

# MEMBER VISIT



*Nacro work with some of the most **disadvantaged young people** in their education centres, many of whom have previously disengaged with learning. A significant majority of their learners have **multiple barriers to learning**, including one or more social disadvantage indicator. More than half declare a learning difficulty or disability at enrolment, and 60% are from the 27% most disadvantaged wards. Despite this, they know their learners have the **potential to achieve and they support them to do so.***



## **NEWS and UPDATES from provider:**

Before Christmas MD, Alex Miles, met with Simon Ashton, Assistant Principle, to complete a visit to their Leeds centre and discuss all things youth engagement, addressing NEET challenges and supporting young people across Leeds.

We discussed the challenges with recruiting young people into certain sectors, and many young people not knowing what area of work they may want to explore as part of their study programme. There are particular challenges in recruiting to motor vehicle and construction.

Nacro have a fantastic motor vehicle setup at their Leeds centre, with very impressive access to a range of vehicles including race cars and buggies.

We discussed challenges with young people being able to travel to learn across the city, with many having to take multiple buses, and we discussed possible solutions to try and make the admin burden on staff in claiming and recording this – solutions I have taken to WY combined authority for review – fingers crossed!

Nacro are investing more resource and support into their Leeds centre, with Curriculum, innovation and change leadership being introduced, to support a refreshed and exciting period for the Leeds provision.

Nacro were one of the providers who received extra funding to support Leeds young people, one of only 2 cities in England that were awarded new money to support the NEET crisis, and Nacro are committed to ensuring their centre and curriculum is impactful and responsive to need.

We discussed the broader issues relating to NEET young people across England, and Simon, who leads Nacro centres nationally, shared it is a real postcode lottery to young people accessing their legal entitlement to education – his is further exacerbated for SEND young people and accessing additional funds to support them. Nacro have invited time and resource into developing a paper on the issues relating to youth engagement – this is called “The Truth about Youth” – an excellent insight report into the challenges of engaging but the aspirations of young people - [Truth About Youth | Nacro](#)

Nacro Leeds are clearly dedicated to their learners and their aspirations and have developed a ‘Get Set’ accelerator to enable learners to strive towards their aspirations. They have fantastic enrichment activities for students and a really inspiring approach to advancing the curriculum within their Catering provision with partnership with local food donation services and Fare Share – who provide free food donations, which take place weekly, with different variations of good included, which then allows students to learn how to make a variety of meals, within budget and responsive to what is available locally. Good work to all at Nacro, a really great visit and thank you for the work you do across Leeds and the region to support young people.

**YLP work with our providers to better understand what they are looking for, and what we can do to further support local FE.**