

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

- 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?

Eleven inspectors visited Thurrock between December and January 2007 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 Tilbury and Chadwell St Mary 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 Thurrock

- ❖ Overall children and young people are well informed about what they need to do to keep fit and healthy.
- ❖ There is good support for those children who want to give up smoking or drugs.
- ❖ A large number of young people in Thurrock use alcohol much more than in other parts of the country.
- ❖ Many young people make a good contribution to their school and the area that they live in.
- ❖ Many young people feel unsafe in their local areas.

- ❖ Many children and young people have low ambitions and many are in unskilled jobs with little prospects for training or progression.

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

- ❖ Many young people say that they have recently been supported and involved in making decisions that are important in their lives.
- ❖ Children and young people who are looked after are involved in talking about how they feel and how well they are doing.
- ❖ Many young people do not feel safe in their area and identify bullying and crime as a frequent concern.
- ❖ Children and young people told us that access to leisure and recreation facilities was limited.

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

- ❖ More children and young people are eating healthier food at school.
- ❖ Health care for the majority of children and young people is good, although dental health for very young children is poor.
- ❖ Young people who have become parents receive good support.
- ❖ Outcomes for children in nursery settings are adequate and improving.
- ❖ The education of looked after children is satisfactory.
- ❖ The attainment of children from Black and minority ethnic groups is adequate.
- ❖ Children and young people with disabilities are doing well at school.
- ❖ Children and young people are helped to be kept safe by their social workers.
- ❖ Schools are providing help to pupils and parents by linking with other services, such as children's centres.

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

- ❖ The youth service needs to increase the number of young people who use the service.
- ❖ Standards in reading are not rising fast enough across all age groups.
- ❖ Young people need better access to training for skilled jobs, including apprenticeships, especially those who have learning disabilities/and or disabilities.
- ❖ The council needs to find better ways of making sure the views from a full range of young people are used when making big decisions.

- ❖ Some services are still not talking enough with other people working with young people and children to make that sure plans and arrangements for services are the best for the young population in the area.