

Every Child Matters

Update

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Improving health in Leeds

The Schools Food Trust recently released a document outlining the high number of 'junk' food outlets surrounding schools in Leeds and other cities.

Even with this temptation on its doorstep, Leeds does not experience significant problems thanks to pioneering work across the city to tackle the problems of obesity and poor nutrition. The Leeds school meal strategy, the physical activity strategy, and the Leeds obesity strategy, which will be launched this year to coincide with the National Health Service 60 year anniversary, are all working together to improve health across Leeds.

Most secondary schools in Leeds already have a 'stay on site' policy. Those children and young people who do leave site to buy food are beginning to make healthier choices. The Leeds school meals team has been working in partnership in designing new build schools that encourage children and young people to stay on site. Education Leeds has awarded over 200 schools nearly half a million pounds for children and young people to design their own dining spaces.

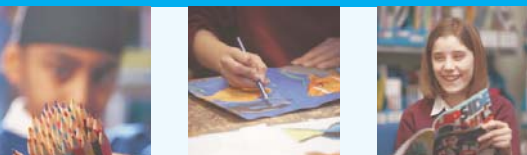
Through the investment of DCSF grant funding, major projects have been initiated to improve the health and educational attainment of children and young people, including:

- £2000 on average awarded to each school for new equipment to prepare fresh ingredients;
- delivery of a national accredited training program to over 1000 catering staff to develop skills, knowledge and understanding of their role in the whole school community;
- 240 schools (including PRU's and SILC's) awarded an average of £2000 to improve the dining environment;
- a research programme commissioned to investigate why over 6,000 pupils fail to take their free school meal entitlement;
 - 10 innovative projects implemented to inform national and local best practice;
 - a pupil-led pilot school meal monitoring programme, and
 - a packed lunch policy guidance and supportive resource pack, to help parents and carers choose healthier options for their children.

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.

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Rosemary Archer
Children's services

Learning from change

There is so much happening right now it is hard to know where to start! Leeds is undergoing major changes, for which some of the drivers are local; while others come from national government. They are all part of our ongoing journey towards integration, through which we hope to break down barriers and unnecessary boundaries, make things simpler, and be more effective.

Personally, I believe there is a lot to learn from change. I'd like to welcome colleagues from Leeds Children's Fund and Connexions into the early years and youth services, and encourage everyone to learn from what they bring to us. It is our organisational and service differences that make us unique.

I am really pleased to see the progress we are making, and would encourage us all to recognise and stay in touch with what makes us different. Ultimately, learning from this will make us all stronger and more able to support those who really need our help.

Rosemary k Archer
Rosemary Archer
Director of children's services

For more information about the Leeds school meals strategy, contact Rosemary Denison, phone: 0113 224 3779, or visit the website: www.educationleeds.co.uk/schoolmeals



This is News!

A newsletter for disabled children and their families has just been launched.

The newsletter will be produced three times a year, and aims to inform parents and carers of upcoming events, things for the family to do during the school holidays, and local and national changes in government legislation and how it affects them.

As part of the launch, children and families have been asked to come up with ideas for a name for the newsletter and a logo. There will be a prize for the winner of the best name and logo!

You can find a full version of the newsletter and details of the competition on the Children Leeds website at: www.childrenleeds.org.uk

The deadline for articles for the next newsletter is 24 April, and the newsletter will focus on summer activities and child care for working parents. Anyone wishing to submit stories should email: family.hub@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

Leeds sweeps the board for 14 –19 diplomas

All four of the gateway one applications for new 14 –19 diplomas in Leeds have been approved for delivery in 2009. The new diploma subjects that will be available are creative and media (two diplomas), engineering, and health and social care.

Three out of four of the gateway two applications have also been approved for 2009 delivery. These subjects are IT (category one), business administration and finance, and hair and beauty (category two). Land and environment received conditional approval for delivery in 2010, but it is hoped that this will also be ready in time for the 2009 delivery.

Nationally, only 58% of gateway two applications have been approved for 2009 delivery, so Leeds' achievement is a major success. Each approved diploma is funded by £30,000, which means Leeds has a total of £210,000 to help with coordination and development of the programmes.

All of this means that by September 2009 Leeds will be delivering seven diplomas to over 900 young people in Leeds in the following areas: construction and the built environment; creative and media; engineering; IT; society, health and development; business, administration and finance; and hair and beauty.

For more information, visit the 14 –19 website at: www.educationleeds.co.uk/14to19/

Parents as partners in early learning success

Parents are central to children's learning and play a very important role in developing and nurturing children's skills, and preparing them for nursery, school and the wider world.

Leeds early years service has been involved in the Parents as Partners in Early Learning (PPEL) pilot project, which was recently celebrated at Elland Road on 12 March.

Over 130 practitioners from schools, children centres, the private and voluntary sector and health services attended. Practitioners thoroughly enjoyed the day and feedback was very positive.

To continue to support parental involvement, the early years foundation stage website will have a dedicated 'parents as partners' section, for practitioners to share good practice and e-network with others. The PPEL summary report and evaluation report will be available after Easter.

For more information, email: ppel@leeds.gov.uk or visit www.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/eyfs

West area youth service move

The West area youth service team have moved from Strawberry Lane in Armley to Bramley Community Centre.

While we hope there will be minimum disruption to service, we would ask for your understanding during this time.

The new contact details are: Bramley Community Centre, Waterloo Lane, Bramley, LS13 2JB. Phone: 0113 247 5656
Email contacts and mobile numbers remain the same.

Latest information at www.childrenleeds.org.uk

Visit our website to find the full version of the newsletter for disabled children and their families, and to find out details of the Leeds Young People's Film Festival, at: www.childrenleeds.org.uk

