



The Leeds Voice, Influence and Change newsletter

November 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 make your mark results, young citizens democracy programme, Leeds Children's Mayor 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

24,708 young people vote in Make Your Mark



Make Your Mark is the largest youth consultation in the UK, this year over 1.1 million young people (11 to 18 years old) voted in the national ballot. Young people are given a list of 10 issues of which they have to choose the issue that is most important to them.

An amazing 24,708 young people from Leeds voted in the 2018 ballot, which is 35.6% of the youth population.

The top two issues for young people in Leeds are **put an end to knife crime**, *too many young people's lives are lost to knife crime; the Government need to do more to help end the knife crime epidemic* and **Mental Health** services should be improved with young people's help; and should be available in schools.

On Friday 9th November the four Leeds Members of Youth Parliament joined MYP's from across the UK at the House of Commons in London to debate the top five issues before voting what will be their campaigns for 2018/19. **Votes at 16** was voted the UK Campaign and **Put an end to Knife Crime** was voted the England only Campaign.

A full summary of the results can be found [here](#)

Compass House – a new venture for Leeds SILC's

Please support students from our SILC's by visiting their pop up shop

In 2017 students with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) took part in the Make Your Mark ballot, and voted curriculum for life as the issue most important to them. In November 2017 they took over the SEND Partnership Board as part of national Takeover Challenge. One of the big issues for the students is gaining valuable work experience outside of the school setting.



Students from West SILC, East SILC, North West SILC, Broomfield SILC and the Lighthouse School have been working in partnership with the Voice Influence and Change Team to set up a Christmas pop up shop in Leeds Kirkgate Market. The project has been a great opportunity for students with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) to gain valuable work experience. It is also another fantastic example of how Kirkgate Market as a Child Friendly Leeds Ambassador is working in partnership to improve opportunities and outcomes for the children and young people of Leeds. The students have made all decisions about the shop such as the name, designed the logo, created flyers and all students across the SILCs have been involved in making the handcrafted gifts which they will be selling for £5 and under.

Compass House will be open Monday 10th to Friday 14th December 2018, 10am till 2pm at Leeds Kirkgate Market (Units 280/282). Students will be selling beautifully handcrafted gifts such as bath bombs, Christmas plates, decorations and much more for £5 and under.

Leeds Children's Mayor receives a standing ovation



Rio, Leeds Children's Mayor, deputised to Full Council on Wednesday 14th November. Rio spoke confidently and passionately to all 99 councillors about his idea to tackle racism. Pupils from Grangefield Primary attended with Rio and watched his deputation from the public gallery, it is great to see the support Rio is receiving.

Rio would really like to raise awareness of racism by having wrist bands, making a short film which can be shared in primary schools and ensuring children know where they can get support if they ever feel victimised. Rio's catchy slogan 'Stop Think Racism Stinks' is something he would like to see on posters around Leeds!!

Children and Families Services will be working with Rio over the next 12 months to make his manifesto a reality.

Leeds East Academy students clean up community



Students from Leeds East Academy were shocked at the large amount of litter around the parade known locally as 'Black Shops' on South Parkway, Seacroft. They raised their concerns with Leeds City Council and devised a clean-up operation in conjunction with the local authority.

Eight students turned up at the shops armed with litter pickers, gloves, bags and a power washer. The students all wore special Community Transformation Leader hoodies as they helped clean up their community. Members of the public were impressed with the students' efforts.

One passer-by said: "I have lived here for 30 years and never seen anything like this before, it's great."

Update from the Community Voice & Influence Team

The young people that inspected projects during the summer holidays visited Herd Farm on 13th November for a reward trip and a lot of fun was had by all. The young people pushed themselves beyond their comfort levels and had the opportunity to take part in the giant swing and the night line. The young people all supported each other and although some were nervous about the activities, everyone had a go and really enjoyed themselves.

On the 22nd October, the **Outer West Youth Summit** was held at Civic Hall. 54 children attended from 9 different schools and colleges and as well as learning what democracy is, they had the opportunity to sit in the council chambers and ask both their locally elected members and Tom Riordan questions on their roles and the council as a whole. Following lunch Young People were able to influence how the £50,000 Youth Activity Fund budget will be spent for the financial year 2019-2020.

On the 30th October, **The Make It Happen Youth Summit** was held at Swarcliffe Community Centre with help from the Youth Matters group. Over 50 Young people attended, alongside local ward councillors, and had the opportunity to try out different activities. The young people enjoyed a buffet tea and had the opportunity to design their own projects, this information will be considered alongside applications for the Youth Activity Fund in the spring.

Getaway Girls



Getaway Girls hosted a celebration event on the 6th August 2018 Beckett University, which celebrated 100 years of the women's vote.

The Celebration event had lots of activities for all who attended with the focus being 5 workshops that centred on the 5 key issues identified in our girl's forum that takes place every 6 weeks.

These were; **Safety, Diversity & identity Opportunities for Girls, Freedom and Equality**. Girls who attended had the opportunity to share their different perspectives and views in these particular areas and explore how they can and influence and make positive changes.

As part of UK Parliament week, youth worker T took a group of girls to participate in the event **#Girls Breaking Barriers** at the House of Lords. They joined 200 girls from across the UK who were given the opportunity to have their say on some of the key barriers facing girls and women in the UK and around the world and the solutions that should be put in place to ensure they are able to achieve their potential. Watch the debates [here](#)

Young Citizens Democracy Ambassador Programme

Young Citizens new Democracy Ambassador Programme which is funded by the Cabinet Office, and is a great way for young people to learn more about democracy whilst raising money for their group.



The Programme, is open to all youth organisations interested in supporting young people aged 13 – 16 to learn more about democracy. It encourages young people to share what they learn and think with their peers, so that talking about democracy becomes a natural part of growing up.

Delivery centres will be given a free (downloadable) 2 hour start up training session to deliver to young people, and monthly additional resources on topics such as voting, campaigning and local government. There is also a contribution towards project costs of up to £40 per Ambassador trained, and incentives for the young people including endorsed certificates and the opportunity to have their work showcased and rewarded in a monthly competition.

Click [here](#) for more details.

Opportunities and consultations to get involved in

Are your school recycling champions?



As part of Takeover Challenge, Leeds City Council's Waste Strategy service run the schools Recycling Challenge aimed at primary schools.

Children and young people will benefit from: An opportunity for primary school Green/Eco-teams, school councils or whole classes to find more out about the role of Leeds City Council's specialist Waste Recycling Advisors, in order to *takeover* this role in school through becoming school Recycling

champions.

Through taking part children and young people will gain: A teacher's resource pack is available that provides editable templates for creating 'Wanted' posters, job descriptions, job applications, job contracts, parents/carers letter, achievement certificates and ID badges. Pupils will learn, through a half day interactive lesson, about;

- The importance of waste minimisation and recycling
- Materials that are currently collected for recycling in Leeds
- Relevant attitude, skills, and knowledge required to be a Recycling champion
- How to do classroom audits and support their peers to do their own class audits

Pupils are invited and encouraged to complete a job application outlining why they should be considered for the subsequent development of the role of Waste Recycling Advisor/Recycling champion in school. If successful up to 12 pupils will get a 'Leeds Recycles' waste and recycling toolkit including Hi-vis branded waist jackets, pupil information notepads (PIN) with guidance on how to do class waste audits, recycling information cards and mini-model recycling bins (green in Leeds)

Get involved in Future in Mind Leeds & MindMate

Are you a professional working in a school or other setting with young people? Or maybe you are a parent or carer with something to say about young people in Leeds and their emotional wellbeing?



We have lots of opportunities for staff and parents to get involved in the development of young people's mental health services, [Future in Mind Leeds](#) and [MindMate](#). If you would like to be kept in the loop about these different opportunities please [follow this link](#) and join our distribution list.

Events

Rox, Paper and The Scissors

Want to change the world? You have one vote. Use it wisely.

Rox, Paper and The Scissors is a fabulous, fun and sometimes silly play for 9+ year olds about Democracy.



Democracy. It throws up all sorts of things.

Come and see how we bring PHSC/ British Values to life on stage and join us to watch as three candidates - Rox, Paper and The Scissors - battle to become school president, only to find out the hard way that not all elections are fought fairly.

As head girl Paper is squashed between the might of autocratic school bully, Rox, and reckless class clown, The Scissors, she must fight to restore her reputation from a false accusation of vandalism, and stop malign forces from seizing power of the school council.

Teacher support:

- School bookings (25 tickets+) will qualify for a free one-hour workshop on the Rule of Law. Please email info@GttD.co.uk for more information.
- Teachers' resource packs will be available to support the performance.
- Online electoral forecasts: at the climax of the play, every member of the audience will be asked to vote in a secret ballot. Shadowing a real election, these votes will be counted as the tour progresses and electoral forecasts will be updated online until the final vote count is declared.
- Facebook resource page: @GttDProductions has been set up to bring PHSC British Values to life by connecting the concepts to current news stories.

Tickets: £10 per person. Duration: approx. 60minutes.

Visit their [website](#) for more information and dates available.



My Health My School Survey Drop In

Two drop in sessions have been set up for colleagues to come along to see the full results from the My Health – My Survey and to discuss opportunities on how they can be used. The Health and Wellbeing team will be at both drop ins and will be able to answer any further questions you have about the survey or the results.

Wednesday 5th December 2018, 9am till 5pm at Merrion House

Or

Tuesday 15th January 2019, 9am till 5pm at Adam's Court

For more information contact Saira on 07891 277197 or email Saira.M.Jones@leeds.gov.uk

Resources

Young adult carers produce a series of short films to raise awareness

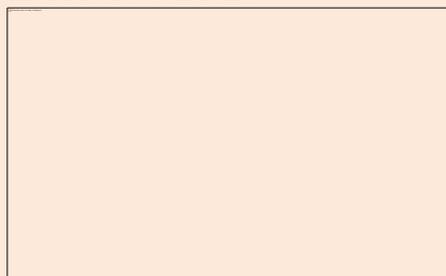


With funding from the [i-will big lottery fund](#), the awesome [FlyGirl Films](#) collaborated with Carers Leeds to produce 5 short films, which were shot over 3 days.

The young people enjoyed making the films which aim to raise awareness of what they do and the barriers they face and they bonded over their shared experience. They felt passionate that their feat as a young adult carer was recognised and empowered to use the medium of film to get their messages across in creative and quirky ways. An official film launch took place at the Carriageworks theatre in Leeds inviting professionals and young people from various positions of influence across Leeds.

Visit the [Carers Leeds](#) website to view the fantastic films.

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!



The Voice, Influence and Change Team
Children and Families Directorate
Leeds City Council
vic@leeds.gov.uk

www.breezeleeds.org/haveyoursay

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

<http://tinyurl.com/LeedsPCFVoice>



This email has been sent by **the Voice, Influence and Change Team based within the Children and Families directorate at Leeds City Council**. You are receiving this email as you have either received support from us in the past or we understand you or your organising could benefit from the free services we provide. If this is not the case or if you no longer wish to receive our emails please [UNSUBSCRIBE](#) and we will remove you from our mailing list.

