

# Chapter 1: Executive Summary

## Vision

Children and young people in Leicestershire have told us that they want:

“Voice, choice, safety and fulfilment”

We will achieve this vision through our approach of:

- Meaningful consultation and engagement
- Working together in partnership
- Strategic commissioning
- Supporting families
- Inclusion

## Key priorities

Informed by our Needs Analysis, our performance monitoring and inspections of our services we have identified our key priorities as:

- Improving emotional health and well-being of children and young people
- Raising attainment for all children and young people, particularly progress rates between Key Stage 3 (year 9) and Key Stage 4 (GCSEs)
- Improving attendance and attainment for Children in Care
- Improving attendance and engagement, particularly in secondary schools
- Actively involving children and young people
- Supporting parents and carers.

## Cross-cutting programmes

To improve outcomes for local children and young people we are:

- Improving attainment of local children at school through capital investment programmes
- Improving secondary school results by considering how we provide secondary education provision
- Ensuring joined up services, particularly for those with complex health needs, by further integrating child health services
- Improving services through development of Extended Services
- Improving support to parents and carers in their parenting role
- Providing best value for money in achieving targets set out in this plan through effective commissioning
- Ensuring joined up early intervention with those needing additional services through development of Common Assessment Framework and Lead Professional practice
- Ensuring that the right staff have the right skills through workforce development.



## Every Child Matters

Based on our approach, informed by our Needs Analysis and building on our cross-cutting areas of development, we continue to work to achieve “voice, choice, safety and fulfilment” in the context of the five outcomes identified by government:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being.

This Plan describes how we will work with Leicestershire’s children and young people to achieve these outcomes.



## Be Healthy

Our vision of children and young people being 'fulfilled' includes their being healthy. We are working to:

- Improve physical health
- Reduce obesity (a Leicestershire Local Area Agreement 2008-2011 priority)
- Reduce teenage pregnancy and improve sexual health
- Improve emotional health and well-being
- Reducing misuse of drugs and alcohol (a Leicestershire Local Area Agreement 2008-2011 priority)
- Timely reviews of health and completion of health assessments of children in care.

## Stay Safe

An important part of our vision is ensuring Leicestershire's children and young people are kept 'safe'. We will do this by:

- Reviewing and further improving child protection
- Improving safety by:
  - Improving fire, water and road safety education programmes
  - Reducing death and injury through road accidents
  - Reducing bullying
  - Improving support to children and young people new to the UK
  - Minimising the impact of domestic violence
  - Meeting the needs of young carers
- Supporting disabled children and young people by:
  - Fulfilling the requirements of "Aiming High: Every Disabled Child Matters"
  - Increasing support to parents and carers of disabled children and young people
- Improving quality, consistency and coordination of services for young disabled children and their families
- Support the vision within "Better Care: Better Lives" for children and young people with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions
- Improving early years' and schools' capacity and capability to support disabled children
- Ensuring smooth transition from children's to adult disability services
- Meeting needs of children in care by:
  - Increasing availability of good quality placements
  - Improving stability of placements for children in care
  - Providing safe and secure permanency planning
  - Improving 'corporate parenting' of children in care

## Enjoy and Achieve

Achieving our vision of children and young people being 'fulfilled' includes enabling children and young people to enjoy their lives and to achieve. We are:

- Increasing opportunities for play
- Improving readiness for school
- Improving attainment and achievement (including particularly vulnerable groups, such as children in care)
- Improving teaching and leadership
- Improving school attendance
- Improving services for Traveller and black and minority ethnic groups
- Improving personal and social development
- Exploring how we can make improvements to transport for children and young people and improve access to, and quality of facilities
- Developing a comprehensive cultural offer.

## Make a Positive Contribution

Children and young people want to contribute to the world they live in. We will help them do this by:

- Achieving our vision of children and young people having a 'voice' by actively involving children, young people, parents and carers by:
  - Supporting and developing our 'Pyramid of Participation' (see Appendix 1)
  - Promoting 'Hear by Right' Standards
  - Listening and acting on what children in care tell us and improving participation of children in care in service planning and in reviews
  - Improving the systematic involvement of parents
- Reducing school exclusions
- Increasing opportunities for young people to volunteer
- Reducing anti-social behaviour
- Reducing offending and re-offending by:
  - Preventing youth offending
  - Reducing re-offending (a Leicestershire Local Area Agreement 2008-2011 priority)
  - Reducing use of custody
  - Reducing risk caused by young people presenting risk to others.

## Achieve Economic Well-being

Our vision of 'choice' and 'fulfilment' is more likely to be achieved if children and young people have economic well-being. We will support young people, parents and carers achieve independence and well-being by:

- Providing sufficient high quality child care for working parents and parents returning to work
- Developing Diplomas
- Increasing apprenticeships
- Increasing the numbers of young people in education, employment and training (EET)
- Increasing the numbers of young people progressing to post 16 Learning
- Reducing Homelessness.

