



Leeds 10 Year Anniversary Celebration

Post-event pack



LEEDS FDAC 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Led by Her Honour Judge Hillier

Lord Justice Peter Jackson

Criminal courts are adversarial, but FDAC shows how a bit of respect and some kindness begins to dissolve feelings of suspicion towards the court.

In FDAC, Social workers and psychologist's skills are turned towards formulating a plan to help individual families. It is a much better use of our resources, a much better use of our time, and it's much more human. It is seriously unique and precious.

"One of the things that is so good about FDAC is that it doesn't just see the inevitable at the beginning. It starts with hope, and that hope is so important, as it gets results."

"We really needed that hand holding approach; not being told what to do, but being empowered to do it."

Parent Voices



Leeds has always been a city with outstanding partnerships, committed to best practice and trialling new ways of working.

FDAC continues to be one of the most well-researched and evidence-based practices in Family Justice, and is having an increasingly broad impact across all justice practices nationally and internationally.

Sophie Carter, Centre for Justice Innovation

Farah Kenyon - CSWS

Leeds FDAC is a brilliant example of how the Local Authority can partner with a multidisciplinary third-sector team to support our communities. Both Leeds Social Care and FDAC ultimately aim to build trusting, nurturing and restorative relationships with families.



Round Table Discussions

The service continues and ethos spreads



Leeds Cost Benefit Highlights

Financial Year 23/24 12 new cases open in year	Per Case	Yearly
Legal Cost (hearings) including repeat case savings	£1,976	£26,893
Barrister Costs	£9,102	£130, 812
Legal Aid	£3,900	£56,935
Expert Advice	£7,754	£108,175
Drug Testing	Omitted as Leeds charged by the courts	Omitted as Leeds charged by the courts
Placement	£80,675 (median estimate)	£946,641 (median estimate)
Total System Savings	£75,890 (median Net)	£936,456 (median Net)

**FDAC saves £4.71 for
every £1 spent in 23/24**

“10 years of amazing work carried out by FDAC. We are really lucky to have such a dedicated team in Leeds, really making a difference to the lives of women and their children.” - Project Worker, Women’s Health Matters

Compared to National Figures for Standard Care Proceedings*, In Leeds FDAC:

Children are more likely to be reunified with their primary caregiver:

34.2% vs **12.5%***

Children in Care Proceedings are less likely to be placed in Local Authority Care:

29.1% vs **54.7%***

Final Hearings are less likely to be contested:

2.97% vs **23.8%***

*National Figures taken from the 2023 Foundations Evaluation of Family Drug and Alcohol Report

FDAC support parents to follow their own hopes and goals by linking them into broader, holistic sources of health and community support.

At the end of FDAC:

88% of parents had improved access to children’s services.

73% of parents demonstrated and shared improved physical wellbeing.

68% of parents reduced their risk of crime and reoffending.

63% of parents had reduced housing issues.

23% of parents accessed support to get into employment, volunteering or training.

Success and Achievements

Families and Children

34% of children have been able to remain/return home to parent

91% of children had improved attendance at school/nursery

70% of families experienced a reduction in domestic abuse

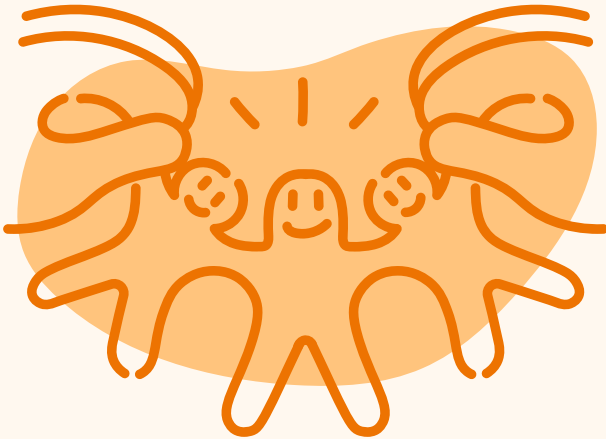
94% of parents have engaged with recovery services around addiction

86% of parents accessed support for mental health and emotional wellbeing

62 children have been supported to reside with a kinship carer and **97%** of these children have been supported to maintain their relationship with a parent

70% of parents have made improvements in recovery, including reduced substance use and abstinence

Families shared ...



"I didn't get my boys back and I know things did not work out in FDAC, but to me they did. I remember dearly the moment I realised what needed to happen in the Proceedings, this would not have happened without Diane [Family Therapist], our sessions and the support. I don't feel lost anymore, I'm more complete than I have been from before many of the problems started."

"Talk to me like I am a human being and not just a job. I am a person I wasn't born wanting to be a mental degenerate it is not my fault I learnt to cope and deal with my parents. I wasn't asked how I was treated."

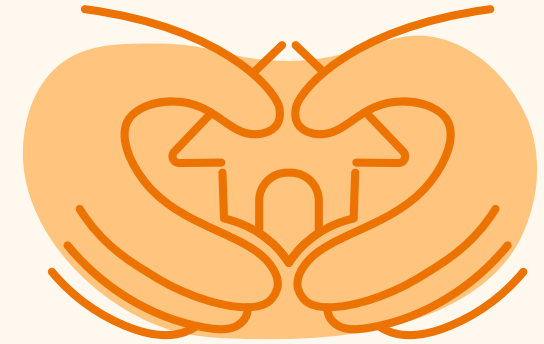
Take time to see things going on, helps to communicate, we are people not problems, people with mental health want people to see them for the person they are and not the out of control degenerate I became.

FDAC helps to be a lot more in control. We may have don't wrong but not all do it coz choice to, some can't help decisions made coz of what they have been through. Don't judge a book by its cover until you have read a few pages. Be aware of what I have been through and show a willingness to listen – sometimes feels like people love to force you to say it and then don't like it – don't just look at the pictures read the pages look at what's underneath.

With FDAC feel happier in self. Before I felt like I couldn't be me and 'he' would get out and drink took over but now keep him at bay.

Been in front of some judges and they don't even listen, it feels nice that they (FDAC judges) listen, feels like they care. Fair enough they may make the same decision but you know you have been able to get your point across and they have listened."

The voice of the Social Worker



“FDAC are open and transparent about their expectations from the start, this happens before FDAC take clients on knowing that families truly understand what is expected of them”

“The FDAC process is incredible and that the detailed work and support provided has enabled a significant positive and sustained change which has allowed a family to be reunified due to the support offered, and how the FDAC court hearing are run provided the mother with the confidence which further enabled change.”

“Parents feel fully engaged and heard within the proceedings through regular reviews with the judge and professionals. Professionals are around both the child and the parents rather than seeing them as separate entities”

“Parents are provided with a bespoke package of support that has been considered dependent on their needs and ability to engage. Parents are not simply told to engage with a particular service but part of discussions about what support they actually need and can engage in. Parents are supported to succeed rather than being set up to fail”

“I feel this process gave the mother a better chance to evidence and sustain change due to the high level of support that was provided by professionals who were consistent and familiar to her”



Acknowledgements

Her Honour Judge Hillier – Host

Her Honour Judge Greenan – Closing Statement

Lord Justice Peter Jackson – Keynote Speaker

Sophie Carter (Centre for Justice Innovation) – Speaker

Farah Kenyon (Leeds City Council Children's Social Work Service) – Speaker

FDAC families

DJ Troy/ DJ Shepherd/ DJ Bell – Co-facilitators for roundtable talks with FDAC practitioners

Park Plaza Leeds

Barca-Leeds

Samantha Worrell – Photographer

Rhianna Lewis-Tottle - Visual Illustrator

The Yorkshire Balloon Company – Décor

Get in touch:

FDAC@barca-leeds.org

saorsia.jefferson@barca-leeds.org

