

CHILD FRIENDLY LEEDS WISHES

LEEDS AREA SEND PARTNERSHIP BOARD TAKEOVER 2024



BACKGROUND

Young people from specialist settings in Leeds takeover the Leeds Area SEND Partnership every November as part of National Takeover Challenge.

The takeover is an opportunity to meet with board members and share their top priorities and influence SEND services in Leeds.

Consultation

Students from St John's School, John Jamieson East SILC, West SILC and Future Horizons planned the 2024 Leeds Area SEND Partnership Board Takeover.

Students chose to focus on the Child Friendly Wishes, and developed a survey for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to share which wish is most important to them and their ideas for what we can do in Leeds to achieve this wish.

The survey was shared with all specialist settings, alternative provisions, the SEND Youth Forum and also on social media channels.

99 young people completed the survey and shared their views.

The top three wishes votes for are:

- Wish 12: Leeds is an inclusive city for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.
- Wish 1: children and young people know how and where to get support for their mental health and wellbeing.
- Wish 10: all children and young people are in learning settings that meet their needs.



THE RESULTS

Wish	No. Votes
Wish 1: children and young people know how and where to get support for their mental health and wellbeing.	16
Wish 2: children and young people have safe spaces to play, hang out and have fun.	5
Wish 3: children and young people express their views, feel heard and are involved in decisions that affect their lives.	6
Wish 4: differences are celebrated in Leeds so children and young people feel accepted for who they are. They do not experience bullying and discrimination.	2
Wish 5: everyone takes more action to protect the environment from climate change.	8
Wish 6: children and young people can travel around the city safely and easily.	10
Wish 7: children and young people know about different things to do and places to go across the city. They enjoy different cultural experiences including art, music, sport and film.	7
Wish 8: Leeds is a city that reduces the impact of poverty and helps families who need it.	2
Wish 9: children and young people have the support and information needed to make healthy choices. They have opportunities for regular physical activity.	4
Wish 10: all children and young people are in learning settings that meet their needs.	11
Wish 11: Young people have access to a wide range of work experience, employment and volunteering opportunities.	7
Wish 12: Leeds is an inclusive city for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.	21
Total	99

FEEDBACK FROM YOUNG PEOPLE

Wish 1: children and young people know how and where to get support for their mental health and wellbeing.

- Mental health lessons for students in all schools.
- Promote the MindMate website more.
- Mental health training for teachers and workers.
- Raising awareness of mental health to families.
- Safe space/room in every school.
- Make leaflets share with students where they can get support and help
- Create more safe places in leeds for children to express their feelings to a trained professional.
- More promotion of mental health and services.
- Accessibility of mental health services.



Wish 2: children and young people have safe spaces to play, hang out and have fun.

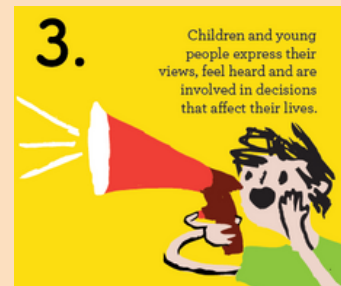
- Larger playgrounds.
- Places and groups for over 18 year olds.
- Quiet spaces.
- Young persons gaming café in local areas.
- Water play.
- Pop up beaches in local areas, not just the city centre.
- An app to show all the different groups, activities and events happening in the city.
- Create safe places to talk and hang out.
- I wish there was more for young people in the holidays.
- More police on the streets.
- New accessible playground equipment in playgrounds.
- More picnic tables.
- More safer places in Leeds.
- Make parks more secure and safer.



FEEDBACK FROM YOUNG PEOPLE

Wish 3: children and young people express their views, feel heard and are involved in decisions that affect their lives.

- An app for young people to be able to share feedback on services as they experience them.
- To be able to talk on an equal footing without talking down to young people.
- Promote freedom of speech.
- More opportunities to have our voices heard.
- Student councils in all schools.
- Encourage young people to express their views.



Wish 4: differences are celebrated in Leeds so children and young people feel accepted for who they are. They do not experience bullying and discrimination.

- Raise awareness of disabilities
- More events to celebrate different cultures etc.



FEEDBACK FROM YOUNG PEOPLE

Wish 5: everyone takes more action to protect the environment from climate change.

- Recycling teams in all schools.
- More bins on streets.
- Robots cleaning up.
- Higher fines for littering.
- Teach all students about littering.
- Littering campaign aimed at adults.
- Bike schemes with accessible bikes.
- More trees.
- Incentives for using public transport or walking.
- Educate Leeds about the environment.
- Recycling bins in all schools.
- Plant more trees.



Wish 6: children and young people can travel around the city safely and easily.

- I would like to feel safe getting on a bus, I am scared of going any where with out my mum .
- I think the way forward is making the transport more safe for the young people. I have been on public transport and found that people are very rude and not let kids sit down and the old people but people these day are just rude. I think there should be a rule in place.
- Buses to arrive on time.
- More security on buses.
- Information about how to use buses, and where to find bus timetables for young people with SEND and families new to Leeds.
- Make Leeds safer to walk round.



FEEDBACK FROM YOUNG PEOPLE

Wish 7: children and young people know about different things to do and places to go across the city. They enjoy different cultural experiences including art, music, sport and film.

- Cheaper tickets to events.
- Hold events in local areas.
- Promote events to schools.



Wish 8: Leeds is a city that reduces the impact of poverty and helps families who need it.

- Offer more financial support.
- Make prices more reasonable so people can afford basic necessities.
- More food banks.



Wish 9: children and young people have the support and information needed to make healthy choices. They have opportunities for regular physical activity.

- Provide all information in one place so young people can make their own choices.



FEEDBACK FROM YOUNG PEOPLE

Wish 10: all children and young people are in learning settings that meet their needs.

- Provide more funding and enough spaces in special schools and spaces to relax and calm down in schools.
- All school staff should have full training (not just basic awareness training), especially in autism and PDA.
- Children should be more involved in deciding which school they go to.
- Challenge and address discrimination against those with invisible disabilities.
- Make schools safer for young people.
- More support staff in classes.



Wish 11: Young people have access to a wide range of work experience, employment and volunteering opportunities.

- Places and working environments that are willing to recruit young people with SEND so that we can get volunteering experiences.
- More SEND aware employers.
- More disability friendly jobs.
- Easier ways to get jobs for people with additional needs even if it is voluntary.
- More work experience opportunities.
- Provide a list of employers who would welcome SEND young people on work experience.
- Information on next steps and moving on.



FEEDBACK FROM YOUNG PEOPLE

Wish 12: Leeds is an inclusive city for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

- It is not easy for young people with SEND to access driving lessons.
- Train staff to be aware of different disabilities.
- Ensure schools are aware of all SEND needs and how to deal with them.
- All schools should have a SENCO officer trained at a degree level.
- Schools and facilities are adapted for people with disabilities.
- It took me 10 years to get a decent school setting . It took my mum a long time to get an EHCP I feel stressed about what will happen when I'm older especially about jobs and money .
- Universal activities to be more accessible.
- More buildings more accessible for young people.
- More youth groups for young people with SEND.
- Provide opportunities for young people with SEND to meet each other outside of school.

