grow and eat good food and connect with nature. We select sites based on where the need for more trees is greatest, and this new woodland was much needed. The trees will help reduce pollution and noise from a nearby dual carriageway, provide more habitats for urban wildlife and enrich the green space for the local community, so they can visit, spend time in green spaces and forage for edible fruits and nuts.

**Rory Field, corporate partnerships manager, Trees for Cities**



Trees for Cities is a UK charity and one of Investec's community partners. In 2017, 165 Investec volunteers planted more than 1,500 trees for our UK communities in London, Leeds and Reading, helping the charity move closer to its ambitious mission to plant a million trees by 2020.





## EDINBURGH FRESH START

### ONE BRUSH STROKE AT A TIME

Together with four colleagues, I arrived at Fresh Start's Edinburgh office for 9am, not knowing what to expect. Straight away we were taken to David, who we would be helping that day. David was clearly very excited to have some help painting his house. The five of us, with David's help, managed to get the job done under excellent guidance from Fresh Start, the charity that helps people who were previously homeless. David was incredibly grateful, appreciative and delighted with the outcome of our efforts. Having met and spent time chatting

with him, my view on homelessness was totally transformed. I half expected to meet someone who just wanted someone else to look after his needs. Instead, we met a driven young man, determined to be employed and in a position to independently support himself. The last thing David ever wanted to do was to 'sign on'. Unfortunately, the company he'd worked for had been bought and all employees made redundant. That was the start of the vicious cycle of David falling behind in rental payments, being evicted and having nowhere to live. It's very difficult to get a job when you don't have an address.

With support, determination and hard work, David has managed to get himself a job and

back into housing. With the help of Fresh Start, David has a newly painted flat, new furniture, bedding and household essentials. The experience was incredibly fulfilling for the volunteers and made me realise that, with bad luck, anyone of us could find ourselves in David's position, and that it's essential to support the people striving to break out of a downward spiral.

**John Robertson,**  
Investec Wealth & Investment



## READING LAUNCHPAD

### MORE THAN MAINTENANCE

A group of employees from the Investec Asset Finance Group volunteered with the local charity, Launchpad, in July 2017, providing practical help to maintain premises, improving the environment for clients at a temporary shelter.

and we came away with an appreciation of the complexity of their challenges in life.

Volunteering is a great way to engage, contribute and learn, to see the difference made to real lives by the charities we support, and to feel the personal benefit of making our own positive contribution to society.

**Andy Hart,**  
Investec Asset Finance

We had an opportunity to speak with some of the charity's clients, who were interested in what we were doing and why. Some offered us a brief insight into their own personal stories



Following on from volunteering with Launchpad, 20 Investec volunteers have also taken part in a Sleep Out, raising more than £2,200 for the charity.





# LEEDS TREES FOR CITIES

## BRANCHING OUT

Myself and four enthusiastic Investec colleagues volunteered for Trees for Cities providing labour to add trees to local parks. Our guide worked for Leeds Council, taking teams out three times a week to help in local parks. With the much publicised cost-cutting, volunteers and donated funds for equipment are more vital than ever to keep our parks in good condition.

Our task was to plant oak saplings within the 1,500 acres of Temple Newsam. With snow on the ground only the previous day, we were worried that digging would be difficult. The day turned out to be a balmy 7°C with blue skies. We couldn't have asked for better weather and the existing trees were looking glorious in their autumnal colours.

Our planting section was at the edge of Temple Newsam and next to the ever growing Cross Green industrial area at the side of the park. Saplings had already been planted so we were filling in the gaps to keep the tree density consistent once the forest has grown. Oak trees were chosen based on their relative rapid growth in their early years. Once grown, the trees should eventually help cut noise pollution and improve the air quality in the area. The latter is particularly relevant to Leeds, with the city in the top six worst areas in the UK for air pollution and exceeding World Health Organisation levels. The five of us are hoping Investec's role in improving the environment will continue to grow.

**Matthew Spencer,**  
Investec Wealth & Investment



# GUILDFORD PARKSIDE

## A SAFE SPACE TO THRIVE

We were thrilled when Investec came to the rescue after a plea for help in managing our large garden, set within a quiet residential area of Aldershot, near Guildford.

The garden houses a large poly tunnel, pond, raised beds and vegetable and fruit areas. The garden is an important resource, as we offer a weekly garden club, as well as training sessions for adults with learning disabilities, so they can become gardeners themselves. With many weeds and overgrown spots, however, maintaining the garden had been overwhelming us. Investec's fantastic offer of seven sessions of volunteer support was more than we could have imagined and meant we would have a chance to get on top of the situation.

Clients from our charity were thrilled when the Investec volunteers arrived, and their hard work, particularly removing prickly bushes, was very much appreciated. Mona, for example, said that she loves that she can now see the pond better!

Over the weeks, we have been touched by the extra advice from Investec volunteers with gardening knowledge and their ideas and support over the right equipment for jobs. The garden is transformed, and Investec's purchase of garden items such as a new water irrigation system was amazing.

**Jackie Carr, Development Manager,  
Parkside**



Parkside is an Aldershot-based charity that supports people with learning disabilities in the local area. The charity's aim, since it was founded in 1963, is to give children and adults the opportunity to develop individual skills and take part in activities, so they feel involved and included.

# JERSEY TREES FOR LIFE

## CUTBACKS LEADING TO STRONG GROWTH

Investec is sponsoring a three-year programme to plant and develop a hedgerow in the St Ouens area of Jersey. The programme started last May when a team of Investec volunteers cut back the undergrowth around newly planted saplings. A further cutback was required in November and a planting of another third of the hedgerow took place in April. All the work is carried out by hand using traditional tools such as sickles, as the trees are very tender and this is the best way to avoid accidentally cutting them.

The aim of the project is to encourage small songbirds to nest in the hedge. It will provide food in the form of either berries or invertebrates (feeding in the hedge) and nesting opportunities, as well as cover from predatory birds such as marsh harriers, sparrow hawk, merlin and hobby, all of which frequent the area over the year. The hedge will also act as a safer wildlife 'corridor' for small mammals such as shrews, bank voles and wood mice and amphibians and reptiles, such as green lizards, grass snakes, slow worms and toads, which are preyed upon by kestrels, harriers and buzzards.

The team worked so hard on the first day that they completed the cut back in record time. This enabled us to help with another project to restore a 'forgotten forest' in an area called Val de la Mare. The team pulled up bracken, and cleared undergrowth from steep wooded banks in the area.

Conrad Evans from Jersey Trees for Life said that they've been receiving really positive responses from the community.

We're a small team of only 14 at Investec's office in Jersey, but everyone has volunteered for the project and it was great for team building. Fortunately the weather has been reasonably kind and Jersey has lived up to its reputation as the 'sunshine island' for volunteer days!

**Michelle Le Clerc,**  
Investec Channel Islands





# CORK CORK SIMON COMMUNITY

## A REAL-LIFE FAIRYTALE

We travelled to “Tír na nÓg”, which is one of Cork Simon’s five high-support houses. The house provides high levels of round-the-clock care every night for 11 men and women whose health and other needs are such that they are not able to live independently.

Investec volunteers helped to improve the environment for residents by creating a garden path around the house for recreational use. This consisted of laying six tonnes of gravel throughout the morning – tough work but we had the weather on our side. Cork Simon were thrilled with our work, they had been trying to get this work completed for almost two years.

**Siobhán Aherene,**  
Investec Wealth Investment Ireland

The house is staffed on a 24-hour basis by experienced care workers and trained volunteers. The focus of these houses is on enabling the residents to manage their needs and enhance their quality of life.



# CHELTENHAM ST VINCENT'S AND ST GEORGE'S ASSOCIATION

## MANY HELPING HANDS

Without a doubt, Investec has made a hugely positive impact here at St Vincent's & St George's Association in Cheltenham.

The team has spent over 40 hours working on the Well Close House garden, at one of our supported living sites. The site is home to 20 vulnerable women. While we are lucky to have the site situated on an acre of land, and this is fantastic for our service users to enjoy, maintenance of the area can be a financial burden to us. Investec volunteers have spent several sessions working in the garden, making many long-lasting improvements including building wildlife enclosures, as well as carrying out general maintenance.

Investec's support has improved the environment, allowing all residents to enjoy the space fully again and allowing the charity to free up funds for other projects.

The Cheltenham team has also raised over £10,000 by running fundraising events and sports challenges. The biggest problem that we face is limited resources and finances – each year we travel approximately 50,000 miles to reach the most isolated and vulnerable people in Gloucestershire and the figure raised by Investec will pay for half of these miles. When you consider there are 143,000 people living in Gloucestershire who are considered vulnerable, the amount raised will allow us to reach more people, so everyone we work with can obtain a fulfilling and independent life, regardless of their age, illness or disability.

On behalf of our service users, employees and trustees, I would like to thank the Investec Cheltenham office for the genuine difference you have made!

**John Adler, St Vincent's & St George's Association**



St Vincent's and St George's Association is a Gloucestershire-based charity working to provide a comprehensive range of care and support services to those with disabilities, health conditions and complex needs.



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