



Joint area review

Report for children and young people
Birmingham

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

- 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 Birmingham 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?

Eleven inspectors visited Birmingham in October 2006 so that they could get a feel of what life is like for children and young people in this city. They:

- ❖ talked/listened to a number of children and young people they met at youth centres, community centres and schools especially in the Springfield and Castle Vale areas
- ❖ 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, members of youth focus groups and of the Youth Parliament
- ❖ heard from the council and other agencies what they think about the services they provide for children
- ❖ read many reports; and
- ❖ visited services used by children and young people, 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 Birmingham?

The inspectors found that:

- ❖ the health of children is improving, but in some parts of Birmingham they are still not healthy enough, for example too many are overweight
- ❖ children do well at school and young people over 16 are prepared well for working life
- ❖ children and young people are told about risks and challenges that they might encounter in their life and they understand how to keep safe

- ❖ children and young people are involved in making decisions about their school and the wider community; too many young people stop their study or training at the ages of 16 or 17 and in doing so they limit their life chances.

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

- ❖ They like their school; it is easy to get help and advice at school and they know who to contact.
- ❖ There is a range of interesting clubs and after-school activities and places to go to outside of school; young people with disabilities would like easier access to these activities and more help as they get older.
- ❖ They feel that they are listened to and their views have led to better facilities, for example in Castle Vale and Springfield.
- ❖ Children looked after by Birmingham council feel safe and those moving to independent living feel well supported.

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

- ❖ The council and other agencies work together well and have made a lot of progress recently to improve services.
- ❖ The council does its best to ensure that all children and young people are treated equally regardless of their social or ethnic background.
- ❖ There are some good services to help children and young people who cannot attend school for whatever reason.
- ❖ Children and young people are generally kept safe from abuse.
- ❖ Schools are good and work very well to ensure that children and young people are happy and achieve well.
- ❖ There are many opportunities through mentoring and buddy schemes for children and young people to support one another.

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

- ❖ Work to help children and young people avoid getting overweight or fall victim of drugs or alcohol abuse is developing well but it is not yet strong enough to change the behaviour of some groups of young people.
- ❖ Support for teenagers with learning difficulties or disabilities is not good enough and they need more help to stay in education or find training courses or a job. They also need more help to access services as they get older.