



THE **JO COX**
FOUNDATION

Working together to build strong
and compassionate
communities

www.jocoxfoundation.org



The Jo Cox Foundation and More in Common



Kim Leadbeater

**Ambassador for The Jo Cox Foundation
Chair, More in Common, Batley & Spen
Jo's Sister**



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My Sister: Kind, Compassionate, Shy MP, Campaigner, Humanitarian, Proud Yorkshire Lass



Jo's Legacy



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1. The Jo Cox Foundation
2. The More in Common Community
3. The Great Get Together

My Role: Not Party Political & NO AGENDA

The Jo Cox Foundation



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LOCALLY

- Working to create **compassionate, well connected communities** where everyone has a **sense of identity and belonging**
- Bringing people together through **The Great Get Together** campaign and the national **More in Common** community.

NATIONALLY

- Working to build a **better public life**
- Tackling **abuse and intimidation**
- Encouraging **cross-party work** on important issues e.g. loneliness
- Inspiring the **next generation** of women and young people.

INTERNATIONALLY

- Supporting organisations and initiatives which champion the humanitarian causes Jo cared about e.g. the Jo Cox Memorial Grants



More in Common

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COMMON

“....what surprises me time and time again as I travel around the constituency is that **we are far more united and have far more in common than that which divides us.**”

Jo Cox MP, Maiden Speech

3rd June 2015



Jo's passion to tackle Loneliness



- ▶ Jo became aware of the epidemic of loneliness and isolation when first meeting local older people in her constituency surgeries
- ▶ When she visited older people homes/granges in B&S and when door knocking whilst campaigning
- ▶ She started meeting more groups locally and meeting with national charities and found that the statistics for people who felt lonely and isolated were rather alarming

Jo's passion to tackle Loneliness



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- ▶ Older people were the natural cohort with 1 in 7 older people feeling lonely & isolated, and Jo made an active resolve to look into this further, however, she found that this group only scratched the surface.....
- ▶ Suicide in young men - highest it had ever been
- ▶ Young mums
- ▶ Retirement
- ▶ Bereavement



“Young or old
loneliness
doesn't
discriminate”

Jo Cox

2018
ACTION FOR CHILDREN
IS WORKING WITH

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LONELINESS
FOUNDATION

Plus..... Personal Experience of Loneliness

- ▶ Childhood: inseparable best friends
- ▶ University: Jo - Cambridge Me - Yorkshire
- ▶ Motherhood: Jo as a new mum
- ▶ Bereavement: Now for me...



Jo's passion to tackle Loneliness

'I will not live in a country where thousands of people are living lonely lives forgotten by the rest of us.'

Jo Cox

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LONELINESS
start a conversation

- ▶ Lack of national research on loneliness
- ▶ No government-led resolve to combat it
- ▶ Jo started working towards launching a national cross-party commission
- ▶ Loneliness is a good example of Jo's desire to use politics to tackle human issues - her main motivation for working as an MP
- ▶ After Jo's murder her work was continued by Rachel Reeves MP & Seema Kennedy MP

Progress so far....



- ▶ Through the Commission: connections made across various organisations working on loneliness
- ▶ **December 2017:** The Jo Cox Commission on Loneliness launched its report in Batley
- ▶ **January 2018:** Reception at Downing Street
- ▶ Minister for Loneliness appointed
- ▶ **October 2018:** launch of UK wide LONELINESS STRATEGY and £11.5million Building Connections Fund
- ▶ **October 2019:** 1 year anniversary £2million Fund



More in Common: How can we tackle loneliness by building stronger communities?



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Communities have changed.....

- ▶ Grandad – postman who knew everyone
- ▶ Day to day contact with people is reduced
 - ▶ walking v driving (physical plus social benefits)
 - ▶ technology: far less face to face interaction
 - ▶ pace of life: always in a rush
- ▶ Lacking a sense of identity and belonging
- ▶ Can lead to social isolation & loneliness (anti-social behaviour, gang culture, knife crime, extremism.....)



The More in Common Community

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What?

- ▶ A **national grassroots movement** working towards building **strong, compassionate communities** where everyone has a **sense of belonging and identity**
- ▶ A nation of **More in Common groups** (e.g. Batley & Spen, Lambeth, Darlington, Boston)
- ▶ Counteracting the narrative of division & negativity
- ▶ Normal people who want to make a difference and do something positive
- ▶ **Not** party political



More in Common Batley & Spen

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3 main ways of developing and strengthening the community:

- ▶ **Community based events** including **The Great Get Together**
- ▶ **Partnerships & Networking** to develop a strong MIC network with relationships across all 3 sectors (Public, Private & Voluntary)
- ▶ **Community Projects** engaging people who may not naturally embrace the MIC philosophy. Discussing & tackling local issues and concerns

All interlinked of course.

In Batley & Spen and beyond...



More in Common Batley & Spen

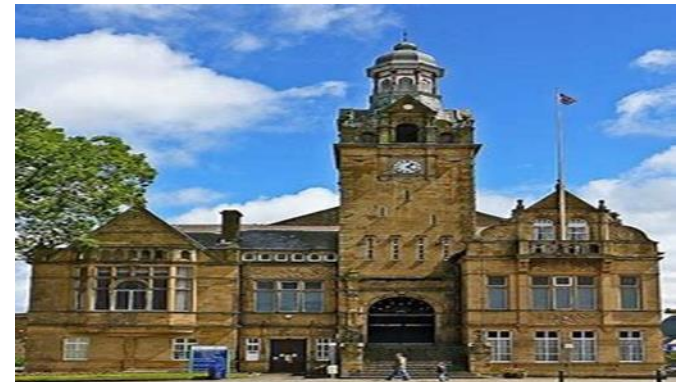
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Values

- ▶ More in Common embodies values of respect, humanity, inclusion and equality. We strive towards this by working collaboratively and celebrating that which we have in common.

Aims

- ▶ To bring people together
- ▶ To celebrate all that we have in common
- ▶ To promote mutual respect and understanding
- ▶ To build a strong community where everyone has a sense of identity and belonging



The Great Get Together



- ▶ An initiative set up by Jo's family & friends designed to bring communities together
- ▶ Every year on the weekend of Jo's birthday in June (22nd)
- ▶ At the heart of our vision for a nation of strong compassionate communities



The Great Get Together



- ▶ Over 750,000 people took part in over 11,000 events for the third Great Get Together 22-24 June 2019 [Video](#)
- ▶ Lots in Batley & Spen: [GreatGetTogether2018](#)
- ▶ WEBSITE: www.greatgettogether.org



The Jo Cox Way Bike Ride



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**Batley & Spen
to London
22nd–26th July
2020**



Bike Ride from Jo's constituency to London

The Great Winter Get Together



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#MincePieMoments

Mince Pies &
Conversation

Tackling Loneliness

Building Community

December 2019



Call to Action!



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The Great Get Together 19th-21st June 2020

Sign up:

www.greatgettogether.org

A red and white checkered pattern background with the event title in large, bold, white letters with a red outline.

THE
GREAT
GET
TOGETHER

Getting Involved

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- ▶ The Great Winter Get Together: Dec 2019
- ▶ The Great Get Together 2020: 19th - 21st June
- ▶ Come to our events
- ▶ Volunteer for us
- ▶ Set up a More in Common group
- ▶ Fundraise for us
- ▶ Collaborate with us



Contact Us



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THE **JO COX**
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► More in Common, Batley & Spen

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► The Jo Cox Foundation

Website: www.jocoxfoundation.org/

Twitter:

www.twitter.com/jocoxfoundation

► The Great Get Together

Website: www.greatgettogether.org/

Twitter: www.twitter.com/great_together



THANK YOU FOR LISTENING



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ANY QUESTIONS?

