Every Child Matters: Change for Children

Summary

Children and young people have told us that five outcomes are key to well-being in childhood and later life – being healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and achieving economic well-being. The Government’s ambition is to improve these outcomes for all children and to narrow the gap in outcomes between those who do well and those who do not.

Five Outcomes

The five outcomes are universal ambitions for every child and young person, whatever their background or circumstances.

They are mutually reinforcing. For example, children and young people learn and thrive when they are healthy, safe and engaged; and the evidence shows clearly that educational achievement is the most effective route out of poverty.

These five outcomes are central to the programme of change and are at the heart of the Children Act 2004, which provides the legislative foundation for the programme. Every Child Matters: Change for Children is an approach to the well-being of children and young people from birth to age 19. The programme places better outcomes for children firmly at the centre of all policies and approaches involving children's services. These outcomes are:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being
The programme demands that all organisations that provide services to children work together in more integrated and effective ways.

The need for change was made apparent in Lord Laming's report into the death of Victoria Climbié, the young girl who was horrifically abused and tortured, and eventually killed by her great aunt and the man with whom they lived. The report highlighted a need for improved integration and accountability across children's services.
Every Child Matters
The five Outcomes and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

These articles of the UNCRC are relevant to all five Outcomes

Article 1: Everyone under 18 years of age has all the rights stated in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Article 2: The Convention applies to everyone, whatever their nation, race, colour, sex, religion, abilities, opinion, wealth or social position.

Article 3: All organizations concerned with children should work towards what is best for each child.

Article 4: Governments shall take all necessary steps to make these rights available to all children.

Article 5: All children have the right to life. Governments should ensure that children survive and develop healthily.

Article 6: Governments to ensure that children have the right to express freely their views and to take account of children's views. Children have the right to be heard in any legal or administrative matters that affect them.

Article 7: Governments have the right to protection and assistance and the same rights as other children wherever they are or whatever their circumstance.

Being healthy
Enjoying good physical and mental health and leading a healthy lifestyle

Surviving safe
Being protected from harm and neglect and growing up able to look after themselves

Enjoying and achieving
Getting the most out of life and developing broad skills for adulthood

Making a positive contribution
To the community and to society and not engaging in anti-social or offending behaviour

Economic well-being
Nothing prevented by economic disadvantage from achieving their full potential in life

Article 8: Governments respect the rights and responsibilities of parents.

Article 9: Governments respect the rights and responsibilities of parents.

Article 10: Right of children to be together

Article 11: Right to participate with parents in making decisions about children

Article 12: Right of children, including from abuse or neglect by parents

Article 13: Right to participate in the family life of children

Article 14: Rights to health care, clean drinking water, nutritious food and a clean environment

Article 15: Right to family life

Article 16: Right to be protected from any form of violence, abuse or neglect by parents

Article 17: Right to education

Article 18: Right to cultural life and fun and to enjoy art and culture

Article 19: Right to protection from any form of violence, abuse or neglect by parents

Article 20: Right to family life

Article 21: Right to be protected from any form of violence, abuse or neglect by parents

Article 22: Right to family life

Article 23: Special care and support for children or other people

Article 24: Right to health care, clean drinking water, nutritious food and a clean environment

Article 25: Right to education

Article 26: Right to cultural life and fun and to enjoy art and culture

Article 27: Right to protection from any form of violence, abuse or neglect by parents
More information is available on www.everychildmatters.co.uk, including copies of the documents, downloadable presentations and a forward look of forthcoming publications and consultations.