

The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

Joint Area Review 2006



“The overall effectiveness of the council’s children’s services is outstanding.”

“All services for children and young people in the partnership are good or excellent and have had a very substantial impact on improving outcomes for almost all children and young people.”

Making a Difference Together



Leading learning and skills



South West London 
Strategic Health Authority

Kingston 
Primary Care Trust

 METROPOLITAN
POLICE
Working together for a safer London

Kingston Hospital 
NHS Trust



Key Joint Area Review Judgements

Being healthy

“The impact of all local services in securing the health of children and young people is good.”

- Schools and the youth service are actively involved in promoting healthy lifestyles and provide good programmes of personal, social and health education.
- Health outcomes are good or excellent.
- There is good and appropriate access to sport and physical activities for children and young people in community settings, including good provision for those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and for looked after children.
- The excellent school nursing service is innovative and highly efficacious in meeting the needs of children and young people through their effective involvement in the design of provision.
- Healthy lifestyles for children and young people are well promoted.

Staying safe

“The impact of all local services in keeping children and young people safe is good.”

- Children and young people who are most at risk are protected well through good inter-agency collaboration and well managed procedures.
- Very good progress has been made in setting up preventative services which provide early support as well as more intensive work to children and their families, and there are good plans to develop these further.
- Performance indicators show very good outcomes for children and young people, with most showing a sustained trend either of improvement or of high standards being maintained.
- Anti-bullying measures are in place and working well.
- Current planning arrangements for transition to adult services for young people with complex needs are good, including the piloting of a person-centred planning approach, with plans to improve arrangements further through the integrated services developments.

Enjoying and achieving

“The impact of all local services in helping children and young people to enjoy their education and recreation and to achieve well is outstanding.”

- The work of all local services in helping children and young people to enjoy their education and recreation and to achieve well is outstanding.
- The well-conceived strategy for early years and childcare reflects overall very good quality provision in this area.
- Education services are outstanding.
- Education standards overall are excellent. Children and young people benefit significantly, both in terms of the standards they achieve and the progress they make as a result of attending a school in Kingston upon Thames.
- The school improvement strategy is excellent, with very comprehensive structures for monitoring progress and attainment.
- The progress of pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities in special schools is good, as are recreational opportunities provided by the youth service and voluntary sector organisations.

Making a positive contribution

“The impact of all local services in helping children and young people to contribute to society is good.”

- The work of all local services in helping children and young people to contribute to society is good.
- There are many opportunities for children and young people to become involved constructively in society, both at school and in their local communities.
- Looked after children and young people have good opportunities to make a positive contribution and have their views heard.
- Levels of anti-social behaviour are reducing as a result of effective multi-agency projects.
- Safer neighbourhood teams, the youth service and the youth offending team collaborate closely on creative, preventative and diversionary projects which are having a positive impact.
- The youth service provides a range of activities which effectively contribute to the personal development of an above average proportion of the 13 to 19 population.



Achieving economic well-being

“The impact of all local services in helping children and young people achieve economic well-being is outstanding.”

- The work of all local services in helping children and young people achieve economic well-being is outstanding.
- Provision of information about the wide range of high quality childcare provision available is good.
- A clear and appropriate strategy to meet the needs of 14-19 year olds is being systematically implemented. There is very good collaborative working by partners including the further education college, the local LSC and Connexions with the council providing a very strong lead.
- By the age of 19 the proportion of young people achieving a level 2 or a level 3 qualification is high, significantly above the local LSC and national averages.
- Young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are supported by well coordinated services to move towards a more independent adult life.
- A very high proportion remains in full-time education at age 16 and post-16 retention rates are rising.

Patrick Leeson, Director of Learning and Children's Services

“This is an important milestone for us in our work to integrate Children's Services and improve outcomes for children and young people in Kingston. Our focus will remain on continuous improvement. I appreciate the contribution of colleagues across the partnership to our outstanding result in the JAR and thank everyone for their excellent work to improve the life chances of all children and young people in Kingston. Full credit should also go to the children and young people themselves who have made an enormous contribution to this success through their participation and influence in the changes we have made.”

Service management

“The Partnership has good ambitions for children and young people, comprehensively set out in its Children and Young People’s Plan and based on a sound needs assessment.”

- The management of services for children and young people is good.
- The council has very strong relationships with all key partners, who are well involved both in the Children and Young People’s Trust Board and the Children and Young People’s Partnership and its sub-groups.
- New, innovative, preventative services are developing very well.
- The overall capacity of the council and its partners is good.
- Performance management across the partnership is good and the partnership has overall good understanding of its strengths and weaknesses as reflected in the self-assessment.
- Strong leadership of the children’s agenda, high calibre staff and elected members, underpinned by good relationships contribute to effective problem solving and a very good rate of overall progress.

Cllr Patricia Bamford, Lead member with responsibility for children and young people, Kingston Council

“I welcome this report and am delighted it recognises the strong sense of common purpose across the Children and Young People’s Partnership and our commitment to further improve outcomes for children and young people. The council and its partners can be proud of what we have achieved over recent years and it is good to see this is being recognised and confirmed through a rigorous inspection. It is a testimony to the dedication, hard work and commitment of everyone who works on behalf of children and young people across the borough.”

Youth Service

“Young people in Kingston are served well by a good youth service providing good value for money.”

- The views of young people regularly inform strategy and the evaluation of provision.
- The youth service is positioned well for integrated working with other services as part of the youth support service.
- The service is well managed and its contribution to the council's aims is recognised widely.



Bruce McDonald, Chair of the Children and Young People’s Trust Board and Chief Executive, Kingston Council

“The outcome of the Joint Area Review and the inspection of the youth service is an enormous achievement and very impressive. I am very pleased with such a positive report which reflects the strong commitment we share with our partners to improve the outcomes for all children and young people. I am confident we can build upon these very positive findings and continue to make a real difference to the lives of our children and young people.”

Our Scores

“The overall effectiveness of the council’s children’s services is outstanding.”

“Outcomes for children and young people in Kingston upon Thames are good in all areas and outstanding in most.”

	Local services overall	Council Services	Health services
Being Healthy	3		
Staying Safe	3		
Enjoying and Achieving	4		
Making a Positive Contribution	3		
Achieving Economic Well-being	4		
Service Management	3		
Capacity to improve	3	3	
Children's Services		4	
The education service		4	
The social care services for children		3	
The health service			3

4: excellent/outstanding; 3: good; 2: adequate; 1: inadequate

Recommendations

- In relation to domestic violence, ensure consistent implementation of national guidelines by some community health staff to ensure that children who are affected by domestic violence are referred in line with these guidelines.
- Implement a coordinated joint commissioning function as soon as Health budgets for children’s services have been identified.
- Ensure that all services and partners who work with children and young people implement the participation strategy.
- Establish clear structures to enable feedback from the Independent Reviewing Officer service to systematically improve practice.
- Review and improve access to all services for children and young people who are unaccompanied asylum seekers; and ensure all looked after children are aware of opportunities to make a positive contribution and understand the advocacy and complaints service.
- Review the commissioning arrangements to improve access for children and young people with social and communication learning difficulties and/or disabilities to therapy and equipment services.

The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

Joint Area Review 2006

The Joint Area Review describes the outcomes achieved by children and young people growing up in the Kingston upon Thames area and evaluates the way Kingston Council and a range of partners are working together to contribute to their achievements, progress and well-being.

The services reviewed include council services, health services, police and probation services, and publicly funded services provided by voluntary bodies. Evidence from other inspections, including schools, further education colleges and residential settings, also contributed to the review.

What the inspectors said...

“Children and young people are healthy and most feel healthy”

“Children and young people appear to be safe overall”

“Children and young people achieve very well”

“Children and young people have a good range of opportunities to make decisions and take personal responsibility and many make a good contribution to their communities”

“Children and young people are able to achieve economic well-being and are prepared very well for working life”

The full report is available at www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports.

For further information please contact Jenny Haynes on tel no: 020 8547 5260 or email jenny.haynes@rbk.kingston.gov.uk

If you require this document in another language or an alternative format such as audio-tape, please contact the Council's helpline on 020 8547 5757.