

# CHILD FRIENDLY LEEDS 12 WISHES

## ACTION PLAN

2026 - 2027

Prepared By  
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### ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

Approved By:  
**Hannah Lamplugh**

The Child Friendly Leeds 12 wishes were refreshed in 2022 as we marked the tenth anniversary of the initiative. For each wish, leads have developed some key goals that are updated annually working with the CFL team highlighted below.

Date:  
**01/04/2026**

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**We are  
child  
friendly  
Leeds**

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# Background to Child Friendly Leeds



Since 2012, Leeds has had a vision to be a child friendly city, an approach underpinned by the UN Convention on the rights of the child and a city-wide ambition. Child Friendly Leeds brings together individuals, organisations, and sectors who share this ambition. Every contribution counts, and everyone has a role in shaping a child-friendly city. The voices and views of children and young people are at the heart of this and shape our work. In undertaking this journey, we had one question: **'what is it like to be a child growing up in Leeds & how do we make it better?'**

## What are we outlining in this plan?

Celebrating the tenth anniversary of Child Friendly Leeds in 2022, we reviewed the feedback from consultations, surveys, and ballots over a three year period, capturing the **views of 80,000 children and young people** in the city to identify the current top issues and priorities forming the refreshed CFL 12 wishes. The team then "checked back" with 68 children and young people from youth groups and schools to finalise and launch the new wishes.

The 12 wishes were launched in a special two-week exhibition taking place at Leeds City Museum and were shared with HM King Charles visit to Leeds as he met some of our young people, schools and ambassadors. This plan will share how these priorities have been addressed, championed and turned into areas of work.

## Data to form the wishes

- 18,802** 'Make Your Mark' ballot voices for UKYP
- 37,975** 'My Health My School' individual survey results
- 4337** 'Children & Young People Wellbeing' survey answers
- 1300** 'Community Online' consultation participation
- 15,585** Children's Mayor votes from the 86 manifestos in primary.
- 5997** UK Youth Parliament votes for candidates from 100 manifestos
- 3000+** Youth voice from events & consultations on: culture, health, SEND, climate change, parks and more over three years

*What Leeds is doing in general... what the city is doing is really extraordinary. Actually, you are leading the way and putting children and young people at the heart of the city and community here. It's really impressive to hear.*

*- HRH The Princess of Wales (During her visit to Leeds in 2023, reported by The Telegraph)*



# An Introduction to the Wish Lead Officers






The wish lead is the person within Leeds City Council responsible for driving forward one of the priority wishes. They play a key role in championing their wish, explaining its purpose, and highlighting the difference it aims to make. Wish leads bring together colleagues from across different teams who share similar goals, agreeing priorities and working closely with partners and Child Friendly Leeds ambassadors to progress the work.

- They coordinate regular updates from all involved teams, ensuring progress is captured and any challenges or barriers are identified early.
- Each year, the wish lead presents a short update at the 12 Wishes Leads Group. Following this, the action plan and annual progress report are shared with:
- Children and Families Senior Leadership Team
- The CYP Partnership and Scrutiny Board

Communication is also central to the role. As well as supporting a city-wide campaign to promote the 12 wishes, wish leads help ensure families can access useful information, resources, and support through dedicated Child Friendly Leeds [dedicated blog pages](#). To understand the impact of the 12 wishes, a set of key measures is used. These track achievements such as the number of goals reached each year and how the wishes have influenced strategic priorities, planning, and wider projects across the city.

## How will we measure impact?

The Child Friendly Leeds team will measure the impact of the 12 Wishes action plan using the five areas outlined below. This includes monitoring the city's strategic commitment and assessing how the wishes influence local strategies and policies. We will also track the reach and engagement of the city-wide communications campaign and analyse where and how the wishes are being promoted. Each reporting period, specific questions linked to every wish will be reviewed through the My Health My School survey, providing valuable pupil-perception data. In addition, the team works closely with local universities to connect relevant research projects and datasets to the 12 wishes. Finally, we will report findings back to wish leads, supporting them to meet their annual goals and helping them progress their longer-term ambitions.

<p><b>1</b></p>  <p><b>Strategic Commitment</b></p> <p>Embedding the 12 wishes across strategies and plans, supporting the Leeds Ambitions</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>  <p><b>Greater Awareness</b></p> <p>Promoting the 12 wishes through projects, workshops and digital communications</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>  <p><b>Annual Survey Data</b></p> <p>Mapping against annual data sets from children and young people i.e. MHMS survey</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>  <p><b>University Research</b></p> <p>Collaborating with local Universities on mapping research and projects. <a href="#">View the report &gt;</a></p>	<p><b>5</b></p>  <p><b>Achieving Goals</b></p> <p>Leads providing regular updates on progress toward their goals for each wish</p>
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Highlights & impact

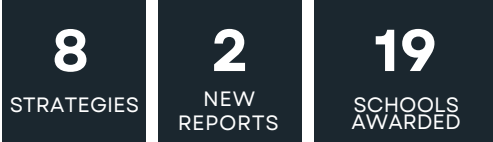
# What have we achieved in 2025?

**1**



**Strategic Commitment**

To ensure we have children and young people’s voices at the heart, the 12 wishes have been embedded in 8 strategies to date including: Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2023-30 and The Child Poverty Strategy. The Leeds ambitions aim to tackle poverty and inequality through a ‘Team Leeds’ approach and our work has been recognised as one of its four key partnerships and a particular focus on Health and Wellbeing. Education assessors introduced a commitment to recognise schools progressing the 12 Wishes, and 19 schools were awarded an Exceptional Contribution badge.

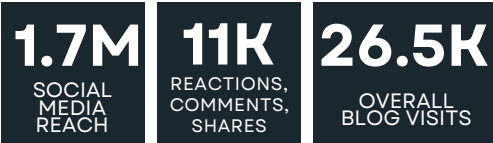


**2**



**Greater Awareness**

A **12-month wishes communication campaign** took place with each month dedicated to a wish in partnership with the wish lead. The Child Friendly Leeds blog was also extended to include a dedicated page for each wish, sharing positive stories, meaningful information and signposting to services and places. Many events to raise awareness and support the wishes took place in which, four ambassador workshops bringing together **140 ambassadors** from across sectors in 2025.



*From 2024 - 2025, the social & blog reach increased more than ten-fold & reactions tripled*

**3**



**Annual Survey Data**

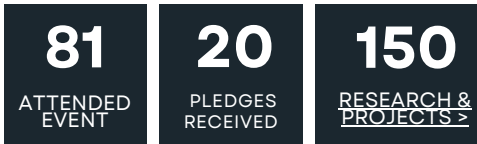
**The 12 wishes are now mapped against questions in the 'My Health My School' survey** - a pupil perception survey that poses a range of questions on topics including Healthy Eating, Physical Activity, Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco, Social, Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH), My School/College and Sexual Health (secondary and post 16 only). **21,771 pupils responded from 170 schools** and settings in Leeds. Survey data from the 2024 - 2025 academic year linked to the 12 wishes is highlighted on the next page.

**4**



**University Research**

All three Leeds universities are supporting the Child Friendly Leeds 12 Wishes. Throughout 2025, Leeds Beckett work focused on Wish 2 (play), Leeds Trinity on Wish 12 (SEND), with both their staff and students supporting projects. Through a formal partnership coordinated by its Public Engagement team, the University of Leeds provides wider strategic support and has led the development of a University report. The report brings together around 150 research and projects delivered since 2020, including a mix of completed work and ongoing activity, spanning research and evaluations to support the wishes and wider citywide work. A ‘Power of Partnerships’ event brought together partners from across sectors, resulting in 20 pledges.



**5**



**Achieving Goals**

Leeds worked together to deliver a city-wide communications campaign, attracting over 26,000 visitors to our blog. They also supported four ambassador workshops focused on Wish 2 (Play), Wish 11 (Employment and Next Steps), Wishes 10 & 12 (SEND and Inclusion), and Wish 3 & 4 (Youth Voice and Diversity). The 12 wishes action plan was viewed 227 times with 176 downloads and has been widely used by internal teams and ambassadors to shape and align their priorities. Of the 36 short-term goals set in 2025 all 36 have been achieved.





Highlights from the 2025 Action Plan

# Wish Lead Update: Impact & Achieving Goals

The 2025  
Action Plan  
& Goals  
>>>>

All 36 goals  
from 2025  
were met  
by leads

16 leads  
across 13  
teams spent  
75 hours on  
wishes

45 schools  
engaged  
with wishes  
or awarded  
a badge

9027 views  
on the 12  
wishes blog  
pages >>>>

## Wish 1

The MindMate school support page was redesigned with four age-specific subpages, and a co-produced content guide with Leeds Youth Council. MindMate Ambassadors visited 25 secondary schools, engaging 2,563 young people. A new communications approach now guides messaging, including Instagram content.

## Wish 2

No Ball Games signs were removed in 3 pilot areas, with approval to remove city-wide, with progress on the 'Designing for Play' toolkit and three flagship design projects. Support for families grew through NESTA Playful Learning project and Playbox installations. Leeds hosted 100 resident-led play streets in 2025 and had 3317 youth service sessions focussed on the 12 wishes.

## Wish 3

Leeds youth voice guides viewed 700 times in 2025 are now updated annually. Leeds for Learning community is set up to support schools to engage in best practice voice and influence work. A highlight was the Children and Young People's Partnership Board takeover - 12 youth voice groups presented their views to decision-makers; young people said the event made them feel "seen and heard" and that they "can't wait to come again next year."

## Wish 4

Completed a Leeds school bullying survey which received a strong response and showed most schools have clear bullying definitions and support. It highlighted areas where schools want further help, such as the impact of technology and parental expectations. Wish 4 partnerships continue to deliver impactful diversity-celebration work. The Global Learning Leeds Harehills project engaging 125 classes and pupils presented to full council.

## Wish 5

In 2025 we delivered a successful event focused on the role of Sustainability Leads and supporting schools to develop their Climate Action Plans. We continued working with schools and settings and contributing to a new Leeds Climate Commission focus group. We also promoted opportunities to become Climate Ambassadors through the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee and in newsletters reaching around 7,000 primary contacts.

## Wish 6

Primary school participation in road safety training has increased by 53%, rising from 28,955 children in 2023/24 to 44,365 in 2024/25. More sessions are now being offered across a wider range of high schools, and Arlo, the road safety mascot, continues to grow with 3.5k YouTube subscribers. Walk to School Week 2025 saw children creating an interactive video for the campaign and many city-wide partnerships.



Highlights from the 2025 Action Plan

## Wish Lead Update: Impact & Achieving Goals

### Wish 7

School-holiday communications are now well established, supported by a new newsletter that directs families and professionals to CFL activity guides. Children and young people are routinely asked what activities they want, helped by the CFL Enrichment team and Leeds33's expanded youth-voice work. A highlight this year was the consistently high engagement (over 25k views from families and providers with these communications).

### Wish 8

In 2025, we promoted services and initiatives like Healthy Holidays and shared updates through staff sessions, newsletters, social media and the council leaflet. The leaflet has also been widely shared with social workers, early help hubs and children's centres. The CFL blog wish 8 page has been updated with information to support families such as the one-stop information centre and the partnership communication work led to 7 blogs around free and low cost activities for families with 23,094 views.

### Wish 9

Through the wishes, new conversations with partners strengthened work with local leisure centres on free and low-cost family activities, and highlighted the need to support parents in setting positive family routines. A key highlight was Leeds Baby Week, where parents gained vital confidence and knowledge in administering first aid to their children and Leisure centre's across Leeds delivered over 20 sessions.

### Wish 10

The Neurodiversity pilot helped parents and staff feel heard, improved understanding of each young person's needs, and strengthened communication and wellbeing. Schools also began developing trauma-informed practice with new leadership guidance, and the Inclusive Mainstream Practice resource was launched to support hundreds of settings. A key highlight was the strong cross-team collaboration, including the ND pilot and the new Community of Practice for trauma-informed work.

### Wish 11

The Employment and Skills service delivered Informed Choices programme across priority schools and colleges, and expanded Supported Internships for young people with EHCPs - trebling numbers and outperforming national employment conversion rates. In 2024/25 the service engaged 93% of schools, delivered large careers events for around 24,000 visitors, ran over 100 apprenticeship sessions, and facilitated 91 employer-led activities for more than 8,000 students. A key highlight was delivering high-quality careers events on minimal resources, with brilliant feedback from families.

### Wish 12

We established and shared clear criteria for schools to support Wish 12 by using hidden-disability resources - the campaign alone has had over 5000 views on social media and campaign page, completing SEND awareness training, and promoting accessible activities. We successfully launched the SEND Youth Council's eLearning citywide and embedded it into the 2025 SEND basic awareness training (now part of the council's basic training), ensuring it is accessible across other services. The long-term goals for this wish have seen strong progress, creating a growing legacy through the 'Give it a Go' programme and ongoing EDI work with leisure centres.

# Listening to the voices of children & young people

## My Health My School Survey Data

The 12 wishes are now **mapped against questions in the 'My Health My School' survey - a pupil perception survey** that poses a range of questions on topics including Healthy Eating, Physical Activity, Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco, Social, Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH), My School/College and Sexual Health (secondary and post 16 only). In 2024 - 2025 academic year, **21,771 pupils responded from 170 schools and settings in Leeds.** Below the key findings show what has gone well and what we can improve.



### Key Findings

What has been going well in the last year

#### There has been an increase in the number of Primary pupils who:

- Know where to go to get help or advice about Social, Emotional and Mental Health - **wish 1**
- In the last four weeks, not through school/college, have visited a play park - **wish 2**
- Would know where to go to get help or advice about bullying (including online) - **wish 4**
- In a normal week are usually physically active for at least 60 minutes - **wish 9**

#### There has been an increase in the number of Secondary pupils who:

- Know how to share ideas about improving school/college - **wish 2**

#### There has been a decrease in the number of Secondary pupils who:

- Never have breakfast - **wish 8**

#### There has been an increase in the number of Post 16 students who:

- Have had enough useful information and know where to get help or advice about Social, Emotional and Mental Health - **wish 1**
- Play or hang out with friends most days - **wish 2 & 7**
- Have had enough useful information to help understand Racism and what to do about it - **wish 4**
- Have had enough useful information to help understand Climate Change and think that their school / college are good at responding to it - **wish 5**

#### There has been an increase in the number of pupils with SEND who:

- Outside of school/college take part in organised sports/dance - **wish 9 & 12**
- Enjoy school/college - **wish 10 & 12**
- Feel safe at school/college - **wish 4, 10 & 12**

### Key Findings

What can we improve on

[View the MHMS report in relation to the 12 Wishes here >](#)

#### There has been a decrease in the number of Primary pupils who:

- Think that their school are good at responding to climate change - **wish 5**

#### There has been a decrease in the number of Secondary pupils who:

- Have had enough useful information and learning about safe and unsafe relationships - **wish 9**
- Would know where to get help and advice about being active - **wish 9**

#### There has been a decrease in the number of Post 16 students who:

- In the last four weeks, not through school/college, have not been to the gym - **wish 9**
- Who have not been bullied - **wish 4**

#### There has been a decrease in the number of pupils with SEND who:

- Outside of school/college visit a park or play area - **wish 2 & 12**
- Outside of school/college go swimming - **wish 9 & 12**



### Lead: Charlotte Hanson

Advanced Health Improvement Specialist  
 Children & Young People Emotional  
 Health & Wellbeing, Adults & Health  
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### Short-term goals

2026 - 2027

1. Develop and promote a new 'Survival toolkit' resource and campaign, building on the idea from 'MindMate Ambassadors' to focus on supporting young people to identify self care activities and support mental wellbeing.
2. Improve coordination of partners carrying out mental health promotion activity in education settings, to ensure training, parental support, campaign activities are joined up.
3. Make improvements to how services meet the needs of children and young people from ethnically diverse communities, including identifying good practice and adapting existing support to meet needs.

### Long-term goals

2023 - 2028

1. Build systems so MindMate is promoted in schools and other settings automatically – e.g. repeat order of leaflets; details in school planner; featured on all school/community group webpages.
2. Reduce inequalities related to minority ethnic young people including reducing stigma about accessing support.
3. All staff working with children and young people in Leeds have good understanding of pathways and can advise families/young people effectively about how to get support.

### Schools can look to:

- A whole school approach to Mental Health Support.
- School website has a page for mental health support and to link to the MindMate website.
- Engage with MindMate resources, including having School MindMate ambassadors.
- Run a [MindMate promotion in school](#).

### Ambassadors can support by:

- Promoting [MindMate](#) your websites and sharing [resources](#)
- Resharing social media posts and campaigns via @mindmateleeds
- Becoming a [Mindful Employer](#)

CFL Wish 1 Page





# WISH 2

PLAY & SAFE SPACES

## Lead 1: Jenny Rutherford

Play Strategy Officer (Child Friendly Leeds)  
Children & Families  
jenny.rutherford@leeds.gov.uk

## Lead 2: James McCarthy

Youth Service Manager (Localities)  
Communities, Housing & Environment  
james.mccarthy@leeds.gov.uk

### Short-term goals

2026 - 2027

1. Pilot the Designing for Play toolkit in a new Leeds development, using youth-voice insight from Play Sufficiency, MHMS and Photo Voice research to shape the design, and deliver elected-member training on planning for play.
2. Develop and launch a city-wide campaign to champion playful neighbourhoods, promoting a child's right to play, socialise and be active in the spaces close to their home.
3. To ensure a robust and strategic response to youth voice shared in the Photo Voice project in order to increase the number of safe spaces to play and socialise in local communities.

### Long-term goals

2023 - 2028

1. For all housing contractors (including private housing) to engage with Child Friendly Leeds design principles to make new developments more playful, including children's voice in planning and design.
2. To develop new spaces in the city centre that are safe, welcoming and child friendly, with a particular focus on creating places for older children/teenagers.
3. To have child friendly parks and green spaces – where we are making improvements and creating new play spaces and children involved in this process.
4. To empower young people to shape their neighbourhoods and create safe, playful spaces.

### Schools can look to:

- Engage with OPAL (outdoor provision and learning) for best practice.
- Protect break-times as part of your behaviour management policy.
- Offer to open your grounds outside of school hours as safe play spaces.

### Ambassadors can support by:

- Developing partnerships through CSR & funding to develop more opportunities for play across the city.
- Signing up to the Community of Play.
- Enhancing staff training and spatial design to create more child friendly and playful spaces across the city.

CFL Wish 2 Page





# WISH 3

YOUTH VOICE

**Lead: Emily Alderson**

Area Voice & Influence Coordinator  
 Children & Families  
[emily.alderson@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:emily.alderson@leeds.gov.uk)

## Short-term goals 2026 - 2027

1. Share opportunities for young people to have a voice and influence via the new Leeds Youth Voice WhatsApp channel and increase engagement.
2. Feedback the outcomes of the annual takeover via 'You Said, We Did' case studies.
3. Encourage schools to use the My Health My School data to support best practice voice and influence work.

## Long-term goals 2023 - 2028

1. There is an increase in Children and young people reporting that they know how to share their ideas in their local area / city.
2. There is an increase in children and young people actively sharing their ideas in their local communities and city.

### Schools can look to:

- Engaging with the Voice and Influence forum on Leeds for Learning.
- Establishing processes for capturing student voice and bring about change within the setting i.e student council.
- Contributing by submitting 'You Said, We Did' case studies demonstrating youth voice within their setting.

### Ambassadors can support by:

- Getting in touch with the wish lead to seek advice on how to meaningfully involve children and young people in their organisation, service and offer.
- Request to join the Voice, Influence and Change network to stay up to date with all things voice and influence in the city.

CFL Wish 3 Page

4 of 12 CFL Wishes

Differences are celebrated in Leeds so children and young people feel accepted for who they are. They do not experience bullying and discrimination.

People in Leeds have a better understanding of diversity and therefore celebrate differences in abilities, ethnicity, family background, language, religion, sex and opinions.

Children and young people feel accepted, included and valued. They have a greater awareness of their rights not to be bullied or discriminated against and know what to do if it happens.



## WISH 4

DIFFERENCES

### Lead 1: Saira Mumtaz-Jones

Health & Wellbeing Lead • Children & Families  
[saira.m.jones@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:saira.m.jones@leeds.gov.uk)

### Lead 2: Joedy Greenhough

Policy, Planning & Procedures • Children & Families  
[joedy.greenhough@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:joedy.greenhough@leeds.gov.uk)

## Short-term goals

2026 - 2027

1. Increase parental awareness of bullying and its impact by working with services and schools to share available support, promote intolerance of bullying and discrimination, and signpost further advice and help. Involve children and young people to ensure they shape this work.
2. Strengthen and broaden partnerships supporting Wish 4 to build a shared understanding of citywide efforts to address bullying, discrimination, and celebrate diversity. Work with Leeds Children's Mayor to raise the profile and gather insights from children and young people.
3. Align Wish 4 with the city's new Cohesion Strategy and cultural celebration initiatives, joining and supporting activities that address discrimination and promote diversity wherever possible.

## Long-term goals

2023 - 2028

1. A bi-Annual School Survey and Service Survey is in place along with arrangements to analyse the data/information gained and produce a report on the findings.
2. Reduction in number of children and young people reporting bullying incidents in schools and learning settings through the My Health, My School Survey.
3. Work with young people to produce a video on bullying and discrimination that could be shared with schools and children and young people.

### Schools can look to:

- Develop strong anti-bullying practice, policies and provision.
- Establish meaningful celebration days/weeks for diversity, identity & culture.
- Participate in a meaningful way, with awareness dates throughout the year (such as Anti-Bullying week).

### Ambassadors can support by:

- Support the wish leads on raising awareness of this wish and celebrating differences.
- Support and promote the awareness days and weeks such as anti-bullying week, show racism the red card, empathy week and others.

[CFL Wish 4 Page](#)





# WISH 5

CLIMATE CHANGE

## Lead 1: Rachel Waterhouse

Policy Officer Climate, Energy & Green Spaces  
 Communities Housing & Environment  
 Rachel.Waterhouse@leeds.gov.uk

### Short-term goals

2026 - 2027

1. Continue to raise awareness of schools to the availability of the Climate Action Route Map and other resources that support schools and settings.
2. Explore opportunities to recognise and celebrate the best climate action from Leeds children and young people.
3. Provide support through events to focus on the role of a Sustainability lead and support the development of school Climate Action Plans.

### Long-term goals

2023 - 2028

1. Link in with Leeds City Council's Employment & Skills team around green skills and opportunities.
2. Establish targets for implementation of Climate Action Route Map and Eco/Green-Teams, supporting nominated Sustainability leads and establishment of School Climate Action Plans.
3. Identify and support good/best practice sharing between schools to amplify and accelerate climate action in and across Leeds schools.

### Schools can look to:

- Have a designated sustainability lead responsible for climate education.
- Draft and implement a school Climate Action Plan.
- Have a nominated governor with responsibility for climate education.

### Ambassadors can support by:

- Sign up to train as a Climate Ambassador committing a minimum of 1 day per year to supporting Leeds schools/settings.
- Volunteer at one of our Leeds Activity Centres at Herd Farm or West Leeds.
- Contacting the lead to share how they take "more action to protect the environment from climate change".

CFL Wish 5 Page





### Lead 1: Rosie Revell

Team Leader Safe & Sustainable Travel  
City Development  
rosie.revell@leeds.gov.uk

### Lead 2: Ben Hope

Assistant Transport Planner  
City Development  
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## Short-term goals

2026 - 2027

1. Maintain and strengthen road safety education for secondary students, supporting pupils' transition from Year 6 to Year 7 by building confidence in independent travel, alongside expanded high-school delivery and use of collision data to raise awareness among 12–14 year olds.
2. Maximise available funding to develop innovative initiatives that support novice and newly qualified young drivers.
3. Raise awareness of Vision Zero and promote safe, sustainable travel for all age groups.

## Long-term goals

2023 - 2028

1. Zero people killed or seriously injured on Leeds roads by 2040 (see interim report due 2025).
2. Encourage and develop Behaviour Change so that more sustainable and active travel decisions are made. Active participation in Vision Zero Awareness activities including the children's pledge and developing a recognisable presence for the new road safety mascot.
3. Ensure that all schools receive road safety training every 2 years (annually if within a priority area).

### Schools can look to:

- All classes participate in road safety and active travel training sessions.
- Utilise the wider offer from the Influencing Travel Behaviour team (extra assemblies etc.)
- Participate in the 'School Street programme, using effective engagement with parents and the community.

### Ambassadors can support by:

- Raising awareness of safe and sustainable travel choices within Leeds.
- Support the Vision Zero ambitions and partner with schools.
- Identify further funds & opportunities to develop resources and events for children and young people with a road safety/ travel focus.





Children and young people know about different things to do and places to go across the city. They enjoy different cultural experiences including art, music, sport and film.

Children, young people and families feel there is better promotion and communication of fun and particularly free things to do and places to go within the city including events, activities, groups, cultural experiences and days out.

### Lead 1: Jane Zanzottera

Arts Manager • Children & Families  
jane.zanzottera@leeds.gov.uk

### Lead 2: Sarah Lyon

Audience Development Officer (Breeze)  
City Development  
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## Short-term goals

2026 - 2027

1. Consult with children and young people and create a clear way to gather and use their views and raise awareness of wish 7, working with community committees and using opportunities like Breeze in the Park, Youth Summit 2026, and Leeds for Learning.
2. Increase opportunities for care-experienced children and young people to take part in activities by working with the Children in Care Council and schools.
3. Strengthen city-wide communications so schools, children, young people, and families know about and can access opportunities and events.

## Long-term goals

2023 - 2028

1. To work with the Culture Programmes team to identify the C&YP strand of the Cultural Compact.
2. To improve city-wide communications. Develop websites like Leeds Inspired and Breeze, and increase engagement with the Breeze digital pass for young people.
3. Develop the awareness and engagement of the arts and cultural sector by ensuring that representatives from the arts and cultural sector are signed up as CFL ambassadors and aware of and promote wish 7.

### Schools can look to:

- Actively share/promote arts and cultural activities with families.
- Promote the 'special edition' Leeds for Learning newsletters that promote free/low cost activities prior to school holidays.
- Sign-up/become an Artsmark learning setting.

### Ambassadors can support by:

- Sign up to, information sessions & workshops focussed around this wish.
- Promote the communication of cultural activity including holiday guides aimed at families.
- Those working with children and young people outside of school can get in touch to consult on their cultural experiences in the city.



# WISH 8

POVERTY



## Lead: Julie Devonald

Head of Service Workforce Dev & Change  
Children & Families  
julie.devonald@leeds.gov.uk

### Short-term goals

2026 - 2027

1. To work to support schools with poverty proofing the school day across the city.
2. To ensure schools have access to the information to reduce the impact of poverty that we are providing to our practitioners in the local authority
3. To consider creative ways to engage and work with ambassadors and see partners working with third-sector organisations and community groups supporting children and families.

### Long-term goals

2023 - 2028

1. To establish a mechanism to consolidate the support we offer CYP in Leeds in relation to poverty.
2. To establish effective ways of communicating our offer to CYP and families in Leeds (CAN).
3. To work together as a city and support young people into adulthood – to thrive and succeed.

### Schools can look to:

- Become poverty aware and take steps to poverty-proof the school day.
- Ensure the uniform policy allows for second-hand uniform to be worn.

### Ambassadors can support by:

- Support the cities projects and the third sector partners in their work to mitigate the impact of poverty.
- Provide networks and people who can support the wider aims of this wish by contacting the lead.

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Wishes



Children and young people have the support and information needed to make healthy choices.

They have opportunities for regular physical activity.

Children and young people know about different opportunities to take part in physical activity and are supported and encouraged to join in. They have access to the information they need to make healthy choices and have healthy and safe relationships.

# WISH 9

HEALTHY CHOICES

**Lead: Jason Minott**

Active Leeds Development Officer  
City Development  
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## Short-term goals

2026 - 2027

1. Provide Healthy Holidays programmes for families with children on Free School Meals, offering culturally rich and physical activity opportunities, and support Baby Week Leeds by delivering free and low-cost activities for expectant and new parents and under-5s.
2. Deliver activator and leadership programmes in education and community settings to equip children and young people with the tools, confidence, skills and networks to overcome systemic barriers and expand their future opportunities as valuable cultural capital.
3. Support schools to implement the Free Breakfast Club Programme to increase access to a healthy breakfast for primary school pupils.

## Long-term goals

2023 - 2028

1. To allow for open-access information about opportunities for children and young people to be active to be made available via an online portal which is well marketed and widely disseminated.
2. To provide enhanced mechanisms for children and young people with protected characteristics to access healthy choices opportunities.

### Schools can look to:

- Promote wider health initiatives to families such as the offer from Active Leeds leisure centres.
- Access and promote 'Disconnect to Reconnect' week.
- Access and promote the 'Just one more' initiative, encouraging young people to eat 'just one more' portion of vegetables every day.

### Ambassadors can support by:

- Increasing the awareness about the psychological impact of device use on child development.
- Understanding the benefits of physical activity – physical, emotional and socially and promoting to employees and families.
- Providing resources, time and ideas.

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### Lead 1: Anna Turner

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Children & Families  
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### Lead 2: Joan Kavanagh

SEND & Inclusion Teams Service Delivery Manager  
Children & Families  
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## Short-term goals

2026 - 2027

1. To review and update the Neurodiversity profiling tool and support staff understanding of its use to support settings in meeting the needs of neurodiverse children and young people.
2. To progress the pilot project taking ten schools on a two-year journey toward becoming trauma informed. Gathering of pupil views and children's experience of trauma informed practice in their school environment as part of on-going development and delivery.
3. One SEND Teams will continue to support schools/settings to develop the use of the 'Inclusive Mainstream Practice' resources and further work to share this with parents/carers

## Long-term goals

2023 - 2028

1. Schools and settings will have an increased understanding of neurodiversity, how they meet the needs of neurodiverse children and young people, and know where they and families can access support .
2. More schools will have adopted a whole-school trauma-informed, relational approach. Schools/settings will use a shared way of thinking to support the understanding of children and young people who have experienced trauma.
3. The One SEND Service will be needs-led, based on supporting children and young people around learning; communication & interaction; social, emotional & mental health; and sensory & physical needs.

### Schools can look to:

- Engage with ONE SEND team training opportunities via Leeds for Learning
- Join the trauma informed community of practice, and access trauma-informed practice training on Leeds for Learning.
- Have a clear and comprehensive graduated approach.

### Ambassadors can support by:

- Understanding the work taking place around trauma-informed practice.
- Seeing how their organisation may be able to help educational settings on tailored educational offers and experiences.



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Wishes



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WISH 11

WORK & EXPERIENCE

Young people have access to a wide range of work experience, employment and volunteering opportunities.

Young people know where to get information and advice and are supported to access a wide range of opportunities that meet their needs and aspirations. This includes work experience, employment, training and volunteering.



**Lead: Tracey Greig**

Employment & Skills Senior Manager  
City Development  
tracey.greig@leeds.gov.uk

## Short-term goals

2026 - 2027

1. Continue to support schools and colleges to deliver good quality careers education with an emphasis on working with our schools in our priority neighbourhoods, support to NEET young people and those with SEND.
2. Increase the capacity and skills of careers advisers working with young people to link in with opportunities in the city - to include a CEIAG network, resources, Start in Leeds online digital careers platform and CPD opportunities.
3. Deliver two large scale careers events: Leeds Apprenticeship Recruitment Fair and Careers in Leeds, which will showcase the breadth of opportunities available in the city.

## Long-term goals

2023 - 2028

1. Broker relationships with employers including CFL Ambassadors to provide a range of experiences of the world of work particularly for students within our priority groups and neighbourhoods
2. Improve the career offer for young people with SEND in order to enable paid sustainable employment opportunities once the student leaves full time education.
3. Work in partnership with colleagues in Childrens Services to develop a city offer for care experienced young people including work placements

### Schools can look to:

- Take up the careers offer, advice, guidance and resources to support students to be able to make informed choices post 16
- Offer 'world of work' opportunities for pupils.
- Encourage students, parents and carers to attend the Employment and Skills careers events, including the pre-event information sessions.

### Ambassadors can support by:

- Contact the lead to offer experiences of the world of work opportunities – including site visits, careers talks, employability skills etc.
- Sign up as an exhibitor for one of the careers events such as the Leeds Apprenticeship Fair and other city careers fairs.
- Consider sponsorship opportunities for these major events.

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# 12.

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Wishes

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## WISH 12

INCLUSIVE CITY

Leeds is an inclusive city for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

Children and young people feel there is more awareness and understanding of different disabilities and that there are more activities and places to go that are accessible to all.



**Lead: Kayleigh Thurlow**

Local Offer & SEND Voice & Influence Coordinator  
Children & Families  
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### Short-term goals

2026 - 2027

1. Partner with Leeds Trinity University to deliver Give it a Go Sports Day in 2026.
2. Continue to work on the 'raising awareness of disabilities' campaign and increase reach.
3. Since the Leeds Area SEND and AP Partnership Board takeover in November 2025, our partnership work aims to support school with key issues: accessible playgrounds at Green Meadows Academy, sunflower-lanyard awareness at Pivot Academy, improved accessible play and shelter at Pennyfield School, more accessible and affordable activities at Powerhouse West SILC, and better leisure-centre access for Enterprise & Employability students at Leeds City College.

### Long-term goals

2023 - 2028

1. To continue to work on the 'raising awareness of disabilities' campaign and ensure posters are displayed across the city, schools and to encourage participation through learning sessions.
2. To work with colleagues in the 'Children's Commissioning Team' and those at Leeds leisure centres to review their programme of activities to ensure they are inclusive and accessible to all. Once achieved, to help promote and share this on the Leeds Local Offer Website.
3. Following the success of the 2023 Give it a go event, support Leeds Trinity University to deliver an event in 2025 for young people with SEND to try out different activities available in the city and explore it becoming an annual event.

### Schools can look to:

- Use the 'Raising Awareness of Hidden Disabilities' resources available [here](#).
- All school staff to attend awareness training sessions on SEND.
- Promote accessible & fun activities and places to visit through school communication channels.

### Ambassadors can support by:

- Promote the raising awareness of hidden disabilities campaign.
- Encourage staff to attend SEND awareness raising training so that no one is treated unfairly in public spaces.
- Look at CSR funds to support post 16 specialist provisions to improve facilities.

[CFL Wish 12 Page](#)





# Child Friendly Leeds 12 Wishes



Since 2012, Leeds has had a vision to be a child friendly city and we had one simple question:

‘What is it like to be a child growing up in Leeds and how do we make it better?’

Celebrating the tenth birthday, the feedback from local and city wide consultations, surveys, and ballots over the last 3 years was reviewed, capturing the views of 80,000 children and young people to identify the current top issues and priorities.

<p><b>1.</b></p>  <p>Children and young people know how and where to get support for their mental health and wellbeing if they need it.</p>	<p><b>2.</b></p>  <p>Children and young people have safe spaces to play, hang out and have fun.</p>	<p><b>3.</b></p>  <p>Children and young people express their views, feel heard and are involved in decisions that affect their lives.</p>	<p><b>4.</b></p>  <p>Differences are celebrated in Leeds so children and young people feel accepted for who they are. They do not experience bullying and discrimination.</p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>  <p>Everyone takes more action to protect the environment from climate change.</p>	<p><b>6.</b></p>  <p>Children and young people can travel around the city safely and easily.</p>	<p><b>7.</b></p>  <p>Children and young people know about different things to do and places to go across the city. They enjoy different cultural experiences including art, music, sport and film.</p>	<p><b>8.</b></p>  <p>Leeds is a city that reduces the impact of poverty and helps families who need it.</p>
<p><b>9.</b></p>  <p>Children and young people have the support and information needed to make healthy choices. They have opportunities for regular physical activity.</p>	<p><b>10.</b></p>  <p>All children and young people are in learning settings that meet their needs.</p>	<p><b>11.</b></p>  <p>Young people have access to a wide range of work experience, employment and volunteering opportunities.</p>	<p><b>12.</b></p>  <p>Leeds is an inclusive city for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.</p>



Website  
[cfl.leeds.gov.uk](http://cfl.leeds.gov.uk)



Our blog  
[www.wearechildfriendlyleeds.com](http://www.wearechildfriendlyleeds.com)



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