



Young Lives Leeds

Manifesto February 2024

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:

- Advocating on behalf of the third sector's interests
- Exercising influence over policy and acting as a critical friend to our public sector partners
- Providing leadership in all aspects of working with children and families
- Working with and supporting other partnerships working with children and families

We will achieve the aims above through our core functions:

Voice and Representation of the Sector

We have third sector advocates represented on key strategic boards, including Leeds Children's Partnership Board, Children & Families Scrutiny Board, Future in Mind Board, Early Help Board and 14 – 19 Strategic Partnership Board.

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.

Facilitating Consortia Working

We create a space for third-sector organisations to explore options to collaborate; by encouraging joint working when new services are commissioned.

Supporting Young Lives Leeds Members

The Young Lives Leeds Forum meetings are a safe space for members to share examples of good practice as well as shared learning for issues they may be dealing with.

Supporting small groups to become involved in the work of the forum, providing bite size bulletins and offering the opportunity to shadow our advocates.

Strengthening Partnership With Other Forums and Statutory Anchor Partners

Our Chairs meet regularly with the senior leadership team of the Council's Children and Families Department.

Our support team meets with colleagues across the Council and other public sector 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 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 support children's safeguarding practice through training and our work facilitating the Third Sector Safeguarding Group.

We contribute to work to support the development of the city's children and families workforce.

Our Priorities for 2024

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.

- Support the development of a citywide approach to trauma informed practice.
- Work with partners to support and shape work towards Leeds becoming a Marmot City.
- Work with members to understand young people's experiences of the communities they live in, and support work to tackle issues affecting young people in different localities.
- Support citywide work to reduce health inequalities, ensuring that the voices of young people are fed into discussions.
- Support the third sector workforce, recognising the importance of their role in supporting children, young people and families.
- Work with partners to improve the transition from children's services to adult services for those with additional/complex needs.
- Work with partners to support SEND services across the city and to increase engagement from SEND providers in the forum.
- Continue working to understand the changing needs of our membership, including identifying organisations who are not engaged with the forum and working to improve diversity across the membership.
- Facilitate peer support across the sector, including for organisations that support care experienced young people.
- Work with partners to explore ways more external funding can be brought into the third sectors work with children and families in Leeds.

Young Lives Leeds Advocates and the Boards They Sit on

Board	Advocate	Frequency
Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND)/Special Inclusive Learning Centre (SILC) Partnership	Lucy Owen Chief Executive SNAPS Yorkshire	Quarterly
14/19 Partnership Board	Carl Harrison Chief Executive Officer LS-Ten	Quarterly
Family Help Partnership Board	Julia Preston Chief Executive Officer Gipsil Ltd Laura Whitaker Operations Director, Children, Young People and Family Services. Barca Leeds Tracey Simpson-Laing Chief Executive Officer Home Start Leeds Shanaz Gul Director Heritage Cooking Company	To be confirmed
Children & Families Scrutiny Board	Laura Whitaker - Operations Director Children, Young People and Family Services at Barca Leeds	Monthly

Young Lives Leeds Advocates and the Boards They Sit on

Board	Advocate	Frequency
Trauma Development Group	Helen Hart Chief Executive Officer Barca Leeds	Quarterly
Future in Mind Board	Emma Holmes Chief Executive Officer Leeds Survivor Led Crisis Service	Quarterly
Population Health Board (Children and Families)	Louise Forrest Head of Services, Community Health and Prevention Gipsil	Quarterly
Leeds Children's Partnership Board	Emma Holmes (in the capacity as Chair of Leeds Third Sector Safeguarding Group) Helen Hart & Julia Preston (in the capacity of Co-Chairs of Young Lives Leeds)	Quarterly

If there is something you would like your advocate to raise at a board meeting please email advocates@val.org.uk