

Leeds Quality Childminding Network

A parents guide



Here in Leeds we have over 950 registered childminders and we are proud to say more childminders receive a good or outstanding grade from Ofsted. We recognise they are a unique childcare provider and we want to support all childminders throughout their childminding career

We have taken recommendations from the Independent Report on the Early Years Foundation Stage by Dame Clare Tickell, who states “childminders who are supported by a strong local infrastructure – for example via a childminder network. These methods of support are successful in providing a way for childminders to share experiences and access training and resources, and ultimately to drive up standards. “Obviously this is something both the Local Authority and yourselves as registered childminders ultimately want.

A key way to improve outcomes for children is to ensure that all children have access to high quality childcare and early education places. Research shows that children who experience high quality early years provision are well placed to achieve better outcomes in school and beyond. Develop better social, emotional and cognitive abilities necessary for life-long learning. Poor quality provision, however, adds no value in the long term.”(EYQUISP 2008)

Our vision is to offer a flexible quality childminding network to build upon the good childminding practice that currently exists across the city, we aim to further improve the quality of home based childcare practice and improve experiences for all young children and their families in Leeds. The network will provide effective levels of support and continuous professional development (CPD) for all registered childminders.

Leeds Mission Statement

'Leeds Quality Childminding Network will provide a professional forum to enable individual childminders to grow and develop their home based practice. All childminders will be encouraged and supported to deliver a quality childminding service to improve the outcomes for all children and families '.

The Leeds Quality Childminding Network is inclusive and automatically includes all registered childminders in Leeds; support/contact offered will reflect the needs of the individual childminder as they progress through their professional childminding career. Initially, there would be more targeted support available to newly registered childminders as well as those who receive a satisfactory grade or below from Ofsted. More experienced childminders of proven quality and who have accessed further relevant CPD will require less intensive support.

Each childminder will be allocated a named Childcare Consultant(s) who will provide support, guidance and challenge in developing their childminding career. Support and training is offered to all childminders to progress through the network. There are different strands to the network depending where the childminder is in their career.

Strand 1 – Newly registered childminders

Strand 2 – Childminders who have received a satisfactory grade from Ofsted

Strand 3 – Childminders who have received a good or outstanding grade from Ofsted

Strand 3 with EYE – Childminders who have received a good or an outstanding grade and are able to draw down NEG funding for eligible 3 and 4 year olds.

Whichever strand of the network your childminder is on they will receive support/contact from the Childcare Consultant Team

Your childminder will receive regular updates on changes in legislation and what's on offer in Leeds.

Your childminder will receive invitations to further training events and in particular our Childminding Study Days

For those childminders who have chosen not to join the Leeds Quality Childminding Network at this time, if in the future they would like to join we look forward to hearing from them.

Thank you very much.