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| **Leeds Local Offer (SEND) Ebulletin – August 2024** |
| Leeds SEND Local Offer logo  Welcome to the August 2024 edition of the Leeds Local Offer ebulletin.  The ebulletin is an opportunity for us to share with you an update for the Leeds Area SEND and AP Partnership Board, service updates, opportunities and events for children, young people, parents, carers and professionals.  We encourage you to share the information within your teams and with children, young people and families you are working with.   * [An update from the Leeds Area SEND and AP Partnership Board](#_An_update_from) * [Service updates](#_Service_Updates) * [Events and groups for families](#_Events_for_families) * [Voice and influence opportunities](#_Voice_and_influence) * [Professionals – resources, opportunities and events](#_Professionals_–_resources,)   Previous editions of the ebulletin can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/LLObulletin>  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). |
| **An update from the Leeds Area SEND and AP Partnership Board** |
| Leeds SEND Partnership Board Logo  Thank you to all parents and carers who attended the Leeds SEND Event 2024 on Tuesday 9 July 2024. We had 55 parents / carers in attendance, which is a great turnout especially for such a wet and miserable day.  The event was an opportunity for us, the Leeds Area SEND Partnership, to share back with you what we have heard from families and what our future plans are.  The aims of the event were:   * To feedback to families what we, Local Authority and Health, know based on data and previous consultations. * To look at what our data is saying. * To outline our plans moving forward. * To consult with families to ensure we have all the information you want us to know.   All information and feedback gathered at the event via the tabletop discussions will be fed into the self-evaluation framework and used when developing SEND services in Leeds. We will share the executive summary of the self-evaluation framework once this has been signed off.  Our aim is to implement changes and improvements, to help the 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 you updated throughout the process and this webpage will serve as an information hub about the changes <https://www.leedslocaloffer.org.uk/education/send-and-inclusion-transformation>  If you have any further questions, or require signposting to services please contact the Leeds Local Offer at [LLO@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:LLO@leeds.gov.uk) or visit the website at [www.leedslocaloffer.org.uk](http://www.leedslocaloffer.org.uk).  Thanks again for your attendance, and for sharing your time and stories with us at what we hope will be the first of many conversations. |
| **Service updates / information** |
| **Supported Internships**  [Supported Internships – What they are and how they work? (youtube.com)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AgMFZJjmAU4&t=1208s)  Supported internships are a structured, work-based study programme for 16 to 24-year-olds with SEND, who have an education, health and care (EHC) plan. The core aim of a supported internship study programme is a substantial work placement, facilitated by the support of an expert job coach. The internships provide the opportunity for young people to achieve sustained, paid employment by equipping them with the skills they need for work, through learning in the workplace.   In this video you can hear from Leeds City College and Lighthouse Futures Trust. They explain what a supported internship is, how they work and how to find out more. This video was recorded on Tuesday 25 June 2024 during the SEND Next Choices event at the Leeds arena. To find out more about supported internships please visit the Leeds Local Offer website. |
| **SEND Next Choices event 2024**  The 2024 event was attended by over 2,000 people. Providing 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.  There were over **70 services in attendance** providing information about jobs, training, apprenticeships, college courses, voluntary work, leisure activities, finances, support and benefits available in Leeds. There was also information sessions about supported internships and financial support.  For more information about the 2024 event read the blog here: [SEND Next Choices: getting ready for adult life (wearechildfriendlyleeds.com)](https://wearechildfriendlyleeds.com/2024/07/15/send-next-choices-getting-ready-for-adult-life/) |
| **Little Owls Little London**  In February 2024, we successfully delivered a parent’s workshop - aimed at families who had received, or were awaiting - a diagnosis of autism for their child. The workshop was run in conjunction with STARS and focused on early communication skills, in particular the Intensive Interaction model. Targeted families from Little London, Quarry Mount and Burley Little Owls settings were invited and 12 parents joined the session.  Following the presentation, there was time for parents to meet a member of the STARS team and also chat to other parents if they wished. This was a huge success - parents fed back that they’d found the presentation very helpful and also really valued being able to meet and speak to other families facing similar challenges. This was particularly heartwarming, since there were a variety of families from differing backgrounds – yet all found support from each other by being able to meet and freely discuss the daily challenges they face.  Following the communication workshop and in response to feedback received, in May 2024 we ran a second workshop. This was in conjunction with Scope and focussed on sleep for children with/ awaiting an autism diagnosis. Many of the parents at the first workshop had voiced that their child faced huge challenges with falling/ remaining asleep – so Scope were able to deliver a workshop focussed on sensory needs and sleep patterns, again with opportunities for discussion at the end. This was equally successful and families fed back that they had learned lots of new ideas to try at home. Several have given further feedback that the new strategies have been very successful and the whole family is benefitting from better sleep. If there are other settings who identify this need in their community, Scope advised that they are happy to run similar workshops in other areas of the city, providing a minimum of 8 families confirm attendance. |
| **Events and groups for families** |
| **STARS Training**  The STARS workshops aim to provide information for parents to support their autistic child at home. Professionals should access these sessions and then use the slides and resources to deliver the training to their setting’s parents.  Training sessions will be delivered online via Microsoft Teams. See Course information below  **A Celebratory introduction to Neurodiversity in the Early Years**  6th September 2024, 9.45am till 11.15am  A celebratory approach to supporting autistic children in the early years. Celebrating and accepting neurodivergent and autistic differences, using strengths to support learning and embedding positive language and attitudes within the early years  **Emotional Well-being**  4th October 2024, 9.45am till 11.15am  This session will explore why autistic children and young people are at greater risk of poor mental health. We will discuss how we can work with children and young people to explore the causes of poor mental health, overcome barriers to wellbeing, and support the development of coping mechanisms.  **Sensory Support in the Home**  8th November 2024, 9.45am till 11:15am  This session will give a brief introduction to sensory processing and regulation, exploring its importance in supporting the wellbeing of autistic children and young people. The session will also offer advice around sensory support strategies that can be implemented in the home.  **Identity and Diagnosis**  7th December 2024, 9.45 till 11.15am  The focus of this session is to discuss ways parents and carers can support their child/young person to understand and embrace their autism as part of who they are. This session will include: 1) The advantages of the child or young person knowing that they are autistic. 2) Approaches and resources that parents can care givers can utilise to assist their child/young person in understanding what autism means to them. |
| **Garforth Children’s Centre SEND Support Group**  Garforth Children’s Centre are starting up a SEND support group for parents and carers “You’ve Got this”.  The session runs once a month at the Garforth base and is for children and their families who are SEN or possible SEN ( going through diagnosis or not) and offers peer support, information, updates on services and a link of ideas what to do next and support available.  There are activities for both the children and parents, and we work in partnership with the cluster team, the third sector and volunteers.  Garforth Children`s Centre, Conisborough Lane, LS25 2LR.   * Wednesday 4th September, 1 till 2.30pm * Wednesday 2nd October, 1 till 2.30pm * Wednesday 6th November, 1 till 2.30pm * Wednesday 4th December, 1 till 2.30pm     For more information contact Scarlett Elliott by email at [elliotts@Garforthacademy.org.uk](mailto:elliotts@Garforthacademy.org.uk) or by phone on 07931692103. |
| **The SNAPS superhero challenge 2024**  There is still time to register for the SNAPS Superhero Challenge! Join us for this an inclusive ‘fun run’ style event which gives children with additional needs the chance to feel like a superhero for the day. All ages and abilities welcome.    The event is a fun-filled morning for the whole family:   * **Date:** Sunday 8th September 2023, 10.30am – 12.30pm * **Cost:**£5 per child, adults go free * **Venue:** John Charles Centre for Sport, Middleton Grove, Belle Isle, Leeds LS11 5DJ * **For more information and tickets visit:**  [The SNAPS Superhero Challenge 2024 | SNAPS Yorkshire (enthuse.com)](https://register.enthuse.com/ps/event/TheSNAPSSuperheroChallenge2024)     Please contact [fundraising@snapsyorkshire.org](mailto:fundraising@snapsyorkshire.org) if you would like some flyers for the event as we will gladly send you some to hand out to service users, or an electronic version for advertising via email/intranets.    A fantastic morning for all the family:   * Giant bouncy castle & inflatables * Meet Super Girl, Super Mario & other superheroes * Face painting * Pet the resident SNAPS therapy animals * Arts & crafts * Pre-event warm up * Inclusive sport sessions * Games * and more!!   Each child will receive asuperhero cape to wear on the day, goody bag and medal.    Every child will decide on their own distance target for the event. They may choose to go halfway round, the full way round or keep going many times. They can walk, run or wheel\* around the track being cheered on to the finish line where they will receive their own challenge medal!    *\*only applies to accessibility aids such as wheelchairs, walkers, pushchairs.* |
| **Voice and influence opportunities** *opportunities for young people, parents and carers to have their voices heard.* |
| **Leeds Parent Carer Forum**  Do you run a support group for Parents/carer in Leeds?  If so, please get in touch with the Leeds Parent Carer Forum as we'd like to invite you to our termly Round Table event.  The round table events are an opportunity for representatives from parent carer support groups in Leeds to share their parents' voices with us.  The round table events will be online and will take place on:   * Thursday 12th September 2024 at 10am * Thursday 9th January 2025 at 10am * Thursday 27th March 2025 at 10am * Thursday 26th June 20235 at 10am   Send us an email/message on Facebook if you’d like to attend.  [info@leedsparentcarerforum.co.uk](mailto:info@leedsparentcarerforum.co.uk)  Facebook.com/Leedspcf |
| **Leeds SENDIASS Neurodiverse focus group**  If you are you a parent or carer of a Neurodiverse child or young person, you can join our Leeds SENDIASS Neurodiversity Focus Group to share your views!  We are looking for parents and carers who are interested in joining our Neurodiversity Focus Group, the group aims to share the voices, views and experiences of parents and carers on a range of neurodiversity themed topics including experiences of services. The group currently meet online three times a year.  If you are interested in taking part in the next session and joining the group, please register your interest by emailing [leedssendiass@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:leedssendiass@leeds.gov.uk) and write "FAO Allison" in the subject heading. |
| **Transitioning Resource Year 6 to 7**  On behalf of West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership, Allstars are developing a 6 episode series surrounding the topic of Transitioning, aimed at young people with autism and/or ADHD, the resource series offers a genuine insight into transitioning, offering peer support and advice, produced in an interactive way that young people can relate to, in hope to relieve stress, anxiety and better prepare young people at one of the most important milestones of their academic life.  As well as tips and advice, the series features interviews with young people and their peers, interviews with clinical and educational leads who work with transitioning ages in school and community settings, topics and themes explored such as reasonable adjustments, worrier, concerns, challenges, and ways to cope with any problem that may occur whilst transitioning and into that year.  Allstars are looking for year 6, 7 and 8 pupils and parents and carers to take part in a series of short interviews about transitioning from year 6 to year 7.  For more information contact michael@allstars.co.uk |
| **Professionals** resources, opportunities, and events. |
| **Voice and influence six monthly report**  The Voice, Influence and Change Team at Leeds City Council collate and produce six monthly SEND voice and influence of children and young people with SEND and their parents and carers reports.  The purpose of the report is to:   * 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.   The October 2023 to March 2024 SEND voice and influence report can be downloaded here: <https://www.leedslocaloffer.org.uk/information-professionals/voice-and-influence> |
| **Inclusive recruitment guide with input from Go Higher West Yorkshire (GHWY)**  Go Higher West Yorkshire (GHWY) are a partnership of 13 Higher Education (HE) providers in West Yorkshire that work collaboratively with a focus on under-represented groups, which includes disabled students.  GHWY have partnered with Yorkshire Universities (YU) on the [YU Inclusive Recruitment guide for 2024](https://yorkshireuniversities.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/137/2024/07/YU_Inclusive-Recruitment-Guide_2024_eVersion.pdf), with GHWY input on an under-represented groups section. GHWY also produced an [introductory video for this section](https://public.3.basecamp.com/p/TxJ57ccC5Pocrz4ELaDScM9u) of the guide.  The aim of the guide is to help employers recruit a more diverse workforce. As well as generic tips for under-represented groups, there are specific pages on reasonable adjustments for employees and hidden disabilities. We would be grateful if you could share this with your contacts and welcome any feedback on the video itself. |
| **My Health, My School SEND survey review**  A review of the My Health, My School SEND survey question set was completed over the summer in preparation for the new academic year 2024-25. Consultation took place with teaching colleagues at all of the Specialist Inclusive Learning Centres (SILCs) as well as relevant Leeds City Council services including the Leeds Safeguarding Children’s Partnership.  The My Health, My School Survey is a pupil perception and health behaviour survey that has been running in Leeds over 17 years. The survey poses a range of questions on topics including Healthy eating, Physical activity, Drugs, alcohol and tobacco, Gambling, Social, Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH), Play, Sexual Health (secondary and post 16 only) and My School/ College. The survey is available for children and young people in mainstream school in years 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12 and 13 with a dedicated tailored version available to capture the views and behaviours of pupils with special educational needs (SEND) in order to gain a large and valid sample of the voice of Leeds’ children and young people.  To find more out about the My Health, My School survey go to <https://www.myhealthmyschoolsurvey.org.uk/> |
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