

Children's Commissioner

Promoting and protecting children's rights

The Children's Commissioner's visit to Bradford

Children and young people's Feedback

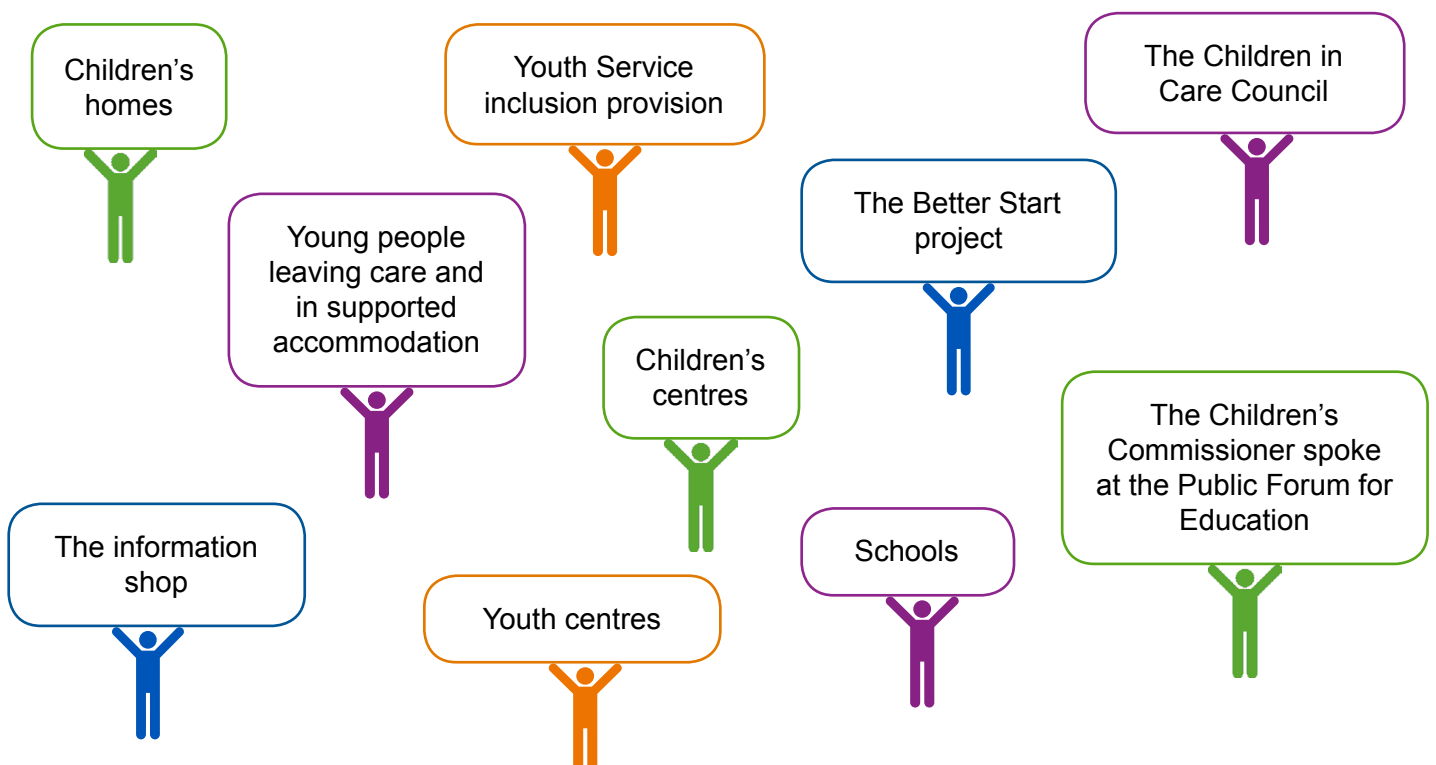


It was very helpful to visit you on 4 & 5 March 2016. We wanted to explore your experience of growing up in Bradford and hear your suggestions for improvements locally.

The views and experiences of children and young people help us better understand and improve things in Bradford and across England.

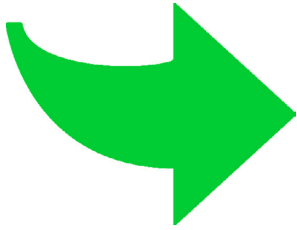
We would like to thank you for meeting with us. We have shared your thoughts and ideas with decision makers in Bradford, including Michael Jameson, Strategic Director of Children's Services. They are looking at how they can use what you told us to make a difference where you live, learn and play.

Where we visited



Advice, Assistance and Representation T 0800 528 0731 E advice.team@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk

What was good



*"He's like the dad
I never had
but all the staff
are good"*

The relationships and support from adults is very important and one of the best things about Bradford.

- ➔ Staff want the best for children and young people and for things to be better
- ➔ You felt there was someone to talk to if you needed help and the info shop was good
- ➔ Young people who have been homeless talked about specialist help with their emotional wellbeing and mental health.

'It's important to have people who just get you but some people are shy and need help to say what they want and how they feel'.

Community, was very important

- ➔ You told us there was a strong sense of community among people based on their street, their ethnicity, faith, background or the services they received e.g. from a youth club.
- ➔ There is a rich mix of people and you want to better value the diversity of Bradford, the children's centre seemed to be working well at bringing children and communities together.

"[Best thing about Bradford]I like the diversity of Bradford there are lots of different races and ethnicities"



It feels safer in the summer in Bradford

- ➔ There are parks and spaces where you can hang-out, meet and have fun with friends
- ➔ The Turnaround project was helpful and needed, particularly to keep girls safe.



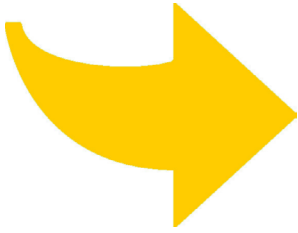
Adults listen to you

- ➔ You often felt listened to and heard by adults about your own care or support, who then try to make a difference.

Valuing opportunities

- ➔ You value any opportunities, places to go and help that Bradford provides.

What you were worried about or could be improved



Community can sometimes feel limited and you felt they sometimes divided and excluded people

- ➔ Some groups (around streets, neighbourhoods, gender, race, faith but also things like dress and appearance) feel isolated and separate to the wider community.
- ➔ You wanted to get to know people who seemed different or were from different backgrounds but needed more help to do this, you wanted adults to get this.

"If we are all mixed up more in all different places doing thing together, would be better"

"Diversity is our strength but also our struggle"

Safety was a key issue

- ➔ It can feel very unsafe when it is dark. There were several experiences that worried you and made you feel unsafe, like feeling threatened or mugged
- ➔ There is not much to do which can lead to young people getting into trouble.

"They all wear trackies and trainers and go about together...they smash windows and run off because there is nothing to do"

Some children in children's homes

- ➔ Were worried about homelessness and that it could happen to anyone
- ➔ Some girls and young women were worried about being safe on the street
- ➔ The police were called too often to sort out small things.

"The police are called all the time for nothing...like parents wouldn't call the police for something like [that]"



All the young people we met over 16 wanted more opportunities and jobs so that they could feel proud and stay in Bradford.



You wanted to share your views and be taken seriously across a range of subjects, such as education, leisure, transport, jobs and so help improve children and young people's lives.

**Thank you for sharing your experiences
of life in Bradford!**