



Joint area review

Report for children and young people

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

- 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?

Ten inspectors visited Somerset in November and December 2006 so that they could get a feel of what life is like for children and young people in the area. They:

- ❖ talked to a number of children and young people, including school council representatives
- ❖ talked with adults working with children and young people (like social workers, teachers, youth workers, nurses, doctors, police officers and councillors)
- ❖ talked with parents and other people caring for children
- ❖ heard from the council and other agencies what they think about the services they provide for children and young people
- ❖ read a lot of reports and studied a lot of data
- ❖ visited provision to see things for themselves, particularly in the Keyford area of Frome and in Glastonbury and the areas nearby.

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

How well are children and young people doing in Somerset?

- ❖ They are healthier than the average for children and young people nationally.
- ❖ They are comparatively safe.
- ❖ Their educational results are about average up to age 16 and better than average after this.
- ❖ Many make a good contribution to their schools and the area in which they live.
- ❖ They are quite well prepared for working life but it's hard for those who eventually get university degrees to get suitable jobs locally
- ❖ Those who are looked after by the council do about as well as similar children and young people in other parts of the country.

- ❖ A higher proportion of those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are educated in ordinary (rather than special) schools.

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

- ❖ That they feel comparatively healthy.
- ❖ That they feel comparatively safe overall, although in some areas they are worried in particular about the safety of roads.
- ❖ That they usually have someone to go to who they trust if they have problems.
- ❖ That there is a good range of enjoyable things to do in their leisure time, although transport can be a problem in some areas.
- ❖ That adults often ask them for their views, listen to what they have to say, and respond positively if they can.

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

- ❖ Health services overall, including education and advice on healthy living.
- ❖ Support for children and young people who are being, or who are at risk of being, abused or neglected.
- ❖ Support for children and young people (and their families) who are having problems, to avoid them having to come into care.
- ❖ Adoption and fostering services for those in care and the personal support they receive.
- ❖ Day care for very young children.
- ❖ Services for children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, which are outstanding.
- ❖ The youth service, which is also outstanding.
- ❖ The way services try to obtain children's and young people's views and respond to them.
- ❖ The way that police officers relate to children and young people in most local areas.
- ❖ Education and training provision overall for those over 16 and the advice they get in preparing for working life.
- ❖ Housing for those with the very highest levels of need (like those who become parents at a very young age).
- ❖ The ways services work together to provide the support children and young people need.

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

- ❖ Services for those with serious mental health problems, although these are now improving.
- ❖ Support for those with behaviour problems in schools.
- ❖ Work related education and careers advice and guidance for young people in a few secondary schools.
- ❖ Housing for families with low incomes.