



Leeds Local Offer Ebulletin

Month 2024

Welcome to the October 2024 edition of the Leeds Local Offer ebulletin.

The ebulletin is an opportunity for us to share with you an update for the Leeds Area SEND and AP Partnership Board, service updates, opportunities and events for children, young people, parents, carers and professionals.

We encourage you to share the information within your teams and with children, young people and families you are working with.

- An update from the Leeds Area SEND and AP Partnership Board
- Service updates
- Events and groups for families
- Voice and influence opportunities
- Professionals – resources, opportunities and events

Previous editions of the ebulletin can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/LLObulletin>

If you have any stories, service updates, groups or events that you would like us to feature in a future issue you can send them to me at LLO@leeds.gov.uk.



An update from the Leeds Area SEND and AP Partnership Board

Leeds SEND and AP Partnership Board

As a board we meet quarterly, at the last meeting:

- The Leeds Parent Carer Forum shared two families experiences of the SEND system. The board identified as a partnership we need to have hope and a clear partnership approach at all times. Multi agency family help needs to be a priority. Parents need to be partners.
- Within the voice and influence update we heard about the raising awareness of disabilities campaign, a project by young people.

As part of a project to raise awareness of hidden disabilities in Leeds, the words and drawings of young people have been captured in a series of eye-catching, informative, and refreshingly honest posters. Young people with hidden disabilities have bravely shared their challenges, giving an insight into what may be going on 'beneath the surface', as well as celebrating their unique and amazing qualities. Alongside the posters, an awareness session has been created – a friendly challenge to our potential unconscious biases and a reminder for us to treat others with empathy.

For the young people in this project, public awareness and a deeper understanding what may be going on beneath the surface for those with hidden disabilities is key to tackling the stigma. How do we raise awareness? By sharing their voices far and wide, displaying the posters wherever we can, and using the awareness session to hold ourselves accountable.

More information about the project can be [found here](#).

Working groups

The five working groups are now established and have developed action plans. The working groups will be feeding back to the board in December with an update on progress.

The working groups are:

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

We will give further updates about the working groups in a future edition.

SEND and inclusion funding process

Please note that significant changes are currently taking place across Leeds SEND and inclusion funding processes.

You can read more about these changes on the [SEND and Inclusion Transformation page](#).



Dan Barton

Deputy Director Learning



Farrah Khan

Deputy Director Social Care



Karren Leach

Director CYP, Maternity and
Healthy Adults

Service updates

Children's Transport

Many parents and carers of children in year 6 will be soon applying for high schools. Some families of children without EHCP's choose schools that are far away from home because they feel that the school would be able to better meet their needs than a school that is close to home.

Please see further information around transport eligibility in the [Children's Transport Policy](#). The Children's Transport Team also refer to this information in the 'invitation to apply' letters that families receive from the admissions service.

The Children's Transport Team want to set realistic expectations for families. For travel purposes, Children's Transport advise that a family should apply for a school that is closest to them in terms of walking distance. If families choose a school that is further away, it may be parental responsibility to ensure that their child attends school. This is even if a parent or carer feels that a school further way may be able to meet the SEND needs of their child better than a school that is close to their home.

The Children's Transport Team advise that when a family is choosing a school, that the family thinks about how their child will travel there. In many cases, the council will not be able to support with home-to-school transport.

Please get in touch if you have any questions. Please visit our [website here](#) or email us at Send.TransportApplications@Leeds.gov.uk.

Personal Assistant jobs in Leeds

Are you looking for a rewarding and flexible job?
If so, consider the role of a Personal Assistant (PA).

As a PA you could be working directly with children, young people or adults who have different care and support needs and helping with their day-to-day wellbeing.

The role is varied but can include:

- helping people with their social activities.
- help around the household.
- help with personal care.
- supporting in whatever the person needs.

There are current vacancies across Leeds ranging from a couple of hours per week to full time. You can look for vacancies to suit around your requirements, interests and other commitments.

If you would like to hear more, please book on one of our upcoming information sessions.

- Monday 14th October 10am to 11.30am at Merrion House
- Wednesday 16th October 9.30am to 11am Online
- Tuesday 12th November 1pm to 2.30pm at Merrion House

To book a place, or for further information please contact Kelly Tran on ascodteam@leeds.gov.uk or by phone 0113 37 89640.

SEND Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS)

Information videos

SENDIASS have launched some new information videos on a range of Key SEND Topics and processes, that we hope feel accessible and informative to those supporting children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

The video's can be found and shared from: [Leeds SENDIASS - YouTube](#). We would welcome any feedback

Neurodiversity focus group

Leeds SENDIASS is jointly commissioned with the Integrated Care Board (ICB); we are currently gathering new information from parents and carers and their families about their experiences of neurodiversity support.

If you are a parent or carer and you have a child or young person with neurodiversity and would like to join our neurodiversity focus group please send an email to leedssendiass@leeds.gov.uk and write "FAO Allison" in the subject heading or let us know by leaving a message on our answer service: 0113 3785020.

Virtual advice drop ins

The next Leeds SENDIASS virtual advice drop in session is on the 7th October at 13:30pm-14:30pm.

Leeds SENDIASS officers will be available to advise on your SEND enquiries.

You can book a place by emailing sendiasssocialmedia@leeds.gov.uk

Autism Arena CIC

Autism Arena CIC, a non-profit community interest company, that launched at the end of August in time for the new school year. It aims to be a one-stop-shop helping families of autistic children navigate health & social care, education and leisure.

They have been awarded National Lottery Community Funding to help advise parents & carers about autism, reasonable adjustments and cost of living. They are able to attend SEND events in schools and community support groups and are also running online peer support sessions and educational webinars.

They have advice on their website www.autismarena.org.uk and release monthly newsletters with promotion codes for fully funded webinars and to inform families about the latest advice, research and accessible leisure events. They can also offer parent carers individual consultations and support organisations with neurodiversity training.

The Autism Arena CIC team consists of a former General Practitioner, a children's Social Worker and a school SENCo, who all have lived experience as parent carers of neurodivergent children. They understand the challenges faced in navigating the journey to diagnosis and getting the right support in place. They have joined together with their experience and training to help make other people's journeys easier. Their aim is to help parents and carers understand their child's needs and become stronger advocates for them. In meeting their needs as quickly as possible, it will help them reach their potential and gain more positive life experiences. The team consider the child holistically and are concerned for carer and child wellbeing. Autism Arena embrace neurodivergence and a diagnosis is not required.

For carer or professional advice, please contact them on info@autismarena.org.uk and visit their website www.autismarena.org.uk

Events for families

STARS Training

The STARS workshops aim to provide information for parents to support their autistic child at home. Professionals should access these sessions and then use the slides and resources to deliver the training to their setting's parents.

Training sessions will be delivered online via Microsoft Teams. See Course information below

Sensory Support in the Home

8th November 2024, 9.45am till 11:15am

This session will give a brief introduction to sensory processing and regulation, exploring its importance in supporting the wellbeing of autistic children and young people. The session will also offer advice around sensory support strategies that can be implemented in the home.

Identity and Diagnosis

7th December 2024, 9.45 till 11.15am

The focus of this session is to discuss ways parents and carers can support their child/young person to understand and embrace their autism as part of who they are. This session will include: 1) The advantages of the child or young person knowing that they are autistic. 2) Approaches and resources that parents can care givers can utilise to assist their child/young person in understanding what autism means to them.

Visual Supports in the home early years

10th January 2024, 9.45 till 11.15am

An introduction to using visual strategies in the home when supporting children to understand home routines and verbal instructions, providing strategies for independence. This session has an Early Years focus but many of the strategies discussed can be developed to support older children.

Keeping autistic children and young people safe online

10th January 2024, 9.45 till 11.15am

During this workshop we will explore the importance of different types of online media to autistic identity and wellbeing. We will discuss how much online media is too much and how to establish appropriate limits. We will explore risks and

protective measures in relation to online content.

Book your place by emailing starsteam@leeds.gov.uk with your name, emailing and details of the training you would like to attend.

Autism Arena CIC Launches

Autism Arena launched on Friday 30 August at Shine in Harehills.

Autism Arena want to help parent carers understand autism and neurodiversity better, empower them to be more confident advocates for their child and have a positive impact on family time and family support. They want to support the wellbeing of parent carers and reduce carer fatigue. In creating better understanding, we hope for a more inclusive society that welcomes diversity and recognises the positive impacts that has on a child's life chances, mental health, the economy and community.

They want to help families of autistic children navigate health & social care, education and leisure.

They are creating a one-stop shop for families seeking factual, friendly and up-to-date autism support in all areas of their life.

They support all environments to be inclusive and recognise the importance of both diversity and wellbeing.

Their work with businesses will support us to help families.

Find out more about Autism Areana at <https://autismarena.org.uk/>

Parent-led advocacy course for parents living in Yorkshire and Humber with children aged from 15 years to 25 years going through transition.

Bringing Us Together is delighted to be able to bring you a team of trainers including those with lived experience of peer advocacy for a series of 6 special free online workshops.

These workshops are designed for Yorkshire and Humber families and parents of children going through transition. The workshops are welcoming, supportive and

informative and are open to any parent or family member with an autistic child and/or a young person with a learning disability.

It's recommended to book on all 6 workshops and if you are unable to attend any, you will be sent the recording.

Getting to know one another. Spinning plates and stress.

Tuesday 24th September 2024 - 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Advocacy and lived experience

Tuesday 8th October 2024 - 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Education and the Law – Transition

Tuesday 22nd October 2024 - 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Sharing our experiences and getting the best out of the system. How to get our voices heard in a way that benefits everyone.

Tuesday 12th November 2024 - 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Children's Rights, Access Social Care, Post Education and The Care Act.

Tuesday 26th November 2024 - 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Person Centred Planning – how to make it real

Tuesday 3rd December 2024 - 6.30pm to 8.30pm

To book a place contact tony@bringingustogether.org.uk

Voice and influence opportunities

Leeds Parent Carer Forum

Do you run a support group for Parents/carers in Leeds?

If so, please get in touch with the Leeds Parent Carer Forum as we'd like to invite you to our termly Round Table event.

The round table events are an opportunity for representatives from parent carer support groups in Leeds to share their parents' voices with us.

The round table events will be online and will take place on:

- Thursday 27th March 2025 at 10am
- Thursday 26th June 20235 at 10am

Send us an email/message on Facebook if you'd like to attend.

info@leedsparentcarerforum.co.uk
Facebook.com/Leedspcf

Transition from children to adult health service

The NHS Youth Forum are a group of 25 young people working together to ensure every decision that affects young people has young people meaningfully engaged in the whole decision-making process.

They have written a survey looking at transitional care. This is the transition from child to adult services.

We need your help so that we can get strong data of what it is really like to transition within the NHS.

Parent carer survey: [Transitions Survey for Parents/Carers - NHS England Youth Forum \(office.com\)](#)

Young people's survey (up to 30 years old): [Transitions Survey - NHS England Youth Forum \(office.com\)](#)

Review of the ND Hub MindMate

<https://mindmate.org.uk/neurodiversity-information-hub/>

Calling young people in Leeds who identify as neurodivergent.

Do you have a neurodivergent condition such as Autism or ADHD?

If so we'd love to hear from you!

Please contact Liz to find out more (responses needed by 25th October, 2024)

- Email: liz.neill@commonroom.uk.com
- WhatsApp: 07496 494679

We'll be giving away MindMate merch to thank you for taking part.

Opportunities for professionals

Leeds Local Offer Live

We are excited to announce that on Wednesday 26 March 2025 we will be hosting Leeds Local Offer Live 10am till 3pm at Pudsey Civic Hall.

The event will be a marketplace style event for families with a child with special educational needs and/or disabilities to come and find out about SEND services and support available to them within the city. Information about previous Leeds Local Offer Live events can be [found here](#).

We have the space for 55 service stalls on the day, this includes a table and two chairs. If you would like to request a stall at the event, [please complete a short booking form here](#).

We will confirm service stalls w/c 18th November 2024.

For further information email LLO@leeds.gov.uk

Digital short breaks offer

The SEND Commissioning Team, as part of the wider Short Breaks review, has developed a “Digital Offer” which will enable universal activity settings to learn how to do inclusion better and in autonomy. It provides useful resources/training for providers to navigate and utilise for improving their inclusivity.

This new platform is available from the 1st October 2024.

[SEND Short Breaks & Fun Activities | Leeds for Learning](#)

The Anti-Bullying Alliance: SEN & Disability Training

The [Anti-Bullying Alliance](#) has been working with schools and disabled young people to develop strategies and approaches that help to reduce bullying of disabled young people and those with SEN, often referred to as disablist bullying.

Their research shows that disabled young people and those with SEN (SEND), are significantly more likely to experience bullying than their peers. Children who have learning disabilities and autism are particularly at risk. 36% of disabled pupils and those with SEN experience frequent bullying compared to 25% of those without.

Take a look at their [free online CPD course](#) on SEND and bullying and learn more about topics like:

- Bullying and the law.
- Cyber bullying.
- Bullying and SEN/disability.
- Mental health and bullying.

Communicating with young people eLearning

The Leeds SEND Youth Council have developed communicating with young people with SEND (special educational needs and disabilities) eLearning for professionals across education, health, care and the third sector.

Time: 15 minutes

Aims: provide professionals with information and advice to support them to communicate with young people.

[Click here](#) to view the eLearning.

Calling SENCOs and school staff who support transitions

Allstar is a Bradford-based organisation that aims to provide and facilitate opportunities that enable and empower young people and adults to follow their own paths and achieve their potential. They believe that young people can be leaders and when provided with opportunity and encouragement they can make positive changes in their lives, their peers' lives, and their communities.

Allstar work in partnership with a range of organisations and services across the voluntary, health and education sector to ensure young people gain valuable life-changing experiences and are actively involved in project management and service design - by young people, for young people.

Allstar are developing transition videos and resources to support transition the transition from year 6 to year 7.

They are looking for school staff, support workers and SENCOs to take part in a series of short interviews about support students with autism and/or ADHD with the transition from year 6 to year 7.

If you are interested in taking part in the project, please contact Michael on 07890032633.

Educational adventure to help preserve agriculture heritage at Home Farm, Temple Newsam

Welcome back to start of the Autumn term and our wonderful rare breed livestock at Home Farm, Temple Newsam.

Why not start the new academic year by booking a guided tour of our farm and give your children the opportunity to learn about the incredible animals that call this place their home; Every one of our livestock plays a vital role in our ecosystem and offers a unique lesson about nature, agriculture, and sustainability.

Whether you're observing the care of our animals, discovering the importance of biodiversity, or understanding the connections between farm life and the food on our tables, we hope that your visit inspires curiosity and a deeper appreciation for the natural world.

Planning an outdoor visit to us with your new cohort is all about exploration and investigation but it will also do so much to help teach your children about themselves, each other and the world around them. Outdoor learning experiences can be of value to children in so many ways. The focus on curriculum delivery is often the initial driver for a visit, but the benefits to a child's physical and mental wellbeing by just 'being in the countryside' should never be underestimated.

The charge for guided farm tours is £85.00 per class of up to 32 children. Entry to the farm is free for local authority and SEND schools and additional admission fees are applicable for academies and non-Leeds schools. Where applicable, the current admission charge is £3.00 per child. Supervising adults up to a ratio of 1:6, and 1:1 carers, go free. Any additional adults need to pay an admission charge of £4.75 each.

However, we are pleased to be able to currently offer *ONE FREE FARM TOUR per school booking which is funded by Natural England and this offer is open to ALL schools and key stages. All we ask is that the lead teacher on the day of the visit completes a brief evaluation form which we then submit to claim the necessary funding.

*FREE means just that: There will be no workshop fee or admission charges to pay.

To arrange a booking please contact deborah.dean@leeds.gov.uk or parkseducation@leeds.gov.uk

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Leeds City Council's ethos is to connect parent, carers, education settings and organisations with services that can support improving health and wellbeing and raising outcomes. This will include links to services provided by third parties where Leeds City Council do not provide that specific service. Third party services are independent of the council and, whilst we will endeavour to act on any feedback we receive, Leeds for Learning has no control over the quality of service provided. To ensure transparency and fairness we will make it clear when a service that we are promoting is provided by a third party.