



The Leeds Voice, Influence and Change Newsletter

August 2019

Welcome to our latest newsletter bringing you some of latest in voice & influence news, resources, consultations and opportunities. As always, we encourage you to share within your teams and don't forget that downloadable versions of our back issues are available [online](#)

Finally, if you have any stories, groups or events that you would like us to feature in a future issue please get in touch or send your articles or contributions to vic@leeds.gov.uk

News

The Leeds Children's Mayor election is now underway



Voting to elect the 16th Children's Mayor of Leeds kicked off on 22nd July and will run until 25th September. This year we have 12 amazing finalists and children and young people in the city are encouraged to visit the [voting page](#), read their manifestos and then vote for their two favourites. The winner will be announced by the Lord Mayor of Leeds at a special finalists reception evening on 1st October in Leeds Civic Hall

This year, 45 local primary schools submitted entrants who were then shortlisted down to a final 12 by a panel of children and young people including previous winners and finalists. Even if you're too old to vote we'd encourage you take some time to read through the finalists' [manifestos](#) which this year cover a wide range of issues and subjects. You can follow the programme and be amongst the first to know who got the most votes by following @LSChildrenMayor on twitter

Members of Youth Parliament host Knife Crime Summit for Secondary Schools

On 16th July, secondary school students from across Leeds spent the day at Pudsey Civic Hall for a youth voice summit on tackling knife crime that was hosted by the Members of Youth Parliament for Leeds in partnership with West Yorkshire Police and Life Experience. The event was a response to concerns raised by young people in the 2018 Make Your Mark ballot where almost 25,000 youngsters aged 11-18 in Leeds (36% of the youth population) voted on their top issues – one of which was "tackling knife crime"



The day consisted of spoken word performances from ex-gang members based around the issue of knife crime, various workshops including basic first aid and a session which encouraged attendees to think of ways that they can raise awareness of the dangers of carrying a knife in their schools, local communities and in the wider city. For more details please download a copy of the full [event report](#)

Leeds Youth Council mental health campaign

Last November, through the annual UK Youth Parliament [Make Your Mark](#) ballot, “better mental health support in schools and colleges” was voted as one of the top issues facing young people both in the UK and here in Leeds. Since then, members of the Leeds Youth Council Working Group have been devising a campaign that set out to raise awareness about the types of support that are already out there for young people in the city.



After learning about the fantastic [MindMate](#) website and the different types of support available the youth councillors decided to call their campaign ‘MYnd MATES’. They worked on creating two workshop events as well as producing a campaign resource pack. The first workshop took place on 21st August where 20 young people were trained on how to raise awareness in their own schools / youth groups. A second workshop is scheduled for 21st September and there are currently just a handful of places still available. If you know anyone aged 11-18 who would like to take part please encourage them to [book their place](#) ASAP.

Community voice and influence update



The Community Youth Ambassadors have been busy this term working with the ‘sustain’ project - a children’s food campaign looking at junk food marketing to young people.

The young people went out around Leeds City Centre and looked at the different places fast food outlets advertised in and how many of these places were frequented by young people. The conclusion was that there was in excess of 40 fast food restaurants or food outlets in the vicinity of the 30 minute walk they took. They then fed back some suggestions to the public health workers that attended.

During the summer holidays the Peer Inspectors group have also been undertaking unannounced inspections of Youth Activity Fund and Play Enabling Grant funded projects. They have been asking some of the young people attending these projects to complete mystery shopper questionnaires to check that young people are having fun and the project is what they expected it to be.

Finally, the Community Voice and Influence team have also been busy working with elected members to plan a number of Community Youth Summits for the Autumn and Winter school terms. The dates for the rest of 2019 are as follows:

- 2nd October 2019 – Outer West (Pudsey / Farnley and Wortley / Calverly and Farsley) @ Leeds Civic Hall *
- 15th October 2019 – Inner West (Armley / Bramley / Kirkstall) @ Leeds Art Gallery *
- 30th October 2019 – Outer East (Temple Newsam / Kippax & Methley / Crossgates & Whinmoor / Garforth & Swillington) @ Firthfields community centre
- 6th November 2019 – Inner North East (Chapel Allerton / Moortown & Meanwood / Roundhay) @ Leeds Civic Hall *

* These summits are school based summits during a school day

These summits are a way of young people representing a specific community committee area to come together to learn about democracy and representation before doing an activity where they work with their local councillors to help decide how Youth Activity Fund money for their area should be spent in the next financial year. If your organisation would like more information on the summits or if you would like to be involved please contact the team on communityvoice@leeds.gov.uk

'The Big Summer Shout-Out' – FGC youth voice event

On Saturday 15th June, young people who have recently been involved in their Family Group Conferences came together for the FGC service's 'Big Summer Shout-Out' at Temple Newsam Park.

The day was made up of two interactive workshops, asking the young people to look at and reflect on their experiences of their involvement in the FGC process. Specifically the young people discussed their experiences of working alongside the FGC Co-ordinator in preparation of their FGC, and their thoughts on how the 'Family Plan' could be put together in more 'young-person'-friendly formats that are accessible for them.

The young people had clear and firm thoughts and ideas that were recorded and will be fed back into the FGC service to make our work more focussed and responsive to the needs of children and young people. The day also provided an opportunity for parents and carers to meet with FGC workers, as well as other adults who are involved in a service user group for adult relatives who have experience of the FGC service. In between the sessions young people got to know each other by dressing up for a 'photo booth', playing outdoor team games and rounding off the day with a talent contest.

The FGC team are starting to plan a second event in the Autumn, to involve a similar group of young people to consider the same issues, which can again promote positive changes to how the Family Group Conference Service better gathers and reflects the voices and needs of children and young people.



Compass House project: Summer 2019

Following the success of the Christmas Compass House pop up shop, staff and students from the different SILC's in Leeds came together in January to start to plan for a summer pop up shop. Students – all of whom had additional needs - met every 3 weeks at different SILC sites across the city to work together on promotional materials, a social media campaign and to make the products that would go on to be sold in their summer pop up shop which opened from Tuesday 9th to Thursday 11th July 2019 in the St John's Centre in Leeds City Centre. The project was a big success with students learning new skills and growing in confidence.



"The Compass House project has really given our pupils the opportunity to make meaningful progress in critical areas such as life skills, organisational skills and team working - and most importantly, all outside of the classroom. The opportunity to mix with students from the other SILCs at these activities is always invaluable, and what they take from such experiences is immeasurable." **Gavin, North West SILC**

Still time to register for UK Parliament Week 2019

Did you know that there's been lots going on politically in the UK recently – which sometimes children and young people struggle to make sense of?!

Every year UK Parliament Week hosts a programme of events and workshop which aim to foster closer engagement with and understanding of the role of Parliament. For schools and youth groups Parliament Week is a brilliant opportunity to help the children and young people you work with learn more about citizenship and democracy.

This year, Parliament Week is running from the **2nd to the 9th of November** and best of all, schools and youth groups can now [sign up for a free resource pack](#) to enable them to take part. Alternatively, teachers and youth workers can visit the [resources](#) section of the UKPW website to download a host of excellent free resources designed for use in a variety of settings.

Stop. Think. Racism Stinks: A Leeds Children's Mayor campaign

Last November, 7,770 local children and young people voted in the Leeds Children's Mayor elections and Rio from Grange Farm Primary School was voted as their 2018 Children's Mayor of Leeds

Following his election, Rio made a deputation speech to full Leeds City Council in January to share his winning manifesto idea with the 99 city councillors. Rio's [manifesto](#) was all about raising awareness of racism within primary schools, and providing safe places for students to express how they are feeling.



This year, a team of council officers have been working with Rio to come up with a plan to bring his "Stop. Think. Racism Stinks" campaign to life. A [resource pack](#) and accompanying [video](#) have been produced to give schools the necessary resources to run lessons with pupils to raise awareness of how racism affects children and young people and what to do if they witness acts of racism or are victims of racism.

Student Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership update

The Student LSCP are a group of young people who have volunteered to provide a young person's voice around the work of the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP). The group were asked by the LSCP and Leeds Adults Safeguarding Board to help develop some key principles that services should take into account when working with young people aged 16 and over, who are moving from children's to adult services.

They looked at different approaches to transitions and then evaluated different practice principles before finally producing a list of important principles for practitioners to consider.

The Student LSCP used some research from the Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and Newcastle University (2017), that looked at young people's views, opinions and beliefs about transitions. The research found that there 4 different approaches to transitions; a Laid Back group, an Anxious group, a Want To Do Things for Themselves group and a Socially Focused group. Each group had their own needs and preferred ways of working.

They recognised that if a practitioner identified which group a young person is in, it will help them see what support they need and how it should be provided. From this they identified 10 principles that they think are important for practitioners to bear in mind when working with young people going through transition in their lives – these are included on the attached document

As a result of the research the Student LSCP ask practitioners to remember that when young people require support, they don't always know what they need and need help to work with them to figure this out. Practitioners can do this by using the transition approaches to identify the most appropriate one for the young person and take on board the 10 practice principles that they have identified.

For further information about this project or the Student LSCP please see: www.leedsscp.org.uk/studentlscp

Consultations

Views wanted on bus service information

The West Yorkshire Combined Authority is looking at how to provide information about bus services in a way that best meets people's requirements and would really like to hear the views of people in Leeds – especially young people. By completing this [survey](#) they can tell WYCA their views on bus information and what they think about plans for how travel information will be presented in the future. If you want more information, including the full bus information strategy, you can find it all [here](#).



Views wanted on getting (more) active in Leeds

Get Set Leeds is a new initiative set up to get the people of Leeds to be more physically active and as such to have healthier lifestyles. The team behind this new initiative are now encouraging everyone (young or old) to visit their website and [let them know](#) how physical activity fits into your life and how you may be encouraged to do more.



The Get Set Leeds team have also recently been to meet with the Leeds Youth Council to get their views and have created a great article about how the factor of [gender issues in P.E.](#) plays a large influencing role around access to activity.

Views wanted on the Climate Emergency

The Big Leeds Climate Conversation is a mass engagement campaign being held with every community in Leeds to develop a citywide plan for tackling climate change. It is being delivered in partnership with the independent Leeds Climate Commission and is part of the council's response to the climate emergency.



Last year, a landmark report by the United Nations warned that--unless urgent action is taken--the opportunity to avoid the worst effects of climate change will be missed. We are also seeing a catastrophic decline in bees and other pollinating insects and an increasing number of threatened and endangered species.

In response to these findings, Leeds City Council has formally declared a climate emergency and has committed to work towards becoming a carbon-neutral city by 2030. Everyone in the city – young and old – is now encouraged to give their views in the ongoing [Climate Conversation](#) and to help shape our approach to tackling climate change together.

Views wanted on re-designing the welfare state

Children England are working with the government to recruit and train a group of young people who will help to re-design the welfare state.

They're looking for young people aged 13 - 21 to lead the next phase of the ChildFair State Inquiry: research and development of a new vision for the welfare state by children and young people themselves, with support from a sounding board of policy experts

This team of Young Leaders will be supported by the brilliant Leaders Unlocked to design and deliver the research project, engaging a total of around 2,500 children and young people from the communities they live in. They'll be able to challenge issues in areas like education, housing and public spaces, and come up with creative proposals for putting children's needs at the heart of local and national policy and practice.



If you work with any young people who would enjoy getting involved please visit the [website](#) for more information

Opportunities to get involved in

Period Products competition



In Leeds, we want everyone to have access to period products, so we're launching free products in schools and community hubs- but we need your help.

We are creating a unique approach and, as part of this, we are offering the opportunity for anyone under the age of 25 to design bespoke packaging for period products.

The competition closes on the 13th September, 2019. Please find attached a poster which details this opportunity. Any young person entering will need to include their name, an email address and either their home or their school address

Please send entries to: Thriving@leeds.gov.uk, drop them off in your community hub, or post them to Amelia Gunn, Children & Families, Leeds City Council, Merrion House, Merrion Way, Leeds, LS2 8PD

Celebrating 30 years of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Did you know that on 20th November it's the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child? UNICEF have been hard at work arranging a series of events and activities to celebrate through their [OutRight](#) initiative. They'll be encouraging children and young people to think about the impact this legislation has had and what is still to be done for rights to be realised for all children.

They'll be providing a host of interactive learning resources designed to help children understand key child rights issues, the impact these have, and practical tools and ideas for speaking out and taking action. This year, the packs provide opportunities for children and young people to think about and take action on child rights issues that:

- Are important to them personally
- Need attention across the UK
- Are a priority in other parts of the world



The packs are free to download and will be ready for groups across the UK at the beginning of September. If you think this is something children and young people you're working with would like to take part in then [register your interest](#) now!

Upcoming Events

Nominate someone in the Compassionate City & Child Friendly Leeds Awards



As Autumn looms ever closer we would like to draw your attention to two upcoming awards and celebration events delivered by Leeds City Council.

First up is the annual Compassionate City awards which is being held on Thursday 5th December. This year there are 10 award categories: Unsung Hero, Jo Cox Award, Cultural Project of the year, Health and wellbeing award, Community organisation of the year, Community project of the year, Environmental project of the year, Diversity project of the year, Sports project of the year and Outstanding achievement of the year.

- Nominations are open until 30th September and can be made through the [Compassionate City Awards](#) website.



Hot on the heels of the Compassionate City awards is the 7th annual Child Friendly Leeds Awards - scheduled to take place this coming February at the City Variety Music Hall. Once again it will be entirely planned and hosted by a group of young people from across the city. Awards are up for grabs across 8 categories: Child of the year under 11, Young person of the year 11-21, Youth group of the year, Adult making a difference, Communities and schools working together, Inspiring creativity through arts and culture, Best place in Leeds and Overall contribution to making Leeds a child friendly city.

- Nominations are open until October 25th and can be made using the [Child Friendly Leeds Awards](#) portal

Children's Commitment to play workshop 16th October



This workshop is an exciting opportunity to explore and talk all things play and playful! There will be a keynote speaker for play, Ben Tawil and a choice of 3 workshops based on the 3 outcomes. The event is for playwork practitioners, planners, businesses partners, managers of parks and green space, children's centres and schools along with everyone that contributes to children's play of which there are many.

You will have opportunity to sign up to two workshops on the day.

The event is at the Carriageworks Theatre with registration, tea and coffee at 12.45pm with a 1pm start and 4pm finish and you can book places using [this link](#)

For further information you can contact; Vicki.Marsden@leeds.gov.uk

STAND with Girls event 20th September

Plan International UK is a global children's charity working to give every child the same chance in life. Plan International UK is the expert on girls' rights and are on a mission to transform the lives of marginalised children, especially adolescent girls, through their programmes and advocacy.

They have been working with young women's groups in Leeds, Cardiff, Oxford & Edinburgh on the STAND With Girls programme that facilitates the development of skills, and capacities of girls to be able to advocate for their rights.

On the 20th September they are holding a national event to showcase and celebrate the campaigns designed and led by girls and are asking decision makers & peers to come and STAND with girls. They would like to invite you to join them for an interactive, immersive and engaging experience, with workshops, panel discussions, consultation booths & keynote speakers. The topics of the day will support the delivery of your PHSE curriculum, including workshops around menstruation & mental health and an opportunity for your young people to engage with high profile decision makers in the 'Time to Talk' session.

Details of the event are as follows:

Location: Northern Ballet, Quarry Hill, Leeds LS2 7PA

Date: Friday 20th September

Times: Registration starts at 9am and the event will finish at 3pm.

Lunch and refreshments throughout the day will be provided.

If you would like to book your free places or if you require further information simply email standwithgirls@plan-uk.org



Developing Effective School Councils training – 25th September



The Health and Wellbeing Service in Leeds City Council are once again running their highly rated training course for teachers and school staff who have responsibility for delivering their school council. This course is suitable for both primary school and secondary settings. The full day course will include:

- Explore characteristics of effective Schools Councils
- Develop a constitution to underpin your school council
- Understand how to effectively action plan and prioritise the work of your school council
- Discover other pupil-led activities which could fall under the remit of your school council
- Ways for pupils to get involved in wider decision making e.g. Cluster Councils and Youth Councils
- Linking your school council with your leadership team and school governors
- Case studies and presentation from an effective School Council
- Presentation from the Leeds Voice, and Influence and Change Team
- Advice, ideas and inspiration

For further details about the course and how to book your place visit the [SchoolWellbeing](#) website.

As always, thanks for reading and don't forget to get in touch if you have anything you would like featured in the next edition!

*Kayleigh Hannah
Rich
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The Voice, Influence and Change Team

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www.breezeleeds.org/haveyoursay

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

