



# Joint area review

Report for children and young people  
Peterborough

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

- 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 Peterborough in April and May 2006 so that they could get a feel of what life is like for children and young people in the area. They:

- ❖ listened to a number of children and young people they met at youth clubs, children's centres and schools, especially in the Central ward of Peterborough
- ❖ 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 young people in schools and members of the Youth People's Office
- ❖ 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 used by children 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 Peterborough?

- ❖ The majority of children and young people are healthy,
- ❖ The safety of all children and young people is improving but is not yet sufficiently secure.
- ❖ Most children and young people enjoy and do quite well at school,
- ❖ Many children and young people make a positive contribution to their schools and the area in which they live.
- ❖ The young people who continue their studies after the age of 16 do reasonably well.

- ❖ Too many young people, particularly those who offend, stop their study or training at the age of 16 or 17 and, in so doing, they limit their life chances.

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

- ❖ They usually like their school and the good range of facilities and activities that are on offer.
- ❖ They would like better opportunities to improve things, particularly in schools and local communities.
- ❖ Most young people feel safe at school but many are still concerned about bullying and are worried about their safety.
- ❖ They would like more youth clubs and a quicker response when their play areas are vandalised.
- ❖ They do not have enough support when they move to live independently.

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

- ❖ Health visitors, doctors and nurses help to keep children and young people healthy.
- ❖ Health education schools is good especially on healthy eating and physical activity.
- ❖ Foster carers and residential staff give good care and support to looked after children and young people.
- ❖ Schools help children and young people do well and enjoy their education.
- ❖ There are increasing opportunities for children and young people to make their views heard.
- ❖ The great majority of young people behave well and fewer are excluded from school.
- ❖ Work to reduce racial tensions in neighbourhood is good and is making a difference.
- ❖ Most children and young people, and particularly those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, get good support at times of change in their lives.

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

- ❖ Not enough young people aged 16, particularly those in care, stay on at school or enter training.
- ❖ Some young people aged 16 and over who have learning difficulties and disabilities need more help to continue their study or training and a better range of courses to meet their needs.
- ❖ Young people have to travel outside Peterborough to go to a university.
- ❖ Secondary schools do not provide sufficient sexual health education and too many become parents at an early age.
- ❖ Some children and young people have to wait far too long to get help for mental health problems.
- ❖ Some children and young people have to wait too long to see a social worker and have many changes of social workers.
- ❖ Some children live in places where they are worried about their own safety.
- ❖ There are too few real opportunities for young people to influence local decision.