

**Making
Leeds a child
friendly city**



The importance of the early years - a holistic approach that considers health, play and education

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(Leeds City Council)



- Child Friendly Leeds 12 Wishes
- Play streets
- Playful partners



<p>1.</p>  <p>Children and young people know how and where to get support for their mental health and wellbeing if they need it.</p>	<p>2.</p>  <p>Children and young people have safe spaces to play, hang out and have fun.</p>	<p>3.</p>  <p>Children and young people express their views, feel heard and are involved in decisions that affect their lives.</p>	<p>4.</p>  <p>Differences are celebrated in Leeds so children and young people feel accepted for who they are. They do not experience bullying and discrimination.</p>
<p>5.</p>  <p>Everyone takes more action to protect the environment from climate change.</p>	<p>6.</p>  <p>Children and young people can travel around the city safely and easily.</p>	<p>7.</p>  <p>Children and young people know about different things to do and places to go across the city. They enjoy different cultural experiences including art, music, sport and film.</p>	<p>8.</p>  <p>Leeds is a city that reduces the impact of poverty and helps families who need it.</p>
<p>9.</p>  <p>Children and young people have the support and information needed to make healthy choices. They have opportunities for regular physical activity.</p>	<p>10.</p>  <p>All children and young people are in learning settings that meet their needs.</p>	<p>11.</p>  <p>Young people have access to a wide range of work experience, employment and volunteering opportunities.</p>	<p>12.</p>  <p>Leeds is an inclusive city for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.</p>





Play Sufficiency Methodology

A fundamental part of the assessment is conducting in-depth research with children, their carers and front line workers. Within this assessment over 50 hours has been spent listening to children's localised lived experiences of play across 6 priority neighbourhoods of Leeds, along with focus groups with carers and those that understand the communities.



The detailed evidence that has surfaced can be used to compare and contrast with current policy and practice across a broad range of professional domains; establishing how the work of the local authority and its partners influences the sufficiency of children's opportunities for play.

ONLINE SURVEYS

STUDENT WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOPS WITHIN
ALTERNATIVE
EDUCATION

PARENT & CARER
FOCUS GROUPS

FRONTLINE &
PRACTITIONER FOCUS
GROUPS

597 year 5
156 year 9
140 parent/carer
online surveys

10 Year 9 & 158
Year 5 students
over 3 workshop
sessions

**Over 50
hours spent
listening to
children
about their
experiences
of play**

4 Frontline
practitioner
focus groups

27 students
attending PRU
& SILC
education over
3 workshop
sessions

6 Parent &
Carer focus
groups

'Around the streets...you see rubbish, see cars, some blocked and some with cars that they can get through...cars stop me from playing on some streets'

'And it does distract you from maybe a hard time and you might play to make you feel better'

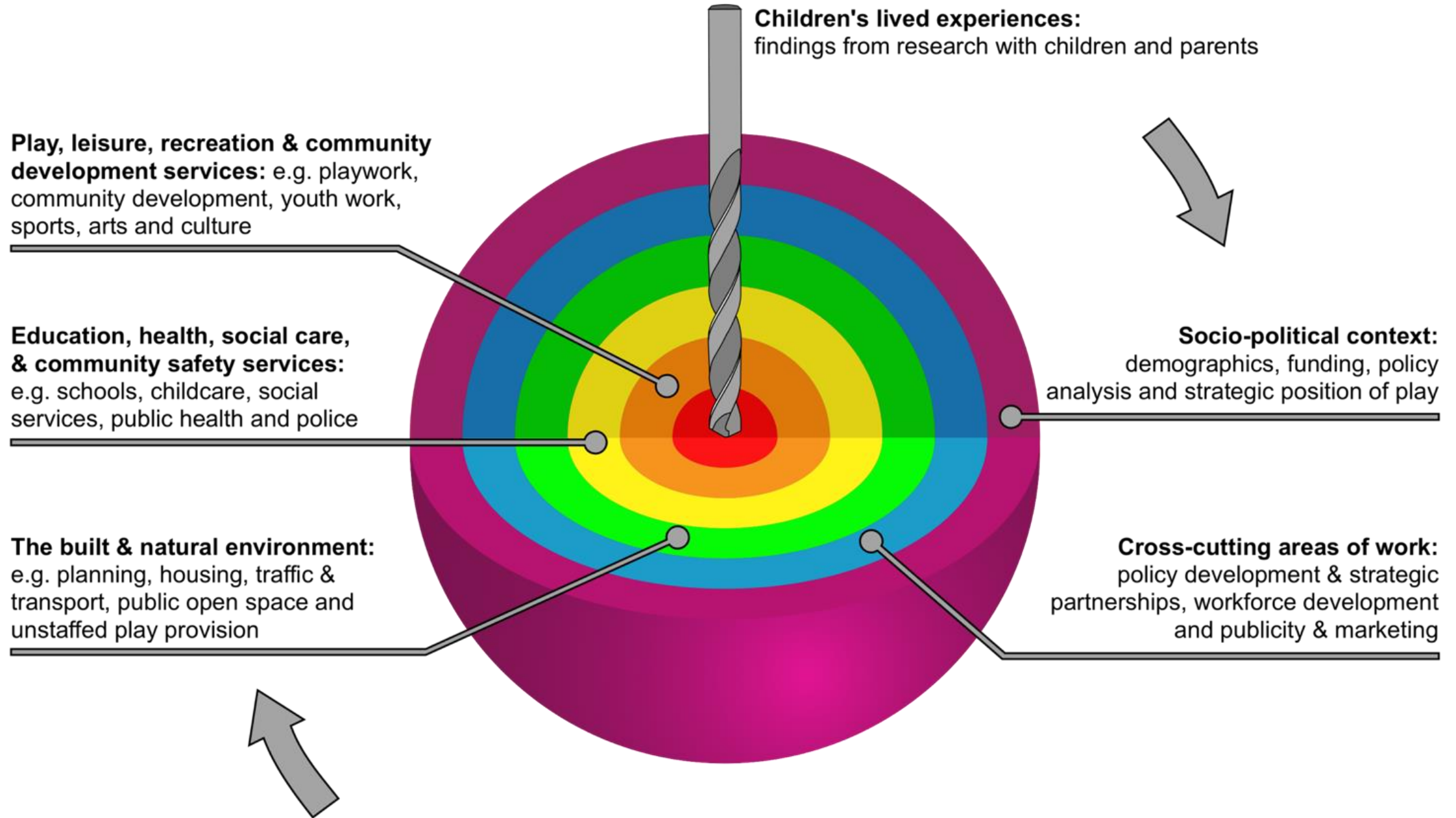
'Because it makes you feel free, creative, happy, energised and 100% makes you happy'

'I think playing is actually kinda healthy because you can play outdoors and you can also meet other people by playing'

'Play makes life amazing'

'My parents would not let me outside. They think it's not safe'





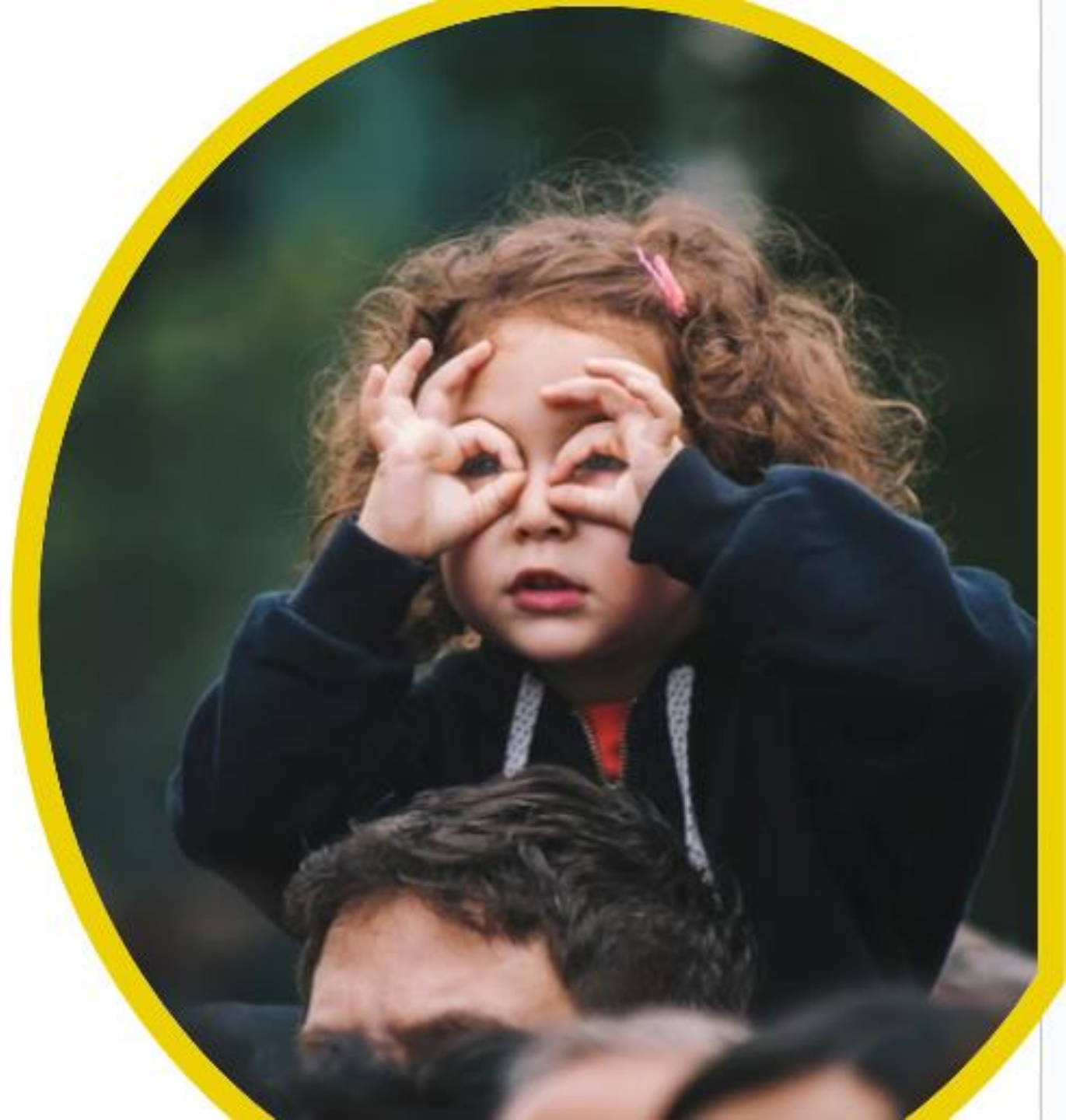
Play sufficiency as a lens

Account-ability

the ability to account for the ways in which we (directly & indirectly) impact on play

Response-ability

the ability to improve our (collective) responses as adults to children's right to play



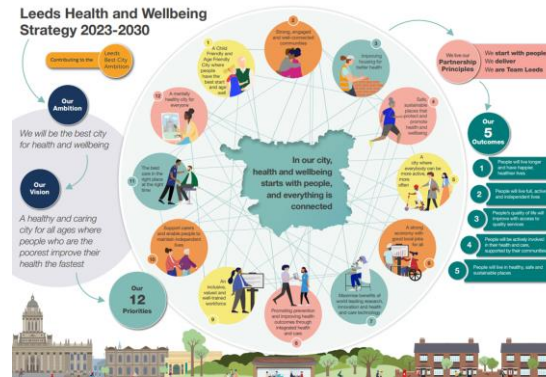
- **Best City Ambition**
- **Health and Well Being Pillar**
- **My Health My School Survey** - 25,648 Children and Young People from more than 200 schools in Leeds completed the My Health, My School survey in 2022/23.
- **Leeds Local Plan Update and Leeds Local Plan 2040**
- **Physical Activity Ambition**
- **Children and Young People's Plan**
- **Leeds Parks and Green Spaces Strategy 2023 -2032**
- **Child Poverty Strategy 2019 - 2022**



'To realise this ambition, Team Leeds will focus on:

•ensuring children have the best start in life and enjoy a healthy, happy childhood, where their right to play and have fun is protected and they are free to express their views and feel heard'

Best City Ambition



Leeds Children and Young People's Plan 2023 to 2028

The priorities that guide our work have been developed through consultation across the city, including the views of children and young people. Ensuring that our Best City Ambition delivers for Leeds children and young people, we will focus on:

- children in all areas of the city having the best start in life and enjoying a healthy, happy, and friendly childhood
- young people having the skills that enable them to realise their potential and to thrive

LEEDS LOCAL PLAN 2040
SCOPING CONSULTATION SUMMARY DOCUMENT

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR...

PLAY ENABLING GRANT 24/25

ENCOURAGING PLAY ACROSS THE CITY

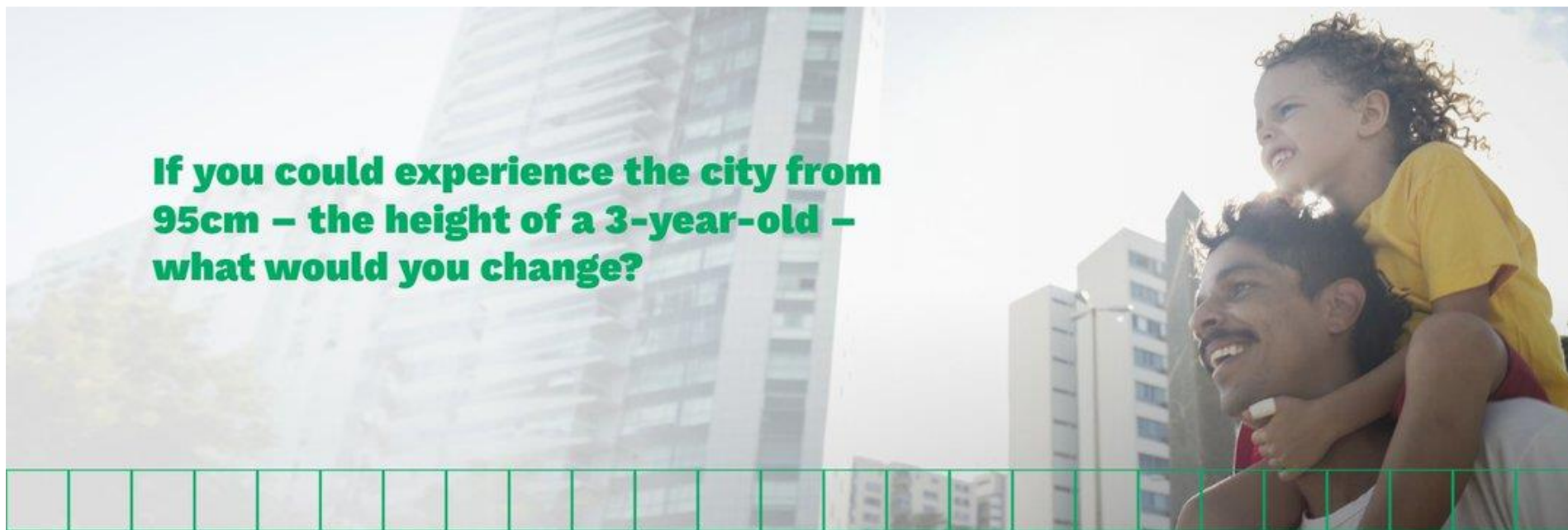




URBAN 95



**If you could experience the city from
95cm – the height of a 3-year-old –
what would you change?**



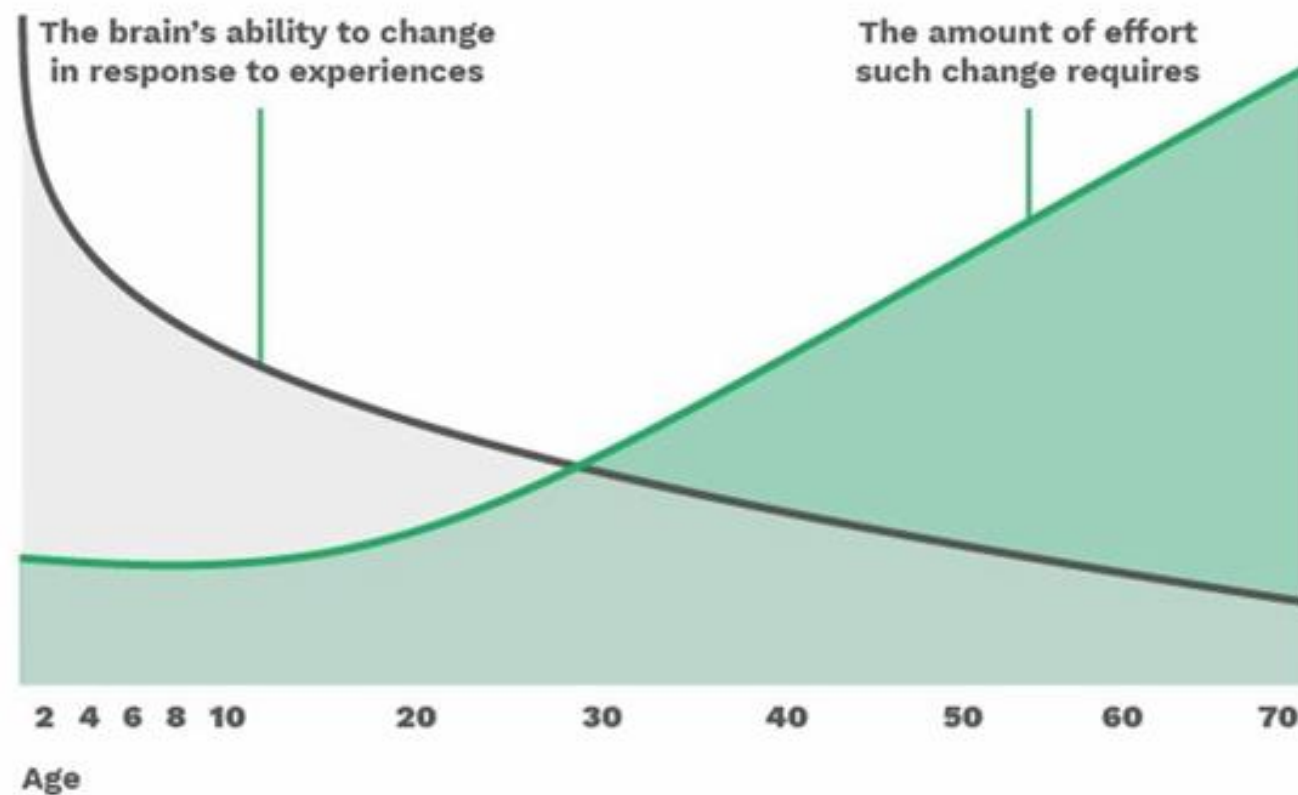
THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
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LSE **Cities**



Van Leer
FOUNDATION

The first five years is a window of opportunity



Center on the Developing Child  HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Source: Levitt (2009)
www.developingchild.harvard.edu



How can adopting this perspective have an impact on the way we design spaces?

