

## Voice and Influence of Children and Young People Citywide Report April - September 2023



**Outcome:** Children and young people are active citizens who feel they have voice and influence.

**Indicator:** Number / percentage of CYP participating in city wide ballots, elections for youth representatives, consultations and surveys.

### Highlights:

- Young Minds Get Active [Make Your Move campaign](#)
- Leeds Youth Council influenced development of [online safety campaign](#)
- Leeds Children's Mayor organised his manifesto aim- school Olympics
- CFL wishes action plan launched at Ambassador Event in July
- Leeds 2023 Childrens Day -Reimagined July 14<sup>th</sup> 2023
- BARCA's young person led intergenerational community garden project
- Launch Leeds Youth Alliance new Voice and Influence group
- LS-TEN's programme shaped by feedback /issues from young people
- Shantona young women involved recruiting staff, films and newsletter
- Shine group's project on impact of racism on the mental health of young people – planning and event and developed [podcast](#)
- SEND Youth Forum -raising awareness hidden disabilities new [resource](#)
- [Give it a Go event](#) – planned in response to young people with SEND raising lack of opportunity to try new sports, groups and activities
- Young people influenced criteria- Transforming Mental Health Grants
- [LCH Youth Board](#) & [Leeds Youth Council](#) made films about their group

### Key Data:

- 25,648 pupils from 202 Schools- 22/23 My Health My School survey
- (20 Youth groups) 214 CYP consulted - Child Poverty Board Consultation
- 110 people attended Leeds Mind Young People's mental health event
- 6 youth voice -commissioning city-wide Mental Health support service
- 56 CYP (14 primary schools) -Leeds Childrens Mayor summit
- MindMate & Leeds Youth Council [social media campaign exam stress](#) reached 36,887 accounts and received 26,021 views

### Issues / Priorities

- The refreshed CFL wishes (July 2022) reflect the top issues of CYP in the city [12 wishes \(leeds.gov.uk\)](#).The wishes are being used to refresh the priorities in Leeds Childrens and Young People's Plan 2023-28.
- New Leeds Children's Mayor Manifesto Priority -[Climate Change](#)
- Top issue voted in the Make Your Mark ballot 2022 was Health and Wellbeing. Further [consultation](#) highlighted: exam stress, raising awareness of mental health services and vaping.
- YP with SEND -Raising awareness disabilities & imp of communication
- Issues raised third sector groups that are concerning young people:
  - anxiety, low self-esteem and recreational drug use
  - how to access support for mental health
  - racism not being addressed in community/ school and impact of racism on young people's mental health
  - violence against women and anxiety/ fear about knife crime & gangs
  - lack safe spaces after school (need for more youth groups/ provision) and positive activities in holidays
  - worries about the future and access jobs/ training

### Next Steps and Key dates (October 23- March 24)

- [Big Leeds Chat](#) taking place across city from October
- [Election](#) – new Leeds members UK Youth Parliament
- Community Youth Summits- October– March
- SENate Youth Voice Summit November 14<sup>th</sup>
- SEND Partnership Board and Corporate Parenting Board takeovers
- Short Breaks and Fun Activities Review/ Consultation –December
- Child Friendly Leeds Wishes (CFL) Campaign – [Wish 3](#) - December
- LGBT+ Youth Summit on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January
- School Food Ambassadors (SFA) Pupil Training in February 2023
- Opportunity for YP to vote in [Make Your Mark Ballot](#) – February
- Recruit young people's planning group to plan CFL awards (July)

## Highlights of how children and young people have had a voice and influence across services and organisations in Leeds from April to September 2023

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## Leeds Childrens Poverty Board Consultation

- During July – September 2023 the Voice Influence and Change team worked in partnership with the Childrens Poverty Board to develop a consultation to help identify priorities from young people for the refresh of the Child Poverty Strategy and Child Poverty Board.
- To be able to identify what the children and young people’s priorities are for tackling poverty, a range of multiple choice and open-ended questions were posed in the consultation designed for use in group settings. The group approach was selected to facilitate a more open and engaging environment for discussion, as well as utilising a safe space with known and trusted youth workers to oversee and support on potentially emotional and distressing conversations.
- Key features of the consultation such as the use of the third person and including a variety of multiple choice and open-ended questions were influenced by the success of the annual consultations conducted as part of the Children of Wales poverty plan.
- The consultation began with demographic questions relating to the age range and ethnicity of the young people participating. The subsequent questions were designed to cover three key settings that children and young people can identify the implications of poverty: school, home and local area/community. The final two questions of the consultation ask the young people to identify positive actions that have already been taken to address child poverty, and actions that have been unsuccessful or ineffective and how they can be improved. These questions help to identify the priorities of the children and young people in a practical way and understand how they interact with existing policies and services.
- The consultation activity (session plan and PowerPoint) was distributed to youth groups and youth voice groups across the city.
- 20 groups participated and the views of 214 children and young people shared their views. The groups included Team Daniel, SEND Youth Forum, Leeds Youth Council, Children in Care Council/ Care Leavers Council, MindMate Ambassadors, BARCA Leeds, Ebor Gardens Youth Group, YouthWatch, Halton Moor Youth group, Tingley Youth Club, Swillington Mobile- youth service, Rothwell Windmill Youth Club, Kippax Kicks, Hunslet Youth Club, Outer South Matters, Methley Youth Club, Garforth Kicks, East Ardsley Youth Club and Crossgates and Whinmoor Youth Club.
- The findings of the report will be presented to the Child Poverty Board on the 24th of October 2023 and a follow-up report will be distributed to the consultation participants in November outlining the steps that the poverty board will be taking to address the priorities raised in the consultation.  
For more information contact vic@leeds.gov.uk

## Public Health Annual Report

The Director of Public Health focused her annual report in 2022 on children. The report aims to highlight the experience of children during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic and understand the immediate and ongoing impact of this experience to inform how we should respond to support children and families to support them to have healthy lives.

- The first stage of the report was a literature review (100 papers) to identify key themes.
- Then an online survey completed by 99 professionals working with children and young people.
- Following this there was a call for creative submissions. 8 children and young people created an online submission to explain how the pandemic impacted them and 6 completed this at Kirkgate Market.
- Focus groups with 46 children and young people and 25 parents at Shakespeare Primary, Allerton CE Primary, LS-TEN Skate Park and Parklands Childrens Centre.
- Over 100 pieces of artwork and timelines produced by children and young people were supplied through the community engagement approaches.
- A short film was developed in partnership with children and young people to capture their experiences through the pandemic [“in our shoes” film](#)
- A [children’s summary version](#) of the final report was produced and all children and young people involved were invited to attend an event to learn more about the key findings and thank them for their participation.

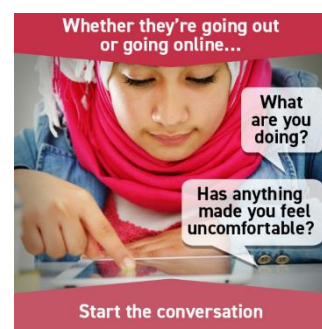


- 11 key themes were identified in response to this consultation data and quotes, drawing and feedback from children and young people are included throughout the report.
- The Director of Public Health Report calls upon Leeds City Council and its partners to:
  - Focus on keeping children safe,
  - Prioritise work around children's and parents' mental health,
  - Increase access to healthy food and create more chances to be active and access green spaces,
  - Support children to catch up on lost education,
  - Focus on how to make life fairer for families living in poverty in Leeds.
  - Children's healthcare to be accessible, especially dentistry, speech and language therapy and mental health services.
- 10 Recommendations were developed which include as recommendation 1  
*"All partners in Leeds to ensure the voices of children and young people are central to all work planned, taking into account the Child Friendly Leeds 12 Wishes."*
- An update report will be developed and published in 2024  
 Blog and full report is available [here](#)

## Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership

To provide insight to the development of the "start the conversation" campaign, the Leeds Youth Council were asked for their opinions on online safety. The group provided valuable feedback on their own experiences and in particular the terminology and phrases that they used when online. All of this information was used to ensure that the campaign was on message and relevant to young people's experiences.

The '[start the conversation' campaign](#) is currently running across the county.



## BARCA – Leeds (Children and Young Persons Team)

### Top Issues:

Barca's Violence Reduction Unit Project attended the West Yorkshire Youth Commission Big Conversation Conference for Violence Reduction. There was a presentation and Q&A put together by 1300 young people. Young people shared the main topics that they want support with in order to make change.

These were -

- Attitudes and violence toward women
- Drugs, gangs and knife crime
- Community relationships and life
- Rehabilitation and prevention

Barca worked with a Leeds Secondary School and held group work sessions where young people made podcasts to debate and discuss topics. During these sessions young people identified that:

- They felt knife and gang crime were a problem in their areas
- Young people did not feel they have safe places to attend after school with friends
- There was little understanding or education on sex, sexual health and relationships

### Over the last 6 months:

#### Jubilee Project: Broadlea Community Centre Garden Makeover.

- Our "Spring into Action" sessions brought together people of all ages within the Bramley community to make over the tired, unattended garden space at the Broadlea Community Centre. Barca along with other organisations such as Bramley Care Bears, Linking Leeds and the Youth Service have delivered sessions, foodbanks etc from this centre for many years. Although the inside of the centre underwent a makeover last year the garden area left a lot to be desired.
- Young people who attend our Voice, Influence and Participation group decided it needed to be made into a pleasant, functional space for the community. They made it more user friendly and sustainable. A



greenhouse was purchased and seeds such as strawberries, tomatoes, lettuce etc were planted. They made the planters out of recycled pallet wood which was donated by community members. The multi-generational group worked together well to make the vision come to life. Young people worked hard at weekly sessions over a period of 3 months, tidying, gardening, making and painting planters and even created an outdoor seating area ready for summer 2023.

- The young people then helped to plan and deliver an open celebration event for the community to launch the space which showcased all their skill and hard work. In addition to the garden makeover, they partnered up with a local community charity 'Bramley Care Bears' and volunteered to assist with garden makeovers for vulnerable and elderly residents. Young people also took part in other volunteering opportunities over the summer including Barca's national playday event, community litter picks, Armley food pantry and the delivery of the Play Box situated on Armley Moor. 8 young people from our VIP group made these projects happen.



### **Young people's voices influencing staff training and programmes**

- Due to young people voicing concerns and support needs around the issue of violence against women, staff attended the Squaring Up ABC Train the Trainers Course. This is training designed to assist youth workers deliver sessions to young men to challenge views about women in order to tackle violence against women and girls.
- Sessions from this training have now been incorporated into our ten-week group work program currently within a Leeds Secondary School. We also added a sex and healthy relationships session as this was identified by young people as something they had a lack of understanding of. 20 targeted young people per week are engaged in issue-based groupwork at the school.

### **Leeds Youth Alliance – Voice and Influence Group**

- The Pears Fund has enabled the Leeds Youth Alliance to establish a Young Persons Voice and Influence group to represent and help shape the consortium. Over the past year opportunities have been made available to young people including trips, events, a training session around participation with Yorkshire & Humber's Youth Work Unit, even a summer residential! All with aim of developing positive relationships, participation and leadership skills between the different young people attending third sector youth provision across East, West and South Leeds.
- The young people who have now formed this VIC group have feedback that they would like to take more responsibility for planning events and therefore have been allocated some funds to put on an activity within their communities, during the lead up to Christmas. The next meeting will be held in January 2024, we are excited to see the partnership blossom and for what these young people plan and deliver in the new year! 25 young people have been involved in this project and the final VIC group is made up of 12 representatives.

### **Next 6 months:**

- Some of the young people who attend weekly football sessions (45+ attendees some weeks) on the Multi-Use Games Area behind Broadlea Community Centre have expressed concern about some of the floodlights no longer working. This has clearly become an issue as the dark nights draw in. A 13-year-old local boy who attends Barca's VIP group and the football sessions is in contact with his local councillors about the issue and looking into whether support/ funding is available to get the floodlights working.
- Big Leeds Chat are planning to attend two of our youth groups in November.
- Young people identified that they felt they didn't have safe places to attend after school with their friends. A bid has been put in, in order to fund a new youth club in the Hyde Park / little London areas to give young people the opportunities to be informally educated, have fun, learn new skills and have somewhere safe to attend afterschool. 40 young people were involved in this consultation.

[Home](#) | [Barca-Leeds](#) [Leeds Youth Alliance](#)

## **LS-TEN**

### **Top Issues:**

Throughout our Youth Club, we understand that many young people are facing issues around anxiety and low self-esteem and are engaging in high-risk behaviours including the use of recreational drugs regularly. Young



people have made disclosures to us around these issues, along with other concerns around a lack of positive activities for them to engage in.

#### Last 6 months:

- Recreational Drug Use: Based on discussions we had with young people accessing our provision we arranged a visit from Forward Leeds to lead a frank and open discussion around the potential risks of taking drugs. (30-45 young people attend Youth Club weekly)
- First Aid: The young people we engage with at our youth club comment that they are often concerned that if a friend is in trouble or in a medical emergency, they would be unsure how to assist them. We delivered a session on CPR with our youth club, providing them with additional skills and confidence. (30 - 45 young people engage in our weekly youth club)
- Lack of positive activities during the school holidays: Many of the young people we work with struggle to access positive activities throughout the holidays due to financial barriers. Many have also commented that their anxiety prevents them from partaking in the same activities as their peers. In response, we applied for funding from the Sir George Martin Trust to deliver two separate blocks of trips to skateparks around Leeds and Manchester during the Summer and October school holidays. This meant we could provide an unforgettable experience for 10 young people with the help of our coaches, allowing them to visit skateparks they would previously not be able to access. We were also able to provide each attendee with a new skateboard, giving them the means to continue to engage in their hobby without the worry of affording new equipment. [Skateboarding Trips Film](#)

#### Next 6 Months:

- We are in the process of arranging further visits from organisations to deliver workshops at our youth club. We will be booking organisations with relevant experience in the areas that concern or service users the most, such as Battle Scars and Forward Leeds.
- We have noticed an increased need for more youth club sessions which offer a safe and positive environment in which children and young people can develop their social skills and engage in wheeled sports. As our current youth club is at full capacity, some of our less confident attendees feel uncomfortable involving themselves in the activities we deliver. We have applied for funding to deliver another youth club session to alleviate this and ensure we can reach the children and young people that need it most.
- We will be conducting an anonymous survey among our youth club attendees over the coming weeks to gather feedback on the service we currently provide. We would like to offer a more diverse range of activities to ensure we can engage every attendee.

## Shantona Women Centre

#### Top Issues:

##### Consultation with the girl's club members:

- 70% were **worried about the future and more specially access to training and jobs**, especially as competition to secure university places and apprenticeships.
- 60% have asked for **further information on how to access support with their mental health** in bridging the understanding between generations and asking for help on how to have open and transparent conversations about their own mental health without isolating themselves from the community further and feeling stigmatised.
- 45% are becoming **increasingly anxious about knife crime** in the local area and have been particularly affected by the London teenager who was stabbed trying to help her friend and the impact that will have locally, and the increasing confidence young people have in carrying knives.

#### Last 6 months:

- Young people are now routinely involved in recruiting new staff to the charity. 7 young people played an instrumental role in recruiting two new youth workers. This included devising questions and scoring the session.
- In contributing to our 25 years work: 10 young people contribute to our newsletter, to share their experiences of working with Shantona and the different opportunities they get involved in regarding social action in Harehills and campaign has been put together as Harehills heroes.

- Young people have been included in videos as part of the 25-year strategy to be shared regionally and beyond to showcase the impact of the work in strengthening communities and inspiring young people.

### Next 6 months:

- Young people are going to be involved in developing youth work tender
- Additional support for young people around mental health and school holidays programme

[www.shantona.co.uk](http://www.shantona.co.uk)

## St Luke's CARES Shine Project – Young Change Makers

The project was developed out of a need expressed by girls in the Shine project who collectively felt that the issue of racism was not being addressed either in the community or at school. In partnership with UK Youth, The Shine Project applied to be part of the Young Change Makers initiative funded by the Diana Award. The Young Change Makers come together to reimagine health services for young people from racialised communities.



### Last 6 months

- The Shine Project – Young Change Makers have spent time together learning about the challenges of mental health and a system that often lacks the required 'cultural competence' to understand the lived experience of racism.
- To help create more awareness of the effects racism can have on the mental health of young people the Young Change Makers have planned a 'Shine – Get Together' event to create more awareness of this issue and to promote self-care for all girls to have positive mental health. As part of the project, the Young Change Makers were able to visit a place that would broaden their knowledge in this area. The group chose to visit the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool. This helped the group to reflect on the roots of racism in society and how society has changed.
- The group have decided that they would like to create a lasting resource for the project that can be used in various settings to inform teachers etc of how not challenging racism in educational settings can affect young people. The group are producing a podcast at Chapel FM to discuss this and the wider issues of mental health on November 29<sup>th</sup>.

[St Luke's Cares: The Shine Project Podcast – Chapel FM](#)

## Mindmate Leeds

### Last 6 months:

#### Campaigns, Blogs and Podcasts

- BBC Radio Leeds interviewed a MindMate Ambassador (MMA) about lived experience of accessing support services for anxiety.
- Young Minds Get Active campaign in partnership with MindMate about link between physical and mental health -video production and partnership campaign page/ social media postings [Get moving - MindMate](#)
- Partnership with Leeds Voice, Influence and Change team to campaign on Exam Stress including development of campaign page on MindMate [Exam time - MindMate](#)
- MMA blogged about eco-anxiety [Coping with Eco-Anxiety: Taking Care of Yourself - MindMate](#)
- MMAs worked with Ashfield Primary to blog about their mini MindMate Ambassador work [MindMate Ambassadors at Ashfield Primary - MindMate](#)
- Kim blogged about the link between mental health and hobbies [How hobbies can be a great benefit to mental health - MindMate](#)
- Kim blogged in support of the Child Friendly Leeds wish #1 campaign ["Knowing how and where to get support with mental health or wellbeing if you need it"](#)
- Greta blogged about how she used meditation to quit vaping [How meditation helped me quit vaping - MindMate](#) and about ADHD and her mediation journey [My journey with ADHD medication and approaching exams - MindMate](#)

- Greta also recorded a podcast with Elle about their lived experience of Autism and ADHD diagnoses  
[Podcast #19: Not an excuse, but an explanation - MindMate](#)

### School Visits and Events

- MMAs ran a MindMate Awareness stall at Fire Engine Day and supported 25 selfie frame snaps for social media.
- MMA team ran 2 awareness stalls in Leeds East Academy -focussed on exam stress. Collecting selfie frame snaps for social media. 118 students took part in the voucher competition.
- MindMate supported Healthwatch to run a stall at Yeadon Carnival.
- Young Minds get Active event with 20 children and young people hosted by Re-establish supported by MMA.
- MMA ran an awareness stall and engaged with SEND students at Lighthouse School, 18 students took part in competition about body confidence - answers shared on social networks.
- Supported MindMate SPA team to run a MindMate stall at SEND Event.
- MMAs spoke at Child Friendly Leeds Ambassador workshop about the importance of investing in CYP mental health.
- MindMate supported MindWell to distribute MindMate rainbow wristbands at Leeds Pride
- MMA team ran an awareness stall at Leeds City College Quarry Hill campus during their freshers fare and asked students about the link between their physical and mental health.
- MindMate Ambassadors-2 days engaging young people and families at Leeds Trinity.
- MMA ran an awareness stall at Ruth Gorse Academy and ran a question competition about how social media effects mental health. 78 students took part - and the best answer awarded by MMA team was ***“social media can lead to people having high expectations like a slimmer body, lighter skin stuff like that - can lead to body dysmorphia and that can affect your mental health”***
- MMAs attended Leeds City College (Printworks campus) Freshers Fare where 23 students took part in the competition answering questions about cost of living and its effect on mental health.



### Website development/ digital communication

- Updates on urgent help page in response to SEND youth forum input.
- Formed partnership with Leeds Health and Care Partnership to review the MindMate content for young parents.
- Digital assets were designed for use in Trinity Leeds and White Rose - MMAs worked alongside designers to approve messages and design.

### Consultation and Co-production

- Former MMA spoke at health care conference about her input into the Networked Data Lab project.
- SEND youth forum had a session on MindMate and gave their feedback on the website. Their comments were taken by the MindMate team and responded to but updating the urgent help pages to include information for young adults.
- 3 MMAs contributed to a Child poverty consultation through VIC Team for the Leeds Child Poverty Board.
- MMAs formed partnership with Youth Watch to oversee CYP steer in commissioning process of city-wide Mental Health support service. During Summer 2023 the youth panel liaised with youth forums/ groups across the city to gather their views on what is important in the procurement of this support service for CYP. 6 youth groups formally fed into the process –Leeds GATE (Gypsy and Traveller exchange), Care Leavers council, Out 2 18 group (LGBT+), PAFRAS (asylum seeker youth group), Youth Watch and SEND Youth Forum (special educational needs and disability youth forum)

### Next 6 months:

- Recruitment process of a new MindMate Ambassador team
- Continue to facilitate peer led conversations in schools and colleges about mental health and 'hot topics'
- Continue to gather blogs and podcasts from young people to populate social media and website content to share lived experience and reach out to other children and young people in the city



## Leeds Mind

### Leeds Mind Young People's Steering Group

#### Last 6 months:

- 110 people attended our **'Young people present: Our ideas for mental health support' event** in September, which was an opportunity for services and decision makers to hear directly from young people about their experiences and ideas for mental health support. Young people were involved in a wide range of ways including event planning, presenting, sharing art and poetry, DJing, and facilitating activities.
- One young person presented, and one facilitated a workshop at the West Yorkshire Peer Support Work **Conference** in June. The presentation shared the impact of a peer-led approach, and the workshop shared how we worked in partnership with young people to design Leeds Mind's Youth in Mind support.
- 6 young people contributed their experiences and ideas to help inform the criteria for the Transforming Mental Health Grants for support for young people with complex mental health needs transitioning into adult services.



#### Next 6 months:

- Use information gathered at our event to identify priorities for the next year
- Facilitate a workshop at the national Mind Federation Conference on working in partnership with young people to design services
- Expand the steering group, with a particular focus on diversifying the membership, and work with young people to design a way to involve more consistently those who are not in a position to commit to steering group meetings

<https://www.leedsmind.org.uk/young-people/>

## Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust Youth Board

#### Last 6 months:

- We developed a shadowing scheme for young people with aspirations of working in health and care. This scheme will give members of the Youth Board the opportunity to gain experience shadowing roles at Leeds Community Healthcare which may help with their decisions around career choices. Five young people were involved in developing this scheme and have now shadowed the role of a Paediatrician.
- Two young people took part in a Patient Led Assessment of the Care Environment (PLACE) at Hannah House. This was the first time that young people have taken part in these for our Trust.
- We held a social media take over event in which eleven young people took over our 0-19's children's services social media accounts for the day. They posted various comments on a wide range of subjects from firework safety to exam revision tips.
- We have developed a [new video](#) about the Youth Board



#### Next 6 months

- We held our first annual meeting and 15 young people attended along with young people from Leeds GATE (Gypsy and Traveller Exchange) whom we link in with each month. This was key in planning our next six months and looking back at what we have achieved.
- We are exploring how Youth Board members can take part in quality walks of our children's services which are normally carried out by staff members. This will be the first time that young people have taken part in these.
- We are keen to link in with schools, offering opportunities such as pupils taking part on our staff recruitment panels, our projects and developing our children's services.

[Community Healthcare NHS Trust - Youth Board](#)

## Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

- Plans to carry out involvement and engagement with children in the Leeds Children's Hospital - meeting with Children's Patient Experience Lead to explore this in Jan '24
- Work with young people within Family Action organisation to adapt existing tools supporting adult carers, ensuring they are suitable for young carers, for example, the Carers Conversation Sheet.
- Continue co-facilitating Carer & Young Carer Awareness Training in Hospitals, collaboratively with Family Action and Carers Leeds.

## Health and Wellbeing Services- Leeds City Council

### Last 6 months:

- **My Health, My School Annual School (MHMS) Survey** - A record-breaking number of responses were received for the last academic year (2022-23) with a total of **25,648** pupil responses from **202** Leeds schools representing the largest ever number of responses since the survey began over 16 years ago! This is a free on-line survey for pupils in Years 5, 6, 7, 9 and 11 as well as pupils attending any Specialist Inclusive Learning Centres (SILCs) and post-16 settings in Leeds. The survey gathers important pupil perception data and measures health behaviours contributing to school improvement by providing instant school level data across a range of key areas including Healthy Eating; Physical Activity; PE and Sport; Gambling; Personal, Social, Health & Economic (PSHE) education; Play; Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco; Sexual Health; Social, Emotional and Mental Health; Safety and Anti-bullying. A full review (content and functionality) and consultation of the survey question set was undertaken with 8 schools (6 primary, 1 secondary, 1 post 16). New visuals, support websites, hover buttons and size of fonts have changed as a result of pupil/student feedback. The main survey for 2023-24 went live to schools and settings on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and has already resulted in more than 4,358 pupils from 41 schools completing the survey so far.
- There are currently a total of 102 schools and settings in Leeds that have received a copy of the **School Food Ambassador (SFA) Toolkit** that engages young people to take the lead for school food in their setting, improving lunchtimes and advocating for healthy food choices.
- **MindMate Ambassadors** encourage and empower pupils to take a proactive role in improving social, emotional and mental health in their schools. School MindMate Ambassadors become role models and advocates who champion positive attitudes and behaviours and lead by example helping to improve the social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing of the whole school. Two training sessions have been completed with primary schools and 1 with Benton Park.

### Next 6 months

- We will deliver School Food Ambassadors (SFA) Pupil Training in February 2023. Attending schools can bring up to 2 pupils to the training to improve their skills and confidence as Ambassadors and take learning back to their school. [School food ambassador's pupil training | Leeds for Learning](#)
- The findings from the **My Health, My School Annual School Survey** 2022-23 will be the primary focus of the MHMS Steering Group at its next meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> December where a range of council services will consider how they have used the findings from the 2022-23 survey and how they will promote greater uptake of the 2023-24 MHMS Survey. The same meeting will be asked to consider approval of a review of the MHMS SEND surveys.

## SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice Support Service)

### Last 6 months:

- Our information videos developed based on feedback from young people and providing young people with information on key SEND topics have been viewed over 200 times in the last 6 months.
- We attended the young people SENATE Event on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and ran an information stall at Leeds Civic Hall meeting 15 young people and supporters, sharing resources and service information increasing young people's awareness of the service offer. More young people told us at the event that they had heard of SENDIASS before.

### Next 6 months:

- Leeds SENDIASS will be publishing a new young person animation on the SENDIASS You Tube channel aimed at promoting young people's knowledge of and access to the information for young people on the Leeds SENDIASS website.
- We continue to use feedback from young people to develop the young people's section of the Leeds SENDIASS website.

[Young people \(leeds.gov.uk\)](https://www.leeds.gov.uk/young-people)



## Voice Influence and Change Team (VIC Team)

### Leeds Youth Council and UK Youth Parliament Leeds

- Leeds Youth Council campaign group (3 Members of Youth Parliament and 12 members of the Leeds Youth Council) have been meeting once a month to continue their campaigns around health and wellbeing, the top issue voted for in the Make Your Mark Ballot.
- One of the key themes identified from their [campaign](#) was exam stress and their work has increased access to information for children and young people about this issue through a partnership with MindMate. They developed a social media campaign about exam stress, reaching a total of 36,887 accounts and receiving a total of 26,021 views. They also reviewed the MindMate [webpages](#).
- The group developed an exam stress survey leading to good practice examples from members' schools about their approach to supporting students. This will be shared at a presentation at the secondary head teacher's forum in November 2023. The group plan to audit all secondary school websites to determine how many have a mental health and wellbeing page and to develop best practice tips and / or a template in support another key themes, raising awareness of mental health services, identified from their [campaign](#).
- The Leeds Members of Youth Parliament attended a regional convention in which they came together with other Members of Youth Parliament to discuss regional campaigns, undertake consultations and find out more about youth voice work across the region.
- The also attended an annual conference to take part in workshops, debate, create and change national manifesto policy, and network with other Members of Youth Parliament from across the UK.
- Over the last 6 months, Members of the Leeds Youth Council network and Members of Youth Parliament have been invited to attend different workshops or campaign activities. These include:
  - Community Cohesion
  - Oral health
  - Child Poverty Strategy
- Members of the Leeds Youth Council helped produce a film to raise awareness of youth voice opportunities in Leeds. Please [watch the film](#) and share it with the young people you work with. They are also going to be involved in the development of a promotional video to increase the reach of the network and help spread the word about the benefits of youth voice.
- In the next 6 months, the VIC team are planning on reviewing the offer for the Leeds Youth Council network to ensure they are able to help shape services for young people, develop their skills and confidence to raise their voices, develop an understanding of issues that shape decision making and learn about youth voice in Leeds. In addition, the current Members of Youth Parliament will end their two-year term and elections will open for 3 new Members of Youth Parliament.
- Schools and youth groups across the city are being encouraged to register their settings to take part in the Make Your Mark Ballot 2024 which will go live in February 2024.



## Leeds Children's Mayor

- Mason worked with his school to plan and run an [accessible Olympics](#) on Monday 17th July, fulfilling the main manifesto pledge. Local ward Councillors donated some of their MICE money, contributing to their role as active community leaders. As a result of the task and finish group chaired by Cllr Venner, Breeze supported Mason's school with their accessible Olympics event by providing a football speedshot.
- Mason attended a summit, held by the VIC team in May 2023, to promote his winning manifesto and share his [school's Olympics guide](#) to encourage other schools to support his pledge and hold a similar event. 56 children from 14x primary schools attended the event, enabling them to implement ideas from the winning manifesto, as well as supporting children and young people to write effective manifestos for next year's elections. The schools were invited based on their location in the city and previous participation with the programme.
- Mason developed a [video](#) providing a personal insight into the impact the programme had, as well as promoted the winning manifesto, the events they attended and the Leeds Children's Mayor programme, thereby promoting youth voice opportunities. The video has had over 150 views and was shared via the VIC network and at the Leeds Children's Mayor summit.
- Over the last 6 months, Mason has been involved in lots of engagements including:
  - Leeds United v Crystal Palace game - 8<sup>th</sup> April 2023
  - Rob Burrows Marathon – 14<sup>th</sup> May 2023
  - Yorkshire Ability Triathlon – 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023
  - Leeds Children's Mayor Summit – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023
  - Opening of the Beryl Burton Flower Bed – 10<sup>th</sup> June 2023
  - Armed Forces Day Flag raising event - Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2023
  - Leeds Music Education Partnership's Youth Music Festival Celebration Concert 2023 – 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023
  - Leeds Armed Forces Day – Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2023
  - Temple Newsam Fun Day – 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2023
  - Summer Reading Challenge – 8<sup>th</sup> July 2023
  - Leeds 2023 Children's Day – 14<sup>th</sup> July 2023
  - CFL Live - 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023
  - SNAPS Superhero Challenge – 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023
  - Celebrating Cottage Road Cinema – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023
- Mason Hicks' served his one-year term as Leeds Children's Mayor and a new winner was announced on 5<sup>th</sup> October at a final's night event, Mohammed Hussein from Ireland Wood Primary School. 33 Primary schools submitted manifestos which were shortlisted to a final 12 by a group of youth councillors on 11th July. The finalists had a very busy summer campaigning and canvassing for votes, resulting a total number of 11,111 votes cast!
- Mohammed's manifesto focuses on protecting the environment (Child Friendly Leeds wish number 5), he wants to beat climate change through tree planting and community clean up events, creating a composting program and a community garden. Read his [manifesto](#) and consider how you can support and implement his ideas.
- In the next 6 months, Mohammed will deputise to full council in November 2023 and read his manifesto to all 99 councillors. He will be supported by Democratic Services to attend a variety of civic functions throughout the year. He will attend a summit organised by the Voice, Influence and Change Team in May 2024 to promote his manifesto and help others write effective manifestos for next year's elections. Mohammed will also develop a guide for schools explaining how they can support his manifesto by, for example, taking part in a community clean up.



## Children and young people with SEND /SEND Youth Forum

### Top priorities:

- Raising awareness of disabilities
- Importance of communicating with young people with SEND



- Access to fun activities and sports

#### Last 6 months:

- [Resource - raising awareness of disabilities and how to support young people](#). The SEND Youth Forum have worked together to create a **booklet** of various journeys and challenges of young people with SEND to help professionals help them. The resource is not just about knowing how professionals can support young people, but to understand how young people might perceive and feel during these experiences.
- Members of the Leeds SEND Youth Forum have been developing **“Communicating with young people with SEND eLearning”**. They designed the training, objectives and wrote the scripts. Filming is planned for November 2023.
- **Give it a go event** - Students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) across Leeds have continuously shared with us how they would like the opportunity to ‘try out’ different sports, groups and activities available to them in Leeds. On Thursday 6th July 2023; 69 students with SEND in Leeds attended the Give it a Go event at John Charles Centre for Sport. The event gave young people with SEND the opportunity to try out different activities and sports that are on offer to them in the city, known as short breaks and fun activities. The event was funded by Community Committees. Full event report can be found [here](#)



#### Next 6 months:

- Launch “Communicating with young people with SEND” eLearning (early 2024)
- Leeds Area SEND Partnership Board Takeover (November 2023)
- SENate – SEND Summit (November 2023) The Leeds Area SEND Partnership Board Takeover and the SENate will focus on the 12 Friendly Leeds wishes and which wish is most important to young people with SEND. Young people will share what we are doing well in Leeds and their ideas for the wishes in the future. The feedback will be shared directly with the wish leads.
- The SEND Youth Forum will be looking at the results of the wishes consultation and choosing their new project / campaign.  
[The SEND Youth Forum \(leeds.gov.uk\)](http://leeds.gov.uk)

## Child Friendly Leeds Team

- The team organised a Child Friendly Leeds Ambassador Event hosted at Temple Newsam Museum in July. At the event, Ambassadors learnt more about the [12 wishes](#), met the lead officers for each wish and explored how they could potentially support the wishes.
- Council officers have been identified as leads for each wish (from a range of different directorates) and have developed short term (1 year) and longer-term goals (5 years) in partnership with wider teams and services which has formed the CFL wishes action plan. An update on progress against the wishes will be developed for July 2024.
- From October 2023, a [communications campaign](#) will begin, focusing on a wish per month with blogs, social media posts and articles promoting the wish and work across the city taking place to support the wish.
- The team are working in partnership with City Varieties who are leading on the recruitment of a new group of young people to plan and deliver the Child Friendly Leeds awards in 2024.

## Community Committees/Communities Team

### Youth Activity Fund

Each Community Committee has been allocated a Youth Activity Fund which it is responsible for administering. The Youth Activity Fund has been made available to provide local activities for children and young people aged 8-17 years across the city. The Youth Activity Fund can provide money for activities that offer opportunities for play, arts, sport and culture, which enable young people to have fun, get creative and have new experiences both after school and during the school holidays. The fund requires the engagement and participation of children and young people in the decision making and evaluation. Children and young people are involved in the funding process and advise Community Committees on the activities they would like to take part in, in their respective areas.



## Youth Summits

Youth Summits are an opportunity for young people aged 8-17 years living in Leeds to learn about local democracy, as well as influencing the decision making of the Youth Activity Fund, by taking part in a consultation exercise that informs the Community Committee's budget spend. Building on a commitment to engage and involve children and young people in decision making in their own communities, young people get involved in choosing which activities should be supported by the committees, from respective (committee) Youth Activity Funds.

### Last 6 months

- In preparation for the planning for this municipal year's Youth Summits, the Communities Team met with the Voice & Influence Team & Children's Champions in a Youth Summits: Lessons Learned meeting. At this meeting everyone reflected on the previous year's events and offered learning to inform future ways of working. It was agreed in the meeting that the Youth Summit 'offer' for the Community Committees in 2023 will be the same as the previous year, therefore the agenda, format & outcomes, as well as the measurement of success remain the same.
- The Youth Activity Fund Consultation Surveys for 2023 went 'live'.

**YAF Survey link:** <https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/H5X5TG/>

**YAF SEND Survey:** <https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/4VGG2V/>

- The last day that young people can respond is the 31st of March 2024. Promotion of the online consultation survey is ongoing by the Communities Team, with publicity being posted on the committee Facebook pages, publicity being sent out to all our school & cluster contacts, youth groups and other organisations that are funded, or work with young people in each of the Community Committee areas, as well as being circulated to our mailing lists.
- In addition to this, the Communities Team attended various events & festivals over the summer months, to consult with young people in person. Where this is the case, this consultation will be input onto the online survey, where all feedback from young people will feed into a Youth Activity Fund Consultation Report for each respective committee area. This will, in principle, inform the Youth Activity Fund Budget spend for the next financial year.
- The **Inner West Community Committee** have been looking into the possibility of having young people involved as co-optees of the committee. These conversations are continuing to be explored via the Children & Families Subgroup.
- The **Outer South Children & Families Subgroup** meeting has a number of young people that regularly attend its meetings from the Youth Matters Group, which is a group coordinated by Youth Services. Between 5 & 10 young people have the opportunity to attend once a term and get involved in any agenda items that are discussed at the subgroup meeting with its core members. The children & young people also have the opportunity to feedback their thoughts and influence decisions making on funding applications that are presented to the subgroup, for consideration from the Outer South Community Committees YAF Budget.
- The **Inner West Community Committee Children & Families Subgroup** dedicated a whole meeting in July 2023, to respond to issues raised by young people at the Youth Summit event in 2022. This was fed back to schools and youth groups attending the Youth Summit in October 2023.
- The Community Committees are asked to note the recommendation that any projects funded by committees from its Youth Activity Fund, focus on key themes and priorities identified at a local level by young people, via the Youth Summits & Youth Activity Fund Consultation Survey.

### Next 6 months

- As a key objective for the Community Committees is that we engage with a wide variety of young people and that this engagement reflects the diversity of the city, the Communities Team will run a workshop at the **SEND Youth Summit** in November 2023 to consult with young people that have special education needs & disabilities. In addition to this, the Communities Team will be delivering a **LGBT+ Youth Summit** on the 29<sup>th</sup> of Jan 2024, as well as working closely with various officers in the council and external organisations, in an attempt to engage with young carers and young people that are home schooled.
- As we appreciate and understand that each community is different, the specific arrangements for each summit will be worked through using a collaborative approach and progressed by relevant officers in the Communities Team, the Voice & Influence Team and the Children's Champions for each respective committee area, with **all Youth Summits being delivered between October 2023 & March 2024.**

- The priority for all 10 Community Committees is the delivery of the Youth Summits & engagement with the YAF consultation survey that will inform YAF Budget spend for 2024/25 across the whole of Leeds.
- Children & Families Subgroups will continue to operate across Community Committees, and they will provide leadership, support, monitoring of performance and when required, decision making re: issues and matters that relate to children and young people.
- The Community Committees/Communities Team will continue to look at new ways of engaging and working with young people by working closely with the Voice Influence and Change Team.

[Inner West Community Committee](#)  
[Council and democracy \(leeds.gov.uk\)](#)

## Leeds Youth Service – Swillington / Rothwell

Young people from the voice & influence groups / senior member volunteers participated in the recent Advanced Youth Work Practitioner interviews. The group made up the “young people’s panel” and interviewed each candidate with a series of 6 questions, scored each one and then discussed each candidate with the “adult panel”. Their scores and views were added to a whole group discussion before all deciding on the best candidate for the role.



## Policy and Plans (City Development)

### Local Plan Update – Leeds 2040

**What we’ve been doing:** We’re exploring opportunities to embed child-friendly city policies within the local plan, subject to further engagement with stakeholders, including elected members

**What we’re going to do next:** Continue to collaborate with Child-Friendly Leeds and Voice Influence and Change teams to further develop possible options for a child-friendly city policy, as well as develop engagement material suitable for children and young people for our next round of consultation that applies to all elements of the Local Plan.