

## Leeds Local Offer (SEND) Ebulletin – April 2024



Welcome to the April 2024 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).

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Previous editions of the ebulletin can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/LLObulletin>

Kayleigh Thurlow  
Local Offer and SEND Voice and Influence Coordinator

### \*News flash\*

#### **New Leeds Local Offer website**

We are really pleased to share with you the new look Leeds Local Offer (SEND) website.  
[www.leedslocaloffer.org.uk](http://www.leedslocaloffer.org.uk)

Using feedback received over the last 4 years from young people, families and professionals we have worked with developers to create a new Leeds Local Offer (SEND) website.

Please do have a look at the website, and provide any feedback to [LLO@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:LLO@leeds.gov.uk)

### Leeds Local Offer updates and developments

#### **Leeds Local Offer Live 2024**

The annual Leeds Local Offer Live event took place on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024, 10am till 2pm at Pudsey Civic Hall.

Leeds Local Offer Live is a market place event that provides families and professionals with the opportunity to speak to SEND services in Leeds.

The event was a great success, and a full event report can be found here: [event report](#)

Thank you to all families and services who attended.

#### **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

#### **Applying for Home to school travel assistance for children starting Reception or Year 7 in September 2024**

If your child is in receipt of an EHCP (Education Health and Care Plan) and in September 2024 your child is;

- joining a primary setting;
- moving to a secondary setting, or;
- transitioning into secondary education and staying at their current school,

you will receive a letter from us with information about applying for transport assistance. If you think that your child may be eligible for support and you would like to apply, please refer to our webpage where you will find the Children's Transport Policy and details of the support available ([www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-transport](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-transport)).

If, after reading the policy, you feel that your child may be eligible, you can apply for travel support by completing a home to school travel application form. Please send an email to [send.transportapplications@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:send.transportapplications@leeds.gov.uk) to request a form. All applications for travel support are assessed in line with the Children's Transport policy. Please note that having an EHCP does not mean that your child will be eligible for support.

Please ensure you submit your application within two weeks of receiving your letter, or **no later than Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024**. If your child's EHCP is still to be finalised, we will work with SENSAP to process your form as soon as possible.

*If your application is received after 12<sup>th</sup> April, it may not be assessed until the summer. Late applications can result in travel assistance for eligible applicants not being in place until several weeks after schools reopen in September. You would be responsible for temporarily organising and funding your child's school travel arrangements until their eligibility for travel support can be assessed.*

Over 3500 children and young people access our travel support, and we assess hundreds of application forms. We thank you for working with us to ensure that your application is processed efficiently before the start of September.

**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](#)

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. Our current waitlist is short.

[Apply for a sessional worker](#)

**SENDIASS service offer**

The new SENDIASS offer video is available on Leeds SENDIASS YouTube channel: [About Our Service](#)

Our About Our Service video provides 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.

You can view information about Leeds SENDIASS on the Leeds Local Offer website: [Leeds SENDIASS | Leeds Local Offer](#)

**The One in Five Podcast**

The [One in Five Podcast](#) is a university support podcast created by disabled students, for disabled students who are considering university. The resource is a collaboration between UniTasterDays, Go Higher West Yorkshire (GHWY) and Kent & Medway Progression Federation (KMPF).

In addition to supporting disabled students making their university decisions, the podcast will also support disabled students currently at university, school and college colleagues, parents, and carers too!

It is called the One in Five to represent that one in five people in the UK have a disability, and tens of thousands of students with a disability attend university each year. All the content you will hear on the podcast is based on the lived experiences of the incredible One in Five student panel – Alice, Dominique, Jessica, Kyle, and Matthew, each with their own story to share.

**Children and young people consultations, opportunities, and events**

*Please share these with young people you work with*

**SEND Next Choices Event**

*Getting ready for adult life*

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024  
Leeds first direct arena

The event will bring together a wide range of organisations who can answer your queries about what to do next if you have a special educational need and / or disability. Find out about jobs, training, apprenticeships, college courses, supported internships, voluntary work, leisure activities, finances, benefits and organisations who can help you.

Young people, parents, carers, teachers and support workers are all welcome.

Book your free ticket at [bit.ly/SEND2024](#)

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**Autism information event**

This April, People in Action, The Advonet Group, Healthwatch Leeds and Connect in the North are running a free information event to show that there is support available for autistic people in Leeds. It will have stalls from a range of services working with adults, children, young people, parents and carers.

It is on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April** from **11am-2pm** at Kirkgate Market. To attend, all you need to do is turn up!

For more information, please email Luke Aylward, The Advonet Group's Communications Lead, at [Luke.Aylward@advonet.org.uk](mailto:Luke.Aylward@advonet.org.uk).

**SENDIASS steering group: 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 2015. 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/carers members to join our steering group.

If you are a parent/carers and are interested in this opportunity, please contact the service for more details:

- email [leedssendiass@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:leedssendiass@leeds.gov.uk)
- telephone: 0113 3785020 (please leave a message and we will return your call).

**SEND information drop ins for parents and carers**

An opportunity for parents and carers to speak to services and receive information and advice about SEND services in Leeds:

- Leeds Local Offer
- SENDIASS
- Scope
- Leeds Parent Carer Forum
- Speech and Language Therapy Service, Leeds Community Healthcare Trust

**10.30am till 12.30pm**

**Sanderson Room, Leeds Central Library**

- Wednesday 24th April 2024
- Wednesday 22nd May 2024
- Wednesday 26th June 2024
- Wednesday 17th July 2024

Contact [LLO@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:LLO@leeds.gov.uk) for more information, and to request a visual walkthrough of the venue.

**SENDIASS support workshops**

SENDIASS trained officers will be available to guide parents and carers through different SEND processes. The sessions aim to increase confidence in navigating SEND processes supporting parents and carers to be able take the next relevant step for their child or young person.

Workshop Session topics and dates are released in half termly blocks and are held at Technorth Family Learning Centre, Harrogate Road, LS7 3NB. (Please contact us for our access Technorth guide if you need this).

You can book a place on a workshop by following the link to Eventbrite on the news and events page of the Leeds SENDIASS

website: <https://sendiass.leeds.gov.uk/events>

**Post 16 Transport Policy Statement and consultation survey**

Leeds are consulting on its proposed Post 16 Transport Policy Statement for 2024/5.

The statement proposed outlines the criteria used for establishing the eligibility for travel concessions for young people aged between 16-18 and 19-25 years of age.

*It should be made clear that it is the only the policy statement that is being reviewed, NOT the Post 16 Transport policy itself. There are no changes to the transport policy.*

We welcome the views of the families and carers of young people affected by the Post 16 Transport Policy. The consultation is open now and closes on the 14th May 2024.

A copy of the proposed policy statement can be viewed here: **Draft Post-16-transport-policy-statement**

If you wish to participate in the consultation process then please do so by clicking here: **<https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/Post16transport2024/>**

**Professionals – resources, opportunities and events**

**Child Friendly Leeds wishes – request**

[Child Friendly Leeds wish 12](#)

**Wish 12: Leeds is an inclusive city for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities**

*Children and young people feel there is more awareness and understanding of different disabilities and that there are more activities and places to go that are accessible to all.*

Part of the wish is around raising awareness and understanding of different disabilities. We are currently working with developers on a new Leeds Local Offer (SEND) website. The website is being developed based on feedback from young people and families over the last 4 years. The new website will go live before the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. As part of the developments we are creating a section which will be dedicated to the Child Friendly Leeds wish 12. Within this section of the website we are looking to share resources that have been developed to raise awareness of SEND (special educational needs and disabilities).

If you, or young people and families you have worked with have developed resources to raise awareness of disabilities please share these with us at [LLO@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:LLO@leeds.gov.uk) so that we can ensure they feature on the website.