



The Leeds Voice, Influence and Change Newsletter

June 2019

With the summer season finally beginning we've produced our latest newsletter to bring 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

Leeds Youth Voice Summit – “Working together to tackle knife crime”



Did you know that last year an amazing 24,708 young people from Leeds took part in the national [Make Your Mark ballot](#) with 'putting an end to knife crime' being voted as the top national issue for young people. In response to this, our four Members of Youth Parliament for Leeds – supported by the Voice, Influence and Change Team - will be hosting a Youth Voice Summit on **Tuesday 16th July, 10am till 2pm at Pudsey Civic Hall.**

The event is aimed at secondary schools and colleges and is **free to attend** and schools can book up to **five places**

At the event, students will have the opportunity to:

- Attend a workshop about the effects of Knife Crime from Life Experience
- Attend a workshop by West Yorkshire Police about reducing knife crime
- Attend a first aid workshop delivered by Leeds Beckett University
- Discuss how they can raise awareness of knife crime in their school
- Discuss how the city as a whole can come together to tackle knife crime

Over half the tickets are already booked so to secure places quickly and easily simply use our [online booking system](#) or email vic@leeds.gov.uk for further information

Leeds Children's Mayor 2019/20 – Entries are now open!



The Leeds Children's Mayor programme is a great opportunity for primary schools to help their Key Stage 2 pupils learn about citizenship and democracy and to stand a chance of becoming the *fifteenth* elected Children's Mayor of Leeds!

To take part, children are asked to write a short manifesto detailing how *they* would make Leeds a better city for children and young people if they were the next Children's Mayor. A panel of children and young people then shortlist the entries down to a final 12 who go on to take part in the citywide elections which run from 22nd July to the 25th September – with the winner being announced by the Lord Mayor on 1st October.

For further details on how to take part please email leedschildrensmayor@leeds.gov.uk or download the latest [resource pack](#) - but act fast as **all entries need to be received by Friday 28th June 2019.**

The current Children's Mayor (pictured above) is Rio from Grange Farm Primary School who was elected based on his [fantastic manifesto](#) about tackling racism called "Stop! Think! Racism Stinks!". To explain about the kind of things the Children's Mayor gets up to during their year in office, he has made a [short video](#) about his year so far.



Youth Matters Groups team up to visit London

The Youth Service 'Youth Matters' collective (from the Crossgates & Whinmoor and Temple Newsam wards) recently consulted with the other young people who attend the groups about where they would like to go on a trip. Both groups came up with the idea of going down to London for the day to see what the capital city has to offer – and so a trip down south was arranged.

The groups travelled by train and during an action packed day hopping on and off the Underground they managed to squeeze in visits to the Houses of Parliament and Westminster before enjoyed a river cruise down the Thames to take in all the famous bridges and buildings. After stopping for food, their day culminated with a whirlwind tour of the West End including, Trafalgar Square, Piccadilly and the bright lights of Leicester Square.

The idea around the trip was to encourage resilience, appreciate different cultures, encourage independent travel and broaden horizons as many of the group hadn't been to London before. The young people thoroughly enjoyed the visit and let staff know that they would like to have a longer next time (a residential!) so they can fully experience life and culture in the nation's capital city.

Register now 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.



Consultations

Youth Select Committee on Knife Crime – Call for Evidence

This year the British Youth Councils 'Youth Select Committee' will be holding a national inquiry on knife crime.

The Youth Select Committee is a British Youth Council initiative, supported by the House of Commons. The eleven committee members are aged 11-18 and include two Members of the [UK Youth Parliament](#) (MYPs), two [youth councillors](#), a [Young Mayor](#), one elected representative from each of the devolved nations and three reserved seats.

This year's Youth Select Committee will focus on knife crime, which was voted the top issue in the [Make Your Mark ballot](#) of over 1.1 million young people from across the UK.

To enable the young people who sit on the Youth Select Committee to accurately represent the views of their peers from across the UK they have put out a national call for evidence and we would encourage you to promote this to any young people that you work with or support.

Young people can [complete the survey](#) or can give a more detailed perspective by going through [the terms of reference](#) – they need to act fast though as the Call for Evidence window closes on Friday 7th June.



SEND ballot for parents and carers

The Leeds City Council Children & Families SEND Partnership Board are currently asking parents, carers and families who have children with special educational needs or a disability to have a say in deciding what the key priorities the board will focus on in 2019/20. The Voice Influence and Change Team worked with parent representatives on the board to develop a short survey based around the 12 Child Friendly Leeds Wishes.

If you are or if you know any parents or carers in the city who have a child with SEND please encourage them to participate in the online ballot by completing this [quick and easy survey](#) and submitting your answers by 5pm on 14th June 2019. If you would like to request a paper version to complete please email vic@leeds.gov.uk



Opportunities to get involved in Child Friendly Leeds Awards 2020

The team behind the amazing Child Friendly Leeds awards have just begun their search for a group of 10 young people to get involved in producing and hosting the next CFL awards event - which will be taking place in February. To find out more, please [email the team](#) and they'll send you more information, a promotional poster and a short application form. For a taste of what to expect, you can check out this [amazing footage](#) from the 2018 Awards which took place earlier this year

The CFL Team are also looking for young people to entertain, play and perform at the Awards – could be music, comedy, magic or spoken word. There is a short application form to complete and then the young people's planning group choose who they want to perform. If you know or work with a young person or group who you think would like this performance opportunity at a high profile city event, please [email](#) for information and the application form.

Opportunities for Children and Young People Growing Up In and Leaving Care



The Enrichment Team at Leeds City Council are part of the Child Friendly Leeds (CFL) Team and work with CFL Ambassadors and partners to provide enrichment opportunities for children and young people growing up in care or who have recently left care.

These opportunities range from one off events like *The Play in A Day* project with The Grammar School At Leeds and Harrogate Theatre to longer projects like the [Skills for Life Award](#) with The Outward Bound Trust that involves young people taking part in a 19 day course that helps build confidence and develop important life skills.

If you work with young people in care or care leavers and are interested in working with the Enrichment Team please e-mail cflenrichment@leeds.gov.uk and they will send you more information and sign you up to receive their informative termly newsletters.



ENGLISH
HERITAGE

National Voice Group for English Heritage

[English Heritage](#) has a fantastic opportunity to directly involve young people in the secret hidden stories of the fantastic sites and the historic archives they protect and are now recruiting a group of enthusiastic young people aged 16-21 to become the national voice for the organisation.

This is an amazing opportunity for any young person who wants to build a career in the art or heritage sectors. Anyone recruited will be empowered to work directly with many of their departments including, for example: Curatorial, Historian, Digital and Site teams – giving them a unique 'behind the scenes' view of

English Heritage. With English Heritage caring for over 400 historic monuments, buildings and places - from world-famous prehistoric sites to grand medieval castles, from Roman forts on the edges of an empire to a Cold War bunker the variety of opportunities for the young people to explore in is varied and exciting.

All details on this exciting initiative can be found by following the link below:

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/support-us/volunteer/shout-out-loud/>

If you would like any further information contact Bekki Redshaw on 07833 367862 or on

Bekki.Redshaw@english-heritage.org.uk

LEEDS
ART
GALLERY

Upcoming Events

Enjoy the summer with the Leeds Art Gallery Youth Collective

Over the summer the Leeds Art Gallery Youth Collective (LAGYC) will be meeting on the first Saturday of each month; 6 July, 3 August and 7 September from 11am until 4pm. Young people taking part will work towards an Arts Award, get involved in the fantastic volunteering programme, be inspired by the collections to create unique art work, explore the exciting Yorkshire Sculpture International Festival exhibitions, gain experience of supporting young people in workshops, make new friends, plus lots more. This opportunity is for young people aged 14-21.

The LAGYC are also hosting a series of youth engagement events including; a DJ workshop, dance and performance events, outdoor youth activities in partnership with Create, Sculpt, Play and digital making and tinkering workshops with Leeds Museums and Leeds Libraries.

For more information on how to get involved in all these events, email Angie Thompson

youth.curator@leeds.gov.uk



A totally Dadstastic Father's Day Party - Save the Date!

Dadstastic event with Leeds Dad's at Leeds City Museum!

Sunday 16 June,

11am – 3pm

Join Leeds Dads for the biggest FREE Father's Day party on the planet with fun activities (music, dance, science, storytelling, arts & craft and sport) for children up to 11 years old. All family members are welcome. Places are limited, so book [here](#) now to avoid disappointment.

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

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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>



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