

Every Child Matters Update

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Switch on to the Breeze Youth Promise

At the switch on to Leeds Lights, a short film directed and produced by young people will trail the launch of the Breeze Youth Promise later this month. The Promise brings together everything Leeds does for young people aged 13 to 19, including those who are in care or have learning difficulties or disabilities. It gives them all a voice in shaping the city's future. Themed around 'somewhere to go, something to do and someone to talk to', the Promise has been developed by young people on behalf of the Children Leeds partnership.

Covering a wide range of services, the Promise commits everyone in children's services to provide the very best advice and guidance for young people as well as safe and enjoyable events, activities and venues. In addition, better information and publicity will make sure that no-one misses out.

Leeds is a national trailblazer for integrated youth services, and is leading the way in developing an agreed 'offer' of services for young people. John Paxton, Head of Leeds Youth Service, who led the development of the Promise, explains how it will work: "Young people want information, advice and guidance about the things that matter to them. That means help with career choices, education, lifestyle choices, health issues and relationships. They want places that are safe, secure, welcoming and where they want to go. Places to chill out as well as places where they can get active or involved. And they want improved opportunities in education, training and employment with more things to do and new things to try. The Breeze Youth Promise is about helping young people enjoy and achieve, whether it's through learning, work or what they do in their spare time."

For more information go to www.breezeleeds.org/breezepromise or contact Justin Fielder by email. justin.fielder@leeds.gov.uk

The Breeze Youth Promise will be officially launched on Wednesday 21 November with the Talking Leeds 2007 DVD.

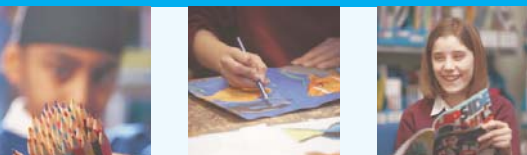
Talking Leeds 2007

This year's Talking Leeds DVD focuses on safety, and will be screened on 21 November at the Metropole Hotel from 6.30pm to 8.00pm. Children and young people were interviewed at the summer Breeze events about where they felt safe and unsafe.

This raised issues about community cohesion and how young people feel unsafe in unfamiliar areas of the city. The results helped shape the Breeze Youth Promise, which will also be launched at the same time.

If you would like to attend the screening, please contact The Project by email at theproject1@btconnect.com. Places are limited and this is a ticket only event.

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Rosemary Archer
Children's services

Joint Area Review (JAR)

I want to thank you all for the hard work you are doing to help prepare for the JAR. The amount of evidence and good practice you have provided is amazing, and it is great to see posters and booklets on walls and desks across the partnership.

There is also so much activity going on right now: statements are being written for each area of the review; visits for the inspectors are being planned; and briefings for colleagues involved in the review being developed. Thank you. Please keep up the good work. I appreciate all your time and effort.

Yes, the JAR is important but we need to remember that it is a means to an end. We are doing what we need to do to improve outcomes. What is more important is that when the inspectors come and see the passion and enthusiasm in Leeds they will know how committed we are.

Rosemary K Archer

Rosemary Archer
Director children's services

Children Leeds



Launch goes with a bang!

The Children Leeds partnership will remember this bonfire night, when young people Rebecca Duerden from the ROAR participation group, and Liam West from the Youth Council, launched the city's Children and Young People's participation strategy.

Signed and agreed by the partnership, it brings together for the first time in a single approach how we will all work together to plan, deliver and improve the participation of children and young people.

The strategy and Rebecca and Liam's explosive presentation can be found at www.childrenleeds.org.uk

For more information contact Barbara Newton at barbara.newton@leeds.gov.uk

This is your publication...

so let us know about the great work you are doing in your organisation. How are you including children and young people in the changes you are making? We all want Leeds to have the very best children's services to make sure that every child matters.

Please send all your comments and suggestions about this update to the children's services unit.

Email: children.leeds@leeds.gov.uk
Phone: 0113 395 0247

Consultation on 14 – 19 strategy

The Learning and Skills Council along with Education Leeds are currently consulting on proposals and opportunities about the future of 14 – 19 and adult learning in Leeds. The aim of the consultation is to ensure the development of an infrastructure that will transform outcomes for young people and adults in the city. Leeds needs to develop a highly skilled workforce capable of competing in the global economy.

The consultation and discussion documents can be accessed through the 'strategy' section of the Education Leeds 14 – 19 website at www.educationleeds.co.uk/14to19.

If you have any questions or queries about the consultation or want to know more about the 14 – 19 agenda contact Gary Milner by email. gary.milner@educationleeds.co.uk

11 million take over day

On 23 November all 11 million children and young people in the UK will be invited to take over our leading institutions, jobs and organisations and be in the decision-making hot seat. The Leeds Youth Council has been thinking about how schools can get involved – suggestions include swapping places with the headteacher and giving teachers a PSHE lesson about what it is like to be a teenager.

This is a great opportunity for us to show how children and young people are already making a positive contribution to all our organisations. How is your organisation going to get involved?

For more information including information packs, tips and examples visit www.11million.org.uk

For information about what is happening in schools email Hannah Lamplugh. hannah.lamplugh@educationleeds.co.uk

Please pass this publication on to colleagues in children's services

If your organisation or colleagues do not have access to email or the internet, or would like this update in another format, please let us know. You can call us on 0113 395 0247.

Latest information at www.childrenleeds.org.uk

- Read the latest JAR briefing note, and the lines of enquiry in the JAR toolkit
- Encourage parents to attend the parent, and family support event on 27 November
- Read the summary of the Audit Commission's School Survey
- Watch a LocalGov TV feature on Building Schools for the Future and the technology challenge
- Read the summary of the TellUs2 survey
- Learn about the Children Leeds governance arrangements
- Find out about the Royal Armouries 'No to knives' campaign
- Attend the Leeds Women's Aid fundraising gala
- Read the national 'Aiming high for disabled children' paper
- Read the evaluation report on the West Leeds pilot

