



Leeds SEND Youth Forum Involvement and Achievements 1st September 2021 to 31st August 2022

The Leeds SEND Youth Forum is an online network of young people aged 11 to 25 years old with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) who live in Leeds or attend school in Leeds.

Each month the network are given the opportunity to take part in a range of youth voice activities that enable them to share their experiences and feedback about SEND services in Leeds.



Leeds SEND Youth Forum Campaign

Members of the Leeds SEND Youth Forum raised that they want professionals they come into contact with to have a greater understanding of disabilities and how to support young people in different situations. Members are working on developing a resource that shares information about the challenges they face in everyday situations and what can be done to support them. The resource will be shared with SEND services and senior leaders in 2023.

Members of the SEND Youth Forum have been asked to share their experiences via an online survey and in small focus groups.



Leeds SEND Youth Forum zoom session

Each month members of the SEND Youth Forum are invited to join zoom sessions, the sessions are an opportunity for members to share their feedback and views with SEND services.

SEND and Inclusion Strategy – Members of the SEND Youth Forum looked through the feedback received from children and young people about the new SEND and Inclusion Strategy. The draft strategy was shared with the young people for comment, and they wrote an introduction to the strategy on behalf of the SEND Youth Forum.

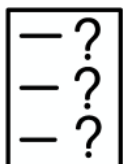


Health Section on the Leeds Local Offer Website – Members reviewed the Health information on the Leeds Local Offer website and provided feedback and suggestions. The Health section has been redeveloped taking on board all feedback received. The report can be found [here](#).

SENIASS Young People’s leaflets – SENDIASS shared their leaflets for young people that were developed following extensive consultation. The SEND Youth Forum feedback on the leaflets, and made some amendments. The report can be found [here](#).

Leeds SEND Youth Forum on the Leeds Local Offer website – Members reviewed the information about the group on the Leeds Local Offer website. All the information was reviewed, and feed influenced all changes. The SEND Youth Forum section can be found [here](#).

SEND Review Green Paper – Members contributed to the SEND Review Green Paper consultation that was coordinated by the Council for Disabled Children. All feedback was shared with the Council for Disabled Children and incorporated into the feedback from young people’s report.



Consultation Surveys

Consultation surveys are shared with the Leeds SEND Youth Forum to enable them to give their views and feedback via online surveys.

SEND Partnership Board Takeover 2021 – Students from specialist schools tookover the SEND Partnership Board on the 30th November 2021. They had three asks 1) Careers Fair 2) Sports Taster Sessions 3) fun Equipment for playgrounds. An outcome that came straight from the meeting is a careers / PFA event that will be delivered by Employment and Skills and take place June 2022. A full report can be found [here](#).

Growing up and looking after your health – 7 young people completed the survey to explore experiences of health services in Leeds. Young people who took part were offered the opportunity to join a project group to develop information for young people about looking after their health.

Make Your Mark 2022 – 126 young people with SEND took part in the national make your mark ballot. The ballot asks young people, 11 to 18 years old, to vote for the issue that they feel is most important and should be the campaign for the UK Youth Parliament. The full report can be found [here](#).

Changes to the way local services for children and young people with SEND are inspected – The national online survey to gather feedback from young people about the changes to the way local service for children and young people with SEND are inspected was shared with the SEND Youth Forum.



Leeds Children's Mayor 2022/23 voting – Each year young people under the age of 18 are given the opportunity to vote for the new Leeds Children's Mayor. Candidates in year 5 are asked to write a manifesto about how they would make Leeds a more child friendly city, Leeds City Council work with the Children's Mayor to address the issues within their manifesto. 7,870 children and young people voted in the 2022/23 elections, and voted Mason from East SILC as their new Children's Mayor.



Other Youth Voice Opportunities

Members of the SEND Youth Forum are given other youth voice opportunities that enable them to have a voice and influence on a local, regional and national level.

Commissioning Panel for the Inclusion Contract – Four members of the SEND Youth Forum formed the young people's commissioning panel for the Inclusion Contract. Potential providers presented information to the panel, the young people's scores fed into the overall commissioning process.

Interview Panel for the Statutory Assessment and Provision Lead – Five members of the SEND Youth Forum formed the young people's panel for the appointment of the new Statutory Assessment and Provision Lead. The young people's scores fed into the overall recruitment process.

Films for the Leeds Local Offer website – In the 2021 Leeds Local Offer website review, young people and families raised that they would like to see more films about SEND services on the website. Members of the SEND Youth Forum were involved in the development of the films. Seven films were developed in total, all of which are available on the Leeds Local Offer website.

