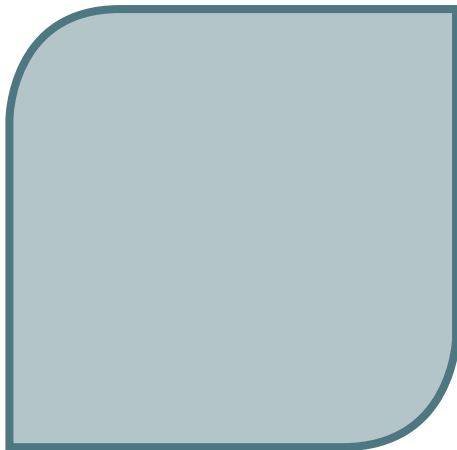
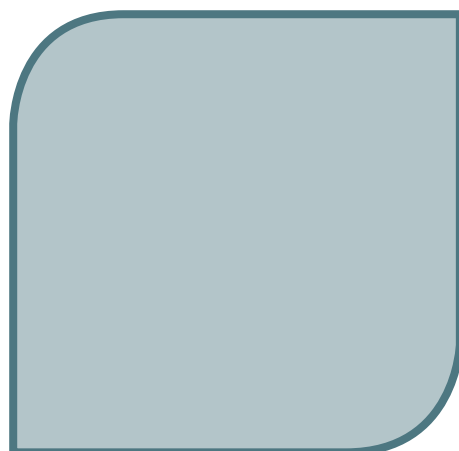


Leicestershire's Children and Young People's Plan 2006 to 2009





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Welcome to Leicestershire's Children and Young People's Plan 2006 to 2009



Welcome to Leicestershire's **first single over-arching Strategic Plan** for **improving** services for children and young people aged 0 to 19. The Plan brings together in one document a vision for children and young people's services. We want the **vision** to be shared by everyone with a stake in the future of children and young people, and most importantly by children and young people themselves.

The Plan provides a sense of direction. It sets out clearly the **priorities for improvement** for children and young people and the **actions** that we will take to make those improvements.

The Plan has been developed through widespread **consultation**. A series of consultation events have been held with children and young people, parents, carers and local agencies, to find out what people think is most important for the future of children and young people in Leicestershire. We have listened to all the views put forward and they are reflected in this Plan.

Leicestershire starts from a very strong position. The quality of services for children and young people is high. Independent inspections rate the services provided by Social Services as of an '**excellent standard**', and Education services are rated as '**very good**' and the County Council has the maximum '**4 star rating**'.

Local healthcare organisations have strong performance assessments. All Leicestershire Primary Care Trusts hold two stars in the Healthcare Commission's rating assessment. This means

'**performing well overall**'. The local acute Trust, University Hospitals of Leicester has been awarded a '**maximum three stars**' for the past two years, and Leicestershire Partnership Trust has consistently received two stars. Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary (HMIC) has assessed the police child protection services as good with promising prospects for improvement.

There is very strong track record of **highly effective partnership working** between statutory and voluntary sector services. This works at both strategic and operational levels across universal services (police, health, education, housing, leisure and culture). Partnerships for child protection, vulnerable children and early years and childcare are also a particular strength.

The **priorities for improvement** in the Plan focus on some universal services such as schools and health services to ensure the highest quality provision. They build on a previously agreed strategy (preventative strategy) providing earlier intervention for children and young people whose needs are likely to become more serious without additional help. They are also the priorities that we believe are most important in Leicestershire and form our Local Area Agreement with the government¹.

As well as making improvements we will maintain the excellent quality of our universal services, which provide the foundations for all children. We will also maintain our current absolute commitment to protect and safeguard children and young people.

¹ See Glossary of Terms and Appendix H

The Plan will also help us deliver a **wide range of national initiatives**. The Children Act 2004 and 'Every Child Matters: Change for Children', combined with the *DfES/DOH* 'National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services', provide a national vision for Children and Young People's Services. This is an ambitious three-year Plan. We will review it annually and report progress on the priorities to

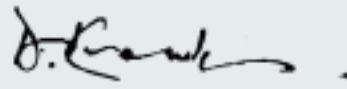
agencies, children and young people and parents and carers. We will ensure that their views are reflected in future plans.

This Plan demonstrates our collective commitment to improve outcomes for children and young people. There are many challenges ahead. Most important is to keep children and young people at the heart of driving through the changes.

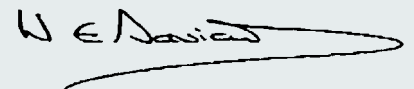
Members of the Leicestershire Children and Young Persons' Services Board



Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland Strategic Health Authority
(Jane Woodland – Health Strategy and Clinical Networks Lead)



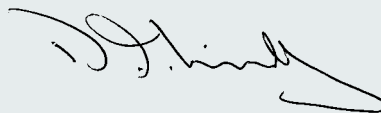
Leicestershire Council for Voluntary Youth Service
(David Knowles – Chairman)



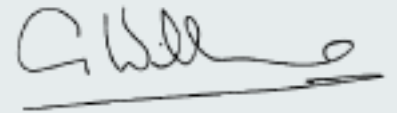
Leicestershire Primary Care Trusts
(Represented by Wendy Saviour – Chief Executive Melton Rutland and Harborough Primary Care Trust)



The 7 District and Borough Councils
(Represented by Steve Atkinson – Chief Executive Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council)



Leicestershire Constabulary
(David Lindley – Deputy Chief Constable)



Leicestershire County Council
(Gareth Williams – Chair of the Board and the Director of Children's Services)



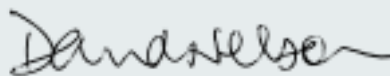
Leicestershire & Rutland Probation Service
(Heather Munro – Chief Officer)




(Councillor Ivan Ould – Lead Member for Children's Services and Deputy Leader of the Council)



Connexions Leicestershire
(Rosemary Beard – Chief Executive)



Leicestershire Learning Skills Council
(David Nelson – Chief Executive)



(John Kershaw – Director of Social Services)




Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust
(Maggie Cork – Chief Executive)



University Hospitals of Leicestershire NHS Trust
(Pauline Tagg – Director of Nursing)



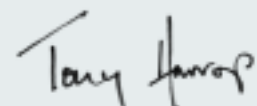
(Phil Hawkins – Head of Youth Justice and Safer Communities)



Leicestershire Safeguarding Children Board
(Glenys Johnston – Chairperson)



Andrew Coombs – Head Teacher at Redmoor High School



(Tony Harrop – Director of Corporate Management)

Chapter 1 – Summary



Leicestershire's Children and Young People's Plan 2006 to 2009 is a **single over-arching Strategic Plan** for **improving services** for children and young people aged 0 to 19.

It sets out clearly the **priorities for improvement** for children and young people and the **actions** that we will take to make those improvements. The Plan is a key part of the children's services improvement cycle set out in Every Child Matters: Change for Children.

The Plan provides information about the needs of children and young people in Leicestershire, how well those needs are currently being met and where outcomes need to improve. The Plan will support more effective services to secure improvements for the children and young people of Leicestershire in relation to all of the **five outcomes in the Every Child Matters Framework**:

- Be Healthy
- Stay Safe
- Enjoy and Achieve
- Make a Positive Contribution
- Achieve Economic Well-Being

It is the responsibility of Leicestershire County Council to draw the plan together but it belongs to all the statutory, voluntary and community sector agencies working with children and young people, to parents and carers and to children and young people themselves. Representatives from these groups have

contributed to the Plan through a range of written and face to face consultations.

The views of children and young people are at the heart of the document. A **local vision** for children and young people and for the services to support them has been developed through consultation.

Children and Young People in Leicestershire say that they want:
"Voice, Choice, Safety and Fulfilment"

Agencies, parents and carers in Leicestershire say:
"We want all children and young people in Leicestershire to be safe, healthy and fulfilled".

Together we will achieve our vision by:

- *informing, consulting and actively involving children and young people, parents and carers and stakeholders in future developments;*
- *promoting positive parenting as the best way to improve outcomes for children and young people;*
- *working together to provide better outcomes for children and young people;*
- *taking positive action to promote and celebrate diversity*

All partners in Leicestershire have now endorsed this vision through the Children and Young Persons' Services Board.

A conference entitled 'Putting Children First' held in October 2005 was the first step in Leicestershire towards identifying an emerging vision for Children and Young People's Services.

A second conference to develop the vision was held in January 2006. Presentations by groups of young people at both conferences emphasised the importance for children and young people of being heard and valued, of creating positive images of children and young people and of adults taking responsibility for children's safety.

The **priorities for improvement** have been developed through consultation taking into account the views of children and young people. The priorities in the Plan focus on some universal services such as police, health, education, housing and youth services to ensure the highest quality provision but recognise the particular needs of vulnerable children. They build on a previously agreed strategy providing earlier intervention for children and young people whose needs are likely to become more serious without additional help.

The priorities for improvement have taken into account the findings of national inspections, our knowledge of needs in Leicestershire from demographic information and feedback from services, as well as the views of children and young people, parents, carers and the community. They are also the priorities that we believe are most important in Leicestershire and form our Local Area Agreement with the government.

A comprehensive 'needs assessment' to be undertaken in 2006/07 will consolidate our understanding of local needs and help to refine priorities for the future.

The broad **priorities** that have been identified are set out below. More detailed information about the specific targets and actions to deliver these priorities can be found in the Children and Young People's block of the Local Area Agreement (Appendix H)².

Be Healthy

A comment from a young person at the January 2006 conference:

"A banana costs more than a bar of chocolate"

We want to:

Focus on those health issues that will affect children throughout their childhood and into adulthood and those that will assist them in making healthy choices.

- Improve the physical health of children and young people;
- Improve the sexual health of children and young people;
- Improve the mental health and well being of children and young people.

Stay Safe

A comment from a young person at the January 2006 conference:

"We are not all 'hoodies' wearing Nike shoes and on ASBOs"

We want to:

- Maintain, through the Local Safeguarding Children Board, our focus on safeguarding and protecting children, ensuring that all agencies work together;
- Provide better opportunities for vulnerable young people and improve their life chances;
- Ensure children and young people affected by domestic violence are identified, protected and supported;
- Improve the provision of support for homeless and potentially homeless young people and reduce the incidence of homelessness amongst vulnerable groups including care leavers, young parents and young offenders.

Enjoy and Achieve

A comment from a young person at the January 2006 conference:

"Making lessons fun not dull makes us feel like we are wanted"

We want to:

- Improve personal and social development and the enjoyment of culture and recreation;
- Be in the top 25% of authorities for achievements at Key Stages 2 and 4 and in the top 10% at Key Stage 3;
- Improve the educational progress and attainment for children at all levels including 'looked after' children, boys, pupils excluded from school and pupils with special needs;
- Reduce non-school attendance of children especially at secondary level including 'looked after' children;
- Improve the quality of life for 'looked after' children and care leavers.

Make a Positive Contribution

A comment from a young person at the January 2006 conference:

"We would like to learn more about recycling and the uses of recycled materials and to have access to recycling facilities at school"

We want to:

- Improve and enable opportunities for children to participate in consultation exercises and active involvement, especially hard to reach groups, such as young carers, children from black and minority ethnic communities, traveller communities, children attending Pupil Referral Units and children with disabilities. This will be achieved through a variety of forums as described in Appendix B.

Achieve Economic Well-Being

A comment from a young person at the January 2006 conference:

"Connexions should be publicised and made available in all schools"

We want to:

- Improve the engagement of 14-19 year olds in education and training including 'looked after' children and care leavers;

- Ensure sufficient quality childcare places that are accessible to all groups are provided across the County;
- Improve the quality of advice, guidance and support given by the Council's Early Years and Child Care Service to pre-registration applicants;
- Provide extended services in primary and secondary schools and in children's centres.

Leicestershire has a strong track record of highly effective interagency partnerships that will implement these **priorities**. A new **Children and Young Persons' Services Board** was established in February 2005 involving all the key stakeholders at Chief Officer Level. The Board will be responsible for ensuring this Plan and the Children and Young People's block of the Local Area Agreement are implemented, reviewed and performance managed.

We are building on the strong foundations of our partnerships to take the first steps towards Children's Trust arrangements. **Children's Trusts** are the government's model for improving universal, targeted and specialist services. They aim to improve co-ordination and responsibility for services at both a strategic and operational level. Partner agencies will work together during 2006/07 to determine the type of Children's Trust arrangements they want to see in place and these will be implemented during 2007/08.





Chapter 2 - What do Children and Young People Say?



The Children Act 2004 places the views of children, young people and families at the centre of the Children and Young People's Plan. The priorities in Chapter 6 of this Plan reflect the views expressed by children and young people.

In Leicestershire the Children and Young Persons' Services Board has adopted the nationally recognised *Hear by Right Standards* as a framework to secure sustained participation of children and young people and continual improvement in partnership activities³.

The Board has also promoted children, young people and parents' and carers' rights through the creation of a **Working Together Agreement** (See Appendix A).

The Board will consider in 2006 how best to include children and young people more directly in its work.

We asked school aged children and young people in Leicestershire what they thought about the five things that other children and young people in the country have said are important to them.

The "five" most important things for children and young people in Leicestershire are:

- Being Healthy
- Staying Safe
- Enjoying and Learning
- Helping Others
- Having a Good Job and Enough Money

Children and young people in Leicestershire have identified the things that matter and are important to them. For each of the 'five' most important things, this is what they have said.

Being Healthy

- Affordable healthy foods BUT sometimes we enjoy 'naughty' foods
- More physical activities
- Sex education, including the risks of sexually transmitted infections should be a priority
- Balanced information in schools on alcohol and drug abuse

They felt that school dinners should be healthier and affordable and that they should have access to water in school. They were all very clear that eating healthy foods and doing more exercise was good for them, but they also wanted more information on unhealthy activities such as the problem of too much time spent watching TV or sitting in front of a computer.

They want more clubs, accessible exercise facilities in the local community and to have opportunities for affordable outdoor activities such as horse riding and canoeing. They want to be part of cleaner communities and want to belong and commit to society. Having lots of friends and having a positive attitude makes them feel happy and these are important parts of being healthy.

³ www.nya.org.uk/hearbyright

Staying Safe

- Having friends
- Someone named to go and talk to about being bullied
- Adults dealing with bullying
- Some places not feeling safe

The thing children most fear is 'bullies'. Most said they would tell an older brother or sister if they were being bullied. They want leaflets and information on bullying in the local library; more police/community support officers in the community and linked to a school for regular visits; bullying/suggestion boxes in the community and more facilities to stop gangs hanging around.

They do not always feel safe in local parks and many do not find school buses safe. They also want to know more about road, rail, and water hazards, 'stranger danger', avoiding the wrong crowd and places and situations. Most importantly, children and young people want to feel safe and secure at all times.

"The driver cannot see you being bullied if you are upstairs on the bus"

"Older children bully younger children on the bus"

Enjoying and Learning

- To learn but to make subjects enjoyable
- To be with friends
- To be involved
- Teachers make learning fun

The message is very clear about going to school to learn and to make friends. Learning is significant as it helps children do things by themselves. Making friends and being with friends is really important. Teachers making lessons interesting and helping them when they are stuck is essential. Children and young people want smaller groups in the classroom and more teachers as well as more art lessons, more school trips, games as part of lessons and suggestion boxes around school. They feel it is important to reward children when they work well and also important to

deal with disruptive pupils. They want to be in a class surrounded by people who enjoy the subject. They want guest speakers with specialist knowledge and learning, including family learning outside the classroom to help people with learning.

"I like to come to school to socialise – be with friends"

"Need life skills"

Helping Others

- Helping others and depending on each other to help
- Being involved in school councils and other activities
- Adults listening to us
- Helping at home
- Help with homework
- Buddy Bench (a place to go when you don't have a friend to play with)

The two top things they said about helping others was respecting each other and being good citizens. What mattered a lot was adults respecting and listening to them. Children and young people felt helping at home with housework is important and equally getting help with homework is also important.

"Teachers need to listen to us. If you say something, some teachers take it the wrong way and you get done for it".

"Helping younger children cross a busy road"

Having a Good Job and Enough Money

- Getting a good education
- Getting a good job
- Learning about managing money
- Parents and carers support is very important

They all said that having a nice home, car and enough money to buy the things you want was important. They said that the support of their parents/carers in gaining a good education was very important. They said that to get a good job you needed a good

education. They also wanted to be taught how to handle money, budget for bills and food; to know about banks and bank accounts and ways to invest and look after money. Young people felt that having money provides more opportunities. Having money is good but too much can be bad.

“Kids, when they are younger think money grows on trees, but they should learn that it doesn’t.

It is important for children and young people to understand poverty and how it affects families”.

“Money gives you the choice to choose what you enjoy”

“Parents’ influence and support is important”

What do Disabled Children and Young People Say?

Disabled children and young people want the same things as their non-disabled peers. Disabled children and young people want to be listened to and want to have choices in many aspects of their lives. They find ‘positives’ and ‘negatives’ in the services they receive.

They say that services are satisfying the needs of some disabled children and young people but not all.

Disabled children and young people want inclusive accessible services to improve their quality of life.

However, the lack of transport prevents them from attending activities and visiting their friends.

Disabled children and young people like professionals who talk to them nicely and are friendly and kind.

Going to school is a positive experience for many disabled children and young people. Meeting friends, enjoying lessons and activities and liking the teachers are seen as good experiences.

Disabled children and young people want to be listened to and want to be partners in decision - making processes. They want improved communication between services and disabled children and young people.

What do Children and Young People who are ‘looked after’ by the local authority say?

‘Looked After’ children and young people in Leicestershire feel strongly about being healthy.

They want healthy foods as well as more leisure and cultural facilities near where they live. This group of children and young people say that ‘being supported’ by friends, family, carers and professionals is what is most important for them.

‘Looked After’ children and young people want to feel safe wherever they are and want security in their own homes. Being with friends and having someone to talk to is central for safety and security as well as for enjoying and being involved.

‘Looked After’ children and young people enjoy being able to make positive changes in the services they receive and feel that they learn from this active involvement. A main concern for them is to have enough money to buy what they want. Learning about managing money is also very important.

What do parents and carers say?

A cohort of parents and carers were also asked what they think. Parents and carers want to be seen as partners in deciding which are the appropriate services their children should receive. They believe they know their children best and want to be more actively involved and treated with equal respect. They want to play a major part in providing solutions and ways forward in improving their children’s outcomes rather than being seen as a barrier.

What does the community think?

A Citizen’s Panel held in September 2005 thought that there was not enough for children and young people to do outside of school and that young people were under pressure to drink and smoke. They were concerned about bullying and harassment from other young people both in and outside school. They thought schools would be the best place to provide information and advice and that the district and parish councils should provide local children and young people with access to safe places to play.



Chapter 3 - Leicestershire and its Children and Young People



Leicestershire rings the City of Leicester and borders with the counties of Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Warwickshire, Staffordshire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Rutland. Leicestershire covers an area of 2,083 square kilometres across seven District and Borough councils and currently works with four Primary Care Trusts, (though this is likely to become one Primary Care Trust from October 2006), the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust and the Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust.

Leicestershire is a beautiful county at the heart of England. Although it is predominantly rural, it has many vibrant market towns and suburban communities. Its central location and strong communications network are a key strength.

Leicestershire has a diverse economy, which is generally robust and prosperous and has performed well even during periods of economic downturn nationally. The Gross Domestic Product per head is the second highest in the region.

Levels of social deprivation within Leicestershire are relatively low. Using the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004, the county is ranked 135th in England out of 149 county / unitary authority areas. Unemployment is low at 1.2% (October 2005) compared with the East Midlands rate of 2.1% and the UK rate of 2.3%. However there are pockets of high unemployment in Charnwood, North West Leicestershire and Oadby and Wigston.

Leicestershire has an ethnically and culturally diverse community. 7.2% of the total population is from black and minority ethnic communities. Appendix E shows where children from black and minority ethnic communities live in Leicestershire.

Leicestershire's total population is 611,200 of which 134,500 (around 25%) are children and young people under 18 years. The make-up of the proportion of children within each of the following age bands is shown below. The child population by ward is shown in Appendix D.

Age	2003
0-4	33,500
5-10	44,900
11-15	40,700
16-17	15,400
18-24	54,000
TOTAL	188,500

Leicestershire's children and young people are supported through an education system which currently maintains 288 schools. This is subject to a comprehensive review starting in 2006. There is a range of schools for children and young people of different ages:

- One Nursery
- 213 Primary – those which cater for 4 or 5's up to 10 or 11

- 8 Infant – these take children up to 7, when they move to
- 6 Junior – where they stay until the age of 11
- 36 High schools cater for 11 to 14
- 15 Upper schools and community colleges (and 2 with boarding provision) which provide education from 14 up to and after the age of 16
- 3 secondary schools which cater for 11 – 19 and
- 6 Special schools.

There are plans for extended services in at least 50% of schools over the next two years. Also a further 24 Children’s Centres planned by 2008 build on the current provision of three SureStart approved Children’s Centres and three Social Services Children and Family Centres⁴.

There are 12,353 children aged up to 16 years living in income deprived households in Leicestershire. There are pockets of deprivation for children in the county. More than half the children in the areas ranked in the 10% most deprived in England are living in income deprived households. (Appendix F).

Generally, educational achievement in Leicestershire is good. However the progress that individual pupils make from Key Stage 2 to GCSE or equivalent (aged 11yrs – 16yrs), relative to the national picture, is below the national average. Literacy and numeracy are strongly promoted There is also good support for gifted and talented pupils and for minority ethnic pupils, including Travellers. Overall children and young people from all ethnic minority backgrounds perform well in relation to the national average, contrary to national trends. A very small cohort of pupils from some ethnic minority groups and some white pupils are progressing slightly less well.

The Triangle of Need

The model overleaf shows that the majority of children in the county, approximately 66%, are able to grow up through childhood and the teenage years with only the

support of their families and services that are provided for all children such as schools, doctors and health visitors. These are universal **Level 1 services**. The performance of these services affects all children in Leicestershire and we will make sure that the outcomes they deliver are of the highest standard.

At Level 2 there is a group of more vulnerable children, approximately 30%, who will need some additional support at some point while they are growing up. This could be for a wide range of reasons. They may be at a transition point in their lives (school transfer, parental separation), perhaps they live in a particularly difficult area, are having problems at school or are getting into difficulties with drugs and alcohol abuse. These are just examples. These children will be eligible to receive targeted services.

In Leicestershire services focus on a joint approach for this group of vulnerable children - early intervention to reduce the likelihood of their moving into a higher need category (preventative strategy). One of the aims of the Plan is, through early intervention, to reduce further the numbers of children and young people who move to Levels 3 and 4 in the model overleaf.

At Level 3 is a group of children, approximately 3%, who are ‘in need’ perhaps because of disability or where behaviour is at the extreme end of risk. These children require specialist help and would qualify for help from social workers and other professionals.





At the tip of the triangle is a very small group of children, approximately 0.4%, who need intensive specialist help. They may be 'looked after' in a foster home or children's home or be on the child protection register as needing protection from abuse or have complex health needs or a severe disability.

This small group of children is at the greatest risk of difficulties in later life. They require the particular commitment of all agencies to help them grow up into confident and independent adults.

This is Level 4.

The services described in the model overleaf do not form a comprehensive list and are examples of services at the different levels.

It has not been possible to provide detailed costing of all the services provided in Leicestershire for children and young people but the figures below begin to give a picture. As the agencies continue to work together the information will become more comprehensive.

The Local Authority, Learning Skills Council and the Primary Care Trusts spend approximately £350m on the delivery of services to Children and Young People, of which:

- Over £240 million ring-fenced for schools;
- Just over £28 million delegated for further education;
- Approaching £10 million spent on Early Years of

which nearly £9 million relates to funding Nursery Education;

- More than £21 million spent on children's elements of social services;
- Approximately £5 million spent on Community Services incorporating libraries, museums and country parks (calculated on proportioning 0-19 user numbers);
- Approximately £45 million is spent by the Local Authority on centrally managed budgets and Education Services;
- Approximately £1.5 million is spent in Leicestershire (and Leicester) for the funding of voluntary and community services of which about half is for children and young people.
- The four Primary Care Trusts in Leicestershire and Rutland spent approximately £606 million in 2005/06 providing and commissioning health care for the local community which includes services provided through GPs and community nursing staff. Approximately £18.5 million was spent on commissioned children's services in 2005/06. This includes acute, specialist, community, Child and Adolescent Mental Health and voluntary sector.

TRIANGLE OF NEED

Child Protection and Looked after Children (LAC) Children with complex health needs
CAMHS Tier 4

Children and young people with highest needs

Highly Specialist

Nationally = 0.75%
Leics = 0.4 (Estimate)

Level 4 Services

Education Psychology Service
Social Services
CAMHS Tier 3

Children with high needs already identified via an assessment framework

Specialist

Nationally = 3.2%
Leics = 3.0% (Estimate)

Level 3 Services

Youth Offending Service
Connexions – Guidance and Support
Voluntary and Community Sector – Specific delivery
Information Sharing and assessment
Special Needs Housing
Special Education Needs

Targeted

Nationally = 36.4%
Leics = 30% (Estimate)

Level 2 Services

Children's Fund
Sure Start Local Programme
Specialist Teaching Service
EMASS
Teenage Pregnancy Health – National Service Framework for Children
Youth Offending Service

Children with additional needs

Universal

Nationally = 59.65%
Leics = 66.0% (Estimate)

Level 1 Services

Early Years and Childcare
Extended Curriculum
Student Support Service
Access and Welfare
Youth Service
Voluntary and Community Sector – CVS & VC's
LCVYS
Connexions
CAMHS Tier 1 and 2
Health – Secondary and Tertiary Care

Schooling 5 -16
Health – Primary Care
Health – General Practitioners
Connexions – Information and advice
Leicestershire Arts in Education
Further Education 16 - 19
Advice and Inspection
Libraries
Museums
Country Parks
Leisure
Housing
Police

CAMHS – Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services
EMASS – Ethnic Minority Achievement Support Service
CVS & VC's – Council for Voluntary Services & Volunteer Centres
LCVYS – Leicestershire Council for Voluntary Youth Services

Chapter 4 – A Vision for Children and Young People’s Services in Leicestershire

A conference entitled ‘Putting Children First’ held in October 2005 was the first step in Leicestershire towards identifying an emerging vision for Children and Young People’s Services.

A group of young people gave an inspiring presentation showing how they would contribute to the vision through a structure of youth involvement designed to ensure their views are heard. This is shown in Appendix B and includes the six stages of enabling effective involvement.

A second conference to develop the vision was held in January 2006. A group of sixth formers and a mixed age group of secondary pupils made highly acclaimed presentations on what they thought needed to be in place under the five Every Child Matters outcomes. Both presentations emphasised the importance for children and young people of being heard and valued, of creating positive images of children and young people, of healthy eating and exercise and of adults taking responsibility for children’s safety. A local vision for children and young people and for the services to support them has been developed through the conferences and broader consultation.



Children and Young People in
Leicestershire say that they want:

“Voice, Choice, Safety and Fulfilment”

Agencies, parents and carers in Leicestershire say:

***“We want all children and young people
in Leicestershire to be safe,
healthy and fulfilled”.***

Together we will achieve our vision by:

- ***informing, consulting and actively involving children and young people, parents and carers and stakeholders in future developments;***
- ***promoting positive parenting as the best way to improve outcomes for children and young people;***
- ***working together to provide better outcomes for children and young people;***
- ***taking positive action to promote and celebrate diversity.***

All partners in Leicestershire have now endorsed this vision through the Children and Young Persons’ Services Board.

Poem presented by children at the January 2006 conference.

HOME WORK

Who invented homework?

What's it for?

I already do enough in class

Why give me more?

When I get back home

I want to be free

I just want to put my feet up

And watch a little TV!

I've heard their excuses

And I think they are poor

"You need to study on your own"

What on earth for?

My dad has a job

In an office all day

If work was waiting for him at home

I know what he would say!

There is just one thing

That might change my mind

And that's if they paid us overtime!

Wouldn't that suit you!!

Participants at the two conferences identified a number of principles, which underpin what they want to achieve for children and young people in Leicestershire by 2009. These helped to shape our vision.

Underpinning Principles:

- high quality **parenting and substitute parenting** is fundamental to improving outcomes for children and young people;
- focus on the **positive qualities and contributions** that children and young people bring to society;
- provide opportunities for children and young people to **participate** in a sustained and effective way in the future development of services;

- establish **mutual respect**, a **common language** and **shared priorities** to promote mutual understanding and to deliver the same overarching outcomes;
- **share information** to ensure services meet needs and to jointly address issues of risk and protection;
- make **access** to services as straightforward as possible and recognise the needs of children in **rural** areas;⁵
- ensure a clear **pathway** through universal services to targeted and specialist services;
- work together as service providers and in partnership with children and families to provide **early/preventative** support;
- deliver **targeted support** through interagency networks to vulnerable children and young people who are not engaged in school, especially at Key Stage 4, where there is a high risk of young people becoming excluded from school, involved in antisocial and criminal behaviour, involved in risk-taking behaviour such as substance misuse, risk of family breakdown or becoming involved in the criminal justice system;
- address and **improve transition issues** as a key protective factor, recognising that outcomes for some children deteriorate when they move from early years to primary school; primary to secondary school and from children's to adult services;
- effectively link **children's services** with **adults' services**;
- plan and develop services across a wide range of agencies with parents, carers, children and young people, including those with disabilities and those from diverse groups.

Here are some quotations from participants at the conferences:

“Develop in children, a thirst for learning and an aspiration to aim higher”

“We want to influence what happens to children and young people”

“We need to promote healthier lifestyles: walking, cycling and good diet to prevent the need for acute services later in life”

“People with drug or mental health problems need prompt access to services”

“In all organisations the systems and processes that protect children should be regularly checked”

“We need places to go and things to do”

“There needs (sadly) to be an increased awareness across all agencies that a small number of parents do deliberately harm their children”

“Obesity can lead to other problems. You get bullied for being fat. This can affect both your self esteem and confidence”

“We want energetic teachers who enjoy teaching, who care and who are interested in us”





Chapter 5 – Achieving the Vision



This chapter highlights some of the many examples of local good practice services that are child and family-focused and demonstrate the principles in Every Child Matters. The examples represent the future direction for service delivery and are already working successfully to improve outcomes for children and young people across the Every Child Matters Framework (Appendix G). They have been validated by external and independent inspection. Some are examples of universal services for all children and some are targeted and specialist services. A wide range of different agencies in the statutory and voluntary and community sectors within Leicestershire provides these services. The cases are true but names have been changed.

1 **Family STEPs – (Solutions to Everyday Problems)** provides support to families and children to encourage emotional well being and positive behaviour. Family STEPs is a partnership between services rather than a service in its own right.

Harry (7) and his mother were referred to the Family STEPs by a Community Psychiatric Nurse. A Family Support Worker helped the mother complete a questionnaire about Harry's strengths and his difficulties. The questionnaire incorporated Harry's current stress, confidence and behaviour levels at school and at home. A plan of work was developed with Harry and his mother. This covered establishing

effective routines, using positive praise and rewards and techniques to help improve his behaviour and relationships.

The Family Support Worker talked to a specialist teacher in the STEPS partnership to discuss how Harry's behaviour could be improved at school. The specialist teacher made two joint home visits with the Family Support Worker. He also visited Harry's school and discussed the situation with his class teacher. He suggested ways in which his difficulties could be tackled which included going through the specialist teacher's report with Harry's next class teacher, to provide continuity and ongoing support.

The Family Support Worker remained involved with the family for four months and made a total of 8 visits. Harry's behaviour was assessed again and there were significant improvements. He was now in a settled bedtime routine, was much more responsive to parental requests and happier and achieving better at school.

These positive outcomes were achieved by engaging the family throughout, from identifying the problems, to forming a work plan, reviewing the outcomes and providing feedback on the service. Prior to the creation of Family STEPs, this family would probably have not received a service. Harry would not have met the criteria for intervention from specialist services and there were no universal services available that would have met his needs.

2 Leicestershire's **multi-agency Teenage Pregnancy Strategy** is exceeding the national government target to reduce the under 18 conception rate by 50% by 2010.

Jo (13) was getting involved with older teenagers and her mother suspected she was becoming involved in alcohol and drugs as well as sexually inappropriate behaviour. Her behaviour was causing difficulties both at home and school. A package of services from different agencies was put in place:

- **One-to-one work:** help for Jo to manage her anger and the impact on her health of smoking, alcohol and drugs;
- **Home:** help for her mother – alternative ways of dealing with Jo. Setting appropriate boundaries encouraging positive behaviours;
- **School:** Managing anger and frustration positively; positive praise and reinforcement;
- **Community:** Jo attended a girl's group – issues dealt with risk-taking behaviour, keeping safe, respecting your body, respecting yourself, healthy living, effects of smoking, alcohol and drugs, sexual health matters and teenage pregnancy.

Feedback from Jo, her mother and school report that the combined approach had a huge impact on Jo's behaviour at home, school and in the community. She is more aware of the consequences of her behaviour and its impact on others as well as on herself. She is now involved in extra curricular activities which means that she is no longer hanging around on street corners with much older teenagers and her risk of involvement with drugs and alcohol and sexually inappropriate behaviour is greatly reduced.

3 Youth Inclusion and Support Panels (YISPs) work as part of the Youth Offending Service with the aim of preventing offending and anti-social behaviour. Multi-agency panels develop integrated support plans to meet the

needs of those identified as at risk of offending. Preventative Officers work with children and young people to deliver the plans.

Adrian (14) was regularly 'joy-riding' with a group of young people on his estate. He was beginning to miss school and was not joining in with his lessons when he was there. In the evenings, he would hang around the streets and get involved in crime such as shop lifting and vandalism.

A YISP worker worked with him to look at the impact of his offending on the community and on his victims. They also talked about what would happen to him if he continued offending. This included a visit to the Youth Offending Institution, Glen Parva, where prison officers and inmates showed the reality of prison life. The YISP worker went into his school and met with teaching staff where they jointly developed a plan to manage his behaviour in the classroom and improve his attendance at school.

Over time Adrian began to settle into school, develop more positive relationships with teaching staff and his attendance improved. In addition to this he completed a successful period of work experience and has been offered a job when he leaves school. He has stopped hanging around on the streets in the evening and went back to the local youth club. His father believes Adrian has a better awareness of the impact of his offending on the community. He has not offended since the work with the YISP.



4

Positive Futures is a sports based social inclusion programme aimed at 10-19 year old disadvantaged young people. The Positive Futures staff work with young people and offer opportunities to

play competitively in sports clubs as well as offer training in coaching skills across a range of sports, leadership skills, first aid and mentoring programmes.

Kyle (17) was referred by his school, as he was very negative towards adults, was not doing well at school and was regularly truanting, had problems at home, poor social skills and low self-esteem.

At first Kyle found it difficult to communicate with the Positive Futures staff. They realised that he enjoyed football and used this interest to gain his confidence. After a while he began to trust the staff and started to attend a drama group along with the football sessions. This was a turning point for him. His attendance at school improved and he was able to discuss and understand a lot of the issues he faced.

As Kyle's confidence grew so did his maturity. With help from the Positive Futures staff, he played for a local football team at quite a high standard. He was asked to sit on a young persons committee to help with the regeneration of the ward where he lived. Kyle has also been invited to sit on a young person's interview panel to help with job interviews. He has taken his Football Association Level 1 coaching certificate and first aid lone worker training. Positive Futures has employed him to help coach sport to young people in the local area during the summer holidays.

5

"Dreamers" is a Leicestershire Youth Service project working with young asylum seekers and refugees. It operates from Mountfields Lodge Youth Centre in Loughborough, and attracts service users from across the county.

"Dreamers" supports over 85 young asylum seekers, refugees and British people challenging prejudice. It brings together young people from Iraq, Bangladesh, Somalia, Albania, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Britain and works on:



Language support: provides specialist translators and encourages mutual language support.

Emotional support: support for young people who have experienced terrible trauma and help in dealing with "Cross cultural shock".

Education: work closely with local FE College to ease transition into a new education system.

Advice and guidance: covering issues around health, benefits, housing, employment and legal issues.

Meeting British young people: social interaction with the benefit of increasing mutual understanding and respect.

Understanding how the British police work: meeting local police and building confidence; help in reporting and combating crime.

Promoting the Voice of Young Refugees: meeting MPs and visiting Parliament to meet with the head of the Refugee Council and the UN Commissioner for Refugee rights; producing a film that has been screened at several national conferences.

The project has just received further national recognition in the form of a Philip Lawrence Award. This award recognises outstanding achievements in good citizenship by young people aged 11yrs to 20yrs. The achievements are contributions to the community which bring out the best in young people, empower them to take the initiative making a real difference to their lives and the lives of others – building confidence, promoting safety and countering crime, violence and racism.

6 Two Halves; One Whole is a project for mixed heritage children and young people living in Leicestershire and Leicester. It is managed by Leicester Family Services Unit. The Project offers support on a number of different levels, often starting with very practical issues and then supporting children and parents to deal with more complex matters.

A white mother of three girls contacted the Project to ask for practical advice about hair care for her daughters. There were few outlets in her local neighbourhood offering suitable products. The Project was able to advise her about this and she and the children were pleased with the results. This helped the girls to feel good about themselves. Following this, two of the children came to a Two Halves; One Whole group and were enthusiastic participants in the programme. One group session included a discussion about recognising and responding positively to racism. One of the girls then took this up in her own school with a member of staff during a classroom session about bullying. The school was very supportive of the young person concerned and acknowledged the importance of the matters she was raising.

The young person felt confident enough to take the issue of racism out of the safety of the group and into her school, thus raising awareness of the issue within the wider community.

7 The Ethnic Minority Achievement Support Service (EMASS) is a small team that provides specialist support for newly arrived pupils/students who are new to English.

They offer an assessment; negotiate support and/or offer advice, strategies and training as appropriate.

The Home Activity Project (H A P) is a simple concept that encourages parents and carers to recognise the importance of early play skills as a pre-requisite for the eventual transition into nurseries and playgroups and later into mainstream education. Community Outreach workers offer parents and carers from the ethnic minority community the opportunity to play with their child both at home and in a safe environment.



Parents are asked to join six weekly sessions to discover with their child a fun way of aiding the transition into more formal education. Parents and carers are given resources as an incentive to get started and then are encouraged to make use of ordinary items from around the home. The project is inexpensive to sustain.

It's a simple idea that has had positive results. A training pack has now been produced to enable other professionals to deliver the Home Activity Project.

8 Positive Activities for Young People is a structured programme providing employment and personal development opportunities to young people who are at risk or who have committed crime. It includes those who have a poor school attendance record, have been excluded, and those with a low level of academic achievement. Key workers support young people by identifying and gaining access to suitable programmes and helping them back into education or training.

John (17) had been excluded from school and had been involved in anti-social behaviour. He had been arrested for burglary, for taking and driving away and for violent behaviour. John did attend a college on a motor mechanic course but did not attend regularly, did not achieve and eventually left.

John's ex-partner has recently given birth to their first son. John feels that he should be bringing in some

form of income to support the baby and ex-partner. John also wants to improve his basic skills in reading and writing and wants to pursue training in the motor mechanic area. There is mounting pressure on John to get some income but also pressure from family to get back into education.

A meeting was arranged with John and his mother and possible solutions discussed. This included past offences and violent behaviour and the impact of these actions on himself and others. An Entry 2 Employment programme was identified for John. This includes a placement on a motor programme, a payment and basic skills training.

John is addressing his anger and violent behaviour. He is doing well on the employment programme and is enjoying it. He is improving his skills and getting some income to support his family.

Without Positive Activities for Young People intervention it is unlikely that John would have accessed any education or training and probably would have resorted to crime. John is now much less likely to spend time in a young offender's institution and later on in prison.



9 Leicestershire's **Anti-bullying Strategy** has been successful in combating bullying and harassment. Over 100 primary schools have participated in 'R Time': a programme to develop good relationships between pupils.

A Head Teacher had tried several techniques to solve a problem of bullying in year 6, including speaking to all parents and carers. Some bullying continued and because of this she asked for some help from the Educational Psychologist.

They agreed the following action:

- To use a parents'/carers' meeting to raise awareness of the nature and indicators of bullying and to demonstrate a whole school approach to tackling bullying. Parents' and carers' concerns were addressed at the meeting.
- To provide a series of six sessions to the whole class looking at bullying. This included looking at different types of bullying; why people bully and what an individual can do to prevent bullying. At the end of the sessions the class put together a short play demonstrating types of bullying and the effects of it, which was performed during an assembly.

School staff reported a positive improvement on children's behaviour and the children found the sessions very enjoyable.

10 **Connexions** is a service for young people between the ages of 13-19. It offers advice, support on education, training, careers, jobs, health, money, drugs, relationships, benefits, housing and the law.

Dee (16) left school in the summer. She had many unresolved issues stemming from poor care by her family when she was very young, her parents' divorce and poor relationships with both parents.

She was bullied at school, had academic difficulties and played truant. She became involved in unstable relationships with young men and spent time away from home after a row with her father.

The Connexions Personal Adviser saw Dee regularly until she was 18. She was an advocate for Dee with her tutor and subject teachers and her parents. She referred her for counselling to Bridge Housing to try to resolve these issues.

This was successful and provided a stable point of contact for Dee.

Dee achieved 5 GCSEs and started an employment programme (Energise Entry 2 Employment).

11 Menphys Special Outreach Service (SOS) is a voluntary sector organisation, which supports children and young people with a range of disabilities and their families. The Carers Grant and the Children Fund provides funding for children with disabilities to try out sport, play or leisure activities of their choice.

Charlie (11) has Aspergers Syndrome. He was referred to Menphys SOS for help to access a sporting activity of his choice. His family had approached some organisations but had been put off by the attitudes of providers to their son's disability. Charlie did not enjoy group or team based activities. Initially his parents said that they would like Charlie to learn to horse ride and an introductory session was arranged. Charlie refused to take this further because there were too many people there. He decided that he wanted to learn to wind surf. A windsurfing instructor was contacted, visited by the field worker who supported and helped him to understand and meet Charlie's needs.

Charlie really enjoyed and benefited from the lessons. He says he had a "fantastic time". His mother reports that having the lessons impacted positively on his self-esteem and confidence. Charlie has continued, with his parents' support, windsurfing on Saturday mornings.

12 Specialist Community Child Health Services offer services to meet additional and complex health needs of children and young people. These include the Diana Children's Community Services, Physiotherapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Paediatric medicine, Specialist Health Visiting and services for 'looked after' children and child protection. The services offered are child centred and delivered locally whenever possible in conjunction with partner organisations.

Chloe (2) had a stroke, which left her with epilepsy, weakness down her right side and difficulties talking and eating and drinking. A specialist health visitor visited Chloe and her family at home with the family health visitor to agree what specialist services Chloe needed. They were given written information to explain the services.

The early year's teacher and specialist health team carried out assessments together in Chloe's nursery and home. The "next steps" for Chloe were agreed with the parents and professionals at the planning meeting. The family support worker from the Children's Centre agreed with the family to act as their keyworker to make sure that services were co-ordinated. Chloe began to work on a programme of activities. All members of the team were involved including her mum and dad.

The staff at Chloe's local nursery were trained and supported by the physiotherapist, speech and language and occupational therapy staff to be able to carry out the 'talking, movement and play' programme and enabled Chloe to eat and drink safely.

Chloe's family reported back that they felt everyone involved in Chloe's care understood her needs and, as a team offered a complete care package.

13

The **Homelessness Support Panel Pilot** in North West Leicestershire was established as a multi agency response to meet the needs of

homeless young people aged 16 and 17 years. The panel has developed a more cohesive and effective system of support for young people, focusing on prevention and where appropriate, support for independent living.

Tony (17) was living in supported accommodation for homeless young people. He was waiting to be re-housed into independent accommodation. He knew that he would not be considered for independent accommodation if he didn't keep up to date with the rent.

Tony was working but on a very low wage and was beginning to get behind with the rent. He felt trapped with an ever-increasing debt and no way out.

Through the support panel Tony was able to move into more affordable accommodation.

He was then in a position to repay the rent arrears.

This assistance enabled Tony to move on and be freed from the stress of debt. It also provided a bed space for another homeless young person.

14

Hinckley Sports Development Scheme comprising Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Hinckley Rugby Club and Payne's Garages has

received a national award for the sports development scheme they ran in 2005, which took rugby coaching into local schools in the area.

The scheme visited local schools and introduced the game of Tag rugby to children in curriculum time and as after school clubs. It enabled young people to participate in sport which is good for their future health and rounded development. It also encouraged families to participate and support the scheme.

The scheme trained parents and teachers to lead rugby sessions so that once the scheme had finished coaches would be in place to ensure the sessions kept running.





Chapter 6 - The Priorities for Action



The priorities for action have taken into account:

- What children and young people have said;
- What parents and the community have said;
- What national inspectors have said;
- Our knowledge of needs in Leicestershire from demographic information and feedback from services;
- The County Council Medium Term Corporate Strategy (Appendix I);
- Our agreement with government through the Local Area Agreement about where we need to focus improvement (Appendix H).

We will undertake a comprehensive 'needs assessment' in 2006/07 to consolidate our understanding of local needs and help to refine our priorities for the future.

As well as making improvements we will maintain the excellent quality of our universal services, which provide the foundations for all children. We will also maintain our current absolute commitment to protect and safeguard children and young people.

Our priorities are in some universal services where outcomes need to improve for all children and in services where early intervention will prevent vulnerable children and young people moving into a higher need category.

We look below at each outcome in turn describing what we want to see for the children and young people of Leicestershire and how we will go about achieving it. We believe that the five 'Every Child Matters' outcomes are inter-dependent and action under one outcome is likely to have an impact under other outcomes. This is not always duplicated for ease of reading.

For some outcomes we will need to improve the baseline data by which to measure outcomes.

Be Healthy

A comment from a young person at the January 2006 conference:

"Healthy food is expensive and unhealthy food is cheap. The price of food can affect what children eat"

We know that:

- Nationally 8.5% of six year olds and 15% of fifteen year olds are defined as obese;
- Although independent inspection found that sex and relationship education is generally sound, the education of boys and support for teenage fathers needs to be improved;
- Parents and carers who are referred for support are benefiting from parenting groups but other parents are saying they would also like more support, including parents of disabled children;
- Research shows that interested parents and carers make a huge difference to children's well-being and attainment;

- Health checks for 'looked after children' have improved significantly and performance is now in the top 25% nationally;
- 79% of young parents are known to Connexions.

We want to:

Focus on those health issues that will affect children throughout their childhood and into adulthood and those that will assist them in making healthy choices:

- Improve the physical health of children and young people;
- Improve the sexual health of children and young people;
- Improve the mental health and well being of children and young people.

We will do this by:

Halting the year on year rise in levels of obesity in children less than 11 years.

Primary Care Trusts have a target for 2005/06 to tackle the underlying determinants of ill health and health inequalities by halting the year on year rise in obesity among children under 11 by 2010. We will identify the level of obesity amongst children and young people in Leicestershire in the academic year 2005/06.

Increasing the % of school children spending a minimum of 2 hrs per week on high quality PE and school sport.

The Healthy Schools Programme, which is working to encourage as many schools as possible to attain healthy schools status, and the County Sports Partnership are working with health colleagues to encourage the promotion of physical activity and adopting a healthier lifestyle. We will ensure that 75% of children spend a minimum of two hours per week on high quality PE and school sport by 2006/07 and 87% by 2008/09.

Improving the health of new mothers and their babies in existing Sure Start Children's Centre Schemes.

We will reduce the number of women who continue to smoke in pregnancy and sustain breastfeeding beyond 6 weeks; ensure that 98% of new mothers are visited within 2 months of baby's birth and advised of support services.

Improving Sex and Relationship services for young people (particularly for boys and young men).

The rate of reduction in teenage pregnancies in Leicestershire is above the national average and has exceeded the government's 2004 interim target of a reduction of 15%. However Sex and Relationship Education could be improved across the county. We will pay particular attention to access, so that we know whether services are being well used by boys as well as girls. We will ensure that issues of sexuality are appropriately recognised and addressed through the comprehensive needs assessment. We will improve the support available for teenage parents. We will increase the number of schools achieving the National Healthy Schools status from 140 in 2006/07 to 250 in 2008/09. We will be looking at how advice, guidance and information can be provided through a variety of settings in response to the Youth Green Paper – Youth Matters.





Improving access to maternity and support services for young parents.

Connexions will increase the percentage of young parents with whom they have contact from 79% to 86% by 2008/09. Maternity and post-natal services will increase their service to young parents by 20% over three years, once a baseline has been established.

Increasing numbers and effectiveness of parenting groups across Leicestershire and increasing the range of parenting support services, including parents of disabled children and parents of substance misusers.

Every Child Matters promotes support to parents as the main guardians for the successful upbringing of children. In Leicestershire local consultation events have strongly supported this as a priority. Parents and carers are generally best placed to understand the needs of their children. Some parents and carers need additional support in being able to carry out this function.

In 2004 Leicestershire implemented a Local Interagency Parenting Strategy which is now delivering a rolling programme of parenting groups for parents and carers with children both under 11 years and over 11 years. We will have 18 parenting groups in 2006/07 and 25 groups by 2008/09.

We will expand the parenting strategy to provide more informal parenting support programmes particularly through the development of peer support and parent volunteer services, including wider informal support

for parents and carers of disabled children and parents and carers of substance misusing young people.

Staying Safe

A comment from a young person at the January 2006 conference:

“We want honest and frank debate, not just leaflets about these issues. We want to hear from people who have experienced these problems first hand. Feeling safe is an important part of staying safe”.

We know that:

- Leicestershire’s Child Protection Services are excellent on all the national performance indicators;
- Nearly half of all referrals to Children’s Social Services Access teams are concerns about the safety and welfare of children including children who experience domestic violence;
- The percentage of children’s social services core assessments completed within 35 days is very good but the time scales for completing initial assessments need to improve;
- Leicestershire has effective and well-established arrangements for co-ordinating work to safeguard children and young people. From April 2006 this will be delivered through the Local Safeguarding Children Board, which will ensure that agencies work together to keep children safe and to evaluate how they do this;
- There are other children and young people with lower levels of need, who are not so well supported and are at risk of becoming disengaged/disaffected. They may be out of school because either they choose not to be in school or are excluded and can drift into crime and have no meaningful occupation; These young people present multi challenging/problem behaviour that is beyond the capacity of universal services but falls below the thresholds of Level 3 specialist services such as Social Services and Youth Offending Services;
- About 750,000 children nationally witness

domestic violence each year and nearly three quarters of children on the child protection register live in households where domestic violence occurs” (Department of Health, 2003);

- In Leicestershire 0.04% of primary school age children are permanently excluded. This compares with 0.03% for our similar councils and 0.04% nationally. 0.28% of secondary school age children are permanently excluded. This compares with 0.25% for our similar councils and 0.27% nationally.



We want to:

- Maintain, through the Local Safeguarding Children Board, our focus on safeguarding and protecting children, ensuring that all agencies work together;
- Provide better opportunities for vulnerable young people and improve their life chances;
- Ensure children and young people affected by domestic violence are identified, protected and supported;⁶
- Improve the provision of support for homeless and potentially homeless young people and reduce the incidence of homelessness amongst vulnerable groups including care leavers, young parents and young offenders.

We will do this by:

Making our commitment to the Local Safeguarding Children Board the highest priority.

The new Leicestershire Local Safeguarding Children Board was launched on 24th February 2006. The Board will implement the Every Child Matters improvements in child protection and co-operate with Adults' Services on issues of risk to children from adults.

Improving the time scales for completing children's social services initial assessments in line with similar councils.

Time-scales for initial assessments are regularly monitored and good progress is being made to achieve the required improvements by the end of 2005/06.

Completing the implementation of Equality Impact Assessments across all statutory services.

Equality Impact Assessments will be completed during 2006/07.

Reducing permanent exclusions in secondary schools.

Increasing the number of young people under 18 in drug and alcohol treatment programmes.

Improving support for 16 and 17 year olds who present as homeless because of family breakdown.

Increasing the percentage of young people prevented from further offending after receiving a reprimand.

We will develop a new multi-agency preventative support service for vulnerable young people who fall below Social Services threshold. This service will work as a network operating as a virtual team(s) with partners drawn from Youth Inclusion Support Panels including the Police, DAAT, Connexions, Youth, Education, Health and Voluntary Sector services. The network will focus on prevention, early intervention and targeted support, filling a gap for young people who may otherwise drift without support or down track become children in need. A new youth crime prevention grant will be a significant additional

resource to assist us in preventing vulnerable young people becoming involved in offending.

To support homeless and potentially homeless young people, we will build on a successful pilot project which has established effective multi-agency support networks for vulnerable young people at risk of homelessness or needing support to maintain tenancies in their own right. We will develop comprehensive mediation services in all District Council areas. The aim is to discourage and reduce the number of young people obtaining tenancies at 16 years, to reduce the numbers of vulnerable young people placed in temporary accommodation and increase the numbers who live successfully in independent tenancies when this is an appropriate outcome.

Increasing the reporting of domestic violence.

By encouraging reporting we will increase the number of families accessing services and children and young people receiving support.



Enjoy and Achieve

A comment from a young person at the January 2006 conference:

"If pupils were rewarded more for good behaviour this might encourage them to increase their efforts. Pupils need to realise how important achieving is for their future life"

We know that:

- Early years education meets early learning goals;
- The progress that individual pupils make from Key Stage 2 to GCSE or equivalent (value added) is below the national average and below that of similar councils;
- 80% of permanently excluded pupils received 20 or more hours of tuition in 2004-05. It had been 59% in 2003-04;
- Leicestershire is ranked nationally 22nd for primary school attendance and 25th for secondary school attendance out of 149 authorities;
- The Pupil Referral Units have been identified as needing improvement;
- Over 40% of 13-19 year olds in Leicestershire have had contact with the Youth Service and over 25% of 13-19 year olds access the service;
- The percentage of care leavers with GCSE or equivalent is low in comparison to that of similar councils;
- School attendance by 'looked after children' has improved by 40% over the last four years but has dipped in the last year;
- Some looked after children do not have placements that meet their needs. Some of these children have too many changes of placement.

We want to:

- Improve personal and social development and the enjoyment of culture and recreation;
- Be in the top 25% of authorities for achievements at Key Stages 2 and 4 and in the top 10% at Key Stage 3;

- Improve the educational progress and attainment for children at all levels including 'looked after' children, boys, pupils excluded from school and pupils with special needs;
- Reduce non-school attendance of children especially at secondary level including 'looked after' children;
- Improve the quality of life for 'looked after' children and care leavers.



We will do this by:

Increasing the numbers of children and young people involved in cultural and youth services structured programmes and activities, particularly from black and minority ethnic communities, disabled young people, young carers and 'looked after' children.

Improving the rates of free or subsidised access to cultural services for disabled young people and 'looked after' children.

Increasing the numbers of disabled children enabled to use inclusive play and cultural services.

Although our performance in relation to the above is good, local partners including District and Borough Councils have made it a local priority and are keen to ensure that the benefits of local cultural and leisure services are available to all children and young people. District and Borough Councils will continue to work with Local Strategic Partnerships to address issues relating to young people in priority neighbourhoods.

Currently over 13,000 young people regularly engage in accredited positive activities with the Youth Services. Many young people make a positive contribution to their local community through volunteering. However up to a quarter of young people do not take part in any form of activities they regard as positive. The results of recent consultation indicate that they do want to engage in positive activities but services have to be delivered in responsive, flexible, sustainable and affordable ways. We will improve the systematic recording of the number of vulnerable young people engaged in youth service activities and actively involve young people in shaping the delivery of services.

Voluntary youth organisations and their umbrella body LCVYS will also have a part to play in the engagement of children and young people and in shaping local services.

Through the Children's Fund and Carers Grant we successfully piloted a scheme to enable disabled children to try out sport, play and leisure opportunities of their choice. We plan to widen the range of activities and opportunities for disabled children to take part in mainstream play, recreation and cultural activities through the contribution of Big Lottery and Children's Services funding.

Improving educational progress and attainment measured by increases in the average point scores of pupils in line with the Fischer Family Trust Band D comparator⁷.

Standards in core subjects in Key Stage 1 are generally above national averages and those for our similar councils. In Key Stage 2 standards are in line with averages although performance in science is above the national average. Although standards are strong at Key Stage 3, standards at Key Stage 4 have been no more than average for the last five years.

The progress that individual pupils make from Key Stage 2 to GCSE or equivalent (value added) is below the national average and below that of similar councils and is therefore a key priority for improvement.

Improving the educational support and provision for permanently excluded pupils.

There have been recent improvements in pupils who were permanently excluded receiving 21+ hours tuition per week rising from 59% in 2004 to 80% in 2005. However this is still an area which remains a priority for improvement to 100%.

Improving the percentage of care leavers with at least 1 GCSE A*-C qualification or equivalent.

The proportionately low numbers of 'looked after' children compared to other authorities are based on a very small cohort. In 2004/05 38% of young people leaving care had at least 1 GCSE or GNVQ. The target for 2006/07 is 45% and for this to increase to 65% by 2009.

Improving the overall percentage attendance rates of secondary school age pupils and a reducing the number of half-day absences.

Authorised and unauthorised levels of absences at primary school are well below the national average. However there is a marked increase in the levels of unauthorised absence within secondary schools of 1.18% compared with the national average of 1.12%. It is a priority to improve attendance at secondary schools and to reach at least national average levels.

The increased support for parents and carers under Be Healthy and the innovative service under Staying Safe to respond to vulnerable young people who are starting to display additional needs and to encourage them to return to school will also address this.

Improving attendance for children who have been 'looked after' for more than one year and who missed more than 25 days schooling in the previous school year.

School attendance by 'looked after' children improved by 40% over the last four years from 22% to only 12.6% of children who are looked after missing 25 days or more in the school year 2003/04. However performance dipped last year and renewed effort is needed to improve performance to 11% by 2009.

Improving the performance of our Pupil Referral Units.

There have been changes at our Pupil Referral Units and the service is being very closely monitored to ensure that they deliver the quality of service required.

Increasing the numbers of local foster and adoption placements, reduced use of out of authority placements and reducing the number of placement changes experienced by looked after children.

We are committed to providing placement choice and placement stability to improve outcomes for Leicestershire's 'looked after' children. This is reflected in the local authority Corporate Parenting Strategy, the Placements Strategy and the Permanency Policy. We will reverse the trend of a year on year net loss of local foster placements and ensure that fewer than 16% of 'looked after' children and young people experience three or more placement changes in any single year.

Making a Positive Contribution

A comment from a young person at the January 2006 conference:

"The Community Action Service in Leicestershire makes us feel valued and good about ourselves as we are doing something for other people. It increases our self esteem and confidence and helps us learn new skills and improve our relationship with adults"



We know that:

- A consultation exercise with 22,500 responses from children and young people in Leicestershire showed that over 51% of children and young people wanted to become involved in decision making with a further 30% unsure;
- 50% of primary aged children thought that the school council was the best place for them to be involved in decisions made in school but only 29% of secondary school pupils agreed;
- 51% of young people felt that engaging in meetings organised by a youth group would be the best way for them to be involved in decision making within their community;
- The Pupil and Student Attitude Survey for 2004/05 concluded that 72% of children and young people are happy at school and 85% agree that school work is worth doing. Nearly 80% feel that they demonstrate positive behaviour both in and outside of the school.

We want to:

- Improve and enable opportunities for children and young people to participate in consultation exercises and be actively involved in decisions that affect their lives. We will make sure we involve hard to reach groups, such as young carers, children from black and minority ethnic communities, traveller communities, children attending Pupil Referral Units and children with disabilities. This will be achieved through a variety of forums as described in Appendix B.

We will do this by:

Implementing the nationally recognised **Hear by Right Standards**⁸ as a framework to secure sustained participation of children and young people and continual improvement in partnership activities. We will also be promoting children and young people's rights through the creation of a Working Together Agreement (See Appendix A).

Achieving Economic Well-being

A comment from a young person at the January 2006 conference:

"We need to be taught financial literacy including mortgages, interest rates, managing money and reading the small print. We need to know about career options and housing"

We know that:

- In November 2004, 4.9% of young people were not in education, employment or training. Targets were set to improve this to 4.6% by November 2005 and 4.3% by November 2006. However in November 2005, 5.6% of 16 -18 year olds were not in education, employment and training although more young people were looking for employment and apprenticeships;
- All 'looked after' care leavers have pathway plans;
- A broader vocational education strategy for 14 to 19 year olds is at an early stage of development;
- Information to prospective early years and childcare providers by the Early Years Advice services needs to reduce actions relating to equal opportunities and behaviour policies.

We want to:

- Improve the engagement of 14-19 year olds in education and training including 'looked after' children and care leavers;
- Ensure sufficient quality childcare places are provided across the County that are accessible to all groups;
- Improve the quality of advice guidance and support given by the Council's Early Years and Child Care Service to pre registration applicants;
- Provide extended services in primary and secondary schools and in children's centres.

We will do this by:

Delivering improvements in the Key Stage 4 strategy by increasing the take up of vocational courses leading to increased performance at age 19yrs at NVQ Level 2 or equivalent.

Reducing the percentage of 16-19 year olds not engaged in education and training, particularly for teenage mothers.

We will increase the number of 14-19 year olds following vocational qualification courses from 10% of a school cohort in 2006/07 to 22% of the cohort by 2008/09.

The new multi-agency preventative support service for vulnerable children and young people (Staying Safe) will include young people not in education, employment and training and young parents.

We recognise a need for work based learning opportunities including Modern Apprenticeships. Colleges providing vocational courses will work with Connexions, the Learning Skills Council, the county-wide 'Not in Education, Employment or Training Group' and the 'Area Planning Co-ordinators' to improve opportunities for 14-19 year olds. They will make sure that young people have the right knowledge, skills and attitude to make well-informed and realistic decisions about their post 16 choices.

We will increase the number of teenage mothers in education training or employment, from 28% in 2006/07 to 42% in 2008/09.

Improving sufficiency in the provision of quality childcare places, with a particular focus on the take up of childcare places by disadvantaged groups, including young parents.

Although the overall childcare ratios across the county are good (one place for every four children), there is a need for more equitable distribution of provision. The aim is to ensure that, by 2009, the 1:4 ratio exists in the top 40% of wards that fall within indices of

multiple deprivation. We will become more proactive in managing the market for childcare provision.

Reducing the number of actions arising from OfSTED inspections for new Early Years and Childcare providers.

The team undertaking this work has already been enhanced and provider networks in all districts given additional support. Outcomes have improved since October 2004 and the aim is be within the top 25% in the country.

Developing extended services in primary and secondary schools and in Children's Centres.

Extended services in schools and Children's Centres are a national priority in providing 'wrap around' care for children and young people across all the ages and stages of their development. Leicestershire will develop 24 more Children's Centres by 2008. We will work in partnership with all children's agencies to determine the location of the Children's centres so that they reach those children and families who are in greatest need. By 2009 we will also increase to 75% the percentage of primary and secondary schools that provide extended out of hours services and deliver a wide range of support for children of different abilities and to their parents.



one of them
is in care...



teach them
that they're
ALL THE SAME!

Chapter 7 - Delivering the Plan



This section explains the organisational arrangements and processes that we are putting in place between the partners to deliver this Plan. We will make sure that together we maintain our current performance in core services and make the improvements outlined in Chapter 6.

Leicestershire has a strong track record of highly effective partnership working. We are building on these strong foundations to take the first steps towards **Children's Trust** arrangements. Children's Trusts are the government's model for improving universal, targeted and specialist services. They aim to improve co-ordination and responsibility for services at both a strategic and operational level.

Leicestershire's Children and Young People's Plan links closely with other local plans. '**Leicestershire Community Strategy**' is produced by 'Leicestershire Together'; a partnership of organisations that delivers public services in Leicestershire. **The Local Safeguarding Children Board** produces 'Local Safeguarding Children Board Business Plan', which is a partnership of organisations committed to ensuring the safety of children in Leicestershire. '**Safer Communities Plans**' produced by local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, and the '**Youth Justice Plan**' produced by the Youth Offending Service, are part of community safety partnerships which aim to prevent and reduce overall crime including youth crime. These partnership bodies work closely together on areas of overlap to ensure good co-ordination.

Appendix C shows Leicestershire's Planning structure.

For the local authority a new **Director of Children's Services** and **lead Member for Children's Services** were appointed in July 2005. A new 'Children and Young People's Service' was formed in April 2006 responsible for education and children's social care services.

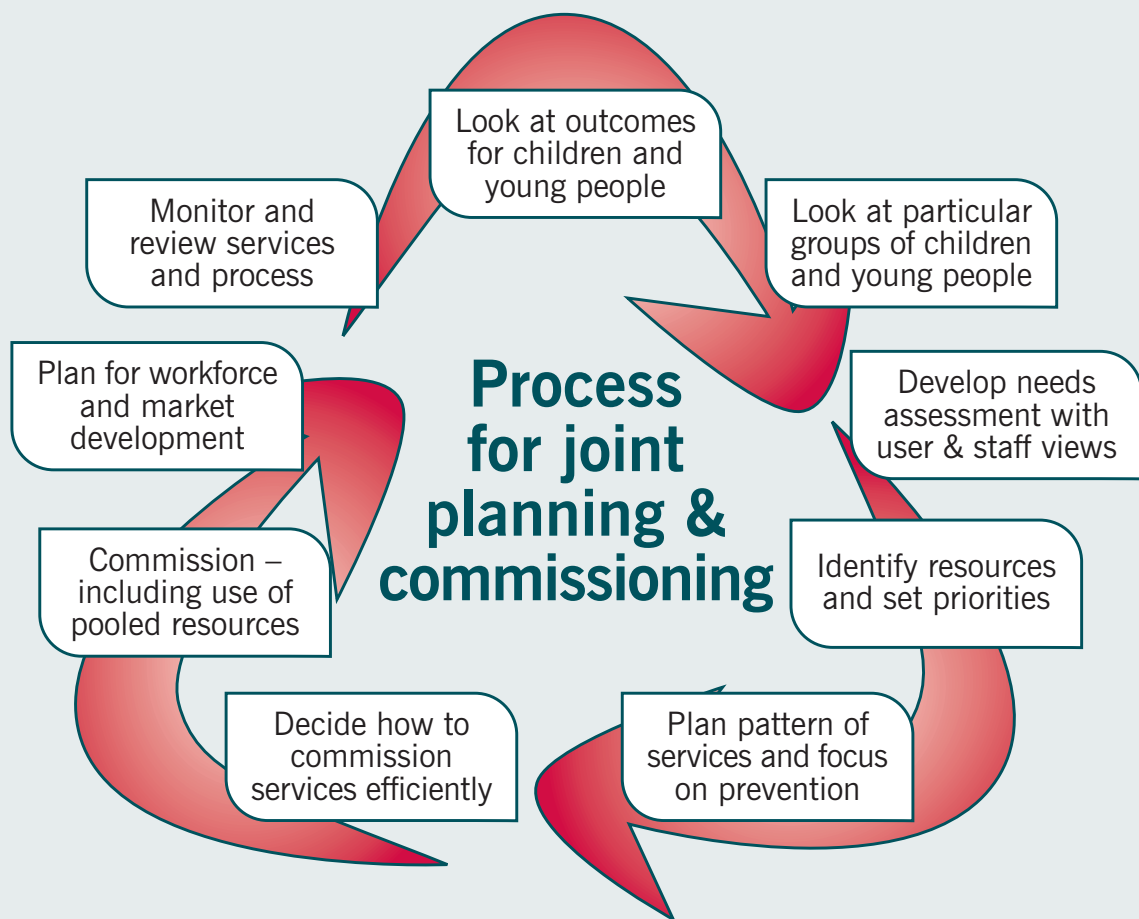
A new **Children and Young Persons' Services Board**⁹ was established in February 2005 involving all the key stakeholders at Chief Officer and Non-Executive Member level. The Board will be responsible for ensuring this Plan and the Children and Young People's block of the Local Area Agreement are implemented, reviewed and performance managed. We will review the Plan annually. We will use our consultation processes to listen to the views of agencies, children and young people and parents and carers and to report progress on the priorities.

The Children and Young Persons' Services Board is likely to evolve into the 'governance body' for Leicestershire's Children's Trust arrangements. Partner agencies, including representation from the Voluntary and Community Sector Children and Young People's Services¹⁰ Forum, will work together during 2006/07 to determine the type of Children's Trust arrangements they want to see in place and these will be implemented during 2007/08.

The Board will be developing a commissioning model that is right for Leicestershire making best use of all

⁹ For terms of reference for the Board visit www.leics.gov.uk/lecm

¹⁰ see Glossery of Terms



11

available resources.

The Board will also be considering the workforce implications of an integrated approach. The new agenda for children and young people requires a **workforce** that is flexible, skilled, well-led and supported by effective shared systems and processes. This new approach will require new skills and the breaking down of professional and institutional boundaries. We will be developing our workforce strategy to meet these challenges.

Leicestershire’s Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership was established in September 2001 following guidance from central government. Its approach to partnership working and planning and to developing integrated services for vulnerable children and young people has been consistently praised both by a number of inspections of our statutory services and by other monitoring of the council’s performance. The Partnership, working through a number of sub-groups, is currently responsible for the operational

delivery of the outcomes for vulnerable children within the Children and Young People’s Plan and will report back to the Board. The Board will make changes in 2006-07 to the reporting systems for all services. Reporting for universal and targeted services will be combined to ensure a child centred approach.

Leicestershire has already made progress in **integrating frontline service delivery**. The Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership has driven the development of innovative integrated services in the county. Some examples of successful partnership working are given in Chapter 4.

In Leicestershire the Bridges Project is leading on the **Common Assessment Framework, the Lead Professional Role and Local Information Sharing**.

The Common Assessment Framework for children and young people is a key part of the Children Act 2004. It focuses on early intervention to address problems before they get worse. It is a nationally standardised approach to conducting an assessment of the needs of

a child or young person and deciding how needs should be met. Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland are one of thirteen areas taking part in the national evaluation of the Common Assessment Framework.

Trials of the Common Assessment form have begun in multi agency meetings at Castle Rock High School, Coalville and in other pilot areas in Leicester and Rutland. They have been well received by children and young people and staff. Multi-agency training on the Common Assessment Framework is currently underway.

The Lead Professional role (could be professional from any agency agreed jointly as the most appropriate to take the lead with a particular child/family) is key in supporting the principles of the Common Assessment Framework. When a child or young person with additional needs requires support from more than one service the lead professional will:

- Act as a single point of contact for the child and family who is able to support them in making choices.
- Ensure children and families receive appropriate interventions when needed which are well planned, regularly reviewed and effectively delivered.
- Reduce overlap with other practitioners.

The local Information Sharing project has developed a well used online service directory and provides training for practitioners. The government has recently announced that resources will be made available to introduce a fully operational information index to support this work in all areas of England by the end of 2008. It will provide a tool to support communication among practitioners across education, health, social care and youth offending.



Don't expect the
worst of us...



...just because
we're in care!

Glossary of Terms

Children's Centres	Leicestershire will use current available buildings to deliver a range of services for 0-4 Year olds and their parents and carers across a local community. This will include some or all of the following services, depending on the need of the community a) good quality early learning and full day care provision for children b) parental outreach c) family support services d) advice and information to parents e) child and family health services f) support for children and parents with special needs and g) effective links with Job Centre Plus
Citizens' Panel	A Citizens' Panel is a sample of local residents recruited to be representative of the wider population who have agreed to respond to a specific number of postal surveys per year.
Extended Services in Schools	A range of activities will be developed, depending on the needs of the community and usually delivered on and if not, near to, school sites including a) childcare b) range of after school activities c) parenting support and information, including family learning d) health and social care and e) community access to resources and facilities
Fischer Family Trust Band D comparator	These estimates indicate the level of attainment, which would be achieved if the pupils in a particular school made progress similar to that made by pupils in the top 25% of schools nationally in the previous year.
Foundation Stage	Education of children aged 3 and 4 years
Indices of Multiple Deprivation	Released by Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, a Civil Service department within Central Government, in May 2004. They provide statistical data around Income Deprivation, Employment Deprivation, Health Deprivation and Disability, Education, Skills and Training Deprivation, Barriers to Housing and Services, Living Environment Deprivation and Crime
Key Stage 1	Education of children aged 5 to 7 years
Key Stage 2	Education of children aged 8 to 11 years
Key Stage 3	Education of children aged 12 to 14 years
Key stage 4	Education of children aged 15 and 16 years
Leicestershire ECM Website	Dedicated aspect of the County Council's website relating to local developments within the Every Child Matters agenda www.leics.gov.uk/ecm
Local Area Agreements	Performance targets agreed between each local authority in England and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister relating to the identification of and improvement in service delivery across a number of identified key local priority service areas
Pathway Plans	Plans developed for looked after young people to aide them as they leave care, revolving around equipping them with life skills and supporting them to develop their independence
SENCO	Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators. Named staff in early years settings and schools with responsibility for co-ordinating and meeting the individual needs of children with Special Educational Needs
Super Output Areas – lower level (SOA)	This is a relative new geography created by the Office of National Statistics. They are created by combining a number of Output Areas which were created for the 2001 Census. They are small areas of broadly consistent population size across the county, each containing approximately 1,500 people. In Leicestershire there are 396 SOAs.
Value added	Value Added is a measure of the progress that individual pupils make from one key stage to another, relative to the national picture.
Virtual Teams	Multi-agency teams that can communicate and work together but do not have to be co-located
VCS Children and Young People's Service Forum	A Forum supporting Leicestershire and Rutland Voluntary and Community Sector.
VOX POP	Annual Consultation event between Young People, aged 13 and over and Leicestershire County Councillors

Appendix A - Working Together Agreement

The Working Together Agreement has been developed between June 2005 and February 2006 through the involvement of children, young people, parents and carers. The Agreement sets out the rights and mutual expectations that children and young people have in relation to service providers.

RIGHTS & EXPECTATIONS

FAIRNESS - We expect everyone to be treated fairly.

DECISIONS - We expect to be able to have our say.

WORKING TOGETHER - We expect to be part of deciding what's best for us.

INFORMATION - We expect all information and advice to be easy and clear for us.

CONTACT - We expect all contacts to respect us in a way that we understand.

RESPECT - We expect our opinions to be valued.

We Will
Respect People
Who Are
Trying To Help
And Support Us

Appendix B -

A Structure for further developing Children and Young People's Involvement.

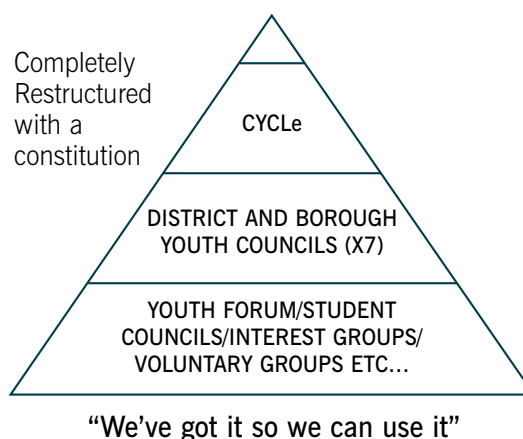
For children and young people's involvement to be most effective, there are six levels in achieving vision:

For children and young people's involvement to be most effective, there are six levels in achieving vision:

Resources	For the structure to be put in place effectively, funding needs to be given to enable it to deliver its potential.
Communication	Communication is an essential part for success - the voice of young people must be heard by the right people in the right places.
Relationships	Strong relationships that are reciprocal to create a two- way understanding.
Respect	Respect for everyone's views is a must – all opinions should be taken into account and feedback needs to be given in order for future progression.
Involvement	Support and help to get our ideas off the ground.
Levels	Every level of the pyramid structure needs to be fully supported to make sure that everyone gets heard with two-way communication.

This 'pyramid' outlines just one way in which children and young people will have the opportunity of being involved in developing services that are based on their needs. This structure of involvement shows how their voices are collected at a local level and co-ordinated through a district or borough youth council. Representatives are then selected to sit on the County Youth Council for Leicestershire – CYCLe and they will be expected to represent the views of children and young people. At each level, there will be a clear constitution outlining the aim and role of children and young people representatives. Other methods of participation are being discussed with the formation of a Children and Young People's 'Parliament' anticipated during the lifetime of the Children and Young People Plan.

Dealing with issues at a county level or those that may have far reaching resolutions



Appendix C - Leicestershire's Planning Structure as at April 2006

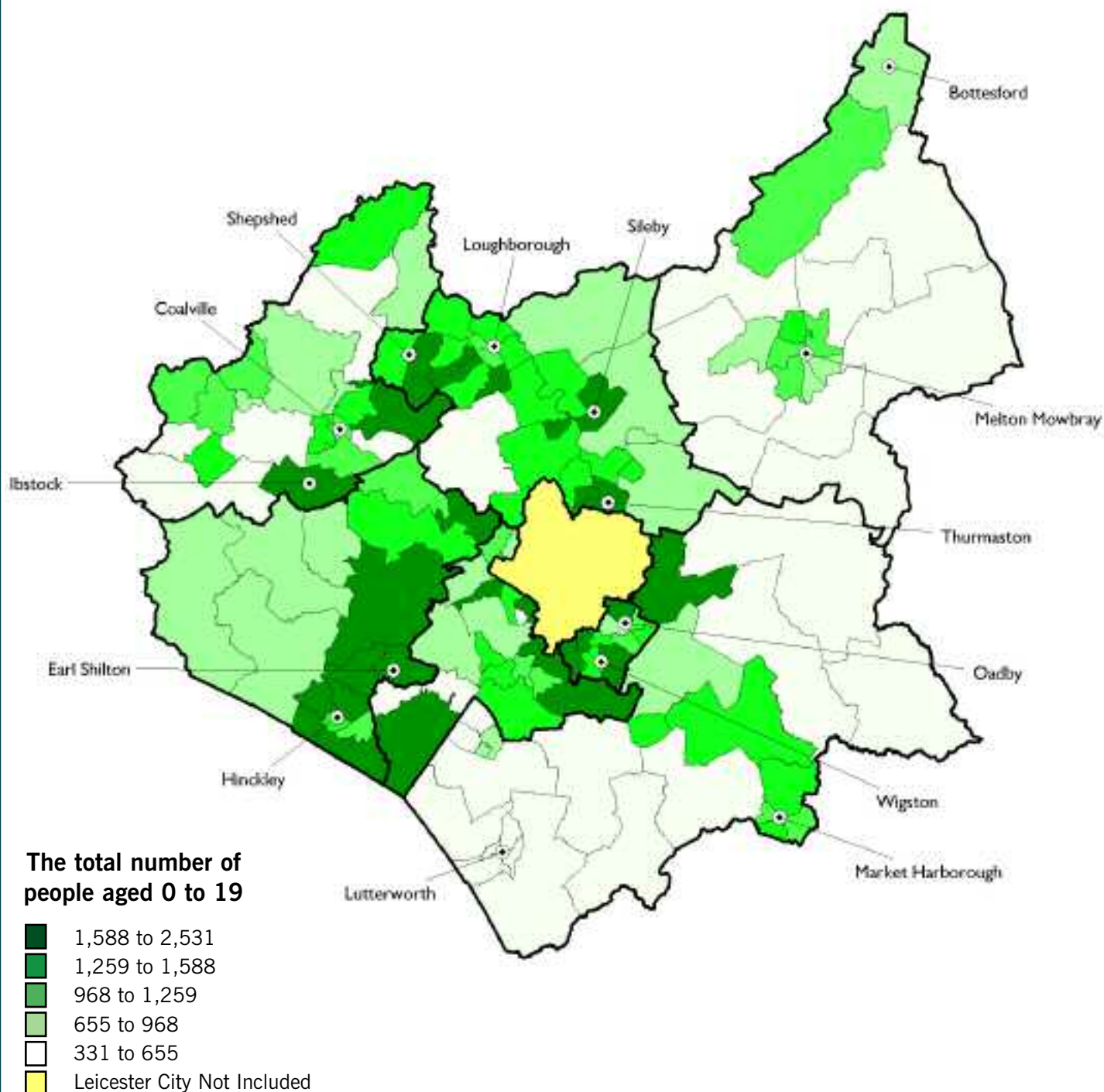
This table illustrates Leicestershire's Planning Structure. It will require further development by Leicestershire's Children and Young Persons' Services Board to ensure that it is comprehensive and inclusive.

LEVEL	PLANS							
National Overarching Plans	Every Child Matters Children Act 2004 Children Act 1989	National Health Service 'National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services'						
Overarching Community Partnership Plans	Leicestershire's Community Strategy	Leicestershire's Safer Communities Plans	Leicestershire's Local Area Agreement					
Individual Agency Plans	Local NHS (Primary Care Trust and Acute and Community NHS Trusts) Plan (s)		District and Borough Council Corporate Plans					
Overarching Children's Plans	Leicestershire's Children and Young People's Plan		Leicestershire's Local Safeguarding Children's Board Plan					
Examples of Specific and Targeted Focussed Plans	Teenage Pregnancy Plan	Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services Plan	Children's Fund Plan	Drug Action Team Plan	Youth Justice Plan	Children's Social Care Annual Plan	Connexions Business Plan	Education Service Plan

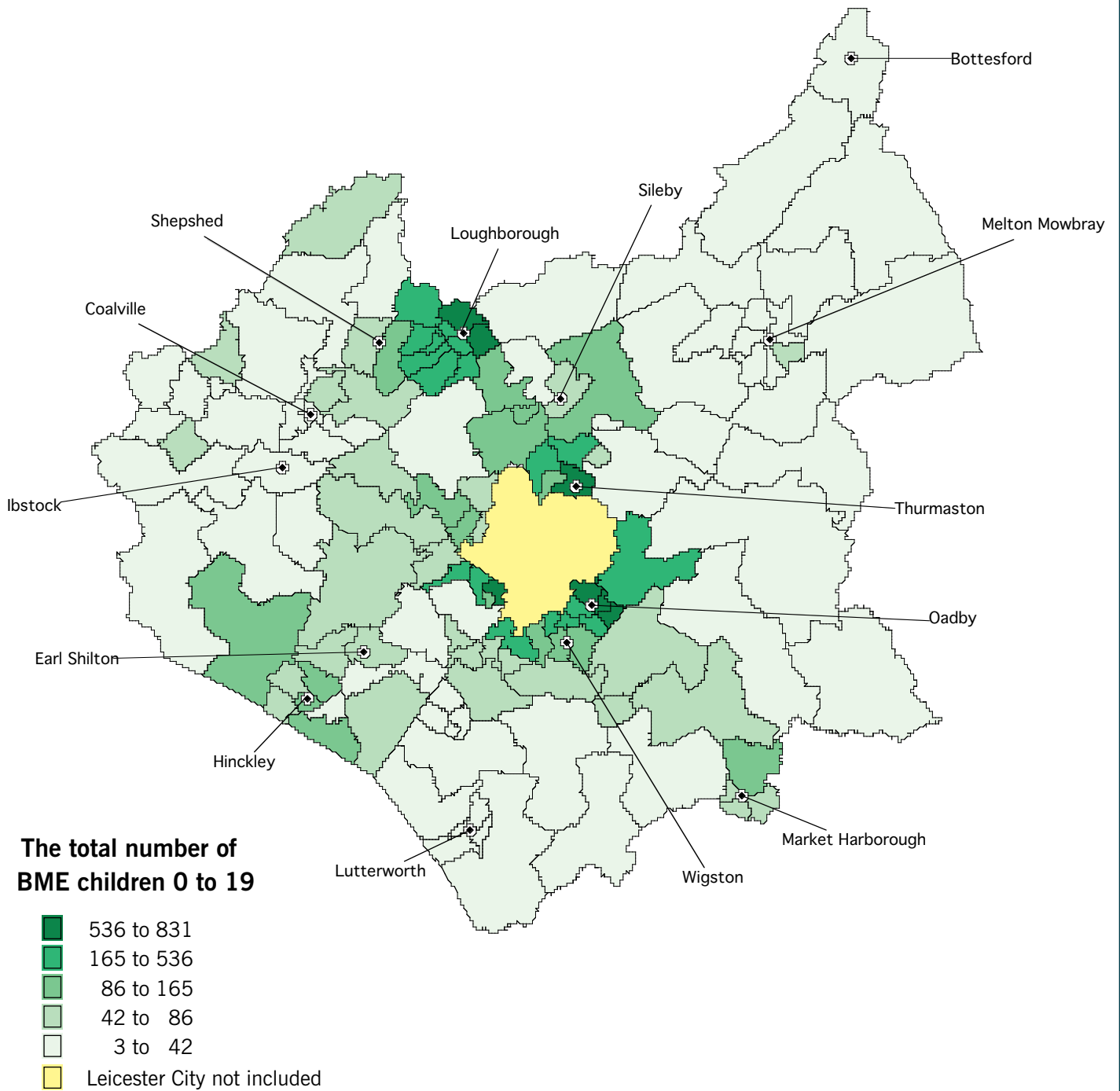
Appendix D -

Population Profile of Children and Young People in Leicestershire

The total number of people aged 0 to 19 by ward in Leicestershire

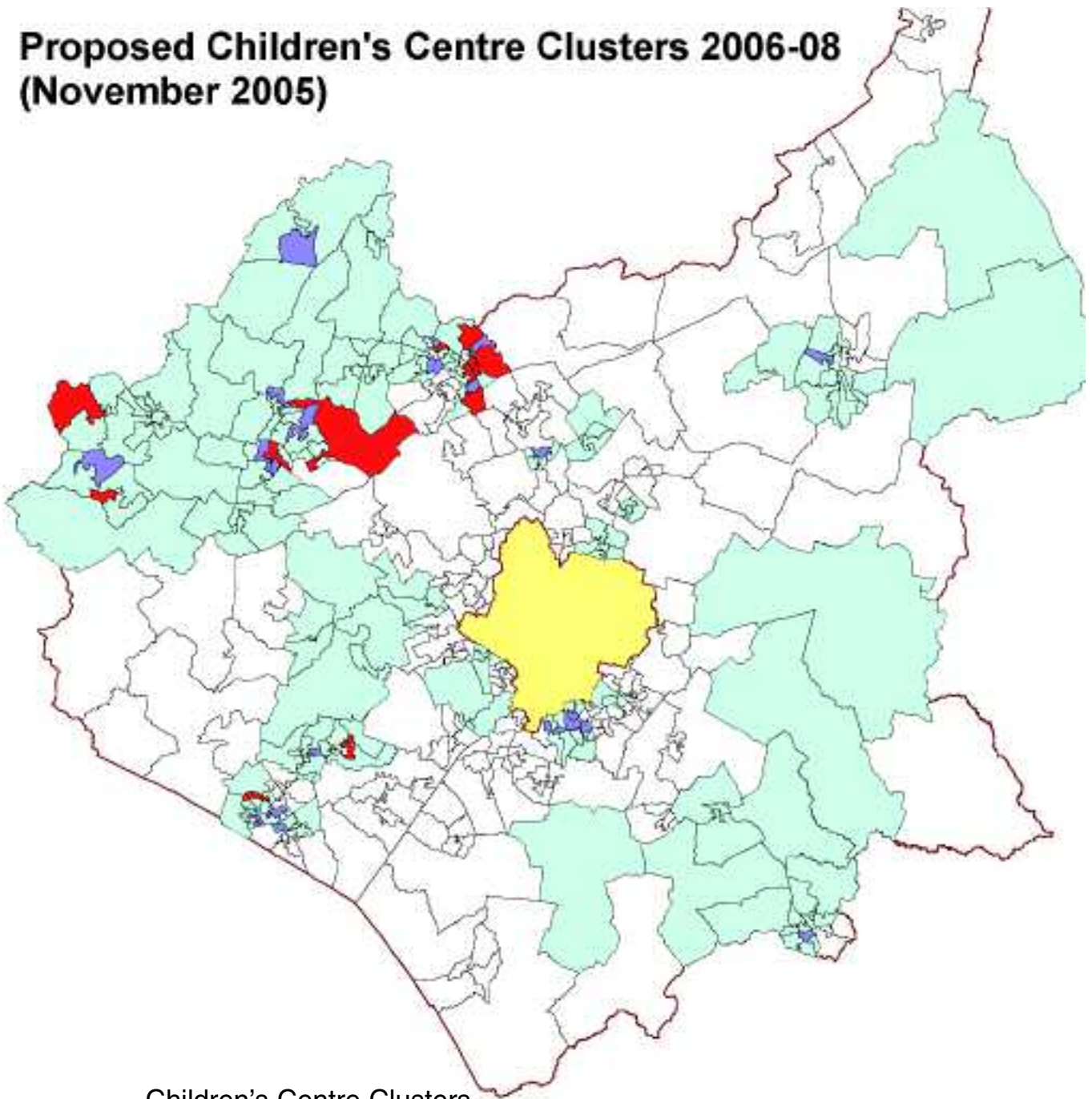


Appendix E - Location of Children from Black and Minority Ethnic Groups across Leicestershire



Appendix F – Areas of Relative Deprivation in Leicestershire

Proposed Children's Centre Clusters 2006-08 (November 2005)



Children's Centre Clusters

- 30% Deprived Super Output Areas (SOAS) (2004 IMD)
- 40% Deprived Super Output Areas (SOAS) (2004 IMD)
- Areas Identified By Local Data (2001 Census / 2004 IMD)
- Leicester City not included

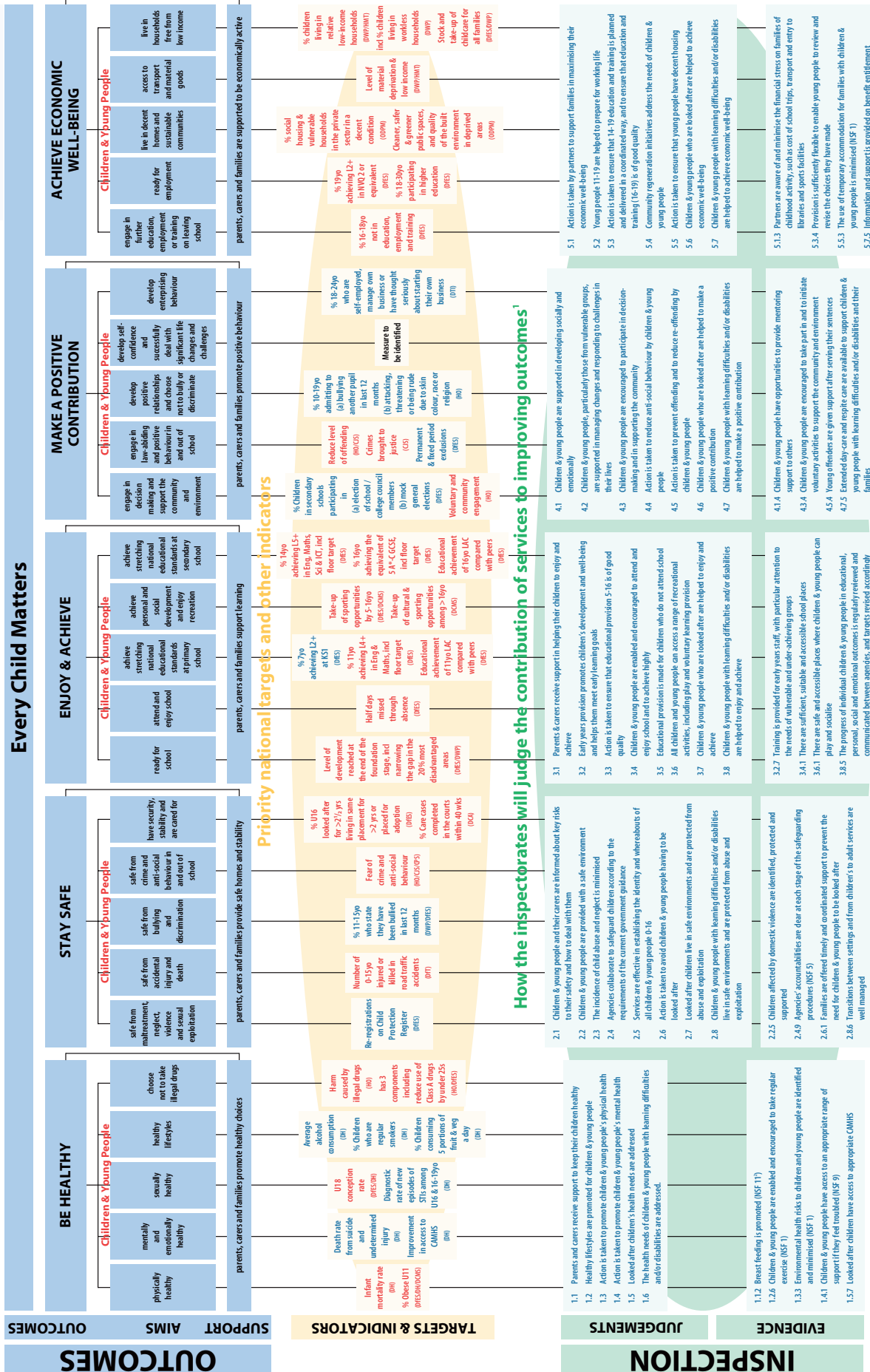
Source: 2001 Census, Output Area Boundaries
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Appendix G – Every Child Matters Outcomes Framework

Version 2.0
Published with Every Child Matters: The Inspection Framework 2015-2016
This replaces all other previous versions

OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

There are 26 PSA targets in total and 13 other key indicators. For the PSA on stability of looked after children the associated performance indicators are also shown under Enjoy & Achieve



For queries please contact: everychildmatters@dfes.gsi.gov.uk
NB. All the judgements are shown but only examples of the evidence used are given for illustrative purposes

1 updated in line with the inspection of children's services: key judgements and illustrative evidence published by Ofsted (11 August 2005)
2 NSF relates to the National Service Framework, with the number referring to the corresponding standard

EA DFES-1088-2005

Appendix H – Leicestershire’s Local Area Agreement: Children and Young People

1. Outcomes

The Children and Young People’s block adopts the Every Child Matters Outcome framework to set out a range of locally determined priorities to deliver improved outcomes for Leicestershire’s children, young people and their families, during the 3 years of the Local Area Agreement starting from April 2006.

Each of the 5 broad outcomes is sub divided by a set of indicators by which improvement will be measured with 3 year targets to demonstrate progress. Please note that some indicators / targets use academic and not financial year measurements.

The priorities are based on the following:

- Areas where improved performance is needed as identified by the Annual Performance Assessment (2005) and the subsequent agreed priorities.
- Areas where performance is good could become excellent.
- Areas where multi agency involvement will deliver new services and meet identified gaps in the current provision.
- Building on the success of the Local Preventative Strategy (2004).

The aspirations of the LAA are to:

- Build on established and effective partnership arrangements to develop corporate ownership for responsibilities for vulnerable young people in the same way as has been achieved for Looked After Children.
- Implement successfully trialled pilot projects to all areas of Leicestershire during the life of the LAA. One example of this is to establish District based multi agency support networks to young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness (CYP4).
- Develop our Interagency Parenting Strategy which has delivered a rolling programme of parenting groups through joint funding 2 Parent Co-ordinator posts and by partner agencies committing staff time to running parenting groups. We now want to extend support through self help and parent volunteer schemes so that parents can access advice when they identify they need help rather than having to be professionally referred to a parenting group (CYP3).

The outcomes are incorporated in the priorities of the draft Children and Young Peoples Plan 2006-2009. Their objective is to deliver earlier intervention and support to children and young people focussed on those whose problems are likely to become much more serious unless additional help is provided. Through programmes such as the Children’s Fund we have validated evidence that we are delivering improved outcomes for targeted groups. We see the LAA as the mechanism by which targeted support and improved outcomes can be delivered more widely to broader groups of children, young people and their families.

The LAA does not make an explicit reference to improvements in child protection outcomes within the Stay Safe category. This is because we already have excellent interagency working through our Local Safeguarding Board arrangements (previously the Area Child Protection Committee) as acknowledged in our Annual Performance Assessment. Also, we have not included a specific target relating to the CAMHS services but will consider including one at the refresher stages of the LAA. CAMHS are key partners in several joint funded services (e.g. Family STEPs; Young Peoples CAMHS Team) that are delivering improved outcomes for children and young people. We see this continuing and being developed in other arenas, such as the Stay Safe Outcome (CYP 4), particularly in improved emotional / mental health outcomes for vulnerable 16 and 17 year olds.

The children and young peoples block has shared outcomes with the Stronger and Safer Communities and the Healthier Communities blocks.

2. Delivery Mechanisms

The priorities have been developed by a multi agency group of senior officers from the County Council (Education, Social Services and Youth services); Health; District Council; Connexions; Learning Skills Council and the Voluntary / Community sector. They have been confirmed by our Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership.

There is a high level of involvement from the community and voluntary sector at strategic and delivery levels.

The voluntary sector, via the Stronger Communities block, will be leading on all volunteering opportunities in the LAA. This will include promoting and developing the volunteering opportunities that are presented to children, young people and parents in a number of the outcomes in the Children and Young Peoples block. Voluntary sector organisations are actively involved in interagency delivery partnerships and will take a lead for the delivery of some indicators such as the development of parenting support services; widening opportunities for disabled children to be enabled to use inclusive play and cultural activities. Several outcomes build on projects where voluntary sector agencies are currently funded to provide services on behalf of the statutory sector.

Leicestershire has the benefit of a range of established and effective interagency strategic planning partnerships, particularly the Children’s and Young Peoples Strategic Planning Partnership, which has delivered change for vulnerable children through a series of sub group and theme group structures. We intend to progress the delivery of the LAA through these groups wherever possible, adding new partners to them where needed. For some priorities we will need to establish new groups. As a result we will be able to start work immediately on all the LAA priorities with senior officers who are used to working together and progressing new approaches/services. The Children and Young Peoples’ Services Board will have governance for the block and for monitoring overall progress.

The block has a number of cross cutting themes. These focus on delivering improved health, learning and life chance

outcomes for all children; early/preventative and targeted support provided by interagency networks to vulnerable children who are not engaged in school (particularly at Key Stage 4); refocusing on the positive qualities and contribution of children and young people; addressing transition issues as a key protective factor and cross agency support for specific categories of vulnerable groups e.g. teenage parents, young carers, children from BME communities, looked after children and disabled children and their families.

Leicestershire is a geographically large and diverse two tier local authority area. Much of the county is affluent. Most children and young people are well supported by their families and universal services to meet and achieve the Every Child Matters outcomes. However there are other children and young people who are not so well supported and at risk of becoming disengaged/disaffected. These young people present multi challenging/problem behaviour which is beyond the capacity of universal services but falls below the thresholds of services such as Social Services.

3. Reward Targets

There are two priorities we are putting forward as Reward Targets. The first is a universal priority (CYP5) to improve educational progress and attainment for all children. The second is to improve outcomes for vulnerable young people, particularly those aged 14 year and above (CYP 4). We see the needs of vulnerable children as part of the wider objective of improving educational outcomes for all children. Research shows that inclusive schools tend to do well for all pupils, not just low attaining pupils; vulnerable groups nearly all include pupils who have the potential to achieve to a higher level if the particular barriers to their achievement are addressed; and good practice for vulnerable children always has spin off benefits for others, for example action against bullying nearly always helps all children to feel safer, not just those who are being bullied.

a) CYP5

This is a universal priority to deliver “improved educational progress and attainment for all children particularly at Key Stage 4”. It is linked to a number of other outcomes and indicators in the block, particularly an indicator to improve vocational education at Key Stage 4 (CYP9). The reasons for selecting this are because performance at Key Stage 4 in Leicestershire schools dips to national averages, having been at above national averages in Key Stages 1 to 3. We plan to increase the average point scores of pupils in line with the Fischer Family Trust Band D comparator and to achieve a 21 point enhancement in performance by Year 3.

b) CYP4

This is a priority to improve outcomes for vulnerable young people across a range of indicators with the objective of preventing some young people progressing into high tier services, in keeping with the Every Child Matters philosophy.

The indicators are:

- Permanent exclusion from secondary school
- Involvement in treatment programmes for drug and alcohol abuse
- Risk of being made homeless as a result of family breakdown
- The percentage of young people prevented from further offending after receiving a reprimand.

The numbers involved in these 4 indicators are estimated on the basis of 2004 / 05 data except from the numbers in receipt of a reprimand where 2003 /04 data is used. This gives an estimated total population in the region of 1000 young people across the 4 indicators who will need additional intervention if performance is to improve to achieve the required stretch. This will be achieved by input and support being provided at different levels by different elements of the range of service providers working across these indicators.

The basket of identified indicators represent the main social exclusion factors which cause young people to be disengaged from universal services. Also they are significant risk factors to young people having diminished future life chances and opportunities. Some young people will exhibit all of the identified risk indicators; others may have one or more of them but with the likelihood of becoming involved in other problem behaviour down track.

It is proposed that a new service is developed to target those young people most at risk who are in need of intensive multi agency intervention and support. This new service would operate as a “virtual “ multi agency team building on the YISP model and draw in staff and resources as appropriate from the network to address the presenting needs.

This core target group is one which involves a considerable amount of expenditure for the Authority and its partner agencies. Large amounts of staff time are also involved in dealing with the presenting problem rather than collectively addressing the underlying needs. For example, the costs of a young person becoming looked after could range from a minimum of £12,000 per year for a young person looked after in foster care to £250,000 per year for young people placed in external residential placements. Therefore the cost benefits of achieving improvement in performance in this area are very considerable.

4. Funding Streams

Considerable progress has been made in the inclusion and identification of specific budgets that are to be incorporated into the delivery of the LAA. We are confident that as the LAA programme is progressed through multi-agency delivery groups there will be an increase in the number of pooled budgets. Also the reorganisation of Children’s Health, Education and Social Services and the development of Children’s Trust arrangements will, during the life of the LAA, lead to closer integration and pooling of resources and funding. We will also ensure that any new funding which comes to the Authority is focussed on related priorities in the LAA, for example Big Lottery funding for improved play and leisure services will need to reflect related priorities in CYP7.

LEICESTERSHIRE LAA THEME: CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Ref. No.	OUTCOMES	INDICATORS	TARGETS			Reward Stretch Target	Lead & Delivery Partners	Cross Cutting Links
			YR1	YR2	YR3			
CYP	Be Healthy					Yes/No		
1	Improved physical health of children and young people	<p>To halt the year on year rise in levels of obesity in children aged under 11 years, as defined by the NHS LDP Technical Guidance issued in 2005. This requires a baseline to be set in the academic year 2005/06. Targets will be agreed in line with the LDP timescale.</p> <p>Increase in % of school children spending a minimum of 2 hrs per week on high quality PE and school sport (04 /05 baseline of 69%, PESSOL survey)</p> <p>Proportion of new mothers in existing SureStart Children's Centres who</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - continue to smoke in pregnancy - continue breastfeeding at 6 weeks - are visited within 2 months of baby's birth and advised of support services <p>(2005 Local SureStart Programme baseline = Yr 1 targets)</p>	Baseline to be established	80% of school children in academic year 07/08	87% of school children in academic year 08/09	No	-PCTs	CYP 7
2	Improved Sexual Health of children and young people, particularly boys and young men	<p>To reduce the under 18 conception rate by 50% by 2010 from the 1998 baseline as defined by Teenage Pregnancy Unit guidance and rebased on 2001 census data</p> <p>Improved SRE for young people (05/06 NHSS baseline of 86 schools (30%) achieving HS status)</p> <p>An indicator to measure improved sexual health services for young people particularly boys and young men will be developed by end Sept 2006, baselines and targets for years 2&3 agreed by end Jan 2007.</p>	31.9% reduction (2005 conception data available Feb 07)	34.5% reduction (2006 conception data available Feb 08)	37.1% reduction (2007 conception data available Feb 09)	No	Teenage Pregnancy Partnership	Healthier Communities
3	Improved mental health and emotional well being of children and families	<p>Improved access to Maternity and support services for young parents</p> <p>Another indicator to measure improved access to maternity and post natal services will be developed by end Sept 2006, baseline and targets agreed by end Jan 2007</p> <p>Increased numbers and effectiveness of parenting groups across Leicestershire and increased range of parenting support services, including parents of disabled children and parents of substance misusers (Baseline of Fun and Families 2005 data</p>	79% of young mothers known to Connexions	83% of young mothers known to Connexions	86% of young mothers known to Connexions	No	Teenage Pregnancy Partnership	Connexions / Health
			18 groups	20 groups	25 groups	No	Parenting Strategy Group	CYP 11

LEICESTERSHIRE LAA THEME: CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Ref. No.	OUTCOMES	INDICATORS	TARGETS			Reward Stretch Target	Lead & Delivery Partners	Cross Cutting Links
			YR1	YR2	YR3			
CYP	Stay Safe					Yes/No		
4	Improved life chances and better opportunities for vulnerable young people. (Shared target with safer communities block)	<p>The number of permanent exclusions (aged 11 –19 yrs) in Leicestershire Secondary schools (Baseline of 114 in 2004 / 05 academic year)</p> <p>The number of young people under 18 years in drug and alcohol treatment programmes. (Baseline of 54 young people in treatment –Jan 2006) Treatment to be counted as Tiers 2, 3 and 4 as defined by the Health Advisory Service (2001) Substance of Young Peoples Needs Review)</p> <p>The number of 16 and 17 year olds for which decisions are taken in relation to homelessness for reasons of family breakdown and published as part of the quarterly PIE homelessness statistics as measured by reduction either in absolute numbers from the 2005 baseline or by a reduction of 25% from the projected 2008 figures – whichever is the greater (Baseline of 119 - year ending 31 Dec 2005, District returns)</p> <p>The percentage of young people prevented from further offending after receiving a reprimand. (Baseline prevented from further offending set in 2003 is 64%)</p> <p>Number of 16 and 17 yr olds presenting as homeless to District Councils (Jan – Dec 2005 District Council data)</p>	112	110	108 without reward 69 with reward	YES 39 enhancement	- DAAT – CAMHS - SSD - YOTS - Education	CYP 3,6,7,9
			102 (without reward)	137 (without reward)	7.1% of adults in treatment as set by NTA (without reward) 174 with reward or 9% of locally agreed target, whichever is the higher number	Yes 37(1.9% increase) enhanced performance	- Connexions - District Councils - Vol. Sector	Safer and Stronger Communities
			123 without reward 115 with reward	129 without reward 107 with reward	139 without reward 100 with reward	Yes 39 enhancement in performance		
			Increase the percentage prevented from further offending by 6% by March 2009 (from 64% to 70%)	Increase the percentage prevented from further offending by 6% by March 2009 (from 64% to 70%)	Increase the percentage prevented from further offending by 6% by March 2009 (from 64% to 70%)	Yes 6 percentage point enhance -ment in performance		Safer and Stronger Communities
			298	312	328	No		
	Enjoy and Achieve							
5	Improved educational progress and attainment for all children, especially at KS4 (including LAC)	<p>Increase the average point scores of pupils in line with Fischer Family Trust Band D comparator. (Scores vary depending on cohorts of children of different ability in different years) 2005 baseline of 358 average point scores</p> <p>% of Care leavers with at least 1GCSE A*-C (PAFC24)</p> <p>% of permanently excluded pupils receiving 2.1hours plus of education per week (BYP1 159)</p>	381 387 with reward (summer 2007)	365 375 with reward (summer 2008)	374 395 with reward (summer 2009)	YES 21 points enhancement in performance	Education	CYP 9
			45%	55%	65%	No	LAC Steering Group	CYP 4
			100%	100%	100%	No	Education	
	Enjoy and Achieve							
6	Improved school attendance (including LAC)	<p>Improved overall % attendance of secondary school age pupils in Leicestershire schools. (92.755% Nov 2005 baseline)</p> <p>% of LAC (in care for more than one year) who have missed 25 days or more in previous school year. (OC2 Childcare return)</p>	93.065% (Academic year 2006/07)	93.22% (Academic year 2007/08)	93.375% (Academic Year 2008/09)	No	Education	CYP 4 +5
			Target to be set when 05/06 academic year data is available	Insert target when available	Insert target when available	No	LAC Steering Group	

LEICESTERSHIRE LAA THEME: CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Ref. No.	OUTCOMES	INDICATORS	TARGETS			Reward Stretch Target	Lead & Delivery Partners	Cross Cutting Links
			YR1	YR2	YR3			
7	Improved personal and social development and enjoyment of culture and recreation.	Increased takeup of youth service activities by vulnerable groups (eg disabled children; BME and young carers) .Baseline of 05/06 Youth Service data	5% increase on baseline	10% increase on baseline	15% increase on baseline	No	Youth Service/ Vol Sector/ Districts	Stronger Communities
		Increased numbers of a) LAC and b) vulnerable groups accessing free / subsidised cultural services	LAC = 10% increase on 05 /06 baseline Baseline for vulnerable yp's to be established	LAC = 20% increase on 05/06 baseline	LAC = 30% increase on 05 /06 baseline	No	Cultural Services Chief Officers Partnership (CSCOPs)	CYP1
		Increased numbers of disabled children enabled to use inclusive play and cultural services	5% increase on MENPHYS SOS database (2004)	10% increase	15% increase	No	VCS, SSD, Education District Councils	Healthier communities
8	Making a Positive Contribution Increase contribution of Hard to Reach groups in consultation/active involvement processes.							
		Emerging status on Hear by Rights Standards.	3 statutory agencies (defined by sections 10 &11 of the Children Act 2004) at the Emerging Level of the Standards	6 statutory agencies at the Emerging Level of the Standards	All statutory agencies (sections 10 & 11 of the Children Act 2004) at the Emerging Level with 1 at Established Level and 1 at Advanced Level of the Standards	No	Consultation / Active Involvement Group	CYP 4 + 7 Stronger Communities
9	Achieving Economic Wellbeing Improved engagement of 14-19 year olds in education/training.	Increased performance by aged 19 at NVQ Level 2 or equivalent	10% of a school based cohort	14% of a school based cohort	22% of a school based cohort	No	Education/ LSC	CYP 4, 5 6 + 10 - Economic Development
		Reduced % of NEET 16- 19 year olds , including teenage mothers (Baseline G0168 validated NEET figure)	5.1%	4.9%.	4.7%	No	-Connexions/ LSC	
		Childcare ratio across the county.	Maintain 1.4 childcare ratio for 0-8 yr olds across the county.	Maintain 1.4 childcare ratio for 0-8 yr olds across the county.	Maintain 1.4 childcare ratio for 0-8 yr olds across the county.	No	Education with EYDCP/ Local Surestart Programme	CYP 1.3. 11 Healthier Communities
10	Sufficient quality childcare places provided across the County, accessible to all groups	Level of childcare in disadvantaged wards.	Level of childcare required for 0-8 yr olds in top 40% IMD wards identified.	Achieve the level of childcare required for 0-8 yr olds in top 40% IMD wards identified.	Maintain the level of childcare required for 0-8 yr olds in top 40% IMD wards identified.	No		Economic Development
		Reduction in OfSTED registration actions for new EY/CC providers	Improvement of actions imposed on new providers at the time of registration visit across a) childminders b) full day care c) sessional day care	Movement towards top quartile performance on actions imposed on new providers at the time of registration across	Achievement of top quartile performance on actions imposed on new providers at the time of registration within 2 of the 4 areas indicated over,	No	EYDP	

LEICESTERSHIRE LAA THEME: CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Ref. No.	OUTCOMES	INDICATORS	TARGETS			Reward Stretch Target	Lead & Delivery Partners	Cross Cutting Links
			YR1	YR2	YR3			
CYP 10			and d) out of school to the last sited England figures, these being 46.5, 34.0, 39.4 and 40.7 % respectively	a) childminders b) full day care c) sessional day care and d) out of school	a) childminders b) full day care c) sessional day care and d) out of school and within the other 2 performance above national average	No		
		Increase in child care places for young parents.	5% of all registered childminders with good or better inspection outcomes to offer a type of specialist placement; social services placement; atypical (unsociable hours) provision & teenage parent support.	10% of all registered childminders with good or better inspection outcomes to offer a type of specialist placement; social services placement; atypical (unsociable hours) provision & teenage parent support.	15% of all registered childminders with good or better inspection outcomes to offer a type of specialist placement; social services placement; atypical (unsociable hours) provision & teenage parent support.	No	EYDP EYDCP/ Teenage Pregnancy Partnership	Stronger Communities
11	Extended services developed in primary and secondary schools & in Children Centres		Plans developed, consulted upon & agreed for an additional 24 children's centres. First three children centres providing full core offer of integrated services	24 children's centres established	Plans developed, consulted upon & agreed for 19 further children's centres	No	Education Early Years	CYP 1 – 10 Stronger Communities Healthier Communities Economic Development
		Aggregate score for children in existing SureStart Children's Centres achieving 6+ in personal, social & emotional development in the Foundation Stage Profile. (Baseline of 2005 data)	65%	70%	75%	No	Education Early Years / Local SureStart Partnership.	
		Aggregate score for children in existing SureStart Children's Centres achieving 6+ in communication, language and literacy in the Foundation Stage Profile. (Baseline of 2005 data)	45%	50%	55%	No		
	Percentage of schools offering extended services.		Audit current extended service provision to establish baseline	50% of schools offering extended service provision	75% of schools offering extended service provision			

ASSUMPTIONS - including freedoms, flexibilities, arrangements for passing on funding

NOTE: Below grants within Education have been matched with the description in Annex A – Funding Streams, Local Area Agreement guidance of the ODPM. Vulnerable Children Grant (Within Children’s Service Grant) is not included with in above figures. All grants have been committed to be spent to their allocations.

STREAM	Pooled or Aligned	£2006/07	£2007/08	£2008/09
Children Service Grant	Pool	1,092,000	1,355,000	n/k
Connexions (amendment also in ED block county allocations)	align	4,190,063		n/k
CAMHS			n/k	
Children’s Fund	Pool	876,978	876,978	n/k
Positive Activities for Young People	Pool	131,702	n/k	n/k
Sure Start	Pool	6,030,640	6,014,792	n/k
Teenage Pregnancy	Pool	195,000	195,000	n/k
Standards Fund	Align		n/k	
Education Health Partnerships (Notified by DFES Spring 06)		n/k		
Extended Schools (Standard Fund)		983,127		
Secondary Strategy Behaviour & Attendance (Key Stage 3)		183,300		
Secondary Strategy Central Coordination (Key Stage 3)		917,835		
Secondary Strategy Targeted to Schools (Key Stage 3) (Notify by DFes Spring 06)		839,494		
Primary Strategy Central Coordination		568,093		
Standards Fund – School Development Grant (LAA retained provisional)		1,240,510		
Total Within Standards Fund		4,732,359		

Appendix I:

Leicestershire County Council Medium Term Corporate Strategy – Children and Young People Aims

We will:-

- be in the top 25% of authorities for progress between school key stages and at least 20 of our schools will be in the top 5% of schools throughout the country for results at ages 7,11,14 and 16;
- increase support and challenge for underachieving schools and ensure that teaching and learning is always found to be imaginative, engaging and motivating and that all schools score level 3 or above for teaching and learning when OFSTED inspections take place;
- improve educational attainment of pupils with special needs and underachieving groups such as looked after children, boys, pupils excluded from school, and those in the lowest quartile of attainment;
- develop new area based special schools, reduce the number of SEN pupils in out of county placements and reduce the need for statutory assessment;
- raise the quality of life of looked after children and care leavers through our Corporate Parenting Policy;
- deliver improved school accommodation and modernise learning facilities including new schools at Wigston, Coalville, Oadby, Enderby and Ravenstone;
- develop our youth services to respond to legislation arising from the Government’s Youth Green Paper;
- Seek to increase the number of local foster placements for our looked after children.

If you require information contained in this publication in another version e.g. large print, Braille, tape or an alternative language please call 0116 265 8197 or email ecm@leics.gov.uk

আপনি যদি বাংলা ভাষায় এই ধরনের কোন একটি তথ্য বা খবরা খবর চান, তাহলে আরো বিস্তারিতের জন্য 0116 265 8197 নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਵਿਚੋਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਨੂੰ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਤਾਂ ਹੋਰ ਵੇਰਵੇ ਦੇ ਲਈ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 0116 265 8197 ਉੱਪਰ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

यदि आपको इसमें से कोई भी जानकारी की आवश्यकता हो तो (आपको चाहिए वो भाषा दर्ज करें) अधिक विवरण के लिए 0116 265 8197 टेलीफोन करें।


अगर तमने आमांथी कोष पड़ा ज़ाहक़ारी ज़ोर्छती होय तो मडेरबानी करीने (तमने ज़ोर्छती भाषा अड्डी ज़डावो) विगतवार ज़ाहक़ारी माटे 0116 265 8197 टेलिफोन करो.

اگر آپ ان میں سے کوئی معلومات اُردو میں حاصل کرنا چاہتے ہیں تو مزید معلومات کیلئے براہ کرم 0116 265 8197 پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔

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Local Safeguarding Children Board 

Local Safeguarding Children Board