



The Leeds Voice, Influence and Change newsletter July 2018

We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter covering the latest in voice & influence news, resources, consultations and opportunities. In this issue you can catch up on Child Friendly City Centre project, Leeds Children's Mayor Voting, Child Friendly Leeds Awards Planning Group, The Tribe Youth Group and much more.

We'd encourage you to share this newsletter within your staff teams and networks and downloadable versions of our back issues are available [online](#)

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

News

Youth voice making our city centre more child friendly!



Last year, the Child Friendly City Centre Competition received over 350+ amazing entries/ideas from children and young people about how our city centre could be more even more child friendly.

Since then, staff from the Children's and Families and City Development directorates at Leeds City Council have been working with partners across the city to make the 10 winning ideas a reality. Some of these have already taken place, such as the hugely popular "Rolla Disco" in Kirkgate Markets and a weekend-long "CFL Cinema" screening films made by local children and young people that were a part of the Golden Owl film awards.

However, that is just the tip of the iceberg and – with the arrival of the summer holidays – there are a whole host of other events and activities planned to ensure children, young people and families can have fun and enjoy our city centre. Please encourage children, young people and families your work with to find out what is happening on a daily basis by visiting the [Breeze](#) website. Some of things scheduled to take place include:

- A pop up park on Cookridge Street (summer holidays)
- Indoor play at St John's Centre (Wednesdays & Thursday 11am till 1pm)
- [Child Friendly Leeds Sundays](#) - different events throughout the summer, each and every Sunday!
- Pop up and play on Victoria Gardens (22nd July to 5th August)
- Pop up park in front of Leeds Town Hall (August)
- Peace garden at St John's Centre (August)
- Pay as you feel café in the light (w/c 6th August, Monday to Friday 11am till 3pm)
- [Child Friendly Leeds Live](#) on Millennium Square (8th August)
- City beach on Victoria Gardens (11th August to 2nd September)
- Junk Playspace on Cookridge Street (18 /19 August)
- Roller Disco at Kirkgate Market (28th to 31st August)

Link to [press release](#) for more information.

We're also really proud of the brand new [Child Friendly Leeds City Centre Map](#) that young people and families have been asking for and which incorporates ideas suggested by children from Meadowfield primary school and was developed with members of the Leeds Youth Council. Download the map or pick up a copy at Visit Leeds and see what new places you can discover with your family!

Generous June – a Children’s Mayor success story



Did you know that last November, over 6,300 local children and young people elected Isla from Gildersome Primary School as their [Children’s Mayor of Leeds](#).

Following her election, Isla made a deputation speech to a full council meeting to share her winning manifesto idea with our 99 city councillors. Her manifesto was all about tackling bullying in schools and carrying out acts of kindness to make children feel happier and more included in school

This year, a team of council officers worked with Isla and runners-up from the Childrens Mayor election to come up with a plan to bring her “kindness costs nothing” idea to life. “Generous June” was promoted to Leeds primary schools. During the month of June primary schools across Leeds carried out ‘acts of kindness’ to support Isla’s winning idea. Read the full report [here](#).

#TogetherWeAreStronger



[Together We Are Stronger](#) is a partnership project between Leeds City Council and the Home Office “Building a Stronger Britain Together” funding stream. The project is designed to bring people from different communities together to realise that strength can be found in unity.

To launch the project, a series of 6 short films were produced each profiling an amazing young person from the city. One of the young people who got to tell their story is Isaac – who has been volunteering his time on local youth voice projects for over 5 years. Over that time, Isaac has volunteered hundreds of hours of his free time to projects such as Youth Parliament, Youth council, Young Reporters and the Child Friendly Leeds Awards. He’s also found time to sit on staff recruitment panels, commissioning panels and judging panels.

We’d definitely recommend taking 90 seconds to click the image above to see his film and hear his story about how working with the Leeds Youth Council has enabled him to feel more confident and to overcome some of the barriers he has faced. More information about the [Leeds Youth Council](#) is available online

Spotlight on: “The Tribe”



[“The Tribe”](#) are a relatively new youth group based in Crossgates Primary School who meet after-school to do games and activities and most recently, to work on their own social action campaigns.

After attending the Youth Voice Summit for community groups in April, the children left inspired about starting a campaign of their own. They used their next meeting to decide on what they could campaign on as a group and chose to focus on the issues of reducing the amount of plastics in our oceans and having [better mental health support](#) in schools.

Once they had identified their issues – the children knew that change often begins at home. So, they wrote to their head teacher who agreed to ban the use of plastic straws and cups in school and also to allow the children to put in place a “worry box” to help support other pupils with their emotional wellbeing.

The Tribe have now set their sights higher – inviting the Lord Mayor of Leeds in to meet them as well as writing out to staff at Leeds City Council. We went out to meet the children to find out more – asking **what it is they like about the group?**

“Everything! And because it makes me confident” (Lloyd) “ It’s really fun and people are friendly” (Lacey) “It’s fun but at the same time it’s really helpful!” (Kyra) “I feel happy as I have grown more confident (Aimee)

And then asking **what advice they have for other children running campaigns?**

“Don’t be scared and don’t be afraid if people make fun of your opinion” (Chantel) “Talk REALLY loud!” (Finley) “Pick it, write it, roll with it!” (Thomas) “Just be confident, don’t worry and be yourself”

LSCB student group produce top tips for playing safe over summer #safesummer

We want you to have a safe summer so please think about how you can keep yourself safe:



- 1) Don't climb on barriers and fences as they are there to protect you from serious injury and accidents, and obey “Danger” signs.
- 2) Only swim in designated swimming pools where there is a life guard on duty.
- 3) Be aware that you can be distracted when out and about by music, phones, gadgets etc. and therefore you won't be able to hear traffic.
- 4) Only use appropriate crossings such as bridges or level crossings to cross railway lines.

<https://www.leedsscp.org.uk/Safesummer>

Primary school councillors learn new campaigning skills!



On 26th June, over 100 children from 23 primary schools spent the day at Leeds Civic Hall for the annual Youth Voice Summit for Primary Schools.

This year’s event – celebrating 100 years since women got the vote – was on the theme of campaigning. The children learned about famous local, national and global social change campaigns ranging from seatbelts, rights to vote, gender equality, anti-war, combating racism and recent examples such as the American anti-gun protests earlier this year

They were then tasked with working together with children from another school to think of their own social action campaign, creating a slogan and an eye-catching placard. Campaigns included better mental services, helping the homeless, supporting Fair Trade and reducing plastic usage. The event finished with a guided tour of the Council Chamber and a Q&A session with Cllr Graham Latty, the Lord Mayor of Leeds.

STARS in their eyes!



During July, Leeds City Council held their two annual celebration events for young people in care – the STARS Awards. For those who don’t know, these annual events are an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of children and young people in care and are all about **Sharing Talent and Recognising Success**.

Hundreds of nominations were made between the two events- one for 0-11 year olds and one for 11-18 year olds. As with previous years, the ‘Have a Voice’ Children in Care Council played a huge role – helping to shortlist the finalists and choose the winners, deciding on a theme and a menu for the events (‘around the world’) and presenting prizes on stage to the worthy winners.

Improving Public Transport



Since the start of the year, a group of Leeds Youth Councillors have been meeting to work on their “improving public transport” campaign. They chose this issue as it was the top issue for young people in the city as identified by the results of the 2017 Make Your Mark ballot.

Over the course of the year, the young people have been on a massive learning journey – learning about the full transport picture in the city and all of the different organisations who play a role in making sure young people can travel around.

As well as having a deputation to Full Council booked in for September and a meeting with representatives from WYCA, Metro, First Bus, Arriva and TransDev during August – the group have also been working with West Yorkshire Combined Authority and WY Metro to help launch a new youth-friendly bus ticket for the region. In June, WYCA and Metro [announced the new “My Day” ticket type](#) – an all day, single fare, cross operator ticket for all young people in the city and region. Not only is there a flat-rate fare of £2.60 but crucially this ticket allows young people to make their journeys using any operator in the region – something that wasn’t previously possible.

As the Leeds Youth Council had worked with WYCA to come up with the name and the brand, Youth Councillors and Members of Youth Parliament were invited to attend the launch including MYP Arqam Al-Hadeed who wrote his manifesto on transport and had the following to say:

“As a youth MP who represents young people, I believe that MyDay ticket is a huge step towards resolving a longstanding issue amongst the young people of West Yorkshire. MyDay ticket provides the young people with affordable bus fare to travel to their schools, colleges and jobs. It is brilliant to see a great improvement in public transport in West Yorkshire for young people. I am excited to use better, tidy and affordable public transport this summer and beyond”

Opportunities, consultations and events to get involved in

Apply now for the Leeds Youth Council ‘working group’



The LYC Working Group is a group of 40 young people who are passionate about making Leeds a better city. They meet on a Saturday once a month in Leeds City Centre. As well as making new friends, increasing their confidence and learning new skills, being a member enables them to:

- Meet with local councillors, politicians and decision makers
- Work on their own campaigns on issues such as improving mental health support and better public transport for young people
- Take part in consultations and focus groups on topics like learning, the environment, health, youth activities and much more
- Attend the LYC residential, fun days and training workshops.
- Receive a Leeds Youth Award to recognise their hard work and volunteering

To gain a place on the working group, young people are asked to complete a short application process. They can [apply online](#) or in writing using our new [application pack](#). The deadline to apply is 5pm on 24th August.

Cast your vote for the next Leeds Children's Mayor



This year, children and young people in Leeds will be electing their 15th Children's Mayor! As usual, hundreds of children wrote down manifesto ideas in schools which were whittled down to finalists that were submitted by 50 local primary schools.

A panel of children and young people then had the difficult job of choosing the 12 strongest entries to make it through to the election stage and it's now up to the children and young people in Leeds to do the most difficult task of all – voting for the winner!

Anyone aged 18 or under can vote and they are encouraged to read our fantastic final twelve manifestos online at www.tinyurl.com/LCM2018Finals and then vote for their two favourite entries! Voting will be open from 9am on Monday 23rd July until 5pm on Wednesday 19th September

Why not join the CFL Awards Planning Group?



Do you work with young people age 11-18? Might they be interested in planning a large prestigious event, meeting new people and getting creative? Then why not share with them how they can get involved in the 6th Child Friendly Leeds awards?

We're pulling together a group of 10 young people to be in charge of organising and delivering the [Child Friendly Leeds Awards](#) in February 2019. There are a range of different tasks involved in this role, so whatever skills they already have or are keen to develop, there will be something for them to get involved in! Tasks include choosing the night's theme, selecting the acts, designing the programme, scripting the show, hosting the evening and operating light and sound equipment.

Being part of the planning team, young people would:

- Work with experts to plan the event at the City Varieties
- Help to recruit groups and individuals who will perform on the night
- Learn valuable skills that can be put on your CV
- Work in a team of other enthusiastic young people
- Give something back by volunteering for a great cause!

Last year's team, Team Ten & Co., did a fantastic job planning the 2018 Awards with over 400 people attending the event and over 320 nominations received. This year, we want the awards to be even bigger and better so please show this [short clip](#) to your young people to hopefully encourage them to apply.

If any young person wishes to take part, please encourage them to download and complete the [short application form](#) and return it to us by email to: childfriendlyleeds@leeds.gov.uk or they can post their completed form to: PO Box 837, Children's Services/Child Friendly Leeds, Leeds City Council, LS1 9PZ by 31 August 2018

Successful candidates will be sent the details of the future planning team meetings, which will take place on Thursday evenings, 4.30 – 6pm in Leeds city centre. The first meeting of the team will take place in mid-September 4.30 - 6pm. **Please note: It's important that applicants are able to attend every Thursday evening session from mid-September until the awards night in February but the good news is, that they will get a break for Oct half term and the Christmas holiday!**

How can we reduce air pollution in Leeds?



The consultation gives you an opportunity to shape the final clean air zone proposals which will be presented to the government later this year. The final proposals for the City of Leeds will need to achieve compliance with national air quality levels in the shortest possible timescale. We also want to consider the overall impact on Leeds - including financial impacts, impact on equality and the displacement of emissions to other areas.

You can complete the phase two consultation online at www.leeds.gov.uk/airqualityconsultation.

Resources

Be an Active Global Citizen



Are you wanting to find out more about how you can be a more active Global Citizen? Leeds DEC are an educational charity (established in 1978) that can offer your school/ youth group training and workshops to create a fairer and more sustainable world. Click [here](#) to find workshops on issues such as football, chocolate and children's rights and click [here](#) to discover more professional development opportunities to skill you up on Global Learning. Look forward to hearing from you! Hannah Langdana and Adam Ranson www.globalschools.org.uk

New MindMate Content



The new content on the award winning [MindMate](#) for parents of under 12s has now gone live. There's lots of information across 8 new pages - developed alongside partners in the city and approved by our clinicians panel.

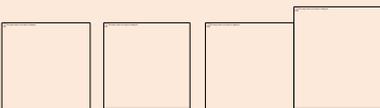
As always, thanks for reading and don't forget to get in touch if you have anything you would like us to feature in a future edition!



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



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