

**Consultation with Children and Young People on Leicestershire's Children and Families Partnership Plan 2018-21: Summary Report****1 Background**

Leicestershire Children and Families Partnership is currently developing a strategic Children and Families Partnership Plan for 2018-21 which focusses on five priority outcome areas identified through the joint health and wellbeing strategy.

The Partnership believes that children and young people should be included in the decisions that affect their lives and, as such, have identified co-production with children and young people as a key enabler to the successful delivery of the Children and Families Plan.

The Partnership has actively sought feedback from children and young people across Leicestershire on the five priority outcomes to ensure their views are incorporated into the development of the Children and Families Partnership Plan.

This report presents the findings of the consultation for the attention of the Partnership.

**2 Approach**

The purpose of the consultation was to explore children and young people's views on the five priority outcome areas of the draft Children and Families Partnership Plan:

1. Ensure the best start in life
2. Keep children safe and free from harm
3. Support children and families to be resilient
4. Ensure vulnerable families receive personalised, integrated care and support
5. Enable children to have good physical and mental health

The consultation has included reviewing existing feedback from children and young people and carrying out additional direct consultation with targeted cohorts through focus groups and community events held from January to March 2018.

The focus group sessions were designed to be participative, encourage discussion and capture the views of children and young people. Sessions lasted for approximately one hour and were facilitated by the Children and Families Partnership Manager along with VOICE staff to ensure there were familiar people present to support the children and young people.

Further face to face consultation was carried out with children, young people and their parents/carers at three VOICE "marketplace" events.

### 3 Findings

#### Youth Ballot 2017

15,887 young people in Leicestershire, aged 11 – 18, took part in the ‘Make Your Mark’ 2017 Youth Ballot, organised by the UK Youth Parliament to identify the issues they should campaign on in the following year.

The top 3 issues that young people in Leicestershire voted for are:

- A curriculum to prepare us for life: Schools should cover topics like finance, sex and relationship education and politics (2,206 votes)
- Mental health: Services should be improved with young people’s help (2,054 votes)
- Transport: Make public transport cheaper, better and accessible for all (1,997)

#### Youth VOICE

55 children and young people participated in the focus groups. Each group consisted of a mix of male and female participants.

Over 200 children and young people attended the VOICE events where consultation was undertaken as part of a “marketplace” session. In some instances, parents/carers provided and scribed the feedback on behalf of younger children.

<b>Focus group session</b>	<b>Age group</b>	<b>No. of participants</b>
Junior Children in Care Council	7 - 13	13
Senior Children in Care Councils	14 – 18	9
OPCC Youth Volunteers & YOS Youth Advisors	14 - 24	12
YOS	8 - 18	5
CYCLe	13 - 20	12
Hinckley and Bosworth District youth forum	13 - 17	4

<b>Community event</b>	<b>Numbers attending event</b>
SEND VOICE pop-up (Twycross Zoo)	92
Children in Care Celebration	200 +
NW Leicestershire VOICE pop-up (Conkers)	29

Children and young people were asked the following two questions in relation to the five priority outcomes. The language of the outcomes and the questions was adjusted as appropriate to meet the needs of the children and young people in each session.

- How can services help you to achieve the outcome?
- What is important to you?

#### 4 Emerging themes

The collated feedback is visualised below, with the most consistent themes appearing in a larger font. Key messages that appeared across the five outcomes included:

- Support from someone they trust
- Someone to talk to and to listen to them
- Access to sports and physical activity
- Online safety
- Education and information

#### Ensure the best start in life







findings do illustrate the views of children and young people within target cohorts and offers useful evidence to inform the development of the Children and Families Partnership.