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## Foundation

Our vision is of strong communities, where people work co-operatively to make things better.

### **Our mission**

The Co-op Foundation helps disadvantaged communities to overcome their challenges by putting co-operative values into practice.

We aim to stimulate and strengthen community action that connects and empowers people so they can work together to make things better.

### **How we put our values into practice**

#### **Self-help and self-responsibility**

Our work helps communities develop their skills, resilience and infrastructure, equipping them to make sustained improvements to the things that matter to them.

#### **Democracy**

We put communities in control, giving a voice at all levels of our own work to the people we aim to benefit, and promoting meaningful user involvement by the partners we work with.

#### **Equality and equity**

We level the playing field, prioritising under-resourced communities, whether defined by where people live or their shared interests or identities.

#### **Solidarity**

We collaborate with others who share our vision, and bring people and organisations together to build cohesion and shape collective responses to needs.

#### **Honesty and openness**

We make ourselves accountable to our stakeholders by transparently reporting on our activities, impact, and how we live up to our values.

#### **Social responsibility**

We carefully consider our overall impact on society, generating our resources ethically as well as making sure we use them effectively.

#### **Caring for others**

Our work has a particular focus on the most disadvantaged, but also delivers wider benefits for the whole community.



Foundation

### Strategic goals (2017-19)

The Co-operative Foundation has three priorities for the next three years.

#### 1. Connect and empower the next generation

##### Our goal

To champion young people's ability to contribute positively to their communities and help strengthen their sense of belonging

##### How we will achieve it

We will develop a national network of projects tackling loneliness among disadvantaged young people through activities that connect them to and benefit their wider communities.

This network will have a focus on collaboration and shared learning, stimulating a national conversation and strengthening local practice.

#### 2. Connect and empower communities taking control

##### Our goal

To invest in disadvantaged communities' capacity to overcome social, economic or environmental challenges

##### How we will achieve it

We will identify communities that are under-resourced in relation to the challenges they face, and work with them to strengthen their long-term self-reliance.

We will support partnerships working to develop the skills and infrastructure that make sustainable, community-led change possible.

#### 3. Connect and empower partners and supporters

##### Our goal

To build our reputation as a trusted charity with a co-operative difference, uniting with others to make sustainable impact in communities

##### How we will achieve it

We will work in partnership with the Co-op and other stakeholders to make effective use of our collective resources, including volunteer time and expertise as well as new income streams.

We will develop a clear Foundation identity, and aspire to become a beacon of good practice, transparency and accountability.