



LEEDS' PLEDGE TO THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS

1 February 2019

Our vision is for Leeds to be the best city in the UK: one that is compassionate with a strong economy that tackles poverty and reduces the inequalities that still exist. We want Leeds to be a city that is fair and sustainable, ambitious, fun and creative for all. We will continue to work with others to achieve better outcomes for the city through a combination of innovation and efficiencies.

Whilst we continue to embrace the richness of our city and build on our international relations, we are committed to create an environment for all citizens of Leeds:

- that promotes dignity and respect for all
- where people are able to recognise, value and respect diversity and difference
- where people are treated fairly and according to their needs
- where people from different backgrounds and ages feel comfortable living alongside each other in communities
- where no form of intimidation, bullying or harassment is tolerated
- which tackles the issue of property for those in and out of work
- where causes of unfairness are understood and addressed

Principle 3 on equal opportunities: Regardless of gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, everyone has the right to equal treatment and opportunities regarding employment, social protection, education and access to good and services available to the public. Equal opportunities of under-represented groups shall be fostered.

Leeds has diverse changing cultural populations, ranked in the top 5% of UK local authorities for the number of national insurance number applications (NINo) from overseas nationals. In 2011 the population was just over 750,000 people: predicted to rise by a further 15% over the next 25 years. According to the 2011 census, the number of Leeds residents born outside of the UK equated to just over 11%. Of those, more than 66% were born outside of the European Union, and just over half arrived at some point in the preceding ten years. Since 2011, the number of migrants settling in Leeds, particularly, from the European Union following the expansion of the European Economic Area (EEA) countries into Eastern Europe, has continued to rise. Leeds residents represent over 170 ethnic groups speaking over 104 languages.

The wider trend of the city's ageing population continues, as the baby-boomer generation grows older there will be a range of implications for service provision not least as a result of a far more ethnically diverse older population.

The population of children and young people is growing at a faster rate than the population of the city as a whole, and this is particularly acute in our most deprived communities.

Though there is no direct count of disability the census collects information to “long term health problems or disability”. In Leeds 83.2% of people say that their day to day activities are not limited by long term health problems or disability. 7.9% say they are limited a lot and 8.9% say they are limited a little.

We pledge to treat everyone with the same attention, courtesy and respect regardless of: age; disability; race or racial group; religion or belief; sex; marriage or civil partnership; gender reassignment/gender identity; pregnancy and maternity; sexual orientation; caring responsibilities; social class or trade union activity.

- ***Improve equality outcomes across six priority neighbourhoods***
- ***Help people out of financial hardship***
- ***Improve the approach to migration in Leeds***
- ***Keep people safe from harm, focusing on domestic violence***

As a welcoming and compassionate city Leeds will continue to create opportunities and the environment where all citizens can participate in all aspects of daily life.

Principle 11 on support to children: Children have the right to affordable early childhood education and care of good quality. Children have the right to protection from poverty. Children from disadvantaged backgrounds have the right to specific measures to enhance equal opportunities.

Leeds has a bold ambition – to be the best city for children and young people to grow up in. To help us achieve that ambition, Leeds is committed to being a child friendly city and has developed a network of more than 800 child friendly ambassadors from the business and not for profit sectors of our city.

There are 185,000 children who live in Leeds and that figure is rising each year as we welcome new arrivals into the city from around the world. Although Leeds has pockets of wealth and prosperity, we know that there are also children who are growing up challenged by poverty.

We are determined that our child friendly ambition extends to all children – especially those living in poverty. In our refreshed Children and Young People’s Plan, tackling the impact of child poverty is at the heart of our strategy.

We pledge to work with our local elected members, our child friendly ambassadors, our schools and other interested partners to do all we can to alleviate the damaging effects of poverty and ensure that no child in Leeds misses out on the wide variety of opportunities – educational, cultural and recreational - that our great city has to offer to its children.



Councillor Judith Blake
Leader of Leeds City Council