|  |
| --- |
| **Leeds Local Offer (SEND) Ebulletin – October 2023** |
| Welcome to the October 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 Annual Report**  The Leeds Local Offer website for those 0-25 with SEND has been operational since 1 September 2014: [http://www.leedslocaloffer.org.uk](http://www.leedslocaloffer.org.uk/)  The Leeds Local Offer is not just a directory of services, it is the unique place where young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families can provide suggestions for improving services and for new services they need. Comments that come in through the website and to [llo@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:llo@leeds.gov.uk) can drive and influence service improvement.  Leeds City Council must respond to all feedback and comments received about the Local Offer on an annual basis, and outline what actions have been taken in response to the comments received.  The Leeds Local Offer Annual Report 2022/23 can be found here: <https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/model/page/service/34229> |
| **Leeds Local Offer Updates and Developments** |
| **Leeds Local Offer Live 2024 (SEND) - Book your stall for the information market place event for families** Thursday 21st March 2024  10am till 2pm  At Pudsey Civic Hall  We are excited to announce that on Thursday 21st March 2024 we will be hosting Leeds Local Offer Live 10am till 2pm at Pudsey Civic Hall.  The event will be a market place style event for families with a child with special educational needs and/or disabilities to come and find out about SEND services and support available to them within the city. Information about previous Leeds Local Offer Live events can be found at <https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/model/page/service/34420>.  We have the space for 58 service stalls on the day, this includes a table and two chairs. If you would like to request a stall at the event please complete a short booking form here: <https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/LLOLive2024Services/>  We will confirm service stalls w/c 18th December 2023.  If you have any further questions please email [LLO@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:LLO@leeds.gov.uk) |
| **Careers, Jobs and Volunteering**  We have reviewed and updated the Careers, Jobs and Volunteering information on the Leeds Local Offer website: <https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/directory/33327/33341/34140>  Within this section you will find information about:   * Apprenticeships * Supported Internships * Volunteering * Employment and Careers |
| **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** |
| **SEND Navigation Team**  The SEND Navigation Service is the first point of contact for parents and carers who are not sure who they need to support them, where to go for help or just want to ask a question about SEND support in Leeds. We support those who have children aged 4-11 with neurodiverse needs who do not currently have an Education Health Care Plan.  What can you expect from us?   * A member of our team to listen to your query or concern * Signposting to the relevant professional or service * Clear information about the provision in Leeds for children with neurodiverse needs * Help understanding and navigating the local offer   Call us: 0113 827 5524 (dial extension 1105)  Email us: [sendnavigators@westsilc.org](mailto:sendnavigators@westsilc.org)  More information about the SEND Navigation Team can be found at <https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/model/page/service/34487> |
| **SENDIASS**  SENDIASS have published an information video to support parents carers children and young people to find out more about the Leeds SENDIASS Service Offer.  <https://youtu.be/hF4gLuBJWpoThe>  Leeds SENDIASS ‘About Our Service’ video gives useful information about who we are and what we do, explains the Information Advice and Support offer, and gives further information on how to access the service. |
| **Scope Activities for All**  Scope Activities for All service support mainstream activity providers, lead practitioners and parents/carers to identify the right short break.  Do you know a child/young person with a disability who would like to attend a mainstream activity group but may need additional support?  We can help support the child and the activity group using our sessional worker service  <https://www.scope.org.uk/family-services/family-activities-leeds/parents-carers/>  The **sessional worker service**offers short term support. Helping to include children with additional needs or a disability (aged 4 -18) to attend a mainstream activity in Leeds.  Apply for a sessional worker here: <https://www.scope.org.uk/family-services/family-activities-leeds/eligibility-check/>  Why not book one of our information sessions?  Scope Activities for all Team are aiming to link local schools with mainstream activity groups within Leeds to support children with additional needs to access mainstream activities.  We can deliver a short information session at your school on:   * Our Sessional Worker Service – integrate children and young people (aged 4-18) with additional needs to access mainstream activity groups. * Sessional Worker features and benefits. * Our easy referral processes. * Our signpost & support service for lead professionals and families to identify inclusive activities in their local area and citywide.   To discuss the offer further or book a Sessional Worker information session, please email [leeds@scope.org.uk](mailto:leeds@scope.org.uk)  Scope activities for all offer online training sessions which are available for mainstream activity group staff/ volunteers in Leeds.   * 4th October 2023, 12 till 2: Disability Awareness Training * 12th October 2023, 10 till 12: Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder |
| **LEEDS PHAB CLUB (*DISABLED & ABLE BODIED SHARING TIME TOGETHER*)**  Have YOU time to spare some Friday evenings?  The PHAB Club which meets on Friday evenings at the Prince Philip Centre, Leeds 7 requires a few VOLUNTARY DRIVERS aged 25 – 75 to collect members from their homes using PHAB’s minibuses.  We also have outings and residentials.  You require a clean driving licence and to be fit.  We provide training for MIDAS, Basic First Aid and DBS certification.  The PHAB Club is inclusive. We are there to help combat isolation and loneliness. NEW PHAB MEMBERS WELCOME ages 9 to 90  yrs. We call ourselves the PHAB FAMILY. Everyone forgets about disability or illness and has fun alongside able bodied ‘buddies’.  See our website phab-leeds.org.uk Please contact Ann Hart on 01937 573722 or email [ann.hartphab@btinternet.com](mailto:ann.hartphab@btinternet.com). |
| **Personal Assistants Wanted**  Would you like to work with people and make a positive difference to their lives?  If so, consider a rewarding career as a Personal Assistant (PA)  As a PA you will be working directly with children, young people or adults who have different care and support needs and helping with their day-to-day well-being. This could include:   * organising and supporting individuals with their social and physical activities * booking and going with individuals to appointments * helping individuals to get to work, college or university * helping with personal care such as showering and dressing (although not all PA roles involve personal care) * supporting with tasks around the house such as shopping, cleaning and cooking   There are current vacancies across Leeds ranging from a couple of hours per week to full time. No two days are the same and you can look for vacancies to suit around your requirements, interests and other commitments.  If you would like to hear more, please come along to one of our information sessions below:   * Wednesday 4th October 10am – 12pm—Online session * Friday 6th October 1pm—3pm—at Merrion House   If you would like more information or to book a place on one of the sessions please contact Kelly Tran on [ascodteam@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:ascodteam@leeds.gov.uk), Tel: 0113 37 89640 |
| **Leeds Well Schools Partnership**  The Leeds Well School Partnership (LWSP) is a city-wide offer but with a localised approach to support schools within Leeds. Each group of local, likeminded schools work together to promote and develop, through collaboration and partnership, a sustainable system for physical activity, PE, sport and well-being that enriches and makes a real difference to the lives of all children and young people in that area.  School, PE SL and HT / Governor / SLT support   * Support with high quality PE curriculum design and delivery * Support with physical activity and school sport programmes * PE and Sport Premium support * Ofsted support * Resources * CPD * YST Membership   Competitions, Events and Festivals   * A programme of competitions, events and festivals which complement the School Games offer * Access to City Wide events * Specialist projects / initiatives * Links with community cubs / pathways * Leadership opportunities / training * Affiliation to Leeds School Sports Assoc   Accountability and Communication   * Single point of contact * Regular local and national updates * Full financial accountability * School led Steering Group   Impact and Evidence   * Value for money * Positive impact on physical and mental health and wellbeing * Case studies and data collection * Sharing best practice   *An offer for schools which is locally led, designed and driven but which benefits from a city wide approach.*  £1300 per annum  <https://leedswellschoolpartnership.co.uk/> |
| **The Christmas Experience Relaxed Evenings with Breeze Leeds**  The Christmas Experience, Lotherton, a magical journey through the enchanting world of Christmas. From visiting Santa in the North Pole to crafting in the Elf Village, there’s something for all the family. Explore the Christmas Traditions Woodland Walk, and Fairy Dell. Marvel at Lotherton’s splendour in the Hall and lit gardens. Warm up with a hot chocolate or mulled wine.  Families can book a relaxed visit with Santa in the North Pole for children with additional needs, on Thursday 7 December and Tuesday 12 December. Families can book a more relaxed visit with Santa and the Elves and then explore the snow filled North Pole at their own leisure. On these dates families can also meet Mrs Claus in a more relaxed environment, joining Mrs Claus and the elves in the house to sing Christmas carols and decorate their very own edible gingerbread.  <https://thechristmasexperience.co.uk/booking/> |
| **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/> |
| **Short Breaks and Fun Activities Review 2023 – consultation**  Short Breaks and Fun Activities are for 0-18 year olds with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) who live in Leeds.  Short Breaks and Fun Activities enable children and young people to have fun, spend time with friends and build their confidence and skills in a safe environment.  Short Breaks are activities for children and young people with SEND that enable them to have fun, spend time with friends and build their confidence and skills in a safe environment. As well as promoting best outcomes for the child, the Children Act 1989 Schedule 2 requires Local Authorities to provide services designed to assist family carers of disabled children 'to continue to [provide care], or to do so more effectively, by giving them breaks from caring'.  Leeds City Council are carrying out a review of Short Breaks and Fun activities in Leeds, the purpose of the review is:   * To review all current short breaks and fun activities provisions. * To arrange provision to meet demand for all types of need in all areas of the city. * To identify how services can work together to meet the needs of young people and families, allowing services to follow the young person. * To identify how we can make best use of the resource available across the city and provide a more coordinated package of support for families. * To provide a more consistent and co-ordinated approach to allocation of local authority and health and health services.   We are asking young people, parents and carers to give their feedback and contribute to the review by completing a short online survey or via focus groups.  **Online survey**   * Young people: <https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/ShortBreaksReviewCYP/> * Parents and carers: <https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/ShortBreaksReviewPC/>   **Focus Groups**   * Young people: if you would like the team to deliver a focus group with young people you work with please contact us to arrange. * Parents and carers: if you would like the team to deliver a focus group with a group of parents and carers please contact us to arrange.   Email: [LLO@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:LLO@leeds.gov.uk) |
| **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 |
| **SENDIASS Young People’s videos**  SENDIASS information videos for Young People are now available on the Leeds SENDIASS You Tube channel  <https://www.youtube.com/@leedssendiass4614/playlists>  Videos cover the Leeds SENDIASS Service offer and provide information, advice, and support about SEND topics in a simple step by step video format, using graphics and characters designed in consultation with young people in Leeds and aim to support young people to understand and participate in SEND processes.  Published videos include the Leeds SENDIASS service offer, Impartial and Confidential Information Advice and Support, Leeds SENDIASS service animation, SEND Support in College, Education Health and Care Needs Assessment, Education Health and Care Plans and Education Health and Care Reviews. |
| **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) |
| **Short Breaks and Fun Activities Review 2023 – consultation**  Short Breaks and Fun Activities are for 0-18 year olds with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) who live in Leeds.  Short Breaks and Fun Activities enable children and young people to have fun, spend time with friends and build their confidence and skills in a safe environment.  Short Breaks are activities for children and young people with SEND that enable them to have fun, spend time with friends and build their confidence and skills in a safe environment. As well as promoting best outcomes for the child, the Children Act 1989 Schedule 2 requires Local Authorities to provide services designed to assist family carers of disabled children 'to continue to [provide care], or to do so more effectively, by giving them breaks from caring'.  Leeds City Council are carrying out a review of Short Breaks and Fun activities in Leeds, the purpose of the review is:   * To review all current short breaks and fun activities provisions. * To arrange provision to meet demand for all types of need in all areas of the city. * To identify how services can work together to meet the needs of young people and families, allowing services to follow the young person. * To identify how we can make best use of the resource available across the city and provide a more coordinated package of support for families. * To provide a more consistent and co-ordinated approach to allocation of local authority and health and health services.   We are asking young people, parents and carers to give their feedback and contribute to the review by completing a short online survey or via focus groups.  **Online survey**   * Young people: <https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/ShortBreaksReviewCYP/> * Parents and carers: <https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/ShortBreaksReviewPC/>   **Focus Groups**   * Young people: if you would like the team to deliver a focus group with young people you work with please contact us to arrange. * Parents and carers: if you would like the team to deliver a focus group with a group of parents and carers please contact us to arrange.   Email: [LLO@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:LLO@leeds.gov.uk) |
| **SENDIASS Virtual Information Sessions on Zoom**  SENDIASS provide virtual information sessions on SEND support, Education Health and Care Needs Assessment and Refusal to Assess SEND Tribunal Appeal.  Sessions run online, during term time and are free! Sessions provide information about SEND processes in a clear step by step format and are presented by our SENDIASS officers. Sessions aim to support parents and carers to understand more about and participate in SEND processes.  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.  The Information Session schedule is published every half term on the Leeds SENDIASS website news and events page.  The topics and next dates and times for the next SENDIASS virtual information sessions are:   * SEND Support in Mainstream school: Wednesday 11th October at 12.30pm   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.   * Education Health and Care Needs Assessment: Wednesday 4th October at 5:15 pm   This information session covers how to request an assessment, guidance for filling in the application forms, information on the process, including timelines.   * Refusal to Assess Tribunal Appeal: Wednesday 18th October at 5:15 pm.   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.  Find out more information about what’s on, see the current dates and book onto an information session using this link to the Leeds SENDIASS website news and events page at: <https://sendiass.leeds.gov.uk/events> |
| **SENDIASS Steering Group – calling parent carer representatives**  The Leeds SENDIASS service has a steering group which ensures that the service is appropriately supported to comply with the SEND Information Advice and Support Services Minimum Standards and guidance outlined in the SEND Code of Practice 2014. It also ensures that the service is appropriately supported to develop good and best practice in all areas.  The steering group is looking to increase the number of parent/carer members. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact the service for more details.  You can Email [leedssendiass@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:leedssendiass@leeds.gov.uk) or Telephone: 0113 3785020. Please leave a message and we will return your call. |
| **Professionals - resources / opportunities / training** |
| **Disability Service – information sessions**  The Disability Services Advocacy Team are here to support with raising awareness of the different Disability Services benefits and grants. These are Personal Independence Payment (PIP), Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (IIDB).  Please see details of our upskilling sessions for external stakeholders in the month of November and December below.  To book a place please use each of the individual links for the relevant events.  Personal Independent Payment (PIP)  This session covers what PIP is, eligibility criteria and the customer journey when making a claim, including the assessment process. There will be opportunity for Q&A at the end of the session.  Personal Independence Payment awareness sessions with IAS   * 17/10/22 10am – 1pm Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/693964976927?aff=oddtdtcreator> * 25/10/22 10am – 1pm Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/694005778967?aff=oddtdtcreator> * 07/11/22 10am – 1pm Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/694006461007?aff=oddtdtcreator> * 23/11/22 10am – 1pm Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/694076119357?aff=oddtdtcreator> * 28/11/22 10am – 1pm Register at:  <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/694077704097?aff=oddtdtcreator> * 07/12/22 10am-1pm Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/694143922157?aff=oddtdtcreator> * 14/12/22 10am-1pm Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/694148345387?aff=oddtdtcreator>   Personal Independence Payment awareness sessions with Capita   * 26/10/23 10am-12:30pm Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/694169227847?aff=oddtdtcreator> * 16/11/23 10am-12:30pm Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/694175787467?aff=oddtdtcreator> * 29/11/23 10am-12:30pm Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/694182086307?aff=oddtdtcreator> * 12/12/23 10am-12:30pm Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/694188635897?aff=oddtdtcreator>   Disability Living Allowance for Children  This session covers what Disability Living Allowance for Children is, the eligibility criteria and then the whole customer journey from making a claim to receiving a decision. There will be Q&A at the end of the session.   * 02/11/23 10am–11:30am Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/690779950427?aff=oddtdtcreator> * 16/11/23 1.30pm–3pm Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/690781525137?aff=oddtdtcreator> * 21/11/23 10am–11:30am Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/690783611377?aff=oddtdtcreator> * 06/12/23 10am–11:30am Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/694206469237?aff=oddtdtcreator> * 14/12/23 10am–11:30am Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/694209468207?aff=oddtdtcreator>   Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefits  This session covers what IIDB is, who may be eligible and the customer journey both for claims for injuries and diseases. There will be opportunity for Q&A at the end of the session.   * 11/10/23 1.30pm–3pm Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/690765216357?aff=oddtdtcreator> * 02/11/23 1.30pm–3pm Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/690768556347?aff=oddtdtcreator> * 21/11/23 1.30pm–3pm Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/690770772977?aff=oddtdtcreator> * 05/12/23 1.30pm–3pm Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/694217411967?aff=oddtdtcreator> |
| This email has been sent by the Leeds Local Offer Team at Leeds City Council. You are receiving this email as you previously signed up to the Leeds Local Offer Network or are part of one of our existing SEND networks. If you no longer wish to receive our emails, please [UNSUBSCRIBE](mailto:LLO@leeds.gov.uk?subject=Unsubscribe%20LLO%20mailing%20list) and we will remove you from our mailing list. |