

THE HORIZONS PROJECT
PUBLICATION SERIES
HP-017

Looking to the Future

A shared vision for stronger communities, lasting momentum and meaningful change.

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About This Publication

Every organisation begins with hope: hope that something can improve, that people can experience life differently, and that small actions, repeated consistently, can contribute to something much larger over time.

The Horizons Project is no different. This publication reflects upon the future we hope to help create, the principles that will continue guiding our work and the shared responsibility we all have in building stronger, more connected communities.

No organisation creates the future alone. It is shaped by countless ordinary decisions made by ordinary people every day, and Horizons simply hopes to become one small part of that story.

The central message is simple: the future of Horizons will never be defined by the organisation alone, but by the confidence, Momentum and positive change that continue long after our conversations have ended.

What the Future Looks Like in Practice

The future Horizons hopes to contribute to will not always be dramatic or easily measured. It may look like someone offering encouragement because they once received it, confidence passed quietly from one person to another, or communities becoming more connected through small acts of welcome, patience and trust.

It may look like organisations collaborating naturally because relationships have already been built, or people recognising strengths in themselves and others that had previously gone unnoticed.

Most importantly, it may look like Momentum continuing without Horizons being present. That is the kind of future worth working towards.

The Future Is Built One Conversation at a Time

When people imagine change, they often picture dramatic moments: major announcements, new buildings, large programmes or transformational events. Sometimes these things matter; more often, lasting change begins somewhere quieter.

It may begin with a conversation that restores confidence, an appointment that is attended, a friendship that begins, a neighbour who feels less alone or someone deciding not to give up.

Communities are rarely transformed all at once. They are strengthened through thousands of ordinary moments that gradually reshape everyday life.

Momentum has always believed in the power of those moments.

A Society That Walks Alongside One Another

Every community contains knowledge, kindness and experience. Sometimes these strengths are visible, and sometimes they simply need opportunities to emerge.

Horizons hopes for a future in which asking for help carries no stigma, people feel confident offering support as well as receiving it, organisations collaborate rather than compete, lived experience is valued alongside professional expertise, and communities recognise that everyone has something meaningful to contribute.

Such a future cannot be created by one project alone. It belongs to everyone willing to walk alongside another person for part of their journey.

Horizons in Practice

Several years after first engaging with Momentum, Rebecca attends a local community event. She is no longer receiving support from Horizons; instead, she is helping to organise the event alongside other volunteers.

During the afternoon, she notices someone standing quietly on the edge of the room, looking uncertain about joining in. She walks over, introduces herself and invites them to sit with the group.

It is a small gesture, and perhaps no one else notices. Yet Rebecca remembers how overwhelming unfamiliar places once felt.

The confidence she now shares with someone else did not appear overnight. It grew through many ordinary conversations, thoughtful encouragement and the opportunity to believe in herself again.

Horizons is not present that afternoon. It does not need to be. Momentum has continued through another person.

Hope Is Practical

Hope is sometimes misunderstood as optimism without action. Horizons understands hope differently: hope grows when people experience progress, discover support, see barriers become manageable and recognise their own strengths.

It is sustained not by promises, but by experience. Every practical step forward creates another reason to believe that tomorrow may be different from today.

Momentum exists to help create those opportunities.

Every Ending Creates Another Beginning

Earlier publications described how relationships with Horizons naturally come to an end. That ending has never been the destination; it is the beginning of a new chapter lived with greater confidence, stronger relationships and renewed purpose.

The greatest measure of success will never be how many people continue depending upon Horizons. It will be how many continue creating Momentum long after Horizons has stepped back.

That future belongs to them, not to us.

A Living Organisation

The Horizons Project will continue changing. New evidence will emerge, communities will evolve, practice will develop and partnerships will grow.

Future publications may replace or expand those you have just read. That possibility has never been something to fear; an organisation committed to learning should expect to evolve.

What must remain constant is not every policy or publication, but the purpose that gives them meaning: to help people find purpose, maintain Momentum and create positive change in their own lives and the lives of those around them.

Looking Beyond Horizons

Every publication in this series has explored a different aspect of The Horizons Project: purpose, relationships, boundaries, trust, safeguarding, learning, governance, community, collaboration and growth.

Each contributes to a wider picture, yet none of them are the destination. The destination has always been something much simpler: people living fuller, more connected and more hopeful lives.

If Horizons contributes, even in a small way, to that future, it will have fulfilled the purpose for which it was created.

An Invitation

Perhaps one day The Horizons Project will look very different from the organisation described in these publications. It may serve more communities, work alongside more partners and learn from thousands more conversations, or it may remain small, local and deeply rooted in the places where it began.

Either future would be welcome because success has never been measured by size. It has always been measured by whether people's lives are strengthened through the work we do together.

If, somewhere in the future, someone feels able to take one more step because another person once walked alongside them, then Horizons will have left something worthwhile behind.

Not simply an organisation, but a legacy of Momentum.

Continue Exploring

Continue exploring with the next publication.

Building Horizons — The Principles, Governance and Practice Behind The Horizons Project

This companion volume explores the research, philosophy and development that shaped The Horizons Project.

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