

# **Leeds Local Offer – Annual Report**

**1st July 2021 to 30th June 2022**

The Leeds Local Offer website is for those 0-25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and has been operational since 1 September 2014: <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 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) 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.

# **Leeds Local Offer Content and Provision**

We value feedback about the site and provision available to children and young people with SEND in Leeds and their families.

A ‘you said our response’ section has been developed on the Leeds Local Offer website to be able to share the comments / feedback received and the response to them (<https://tinyurl.com/YouSaidOurResponse>).

Families can provide feedback about the Leeds Local Offer website by emailing [llo@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:llo@leeds.gov.uk) or through the feedback link on the Leeds Local Offer website.

| **You Said** | **Our Response** |
| --- | --- |
| Holiday provision is not clear on the LLO | Developed a 'school holiday activities' section under 'Things to do'. This section will be updated prior to every school holiday |
| It is not clear which schools in Leeds have resourced partnerships and specialist partnerships | Under the specialist schools section, the information has been separated out into the following sections   * Specialist schools * Specialist partnership schools * Resourced partnerships * Specialist out of area schools |
| No section about toileting i.e. teaching your child to use the toilet correctly and developing a toileting routine | Providing toileting information has been added to the Leeds Local Offer website forward plan |
| Post 16 information on the LLO isn't clear and is quite poor | A full review of the post 16 information has been undertaken and all information has been updated. The sections under post 16 have been developed from the feedback from parents |
| There are too many abbreviations used when talking about disabilities and the services available | A jargon buster section has been developed on the website |
| No information about Cricket for the visually impaired | Researched cricket clubs available in Leeds and added them to the LLO under things to do |
| The CYP section of the LLO is still too complicated and has too much information | Students from the Powerhouse, Post 16 West SILC, raised the issue, and from January to April 2022 students met weekly to review and redesign the young people’s section of the website |
| Full peer review of the Leeds Local Offer was undertaken, from the feedback amendments and developments will be made to the Leeds Local Offer website | The following developments have been made or are due to be made to the website:   * Organise school by area of the city * Simplified explanation of section 41 * Ful redesign of health section * Clearer you said we did section * In 2022 will review EHCP information * In 2022 review personal budgets information |
| Cannot find information about alternative provision | Information about AIP's to be added to the website as part of the forward plan |
| Change language / size etc. i.e. what is cost of inbuilt accessibility / translate tool | Unfortunately, this isn’t technically possible with the website hosts. Web browsers have several built in tools so that users can already help with accessibility, for example changing screen size |
| Can the Leeds Local Offer Facebook group posts directly feed into the website?  On contact page on the Leeds Local Offer have a live link to the LLO Facebook group | Having the Facebook group feed on the website isn’t technically possible with the website hosts.  A request has been submitted to the website developers to add a link to the Facebook group on the front page |
| On contact page include ‘if you require any printed information contact us llo@leeds.gov.uk’ | This has now been added to the contact page on the Leeds Local Offer |
| There is a lack of information about debt advice and support with bills | Information about Leeds based money advice services have been added to the ‘[support and advice with your finances’](https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/search/list?query=Financial_Information_and_Support&exact=1) section |

Services across Leeds are encouraged and supported to seek the views of children, young people, parents and carers to enable them to continually review and develop their services.

On the Leeds Local Offer website we have a section for the voice and influence of children and young people (SEND Youth Forum) and also the voice and influence of parents and carers, each of these sections includes information about live consultations and also feedback on what has happened with the feedback they have shared.

# **Voice and Influence of Children, Young People, Parents and Carers in Developing Leeds Services**

Children and young people

* The Leeds SEND Youth Forum was launched in December 2020, there are 44 members (11 to 25 years old). From the 1st July 2021 to 30th June 2022 members received 102 youth opportunities communications containing 10 opportunities, invites to 9 sessions and links to 12 surveys to give their feedback.
* 29 young people were consulted on the new SEND and Inclusion Strategy, and members of the SEND Youth Forum have formed a governance group for the strategy.
* 15 young people fed into the redesign of the Health section on the Leeds Local Offer. Health colleagues are taking a lead on the redesign and development of health information.
* 8 students from specialist schools tookover the SEND Partnership Board in November 2021. Students had three clear asks from the board
  1. SEND specific careers event: Since the takeover the Employment and Skills Team have hosted the SEND Next Choices event at Leeds Arena, the event hosted over 60 services who provided information, advice and support to attendees about further education, careers, training, finance, housing and much more.
  2. Short breaks taster sessions: Scope are developing a map that shows which activities provide taster sessions for young people.
  3. Play resources for playgrounds: The Voice, Influence and Change Team are researching play resources which will be shared with the specialist schools.
* 7 young people completed the ‘growing up and looking after your health’ survey.

* 40 young people helped to developed animations for the SENDIASS website.
* 4 members of the SEND Youth Forum sat on a young people’s commissioning panel for the SEND and Inclusion Support Service contract.

* 5 members of the SEND Youth Forum sat on the young people’s interview panel for the Statutory Assessment and Provision Lead.

* 126 young people took part in the Make Your Mark ballot, the largest youth ballot in the UK, and voted Health and Wellbeing as the issue most important to them.
* Over 70 students from 5 specialist schools gave their feedback on Breeze events, and how they can be more inclusive for young people with SEND.
* 53 students from specialist schools received certificates of recognition for their involvement in city wide voice and influence projects.

Youth voice opportunities for young people can be found on the Leeds Local Offer at <https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/directory/33996/33288>

Parents and carers

* Representatives from 19 support groups in Leeds meet on a six weekly basis (Parent / Carer Support Group Voice and Influence Network) to feed into the continuous review of the Leeds Local Offer website, give their feedback on services and also meet with decision makers and key services.
* 32 parents and carers completed the ‘life outside of school’ consultation held by the SILC Cluster, the feedback influenced the SILC Clusters offer.
* 11 parents and carers fed into the redesign of the Health section on the Leeds Local Offer. Health colleagues are taking a lead on the redesign and development of health information.
* 39 parents / carers completed an online survey to provide feedback to SENDIASS on their experience of autism services following diagnosis.
* 2 parents sat on the interview panel for the City Lead Teacher of the Visually Impaired and the City Lead Teacher of the Deaf.
* 10 parents and carers completed an online survey to provide feedback on emotional and mental wellbeing support for children and young people.
* The parent / carer support group network fedback to Breeze about the inclusivity of their summer events.

Parent / carer opportunities to have a voice and influence can be found here <https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/directory/33926/33993>

In April 2022; EPIC Leeds stepped down as the Department for Education funded parent participation forum. Support groups in Leeds are working with Contact and will be setting up a new parent participation forum over the next 12 months.

# **Information, Advice and Support for Professionals working with families with children with SEND**

Over the last 12 months 36 professionals working with families with children with SEND have signed up to the Leeds Local Offer network, the network has a total of 746 professionals on. Contacts on the network receive a bi-monthly ebulletin with updates about services, voice and influence opportunities and resources / training available.

Based on feedback from professionals, the following resources have been developed:

* Working in partnership with children and young people to review and develop SEND services toolkit

<https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/model/page/service/33858>

* Involving parents ad carers in recruitment and selection guide

<https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/model/page/service/33991>

* Involving children and young people with SEND in recruitment and selection guide

<https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/model/page/service/33990>

In the last 12 months the Leeds Local Offer and SEND Voice and Influence Coordinator has provided information, advice and guidance to 13 teams / services on involving children, young people, parents and carers in service development and review.

# **Accessibility of information on the Leeds Local Offer**

In the report period from the 1st July 2021 to the 30th June 2022 the Leeds Local Offer website had 28,647 unique visitors; unique visitors are the number of visitors to a website in a single reporting period. The number of people viewing the Leeds Local Offer website has increased by 13,620 from the previous year, when there were 15,027 unique visitors. This is a 91% increase.

A Leeds Local Offer Facebook group was set up for families in December 2020, the group has 354 members and is an alternative mechanism for families to receive updates about SEND services and activities taking place in the city. During the last 12 months 228 posts about services have been posted on the group.

Feedback received about the Leeds Local Offer Facebook group ‘I love this group. It is such a great place to signpost parents to where they can find a wide variety of information in one place. Lots of parents feel happier using Facebook than a website.’

For families without access to the internet we encourage them to use computers at their local library or community hub, or speak to their school SENCo.

Schools and services provide a direct web link to the Leeds Local Offer from their individual webpages, promoting the Leeds Local Offer to families. For families who require any of the information printing can email [LLO@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:LLO@leeds.gov.uk) to make the request.

The accessibility statement on the Leeds Local Offer website was updated in September 2021

<https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/model/page/29/32954>

# **Reviewing and developing the Leeds Local Offer**

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The SEND Ofsted Inspection in 2016 highlighted

* Only a few of the parents to whom inspectors spoke were aware of the Leeds Local Offer. Those who know about the web-based information are involved in working with the local area to improve the website. Records show that very few parents use the independent advice and support service. Parents describe both feeling isolated and benefiting from the support networks created by schools and settings.
* Nearly all of the parents that inspectors spoke to during the inspection did not know of, or use, the Leeds Local Offer. This means that they miss out on key services or do not know where to get high-quality support. The feedback from a small number of parents in August 2016 is being acted on by leaders. Some parents, through the EPIC (empowering parents, improving choices) parents forum, remain involved in improving the offer.

Children, young people, parents and carers are invited to continually review the Leeds Local Offer website via the website feedback form and also emailing [LLO@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:LLO@leeds.gov.uk)

Students from the Powerhouse, West SILC Post 16 provision, were involved in the review and redevelopment of the young people’s section on the Leeds Local Offer website from January to April 2022. A full list of the developments made to the young people’s section as a direct result of the feedback from students can be found here <https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/model/page/service/34141>

Seven videos for the Leeds Local Offer were developed based on feedback from young people and families, the purpose of the videos is to explain key SEND services in an alternative format to families:

* What is the Leeds Local Offer: <https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/directory>
* SEND Youth Voice in Leeds: <https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/model/page/youtube_video/34020>
* Post 16 options: <https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/model/page/service/34131>
* SENDIASS: <https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/model/page/service/34133>
* Short Breaks and Fun Activities: <https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/model/page/service/34130>
* A Graduated Approach: <https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/model/page/service/34148>
* Education Health and Care Plans: <https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/model/page/service/34132>

The Local Offer and SEND Voice and Influence Coordinator has been supporting services to develop easy read information for families:

* [Short Breaks Statement](https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/model/page/service/33784)
* [Children’s Transport Team](https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/model/page/service/7126)

In March 2021; the first Leeds Local Offer Live event was hosted at Leeds Civic Hall. The event was a marketplace event aimed to share information about services on the Leeds Local Offer with families and professionals. 25 services hosted information stalls on the day, with over 70 families and professionals attending. The event was a great success and will become an annual event.

# **Next Steps**

The priorities for the Local Offer and SEND Voice and Influence Coordinator over the next 12 months are:

* Growing the Leeds SEND Youth Forum to increase membership and opportunities available for young people to have a voice and influence in Leeds
* Continue to provide mechanisms for children, young people, parents, and carers to provide governance to the SEND and Inclusion strategy
* Enable parent / carer support groups to engage in voice and influence activities and the development of the Leeds Local Offer
* Continue to review information on the Leeds Local Offer website, and promote the Leeds Local Offer to families and professionals
* Develop partnerships with social care colleagues and continue to strengthen existing partnerships with education and health colleagues to increase their awareness of the Leeds Local Offer and provide advice and guidance to help improve their practice
* Develop resources and training to support the voice and influence of children, young people, parents and carers
* Support Contact with the development of a new parent participation forum for Leeds