

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

**April to September 2024**

**Top issues raised by children and young people**

**Wish 1: Mental Health support**

* Accessible and inclusive mental health information (SEND Youth Council)
* Mental health support for 18- to 25-year-olds (SEND Youth Council)

**Wish 3: Voice and Influence**

* It is important to provide updates on decisions, so children know what is going on (Green Meadows Academy)

**Wish 6: Travel**

* Feeling safe, being on time and travelling with people they know and trust were really important (SEND Post 16 transport assistance consultation)

**Wish 10: Learning settings that meet need**

* Children and young people need to have a positive relationship with professionals they are working with (North East Primary AIP)

**Wish 12: Raising awareness of disabilities**

* Raising awareness of disabilities (Horsforth School)

**Top issues raised by parents and carers**

* Education Other Than at School (Leeds Parent Carer Forum)
* Education, Health and Care Plans (Leeds Parent Carer Forum)
* Extended school non-attendance (Leeds Parent Carer Forum)
* Home to school SEND transport (Leeds Parent Carer Forum)
* Hydrotherapy (Leeds Parent Carer Forum)
* Information about SEND services (Leeds Parent Carer Forum)
* Mental health support (Leeds Parent Carer Forum)
* Professionals’ knowledge of SEND (Leeds Parent Carer Forum)
* Sleep and melatonin support (Leeds Parent Carer Forum)
* Social care transitions (Leeds Parent Carer Forum)
* Support for adoptive parents (Leeds Parent Carer Forum)
* Terminology used by professionals (Leeds Parent Carer Forum)
* Waiting lists for diagnosis and support (Leeds Parent Carer Forum)
* There is no clear pathway of support when SEND children display violent distressed behaviour (Lotus Links parent support group)
* Lack of early intervention is leading to extreme trauma and distress, for both parent/carers and children and young people. Distressed behaviour is still stigmatised and largely misunderstood (Lotus Links parent support group)

**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 Parent Carer Forum](#_Leeds_Parent_Carer)
* [SEND and Alternative Provision Partnership](#_SEND_and_AP)
* [Health](#_Health)
* [Lotus Links Peer Support](#_Lotus_Links_Peer)
* [Leeds City Council public consultations](#_Leeds_City_Council)
* [Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership](#_Leeds_Safeguarding_Children’s)

Voice and influence of children and young people

* [Voice, Influence and Change Team](#_Leeds_SEND_Youth)
* [Public Health](#_Public_Health,_Leeds)
* [Adults and Health](#_Adults_and_Health)
* [Learning provisions](#_Learning_provisions)
* [Children’s Commissioning, Leeds City Council](#_Children’s_Commissioning,_Leeds)

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

* [Children and Families Transformation Team](#_Children_and_Families)

**Voice and influence of parents and carers**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Leeds Parent Carer Forum** | | | | |
| **Opening**  *Who consulted with* | **Opportunity**  *The way you consulted and what about* | **Obligation**  *Statutory / CFL Wish* | **Outcome** | **Ownership**  *Service / Partnership* |
| 406 parents and carers | 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/issues-tracker).  The top issues raised and shared with the Leeds Area SEND and AP Partnership Board are:   * SEND transport (home to school) * Social care transitions. * Support for adoptive parents. * 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. * Terminology used by professionals. * Information about SEND services. * Mental health support. | Voice and Influence Transparency Working Group which feeds into the Leeds Area SEND and AP Partnership Board. |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SEND and Alternative Provision Partnership** | | | | |
| **Opening**  *Who consulted with* | **Opportunity**  *The way you consulted and what about* | **Obligation**  *Statutory / CFL Wish* | **Outcome** | **Ownership**  *Service / Partnership* |
| **Leeds SEND Event**  55 parents and carers  9th July 2024 | The event was an opportunity for us, the Leeds Area SEND Partnership, to share back with parents and carers what they have heard from families, and what their future plans are.  The aims of the event were:   * To feedback to families what the Local Authority and Health know based on data and previous consultations. * To look at what the data is saying. * To outline plans moving forward. * To consult with families to ensure they have all the information you want us to know. | All CFL wishes  SEND Code of practice | All information and feedback gathered at the event via the tabletop discussions has been fed into the self-evaluation framework and used when developing SEND services in Leeds.  The 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.  A page on the [Leeds Local Offer website](https://www.leedslocaloffer.org.uk/education/send-and-inclusion-transformation) has been developed to share information on changes and developments. | SEND and AP Partnership |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Health** | | | | |
| **Opening**  *Who consulted with* | **Opportunity**  *The way you consulted and what about* | **Obligation**  *Statutory / CFL Wish* | **Outcome** | **Ownership**  *Service / Partnership* |
| **Issues raised by parents and carers**  Leeds Parent Carer Forum  Monthly meeting | The Designated Clinical Officer meets with the Leeds Parent Carer Forum once a month to discuss the issues and challenges families are facing with health services in Leeds.  Issue raised:   * Sleep clinics and support. | SEND Code of Practice | A list of sleep support has been shared with families and added to the [Leeds Local Offer website](https://www.leedslocaloffer.org.uk/advice-and-support/organisations-providing-support/sleep-support).  The following offer support for families around sleep difficulties for their children:   * Sleep Charity * MindMate ND information hub * Cerebra Sleep Advice Service * NHS Sleep * Sunshine Support | Designated Clinical Officer, Integrated Care Board |
| **Issues raised by parents and carers**  Leeds Parent Carer Forum  Monthly meeting | The Designated Clinical Officer meets with the Leeds Parent Carer Forum once a month to discuss the issues and challenges families are facing with health services in Leeds.  Issue raised:   * Waiting lists for ADHD and Autism assessments. | SEND Code of Practice | A position statement on current waiting times, referral routes and right to choose has been added to the [Neurodiversity Hub](https://mindmate.org.uk/nd/neurodevelopmental-assessment-in-leeds/) website. | Designated Clinical Officer, Integrated Care Board |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Lotus Links Peer Support** | | | | |
| **Opening**  *Who consulted with* | **Opportunity**  *The way you consulted and what about* | **Obligation**  *Statutory / CFL Wish* | **Outcome** | **Ownership**  *Service / Partnership* |
| 21 parents and carers | Lotus Links peer support provides emotional support for parents and carers of SEND children experiencing violent distressed behaviour.  Members feedback weekly in the peer to peer support sessions and also via the WhatsApp group. | All CFL wishes. | The issues raised by families are:   * There is no clear pathway of support when SEND children display violent distressed behaviour. * Lack of early intervention is leading to extreme trauma and distress, for both parent/carers and children and young people. Distressed behaviour is still stigmatised and largely misunderstood. | Lotus Links peer support group. |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Leeds City Council public consultations** | | | | |
| **Opening**  *Who consulted with* | **Opportunity**  *The way you consulted and what about* | **Obligation**  *Statutory / CFL Wish* | **Outcome** | **Ownership**  *Service / Partnership* |
| **Expansion of Broomfield South SILC**  95 parents and carers  July 2024 | Public consultation survey on proposals to expand Broomfield South SILC by 100 places, as part of a school rebuild, and the establishment of a permanent satellite site for post-16 provision.  Leeds City Council consulted on two proposals relating to the Broomfield South Special Inclusion Learning Centre (SILC).   1. To expand the school's capacity by up to an additional 100 places for learners aged 2 –16 years as part of a proposed rebuild to the school. 2. To establish a permanent satellite site of Broomfield South SILC for post-16 learners at the Arlington Business Centre, White Rose Park, LS11.   The proposed opening date for the rebuild of the main site and the additional places (Proposal 1) is September 2027.  The permanent satellite site at the Arlington Business Centre (Proposal 2) would be from September 2025. | Wish 10  SEND Code of Practice | Following consultation, the Executive Board of Leeds City Council has approved the publication of a statutory notice in relation to the proposals.  More information, and the full statutory notice can be [found here](https://www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/planning-school-places/broomfield-south-silc). | Leeds City Council |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Leeds Safeguarding Children’s Partnership** | | | | |
| **Opening**  *Who consulted with* | **Opportunity**  *The way you consulted and what about* | **Obligation**  *Statutory / CFL Wish* | **Outcome** | **Ownership**  *Service / Partnership* |
| **Online safety campaign**  The Leeds Parent Carer Forum representatives  August / September 2024 | Talking to young people about what they do online is just as important as asking them where they go when they go out with friends.  It can be difficult to start the conversation with a young person about their online activities. Technology keeps changing and you might struggle to keep up with it all. But you don't need to. You just need to take an interest and ask questions about the games and apps they are using.  The Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership sought feedback on a leaflet designed for parents as part of our online safety campaign, which encourages open conversations between parents and children about online activities. | Wish 9 | Feedback received from the Leeds Parent Carer influenced the final leaflet which is being used as part on the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership online safety campaign. | Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership |

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

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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* |
| **Leeds SEND Youth Council**  There are 11 members of the SEND Youth Council, who are aged 11 to 25 years old. | The SEND Youth Council meet monthly to work on campaigns and take part in consultations to improve SEND services in Leeds.  The SEND Youth Council have used data from Make Your Mark, My Health My School survey and previous consultations to choose their next campaign. | Wish 1 | The SEND Youth Council have chosen Mental Health support as their campaign.  The areas of focus for the SEND Youth Council will be:   * Accessible and inclusive mental health information. * Mental health support for 18- to 25-year-olds. | Voice, Influence and Change Team |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Public Health, Leeds City Council** | | | | |
| **Opening**  *Who consulted with* | **Opportunity**  *The way you consulted and what about* | **Obligation**  *Statutory / CFL Wish* | **Outcome** | **Ownership**  *Service / Partnership* |
| **Health needs assessment**  6 young people  23rd May 2024 | The SEND youth council took part in a focussed engagement session to inform the development of a health needs assessment focused on the health and wellbeing of children and young people in Leeds.    The engagement finding made up part of a larger report which highlighted successes, issues and challenges regarding the health and wellbeing of children and young people. | Wish 1, 2, 9 & 12 | The wider health needs assessment consultation is being finalised and will be used to support decision makers to further understand the health needs of young people and identify future priority areas for focus to positively impact the health and wellbeing of young people. | Children and families public health team. |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Adults and Health** | | | | |
| **Opening**  *Who consulted with* | **Opportunity**  *The way you consulted and what about* | **Obligation**  *Statutory / CFL Wish* | **Outcome** | **Ownership**  *Service / Partnership* |
| **Leeds 3 in 1**  Hundreds of young people were consulted on the Leeds 3 in 1 service refresh.  April 2024 | Leeds City Council partnered with youth marketing agency, Nerds, to refresh their 3 in 1 sexual health services in the city.  Consultation on the new name, logo design and branding took place via intensive one to ones, group consultations and online service. | Wish 9 | Following the consultation, the new name for the service is “Well Wave” which was launched on 9th September 2024.  A marketing agency was employed that was specialist in communicating with young people in the spaces they are at, to help us have the best chance to meet young people in the digital spaces they go to. A digital and physical poster campaign is being developed, and briefings are being held adults who work with young people to raise their awareness too.  Social media accounts were launched in September and a content developed to help people connect with and understand the service.  New materials have been developed that clearly explain not just the service offer, but what happens when people access the service and how people can ask confidence building or stress reducing questions or share access needs in advance.  The registration process for the c-card is being reviewed and made easier for workers and young people, and the option of developing a digital c-card is being explored. | Adults and Health, Leeds City Council |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Learning provisions** | | | | |
| **Opening**  *Who consulted with* | **Opportunity**  *The way you consulted and what about* | **Obligation**  *Statutory / CFL Wish* | **Outcome** | **Ownership**  *Service / Partnership* |
| **Nort East Primary AIP**  6 students  July 2024 | Children took part in The Tree of Life activity.    The areas covered were:   * Roots – School likes and dislikes * Ground – What’s important to me * Trunk – Strengths and likes * Branches – Hopes and Goals * Leaves – Important people in their lives.   The children were asked a serious of questions for each area, and their responses were then transferred to the tree design.  Once completed and displayed, anonymously, the children were very curious as to what they showed and were able to identify their own tree.  It was interesting to see where the children saw themselves now and within the future.  This activity opened the opportunities for discussion and talk around them and their feelings. | All CFL wishes | The activity has given the children a clearer understanding of themselves and their needs and has given staff a more detailed knowledge of the needs of the individual and what areas of support are required. It has helped to develop and concrete the secure and safe relationships that the children have with the adults involved in the activity.  **Key message for decision makers**  The activity needs to be completed with adults that the children have a positive relationship with and done within a space where they feel safe and secure. | North East Primary AIP |
| **Green Meadows Academy**  6 to 15 students | The school council meets every half term. The staff at Green Meadows work with the student council to agree what the school would like to focus on within the school and support them to develop campaigns. | Wish 3, 4, 5, 9 & 10 | Students have led assemblies to raise awareness of their culture and communities. The assemblies have given students a greater understanding of everyone’s differences and have given them a sense of belonging.  Students have created a poly tunnel and planted vegetables. The poly tunnel has given students a sense of achievement, and understanding of where food comes from.  During Autism Awareness month students led assemblies about autism and what it means to them. Students have a raised awareness of autism.  **Key message for decision makers**  It is important to provide updates on decisions, so children know what is going on. | Green Meadows Academy |
| **Horsforth School**  20 students | Students took part in the Raising Awareness of Disabilities artwork project, A partnership with Child Friendly Leeds, Leeds Youth Voice, Town Centre Securities and students with SEND to promote and raise awareness of disabilities.  Students took part in an artwork session that facilitated conversations between the students about their different needs, how they present and what some of their frustrations are about the lack of  awareness for SEND in schools and wider society. It provided the students with a safe space to discuss these feelings with other students who may have had similar  experiences and share coping strategies. | Wish 3 & 12 | The students got to see their artwork included in the campaign exhibition. Their work has been on display in the Merrion centre and has formed part of a larger piece of artwork.  Horsforth School have also integrated some of these designs into our own SEND information posters to be displayed around school, to help raise awareness and understanding.  More information about the project can be [found here.](https://wearechildfriendlyleeds.com/raising-awareness-of-disabilities/) | Child Friendly Leeds and the Voice, Influence and Change Team |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Children’s Commissioning, Leeds City Council** | | | | |
| **Opening**  *Who consulted with* | **Opening**  *Who consulted with* | **Opening**  *Who consulted with* | **Opening**  *Who consulted with* | **Opening**  *Who consulted with* |
| **Short Breaks Tender**  8 young people  5th September 2024 | Targeted short breaks providers submitted applications to receive grant funding from Leeds City Council to provide short breaks and fun activities for children and young people with SEND in Leeds.  Members of the SEND Youth Council formed the young people’s panel. The panel focussed on the providers response to how they would know what young people like to do and if they are having fun. | Wish 3, 2 & 12 | Grants were allocated all applicants and secured a good range of activities throughout the city (weekends, holidays, and after school).  The score of young people’s panel was essential in determining which activities needed consideration for full funds and which needed a reduction (in hours or sessions) in order to fit within budget. | Children’s Commissioning |

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

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Children and Families Transformation Team** | | | | |
| **Opening**  *Who consulted with* | **Opportunity**  *The way you consulted and what about* | **Obligation**  *Statutory / CFL Wish* | **Outcome** | **Ownership**  *Service / Partnership* |
| **Post 16 travel assistance for young people with SEND**  35 young people  306 parents and carers  24th June 2024 to 23rd July 2024 | Leeds City Council proposed to make changes to the policy we have which provides transport to students over 16, and to young people aged between 19-25 with special educational needs and disabilities.  Before any changes were agreed, Leeds City council consulted with anyone affected to better understand the impact of the proposals.  Specialist provisions were asked to undertake a consultation with students within their school to gather their feedback on transport.  Parent and carers were given the opportunity to share their feedback and give their views via an online survey and online engagement sessions. | Wish 3 & 6  SEND code of practice | Feedback used to shape decision making and recommendation in the exec board reports.  [Council and democracy (leeds.gov.uk)](https://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=102&MId=12534&Ver=4)  **Key messages for decision makers**  Key feedback around the CYP's views on transport, what they liked and disliked etc.    Feeling safe, being on time and travelling with people they know and trust were really important.    Pressure to be on time is something they dislike. | Children and Families Transformation Team on behalf of Children’s Transport. |