



Joint area review

Report for children and young people
Gateshead

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

- 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?

Seven inspectors visited Gateshead 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:

- ❖ 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 council 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 some services in the Benshan Saltwell neighbourhood 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 Gateshead?

- ❖ Overall, children and young people in Gateshead are doing well compared to those who live in similar areas.
- ❖ Children and young people are generally healthy.
- ❖ Children and young people most vulnerable to risk and exploitation are helped to stay safe.
- ❖ Most children and young people achieve well at school.
- ❖ Most children and young people behave responsibly and many make a good contribution to their schools and the area in which they live.
- ❖ Young people are prepared well for working life.

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

- ❖ Most children and young people feel healthy and there are many opportunities to take part in activities that help with physical fitness.
- ❖ Most children and young people say that bullying and harassment are being taken seriously and are addressed in schools.
- ❖ Most children and young people enjoy school.
- ❖ Most children and young people like living in Gateshead.
- ❖ Children and young people are consulted and listened to and you can see things change as a result of your involvement.
- ❖ Some young people leaving care would like more choice in their accommodation.
- ❖ Young people like the support they received from the Connexions Service.

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

- ❖ Services work well together to improve services for children and young people.
- ❖ There are lots of activities in place to help children and young people be healthy, including opportunities to understand healthy eating.
- ❖ Services work well together to keep children and young people to stay safe.
- ❖ Most children and young people are doing well at school and some are doing very well.
- ❖ Children and young people are given opportunities to be involved in making decisions at school and in their local community.
- ❖ Children looked after, children with learning difficulties and/or disability are generally supported well and services are improving.
- ❖ There are services in place that are helping children and young people avoid behaving badly or becoming involved in offending.

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

- ❖ For some children and young people looked after, there is a limited choice of where they live.
- ❖ Not all children and young people looked after have personal education plans.

- ❖ There are not enough 'direct payments' in place for children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.
- ❖ Too many young people end their education at aged 17.
- ❖ The council needs to make clearer how it knows that it is getting good value for the money it spends.