



The Leeds Voice, Influence and Change Newsletter January 2019

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter covering the latest in voice & influence news, resources, consultations and opportunities. In this issue you can catch up on Takeover Challenge, Youth Voice Summits, an ongoing Mental Health consultation and much more

As always, we encourage you to share this newsletter within your staff teams and networks and downloadable versions of our back issues are available [online](#)

If you have any stories, groups or events that you would like us to feature in a future issue please get in touch.

News

Children and young people have been taking over!

Since our last newsletter, children & young people, schools and organisations around the city have been getting involved in the '[takeover challenge](#)'. Takeover Challenge is an annual initiative promoted by the Children's Commissioner for England which is designed to enable organisations to hand over their reigns to the children and young people they work with.

Here in Leeds, over 40 local schools and organisations [took part](#) which included Takeovers of some senior boards within Leeds City Council. On Monday 21st January a delegation of 14 Members of Youth Parliament and Leeds Youth Councillors delivered their sixth annual takeover of the Leeds City Council 'Children & Families Trust Board' meeting.



The young people used the meeting as an opportunity to share the work of Youth Parliament and the Youth Council with particular emphasis on their two current campaigns; reducing knife crime (UK Youth Parliament national campaign) and better mental health support (Leeds Youth Council local campaign).

Less than 24 hours later, a group of students from the East, Broomfield and West SILCS (Special Inclusive Learning Centres) arrived at the Civic Hall to take over another senior council board – this time the 'SEND Partnership Board'. The students who attended used the meeting as an opportunity to celebrate their successes since the last takeover and talk to the board about their fear of knife crime – and ways of reducing it as well as to have an in-depth discussion about work experience.

One brilliant suggestion from a young person taking part was for the SEND Partnership Board to play an active role by helping the SILCS find professionals working in different sectors to go into school to give talks on the jobs they do.

Shortlist revealed for the Child Friendly Leeds Awards 2019

The [names of the people, places and organisations shortlisted](#) for the 6th Child Friendly Leeds awards have been revealed.

The annual awards ceremony will take place in February this year, and will celebrate all the work that is happening across the city to make Leeds the best place for children and young people to grow up in.



The prestigious city-wide event is being planned by a group of 13 young people called The Dynamics. They have been working hard to organise every aspect of the awards, including merchandise, venue décor and selecting the young performers from Leeds who will entertain guests on the night. The Dynamics will also be the hosts of the evening.

There will be eight awards categories presented, including the brand new category 'Youth Group of the Year'.

There were a record number of nominations received this year, with just under 600 nominations being made across the eight categories.

This made shortlisting an extremely difficult job for the judging panel. 42 nominees were chosen, and there will be 8 winners announced on the night, in front of an audience of around 400 people including a number of city leaders, VIP and supporters.

Update from the Community Voice & Influence Team



The Leeds Community Youth Ambassadors have been busy preparing a presentation for building developers in Leeds who are designing new neighbourhoods for our cities. This is an exciting new project for Leeds, involving young people in the design of our neighbourhoods. They will be sharing their ideas for what makes communities child friendly and how to encourage children and young people to play or hang out outside.

If you are 8-17 years old and would like to get involved in the group they meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month at the Leeds Civic Hall, 5-7pm.

Please contact Caroline in the Communities Team to find out more: 07891 272 154 caroline.webb@leeds.gov.uk

Barca VIP's (Voice, Influence & Participation Group)

[Barca Leeds](#) V.I.P.'s (Voice, Influence and Participation group) were asked to provide their support to the Leeds City Council Commissioning Manager in order to establish the thoughts and views of young people around two specific areas (transport and advertising) in light of the forthcoming Youth Work review. The V.I.P.'s were the first group to be part of this process and made excellent contributions, were honest in their thoughts and ideas and gave the Commissioning Manager plenty to think about moving forward. Having this opportunity to contribute to a city wide delivery model was a great experience for the group and a reflection of their reputation.



Youth Voice Star Awards



The Youth Voice Star Awards celebrate the breadth and diversity of Youth Voice work that happens across the British Youth Council membership in various settings, celebrating and recognising the workers who make it happen, the change makers that champion it, the organisations that enable it, and the projects doing things differently to address local and national issues.

Yorkshire and Humber held their Youth Voice Star Awards ceremony on Saturday 19th January at Leeds Civic Hall.

From Leeds both Compass House and Evie Addleman were highly commended in the categories they were nominated. Well done!

Compass House were nominated for the Celebrating Diversity award, the project is a great example of youth voice within the SILCs (special inclusive learning centres) in Leeds. Students with complex needs highlighted that meaningful and valuable work experience is something hard to come by. The students from West SILC, East SILC, North West SILC, Broomfield SILC and the Lighthouse School worked in partnership together (with support from staff and the voice and influence team) to plan and host a pop up shop in Leeds Kirkgate Market for Christmas. The students made all the decisions about the shop i.e. name, logo, products to sell before working in the shop for a week in December 2018.

Evie was nominated for the Young Campaigner of the Year award, Evie is a young person in Leeds who campaigns to raise the awareness of Crohn's amongst professionals and families. Evie is an incredible campaigner who spends her free time speaking at events and holding fundraisers to raise money for the Crohn's foundation.

Consultations

Can you help to get young people's views about mental health crisis support?



The number of people experiencing mental illness in the UK is 16 million: this means one in four people experience a mental health problem every year.

We want to know about the experience of people in mental health crisis and their carers, family and friends.

By mental health crisis we mean when someone no longer feels able to cope or be in control of their situation.

We are gathering people's views in a number of ways and will be sharing the findings and recommendations with the service providers and commissioners.

Please could you support this work by:

- Circulating and sharing the attached flyer among your networks and in your parents, young people's and professionals e-bulletins.
- Sharing the link to the survey as widely as possible <https://bit.ly/2Tu1cMq>
- Letting us know about any groups that you run where we can attend to fill in surveys with members of the group
- Sharing with us details of any groups that we could attend and run a focus group about mental health crisis. (This would need to be people who have had experience of or supported someone in mental health crisis and are happy to share this in a group environment).

Ofsted seek your views!

Ofsted are seeking views on their proposals for changes to the education inspection framework from September 2019.



Ofsted are proposing to make changes to the education inspection framework, which will apply to all education inspections. There are also specific proposals relating to early years, maintained schools and academies, non-association independent schools, and further education and skills providers.

The closing date for the [consultation](#) is 5th April 2019.

Opportunities to get involved in

Community Committee Youth Voice Summits



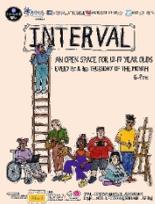
Did you know that every year Leeds City Council enables hundreds of children and young people to have their say over how Youth Activity Fund money is spent in their local areas? These events, known as 'community youth voice summits' take place throughout the year with schools from each area invited to send pupils as representatives. Most events are also attended by various youth activity providers so

that the young people can sample a flavour of just some of the activities that Leeds City Council can provide for them after school or during the school holidays.

Typically each event will feature a workshop on democracy and the role of being a representative, a Q&A panel with local councillors and a workshop where the young people get to decide on the types of activities their community committee should fund – anything from drama, art, sport, music, coding and youth groups. So far this year events have been held for the Inner West, Inner South and Inner North East areas and young people have already helped influence the allocation of over £100,000 in funding. Further events will be held over the coming month. If your school or organisation would like to get involved please contact caroline.webb@leeds.gov.uk

Interval

Interval is an open space run by a group of young volunteers that offers a relaxing creative activities to help 12-17 yr olds unwind from the stresses of life.



We chose to name the space 'Interval' because it means a break;
A break from the pressures of being a teenager.
But it can also mean a space between:
A space between childhood and adulthood
and a space between school and home.

The space is held at Inkwell from 6-9pm on the first and third Thursdays of every month.

Interval is a fully inclusive non-judgemental space where everyone is valued. We want to stress that this is not just a space for people who consider themselves to be 'creative' or 'arty'. Interval is for EVERYONE, regardless of whether or not you've ever picked up a paintbrush. We value stick men just as much as Mona Lisas. It's all about being open to try out new things and express yourself.

For more information about Interval, please contact interval@inkwellarts.org.uk or visit the [inkwell website](http://inkwellarts.org.uk).

Events

Let's Talk about Leeds!

Youth and community groups from across the city are invited to meet and work with members of the Leeds City Council 'children & families [scrutiny board](#)' at a special event on Weds 13th March, 5pm to 7.30pm at Leeds Civic Hall. The event is **free to attend** and youth group leaders can book up to **ten places** for members of your youth group and staff to accompany them.

The theme of the event is "Let's talk about Leeds" and the views and opinions of the young people attending will be used as part of the current Leeds City Council 'scrutiny inquiry' which is seeking to monitor progress towards becoming a '[child friendly city](#)'.

At the event, your young people will be able to:

- Learn more about the city and what is available for young people
- Share their views and ideas with Councillors and other decision makers about what could be improved
- Visit the Civic Hall and enjoy free hot food and refreshments
- Meet and work with other groups from different backgrounds and areas of the city
- Win prizes in our raffle
- Influence the outcome and recommendations of the Leeds City Council scrutiny inquiry



You can book your places quickly and easily using the [online booking system](#) or you can get more information / book over email vic@leeds.gov.uk

Resources

Safer Internet Day

You may be aware that Safer Internet Day is on 5 February 2019 but did you know there are lots of great resources for children, young people, parents/carers and schools to support this, including top tips for safe internet usage for different age groups?

Have a look at the [website](#) where you'll find all of this information.

As always, 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!

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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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