

# Chapter 3: Needs Analysis

The needs analysis is based on the views and surveys of children, young people, parents and carers, local practitioners, interest groups and research. The analysis identifies some priority areas where work is needed to further improve our services and some areas where further analysis is required.

Highlights include:

## Be Healthy

- The need to be happy, confident and able to deal with problems in life. This is more about emotional well-being rather than extreme mental health needs and has been highlighted as an area needing further attention in the recent Joint Area Review
- The need to be physically healthy – the needs' analysis shows that over one in ten primary children are obese and that teenagers are increasingly more likely to smoke or drink alcohol.

## Stay Safe

- The need to feel and be safe from crime and bullying. The student and pupil surveys in schools show that bullying has reduced, but still more than one in ten pupils report being bullied. The police report that young people are more likely to be victims of crime, such as mobile phone theft
- The need for parents to be supported – getting the right family support at the right time can make a huge difference to children's outcomes in a whole range of areas.

## Enjoy and Achieve

- The need to be ready for school at the age of 4 or 5. Children are often not ready for school and cannot do things such as learn or play with friends easily. Children in Leicestershire do slightly less well on the skills assessed in the Foundation Stage Profile (FSP) than children in similar areas
- The need to attend school regularly to benefit from an education. Our school attendance overall is good, but there is room for improvement in some secondary schools identified by the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) in the persistent absence category. Some non-attendance is linked to pupils not finding the academic curriculum useful or exciting. Other non-attendance is linked to pupils being excluded and then having problems getting a place at another school
- The need to get good results at 16. Results in Leicestershire are very good at the end of year 9 (Key Stage 3), but those good results do not always continue through to the end of year 11 (Key Stage 4) as they should. Some of this is linked to the courses available to pupils and to how they feel about school
- The need for young people to have things to do and places to go.



## Are people always happy?

“Not always. It depends on their background i.e. their family life, school life etc.”

Leicestershire children 2008

## Make a Positive Contribution

- The need to be able to behave well. Several groups reported that poor behaviour was becoming an increasing problem
- The need to be involved. Many groups reported that young people needed to be more involved in decisions affecting them and the areas they live in.

## Achieve Economic Well-being

- Leicestershire is a relatively affluent area but there are areas where childhood poverty is an issue. Many of the figures measuring the outcomes for children and young people showed that children from poorer families had less good outcomes
- The need to get employment, education or training (EET) between age 16 and 19. For example, although young people's EET levels are higher in Leicestershire County than in Leicester City, young people from certain groups (such as those who had been in care, those with fewer qualifications or those with disabilities) have been identified as less likely to be in employment, education or training.

## Children from Black Minority and Ethnic (BME) Groups

A further needs' analysis focusing on BME groups has shown that outcomes for BME groups vary widely. There are certain groups within the whole BME children and young people's population who achieve poorer outcomes than others and certain groups



which outperform the white British majority. Overall outcomes are worse for children and young people from the following ethnic groups:

- Black communities (including Black African, Black Caribbean and mixed heritage black groups)
- Bangladeshi communities

This is in line with national trends.

## One general issue

Access to services was raised repeatedly through the needs' assessment. Some groups said this was because the county was rural and transport for young people was a problem, some said it was because young people did not have enough money to do things.