Putting children and young people at the heart of a compassionate city with a strong economy
Our story so far

Child Friendly Leeds was launched by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 2012. Since then, a growing number of partners across the city have been working together to create better outcomes for children and young people in Leeds. We ask everyone to take action in their schools, communities, businesses and organisations to make Leeds a child friendly city.

Our commitment to being the best city for children and young people is founded on the global movement of Child Friendly Cities initiated by UNICEF, and guided by the voices of children and young people in Leeds.

Child Friendly Leeds has made a significant contribution to:

- Putting the voice of the child at the heart of all we do – finding out what their priorities are and acting on what they tell us via youth voice groups, projects, consultations and events.

- Strengthening partnership working to focus on priority outcomes for children and young people, for example through the MindMate offer to improve emotional wellbeing.

- Establishing the annual Child Friendly Leeds Awards, with children and young people at the heart of the planning and delivery of the event. The awards recognise the people, places and organisations that make a positive contribution to the lives of children and young people in Leeds.

- Establishing Leeds Baby Week, in partnership with health services and the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to raise awareness across the city of this critical stage of child development and the importance of giving all children the best start.

- Establishing a strong and growing network of Child Friendly Leeds ambassadors, who make both financial and in-kind contributions to improve the lives of children and young people through enrichment opportunities for looked after children and care leavers, activity days for foster families, donating prizes and sponsoring events.

- Supporting and promoting the Independent Visitor Scheme for ‘children looked after’ in Leeds, resulting in an increase in volunteers.
2. To do well at all levels of learning and have skills for life.

We want Leeds to be the best city for learning. The economic success of Leeds requires its young people to have the right skills and aspirations. Raising levels of educational attainment is important, however, it is also crucial that schools and settings are supported to equip all young people with the skills and mindset to keep their skills up to date to be resilient, and to prosper in the face of future economic challenges.

Can you…

a. Work with young people to help them develop CV writing skills, complete mock job interviews and offer work experience opportunities.

b. Help make Leeds an EET (experiences, employment or training) city by offering work placements, training and work experience/internships.

c. Become a governor and help schools in Leeds to improve their attendance, attainment and achievement of all children and young people.

d. Help provide an EET platform, listen to the voices of children, young people and families, and help young people develop their skills and use feedback to improve their practice and/or services.

e. Encourage any young person aged 10-18 to join the Leeds Youth Council. Make sure that young people can have a voice and influence.

3. To enjoy healthy lifestyles.

We want all children and young people to have the best start in life.

Can you…

a. Promote the Change4Life Nutrition campaign, which aims to help reduce childhood obesity and reduce their children’s sugar intake. Children in England are more than twice the maximum recommended amount.

b. Support the Leeds Children’s Play Strategies, which recognises the importance of play for happy and healthy childhoods.

c. Help promote MindMate, a Leeds-based website for young people, their families and the professionals who support young people with mental wellbeing and mental health issues.

d. Make your business or place of work breastfeeding friendly.

e. Support the Leeds Smiles initiate to promote regular teeth brushing which recognises the importance of good oral hygiene for young children.

4. To have fun growing up.

We want all children and young people in Leeds to have happy healthy childhoods with plenty of time and space to play. We want this for all children and particularly those bringing in poverty or where their individual circumstances often prevent this from happening.

Can you…

a. Promote a campaign of rewards and help make vulnerable children in Leeds feel valued and celebrated with free tickets to events/activities.

b. Become an independent visitor – a volunteer who helps children and young people to keep them safe from harm and spend time with a young person who is living in residential or foster care and lack support from an extended family network.

c. Become a volunteer and work with young people.

d. Encourage any young person aged 10-18 to join the Leeds Youth Council. Make sure that young people can have a voice and influence.

e. Encourage any young person aged 10-18 to join the Leeds Youth Council. Make sure that young people can have a voice and influence.

5. To be active citizens who feel they have a voice and influence.

Children and young people have great ideas, fresh insight and want to be involved in making decisions. They have the right to have their say when decisions are made that affect their lives! - Article 12, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Can you…

a. Involve children and young people next time you’re consulting on an important decision that may affect them and their families.

b. Invite young people to take part in key conversations and discussions as they are interviewing for important job roles in your organisation.

c. Encourage children and young people to represent their views before they turn 18 and in the meanwhile, to take part in the annual UK Youth Parliament’s ‘Mark’ ballot and Leeds Children’s Mayor elections.

d. Encourage any young person aged 10-18 to join the Leeds Youth Council. Make sure that young people can have a voice and influence.

e. Consider providing volunteering opportunities or thinking about other ways you or your organisation could support children and young people to be more active in their communities.

Find out more:


Email the team: vic@leeds.gov.uk

Follow us on social media: @LeedsYouthVoice

About Leeds

Total population: 789,194

21,1 percent of the Leeds population aged under 25.

24.4 percent of the children are under 25.

The Leeds 10–27 population is projected to grow by 21.1 percent by 2026

Around 10,000 babies are born in Leeds each year

30 percent of the Leeds population aged under 25.

57.4 percent of the Leeds population are under 25.

19.5 percent of the Leeds population aged under 25.

0.9 percent of the Leeds population aged under 25.

Children and young people have great ideas, fresh insight and want to be involved in making decisions. They have the right to have their say when decisions are made that affect their lives! - Article 12, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Can you…

a. Involve children and young people next time you’re consulting on an important decision that may affect them and their families.

b. Invite young people to take part in key conversations and discussions as they are interviewing for important job roles in your organisation.

c. Encourage children and young people to represent their views before they turn 18 and in the meanwhile, to take part in the annual UK Youth Parliament’s ‘Mark’ ballot and Leeds Children’s Mayor elections.

d. Encourage any young person aged 10-18 to join the Leeds Youth Council. Make sure that young people can have a voice and influence.

e. Consider providing volunteering opportunities or thinking about other ways you or your organisation could support children and young people to be more active in their communities.
Child Friendly Leeds

Leeds has an important ambition. We want to be the best city for all our children and young people to grow up in – a place where children are valued, supported, enjoy living and can look forward to a bright future – a truly child friendly city. Leeds has placed children and young people at the very heart of the growth strategy of the city.

Child Friendly Leeds brings everyone who shares this ambition together across the city; from enthusiastic individuals to large organisations. Every contribution counts and everyone can play their part and make a difference.

Child Friendly Leeds is helping to make something truly unique and special happen. Together we are creating a cultural change: celebrating and empowering young people growing up in Leeds today and building a more socially connected and economically successful city for the future.

Find out more

Visit www.childfriendlyleeds.co.uk for more information about our work.

Follow us on social media:

Twitter: @Child_Leeds

Instagram: @childfriendlyleeds

Facebook: @ChildFriendlyLeeds

Blog site: www.childfriendlyleeds.wordpress.com

For information about how we work together to keep children and young people safe, visit www.leedsscp.org.uk

To help by being a Child Friendly Leeds supporter, ambassador or partner please email us at childfriendlyleeds@leeds.gov.uk
Proud Child Friendly Leeds partners