



Leeds Community Foundation

Putting Children & Young People at the Heart of our Work in Leeds

Leeds at heart.

“In the United Kingdom, there are over 15 million people aged 19 or under, amounting to 24% of the total population. Some 27% of children in the UK live in poverty. There are just over 180,000 under-19s in Leeds, accounting for 24% of the population. Of these, 19% live in poverty.”

1. LEEDS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Leeds Community Foundation fulfils a vital role in the City, connecting people who have achieved success and want to give something back, with some amazing community projects who need financial support and practical help. We are the largest independent grant-maker in Leeds and, since 2005, we have given out over £20 million in grants to nearly 1,500 Community Groups and charities. We specialise in creating grants programmes that have a lasting effect primarily in disadvantaged communities. We work closely with individuals, companies and organisations in order to align their areas of interest with the needs of local communities. Many people ask us what are the “needs in Leeds”. In response to that we have produced a number of publications that can be found on our website (www.leedscf.org.uk). This paper – putting children and young people at the heart of our work in Leeds – focuses specifically on the needs of young people in the City.

2. EMERGING NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

In the United Kingdom, there are over 15 million people aged 19 or under, amounting to 24% of the total population. A total of 17.6% of the UK population is aged 16 or under, this is expected to increase slightly until at least 2025, when it is projected to reach 18.5%. There are relatively small numbers of eight to twelve year olds, compared with previous years, reflecting a dip in the birth rate. However, the number of children under five is significantly larger, as the birth rate is now at its highest level since 1972.



Children and young people are disproportionately affected by poverty and deprivation. Some 27% of children in the UK live in poverty, compared with 21% of the population as a whole. Employment for parents is no guarantee of financial security when two thirds of impoverished children live in households with at least one working adult. Children raised in poverty leave school with fewer qualifications and grow up to have poorer health than their wealthier peers. This leads them to be disadvantaged as adults and so raise children below the poverty line themselves, perpetuating the cycle of deprivation.

Although rates of child poverty fell dramatically between 1998 and 2012, there have been significant increases since then. This is expected to continue until at least 2020 when 3.7 million under 16s will live in poverty in the UK, amounting to 30% of the predicted number of children.

Neglect and abuse are also problems faced by young people. Neglect is the most common cause of social services’ intervention in families, with 16% of British children experiencing it in some form. Levels of abuse are even higher, with one in five children experiencing some degree of physical abuse at the hands of parents or carers. These cases of neglect and abuse lead to increased trauma, delinquent behaviour and criminal activity, as well as reduced emotional wellbeing and mental health. These effects can last well into adulthood, with 18 to 24 year olds who were severely maltreated in childhood being four times more likely to have current thoughts of self-harm than their peers. The negative effects are cumulative: the longer a young person is abused and the more different kinds of abuse they suffer, the more severe their trauma symptoms are. Abuse and neglect in childhood can lead to poor mental health for life; the earlier intervention takes place, the more likely a person is to recover.



At any point in time, one in ten children has emotional or mental health difficulties. This is a very serious issue as it impacts negatively on school attendance and behaviour and on the risk of teenage pregnancy, substance misuse, criminal activity, suicide and self-harm. People who experience good mental health and wellbeing in childhood become better equipped to raise happy children themselves in adulthood.



“1 in 10 Children has emotional or mental health difficulties.”

Bullying, problems with family relationships and physical abuse are the most frequent causes of calls to Childline. Bullying is the most common problem facing young people today, affecting almost everyone at some point during childhood. Sexual abuse, running away and poor mental health are also often reported by young people seeking support, with many callers describing several interlinking issues.

According to the NSPCC, the most vulnerable groups of children and young people are: those who suffer neglect, those who experience physical or sexual abuse, children under one year old, the disabled and children and young people in care.

3. THE STATISTICS FOR LEEDS

There are just over 180,000 under-19s in Leeds, accounting for 24% of the population. Of these, 19% live in poverty; the figure is even higher for under-16s at 23%. Leeds Central is ranked 11th out of 650 parliamentary constituencies for rates of child poverty, with 38% of children in that area being affected.

There are approximately 1,350 children and young people in care in Leeds; this is significantly higher than the national average. A further 800 are on child protection plans, meaning that they have been identified as in need of sheltering from harm by social services.

In 2012/13 a total of 1,530 primary pupils and 2,944 secondary pupils missed more than 15% of school. At these levels, missing school has a strong impact on life chances, reducing educational attainment and increasing the risk of substance misuse and becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) upon leaving school. There are about 1,550 young people between 16 to 18 years old in Leeds who are NEET, accounting for over 6.9% of the age group.



Poor health and obesity are serious issues for children and young people in Leeds. 19.6% of 11 year olds and 8.7% five year olds are obese. Only 40% of 11 year olds eat enough fruit and vegetables. This problem is particularly acute in areas with high levels of poverty and deprivation.

One in five children and young people in Leeds do not agree with the statement ‘I enjoy my life’. Less than half of secondary school children believe that their local area is good or very good for play or sports; less than a fifth think that their area has good arts facilities. These figures have fallen since 2009, as many facilities have had to be reduced or removed due to funding cuts.

Leeds is a very diverse city, with around 140 different ethnic groups represented, especially with regard to children and young people. Minority ethnic groups account for 17% of the total population of Leeds but 24% of school pupils in the city. 15% of school pupils speak English as an Additional Language and over 170 different languages are spoken in our schools.



4. LOCAL CONTEXT

4.1 Making Leeds a Child Friendly City

Leeds has set out an ambition to be the best city in the UK and as part of this, the best city for children and young people to grow up in. To realise this ambition Leeds has set out its vision for becoming a child friendly city, a place where children and young people are safe, enjoy healthy lifestyles, realise their potential, have fun growing up and have a voice and influence over decisions and issues that affect them. This vision, outcomes and priorities that underpin it are captured in the Children and Young People's (CYP) Plan for the city, which is the key strategic, partnership plan giving shared focus to the work of different organisations supporting children and young people.

The Children's Trust Board is the overarching strategic Partnership Board that oversees implementation of the CYP Plan and the vision for a child friendly city. The Board includes key partners from the main public sector organisations that work with children and young people as well as representation from the different education sectors, the third sector and businesses.

Working to make Leeds a child friendly city recognises that no one organisation or even group of organisations can transform the way the city supports and values its children and young people. The initiative requires an all-encompassing city-wide effort. As such the child friendly Leeds approach proactively seeks to engage the widest range of partners with the challenges and opportunities that need to be addressed to make Leeds the best possible city to grow up in.

As part of this approach and in line with statutory responsibilities, Leeds has an independently Chaired Safeguarding Board which has collective responsibility for holding its members, partners and others to account for how effectively children and young people in Leeds are kept safe. Many of the issues highlighted in this report are areas of key concern for that Board.

For more information about Leeds City Council's statutory responsibility, visit:

<http://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/Pages/Our-Vision-and-Strategies.aspx>

4.2 Third Sector

The city of Leeds is fortunate in that it has a vibrant third sector comprising over 3,000 separate community groups and charities that, each day, are supporting the work that takes place in our local communities.

We have estimated that approximately 500 of these are primarily or solely concerned with supporting children and young people across the City. Some organisations - approximately 50 in total - are commissioned by statutory partners to deliver frontline services. Others - at least 450 in Leeds alone - deliver frontline services but raise money from other sources to support their work. They may receive some statutory support primarily through Leeds City Council Area Wellbeing funding or Councillor's Mice Money etc.

These organisations draw substantial external funds into the city through charitable foundations, non-statutory grant bodies and fundraising. They often operate at a micro-level in local

A further significant contribution is made by the many different sports groups that play football, cricket, rugby, athletics and many other sports. It has been difficult to judge the number of groups that take part in sporting activities as there are so many different leagues in football, rugby and cricket, let alone the other sports. We looked at football, for instance, and found 62 youth teams with over 1,000 members in one League alone. If we add other sports to this number, we estimate that there are approximately 3,000 young people engaged in some sort of amateur sporting activity in Leeds on a regular, weekly basis.

Young Lives Leeds is the over-arching forum supporting the third sector in improving the lives of children, young people and their families in Leeds. They help these organisations to provide better services by giving them a voice and providing them with information, advice and a network. They have over 500 subscriber organisations that provide services for young people and families in our city.

Young Lives Leeds hosts forum meetings every six weeks which enable organisations to come together to discuss strategy related to children and young people. These provide an important link between various different third sector organisations and the Children's Trust Board.



5. WHAT ARE THE KEY NEEDS IN LEEDS?

Below you will find a brief explanation of some of the key issues facing children and young people in Leeds. In order to illustrate what is being done to tackle these by local third sector organisations, we have given some specific examples of projects funded by LCF.

5.1 Looked After Children

There are 1,350 looked after children and young people in Leeds; this is well above the national average, although partnership work in recent years has helped, significantly, with reducing these numbers year on year. Being a looked after child is linked to many other issues which have a negative impact on life chances, including: substance misuse, poor mental health, reduced access to health services, domestic violence, poor school attendance and attainment, worklessness, unemployment, youth offending, poverty and teenage parenthood. In Leeds, 87% of looked after children are with foster parents, special guardians or another form of family-based care. The remaining 13% are in residential care homes which are supposed to be temporary while family-based care is arranged. Over half of children taken into care in Leeds are under five years old.

“13% of looked after Children in Leeds are in residential care homes.”

Looked after children have been a focus of policy both nationally and locally in recent years and the system has seen many improvements. The council has a duty of care up to the age of 21 and a duty to provide education, training and employment support up to 25. However, it still fails many of the most vulnerable children; many experience poor outcomes after leaving care and homelessness and substance abuse are key issues for young adults who were looked after by the council as children. Educational achievement and mental health continue to be poor for children in care. One in five young women leaving care in Leeds becomes pregnant within 12 months. Parents who were looked after children are 12 times more likely to have their own children taken into care; this is often down to a lack of good parenting skills. Nearly a quarter of the adult prison population and of the street homeless were looked after children.

Most of these children are in care due to abuse or neglect by parents or guardians, but sometimes a guardian's illness or disability renders them unable to care for their children themselves. The term 'looked after children' includes those who are in care on a short term or respite basis. Nationally, 45% of those entering care have a diagnosable mental health problem.



Looked after children often under-achieve in school as their academic and emotional development is behind that of their peers. In Leeds, only 36% of looked after children achieve the target level in SATs taken at age 10-11, compared with an average of around 60% for all pupils. Only 9% of looked after children in Leeds achieve five A*-C grades at GCSE including English and Maths, the figure is 57% for pupils in Leeds as a whole. Less than 5% of care leavers in Leeds go to university.

Easdale Children's Home

Easdale Children's Home provides residential care for looked after children; it is a place of refuge for orphans and neglected, abused and disadvantaged children. They wanted to provide better links with the community and help the children to integrate, reducing tensions between the home's residents and local people.

A £500 LCF grant from the Jimbo's fund enabled the children's home to buy chickens and the equipment to begin looking after them. This enabled the home to give free eggs to local people, building a vital link and generating positive interaction with the home's residents. The children also enjoy looking after the chickens and so have the opportunity to learn about food processes, livestock and caring for animals. It is their responsibility to look after the chickens, under the supervision of staff. This project has helped to make Easdale Children's Home a brighter and more engaging environment.

The best way to reduce these problems is to minimise the number of children and young people being taken into care in the first place. By identifying those at risk as early as possible, families can be monitored and offered the support and help they need to stay together. Evidence shows that it is primarily the lifestyle and behaviour of parents that result in children entering care, particularly the very young ones. Tackling these issues - mental health problems, domestic violence and substance miss-use - is vital if we are really to make a significant difference in this area. Work also needs to take place educating a range of young people about how to choose & live healthier lifestyles - after all, they are the next generation of parents. We need to help improve their potential to be effective parents to ensure their children don't enter care. For those children who are taken into care more needs to be done to increase the numbers of foster parents & adoptive families, particularly for the very young and sibling groups.



5.2 Poverty

In Leeds, 23% of under-16s live in poverty; this is above the national average for England. Deprivation reduces life chances and the ability to contribute to the community in Leeds. It has an impact on a range of other outcomes for children and young people; infant mortality, child health, educational achievement and youth employment are all worse in areas of Leeds with high rates of child poverty. Reducing it is the key to improving the lives and life chances of Leeds' children, enabling them to fulfil their potential. However, the causes of child poverty are as complex as its effects; tackling it requires a large scale effort from government, agencies, organisations and individuals working together in partnership.

There are over 35,000 children and young people living in poverty in Leeds. Of these, 69% live in single parent households and 21% live in households which have four or more dependent children. In the last year, the number of children living in poverty has increased by 5%, meaning that 1,850 more children in Leeds are living in households below the poverty line. Children under five years old are more likely to be affected by poverty than any other age group.

“In Leeds, 23% of Under 16s live in poverty.”

The issue varies hugely by area of the city. Leeds was divided into 476 local neighbourhoods based on the last census. Of these, 9 (2%) had no children at all living in poverty and 80 (17%) had less than 5%. At the opposite end, 47 (10%) neighbourhoods had over 45% of their children living in poverty. 92 (19%) of Leeds' neighbourhoods were considered to be in the poorest 10% nationally. Child deprivation is primarily concentrated in the inner city areas of Leeds, but it can be found in suburban areas as well.

Minimising the effects of child poverty is a key aim of the council's Vision for Leeds 2011-2030, which aims to make Leeds the 'best city in the UK'. This initiative strives to make Leeds fair, prosperous and sustainable, with success for all communities. Reducing the impact of poverty is an important part of this and deprivation and inequality are drivers of many other problems facing our city.



Christ Church Armley Youth Project (CCAYP)

Child poverty in Armley is substantially more common than in Leeds as a whole. It also has high rates of crime and worklessness alongside poor health and education attainment. The Christ Church Armley Youth Project runs a variety of services aimed at improving the lives and life chances of children and young people in the area. At any one time, they work with up to 350 young people, aged between 7 and 21, who are vulnerable and require support. Their service users are often at risk of school exclusion and are characterised by apathy, a lack of aspiration, truancy and being NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training). They are frequently affected by substance misuse, neglect, poor mental health, domestic violence and behavioural problems. The area immediately adjacent to the project has been rated as the eighth worst living environment in the country and is heavily afflicted by anti-social behaviour.

CCAYP provides a safe space for local young people to meet, socialise and learn useful life skills. Although based in a church, the activities are not faith-based and are open to all. There are several youth clubs, catering to different age groups, as well as girls-only and boys-only groups to deal with gender-specific issues such as sexual health and teenage parenthood. They adapt their services in response to the needs of those who use them, supporting and encouraging them to lead positive, healthy and productive lives. Relationship building is a key part of their work, allowing young people to connect with supportive adults and with each other.



CCAYP have received large LCF grants through Henry Smith, Jimbo's fund and Comic Relief. These have primarily helped to fund salaries for full time workers, in order to make the group's work possible. They've also supported the creation of a food co-operative run by young people. This sells local, seasonal produce from a shop with a home delivery service. The primary benefits of this scheme are providing young people with aspirations, life skills and business experience. It builds confidence and self-esteem, increasing employability and group cohesion, as well as promoting the use of fresh produce and healthy lifestyles. The co-op has the added benefit of providing local, low cost fresh food to the community, in an area where access to healthy food is very limited.





5.3 Emotional Health

In Leeds, over a third of young people suffer from mental health issues at some point in childhood. At any time, one child in ten has poor mental health or emotional wellbeing; this amounts to over 18,000 children in our city. Reduced wellbeing is a very serious problem as it has a negative impact on behaviour, school attendance and educational attainment and increases the risk of teenage pregnancy, substance misuse and criminal activity. This problem is especially acute among looked after children.

A fifth of children and young people in Leeds do not agree with the statement 'I enjoy my life.' This figure is as high as 27% for secondary school pupils. In this age group, almost a quarter report feeling stressed most days or every day and 23% feel angry at least most days. Over a quarter of young people in Leeds do not know where to get help and support with emotional and mental health issues.

Bullying is a major cause of mental ill-health in children and young people, with more than a third having been bullied in school within the last year. Major reasons include ethnicity/culture, size and appearance. As well as emotional wellbeing, bullying has a negative effect on school attendance, with 28% of repeated non-attendees citing it as the main cause. Poor wellbeing is also a cause of bullying; many children who engage in bullying behaviour towards others have unmet mental health needs and a lack of social and emotional skills. Initiatives to tackle bullying are successful; a fall of 11% was recorded between 2008/9 and 2009/10, as relevant work from the council and several charities intensified.



Kidz Klub

Kidz Klub offer support and routine to children whose lives are often very chaotic, stressful and unstable. Free weekly sessions, which cater for a total of 650 children per week, enable 4-11 year olds to meet other children in their local area and provide fun, structured play activities. These sessions also include classes on a wide range of wellbeing topics including respecting others, caring for the community, building healthy family relationships and the importance of education.



Kidz Klub also offer weekly home visits to over 1,000 children in Leeds. These are at the same time every week and are attended by the same volunteer, providing stability and structure for children whose lives are very chaotic. In these visits, trained volunteers talk to the children about their worries and concerns, offering advice and support. They can also monitor for deteriorating situations within families and refer them to more intensive support when required.

The projects have received several grants from LCF in order to run these services. These come from the Jimbo's, Yorkshire Venture Philanthropy, Hitachi Capital and Henry Smith funds.

5.4 Substance Misuse

Regular substance misuse can cause serious medical problems and emotional disorders. Attendance and attainment at school or college can suffer as well as relationships with family and friends. Early intervention in problem substance use is by far the most effective way to resolve these problems for individuals. Young people in Leeds have significantly higher rates of cannabis use, but significantly lower rates of alcohol use, than for the country as a whole.



There is a close relationship between underage alcohol misuse, low educational attainment and adult criminal behaviour. The number of young people drinking both nationally and in Leeds is decreasing, but it is still at worrying levels. Approximately one in six 11-17 year olds have been drunk in the last four weeks, with one in twelve being drunk three times or more in that period. Although fewer young people are drinking, those that do drink report increased alcohol consumption and higher levels of drunkenness. The number of 14 year olds admitted to hospital for alcohol-specific problems has been steadily increasing since 2007. Almost of fifth of young people in Leeds cite boredom as the main reason for binge drinking.

Illegal drug use affects all elements of society but the impact is most profound on deprived communities, disadvantaged families and vulnerable individuals. Drug misuse harms young people in many ways, including lower educational attainment and increased truancy, anti-social behaviour, ill health (both physical and mental), risk taking behaviour and sexual exploitation. Although drug use in general is decreasing amongst young people, Leeds still has an above average rate of illegal substance use compared to the rest of England. Also, the number of young people using stimulant drugs is rising; a sixth of young people seeking substance abuse treatment in Leeds now cite stimulant use as their primary problem, up from a tenth in 2009. More boys than girls take illegal drugs.

Two thirds of smokers start before reaching the age of 18, when purchasing cigarettes becomes legal. Almost all begin by the age of 24. Although smoking rates have fallen dramatically in recent years, it is still a major concern for young people because lifelong nicotine addiction usually starts in childhood. The younger a person starts smoking, the more likely they are to see negative health effects, smoke heavily, be dependant for life and die of smoking-related disease. Girls are more likely than boys to have smoked and to become regular smokers. A majority of young people feel that they get too much of the wrong kind of information about smoking and that current campaigns are therefore not that useful for them. The decrease in youth smoking rates is attributed to successful campaigns targeted at adults, reducing the prevalence of smoking in role models and making it less of a norm.

The Beck

The Beck centre in Killingbeck provides a huge range of services to help and support young people. These vary from family mediation to careers advice to counselling. One of the key services offered is one to one support from specially trained workers. The support staff work on a range of issues with young people but substance misuse is one of the most common.

A good example that illustrates the difference The Beck makes to young people's lives is the story of a 15 year old girl. She was involved in frequent drug and alcohol use and her mother was a long-term serious drug user. She worked with a one to one support worker to develop coping strategies surrounding her mother's substance abuse, as well as additional support to assist with her own drug and alcohol use. She was able to develop a close, trusting relationship with her support worker and as a result no longer uses drugs or alcohol. She continues to meet with her support worker, who can monitor the situation and can give access to further support if needed.

Established in 1989, this important work was previously funded by Leeds City Council. However, due to funding cuts, financial support was removed in March 2011. Without other funding sources, the service would be forced to close. An LCF grant of £50,000 from the Jimbo's fund provided a major contribution towards keeping the centre open and running all its services.



5.5 Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

Education, employment and training are important as they increase young people's confidence, prospects and economic independence and raise the economic performance of the city as a whole. The Leeds NEET rate for 16-18 year olds is 6.9%. Of those who are or were in care, the rate increases to 25% and is 26% for homeless young people. Being NEET is often associated with other youth problems such as poverty, substance misuse and poor emotional wellbeing. Young men who are NEET are three times more likely to have depression and five times more likely to have a criminal record than their peers.

NEETs have complex and variable needs. Sustained NEETs are the most in need of help and support. They often have negative school experience and low education attainment. Sustained NEETs face several barriers to employment, education and training and are unlikely to re-engage in the short to medium term without significant intervention. Many require high-cost and targeted support.

NEETs are a diverse group with varying reasons for their situation. However, NEET status correlates with certain other factors. Levels are higher among young people in poverty, teenage parents, the disabled, people with special educational needs, those with low school attendance and attainment and young offenders. Homelessness and being forced to live independently of family also have a significant impact. The reduction in funding for schools and colleges is making it harder for them to provide enough places for 16-18 year olds.



The groups that make up the largest proportion of NEETs are: young mothers and pregnant young women, people whose attendance was less than 20% in school and young men with criminal convictions. Over half of young women who are caring for or carrying their own child are NEET.

A recent report, in late 2013, by Young Lives Leeds, Bradford and Wakefield focused on the experience of NEET young people aged 16-24. They interviewed 315 young people including 205 from Leeds (65% total numbers).

- While 62% of young people who have been NEET for one year or more said they wanted to be working 12 months from now, only 47% thought that they would be working 12 months from now.
- A total of 35% (nearly 1/3) felt they have "little chance of ever getting a job".
- 4 out of 10 didn't feel they were part of society.
- Overall young people are most likely to say their "lack of experience" is the main barrier with other key factors being a lack of qualifications and confidence.
- "Stress and anxiety" (42%) and "depression" (29%) were the most commonly mentioned negative consequences as a result of not being in work, education or training. Other consequences mentioned included "rarely leaving the house" (25%), "smoking too much" (25%) and "eating unhealthily" (22%).

BARCA Leeds

BARCA Leeds works with children and young people to tackle exclusion in all its forms; this includes reducing the number who are not in education, employment or training. They work with young people to develop skills, raise aspirations and build confidence and resilience. A mobile Careers Bus enables them to target areas without careers facilities in order to help young people find employment. They provide positive, constructive activities for NEETs, as an alternative to turning to crime or drugs, along with advice for their parents on how to be helpful and supportive. Various weekly support sessions cover a range of topics for NEETs, including finding employment, options for education and skill development. BARCA Leeds also provides volunteer opportunities for young people, allowing them to gain experience and build confidence and employment skills.



5.6 Emerging Trends

Recent research has identified three emerging trends which are increasingly effecting children and young people and are likely to become major issues in the near future. These are sexual exploitation, self-harm and domestic violence.

5.6.1 Sexual Exploitation

Growing numbers of young people are groomed for sexual exploitation, either by individuals or, increasingly, for work in the sex industry. This issue is receiving improved attention in light of recent high-profile cases. Young people who work in the sex industry are 18 times more likely to be murdered than their peers. Education is an important way to tackle grooming, with topics such as saying 'no', healthy relationships and online safety. Access to sexual health screening and contraception are also important to minimise physical harm, along with counselling and emotional support to help with mental health. Support surrounding poverty, unemployment and addictions are another major part of keeping young people away from the sex industry.



5.6.2 Self-Harm

As emotional wellbeing increasingly becomes an issue for children and young people, the prevalence of self-harm also continues to rise. Leeds' hospital staff, teachers and the Leeds Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service have all noticed an increase in the number of cases. This is a very serious issue, often being used as a coping mechanism by people whose mental health is already poor, putting them at risk of further harm. The most effective way of tackling self-harm is with support for emotional wellbeing such as counselling, help with building stronger social networks, awareness of better coping strategies and dealing with problems unique to the individual.

5.6.3 Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is a common and increasing problem in teenage relationships, affecting a quarter of girls at some point in their teenage years. It can occur in same-sex relationships and by girls towards boys, but it is most commonly committed by boys against girls. The violence is usually sustained over the period of the relationship, getting steadily more serious. It is much more likely to go unnoticed in teenage relationships, as young people are often more accepting of abuse, sometimes not even recognising the problem behaviour as abusive. Young people are often not old enough to qualify for support aimed at domestic violence victims and so are left to struggle on their own. There is work needed surrounding education on healthy relationships. This enables victims to identify abuse correctly and seek help and teaches would-be abusers more appropriate ways of dealing with relationships and negotiating boundaries.



6. OTHER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

There are also broader changes taking place that have a direct impact on the lives of local young people, and on the community projects that provide them with support.

6.1 Reduction in Funding

Leeds City Council has to save £22 million in children's services next financial year; this is combined with a 32% increase in Leeds' birth rate over the last ten years. The council face £1.2 million in demand pressures for home to school transport and need to spend £4m investing in alternatives to placing children in care (such as adoption and semi-independent living) and further expanding key preventative services. These investments will save money in the long run but carry an upfront cost.

Whilst they are doing what they can to protect frontline services, especially those for children, they also have to take significant decisions about funding priorities. LCC plans to make most of the savings through safely reducing the need for children to be in care, reducing the cost of children's centres, transport for children and young people and educational and cultural activity.

Whilst it is important to note that there are no plans to close any Children's centres, the budget for running the centres will see a reduction in funding of £1.9 million in 2014/15 and will generate £0.2m (after inflation) by increasing nursery fees by £3 a day (to £39). The remaining £1.7m will be saved from reviewing patterns of provision, overheads, staffing ratios and working patterns. Home to school transport will save £4.6 million in 2014/15, including £1.25m from the provision of transport to looked after children. There will be a fundamental restructure of educational services in order to deal with a £0.75m reduction in the Education Services grant in 2014/15 and a further £2.5m reduction in education support funding in 2015/16 from central government, on top of the cost of academy conversions.

7. WHAT DOES LCF DO?

We have analysed the grants made in 2012/13 and this reveals we made 163 grants to 129 different organisations specifically supporting work with children and young people. The total value of these grants was £1.1 million, although we know grants made to other projects also included children and young people as beneficiaries.



We also accept applications from children's and young people's groups into several other grants programmes - IPF, JK Lee, Kalar, Leeds School Awards, Mars and Young Carer's Appeal among others. In 2012/13, these combined to contribute £65,000 to children's and young people's organisations. The grants went towards work on community development, education, support for ethnic minorities, sport and exercise, physical health, emotional wellbeing and the local environment.



8. WHAT CAN YOU DO?

There are many things that local individuals, organisations and companies can do to support community groups working with children and young people in Leeds:

- You can send a donation to Leeds Community Foundation for our CYP Fund (children and young people fund) and we will ensure this is distributed to support work in this area. We will, each year, send you a report to demonstrate just what impact your support has had.

- You can volunteer your time, and that of your staff, to get involved. There are some great partnerships already taking place across Leeds that involve local employees helping a wide range of national and local children's charities.

- You can set up your own Fund, with a minimum of £10,000, and we will help you find a range of projects to invest in that match your own interests. This may be linked to local geography or specific needs, such as poverty or looked after children.

- Businesses, charities and other organisations can offer work experience placements and apprenticeships, empowering young people to develop vital employment skills.



- Become an ambassador for Leeds City Council's Child Friendly Leeds initiative. This enables you to link up with a network of 250 other ambassadors to share ideas, get involved in campaigns and raise awareness of issues and events. Visit:

<http://www.leeds.gov.uk/c/Pages/childFriendlyCity/default.aspx> for more information

- Businesses can work with local schools on enterprise projects, engaging and involving young people in the world of business.



**APPENDIX 1 THE LEEDS CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN (CYPP) 2011-15
- LINKS TO CHILD FRIENDLY CITY CONSULTATION PRIORITIES**

Our vision is for Leeds to be a child friendly city
Minimising the effects of poverty underpins all our work

Our vision contributes to the wider vision for Leeds: by 2030 Leeds will be locally and nationally recognised as the best city in the UK

5 outcomes	11 priorities	16 Key indicators & baselines
<p>CYP Are safe from harm</p>	<p>1. Help children to live in safe and supportive families 2. Ensure that the most vulnerable are protected</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of looked after children- 1,434 January 2011 Number of children and young people with child protection plans (778 at January 2011)
<p>CYP Do well at all levels of learning and have the skills for life</p>	<p>3. Improve behaviour, attendance and achievement) 4. Increase numbers in employment, education or training 5. Support children to be ready for learning 6. Improve support where there are additional health needs</p>	<p>3. School attendance Primary 94.4% (half terms 1-5, 09/10 academic year) Secondary 91.6% (half terms 1-5, 09/10 academic year) 4 16-18 NEET is 8.3% (1,816) (average monthly figure for November-January 2010/11) 5. Foundation stage threshold- 53% (4,415) in 09/10 academic year 6. KS2 L4+ E&M- 74% (3,309) in 09/10 academic year 7. 5+ A*-C GCSE inc E&M- 50.6% (4,067) in 09/10 academic year 8. Level 3 qualifications at 19.46.7% (4,392) in 09/10 academic year 9. The number of CYP 16-18 who start an apprenticeship, (1,306 in 09/10) 10. The number of children & families accessing short breaks & levels of satisfaction- baselines to be identified</p>
<p>CYP Choose healthy lifestyles</p>	<p>7. Encourage activity and healthy eating 8. Promote sexual health</p>	<p>11. Obesity levels at year 6 (age 11) 21%, 09/10 (sample size 5,260) 12. Teenage pregnancy- 47.4 per 1,000 (618) 15-17 year olds, June 2009 13. Free school meal uptake- primary (76.9% 10/11 financial year) & secondary (67.1% 10/11 fin yr)</p>

<p>CYP Have fun growing up</p>	<p>9. Provide play, leisure, culture and sporting opportunities</p>	<p>14. Number of CYP engaged in high quality school PE & Sport- 81%, 09/10 academic year. (based on limited survey samples) Work on wider indicators for this priority is ongoing.</p>
<p>CYP Are active citizens who feel they have voice & influence</p>	<p>10. Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour 11. Increase participation, voice and influence</p>	<p>15. Proportion of 10-17 year olds offending- 2023 young people with 1 or more offence in 09/10 which is 2.7%</p> <p>16. C&YP influence in a) school b) the community - 70% and 56% reporting at least a fair amount of influence. (based on limited survey samples) Work on additional measures of engagement is ongoing</p>



APPENDIX 2 – CHILD FRIENDLY LEEDS INITIATIVE

The Child Friendly City initiative aims to make Leeds the best city in the UK for children and young people to grow up in.

During the summer of 2011 thousands of children and young people were asked how they thought Leeds could become more child-friendly. Their top ideas are now known as our “12 wishes” which can be seen at Appendix Two.

This includes twelve wishes, which children and young people regard as being important to improving Leeds:

1. Children and young people can make safe journeys and easily travel around the city.
2. Children and young people find the city centre welcoming and safe, with friendly places to go, have fun and play.
3. There are places and spaces to play and things to do, in all areas and open to all.
4. Children and young people can easily find out what they want to know, when they want it and how they want it.
5. Children, young people and adults have a good understanding of children’s rights, according to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
6. Children and young people are treated fairly and feel respected.
7. Children and young people have the support and information they need to make healthy lifestyle choices.
8. All our learning places identify and address the barriers that prevent children and young people from engaging in and enjoying learning.
9. There are a greater number of better quality jobs, work experience opportunities and good quality careers advice for all.
10. All children and young people have their basic rights met.
11. Children and young people express their views, feel heard and are actively involved in decisions that affect their lives.
12. Places and spaces where children and young people spend time and play are free of litter and dog fouling.

For more information about the Child Friendly City Initiative, visit:

<http://www.leeds.gov.uk/c/Pages/childFriendlyCity/default.aspx>



Research sources

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- Re'new (<http://www.renewleeds.co.uk>)
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