



Leeds SEND Youth Forum Involvement and Achievements

1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023

The Leeds SEND Youth Forum is an online network of young people aged 11 to 25 years old with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) who live in Leeds or attend school in Leeds.

Each month the network are given the opportunity to take part in a range of youth voice activities that enable them to share their experiences and feedback about SEND services in Leeds.

Contact VIC@leeds.gov.uk for more information about the SEND Youth Forum.



Leeds SEND Youth Forum Campaigns

Raising awareness of disabilities

The Leeds SEND Youth Forum raised that they want professionals they come into contact with to have a greater understanding of disabilities and how to support young people in different situations.

The SEND Youth Forum have worked together to create a booklet of various journeys and challenges of young people with SEND to help you help us!

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

The resource can be downloaded here: <https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/model/page/service/34371>

The SEND Youth Forum met with Julie Longworth, Director Children & Families Service in April 2023. The resource has been shared with the Local Area SEND Partnership Board and services within Children and Families.

Communicating with young people with SEND

The Leeds SEND Youth Forum are developing an eLearning programme that focusses on communicating with young people with SEND. The eLearning will be shared across education, health and social care. Members have agreed on the aims and objectives for the eLearning, and written scripts. The eLearning will be launched early 2024.





Leeds SEND Youth Forum sessions

Each month members of the SEND Youth Forum are invited to join online sessions, the sessions are an opportunity for members to share their feedback and views with SEND services.

Scope Activities for All – Members heard from Scope Activities for All and how Scope have shared the SEND Youth Forum resource with activity providers in Leeds. The SEND Youth Forum have developed an information document for activity providers that shares how young people feel when accessing an activity or group for the first time, and provided some ‘top tips’ to help make a young person’s experience of access a group / activities positive.

MindMate – Members heard from MindMate about their website, and the new Neurodiversity Information Hub. Members shared their experiences of using the website, and were tasked with having a further look at the website and then provide feedback to MindMate.

Members feedback to MindMate that they really liked the website, however they shared how the urgent help information is all for under 18’s, and only option for 19 to 25 year olds is to call 999 or visit A&E. Based on feedback from the SEND Youth Forum, MindMate have updated the service information on their website for 19 to 25 year olds.

Authoring Our Own Stories – Authoring Our Own Stories is a youth recovery project examining how young people’s identities impact on their access to services. The Yorkshire and Humber Young Leaders consulted with the SEND Youth Forum to explore how they want their identities to be understood by professionals and their peers. The outcomes of their work will provide a rich body of material based on their lived experiences around identity.

Children’s Rights – Members took part in a Childrens Rights training session to increase their knowledge on the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of a Child (UNCRC). Members suggested there should be a page on the Leeds Local Offer website dedicated to Children’s Rights, this page has now been developed and can be found [here](#).

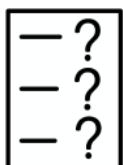
SEND Partnership Board Takeover 2022 – Members contributed to developing a resource for SEND services to show what qualities young people would like to see in the workers who support them. The resource was shared with the SEND Partnership Board in November 2022. More information can be found [here](#).

Leeds Innovation Arc – The Innovation Arc project aims to create new spaces in Leeds where people can be active, relax and play, provide new green spaces, help to tackle the climate emergency and make it easier to travel around the city centre. Young people were asked to give their views and feedback on proposals. Once all information has been gathered a new policy will be implemented in Spring 2023.



Children and Young People’s Plan Refresh – Members of the SEND Youth Forum joined the Leeds Youth Council to give their views and feedback on the suggested amends to the Children and Young People’s Plan. All views will influence the changes to the refreshed plan.

Reviewing the Leeds Local Offer website – The Leeds SEND Youth Forum attended an online session on to review the young people’s section on the Leeds Local Offer website. All feedback and recommendations for improvement to the website have been actioned and responded to. The full report can be found [here](#).



Consultation Surveys

Consultation surveys are shared with the Leeds SEND Youth Forum to enable them to give their views and feedback via online surveys.

Health Outcomes for young People throughout Education (HOPE) Survey - The HOPE study aims to explore any differences in the extra support received by children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) across England. Members of the Leeds SEND Youth Forum were asked to share their experiences of SEND support in their local area.

Your Health Matters: You’re the best at knowing you! – The Leeds Youth Council are working on health and wellbeing as their campaign, this was voted as top issues for young people in the Make Your Mark ballot. Members of the Leeds SEND Youth Forum were asked to think about what they would like the Leeds Youth Council to address and improve health and wellbeing.

Youth Activity Fund Survey – Members were asked to share what activities they would like to be available in their local area. All feedback will be shared with community committees when making decisions about activities to fund in local areas.

Children and Young People's Plan - Members were asked for their views and feedback on the suggested amends to the Children and Young People’s Plan. All views will influence the changes to the refreshed plan.

Your Neighbourhood, Your City, Your Planet – Members were asked what they think and feel about issues regarding climate change in Leeds and in local neighbourhoods, as well as feedback on emerging planning policies. All feedback will feed into a new planning policy to reduce Leeds’ impact on the environment and help achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

What is secondary school like for young people who have a long-term physical or mental health conditions and how support can be improved? – A team of researchers at the UCL’s Children & Families Policy Research Unit is carried out a survey to understand what secondary school is like for young



people who have a long-term physical or mental health condition and how support can be improved. The research will be shared with relevant services.



Consultations and Surveys taken part in and waiting to hear how they have listened and responded to the voices of young people

- Leeds Local Plan 2040: Help shape our city's future growth (March 2023)
- Child Friendly Leeds City Centre Survey (April 2023)
- Teeth brushing and dental hygiene (July 2023)

