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| **Leeds Local Offer (SEND) Ebulletin – August 2023** |
| Welcome to the August 2023 edition of the Leeds Local Offer ebulletin. The ebulletin is an opportunity for us to share with you SEND Leeds Local Offer website and service updates, training opportunities, good practice, resources and promote consultations that are taking place in the city by services under the Local Offer.  We encourage you to share the information within your teams and with children, young people and families you are working with. If you have any stories, service updates, groups or events that you would like us to feature in a future issue you can send them to me at [LLO@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:LLO@leeds.gov.uk) or give me a call on 07712 214392 if you have any questions.  Previous editions of the ebulletin can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/LLOEbulletin>  Kayleigh Thurlow  Local Offer and SEND Voice and Influence Coordinator |
| **\*News Flash\*** |
| **Leeds Local Offer Information Booklet – for families and professionals**  The Leeds Local Offer information booklet has been produced to help families of a child with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) find out about information, help and support available to them in Leeds.  All the information in the booklet can be found on the Leeds Local Offer website (www.leedslocaloffer.org.uk), you can email us at [LLO@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:LLO@leeds.gov.uk) if you need help to find the information you are looking for.  The Leeds Local Offer has a Facebook page, where we provide regular updates about what is happening in Leeds for those with SEND and their families. Just search Leeds Local Offer on Facebook.  You can download the booklet here: <https://tinyurl.com/LLOBooklet>  If you would like a hard copy of the booklet please email [LLO@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:LLO@leeds.gov.uk) |
| **Leeds Local Offer Updates and Developments** |
| **Leeds Local Offer annual survey for professionals**  We are committed to working with young people with SEND, their families and professionals to continuously review and develop our Leeds Local Offer. In May / June 2023; we asked professionals on the Leeds Local Offer Network and SENCOs in Leeds Schools about how we can further develop the Leeds Local Offer.  We received 49 responses in total.   * 16 from primary settings * 1 from secondary setting * 5 from specialist provisions * 7 from colleges * 20 from third sector organisations.   Thank you to all who completed the survey and provided us with valuable information about how we can further develop the Leeds Local Offer website. The feedback you provide guides the work and priorities of the Local Offer and SEND Voice and Influence Coordinator, to ensure the service we provide is meeting the needs of professionals working with families who have children with special educational needs and disabilities.  The report can be downloaded here: <https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/model/page/service/33678> |
| **Promoting the Leeds Local Offer and visiting parent carer support groups**  Local authorities must publish a Local Offer, setting out in one place information about provision they expect to be available across education, health and social care for children and young people in their area who have SEN or are disabled, including those who do not have Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans. In setting out what they ‘expect to be available’, local authorities should include provision which they believe will actually be available.  (SEND Code of Practice 2015).  [www.leedslocaloffer.org.uk](http://www.leedslocaloffer.org.uk)  The Leeds Local Offer is everyone’s responsibility, and we are asking all services to promote the website to families and colleagues you work with. You can promote the Leeds Local Offer via newsletters, websites, at events and when meeting with families.  We have developed a number of promotional resources and social media posts, these can be downloaded at: <https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/model/page/service/33558>  If you require hard copies of any of the promotional resources please email [LLO@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:LLO@leeds.gov.uk)  **Visiting Parent Carer Support Groups**  The officer responsible for the Leeds Local Offer is available to visit parent carer support groups and coffee mornings to speak to families about the Leeds Local Offer. If you would like to arrange a visit email [LLO@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:LLO@leeds.gov.uk) |
| **Join the Leeds Local Offer Facebook Group**  The Leeds Local Offer Facebook page is a way of us communicating service updates, events and other key information direct with parents, carers and professionals.  The Leeds Local Offer Facebook group can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/leedslocaloffer> |
| **Service Updates** |
| **Children’s Transport**  Children’s Transport accept applications for assistance with home to school/college travel all year-round. When you submit a transport application, it takes our service up to 15 working days to assess eligibility. If your child is eligible for travel assistance, it may take an additional 15 working days for transport to be put in place.  Therefore, if you still need to apply for support, we cannot guarantee transport for the beginning of the September term.  This may result in you having to temporarily organise and fund your child’s school travel arrangements. If you have already submitted a transport application and are still awaiting an outcome, you will hear from us soon with further information.  You can visit our website for more information by searching ‘school transport’ at Leeds.gov.uk  If you have any queries regarding the above, please don’t hesitate to contact us on 0113 535 1990 or [send.transportapplications@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:send.transportapplications@leeds.gov.uk) |
| **Services who have achieved Scope’s Inclusive Activity Award**  Scope has developed a quality standard to improve services and help parents choose short breaks and activities.  Scope’s Inclusive Activity Award helps activity providers follow best practice in every aspect of their service and gives parents and carers the confidence they need when choosing short breaks and activities.  Services who have recently achieved the inclusive activity award:   * Yoga with Debs: <https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/model/page/place/34449> * Barca Leeds: <https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/model/page/service/6434> * Dazl Dance: <https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/model/page/place/34095> * Geeks Room: <https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/model/page/place/34080> * Little Hiccups: <https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/model/page/service/6427> * Northern Ballet: <https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/model/page/place/34092> * Music Box: <https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/model/page/service/34470>   For more information about the Scope Inclusive Activity Award email [leeds@scope.org.uk](mailto:leeds@scope.org.uk) |
| **Scope - Sleep Right Leeds**  Referral link - [https://www.scope.org.uk/family-services/sleep-right/](https://www.scope.org.uk/family-services/sleep-right/ )  Sleep right service is a parent/carer led service that supports parents and carers of disabled children. Professionals can make a referral with parent/carer consent.  We offer short term intervention, which involves an introduction to sleep session via TEAMS and following the group session the parent/carer can opt in for direct support from an experienced sleep practitioner.  Their sleep practitioner will complete a holistic sleep assessment considering the whole family and they will provide the parent/carer with a tailored sleep program to support them to make behavioural changes to their child’s sleep.  The assessments usually take place over the telephone or via TEAMS, face to face assessments can be requested although these will not be carried out in the home, the sleep practitioner will arrange a suitable meeting place such as the child’s education provision.  Parent/carers are also invited to attend 3 optional TEAMS sessions on sensory needs, golden hour and relaxation.  Service Criteria:   * Children aged 4-18 years. * To have diagnosis or must be on a pathway/waiting list awaiting assessment. * Location: Families that pay their council tax to Leeds city council. * Please be aware we are unable to offer any support/information linked to medication.   Contact Details: [Sleepright.leeds@scope.org.uk](mailto:Sleepright.leeds@scope.org.uk) |
| **STARS Training Sessions**  STARS training sessions are delivered on zoom and available to parents, carers and professionals.  To book a place on the training sessions of your choice please email [**starsteam@leeds.gov.uk**](mailto:starsteam@leeds.gov.uk)stating your name, the course you wish to attend and the email contact that you want the Zoom invitation to be sent to. You will then be sent a link to join the course.   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Date and Time** | **Title** | **Training suitable for…** | | September 8th 2023  9:45am – 11:15am | Overview of the Autism Education Trust Making Sense of Autism Training (School Age) | For parents and carers of school age children who want to be aware of the key autism information that STARS are delivering to schools, staff from schools and professionals from other LCC Teams interested in developing their awareness of autism. | | October 6th 2023  9:45am – 11:15am | Supporting children to use a symbol exchange system as part of their total communication | For parents, carers and professionals wanting to develop confidence in supporting children to use a symbol exchange approach as part of their communication. To increase knowledge of stages 1-4. | | November 10th 2023  9:45 am – 11:15am | Emotionally Based School Avoidance and Autism | For parents, carers and professionals. Instances of emotionally based school avoidance (EBSA) are on the increase, particularly in the autistic population. What are the drivers for EBSA and how can schools and families work together to reduce EBSA and support young people back into appropriate education? | | December 1st 2023  9:45am – 11:15am | A basic introduction to Intensive Interaction | For parents, carers and professionals who would like to understand more about the development of fundamental communication and interaction, and how this approach can support children in their care to make social connections with others. | | January 12th 2024  9:45am – 11:15am | Developing confidence and independence in the community | For parents, carers and professionals. Learning to be safe in the community needs to start at primary age, so that children and young people can develop their confidence and independence in the community in preparation for adolescence and adulthood. The focus will be on independent travel, shopping, and other community activity. | | Feb 2nd 2024  9:45am – 11:15am | Anxiety driven work avoidance | For parents, carers, and professionals. Understanding the underlying cause of anxiety driven work avoidance in the classroom and at home, and exploring teaching and support strategies to reduce avoidance and increase children and young people’s confidence to engage in learning and other tasks. | | March 1st  2024  9:45 – 11:15am | Neurodiversity in the Early Years | For parents, carers and professionals interested in exploring a celebratory approach to supporting autistic children in the early years. Celebrating and accepting neurodivergent and autistic differences, using strengths to support learning and embedding positive language and attitudes across early years settings | | April 19th  2024  9:45 – 11:15am | Transition: Supporting key transition stages from Early Years to Adulthood | For parents, carers and professionals who want to understand the key factors in planning a successful transition for CYP at key points in their lives and to develop their understanding of support strategies/resources and opportunities outside the education system. | | May 3rd 2024  9:45 – 11:15am | Visual supports in the home | For parents, carers and professionals seeking to understand what different kinds of visual supports can be used in the home, how they are used, and why they can be effective for supporting autistic children. Early years focus | | June 7th 2024  9:45 – 11:15am | Understanding and supporting play and interaction in the Early Years | Autistic children enjoy and learn through play, just as typically developing children do. This workshop will consider the main types of play and your role in supporting autistic children to learn, develop and have fun through play and will be targeted at an Early Years audience. | | July 5th 2024  9.45 – 11.15am | Relationships, sex, and consent | For parents, carers, and professionals. Supporting older autistic children and teens to understand consent and the law, to understand how to seek consent, to say no or to withdraw consent. To consider the context for healthy and consensual relationships. | |
| **The SNAPS Superhero Challenge 2023**  SNAPS would like to invite you, your beneficiaries and all families in Leeds to come along and join us for an exciting day of fun and entertainment! The SNAPS Superhero Challenge is an inclusive ‘fun run’ style event which gives children with additional needs the chance to feel like a superhero for the day. All ages and abilities welcome.  The event is a fun-filled day for the whole family:  **Date:** Sunday 24th September 2023, 10.30am – 12.30pm  **Cost:**£5 per child, adults go free  **Venue:** John Charles Centre for Sport, Middleton Grove, Belle Isle, Leeds LS11 5DJ  **For more information and tickets visit:** <https://register.enthuse.com/ps/event/SNAPSSuperheroChallenge2023>  Please contact [fundraising@snapsyorkshire.org](mailto:fundraising@snapsyorkshire.org) if you would like some flyers for the event as we will gladly send you some to hand out to service users.  A fun filled morning for all the family:   * Giant bouncy castle & inflatable obstacle course * Meet Super Girl & Super Mario * Magician * Arts & crafts * Pre-event warm up with Total Dance Leeds * Inclusive football sessions with Leeds United Foundation * Accessible rugby sessions with the Leeds Rhinos Foundation * Face painting * Games * and more!!   Each child will receive asuperhero cape to wear on the day, goody bag and medal.  Every child will decide on their own distance target for the event. They may choose to go halfway round, the full way round or keep going many times. They can walk, run or wheel\* around the track being cheered on to the finish line where they will receive their own challenge medal!  *\*only applies to accessibility aids such as wheelchairs, walkers, pushchairs.* |
| **Children and young people consultations and opportunities**  (Please share these with young people you work with) |
| **Leeds SEND Youth Forum**  Are you aged 11-25 with additional needs?  Want to help make Leeds an *even* better city for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)?  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.  What the SEND Youth Forum Do  You will get the chance to:   * attend monthly SEND Youth Forum zoom sessions * work on issues important to young people * give feedback about services by completing online surveys * sit on interview panels * meet with bosses to share your experiences and feedback about services   What is in it for you?   * Being part of the SEND Youth Forum, you will: * meet new people and make new friends * learn new skills * be able to include it on your CV and future job application forms * contribute to improving SEND services for young people in Leeds * share ideas and experiences with decision makers * receive gift vouchers as a thank you!   Join the Leeds SEND Youth Forum here <https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/SENDYC/> |
| **SEND Youth Activities Survey 2023/24**  Community Committees need the help of young people in Leeds to find out what activities they should provide in local areas.  We are asking young people (under 18 years old) to complete a short survey to help Community Committees understand what activities young people like to do.  It should only take a few minutes to answer all of the questions and remember to click Finish to submit your response to us. The last day that you can respond is 31 March 2024.  Click here to complete the survey: <https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/4VGG2V/>  If you need to speak to someone about this survey then please email [CommunityCommitteeFunding@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:CommunityCommitteeFunding@leeds.gov.uk) or telephone 0113 378 5808 |
| **Parent and carer consultations and opportunities**  (Please share these with families you work with) |
| **Leeds Parent Carer Forum**  The Leeds PCF (Parent Carer Forum) is led by local parents working to represent the views of parents and carers of children and young people with SEND while working in partnership with the Local Authority Education, Health & Care services to make a positive difference for children and families in Leeds.  The latest Leeds Parent Carer Forum newsletter can be downloaded here: <https://www.leedsparentcarerforum.co.uk/news/newsletter-1-july-2023/>  To find out more about the Leeds Parent Carer Forum visit one of their coffee mornings at the Vinery, LS9 9LU.  Wednesday 27th September 2023, 10am till 12pm  Coffee Morning with optional DLA workshop run by Carers Leeds starting at 10am  Tuesday 7th November 2023, 6pm till 8pm  Evening get-together  Thursday 25th January 2024, 12pm till 2pm  Afternoon cuppa and chat  For more information email [info@leedsparentcarerforum.co.uk](mailto:info@leedsparentcarerforum.co.uk) |
| **SENDIASS Information sessions on Zoom**  Information sessions are online events, run during term time and are free!  Sessions provide information about a SEND process, highlight important points to be aware of and explain steps clearly. Sessions aim to support parents and carers to understand and participate in each SEND process.  Find out more information about what’s on, see the current dates and book onto the next information sessions using this link to the Leeds SENDIASS website at: <https://sendiass.leeds.gov.uk/events>  The dates and the topics for the next information sessions are:  SEND Support in Mainstream school  This information session covers what SEND support can be accessed in school, requesting, preparing for and attending SEND meetings, the Graduated Response, reasonable adjustments, and receiving support from other agencies.  Wednesday 20th September at 5:15 pm or Wednesday 11th October at 12:30 pm.  Education Health and Care Needs Assessment  This information session covers how to request an assessment, guidance for filling in the application forms, information on the process, including timelines.  Thursday 21st September at 12:30 pm or Wednesday 4th October at 5:15 pm.  Refusal to Assess Tribunal Appeal  This information session will cover appealing decisions to the SEND tribunal in relation to an EHC needs assessment, including mediation, the tribunal process, and preparing paperwork.  Tuesday 26th September at 12:30 pm or Wednesday 18th October at 5:15pm.  You can book onto the information sessions by following this link to the Leeds SENDIASS website at: <https://sendiass.leeds.gov.uk/events>  There are opportunities to ask questions at the end of sessions, useful resources are shared in a post session pack. Sessions last for approximately 75 minutes. |
| **Professionals - resources / opportunities / training** |
| **STARS Resources**  The STARS Team are Leeds’s ASC Outreach support service for mainstream early years settings, schools, and colleges. We are accredited by The National Autistic Society and are a training hub for the Autism Education Trust.  The aim of the team is to raise standards of education and support for ASC pupils, predominantly by educating, supporting, and empowering setting staff. The offer includes:   * Delivery of training; STARS own training and training delivered on behalf of The Autism education Trust. * A range of other free professional development options for key staff. * Direct support for pupils in some cases and setting support in others, via a support request process, initiating by the setting. * Free monthly training workshops for parents (and professionals).   The STARS team website is populated with information and resources for families and professionals.  STARS bite-sized eLearning videos for parents and carers are available, links via the STARS website, with new videos added to the collection regularly.  The STARS website can be found at: <http://www.starsteam.org.uk/> |
| **Resource - raising awareness of disabilities and how to support young people**  The SEND Youth Forum have worked together to create a resource of various journeys and challenges of young people with SEND to help you help them!  It is not just about knowing how you can support young people, but to understand how they might be perceived and feel during these experiences.  In the resource you will find different scenarios, how the young person may feel and what adjustments could be made to improve the experience.   * Watch an introduction to the resource from the SEND Youth Forum here: <https://youtu.be/QD4MYoOfLlk> * You can download the resource here: <https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/model/page/service/34371>   Here are a few ways you can use/share the resource:   * Share with colleagues you work with * Promote in newsletters * Include in staff training   For further information or any questions about the resource please email [VIC@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:VIC@leeds.gov.uk) |
| **Director of Public Health Annual Report for Leeds and accompanying short film, both titled *In Our Shoes*.**  This year’s report focuses on the current state of children and young people’s health in Leeds.  This includes exploring the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their lives.  Through speaking directly to children and families in Leeds, together with an extensive literature review and analysis of local data, we have brought together a rich picture of ongoing health impacts.  Children were less likely to become ill with COVID-19 than adults.  They were not the focus of protective measures. However, the pandemic affected them profoundly and unequally.  The recommendations in this report provide a guide to what further action is needed to maximise the chances for all children in Leeds to have a fair start in life.    We’re also delighted that our Leeds’ report has been commended as one of the best nationally by the Association for the Directors of Public Health.  Here are links to the full report and child friendly summary:  <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/public-health/director-of-public-health-annual-report>  And a link to the film:  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7DoLbh2lwfE>  We always welcome feedback on our Director of Public Health Annual Report.  If you have any comments, please email: [publichealth.enquiries@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:publichealth.enquiries@leeds.gov.uk) |
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