

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 on 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 that:

- promote their health, safety and wellbeing; and
- stimulate and promote achievement, enabling them to achieve their maximum potential.

This means:

- Every child and young person will be able to attend their successful local school and be supported by their friends and peers;
- Through their school, children and young people will be able to access and benefit from additional support when they need it;
- Those children and young people with more complex needs will continue to benefit from specialist services and provision, including provision in special schools;
- The voice of parents and parental preference will be strengthened and championed; and
- There will be increased opportunities for the participation of children and young people.

In the next newsletter: More details about the priorities and the next steps. Also a closer look at the roles and responsibilities of the people leading different strands of the programme.

The Leeds Inclusive learning programme board

The programme board for the Leeds inclusive learning programme meets once a month. The programme board is responsible for:

- approving the plans within the programme, and any changes to those plans;
- making recommendations for change;
- making sure that there is a strategy for resources to underpin the programme and making recommendations about how resources should be used to meet the objectives of the programme;
- making sure that the Leeds inclusive learning programme links with other programmes and strategies that affect children and young people; and
- making sure that the people who are leading different aspects of the programme are delivering what is outlined in the programme.

The chair of the programme board is Ros Vahey, deputy chief executive, Education Leeds. The programme board has members representing children services, education (including one headteacher and one SILC principal), health, and social care.

Parent information officer

Margaret Cook has been appointed to the role of parent information officer for the Leeds inclusive learning programme. Margaret will provide consistent up-to-date information about the programme, bring a coordinated approach to both formal and informal consultation, and make sure all parents, carers and communities are fully informed and given the opportunity to participate in the continuing development of the programme.

Margaret has extensive experience in providing information and guidance to adults facing multiple barriers. She has an NVQ qualification in providing advice and guidance, and has previously worked as an information officer for several projects.

Margaret's priorities over the next two months are to:

- develop and strengthen relationships with parents and carers;
- answer queries about the Leeds inclusive learning programme through face to face contact and the helpline (number below);
- make sure that there is a regular flow of information and feedback between Education Leeds and parents and carers; and
- recruit parents for the parent/carer steering group.

Contact details for Margaret are:
Phone: 0113 395 0508
Mobile: 07891 275500

Education Leeds



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Developments in provision

Education Leeds is preparing a report for Leeds City Council's executive board to consider at a meeting in late summer. This report is likely to include a request for Education Leeds to conduct consultation over proposals to make changes to: the provision of education for children with special educational needs including the provision of support for children with behavioural, emotional, and social difficulties.

To help Education Leeds to develop and shape the proposals, we are holding conversations with different stakeholder groups to listen to their views and opinions. The views of parents and carers are especially valued and Margaret Cook, the parent information officer will play a key role in sharing the proposals with you and making sure that your views are noted and reflected.

Key themes emerging

In our last newsletter we indicated that there were no plans to close any of our specialist inclusive learning centres (SILCs). This remains the case. We are developing proposals that will ensure the

needs of children with complex needs in each wedge of the city are met. At the same time we are looking at redefining the role of the SILC that provides for children with behavioural, emotional, and social difficulties (BESD).

We are also looking at the way that resources are allocated for children who are identified as requiring 'school action', school action plus or a statement of special educational need. We have listened to feedback from parents and carers and we want to improve the way in which decisions are made so that they are more transparent and consistent and that the voice of pupils is strengthened.

Another major theme emerging is the suggestion that we make sure that local people have a greater say in developing provision to meet children and young peoples needs.

Please bear in mind that all of these developments are at a formative stage, and may be subject to change. No decisions have been made on any final recommendations that will go to the executive board.

Timeline

Any formal consultation with stakeholders, including parents,

carers, children and young people will take place later in the year.

After the consultation period has ended, Education Leeds will prepare another report with recommendations for Leeds City Council's executive board to consider at their meeting in either November or December 2009.

Parent partnership service

The parent partnership service is an arms-length organisation which provides impartial advice and guidance to the parents and carers of children with special educational needs (SEN).

Contact details for the service are:

Telephone: 0113 39 51222

Email: educationpps@educationleeds.co.uk

Helpline: 0113 395 1200
(Mon-Fri 10am to 3pm)

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