

West Yorkshire faces a critical funding shortfall for children and young people's services



West Yorkshire, with nearly 25% of its population aged under 18, experiences higher levels of deprivation compared to England as a whole.

The shocking statistics highlighted here reveal the area's numerous and diverse challenges.

West Yorkshire mental health support referrals for children and young people have more than doubled since 2019, reaching **over 5,000 per month** in 2023

50% increase in children displaying abusive behaviour towards parents

increase in referrals for neurodiversity and ADHD assessments, and significant increase in acuity in children with complex needs

staff are **working long hours**, with substantial caseloads alongside recruitment and retention pressures in response to these funding challenges

neurodivergent children and young people now account for **more than 50%** of all mental health inpatient admissions, particularly in relation to eating disorders and self-harm

wait times for diagnoses of **autism or ADHD** now exceed one year, with **limited** post-diagnosis support available

29% of children and young people live in areas ranked as the **10% poorest** in England

over 54,000 recorded domestic abuse offences in West Yorkshire between October 2020 and September 2021

4,600 children in care (as of 31 March 2023)



there has been a **rise in numbers** of children and young people **not in school** or persistently absent (off for at least 10% of the year)

significant **funding reductions in youth work** has seen closure of a high proportion of youth centres. **70%** real terms cuts in youth work provision and community youth facilities since 2010 (YMCA Out of Service Report, 2020)

4,700 young carers aged 5-17 facing insufficient support

safeguarding pressures are on the rise, leading to more children presenting with higher risks

the level of **unemployment among young people** aged 16-24 in West Yorkshire has increased in the last year and remains **higher than before the pandemic**

The Integrated Care System urges the Government to provide comprehensive, collaborative funding so West Yorkshire can have equitable access to services for children and young people, address root causes and invest in the wellbeing of our future generations.