

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

- 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?

Eight inspectors visited Wolverhampton in February and March 2007 so that they could get a feel of what life is like for children and young people in the area. They:

- ❖ talked and listened to a number of children and young people,
- ❖ talked with adults working with children and young people (like social workers, teachers, youth workers, health visitors, 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 Banks
- ❖ heard from the council and other agencies what it thinks about the services it provides for children
- ❖ read a lot of reports
- ❖ visited services in the Dovecotes neighbourhood 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 Wolverhampton?

- ❖ They are generally healthy.
- ❖ Most appear safe.
- ❖ They achieve adequately in school and continue to improve.
- ❖ Most are involved in a wide range of activities.
- ❖ Many get involved in school councils and Youth Banks.
- ❖ Many give their views about what services are like and what should happen, including children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.
- ❖ High numbers of young people stay on in education after they reach the age of 16.

- ❖ Too few young people age 16-19 are in training or employment.

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

- ❖ Most feel quite or very healthy.
- ❖ Most feel quite safe or very safe in school and in their local area.
- ❖ Most think they are doing quite well or very well at school.
- ❖ Most get involved in activities at school and in their local area and find it easy to find things to do.
- ❖ The majority said they could make some difference to the way things are run at school and in their local area.
- ❖ Most find it easy to get advice and information when they need it.

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

- ❖ Services for children and young people are good overall.
- ❖ The council and other organisations care about what children and young people think. They work hard to get their views and take these into account when planning services.
- ❖ All the different services work very well together to provide the services children, young people and their families need and the inspectors think that services will continue to get better.
- ❖ Parents and carers get good support from lots of different services to help them care well for their children.
- ❖ Most children and young people receive good advice and support to help them be healthy and stay healthy.
- ❖ Concerns about children who might be at risk of harm are followed up properly and speedily.
- ❖ Children at risk of serious abuse or neglect all have qualified social workers to support them and try to protect them.
- ❖ Looked after children and young people leaving care generally get good support.
- ❖ Young children make excellent progress and get very good quality care in nurseries and day care
- ❖ Schools are very well supported, and overall pupils make satisfactory progress, with some making very good progress.
- ❖ Behaviour and attendance at school have improved.
- ❖ Children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, and their families, receive good support.

- ❖ Good preventative work and a range of activities are available for young people at risk of offending. Anti-social behaviour and re-offending is reducing.
- ❖ Young people receive good careers education and guidance
- ❖ High numbers stay on in education after age 16 years and can choose from a wide range of subjects.

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

- ❖ The number of teenage pregnancies is too high and not enough is being done by agencies working together to help prevent this.
- ❖ Some adults who work with children and young people start work before the results of the proper checks are received on their suitability to work with them.
- ❖ While most children and young people get the support they need, some do not always get the right help to meet their needs.
- ❖ There are delays in arranging alternative education for some young people who are excluded from school.
- ❖ Levels of achievement in mathematics and English are too low.
- ❖ There are not enough work-based apprenticeships, and training and employment opportunities for young people.
- ❖ There is not enough suitable housing for all the young people who need, or want, to live independently.