

## Appendix 2: Key Priorities

We are keen to improve all outcomes for children and young people, to help them be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being. Four areas have been identified as needing particular attention and have driven the choice of performance indicators in the Leicestershire Local Area Agreement 2008-2011:

- Improving emotional health and well-being
- Raising attainment for all children and young people particularly progress rates between Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4
- Improve attendance and attainment for Children in Care
- Improve attendance and engagement, particularly in the secondary phase.

We are also:

- Increasing the active involvement of children and young people
- Improving support to parents and carers.

### Improve emotional health and well-being of children and young people

Our needs analysis tells us that children and young people need to be happy and to be able to deal with problems they may face in life. We know, and the Joint Area Review confirmed, that we need to better co-ordinate our emotional health and well-being work, ensuring that it covers the spectrum of emotional need. We are, therefore,

- Creating an Emotional Health and Well-being Strategy which we will implement during 2008-2011

- Implementing our Family Support Strategy.

We will know how we are improving by measuring:

Leicestershire Local Area Agreement 2008-2011 indicators

- Improvement in emotional health of children
- Reduction in substance misuse by young people
- Reduction in the under 18 conception rate.

### Raising attainment for all children and young people particularly progress rates between Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4

Young people in Leicestershire achieve good results at all key stages. At Key Stage 1 (aged 7) they are in the top 20%, at Key Stage 2 (at age 11) English and Maths outcomes place schools in the top 25% and Leicestershire in the top 10% at Key Stage 3 (age 14). Although Key Stage 4 (age 16) results are just above average we want to further improve results at Key Stage 4 and steps we have taken are already showing significant improvements.

We will continue with this programme and monitor improvement by measuring:

Leicestershire Local Area Agreement 2008-2011 indicators

- Increase in achievement of 5 or more A\*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent including GCSEs in English and Maths (threshold)
- Improvement in progression by 2 levels in English between KS3 and KS4
- Improvement in progression by 2 levels in Maths between KS3 and KS4
- Increase number of Children in Care achieving 5 A\*-C at GCSEs (or equivalent) at KS4.

'Local' indicators

- Reduction in achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving expected level at KS2 & KS4
- Reduction in the gap between SEN / non SEN achieving 5 A\*-C GCSE inc. English and Maths.

### Improve attendance and attainment for Children in Care

We want children in care to achieve educationally, particularly at GCSE. A key issue in achieving this is to improve attendance of children in care. There has been some small improvement in attainment and attendance of children in care but, as was indicated in the Joint Area Review

2007, these remain problematic. We are, therefore, creating a team of teaching and non-teaching staff to focus on making improvements.

We will know we are improving by measuring:

Leicestershire Local Area Agreement 2008-2011 indicators

- Increase in number of children in care achieving 5 A\*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at KS4
- Improvement in the stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement.

'Local' indicators

- Increase in the number of care leavers in employment, education or training
- Improvement in school attendance of Children in Care.

### Improve attendance and engagement, particularly in secondary schools

Although the rate of attendance in Leicestershire schools is good the rate of persistent absence (children and young people missing school 32 days or more) is too high – an issue picked up in the Joint Area Review 2007. Naturally, this means children and young people are less likely to do well at school. The local authority Attendance Strategy priorities for 2007-2009 include actions to strengthen the existing joint work between the Education Welfare Service and Behaviour & Attendance Team with 'persistent absence' schools, early intervention in any schools causing concern, wider parental engagement in attendance

issues and dissemination of good practice across all schools. In addition, Leicestershire County Council is examining how its educational welfare service can work in a more preventative and multi-disciplinary way.

We will know we are improving by measuring:

Leicestershire Local Area Agreement 2008-2011 indicators

- Reduction in secondary school persistent absence rate
- Increase in young people's participation in positive activities
- Reduction in 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)
- Reduction in the under 18 conception rate.

'Local' indicators

- Reduction in achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving expected level at KS2 & KS4.

### Increasing active involvement of children and young people

There are many good reasons for involving children and young people in the design and running of services that affect them. These include:

- Raising aspirations of children and young people (helping 'make a positive contribution' and 'achieving')
- Better targeted services
- Identifying barriers to receiving services

- The UN convention on the Rights of Children states that children and young people have a right to be involved in the decisions that affect them.

We will know if we are improving by:

- Attainment of Hear by Right Standards by all partner agencies.

### Improving support to parents and carers

Families are probably the single most important and influential factors in everyone's life. Supporting families ranges from providing information in an accessible way (so parents can make informed choices) through to working with parents who need to attend a parenting group work programme by court order. The aim is always the same, supporting parents to help their children to achieve the best possible outcomes.

We will know if we are improving by:

- Implementing the Family Support Strategy
- Establishing appropriate measures and baselines (these have not yet been established but are likely to include data from Children's Centres and Extended Services, the Family Information Service, outputs and outcomes from parenting programmes).

