

# Young Lives Leeds



## Manifesto

### January 2022

Young Lives Leeds is the leading forum for third sector organisations working with children and families in Leeds. We act as the third sector's voice in supporting the city ambition to be Child Friendly and to improve the lives of young people by:

- Exercising influence over policy and acting as a critical friend to our statutory partners.

- Providing leadership in all aspects of working with children and families.
- Advocating on behalf of the third sector's interests.
- Working with and supporting other partnerships working with children and families.

We will achieve these aims through:

### **Voice and advocacy**

- We have third sector advocates represented at key strategic boards, and publish the names of our advocates so that our members know who to approach.
- Our advocates share their learning with the wider sector and are assertive in making the case for the full involvement

of the third sector in the city's approach to children and families.

- We support the sector in their delivery of projects and their involvement in the development of children and family policies in the city.

### **Strengthening Partnership with other forums and statutory anchor partners**

- Our Chair meets regularly with the senior leadership team of the Council's Children and Families Department.
- Our support team meet with colleagues across the Council and other statutory partners to share thinking and develop closer relationships.
- We work with our colleagues in other networks and third sector infrastructure organisations to help make Leeds a child friendly city.
- We create the space for third sector organisations to explore options to collaborate; for instance by encouraging joint working when new services are commissioned.
- We work with commissioners to make the case for third sector investment and to enable members to shape new services.

### **Sharing Learning**

- We hold regular meetings enabling the sector to learn about key issues in children's services in Leeds and share practice.
- We provide regular feedback on our work and on learning from across children and families policy and practice .
- We provide funding advice; prioritising smaller members.
- We support children's safeguarding practice through training and our work convening the Third Sector Safeguarding Advisory Group.
- We contribute to work to support the development of the city's children and families workforce.

### **Our Priorities for 2022/23**

Young Lives Leeds has agreed a number of areas of work to prioritise for the coming year. However, our priorities are flexible and we seek to change our approach to respond to the needs and aspirations of the third sector. Where new issues and opportunities arise we want to hear about them, debate them and take action. To share your thoughts about the things that matter to you please contact [ann.crossland@val.org.uk](mailto:ann.crossland@val.org.uk)

Our current priorities are to:

- Support the development of an integrated partnership to deliver Youth Work in Leeds.
- Support the development of a citywide approach to trauma informed practice.
- Work to apply the learning from the recent OFSTED focused visit to Leeds Childrens' Services.
- Develop our services to better meet the needs of small groups.
- Work with partners to explore ways more external funding can be brought into the third sector's work with children and families in Leeds.
- Support the third sector to work in a more child and young person centred way.