



Newsletter

2019-20



The Have a Voice Council is the Children in Care Council for Leeds. We help to make sure looked after young people have their views heard about what needs to happen to improve the care system for everyone.

'Hi, I am Muffy and I'm 15. I joined HAV because everyone seemed so happy and friendly on the poster I saw and I wanted to be part of the club! The group is great for socialising and making new friends. I have been on the group for eight months now and so far presenting at the STARS Awards has been my favourite thing.'



Don't be shy! Come and join us!

We would love it if you wanted to get involved in Have a Voice. Our group is for any young person aged 12 to 17 who is looked after in Leeds. If you have an opinion about the care system, good or bad, we want to hear it! Turn over to see examples of what we get up to and how we use our voices to make change!

We meet every two weeks in the city centre. Every meeting has a relaxed atmosphere, snacks, bus vouchers and the staff are all friendly and supportive. Plus we get **£10 Love to Shop** voucher every month just for being involved! Bonus!

To join or find out more **call** or **text** Rajesh: 07712 214393
Or **email** us: rajesh.fernandez@leeds.gov.uk

Have a Voice Question! Win

One of the things we are working on this year is better supporting your **aspirations** – things you hope to achieve in the future. But to make sure we are doing the right things we really need your help!

Who can you trust to help you achieve your goals?

Send us your answer and include your full name and date of birth. Every person who answers will be entered into a prize draw to win a **£30 voucher!** The winner will be picked at the beginning of March so get your answer in quick!

Send answers to Rajesh – **text** 07712 214393 or **email** rajesh.fernandez@leeds.gov.uk

Who's the boss!?

One of the things we do in Have a Voice is meet and talk to the managers, leaders and Councillors whose jobs are to run the service for Looked After Children. One of them is Jon Nevill, the Service Delivery Manager. It's a very important job as he is the boss of all the Social Workers. We interviewed him to find out more....



What is your job all about? Supporting the team managers to support the social workers to support looked after children. To support all you lot, that's it really. We don't always get it right and we sometimes make it too complicated but it's really just about supporting all of you.

Why did you want to do this job? I just did! My mum and dad were teachers and did lots of stuff. My dad was brought up in care, and felt it was important to put lots back into the community, so I was brought up believing that too. All my family nearly are in Social Work.

If you could change one thing in Leeds what would it be? Easy – that all our looked after children have stable homes and can stay there as long as they want to, up to 25 if they want.

What is the weirdest thing you have ever eaten? Crocodile. I lived in Australia for a while and went to a croc farm. It was just like chicken.

What do you do to have fun? I have a season ticket for LUFC, I go to the gym quite a lot and I still play football, plus I like going to the pub with my friends.

So what have we been up to lately?

We've done loads since our last Newsletter! Some of our **highlights** are:

- Presented awards to young people at the **STARS Awards**.
- Spoke about our group to over **75 Social Workers** at a Service Away Day!
- Had a brilliant Christmas night out, going on the **Big Wheel** and out for **pizza!**



At STARS Awards 2019!



Heading home from a great day at Herd Farm!

- Went to **Herd Farm** with a whole group of new young people, who helped us shape our project to improve looked after young people's experience in **Education**.
- Made a film to help train **Teachers!**
- Created a web page for **The Promise** – see a flyer about it in this envelope!

You can also find out more about the Have a Voice Council and other Voice and Influence opportunities on this website www.breezeleeds.org/haveyoursay