

# the Leeds inclusive learning programme

‘Aiming high for all children,  
and young people in Leeds.’



update  
for parents

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**This newsletter provides an update for all parents and carers about the Leeds inclusive learning programme.**

Through the Leeds inclusive learning programme we will further develop city-wide provision to meet the needs of all learners with learning difficulties and disabilities, and ensure that every learner in Leeds has access to high quality learning environments.

In the last newsletter we said we would provide more information about the roles and responsibilities of the people leading the programme. As well as information on the priorities and what happens next. Below we provide information about the new programme director.

**In the next newsletter**

More information about the consultation events in the autumn term.

## **New programme director for Leeds inclusive learning programme**

**Graham Newell was appointed on 21 April and has the responsibility of building on the work of previous project directors, Bob Stott, Michael Purches and John Fryett, and Carol Jordan, the previous programme director. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Bob, Michael, John and Carol for their hard work on the programme.**

Graham is a senior manager who has worked in a number of local authorities. He has broad experience of managing a wide range of teams and services and in particular those around inclusion, special needs and multi-agency working. He has extensive experience of reviewing services and successfully managing change using a structured approach.

Amongst other things, Graham will make sure that:

- we accelerate the pace of change so that the informal discussions

that have taken place so far lead to concrete plans for the future;

- there is a structure of activity that will help deliver the outcomes we want for all our young people with individual needs;
- through consultation with a wide range of people, including parents, we develop a series of models for the future organisation of the specialist inclusive learning centres (SILCs). These models will be available for consultation in autumn 2009; and
- there is clear involvement and communication with children, young people, parents and carers.

Graham says:

“I first visited Leeds five years ago to see the innovative work being done in special educational needs (SEN). I was so impressed by what I saw that I have used many of the ideas I learnt from Leeds in other local authorities. I am very excited at being given this opportunity to take the work in Leeds on to the next stage. I don’t underestimate the challenges that we face; there is

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much work to be done but the key priorities are:

- making sure that we have sufficient, appropriate and high quality places available for all children and young people for the next 15 years;
- further developing the relationships between Education Leeds, SILCs mainstream schools and other agencies so we work even more closely to support young people; and
- making sure that we support all our staff through training and coaching so they can continue to deliver high quality services.

By July we will have undertaken informal discussions with a range of people and have produced draft papers which will then go for formal consultation during the autumn term. All parents of pupils in SILCs, resource provision and pupil referral units will be involved in the parts of the consultation which are relevant to them.”

If you would like to contact **Graham**, you can do so through **Margaret Cook** on **0113 395 0508** or **Katy Smith** on **0113 247 5738**.

## Update from Margaret Cook, parent information officer.

Since the last newsletter, I have been busy meeting parents and carers at various support groups. I attended the SEN marketplace event at the Civic Hall on 11 May, providing information for parents and carers, listening to concerns and answering queries.

At some of the meetings I attended, parents and carers asked similar questions, so I have put together a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) which colleagues at Education Leeds will answer and publish on the Education Leeds website. I will let you know when this is available.

I have also hosted two meetings to set up the parents and carers steering group. These meetings were well attended and the

first meeting of the steering group will take place at 7pm – 8.30pm on Tuesday 30 June at the Derek Fatchett City Learning Centre which is next to City of Leeds School. There is plenty of free parking available. If you would like to attend, please call me on the number below to let me know.

I will continue to work closely with parents/carers groups to keep them informed and to seek their views as part of the ongoing informal discussions. If there are any parent and carer support groups that would like me to visit them I am more than happy to do so. Please contact me.

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