

## **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING - 26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

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

- I am pleased to report there have been a number of other significant improvements and developments for children and young people of Leicestershire over the past year.
- Achievement at the early years and foundation stages again performed strongly with a 4 percentage point improvement over last year and a narrowing of the gap between the lowest achieving children and the average. This reflects the ongoing improvements in the county's early years sector and our children's centre programme. It means that young people in Leicestershire are getting a very positive start to their education and leaves them well placed to continue as they begin primary school.
- Provisional KS2 (aged 11) results shows significant improvement both in progress in KS1 and achievement in English and Maths combined. The figure for Level 4 (the national expectation) combined English and maths has risen by almost 6 percentage points and is now at 80%. This is a significant increase (a further 450 young people) and is to be welcomed as it will place Leicestershire above the national outcomes.
- At GCSE provisional results indicate that 57% of young people have attained 5A\*-C including English and Maths and 80% at 5A\*-C overall. These are Leicestershire's best ever outcomes and a testament to the hard work of young people and their teachers. We congratulate them on these achievements.
- At post 16 provisional figures indicate that Leicestershire students have achieved positive outcomes with an average points score per entry of 203. A number of centres achieved their best ever results and many young people were able to continue their studies in higher education following their success at A level and other post 16 examinations.
- The success in these formal examinations reflects the excellent Ofsted outcomes during the past year in Leicestershire. During this time 76% of Leicestershire schools were judged good and outstanding by Ofsted which places Leicestershire first amongst its statistical neighbours for these judgements. Statistical neighbours are other local authorities which have a similar socio economic profile to Leicestershire and therefore make it a good comparator to use. The 76% good and outstanding also places Leicestershire well above the national average and is a reflection of the high quality education which is available to children and young people in Leicestershire. These outcomes have been achieved by a lot of hard work by headteachers, teachers, support staff and governing bodies and I am confident that this success will be continued. I congratulate all those involved in this excellent achievement which is really good news for Leicestershire.
- Action has been taken to continue reducing the levels of bullying in schools and this has enabled 21 new schools to achieve the 'Beyond Bullying' accredited standard, which recognises embedded anti-bullying practice.

- There have been good improvements in outcomes for children in care at Key Stages 1, 2 and 3. The recent inspection of social care safeguarding services judged that they were always adequate and often good. The inspection concluded that children in Leicestershire are safe and tell us they feel safe. This is reflected in the performance indicators that continue to improve.
- The work of the Youth Service now focuses on vulnerable young people who are identified and referred for additional help. During 2011 and 2012 - the number of regular users was 15,500 with 585 accredited outcomes being achieved. Young people involved in the locality based Positive Activities Programme numbered 14,131 through 83 different projects. A case study shows a positive impact of engaging these activities for individual young people. The Service also commissions VCS projects which had 7,500 contacts with young people and the uniformed sector which had 2500 contacts with young people.
- Leicestershire's figure of 3.7% for 16-18 year old not in education, employment or training (NEET) means that we have one of the lowest rates in the country.
- 71% of Leicestershire early years settings are rated good or outstanding by Ofsted continuing the trend upward from 50% in 2009 which supports the improvement in the Early Years Foundation Stage scores.
- During the last year the Family Information Directory (which provides a range of information for families) had a total of over 1,600 visits – an increase of 15% on the previous period and making it one of the most used directories in the country receiving more visits than urban and city areas.
- By the end of the summer 452 young people in the county will have gone through the national citizenship programme. This includes 3 residential programmes followed by social action projects in the local community and has proved very popular with young people.
- School Meals is running at 35% uptake which is an increase of 3% compared to the same period last year. Overall there has been a significant increase of 25% since the service transferred back to the Local Authority. The School Food Support Service has also been awarded the "bronze medal" of certification endorsed by the Soil Association working with the Food for Life Partnership for the quality, provenance and locally sourced food provided as standard to children and young people in Leicestershire.
- Schools in Leicestershire remain committed to improving the health and wellbeing of children & young people, to this end, 95% of schools in the county have national healthy school status which they renew every two years. This means that have the 'foundation of health & wellbeing' in place having fulfilled the 41 criteria for the 4 core themes of Healthy Eating, Emotional Health & Wellbeing, and Personal Social Health Education including Relationships & Sex Education & Drug Alcohol & Tobacco Education. In addition, in the last academic year a total of 33 schools have achieved 'Enhanced Healthy School status' by achieving meaningful health & wellbeing outcomes for key health and wellbeing priorities including Healthy Weight, Substance Misuse, Teenage Pregnancy & Sexual Health & Emotional Health & Wellbeing.

## **Summary**

It can be seen, that whilst this list is by no means exhaustive, significant opportunities and improved outcomes continue to be provided for young people in Leicestershire. This has been achieved by working in the widest range of partnerships and I look forward to these being built upon over the coming year.