

Voice, Influence & Transparency Working Group

October 2025 to March 2026

Opening

The Leeds Parent Carer Forum and Parent Carer Support Groups have shared feedback from families about **professionals' knowledge of SEND services in Leeds**:

- School staff require further SEND training to ensure they understand how to meet the needs of their children.
- School staff require more awareness of masking and need to reduce parent blame.
- Families would like professionals to show more empathy and understanding to families.
- Families would like to be involved in training and feel all training should include lived experience.
- Lack of neurodivergent expertise within leadership.
- Families feel professionals they come into contact with require more in-depth knowledge of SEND services available in Leeds.
- Families feel they receive different messages about service depending on who they speak to i.e. GPs, schools etc.
- Training for all services not just SEND i.e. housing.
- School staff have a lack of knowledge of SEND services in Leeds.

Opportunity

The Leeds Parent Carer Forum and Voice, Influence and Change Team (LCC) work in partnership to raise the issues and challenges faced by parents and carers of children with SEND in Leeds across education, health and care.

All issues and challenges raised are shared with the Voice and Influence Transparency Working Group and subsequently with the Leeds SEND and AP Improvement Board.

Outcome

- SEND training offer for school staff and SENCOs delivered by Learning Inclusion.
- Promotion of the Leeds Local Offer to education, health and social care professionals.
- The Children and Families Workforce Development Team have developed an online SEND basic awareness training package for all Children and Families staff. There are four key principals that all staff will be expected to complete. The training will include lived experience from parents, carers, children and young people.
- Inclusive Mainstream Practice resources, and information for schools and families was launched in November 2025 and is available on the [Leeds Local Offer website](#).
- Consulted via an online survey for parents and carers to identify schools and area of need that requires further training (96 parent carer responded). A recommendations report will be shared early 2026.



Obligation

