

Report of Director of Children and Families

Report to Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Date: 6th March 2019



Subject: Scrutiny inquiry - is Leeds a child friendly city?

Outcome: Children and young people enjoy healthy lifestyles	Focus area: Children and young people's alcohol and drugs
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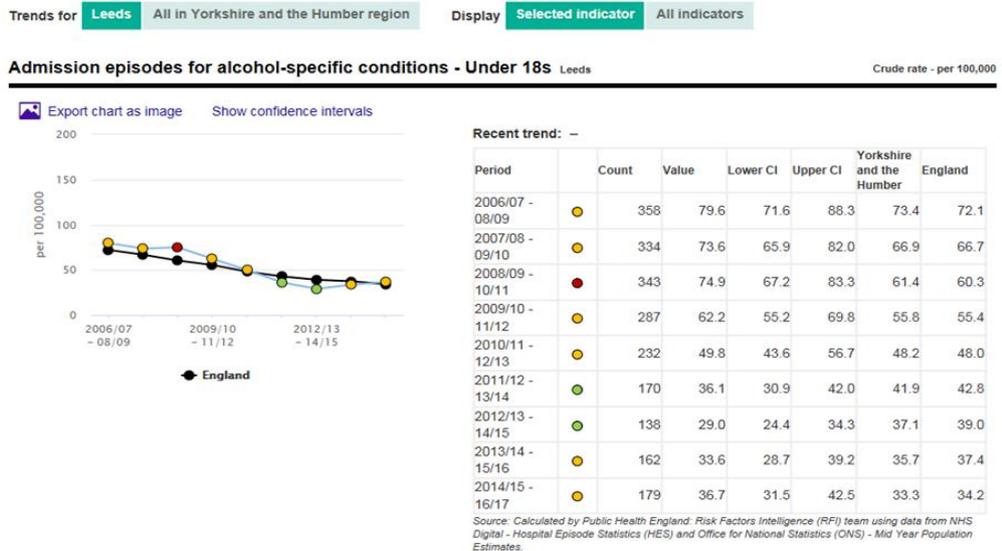
Story behind the baseline and turning the curve story

Alcohol consumption by under 18's is a national and local problem and one that affects the health of young people while also causing issues for wider society. In 2016, national data showed 44% of secondary school aged young people reported ever having had an alcoholic drink, this is down slightly on the 2011 figure of 45% but up on the 2014 figure of 38%. This is lower than the Leeds self-reported alcohol consumption by secondary school pupils of 70% in 2011, 55% in 2014 and 48% in 2016. Leeds 2017/18 figure shows a slight increase to 49% of secondary school age pupils reporting every having had an alcoholic drink. Alcohol contributes to 5% of young people's deaths and the UK has the highest rates of teenage alcohol related injuries in Europe. The most commonly used illegal drug nationally and in Leeds is cannabis with Leeds having higher than average number of young people in treatment for cannabis use. Class A drug use such as heroin, crack cocaine etc. has declined in young people over the last few decades and is minimal.

Summary of the journey

Narrative/key milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug and alcohol services for the city were recommissioned in July 2015 from Forward Leeds which takes an all-age approach and creates a more joined up service than previously. 211 young people accessed Forward Leeds Young People's Drug and Alcohol Treatment service in 2017/18. The number of young people in specialist substance misuse services has shown a slight downward trend since 2013 which is in line with national trends. Forward Leeds data shows the most common reasons for young people entering treatment in Leeds and nationally are alcohol and cannabis misuse, with more young men entering treatment than young women. •The Drug and Alcohol Management Board oversees the all age Drug and Alcohol Strategy and Action Plan, which includes significant actions to encourage young people to make healthier choices around drugs and alcohol. The young people's element of the Drug and Alcohol Strategy and Action Plan is directed and managed by the Young People's Drug and Alcohol Partnership group, Chaired by the Youth Offending Service Manager and attended by partners across Leeds City Council, NHS, Police, Third Sector and Forward Leeds . •Through work since 2011 LTHT has now adopted an Under 16's A&E Pathway, screening all young people attending A&E for alcohol or drug related injury/illness and automatically referring them to Forward Leeds and this has significantly increased referrals from A&E. Due to the recommissioning of the Drug and Alcohol Service, referral data is only available from 2015, when 17 young people received a referral from A&E, in 2017 the number of referrals increased to 63 young people.
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Performance measures 2011 to 2018



As with national trends there has been a decrease in rates of under 18s alcohol specific hospital admissions since 2011. In Leeds this reduction was from 62.2 admissions per 100,000 in 2009/10 -2011/12 to 36.7 per 100,000 in 2014/15 – 2016/17 (the most recent data available).

Females and young people from inner South and East Leeds have higher rates of alcohol related admissions. Hospital admission rates need to be treated with caution as the numbers are very small.

The My Health My School Survey captures the lifestyle choices of children and young people and shows that a growing number of school age young people in Leeds are choosing not to drink alcohol in line with national trends.

30% of secondary school age young people reported that they have never had an alcoholic drink in 2011/12 and this has increased steadily to 50.9% in 2017/18. Of Year 11s who drink, the proportion who report drinking 2/3 times per week has declined from 8% (2011/12) to 3.2% (2017/18). However, the proportion who report drinking to get drunk has increased slightly from 13.3% (2011/12) to 15.7% (2017/18) indicating that some young people are still at risk of alcohol related harm.

The proportion of Year 11's who report ever having taken illegal drugs fluctuates yearly around 20% and shows no clear pattern.

Additional supporting evidence 2011 to 2018

Data from the My Health My School survey show the changing patterns of young people's alcohol and drug use over the last 7 years.

I have never had a drink of alcohol

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Primary	57.7%	61.5%	67.0%	72.2%	73.3%	73.3%	76.7%
Secondary	30.0%	30.2%	44.9%	50.2%	52.7%	52.0%	50.9%
Y11	12.0%	14.6%	18.3%	24.1%	21.3%	27.8%	24.6%
Overall	45.2%	49.9%	57.6%	62.9%	64.2%	64.4%	64.6%

I drink every day (of those that drink alcohol)

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Primary	0.5%	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	0.4%	0.2%	0.1%
Secondary	1.1%	1.3%	0.9%	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%	0.9%
Y11	1.6%	1.7%	1.3%	1.6%	1.0%	1.7%	1.6%
Overall	0.8%	0.7%	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%

Ever used illegal drugs or glues, gases and solvents as drugs

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Primary							
Secondary	9.4%	14.4%	7.7%	7.4%	5.0%	7.42%	6.8%
Y11	18.6%	27.9%	17.3%	15.8%	14.7%	20.1%	21.4%
Overall							

While there has been some fluctuation, the data shows a downward trend in both alcohol and drug use.

Universal	<p>Universal Prevention: Alcohol awareness training has been delivered to over 250 of the children's workforce including staff from schools, social care, youth offending, ambulance service, children's homes and foster carers. Staff are trained to give brief advice to young people around alcohol using the locally developed Under 18's Pocket Guide to Alcohol tool. Training was also delivered around parental drug and alcohol misuse to all members of Early Start teams and is ongoing. Since 2011 evidence has been gathered through a Needs Assessment on young people and alcohol and a literature review on effects of cannabis misuse. A wide range of social marketing has taken place including Leeds Best Summer campaign, Leeds City College alcohol campaign and under 18's Know Your Risk's campaign linked to Alcohol Awareness week.</p> <p>The Healthy Schools programme (a whole school approach to improving wellbeing) includes Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco across 10 school improvements strands within the PSHE Theme. Schools use the self-review tool to review strengths and areas to improve. Across the city, 214 schools are engaged, 71 have self-validated and 36 assessed.</p>
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Vulnerable	Forward Leeds provides an extensive targeted early intervention and prevention service working in Alternative Education settings and with targeted young people in schools. Vulnerable groups such as young offenders and young people at risk of CSE show high numbers of referrals into treatment due to proactive efforts by FL and partners.
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Children looked after	The Forward Leeds service prioritises working with children looked after and Alcohol and Cannabis awareness training is delivered for their care staff including foster carers.
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Next stage of our journey

Future aspirations	Young people and families cannabis awareness training has been successfully developed in 2018 and is being rolled out due to high demand from the children's workforce. The "Highs of Leeds" young people's cannabis awareness campaign will be rolled out further in 2019/20. As Health Education is planned to be mandatory in schools from September 2020, the opportunity to improve the quality of the provision and impact of drug and alcohol education will be a key focus for schools and settings.
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Challenges/ barriers	Key barriers include the difficulties of gathering reliable data on young people's drug and alcohol use, the increased strength of cannabis and normalisation of cannabis use in society and increased access to drugs by young people on the web.
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Supporting evidence

The health and social effects of nonmedical cannabis use, World Health Organization (2016)

http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/publications/msbcannabis.pdf

Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Among Young People in England (2016)

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/smoking-drinking-and-drug-use-among-young-people-in-england/2016#resources>