

Everyone's included: the new Leeds SEND and inclusion strategy 2021 - 2026

Making Leeds a good city for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

Short report

This report was written by Natalie and Kayleigh. We work with services for children and young people in Leeds, like health services, schools, and care services.

We are working on the new SEND and Inclusion strategy for Leeds. This is a big plan of all the things we need to do, to make Leeds a good place for children and young people with SEND and additional needs.

In July 2021, we asked young people in Leeds with SEND: what are the most important things for our new strategy to work on?

We heard from 29 young people. They were aged between 12 and 19 years. They all agreed that these things are the most important:

Everyone who works with children and young people with SEND should:

- Treat them with respect and listen to them
- Understand their needs and know how to help them
- Include them in making decisions that affect them
- Make sure they are included in things that they want or need to do.

There should be fun things for young people with SEND to do. Things that are:

- Right for their ages, interests, and needs.
- Safe, with safe equipment in parks.
- Easy to get to using safe, clean transport.
- Places with safe toilets that are open all day.

We will do some things differently, because of the things young people told us. We will:

- Work on a big, new set of learning and guidance about SEND and additional needs. This is for people who work with children and young people, like teachers. We will include some of the things young people with SEND have told us about.
- Start a new work group with people who work in parks, outdoor activities, youth clubs and transport. We will all work on more fun, safe things for young people to do. We will work with people in charge of transport and toilets in the city too. We will also work on better ways to find out about things to do in Leeds.
- Support our new SEND Youth Forum for Leeds. This is a way for young people to get together, have fun, and have a say about the services they use in Leeds.

Find out more and get involved:

- Find out more about services in Leeds for children and young people with SEND and/or additional needs: www.leedslocaloffer.org.uk
- Find out more ways for young people to have a say about services in Leeds: <https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/directory/33458>
- Get in touch to find out more about our new SEND Youth Forum: email LLO@leeds.gov.uk
- Get in touch to ask any questions about this report: email LLO@leeds.gov.uk. Please put 'SEND and Inclusion strategy' in the title of your email. This will help us to reply more quickly.

Thank you for reading, and thanks to everyone who took part!