



# Joint area review

Report for children and young people  
Hartlepool

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

- 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 Hartlepool in November and December 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 Dyke House ward of Hartlepool
- ❖ 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
- ❖ 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 Hartlepool?

- ❖ Most children and young people are healthy,
- ❖ Children and young people appear to be safe.
- ❖ Most children and young people enjoy and do well at school,
- ❖ Many children and young people make a good contribution to their schools and the area in which they live.
- ❖ The young people who continue their studies after the age of 16 are doing increasingly well.

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

- ❖ Most children and young people feel healthy. There are good opportunities generally for sport and exercise.
- ❖ Almost all young people feel safe at school and in their local area, although some are concerned about bullying.
- ❖ Children who are looked after by the council feel safe where they live and that they can report any concerns they may have.
- ❖ Looked after children within Hartlepool value highly the support they receive, particularly from the nursing service.
- ❖ Almost all children enjoy their education and feel that they are doing well at school.
- ❖ Most children and young people are skilled and confident enough to comment on and influence issues that matter to them in schools and their local communities.
- ❖ Children and young people consistently say they enjoy their lives in Hartlepool.
- ❖ They are increasingly well prepared for joining higher education or gaining employment.
- ❖ Children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are generally well supported, particularly in schools.

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

- ❖ Services provided for children and young people are good. The Mayor, councillors and council workers are very clear about the needs of local children and young people. They are working hard to meet those needs. Inspectors feel that services will continue to get better.
- ❖ The range and quality of services for the under 5s are good.
- ❖ There are many good examples of help provided for young people to help them become, and to stay, healthy. Good support is provided to those with drug and substance misuse problems.
- ❖ The council and partners work well together to keep children and young people safe, particularly those who are at risk of harm.
- ❖ Services also work well together to support the social and emotional development of children and young people.
- ❖ Good work is being done by the council and its partners to reduce the number of young people getting into trouble with the police.

- ❖ Children and young people, particularly those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, are well supported to access recreation, arts, sport and leisure.
- ❖ The council also tries very hard to make sure that children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are able to go to ordinary schools.
- ❖ Children and young people are helped to do their best and achieve well at school. Attendance at, and behaviour in, schools is good.
- ❖ Black children and those from minority ethnic groups and those who are looked after by the council make good progress in school.
- ❖ Some excellent work has been done by the council to challenge racism.
- ❖ There are many good opportunities for children and young people to make their views heard and to take part in making decisions about services.
- ❖ Services work well together to ensure that the needs and interests of young people aged between 14 and 19 are met.

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

- ❖ The council and its partners need to make sure that appropriate action is taken at the right time for children in need
- ❖ Provision for children and young people with behaviour, emotional and social problems needs to improve.
- ❖ Pupils who are excluded from secondary schools need a better service and more help to return to those schools.
- ❖ There need to be more occupational, speech and language therapists to meet the demand from children and young people.
- ❖ Young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities need to be encouraged more to follow courses after the age of 16, and to have more choice of courses.
- ❖ Too many teenagers are still getting pregnant despite the advice and support they get.
- ❖ Some young people in certain areas of Hartlepool are drinking too much alcohol on Friday and Saturday nights.
- ❖ Too few young people who offend are taking part in education, employment or training after leaving school.
- ❖ The transfer of young people with mental health problems from children's to adult services sometimes needs to be smoother.
- ❖ There are not enough local foster parents, so some looked after children are placed too far away from their home areas.