

Parent Carer Event

Short Breaks & RADAR

Monday 22nd June 2026

9.45am	Registration
10am	Welcome
10.05am	Sharing your feedback via the LPCF Padlets
10.15am	Leeds Parent Carer Forum Annual Survey
10.45am	Break
11am	Short Breaks
11.30am	RADAR
12pm	Network
12.30pm	Close



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P A R E N T C A R E R F O R U M



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Some of the topics we talk about today may feel upsetting, particularly for parent carers with lived experience.

Please feel free to:

- step away at any point;
- take a break; and
- look after yourself in whatever way feels right for you.

If this session brings up difficult feelings and you need support, help is available in Leeds:

- NHS 111** – call 111 and choose the mental health option (24/7, local crisis support)
- BRIGHT text service** – text BRIGHT to 85258 (free, 24/7 mental health support by text)
- Dial House (Leeds)** – out-of-hours crisis support, including support for parents.
Call 0113 260 9328 or text 07922 249 452 from 6pm
- Samaritans** – call 116 123 (free, 24/7)
- Mindmate** – www.mindmate.org.uk

In an emergency, or if you're in immediate danger, call 999.
You're not alone, and it's okay to reach out.



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YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS!



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Why we are asking for your feedback?

At Leeds Parent Carer Forum (LPCF), we represent the voices of families of children and young people aged 0–25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

We work closely with:

- Leeds City Council
- Schools and education services
- Health services
- Social care teams

👉 Your experiences help us **challenge, influence and improve services**

We know things can be difficult right now, and many families are facing challenges. That's why it's so important that we hear from you - whether your experiences have been positive, negative, or mixed.



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We have started using 'Padlet' to gather feedback from families across Leeds. It has given parent carers a space to share their experiences honestly.

We have 3 feedback Padlets:



[What is working well](#)



[What is NOT working well](#)



[Suggestions- How could it be better](#)

All feedback collected through our Padlets is shared directly with the Leeds SEND & Alternative Provision (AP) Improvement Board.

This board has recently undergone a restructure and now has an independent chair who has committed to using this feedback to support improvement work across services.

After each meeting, we will receive a response from the board which will be published on our website.



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LPCF ANNUAL SURVEY 2026



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What this survey will be used for

Your responses will help us to:

- ✓ Identify what is working well
- ✓ Highlight where things need to improve
- ✓ Provide evidence directly to services and decision-makers
- ✓ Shape LPCF priorities for the year ahead
- ✓ Track changes over time through our annual surveys

👉 This means your feedback can directly influence real changes in Leeds.



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How long will it take?

- The survey takes around **20–30 minutes to complete**
- You can skip questions that aren't relevant to you
- You can complete it on your phone, tablet, or computer

Important! One child per survey

- To make sure we get the most accurate picture:
- 🙋 If you have more than one child or young person with SEND, please complete the survey separately for each child.



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Prize draw!

As a thank you:

👉 Two parent carers will be selected at random to receive a **£30 Amazon voucher**

- You can choose to enter at the end of the survey
- Providing your email for the prize draw is **optional**



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What the survey covers...

The survey is split into short sections. Here's what to expect:

About your child or young person

We ask a few basic questions to understand your situation, such as:

- Age and needs
- Education setting (including Alternative Provision where relevant)
- SEND support (for example Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP))

👉 This helps us understand patterns across different groups of families.

Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP)

If this applies to you, we will ask about:

Your experience of the EHCP process

How well the EHCP is working in practice

Whether support is being delivered

We also ask about **waiting for specialist placements**, which we know is a key issue.



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What the survey covers...

Services overview

We ask about your experience of services such as:

- ☐ Education
- ☐ Health
- ☐ Mental health
- ☐ Social care
- ☐ Early help and Family Hubs
- ☐ Short breaks
- ☐ Advice and support services

👉 This gives us a high-level picture of what families are accessing and how well services are working.

Health services – a key focus for 2026

This year, we are asking more detailed questions about health.

We work closely with NHS partners, and your feedback will directly shape these discussions.

🔍 Areas we will explore:

Access to services

How easy it is to understand and access health support
Any barriers or delays ...

What the survey covers...

Health services (cont...)

Neurodevelopmental support
(such as autism and Attention Deficit
Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD))

- ☐ Waiting for assessments
- ☐ Diagnosis
- ☐ Support after diagnosis

Mental health

We know mental health affects many
areas of family life.

We will ask about:

- Access to support
- Barriers
- Links to education (for example
anxiety or school avoidance)

👁️ Feeding and ARFID
(Avoidant/Restrictive Food Intake
Disorder)

Whether support is available
Gaps in services



Sleep

Whether your child has sleep
difficulties

What support is needed



Hospital care

Experiences in hospital

Whether reasonable adjustments
were made



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What the survey covers...

Anything we have missed?!

We include an open question so you can tell us about:

☐ Issues we may not already know about

☐ Gaps in support

👉 This is one of the most important parts of the survey.



Communication and information

We ask about:

☐ How well different services communicate with families

☐ Awareness of the Leeds Local Offer

Preparation for adulthood (14+)

For older young people, we ask about:

Planning for adult life

Information about employment, education, and independence

Short breaks

We ask about:

Access to short breaks

Whether provision meets your family's needs



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Why your response matters

Every response helps us to:

- ☐ Build a stronger, clearer picture of what families are experiencing
- ☐ Make sure services hear real voices, not just statistics
- 👉 The more families who take part, the stronger our collective voice.

Whether your experience has been:

- ☐ Challenging
- ☐ Positive
- ☐ Somewhere in between
- 👉 **Your voice matters.**



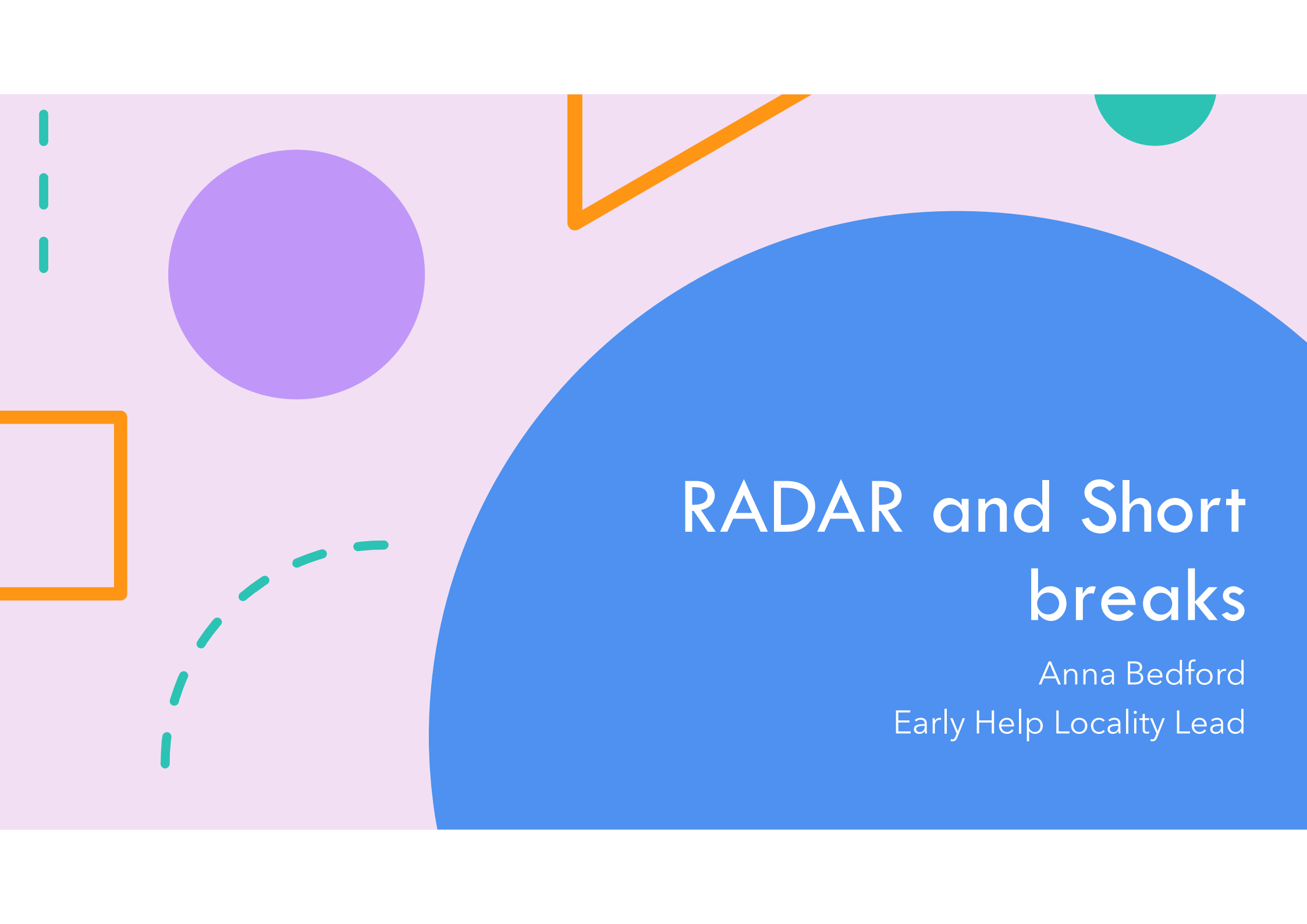
Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey and support our work.



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**Break
15 minutes**



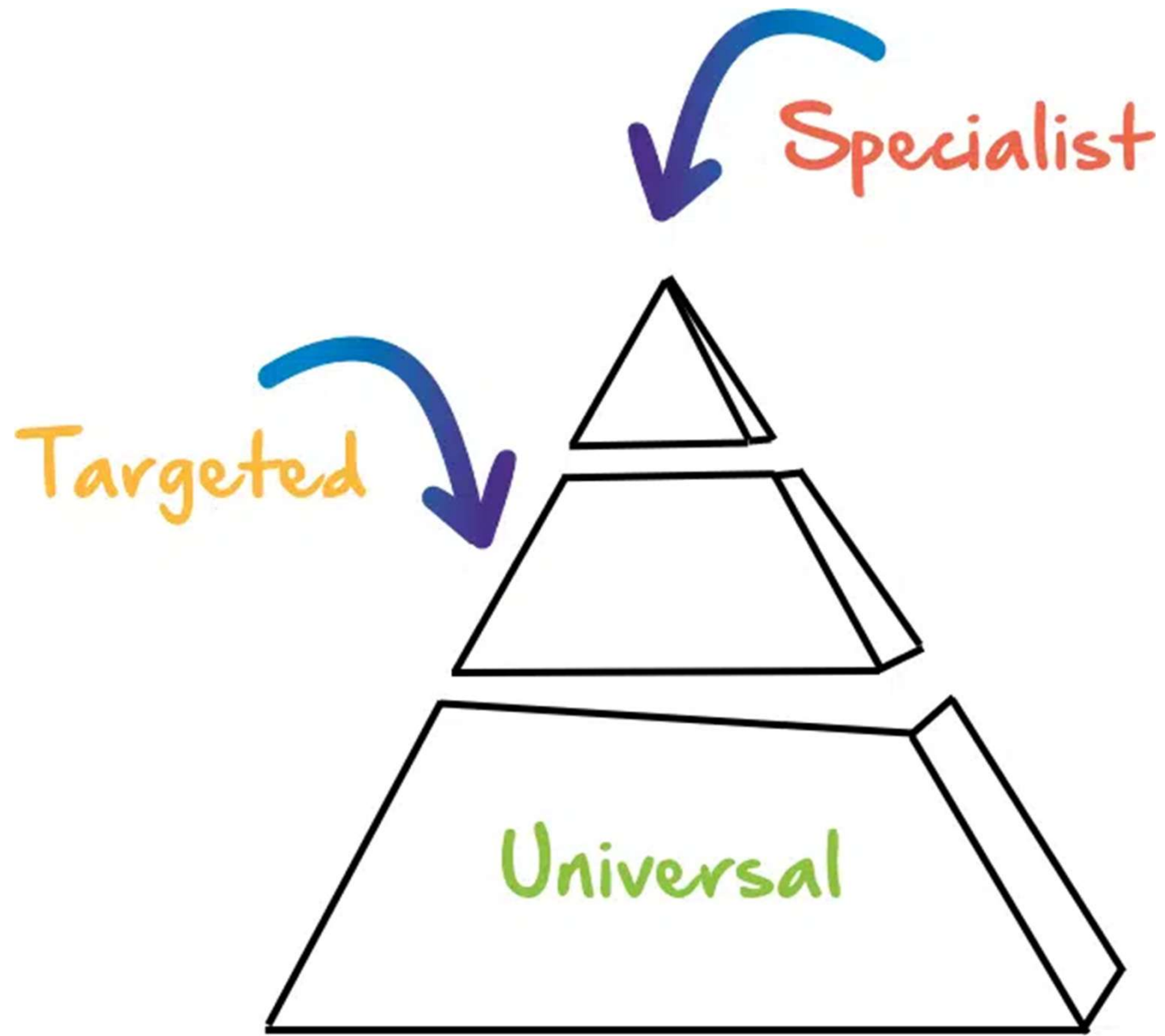
The background is a light purple color. On the right side, there is a large blue semi-circle. In the upper left, there is a solid purple circle. To the left of the blue semi-circle, there is a dashed teal line that curves upwards. In the top left corner, there are three vertical teal dashes. In the top center, there is an orange L-shaped line. In the top right corner, there is a teal semi-circle. On the left side, there is an orange square outline.

RADAR and Short breaks

Anna Bedford
Early Help Locality Lead



Types of social care support



Types of short breaks

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

- Targeted short breaks are 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

Universal services



Targeted services (currently)



9/3/20XX

Other services



The local offer www.leedslocaloffer.org.uk



Type search here Search



Leeds SEND Local Offer

The Leeds Local Offer provides information for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their parents or carers in a single place. It shows families what they can expect from a range of local agencies including education, health and social care.

The Leeds Local Offer is about providing families with information to make informed choices about services they chose to use.



Yorkshire & Humber LO Video 2024
Getting help for children and young people with additional needs

Watch on YouTube

Created by the Yorkshire and Humber Local Offer Workers Group

Specialist packages

Direct
Payments

Personal
Budget

Agency/ISW's

Overnight
Short Break
Fostering

Rainbow
House



All cases where a child receives overnight respite or agency/ISW support must remain open to a social worker, under a CIN/CP plan



The RADAR process

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

The RADAR panel is made up of:

- Chair - Caroline Tong (CHAD SDM)/Anna Bedford (Early Help locality lead), and representatives from:
 - CHAD
 - Short Breaks coordinator
 - Transitions team
 - Health
 - Residential placements
 - Short break fostering
 - School nursing
 - SILC cluster/Early help

The RADAR process

- CAFA/Early help plan identifies child's social care need
- Explore universal and targeted short breaks first
- Lead professional/social worker completes RADAR paperwork
- RADAR panel – decision made, packages typically agreed for 12 months. Letters sent out to families
- If unhappy, parents/carers can contact SW/Lead professional, or RADAR@leeds.gov.uk



**Any
questions?**

Thank you for attending