

**COUNTY COUNCIL: 8 JULY 2009**

**POSITION STATEMENT BY THE LEAD MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE**

**Leicestershire Children and Young People's Service is continuing to implement the targets in the Children and Young People's Plan.**

- Recent achievements include
  - Leicestershire schools have continued to be very successful in Ofsted inspections during the past year. 71% of schools inspected since September have been judged **good or better** and this is well above the national average of 64%.
  - 15% of our schools are judge **outstanding**. Over the last term a further 8 schools have been judged outstanding:
    - St Mary's Bitteswell
    - Lady Jane Grey
    - Brocks Hill Primary
    - St Peter's Catholic, Hinckley
    - Bishop Ellis
    - Gilmorton Chandler
    - St Michael and All Angels, Rearsby
    - Martin High School
    - The last two named schools have been judged outstanding for the second time. This is a particularly commendable achievement
  - Four other schools have also been judged **outstanding** in the past two weeks and this will be confirmed formally when the reports are published shortly.
  - Most recent **special school** inspections found the two schools to be good with outstanding features. All our special schools are at least good or outstanding.
  - 46 **early education and childcare providers** have achieved an outstanding inspection judgment from Ofsted – 61% are judged good or better by Ofsted.

- A recent visit from **National Strategies** reviewed arrangements for SEN and Disability and concluded that strategic direction and provision was excellent, including high levels of compliance with disability legislation.
- **Forest Way School** was officially opened on 25 July by the Leader and Chairman. It is the latest of our area special schools. The school was presented with the prestigious Times Education Supplement's Outstanding New or Refurbished School award at a special ceremony at London's Hilton Hotel in Park Lane. Pupils and parents, as well as staff and governors at the school have been involved in the design of the school. It is quite exceptional.
- The school food service took over responsibility for **school meals** as of 2 May 2008. Since then uptake in primary schools has increased by 14.4% and 8% overall in schools – this is part of our drive to encourage healthy eating
- In June Leicester-Shire **Arts in Education Dance and Drama Festival** at Curve involved 2500 children and young people. In total nearly 1000 children and young people performed on stage in dance and drama productions, many for the first time on a professional stage, and over 1500 children and young people were brought by their schools to watch the performances on two afternoons. All evening performances to friends and families were a complete sell out. This letter from the grandmother of a performer exemplifies the many responses to the event:
 

*"Many, many thanks for a simply fantastic evening. Everything was both moving and wonderful. I shed many tears. Those smiling faces told you how the children really enjoyed performing. It really was perfection. The amount of work and encouragement put into the performances was just unimaginable."*
- In March, the Leicester-Shire Arts in Education **Symphonic Wind Band** (16-18 yr olds) received a Gold Award at the National Concert Band Festival held in Cardiff.
- In July, the **Chamber Group**, the Senior Strings (15-18 yr olds) have been invited to represent the County and City at the National Festival for Music for Youth held at Birmingham Symphony Hall.
- Artsmark is a national award scheme managed by Arts Council England that recognises schools with a high level of provision in the arts. Leicestershire has increased the number of schools gaining an Artsmark from 25 (9%) to 69 (23%) schools in the last two years putting them joint top across the East Midlands.
- Over 300 young people have already gained the **Arts Award** which celebrates the creative achievement of young people, at Bronze, Silver

and Gold levels – the award is the creative equivalent of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

- **The Jitty** has won the “Best Interactive Media” category for the 2009 “Positive Images Awards” from “Children & Young People Now”.
- **The Bosworth Road Crew** (youth group) has won the Diana Certificate of Excellence award.
- The County Council and NWL district have been awarded Institute of Sport, Parks and Leisure (ISPAL) Innovation Award for the **Club Activ8 project**. This innovative pilot scheme was initially targeted at 2 schools in the area of highest deprivation in NWL and began in 2007. It has since been rolled out to a further 6 schools with an ambition of being established in all 52 schools in NWL by 2012. Each child involved in the scheme receives a Club Activ8 keyfob which is scanned every time they participate in school based sport or physical activity. When the child has completed 2 hours of activity in a week (National Indicator and Local Area Agreement target), their keyfob is credited with points that can be used at the District’s Leisure Centres for free leisure activities. So far, 339 children and young people have used their points making 5,573 free visits to the leisure centres during 2008/09.
- The Lord-Lieutenant’s Award for young people incorporating the Young Person of the Year 2009 was held at the end of March. Four of the five category winners were as a result of the young people being engaged with the Youth Service.
- The ‘Kindness in Helping Others’ category was won by Gemma Charlesworth from Loughborough Amazon Young Women’s project – a lot of the evidence about Gemma revolved around the effort put into helping young people in the Gambia in both helping/teaching in the school and within a special needs group plus the local fund-raising efforts - congratulations to Janet Holland and her team.
- The ‘improving the community’ category was won by Grace Macphee from Castle Donington - Grace was a key driving force in ensuring improvement in community safety via a Youth Opportunity Fund bid under the title Bozzy Road Crew - wind up torches were distributed to local residents to combat the unlit areas of a local park that is used as a footway – congratulations to Ro Riley and her team.
- The ‘Voice for Young People’ category was won by Abbie Granger from Coalville – Abbie was particularly influential in the creation of NWL Radio as well as the hours and hours of volunteering she does on 'The Jitty' - congratulations to James Hunter from 'The Jitty' website. This is particularly noteworthy and reflects the very good links and support that exists between young people from 'The Jitty' and CYCLE.

- The fourth category winner was Jess Boonham who is the first ever winner of the 'Creativity' category, a new section introduced this year. Jess is also a young volunteer on 'The Jitty' and was one of the key driving forces behind the 'Have you not heard?' poetry book on young people's health and well-being issues recently published by young people from 'The Jitty'.
- A group of aspiring rock musicians including young people with complex autism, who are supported by the Autism Outreach Service, are playing at the **Special Olympics**.
- Achieving efficiency savings across the service is going to be a major challenge, but the service is well placed. The Department for Children, Schools and Families have introduced new **Financial Management Standard in Schools**. In Leicestershire a challenging time scale was established to assure that all schools were compliant with the Standard by March 2009 which is 1 year in advance of the deadline set by DCSF. 286 schools have been required to submit for assessment and I am pleased to declare that 282 schools have successfully met the standard and the results for 4 schools are awaited.
- On 30 June the Audit Commission published a report '**Valuable lessons**' looked at value for money in schools. Leicestershire is cited as having good practice as the internal audit team has developed a database of over 100 efficiency savings that can be implemented by school bursars. The database won an award for innovation and excellence in audit in 2006 and has been updated since.
- Yesterday I attended the inaugural meeting of the School Support Staff Negotiating Board, of which I have been appointed a member of the Employer Side by the Local Government Association. The brief is to develop national pay and conditions of service for all school support staff in maintained schools.
- David Kidney, M.P., has resigned as the Chair of F40 due to his promotion to an under secretary of state post. As an interim measure I have taken over as Chair.
- I would like to pass on my appreciation and congratulations to all our staff, pupils and governors for these very pleasing outcomes which have maintained our improvements over the past three years.