

## Leeds Local Offer (SEND) Ebulletin – June 2023

Welcome to the June 2023 edition of the Leeds Local Offer ebulletin. The ebulletin is an opportunity for us to share with you SEND Leeds Local Offer website and service updates, training opportunities, good practice, resources and promote consultations that are taking place in the city by services under the Local Offer.

We encourage you to share the information within your teams and with children, young people and families you are working with. If you have any stories, service updates, groups or events that you would like us to feature in a future issue you can send them to me at [LLO@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:LLO@leeds.gov.uk) or give me a call on 07712 214392 if you have any questions.

Previous editions of the ebulletin can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/LLOEbulletin>

Kayleigh Thurlow  
Local Offer and SEND Voice and Influence Coordinator

### \*News Flash\*

#### **SEND Next Choices - getting ready for adult life is returning to Leeds first direct arena on Thursday 29th June 2023!**

The event is an opportunity for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their parents, carers, support workers and teachers to prepare themselves for adult life. You will be able to find out about jobs, training, apprenticeships, college courses, voluntary work, leisure activities, finances, support and benefits available in Leeds.

There will also be information sessions about supported internships including what they are and how they work.

You will be able to meet organisations who can support you as you move into adult life.

Everyone is welcome and the event is free to attend. Book your free ticket for one of three time slots:

- 10am to 12pm
- 1pm to 3pm
- 4pm to 6pm

To find out more information about the event and have a look at our resources please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/SENDNextChoices23>

Should you have any questions or queries please email [esemployers@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:esemployers@leeds.gov.uk)

### Leeds Local Offer Updates and Developments

#### **Leeds Local Offer annual survey for professionals**

The Leeds Local Offer is where children and young people up to 25 years old with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their parents and carers can find information, advice and guidance about support, services and activities that are available to those living in Leeds.

The Leeds Local Offer has two key purposes;

- To provide clear, comprehensive, accessible and up to date information about available provision and how to access it.
- To make provision more responsive to local needs and aspirations by directly involving children and young people with SEND, their parents and carers and service providers in its development and review.

We are committed to working with young people with SEND, their families and professionals to continuously review and develop our Leeds Local Offer.

We are asking professionals to take part in our annual survey to enable us to further develop the Leeds Local Offer.

Complete the survey here: <https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/LLOProfessionalsSurvey/>

*\*The survey should take you no longer than 10 minutes to complete\**

### **Join the Leeds Local Offer Facebook Group**

The Leeds Local Offer Facebook page is a way of us communicating service updates, events and other key information direct with parents, carers and professionals.

The Leeds Local Offer Facebook group can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/leedslocaloffer>

## **Useful service information and updates**

### **Neurodiversity Information Hub**

<https://www.mindmate.org.uk/nd/>

We are excited to share the new Neurodiversity Information Hub with you, an innovation developed by Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust and the NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) in co-production with families and young people with lived experiences, across the city.

The Neurodiversity information hub is a one-stop information site to support all neurodivergent children, young people and their families (CYPF) in Leeds, at any point in their neurodiversity journey (currently focusing on autism and ADHD). The 'ND Hub' is designed to support those with or without any diagnosis, as well as those before and after neurodevelopmental assessments, and beyond. More information is being added all the time, so keep looking back to check!

Every school, library, health centre and GP practice in Leeds has been sent a number of A4 posters and A6 postcards to share in their setting.

This resource has been developed to support CYPF but also the professionals that work with them. We are hoping to develop further professional resources in the future. If you have any feedback about the resource, please do get in touch. You can also complete the feedback survey here <https://bit.ly/3j7ZkLo>

### **Scope's Activities for All**

Scope employs a team of sessional workers to support children in universal activities on a short-term basis. We are currently hiring (until 7 June) and accepting referrals for children.

Sessional workers are not a one-to-one workers, they provide a bridging service where both the disabled child and the universal activity group receive support and establish a relationship. This is a short-term basis approach where the sessional worker withdraws, the child can continue to attend and is supported by the activity. Click here to self-refer: <https://www.scope.org.uk/family-services/family-activities-leeds/eligibility-check/>

This is an ideal job for people experienced in disability, and looking for casual, 0 hour work during evenings and weekends. You will work with a range of activity groups across Leeds supporting them to be inclusive of all children. Travel is essential and mileage is covered. <https://www.scope.org.uk/jobs/jobs-search/sessional-play-inclusion-worker/>

This summer we are committed to signing up more groups than ever for our Scope Inclusive Activity Award (SIAA)! Scope works directly with universal activity groups through our program where we provide training and support for the group to better support disabled children in accessing activities.

<https://www.scope.org.uk/family-services/family-activities-leeds/inclusive-activity-award/>

Parents are welcome to encourage groups to contact Scope to learn more about the SIAA program [leeds@scope.org.uk](mailto:leeds@scope.org.uk).

## Children and young people information and consultations

(Please share these with young people you work with)

### Leeds SEND Youth Forum

Are you aged 11-25 with additional needs?

Want to help make Leeds an *even* better city for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)?

The Leeds SEND Youth Forum is an online network of young people aged 11 to 25 years old with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) who live in Leeds or attend school in Leeds.

What the SEND Youth Forum Do

You will get the chance to:

- attend monthly SEND Youth Forum zoom sessions
- work on issues important to young people
- give feedback about services by completing online surveys
- sit on interview panels
- meet with bosses to share your experiences and feedback about services

What is in it for you?

- Being part of the SEND Youth Forum, you will:
- meet new people and make new friends
- learn new skills
- be able to include it on your CV and future job application forms
- contribute to improving SEND services for young people in Leeds
- share ideas and experiences with decision makers
- receive gift vouchers as a thank you!

Join the Leeds SEND Youth Forum here <https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/SENDYC/>

### Shine Bright Transitions (17-25yrs) WRAP group

The Transitions WRAP group is a 12-week wellbeing peer support group for any young adults in Leeds, that are struggling to get well and keep well. Support does not end after the 12 weeks. They then have the opportunity to join an ongoing peer support group to help them keep well for as long as they need and even train them to help run future groups!

The wellness group is based upon WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Planning) which is an evidence-based approach that helps young people to get well and stay well. They write their own Wellness Plan and Crisis Plan, develop new protective factors to keep them safe and also benefit greatly from the Peer Support and new friendships that they will develop.

The Transitions WRAP group will run on a Monday mid-May from 6.30pm - 8.30pm. It's a structured programme that is fun, safe and engaging which supports your young adults to be well, be more confident, less isolated, less anxious and happier!

For more information about the group visit [www.shinebright.org.uk](http://www.shinebright.org.uk) or email [nicola.swales@shinebright.org.uk](mailto:nicola.swales@shinebright.org.uk)

## **Comic (Child Orientated Mental Health Innovation Collaborative) -Join the Young Persons Advisory Network**

Comic is setting up a Young Peoples Advisory Network to assist with future research and would love you to get involved!

They are looking for young people aged 11 to 20 years old who would like to assist them to:

- Review research resources to make them appropriate for young people
- Take part in research
- Provide feedback to improve mental health services
- Discuss key ethical issues surrounding young people's mental health.

You will get the opportunity to make new friends, impact research, work with professionals and add the work you do to your CV!

For more information and to get involved please email:

[Zoe.jackson14@nhs.net](mailto:Zoe.jackson14@nhs.net) or [agneswood2@nhs.net](mailto:agneswood2@nhs.net)

## **Parent and carer information and consultations**

(Please share these with families you work with)

### **Leeds Parent Carer Forum**

The Leeds PCF (Parent Carer Forum) is led by local parents working to represent the views of parents and carers of children and young people with SEND while working in partnership with the Local Authority Education, Health & Care services to make a positive difference for children and families in Leeds.

Parents, carers and professionals can register with the Leeds Parent Carer Forum to receive updates on the work they are doing, information about events and share views to help the forum make a difference for children and families with special educational needs and disabilities across Leeds.

Register here: <https://www.leedsparentcarerforum.co.uk/register-with-us/>

For more information about the Leeds Parent Carer Forum visit [www.leedsparentcarerforum.co.uk](http://www.leedsparentcarerforum.co.uk) or email [info@leedsparentcarerforum.co.uk](mailto:info@leedsparentcarerforum.co.uk)

### **Leeds Mencap – sibling support groups**

Leeds Mencap will be running activity days and trips during the 6-week summer holidays for children and young people aged 7-13 years old who have a sibling with additional needs/disabilities.

31<sup>st</sup> July to 4<sup>th</sup> August  
and  
29<sup>th</sup> August to 1<sup>st</sup> September

Families will need to fill in a short registration form and a booking form which can be filled out online via our website: <https://www.leedsmencap.org.uk/what-we-offer/groups-and-activities/siblings-group/>

For more information email [activities@leedsmencap.org.uk](mailto:activities@leedsmencap.org.uk).

## **Professionals - consultations / opportunities / training**

**Schools - book your place now for our SEND activity day 'give it a go'!**

**Thursday 6th July 2023**

**10am till 2pm**

**John Charles Centre for Sport (bowls centre)**

Open to schools and parents/carers who electively home educate to bring their child if they have SEND

Students with SEND across Leeds have continuously shared with us how they would like the opportunity to 'try out' different sports, groups and activities available to them in Leeds. We are really excited to have received funding from the Community Committees to deliver an event for young people aged 11 to 25 years old with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to showcase fun activities (groups, activities and sports).

The event aims to provide young people with SEND the opportunity to try out different activities, groups and sports that are on offer to them in the city, known as short breaks and fun activities.

Young people who attend the event will be given an activity booklet that shows them what activities are available in the city and the contact details for the services - this can be shared with their families. Supporting staff will be given an activity sheet so they can highlight which activities students enjoyed / didn't enjoy.

Lunch will not be provided on the day, however a space for students and staff to eat their packed lunches will be made available.

Book your free places here: <https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/GiveItAGo2023/>

### **SENDIASS training for third sector staff**

SENDIASS are offering an online training session to third sector staff on Wednesday 28th June 1:00 pm-2.30 pm.

The aim of this free training is to increase professional's knowledge of SEND law, guidance and local policy and practice in key SEND areas, such as:

- SEND support in mainstream schools
- SEND Funding
- Education, Health and Care Plan processes
- SEND Tribunals
- Preparing for adulthood

The session will also include a question and answer session.

Booking is via Eventbrite and you can book on the training directly using this link :

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/leeds-sendiass-professionals-training-for-third-sector-staff-tickets-638559216807>

You can also view more information on the Leeds SENDIASS website: <https://sendiass.leeds.gov.uk/events>

## **Resources**

### **Resources developed by young people for professionals and services**

#### **Workers who support us**

Students from specialist schools took over the SEND Partnership Board on the 29th November 2022.

Students spoke about the different workers who support them in the lives and what qualities they feel are important for these workers to have.

This resource has been developed by students from Broomfield South SILC, West SILC, East SILC and the SEND Youth Forum to enable teams and services to understand what qualities are important to young people for workers to have.

Ways you can use the resource:

- share with colleagues

- in the recruitment process
- training for staff

The resources are available on the Leeds Local Offer

website: <https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/model/page/service/34324>

### **Raising awareness of disabilities and how to support young people**

The SEND Youth Forum have worked together to create a booklet of various journeys and challenges of young people with SEND to help you help us!

The resource is not just about knowing how you can support young people, but to understand how we might perceive and feel during these experiences.

The resource is available on the Leeds Local Offer

website: <https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/model/page/service/34371>

### **Asks of services:**

- Share the resources with teams and services
- Let us know how you have used the resources by completing a short online survey (<https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/SENDResources/>).

This email has been sent by the Leeds Local Offer Team at Leeds City Council. You are receiving this email as you previously signed up to the Leeds Local Offer Network or are part of one of our existing SEND networks. If you no longer wish to receive our emails, please [UNSUBSCRIBE](#) and we will remove you from our mailing list.