

Introduction

Welcome to Leicestershire's second over-arching strategic plan for improving outcomes for children and young people. This plan builds on our first Children and Young People's Plan 2006-2009 and describes how we will continue to improve outcomes for children and young people aged 0-19.



The Plan sets out the priorities and actions we will take to achieve our vision of 'Voice, choice, safety and fulfilment'. It is based on widespread and ongoing consultation with children and young people, parents, carers and local agencies and so reflects what people think is most important for the future of children and young people in Leicestershire.

Leicestershire's children and young people services are provided by a range of agencies and services working in partnership. These include:

- Leicestershire County Council
- Leicestershire County and Rutland Primary Care Trust (LCR PCT)
- University Hospitals of Leicester Trust
- Leicestershire NHS Partnership Trust
- Specialist Child Health Care
- Leicester Shire Connexions
- A very wide range of Voluntary and Community Sector organisations
- Leicestershire Learning and Skills Council
- Leicestershire Constabulary
- Borough and District Councils
- Leicestershire Probation Service
- Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service
- Independent service providers.

Most local services for children and young people are seen by independent bodies as being of high quality:

- In October 2007 very full inspections (Joint Area Review and Enhanced Youth Inspection) of all children and young people's services by a range of inspectors (including OfSTED, Healthcare Commission and Audit Commission) resulted in Leicestershire's children and young people's services being rated as some of the best in the country
- The 2007 Annual Performance Assessment for Leicestershire states "The council consistently delivers services for children and young people at a good level"
- The County Council continues to receive the maximum '4 star rating' from the Audit Commission and is "improving strongly"
- In 2007 the Youth Justice Board (YJB) gave Leicestershire's Youth Offending Service the highest possible rating (Level 5) for overall performance and the second highest YJB overall performance score in the country
- The Police Performance Assessment for Leicestershire Constabulary 2007 concludes that its child protection work is "good"

→ In 2007 the local University Hospitals of Leicester quality of services was described as “excellent” and its use of resources as “good” (services for children in hospital and maternity services are both described as “fair”).

The strong history of very effective partnership working between statutory and voluntary and community sector services continues. Independent inspectors state:

- Partnership working is “very effective”
- The capacity of the partnership is “outstanding”
- The commitment of all services at all levels is “substantial”.

However, we believe that our services should be even better: we want to move from ‘good’ to ‘great’. We want to make further improvement across the full range of children and young people’s services - from universal services (such as schools and health) through to highly specialist services for some of our most vulnerable children and young people. We will do this by building on strengths and working preventively to help children, young people, parents and carers get the right help when they need it.

This three year Plan is ambitious. We are committed to ensuring Leicestershire children and young people achieve the best possible outcomes through the provision of high quality services, within the limits of available resources.



We will review the Plan every year and report on our progress and will continue to make sure that children’s, young people’s, parents’ and carers’ views feature in future plans.

This Plan shows our determination to move from ‘good’ to ‘great’ and achieve even better outcomes for Leicestershire’s children and young people.

