



Thanks so much for your interest in **The Great Big Leeds Mencap Singalong** in support of Leeds Mencap.

This singalong is the ideal way to bring families, friends and work teams together this Christmas during these strange times, learning a new skill and raising funds and awareness for Leeds Mencap.

Once you have signed up, all you need to do is get raising your sponsorship money, learn the Makaton signs for 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas' and then share your video with us and your customers, clients, friends and family, we have set a deadline of **Friday 18th December** (1 week before Christmas) – don't forget to use the hashtag **#leedsmencapsingalong**

We have set a small minimum sponsorship level of £20 per person but the more you can raise the more we can do to support people with learning disabilities get the support they need.

We can't wait to see your videos! If you are doing this with friends, colleagues or your classmates at school, how about doing a compilation video where you all take a word or line to sign and use it as your Christmas greeting online?

If you have any questions, you can call us on 0113 235 1331 or email me at caitlin.hazell@leedsmencap.org.uk

Thanks very much and we look forward to signing with you to raise funds this Christmas! Together, we can raise much needed funds for children and young people with learning disabilities across Leeds.

All good wishes

Caitlin Hazell
Development Manager
E. caitlin.hazell@leedsmencap.org.uk

Registered charity number 1091809



About Leeds Mencap

Leeds Mencap is a local, independent charity that supports families and children and young people with learning disabilities. People with a learning disability find it harder than others to learn, understand and communicate. Leeds Mencap offers support to people with very different needs and aspirations in order to help ensure that they live a fulfilling life and achieve their goals. We support 430 families and people with learning disabilities each year. We need to raise all our own funds each year.

What is Makaton?

Makaton is a unique language programme that uses symbols, signs and speech to enable people to communicate. Over 100,000 children and adults use Makaton, either as their main method of communication or as a way to support speech. Makaton is used by children and adults with communication and learning difficulties and the community around them – for example, teachers, health professionals, friends and family. By using Makaton, children and adults can take a more active part in life, because communication and language are the key to everything we do and learn.

The Great Big Leeds Mencap Singalong, is part of our wider campaign 'Imagine If...' a new awareness and fundraising campaign which aims to highlight what it is like to have a learning disability and show what's important to young people with learning disabilities and their families. Learn more by visiting <https://www.leedsmencap.org.uk/>

Why we need your support

- £20 donation** Could pay for a support session with a parent who needs some help with their child at this isolating and worrying time.
- £60 donation** Could fund a peer support group meeting for parents of children aged 5-25 with a learning disability, to get specialist training and build important friendships with other parents.
- £100 donation** Could improve the mental and physical wellbeing of children and teenagers with learning disabilities by purchasing equipment for our youth clubs.

Registered charity number 1091809



It's really easy to take part – just follow the steps below

You've taken on the challenge of **The Great Big Leeds Mencap Singalong**, thank you so much! Your support and effort is so important in helping us to support children with learning disabilities, their families and carers across Leeds in both the short and the long term.

Below are some tips on what to do next.

- You can either use **sponsorship forms** available to download from our website or you can create a [JustGiving](#) page to let people know that you're fundraising for Leeds Mencap.
- On your page, include an image of yourself or your team and include a short description about why you are supporting Leeds Mencap. You could also tell them a bit about the challenge too.
- You can also promote what you are doing through your Facebook, LinkedIn or your twitter account. Include **@Leedsmencap** and we'll share/retweet! And don't forget to use the hashtag **#LeedsMencapSingalong**
- Whether using a fundraising page, sponsorship forms or both, you may want to get a few generous supporters first before you promote more widely – people are more likely to support when they see you've already started. People are also more likely to give generously when they see the generosity of others!
- Share your video with us and your friends, family, colleague and business community – using the hashtag **#LeedsMencapSingalong**
- **Pay in your money** – if you are fundraising using a [Justgiving](#) page, once the money is paid, they take care of all the other details. Alternatively, you can pay online by going to www.leedsmencap.org.uk/donate or you can pay by donation in by credit card - call our centre team on 0113 235 1331 during office hours (8.30-4.30).
- We'll then send you your certificate and thank you.
- Don't forget to thank everyone and collect any money after the event

Thank you so much for your support

Registered charity number 1091809