



Joint area review

Report for children and young people
Swindon

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

- 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 Swindon in June 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; and
- ❖ visited services/neighbourhood Park North 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 Swindon?

- ❖ Overall, there are differences in how well young people do depending on which part of Swindon they live in.
- ❖ The majority of young people are healthy.
- ❖ Young people living in some parts of Swindon smoke and use drugs much more.
- ❖ Many young people make a good contribution to their school and the area that they live in.
- ❖ Too many young people looked after by the council live outside Swindon.
- ❖ More young people could get training to help them get better paid and skilled jobs.

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

- ❖ Many young people say they are well supported and involved in making decisions.
- ❖ Children and young people who are looked after are involved in talking about how well they are doing.
- ❖ Some young people did not feel safe around their area although they generally feel safer at school.

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

- ❖ More children and young people are eating better food at school.
- ❖ Health care for most children and young people is good.
- ❖ Schools have improved and there are plans to provide seven new ones.
- ❖ Children in primary schools are achieving better.
- ❖ Children from black and minority ethnic communities do better than many children from other groups.
- ❖ More young people are receiving education, training or have jobs.
- ❖ Children and young people who have a social worker to help them are kept safe.
- ❖ Children and young people with disabilities are doing well at school.
- ❖ A lot of different organisations are working together to help families.
- ❖ Young people who have become parents receive support.
- ❖ Schools are providing help to students and parents by linking with other services and setting up new ones such as children's centres.

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

- ❖ The youth service needs to increase the number and of young people using its services.
- ❖ Fewer young people do well by the time they are taking GCSEs compared with when they left primary school.
- ❖ Young people need better access to train for skilled jobs including apprenticeships.
- ❖ 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 often enough with other people working with children and young people to make sure plans and arrangements are the best possible.