

LEEDS CHILDREN'S POVERTY BOARD CONSULTATION

Feedback to participants
2023



ABOUT THE CONSULTATION

In the summer of 2023, 214 children and young people across more than 20 different youth groups participated in a consultation exploring the impacts of poverty on children in Leeds. The consultation addressed poverty in the contexts of school/college, home and community, and had a variety of multiple choice and open questions that were posed to young people in a group setting.

WHY DID WE DO A CONSULTATION?

The voice of children and young people is the foundation of our child poverty strategy and is central in influencing the decisions we make. Involving children and young people in the refresh of the child poverty strategy ensures that our actions are child-centred and influenced by real-life experiences, so that we can make big strides in addressing the impacts of child poverty in Leeds.

WHAT IS THE CHILD POVERTY IMPACT BOARD? AND WHAT DO THEY DO?

The Child Poverty Impact Board is a city-wide governance board that works to reduce the negative impacts of child poverty in Leeds. There are 7 workstreams that the board oversee and each one has their own priorities and must report back to the board.

The 7 workstreams are: Removing Barriers to Learning, Housing & Provision, Family Help, Financial Health & Inclusion, Transitions and Employment, Best Start for Health & Wellbeing, and Green Spaces & Play.

WHAT WERE THE TOP 3 PRIORITIES FROM THE REPORT?

- 1 Reduce the stigma and feelings of shame around poverty
- 2 Improve the offer and accessibility of activities for children living in poverty
- 3 Ensure children living in poverty have their basic needs met

WHAT IS THE BOARD DOING TO RESPOND?

- We will encourage a wider conversation regarding poverty-aware practice and culture
- We will support schools in "poverty-proofing" the school day to help reduce the stigma of poverty
- We will improve our communication regarding the services and activities available for children and young people

KEY RESULTS

- "Being bullied" and "feeling judged" were identified as having the biggest impact on children in poverty at school
- The young people identified barriers to accessing local services due to "not having transport", and having "no money for activities"
- Lacking basic necessities such as food and warmth was linked to worse grades at school, poor mental health, and feelings of shame.