

Letter to parents / carers

Children and Families
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Leeds City Council
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Contact: Stephen Walker
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Dear parent / carer

We are writing to parents and carers of Year 8 to Year 14 students at all SILCs in Leeds with an update about post 16 SEND education in Leeds.

Government funding for post-16 SEND education was reduced in 2013 from five full days funding to three days. When those changes were implemented the SILCs in Leeds chose to continue to absorb the cost of five-day school provision as the reductions to their overall funding was capped at 1.5% per year.

Due to growing pressure on their budgets, the SILCs are now finding that they can no longer afford to offer five days provision for their post 16 learners and some have suggested that they will need to reduce their offer down to three days per week in line with Government funding.

In Leeds, our ambition is for all young people with SEND to have access to high-quality learning and packages of alternative support. The most important consideration for us is the preparation for adult life for our post-16 SILC students and making sure that they all have an appropriate programme in place to help them to maximise their potential.

This week we held a meeting with the Principals and Chairs of Governors of all five Leeds SILCs. The meeting was very positive and we agreed to work together to ensure that funding is found to enable the SILCs to continue to offer five days a week for the 2017/2018 academic year. At the same time we committed to working together to define what the specialist offer for post-16 SEND students in Leeds will look like from September 2018 and to ensuring that it meets the individual needs of the young people.

We appreciate that these changes are likely to be causing anxiety and concern amongst parents and carers, but would like to reassure you that the council and the SILCs are committed to working together and with families, despite the challenges we have all been presented with, to ensure that the needs of individual young people are met as they make the transition to adulthood.

Kind regards



Cllr Lisa Mulherin
Executive Member for Children & Families
Leeds City Council



Stephen Walker
Director of Children and Families
Leeds City Council