

THRIVING COMMUNITIES

In order for Leeds to deliver on the ambition to be the Best City for Communities, the city aims to ensure all communities in Leeds thrive. Our community affects each of us personally, including quality of life, how long we live, and how much we enjoy it.



CHARACTERISTICS OF THRIVING COMMUNITIES INCLUDE:

Control, influence & trust

Members of the community feel they have control over their own lives, and influence over their own futures; they understand their role and their contribution to the common good is recognised. Trust is fostered within/between communities/individuals and organisation.

Social connections

There is recognition that social connections are as important as work, socio-economic status, or health factors. People are socially connected to community, to family, to friends. The quality of close relationships matters and topping them up when things change is important. Relationships are strong enough to identify when people need more support and when emotional, mental or physical wellbeing is noticeably changing.

Shared purpose

Members of the community have shared purpose (e.g. through a family, friends, workplace, community groups, shared identity, faith), the confidence to act when things need changed or improved and they support the purposes of other communities; but with enough room to pursue individual aspirations.

Inclusive support

No-one is set aside from the community and their ongoing contribution is recognised, welcomed and supported (e.g. older people, people with learning disabilities).



Self resilience

The characteristics of personal resilience are taught in schools and supported in other shared environments (e.g. care environments and workplaces) including understanding boundaries, self awareness, self care, managing disappointment/stress, taking the lead, team working and mindfulness.

Accessible work opportunities

Work opportunities and pathways to a useful occupation are accessible to all including paid employment, volunteering and cultural or artistic activity. Noting that it's not any job that delivers good outcomes and people who work too much are at risk of serious health consequences. Work aims to be a place that helps create social connection, and sustain wellbeing and resilience.

An enterprising & sustainable economy

There is an enterprising and sustainable economy which includes locally run businesses and social enterprises with a culture of healthy competition.

Decision making, shared knowledge & skills

Members of the community are involved in key decisions which affect their communities and take the lead when necessary. They are able to contribute to wider economic, political and social decisions where different communities need to cooperate with each other and there is a culture of sharing knowledge and skills. There is space to raise and deal with difficult issues in a safe environment.

Community-led social infrastructure

There is community supported/led, accessible social infrastructure that facilitates human connection and exchange (e.g. libraries, parks and places to learn such as schools, universities and vocational institutions, places of worship.) including local institutions which act as communications hubs/spaces where all members of the community can mix & mingle (e.g. community anchors and community centres).

Urban planning & facilities

Community led urban planning is in place and facilitates easy movement between work, home and community facilities such as support providers, heritage/cultural venues, transport & broadband infrastructure.

Respect & pride in surroundings

The community respects and takes pride in their surroundings; it is resilient and able to mobilise to provide support in times of crisis.

Community support & communication

Contact in and between communities is supported by press, media and local events – helping to maintain information, knowledge and understanding between community members and their traditions.

A feeling of safety

Members of the community feel safe both at home and when moving through the community (and beyond) at any time of the day.

Welcoming of others

The community welcomes newcomers and treats each other with respect regardless of differences; recognising that, whilst people have differences, there is much more they have in common.

Cooperative & collaborative

There is a high degree of cooperation and collaboration amongst organisations and institutions that deliver support services to the community; with all services co-produced with the community.



ACHIEVING THRIVING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

Key to achieving the city's ambition of Thriving Communities, clear indicators are needed to measure the characteristics detailed above. These indicators should be discussed and agreed by the community.



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