



The Leeds Area SEND and Alternative Provision Partnership Board brings together partners who work together to lead our progress towards our shared vision of an inclusive **child friendly Leeds**.

The Board governs strategic plans to improve the experiences and outcomes of children and young people aged 0 to 25 in Leeds with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND); children and young people with inclusion needs requiring support in alternative provision (AP); and their families.

The Leeds Area SEND and AP Partnership is an equal partnership of sector representatives including education providers, Leeds City Council Children and Families Services, health and social care providers, the Leeds Health and Care Partnership (NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Commissioning Board), representatives of the third sector, representatives of the Leeds Parent Carer Forum, and representatives of the voices of children and young people in Leeds via the Leeds SEND Youth Council and other local youth participation groups.

As part of the refresh of the Leeds Areas SEND and AP SEND Partnership, there has been subgroups created which will feed into board. These are:

- Neurodiversity and Mental Health
- Practice, Workforce and Training workstream
- Data, Intelligence and Quality assurance
- Voice, Influence and Transparency Working Group
- Joint Commissioning

Working group updates:

Neurodiversity working group

The purpose of the working group is to work in a system wide approach to explore ways to identify and meet the needs of children with ND as early as possible.

The aim is to explore and develop opportunities for early intervention and support. Improvement in parental confidence in the wider system's ability to support children and young people who are neurodivergent.

Practice, Workforce and Training workstream

The key aims for the working group is to ensure our workforce has the skills, knowledge, support, and confidence to deliver consistent best inclusive practice across the city to enable:

- Early identification of needs, quality, holistic assessment of needs, and quality planning to meet needs, from the earliest time.
- Integrated support for children from the earliest years.
- Integrated support for young people to prepare for adulthood at the earliest time.
- High quality plans that focus on meaningful outcomes.

Children and young people's mental health programs

The working group will oversee the review of the MindMate SPA provision. They will determine which parts of the service require improvement, providing an evidence base for future service improvement plans.

Voice and influence transparency working group

The working group will use already existing voice and influence recording mechanisms to identify the issues and challenge families have raised and share them with relevant service leads and provide regular updates to the Leeds Area SEND and AP Partnership Board via the trackers.

The working group will provide transparency and ensure feedback to families is provided and available on the Leeds Local Offer website.

Alternative provision review

Alternative provision supports pupils who are unable to attend mainstream school often due to social, emotional and mental health needs. Good alternative provision:

- is part of the wider continuum of inclusive provision and SEND strategy, reflecting the needs of pupils
- provides a short-term intervention followed by a return to school
- meets the needs of pupils who attend
- enables pupils to achieve good educational attainment on par with their mainstream peers, particularly in English, Maths and Science (including IT)
- identifies the specific personal, social and academic needs of pupils and meets these in order to overcome any barriers to attainment;
- improves pupil motivation and self-confidence, attendance and engagement with education
- has clearly defined objectives, including the next steps following the placement such as reintegration into mainstream education, further education, training or employment

The local authority are undertaking a full review of alternative provision in Leeds between now and December 2024 to ensure the offer meets the needs of children and young people and will result in a shared vision and alternative provision strategy for the city.



Dan Barton

Deputy Director Learning



Farrah Khan

Deputy Director Social Care



Karren Leach

Director CYP, Maternity and
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Service updates

Time for young people Leeds service

NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (Leeds) and Leeds City Council have commissioned a new community-based early emotional and mental health support service for children and young people in Leeds, which will be commencing on the 1st July 2024.

The contract for this service has been awarded to The Children's Society, a national charity working to support young people, who have been operating for 140 years and working with the people of Leeds since the 1970's.

The new service is called 'Time for Young People Leeds'. The aim of the new service is to provide early emotional and mental health support to children and young people in Leeds, specifically children and young people who require alternative routes to support outside of school or NHS services.

This service is aimed at children and young people (including their parents / carers) up to 18 years old and up to age 25 for care leavers and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

Time for Young People, Leeds, will offer a range of evidence-based therapeutic services for a range of common mental health difficulties, such as mild to moderate anxiety and depression. This will include weekly wellbeing drop ins, one-to-one structured support, group work, wellbeing resources and information, awareness raising and education, and support for professionals working with young people.

From the 1st July the main service centre (hub) located at Hillside in Beeston and three local community venues (spokes), based at Pudsey, CATCH (Harehills) and

Boston Spa will open for wellbeing 'drop-ins' with a phased mobilisation of additional services provision over the next few months. The 'drop-in' sessions require no appointment or referral – feel free to visit during the opening times. Please note under 13s will need consent from their parent / carer.

Stay Informed: To read more about the service including more information on the range of support that will be available, including venue opening times and answers to our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) list, please visit [the Mindmate website](#).

Access to work

If you have a disability or health condition and it's affecting you in your job or getting one, then Access to Work may be able to help you.

Access to work is a discretionary grant-based award delivered by the Department for Work and Pensions that can pay for support for people with a disability or health condition, and disability related workplace needs – beyond those covered by an employer's responsibility for reasonable adjustments. You don't pay it back and it doesn't affect your benefits.

For more information visit [access to work website](#)

Applying for home to Post 16 travel assistance for September 2024

You should have received a final Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) naming your child's post-16 placement from September 2024. It is important that you consider how your child will travel to and from school or college. You may be considering applying for travel assistance from Leeds City Council.

You will have received a letter if, in September, your child will be;

- moving to a post-16 setting, or
- moving from a post-16 setting to a different post-16 setting, or
- transitioning into post-16 education and staying at their current setting

If you think that your child may be eligible for transport assistance and want to apply, please visit our webpage (www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-transport) where you will find the Children's Transport Policy and details of the support available. Here you will also find information on our website regarding our award-winning Independent Travel Training Scheme.

If, after reading the policy, you feel that your child may be eligible, you can apply for travel support by completing a travel application form. To request an application form please email send.transportapplications@leeds.gov.uk. Alternatively, you can phone us on 0113 5351990 and we can send a copy of the policy and

application form to your home address. As we receive a high volume of phone calls, you may be prompted to leave a voicemail with your details.

All applications for travel support are assessed in line with the Children's Transport policy and receiving this letter does not mean that your child will be automatically eligible for support.

Please ensure you submit your application within 2 weeks of receiving this letter. If your child's EHCP has not yet been finalised, apply now (even if your child's school or college place is still to be arranged) and we will work with SENSAP to process your form as soon as possible.

We assess hundreds of transport applications every year. If you don't apply within 2 weeks, you will encounter delays in your application being assessed and it may not be assessed until the beginning of September. If your child is eligible for support, this may result in their travel arrangements not being available for several weeks after schools/ colleges reopen in September. It would be your responsibility to ensure your child attends school/ college regularly until The Council organises suitable arrangements.

If your child currently receives transport assistance and, in September, they will return to the same site of the school or SILC they currently attend you will not need to reapply, unless we contact you separately. Your child's transport will continue in September and Passenger Transport Services (PTS) will contact you shortly before the start of term with details of their transport arrangements.

If your child qualifies for assistance with transport to college, PTS can only schedule their transport once they have received their college timetable. PTS will contact the college for this information. Please note it may take PTS up to 15 working days to arrange transport from the date they receive the timetable. Delays in the timetable being provided may result in you having to make your own arrangements to get your child to and from college for a short period of time.

If you have already applied for travel assistance for September 2024, please do not submit another application form now, unless your circumstances have changed since you applied.

We thank you for working with us to ensure that your application is processed as soon as possible.

Scope Activities for All

The Scope Activities for All service supports mainstream activity providers, lead practitioners and parents/carers to identify the right short break.

Do you know a child/young person with a disability who would like to attend a mainstream activity group but may need additional support?

Scope can help support the child and the activity group using their [sessional worker service](#).

The sessional worker service offers short term support. Helping to include children with additional needs or a disability (aged 4 -18) to attend a mainstream activity in Leeds.

[Apply for a sessional worker](#)

Scope activities for all will be at Holt Park Community Hub (LS16) in the Children's library on Monday 17th June 1.00pm till 3.00pm

To provide information and advice on the following:

- Activities and support groups local to Leeds
- Sessional Worker Service
- Scope Inclusive Activity Award

Events for families

SEND Next Choices: Getting ready for adult life

The SEND Next Choices – Getting ready for adult life event returns to Leeds first direct arena on Tuesday 25 June 2024 .

The event is an opportunity for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their parents, carers, support workers and teachers to prepare themselves for adult life.

You will be able to find out about jobs, training, apprenticeships, college courses, voluntary work, leisure activities, finances, support and benefits available in Leeds. Around 70 exhibitors will be there on the day.

Book your [free ticket here](#).

Scope Activities for all – Let's explore activities event!

Wednesday 19th June, 10am – 1pm, Leeds Mencap – Vinery Centre LS9 9LU

Information and networking day for parents/carers of disabled children, mainstream activity providers and lead professionals

Offers available on the day:

- Networking and finding more information about both mainstream and targeted activities as well as Lead Professionals.
- Find out how your child can join in a mainstream activity with the help of our sessional worker program. Referrals can be completed on the day!
- Discover and explore your local area's inclusive mainstream activity groups. Ranging from art to dance to drama to football to martial arts.
- Advice and support from Scope Family Services to answer any specific questions.

Join us for a day focused on promoting information on inclusive activity groups, adjustments and supports for disabled/SEN children.

The SNAPS Superhero Challenge 2024!

SNAPS would like to invite families in Leeds to come along and join them for an exciting day of fun and entertainment! The SNAPS Superhero Challenge is an inclusive 'fun run' style event which gives children with additional needs the chance to feel like a superhero for the day. All ages and abilities welcome.

- Date: Sunday 8th September 2023, 10.30am – 12.30pm
- Cost: £5 per child, adults go free
- Venue: John Charles Centre for Sport, Middleton Grove, Belle Isle, Leeds LS11 5DJ

A fun filled morning for all the family:

- Giant bouncy castle & inflatables
- Meet Super Girl, Super Mario & other superheroes
- Face painting
- Pet the resident SNAPS therapy animals
- Arts & crafts
- Pre-event warm up
- Inclusive sport sessions
- Games
- and more!!

Each child will receive a superhero cape to wear on the day, goody bag and medal.

Every child will decide on their own distance target for the event. They may choose to go halfway round, the full way round or keep going many times. They can walk, run or wheel* around the track being cheered on to the finish line where they will receive their own challenge medal!

*only applies to accessibility aids such as wheelchairs, walkers, pushchairs.

For more information and tickets visit:

[The SNAPS Superhero Challenge 2024 | SNAPS Yorkshire \(enthuse.com\)](https://www.enthuse.com)

Voice and influence opportunities

Opportunities for young people, parents and carers to have their voices heard.

Leeds Youth Voice network

Do you want to express your views, feel heard and be involved in decisions that affect your lives (have a voice and influence)?

Join one of our youth voice groups to take part in regular meetings.

Check out our 'opportunities' highlight on Instagram or follow our page to keep up to date with current opportunities by following @LeedsYouthVoice on instagram.

Opportunities for professionals

Supporting families to use the Leeds Local Offer website and access service

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.

The [Leeds Local Offer information booklet](#) has been produced to help families of a child with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) find out about information, help and support available to them in Leeds.

Join the [Leeds Local Offer Facebook group](#) to find out about developments to the Leeds Local Offer, updates about services and activities taking place across the city. You can download our how to use the [Leeds Local Offer website guide](#) here or watch [the how to](#).

Consulting with young people and their parents and carers

The voice of children and young people is at the heart of everything we do in Leeds and our ambition for Leeds to be a Child Friendly City.

Having a voice and influence means that children, young people, parents and carers are supported to have their voices heard, to enable them to have an influence over decisions and actions that affect their lives and services they access.

The Voice and Influence Team within Children and Families service have the responsibility for ensuring the voice of children and young people with SEND and their parents and carers are listened to and responded to when reviewing and developing SEND services in Leeds.

The team are able to provide you with support and advice to consult with young people and their parents and carers, as well as providing you access to a range of young people and families.

Click here for more information about the [Voice, Influence and Change Team](#) and the support they can offer.

Raising awareness of disabilities, a project by young people

Child Friendly Leeds, Leeds Youth Voice and Town Centre Securities PLC (TCS) partnered on a fantastic campaign to raise awareness of disabilities. This was based on listening to the voices of children and young people, '[Everyone's Included: the Leeds SEND and Inclusion Strategy](#)', [the Child Friendly Leeds 12 Wishes](#) and the project idea from our ambassador, TCS plc.

Wish number 12 for the city is: Leeds is an inclusive city for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. Children and young people feel there is more awareness and understanding of different disabilities and that there are more activities and places to go that are accessible to all.

In Autumn 2023, the Voice, Influence and Change team visited five settings with art

materials to find out what they would like to share with others about their disabilities, what makes them unique, and how we can make a difference. The sessions were extremely eye opening in which we collated fantastic artwork, spoken words and the feedback from young people and the staff. The themes, illustrations and drawings by the young people were used to develop the campaign.

An exhibition was held at a unit in the Merrion Centre to view, hear and feel the emotions and understand more about hidden disabilities and how we as a city can make a difference.

Partners across the city were encouraged to share the key social media messages and awareness raising posters. The communications pack can, free downloadable posters and resources be found [here](#).