



The Leeds Voice, Influence and Change Newsletter

February 2020

This is the first issue of the quarterly Voice, Influence and Change newsletter for the new decade! Through this publication we aim to bring you some of latest in voice & influence news, resources, consultations and opportunities. As always, we encourage you to share within your teams. 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 to vic@leeds.gov.uk



Voting is live for the 2020 UK Youth Parliament Elections!

UK Youth Parliament was launched at the House of Commons in July 2009 and there are now over 350 elected MYP's (Member of Youth Parliament) in the UK. You can read more about UKYP by visiting www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk

Three Members of Youth Parliament for Leeds are elected on an annual basis to represent the views of local young people at a regional and national level and voting in the year's election has just begun. We received 36 brilliant applications which were shortlisted

down to a final six who are now campaigning for votes:

Lois – Tackling plastic pollution

Jamie – Involving young people in the climate emergency

Lanre – Counselling in schools / Free school meals for all / Cheaper travel

Beatrix – Improving the environment

Gurman – Better mental health support

Sergiusz - A more educated, safe and greener Leeds

It's up to young people in the city to vote for their 3 representatives and we strongly encourage you to promote the elections to any young person aged 11-18 who you know or work with. They can cast their votes by visiting the [voting portal](#) before voting closes on Monday 24th February at 9am. We have attached a flyer promoting the elections for you to share.



Child Friendly Leeds wins national award

On 29th January, Child Friendly Leeds picked up the prestigious [National Leadership Centre](#) "Award for Public Service". This award was given in recognition of the amazing partnership work last summer on the Child Friendly City Centre project – a project that began with children and young people suggesting ideas for making our city centre better for them – and then seeing those ideas come to life.

Congratulations to everyone involved and for a reminder of the brilliant work of the city centre project you can watch the excellent [project summary video](#)

And Leeds isn't the only city making waves with how it involves young people – check out this [great blog](#) about how children in other parts of the world have been having their say over urban design and innovation

Catch on Wheels



[Catch](#) have just started a new “Catch on Wheels” youth activity project taking activities and entertainment to the children and young people of upper Harehills and replicating what they do at their home base at The Ark. If you work with any young people aged 9-17 who live in the area please encourage them to attend every Tuesday and Thursday 1830-2030 at Nowell's Children's Centre, Nowell Mount, Harehills LS9 6HR.

For more information contact del@arkleeds.co.uk



Young people involved in commissioning

In January a group of young people helped Leeds City Council commission the best services by interviewing representatives from 6 organisations bidding for contracts to provide Pathways programmes to young people. All the young people involved had previously received support from organisations to help them get onto new destinations.

They asked questions based on their own lived experiences, considering the responses in detail and helped to determine the organisation they thought would do the best job of delivering Pathways support to young people in the city

Over the last quarter, the Commissioning team in the Children & Families Directorate have also involved young people and families in:

- Kinship Assessment, Supervision and Support contract: a Kinship carer sat on the evaluation panel for a tender for the new contract.
- Direct payment support service & payroll consultation: questionnaires were sent to all families receiving direct payments in order to obtain their current and future views of the direct payment service. As part of the consultation drop-ins were held at various accessible locations across the city for families to attend.
- Targeted Short Breaks: a huge thank you to C&YP with SEND from Broomfield SILC whom were involved with the successful children's panel for the new 3 year Targeted Short Break Residential Contract and also the award for the 2 year Targeted Short Break Grants.

Planned to take place this coming quarter:

- Assistive Equipment Review: they are undertaking a joint review with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) & Adults and Health Commissioners to look at the systems, services & needs associated with assistive equipment. As part of this they will be holding a number of focus groups for service users to gain their views and a questionnaire will also be sent out to users to get individual feedback.

SENate consultation event for young people with special educational needs and disabilities

Tuesday 24th March

10.15 till 14.00

Leeds Civic Hall

(free to attend)

Any professionals who work with young people with SEND are invited to bring them to SENate: an event designed to enable them to influence local services whilst learning about ways to have a voice and influence

This fully accessible event will be a great opportunity for students to:

- Learn from young people with SEND who have already made a difference
- Take part in city wide consultations and influence how services are provided
- Visit the historic Leeds Civic Hall
- Meet other young people from different schools and settings

Attendance is free and lunch and refreshments are provided for staff and students. Schools and settings can book their places at <https://tinyurl.com/SENate24March>

If you are a service or organisation who would like to use this event as an opportunity to consult with a cohort of young people with SEND then please get in touch with us vic@leeds.gov.uk

SENate



There are consultation opportunities in the marketplace area over lunch and we can also support you to deliver a fuller 'workshop style' consultation with the young people in attendance.

Leeds Youth Council takeover



Young people on the Leeds Youth Council (LYC) have been busy recently as they continue to work on two campaigns that other young people in the city have said are their big issues. In 2018 the LYC worked on a campaign for **better public transport for young people**. One of the successes of the campaign was getting a new "youth transport" priority added to the Children and Young People's plan. They also

organised a meeting with lead transport representatives from West Yorkshire Combined Authority, Transdev, First Bus and Arriva. During this process the LYC were involved in the launch of a new My Day fare for young people in West Yorkshire and have seen other incremental improvements begin to take place such as a freeze of fare rises for young people last year.

Last November the LYC invited another delegation of transport representatives to a meeting at the Civic Hall (pictured right) to discuss the progress made since the 2018 meeting and discussing the many improvements young people still want– including more reliable bus departure information and friendlier drivers. Their recommendations were informed by a "mystery shopper" bus user survey that ran throughout September and October.

The current 2020 LYC campaign is about **improving the environment** and on 28th January a group of Youth Councillors and Members of Youth Parliament took over a meeting of the Children and Families trust Board (pictured above left) where they worked with board members on workshops looking at what role schools, young people, board members and the

board itself could take in responding to the Leeds City Council climate emergency. For more information email Richard.cracknell@leeds.gov.uk

Family Group Conferencing service

The Family Group Conference (FGC) service is planning to involve children and young people in a further consultation about their experiences of having an FGC, to help them refocus the service on ensuring the experience and voice of the child are fully represented in family meetings and family plans.

They will be asking young people about how well-prepared they felt for their FGC, how much they felt a part of their actual meeting, and then about their experiences following the FGC. They have drafted a set of questions for children and young people to answer, hopefully with the option of including an electronic version in the future. To ensure that the questions and format are accessible, meaningful and relevant to children and young people they will first be arranging for a small group of young people to come and give their feedback and make any suggestions for how they could be improved.

Consultations



Parks and Green Spaces strategy

The Parks and Countryside team at Leeds City Councils are about to write a plan for the next ten years of green space in our city! Before they start writing they want to know what children and young people think about the current parks they have access to - what's their favourite local park? Why?

What would make it better? Please encourage young people to log on and let them know their views and in doing so help create a brilliant plan for the next decade.

The survey will remain open until 29th February and can be accessed at:

<https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/ParksSurvey/>

Consultation on proposal to expand Leeds West Academy

The Sufficiency and Participation Team (school place planning) would like to make you aware of a consultation on a proposal to permanently expand Leeds West Academy from 240 places to 300 places in year 7 from September 2022.

The proposal has been brought forward by the White Rose Academies Trust working in partnership with Leeds City Council. The consultation will run from Monday 27 January to Sunday 1st March. During the consultation period there will be two informal community drop-in sessions for members of the public and other interested parties to find out more about the proposals. Details of the drop-in sessions are as follows;

Date	Time	Venue
11 February 2020 LS13 1DQ	3:30pm – 5:30pm	Leeds West Academy, Intake Lane, Leeds,
25 February 2020	5:00pm – 6:30pm LS13 1DQ	Leeds West Academy, Intake Lane, Leeds,

Further information about the proposals, including a link to an online survey for people to express their views, is due to be available from Monday 27 January via the following webpages;

www.leedswestacademy.org.uk/Expansion-Consultation-2020

www.leeds.gov.uk/schoolplaceconsultations

Upcoming Events

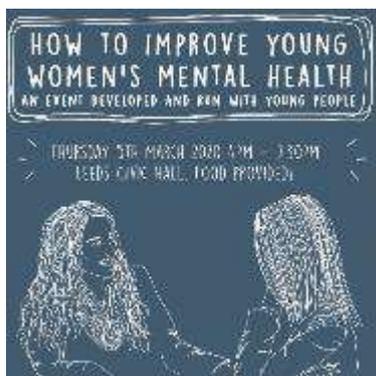


Youth Voice Summit on Climate Change for Youth and Community Groups: 24/03/20

In response to young people locally and nationally telling us that “protecting the environment” is their number one issue, the Voice, Influence and Change Team are hosting a **Youth Voice Summit** on the theme of **Tackling Climate Change**. The event will be held on 24th March in Leeds Civic Hall from 5pm to 7pm and is open to staff and young people from youth and community groups in the city. Attendance is free and hot food, entertainment and refreshment are provided.

You can book free places to bring your youth group by visiting our [booking page](#) and we have attached a flyer for the event.

Mental Health for Young Women event: 05/03/20



Mental health problems in young women aged 15-25 years have steadily increased over the last decade. Leeds City Council, in partnership with Health and third sector colleagues, have worked with YouthWatch and MindMate Ambassadors to co-develop and deliver a young women’s mental health event. The aim is to explore what we can do differently as a city, to turn the curve on this trend.

The event is on 5th March 2020 from 4pm – 7:30pm and is being held in the Banqueting Suite at Leeds Civic Hall. It is free and open to young people aged 15-25 years with personal experience of, or supporting someone with, mental health or emotional wellbeing problems. Parents/carers with experience of living with a young woman who has, or is, struggling with their emotional wellbeing/mental health and professionals with a particular interest or role around improving young women’s mental health.

For booking or further information please email AandHevents@leeds.gov.uk

Parliament and YOU - free workshop for young people: 04/03/20



People, Power and Parliament - An Introduction to Your UK Parliament

Weds 4th March 5pm-7pm Leeds Civic Hall Council Chamber

How can you begin to influence the UK Parliament and get your voice heard? How do you contact your MP? What does the House of Lords do, and how can you contact them?

These questions and many more will be answered at this free interactive workshop for young people aged 11-18 that will be delivered by experts from the Youth Voice Unit Yorkshire and Humber. It’s a great opportunity to further the understanding of the young people you work with and will take place in the prestigious Council Chamber where the 99 City Councillors hold their meetings.

To book free places for your youth group simply email vic@leeds.gov.uk. A flyer for the workshop is attached.

Editorial correction from our previous newsletter

In our last newsletter we included an article titled “Young people meet the street games national team” covering a fantastic project from the LED Community Foundation. We incorrectly stated that the project was delivered by BARCA Leeds rather than the LED Community Foundation and we apologise for any confusion this may have caused

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 which will be published in the second week of May.

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www.breezeleeds.org/haveyoursay

Learn more about parents & carers having a voice and influence in Leeds:

<http://tinyurl.com/LeedsPCFVoice>



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