

Every Child Matters

Update

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www.childrenleeds.org.uk

The power of me

This week children and young people across the UK have been standing up to bullies. On 22 November the Leeds anti-bullying information day takes place to equip children, young people and adults with the skills to tackle and prevent bullying. Workshops will look at cyber-bullying, restorative justice and building emotional resilience. It is all part of the 'power of me campaign' and a new citywide anti-bullying strategy.

It's easy to get involved and tackle bullying. A toolkit of information, advice, promotional material, training dates, national websites and more is available at www.educationleeds.org.uk/antibully. For more information contact Hilary Farmery. hilary.farmery@educationleeds.co.uk

JAR update

Inspectors for the Joint Area Review (JAR) visited Leeds last week to review children's services data and information collected through the JAR forums. They were also given position statements that outline how Leeds is performing for children and young people.

Inspectors will be back in from 3 to 14 December, to carry out detailed research. This will include site visits, interviews and focus groups. Those who are involved in these activities will be sent a timetable and asked to attend a half-day briefing session on either 29 or 30 of November.

More information about JAR is available on the Children Leeds website www.childrenleeds.org.uk including the latest briefing note outlining the inspectors' lines of enquiry.

If you have any questions, queries or require additional briefings and support contact Jackie Wilson. jackie.wilson@leeds.gov.uk

Emotional health is everybody's business

Improving emotional and mental health is a priority for everyone in Leeds. Get involved with the development of the first emotional health strategy. It will bring together in a single approach a wide range of emotional health services. We want you and the children, young people, parents and carers you work with to take part.

The consultation will run until the 21 December. For a copy of the strategy and more information, go to the front page of www.childrenleeds.org.uk or contact Ashley Wyatt. ashley.wyatt@leedspsct.nhs.uk

Multi-agency training

Information and timetables for the latest multi-agency training for professionals in children's services is now available on the Children Leeds website. This includes timetables and booking details for the following courses: induction, peer-vision, Common Assessment, lead professional and manager training.

For information about children's services training, contact Jenny Wager. jenny.wager@leeds.gov.uk



Rosemary Archer
Children's services

It's good to talk

Getting out and about to spend time with children and young people is one of the best parts of my job; finding out directly from them about their ideas, hopes, questions, fears and dreams.

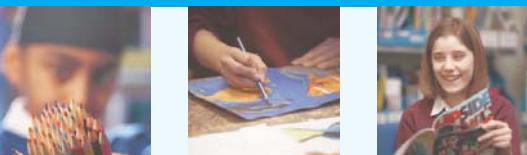
My recent conversations with young people from the sexual health action group, the Gypsy and Traveller exchange and a group of looked after children, have both inspired and challenged me. It has reminded me that listening and face-to-face conversation is at the heart of Every Child Matters. It helps build real relationships, break down barriers; and we need to do more of it. It also confirmed to me how brilliant our children and young people are. They want to be included and have their say; they have insight and real ideas to make a difference.

Participation is not, and never has been, a nice but additional extra to our day jobs. It is expected of us by our children and young people; and promised to them in our Children and Young People's Plan. We cannot let them down.

Rosemary K Archer

Rosemary Archer
Director children's services

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Children **Leeds**



Get voting in the People's Millions

Two great Leeds projects for children and young people have been shortlisted to win up to £80,000 in ITV's People's Millions contest – and your vote counts. The regional contest runs from 26 to 30 November on Calendar News at 6pm on ITV 1.

St Bartholomew's C of E Primary School's Field of Dreams project in Armley is the first to compete on Monday 26 November. This project will develop a large field behind the school, turning it into a space that the whole community can enjoy. The improved facilities would include seating areas, pathways, wildflower gardens, children's play and sports area.

Next up on Thursday 29 November is the Barca-Leeds Youth Info Space project in Bramley. This project will convert and redevelop the lower level of a church building into an information centre for young people. The open space around the building will also be developed into wildlife gardens with an adventure play area.

The voting numbers will be made available from 9am on the day of broadcast from www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/peoplesmillions

So make a note in your diary and vote for children's services in Leeds!

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.

Bang Bang youth project in national finals

Young people and staff from youth services in Leeds will be heading off to London on 22 November for the Children and Young People's Services Awards 2007. Their Bang Bang project, which involves mediation and community work with young people through creative activities such as regular music events and photography, has reached the finals of the Youth Work Award section. The project is also partly funded by young people through a grant of £25,000 from the Youth Opportunity Fund.

Philip Broadwell, a member of the gang, said: "It has been a great success. It's also a great deal of fun, as it gets us off the streets and allows us to chill out and listen to bands and have workshops in a safe environment. Along with this we have picked up a lot of skills just by taking part. I hope very much that the project will continue as it's a great experience for young people to invest their time in." Fortnightly gigs take place on a Saturday at Rios, the old heaven and hell club, Grand Arcade, Leeds

The Bang Bang project through music and photography helps young people to achieve their creative potential. It followed negotiations with the young people, whose 'alternative' appearance and gathering points were thought to be disruptive to retail trade in the city centre.

Maybe you know some young people who would be interested in the Bang Bang project. The project is particularly looking for bands to play gigs. Find more information on www.bangbangproject.co.uk or contact Ross McGibbon. ross@connexionsyouthproject.co.uk

Parent and family support event This is your publication...

Over 40 services for parents and families will be showcasing their services on the 27 November at 4.30 pm. Stalls and taster sessions for parents will cover: healthy eating, veg tasting and smoothie making; the 7-day response promise; advice on managing children's behaviour; information on finding childcare; job advice for parents; and much more! Please promote this event to parents. It is at Primrose High School and transport can be arranged.

For more information and a promotional flyer go to www.childrenleeds.org.uk or contact Vanessa Broadbent on 0113 395 0247. vanessa.broadbent@leeds.gov.uk

Latest information at www.childrenleeds.org.uk

Read an outline of discussions at the last commissioning board (ISCB) covering: monitoring and performance management; service planning and accountability framework; and the commissioning strategy. Read about the STEPS programme working with parents in Black and ethnic minority communities

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

