



# The Leeds Voice, Influence and Change Newsletter

## November 2019

**Welcome to the November issue** of the quarterly Voice, Influence and Change newsletter for Leeds. We aim 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](mailto:vic@leeds.gov.uk)

### Introducing Wania – the 16<sup>th</sup> Children's Mayor of Leeds

On Tuesday 1 October, Wania Ahmad from Harehills Primary School was announced as the new Children's Mayor of Leeds by the Lord Mayor of Leeds at a special event at Leeds Civic Hall. Wania wrote her winning manifesto about an idea she calls "Chill & Chat" – a project for schools that would support the mental health and wellbeing of pupils giving them a safe space to relax and talk about what is on their mind



Wania spent much of her summer holidays hard at work out campaigning in an election that saw 8,918 local children and young people cast their vote – a new record for the programme. Following her deputation to a Leeds City Council "Full Council" meeting earlier this month to share her winning [manifesto](#) – council staff will now support her to bring the idea to life!

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### Leeds City College students launch public health campaign

A new campaign has been created by Leeds City College students to showcase alternative ways of getting high. The [Highs of Leeds campaign](#) aims to raise awareness of potential issues surrounding cannabis use, whilst giving teenagers the facts they need to empower them to make the right choices.

Created by Leeds City College students, the campaign builds on the idea that there are better things to do than drugs and that you can get your 'highs' from doing something positive instead. Chloe Naylor and Lucy Heald, both 17 (pictured), are cheerleaders with the Yorkshire Martyrs Cheerleading squad. They love the adrenaline they get from competing in front of crowds. As well as showcasing the talents and passions of young people from across Leeds, the campaign features facts on cannabis use and connects people to support if they need it. Led by Forward Leeds with input from Public Health and design agency magpie, the campaign ran until end of October and is being rolled out on Instagram and YouTube.

## UK Youth Parliament: Make Your Mark & Applications open for the 2020 term



Make Your Mark is the largest youth consultation in the UK. Throughout September and October young people (11 to 18 years old) were asked to vote on the issue they think is most important. The issues with the most votes were then debated by Members of Youth Parliament at the House of Commons on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019 before they voted for the issue that would become the national UK Youth Parliament

campaign for 2019/20.

This year in Leeds, with the help of many schools and youth groups across the city, 11,734 young people voted equating to 17% of the local youth population who were eligible to vote. The top issue for young people in our city came out as **Protect the Environment**, with a massive 43% of the overall votes. Protect the Environment also came out as the top issue for the UK following the House of Commons sitting earlier this month where our 4 local Members of Youth Parliament (pictured above) voted alongside over 300 other MYPs from across the UK.

So over the coming year, Members of Youth Parliament alongside the Leeds Youth Council Working Group will be running 2 campaigns on the theme of the environment. One will be on the theme of tackling climate change whilst the second will be specifically focused on reducing littering and increasing recycling rates in our city.

Finally – if you work with any 11-18 year olds who would like to become one of the next Members of Youth Parliament for Leeds now is their chance! Applications to apply to be an MYP open on 9<sup>th</sup> December and completed applications must be received by 10<sup>th</sup> January. 3 Member of Youth Parliament roles are available and successful candidates will serve a 12 month term – including the sitting in the House of Commons in November 2020. Young People can apply [online](#) but please note, they must be signed up to the [Leeds Youth Council](#) network **before** they apply

## Fancy a round of “Talkeoke”?



BARCA Leeds have recently acquired access to a cutting edge tool to help facilitate focus groups, discussions and workshops. It would work brilliantly in a variety of settings ranging from schools, to youth groups to larger scale conferences and events. The [Talkeoke](#) is a great way to get people around a table to discuss different topics and

issues whilst making sure that everyone is on an equal level.

If you or your organisation would like to make use of the Talkeoke please contact Craig from Barca Leeds Youth Inclusion Project [craig.blair@barca-leeds.org](mailto:craig.blair@barca-leeds.org)



## Young people meet the Street Games national team

Members of the LED Community Foundation were invited to attend Street Games national staff team meeting held at the Park Plaza Hotel in Leeds on 9<sup>th</sup> October. The purpose of the event was to present to the 63 audience members about running sporting and youth provision within the city. As part of this presentation there was an interview and then a question and answer section where two of LED's Young Ambassadors, McKenzie and Demi, represented young people from across the city and gave their opinions on what it means to take part in sport, how accessible youth provision is across the city, what it is like for young people living in Leeds and also speaking about some of challenges young people from disadvantaged families face accessing activities. The feedback from Street Games was that staff felt the young people "were the highlight of the day". It was a great opportunity to act on behalf of the city and the young people received excellent support throughout from staff at BARCA Leeds.



## Children create Sculpture Colour In-book at Leeds Art Gallery

Pupils from Bankside Primary and Blackgates Primary have made a colouring in book for other children to use whilst with Leeds Art Gallery as part of the Yorkshire Sculpture International festival. The pupils visited the Gallery and worked with artist Nichola Pemberton to make line drawings of sculptures in the Gallery. Each pupil made a drawing and the children chose one drawing to represent their class.

The colouring in books are available for all young people visiting the gallery to pick up, use and enjoy.



## Youth Matters Group get recycling!

The Youth Matters Group in the Crossgates & Whinmoor Ward presented a youth-led workshop session on recycling at the Youth Service Conference on November 6<sup>th</sup> 2019 at the Hilton Hotel. The group met with youth workers regularly on Mondays for an hour (outside of their usual session) to conduct research on how they could reduce their carbon footprint. They wrote their speeches themselves and would practice every day leading up to the forum.

They received support from their Youth Worker to work on voice projection, oration and confidence at each session until they felt confident to be able to deliver their speeches in front of adults attending the conference.

On the day they presented themselves wonderfully and their timing and delivery was very professional. They now look forward to delivering the session in an assembly at School and would like to raise more awareness on carbon footprints and recycling.



## Peer inspections roundup

Over the summer a team of 21 young people from the Leeds Community Youth Ambassadors group and the Youth Services' Youth Matters group have been involved in the monitoring and evaluation of youth activity projects funded by the ten Community Committees and the Play Enabling Grant. They visited 41 activities across the city, speaking to activity providers and the young people taking part. They have completed reports sharing their findings and captured the feedback of the young people taking part. Their findings have been collated into a report which has been shared with the community committees to influence further funding decisions.

Our Peer Inspectors also volunteered at community fun days and consulted young people about future activities they would like in their communities. These results and findings will feed into other localised consultation from Community Youth Summit and be shared with elected members. As a thank you to our young volunteers they enjoyed a trip to Herd Farm to challenge themselves on the Double Zip Wire and build their team skills by working together to complete an Orienteering challenge!

## Young asylum seeker and refugee group host event at Leeds



### Beckett University

On 9<sup>th</sup> September, young people from ST4R group (StandTogether4Refugees) invited young people, professionals, and members of the public to an event launching "[Welcome to Leeds](#)" films. These multilingual films were made by and for young people to help newly arrived child refugees to feel safe in Leeds. This was a joint project between Leeds City Council, Child Friendly Leeds and The Children's Society in response to an increase in young asylum seekers who have been separated from their families being transferred to Leeds since the National Transfer Scheme started in 2016.

Guests at the event also heard from the young people about the [awareness-raising](#) they have been doing, as well as personal experiences of how they felt when they first arrived in Leeds, what helped them, and work they have done to support other young people to build a life in Leeds.

Since the event, the group have been working on ways to raise the voices of more young asylum seekers in Leeds, and they have just launched a [survey](#) to hear messages from their peers, which will help them to campaign for change. Please share this survey with any young people you work with who have experienced insecure immigration status before Christmas

## Consultations

### Statement of Community Involvement



The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) gives communities the opportunity to share their thoughts, sets out how the council will consult and engage on planning matters across Leeds. Leeds City Council are currently updating the existing SCI to include any changes in legislation and planning policy and to learn from community feedback to date in order to:

- improve the awareness and understanding of the planning system
- work effectively with all communities and age groups across Leeds

The team behind the SCI are now asking for individuals – especially young people – to share their experience of community engagement and consultation and have already visited the Leeds Youth Council to run a workshop to get their views. To take part simply visit:

[www.leeds.gov.uk/sci](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/sci)

### Consultation on a new special free school proposal

A consultation is currently taking place on a proposal to create a new generic special free school under a free school presumption process from September 2021, providing approximately 150 places for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) aged 4-16 years. It is proposed that the special school would be located at Rose Court, Buckingham Road, Headingley, however this is dependent upon Leeds City Council acquiring the Rose Court site from its current owner, the Grammar School at Leeds.

[Please click here](#) to access the consultation documents and an on-line survey which you can use to put forward views on the proposal. The website also includes information about community drop in sessions which are planned for 3<sup>rd</sup> December and 11<sup>th</sup> December.

### Views wanted on the Climate Emergency



The Big Leeds Climate Conversation is a mass engagement campaign being held with every community in Leeds to develop a citywide plan for tackling climate change. It is being delivered in partnership with the independent Leeds Climate Commission and is part of the council's response to the climate emergency.

Last year, a landmark report by the United Nations warned that--unless urgent action is taken--the opportunity to avoid the worst effects of climate change will be missed. We are also seeing a catastrophic decline in bees and other pollinating insects and an increasing number of threatened and endangered species.

In response to these findings, Leeds City Council has formally declared a climate emergency and has committed to work towards becoming a carbon-neutral city by 2030. Everyone in the city – young and old – is now encouraged to give their views in the ongoing [Climate Conversation](#) and to help shape our approach to tackling climate change together.

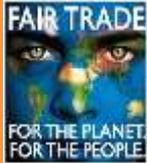
## Opportunities to get involved in

### CATCH are recruiting!



CATCH – Community Action to Create Hope - are an award winning charity and youth work provider based in Harehills, Leeds. They run a successful volunteering and mentoring scheme to help local young people learn new skills and grow in confidence. They are currently recruiting young people aged 13+ to fill a variety of volunteering roles within the organisation as well

as looking for a team leader to join their dynamic and fast growing charity. More information about all these roles are included on the attached flyers or any interested parties can email [volunteers@arkleeds.co.uk](mailto:volunteers@arkleeds.co.uk)



## Fairtrade T-Shirt competition for youth groups

Create your own T-shirt design to show how Fairtrade benefits farmers. Open to all young people between 7 and 14 years old.

The 10 best designs will be chosen and the winners will receive a Fairtrade, organic T shirt in their own size with their own design on.

**Designs must be received by Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020.**

All entry details and how to submit the design can be found at [www.fairtradeleeds.org.uk](http://www.fairtradeleeds.org.uk)

### Why is it more important than ever to buy Fairtrade?

Fairtrade brings great benefits to the farmers in developing countries. Now that the climate is changing, the farmers are finding it more difficult to grow crops, like bananas, coffee and cocoa beans; dealing with extreme floods and droughts and crop diseases. With a good price for their crops and a premium for their communities, the farmers are helped to overcome these difficulties.



## LifeSmart Workshops for your youth group

The Market Place Leeds is now able to offer LifeSmart workshops to groups of young people aged 11-17 in the city. These workshops need to be delivered outside of school hours to groups of young people who are used to doing group activities so are perfect for youth group settings.

Workshops can be delivered on any of the following topics:

- Introduction to mental health
- Anxiety
- Self-harm
- Exam stress
- Healthy Relationships
- Anger
- Self Esteem

For more information or to enquire about booking a workshop for the young people who attend your youth group please email [Ruth.Hirst@themarketplaceleeds.org.uk](mailto:Ruth.Hirst@themarketplaceleeds.org.uk)



## Upcoming Events

### Youth Voice Summit on Climate Change for High Schools / Colleges: 12/02/20

So far this year, Leeds City Council have declared a Climate Emergency, there have been 5 “Youth-4-Climate” Strikes in the city centre and most recently, **protecting the environment** was overwhelmingly voted as the top issue for young people both locally and nationally in the Make Your Mark ballot.

In response to all of these developments, and in response to continuing scientific evidence on the effects of climate change, the Voice, Influence and Change Team and the Health and

Wellbeing Service within Leeds City Council are joining forces to host a Youth Voice Summit on the theme of **Tackling Climate Change**. The event will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020 in Leeds Civic Hall. It is open to any high school / college in the city. Tickets are free and each school can bring a member of staff and up to 4 students – ideally from your student council.

The event will feature workshops delivered by researchers from Leeds University as well as a Q&A panel with the Leader of Leeds City Council, Cllr Judith Blake alongside other city councillors who have the responsibility to help Leeds significantly reduce our carbon emissions by the year 2030.

We expect this event to be very popular when bookings open in December. In the meanwhile, you can guarantee places for your school/students by simply emailing [vic@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:vic@leeds.gov.uk) to pre-register

**UK YOUTH**

### Tackling Serious Violence Collective:

**03/12/19**

On Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, UK YOUTH are hosting “Tackling Serious Violence Collective” event at St George’s Centre and tickets are free. The event – which explores issues related to last years’ UK Youth Parliament campaign around Tackling Knife Crime is an opportunity to explore solutions and champion local practice. Spaces are limited to 2 people per organisation and can be [booked online](#).

### Compass House SILC Pop Up Shop



Students from the SILC sites around the city alongside young people from The Lighthouse School have been busy planning the latest instalment of their “Compass House” pop-up shop project. Fresh off the success of their shop in the St Johns Arcade earlier this year, the students are once again running their Christmas Shop at Kirkgate Markets.

The Compass House project is student led and came about through young people with Special Education Needs and Disabilities telling Leeds City Council that they wanted more opportunities to learn wider life skills. They sell some fantastic home made products and we would encourage you all to pay them a visit and stock up on seasonal gifts whilst supporting a great cause. The shop will be near the event space at Kirkgate Market from 10am to 2pm from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December. Please share the attached flyer with your colleagues.

As always, thanks for reading and don’t forget to get in touch if you have anything you would like featured in the next edition which will be published in February 2020. In the meanwhile, we hope you all enjoy your Christmas break and want to wish you a happy new year!

*Kayleigh* *Hannah*  
*Richard* *Hannah*  
*Rajesh*

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

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

<http://tinyurl.com/LeedsPCFVoice>



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