

Chapter 6: Staying Safe

Children and young people's safety is of central importance to services for children and young people and is a key part of our vision. Keeping Leicestershire's children and young people safe is achieved by services:

- Acting on robust and effective child protection procedures
- Identifying the needs of vulnerable children and young people early and acting quickly
- Providing universal midwifery and health visiting services
- Providing multi-agency support to parents and carers of disabled children and young people.

The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) oversees the co-ordination of **child protection and safeguarding** in Leicestershire. In 2007 the Joint Area Review found the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) to be "outstanding" and arrangements for safeguarding children and young people to be good. However, the safety and protection of children and young people can never be an area we can be complacent about. We will continue to review and improve our safeguarding processes (including e-safety) in the light of new developments and government guidance and to work with adult service providers to ensure children and young people's safety.

Improving Safety for Children and Young People

Partners will work together to improve the safety of children and young people by:

- Improving our **fire, water and road safety** programmes, educating children and young people about the risks of fire, the dangers of rivers and canals, road safety and the possible consequences of starting fires
- Reducing **death and injury through road accidents** by improving safety on Leicestershire's roads
- Working to **reduce anti-social behaviour** – Children and young people have told us that it is disruptive and damaging to children, young people and communities
- We are working to further **reduce bullying** – children and young people tell us that they need to feel safe from bullying and we know that bullying can severely impair children and young people achieving their aims

What is good about being with other people?

- "You have more of a good time. You feel safe."
- "You have people to talk to and play with. You've always got someone to go to if you need help."

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- Further improving our support for **children and young people new to the UK** who often have difficulties finding their way around new systems and processes – we want to further improve our support for these children and young people
- Working with children and young people to minimise the impact of **domestic violence** (often an important factor in poor outcomes for children)
- Working with adult service providers to meet the needs of **young carers** who need additional support.

Can you tell me what a bully is?

- “A bully is a person which hurts you or calls you names all the time.”
- “A person that hurts because they is hurt.”
- “A person who hurts you and your family.”
- “Someone who goes around being horrible, stealing things from you, verbally abusing you, calling you names.”

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Disabled Children and Young People

Disabled children and young people face numerous challenges in life. We want to give good and effective support to children, young people and their families and carers to achieve good outcomes for disabled children. Consequently, we will:

- Fulfil the requirements of “**Aiming High for Disabled Children: Better Support for Families**” core offer:
 - Disabled children and their families are able to access appropriate information at each stage of a child's life
 - Levels of support determined on a fair, understandable and transparent basis
 - Disabled children and young people involved in informed decisions about their treatment, care and support and in shaping services
 - Child-centred, multi-agency co-ordinated services
 - Feedback provided to disabled children and young people about the development of services
- Increase support to **parents and carers of disabled children and young people**, in particular by increasing the range and quality of activities accessed by disabled children and young people and which provide parents and carers with a break
- Continue to develop our **Early Support** (encouraging partnership working, empowerment of families and an individualised and personalised service to children and families) as the means to improve the quality, consistency and coordination of services for young disabled children and their families
- Support the vision of “Better Care: Better Lives” that every child and young person with a life-limiting or life-threatening condition will have equitable access to high-quality, family-centred, sustainable care and support, with services provided in a setting of choice, according to the child and family's wishes
- Further improve our **early years and schools' capacity** to support disabled children and to give disabled children, parents and carers real choice about being fully included in local early years and school settings
- Make the **transition** from children's to adult disability services as smooth and seamless as possible.

Children in Care

Investment in preventative support means that there are lower numbers of **children in care** in Leicestershire than in similar areas. We will continue to work to avoid the need for children and young people to come into care, but where care is necessary we will aim to provide the best possible services, as they are some of our most vulnerable children and young people. Partners will provide the best care possible to achieve:

- **Increasing availability of good quality placements**
 - we want to provide high quality placements to meet the individual needs of children in care
- **Improving Placement stability**
 - it is important that children in care have as much stability as possible and do not have to keep moving between placements
- Providing safe and secure **permanency planning** through adoption, special guardianship or residence orders
- **Corporate parenting** – when a child comes into care, services take on many of the roles of a parent. This means all services have to work together to try to give the child or young person the best care possible, to act as their 'corporate parent'. We will continue to develop our corporate parenting work to support improvements in children in care's attendance, attainment, placement choice and stability.



