

# Make a Positive Contribution

## Our priorities are:

- To ensure provision, across all sectors, is responsive to the voices of children and young people
- To ensure children and young people have the opportunity to contribute to building safer and stronger communities.

## Our headline measures of progress towards, and achievement of, these outcomes are:

NI110 Young people's participation in positive activities  
NI19 The rate of proven re-offending by young offenders

Our recent history and improvement targets are included at Appendix B.

## Progress in the last year

### In universal approaches

- Established a Children's Council to run alongside the Young People's Council, enabling 5-19 year olds to influence the council and partners. The following are some examples of the difference they have made:
  - Influencing the agenda of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board
  - Influencing the Workforce Development Plan, including the development of a list of authorised young recruiters
  - Involvement in developing and designing a city centre hub for children and young people
  - Supporting the LCYPSP Stakeholder Conference. This focused on the CYPSP priorities. In addition to helping to plan and deliver the conference, children and young people collected and collated the views of stakeholders on the priorities and presented their findings with recommendations to LCYPSP
- We have made progress in our plans to increase the involvement of all young people in positive activities through the development of our Integrated Youth Support Strategy.

### In targeted approaches

- NI 110 working group is targeting identifiable vulnerable groups, eg looked after young people and young offenders.
- Increased the involvement of disabled children and young people in influencing the services needed to improve their inclusion in universal provision. Young people have influenced the reviews of provision for Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Speech and Language and the Aiming High short breaks.

- Yoppital Wonga, the young people's panel that decides the allocation of the Youth Opportunities and Capital funds, has ring-fenced 20% of the budget for 2009-10 to meet the needs of disabled children and young people.
- Progress has been made in supporting Youth Support Services to become more aware of and equipped to respond to substance misuse, through workforce development initiatives with specialist substance misuse services.
- Established a disabled children and young people's forum to participate in future service developments. This forum is linking with the Young People's and the Children's councils to co-ordinate work and to develop the inclusiveness of the two councils.
- We have also involved parents of disabled children through developing a Parents Forum, which has influenced the reviews of provision for Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Speech and Language and the Aiming High short breaks.
- Through the multi-agency Parenting Strategy, we have increased our support to parents to enable them to influence services and to participate in parenting provision to improve their children's outcomes. Examples include:
  - Enhanced capacity to develop and support a pool of parent volunteers to increase peer support to parenting programmes.
  - Good progress in developing parent representation on Sure Start Children's Centres Advisory Boards, resulting in parents influencing the agenda and decision making about services.

### In specialist approaches

- The Stand Up Speak Out group (SUSO) that represents children in need and looked after children and young people continues to impact on service design and provision. For example, the local universities have agreed to young people from SUSO delivering sessions to student social workers on participation and the Local Authority has agreed to young people from SUSO contributing to the inductions of new social workers.
- Progress in developing a Children in Care Council, which will add to and complement the work of the SUSO group. A multi-agency task group has been meeting to develop this council.
- Young people known to the Youth Offending Service (YOS) have been trained to help recruit YOS staff. They sat on an interview panel last year to recruit the YOS Deputy Head of Service.
- Progress has been made in preventing youth offending and re-offending, which is a priority in our LAA (NI 19). The following provides evidence of this:
  - Achieved 40% reduction in first time entrants to the youth justice system in April to December 2008 compared to the same period in 2007
  - YOS has led in achieving significant reductions in re-offending when comparing current cohort with 2005 baseline cohort.
  - Achieved reduction in % of LAC cases who are convicted from 6.2% of all known LAC cases in 2003/04 to 2.2% of all known LAC cases in 2006/07



## What we want to achieve this year

- A wider and more inclusive range of children and young people influencing service planning.
- Increased partner involvement in the Participation Strategy.
- Increased parental involvement in service planning and peer support activity.
- Increased participation by young people in positive activities (NI 110).
- More vulnerable young people identified and provided with co-ordinated support through the Pathway to Success pilot in North West Leicester. (The pilot will offer co-ordinated cross-agency support to young people within the area who are identified as being at risk of poor outcomes, including risks associated with teenage conception, NEET, substance misuse and criminal offending.)
- Increase the capacity of the children's workforce to identify and intervene in substance misuse.
- Reduce further the rate of proven re-offending by young offenders by 3.4% in 2009/10 and by 9.8% by 2011 (NI 19).

## Further details

Detailed actions to support the Make a Positive Contribution priorities are included in the Make a Positive Contribution Delivery Plan, available at: [\(insert hyperlink\)](#)

# Achieve Economic Wellbeing

## Our priorities are:

- To ensure a continued reduction in "Not in Education, Employment or Training" (NEET) levels
- To reduce long-term unemployment and numbers of children growing up in workless households

## Our headline measures of progress towards, and achievement of, these outcomes are:

NI117 16-to-18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment (NEET)  
NI118 Take up of formal childcare by low-income working families

Our recent history and improvement targets are included at Appendix B.

## Progress in the last year

Through co-ordinated activity across partners, we have focused on improving the economic wellbeing of children and young people across universal, targeted and specialist provision.

## In universal approaches

- The 2008/09 NEET target was met with rising involvement of vulnerable groups
- High local rates of children and young people in post 16 learning.
- Met targets for providing an offer of a learning opportunity to Year 11 and 17 year old young people, including a successful matching event
- Development of a universal post-16 'common application' process used across all maintained schools in Leicester
- Targets exceeded in the City Strategy development plan for retail job interviews
- Successfully reviewed 'Positive Activities for Young People' initiative and completed summer college project and pilots
- Funding confirmed and project manager recruited to support an increase in the uptake of formal childcare to support work recruitment
- Secured and improved computer system to upgrade the Childcare Information Service with family information
- On target to retain 95% of our funded out of school childcare places
- Achieved a target of 38.4% of young parents in education, employment and training (EET) in March 2009 (target was 40%).



## In targeted approaches

- Ongoing identification of need to inform service delivery and provision for vulnerable groups
- Successful start to short term work experience placements for young people
- Addressing low take up of the nursery education grant as well as increasing the grant to support the implementation of new terms and conditions
- Launch of project in Children's Centre Neighbourhood North to pilot new approaches to increase take-up childcare element of Working Tax Credit and Black and Minority Ethnic families of school age children
- Young parents have been offered very targeted support and provision resulting in higher levels of teenage parents and teenage mothers involved in education, employment and training
- Continued improvement in engagement of young people who offend into suitable education, training and employment (NI 45 76% for 08/09 compared to 71% for 07/08, see Youth Crime Action Plan).
- The Parenting Information and Pregnancy Support (PIPS) continues to provide targeted support to young parents and parents to be and Connexions have expanded outreach work at neighbourhood level to particularly vulnerable clients.
- Connexions continues to provide a range of learning provision to young parents and parents to be that recognises that 'no one size fits all'. Provision includes young mums to be, home based study, family learning and progression opportunities.
- Piloted a project to support access to childcare for disabled children in Beaumont Leys

## In specialist approaches

- Work started by the ETE 14-19 partnership co-ordinator to focus on YOS work placements and NEET
- ETE YOS roadshow successfully working with schools and colleges.
- YOS working alongside the Leicester City Council apprenticeship scheme

## What we want to achieve this year

- Use Working Neighbourhood Funds to support families back into employment , so supporting a reduction in childhood poverty
- Improved targeting of schools funding formula to support schools in areas of deprivation
- Mitigate the impact of the current national economic recession on children, young people and families.
- A step change in partners' understanding of, and engagement in achieving, outcomes is evidenced i.e. local plans underpin our aspirations, notably NEET plans including vulnerable groups, the JAR action plan, Connexions and LSC business plans, Parenting Support Action Plan and Child Care Strategy
- Continued progress in the achievement of local targets, including apprenticeships, vocational training, sixth forms and further education

- Maintain improvements in ETE YOS targets, working towards 80% full time engagement by 2010/11
- Increase the number of mentoring opportunities for young people involved in the YOS ETE project
- Ensure the provision of sufficient nursery education
- Increase numbers of parents taking up affordable formal childcare, especially in the most deprived areas of the City
- Reduce the rate of local child poverty
- Ensure sufficient childcare for adult learners to support the securing of employment
- Ensure the nursery education grant reaches families with the most disadvantaged 3 and 4 year olds
- Further improvement of post-16 provision and economic regeneration:
  - Ensure sufficient post-16 places in schools/sixth form colleges
  - Support 14-19 collaborative arrangements
- Increase numbers of young parents in EET to 60%

## Further details

Detailed actions to support the Economic Well Being priorities are included in the Economic Wellbeing Delivery Plan, available at: [\(insert hyperlink\)](#)