



Here for young people
Here for communities
Here for you

YMCA Newark & Sherwood Impact Report

2025



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Introduction

At YMCA Newark & Sherwood, our commitment to community is not a programme or an initiative it's our North Star.

The YMCA Community & Activity Village is a not-for-profit facility built with a single purpose: to ensure every child and young person has the opportunity to discover who they are and what they can become. That mission shapes our operations, informs our partnerships, and guides how we reinvest every pound back into our community.

The Village welcomes hundreds of thousands of visitors every year. From early morning to late evening, our spaces are filled with activity: children arriving for climbing, young people in cooking or creative sessions, football teams on the pitches, babies starting nursery, and families meeting for coffees and attending seasonal events. Yet for many, what they experience is only a glimpse of our wider impact.

As a charity, our vision is simple: to be a place where everybody feels valued, welcomed and at home. Created to bring together young people, families and the wider community, The Village offers opportunities to:

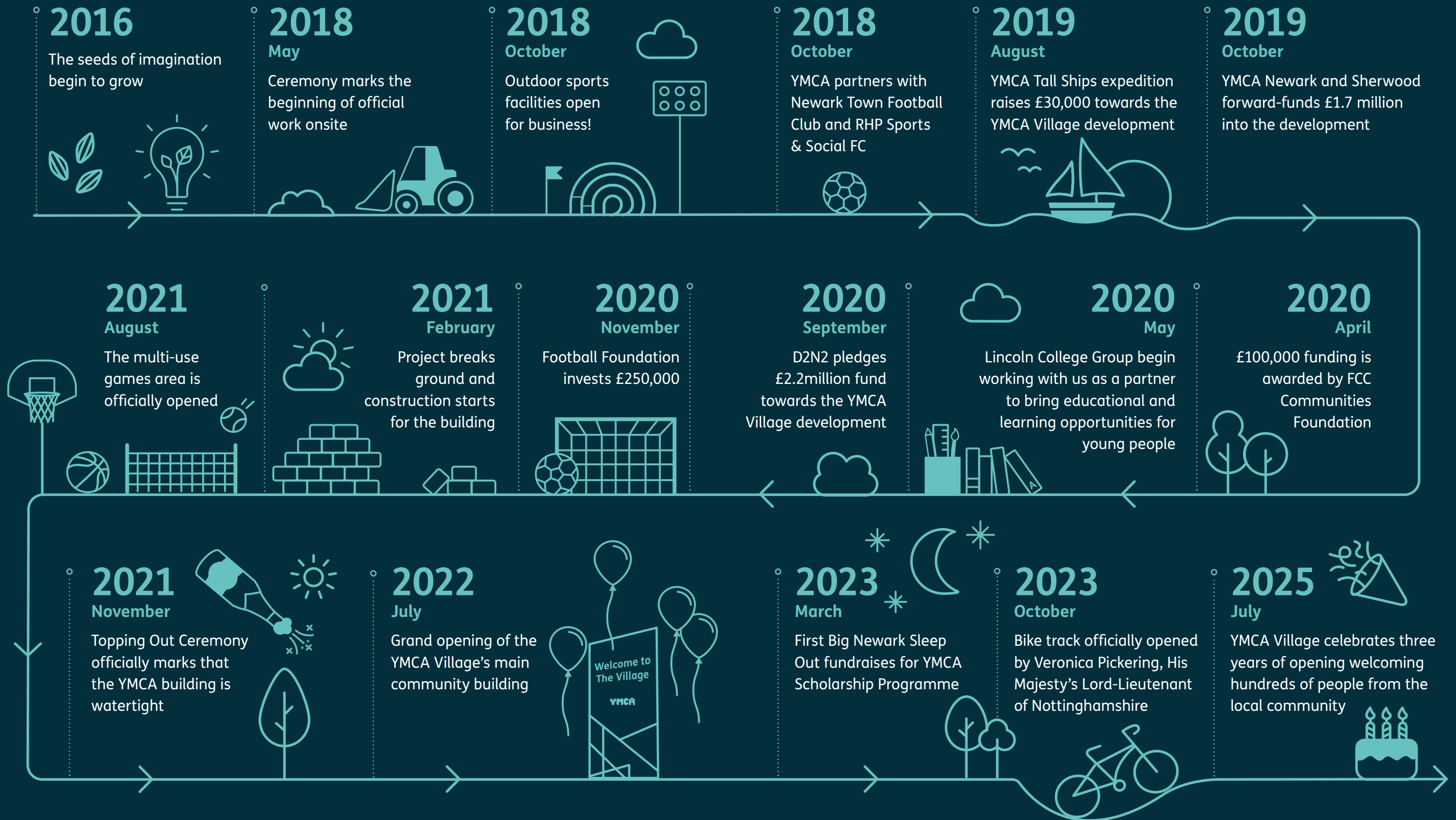
- **Belong:** a welcoming place to come for support and motivation.
- **Contribute:** develop skills, qualifications and training while exploring new opportunities.
- **Thrive:** find inspiration and confidence to become the best you can be.

We deliver these opportunities through health and wellbeing, hospitality and entertainment, childcare, youth programmes, and by providing space for organisations to base and grow their business.

Children and young people are at the heart of everything we do. We believe every young person deserves access to nurturing, non-judgemental and safe environments where they can develop their interests and fulfil their potential.



Our journey so far...



Spaces where
connections and
comfort are found



COMMUNITY & HOSPITALITY

Spaces that bring people together

Community connection is at the core of The Village. Our Café has become a gathering space for all ages, offering comfort, companionship and routine. Bob, a familiar face, visited regularly with his wife Diane before she sadly passed away. Today, our Café team continue to welcome him daily, offering not just a friendly smile but also comfort and community during a difficult time.

We also host Meet and Eat, a monthly Café event offering older residents a good-quality hot meal at a low cost. It reduces isolation, sparks conversation and fosters new friendships. Alongside this,

our programme of live events – from jazz nights and brass bands to DJ sets and tapas evenings – ensures our community offer appeals across generations.

Our conference and meeting spaces play an integral role in Newark's economic and social life. Home to Newark Business Club, one of the district's most influential networks, a hub for training, team away days and award ceremonies, these spaces support both community life and local economic growth. By generating income through commercial hire, we reinvest directly into our charitable programmes while also creating supply chain opportunities and bringing footfall into Newark.

We all knew Bob and Diane well. Since Diane passed away, we've made sure Bob still feels supported and never alone when he comes in.

Jessica Beavis, Café Team



Flexible spaces helping
businesses, students and
communities thrive

TRAINING & EDUCATION

Spaces that support learning and growth

The YMCA Village has become a trusted venue for training, education and professional development, offering flexible spaces that adapt to the diverse needs of local organisations. Our classrooms, meeting rooms and conference facilities provide a professional yet welcoming environment where educators, businesses and community groups can bring people together to learn, collaborate and grow.

You Can Do Sport students benefit from our classroom, combining their studies with hands-on sport facilities within The Village. Our spaces are also chosen by East and West Midlands Ambulance Services, who

run essential training for paramedics on site, and by recruitment specialists such as Ambitions Personnel, who use our rooms for interviews and candidate assessments. In the past, our classrooms were also regularly used by ASI students from Lincoln College Group, who valued the modern, supportive environment provided by The Village.

The range of organisations that use our facilities is broad, from Skanska, a construction firm developing infrastructure in the Newark area, to Newark Rugby Club and local services supporting victims of crime through the justice system. All value our spaces, the support of our friendly team and the ease of access. With many returning time and again, The Village continues to play a central role in professional training and education across the district.



The YMCA Village is home
the UK's first Macmillan
Cancer Support Service Centre
based outside of an NHS facility

MACMILLAN

Bringing cancer support closer to home

Having Macmillan Cancer Support based at The Village has transformed local access to care. Families affected by cancer can now find advice, emotional support and practical guidance in a familiar, welcoming

environment. Instead of travelling or facing clinical settings, people come to a community space where health, wellbeing and connection are central.

Visitors often combine appointments with a coffee in the Café or a walk around the local area, making the experience less isolating. The presence of Macmillan at The Village reflects our belief that wellbeing is about more than treatment, it's about dignity, comfort and belonging.

“Clients often say how much they appreciate having support so close to home, in such a friendly setting.

Andrea Murphy, Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Service Lead

Partnerships

“ We can open doors for young people in Newark
Bellway

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships with purpose

Partnerships with local businesses are central to our impact. Our relationship with Bellway East Midlands is a powerful example. In summer 2025, Bellway funded scholarships enabling children from Newark schools to attend Camp Williams. For families who would otherwise miss out, this created opportunities for fun, friendship and confidence-building that last well beyond the holidays.

Their support extends further. From backing fundraising events such as the YMCA Speed Quiz, and sponsoring pitch side boards at our football facilities, to gifting their new homeowners six months of free YMCA membership, this partnership helps us embed YMCA into the fabric of local life.

Our partnership with YMCA means we can help open doors for young people in Newark, giving them the chance to build confidence, discover new opportunities and feel part of their community.

Partnerships
unlocking opportunities
for local families





“ Seeing Alan take
on the Three Peaks
alongside us was inspiring –
he shows exactly what The
Village is all about.

Kirsty Edwards, Head of Member Services

Health and wellbeing for every generation

The Village is more than a sports facility, it is a grassroots hub for wellbeing and connection. Almost every local football club uses our pitches, while families, schools and community groups come together for events and fundraisers that extend far beyond the boundaries of The Village.

With world-class facilities – including our climbing centre, strength and conditioning

gym, running track and packed studio timetable, we support people of all ages to stay active, healthy and engaged.

Our Legends group is one of our popular cohorts, designed for older adults to build strength, fitness and confidence. Sessions have expanded due to demand, with many participants trying climbing and Yoga for the first time and forming strong friendships both in and out of the gym.

Alan Davidson, 69, is a daily face at The Village, using the gym and running track. For him, The Village is not only a fitness space but also where his mental wellbeing is nurtured. Earlier this year, Alan joined the YMCA Yorkshire Three Peaks challenge, raising £531 for YMCA Scholarships.

320 Adult
Villager
members

3,077 Average
footfall
per week

1,670 Sessions
per week

1,928 Legend
Sessions
(January- August 2025)



Football

Two 3G football pitches which welcome over 2,000 football players every week.



Multi-Use Courts

The multi-use courts are marked up for basketball, netball or tennis.



Athletics

An athletic track which is used by over 950 athletes every week.



Climbing

Impressive climbing facilities suitable for a range of abilities.

“ World-class
facilities supporting
every age group ”



**Nurturing confidence
and curiosity
from the start**



**We see children grow
in confidence and
capability every day**

Investing in Early Years

Our YMCA Nursery has quickly earned a strong reputation for its nurturing, imaginative and child-led approach.

Designed to support exploration, independence and creativity, the nursery draws on youth development research to create learning environments where every child is seen and supported as an individual. We see children grow in confidence and capability every day.

Children are encouraged and praised for living our Core Values of honesty, respect,

responsibility and caring. They love to recognise these behaviours in themselves and their friends, and we celebrate them with 'thank-yous' and certificates. It's a fun but impactful way of shaping social and emotional development – helping children grow into kind, thoughtful, community-minded individuals.

YMCA Nursery is also part of the government's Care to Learn scheme, which supports parents under 20 to access childcare while continuing their education. By helping young parents thrive, we create opportunities not just for children, but for whole families.

116
Children enrolled
(April 2024– March 2025)

13,557
Total number day
bookings
(April 2024– March 2025)

804
Number of
volunteer hours

78,600 hours of
childcare delivered
so far this year



CAMP WILLIAMS

Supporting Working Families

School holidays can present real challenges for families in Newark & Sherwood. For many parents, balancing work and childcare is stressful and costly.

Camp Williams has become a trusted solution, offering reliable, affordable provision for ages four to 15 every school holiday from 8am to 6pm.

The difference lies in the blend of fun and personal growth. Children enjoy full days of sport, creative workshops, outdoor adventures and team-building activities. They grow in confidence, discover hidden

talents, and for many, Camp becomes the highlight of their school break. For parents, it's peace of mind: knowing their children are safe, supported and thriving.

Demand continues to grow exponentially. This year alone, Camp Williams has delivered 78,600 hours of childcare for parents, with 25 children supported through YMCA Scholarships this summer.

Camp Williams is not just childcare – it's a place where confidence grows, friendships are made and memories last a lifetime.

I love seeing James every time I come to Camp, he's my favourite Camp Leader, he makes me laugh so much and try out new games.

Jack, Aged 8

**Scholarships
that change lives.**



I've made new friends here and I really love the art and animation sessions – it's my favourite place to come.

Leo, Aged 15

YMCA SCHOLARSHIPS

Making opportunities affordable and accessible

Financial pressure too often limits access to opportunities. That's why the YMCA Scholarship Programme is a cornerstone of our community model. Scholarships ensure that cost is never a barrier to belonging, covering up to 50% of membership or school holiday places for families facing hardship.

More than 17% of young people at The Village are supported through scholarships, and those children are often among our most engaged participants. They benefit not only from activities, but also from pastoral support and a sense of community they might otherwise miss.

For Leo, the scholarship did more than make membership affordable – it opened the door to daily social interaction that wasn't possible before. As a home-educated young person, he now has a place to make friends, join activities he loves and feel part of a group.

This approach keeps our model financially sustainable while remaining responsive to local need.

17%
of Y-Kids and Youth Members
are supported through YMCA
Scholarships

£17,423
Amount fundraised for YMCA
Scholarship Programme
(January- August 2025)

Young people discovering skills, friendships and confidence



YOUTH PROGRAMMES

Supporting young people to reach their potential

Our programmes for children and young people are designed to build confidence, friendships and resilience, while ensuring young voices are heard. Since launching Y-Kids in April 2025, alongside our Youth Membership, we've created a flexible offer for families and young people to access a wide variety of activities.

Y-Kids (ages 5–10) offers everything from arts and crafts, animation and LEGO challenges to football, Clip 'n Climb, skateboarding, baking, Nerf Wars and science. As children grow, Youth Membership (ages 11–17) expands the offer with cooking workshops, DJ'ing and music production, climbing, street dance, cycling, multi-sports and access to our strength and conditioning gym.

Scholarships ensure inclusivity: more than 17% of youth members receive financial support, guaranteeing no child is left out.

The impact is clear. David, age seven, has attended almost every day since Y-Kids launched, and his mum has seen a remarkable boost in confidence and social skills. Kane, age 14, went from being disengaged to leading others in climbing sessions and choosing Food Technology as a GCSE inspired by our cooking workshops. Eleanor, age 15, began climbing with no experience and is now part of our development squad, mentoring younger climbers and competing nationally.

“Leo's come on so much since starting at the YMCA. He's got loads more confidence now and just loves it... the programmes have really helped us make it happen.”
Michelle, parent

Through these programmes, children and young people are not just discovering activities – they are building resilience, developing skills, and finding a genuine sense of belonging.

394

Number of sessions
delivered each week for
young people



We employ the full-time
equivalent of over
160 people
from Newark & Sherwood

Future Steps

Over the past three years, the YMCA Community & Activity Village has become pivotal for the Newark & Sherwood community, delivering childcare, youth programmes, health and wellbeing, and partnerships that strengthen the fabric of the district. Guided by our purpose—to ensure every child and young person has the opportunity to discover who they are and what they can become. We continue to deliver outcomes that matter for families, businesses and the wider community.

The Village is more than a building; it is a major contributor to the local economy.

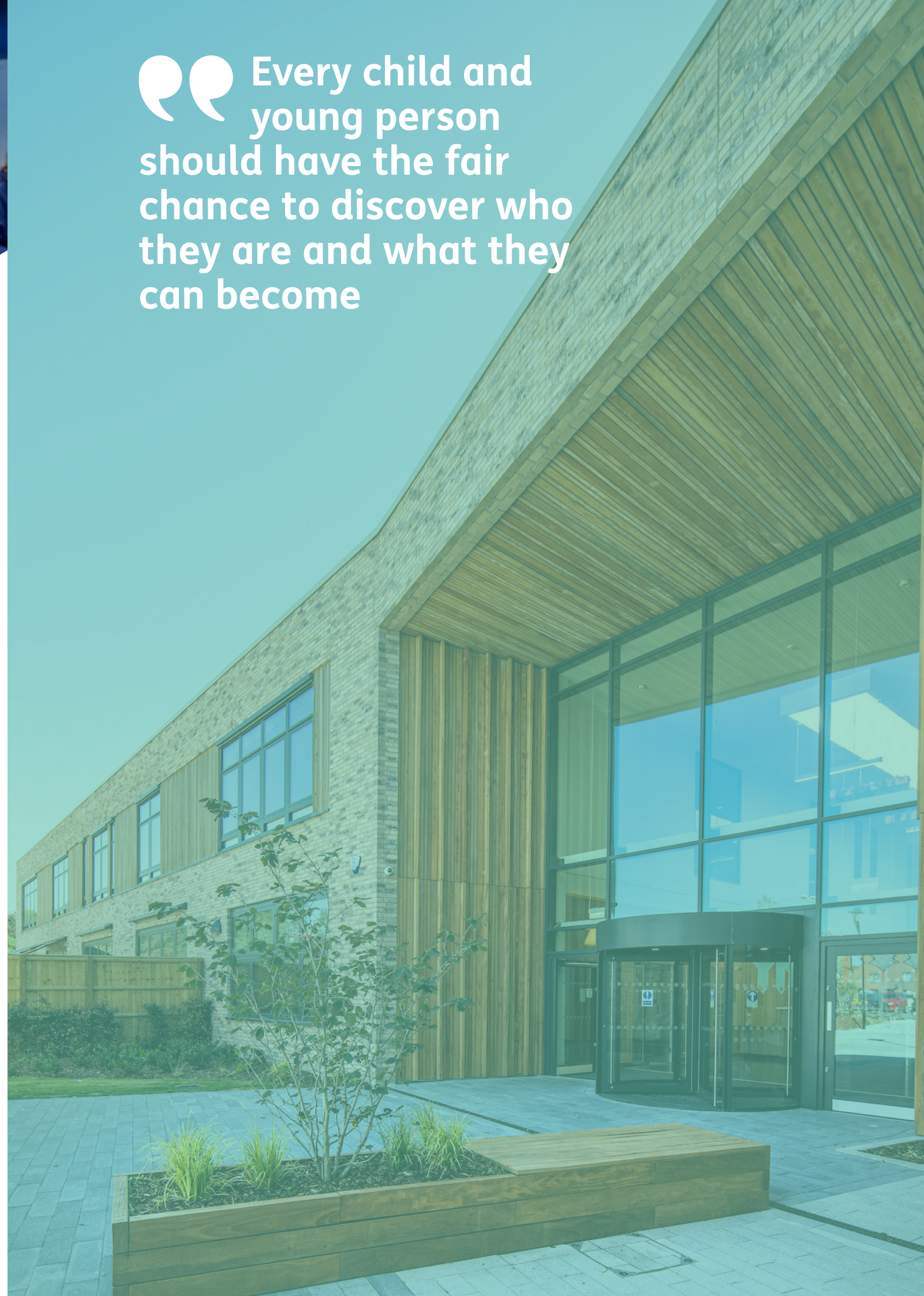
We employ the full-time equivalent of over 160 people from Newark & Sherwood across childcare, hospitality,

wellbeing, youth work and sport, creating opportunities and developing skills within the community. Alongside this, our flexible meeting and conference facilities are in regular use by local businesses for training, education and events, supporting economic activity across the district while generating income that is reinvested into our charitable work.

Looking ahead, further developments and investment will allow us to expand The Village's reach and facilities to meet growing demand, bringing new opportunities and footfall into Newark.

With the continued support of our partners and stakeholders, The Village can build on its success and remain a flagship example of how community infrastructure delivers long-term social and economic value for the whole district.

“ Every child and young person should have the fair chance to discover who they are and what they can become



Registered Charity Number: 1177774

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