



# Voice, Influence and Change Team Newsletter January 2018



## Hello!

Our first newsletter of 2018 is here, packed with exciting voice and influence news, events and opportunities! In this issue: UK Youth Parliament Elections, Takeover Challenge 2017, government consultations on big youth topics such as PSHE and Mental Health, a young person led “know your rights in health event” and more!

As always, if you, your organisation or any children & young people you work with would like to contribute an article for a future edition please get in touch.

## News

### Takeover Challenge 2017



Takeover Challenge is an annual event organised by the Children’s Commissioner for England and we have been strong supporters of it here in Leeds since it started over ten years ago. Takeover Challenge 2017 took place throughout November with a range of schools and organisations throughout the month of November with over 500 children and young people getting involved. There’s too many to list here so we recommend having a peep at our [Takeover Challenge report](#) to get a flavour of some of the amazing activities that took place.

And if you prefer *watching* rather than *reading* we have two excellent video case studies for your viewing pleasure – an in school takeover from pupils at [Hunslet Carr Primary](#) and a takeover of the [Reginald Centre](#)

### Leeds Youth Council update



In November a group of Leeds Youth Councillors worked together to plan a Takeover Challenge meeting of the Children and Families Trust Board (CFTB) – the 6<sup>th</sup> year in a row where the board have handed their agenda over to children and young people in the city.

At the meeting, youth councillors were able to tell the board members what the current *big issues* are for young people in the city whilst looking at the boards own set of priorities that would make up the 2018-2023 Children and Young People’s Plan for Leeds

Youth Councillors used the local results of the UK Youth Parliament “Make Your Mark” ballot as a basis for discussions– a ballot that was completed in the autumn term by over 17,000 local young people. Through a series of group activities it became apparent that the biggest issue for young people in the city, “Making public transport better, cheaper and more accessible for all” was not reflected in the draft plan.

At the following meeting of the CFTB they decided – as a result of meeting with the Youth Council – to add a brand new priority to the 2018-2023 Children and Young Peoples Plan – “Better transport for young people”! The LYC now have their own dedicated Transport Campaign group and on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January met with other young people from across West Yorkshire to see how they could work together to improve public transport.

## New Youth Service Voice & Influence Group



A new Voice & Influence group has been formed for the Youth Service in the Kippax & Methley ward. The group of 8 dedicated young people have named themselves **YPmyG** (Young People My Group) and are based at Micklefield youth club and meet on the 1st Tuesday of every month.

So far – amongst other things - they have volunteered at the new MUGA opening at Micklefield, delivered activities at the Outer East Area Committee “Have your say” event at Kippax leisure centre and made decisions around the October half term, Christmas trip and Feb half term Youth Activity Funded trips. They have also ordered resources for the youth clubs, all within the budgets given. The group is on-going and are looking forward to making decisions on behalf of the young people in the ward in the future.

## Consultations

### PSHE education –DFE seeking young people’s views



The government are currently trying to find out what young people think about PSHE (Personal Social Health Education) and SRE (Sex and Relationships Education) provision in schools and colleges. The aim is to inform the Department for Education’s next steps regarding PSHE - including relationships education. We know having really good PSHE lessons in school is an important issue for young people in the city so this is their chance for young people to tell the people in power how they should make it even better! Please encourage young people to have their say by completing the survey [here](#)

### Government’s Education and Mental Health Green Paper

The Government recently published a green paper putting forward new ideas on how educational settings can support children and young people with their mental health and emotional wellbeing. Like with PSHE, we know that mental health is one of the biggest issues for children and young people in the city and as such would encourage your participation. The green paper and accompanying consultation can be found [here](#).

## Opportunities to get involved

### UK Youth Parliament Elections – voting is open!



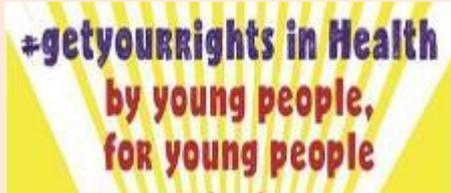
Every two years, young people in Leeds are able to elect four Members of Youth Parliament to represent them at a local, regional and national level. Voting to elect the next MYPs for Leeds opened earlier in the month and there are ten amazing candidates vying for votes. Please encourage any young people aged 11 to 18 years who live or go to school in Leeds to log on and cast their votes.

Each candidate has written a short manifesto on an issue they are passionate about and you can read them using the links below.

<a href="#">Arghya Chakrabarty</a>	<a href="#">Arqam Al-Hadeed</a>	<a href="#">Beatrix Clarke-Dunn</a>	<a href="#">Harry Small</a>	<a href="#">Junior Frood</a>
<a href="#">Kirah Brackenbury</a>	<a href="#">Samuel Cliffe</a>	<a href="#">Syed Zainuddin</a>	<a href="#">Sylvia Cullen</a>	<a href="#">Thomas Schofield</a>

Entries and the voting page can be found at [www.tinyurl.com/UKYPLeeds18](http://www.tinyurl.com/UKYPLeeds18) and voting closes at 5pm on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February. The results of the election will be announced at a finals night at the civic hall on 20<sup>th</sup> February and we’ll profile and introduce our new Members of Youth Parliament in the next issue. If you can’t wait – why not follow us on social media [@LeedsYouthVoice](#)

## #GETYOURRIGHTS in health event



**Question:** How can you ensure the young people you work with are aware of their rights when accessing health services and that they know what to do if their rights aren't being met?

**Answer:** Bring them along to this free, catered event in the city centre!

On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February [YouthWatch](#) and [Leeds Youth Voice](#) are running a #getyourrights event at Leeds Civic Hall for young people aged 11-25 from youth and community groups in the city. The event is free to attend and runs from 4.45pm to 8pm.

We're inviting you to attend with your youth group or individual young people you support. They will learn about their legal rights when receiving healthcare, how to speak up if their rights aren't met and will have the chance to share their experiences and learn from others. Feedback from the event will be shared with providers and commissioners in Leeds to help make changes in the health system.

There will be competitions with prizes and food and drink will be provided. If transport costs are a barrier to your group attending, please get in touch.

You can book your group's places here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/getyourrights-in-health-tickets-42000574850>.

**Booking deadline: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February**

If you have any questions or need any further information, please contact Harriet or Parveen on 0113 8980035 or email [harriet@healthwatchleeds.co.uk](mailto:harriet@healthwatchleeds.co.uk)

## New forum for young people passionate about music



The [Leeds Music Education Partnership](#) are working with the Voice and Influence Team to set up a new forum for young people who are passionate about music. It's open for any young person in the city aged 13-18 and no musical ability is required, just enthusiasm! The group will meet regularly in the city centre to plan events and gigs, have fun, make new friends and work with the Music Education Partnership board to improve how music (in all its forms!) is provided and promoted to young people in the city.

There's a "find out more" event on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March from 2pm – 4pm in Leeds Civic Hall. It's free to attend and young people can bring a friend. For more information or to book places email [vic@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:vic@leeds.gov.uk)

## Supporting schools in challenging Homophobic, Biphobic and Transphobic bullying



Barnardo's have recently been working with schools in challenging Homophobic, Bi-phobic and Transphobic bullying and supporting schools to ensure their school environment is inclusive whilst giving staff the confidence to have conversations around gender and sexual identity. The initiative is funded by the Government Equalities Office and supported by the Department for Education, and is fully funded and therefore free to access. The free training aims to upskill school staff in having the knowledge, confidence and resources to proactively challenge prejudice and discrimination, to support LGBTQ pupils, staff and families and to ensure their school environment and curriculum is inclusive of a diverse range of identities.

There are various different elements of the programme; however the minimum commitment asked from schools is 3 hours of staff training (this can potentially be split into two sessions to be flexible to school capacity).

To apply, please complete this [short survey](#) and if you have any further questions contact Josh Booth on 0113 / [josh.booth@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:josh.booth@barnardos.org.uk)

## National Citizen Service



National Citizen Service (NCS) is a fantastic opportunity for young people in your local area to learn new life skills, take part in outdoor activities and give back to their communities.

In light of the NCS Act, the Department for Education and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport have now published two official guidance documents on how to ensure all young people in your area hear about the programme. If you are interested, check out the two links below. As recommended in the guidance, Leeds City Council have identified a senior designated officer, (Voice and Influence Lead) [Hannah.Lamplugh@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:Hannah.Lamplugh@leeds.gov.uk) who will link with NCS providers in Leeds.

- [Guidance on NCS for local authorities](#)
- [Guidance on NCS for schools](#)

For more information about the programme, please visit [www.ncsyes.co.uk](http://www.ncsyes.co.uk) and for any questions please email [policy@ncstrust.co.uk](mailto:policy@ncstrust.co.uk).

## Resources

### YouthWatch Takeover Film



Youthwatch would like to share a short film produced by Liam, a film student and Healthwatch volunteer, with the support of Healthwatch Leeds and Common Room. It is the product of the takeover event by YouthWatch that took place on 28th November when Youthwatch volunteers took over a meeting of the Leeds City Council Health and Wellbeing Board.

It can be found [here](#) on the MindMate YouTube channel.

This film (3.15min) is aimed at young people who are interested in finding out more about the Future in Mind: Leeds plan.

## Training

### Early years conference: Creating an empathetic culture for all



The pre-school learning alliance are hosting two workshops:

- Creating a positive emotional environment for children
- The voice of an empathetic practitioner / parent becomes a child's inner voice

Friday 9th March 2018

9.30am to 3.30pm

Dewsbury Rams Rugby Stadium, Owl Lane, Dewsbury WF17 7RH

Lunch provided and FREE goodie bag from YPO for all delegates

£45 per delegate for Alliance Members

£55 per delegate for Non-members

To book your place email the Pre-school Learning Alliance: [events.wys@pre-school.org.uk](mailto:events.wys@pre-school.org.uk) or call 01924 460930

Thanks for reading and don't forget to get in touch if you have anything you would like us to feature in a future edition!

Keyleigh  
Hannah  
Rich  
Hannah  
Hannah J.

The Voice, Influence and Change Team  
Children and Families Directorate  
Leeds City Council  
[vic@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:vic@leeds.gov.uk)

[www.breezeleeds.org/haveyoursay](http://www.breezeleeds.org/haveyoursay)

Read our 2016/17 [annual report](#)

Learn more about parents & carers having a voice and influence in Leeds: <http://tinyurl.com/LeedsPCF>

Follow us on social media @LeedsYouthVoice



If you no longer wish to receive our emails please [UNSUBSCRIBE](#)

