

Chapter 7: Enjoying and Achieving

Our vision of 'fulfilment' includes ensuring children and young people enjoy and achieve. We want children and young people to:

- Receive first class education through effective schools providing high quality and effective learning opportunities
- Join in a wide variety of high quality positive activities developing their personal and social skills.

Our aim is to ensure that children and young people are as well equipped as possible to start life as young adults. We recognise that learning is increasingly happening at any time anywhere and that activities out of school can greatly contribute to attainment within schools.

Youth services are provided by a wide variety of partners. They are recognised by inspectors as being good. The County Council is committed to making sure that no school is judged by OfSTED as less than adequate and that more schools are judged as outstanding. Attainment in schools is good at the primary stage, outstanding at the age of 14, but only average at 16. We want to move from 'good' to 'great' so that all our children and young people are able to fulfil their ambitions.

KEY PRIORITIES (see Appendix 2: Key Priorities) are:

- Raising the attainment for all children and young people, particularly the **attainment rates between Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4** (aged 14-16)

- For children in care to achieve better results at all levels, particularly at GCSE. A key issue in achieving this is to **improve attendance of children in care**
- **Reducing the rate of persistent absence** - the rate of attendance in Leicestershire schools is good but the rate of persistent absence (children and young people missing school 32 days or more) is too high, particularly for young people aged 14 to 16.

At the same time:

- We recognise the importance of **play** in children and young people's development and District and Borough Councils are increasing opportunities for play by promoting and improving facilities
- Children should be **ready to start school** having appropriate skills and confidence. We want to achieve and maintain a high quality of early learning to Leicestershire's children and will support early years settings and other partners in implementing the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and will support the sector moving from 'satisfactory' to 'good' with providers being 'good' or 'outstanding'

In the future, what do you want your life to be like?

- "Happy and fun and being able to run the 400 metres sprint in the Olympics."
- "Happy and to help animals."

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- The County Council will continue to develop high quality learning and **teaching** and promote this through the development of **leadership** and management at all levels to support children and young people receiving good education
- Children and young people cannot do well at school if they do not attend. Therefore, our services make ensuring good **attendance** a priority. In particular, we will improve the attendance of children in care and reduce the number of secondary schools with high levels of 'persistent absence'



- While many pupils from **Black and Minority Ethnic groups** achieve very highly some do not. We will work to support under-achieving groups including **Travellers**, Black and Minority Ethnic Groups, asylum seekers and refugees
- Fulfil our vision of children and young people having **'choice'** by engaging children and young people in structured positive activities and so developing good **personal and social skills**, having a better sense of well-being and reducing behaviour that puts people at risk. Based on the sound preparatory work already begun, we will develop effective integrated youth support services which ensure young people have access to:
 - Things to do and places to go
 - Opportunities to volunteer and make a positive contribution
 - Independent Information, Advice and Guidance
 - Targeted Youth Support.
- We will support young people in achieving their aims as expressed through the Pyramid of Participation (see Appendix 1; Pyramid of Participation), including exploring how to make improvements to **transport** for young people and improving access to, and quality of, children and young people's **facilities**
- We will enable children and young people to be inspired by the **Olympic Games 2012** and to engage in sport, the arts and learning
- We will enable all children and young people to benefit from the comprehensive **cultural** offer of five hours a week of quality arts and culture.

If you were Prime Minister what places would you make for children to exercise and why?

- "I would make a park with lots of climbing things – it uses muscles."
- "I would make a children's Olympics because it would make more people get into a sport. And it would make less obese children."
- "I would make more playgrounds because we don't have many places to play safely."

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