

A Brighter Future



Issue 21
Summer 2015



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



Leeds
CITY COUNCIL

Foreword

'I'm delighted to be writing my first introductory message for Brighter Futures, in my new role as Executive Member for Children and Families in Leeds. I've taken over the role after Councillor Judith Blake became leader of the Council in May and I feel very proud and excited to be representing the services that support our children, young people and those who care for them. Despite the challenging financial situation public services face, as a city we have a real shared determination to give everyone growing up in Leeds the best start in life and the help they need to realise their personal potential.

Earlier this year Ofsted inspected what we do in Leeds and recognised the quality of our services and our ambition to put children and young people at the heart of the city's growth. We want to build on that confidence by making sure we give the best support and opportunities to those children who are the most vulnerable and who have the most complex needs.

With that in mind it's been great, through reading this edition of Brighter Futures and talking to parents and practitioners, to hear about the range of opportunities and activities available across the city. I hope you will find something in this edition that you are either involved in or that sparks your interest and of course there's lots more support available through our local offer which you can explore online.

One of the best things about my role is meeting people and hearing your feedback so we can keep improving. I look forward to seeing you soon and I always welcome the chance to chat! We all share a will to get things right for our children and young people as part of our ambition to be a child friendly city'.



Councillor Lucinda Yeadon
Executive Member for Children and Families

News from the complex needs service



The complex needs service is for children and young people aged 0-25 with complex learning difficulties and disabilities, and their families. Our vision is that every Leeds child with a significant learning difficulty or disability will benefit from child-centred, high quality, flexible and responsive services that help them to live a successful and fulfilling life.

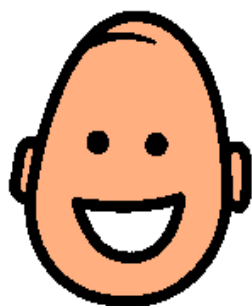
You can find the latest newsletter from the service and our partners here. This includes contact details for all our teams (on the last page). You can also find our latest newsletter for young people here.

You can find other useful information about services and support for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and their families, on our Leeds Local offer website. You can give feedback on the local offer of services, or tell us what you think of our website, using the page here. Your feedback will help us to plan improvements to services, and to the website.

We hope you find our newsletters useful. To receive them direct in future, please email your contact details to bpteam@leeds.gov.uk

Parents, carers and young people who want advice about services and support for SEND can also contact the Leeds SEND Information Advice Support Service. Their website is here. If you prefer to speak to somebody, or you don't use the internet, you can call them on 0113 39 51200.

Finally, on behalf of all our teams, Barbara Newton, head of the complex needs service, wishes all of you a happy summer holiday!



Leeds Special Education Needs & Disability Information Advice Support Service (SEND IASS)

SENDIASS is an impartial, confidential service for parents, carers, young people and children. The service offer information, advice and support on:

- Helping children, young people and parents to gather, understand and interpret information and apply it to their own situation.
- Information on education law relating to Special Educational Needs (SEN) and related law on disability, health and social care, through suitably independently trained staff.
- Provide advice through individual casework and through work with parent carer support groups, or training events.
- Support when things go wrong through early disagreement resolution, mediation, routes of appeal and complaints procedures. This support could include information around:
 - Early Help – Looking at what support can be put in place if you feel your child has additional needs often referred to as SEN support in schools.
 - Funding For Inclusion (FFI) - Additional Financial
 - Support for schools; for children with a high level of additional need
 - Education and Health Care Plans (EHC)
 - Educational settings in Leeds and Out of Authority
 - Accessing the Local Offer
 - Disagreement resolution and tribunals

They do this by:

- Listening to your questions and concerns
- Explaining the process of SEN support
- Supporting and advising around school meetings
- Explaining the Funding for Inclusion process (FFI)
- Supporting and advising around school visits
- Giving information and advice around disagreement resolution
- Supporting and advising around SEND tribunals
- Supporting you through statutory assessment processes
- Supporting and advising around annual reviews
- Signposting you to other services where necessary

The support can be delivered in a number of ways and casework to be agreed on an individual basis. It may include:

- Phone calls
- Emails
- Home visits
- School meetings
- Local authority meetings
- Working with parent carer support groups
- Local SEN groups
- Local disability groups or training events

To make a referral:

Parents, children and young people should self-refer via the helpline, email or by visiting the website. However, a professional can refer with the family's explicit consent.

We operate throughout the year during office hours. The helpline is guaranteed between the hours of 10-3pm on weekdays during term-time. An answer service is available throughout the year and a member of the team will respond to your queries. Please leave a brief message and your contact details; including name, number and postcode.

You can contact us by:

Telephone: 0113 3951200

Email: sendiass@leeds.gov.uk

Website: www.leedssendiass.co.uk



Leeds SEND Information Advice Support Service



Child Friendly Leeds

Our campaign to make Leeds a child friendly city is about the city being a place where children and young people are valued, supported, enjoy growing up, and look forward to a bright future. The child friendly Leeds blog offers people, places and organisations across the city a platform for their views on the things that are happening to make Leeds a better place for children and young people to grow up in.

We've previously featured breaking-news on our child friendly Leeds awards; heard the stories of volunteers working with young people; and featured the opinions of children on the places they love in the city, so if you, or anyone you work with have a story to tell about the issues affecting young people in Leeds, please could you send them to emma.simmonds@leeds.gov.uk.

Young superstars needed to plan Leeds award ceremony!

We're delighted to announce that the third child friendly Leeds awards will be taking place in January 2016, and we're making them bigger and better than ever! We're looking for young people age 11-19 who will be responsible for planning the next awards ceremony at Leeds City Varieties, with responsibilities including booking the acts to perform on the night; organising sound, lighting and music; and hosting the ceremony on the night as part of our planning team, a fantastic experience for all involved and something older applicants can put on their CV. Young people can visit the child friendly Leeds site to apply.

A group of ten young people will be selected to be part of the planning team and will meet every Thursday (4:30-6:30pm), ahead of the award ceremony in January.

If you think you're up to the task, or know somebody who might be, then visit our webpage here, or find more information on Twitter #CFLawards.

Nominations for the awards categories open 15 September, so look out for further updates and follow our website for announcements: www.childfriendlyleeds.wordpress.com/awards



Willow Young Carers Sibs Group at Nell Bank

Willow Young Carers siblings support group took part in a residential weekend at Nell Bank outdoor education centre this summer. The sibs group supports young people who help to care for a brother or sister with a disability or illness. The monthly Saturday group has been running at Willow for over 18 months and the young people who attend have become good friends.

The group enjoyed a wonderful sunny weekend of fun and games, including an assault course, den building, pond dipping and adventure play. Service manager, Sylvia Shatwell said, "It was just great to see the young people having so much space to run round and enjoy themselves". Rania, who has been attending the group for over a year said, "I enjoyed working together on the assault course to get the water, chicken and bread to the other side. I also liked pond dipping because it was good to see the things that live in a pond". Other highlights included pizza, film night and the obligatory (and fully risk assessed) pillow fight before bedtime.

The weekend was supported by three Willow staff members and two of our amazing volunteers, Helen and Sara. The sibs group's next event is an art exhibition at the White Cloth Gallery in Leeds on 12 September to showcase some of the work produced during the group's painting project led by another volunteer, Alison.

The sibs group is expanding and Willow is always keen to hear from new volunteers interested in supporting us. Contact Suzy on 0113 2622851.



Scrap Leeds

“A cave of wonderful delights for children and adults alike”

SCRAP the Centre of Reuse, Play and Learning, based in Sunnybank Mills, Farsley, is a social enterprise which has been running for nine years, diverting non-toxic business waste from landfill and making it available for creative reuse, play and learning.

Scrap offers arts, play and learning workshops and sessions for children, schools, families, adults and professionals held in their inspiring centre. Led by arts practitioners and creative learning professionals, these workshops all focus on using scrap creatively and learning new skills. Everyone is encouraged to look beyond the original use of an object, and let their imagination fly.

Recently shortlisted in the child friendly Leeds awards, some of the many who nominated Scrap described it as “a lovely place to be and an inspiring place to go”; “If you haven’t visited Scrap you must soon – just to see all the fabulous stuff and let your imagination run with the ideas of the possibilities” and “a fantastic place, not only is it helping with the environment by reusing stuff but it is a great safe place for kids to experiment and play”. Customers include nurseries, schools, community groups, colleges and universities, arts organisations, individual artists and creative practitioners.

The inspiring Scrap Shop in Sunnybank Mills is stuffed to the rafters with a wide range of low cost scrap for learning and creative resources from the 80 tonnes of business waste diverted back into use.

Louise Lucas, founder and Director of Scrap says, “We believe that creative learning through the experience of exploration and enquiry about what might happen when making art is just as important as other academic subjects. We know that you learn a lot through your mistakes and by trying something different. We strongly believe there is no wrong or right about art and creativity, and that confidence in creativity builds in you and in learning.”





Karen Hirst, Children and Families Coordinator, Action for Blind People says "Our Actionnaires clubs offer a range of activities for blind and partially sighted young people and we are delighted to have discovered SCRAP! Being able to explore the wide and diverse range of materials on offer and then turn these into something amazing has enabled many of our club members to discover their creative sides. The tactile nature of the resources is perfect for visually impaired young people and the mill environment provides a safe but exciting venue. Our children have been lucky enough to attend a number of creative workshops at SCRAP – from storytelling and collages to messy, fun papermaking -all delivered by expert, friendly staff who have been sensitive to the specific needs of

our members. All in all, our experience of SCRAP has been really positive and we are looking forward to bringing along some new groups soon!"

Scrap services include:

- The ScrapShed for school playgrounds and early years settings, full of large scrap items and loose parts for playful learning as an imaginative alternative to directed games
- Arts workshops for children, young people, schools/ community groups, adults and families celebrating scrap
- Continuing professional development training focusing on creative learning for education professionals
- The Scrap Shop for a huge and constantly changing range of low cost inspirational scrap materials and ideas, supported by experienced and knowledgeable staff



Annual membership of Scrap is open to anyone, and can be taken out as an individual (£6) or an organisation (£30 for 8 cards). For more information check out the Scrap website at www.scrapstuff.co.uk, follow @scrapleeds on Twitter, or like Scrap Creative Reuse Art Centre on Facebook. Scrap is fully accessible.

Pyramid of Arts

Pyramid of Arts runs inclusive art groups, open to young people aged eight and above. Our groups love inventing new games and stories, which they can build and share with the public.

We recently took our games The Deciding Machine and Jalicks to The Tetley Gallery. Loads of people came to play with them! The Deciding Machine explores choice and decision making through sensory exploration and Jalicks is a giant board game in which the players are the playing pieces. We also took our newest work, The Story Machine, which works like a 'choose your own adventure' story on a giant scale.

Pyramid would like to thank all the young people involved for their hard work this year. All the projects have been amazing and we can't wait to see what you come up with next!



A promotional banner for Pyramid of Arts. At the top left is the Pyramid of Arts logo, which consists of a stylized pyramid shape made of stick figures. Below the logo is the text "PYRAMID OF ARTS". The main text of the banner reads "Creativity, friendship & fun with the YoYos at Pyramid of Arts" in a large, bold, white and orange font. To the right of this text is a small orange icon of a thumbs up with the text "we are child friendly Leeds". Below the main text is a collage of three images: a large board game mat, a child playing a game, and a child playing a game. At the bottom right of the banner is the contact information: "Pyramid of Arts", "t: 0113 234 6040", "e: info@pyramid-of-arts.org.uk", and "www.pyramid-of-arts.org.uk".

Buzz workshops

WEST YORKSHIRE
PLAYHOUSE

First_Floor

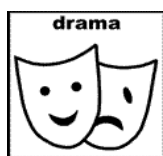
Buzz Workshops take place at First Floor, a safe, creative space for all young people. Buzz Workshops are for young people aged 14 to 25 with a learning disability or additional needs.



Where: We are above the Wardrobe Bar and opposite Leeds Bus Station.

Address: First Floor, 6 St Peter's Buildings, St Peter's Square, Leeds, LS9 8AH.

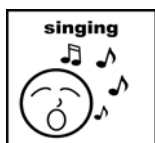
Access information: There is a lift to our studios; we have a hearing loop in reception and hoist facilities and a changing bed in our accessible toilet.



What's on and when: weekend workshops every Saturday in term time 1–3pm. Workshops are 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 1:1 support.



Access information: 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.



Buzz Creative Arts Course in term time: An exciting creative arts course on Mondays and Tuesdays from 10–3pm each day. Taking part in workshops in movement, drama and visual arts, students work towards all levels of Arts Awards and build their confidence and skills.

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



Summer 2015 Fun Fridays

Join us at First Floor on Friday 31 July and Friday 14 August from 11-2:30pm for an exciting mix of drama, music art and dance. Cost £5

Download our latest brochure and see the latest workshops at: www.wyp.org.uk. Contact Maria Thelwell at maria.thelwell@wyp.org.uk or ring 0113 245 5252 for more information.

Sport Disability

Leeds Disability Sports Camps Summer 2015

Leeds Sailing & Activity Centre: Monday 24 August

Holt Park Active: Tuesday 25 August

Pudsey Leisure Centre: Wednesday 26 August

Garforth Leisure Centre: Thursday 27 August

John Charles Centre for Sport: Friday 28 August

Open to anyone aged 8 to 18 with any disability. 10-3pm each day (lunch not provided). £7 per day (or £30 per week).

A range of dry-side disability and Paralympic multi sports on offer at Pudsey, Garforth, John Charles and Holt Park.

Canoeing, orienteering, indoor caving, sailing and problem solving games (all weather dependent) are at Leeds Sailing & Activity Centre.

Siblings and friends are welcome to attend too and parents/ carers can provide support to the young person if necessary.

Complete the application form and return to Ross Bibby, or for further information:

Tel: 0113 395 0159 **Text:** 0789 127 0930

E-mail: ross.bibby@leeds.gov.uk



**Sport and
Active Lifestyles**



Leeds Disability Sports Camps Summer 2015

Send completed forms with payment (cheques made payable to "Leeds City Council") to:

Ross Bibby
Disability Sports Officer
John Charles Centre for Sport
Middleton Grove
Leeds
LS11 5DJ
ross.bibby@leeds.gov.uk

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Gender:

Date of Birth:

Contact Number:

Contact E-mail address:

Emergency Contact:

Who will collect the young person?

Will a carer or parent be attending?

Relevant medical & disability information

Please tick which days you are attending:

Leeds Sailing & Activity Centre	Mon 24th Aug []
Holt Park Active	Tue 25th Aug []
Pudsey Leisure Centre	Wed 26th Aug []
Garforth Leisure Centre	Thur 27th Aug []
John Charles Centre for Sport	Fri 28th Aug []



Leeds
CITY COUNCIL

Ethnicity

White British or white other []
Black or Black British []
Asian or Asian British []
Mixed [] Chinese [] Other []

Where did you find out about this activity?

Leisure Centre []
Website []
Word of Mouth []
Other []

Have you participated in sport /physical activity in the last 12 months?

Yes []
No []

Future Opportunities

We would like to keep you informed of future physical activity and sporting opportunities in the Leeds area. If you would like to receive such information please tick this box
The information you provide on this form will be held on computer files.

Declarations:

I undertake to inform a member of staff of any changes in the information provided in this form. I understand that in the event of any injury or illness all reasonable steps will be taken to deal with the injury/illness appropriately.

If your child/young person requires 1-2-1 support you must provide this.

Consent statement:

If you give consent for your child to be photographed during the camp please tick this box

Cancellation / Re-programming / Change in Activity:

Under exceptional circumstances, Leeds City Council reserve the right to change all or some of the event at short notice.

Signature:

Date:



Supported by Mills & Reeve

The Verve Club:

A monthly creative arts group for young people aged 16-25 with autism spectrum disorders and communication difficulties.

The Verve CLUB is a monthly creative arts group for young people aged 16-25 with autism spectrum disorders and communication difficulties. The club explores a wide range of arts activities alongside professional artists and visits professional performances. Past workshops have included drama, composition, film-making and puppetry. Current members have found the club to be a valuable social outlet, and have developed personal and creative skills.

The club will give you a chance to:

- Attend monthly workshops and performance opportunities
- Explore a rich variety of arts activities and work with a range of professional artists
- Access FREE tickets to performances and cultural events
- Contribute to the club activity programme and pursue personal development

When?

One Saturday each month, 10.00 – 1.00pm (including 1 hour socialising time with free tea and cake), September – June.

Performance visits take place during the year in addition to monthly Saturday sessions.

How much does it cost?

£50 per year, which includes all visits and additional opportunities. There are a number of bursary places available so please get in touch if you have any concerns with the fee.

To reserve your place on the project or for more information, please contact Hayley on:

hayley.mccoll@operanorth.co.uk
| 0113 223 3623



Photography by Brian Slater

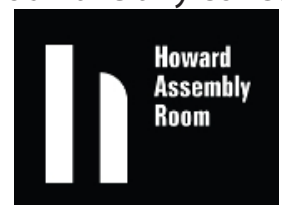
Registered Charity Number 511726



Principal Partner



Major Supporter



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: @Leedsdisport
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
	0113 3951222	education.pps@leeds.gov.uk	www.leedsparentpartnership.co.uk	
Listening to Book	02074079417	library@listeningbooks.org.uk	www.listeningbooks.org.uk	
Pyramid of Arts (Sarah Kennedy)	0113 2346040	info@pyramid-pf-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.sunshineandsmiles.org.uk	Tweet: @sun_smilesleeds Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SunshineAndSmilesLeeds-DownSyndromeNetwork
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; and please 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.

We look forward to hearing from you at the following address:

Family Information Service

Technorth

9 Harrogate Road

Chapel Allerton

Leeds

LS7 3NB

Phone: 0113 247 4386 or 0800 731 0640

Email: family.info@leeds.gov.uk

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