

A Brighter Future



Issue 19
Summer 2014



The Leeds magazine for children and
young people with disabilities and
special educational needs



Leeds
CITY COUNCIL

Welcome to our latest edition of 'A Brighter Future' magazine. There is so much going on across Leeds right now to celebrate and support children and young people, so I hope you'll find something here that interests or helps you.

As the Councillor responsible for children and young people's services my role is varied and exciting. I want to make sure that if you grow up in Leeds you are recognised for the contribution you make and have the opportunity to influence the services that affect you. Earlier this year we held a big event to do this – our first Child Friendly Leeds Awards. You can read all about one of our award winners, Nathan Popple, who is pictured on the front of this magazine and is helping to make Leeds a more accessible place for children and young people with disabilities.

Right now there are some important changes happening in the way services are provided to you. From September there will be a single point of online information for all the help, advice and guidance that you and your family might need. I'd really encourage you to read more about this and to visit the new website once it's up and running.

Before then there are some fantastic opportunities coming up over the summer and beyond to get involved in events where you can have fun, get creative and make new friends. Our Breeze on Tour summer programme will be launching soon and some of the biggest partners in our work to make Leeds a great place to grow up are also putting on sports and performance activities designed for you!

We always welcome your feedback on this magazine and on the services and support you receive. Being a child friendly city is about making Leeds the best place to grow up for every single child and young person. Please do get involved and tell us what you think and how we can do more. Best wishes

Councillor Judith Blake *Judith Blake*
Chair of the Complex Needs Board
Executive Member for Children's Services

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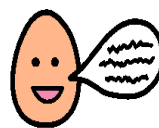
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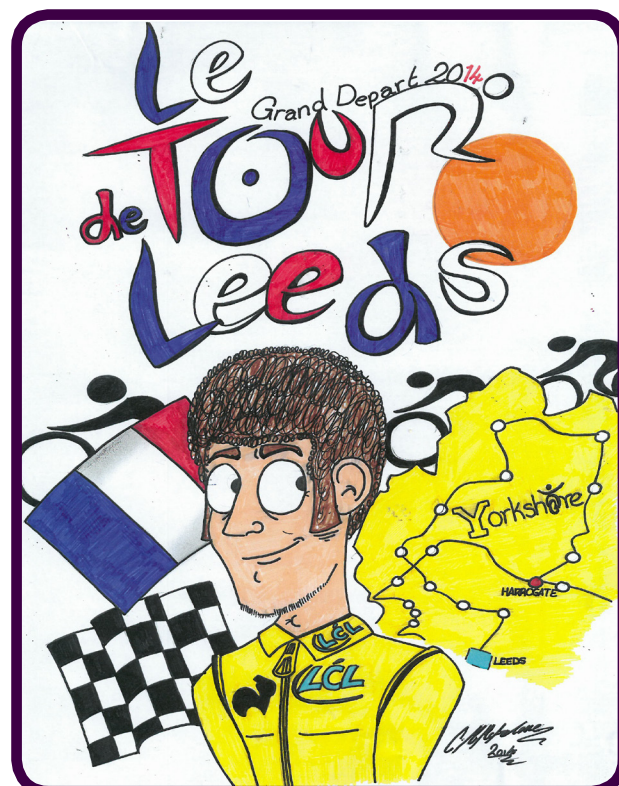
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**Great Tour de France poster by
Connor McFarlane**



Child Friendly Leeds Awards

On Thursday 30 January 2014, at the City Varieties Music Hall, Leeds held the first ever child friendly Leeds awards. A group of ten young people, made up from child friendly Leeds young advisers and members of the City Varieties Youth Theatre, planned the event. Isa, a young adviser and student from Allerton High School said “I really enjoyed it. It was so much fun. I enjoyed meeting new people and I would like to tell you that Y productions planned and ran the whole event. We thought of all the ideas and week by week the awards show seemed like it was going to be amazing. When it came to the day of the event we were all so excited we could not wait for it to start. When it did, it was fantastic, we would not change a single thing. IT WAS A NIGHT TO REMEMBER!”

Our cover star Nathan Popple, a former member of Leeds Youth Council, won the award for ‘Children’s Champion’ for his disability rights website, Accessible Leeds.

<http://www.accessibleleeds.com/>

A highlights video of the event available is on the Leeds City Council Youtube Channel!

Fabulous Friendly Awards

Recently, I attended the Child Friendly Awards Ceremony. It was a fun filled night, jam-packed with interviewing, entertainment and most importantly some amazing people that have really made a difference in helping make Leeds child friendly.

One of these amazing people is Nathan Popple. He is a nice, smart boy who has had to over-come some big physical problems in the past but, he hasn’t let this stop him in his quest to help other disabled children. Nathan has made his very own website where he reviews how child friendly some places really are. Nathan has been awarded children champion because he’s definitely been a champion for some children.



Congratulations Nathan! **Written by our Leeds Young Reporters.**

breeze ON TOUR

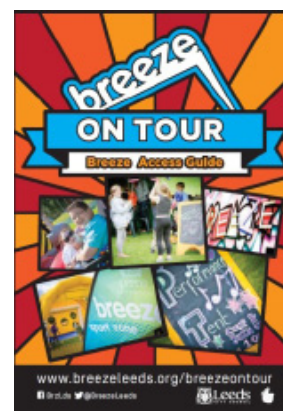
Breeze on Tour is nearly here – do you or does someone in your family have additional needs? We have been busy introducing new facilities and features to improve accessibility at Breeze, read on for more info!

We know we run a great event – but do you know what a fun day you can have at Breeze? Check out our website to download a free copy of our Breeze BAG – your essential Breeze Access Guide with all the information you need to make your visit a success. Go to www.breezeleeds.org to find out where you can find us this year

Over the past 2 years we have received great feedback from parents, carers and young people about our Relaxed Early Opening sessions open exclusively to young people with additional needs (and their friends and family). This facility is only available on Thursdays at main Breeze on Tour events.

Of course you are very welcome at all Breeze on Tour events, you will be able to pre-register for any of the dates to

let us know you will be coming and then we will be able to fast track through the Registration Zone and avoid the queues. Just go to www.breezeleeds.org to register



Look for the Youth Support Team in blue tshirts who will be on hand at all events to offer support and answer enquiries. They can also help you by talking to other staff at the events to help you have fun on the inflatables and get creative in the Arts Zones. Come and meet them at the Registration Zone, the Accessible Play Zone, and if you need a Chillout space there will be staff on hand in the Big Blue Dome.

We will also be joined by partners, including Scope, who you can talk to and ask for information on Short Breaks and other sources of help and support.

Switches 4 Kidz will be volunteering at the events – come and find them in and around the Big Blue Sensory Dome and check out our Switch adapted and multi sensory toys and games.

You are very welcome to ring the Breeze Team if you have any questions: 0113 3783167- we look forward to seeing you at the events!

Dates and details of facilities at the Breeze on Tour venues:



Temple Newsam:

Wednesday 30 July 12 – 5

*R Thursday 31 July Relaxed opening 11 -12 , main event 12 – 5

Roundhay Park: Accessible toilets at the Café's and Visitor Centres

Wednesday 6st August 12 – 5

*R Thursday 7nd August Relaxed opening 11 – 12, main event 12 – 5

*R Thursday 9th August Relaxed opening 11 – 12, main event 12 – 5

Kirkstall Abbey: Accessible toilets at the Visitor Centre, Adult changing facilities at Abbey House Museum

Wednesday 13th August 12 – 5

*R Thursday 14th August Relaxed opening 11 -12, main event 12 - 5

*R = Relaxed Opening Time

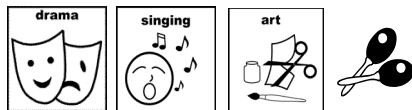
CP = Nearest Changing Places toilet



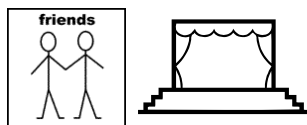
Buzz – for young people with learning disabilities aged 14 – 25



Buzz is a programme of workshops and projects at First Floor (West Yorkshire Playhouse's venue for all young people). We are above the Wardrobe Bar and opposite Leeds Bus Station. Here is our front door! There is a lift to our Studios, we have a hearing loop in Reception and hoist facilities and a changing bed in our accessible toilet.



On Saturday afternoons from 1 – 3pm we run Buzz Weekend Workshops in music, drama and visual arts. All of our workshops have support workers in them but you can bring a PA or carer with you if you need one to one support.



First Floor is a really friendly place; we go to see shows at West Yorkshire Playhouse and sometimes get to perform on the stage!



Other stuff we do on the Buzz Programme

- Outreach drama workshops in SILC's and SEN Colleges for students with learning disabilities aged 11 – 25
- Buzz Creative Arts Course. An Arts Award accredited course on Mondays and Tuesdays 10 – 3pm, for young people with learning disabilities aged 16 – 25
- Move Your Body in half term, a two hour movement workshop to give you confidence in moving to music or on stage!



First Floor, 6 St Peter's Building, St Peter's Square, Leeds, LS9 8AH.

Tel: 0113 245 5252 or

email: maria.thelwell@wyp.org.uk

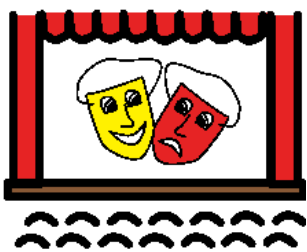
if you would like to visit or find out more.

Download our latest brochure pdf at www.wyp.org.uk/

VERVE CLUB

A monthly creative arts club for young people aged 16-25 with Autistic Spectrum Disorders and communication difficulties.

The Verve Club is run by Opera North in partnership with Turtle Key Arts and has been active since September 2011. The club gives older teenagers the opportunity to engage and participate in a variety of creative arts activities including drama, music, puppetry and film-making, alongside professional artists. The club aims to develop young people's skills in a variety of art forms, build confidence and provide an inspiring and supportive environment for socialising and making new friends.



Sessions take place at the Howard Assembly Room, Opera North on Saturdays during term time, from 10am – 12pm. All sessions are followed by a social gathering (refreshments provided) from 12 - 1pm.

The Verve Club will be running once a month from September 2014 to June 2015. Members can join at any point throughout the year.

For more information on the club, please email jo.bedford@operanorth.co.uk or call 0113 3993202.



opera
north



Turtle Key Arts

Elves & the Shoemaker

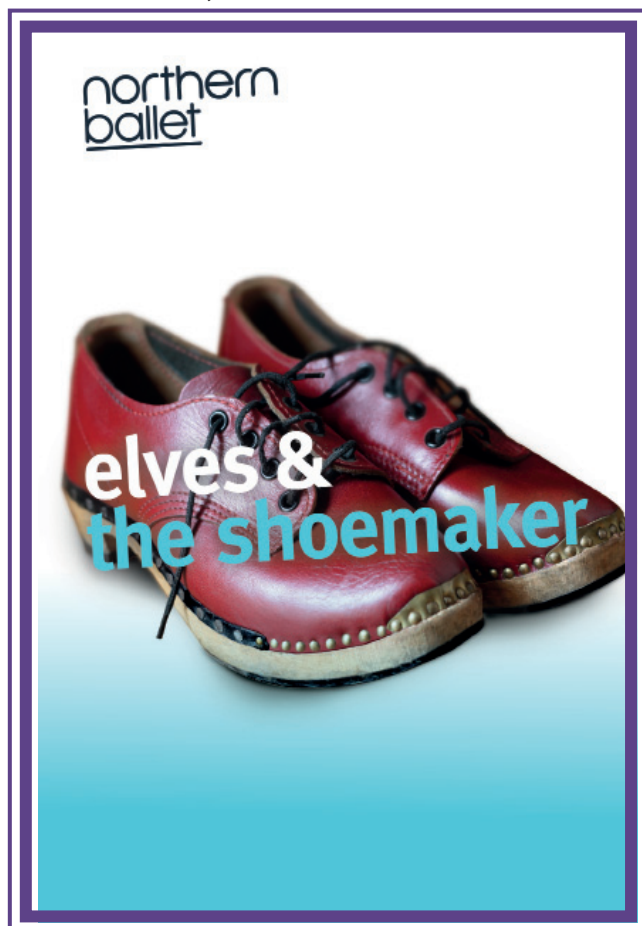
Relaxed Performance

Friday 31 October, 11am



Following the fantastic sell-out success of Ugly Duckling and Three Little Pigs, Northern Ballet is delighted to announce our latest ballet for children, Elves & the Shoemaker.

A hard-working but poor shoemaker struggles to earn enough money to support his family. The kind-hearted man decides to give his final pair of shoes, all he has left in the world, to a poor lady in need of help. The next morning the shoemaker awakes to find that his last piece of leather has been transformed into the most magnificent pair of shoes overnight. He discovers that not only are the shoes beautiful; they are also magical. Who is the mysterious maker of these marvellous shoes? Retelling the famous Brothers Grimm story, *Elves & the Shoemaker* is the perfect opportunity to introduce your little ones to the magic of live ballet, music and theatre.



These child friendly performances will last approximately 40 minutes.
Perfect for ages 3+

The Relaxed Performance has slight adaptations to make it suitable for patrons with disabilities. It is aimed at anyone who would benefit from a more relaxed performance environment including people with an Autistic Spectrum Condition, Sensory or Communication Disorders, or a learning disability. There is a more relaxed attitude to noise (voluntary and involuntary) in the auditorium, in order to reduce anxiety and ensure a safe and enjoyable theatre visit. Patrons with additional needs are welcome at any performance in the theatre, however, if you think you or your companions would enjoy a more relaxed environment, this Relaxed Performance offers specific support for you.

To book tickets call 0113 220 8008 or visit northernballet.com/elves



Illuminate Dance is Phoenix Dance Theatre's regular, targeted provision for young people with additional needs aged 6-18 years, funded by the Leeds Short Breaks Partnership.

Weekly classes on Saturday afternoons are fun and imaginative, giving young people the opportunity to access enjoyable activities in a safe and creative environment, often without their primary carer.

As we come to the end of our second year running and begin our third, it seems like an appropriate time to reflect on how far both ourselves and our participants have come during that time! Our participants have gone from strength to strength and we continue to see great improvements in their mobility, stamina, flexibility, co-ordination, balance and technique. Many friendships have flourished and the difference in our participants' self-confidence, motivation, communication and team working skills is remarkable.

This year our 11-18 years group have performed at both Phoenix Dance Theatre and Northern School of Contemporary Dance. This was a new and exciting experience for some; for others it was a chance to put their growing performance skills into practice and share their achievements with family and friends.

Not only were the group able to see choreography created by other young people but they also had opportunities to learn more about lighting and sound from our technical team. We're excited to say that we've already got performances lined up for this summer!

We also arranged a free trip for participants and their parents/carers to see 'Treasure Island' by inclusive theatre company Mind The Gap at The Carriageworks over October half term. We were lucky enough to meet cast members afterwards and, needless to say, a fantastic time was had by all.

Admissions for Illuminate Dance are taken year round subject to availability. For more information or to book a place, please contact our Access and Education department:

Tel: 0113 236 8130

Email: lauren.houghton@phoenixdancetheatre.co.uk.

Website: www.phoenixdancetheatre.co.uk

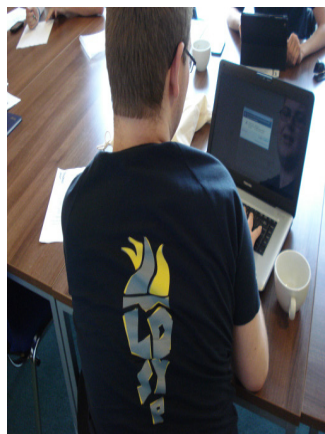


Interested in Disability Sport? Get involved in our youth panel!

Leeds Disability Sport Youth Panel are currently looking for new members. The panel meets once a month to discuss disability sport issues and plan major disability events in the city. If you are aged between 16 and 25 years old and have an interest in disability sport then why not come along and get involved. Membership is open for anyone with or without a disability.



Last year we organised the Leeds 2 Rio Disability Sport day, a multi-sport disability event at the John Charles Centre for Sport, with over 14 different Paralympic and disability sports taking place. This year the event will be taking place on Millennium Square in the centre of Leeds and will build up to two years to go to the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games. If you are interested in getting involved please complete the application form on our website: www.leeds.gov.uk/disabilitysport or contact Ross Bibby: tel 0113 395 0159, e-mail: ross.bibby@leeds.gov.uk



Summer Disability Sports Camps

This summer holiday there will be two disability sports camps taking place across a variety of venues around the city. Suitable for children and young people aged 8-19 years old with any disability, these camps offer lots of fun disability sports and activities including indoor caving, sailing, cycling, football, wheelchair sports, canoeing, archery, basketball, athletics, tennis and many other multi sports.

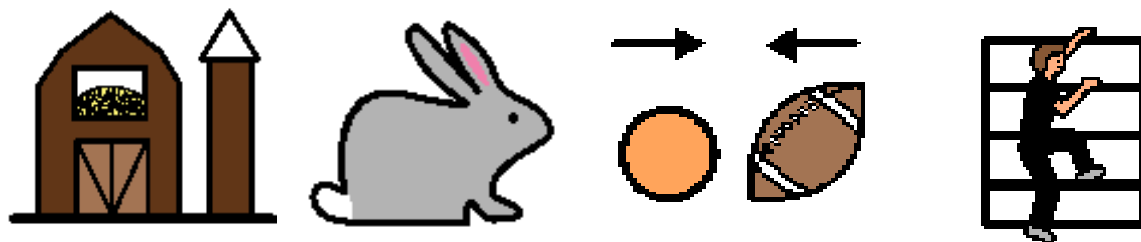
The camps are also suitable for non-disabled siblings and friends and cost just £5 per day for activity from 10am to 3pm each day, or £20 for the whole week.

For details of the camps please download the application form on our website www.leeds.gov.uk/disabilitysport or contact Ross Bibby: tel 0113 395 0159, e-mail: ross.bibby@leeds.gov.uk



Your experiences of being a child or young person with a Disability or Special Educational Need

My name is Rebecca; I am 14 years old. On the weekend of 21-23rd February I went on a trip to Lineham Farm residential. It was run by Aireborough Summer activities scheme. I went with my little sister Bethany she is 7, some of my friends from EPIC Leeds also went, they are really nice Dennis is my favourite. When me and Bethany got there we waited for all the other people to arrive, we put all our things in our room. I was in the hark room with my friend Susie. On the first night we played games and then had tea, after tea we played more games then it was time for bed. When we got up we had breakfast then we did animal care, we fed the pigs and held the rabbits and guinea pigs. I love animals. We had lunch and then played more games and did crafts, we also did climbing and went on a midnight walk it was so much fun and even better that my friends and sister went too. My favourite bit was the climbing. I had a fantastic time.



My name is Colin McDonnell I am 20, I have a condition called glutaric aciduria type 1. For me, this means I am wheelchair dependent, have little use over my limbs and my speech is often difficult to understand. This means I require a communication aid to speak for me, to operate a computer and environmental control. My communication aid is now an accent 1000 that I operate entirely with a single switch mounted on my headrest (this is how I have been operating them since the age of 4). I have worked closely with the speech and language therapist since the age of 3 which is when I started at east silc school Leeds. Over the years they have done their best to keep up with my progress and my needs with the technology that was available to them. Most recently I have been impressed with how they recognized that my needs were changing as I was starting college and needed my communication aid to do a lot more for me. An assessment was arranged to make sure what I needed, wanted and to explore different access methods such as eyegaze. It hasn't stopped with just being given a communication aid, I am in constant contact with the team with, problems, ideas, solution and feedback to aid others.

BULLYING IN HIGH SCHOOL

By Jasmine Wilson

Yes, I get bullied a lot in High School. It didn't really start for me in Primary, but I would get teased a bit. Anyway, High School was where it all started and I hate generalising but many girls with Asperger's or autism get bullied. Boys with Asperger's or autism get bullied a lot too, as do some people without autism.

So, I had some "friends" who would one minute be really nice to me and the next minute ditch me and tell me to go away. I would fall for it every time and when I started crying they would call me a baby. It wasn't just false friends, it was also girls in my lessons. One girl got the whole class turning against me. It was a good opportunity for her as we had a supply teacher. There were loads of rumours spread about me as well.

In Year 7, because of all the horrible rumours, I would just hide in the Library reading any old book. I don't even like reading that much, but it was an escape. I mean in the lunch canteen if I ate on my own the mean girls might show up. Or some really nice girls might show up and then what would I say – as one word, or the way you say a word can put a non-autistic person off you for ages. I could have hung around with the SILC kids who have special needs, but I didn't want anyone thinking I had special needs, so I would try and stop away from them. They are now some of my closest friends. Anyway, getting off topic. In Year 8 I moved form as the bullying got so bad. I stopped the habit of skipping lunch that was making me ill. I was getting bullied so much in my new form and I didn't want to go into school any more. But I was told by my mum that I had to face them by going to school, so I still went.

I still get bullied now and have meltdowns at home, but it's okay as every time I just come back stronger. I wish everyone else getting bullied would think the same as me. I have actually made a lot of friends despite me being bullied as I have met people who are in the same boat as me. Sorry for generalising again but almost all of the people that bully me don't have autism and it's almost always the same for other people with autism who get bullied. It's because our brains are different and our minds don't fit into the non-autistic world. This makes us an easy target and it's really a shame. Anyway I hope that this helped you to understand what it's like for Asper Girls and girls with autism who get bullied.

Note from mum:

My daughter has received excellent support from her school. Unfortunately, the bullying still occurs occasionally. However her school are very quick to speak to the culprits and support her.

If you are being bullied visit <http://www.bullying.co.uk/> or ring their helpline on 0808 800 2222 for advice and support methods.

Complex needs service

News update for young people

? What is this newsletter about?

New laws about special educational needs and disabilities



The complex needs service is for children and young people aged 0 to 25 years who have special educational needs and disabilities. We work with lots of partners like health services, schools and colleges.



In this newsletter we want to tell you about some changes to the law that are happening. The changes are about improving things for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

We would really like to hear your views about these changes. You can find ways to get in touch on the last page.

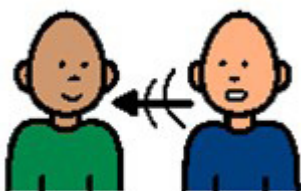
? What are the new laws about?



Some new laws have been agreed about services for children and young people with special needs and disabilities. The new laws are part of the Children and Families Act 2014.



- Councils must make sure that children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities can get **good information** about fun things to do and services to help them. This is called **The Local Offer**.



- Children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities must get to **have more of a say** about the services they use. People in charge of councils and health services must listen to the views of children and young people and take them into account.

? What are the new laws about (cont)?

There will be a new assessment process and new Education, Health and Care Plans for some children and young people in future

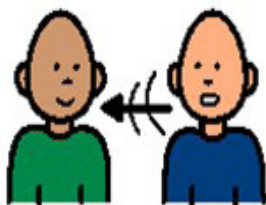


An **assessment** is when people like teachers and health workers talk to you and your family to find out what support you need as you learn and grow up. An **Education, Health and Care Plan** is used to decide what support you will get, and write it down in one place.



Not everyone needs an **Education, Health and Care Plan**. They are only for people who need lots of support.

If you have a Statement or a Learning Difficulty Assessment now, you may have one of the new plans instead in future. The new plans will mean you get to have more of a say about what support you need. Teachers and other workers will have to involve you when they write your Education Health and Care Plan and take your views into account.



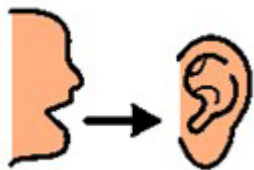
We will write a guide for young people and make a short film to help explain more about this. Contact us to sign up to get this.

? When will these changes happen?

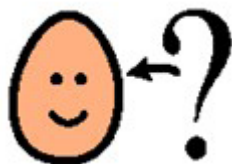
These changes will be happening from September 2014. We will keep sharing information in our newsletter every 2 months. You can find this on our website (details on the next page).



? How can you get involved or ask questions?



We really want to hear your views about the new laws. We are visiting groups of young people at schools, colleges or youth groups to talk about these changes and hear views. You can get in touch with us to arrange this or ask your teacher or group leader to get in touch with us.



We are also going to send out some short questions for young people about their views. Please contact us to sign up for these, or ask an adult you trust to sign up for you.



We are also making some short films to help us explain these changes.

If you are interested in being in a film asking your questions about these changes, please contact us or ask an adult you trust to contact us.



We would like to hear from you

How to get in touch with us:



Email: bpteam@leeds.gov.uk



Telephone Natalie who works for the complex needs service on:
0789 127 9105

Website: www.familyinformationleeds.co.uk



Thank You

New Laws about special educational needs and disabilities



Some new laws have been agreed about services for children and young people with special needs and disabilities (SEND). The new laws are part of the Children and Families Act 2014. The new laws say that councils must make sure that children and young people with SEND and their families can get good information about services to support them, and fun things to do, in their local area. This is called The Local Offer and will include information from every school about how they

support children and young people with SEND.

Children and young people who have complex needs sometimes have an assessment and a 'Statement' which describes the support they need in education. In future, the new law says that these Statements will need to change into something called an 'Education, Health and Care Plan'. This will still look at what support children and young people with complex needs require in education, but it will also look at their health and care needs too. The new laws say that children and young people who have one of these new Education Health and Care Plans should get to have more of say about the support.

A specialist team can visit groups of young people, families and practitioners who want to know more about this or they can send out leaflets and a newsletter.

To find out more contact the best practice team on bpteam@leeds.gov.uk, telephone Natalie on: 07891 279 105, or visit www.familyinformationleeds.co.uk and www.leeds.gov.uk/SENDreforms

Children and Families Act 2014

Changes to services for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.



Voice and influence network of special educational needs and disabilities and complex needs

Recently an exciting initiative within the voice and influence team began to establish a network of staff leads and young person champions for voice, influence and change in every establishment and service which has contact with, or supports children and young people with disabilities and complex needs.

We now have a network of 120 staff leads from a wide range of backgrounds such as social care, health, schools, third sector, residential establishments and 40 children and young people champions and this is growing every day. All have agreed to promote and support voice influence and change work in their workplaces. The young people have already contributed to several consultations and recruitment and selection work for managers and care staff, feeding into key policy development work around personalisation and the children and families act.

If you would like to become a voice and influence lead or know someone who would, please contact Kath Runciman on 07712 214394. Kath will then keep you regularly informed about key issues which affect this seldom heard group of children and young people.

We would like to thank all the parents and carers who filled the Children's Disability Register survey that was inserted into December 2013's issue. We received 201 completed surveys back which is approximately 10% of the Brighter Futures circulation list.

The results show that approximately 60% of parents and carers would be willing to share basic details about their child or young person for inclusion onto a voluntary register. However there were some concerns from parents and carers about some types of information we asked about, such as your child's NHS number. Parents and carers also wanted to know more about how information will be used and who will have access to that information.

Parents in turn said that they would like us to provide information about what is available for children and young people such as:

- Information about events in a timely fashion
- Contact details of organisations that offer help and support
- Helpful information in plenty of time where a child or young person changes school year or goes on to college or work

We are currently preparing a report for senior managers in Children's Services to read, discuss and decide on how best to proceed with the Children's Disability Register for Leeds. The results of the survey have been included in the report so that your comments and concerns can be listened to and can influence how the register is developed.

Parent Partnership Service update

Leeds Parents Partnership Service is an information and advice service for parents and carers of children with additional educational needs. The service is designed to help you as parents and carers receive the advice, information and guidance necessary to make the right choices for your child and their education.

Recently there have been a number of changes within the service, and two members of staff, Rachel Akhtar and Elizabeth Morrissey have moved onto pastures new.

As a result of this staff have moved around within the team to ensure that we are able to offer each area of the city the same high quality service, from an experienced SEN officer. The officers for the city are now as follows:

Imogen Prior – West and North West Leeds

Anne Devine – East and North East Leeds

Esme Winston – South Leeds

All officers can be contacted by calling the service helpline on 0113 395 1200.

The service has also moved office. We were previously based at Adams Court, however, we have now moved to the following address:

Technorth, 9 Harrogate Road, Leeds, LS7 3NB

If you would like any further information about the service then please either contact us on tel: 0113 395 1200 or email: educationpps@educationleeds.co.uk





EPIC Leeds are a parent, carer and families participation forum in Leeds which aims to empower parents/carers and families to work in partnership with services, organisations and professionals.

We aim to improve choices for children and young people with additional needs, their families and carers

EPIC Leeds are currently looking at our members list to see which areas we have the most members in and what we can do better to reach the areas where we only have a few members.

We are looking for ideas of how to reach the outer Leeds areas and what we can do to enable us to do this.

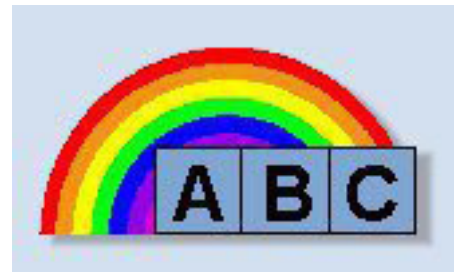
We are happy to visit existing groups to engage with families and see how we could be more pro active in these areas.

If you have any ideas please let us know by emailing us epicleeds@gmail.com or by

EPIC LEEDS TAKEOVER DAY 2013

On Wednesday 27th November Epic Leeds staged their 2013 takeover day involving 6 young people that attended from a local school in Leeds. The day was fantastic. The young people were very excited about the day. They helped us plan the SEN market place 2014 . They helped with the invites, the room planning, the evaluation forms for attendee's and stall holders and also the advertising. The young people were fantastic, the idea's they brought to the table were wonderful. We enjoyed involving them in every step of the event. We are pleased to say the day was a huge success, at the end of the session we asked them to do a newspaper article which was well recieved. We also asked them how their day was and in their own words they replied "we had an epic day."

Leeds ABC is a well-established registered charity. Amongst the many things they do are weekly social groups for children and young people with high-functioning autism or Asperger's syndrome. There are two separate groups, the first aimed at children within the age range of 7-11 years old. The second group is aimed at children and young adults within the age range of 11-18 years old. These groups are highly beneficial for all those that attend. Each week Mandy Craven, the vice-chair of Leeds ABC, carefully plans a range of activities that meet both the sensory requirements and imaginative need of those that attend. The social value to be gained is also considered. Through these activities, the young people are able to openly express their individual personalities. They always come up with a new arts and crafts activity. Games are also available, as well as pool for the older group. All of the team put a lot of effort into every session to ensure all of the children and young people participate and achieve something. As you can see from the images scattered around, we manage to plan a range of activities that not only meet their needs but can sometimes require an extra amount of planning from each young person. Just some of the activities that we provide for the young people include making:



- 3D Hand Drawing,
- Hand Sewn Owls,
- Hama Beads,
- Play Dough,
- Canvas Painting,
- And many, many more.

As a volunteer, the experience of working with children with ASC has given me the understanding that meeting one person with ASC does not give you the ability to know what Autism is, each young person that has an ASC has their own set of needs. What could cause a meltdown in one young person, another young person could react in an entirely different way. Being a volunteer for Leeds ABC has been a wonderful experience that will forever change my outlook on life and the advantages and disadvantages that some people have.

For further information about the youth groups or other things available to families affected by autism in Leeds send an email to info@abcleeds.org.uk or Tel: Mandy Craven 0113 2795142 or 07769 317744.

Pyramid of Arts

This summer come and see Pyramid of Arts Youth projects in action.

From Friday 25th July – Sunday 27th July we will be in the Trinity Leeds shopping centre with The Deciding Machine... a game in which you will discover that all decisions, no matter how small, can have surprising consequences!

On 7th and 8th August, the Pyramid Beam Team will be in the Howard Assembly Room (next door to the Grand Theatre) premiering their newest work, IdeaLeeds. This installation will allow you to become the conductor of your own city, as you construct and deconstruct the sounds of the every day.

Both of the above events are fully accessible, free to attend and you don't need tickets – just turn up. If you need any more information then please contact Sarah Kennedy on 0113 234 6040 or by email at info@pyramid-of-arts.org.uk

Pyramid of Arts is a place where people with and without learning disabilities can meet to make friends; make art and have fun. Get in touch to find out how you can join Pyramid and take part in future projects.

Contact: Sarah Kennedy

Web address: <http://www.pyramid-of-arts.org.uk>

Twitter: @Pyramid_of_Arts

Facebook: [facebook.com/Pyramid.of.Arts](https://www.facebook.com/Pyramid.of.Arts)



Are you a carer aged 18 – 30?

Carers Leeds provides information, advice and support to young adult carers, looking after a child or young person with disabilities or complex needs, as well as other family carers. Information, advice and support available to carers at a time when they need it can be hugely helpful – knowing how to get the right welfare benefits, knowing what help is available for your child, getting a break from caring – all these things can make a big difference to parents, who often experience stress, anxiety and exhaustion as a result of their caring role.

We want parents to know about our service and to get in touch with us for support when they need it. Nikki Pattinson, the Carer Support Worker who has a focus on young adult carers (aged 18-30) and other Carer Support Workers are now running Drop-In sessions in Childrens Centres and SILCS across the city – so look out for these.

Parents can also receive our free Newsletter providing up to date information on events and activities for carers in Leeds, as well as information on local and national issues affecting carers.

For more information see, www.carersleeds.org.uk , info@carersleeds.org.uk. Drop-In at Carers Leeds Tuesday – Friday (9.30 – 3.30) 6-8 The Headrow, Leeds, LS1 6PT.

New Carers Advice Line from 10th June is 0113 380 4300, 10am – 4 pm Monday to Friday.



Pinfolds

(Written by Kath Runciman, Voice & Influence Officer)

Pinfolds is a specialist shared care setting, in Leeds, for young people with special educational needs and disabilities. During the past year, I have worked closely with a group of staff voice and influence leads, developing and celebrating their communication and engagement skills in relation to some of the most complex and seldom heard young people. The staff leads have then worked with young people living at Pinfolds to support their work as voice, influence and change champions within the setting.

Their work has included developing and designing one to one booklets which are completed with staff where the views and opinions of each child or young person is noted in relation to key areas of their life and their care such as food, personal care, equality and diversity, preparing for transition to adulthood and one about the people who care for them. Visual mapping of the entire building using boardmaker symbols and traffic light indicators on doors, to support anxiety reduction and independence. They have designed and developed information booklets to give to young people who come and visit with a view to living at Pinfolds and have taken part in recruitment and selection for officers and management, designing questions and post appointment tasks for new members of staff to evidence their commitment to the voice of the child.



Outreach

Supporting families of children with a disability on a one to one basis



Little Hiccups is a support network for children with a disability or an additional need and their family. Founded and run by parents, we have first-hand knowledge of how tough and also how wonderfully rewarding day to day life can be with a disabled/ additional needs child.

We offer a chance to meet other families in similar situations, make friends and enjoy some fantastic events and generally have fun.

Not all parents/carers feel comfortable in group situations. Having a disabled child can be a real rollercoaster of emotions and finding the strength to take that first step towards voicing the reality can be very daunting.

For those parents/carers who don't yet feel ready, we are happy to meet them for a relaxed and friendly chat over coffee because sometimes making that first contact can be a big step forward!

Telephone: 07831 230 741

Email: outreach@littlehiccups.co.uk

Web: www.littlehiccups.co.uk



Contacts

Service Name	Telephone	Email	Website	Social Media
West Yorkshire Playhouse	0113 2137700	groups@wyp.org.uk	http://www.wyp.org.uk/	Tweet: @wyplayhouse
Complex Needs Service	07891 279105	natalie.samuel@leeds.gov.uk or vic@leeds.gov.uk	www.familyinformationleeds.co.uk	
Disability Sports	0113 3950159	ross.bibby@leeds.gov.uk	www.leeds.gov.uk/disabilitysport	Tweet: @Leedsdissport
Opera North (Verve Club)	0113 3993202	jo.bedford@operanorth.co.uk	http://www.operanorth.co.uk/	Tweet: @opera_north
Northern Ballet	0113 2208000	rose.chadwick@northernballet.com	http://northernballet.com/	Tweet: @northernballet
Children's Society	0113 2363900 or 07508 356118	natalie.tharraleos@childrensociety.org.uk	www.childrensociety.org.uk	Tweet: @childrensociety
Voice and Influence Team	vic@leeds.gov.uk			
Child Friendly Leeds	0113 23950247	childfriendlyleeds@leeds.gov.uk	www.childfriendlyleeds	Tweet: @child_leeds
Parent Partnership	0113 3951222	education.pps@leeds.gov.uk	www.leedsparentpartnership.co.uk	
Listening to Book	02074079417	library@listening-books.org.uk	www.listening-books.org.uk	
Pyramid of Arts (Sarah Kennedy)	0113 2346040	info@pyramid-of-arts.org.uk	http://www.pyramid-of-arts.org.uk	Tweet: @Pyramid_of_Arts Facebook: facebook.com/Pyramid.of.Arts

Service Name	Telephone	Email	Website	Social Media
Parent to Parent Line	08009520520			
Autism Helpline	0845 070 4004		www.autism.org.uk	
EPIC Leeds	07889728403	info@epicleeds.org.uk	www.epicleeds.org.uk	Tweet: @EPIC_Leeds
Sunshine and Smiles (Ailith Harley-Roberts)	(0113) 2268457 or 07902 054355	hello@sunshineandsmiles.org.uk	www.sunshineand-smiles.org.uk	Tweet: @sun_smilesleeds Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SunshineAndSmilesLeedsDownSyndromeNetwork
Scope	0113 387 6408		www.scope.org.uk	
ABC Group	0113 2579269	info@abcleeds.org.uk	www.abcleeds.org.uk	Tweet: @LeedsABC-Group
Citizens Advice Bureau	0113 2622281			
Family Information Service	0800 731 0640 or 0113 2474386	family.info@leeds.gov.uk	www.familyinformationleeds.co.uk	Tweet: @familyinfoleeds

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Thank you for taking the time to read this issue of A Brighter Future.
Please remember that we welcome your views and opinions. Tell us what you liked and what you didn't, suggest articles you would like to see in future issues too. We would love recommendations on places to go and see that you have enjoyed or found useful.

Please write to us with topics you would like to be included in future issues. Attach additional sheets if you have lots of ideas.

This form is also available online at: www.familyinformationleeds.co.uk
Contact 0113 247 4386 for any assistance
Would you like to receive future newsletters to your door or by e-mail?
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We look forward to hearing from you at the following address:

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9 Harrogate Road
Chapel Allerton
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Phone: 0113 247 4386 or 0800 731 0640

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Twitter: [@familyinfoleeds](https://twitter.com/familyinfoleeds)