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| **Leeds Local Offer (SEND) Ebulletin – December 2024** |
| Leeds SEND Local Offer logo  Welcome to the December 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.   * [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). |
| **Service updates / information** |
| **Cerebral Palsy specialist (Scope)**  Lucy is Scope’s new Cerebral Palsy Specialist for Leeds and the North Region. Within her role she supports people with cerebral palsy and their families. She can help with queries, information, and guidance.  In 2025, Scope will be hosting a drop-in at their new Leeds Hub where you can meet Lucy and suggest what you want from this new service.  For further information email Lucy at [lucy.hindmarch@scope.org.uk](mailto:lucy.hindmarch@scope.org.uk) |
| **Leeds MindMate Neurodiversity information hub**  DID YOU KNOW? The ND hub is being updated all the time - this is for families with children and young people who don’t have a diagnosis (as well as those who do).  There is extensive new content on the [range of characteristics](https://mindmate.org.uk/neurodiversity-information-hub/neurodiversity-characteristics/) that ND individuals may experience differences, strengths and challenges in.    They have also updated and added to the content on [autism](https://mindmate.org.uk/nd/what-is-nd/autism/).  Want to have your say and help shape the hub? MindMate want to hear from you whether you’re a parent, young person or professional in Leeds.  Please contact [liz.neill@commonroom.uk.com](mailto:liz.neill@commonroom.uk.com) to find out how or what’s app Liz 07496 494679 |
| **Events and groups for families** |
| **Disability Sport**  Leeds Let’s Get Active supports people to become active through the provision of leisure centre and community sports and activities within a supportive and welcoming environment.  Active Leeds run a disability and inclusive sports programme across Leeds City Council Leisure Centres.  This includes children, young people and adults with any disability, and all ability levels.  For more information about the Disability Sports programme visit <https://active.leeds.gov.uk/classesandactivities/sports/disability-sport> |
| **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  **Visual Supports in the home early years**  10th January 2025, 9.45 till 11.15am  An introduction to using visual strategies in the home when supporting children to understand home routines and verbal instructions, providing strategies for independence. This session has an Early Years focus but many of the strategies discussed can be developed to support older children.  **Keeping autistic children and young people safe online**  10th January 2025, 9.45 till 11.15am  During this workshop we will explore the importance of different types of online media to autistic identity and wellbeing. We will discuss how much online media is too much and how to establish appropriate limits. We will explore risks and protective measures in relation to online content.  **Visual supports secondary and post 16**  7th February 2025, 9.45 till 11.15am  This session will focus on the importance of the use of visuals to support learning, personal and social development and to promote independence. The session aims to explore a range of strategies, resources and technology to implement the use of visuals, drawing on case studies and feedback from young people.  **Key life transitions**  7th March 2025, 9.45 till 11.15am  This session will explore the ‘life journey’ of our autistic and ND young people as they start and finish education. We will explore how they navigate the early years, through to Primary and Secondary /Post 16 and the transition to adulthood and how to support them at each stage. We will discuss approaches and strategies and share examples of good practice using the ‘3 areas of difference’ in autism as a framework.  **Book your place by emailing** [**starsteam@leeds.gov.uk**](mailto:starsteam@leeds.gov.uk) **with your name, emailing and details of the training you would like to attend.** |
| **Voice and influence opportunities** *opportunities for young people, parents and carers to have their voices heard.* |
| **Leeds Parent Carer Forum (update)**  The [Leeds Parent Carer Forum](https://www.leedsparentcarerforum.co.uk/) and Health colleagues meet on a monthly basis to feedback parental voice and views. As part of these sessions we have themed updates where services from across Health are highlighted and discussed. More recently we have had updates regarding the following services. If these could be helpful to the families you are working with, please pass this information on or reach out directly to the service provider.    [Occupational Therapy](https://www.leedscommunityhealthcare.nhs.uk/our-services-a-z/occupational-therapy-ican/)  [Community Nursing Team](https://www.leedscommunityhealthcare.nhs.uk/our-services-a-z/nursing-ican/childrens-community-nursing-team-ican/)  [Hannah House (Respite)](https://www.leedscommunityhealthcare.nhs.uk/our-services-a-z/nursing-ican/hannah-house-ican/)  [Autism and learning disability - Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust](https://www.leedsth.nhs.uk/services/autism-and-learning-disability/)  [Complications of Excess Weight (CEW) - Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust](https://www.leedsth.nhs.uk/services/complications-of-excess-weight-cew/) |
| **Call out for families to mystery shop Leeds City Museum**  Leeds City Museum is one of the eight Leeds Museums & Galleries sites. It is in Millenium Square in Leeds City Centre.  There are four galleries in Leeds City Museum.  The Life on Earth Gallery tells the story of all living things on earth based on animals and fossils owned by Leeds Collectors. The Leeds Story Gallery tells of the history of Leeds: from the Vikings to present day.  Our Ancient Worlds Gallery explores the beliefs and everyday lives of Ancient Greeks, Romans and Egyptians. This gallery features the remains of a mummified Ancient Egyptian priest, Nesyamun.  There a further two smaller galleries, Voices of Asia and Collectors Cabinet can be found on the first floor as well as three events spaces: the Brodrick Hall, the Thoresby Room and the Denny Room.  Leeds City Museum are inviting families of children with additional needs to the museum this festive season (although you are always welcome!) to give them feedback on the accessibility of their displays and spaces.  The following survey will take 5-10 minutes to complete and can be done during or after their visit.  <https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/LeedsCityMuseum/>  They aim to act on the feedback and make Leeds City Museum a space that is truly for everyone. |
| **Professionals** resources, opportunities, and events. |
| **Launch of the new online Education, Health and Care needs assessment professional referral form**  We are excited to announce the launch of a new online Education, Health and Care needs assessment (EHCNA) form for professionals, as part of our ongoing [SEND and inclusion transformation programme](https://www.leedsforlearning.co.uk/Page/37817).  Professionals can access the new EHCNA online form via the [SENSAP resource page](https://www.leedsforlearning.co.uk/sensapresources) or our main [Leeds City Council website](https://www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/support-for-pupils-with-send/support-with-learning/education-health-and-care-needs-assessments-and-plans).  Guidance on how to use the form can be [found here](https://www.leedsforlearning.co.uk/Article/165800). |
| **Leeds Local Offer Live**  We are excited to announce that on **Wednesday 26 March 2025 we will be hosting Leeds Local Offer Live 10am till 3pm at Pudsey Civic Hall.**  The event will be a marketplace style event for families with a child with special educational needs and/or disabilities to come and find out about SEND services and support available to them within the city. Information about previous Leeds Local Offer Live events can be [found here](https://www.leedslocaloffer.org.uk/advice-and-support/about-leeds-local-offer).  We have the space for 55 service stalls on the day, this includes a table and two chairs. If you would like to request a stall at the event, please complete a short booking form here: <https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/LLOLiveServices/>  We will confirm service stalls w/c 18th November 2024.  For further information email [LLO@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:LLO@leeds.gov.uk) |
| **SEND voice and influence six monthly report (April to Sept 2024)**  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 April to September 2024 report can be[**downloaded here.**](https://www.leedslocaloffer.org.uk/information-professionals/voice-and-influence) |
| **Youth voice spotlights**  The Voice, Influence and Change Team work in partnership with staff from schools across Leeds to provide opportunities for students with special educational needs and/or disabilities to have a voice and influence within the city.  The youth voice spotlights are an opportunity to share good practice youth voice in our learning settings.  [Click here](https://www.leedslocaloffer.org.uk/have-your-say/voice-and-influence-schools) to read our youth voice spotlights for Green Meadows Academy, North East Primary AIP and West AIP Secondary. |
| **DBS checking service (Home-Start)**  Home-Start Leeds is registered with the Disclosure & Barring Service to undertake DBS Checks including Enhanced.  We have a two-band charge:   * Staff £ 50.00 * Volunteers £11.00   If you have a large number of Staff or Volunteers who need processing, we maybe able to arrange a date to come out to your organisation.  For further information please email [office@home-startleeds.co.uk](mailto:office@home-startleeds.co.uk) or call 0113 244 2419 (Tuesday to Thursday, 9am to 3pm) and ask for Jacquie. |
| **Cerebral Palsy specialist (Scope)**  Lucy is Scope’s new Cerebral Palsy Specialist for Leeds and the North Region. Within her role she supports people with cerebral palsy and their families.  Lucy offers briefings and training sessions about cerebral palsy, either in person or virtually.  For more information contact Lucy at [lucy.hindmarch@scope.org.uk](mailto:lucy.hindmarch@scope.org.uk) |
| **Zoo Education Officer for Lotherton and Tropical World**  A group of 6 friendly and playful wallabies are now jumping around their new grounds at Lotherton Wildlife World! Wallabies are a type of marsupial and are often mistaken for kangaroos, yet kangaroos are much larger in size. Our female group have enjoyed nibbling the willow given to them by the animal keepers and even playing in the leaves! Why not come see them for yourself!  The Edwardian estate in rural East Leeds has so much to offer from Wildlife World, Lotherton Hall and much more.  We offer lots for schools including:   * FREE entry for Leeds Local Authority schools – just a small entry fee for Academies and non-Leeds Authority schools. * Workshops – a variety of science and animal-based workshops:   o   Adaptation investigators o   All about penguins o   Classification o   Habitats o   Living in the dark o   Rainforests o   Who eats who   * Guided zoo tours – learn about the animals we house and their favourite hiding spots!   For further information about booking a school visit to Lotherton Wildlife World and viewing our newest residents, please email lothertonlearning@leeds.gov.uk or visit <https://museumsandgalleries.leeds.gov.uk/lotherton/learn-at-lotherton/> |
| **Go Higher West Yorkshire’s e-Learning to understand and support disabled students**  Go Higher West Yorkshire (GHWY) has launched a free e-learning course that helps HE staff to understand and support disabled students.  The training, which takes about 45 minutes to complete, offers practical tips on how staff in any job role can support disabled students in HE. It also considers the challenges that individuals may face, including financial difficulties and accessibility issues.  The fully accessible course uses student voice throughout to illustrate many points. It also incorporates quizzes and scenarios to encourage active learning.  Topics covered in the course include understanding definitions of ‘disability’; transition from FE to HE as a disabled student; and the impact of disability on HE access and success.  [Access GHWY’s Understanding and Supporting Disabled Students e-learning.](https://gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/courses/e-learning-for-he-staff-to-understand-and-support-disabled-students/)  GHWY is a consortium of 13 HE providers across West Yorkshire that works to reduce inequalities in higher education access and success. [Find out more.](https://gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/) |
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