



# One minute guide

## Child Friendly Leeds - 5th anniversary

No. 18, June 2017



### What is Child Friendly Leeds?

Our ambition is to be the best city for children and young people to grow up in. This is a crucial element of the council's work to become the best city in the UK by 2030. There are 187,000 children and young people in Leeds, and the council works with partners across Leeds to put children and young people at the heart of our collective thinking, planning and action.

Child Friendly Leeds (CFL) was launched by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth in 2012 and is the thread that brings together all the work we do to create better outcomes for all children and young people. We ask everyone to work together to take action in their school, community, business or organisation 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 here in Leeds.

### What has Child Friendly Leeds achieved so far?

Child Friendly Leeds has made significant contributions to:

Putting the **voice of the child** at the heart of all we do - we engage with children and young people through our voice and influence work ([guide](#)), and with the Have a Voice Council ([guide](#)) for children looked after and Care Leavers Council to find out their priorities for change, and act on what they say.

Strengthening **partnership working** to focus on priority outcomes for children and young people, for example through the MindMate ([guide](#)) offer to improve emotional wellbeing, and through improved integration of the priorities of the Children and Families Trust Board ([guide](#)) and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Establishing the annual **Baby Week** programme, in partnership with health services and the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) ([guide](#)) to raise awareness across the city of this critical stage of child development.

**Intergenerational partnership working**, linking in with the [Age Friendly](#) agenda to look at common themes and barriers that both children and young people and older people experience when participating in and enjoying life in Leeds.

Supporting and promoting the **Independent Visitor scheme** ([guide](#)) for children looked after in Leeds, which has seen increases in the recruitment of volunteers.

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 those people, places and organisations that make a positive contribution to the lives of all of our children and young people in Leeds.

Establishing a strong and growing network of **CFL Ambassadors**, who make both financial and in-kind contributions to improve the lives of children and young people in Leeds through, for example, offering enrichment opportunities for looked after children and care leavers, activity days for foster families, and sponsor prizes and events such as the CFL Awards. All contributions are welcome, large or small.

## What will the second phase of Child Friendly Leeds focus on?

Child Friendly Leeds will continue to be the golden thread bringing together the work of children's services and our partners to create better outcomes for children and young people, building on what we have already achieved and following the same strategy.

However, the 5th anniversary of CFL offers an opportunity to reflect on our success and look at our areas of challenge. We recognise that, despite the good progress we have made in improving our services and support for children and young people in Leeds, there is more to do to ensure that the most vulnerable are able to benefit from these improvements. We know that, despite over 90% of schools in Leeds being judged as 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, the gap in achievement between our most vulnerable children and young people and their more affluent peers is not closing.

Our focus for the second phase of CFL will be improving the 'three As' for vulnerable children and young people. We want to help these children and young people to:

**Attend** their school or education setting regularly;

**Achieve** socially at school, e.g. through having friends, a good relationship with at least one trusted adult, and participating in extra-curricular activities; and

**Attain** and reach their academic potential.

## How can people support Child Friendly Leeds?

If you work with children and young people in Leeds, the most important thing you can do to support our CFL ambitions is to listen to the voice of children, young people and families, and use their feedback to improve your practice and/ or services. For support and advice on how to consult with children and young people effectively, you can contact the Voice and Influence Team on 07891 279304.

If you would like to be more directly involved in the work of Child Friendly Leeds, you can contact the team and become a CFL Ambassador - either as an individual, or on behalf of your service or organisation. Ambassadors are invited to regular networking events, receive updates through the CFL newsletter and can get involved in various CFL projects.

Finally, you can help to support the work of Child Friendly Leeds by spreading the word about CFL amongst your organisation, team, colleagues, friends and family. And if you are already involved in volunteering or with a project or initiative that is improving the lives of children, young people and families in Leeds, why not write a blog to tell other people all about it? CFL has a [blog site](#), and if you have an idea for a contribution please send your suggestion to the CFL email address below.

## Key contacts and further information

Sue Rumbold, chief officer for partnerships, oversees the initiative on behalf of Steve Walker, the director of children and family services, and Councillor Lisa Mulherin, the executive member for children and family services. Councillor Salma Arif leads on Child Friendly Leeds work on behalf of elected members.

You can contact the Child Friendly Leeds team on 0113 378 3577, email [childfriendlyleeds@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:childfriendlyleeds@leeds.gov.uk), or go to the [website](#). CFL also has a presence on Twitter [@Child\\_Leeds](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).