

## Leeds Takeover Challenge Report 2017

### What is Takeover Challenge?

Takeover Challenge is a fun, hugely successful and exciting engagement project which sees organisations across England opening their doors to children and young people to take over adult roles. It puts children and young people in decision-making positions and encourages organisations and businesses to hear their views. Children gain an insight into the adult world and organisations benefit from a fresh perspective about their work.

Takeover Challenge launched on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017, but to ensure as many children and young people in Leeds get the opportunity to get involved we run the Takeover challenge throughout November.

*“Takeover Challenge is a fantastic opportunity for services to put children and young people in charge of decision making for a day!”*

*Councillor Lisa Mulherin, Executive Board Member for Children and Families*

### What happened in Leeds?

In 2015 & 2016 Leeds achieved a Gold Commendation from the Children’s Commissioner for the fantastic takeover opportunities that were offered to children and young people across the city! This is an amazing achievement, and one we wanted to build on for 2017.

This year **48** takeover opportunities were offered to children and young people as part of the Takeover Challenge, these included:

- 2 strategic board meetings
- 1 senior officer
- 23 organisations / services
- 22 schools

Over 500 young people participated in Takeover opportunities across Leeds!

View our two films to see what happened during the [Reginald Centre Takeover](#) and [Hunslet Carr Primary School Takeover](#)



## Strategic Boards

### Children & Families Trust Board



On the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2017 eleven **Leeds Youth Councillors** took over the Children and Families Trust Board. The meeting was chaired by Tommy, chair of the Leeds Youth Council, and he was supported by 10 youth councillors.

Leeds Youth Councillors included a number of ice-breaker activities before reviewing the draft 2018-2022 children and young people's plan with board members. Youth Councillors and board members looked at the current priorities within the plan and the priorities identified by young people in the Make Your Mark Ballot to see if they aligned. One of the results of this meeting is that the CTB members in attendance pledged to look at the young persons' priority issue of "transport" in more detail at their next meeting.

### Complex Needs Partnership Board

Three students from **Broomfield SILC** and four students from **West SILC** took over the Complex Needs Partnership Board on the 21<sup>st</sup> November. The students presented to the board the results from the Make Your Mark ballot 2017 and shared youth voice successes from their school. Following the presentation the students and board members looked at the top issues from the Make Your Mark ballot for students with special educational needs and disabilities, a curriculum to prepare us for life and how this is currently taught in SILCs and how the board can support teaching life skills to young people in the future. Students also enjoyed having refreshments with the Lord Mayor and a tour of the Civic Hall.



## Senior Officers

### Hannah Lamplugh, Voice Influence & Change Lead



Four students from **Green Meadows Primary School** and one **Leeds Youth Councillor** took over Hannah Lamplugh's role for a day. Hannah is the Voice, Influence and Change Lead in Leeds for children, young people, parents, carers and families' voice and influence.

During the takeover the students worked together with professionals to decide what could be included on a city centre map for children and families. Their ideas will be shared with the Child Friendly City Centre Steering Group and incorporated into a map being developed in the spring.

Students then joining Steve Walker, Director of Children and Families and Sue Rumbold, Chief Officer Partnerships for a question and answer session. In the afternoon the students interviewed the Members of Youth Parliament in Leeds and created a number of tweets about their day.



The highlights from the day were

*"Meeting Steve, Sue and the Youth Parliament"*

*"I enjoyed everything"*



## Organisations & Services

### Ahead Partnership

Six students from **Cross Gates Primary School** took over the Ahead Partnership. The day started with a meeting with Stephanie Burras CBE, Chief Executive, to find out about Ahead Partnership and how it has grown since it started and to learn more about how a business works. Following the meeting students created a 'meet the team' notice board for the Head Office and presented ideas to the design team for the new 'Fun Zone' office space.

Following the takeover the designs will be implemented in January 2018.

### Common Room



Young people from **YouthWatch Leeds**, the consumer champions for health and care, took over Common Room to find out more about the support and services that are being developed to support their peers and created a short film.

Three young people took over the Future in Mind Leeds Programme Board, which looks to improve the social, emotional, mental health and wellbeing of children and young people aged 0-25 years. This is part of a bigger project over the next year, where members of YouthWatch Leeds will be supported by Common Room to visit young people's mental health service providers in Leeds in order to assess the impact of the strategy on young people.

As part of the takeover the young people involved wrote a blog which can be viewed at <https://www.mindmate.org.uk/blog/>

### Complex Needs Service

Six students (18-25 years old) from **Leeds City College** took over the Complex Needs Service. The students spent the day finding out more about the service and preparing to takeover the Complex Needs Leadership Team meeting. The students shared what it is like preparing for adulthood as a young adult with special educational needs and disabilities in Leeds and then asked members of the team a number of questions about what the services do, how many members of staff are employed and what qualifications were needed.

Following the meeting the students will be meeting with the Lord Mayor to gain a better understanding of the political workings of the local council and arranging to meet with their local councillors.

### Health and Wellbeing Service

A young person from **Leeds Beckett University** took over the Health and Wellbeing Service. The young person spent time interviewing team leads to find out how their work impacts on young people and how do they involve young people in their work. Following the interviews the young person devised a workshop and presented the findings at a managers meeting and made recommendations.

*"I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I felt staff listened and were keen to support the changes"*



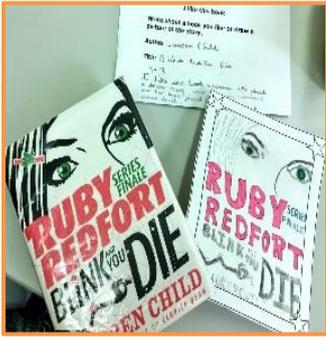
### MindMate Twitter Account



A team of five **MindMate ambassadors**, young people who are promoting the MindMate website through peer projects, took over the MindMate twitter account (@MindMateLeeds) between 8am and 8pm on the 30<sup>th</sup> November. The content used shared their first hand thoughts on being an ambassador and also promoted parts of the websites ([www.mindmate.org.uk](http://www.mindmate.org.uk)) content.



## Moor Allerton Community Hub



Moor Allerton Community Hub were taken over by eight pupils from **Alwoodley Primary School**. Children became librarians for the day. Children learnt about the Dewey Decimal system, the way that books are shelved and used this knowledge to do shelving and tidying of the library. Children supported staff and public on the frontline counter issuing books and stamping dates. The children also learnt about being an author and illustrator of books and why it is important. Children also created book reviews of their favourite books, created eye catching illustrations and a collective themed display in the library. Each child had to take on the responsibility of discussing and explaining the tasks that they were to undertake. They also took part in awarding each new librarian a certificate of attendance and learning.

## Rainbow House

Young people at **Rainbow House** took over various jobs that are crucial to the day to day running of the service. The ten young people became chefs, care officers, managers, vehicle inspectors and took over other domestic duties. The young people now feel more involved in the day to day running of the centre.

## Reginald Centre

Fifteen pupils from **Hillcrest Primary School** took over four different services offered by the Reginald Centre. Children spent time in Customer Services meeting and greeting customers, in the Job Shop researching jobs and thinking about what they would like to do when they are older, in the Library putting together a book display and checking books in and out and finally in the locality team learning about their work and the street cleaning vehicles.

*"My favourite part was designing a library"*

## The Compton Centre



As part of the Compton Centre take over challenge, six students from **Harehills Primary** were given the opportunity to take over the library they did shelf checks, putting stock /books in order. The children then went into The Compton Centres Job Shop where they logged on to a computer, completed a CV and downloaded pictures of what they wanted to do when they leave school.

The children then had the opportunity of a demonstration of a Road sweeper. The road sweeper was in The Compton's Centres large car park. The children each had a supervised turn in driving in the road sweeper. Before the children left the centre to go back to school they had a visit from our local PCSOs, where the children got the opportunity to ask questions.



## Waste Strategy and Infrastructure

20 pupils from **Allerton C of E Primary** and 12 students from **Wykebeck Primary** school took part in the Takeover Challenge set by the Waste Strategy and Infrastructure, Communities and Environment Department at Leeds City Council.

Pupils took part in a 2 hour recycling and waste lesson where they learnt about recycling, waste minimisation and about the role of Leeds City Council's specialist Waste Recycling advisors. Pupils were encouraged to complete a job application outlining why they should be considered for the role of Waste Recycling Adviser in school and think about what they could do in their school.

*"Really engaging and thought provoking. High quality resources and good use of ICT to engage pupils"*

## Schools

During November schools in Leeds are asked to hand over their roles to the pupils for the day! As daunting as this may be for school staff the pupils have a great day and gain a better insight into the roles of their teachers and staff at the school.

Lots of schools ask pupils interested to 'apply' for the job they would like to takeover and school council's shortlist and chose the right pupil for the job!

This year pupils from across Leeds took over the roles of head teachers, deputy head teachers, teaching assistants, teachers, lunchtime supervisors, secretaries, caretakers, play supervisors and behaviour support workers.

Follow the links to view articles, photos, newsletters, tweets and school council minutes to learn more about the fantastic Takeover Challenge days that took place in 22 Leeds schools:

[Brudenell Primary School](#)  
[Calverley Parkside Primary School](#)  
[Churwell Primary School](#)  
[Cobden Primary](#)  
[Great Preston Primary School](#)  
[Greenhill Primary School](#)  
[Hunslet Carr Primary School](#)  
[Ingram Road Primary School](#)  
[Ireland Wood Primary School](#)  
[Kerr Mackie Primary School](#)  
[Meadowfield Primary](#)

[Moortown Primary](#)  
[Morley Academy](#)  
[New Bowerley Primary School](#)  
[Parklands Primary School](#)  
[Queensway Primary School](#)  
[Sharp Lane Primary School](#)  
[St Phillip's Catholic Primary School](#)  
[Swarcliffe Primary](#)  
[West SILC](#)  
[Westbrook Lane Primary School](#)  
[Westgate Primary School](#)

"It was really hard work but we really enjoyed it"

"We feel valued and important"

"I learnt about the day to day running of the school"

"I enjoyed being in charge and taking on different tasks"

