



Making
Leeds a child
friendly city

You can make a difference
to vulnerable children and
young people in Leeds.



we are
child
friendly
Leeds

The Child Friendly Leeds Fund

Leeds has a bold ambition - to be the best city for children and young people to grow up in. Child Friendly Leeds brings everyone who shares this ambition together, and the Child Friendly Leeds Fund is a way for local businesses and individuals to contribute and make a real difference to the lives of the most vulnerable children and young people in the city. These include children and young people that:

- are looked after by the local authority;
 - are leaving local authority care;
 - have special educational needs (up to age 25);
 - are living on the edge of care;
 - are new arrivals (migrant children); and
 - are living in poverty.
- would simply not be able to access them without additional financial support. These opportunities are really important in helping to increase young people's social skills, support their learning and build their confidence, self-esteem and resilience.

The aim of the Fund is to support positive learning and 'enrichment' activities and opportunities for children and young people who

Donations to the Child Friendly Leeds Fund will help to improve the lives of young people in Leeds like **Sam**, **Charli** and **John**.



Cooking up healthy food on a budget

Care leaver **John** supports young adults in similar circumstances through a weekly care leavers social group, helping them to gain the skills needed to move into independent living. With additional financial support from the Fund, he purchased chef whites, extra kitchen equipment and fresh ingredients when food bank supplies were low so he could rustle up quality meals for the group. He started his own cooking blog and used the group's Facebook page to share his knowledge of cooking on a budget as well as giving tips on how to eat well and be healthy. He also answered care leavers' questions through his online 'Cooking Surgery'. As a result, John's self-esteem and confidence as a cook and cooking mentor has greatly increased. He has been able to cook for large numbers, learnt to blog and has also cooked for a social group in another part of Leeds. He has added several strings to his bow and is closer to his aspirations of working in the food industry. He hopes to start up a small social enterprise to build on his cooking skills.



Keeping busy in the summer holidays

Sam has been diagnosed with foetal alcohol syndrome, which means that he struggles to focus and stay on task. Through the Fund, he was recently supported to complete a residential specialist inclusion camp, which is tailored to each child's individual needs. Sam was kept busy with a variety of challenges including drama activities, sports, a treasure-hunt, yoga, water fights and Lego. Emotionally younger than his peers, Sam finds making friends difficult, so his carer was delighted that he made two friends during camp. The activities helped boost his confidence and self-esteem and gave him a sense of achievement. He was also supported to attend a summer drama workshop and drama lessons, which he loved as drama is one of Sam's strengths. His foster carer said that Sam 'shines' when acting, and receiving lots of praise after a show helps him to feel he is good at something as school is a real challenge



Taking the stage for a more confident future

Charli had very low self-confidence and social anxiety, and was working hard at school and home towards her GCSEs in the hope of securing a place at college to study media. She had been taking part in local Stagecoach drama sessions, which had begun to help raise her confidence socially. Additional financial support from the Fund enabled her to attend two Stagecoach courses in a new environment during her final two terms at high school. These sessions not only boosted her self-esteem and confidence, but also made a huge difference to her outlook. She continued to work hard at school and, although she did not quite get the grades she hoped for, this did not deter her from enrolling and being accepted on her media course. She is now directing and acting in small productions and has also appeared on stage at a local theatre. Her social worker feels that none of this would have been possible without the additional funding and the opportunity to continue attending Stagecoach. See Charli's story on our website www.leeds.gov.uk/childfriendlyleeds/cfl-news/child-friendly-leeds-fund



How to get involved

There are a number of ways that individuals and businesses can get involved and support the Child Friendly Leeds Fund.

Make a donation

Donations of any size can be made to the Child Friendly Leeds Fund online, by cheque or BACS. If you are donating as an individual, please download a Gift Aid Form as this will provide the Fund with an additional 25p for every £1 donated.

- Give online - <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/childfriendlyleeds>
- Make cheques payable to Child Friendly Leeds Fund and post to: Leeds Community Foundation, 1st Floor, 51a St Paul's Street, Leeds, LS1 2TE.

Become a Charity of the Year Partner

Your company and employees can support the Fund by holding fundraising events such as 'cake sales' or gaining sponsorship to undertake sporting activities. Even better, you can select us as your Charity of the Year (COTY) partner and direct all your annual corporate fundraising to the Child Friendly Leeds Fund.

If you would like to arrange a fundraising event in support of the Fund or want to find out more about our events, please email the Child Friendly Leeds team childfriendlyleeds@leeds.gov.uk.



The Child Friendly Leeds Fund was launched by Leeds City Council, in partnership with Leeds Community Foundation, in 2017.

Find out more about Child Friendly Leeds and the Child Friendly Leeds Fund by visiting www.childfriendlyleeds.co.uk or email childfriendlyleeds@leeds.gov.uk



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