



## Voice, Influence and Change Team Newsletter - March 2018

Hello!

We hope you enjoy reading our latest newsletter and would be grateful if you could forward it to any colleagues who might find it useful. As always, if you have any stories, groups or events you would like us to feature in a future issue please get in touch.

### News

#### Introducing your new Members of Youth Parliament for Leeds

A huge thank you to all the young people who took time to cast their vote in this year's UK Youth Parliament elections as well as to the 28 applicants and of course your ten brilliant finalists.

All the votes were counted and at a special ceremony at Leeds Civic Hall on 20<sup>th</sup> February, the Lord Mayor of Leeds announced the results of the election. The four new MYPs for Leeds are:



- Arqam Al-Hadeed (Allerton High School)
- Sylvia Cullen (St Mary's Menston High School)
- Harry Small (Roundhay High School)
- Samuel Cliffe (Rosset School)

The new MYPs were interviewed live on BBC Radio Leeds earlier this month and we'd recommend [tuning in and listening online](#) – (Arqam & Samuel: 1.08, Sylvia & Harry: 02.22)

Finally, we'd like to say a huge thanks to Charlotte, Scarlet, Liberty and Muzdalfa for an amazing two years as MYPs representing young people from our city. They have created a great report detailing everything they've achieved, it's available online and well [worth a read!](#)

#### Students give voice on Bramley Skate Park



On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March, Leeds West Academy's prefects met with Tony Mullin, who works for Your Back Yard, which is a social enterprise based in Leeds that helps people get community projects off the ground.

Pupils had a two-hour meeting to discuss plans for a potential skate park in North West Leeds. A Leeds University Student also attended the meeting to question our pupils as they had been identified as a strong support for the project.

The project is looking to be based at Bramley Park and our pupils have been involved with choosing the location of this skateboard park. The next stage of the project over the next couple of months will be working on designs for the new facility.

Ms Davey said: "The students involved in the meeting discussed their ideas in a mature and professional manner. This is a very exciting project and it is a pleasure that Leeds West Academy can be involved with it."

## Child Friendly Leeds Awards 2018 – Congratulations!



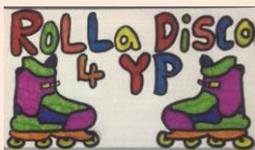
A massive congratulations to all the winners at [The 5<sup>th</sup> Child Friendly Leeds Awards](#) which took place in February.

Not only that – but the whole show was entirely organised by Team Ten & Co, a group of ten young people aged 12 – 18 years old and they did a fantastic job.

Thanks to everyone who supported the Awards by nominating people, places and organisations. The theme was ‘Partying Through The Decades’ and you can see the amazing costumes that winners and guests wore in the [photo gallery](#). You can even see Team Ten & Co in action as the entire Awards is now available to watch on [Youtube](#).

## Youth Voice = Family Friendly Roller Disco and Indoor Playhouse!

Ten winners of the child friendly city centre competition were announced in July 2017. The next step was to try and turn children and young people’s winning ideas into a reality! Leeds City Council are working in partnership with a wide range of Child Friendly Leeds Ambassador Organisations who committed their support by providing free venues, time, energy and enthusiasm to deliver a year of activities and events based on the young people’s ten winning entries. Competition winners and youth voice groups have been involved in the development of the ideas too.



The idea for a Roller Disco came from Chelsey, who was one of the ten winners in our Child Friendly Leeds City centre competition, and her vision is about to become a reality. The Family Friendly Roller Disco will be at Kirkgate Leeds Market from Mon 9 – Wed 11 April (10am – 4pm). There will be different sessions for children and young people with additional needs, primary school aged, teenagers and families together. The cost is £2 each (adults/young people/children) and includes roller skate hire and protective clothing. Tickets for the different sessions can be booked in advance by visiting: <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/childfriendlyleeds/cfl-news/cfl-city-centre>

The idea for an indoor playhouse with peace garden came from [Jasmin](#) and staff from Leeds City Council and Leeds Play Network have been meeting with a group of young people to develop her ideas for the indoor play sessions planned at St John’s Centre. The play space is for children of all ages to play and be creative and will include den building, junk modelling, messy and creative play. Over Easter sessions will take place on 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> April from 11-3pm.



For more information [www.leedsplaynetwork.org.uk](http://www.leedsplaynetwork.org.uk) or [www.facebook.com/leedsplaynetwork](https://www.facebook.com/leedsplaynetwork)

Please promote these activities to children and families you work with, it would be fantastic if schools could include the links / flyer attached in their newsletters.

## #GetYourRights in Health



On 27<sup>th</sup> February, volunteers and staff from YouthWatch along with Leeds Youth Voice held an event called #GetYourRights – designed to help young people understand their rights when accessing health services – and knowing what to do if their rights aren’t being met.

Three workshops were held on; How To Speak Up, Sharing Your Experiences and Rights in Reality and over 90% of participants completing evaluation forms said they felt more informed about their rights after having attended.

Over 60 young people attended from youth groups around the city and you can read more by checking out this [great blog](#) by Elizabeth – a YouthWatch volunteer who helped plan and host the event

## Young people help choose their local activities



Over the last 6 months Community Committee's from around the city have worked with local schools and youth groups to enable over 600 children and young people to have their say on how youth activity fund money should be spent in *their* area.

Across ten events, pupils from over 40 schools and youth groups were able to sample different activities before working alongside their local councillors and other pupils to budget for a years-worth of youth activities for their community. Their challenge was increased by having to provide for a range of sessions for different tastes and geographical locations whilst keeping within a strict (and actual) budget.

## Consultations

### Communicating with young parents



Do you know any young parents up to the age of 25? If so, please invite them to come along and have their input on the maternity pathway in Leeds and give their opinions on what needs to change.

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

1.30pm till 3pm

The Old Fire Station, Gipton Approach, LS9 6NL

Please confirm attendance with Lucy White via phone 0113 8431634 or email [lucy.white7@nhs.net](mailto:lucy.white7@nhs.net)

## Transforming mental health services for children and young people in the youth justice system

- Do you have experience of accessing or know someone that has accessed mental health services?
- Do you have experience or know someone that has experienced the youth justice system such as:
  - Being in police custody
  - Being in a Secure Children's Home
  - Being in a Young Offenders Institution such as Wetherby
- Do you have experience of attending a Child Sexual Assault Assessment Service?
- Do you feel able to share your experiences or someone else's experiences?



### If so we would really like to hear from you!

If you feel able to share your experiences then this is your opportunity to have your voice heard as to what services should be provided for this group of children and young people.

Please phone on either number below or email us if you would like to contribute to this exciting agenda. We are happy to meet up on a one to one basis, in a group setting or if you feel able to respond to a Survey Monkey request then that would be great. We will be happy to reimburse any travel costs that you may incur.

The important thing is that we need your thoughts and suggestions as to how services can be improved or changed and we look forward to hearing from you

**Please contact:**

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[Joanna.stanton@nhs.net](mailto:Joanna.stanton@nhs.net)  
07702408821

## Opportunities to get involved

### NCS Summer Programme

#### What is NCS?

- [NCS \(National Citizen Service\)](#) is a part-residential programme open to all 16/17 year olds which helps build skills for work, life and the transition to adulthood.
- Recognised by UCAS and employers, it boosts HE, FE, apprenticeship and job applications and gives students lots to draw on for personal statements & interviews.
- 2900 young people took part in NCS in Leeds, Wakefield and Bradford in 2017.
- Post-NCS, students gain access to a range of graduate opportunities (NCS Phase 4)

#### How do students sign up?

- Online at [ncsthechallenge.org](http://ncsthechallenge.org). Paper applications can be requested. Students can complete the applications themselves but parents/guardians must give consent.
- Cost is never a barrier to signing up: financial assistance can be requested in applications and is allocated on a case-by-case basis.
- Any questions? Contact your NCS representative (details below)

#### How can you help?

- Check in with students before they leave you for Summer - make sure they are still confident to turn up to NCS and that they know they can call/text us with concerns.
- It is your support & encouragement that will help students take that next step for their future.

#### **Thank you for your support!**

#### How can we make it accessible?

- We offer 1:1 support for those who need it - our staff are qualified and we offer Personal Coaches and Support Workers for all individual needs.
- We can arrange for financial assistance so all young people are able to participate in the programme.



#### Your NCS representative

Jennifer Griffiths  
07392 873 455  
[jennifer.griffiths@the-challenge.org](mailto:jennifer.griffiths@the-challenge.org)

### Peer Inspectors Team are recruiting 8-17yr olds!

The Peer Inspection Team are recruiting young people (8-17yrs) for their 2018 summer inspections project!



Young people will get to explore the city, trying out different activities and give their feedback about youth projects. This year the team are offering training sessions leading up to the project which takes place in the summer holidays. Young people will develop skills such as; team work, communication skills, confidence building and youth leadership.

There is also an opportunity to earn a Leeds Youth Award for contributions to the project.

Training dates are:

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 5-7pm at the Civic Hall

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June, 5 -7pm at the Civic Hall

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> July, 5-7pm at the Civic Hall

Following the summer inspections a free fun event planned by the inspectors will take place as a thank you.

For details on how to apply, please contact Caroline in the Communities Team:

Watch this film the team made about their experience last summer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qDEX9QICydg>

## Leeds Youth Music Forum



The Leeds Music Education Partnership are setting up a new forum for 13-18 year olds in the city who are passionate about music. The group will meet regularly to plan gigs and events and to work with staff from music providers to help more young people in the city get involved in music!

The first meeting is on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2-4pm, Leeds Civic Hall in the City Centre. If you know or work with any 13-18 year olds who would be interested then email [vic@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:vic@leeds.gov.uk) to book a place or for more information

## Investors in Pupils for Schools



INVESTORS IN PUPILS

IIP is a whole school approach to student voice and pupil participation. Over the last ten years, schools across the country have been achieving IIP status through evidencing how their pupils are full involved in their own target setting, classroom management and behaviour. IIP schools make sure every class has a welcome book, a mission statement and a clear understanding of the schools budget and the staff in school who help them.

For more information about how your school can receive support to work towards IIP status please visit [www.investorsinpupils.org.uk](http://www.investorsinpupils.org.uk)

## Resources

### MindMate Real Stories



[MindMate Real Stories](#) is a new feature on the MindMate website for young people - it shows a series of films where young people talk about things that they have struggled with and what has helped them.

**Have you experienced exam stress and would be willing to talk about this on film?**

Text/ what's app Liz Neill from Common Room on 07496494679 to find out more.

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!

Kayleigh Hannah  
Rich  
Hannah  
Hannah S.

The Voice, Influence and Change Team

Children and Families Directorate

Leeds City Council

[vic@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:vic@leeds.gov.uk)

[www.breezeleeds.org/haveyoursay](http://www.breezeleeds.org/haveyoursay)

Read our 2016/17 [annual report](#)

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



If you no longer wish to receive our emails please [UNSUBSCRIBE](#)

