

**Voice and influence of children and young people with SEND and their parents and carers:**

**October 2023 to March 2024**

**By parents and carers**

* Children’s Transport.
* Social care transitions.
* Waiting lists for diagnosis and support.
* Sleep and melatonin support.
* Hydrotherapy.
* Education Other Than at School (EOTAS).
* Extended school non-attendance.
* Education, Health and Care Plans.
* Professionals’ knowledge of SEND.
* Information about SEND services.

**By children and young people**

* Disability awareness
* Early diagnosis and support
* SEND training and support for professionals
* Fun activities outside of school
* Mental health support
* Bullying and discrimination
* Support and understanding of SEND and Neurodiversity in schools
* Support to transition into work
* Holiday provision for young people with SEND

**Top issues raised**

**Purpose of the report**

* Collate voice and influence work from across the city to share with children and families’ strategic boards, councillors and partners.
* Champion good practice and shine a light on the valuable work services and organisations do.
* Raise awareness of the big issues being shared by the children, young people and families.
* Help services and organisations to link with colleagues and encourage them to work in partnership to reduce duplication.
* Help services and organisations to deliver ‘best practice’ voice and influence by reflecting on their work in line with the 5 O’s model.

**Content**

Voice and influence of parents and carers

* [Leeds](#_Children’s_Transport) Parent Carer Forum

Voice and influence of children and young people

* [Health and Care Horizons](#_Health_and_Care)
* [Youth Activity Fund](#_Youth_activity_fund)
* [Leeds Museums and Galleries](#_Leeds_Museums_and)
* [Voice, Influence and Change Team](#_Voice,_Influence_and)

Voice and influence involving both parents, carers, children, and young people

* [SEND Service Review](#_SEND_service_review)
* [Lighthouse Futures Trust](#_Lighthouse_Futures_Trust)
* [Short Breaks Review](#_Short_Breaks_Review)

**Voice and influence of parents and carers**

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| **Leeds Parent Carer Forum** |
| **Opening** *Who consulted with*  | **Opportunity***The way you consulted and what about* | **Obligation** *Statutory / CFL Wish* | **Outcome**  | **Ownership** *Service / Partnership* |
| The Leeds Parent Carer Forum provide opportunities for parents and carers to feedback their views and experiences about SEND Services.  | Opportunities include: * Parent carer support group network.
* Annual Leeds Parent Carer conference.
* Feedback via their website.
* Visiting parent support groups.
 | SEND Code of Practice  | All issues raised are logged on the [issues tracker](https://www.leedslocaloffer.org.uk/have-your-say/parents-and-carers/leeds-parent-carer-forum).The top issues raised and shared with the Leeds Area SEND and AP Partnership Board are: * Children’s Transport.
* Social care transitions.
* Waiting lists for diagnosis and support.
* Sleep and melatonin support.
* Hydrotherapy.
* Education Other Than at School (EOTAS).
* Extended school non-attendance.
* Education, Health and Care Plans.
* Professionals’ knowledge of SEND.
* Information about SEND services.
 | Voice and Influence Transparency Working Group which feeds into the Leeds Area SEND and AP Partnership Board.  |

**Voice and influence of children and young people**

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| **Health and Care Horizons** |
| **Opening** *Who consulted with*  | **Opportunity***The way you consulted and what about* | **Obligation** *Statutory / CFL Wish* | **Outcome**  | **Ownership** *Service / Partnership* |
| Young people aged between 14 and 25 years old.  | The careers exploration tool is website that is being developed to support young people aged 16-25 years old to learn about the different jobs within health and care. During focussed sessions young people shared their views on the name of the tool, the branding and the content.  | Wish 3Wish 11 | The website is currently in development, and a consultation will be shared with young people to trial the website in June 2024 before it is launched in September 2024. | Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  |

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| **Youth Activity Fund** |
| **Opening** *Who consulted with*  | **Opportunity***The way you consulted and what about* | **Obligation** *Statutory / CFL Wish* | **Outcome**  | **Ownership** *Service / Partnership* |
| From October 2023 to March 2024 the Communities team consulted with 111 young people with SEND. * Online survey x 75
* SEND summit x 36
 | The Youth Activity Fund Consultation provides the opportunity for young people to share with Community Committees what activities they would like in the area they live.The Communities team delivered a focussed consultation activity at the 2023 SEND Summit, and also shared an online survey for young people to complete.  | Wish 2 | The feedback along with feedback from the wider survey will inform the way that the Community Committees spend their allocated Youth Activity Fund budget in 2024/25.Specific feedback re: SEND provision in Leeds included, “holiday provision for SEND kids is a real issue in Leeds” and “there is so little for teenagers with SEND to do in the holidays”. Popular activities included: sports, dance, cooking, music and arts and crafts. Feedback report can be found [here](https://www.leedslocaloffer.org.uk/have-your-say/children-and-young-people/consultation-feedback).  | Communities Team, Leeds City Council  |

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| **Leeds Museums and Galleries** |
| **Opening** *Who consulted with*  | **Opportunity***The way you consulted and what about* | **Obligation** *Statutory / CFL Wish* | **Outcome**  | **Ownership** *Service / Partnership* |
| 4 students from Fairfield Primary School during the Autumn term.  | Students attended a four-week Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response (ASMR) creation course. The role of the students was to take part in the course and make suggestions for improvements before wider role out.  | Wish 1, 3, 7, 10 and 12 | Through the feedback from the school and young people we have seen how using a project such as ASMR can give a voice and choice to those with complex needs. We saw the impact in improving concentration, enjoyment and even attendance. We plan to carry it forward with further partnerships and projects across the Leeds Museums and Galleries service.  | Leeds Museums and Galleries |

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| **Voice, Influence and Change Team** |
| **Opening** *Who consulted with*  | **Opportunity***The way you consulted and what about* | **Obligation** *Statutory / CFL Wish* | **Outcome**  | **Ownership** *Service / Partnership* |
| SEND Youth SummitTuesday 14th November 2023, 10 till 2 at Leeds Civic Hall.36 students attended * Green Meadows Academy.
* Brigshaw Partnership.
* John Jamieson.
* Oulton Academy.
* West SILC.
 | The SEND Summit is an information and consultation event for students with SEND. Students who attended the event took part in the following consultations: * Short Breaks review
* Child Friendly Leeds wishes
* Youth Activity Fund
 | SEND Code of Practice CFL wish 3, 7 and 12 | Short Breaks review – all feedback is feeding into the Short Breaks Review in Leeds. Child Friendly Leeds wishes – the feedback received about which wishes were most important to young people fed into the information shared at the Leeds Area SEND Partnership Board Takeover in November 2023, and the SEND Youth Council used this feedback to identify campaign ideas for 2024/25. Youth Activity Fund – feedback was shared with community committees when choosing activities to be funded in their local areas.Report is available [here](https://www.leedslocaloffer.org.uk/have-your-say/voice-and-influence-schools) | Event delivered by the Voice, Influence and Change Team. Consultations delivered by: * Short Breaks Review: Commissioning Team
* CFL wishes: Voice, Influence and Change Team
* Youth Activity Funding: Communities Team
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| Takeover of the Area SEND and AP Partnership BoardWednesday 22nd November 202311 students * St John’s School
* West SILC
* East SILC
* Future Horizons
 | Each year students from specialist schools and settings takeover the Leeds Area SEND and AP Partnership Board as part of National Takeover Challenge. The takeover is an opportunity for students to speak to board members about the issues that are important to them. The takeover is supported and facilitated by the Voice, Influence and Change Team. In preparation, students consulted with 99 young people with SEND to find out which of the 12 Child Friendly Leeds wishes is most important to them, and to seek feedback about what we can do in Leeds to achieve this wish. The top three wishes voted by students were: 1. Wish 12 – Leeds in an inclusive city for children and young people with SEND.
2. Wish 1 – children and young people know how and where to get support for their mental health.
3. Wish 10 – all children and young people are in learning settings that meet their needs.
 | SEND Code of PracticeCFL wish 3 and 12 | Discussion focused on the top three Child Friendly Leeds Wishes voted for by 99 young people with SEND, in the takeover meeting.Next steps following the takeover: * Board members to share the Child Friendly Leeds wish consultation report with their services.
* Board members to share future actions / ideas discussed with their services.
* Child Friendly Leeds consultation report to be shared with the CFL wish leads.
* Board members to feedback to students before the next takeover with progress.

Report is available [here](https://www.leedslocaloffer.org.uk/have-your-say/voice-and-influence-schools) | Voice, Influence and Change Team  |
| Raising awareness of disabilities campaignOctober 2023 -ongoing49 students * John Jamieson.
* St John’s School.
* Brigshaw 16+.
* Horsforth School.
* SEND Youth Council.
 | Child Friendly Leeds, Leeds Youth Voice and Town Centre Securities plc have partnered on a fantastic campaign to raise awareness of disabilities. This was based on listening to the voices of children and young people, ‘[Everyone’s Included: the Leeds SEND and Inclusion Strategy’](https://www.leeds.gov.uk/one-minute-guides/everyones-included-leeds-send-and-inclusion-strategy#:~:text=The%20SEND%20and%20Inclusion%20Strategy%20sets%20out%20the%20'3Is'%20%2D,with%20their%20peers%2C%20wherever%20possible.), the [Child Friendly Leeds 12 Wishes](https://www.leeds.gov.uk/childfriendlyleeds/cfl-the-story/12-wishes). We visited five settings during October/ November 2023 to understand what young people wanted to share. The five setters were John Jamieson East SILC, St John’s School, Horsforth School, Brigshaw Academy (16+) and the SEND Youth Council to find out what they would like to share with others about their disabilities, what makes them unique, and how we can make a difference. The sessions have been extremely eye opening in which we collated fantastic artwork, spoken word and the feedback from young people and the staff. We identified themes, illustrations and drawings by the young people to design the campaign. In addition to the launch, campaign resources, digital graphics and messages will be shared with partners and schools across the city. | CFL wish 3 and 12 | The artwork by young people, spoken words as well as the campaign materials will launch on Tuesday 21st May 2024 at Merrion Centre. These will then be shared across the city. Digital images will be shared across the city. There will be a dedicated webpage on CFL and LLO to share the artwork, and campaign resources. An assembly pack has been developed to share with schools. The campaign will link to the sunflower lanyard initiative.  [Resources and Campaign Posters](https://www.leedslocaloffer.org.uk/send-and-inclusion-practice-framework/child-friendly-leeds-wishes/raising-awareness-disabilities)  | Voice, Influence and Change Team Child Friendly Leeds  Town Centre Securities plc    |

**Voice and influence involving both parents, carers, children and young people**

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| **SEND service review** |
| **Opening** *Who consulted with*  | **Opportunity***The way you consulted and what about* | **Obligation** *Statutory / CFL Wish* | **Outcome**  | **Ownership** *Service / Partnership* |
| September to December 2023 consulted with 85 young people and 786 parents and carers. | Following an increase in demands on service and workforce challenges resulting in a drop in statutory performance, Leeds City Council commissioned a review of its current EHC assessment, plan and annual review processes to identify key opportunities for change. Focused consultation sessions and surveys were offered for young people, parents and carers to share their experiences and feedback.  | SEND Code of Practice CFL wish 3, 10 and 12 | The review highlighted areas for improvement in relation to the Council’s communications, processes, support provided and consistency in approaches.The aim is to implement changes and improvements, to help Leeds City Council achieve its vision, that children and young people in Leeds with SEND, have the best possible start to life and equal opportunities to learn.The Children and Families Department will keep families and staff updated throughout the process [**here**](https://www.leedslocaloffer.org.uk/education/send-and-inclusion-transformation), and this webpage will serve as an information hub about the changes and developments. | Leeds Area SEND and AP Partnership BoardSEND Transformation Team, Leeds City Council  |

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| **Lighthouse Futures Trust** |
| **Opening** *Who consulted with*  | **Opportunity***The way you consulted and what about* | **Obligation** *Statutory / CFL Wish* | **Outcome**  | **Ownership** *Service / Partnership* |
| Consulted with 31 young people and parents and carers November / December 2023. Groups included:* SEND Youth Council.
* Connexions Club.
* Lighthouse Futures Trust parent support group.
* Parents and carers of students.
 | Consultation sessions with young people, parents and carers to develop a transition resource on behalf of Barnardos.  | Wish 3, 10 and 12 | All feedback contributed to the resource. Once the resource is launched, it will be available on the Leeds Local Offer website.  | Barnardos, supported by Lighthouse Futures Trust.  |

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| **Short Breaks Review** |
| **Opening** *Who consulted with*  | **Opportunity***The way you consulted and what about* | **Obligation** *Statutory / CFL Wish* | **Outcome**  | **Ownership** *Service / Partnership* |
| October to December 2023 58 young people and 91 parents and carers took part in consultation activities. | Focused consultation sessions and a survey were offered for young people, parents and carers to share their experiences and feedback on the Short Breaks Offer in Leeds.  | SEND Code of PracticeCFL wish 3 and 12.  | Feedback will inform the review of Short Breaks and Fun Activities in Leeds.Consultation feedback can be found [here](https://www.leedslocaloffer.org.uk/have-your-say/children-and-young-people/consultation-feedback).  | Children’s Commissioning Team, Leeds City Council |