

SEND Youth Council

The Leeds SEND Youth Council is a group of fifteen young people aged 11 to 25 years old with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) who live in Leeds or attend school in Leeds.



The SEND Youth Council work on their own campaigns and are a group that can be consulted by services.



Achievements 2021 to 2025

Taken part in 6
commissioning &
recruitment panels

Worked on 6
campaigns

Taken part in 46
consultations

What young people say

"Being a member of the SEND Youth Council has given me the confidence to use my voice and speak out."

"Being part of the SEND Youth Council gives me the space to be my true self around people who don't judge me."

"The group has provided me with a sense of belonging, and through shared experiences I've gained the confidence to embrace my neurodiversity."



Raising awareness of disabilities

Partnership project between Child Friendly Leeds, Leeds Youth Voice and Town Centre Securities to raise awareness of disabilities working towards improving Child Friendly Leeds wish 12, making Leeds a more inclusive city.

50 young people in Leeds took part in sessions to design artwork to raise awareness of disabilities.

The artwork created by young people has been developed into 3 posters, which were launched in May 2024. 300 posters have been printed and distributed.

Information about the project can be [found here](#).

"I absolutely love the art work created during the raising awareness of disabilities campaign – so impactful and thought provoking."

"I have ADHD and the iceberg drawing has inspired me."



Disability Pride

Don't judge
me before you
know me



Disability Pride



Abilities
outweigh
disabilities



Walk in my
footsteps



Designed by the Leeds SEND Youth Council
for Disability Pride Month July 2025



My disability
does not make
me useless



To celebrate Disability Pride in the month of July 2025 the SEND Youth Council explored ideas of how they would like to raise awareness of disabilities.

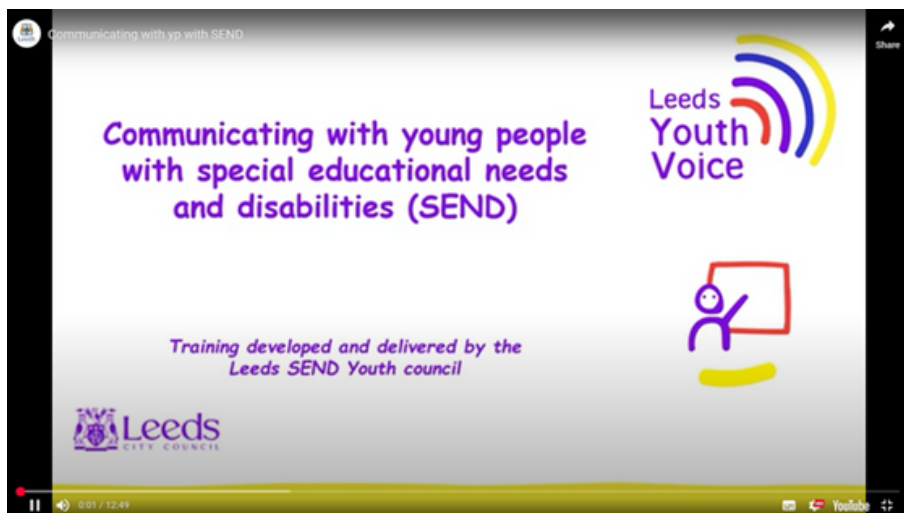
The group designed stickers to hand out at Breeze events over the summer, designed t-shirts and created a digital banner which was displayed during July in Kirkgate Market and Millenium Square.



Communicating with young people

The Leeds SEND Youth Council have developed an eLearning programme that focuses on communicating with young people with SEND. The eLearning will be shared across education, health and social care. The eLearning was launched August 2024.

The eLearning has been viewed 54 times.



Communicating with young people

The SEND Youth Council worked together to create a booklet of various journeys and challenges young people with SEND might face, and how professionals can support them.

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

[Click here to download the resource.](#)



Mental health support



The SEND Youth Council took part in a consultation to review the MindMate ND Hub. They have shared their feedback with the MindMate ambassador leading on the review.

Members gave their feedback on the new Z-Card before it is launched.

The SEND Youth Council have worked with MindMate to improve accessibility and usability of the MindMate website.



Leisure centre accessibility



Members of the SEND Youth Council took part in mystery shopping leisure centres that are managed by Leeds City Council.

Members gave feedback to decision makers about the accessibility and inclusivity of the leisure centres and activities.

What has happened...

- Reviewing active leeds website.
- Rolling out customer service training.
- Looking at making disability sessions bookable.
- Raising awareness of the sunflower lanyard in junior inductions and staff comms.
- Building accessible signage into refurbishments.

