

2009

2010

Leeds Children and Families Improvement Journey

2011

July 2009

Unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements finds Leeds services do not adequately safeguard children.

March 2010

Government Improvement Notice placed on Leeds. Improvement Plan and Independently Chaired Improvement Panel established.

May 2010

Change of Leeds political Leadership, from Conservative/Liberal Democrat Coalition to Labour Group majority.

Summer 2010

Service restructure begins.

August 2010

Tom Riordan starts as new Leeds City Council Chief Executive.

September 2010

Nigel Richardson starts as Leeds Director of Children's Services.

October 2010 – Summer 2011

Recruitment of new senior leadership team.

January 2011

Unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements finds 'remarkable and impressive improvement' in quality and safety.

Winter 2010/11

David Thorpe carries out duty and advice research in Leeds.

December 2011

Improvement Notice lifted and Improvement Board dissolved. Chair's final letter to the Under Secretary of State says Leeds has placed Children's Services 'right at the top of its priorities'.

Autumn 2011

Implementation of Early Start Teams, integrating Children's Centre and Health Practitioners.

Mark Friedman launches outcomes based accountability in Leeds.

Summer 2011

Restorative practice training for Practitioners begins (initially 80 staff), plans begin to start expanding Family Group Conferencing.

Voice and Influence team recruited.

2012

March 2012

Launch of new area based social work teams, built around clusters; new duty and advice (front door) arrangements based on David Thorpe research; children looked after team; four 13+ teams to replace Pathway Planning Team.

July 2012

The Queen officially launches the Child Friendly Leeds initiative.

November 2012

First Leeds Children's Social Work Conference held.

Paul Nixon and Mike Doolan (former and current Chief Social Workers in New Zealand) visit Leeds and run sessions for Social workers.

2013

November 2012 – March 2013

Professors Stein and Biehal work on care planning and permanency in Leeds with subsequent task and finish groups initiating a number of improvements in practice.

March 2013

City-wide family group conferencing Service launched.

April 2013

New social work career structure launched.



June 2013

Professor Emily Munro reviews leaving care services in Leeds.

STAR Awards held for Leeds looked after children.

2014

February 2014

Council budget confirms continuing investment in early intervention through ongoing commitment to keep all children's centres open and invest in family group conferencing.

January 2014

First Child Friendly Leeds Awards held, hosted by City Varieties and Sponsored by British Gas.

Yorkshire Evening Post officially adopts the Child Friendly Leeds campaign.

November 2013

Framework case management System goes 'live'.

December 2013

Second annual social work conference – Care Promise launched.



Summer 2014

Restorative leadership training for Children's Social Work managers.

Morris, Marsh and Burford begin review of Family Group Conferencing.

March 2015

Launch event for the Family Valued: Leeds Innovation programme.

Spring 2015

Unannounced Ofsted inspection – Single Inspection Framework

2015

Spring 2015

Ofsted Inspection Report published – Good overall.



2016

January 2016

Deep Dive Restorative Practice commenced – Children’s social Work Service leadership.

March 2016

Local Government Chronicle – Children’s Services of the Year 2015.

April 2016

Restorative Practice Awards – the Cutting Edge award for Leeds’ Family Valued programme, and the Young Heroes award for Carr Manor Community School.

June 2016

Leeds and Wakefield Teaching Partnership launched.
Prototype Restorative Early Support Team established.

June 2016

Municipal Journal Achievement Awards – Impact and Innovation in Children’s Services. Judges said Leeds showed ‘consistent and dynamic leadership’ with ‘a clear improvement vision’ especially in regeneration and health inequalities.

September 2016

Nigel Richardson retires as Director.
Steve Walker takes up post as Interim Director.



2017

January 2017

Leeds Awarded Innovations Funding. The DFE confirmed Leeds successful in its bid and awarded £9.6m to spend over the next three years on roll out of RES, Rethink and Futures.

December 2016

SEND Inspection – favourable inspection letter.
– ‘Children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities are proud to be citizens of Leeds. They have a real voice in shaping their education, health and care plans. Many make strong progress towards achieving their personal development goals.’

January 2017

Rethink Formulation developed and first Restorative Early Support Team in 2gether Cluster launched.

March 2017

MST FIT receive an International MST ‘Whatever It Takes’ Team Award.

April 2017

One Adoption West Yorkshire launched a new regional adoption service of local authority adoption agencies. Offers improved outcomes for both children and those who want to adopt.

May 2017

Adel Beck inspection – outstanding overall and for effectiveness of leaders and managers, good for other criteria.

September 2017

Leeds Relational Practice Centre established to deliver sector-led improvement work as a Partner in Practice.



June 2017

Leeds Practice Model developed.

January 2018

Rethink Formulation Team launched
6 Additional RES teams established in Leeds.

January 2018

Ofsted Focused Visit on looked after children found that ‘senior leaders have created an environment in which ‘Social work is flourishing.’

October 2017

Leeds support Kirklees as Partner in Practice with DFE. Helping to improve Kirklees Children’s Services.

Steve Walker temporarily takes up role as the Director of Kirklees Children’s Services.

October 2017

Steve Walker confirmed as the new Director of Children and Families Services



2018

March 2018

Service re-structure to improve links between learning and social care.

October 2018

Unannounced Ofsted ILACS inspection

November 2018

The first Leeds Relational Practice Centre national conference, with leading academics as keynote speakers and focused on raising the profile of restorative practice across children’s services sector.

November 2018

Children & Young People Now awards – Leeds shortlisted for five awards and won two: the Recruitment & Professional Development award for the social work career pathway, and the Play Award for Leeds Play Streets.

2019

May 2019

Leeds began work with Darlington Borough Council as its trailblazer local authority under the SFPC.

April 2019

DFE announced that Leeds would be funded to roll out its Family Valued innovation programme to selected local authorities as part of a 5 year programme called Strengthening Families Protecting Children (SFPC).

December 2018

Announced that Deputy Director Sal Tariq is to be awarded an OBE.

December 2018

Leeds rated Outstanding by Ofsted for ILACS short inspection

November 2018

Social Worker of the Year awards– Superpowers group won the silver award for Creative and Innovative Social Work Practice.

June 2019

Steve Walker shortlisted for Municipal Journal Corporate Director of the year award.

September 2019

DFE confirm the future SFPC local partner authorities for Leeds: Warwickshire, Newcastle upon Tyne, Coventry, Solihul and Sefton.

November 2019

Leeds shortlisted for the Early Years and Partnership Working awards at the Children and Young People Now Awards. Highly recommended for Early Years.

November 2019

Leeds shortlisted for three awards at the Social Worker of the year awards, and won Social Work Employer of the Year and Creative and Innovative Social Work Practice.

December 2019

It was announced that Children Social Work Head of Service Ruth Terry was to be awarded an MBE and Leeds City Council Chief Executive to be awarded a CBE.



2020

March 2020

Department for Education confirm funding for continuation of the Partner in Practice work in Leeds for 2020-21 financial year.

February 2020

Sal Tariq appointed as Interim Director of Children's Services

February 2020

Steve Walker steps down as Director of Children's Services to take up Programme Director post for the SFPC.

January 2020

Leeds won first National Leadership Award for Public Services for its Child Friendly Leeds City Centre Project.