

JOINT AREA REVIEW

Inspectors who know about health, education and social care services visited Leicestershire in October 2007 to see what life is like for children and young people who live here. This is called the Joint Area Review.

The inspectors got a feel of what life is like in Leicestershire by listening to a number of children and young people, talking to teachers, youth workers, doctors and nurses as well as councils and police officers.

The inspectors found that:

- Most children and young people are safe
- Children who are looked after by the council are generally well looked after
- Those working with children and young people who find it difficult to learn or have disabilities work well together
- In school, those of you at key stage 3 (14 years old) have outstanding results – well done! Results are getting better at GCSE level too
- The inspectors thought that good services were being provided to those of you in this age group to enjoy yourselves and achieve well
- Not all children and young people can get the expert help they might need to feel happy and secure
- Some young people living in care aren't going to school as regularly as they should which means they don't do so well in tests and exams
- Those who leave care don't always have a good choice of places to live
- There is too much unauthorised absence in secondary schools which means some children might not be enjoying and achieving as much as they should be

What do we need to do now?

- Reduce unauthorised absence in secondary schools
- Improve school attendance of older young people in care and reduce exclusions
- Give you more of a chance to take part in planning services in the future, especially if you are primary school age or younger
- Make sure we have better places for you to live after you have been in care

Do you want to know more?

You can read the whole report at www.leics.gov.uk/jar

If you want to get involved in the way things happen at school or where you live, you can:

- Ask at your school or any other group you attend
- Contact your District Youth Council
- Contact the County Youth Council (CYCLE)