

The Children and Young People's Plan Review Summary

June 2007



Children and Young People's Services is the name that we give to all the organisations across Leicestershire who work with children and young people to give them the best start in life and to support them to - be healthy, stay safe, enjoy life and do well, make a positive contribution and be able to earn money.

Children and Young People's services agreed the Leicestershire Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) for 2006/9 which sets out how we plan to deliver our vision:

“Voice, choice, safety and fulfilment”

We will achieve this vision by:

- actively involving children and young people, parents & carers
- supporting parenting
- working together to provide better outcomes for children and young people
- promoting and celebrating diversity.

We have looked at the progress on the plan and set out plans for next year. Overall outcomes are good, but we have high ambitions to make them even better, moving services from 'Good to Great'.

In this review priorities are grouped under the five Every Child Matters headings.

Be Healthy

In the Children and Young People's Plan 2006/9 we promised to work together to improve the emotional well being of children and young people and their physical, sexual and mental health. Our overall performance is **good**, even though the NHS has recently gone through a large reorganisation. **Progress includes:**

- achieving breast feeding initiation rates 16% higher than national average
- delivering the 'Child and Family health promotion programme' providing high rates of immunisation and health promotion
- continuing to develop and improve our interagency parenting strategy for vulnerable children
- lowering the rate of teenage pregnancy to below the national average, since 1999 a decrease greater than the national target
- gaining the participation of 90% [258] schools in the healthy schools programme, so achieving the national milestone eight months early.
- improving the health needs assessments of children in care

We plan to build on the success we have already had by also:

- tackling the rise in obesity levels in children under 11 years
- building on the existing targeted interagency parenting strategy and developing a comprehensive parenting strategy for all parents and carers
- developing a comprehensive emotional health and well-being strategy (in line with the existing Joint Strategy on children's mental health and well-being).

Staying Safe

In the Children and Young People's Plan 2006/9 we promised to make the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) the highest priority. We also promised to increase the number of young people under 18 in drug and alcohol treatment

programmes and to increase the reporting of domestic violence. Our Overall performance is **very good**. **Progress includes:**

- further reducing the number of children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents
- decreasing bullying in Leicestershire's schools by 15% for primary age, 10% for secondary, against the national trend – our anti-bullying strategy is seen nationally and internationally as an example of good practice
- maintaining an 'excellent' rating for children's social care
- exceeding the target for referrals of domestic violence and the development of a domestic violence strategy
- revising and re-launching safeguarding procedures, now in electronic format
- reducing the number of children entering care during 2006/07 in line with the long-standing and successful children's social care strategy, emphasising that children are best living with own families where safe to do so
- further reducing the times children in care have to move
- nearly doubling the number of young people receiving treatment in drug and alcohol programmes.

Building on the existing priorities we are also setting up:

- a consistent approach to safe recruitment practice and further developing arrangements for managing allegations against staff
- procedures to review and learn from all child deaths.





Enjoy and achieve

In the 2006/09 Children and Young People's Plan we promised to improve personal and social development, improve school attendance, reduce permanent exclusion, improve educational progress and improve the quality of life for children in care and care leavers. Our overall performance is **good**. **Progress includes:**

- reducing the number of schools in an OfSTED category on 1st June 2007 to only six (2% of schools, a quarter of the national average) by providing targeted and balanced intervention to support and challenge schools
- improving attainment at all key stages:
 - Key Stage 1, aged 7, consistently above national average
 - Key stage 2, aged 11 with or better than similar areas
 - Key Stage 3, aged 14 within the top five authorities nationally
 - Key stage 4, age 16, but still slightly behind national levels
- improving overall attendance (attendance at secondary schools is better than the national average but attendance of children in care needs to improve)
- 32% increase in the take up of youth activities by vulnerable groups of young people (greatly exceeding the 5% target)
- piloting multi-agency person-centred planning at two special schools
- developing leisure opportunities for children in care, foster families and families of children and young people with special needs by District Councils.

Key actions for the future include:

- further improving progress and attainment levels at all levels – particularly at Key Stage 4 and for young people in care, boys, pupils excluded from school and children with special needs
- developing and implementing the local Youth Offer
- increasing the numbers of children in care and vulnerable groups accessing free/subsidised cultural and leisure services
- implementing a review of targeted services and special educational needs strategy.

Making a positive contribution

In the 2006/09 Children and Young People's Plan we promised to actively involve children and young people and work together to reduce re-offending by young people who have received a reprimand. Overall performance is **good**. **Progress includes:**

- prioritising behaviour issues and exclusion from school work (permanent exclusions have gone up and down over the last three years and are slightly above the national average)
- developing a countywide young people's involvement strategy
- children and young people in care are actively involved in influencing service delivery through the Time to Change (T2C) group
- reducing the number of first time entrants into the youth justice system by 8.3%, exceeding the 2% target and achieving the highest possible performance rating for the Youth Offending Service (Level 5) and the second highest score in the country

Building on the existing priorities we are also:

- implementing the nationally recognised Hear by Right Standards
- developing and putting into practice a strategy for children and young people's involvement and a strategy for parental involvement.

Economic well-being

In the 2006/09 Children and Young People's Plan we promised to ensure sufficient availability of quality childcare places, improve quality of advice, guidance and support given by the County Council, improve engagement of 14-19 year olds in education/training, improve support for 16 and 17 years olds presenting as homeless because of family breakdown. Our overall performance is **good**. **Progress includes:**

- doing better than the target Childcare ratio of 1:4, achieving a ratio of 1:3 overall
- decreasing the proportion of 16-18 young people not in employment, education or training. The 3 month average from November 2006 was 5.5%, just missing the 5.1% target
- developing a 13-19 strategy to raise attainment and increase curriculum choice
- improving the ratio of students achieving level 2 (at least 5 x A*-C at GCSE) and 3 (at least 2 x A levels) qualifications at age 19 (the ratio in Leicestershire is currently above national and regional outcomes).
- supporting a number of homelessness prevention initiatives throughout the county (the number of care leavers in suitable accommodation is generally above comparators and national figures)
- maintaining good outcomes for care leavers - 61% were in employment, education and training around their 19th birthday
- achieving national recognition as good practice for the Transitions Learning Project (for young adults with complex physical and learning disabilities)

We plan to continue to build on these priority areas next year.



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Service management

The 2006/09 Children and Young People's Plan said partners would improve time scales for completing children's social care initial assessments and develop extended service provision. **Progress includes:**

- completing 72% of social care initial assessments within timescale, better than local target of 66%
- developing integrated working for children with additional needs through review of access to targeted services
- agreeing a vision for, and starting to implement, a strategy for the roll out of children's centres and extended services in and around schools
- improving partnership working through Children's Trust arrangements

We are continuing to build on existing priorities and are also:

- implementing integrated working, including roll out of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and extended services across Leicestershire
- developing a public information strategy pulling together information for young people and their parents and carers
- developing a common approach to planning, developing and delivering improved outcomes for local children and young people.

