

Every Child Matters

Update

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www.childrenleeds.org.uk

Good food snapped up at Woodkirk High School

Woodkirk High School has won the ultimate school catering accolade of producing the best school dinners by winning the 2007 national School Catering Award. Exciting menus include fresh and locally produced food and recipes such as duck in blackbean sauce, fresh tuna, and lots of salads. Pupils are snapping up the delicious meals, with school dinner uptake more than doubling in the past year.

One reason for the school's success is the new chef. Chris Hulme previously worked at the Queen's Hotel and was chosen with the help of students. He is committed to using local produce for the healthiest meals possible. Virginia Stokeley, Director of Specialist School at Woodkirk High, said: "Chris has proved that healthy food can be appetising. Gallons of fresh fruit salad are being eaten every day and more of the children who are entitled to free school meals are taking up the service."

The award follows the launch of the Leeds School Meals Strategy this year. This is a commitment to improve child health, reduce obesity and engage entire schools in transforming their meals. It also gives all of our 1,500 school cooks the chance to go back to college to enhance their skills.

For more information about the Leeds School Meals Strategy, contact Rosemary Denison. rosemary.denison@educationleeds.co.uk

Talking Leeds event

This year's Talking Leeds DVD on 'staying safe' was screened on 21 November with young people leading the event. The fun-packed evening included continued consultation on 'staying safe', promotion of the new Breeze Promise and an explanation of the new children and young people's participation strategy.

For copies of the DVD, contact The Project.
theproject1@btconnect.com

More information and links to the Breeze promise and the participation strategy can be found at www.childrenleeds.org.uk

Getting a good start in life

Children and young people in Leeds get high quality services built around their needs, according to government inspectors. Government watchdog Ofsted makes the observation in its Annual Performance Assessment (APA) of children's services, giving Leeds a 'good' rating for the second year running. It highlighted a number of successes such as: reducing the number of 16 to 18 year olds not in education, employment and training; and strong early years services.

Areas for improvement (which are also Children Leeds priorities) include reducing teenage pregnancy and improving the speed of reviews for looked-after children.

For links to the full report and Children Leeds priorities, go to www.childrenleeds.org.uk

If you have any questions or queries, email children.leeds@leeds.gov.uk



Rosemary Archer
Children's services

A learning city

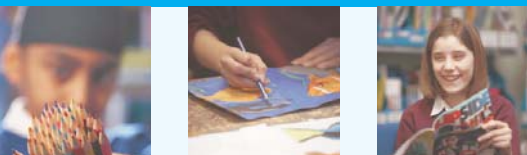
For me, one of the most exciting aspects of the Every Child Matters agenda is its vast ambition for every child, young person and parent. It makes learning inevitable for all of us.

I know that we are a learning city – I hear it every day, at every event and at every meeting. I can see it in our creativity and our innovation when I meet new people with new ideas. We want to learn about the very best practice so we can put it into action and make a difference. It's inspiring and energising. And this is what I want you specifically to remember in the next week while the inspectors for the Joint Area Review (JAR) are with us. Because the review is part of that learning process. So if you are directly involved in the review, enjoy it. Show off our best projects, and listen to our challenges. And if you are not directly involved, talk to your colleagues and find out about the emerging themes.

Let's use this exciting opportunity to start thinking through what we need to do next to make Leeds the very best city for children and young people to grow up in.

Rosemary Archer *Rosemary K Archer*
Director of children's services

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Children **Leeds**



Improving private fostering

Private fostering is a private arrangement, not set up by a local authority, for the care of a child by someone other than a parent or close relative. A private foster carer may perhaps be a friend of the family, a neighbour, or someone who is willing to privately foster a child.

It is currently not known just how many children and young people live in such situations in Leeds. However, we do know that the children who are privately fostered are a diverse and potentially vulnerable group. Groups of privately fostered children often include: children and young people sent from abroad; teenagers who have broken ties with their parents and are staying with friends; and those living with families while pursuing courses of study.

In these situations, the law requires private foster carers to notify the local authority of the arrangement – although many people are not aware of these requirements. Leeds City Council's children and young people's social care has recently launched an awareness campaign to explain the issues. A range of publicity materials is now available.

For more information, copies of leaflets and posters, or if you would like to arrange a briefing session, please contact Brenda Dring.
brenda.dring@leeds.gov.uk

A big thanks to Gdansk!

Leeds beat off competition from 10 other European cities including Oslo and Edinburgh to win the Eurocities award for innovation in Gdansk, Poland, last week. Our winning intergenerational project for schools called 'Building Bridges' was judged to be an excellent project tackling the increasingly important issue of community cohesion.

Working in primary schools, Building Bridges brings together vulnerable children with older generations to boost their confidence and self-esteem. A resources pack outlines a wide range of ways, such as games and story-telling, to help different generations work together and share their experiences. The project continues to grow, and is currently developing a resource pack for work with secondary schools.

For a copy of the resource pack and to find out how you can get involved, contact Sean Duggan.
sean.duggan@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.

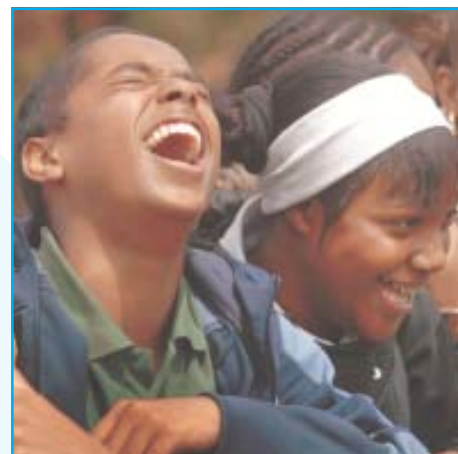
Latest information at www.childrenleeds.org.uk

Details about the Parent and Family Support conference on 18 January 2008, at Leeds Metropolitan University.

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



A recipe for community cohesion

A team of nutrition experts at Leeds Trinity and All Saints have launched an exciting new project to create the perfect recipe for promoting community cohesion.

The "Cooking Communities" project will bring together older people as cooking champions, to teach practical cooking skills to students in schools. Students will then be encouraged to share their new-found culinary skills with their families and neighbours.

Jo Odu from Education Leeds extended services said, "This exciting project brings generations together within communities and fills the gaps in children's knowledge about ingredients and cooking."

For more information about the project, contact Lisa Gatenby.
l.gatenby@leedstrinity.ac.uk

Getting it sorted has never been easier

A new 'get it sorted' card is now available for every looked after child and young person. It will help make solving their problems and complaints that bit easier.

The handy card has contact details that go direct through to social care or the Leeds children's rights service. You can help looked-after children 'get it sorted' too by making sure you have the following details to hand if needed. Children and young people's social care complaints, 0113 247 8627, text 07891 271 872, email complaints.socs@leeds.gov.uk Leeds Children's Rights Services, 0800 093 5881. For more information, contact Judith Kasolo.
judith.kasolo@leeds.gov.uk