

Every Child Matters update

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Issue 70

Civic Hall Event for Parents and Carers

There will be a free event for parents and carers at Leeds Civic Hall on Tuesday 15th June, 10am-2pm, no ticket is required.

Market stalls from Extended Services, The Family Hub, Rainbow House and VINE College Blenheim Centre will be taking part to provide information and support for families in the Leeds area, alongside many other agencies on the day.

For further details on the day's event contact: **Angela Bernard-Ferguson, Information Officer, Leeds Parent Partnership Service, 0113 395 1236**
Email: angela.bernard-ferguson@educationleeds.co.uk

Please pass this publication on to colleagues with an interest in outcomes for children and young people.

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**.

Children in care ensure they have a voice

The re-launched and revitalised care council for Leeds is building momentum and starting to make an impact on services for looked after children.

The care council has been re-named by its members as 'have a voice'. It now includes young people from across the range of care backgrounds, including those in foster care, living in residential homes and those who are unaccompanied asylum seeking children. There is also a good mix of age groups represented.

Members have been looking at the Care Promise - the commitment the Council has made to carers about the support they can expect to receive. They have been considering how young people in care can work with professionals to help measure the effectiveness of services in delivering against the promise and how more young people in care can get involved with assessing it's impact.

Over time it is hoped that 'have a voice' can be used consistently to consult with a range of young people in care about the big decisions and services that affect them.

Delivering a stronger, more effective care council is part of the wider improvements being monitored through the children's services improvement plan.

For more information about the care council, or if you know a young person in care who might want to be involved please contact Alun Rees on **2475078**



The year ahead

It's a genuine privilege for me to become the Executive Member for Children's Services as part of the Labour Group's new ruling administration on Leeds City Council.

Although I've been responsible for the learning and leisure portfolio before, I know the children's services world has developed significantly in recent years and continues to keep changing. I'm looking forward to working with you on this crucial part of our agenda. A big part of that will involve meeting you to find out about the contribution you're making and the issues you're dealing with.

Whilst children's services in Leeds have some vital improvements to make – and I'll be doing all I can to support your efforts to make them – I also think we have some exciting opportunities ahead. I want you to know that I recognise the huge contribution you make in our city, particularly working with extremely vulnerable families.

I'll be championing your efforts and taking seriously our challenges so we can move forward and make a really positive difference in the year ahead.

Cllr Judith Blake
Executive Member for Children's Services

Children Leeds

Fostering Service Inspection

The fostering service was inspected by Ofsted between the 7 and 10 June. Inspectors spoke to a variety of staff from across children's services, plus carers and young people in foster care. The service will be looking to build on the 'satisfactory' rating it received in 2009, which included a number of 'good' judgements in key areas. The inspection report will be published later in the summer.

Festival Fun in South Leeds

The festival for young people in Inner South Leeds is back in 2010, and its going to be bigger and better than ever before!

The Inner South Area Committee funded festival will be providing activities throughout the summer in the communities of Cottingley, Beeston, Holbeck, Hunslet, Belle Isle and Middleton. There is a jam-packed schedule of activities and entertainment you can enjoy between June and August.

South Leeds Superstar will be running again alongside dance sessions, sports week, Middleton Mile Fun Run and the I Love South Leeds Festival Football Tournament.

To keep up-to-date with the full festival programme check the website

www.leeds.gov.uk/ilovesouthleeds

Parent Partnership Service Charter Mark Celebration

Spirits were high at Blenheim as the Leeds Parent Partnership service celebrated the revalidation of their Charter Mark.

Paying tribute to their first rate success were many of their partners, volunteer parents and supporters, including staff from Education Leeds who congratulated and acknowledged the valuable role the team plays in serving and supporting the children and parents of Leeds.

Bridget Mork, parent partnership service coordinator commented:

"When benchmarked both regionally and nationally and evaluated against the exemplifications of minimum standards, the Leeds Parent Partnership service is operating at best practice."

The assessors who revalidated the service noted the small, but effective team are "clearly dedicated to their roles", and the camaraderie and team spirit was self-evident.

This reaccreditation shows how the team clearly value colleagues' individual strengths and contributions, and combine their energy and expertise to offer impartial advice, information, support and guidance to parents and carers who have difficult situations to face.

Wellbeing and creativity conference

A one-day 'Wellbeing and Creativity' conference is taking place on Monday 15 November 2010 at Leeds Trinity University College.

The conference will explore new approaches to the challenges of wellbeing and creativity, and will focus on Every Child Matters outcomes such as how motivation is linked to wellbeing and happiness, and how to promote wellbeing actively - so that both staff and children benefit.

There is a 25% discount for delegates if bookings are made before 23 July 2010. Contact Adrienne Smith for further details. Email: a.smith@leedstrinity.ac.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.