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| **Leeds Local Offer (SEND) Ebulletin – December 2023** |
| Welcome to the December 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\*** |
| **Compass House pop up shop**  Students from specialist schools across Leeds are spreading festive cheer this week with the return of their Christmas pop-up shop in Kirkgate Market.  ‘Compass House’ is open daily 10am till 12pm until Friday 15th December 2023. The students will be selling beautifully handcrafted gifts such as ornaments, reindeer food, decorations and much more – all priced at £5 or less.  The shop is part of a work experience project for students with special educational needs and disabilities, coordinated by Leeds City Council. Its aim is to achieve equality through enterprise. |
| **SEND Information drop in for parents and carers**  The SEND information drop in is an opportunity for parents and carers to speak to services and receive information and advice about SEND services in Leeds.  Services available at the drop in:   * Leeds Local Offer * SENDIASS * Scope * Leeds Parent Carer Forum   Session dates:  10.30 till 12.30 at Leeds Central Library   * 31st January 2024 * 28th February 2024 * 27th March 2024 * 24th April 2024   *No need to book.* If you have any questions please contact [LLO@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:LLO@leeds.gov.uk) |
| **Leeds Local Offer Updates and Developments** |
| **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. The booklet was developed in response to feedback from families and staff that a booklet with a summary of key services would support them as sometimes the amount of information and services available can feel overwhelming.  All the information in the booklet can be found on the Leeds Local Offer website ([www.leedslocaloffer.org.uk](http://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) |
| **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.  If you would like us to promote your service, an event you are running or share information please email [LLO@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:LLO@leeds.gov.uk)  The Leeds Local Offer Facebook group can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/leedslocaloffer>  Please share information about the facebook group with families you work with. |
| **Service Updates** |
| **Compass House pop up shop**  We are really excited to announce the Compass House pop up shop will once again be opening in Leeds Kirkgate Market.  With support from Leeds City Council staff, students from specialist schools across Leeds have been working in partnership to set up a pop up christmas shop in Kirkgate Market.  The Compass House pop up shop will ben open Monday 11th to Friday 15th December 2023, 10am till 2pm.  Follow Compass House on facebook @CompassHouseLS  More information about the project can be found here: <https://wearechildfriendlyleeds.com/2023/11/28/compass-house-pop-up-shop/> |
| **SENSAP Update**  The November 2023 SENSAP update can be found on the Leeds Local Offer website at <https://tinyurl.com/SENSAPUpdate>  Within the update you will find information about:   * SEND and AP change programme * NEW ECHP assessment forms * Phase transfers * EHC assessments * SEMH free school bid |
| **Children’s Transport Update**The November 2023 Children’s Transport update is now available on the Leeds Local Offer website at <https://tinyurl.com/ChildrensTransfportUpdate> |
| **SENDIASS – updated service offer**  The Leeds SENDIASS “Offer” is a menu of support which promotes independence and self-advocacy for parents and carers and young people.  The team in Leeds are trained to support, and work in partnership with parents so they can participate and make informed decisions about their child’s education.  The information, advice and support is impartial and provided at arm’s length from the local authority and ICBs (Integrated Care Boards). The information, advice and support offered is free, accurate and confidential.  Click here to download the offer: <https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/model/page/service/6566> |
| **Supported Internships**  As a city, we have pledged to increase the number of Supported Internships available in Leeds.  Supported Internships are work-based study programmes for young adults, aged 16-24, with special education needs and an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP).   Supported Interns (SI) are classed as being in full-time education, with the internship being part of their course.  The intern will spend the majority of the week on a placement with an employer and will develop the skills they need to move into paid employment. At the same time they will continue to study for relevant qualifications, such as English and Maths, on the days they are in college.  The intern will be accompanied by a job coach to support them in the workplace.  Job roles are varied and can include admin, finance, data management, IT, warehousing, hospitality, retail, healthcare and many more.  The benefits are numerous – interns benefit from a huge increase in self-confidence, learning new skills and making a contribution to society. Employers benefit from an improved work culture and access to a diverse workforce of adults with unique skills and abilities who are really keen to work.  Watch the video to find out more: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=076nDHKpWi4> or visit <https://www.inclusivegrowthleeds.com/supported-internships> to contact us. |
| **Leeds Area SEND Partnership Board Takeover – Child Friendly Leeds wishes**  11 students from St John’s School, West SILC, East SILC and Future Horizons tookover the Leeds Area SEND Partnership Board on Wednesday 22nd November 2023 as part of National Takeover Challenge.  Students consulted with 99 young people with SEND to find out which of the 12 Child Friendly Leeds wishes is most important to them, and to seek feedback about what we can do in Leeds to achieve this wish.  The top three wishes were shared with the board, and discussions took place about what could be done to work towards achieving this wish in Leeds.  The Child Friendly Leeds wish report can be found at <https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/model/page/service/34323> |
| **Scope Activities for All – sessional workers**  Scope Activities for All service support mainstream activity providers, lead practitioners and parents/carers to identify the right short break.  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](https://www.scope.org.uk/family-services/family-activities-leeds/eligibility-check/)  **Why not book one of our information sessions?**  Scope Activities for All aims to link schools with mainstream activity groups in your local area, to support children with additional needs access mainstream group activities.  We can help lead professionals & parents to access our Sessional Worker service so that children can feel more included in mainstream activity groups.  We can deliver a short information session at your school, talk to staff and parents of children and young people with SEND.  For more information, or to book a session in the new year, please email [leeds@scope.org.uk](mailto:leeds@scope.org.uk) |
| **Children and young people consultations, opportunities, and events**  (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 |
| **Carers Leeds Roadshow**  Carers Leeds, in partnership with Leeds City Council and the NHS are helping to host a roadshow event for carers at Kirkgate Market on Friday 8th December 2023, 10am – 4pm.  Come along and meet other carers, health and social care professionals plus organisations that can help you with your caring role.  More information can be found here: <https://www.carersleeds.org.uk/event/carers-roadshow/> |
| **Leeds Apprenticeship Recruitment Fair returns on Monday 5 February at Leeds arena**  Leeds Apprenticeship Recruitment Fair returns to first direct arena Leeds on Monday 5th February 2024. Free tickets are available to book anytime between 1pm-7pm. Everyone is welcome and the event is free to attend.  You’ll have the chance to talk to major employers from a wide range of sectors, including accounting, business and administration, catering and hospitality, construction, creative design, care services, digital, education, engineering, finance, hair and beauty, health, law, protective services and many more!  Over 100 exhibitors will be there on the day offering information, advice, guidance and live vacancies. You’ll have the opportunity to find out about apprenticeships, including what they involve and how they work, as well as higher and degree apprenticeships.  Should you have any questions or queries please email [esemployers@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:esemployers@leeds.gov.uk)  To book your free ticket visit: <https://bit.ly/LARF24> |
| **Parent and carer consultations, opportunities and events**  (Please share these with families you work with) |
| **Scope Activities for All – sessional workers**  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. |
| **Refresh Carers - Empowering unpaid parent carers for positive change** Refresh Carers offer free 6-week courses to parent carers. These include confidence building, well-being and carers rights. Attendees set goals relating to a hobby, volunteering or getting back to work.  They have spaces available from January 2024 in LS4.  Find out more by visiting [their website here](https://www.refreshcarers.com/) or email [refreshcarers@gmail.com](mailto:refreshcarers@gmail.com) |
| **Northern Ballet's Tortoise & the Hare with audio description**  Northern Ballet will be audio describing our children’s ballet for the first time. We will be presenting the Tortoise & the Hare at the Stanley & Audrey Burton Theatre in Leeds with audio described performances on Friday 16 and Saturday 17 February at 2pm.  Audio described performances include a free touch tour on stage from 12.45 – 1.15pm. Performances are designed for children under 8 years and are 40 minutes in length with no interval.  Tickets can be booked by calling the box office on 0113 220 8008 and are £10 for adults and £7 for children. |
| **SENDIASS Information Videos**  The information videos are short, narrated videos aiming to give parents and carers information and advice about Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) processes. Videos can be viewed to fit in with parents and carers availability.  You can view all Leeds SENDIASS information videos by following this link to the Leeds SENDIASS You Tube Channel:  [Leeds SENDIASS YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHzY7c0_VtCPjf_Spem9vfQ?view_as=subscriber)  Leeds SENDIASS information videos include these key topics:  SEND Support in Schools, Emotional Based School Avoidance, SEND Transport and SEND Funding (FFI), Moving Schools and through Education (transitions), Preparing for Adulthood (PfA), Education Health and Care Needs Assessment, Specialist Schools settings and provisions, Decision to Assess next Steps, Education Health and Care Plan Reviews, EHCP Refusal to Assess Appeals , Section I placement Appeals, EHCP Contents Appeals, Mediation for SEND Appeals, Appeals and Mediation.  Information videos aim to support parents and carers to understand SEND processes in a step-by-step format and include targeted videos which can be viewed whilst filling out forms. They may also be useful for professionals who are working with families who want to find out more or are taking part in a process. |
| **SENDIASS Virtual Information Sessions on Zoom**  We provide virtual information sessions on SEND support and the Education Health and Care Needs Assessment process.  We have a new format this term with more time available in our questions section in each session.  Sessions run online, during term time and are **free,** our information schedule is published every half term.  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 SEND processes to be able to share their views and participate in processes.  Useful resources are shared with parents and carers in a post session pack. Sessions last for approximately 60 minutes with day and early evening sessions available.  Find out more information about what’s on, view dates  and times of sessions and book onto an event using this link to the Leeds SENDIASS website news and events page at: <https://sendiass.leeds.gov.uk/events>  The topics and next dates and times for the next SENDIASS virtual information sessions are:   * SEND Support in Mainstream school: Wednesday 13th December at 4pm.   This session covers what SEND support can be accessed in school, preparing for SEND meetings, the Graduated Response, reasonable adjustments, and receiving support from other agencies.   * Education Health and Care Needs Assessment: Monday 4th December 1:45 pm-2:45 pm   This session covers what is an EHCP, how to make a request, the process of an EHC needs assessment and possible outcomes.  You can also view the Leeds SENDIASS Facebook page for reminders of the sessions or join the Leeds SENDIASS Facebook group as a member to view all our service updates: [Leeds SENDIASS Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/groups/356141779086693)  Quick reminder,  that you  can book onto a virtual  information session by following this link to the Leeds SENDIASS website news and events page: <https://sendiass.leeds.gov.uk/events> |
| **Professionals - resources / opportunities / training** |
| **Autism in Women and Girls: How it presents differently - Sarah Nuttall** Tuesday 12th December 2023  6pm at Leeds Beckett University  Autism is underdiagnosed in women and girls. They are also more likely to be misdiagnosed and receive a late diagnosis. Women of colour and anyone who is not a straight cis white male are also less likely to get a diagnosis. There is a need to spread the word on how autism presents differently in women and girls. Recognising autistic traits in females is more difficult, as is getting a diagnosis, both of which argue for a female phenotype. Pre and post diagnosis support are practically non-existent.  Sarah Jane Nuttall is an autistic woman who is researching autism in women, looking at its presentation, and the limitations of current diagnostic criteria and screening tools. She is also writing a novel to help women to identify their autistic traits.  This presentation is for anyone identifying as a woman who has ever wondered whether they are autistic, and for friends, family, partners and the general public, of all genders, who are interested in learning more about how autistic women and girls are more likely to mask and go under the radar.  Book your ticket here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/autism-in-women-and-girls-how-it-presents-differently-sarah-nuttall-tickets-759705237817> |
| **Scope activities for all offer training sessions**  Training session are available for mainstream activity group staff/ volunteers in Leeds.   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | Date and Time | Training session | Information | | Weds 24th January  12:00-2:00pm  (online via teams) | Promoting regulated behaviour in activity groups | * Understanding of positive behaviour * Promoting regulated behaviour * Strategies on how to promote in your activity | | Thursday 1st February  5:30pm-7:00pm  at  Mencap, Vinery Centre,LS9 9LU | Listening to the child’s voice when planning activities. | * Looks at youths' perspectives and views on mainstream activities in Leeds. * Aims to provide key messages and practical strategies based on activity groups experiences and feedback. | | Wednesday 7th February  12:00-2:00pm  (TBC) | Anxiety and disability. | * Understanding and supporting anxiety in activities * How it presents and impacts disability * Awareness and strategies to support anxiety for children attending activities. |   For further information and to book email [leeds@scope.org.uk](mailto:leeds@scope.org.uk) |
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