

NEWS RELEASE

Leeds150 is challenging young people to create a lasting legacy for Leeds

Leeds150 is offering young people aged 18-25 in Leeds with a unique and free opportunity to shape the city's future. Leeds150 will challenge a diverse group of 100 young people to think through what their generation's legacy will be. Confirmed sponsors include Leeds Beckett University, RSM, Luminate Education Group and Leeds City Council.

Throughout this powerful online programme, which is free to attend, participants will work together to tackle a challenge for Leeds. Given COP26 (the annual UN Climate Change Conference) taking place in Glasgow later this year, all of our UK Legacy programmes have a green challenge at their heart which is: "How do we act together to transform our community into a cleaner, greener place for all?" Leeds150 participants will investigate issues, collaborate, hold difficult conversations and work up ideas. They will then test, refine and present these ideas to senior leaders in Leeds.

Leeds150 is part of Legacy; a global campaign by international leadership development organization, Common Purpose, which invests in young people across the world so they can become a connected generation of leaders with a clear vision for what their legacy will be. Everyone who completes Leeds150 will have the opportunity to connect with young leaders from other global Legacy Initiatives in the US, Singapore, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nigeria and Germany, and closer to home in the UK in Newcastle, Sheffield, Bradford and Lancashire.

Marie Mohan, Chief Executive of Common Purpose UK said: "Our Legacy programmes predated the pandemic but they are coming into their own now given how important it is that we invest in young people after the year they've had – in terms of the damage to their education, employment prospects and social lives. Equally, we need to involve them in shaping the recovery plans for the future of their communities and to let them know that their perspectives are valued. We need a new generation of young leaders to come through who have the commitment and ability to bridge divides and we all need to hear and support our young people with their big ideas and long-term thinking."

Councillor Jonathan Pryor, Deputy Leader of Council and Executive Member for Economy, Culture and Education commented: "Leeds City Council is proud to once again sponsor the Leeds 150 Legacy programme, working with Common Purpose to engage with the next generation of future leaders. Part of our "Best City" ambition is to be a place where everyone living, working or studying here is able to contribute to and participate in the life of the city. As the Leeds150 Legacy participants imagine their Leeds of the future and consider how to make it a cleaner, greener place for everyone they will help to inform the decisions that we are taking now to create a city that continues to support all our residents to participate in city life to their full potential".

Mike Thornton, Managing Partner – Leeds, RSM UK added: "I am delighted that we have partnered with Common Purpose on this pioneering Legacy programme for the City of Leeds. Every year we take on over 20 young people into RSM in Leeds to train in our accountancy profession. We absolutely support the need for all children and young people be able reach their ambition and maximize their unique potential. Our young people are the ones that will shape our city into the future and we are delighted to support this great and visionary programme".

The programme takes place over four days; from the 24–25 and 28 –29 June 2021. Young people aged 18-25 – in and out of work, studying, campaigning and volunteering – can apply at: <https://commonpurpose.org/leeds150>

- Ends -

Notes for editors

Why Leeds150?

In 2043, it will be 150 years since Leeds was formally granted city status.

About Common Purpose

Common Purpose is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1989 that develops leaders who can cross boundaries. This enables them to solve complex problems both in organizations and in cities. It delivers face-to-face and online leadership programmes for multiple generations of leaders: from young people to senior leaders in organizations and society. It has over 96,000 alumni and over 7,000 leaders participate in Common Purpose programmes each year.

commonpurpose.org/uk

For further information please contact:

Marie Mohan on 07949 822189 marie.mohan@commonpurpose.org.uk