



# One minute guide

## Children in employment and entertainment

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### What is meant by children in employment?

All young people who work or assist in a trade or occupation which is carried out for profit or non-profit (e.g. charities, public sector organisations) purposes are considered to be employed - even if they receive no payment.

The [Children and Young Person's Act 1933](#) prohibits the employment of children under 13 years of age. Children aged 13 to 16 must hold a work or volunteer licence, which is issued by the Child Employment & Entertainment Team. Employers are responsible for ensuring that children of compulsory school age have a valid work or volunteer licence and are working within the legal regulations.

It is important to note that work experience for young people is arranged by schools and academies, falls under different legislation, and is not classified as child employment. As a result, it does not fall within the remit of the Child Employment & Entertainment Team.

Reports of children working illegally are treated seriously and investigated. The employer may face a fine if found to be employing children unlawfully.

To obtain a copy of the work/volunteer licence application form or for more information, email [ASTLicensing@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:ASTLicensing@leeds.gov.uk) or call 0113 3785995.

### What is meant by children in entertainment?

Many children enjoy performing in plays, films, advertising, modelling, television, or paid sporting events, and many parents take pleasure in supporting their children in these activities.

Legislation such as [Children & Young Persons Act 1963](#) and [Children \(Performance and Activities\) Regulations 2014](#) exist to protect children's welfare and prevent them from being exploited, and the guidelines apply to both professional and amateur productions. In most cases children require a performance licence in order to participate in these activities, with the licence stating the conditions that must be observed to ensure the child's safety.

The Child Employment and Entertainment Team regularly visits television sets, studios, theatres, filming locations in and around Leeds, and photographic studios to ensure the welfare of children involved in the entertainment industry.

Leeds City Council's Children and Families Directorate is responsible for ensuring that children are not exploited or put at risk while engaging in these activities. This includes protecting their education by following both national and local safeguarding guidelines and legislation.

Children must also be properly supervised during these activities, which is typically done by a Registered Chaperone. To become a Registered Chaperone, individuals must apply, undergo an interview, be approved, and hold an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Certificate before a chaperone licence is issued, which remains valid for three years.

### What else do the Child Employment and Entertainment Team do?

Other areas of work undertaken by the Child Employment & Entertainment Team include the issuing of Body of Persons Exemption Licences (BOPA), which is a licence issued for a group performance where children are not receiving payment, nor missing school to perform. The team are required to complete the necessary health and safety checks before a BOPA can be issued and can carry out unannounced inspections during the period of the performance to complete an inspection to ensure the welfare and safety of the children performing.

The team also works closely with various Local Authority services, including the Attendance Service, Licensing Services, Police, schools and academies. They also work in partnership with colleagues across the Yorkshire and Humberside region to address issues related to TV and theatrical productions and to review current policies and procedures on child employment and entertainment.

The team also receives relevant information and guidance from the [National Network for Children in Entertainment and Employment \(NNCEE\)](#) to ensure they are up to date with current legislation and practice.

### Further information

For further information, advice and guidance, please contact the Child Employment and Entertainment Team on [ASTLicensing@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:ASTLicensing@leeds.gov.uk) .

For further guidance and information you can also visit the national Network for Children in Employment and Entertainment [website](#). However, note that this is a national resource, and processes and procedures differ between local authorities.

### Who are the key contacts?

The key contact is Alison Foster, Child Employment & Entertainment Team Leader, tel: 0113 3785995 [ASTLicensing@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:ASTLicensing@leeds.gov.uk).