

# Health complaints team spread the word throughout Leeds

LIHCA, our Independent Health Complaints Advocacy team, began their engagement and promotion project this month by attending a number of events held throughout Leeds.

The purpose of this project is to engage with members of the public and organisations to raise awareness and promote the work done by LIHCA and Advonet.

Their aim for the project is to increase the understanding of advocacy and the work of the different teams within Advonet. This was done by attending five events where various members of the team held stalls and shared their advocacy expertise.

They went to the Healthwatch Good Endings Event, where there was a mixture of workshops, networking and stalls run by different organisations across Leeds.

Next, LIHCA went to “Me and my medicines”, an event organised by the NHS Leeds South and East CCG. It featured a mixture of workshops, networking and stalls run by a number



of healthcare groups in the Leeds area.

Then, the team attended an event organised by the DWP at the White Rose Shopping Centre. There, they held a stall and gave out information about Advonet and volunteering with the various teams.

Following on from that, they went to a

multi-agency event at Technorth, before going to a patient participation group event, run by a local CCG.

LIHCA will continue to spread the word and engage with patients and agencies throughout the city in the coming weeks and months, talking about the good work that advocacy can do to help them.

## What is Advocacy?

**“Advocacy is taking action to help people say what they want, secure their rights, represent their interests and obtain services they need. Advocates and advocacy schemes work in partnership with the people they support and take their side. Advocacy promotes social inclusion, equality and social justice.”**

***The Advocacy Charter, 2002***

## Cafe Leep voted best in Yorkshire and the Humber in competition



After much hard work, our friends at Cafe Leep won the prize of Best Cafe in Yorkshire and the Humber for the “Britain's Best Cafe” competition.

As a result of winning the regional heat, Cafe Leep will be up against all

the other regional winners in the final round. The winner will be crowned as the best cafe in the country!

Congratulations to everyone involved in helping Cafe Leep to get this far. We're keeping everything crossed!

## AIM half-year stats

Leeds Autism AIM have been getting some stats together for usage of their autism hubs and the numbers are quite high! Between the beginning of April and the end of September this year, 192 different people went to one or both of their hub sessions. Of that number, 109 are autistic people and a further 39 are parents, carers or partners of autistic adults. They have also seen signposting referrals increase via their website, over the phone and by email.

## Leep1's rap video

Leep1 have made a rap song to tell the world about the problem of 'Mate Crime' as part of a drive to publicise the issue of hate crime. The rap song, originally composed last year, was performed by Leep1 members at Leeds Civic Hall to mark the launch of the city's Hate Crime Strategy. You can find the video for the song on Leep1's YouTube channel at this address: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8FBTA9Ptj\\_E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8FBTA9Ptj_E)

## Trainees' reward

The trainees at Cafe Leep have been offered a free meal at an Italian eatery by a grateful customer and the team at Unity! As part of their efforts in the campaign to win the 'Britain's Best Cafe' competition, they have been offered a free meal at Salvo's in Headingley. We would like to thank both Tracy Allison from Allison Mediation and Pauline from Unity Homes and Enterprise for their generosity. We're sure that the trainees will enjoy it!

## WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH?

Every  
Monday

**Bilingual  
advocacy drop-in**  
Unit A4, Unity  
Business Centre  
9:30am-10:30am

Tuesday  
31st Oct

**Cafe Leep Harvest  
celebration - fun,  
games and food**  
Cafe Leep  
11am to 2pm

Tuesday  
31st Oct

**Discussion on  
Autism & identity**  
-first language  
Lovell Autism Hub  
5:30pm-6:30pm

## Out and about at volunteer events across Leeds



Advonet held a stall on Thursday 19th October at the Leeds University Union's Autumn Volunteer Fair. At the stall, we spoke to dozens of students about the many volunteering opportunities within our organisation. Many students who came to us expressed an interest in volunteering for our many services, including bilingual advocacy, community mental health advocacy and our Leeds Autism AIM and Leep1 projects. We would like to thank Leeds University Union for inviting us to the event.

## Advonet staff back anti-racism campaign



On Friday 20th October, our team showed their support for a prominent anti-racism campaign. Staff in the Advonet office, including Bushra and Philip (pictured), wore red for Show Racism the Red Card, whilst also collecting donations for the cause.

At the same time, our team also helped to promote awareness of hate crime and how to report it. Pay a visit to our official Twitter account to see how we did it at [twitter.com/AdvonetUK](https://twitter.com/AdvonetUK).

## Contact us



**“Advonet**  
Providing Independent Advocacy  
& Related Support”

Unity Business Centre, 26 Roundhay Rd, Leeds LS7 1AB  
[www.advonet.org.uk](http://www.advonet.org.uk) | [office@advonet.org.uk](mailto:office@advonet.org.uk)  
[twitter.com/AdvonetUK](https://twitter.com/AdvonetUK) | [facebook.com/Advonetuk](https://facebook.com/Advonetuk)  
Single Point of Access (SPA) number: 0113 244 0606  
YouTube: Search for 'Advonet UK'