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Commitment to Children's Play

Foreword from Cllr Mulherin, Executive Member for Children and Families

Children learn through play. They have fun through play. They build relationships and social skills as well as motor skills and communication skills through play. Play is essential for children's growth and development and in Leeds we are committed to ensuring children's access to play opportunities is supported and enabled as part of our Child Friendly Leeds ambitions.

In 2007 a Strategy for Play was introduced in Leeds. The changes and developments in Leeds over the past 10 years have been significant; including our ambition to be the best city in the UK for children and young people to grow up in. We are proud of our commitment to children and young people and the realisation of Leeds being a Child Friendly City and a playful city. Child Friendly Leeds is embedded in United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the initiative continues to grow and gain momentum.

The voices of over fourteen thousand children and young people informed and developed the Child Friendly City priorities for Leeds. 12 wishes were produced with children and young people stating what would make Leeds a child friendly city and these are essential for the city to deliver a child friendly city. They told us they want Leeds to be a clean, safe and friendly city that is easy to travel around, where there are lots of places and spaces to play and things to do, and where they have opportunity to express their views, feel listened to and respected.

Since the 2007 Play Strategy, despite significant reductions in Council resources Leeds has consistently invested in services and children's play to ensure that our children are happy, healthy and have fun growing up in the city but there is still more to be done to ensure that we are creating opportunity and supporting every child's right to play.



This new **Leeds commitment to children's play** will build on the 2007 Leeds Play Strategy creating the best city for all children and young people to grow up in. Leeds commitment to children's play will help create a child friendly city that values spontaneous play. Supporting children and young people with opportunity, time and space to play independently and with others and recognising children playing is essential to a happy, healthy childhood.





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Children in Leeds

Leeds is the 3rd largest city in the UK by population. There are currently 774,060 people living in Leeds and 183,000 of these are children and young people making almost 24% of the population. Estimates show that the population will grow to 819,000 by 2024 and exceed 1,000,000 by 2030.

Of the current population 140 ethnic groups are represented, speaking 170 languages different languages. The most common other than English are: Polish (6,717 people), Urdu (4,989 people) and Punjabi (4,537 people) - and this will continue to fluctuate as migration patterns change.

The city will be transformed physically by 2030. We have a government target to build 70,000 new homes by 2028, some of which will appear in new estates and others will be attached to existing communities. The city centre will double in size with the development of South Bank meeting residential communities in the south. The transport system will undergo a major overhaul upgrading road networks, introducing cycle paths, developing new transport systems and working towards a target of reducing damaging carbon emission by 80% by 2050.

The national picture has changed significantly over the last 10 years with a move from central government funding for capital playground schemes to now exploring how we can incorporate play opportunities in the way we plan and design our cities, living and open spaces.

It is critical that we ensure the necessary services, provision and opportunity for children's play and healthy development in a city of this size and throughout major change and transformation.

Leeds' Ambitions

We have ambitious plans for the city. The comprehensive Best City Plan, Children and Young Peoples Plan and the Health and Wellbeing Plan establish our ambitions and priorities for the city. Play has a significant contribution to make in meeting these ambitions and enabling children's inherent need and right to play.

Throughout the transformations of the past 10 years in Leeds; preventative and universal provision have remained significant. Children's happiness, health and having fun continue to be prioritized and play, sport, arts, culture and leisure remain important for the city. Play has a contribution to make in the successful delivery of the city's plans. Key areas where play can play a part are:





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Best Council Plan 2015-20 — We want Leeds to be the best city in the UK, one that is earning, learning, safe, healthy and engaged.

Leeds Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2021 focuses on children having the best start in life, that communities are strong, engaged and well-connected, more people are physically active, more often, and that mental and physical health equality is promoted.

Children and Young Peoples Plan 2018-2023 sets out priorities against the 5 outcomes; that all children and young people are safe from harm, that they do well at all levels of learning and have the skills for life. That they enjoy healthy lifestyles and have fun growing up. All children and young people are active citizens who feel they have a voice and influence.

Parks and Green Space Strategy looks at creating a healthier city, sustaining the green realm, acting as an enabler for regeneration, ensuring Quality places for people.



Child Healthy Weight Plan sets out how all children will have access to what they need to be a healthy weight and all care givers will feel confident and be equipped to raise their child to be a healthy weight. Families who are most at risk will be identified early and well supported by a highly skilled workforce and the current healthy weight inequalities gaps will be narrowed.

Sustainable Education Travel Strategy 2017-2021 aims to enable and promote the use of safe and sustainable travel to all children and young people of Leeds and increase the number of children and young people walking, cycling and using public transport to access schools and colleges.

In our city...
wellbeing starts
with people and
everything is
connected

The Culture Strategy for Leeds 2017-2030 key objectives are to value and prioritise cultures which can be created and experienced by anyone, improving the quality of life experienced by every person and every community in Leeds. For culture to help build respect, cohesion and coexistence between communities and individuals and for people whatever their background, to be continually supported to be creative through school, informal learning, training and employment.



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The 12 Wishes for a Child Friendly Leeds are:

- ◆ Children and young people can make safe journeys and easily travel around the city.
- ◆ Children and young people find the city centre welcoming and safe, with friendly places to go, have fun and play.
- ◆ There are places and spaces to play and things to do, in all areas and open to all.
- ◆ Children and young people can easily find out what they want to know, when they want it and how they want it.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Children and young people are treated fairly and feel respected.
- ◆ Children and young people have the support and information they need to make healthy lifestyle choices.
- ◆ All our learning places identify and address the barriers that prevent children and young people from engaging in and enjoying learning.
- ◆ There are a greater number of better quality jobs, work experience opportunities and good quality careers advice for all.
- ◆ All children and young people have their basic rights met.
- ◆ Children and young people express their views, feel heard and are actively involved in decisions that affect their lives — this is what we mean by 'participation'.
- ◆ Places and spaces where children and young people spend time and play, are free of litter and dog fouling.



Throughout the coming years play development and opportunities will continue to make significant contributions towards ensuring the ambitious plans for the city have children and children's play at the heart of delivery contributing to happier, healthier childhoods and creating the best city for all its residents.



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The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

- All children have the right to play as enshrined in Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Every child has the right to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is enshrined in Leeds' ambition of being a Child Friendly City and it is key that the **Leeds Commitment to Children's Play** protects, promotes and delivers Article 31. The UNCRC in 2013 clarified article 31 through the publication of the General Comment № 17 due to the concern that not all member states were protecting this right. The general comment re-enforces the right to play, its importance for children's wellbeing and development and how to meet this right.

For the purpose of the **Leeds commitment to Children's Play** the focus is on the child's right to play. As stated in the General Comment; **Children's play is any behaviour, activity or process initiated, controlled and structured by children themselves; it takes place whenever and wherever opportunities arise.** Caregivers may contribute to the creation of environments in which play takes place, but play itself is non-compulsory, driven by intrinsic motivation and undertaken for its own sake, rather than as a means to an end.

Play involves the exercise of autonomy, physical, mental or emotional activity, and has the potential to take infinite forms, either in groups or alone. These forms will change and be adapted throughout the course of childhood. The key characteristics of play are fun, uncertainty, challenge, flexibility and non-productivity.

While play is often considered non-essential, the Committee reaffirms that it is a fundamental and vital dimension of the pleasure of childhood, as well as an essential component of physical, social, cognitive, emotional and spiritual development.



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Children playing contributes towards a 'culture of childhood' where childhood is recognised as distinct and valuable time and in Leeds we want to foster and afford children the opportunity, time and space to play independently and with others, recognising children playing as essential to a happy, health childhood.

Through play children are able to develop the skills and abilities they will require as they grow older. Play is a biological, psychological and social necessity that is fundamental to the healthy growth, development and well-being of children and young people.

There is recognition that investment is made in the provision of structured and organised activities for children but equally important is the need to create time and space for children to engage in spontaneous play and to promote societal attitudes that support and encourage such activities. These points also directly relate to and are reflected within in children's views and wishes in a Child Friendly Leeds



As stated in the General Comment children have a spontaneous urge to play and engage in recreational activities and will seek out opportunities to do so. If a child is to realise their rights under article 31 children should have;

- *An environment secure from social harm or violence;*
- *An environment sufficiently free from waste, pollution, traffic and other physical hazards to allow them to circulate freely and safely within their local neighbourhood;*
- *Availability of leisure time, free from other demands;*
- *Accessible space and time for play, free from adult control and management;*
- *Space and opportunities to play outdoors unaccompanied in a diverse and challenging physical environment, with easy access to supportive adults, when necessary;*
- *Opportunities to experience interact with and play in natural environments and the animal world;*
- *Opportunities to invest in their own space and time so as to create and transform their world, using their imagination and languages;*
- *Opportunities to participate with other children in games, sports and other recreational activities, supported, where necessary, by trained facilitators or coaches;*
- *Recognition by parents, teachers and society as a whole of the value and legitimacy of the rights provided for in article 31.*





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Playing your part: Creating the Play Friendly City 2007 – 2017

In 2007 we said we would create and build a Play Friendly City. This section reviews the delivery of the Leeds Play Strategy 2007 and reflects on the progress made in the past 10 years. The 2007 strategy called for the creation of a Play Friendly City as a direct contribution to Leeds becoming a broader Child Friendly City.

In 2012 Leeds launched their ambition to be a Child Friendly City. This citywide ambition is based on the UNICEF Child Friendly Cities initiative, UNCRC, children's views, research and findings. There has been significant strategic developments and progress made across Leeds brought about through the initial play strategy and the ambition to be a Child Friendly City.

CFL driven by children's services has grown year on year. Over 850 ambassadors over 100 businesses have joined the CFL campaign to make Leeds a child friendly city. Since 2014 Child Friendly Leeds Awards have been held in the city, developed and delivered by young people recognising people, organisations and places in Leeds that are contributing to making Leeds the best city for children and young people. In 2018 a CFL City Centre Competition focused on how children feel the city centre can be playful and child friendly. Over 300 ideas were put forward and 10 winning ideas were developed in 2018, including indoor play, outdoor cinema, CFL Live in Millenium Square and pop up and play.



An executive member of the council has a lead role and responsibility for the CFL campaign. In addition there are children's champions across the city leading on children's issues, play and CFL. These roles are held by elected members, one in each community committee area, ten in total.

In 2012 Children's Services created a central Voice Influence and Change (VIC) team supporting young people and services. The VIC team support Leeds Members of Youth Parliament, Leeds Youth Council, Leeds Children's Mayor, Care Leavers Council and Have a Voice Council as well as supporting services to ensure the participation of children and young people. The voice and influence of children in Leeds is critical to supporting change and making Leeds the best city for children and young people to grow up in.

In 2013 a localised Leeds City Council Youth Activity Fund was launched expanding on the opportunities of the Play Enabling Grant. The fund is for play, sports, arts and cultural activity aimed at children and young people age 8-17 years. The Youth Activity Fund is a fund facilitated by Community Committees and local councillors. The activities are delivered by public and third sector organisations. Since 2013 £1.7m has been spent on local activity.



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Investment and development in the city's **parks and greenspace** has been continuous. Residents, children and young people continue to appreciate and utilise our parks and green space. Throughout the past 10 years there has been a sustained investment in children's play in our parks, green spaces and playgrounds and a number of initiatives have been delivered over the time.

There has been continued capital investment in play spaces across the city with 72 playgrounds to the value of over £5 ½ million developed in the past 10 years. The Playbuilder scheme, 2009-2011 provided funding for 17 capital playground schemes across the city. This included rethinking design and delivery of play spaces across the city with play design principles, community involvement and play value at the centre of playground design. The Big Lottery investment in play, 2008-2010 supported the capital investment towards 9 play spaces in the city in 2009/10 and staffed play projects in parks and open spaces delivered in partnership with the third sector.

In 2011 a flagship inclusive play area was opened at Temple Newsam. This was developed with Physcap, a local charity supporting families with disabled children. The play area is designed for children of all abilities and access. There are changing places facilities, refreshments and amenities available. All new and refurbished play areas include accessible equipment for children and young people with additional needs.

The majority of children access their parks and play areas across the city. 9013 children and young people took part on My Health, My School Survey 2017/18. 9124 year 5/6 and 8052 year 7/9/11 pupils took part. Over 75% of primary school children have visited a local park or playground in the past four weeks. Over 66% of secondary school pupils visited a park or playground in the past four weeks.

A Parks Survey with Leeds University in 2017 had 6432 respondents. They found there is high usage of Leeds parks, 91% compared to national average of 85%. 86% of visitors think park standards are excellent or good.





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Leeds City Council Planning Services include young people where ever possible in the development of major schemes in the city. Since 2013 young people participate in the Leeds Architecture Awards; selecting and presenting at the prestigious annual awards evening. Environment and Design Group's (EDG) design team work closely with the Play team and Parks and Countryside to promote child-friendly design throughout the built environment of Leeds, for example including text on play and independent mobility within design guidance and reviewing planning applications.

Leeds City Council's City Development Directorate are responsible for public realm in the city centre and in recent years have developed playful schemes in the city centre supporting opportunity for play, leisure and rest for children and families. Pop up parks on Cookridge Street and in front of the Town Hall have become regular features for the summer in Leeds, along with the trialling of a new playscape in Victoria Gardens.

The well-established city beach in Millennium Square continues to be extremely well attended and the Council's events programme delivers family friendly events such as the Christmas Lights Switch On, Summer Series, the Ice Cube and a move towards a more family friendly Christkindlmarkt.

The future development of the city centre's public realm has a strong family friendly focus, where plans for new greenspace and public realm provide an opportunity to create permanent playable spaces such as on the proposed City Park in the South Bank.



A 'Park Here and Play' project in Victoria Gardens was delivered during the summer of 2017. This was a partnership project with Leeds Art Gallery, Leeds City Council and DLA Design. It temporarily transformed Victoria Gardens into a playable, family friendly space. Feedback from visitors was extremely positive and a follow up event was held on Briggate in October 2017.

Active and Sustainable Travel teams help create safe environments for children to travel and explore their communities increasing the opportunity to play freely and get to know and understand their community. Innovative initiatives and projects with schools are developed to encourage less car use and active travel such as cycling, scootering and walking.



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Public Health is focussed on improving health and reducing health inequalities. Having joined Leeds City Council in 2013 its overall aim is for Leeds to be a healthy and caring city for all ages; where people who are the poorest improve their health the fastest. One of the six priorities is improving the health and wellbeing of children and young people with a focus on Best Start for the first two years of life, improving child healthy weight and working strategically to increase physical activity opportunities for children and young people.

The Public Health team lead on improving the workforce skills of early year's staff through delivering the Health, Exercise and Nutrition for the Really Young (HENRY) training programme. Over the last 10 years more than 1,000 staff have been trained and training is ongoing. The programme is primarily to address obesity through healthy and active lifestyles and includes the importance of play for the very young supporting and understanding play and giving practical ideas for parents. Also parent groups are offered across the city by Family Outreach Workers and Community Nursery Nurses with approximately 30 group courses delivered annually.

Three physical activity programmes are commissioned by Public Health to enable children and young people to be physically active and to incorporate healthy eating messages. Over 9,000 children and young people access these activities each year. Alongside this the team carry out needs assessments on children's physical activity and from this identify groups most in need of support to be more active. Partners work together to improve access to physical activity in target groups including South Asian girls, teenage girls from disadvantaged communities and early years children.



Strategic working is undertaken to influence planning and transport to encourage walkable, cycle-able and play friendly environments with focus on the new housing developments. Future developments include a social marketing campaign to encourage parents and young children to move more and play together; using social media and behaviour change approaches.



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Leeds Museums and Galleries believe that everyone could and should be playful throughout their lives. They foster play through curiosity, creativity and conversation, co-produce and deliver playful, inspirational engagement work with local communities in our nine venues and as outreach. Museums and Galleries work with Early Years settings and families, running workshops specifically for under-fives and their carers at five museums and galleries.

The service see nearly 50,000 schoolchildren a year, and work with teachers, trainee teachers and pupils to co-create hands on, experimental and fun schools programmes. Leeds Museums and Galleries work with home educators, host relaxed workshops and events for special needs (SEND) groups and co-curate exhibitions with young people in the main public spaces. Playful doesn't stop when you grow up. There are artist-led programmes for adults, baby friendly curator talks and 'knit and natter', gardening or walking social groups for wellbeing. Playful continues with the staff, it's only by being free to play ourselves that we can grow programmes and experiment for the future.



Leeds Library Services has a network of 35 libraries across Leeds, the Library service provides free access to community space for people of all ages and backgrounds. With a direct correlation between play and early literacy, the library service has traditionally always included aspects of dramatic play as part of story times but increasingly over recent years the service has developed the number and range of playful projects for children and young people to include constructive play activities such as Lego as well other STEM

activities such as Minecraft and coding. The service has also introduced a number of toy libraries and many libraries also have toys for children to play with while children are in the library.





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Breeze Leeds delivers local playful events across the city. This started with the Breeze Youth Festival in 1996. Breeze on Tour started in summer 2004 and continues in major parks during the summer months and local mini breeze events in local parks have become a feature of Leeds. The Breeze team runs term time Friday Night Projects for under 19's at Middleton and Pudsey Leisure Centres and a Saturday Night project at Armley. The Breeze Team lead on The Christmas Experience at Lotherton Hall creating a playful experience for children and families throughout the festive season. The Breeze Leeds website provides an online library of 'what's on'. Breeze Leeds host the Breeze Card since 2000, and various projects including Breeze has talent, supporting and showcasing young talent.



In 2015 **Leeds Play Streets Initiative** was introduced in Leeds. Processes were streamlined to ensure street play orders are easy to understand and accessible for all communities. Leeds Play Streets is a resident led free initiative to close streets to traffic to enable children's play. This is growing across the city and many residents are closing their streets to

Meanwood Valley Urban Farm use their PEG to deliver holiday playschemes on the farm using the natural outdoor environment & children helping on the farm creating a sense of adventure. Over 100 children attend every year.



Friends of Middleton Park run holiday playscheme within the park. Over 600 children take part in the open access activities which include den building, go cart making, arts and crafts, bushcraft and experience the unique park and the natural environment.

provide local neighbourhoods for freely chosen safe play. In 2018 the initiative won the Play Award at the National Children and Young People Now Awards recognising the initiative in the city.



Leeds City Council Children and Families Services have remained committed to resource play opportunities

across the city. A **Play Enabling Grant (PEG)** for third sector partners to deliver holiday playschemes has continued throughout the past 10 years. This has remained a priority for Leeds, ensuring open access holiday playschemes are available across the city for children age 5-13 years. Children and Family Services have invested over £1m funding for holiday playschemes throughout the past 10 years supporting small community groups.





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The contribution our partners in the VCFS Sector make to Leeds being a Playful city is both recognised and extremely valued. Partnership working is a strength of the city and throughout the last 10 years VCFS organisations have made a significant contribution to increasing and improving the play opportunities in Leeds. The following projects are just a few examples;

Scrap Creative Reuse Arts Project in Sunnybank Mills focuses entirely on open ended, child-led play when developing ideas and opportunities for schools, practitioners, families and children. Their Scrap Sheds, shipping containers and sheds are in over 38 schools across Leeds and are a play alternative to directed games. Children lead the play and need little or no intervention from adults. The scrap resources are recycled materials for loose parts play, such as plastics, large reels, tubes, pipes, boxes, old tyres, fabric and tarpaulin, den building to name a few. These encourage children to take risks and explore, venturing further into imaginative play outdoors. Alongside this, practitioners play based training and the value of risky play is provided for school staff.



Scrap Explorers sessions for early years children are held in Scrap every month. Created by a qualified expert in Child Development, small children and babies get busy exploring and learning through child-led open ended play. Free exploration of materials is the starting point, designed to give children opportunities to refine their fine and gross motor control skills - useful for preparing for writing, problem solving and independent creative and critical thought. And a lot of fun!

Other workshops at Scrap start with the materials in the store, donated by local businesses and industry, they are recycling non-toxic waste into challenging, inspiring, and beautiful art materials. All workshop leaders are strong believers in the power of creativity to increase children's (and adult's) confidence in learning and expressing themselves, the act of exploration and experimentation, making mistakes, trying again and refining skills whilst enjoying oneself in a creative and playful environment.

Over the last decade **Barca Leeds** has delivered several local play projects in West Leeds to encourage and promote positive play opportunities for children. Some examples of these are: Mobile Play Service – This project utilised local green spaces to deliver universal play sessions for all children to enjoy. The project aimed to encourage outdoor play, the use of local parks and low cost family activities that could be sustained once the project ended.





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Summer Play Schemes – Universal and available to all children. In summer 2014 a play-scheme was delivered from Hunters Greave which is a large outdoor open space in Bramley. Activities included forest play, outdoor cooking and den building.

Targeted Play Service – BARCAs Targeted Play Service delivered a variety of universal and targeted play sessions, including an after school community play group for 8-13 yr olds as well as targeted groups for children referred by Children's Social Work Service or local schools who were identified as needing positive play experiences. We also delivered an element of one-to-one play support for children who were extremely socially isolated, lacking in confidence and struggled with a group environment.

More recently Barca delivered two events to celebrate National Play Day 2017 and Child Friendly Leeds 5th Birthday. These events were held at West Leeds Activity Centre and Leeds City Museum and provided fun free play activities for children and families and at the moment Barca are facilitating a weekly 'Tea Time Club' which is a universal group offering diversionary activities for 8-13 year olds.

Playful Anywhere CIC is a Leeds based not-for-profit organisation with a proven track record of delivering high quality public participatory events, programmes and activities. They involve the public in action research to co-create rich experiences. Recent projects include:

Make Believe Leeds: In April 2017, Playful Anywhere were commissioned by Leeds International Festival to design and deliver a day of arts, tech and imagination to inspire the next generation of inventors, makers & technologists. This blended elements of cardboard and code to stimulate young minds that also engaged parents and grandparents. The event had more than 700 participants at Leeds City Museum.

Playbox - Playful shipping containers bringing creative and balanced play to young people. Playbox01 and Playbox02 are moveable, robust and imaginative 20ft refurbished shipping container. They are placed in communities with community organisations and retailers to catalyse play, friendships and conviviality. Playbox002 includes recycling toys and creating educational opportunities to learn creative technologies, up cycling, design and making new objects from old. Playbox003 is the first neighbourhood led Playbox, in partnership with LS14 Trust, who secured 3 year funding to galvanise their local park with play.



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March of the Robots was a major year-long project commissioned by Leeds City Council, explored traditional play and crafting (using cardboard and boxes) and new uses of technology to facilitate play and creativity. The project featured 107 participatory events at 64 locations across the city delivered in collaboration with over 30 practitioners for more than 7000 participants.

Playful Anywhere facilitate multi-generational play events, not least [Counterplay Leeds in 2017](#) -which brought over 80 participants together from across Europe and the UK in a playful action orientated weekend with a brief to make our cities more playful.



Leeds Play Network (LPN) In the last decade LPN worked with thousands of children and families, playing, talking and supporting them through a range of play projects across the city.

In 2009 Leeds Play Network (LPN) delivered Play Partners a project which provided one-to-one support for children and young people with additional needs, enabling them to access mainstream leisure and play activities of their choice. From 2014 – 2016 LPN worked in partnership with Leeds City Council and Play England to re-invigorate the street play policy and encourage Leeds residents to open their streets for play. They helped facilitate the closure of their streets to traffic – enabling children's play.

Leeds Play Network supported Child Friendly Leeds city centre initiatives providing indoor play opportunities for children and families in St Johns in partnership with Leeds City Council and St Johns Centre.



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Next Steps: Our continued commitment to children's play

To build on the progress, commitment and developments from the 2007 Leeds Play Strategy a commitment to children's play in Leeds will continue into the future. The Leeds commitment to children's play will help create a child friendly city that values spontaneous play as a necessary and vital daily experience; supporting children and young people with opportunity, time and space to play independently and with others and recognising children playing is essential to a happy, healthy childhood.

The commitment will build on the Child Friendly Leeds children's wishes, ensure that article 31 of UNCRC is upheld and supported and that all children across the city have a universal offer to play in their city and create their own culture of childhood that is respected and understood.

Children and young people continue to tell us via our annual Youth Activity Fund surveys how we can improve the city; and where and what they would like to have the opportunity to do.

In 2016 and 2017 children and young people consistently told us they want to be:

Outdoors

With friends

Active

Having fun

In order to aspire and deliver the CFL wishes of children and young people and continue on the journey of becoming a child friendly city: a commitment to children's play is essential.



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The Leeds Commitment to Children's Play 2018

The vision for Leeds Commitment to Children's Play

We want Leeds to be the best City for all children and young people to grow up in. A city that will realise article 31 of UNCRC. A child friendly city that values spontaneous independent play as a necessary and vital daily experience.

The outcomes of the Leeds Commitment to Children's Play

In order to deliver the vision of Leeds commitment to children's play the following three outcomes will safeguard article 31 of UNCRC, grow our Child Friendly City and create opportunity, time and space to for children's independent play. The Leeds commitment to children's play will:

Increase opportunity for children to play

Create time and space to play

Ensure the recognition and understanding of children's play

How this will be achieved

A citywide Play Partnership will support the development and delivery of the Leeds Commitment to Children's Play. Membership of the play partnership will include Leeds City Council service areas, Leeds Universities, third sector play organisations, parents and carers, CFL Ambassadors and children from across the city working collaboratively.

The Play Partnership will report to the Children and Families Trust Board supporting the Children and Young Peoples Plan outcome:

Children have fun growing up.

