



Impact Report 2023

# Brightening Children's Lives





## Introduction

Hello, for the first time, and following a number of challenges, the charity is able to reflect on a full year of delivery and report back on the impact of our work.

In this report you will read direct feedback from our partners and, perhaps more importantly, those who use our service – young people from backgrounds of challenge and disadvantage from Leeds.

As you will read, the years leading up to this report have been very difficult. But, and with the support of a wonderful team, and our supporters, the work of the charity has not only survived but is thriving.

Thank you for taking the time to read this report. If you have any questions or feel that you would like to support the charity in any way, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

*Dave Norman*

DAVE NORMAN MBE

CEO

Leeds Children's Charity at Lineham Farm

**Championing the Children of Leeds.**



**Leeds  
Children's  
Charity at  
Lineham Farm**

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# OUR IMPACT

## An unforgettable break

Every child is unique and so are the memories they make at Lineham Farm. Some will remember it as their first ever holiday. Others will ride a bike for the very first time. For many, it will be about taking time away from very challenging and chaotic lives.

We are now working with over 38 partner schools with 87% percent having booked a residential for 2023 or 2024

2,600 hours of time donated by around 250 volunteers and corporate supporters

*"It's a place where I can find peace of mind."*

MALE  
AGED 14

24%

of Leeds children, (36,496) were living in poverty (2020), which is

5% higher

than the national average. (DWP/HMRC statistics)

518

children across the holidays

196

children over weekends

1,586

children through school residential activity during term time.

98.8%

of the schools attended left 5-star positive feedback across 11 different markers

94%

of the young people who attended the centre said they had learnt to work with others and that they overcame fears and challenges.

12 children VIP tickets to see Five Days of Summer at the First Direct arena

150 tickets for the Rugby World Cup semi-finals at Headingley given to our supported families.

100% of children achieved new goals and experiences

Over 4,000 Christmas gifts distributed.

1,000 packs of head lice shampoo distributed to our partner schools and community groups, and a pallet of washing powder donated to families struggling in poverty.

*"More than 25,229 Leeds pupils are entitled to a free school meal. That has increased by 2,729 since January 2019."* (Leeds Live 2022)

*"The centre provided a calming and lovely space in which parents could gain confidence and model skills from the excellent patient staff."*

MST CAN Therapy worker

*"The children developed resilience, confidence and determination to do better."*

Rosebank Primary

*"It was a great experience for us all to do things together especially things that we wouldn't normally do."*

Parent after a family weekend stay

*"This is the best day of my life"*

A young person to a Family Action support worker

# THE NEED FOR OUR SERVICE



## Our work with young people

A quarter of all children in Leeds live in the most deprived areas of our city, equating to 36,496 children under the age of 16 who are living in relative poverty.

Only 45% of disadvantaged pupils in Leeds (key-stage 2) are anticipated to meet the expected standards for education, compared to 71% of all other pupils across the UK (DofE).

The numbers indicate a situation in our city, the city of Leeds, that is very worrying. They provide further examples of the pressure on families that live in poverty and how these impact on every aspect of their lives.

The work that we deliver has been, and is developing into a wraparound service, a service that helps our partners achieve more – resources and ideas are shared and through this, outcomes that benefit young people are agreed and then reached.

## A safe and happy environment

By providing an environment for young people to learn and enjoy, we hope, working alongside our partners, to alleviate some of the impacts of poverty, but above all, allow the children we work with and support to have some fun, to develop new skills, and to achieve.



“

*Lineham Farm is a place we can take our young people that gets them out of the one square mile of deprivation where they spend 90% of their lives.*

**JO, LEAD WORKER, RE-ESTABLISH**

## Supporting mental health and wellbeing

There is a wealth of evidence which shows that spending time outside in nature has lasting positive effects on young people's physical and mental health.

Confined in a world of limited aspirations, exacerbated by the many barriers that these young people face, they rarely have the opportunity to know they are valued, are able to achieve, and can experience joy and childhood as it should be; carefree and fun.

It's our aim to support those who are less fortunate than others, and to inspire and nurture our future generations to come.

*“Climbing is my top memory because everyone was really supportive and saying never give up and encouraging everyone to go further, I got to the top!”* Partner school pupil

## Our work with families

A good deal of our developing work is linked with our partners, to providing space and on-going support for families who are on the edge and at risk of being separated. Figures show that children living in the most deprived areas of Leeds are 10 times more likely to end up in social care than those living in more prosperous areas.

The activities we provide at Lineham Farm, working alongside social support teams, has a proven positive effect on how families function and remain together as a unit, leading to happier, brighter, and more settled lives.

*“We have families who arrive with complex needs, and regardless of what is happening in their lives back on the estates, the charity provides a happy, safe, and encouraging environment for them.”* MST CAN Staff team member

*It gave me a chance not to think about everyday stuff. I could focus on my child, observe how she interacts with her friends and teachers.*

**PARENT AFTER A FAMILY WEEKEND STAY**



“





# Brightening Children's Lives

Our objective is to provide respite and holiday opportunities for children and young people aged between 7 and 11 years old from challenging and disadvantaged backgrounds, who live and attend school in Leeds.

Riding a bike, playing with toys, having a hot meal and a warm bed – these are things that most children take for granted. And yet, for so many living in poverty, they are alien.

Many of the children that come to us have never been encouraged, praised or nurtured. They've never experienced safety, independence or fun. And they've never met anyone else their age with similar challenges to them.

*"My favourite thing is seeing children achieve things they thought impossible and overcoming their fears. Be it conquering the climbing wall, learning to ride a bike, or just staying overnight and developing independence."*

TAMZIN – ACTIVITY LEAD

“



## Our goals:

- Our objective is to provide respite and holiday opportunities for children and young people aged between 7 and 11 years old from backgrounds of challenge and disadvantage who live in Leeds.
- To assist in enabling disadvantaged children of Leeds to realise their full potential for the benefit of themselves (primarily) and the wider community.
- To ensure that children from the most disadvantaged areas of the city have access to respite, encouragement, and learning opportunities in a safe and happy environment.

## During a young person's time with us we:

- Show them they are not alone
- Make them feel safe
- Allow them to express their thoughts, fears and feelings
- Teach them that helping others is a good thing
- Instil positive values and behaviours
- Help them make friends
- Let them experience childhood as it should be
- Help them create happy memories



# OUR WORK



Outdoor physical activity and experiencing nature can have a positive impact on young people's lives, yet youngsters living in disadvantaged areas face many barriers to participation.

It is well known that children from disadvantaged backgrounds living in deprived urban areas have less opportunities for outdoor play, something which has been variously attributed to parental fear, crime rates, a lack of resources and limited green space in inner-city areas.

The charity's work encourages young people to never stop trying and to believe in themselves and what they can achieve.

## How we help

### The foundations of every childhood

Working with our partners we help the young people we work with and support experience what every child should: fun; learning in a new environment; developing new skills; taking part in outdoor activities such as riding a bike, climbing, spending time in nature and caring for each other and themselves.

We don't consider these experiences to be luxury, or nice to have; we believe that these experiences and skills are the foundations of every childhood.



## Fostering positive values

The charity works with and supports young people away from their usual environment at Lineham Farm.

We want the children in our care to experience...

**INDEPENDENCE**  
**ADVENTURE**  
**FUN**  
**SAFETY**  
**NURTURING**



## Activities and experiences

Our delivery activities are diverse, aim to develop confidence, trust and self-belief, whilst enabling the development of lifelong memories.



First time experiences



Beautiful countryside and nature



Teamwork, resilience and skills



Animal care



Fun and happiness!



“

*It is very clear that everyone at Lineham Farm is 100% committed to the children and the experiences they will have at Lineham Farm will last a lifetime.”*

CORPORATE SUPPORTER – NATHAN,  
OCT 2022, CAPITA LEEDS

**Capita**



# PARTNER SCHOOLS

“

*“Children develop resilience, team building skills and are made accountable for some domestic duties.”*

WINDMILL  
PRIMARY

The centre is used by our partner schools during term time. These residentials are designed around the needs of the young people, with learning outcomes and activities linking back to their formal school-based learning and development.

Whilst with us, teachers are encouraged to take part in all the activities with the young people. This provides a very important link between the young people and their teachers, a link that is further developed in school.

The young people who visit from our partner schools have many different needs; a large number being identified as SEND. Because they are from partner schools, the young people are from backgrounds of poverty and the challenges that this represents.

Partner schools. New paragraph - Senior teachers from some of our partner schools have formed a curriculum advisory group. This new group will work alongside the team at the charity and provide information, advice, and support to make sure that delivery continues to provide a link back to school learning but is also FUN.



## Community based partners

We have several community-based organisations who the charity regards as partners. These organisations are based in the most disadvantaged communities in the city, and we work with these groups at weekends and during school holidays. This work is a combination of single day, residential or weekend residential delivery.

## We have several community partners including:



## Family focused welfare teams

The charity has very close working relationships with service sectors such as the MST CAN multisystemic team and Family Action. These agencies work within our target schools and provide referrals for our work with families and young people with caring responsibilities.

We help close the loop on specific family focused work. This ensures our work is not delivered in isolation of other support – it is part of an overall plan for the child or family.



“

*“Lineham Farm provides family memories and builds on attachments. MST CAN is about keeping vulnerable families together and your support is so important. The charity helps us do this.”*

MST CAN STAFF TEAM MEMBER





## ACHIEVEMENTS

Here are some of the highlights of our goals for 2022 and 2023 which helped us reach over 2000 children, young people and families.

Piloted family support work increasing our sessions with MST CAN and introducing a new scheme for weekend family residentials.

Launched our partnership scheme ensuring that we can work with young people who are most in need.

Added new activity equipment.

Supported more vulnerable young people during school holidays who often lack access to nutritious food and refreshment.

Updated the centre's electrical systems and sensors to ensure energy efficiency.

Replaced carpets and installed new flooring in the main building and the farmers cottage.

Introduced a healthy cooking and eating programme teaching over 60 children and families, and providing equipment and utensils to take home.

Delivered a full year of term time school residentials, working with over 87% of targeted schools.

Delivered 'December' at Lineham farm – a time of wonder, of celebration and sheer joy.

## AWARDS

- We were awarded the MST (multi-systemic therapy) services Whatever It Takes award for demonstrating outstanding and meritorious service to the MST community.
- We were runners up for 'Best Place in Leeds for Children and Young People' in the Child Friendly Leeds Awards.
- We were awarded 'Charity of the Year' at the St James's Place Foundation Yorkshire Children of Courage Awards.

*"The cooking workshops are an amazing addition. We have had children in the sessions who struggle to manage an hour in the classroom cooking along with mum for the day."*

COMMUNITY PARTNER





## CASE STUDY

*“A chance to breathe, cuddle, feel happy and laugh”*

Laura\* (mum) has learning disabilities and grew up in the care system. Her two children Alex\* who is 11, and Jem\* who is 5, also have learning disabilities. They live on one of the most deprived streets in Leeds. The children’s father committed suicide shortly after Jem was born.

Laura has struggled to manage her emotions and provide a safe home for her children following this loss. Laura accesses Lineham Farm with her children for respite breaks and days out.

### The first visit to the countryside

The family’s first time at Lineham Farm was their first ever experience of the countryside. They love Jeff the peacock and the sheep, and Jem likes to run after the ponies. Laura said that she loves the farm and commented on how kind the staff are to her and the children. The sensory garden, the gold fish in the pond, the new picnic area – these are all spaces where the family group enjoyed spending time, and just relaxing.



*“The children jump up and down when they are invited to visit”*

Laura has gained confidence through her visits to Lineham, and she practices her new parenting skills including giving praise and play. The children jump up and down when they know they have an invite and Alex brings the calendar to their therapist to write down farm days.

Alex can now climb to the top of the climbing wall and Jem is right behind. Laura said Lineham gives her a chance to breathe and cuddle her children. They feel happy and laugh together. For a family with many struggles, these visits allow them to make positive memories which will last a lifetime.

Laura and her children attended the Christmas party at Lineham Farm and described it as the best day out they have ever had. They have pictures from their visits on the living room wall. Laura wanted to say thank you to everyone who contributes to making the place special.

\*Names have been changed.





# OUR DEVELOPMENTS


Since the covid pandemic, the charity has spent hundreds of thousands of pounds rejuvenating the building. We have installed new carpets, new wooden flooring in the barn and communal areas, upgraded lighting and the kitchen facilities, a new educational nature classroom, a pergola for outside learning, and increased secure and dry storage facilities.

## Some examples of what charitable donations have paid for:



Two new bush craft areas

New and upgraded night-line course



Climbing shoes, helmets, gloves, hats, waterproof trousers, coats

New small animal area



New fleet of mountain bikes

Replenished smaller activity equipment and clothing

Kitchen essentials including industrial fridges, industrial ovens, 40 new dining chairs, and cooking utensils

2 off-road trikes



# CHANGES AT LINEHAM

*“Super Lineham Explorer sessions had the children fully engaged and allowed them to experience, learn, enjoy and respect the diversity of the countryside and their environment.”*

GRIMES DYKE  
PRIMARY



The history of Lineham Farm is one of innovation, high ideals and a commitment to supporting young people who are most in need. When the centre was opened in 1993, delivery was free. This free delivery could not last for ever however and soon charges were introduced. This led to children visiting the centre who were not in any specific need.

Following the merger of Leeds Children's Charity and Lineham Farm, the Trustees of the charity have made it clear their wish to return to working with the right young people and to reduce the amount that is charged.

The charity, established in 2018, has secured free delivery during the school holidays and also managed to keep any charges made to its partner schools and community groups as low as possible.

## Supporting communities and building new perspectives

Children from deprived areas and those who have suffered neglect and abuse, are more susceptible to unemployment, substance abuse, criminal activity and mental illness in their teenage and adult lives. They aren't afforded the same opportunities and support as children from affluent or loving families.

We need to break down barriers and help to build new perspectives and opportunities that are accessible, and not feared. Supporting our communities through the work we provide at Lineham Farm teaches children that helping others is rewarding, and that they can succeed at things.

We teach new skills, instil positive values, and give children the encouragement to reach their full potential. This reduces the likelihood of them having a negative impact on society as adults and shows them how to make a positive contribution to the lives of others.

## Future plans

It would be very easy for the staff team at the charity to continue and consolidate its delivery. There is always a balance to be reached between expansion and consolidation and the following has been agreed.

Animals are a very important aspect of life at Lineham Farm. Unfortunately, because of old age or predation some of our animals have died. These are to be replaced. Additional guinea pigs, normal pigs, the farm cat and (when bird flu has been dealt with) a peacock.

To extend and increase the numbers who can use the centre, plans are afoot to develop a new camping area. Facilities will include a new toilet, shower, and cooking facilities, along with a fire pit and activity spaces.



*“I liked Lineham Explorers because I got to walk through a stream and it's not something I've ever done before. I felt like I was on Bear Grylls!”*

PARTNER SCHOOL  
PUPIL

## We are planning for:

New doors and windows

New camping area

A new low ropes course

Resurfacing in the courtyard and surrounding areas

New animals

New partner-based events





# JOIN OUR BUSINESS SUPPORTERS

Commit to making a difference for the children of Leeds and join our business supporters. Make a donation or fundraise with a target in mind, receiving support from us!



## Change Makers

Change-makers do just that, raising £5,000 each year to make a real difference to the lives of young people in Leeds!



## Business Heroes

Business Heroes commit to an annual target of £2,500, which is enough to send ten disadvantaged children on a respite break to Lineham.



## Shining Stars

Perfect for smaller businesses and those new to fundraising or starting CSR programmes, Shining Stars donate over £1,000 annually.

“

*Many young people, through no fault of their own, are unable to access the opportunities they need to thrive. Leeds Children's Charity at Lineham Farm helps them to access these opportunities and allows them to spend time with their peers. This is something that we are passionate about supporting young people to do.”*

**WILLIAM REID, OPERATIONS MANAGER, EMR, LEEDS.**



## Why do businesses support us?

- ✓ Show community spirit by supporting local charity
- ✓ Visit for CSR days and see the impact your support has
- ✓ We can share and promote your support online
- ✓ Get support from our dedicated fundraising team
- ✓ The children we work with could be your future employees



# WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Please help us reach more young people across Leeds

Your support is vital to our success, and there are loads of great ways to get involved. We never cease to be amazed at the innovative ways people raise funds for us.



## Champion a child

It costs an average of £250 to send a disadvantaged child for a week of fun. Donating £250 or whatever you can afford helps us to continue supporting the children who need it most.



## Give monthly

A small monthly contribution of just £5 over a year provides a child with a day's stay at Lineham Farm. £20 per month covers the cost of a week of fun for one.



## Organise a fundraiser

Bake-sales, fun runs, five-a-side tournaments, bungee jumps – there are endless possibilities, and we'd love to hear from you!

For these and more ways to get involved visit  
[www.leedschildrenscharity.org.uk/support-us/ways-to-give/](http://www.leedschildrenscharity.org.uk/support-us/ways-to-give/)



*“The farm is a magical place and the dedication to improving the lives of disadvantaged children is fantastic to see. The charity has ambitious plans that I hope will allow even more of our city’s most vulnerable children to receive much-needed respite and fun in the wonderful surroundings of the farm.”*

**TOM RIORDAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OF LEEDS CITY COUNCIL**





**THANK  
YOU!!!**

Thank you to all the wonderful businesses, organisations and individuals who support the work of Leeds Children's Charity at Lineham Farm. It is so wonderful to give the young people of Leeds the same chances that every child deserves.

**For more information visit**

**[www.leedschildrenscharity.org.uk](http://www.leedschildrenscharity.org.uk)**

**For ways to donate visit**

**[www.leedschildrenscharity.org.uk/support-us/ways-to-give/](http://www.leedschildrenscharity.org.uk/support-us/ways-to-give/)**

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