



THIS IS US PROUD TO BELONG



A SEND Celebration

Event Report



Over 150
attended

The Voice, Influence and Change team worked with the Leeds SEND Youth Council to plan and deliver an event for Disability Pride Month.

The Leeds SEND Youth Council are a group of young people ages 11 - 25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) who work together to share their experiences, represent other young people and help make Leeds a more inclusive city. To find out more about the group [click here](#).

On Wednesday 22 July 2026, they hosted **This Is Us: Proud to Belong - A SEND Celebration** at Leeds Kirkgate Market.

More than 150 children, young people and families joined the event to celebrate Disability Pride, connect with others and enjoy activities, performances and creativity.



Activities included:

- Arts and crafts
- Badge making
- Fidget making
- Adaptive tennis with **Active Leeds**
- A sensory area from **Leeds Mencap**
- Mental health activities and information from **MindMate** and **Time for Young People**.
- A dance performance from **Phoenix Dance Theatre's** inclusive group, **Illuminate Dance**
- Performances from **Leeds SEND Youth Council** members followed by more singing and dancing!

"A fantastic event and display... a really empowering event"

"I got to talk to the Mayor of Leeds which was cool"



"It was a brilliant event and I got a feeling for the difference it made to the attendees to be seen and heard"

"A lovely sense of belonging within the public space of Kirkgate Market – just as it should be"

"The event in Kirkgate had a tremendous energy to it"

Thanks to the support of our partners, staff, volunteers and attendees, this free event brought people together to celebrate Disability Pride and create a welcoming, inclusive space for everyone.

