

Our Strategy for Children and Young People in Nottinghamshire

Introduction

This strategy is the overarching strategy for the development of all services for children and young people in Nottinghamshire aged 0 to 19.

It has been developed in the light of the Children Act 2004, the Children's National Service Framework (NSF) and other recent Government initiatives. It builds on the views of a wide variety of stakeholders - parents, children and young people, front line staff, managers and senior managers from all agencies working with children and young people in Nottinghamshire.

This strategy focuses on promoting outcomes for children and young people through the development of our services. In due course it will be supported by a financial framework and workforce development strategy.

Our vision

We are committed to working together to improve the life chances of **all** children and young people aged 0 to 19 in Nottinghamshire, by making sure that they are able to maximise their potential. We will make sure that as far as is possible children and young people:

- ♦ **are Healthy** - enjoying good physical, mental and emotional health and are living a healthy lifestyle
- ♦ **Stay safe:** - being protected from maltreatment, neglect, bullying, discrimination, serious accidental injury and crime
- ♦ **Enjoy and achieve:** - within school, both academically and socially as well as in their play, leisure and recreation to develop broad skills for adulthood
- ♦ **Make a positive contribution:** - to the community and society, developing self confidence, engaging in decision making and not participating in anti-social or offending behaviour
- ♦ **Economic well-being:** - free from poverty and ready for employment, training or further education on leaving school.

Guiding Principles

We will improve the life chances of children and young people through the implementation of the Children Bill, the Children's NSF and the Public Health White Paper. This will require all members of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership to take action to achieve:

- ◆ The active involvement of children, young people and families in all decisions that affect them
- ◆ effective joint planning and commissioning of all services to children and young people in Nottinghamshire
- ◆ an increase in preventative services and a reduction in crisis driven responses
- ◆ inclusive services
- ◆ enhancements in community capacity to safeguard children and provide effective support to children and young people
- ◆ common care planning and care pathways with the child/young person at the centre, using common tools and a common language to describe and meet needs
- ◆ an increase in the numbers of children and young people making successful transitions in childhood and to adulthood
- ◆ a multi-skilled, flexible workforce with appropriate competencies
- ◆ improved information sharing so that children and young people with additional needs are identified as early as possible
- ◆ additional value to the use of our resources - people, buildings, money, knowledge - to meet needs
- ◆ improvements in local environments for children, young people and their families
- ◆ fostering local innovation and creativity, building on the success of existing services and programmes, such as Sure Start local programmes, Children's Fund, extended schools etc, etc
- ◆ a continual focus on improving outcomes, whilst responding flexibly in response to local and national developments.
- ◆ whole systems change to make our vision a reality through the full engagement by all those working with children, young people and families in Nottinghamshire.

Achieving our vision

We will achieve our vision by:

- ♦ promoting the active involvement of children, young people and parents in shaping our services strategically and operationally
- ♦ tackling discrimination and promoting inclusion. In Nottinghamshire particular attention will be given to disabled children, Black and Minority Ethnic children and Traveller children
- ♦ planning together, achieving a joint children and young people's plan by 2006 and developing joint commissioning where this will improve outcomes for children and young people
- ♦ developing our Pathfinder Children's Trust, ensuring a common care pathway for children and young people with additional needs
- ♦ developing one 'Directory of Services' containing good quality information about available services, which is accessible to children, young people, parents and professionals
- ♦ re-focussing early years services, developing a range of Children's Centres across the County and incorporating lessons from Sure Start Local Programmes into all early years services
- ♦ developing and promoting a range of extended schools in all parts of the County
- ♦ implementing the Common Assessment Framework, promoting the use of common language and tools to help identify and meet the needs of children and young people who require additional support
- ♦ making sure that all services:
 - identify and seek to meet the holistic needs of children, young people and parents, with targeted services supporting universal services to help them meet needs at the earliest signs of difficulties to prevent problems escalating
 - are high quality and value for money
 - are needs driven and customer focussed
 - are evidence based
- ♦ breaking down organisational and professional barriers, promoting multi-agency and multi professional working to improve outcomes for children and young people, pooling budgets and developing joint teams or co-located teams where appropriate

- ◆ making sure that agencies' roles and responsibilities are understood operationally and strategically
- ◆ developing and implementing a joint Human Resource strategy to ensure that we have sufficient staff and volunteers with appropriate skills, knowledge and experience, including action to 'grow our own' resources from the community and to developing our existing staff
- ◆ developing and implementing a joint financial strategy to ensure sufficient financial resources to deliver on our strategy, pooling budgets across agencies when this will improve outcomes for children and young people.

Performance indicators

Government requires the collection of progress against a wealth of performance indicators. This is supplemented by management information which is collected by agencies. We have agreed a number of joint top level indicators to help monitor progress on achieving our vision of improving the life chances of children and young people. We will identify baseline information and the set targets against these top-level indicators:

Being Healthy

- ◆ conception rates for young people aged under 18
- ◆ smoking rates in pregnancy and during the first two years of the child's life
- ◆ proportion of low birth weights
- ◆ rates of breastfeeding
- ◆ immunisation rates
- ◆ rates of admission to hospital for gastro-intestinal disorders for children aged under one
- ◆ deaths during childhood and adolescence, up to the age of 19
- ◆ obesity
- ◆ numbers of young people in treatment programmes for substance misuse

Staying safe

- ◆ people who work with children and young people are vetted and have relevant experience, skills and training

- ◆ the number of children registered on the Child Protection Register
- ◆ finished consultant episodes as a result of unintentional injury (road traffic accident, accident in the home etc)
- ◆ numbers of young people who are victims of crime and bullying
- ◆ young people's fear of crime (as measured by regular surveys)
- ◆ a measure of domestic violence

Enjoying and achieving

- ◆ numbers of children and young people receiving accreditation for out of school activities
- ◆ educational achievements of children looked after in public care
- ◆ children's readiness for school and achievements at key stages two, and three
- ◆ the proportion of 16 year olds leaving full time statutory education with one or more formal qualification
- ◆ the proportion of 19 year olds achieving at level 2 or above
- ◆ the proportion of 16 year olds achieving at least five GCSEs at grade A* to C, or equivalent
- ◆ the number of days lost education through permanent exclusion, authorised and unauthorised absences
- ◆ proportion of children educated within mainstream education
- ◆ young people's satisfaction with services (as measured through surveys)

Making a positive contribution

- ◆ numbers and diversity of young people involved in youth assemblies, youth parliament, schools councils and other formal consultation fora
- ◆ numbers and diversity of young people involved in voluntary activity
- ◆ young people telling us that they think that we are taking their views into account when making strategic decisions about them
- ◆ proportion of young people actively participating in individual case review and care planning decision making (e.g. SEN annual reviews. Children Looked After reviews)
- ◆ number of young people cautioned or convicted of an offence

Achieving economic well-being

- ◆ numbers of children living in poverty, as measured by the provision of free school meals
- ◆ proportion of young people aged 16 to 19 in education, training or employment
- ◆ the numbers of households with children living in decent social housing
- ◆ numbers of young people at age 19 in higher education or training
- ◆ numbers and distribution of registered day-care places to meet the needs of parents in work or seeking work
- ◆ proportion of parents in employment.

We need to make sure that our services are not discriminatory, so we will monitor progress of different groups of children and young people against agreed targets.

What it might look like on the ground

Age	What services will look like	Planned developments to support achieving this vision	Based on interventions that work	What we can learn from includes:	What we need to do
Pre-school Pre-birth to 4	<p>Services based in local communities, building on the strengths of local communities</p> <p>Services delivered in an integrated way from confirmation of pregnancy to support parents to parent, providing additional support where needed. Accessible affordable good quality day care and other supports to enable those parents who wish to work to work</p> <p>Integrating early years services within local areas around children's centres/health centres or other appropriate community locations</p>	<p>Development of children's centres</p> <p>Lift programme developing new health centres</p>	<p>Whole family approach</p> <p>Strengthening parenting</p> <p>Parental involvement</p> <p>Community capacity building</p> <p>Targeted outreach</p>	<p>Sure Start programmes</p> <p>Social services family centres</p> <p>Education early years services</p> <p>Newark early intervention pilot.</p>	<p>Mainstreaming Sure Start/ children's centres into non-Sure Start areas</p> <p>Integrate targeted family centre support with universal Sure Start Service</p> <p>Empower communities</p>
School age aged 5 to 16	<p>The school at the heart of the local community working with the community. Targeted services based around families of schools. providing effective support to pupils with additional needs and a range of parenting support programmes and activities to improve life chances</p> <p>Accessible affordable wrap round care for those that want it</p>	<p>Development of extended schools</p> <p>Extension of Children's Fund 2006/8</p>	<p>Whole class/school approaches</p> <p>Strong school/community links and involvement</p> <p>Active parental involvement in schools and communities</p> <p>Child and family</p>	<p>Extended schools pilots</p> <p>Acorn 3</p> <p>Children's Fund</p> <p>Signs and Symbols work in Pathfinder</p> <p>Children's Trust</p> <p>YISPS</p>	<p>Encourage the development of extended schools, build learning communities etc so that communities and schools are working together holistically</p> <p>Encourage parental involvement in schools</p> <p>Learn and apply lessons from Children's Fund</p> <p>Re-configure targeted services around families of schools</p>

Age	What services will look like	Planned developments to support achieving this vision	Based on interventions that work	What we can learn from includes:	What we need to do
			approach including cognitive behavioural therapy		
Young people Aged 16 to 19	Integrated services delivered around young people where they are, supporting the smooth transition from school to employment, further education or training Support and education of parents and communities	Re-focussing of youth provision through transforming youth work, resourcing excellent youth services and the Connexions agenda	Individual and peer group intervention Active Involvement of young people FE foundation work and pre-apprenticeship training Strong communities	Connexions Young People's participation Youth outreach work	Integrated young peoples strategy - Connexions, crime prevention, youth services, FE colleges and work based learning providers to ensure an integrated approach between Connexions universal and targeted provision with targeted support from Youth services, SSD, Police, LSC and YOS etc (building on current best practice) Housing strategy for young people needing accommodation (e.g. YP leaving care and young parents)

Underlying this will be:

- ♦ Common language and tools to describe and meet needs
- ♦ Common care pathways
- ♦ Integrated information systems (or ones that can exchange information readily)
- ♦ Accessible, good quality, up to date and accurate information on service availability for parents and staff
- ♦ Effective multi-professional working around the child/young person family
- ♦ Safeguarding integrated into all activity.

Nigel Farrow, Children's Services Development Manager, November 2004
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