

# A Brighter Future



Issue 20  
Winter 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 a lot to enjoy in Leeds this winter for children and young people, so I hope you'll find something here that interests or helps you, there is also the brand new Leeds Local Offer site for you to use which is entirely designed to help children and young people with additional needs find new exciting things.

As the Councillor responsible for children and young people's services my role is varied and exciting. I want to make sure that all children and young people growing up in Leeds receive equal opportunities to have fun and be involved in exciting events and activities.

One of the most exciting events that we had in Leeds this year was the Tour de France and as you will see in the magazine, some young people were influenced by this in their chosen activities. Another big event of the Summer was the Breeze festivals where some of our young people were able to take advantage of the early opening times to learn new activities and socialize with their friends.

We have some amazing young people in Leeds that have done incredible things. In this issue you will hear Shelby's story, we hope her story inspires other children to realize that with hard work you too can achieve your dreams.

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.

Hope you had a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year.

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



## Contents:

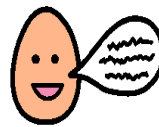
### News and Events: pages



### Sports and Activities: pages



### Having your say: pages



### Information and Services: pages



**Big thanks to our fab cover star, 17 year old Macauley. Keep an eye out for him later in the magazine!**

# The Leeds Local Offer

## What is it?

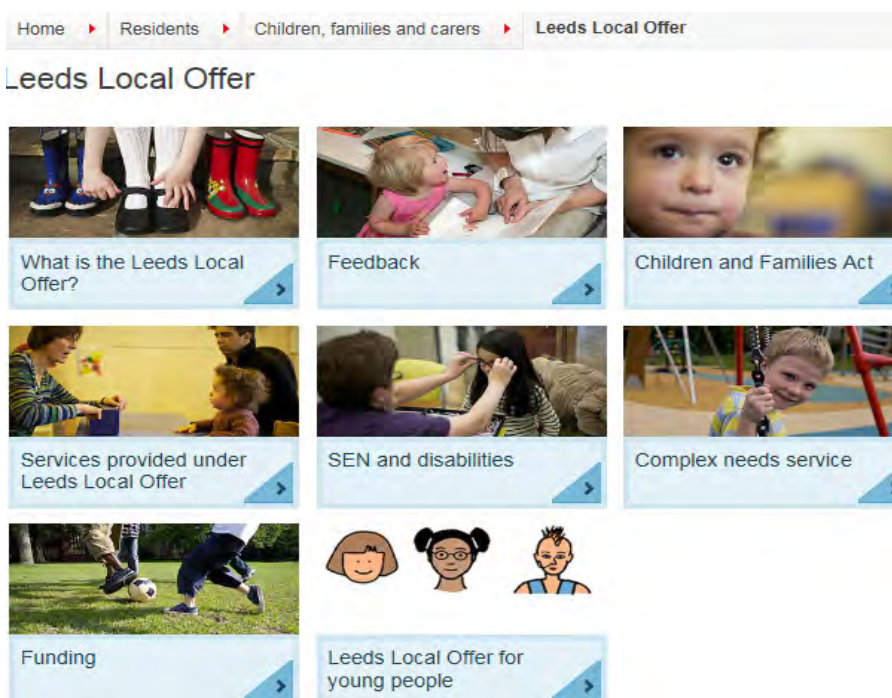
The Leeds Local Offer is a new way to find services for children and young people from 0-25 with special educational needs or disabilities. The site was launched 1 September 2014 and we will continue to develop and improve the website over the coming year. The site will help you to find services, information, places and groups that are available locally and nationally. Leeds City Council (LCC) only provides some of the help for children and young people 0-25 with special educational needs or disability. The NHS, some charities and some private companies provide services that are all part of the Leeds Local Offer.

All of these agencies have their own separate websites which they keep up to date. To make it easier and quicker for you to find what you need, we have linked their web pages into one place – the Leeds Local Offer search engine.

## How do I use it?

The Leeds Local Offer website has two main parts and can be accessed either through the Leeds City Council website at [www.leeds.gov.uk/localoffer](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/localoffer) or directly through the search engine site.

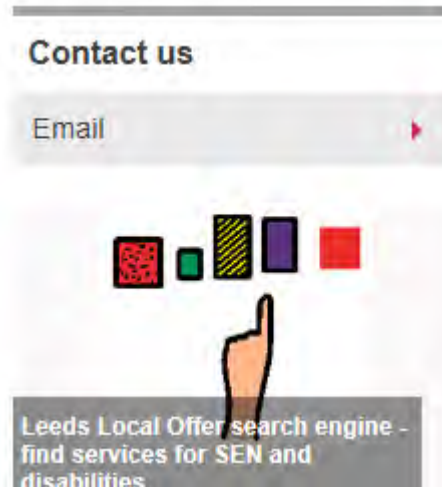
To access the home page on the Leeds City Council website type [www.leeds.gov.uk/localoffer](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/localoffer) into your web browser. From this home page you will be able to find information about the services that Leeds City Council specifically provides.



This is what the home page looks like.



There is a button on many of the LCC pages to take you to the home page of the search engine part. It looks like this:



The home page of the purpose made search engine looks like this.



The search engine contains both LCC web pages along with those from Health, Government, the voluntary sector, local businesses and support groups. If you bookmark this page at [www.leedslocaloffer.org.uk](http://www.leedslocaloffer.org.uk), you will have access to the full Leeds Local Offer website.

### How can I search for what I want?

At the top of the search engine home page you will see a tool bar that looks like this.

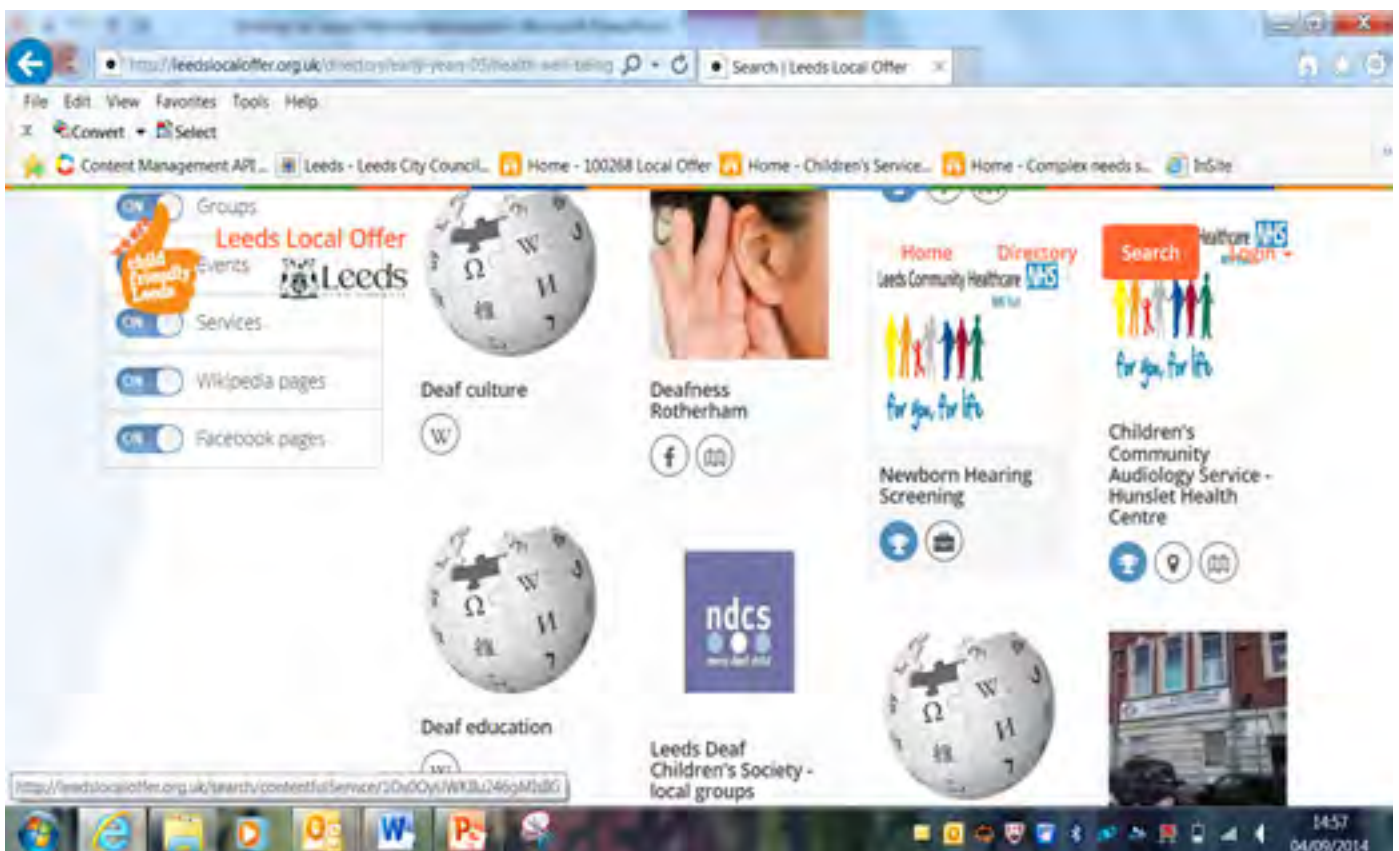


If you click on Directory button you will see a set of boxes containing key words as below.



Clicking on a box will take you further into the directory (three clicks will get you to a list of useful services).

This is what your search will bring back – a set of boxes that show services, information, places and groups.



You can find out more about each web page by clicking on the box. Each box has a set of symbols and if you put your mouse arrow over the symbol a 'pop up' message will appear and tell you what it means.



Where you see a cup symbol on a blue background this means that we have put this web page into the Leeds Local Offer as we think that you may find it useful to visit.

## Changing your search criteria

You can narrow your search by the changing the following criteria shown below.



You can choose a distance from the centre of Leeds from 2 to 30 miles and you can change the location to a different postcode.

Switch on or off Wikipedia and facebook or just look at services, not groups or places.

Remember to refresh your search criteria by clicking the **Refresh results**.

You can make your own search by clicking the Search button on the tool bar. You can de-select or add search criteria as above.

How you search the Leeds Local Offer is very much up to personal preference; however for more useful and local results faster we recommend that you use the Directory method.

### **How is this any better than Google or any other big search engine like Yahoo or Bing?**

Google and other search engines use a very complicated way to rank websites. Some of the useful sites you want to see will not always appear at the top of your search return or be very easy to find at all. This is because some websites get used more than others while some websites are not updated very often. Even if you find a good local site, the search engine won't always take you to the page with the right information. Sometimes the information you will be interested in is hidden and not signposted from a home page. In the Leeds Local Offer we have added in these useful pages along with the site's home page.

### **I don't like using websites. How can I find out what there is for me?**

Leeds SEND Information Advice Support Service has a helpline. They will be able to help you use the website or search for you and send you information through the post.



You can call the Helpline on **0113 3951200** or send an email to: **sendiass@leeds.gov.uk**



### **I want to tell you something about the Leeds Local Offer. How do I do that?**

You can e-mail the Best Practice Team directly **bpteam@leeds.gov.uk** with comments and suggestions about the Leeds Local Offer website.



## ‘Button Bash’ proves a smash hit

Enthusiastic young players enjoyed playing ‘Button Bash’ – a co-operative, switch-based game designed by the University – at the recent ‘Breeze on Tour’ young people’s event at Roundhay Park.

The co-operative game is a product of the University’s ‘Together Through Play’ research project, which develops toys and games that encourage disabled and non-disabled children to play together.

The project, which was funded by the Leverhulme Trust, was carried out by Dr Raymond Holt of the Institute of Design, Robotics and Optimisation (School of Mechanical Engineering), Dr Angharad Beckett (School of Sociology and Social Policy) and PhD researcher Anne-Marie Moore from the School of Mechanical Engineering’s Institute of Design, Robotics and Optimisation.

Participating children were encouraged to develop ideas for new games, which were refined and prototyped by the University, and taken back for the children to try out. Button Bash was one of the outcomes. In the game, players must work together to guide their crew of cartoon ‘Bashians’. Designed to be played with accessibility switches to ‘steer’ the characters, the game can be used even by children with significant motor impairments, and is designed to encourage a spirit of team work and collaboration.

Although the project finished in January, the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society provided funds to enable the team to bring the Button Bash game to Breeze on Tour.





# YAMSEN: Specially Music

YAMSEN: Specially Music runs two choirs for school age children with learning difficulties.

Young Accord is for pupils aged 5-11

One Accord is for pupils aged 11-18.

Each choir meets once a month between 10.15am and 11.45am for a morning session at St Chads in Far Headingley

These choirs take part in concerts throughout the year. This year included One Accord being involved in the Big Play Leeds concert at Leeds Town Hall in June which was part of the Leeds Schools Music Association LSMA celebrations for Le Grand Depart.



Continued on next page...

They sang alongside 500 children from mainstream schools including 300 ukuleles, 80 beginner clarinets, 60 beginner strings and 30 djembe players



Other concerts this summer were at St Chads Hall and the King's Hall in Ilkley.

New members to the choirs or to YAMSEN:SpeciallyMusic are always welcome - please see [www.yamsen.org.uk](http://www.yamsen.org.uk) for more information - or email [diane.paterson2@btopenworld.com](mailto:diane.paterson2@btopenworld.com) or phone 07931 717460.

YAMSEN would like to thank Leeds Childrens Services especially ArtForms and the LSMA for their support and Leeds Music Education Partnership.



# Wheels Around the World -

YAMSEN:SpecialyMusic celebrates the Tour De France Grand Depart



This summer YAMSEN:SpecialyMusic held its big event for children and young people with additional/special needs. It was held at Pudsey Civic Centre over four days and 250 children explored the route of the Grand Depart from the Tour de France. The first two days were specially designed for children with profound and multiple learning difficulties/physical difficulties with all the activities geared towards their needs. Children attending on the third and fourth day were more mobile.

All had a turn at painting using Lazy Susans and hoops to give the experience of the movement round and round on bicycles.



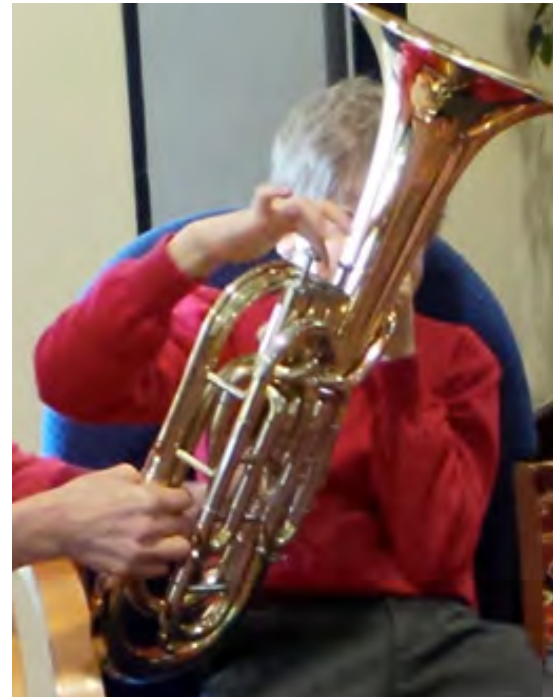
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To recreate a bicycle race inside Pudsey Civic Hall the YAMSEN:SpeciallyMusic team decorated the whole place with props. Bicycles became balls racing down long strips of material. To create Yorkshire the children had taster sessions playing brass instruments and had a turn at Bretton folk dancing to give a flavour of France.



Music was provided by a live band - Kate Babcock and Roddy Johnston all the way from Scotland with Bart Girardi.

Each day ended with a parade with children passing a winning post, and everyone was a winner!



New members to YAMSEN:SpeciallyMusic are always welcome - please see [www.yamsen.org.uk](http://www.yamsen.org.uk) for more information - or email [diane.paterson2@btopenworld.com](mailto:diane.paterson2@btopenworld.com) or phone 07931 717460.

YAMSEN would like to thank Leeds Childrens services especially ArtForms for their support as well as, Leeds Children's Services Tour de France Fund, Sports Relief and Leeds University Rag.



# Deciding Machine

Last term, Pyramid of Arts received funding from the Breeze Arts Festival and Trinity Leeds' Young Talent Fund to build a DECIDING MACHINE. Young people from our Youth Programme created a series of sensory activities involving touch, smell and sound and asked visitors to select their favourites. Behind the scenes, these choices were relayed to our expert team of creature-creators who then made a bespoke character based on visitor's selections. Look out for The Deciding Machine at events and festivals throughout 2015.

We are looking for more young people to join our exciting programme of arts activities. The groups (ages 8-13, 14-18, 19-24) meet on weekday evenings in Holbeck. Please email Sarah [info@pyramid-of-arts.org.uk](mailto:info@pyramid-of-arts.org.uk) or call 0113 234 6040 for more information and a membership form.

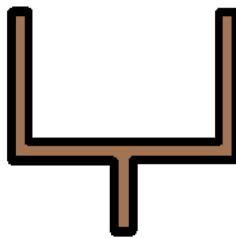


Thanks to Jonathan Turner for the fabulous photos.

# Leeds Disability Tag Rugby Festival

## - 23rd September 2014

Fantastic weather greeted the 14th annual Leeds Disability Tag Rugby Festival at Headingley Carnegie Stadium on the 23rd September, with 18 teams and over 180 disabled children, young people and adults taking part.



This fantastic festival, which sees teams competing from across Leeds, Yorkshire and the rest of the country, is a unique opportunity for players to grace the same pitch as the Leeds Rhinos and Yorkshire Carnegie. The event is organised by Leeds City Council in partnership with the Leeds Rugby Foundation, the Rugby Football Union and other key rugby providers and clubs across the area.

This year Leeds Rhino's star and England International Carl Ablett was on hand to give all participants medals and certificates, along with information about where they can carry on playing rugby and other sports after the day.

A short video of the festival is available on the Leeds Rhino's website: <http://www.therhinos.co.uk/matchdaytv/?play=media&id=19261>





## Ticket 2 Tokyo proves a smash hit for wheelchair tennis players

Leeds Beckett University was the venue for one of ten wheelchair tennis talent days run across the country over the weekend of the 20th and 21st September. "Ticket 2 Tokyo" is a scheme run by the Tennis Foundation, in partnership with local providers such as the university and Leeds City Council to provide a day of free wheelchair tennis coaching for new and existing players of all ages and all ability levels.



On top of this players are assessed and those deemed as talented will be invited down to regional and national training camps, with the ultimate aim to be representing Great Britain at the 2020 Paralympic Games in Tokyo.



Players travelled from across the county and experienced a full day's play, from warm ups and mobility drills, through to ball/racket skills, technique based coaching and singles and doubles matchplay. Alongside the coaches on the day was top GB wheelchair tennis player and Leeds Beckett student, Ed Holt who provided some invaluable advice and guidance for all the players. Players were given information about the regular weekly wheelchair tennis sessions at the John Charles Centre for Sport and the opportunities available at Leeds Beckett University. For further information go to: [www.leeds.gov.uk/disabilitysport](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/disabilitysport)

# Disability Sport Yorkshire Awards

– Friday 12th September 2014, Elland Road Leeds

The 21st annual disability sports awards dinner took place to celebrate the amazing work our volunteers, sportsmen, women, coaches and clubs continue to carry out across West Yorkshire. The dinner was fabulous with a wealth of special guest speakers on the bill, including Paralympian Elizabeth Wright who gave an inspiring insight into her training programme as a young girl in Australia. Kevan Baker OBE spoke of his journey to the top, including winning two Paralympic bronzes, becoming World Champion three times and his current commitments to Wheelpower and SPINE.

The awards were particularly successful for Leeds, our own Ann Hart MBE won volunteer of the year for her efforts to introduce more PHAB Leeds club members into sport after feeling inspired by the 2012 Paralympics. Ann said: "I was so amazed seeing the Paralympic Torch arrive at the John Charles Centre for Sport with what seemed like hundreds of disabled children taking part in every sport I could think of, that it was time to introduce more 'sport' into the Friday PHAB Club programme. I wrote to Sport England the very next day!" and the rest is history....

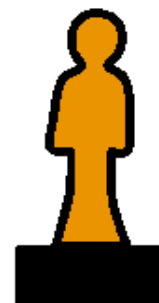


Left: Ann Hart with Sophie Allison - PHAB United's first lady Powerchair footballer, and Nathan Lister. Right: Leeds Disability Sports Officer Ross Bibby collects the NGB award on behalf of the Tennis Foundation and LTA

The Lawn Tennis Association and Tennis Foundation picked up the the Cyril Villiers NGB of the year award for their work in disability tennis, particularly the support they provide to the partnership in Leeds where all forms of this sport are thriving.

A special award was also presented by Judith Russell MBE to the well-deserved team at Ralph Thorsby School in Leeds.

Special congratulations to our Leeds winners and to all the commendable winners on the night. Looking forward to next year!





# Special Olympics European Success for Edward

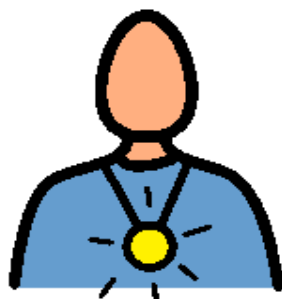
Edward Williams won a full set of medals as part of the Special Olympics GB team at the Special Olympics European Games in Antwerp in September 2014.

Edward leaped to victory by winning a gold medal in the long jump. He beat his qualifying jump by 2 centimetres - a thoroughly deserved medal. He won the silver medal as part of the SOGB 200m relay team and the bronze for the 100m.



Edward trains at John Charles Stadium on Tuesday evenings and does a variety of sports at Pudsey Gateway Club at Priesthorpe School on Thursday evenings. Pudsey Gateway Club offers social, leisure and sports activities for adults with a learning disability. [www.pudseygatewayclub.co.uk](http://www.pudseygatewayclub.co.uk)

In 2017 the Special Olympics National Games will be held in Sheffield. We hope to have a big team from Yorkshire & Humberside, so come along to John Charles on Tuesday evening or Priesthorpe School on Thursday evening to enjoy your sport and train for the National Games.



# Ability – dance course at Northern Ballet

Northern Ballet is excited to announce that our dance course created especially for adults (16+) with a learning disability is now in its third year!

‘Ability’ is for anyone with mild to moderate learning disabilities who would like to improve their dance and creative skills, health and fitness while meeting and making new friends.

The course runs 30 weeks a year (3 x 10 week terms) every Friday from 10.30-3.30pm from Northern Ballet’s studios on Quarry Hill. Participants start each morning with a warm up class, to get everyone ready for working physically, then work creatively exploring movement and their own ideas through dance activities. All activities are adapted to meet individual needs and aim to develop self-expression, confidence and self-esteem while meeting social and developmental needs.

As we deliver the course from a professional dance house, there will be opportunities to watch Northern Ballet’s company class and in house performances while also working towards our own performances in community platforms.

## FREE Ability Taster Workshop

We will be holding two FREE Taster sessions in the new year, Friday 13th February and Friday 20th March 10.30am – 12.30pm for anyone who is interested in the course. This is an opportunity to take part in class and get a better idea of what we do on the course.



If you are interested in attending the course or would like more information please contact Sophie via email [sophie.alder@northernballet.com](mailto:sophie.alder@northernballet.com) or on 0113 2208000.

# PHAB

Are you aged between 9 and 25 and finding it difficult to make friends and socialise on a Friday evening? PHAB is an all age club with a large youth group of members aged 9 to 90, there is always a warm welcome at the Prince Philip Centre PHAB group. PHAB is a Club for people with physical disabilities, mild learning disabilities, life limiting illnesses and also able bodied buddies. It meets at the Prince Philip Centre, Scott Hall Avenue, Leeds LS7 2HJ on Friday evenings between 7.00 and 9.15pm. We have lively Club evenings with varied activities, pool, table tennis, indoor sports, discos, wii games and arts and crafts. During the summer term different sports are enjoyed on the outside MUGA. Or if you prefer – some members just come to sit and chat.

For members who use a wheelchair, we formed PHAB UNITED, our powerchair football after the Paralympics. They train some weekends at Temple Moor School with matches at The Edge, Leeds University.

Also to enjoy, outings, residentials and a playscheme chillout week.

PHAB is a voluntary organisation, supported by Leeds City Council Youth Service and the Social Care Department. PHAB special vehicles, driven by volunteers, collect members from all areas of Leeds (there is sometimes a waiting list). Please look at our website [phab-leeds.org.uk](http://phab-leeds.org.uk). if you are interested or email Ann Hart, Secretary on [ann.hartphab@btinternet.com](mailto:ann.hartphab@btinternet.com).



‘ PHAB members enjoying Yorkshire Wildlife Park - Playscheme August 2014’



# Relaxed performances at West Yorkshire Playhouse



West Yorkshire Playhouse's award-winning relaxed performances offer young people with learning disabilities and their families the chance to experience the magic of theatre with minimal stress. Each relaxed performance has detailed pre-show information, extra staff to assist with access, extra wheelchair spaces, a section of seating reserved for those who want to move around, extra lighting during the performance, free carer tickets if required, access to a Changing Places facility, and perhaps most importantly, a relaxed attitude from all audience members and staff – voluntary and involuntary noises are fine with us!

Feedback on previous relaxed performances include:

“I could relax knowing it would not matter if my daughter displayed challenging behaviour and knowing it would be okay to move or leave at any point.”

We have relaxed performances in January 2015 for our production of:

**James and the Giant Peach**  
**By Roald Dahl, Adapted by David Wood**  
**Directed by Max Webster**

This winter fly away on an amazing expedition with Dahl's hero James, his new-found garden bug friends and one gigantic peach. Join the adventurers as they sail through the sky on an across-the-world voyage in the most magical ship ever seen.



Tuesday 13 January 2015 at 11.30am and 6.30pm  
Running time approximately 1 hour 40 minutes, with one interval.

For general enquiries, to check availability and book tickets please contact: West Yorkshire Playhouse Box Office on 0113 213 7700. School discounts available.

For further information please contact: Maria Thelwell on 0113 245 5252 or [maria.thelwell@wyp.org.uk](mailto:maria.thelwell@wyp.org.uk)



# Buzz Workshops



**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.



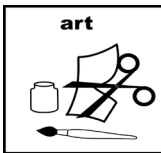
**Where?** We are above the Wardrobe Bar and opposite Leeds Bus Station. Here is a picture of our front door! Buzz contact details are: First Floor, 6 St Peter's Buildings, St Peter's Square, Leeds, LS9 8AH. Telephone: 0113 245 5252. Email: maria.thelwell@wyp.org.uk



**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.



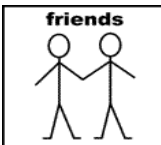
**What's on and when?** Weekend Workshops every Saturday in term time 1 – 3pm. Workshops are in music, drama and visual arts. All of our workshops have support workers in them but you can bring a PA or carer with you if you need 1:1 support.



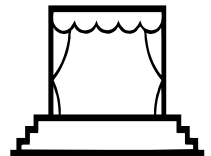
**Move Your Body** every half term. A fun two-hour movement workshop to give you confidence in moving to music and using your body on stage!



**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 the West Yorkshire Playhouse, we go to see shows at the theatre and sometimes get to perform on stage!



## Other Information

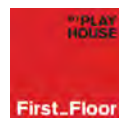
Buzz Creative Arts Course is free, but is for ages 16 – 25, please contact Maria if you are interested, this course is like a college where you fill in an application and have an interview. Buzz Weekend Workshops are drop-in on a Saturday, but give Maria a ring if you are new and thinking of coming along.

Download our latest brochure at:

[www.wyp.org.uk/join-in](http://www.wyp.org.uk/join-in)

Send an email to: [maria.thelwell@wyp.org.uk](mailto:maria.thelwell@wyp.org.uk)

Ring Maria on: 0113 245 5252



# OPERA NORTH'S VERVE ENSEMBLE

Are you interested in meeting new people, developing your performance and creative skills and working with professional musicians and movement directors? Then Verve Ensemble is for you!

## What is Verve Ensemble?

- An open-access movement and music group -tailored for those with communication and learning difficulties
- For anyone aged 10 – 16yrs
- Meet weekly on Tuesday evenings at Opera North
- Work with professional leaders
- Develop self-expression, physical coordination and performance techniques
- Create and perform new work

## What past participants and parents have said:

“I learnt that I can work as a team to get good results... It's helped me to socialise with people more.” Participant

“Very impressed with the sessions – the young people really acted like an ensemble, both with planned and spontaneous movement” Parent



opera  
north

# OPERA NORTH'S VERVE CLUB

This is a club for young adults aged 16 – 25 who are interested in socialising with new people outside of school/college settings and exploring a wide range of different arts activities.

## What's on offer?

- Monthly creative arts sessions – tailored for communication difficulties and Autistic Spectrum Disorders
- Try out drama, movement, puppetry, composition, film-making, stage-combat and more
- FREE visits to shows and performances across Leeds
- Opportunities for personal development including becoming a club ambassador, participant mentor, or member of the club steering panel



## What past participants and parents have said:

“Even though I'd like to do more music and movement, my target from September will be to be more open minded about the variety of activities held each month.” Participants

“I think the Verve Club is fantastic, my son has made some really good friends from joining it. He is constantly learning new skills that can only help him in the future.” Parents

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

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.

**For more information on the Verve Ensemble or the Verve Club, and/or if you'd like to join either group, please email: [jo.bedford@operanorth.co.uk](mailto:jo.bedford@operanorth.co.uk) or call 0113 3993202.**



**OPERA  
NORTH**

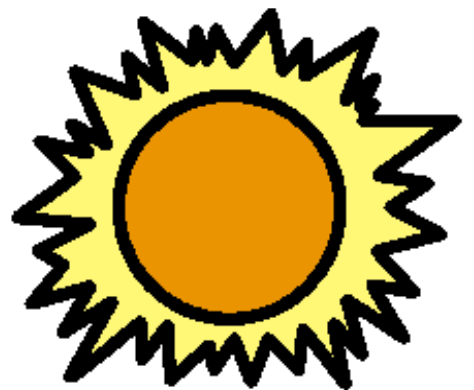


## Your experiences of being a child or young person with a Disability or Special Educational Need



Some of our young people at Rainbow House really enjoyed a trip out in the summer holidays to Breeze on Tour, which was at Armley.

One of our young boys, cover star Macauley aged 17, who loves music and pretends to play instruments was very excited to get the chance to play a real electric guitar and have a go on the drums. All our young people really enjoyed themselves and loved how it was so hands on and interactive.





Hi, my name is Olivia and I am 12 years old now

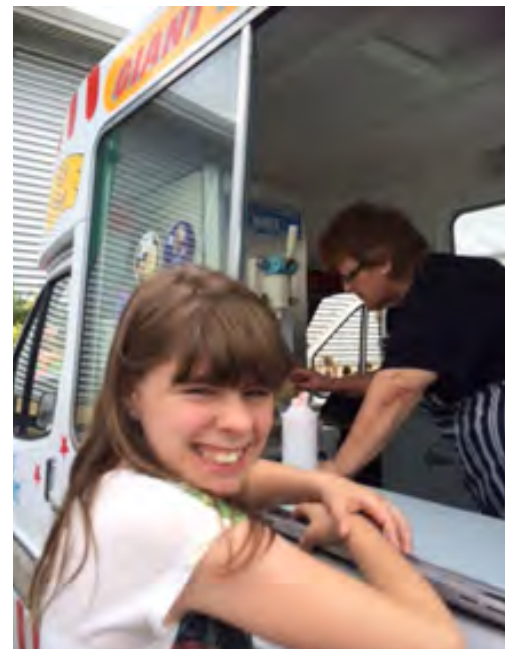
I went to the Breeze Irish festival in the summer holidays which was held at John Charles Sports centre. I was 11.

The people were really friendly and they gave us a special place to park which was close to the entrance. I think one of the organisers, who was Irish, gave me an Irish badge as a gift.

It was great that the event was free and all of the play activities were free. I could queue up and go on the inflatables again and again. It was so much fun. It was good for all the children. If you look closely you can see me playing on them.

There was lots to do and I had an ice cream and a drink because it was really hot. All the other children were really nice and happy to be there.

I wish there was more places to go like this as it was free.



**This is me typing my article**



Since February, we have been singing in a club for visually impaired teenagers. We've had six sessions, one in each of the school holidays and we performed at the Visually Impaired Team's Autumn Fair at Temple Moor School in September.

At the sessions we played games to get to know each other, so that we learnt people's names and what music they liked. We did warm up exercises to work on our singing technique, learn how to sit properly and how we could sing the songs that we like more confidently. We then practiced songs that we all knew like I Need Your Love (Calvin Harris & Ellie Goulding), Roar (Katy Perry), Read All About It (Emeli Sande) and Pompeii (Bastille). Some of us sang solos and we all tried singing on our own for some bits of all of the songs. We used microphones and talked to each other about what we liked about each other's voices.

It was different to anything we've done before because we didn't have to look at a white board or use paper, everything was talking and listening. We all got a say in what we were doing which is different from school and we got to write our own song. We worked as a group to make up the lyrics and could write whatever we wanted to write. The song was really good and we'd really like more people to hear it.

We were really looking forward to the performance even though we were a bit nervous. Everyone performed confidently on the day and we got really good feedback. We'd like more people to comment on our performance so we can keep improving and do it better next time. Some people got more confident because they came to our singing club, not just in singing, but all the time so we'd like to keep doing it.



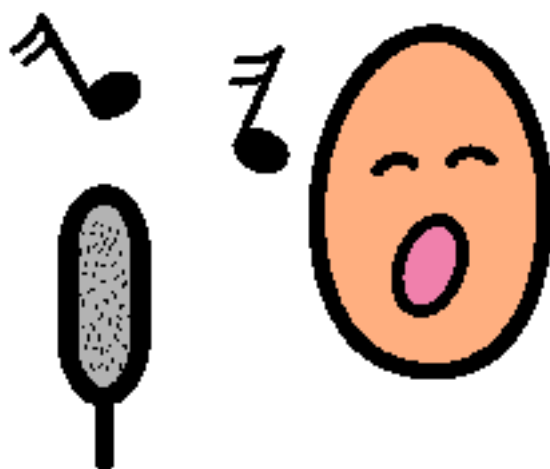
Here are the lyrics of our song; we hope you like them.  
Olivia and Ella

When I sing, this is my time  
Nothing else matters, nothing  
Close your eyes - what do you see?  
Colours are shining from me  
Shining from me....  
Be different, not the same  
More than a face, more than a name  
Close your eyes - what do you see?  
Colours are shining from me  
Shining from me....

Shining, shining, shine from me  
Shining, shining, shine from me  
Colours are shining from me

Let me paint you a picture from my mind  
A world full of colour from the ground to the sky  
Take my hand and I'll show you what I see  
I want you to know me and all I can be

We are very grateful to Breeze for funding the project. The sessions were run by Kathryn Sturman and Danny Gough with support from Leeds Visually Impaired Team and Adult Social Care.





## Inspirational Shelby

Tuesday, 23rd September 2014, several celebrities and important guests arrived at the Hilton in London for one very special awards ceremony to celebrate the courage of children and young people with serious illnesses and conditions across Great Britain. Prince Harry handed out the various awards to all the winners, including Brigshaw High School's very own year 13 student Shelby Lynch. Shelby, who studies Media and English Language has Spinal Muscular Atrophy and Scoliosis and uses a wheelchair in addition to requiring 24 hour ventilation and therefore round the clock care. However, Shelby isn't one to let things get in the way of her dreams, as an aspiring film director she takes a great interest in the creativity of media and is determined that her dream career will be within her grasp.

At the star-studded ceremony she also mingled with the likes of Russell Howard, Vernon Kaye and Pixie Lott, all of whom were inspired by her story and her courage. The award that she won was in the Inspirational Child category after she was nominated by her carer, Eve Malam who said, "Shelby's dreams and aspirations encourage others to aim high and the creative and enthusiastic ways in which she goes about achieving these give confidence to all those around her to think outside of the box and to take an active part in life and in living."

Shelby is surrounded by friends at school and has also recently been awarded a silver prize in the Golden Owl Awards for her part in editing a film that she and her friends produced together. Following this, she is applying for several universities across the country to study a degree in Film Production in order to realise her dreams.

"Her energy and charm never fail to spark happiness and inspiration in those who surround her, and for that I believe she deserves recognition." - Eve Malam.



## News from the complex needs service:

Our service is for children and young people from 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.

### **Changes to improve services for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities:**

The Children and Families Act came into force in September 2014 and makes big changes to services for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

The Act includes changes to improve information about services for children and young people with SEND. All local authorities must publish a 'Local Offer' of all the education, health and social care services available in the local area, and details of how to access them. You can see the new Leeds Local Offer website at [www.leeds.gov.uk/localoffer](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/localoffer). The site brings together a wide range of information and also has a 'feedback' page where families can share their views of the range of local services available and any changes they think are needed.

We would really like to know what families think of the site and if anything needs adding to it. You can use the 'contact us' button on every page of the site to share your views, so please let us know what you think!

Families who don't use the internet can also access information over the phone from the SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (formerly Parent Partnership Service) on 0113 3951200.

The Act also aims to make sure that different services across education, health and social care provide more 'joined-up' support for children and young people with the most complex needs and their families. To support this, current statements of SEN are being replaced with new joint Education, Health and Care plans.

No new Statements will be produced after 1 September 2014.

Instead, the new Education, Health and Care plans will consider all of a child or young person's education, health and care needs and how to meet them, in one place. All of the services involved will work closely with each other, and with the child or young person and their family.

This will mean that families do not have 'tell their stories' several times in several different assessments. It will also mean that children and young people and their families are more involved in making decisions and planning for the future.

For families whose child or young person is having an EHC plan for the first time, the assessment process and the creation of the plan will be done more quickly, in 20 weeks rather than the previous 26 weeks for statements. EHC plans will also be available in some cases to young people aged up to 25 who are in education or training, which extends the previous age limit of 19 years.

All existing statements will be changed to a new EHC plan over a 3 year period from September 2014 to April 2018. Families whose child or young person has a statement will receive a letter to tell them when their statement will make the change to an EHC plan.

The EHC plans will also include a new personal budget. The personal budget sets out how much additional funding is available for the services needed to help the child or young person achieve the outcomes in their EHC plan.

Families will know how much budget is available and will have more choice and control about how that money is spent than they would have previously had. If they want, they can ask to receive some or all of the money as a 'direct payment' into a special bank account and buy the services needed themselves.

To find out more about all these changes, you can find the complex needs newsletter, or watch a short film, at [www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/Pages/Children-and-Families-Act.aspx](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/Pages/Children-and-Families-Act.aspx)

You can also sign up to receive regular updates from the complex needs service. Email the complex needs service best practice team with your details: [bpteam@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:bpteam@leeds.gov.uk)



## Contact the complex needs service:

Our service is led by Barbara Newton, she is always interested to hear your views. Please contact her via: [bpteam@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:bpteam@leeds.gov.uk)

Educational Psychology Team (Principal Educational Psychologist Val Waite):

Educational Psychology Team: East North East Telephone: 0113 395 1039

Educational Psychology Team: West North West Telephone: 0113 395 1039

Educational Psychology Team: South Telephone: 0113 395 1039

Child Health and Disability Team (lead Karen Mosgrove):

Child Health and Disability Team East North East: Telephone: 0113 395 2280

Child Health and Disability Team West North West: Telephone: 0113 395 1965

Child Health and Disability Team South: Telephone: 0113 3782500

Occupational Therapist Team: Telephone: 0113 395 2280

Regional Specialist Team: Telephone: 0113 392 2446

SENSAP (for enquiries about Education, Health and Care needs assessment and plans)  
(Acting lead: Kathryn Parkinson) Telephone: 0113 395 1030 Email [SENSAP@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:SENSAP@leeds.gov.uk)

The Sensory Service: (lead: Tony Bowyer) Telephone: 0113 395 0556

Deaf and Hearing Impairment Team: Telephone: 0113 395 1085

Visual Impairment Team: Telephone: 0113 395 1111

Deaf Start: Telephone: 0113 395 1094

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



# Leeds SEND Information Advice Support Service

As of the 1st September 2014, Leeds Parent Partnership Service has had a change of name and will now be known as Leeds SEND Information Advice Support Service. This change of name has come about as a result of the implementation of the new Children and Families Act and the new SEND Code of Practice 2014.

The service will continue to offer impartial, confidential arm's length information and advice about special educational needs within Leeds. However, the service has now been extended to provide information about health and social care, in relation to educational needs. The service will also now work with the families and young people up to the age of 25, who have special educational needs, and remain in further education.

The service will continue to offer home visits and support with school visits and meetings. It will continue to support parents through the old statutory assessment process, as well as the new Education Health Care plan assessment process.

The service is in the process of developing leaflets for parents and carers about a range of different areas around special educational needs and these will be on the website as soon as they are available.

There are currently three SEN officers who each cover a different area of the city:

Anne Devine – East/North East  
Imogen Prior – West/North West  
Esme Winston - South

The service can be contacted in the following ways:

Phone: 0113 395 1200  
Email: [education.pss@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:education.pss@leeds.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.leedsparentpartnership.co.uk](http://www.leedsparentpartnership.co.uk)



*Leeds SEND Information Advice Support Service  
formerly known as Parent Partnership Service*

Please continue to check the website for further guidance and information as this becomes available.

# Care & Repair Leeds – the Independent Home Improvement Agency

We've been improving the health and wellbeing of older people, disabled people and people with health conditions throughout Leeds for over 27 years...

It's your choice! As an independent agency, we are able to provide impartial advice.

What is a Disabled Facility Grant (DFG)?

This is a Government mandatory grant of up to £30,000 which can be used to fund the cost of disabled adaptation works including reasonable fees. The DFG is means tested for adults but not where the adaptation is for a child.

Types of work include: adapted showers and bathrooms, ramps and door widening extensions



Whether self-funded or DFG-funded, we can undertake the whole process for you...

1. Our experienced technical staff will visit free of charge to discuss your needs and the adaptation required.
2. If you want us to manage the process for you, including drawing up plans, this will incur a fee which we will discuss with you. If you are eligible for a DFG, this fee will normally be covered through the grant.
3. We tender the work to contractors from our Approved List to give you the best value for money.
4. Where appropriate, we can complete VAT exemption forms (subject to availability).
5. Our service is fully insured and all work comes with a 12 month guarantee.

What our clients say: "I'm really pleased with the work carried out by Care & Repair Leeds. The workers were very polite and I am very happy with the workmanship."

For more information contact the Care & Repair Leeds Adaptations team on:

Tel: 0113 200 9159

Email: [adaptations@crleeds.org](mailto:adaptations@crleeds.org)

Address: 323 Roundhay Road, Leeds LS8 4HT



# Contacts

Service Name	Telephone	Email	Website	Social Media
West Yorkshire Playhouse	0113 2137700	groups@wyp.org.uk	<a href="http://www.wyp.org.uk/">http://www.wyp.org.uk/</a>	Tweet: @wyplayhouse
Complex Needs Service	07891 279105	natalie.samuel@leeds.gov.uk or vic@leeds.gov.uk	<a href="http://www.familyinformationleeds.co.uk">www.familyinformationleeds.co.uk</a>	
Disability Sports	0113 3950159	ross.bibby@leeds.gov.uk	<a href="http://www.leeds.gov.uk/disabilitysport">www.leeds.gov.uk/disabilitysport</a>	Tweet: @Leedsdissport
Opera North (Verve Club)	0113 3993202	jo.bedford@operanorth.co.uk	<a href="http://www.operanorth.co.uk/">http://www.operanorth.co.uk/</a>	Tweet: @opera_north
Northern Ballet	0113 2208000	rose.chadwick@northernballet.com	<a href="http://northernballet.com/">http://northernballet.com/</a>	Tweet: @northernballet
Children's Society	0113 2363900 or 07508 356118	natalie.tharraleos@childrensociety.org.uk	<a href="http://www.childrensociety.org.uk">www.childrensociety.org.uk</a>	Tweet: @childrensociety
Voice and Influence Team	vic@leeds.gov.uk			
Child Friendly Leeds	0113 23950247	childfriendlyleeds@leeds.gov.uk	<a href="http://www.childfriendlyleeds">www.childfriendlyleeds</a>	Tweet: @child_leeds
	0113 3951222	education.pps@leeds.gov.uk	<a href="http://www.leedsparentpartnership.co.uk">www.leedsparentpartnership.co.uk</a>	
Listening to Book	02074079417	library@listeningbooks.org.uk	<a href="http://www.listeningbooks.org.uk">www.listeningbooks.org.uk</a>	
Pyramid of Arts (Sarah Kennedy)	0113 2346040	info@pyramid-of-arts.org.uk	<a href="http://www.pyramid-of-arts.org.uk">http://www.pyramid-of-arts.org.uk</a>	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		<a href="http://www.autism.org.uk">www.autism.org.uk</a>	
EPIC Leeds	07889728403	<a href="mailto:info@epicleeds.org.uk">info@epicleeds.org.uk</a>	<a href="http://www.epicleeds.org.uk">www.epicleeds.org.uk</a>	Tweet: @EPIC_Leeds
Sunshine and Smiles (Ailith Harley-Roberts)	(0113) 2268457 or 07902 054355	<a href="mailto:hello@sunshineandsmiles.org.uk">hello@sunshineandsmiles.org.uk</a>	<a href="http://www.sunshineandsmiles.org.uk">www.sunshineandsmiles.org.uk</a>	Tweet: @sun_smilesleeds Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/SunshineAndSmilesLeedsDownSyndromeNetwork">https://www.facebook.com/SunshineAndSmilesLeedsDownSyndromeNetwork</a>
Scope	0113 387 6408		<a href="http://www.scope.org.uk">www.scope.org.uk</a>	
ABC Group	0113 2579269	<a href="mailto:info@abcleeds.org.uk">info@abcleeds.org.uk</a>	<a href="http://www.abcleeds.org.uk">www.abcleeds.org.uk</a>	Tweet: @LeedsABC-Group
Citizens Advice Bureau	0113 2622281			
Family Information Service	0800 731 0640 or 0113 2474386	<a href="mailto:family.info@leeds.gov.uk">family.info@leeds.gov.uk</a>	<a href="http://www.familyinformationleeds.co.uk">www.familyinformationleeds.co.uk</a>	Tweet: @familyinfoleeds

••••• Disclaimer: Every effort is made to ensure that the information in this newsletter is correct. Leeds City Council, and the agencies represented within this publication can accept no liability for errors or omissions. The views and opinions expressed within are not necessarily those of Leeds City Council and the agencies it works with. This magazine is a multi agency project with help from Leeds City Council and other voluntary agencies. •••••

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](http://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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Technorth

9 Harrogate Road

Chapel Allerton

Leeds

LS7 3NB

Phone: 0113 247 4386 or 0800 731 0640

Email: [family.info@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:family.info@leeds.gov.uk)

Twitter: @familyinfoleeds