

# WOMEN'S LIVES LEEDS

Empowering Women and Girls in Leeds

## Centenaries Cities - Community Outreach Programme Women's Lives Leeds report.

### Activity undertaken.

In total Women's Lives Leeds have either lead on or co-produced 31 initiatives in celebration of 100 yrs since some women received the right to vote. These range from small creative arts sessions with local community groups, pop up photo booths in the city centre, to city-wide events for mothers and girls to attend together. This includes three satellite events, one in each wedge of the city, based on the structure of the city-wide challenge event in February, where women and girls were empowered to talk to and challenge locally elected Councillors and heads of services for the city, about their issues.

Each of the satellite events were planned around conversations in community creative arts sessions. These sessions allowed attendees to explore what their local issues were and to agree what conversations should be had with local councillors on the day.

The West event focussed on: homelessness and housing, women's safety (In the community and at home), how to engage refugee, asylum seeking and migrant women in to services and local politics, and finally how to become better involved in politics.

The South event focussed on: Women's Safety, Violence against women and girls, environment, employment and education.

The North East event focussed on: Safety, Equality and Diversity, opportunities for women and employment.

The City-wide concluding event in November took a different approach and provided attendees with a Q&A session, where they were asked to write their questions down and these would be pulled out from the box. There were some key themes as follows: Housing services and in particular support and more places for Gypsy and Traveller sites; local safety and being safe on the streets; education and more opportunities for students to get involved; the affects of universal credit and what the local authority are doing to support the most affected – women when it rolls out.

The satellite events aimed to have local conversations with local elected members and to date local elected members have taken part in round table conversations and question and panel sessions.

16 elected members took part in the three events, 6 took part in the Women's Health Matters event and 6 at the celebration event in November.

There was one councillor present at the Women's BME event in December.

The team from Leeds City Council Electoral Services attended the satellite events and had stalls where they discussed and provided information on; anonymous registration, how to register to vote, the voting process and on the day registered attendees to vote. These numbers are not known so are in addition to those recorded in the tables below.



## West North West

To help shape the focus of the conversations in the West North West Satellite event five creative arts sessions took place with local women to determine what the key topics of the main Satellite event would be. Once the creative workshops had concluded, the women were invited and to showcase their work in the satellite challenge event, of which a write up is attached and can be found on the Women's Lives Leeds website.

West activity with attendees:

	date	Area/ group and activity	Numbers attended And registered to vote	Comments
1	17.05.18	Together Women Using your voice and confidence	12 1 registered to vote	N/A
2	05.06.18	Little London Creative arts workshop	14	N/A
3	12.06.18	Little London Poetry creative arts workshop	6	N/A
4	19.06.18	Parent Champions Poetry creative arts workshop	18	N/A
5	20.06.18	Meeting Point Poetry creative arts workshop	12	N/A
6	27.06.18	Satellite Challenge event Woodhouse Community Centre	52	Written report previously submitted.
<b>TOTAL ATTENDEES</b>			<b>114</b>	

## South East

Activities in the South East area of the city followed the same format as the west, with smaller groups and organisations of BME women being invited to take part in creative workshops, which would inform the topics for conversation in the following satellite event.

South East activity with attendees:

	date	Area/ group and activity	Numbers attended And registered to vote	Comments
1	06.04.18	Being a woman today Hamara centre	13	Feedback shaped satellite event conversations
2	16.04.18	Being a woman today Khushy Dil community group	9	Feedback shaped satellite event conversations
3	15.05.18	South Leeds BME groups Temple Newsam Suffrage Tour	25	N/A
4	28.06.18	Asha Neighbourhood centre Creative arts	7	Feedback shaped satellite event
5	05.07.18	Asha Neighbourhood centre Creative arts	14	Feedback shaped satellite event
6	18.07.18	Satellite Challenge event Building Block Community Centre	52	Notes attached for your information.
7	19.09.18	Community arts and Celebration Holbeck Community centre	42	Concluding celebration following arts workshops
<b>TOTAL ATTENDEES</b>			<b>162</b>	

## North East\*

Smaller community initiatives took place in the North East area of the city with a Syrian women's group taking part in arts and crafts and like the other wedges informing conversations for the larger satellite event.

North East activity with attendees:

	date	Area/ group and activity	Numbers attended And registered to vote	Comments
1	06.09.18	Being a woman today arts and crafts Syrian Women's group	13	Feedback shaped satellite event conversations
2	19.09.18	Satellite Challenge event Shine	52	No feedback received due to staff member leaving Sept 30 2018
<b>TOTAL ATTENDEES</b>			<b>65</b>	

\*note: community arts and craft workshops have taken place, but staff member has now left and did not submit any returns so unclear as to actual activity that has taken place.

## City wide

There have been 16 initiatives that have taken place that have been open to all women and girls to attend from across the city. This also includes a bespoke workshop for Chinese women based at their community centre and a series of arts workshops with the women and girls at Leeds GATE (Gypsy and Traveller Exchange) The Mothers Peers and Daughters event included activities that mapped voting for women across the world, opportunities to register to vote, empowerment and using your voice activities.

The Pop up photo booth took place in Leeds City Market Place, which gave women the opportunity to dress up as suffragettes and have their photos taken whilst out shopping. This took place all day.

A film night took place which broadened the scope of empowering women and the whole of the evening focussed on celebrating women in film, women film directors and women film producers. Opened by Councillor Blake this evening was well attended and showcased the "Divine Order" which charted the struggle Swiss women had to get the right to vote, which only happened recently in 1971.

Women's Health Matters facilitated an event which was for their service users, but was based voting, the importance of voting and the right to vote. The established groups of Women's Health Matters took part on workshops in the run up to their event and they showcased the arts and crafts pieces at their main event. The main event was attended and opened by Cllr Deborah Couper; Cllr Alison Lowe gave a key note speech and other local councillors (4) were in attendance on the day. WLL had a stall where women were encouraged to find out how to register to vote and how to do this anonymously if they wish to do so.

Women's Lives Leeds applied to deliver a Parliamentary Outreach programme and subsequently delivered two workshops using creative arts as the tool to deliver this programme. 24 Women took part.

Getaway Girls co-facilitated with the Leeds Girls Hub an event in the summer "100 Girls – 100 Dreams". The event held at Leeds University focussed on girl's aspirations for the future and it aimed to capture 100 dreams/aspirations from attendees, where conversations focussed on these as part of the day.

To conclude the activity that took place across the city and to celebrate other key milestones in the suffragette movement two events took place. The first on 21 November in celebration of women being able to stand as a Member of Parliament and the final on 14 December in celebration of women voting for the first time. The event on 14 December was facilitated by Nari Ekta a small BME Women's centred organisation and targeted BME women to attend.

#### Citywide activities with attendees:

	date	Area/ group and activity	Numbers attended And registered to vote	Comments
1	10.03.18	City-Wide Mothers, Peers and Daughters	50 2 registered to vote	No report available
2	22.03.18	Vale Circles Group Beeston Creative arts conversation	10	Informal conversation to inform city event
3	28.03.18	St Matthews – Holbeck Creative arts conversation	15	Informal conversation to inform city event
4	04.05.18	Leeds University students Parliamentary Outreach programme	24	National scheme on delivering training to empower women
5	10.07.18	Pop up photo booth. Leeds City Market Place	100+	Worker left so no feedback provided.
6	19.07.18	Women's Lives Leeds Service Users creative arts session	18	Write up on Women's Lives Leeds web site
7	24.07.18	Chinese Community Centre Creative arts	25	Conversation & Discussions about Women's Right's & Lives
8	06.08.18	Girls Hub "100 Girls 100 dreams" city-wide event	50approx.	Final figures/feedback not provided as staff member has now left
9	13.09.18	Leeds GATE Creative arts conversations	15	Conversation & Discussions about Women's Right's & Lives
10	20.09.18	Leeds GATE Creative arts conversations	15	Conversation & Discussions about Women's Right's & Lives
11	27.09.18	Leeds GATE Creative arts conversations	15	Conversation & Discussions about Women's Right's & Lives
12	04.10.18	Leeds GATE Creative Arts conversations	15	Conversation & Discussions about Women's Right's & Lives
13	24.10.18	Film night in partnership with HEART.	60	Celebrating women in the film industry.
14	08.11.18	Women's Health Matters Service users event	98 4 registering to vote 4 enquiring about anonymous voting	Concluding activity celebrating women's empowerment and rights to vote
15	21.11.18	Final concluding city-wide event	100+	Event to bring together and showcase all the arts and crafts sessions from throughout the year
16	14.12.18	BME Women's Celebration event Nari Ekta	43	Concluding celebration event.
<b>TOTAL ATTENDEES</b>			<b>650+</b>	

## Legacy

The legacy includes:

1. Opportunity was given to and was taken up by women to register to vote, so will be voting in the next elections.
2. Conversations have taken place; are still ongoing and will continue well into 2019, where the voices of women and girls are now being heard and are now contributing to service design across the city.
3. 24 Women have received more formal training about politics through the Parliamentary outreach programme.
4. The Film event is being rolled out over next year with another date set for January 2019

## Promotion of event – media reach including social media

All of the events have been promoted through the Women's Lives Leeds social media platforms including: the website where each city-wide event had its own news story; twitter but in the run up to and including on the day twitter feeds and conversations; facebook promotion.

Each of the Community Engagement workers promoted their events through local links and services. They provided posters for local venues and advertised through emails, twitter and web based initiatives.

Internal WLL promotion took place and 2,400 Twitter followers and 380 facebook followers received information about opportunities on a regular basis.

The event in November was picked up on and included in a local press news story.

## Feedback and comments.

The satellite and city-wide events were evaluated with each of them receiving over half of the attendees providing feedback.

Generally most of the attendees enjoyed the events and valued the opportunity to have conversations with their local councillors.

Although one of the objectives was to encourage and provide the opportunity for women to register to vote this was quite difficult to do and low numbers were achieved – only 7.

However all attendees were given the opportunity to discuss and were given information and handouts about registering and how to vote, from the Leeds City Councils electoral team, who were in attendance at each of the events.

## Some comments received:

The following are comments made on feedback forms regarding what the women enjoyed most:

'..the role play with the MP..'

'..talking about different topics..'

'..I enjoyed the discussion about Violence Against Women..'

'..I have enjoyed discussing safety'

'..talking about different things..'

'..I have enjoyed the discussion..'