

Everyone's included: the new Leeds SEND and inclusion strategy 2022 - 2027

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 all children and young people to do. Things that:

- Are right for their ages, interests, and needs
- Are safe, with safe equipment in parks
- Are easy to get to using safe, clean transport
- Places with safe toilets that are open when you need them
- Ways to test out an activity to check if it is right for you and feels safe

There should be good help for young people to get ready for adult life. Help like:

- Good advice about what to do after school, like going to college and getting a job
- Ways to meet employers who welcome young people with additional needs
- Good advice about how to manage money as an adult
- Good advice about moving from children's services, to adult services, if you're going to need support with your health and well-being as an adult. Moving to adult services is often called 'transition'.

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.
- Organise our first ever big event for young people who are preparing for adulthood. This will be at the Leeds Arena. Employers who welcome young people with additional needs will be there. So will colleges and training providers. Advice workers who can help with getting

ready for adult life will also be there to give advice about things like managing your money as an adult. All young people will be welcome to attend.

- We will all work on more fun, safe things for young people to do. We will also work on better ways to find out about things to do in Leeds. We will start work by organising some taster sessions, so young people can try out activities. This was something young people really wanted us to do first.

- 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!