

Parent Carer Support Group Network Event



Thursday 23rd October 2025
10 till 12.30
Pudsey Civic Hall, Stanningley, LS28 5TA



The Leeds Parent Carer Forum and Voice, Influence & Change Team at Leeds City Council host three parent carer support group network events a year (February, June & October).

The events are an opportunity to:

- Hear about the top issues raised by parents and carers in Leeds.
- Hear from services about their responses to the issues raised and next steps. he
- Network with other parent carer support groups.

The event

The parent carer support group network event took place on Thursday 23rd October 2025 at Pudsey Civic Hall. 19 parent cares booked to attend, with 3 attending on the day. There was representation from WYCANN, Refresh Carers and the Leeds Parent Carer Forum.

The event covered:

- An update on the work of the Leeds Parent Carer Forum.
- Family Hubs and SEND Coordinators.
- RADAR and Short Breaks.

Leeds Parent Carer Forum

The Leeds Parent Carer Forum are all local parents and carers whose children and young people have SEND.

By working in co-production they aim to make a positive difference so that services are better at meeting the needs of all local SEND families.

They listen to local families and work in partnership with the Local Authority (Education and Social Care) and health providers to champion children's needs and influence strategy, policy, pathways and practice. They highlight where local services are working well and constructively challenge when changes or improvements are needed to be made.

How your voice is shared

All issues shared with the Leeds Parent Carer Forum are added to the issues tracker which is shared with Local Authority (Education and Social Care) and Health (NHS and ICB) at various boards and meetings.

The issues raised also feed into the Self Evaluation Form (SEF) which is used by OFSTED to assess how well the LA understands areas for improvement and effectiveness.

Join the parent carer forum and give your views

<https://www.leedsparentcarerforum.co.uk/register-with-us/>



Family Hubs & SEND Coordinators

"Family hubs are a place-based way of joining up locally in the planning and delivery of family services. They bring services together to improve access, improve the connections between families, professionals, services, and providers, and put relationships at the heart of family support." DfE, 2022

Family Hub offer in Leeds:

- Direct work with families, using Early Help Plans.
- Working with our Early Help partners, including Children's Centres and Clusters.
- Workforce Development – Offering Support and Guidance.
- Signposting to other services.
- Community Development.
- Delivering Evidence Based Parenting Programmes.

Family Hub locations:

- Dewsbury Road Community Hub
- Rothwell Community Hub
- Seacroft Community Hub
- Compton Community Hub
- Chapeltown Children's Centre Family Hub
- Armley Community Hub
- Horsforth Community Hub

SEND Coordinators:

There is one SEND Coordinator in each hub, with over 30 years of combined experience in education, family support, and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), they have a deep understanding of the challenges families and professionals face.

Each hub offer SEND drop ins for families, to find out details of the drop in sessions families are asked to contact the individual hubs.

Central referral route:

- Family.hubs@leeds.gov.uk
- 0113 5350185

RADAR and Short Breaks

Overview of the CHAD team

Children's Health and Disability (CHAD) service is made up of 5 different teams:

- 3 CHAD social work teams linked to locality (ENE, WNW and South)
- Regional Specialist Team (RST)
- Occupational Therapy (OT)

Types of short breaks in Leeds

Universal

- Most children's needs are met by their family or universal services that are available to everyone, provided as a right to all children, young people and their families.
- This could be through after-school clubs, groups such as scouts/brownies, sports clubs etc
- Family arrange this independently, it does not need EH/Lead professional/SW

Targeted

Activities for children and young people who:

- need extra support to take part in activities
- attend education with access to 1:1 or small group learning
- would benefit from social activities with their peers
- These activities are staffed with a higher number of professionals who are trained and experienced in supporting children and young people with SEND.

Specialist

Specialist short breaks are designed for children and young people who:

- have more complex needs
- need highly specialist care that targeted support cannot provide
- have a care package that recommends specialist short breaks.

RADAR (Resource Allocation, Decision and Review)

Requests for specialist care packages must be based on an assessed social care need, evidenced in a CAFA or Early Help Plan.

Care packages are not a benefit/grant like DLA or child benefit, and are not means-tested.

Care packages are in place for the child, not the parent. They shouldn't simply be just for respite for the parents, they should be there to meet the child's social care need.

Packages should be focused on the child's social care needs which arise because of their disability, eg: social isolation, lack of independence, limited opportunities to engage with peers/spend time in their local community

Ideally, packages should be designed to provide regular short breaks for the disabled child over a prolonged period of time (e.g. 12 months), building consistency

Universal and targeted services should be fully explored first by family and lead professional before requesting a specialist package from RADAR.