



Joint area review

Report for children and young people

Report for children and young people about the services they receive in Buckinghamshire

- Being healthy
- Staying safe
- Enjoying and doing well at school and as they grow up
- Making a positive contribution to society
- Being successful in whatever they choose to do when they are adults

Why should I read this?

The law says that inspectors must look at and then report on how well local services serve children and young people in an area. This is called a "review". Inspectors visited your area recently. You might like to read this, or the full report which you can find on Ofsted's website, to find out what they had to say.

What did the inspectors do?

Nine inspectors visited Buckinghamshire in September 2006 so that they could get a feel of what life is like for children and young people in the area. They:

- ❖ talked/listened to a number of children and young people
- ❖ talked with adults working with children and young people (like social workers, teachers, youth workers, nurses, doctors, police officers and councillors)
- ❖ spoke to parents and other people caring for children
- ❖ met with school councils' representatives and members of the Youth Parliament
- ❖ heard from the council and other agencies what it thinks about the services it provides for children
- ❖ read a lot of reports
- ❖ visited services/neighbourhood in High Wycombe to see things for themselves.

The inspectors also looked at how well particular children are doing, like those children in council care or those who have a learning difficulty or disability.

How well are children and young people doing in Buckinghamshire?

- ❖ Most children and young people are healthy.
- ❖ Children and young people are generally safe.
- ❖ Children and young people are doing well at school.
- ❖ Some young people have opportunities to give their views and opinions.
- ❖ Fewer young people offend than elsewhere.
- ❖ Most young people go in to education, training, or employment when they leave school.
- ❖ Too many young people from black and minority ethnic groups are not in education, training or employment.

What were the main things children and young people told inspectors about your area?

- ❖ Young people told us that they generally felt safe, although they felt there were not enough safe open play spaces in High Wycombe.
- ❖ Care leavers said they were well supported but wanted more suitable accommodation.
- ❖ Young people at school felt they had some opportunities to share their views but weren't consulted enough by the council.
- ❖ Young people said they benefited from schemes like those provided by the Children's Fund.
- ❖ Young carers felt they received the support they needed and could share their views with the council.
- ❖ Young people on the Youth Cabinet said they were able to share their views and received feedback.

What things did the inspectors say are good for children and young people in my area?

- ❖ Children are well supported to be healthy.
- ❖ Teenage pregnancy rates are falling.
- ❖ The number of children injured in road traffic accidents is falling.
- ❖ Children who are at particular risk from adults where they are living are protected.
- ❖ Most looked after young people receive their regular health assessments.
- ❖ A high number of young people take part in activities in the Youth Service.
- ❖ Most young people attend school and do well at the different key stages.
- ❖ Looked after young people are achieving more GCSEs.
- ❖ Many young people from black and minority ethnic groups progress well through their school careers.
- ❖ Many, but not all, families who have children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities receive support.
- ❖ The different agencies work well together to help children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.
- ❖ Some young people are able to have their views heard about the services they receive.

- ❖ Many young people, including those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, move successfully in to education, employment and training.
- ❖ Young people leaving care are well supported.

What things are not so good for children and young people?

- ❖ Some families do not get enough support to help them care for their children.
- ❖ Some children and young people have to wait longer for mental health treatment.
- ❖ Some minority groups are over-represented in those excluded from school and not enough are in education, training or employment, including careleavers.
- ❖ Some young people who are excluded from school do not receive full-time education.
- ❖ Too many looked after young people are placed outside Buckinghamshire because there are not enough homes in the county.
- ❖ Not enough young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities have transition plans to help them move in to adulthood.
- ❖ Not enough young people are consulted about their views and ideas.
- ❖ Some families and careleavers are not living in suitable housing.