

# 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 government<sup>1</sup>.

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.

<sup>1</sup> 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

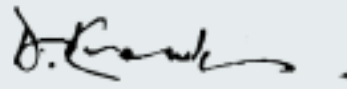
agencies, children and young people and parents and carers. We will ensure that their views are reflected in future plans.

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.

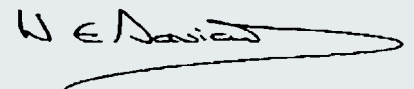
## Members of the Leicestershire Children and Young Persons' Services Board



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



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



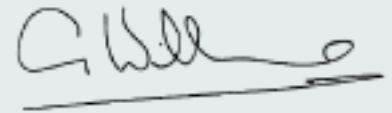
Leicestershire Primary Care Trusts  
(Represented by Wendy Saviour – Chief Executive Melton Rutland and Harborough Primary Care Trust)



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)



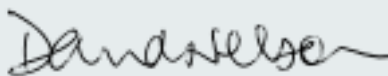
Leicestershire & Rutland Probation Service  
(Heather Munro – Chief Officer)



(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)



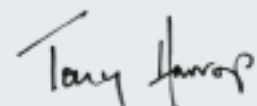
(Phil Hawkins – Head of Youth Justice and Safer Communities)



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)<sup>2</sup>.

## 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.

