

Chapter 2: Vision: 'Voice, Choice, Safety and Fulfilment'

The 2006/9 Children and Young People's Plan set out our agreed vision for children and young people. This was developed through extensive involvement of children and young people who told us that they want "Voice, Choice, Safety and Fulfilment". This vision continues to be the core of how we meet children and young people's needs in Leicestershire.

Voice

We are encouraging a culture where children and young people feel valued for their contributions and are able to speak up on matters that are important to them. So, we are working to achieve higher levels of the 'Hear by Right' Standard and are involving children and young people in the design, delivery and monitoring of our services. All practitioners are expected to show that they understand and sign up to the principles of involvement.

Choice

Children and young people in Leicestershire want to be able to make choices about what to do with their lives. Choice for children and young people can be restricted by many factors, such as the effects of poverty and disability. We will support and equip children and young people to be able to make positive choices and achieve 'economic well-being'. We will provide a wide range of activities to enjoy and choose from.

A recent inspection of Youth Services in Leicestershire concluded, "Participation by young people is high and youth work practice and young people's achievements are good and at times outstanding."

Safety

We believe that children and young people need to feel safe to

achieve to the best of their ability. All partner organisations working with children and young people are committed to making the safety of our children and young people their highest priority. We know that we must continue to give high priority to safeguarding, making sure that our practice and procedures are as good as possible and adapt to changing circumstances. Leicestershire is well-placed to achieve this – the recent Joint Area Review inspection of children and young people's services states:

"Arrangements for safeguarding children and young people are good and are ably supported by strong partnership working. Early intervention and preventative working is effective. Children in need of immediate protection receive a very good service. The work of the Local Safeguarding Children Board is outstanding."

Fulfilment

A child or young person who is 'fulfilled' will be one who is healthy, feels safe, is enjoying and achieving, is equipped to contribute positively to society and achieves economic well-being.

Achieving our Vision

We are developing an approach to achieving our vision that informs all that we do:

- **Meaningful consultation/engagement:** we are determined to make sure that we hear the views of all children, young people, parents and carers and continue to develop our approach to active involvement
- **Partnership:** we are committed to ensuring voluntary, community and statutory services work together effectively to meet children and young people's needs and achieve better outcomes
- **Strategic Commissioning:** we plan to commission services informed by evidence-based outcomes, not by existing processes and/or past funding
- **Supporting families:** we are committed to supporting families as we believe that, wherever possible, children should be brought up by their families
- **Inclusion:** in all our work we aim to eliminate discrimination, recognise and celebrate diversity, reduce inequalities and promote the rights of children and young people, ensuring that all Leicestershire children and young people are able to fully participate in society.

