



Joint area review

Report for children and young people
Stockport

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

- 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 provide for 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 Stockport in November 2005 so that they could get a feel of what life is like for children and young people in the area. They:

- ❖ talked to children and young people
- ❖ talked to lots of adults working with children and young people (such as social workers, teachers, youth workers, nurses, doctors, police officers and councillors)
- ❖ spoke to parents and other people caring for children
- ❖ heard from the council and other agencies about what they think of the services it provides for children
- ❖ read a lot of reports and visited one neighbourhood, Davenport and Cale Green, to see things for themselves.

The inspectors also looked at how well particular children were doing, like those children in council care or those who have a learning difficulty or disability. They know that elsewhere these groups of children often don't get a good service and so needed to check up on this locally.

How well are children and young people doing in Stockport?

- ❖ They do well overall and are generally safe.
- ❖ Most are healthy and get a good start in life, but have more dental decay than average.
- ❖ Children in some areas do not do as well at schools as others, but the gap is beginning to close.

- ❖ They achieve well at school up to the age of 14 years, but at 16 there is a gap between those in wealthier areas who do well or very well and those in poorer areas who do not do well enough.
- ❖ They are involved well in making decisions that affect their local area and their lives.
- ❖ About the same number of children and young people commit crimes as elsewhere in the country, but this is reducing. Anti-social behaviour is also declining.
- ❖ Education, training and health outcomes for those children in council care are good and have improved.
- ❖ Those with special needs are achieving well.
- ❖ Many young people aged 16 and over do well in education, training and in jobs.
- ❖ Those who are homeless are well supported.

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

- ❖ They feel safe and well cared for in school but less safe in the community.
- ❖ Some find leisure facilities hard to get to and do not like travelling outside their locality.
- ❖ They are consulted about changes that need to be made, but they are sometimes left wondering what has changed or why things have not changed.
- ❖ Work in schools to combat bullying is good.
- ❖ Work to combat drug and alcohol abuse is good.

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

- ❖ The council and other agencies work well together and have made a lot of progress to try and improve services quickly. They are ambitious for children and young people and want to give everyone an equal chance in life.

- ❖ There is good support for parents and carers, and healthy lifestyles are encouraged.
- ❖ There are some good services to help children and young people remain mentally and physically healthy.
- ❖ Support for families to help them stay together, and for children in council care, is good. This means fewer children are at risk of harm or need to be looked after away from their own families.
- ❖ Schools are good and work well with other agencies to try and ensure children and young people attend and enjoy school, and achieve highly.
- ❖ Most achieve very well in school by the age of 14 years.
- ❖ A lot of importance is placed on encouraging children and young people to be involved in things that affect their lives, communities and the services they receive.
- ❖ They are well supported in dealing with challenges and changes to their lives.
- ❖ Families are well supported to get good jobs.
- ❖ Resources are being targeted to improve services in the more deprived areas.
- ❖ The council gets good services for the money it spends.

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

- ❖ Too many children in council care are placed outside Stockport.
- ❖ Children generally achieve well at school up to 14 years of age but achievement of 16 years old is not as good.
- ❖ They are not involved enough in saying whether or not services are good, and they are not well informed about what happens as a result of having made their views known.
- ❖ Not all schools and colleges are putting into practice the good plans to improve education and training for 16-19 year olds.
- ❖ The local leisure facilities are not always easy to get to.

- ❖ The council and other agencies do not always measure how good new services are at making things better for children and young people.
- ❖ The range of activities to find out what children and young people from different backgrounds need should be better organised so that the most important things become clear and can be improved.