

## *Our vision for the children and young people of Leeds*



Leeds is working towards a future where all children and young people are able to realise their potential and are happy and fulfilled both individually and as contributing members of society.

We believe that every child matters and that services in Leeds will work with children, young people and their parents and carers to raise resilience and reduce risk. This will mean helping children and young people to learn from their experiences, and achieve their future hopes and goals.



We provide services for children and young people that will:

- Work together across professional boundaries and place the child and the family at the centre of our work
- Adapt our services so that many are universal, and readily available to all, when any need first arises
- Consult respectfully and responsively with children, young people, parents and carers, and ensure they have a role in the planning and direction of future services
- Allow children and young people to learn from their experiences both good and bad: to develop at their own pace and in the direction they chose as they make the transitions in to adult life.

## *Contacts:*

For further advice or information on Children's Centres in Leeds contact:  
The Leeds Children's Information Service  
6th Floor East, Merrion House, Merrion Way  
Leeds LS2 8DT  
Tel: **0113 247 4386**

If you wish to search for childcare for yourself then go to:  
**[www.leeds.gov.uk/childcare](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/childcare)**



**Leeds  
SureStart**  
*Partnership*

## **Children's Centres in Leeds**



*A bright future for our children*



## Background context



The Government intends that the provision of good quality services working together, should have broad and lasting impact on children, their parents and the wider community. Children's Centres will contribute towards the Government commitment to:

- The best start in life for every child
- Better opportunities for parents
- Affordable, good quality childcare
- Stronger and safer communities.

To achieve these aims the Government have enacted legislation in the form of the Children Act 2004 which sets out to improve the way services support better outcomes for children and young people. These 5 outcomes are:

- Good physical and mental health
- Protection from harm, neglect, prejudice and discrimination
- Enjoyment and achievement
- Support to become a part of the community
- Social and economic choices.

## Children's Centres

**The Children's Centre programme in Leeds is based on the principle that providing integrated education, care, family support and health services are key factors in determining outcomes for children and their families.**

### *Who is responsible for delivery of Children's Centres?*

The Early Years Service within Leeds City Council has responsibility for the delivery of the Centres. They are responsible for planning the location and development of Centres in consultation with parents and other key partners, for example health visitors, social workers, job centres and schools.

### *Where will Children's Centres be based?*

The aim is to have a Children's Centre in every neighbourhood by 2010. These will be based in the most suitable location available, for example school sites.

### *What services will Children's Centres provide?*

Children's Centre will be expected to provide the following services to children under 5 and their families:

- Early education integrated with full day care, including early identification of and provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities. All Children Centre's will have a qualified teacher
- Family Outreach Support, including support for parents with special needs
- Health and Social Services
- A link with childminders
- Effective links with Jobcentre Plus, local training providers, colleges, Children's Information Services, Neighbourhood Nurseries, Out of School Clubs and extended schools.

