

Children & Young
People's Partnership
CORNWALL

Joint Area Review 2008

Cornwall Children's Services Authority Area



A report for children and
young people about the
services they receive in
Cornwall



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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". The inspectors visited Cornwall in May 2008 so that they could get a feel of what life is like for children and young people in the area. You might like to read this to find out what they had to say.

What did the inspectors do?

They talked and listened to:

- a number of children and young people they met at children's centres, community centres and schools
- parents and other people caring for children

- adults working with children and young people like social workers, teachers, youth workers, nurses, doctors, police officers, housing officers, welfare benefits representatives, sport and leisure representatives and councillors
- people responsible for services for children and heard what they think about the services they provide for children.

They also:

- met with school councils' representatives and members of the Youth Board
- read many reports
- visited services used by children and young people, 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.



When they had completed their inspection in September 2008 the inspectors had to grade local services as inadequate, adequate, good or excellent. Cornwall was graded as adequate, and the inspectors said that we should immediately begin to:

- find a way to make this report available to children and young people
- improve children and young people's mental health services
- find all the young carers in Cornwall and ensure that they get the help they need to be safe, healthy, to achieve, to make a contribution and prepare for life after education
- make sure that information and training is given to key hospital staff, doctors and mental health workers on drink and drug issues
- improve the records on children's cases in social care
- improve the monitoring and evaluation of casework by middle managers within its social care service.



They said that by March 2009 Cornwall should begin to:

- make placements for looked after children more permanent
- improve breaks for children and young people with learning difficulties, disabilities and challenging behaviour
- improve access to speech and language therapy, particularly for young people as and when they need it
- ensure that impartial information, advice and guidance is provided to all young people to guide post-16 choices
- improve provision for young people who have problems with drink and drugs
- give greater attention to ensuring that the delivery of children's services provides good value for money.

They gave Cornwall until after March 2009 to:

- give help and support to more families when they need it
- make sure that schools and colleges work together to plan 14-19 education to do their best for children and young people
- tackle the transport problems which are restricting the access of many young people to education, employment, training and opportunities
- make sure that children and young people get help and support that is fair wherever they live in Cornwall.



So far this report for children and young people shows the key points that the inspectors found. The rest of this report shows the key points in more detail. The inspectors made a very detailed report on what is good and what is not so good for children and young people in Cornwall. The information below shows you what they found.

What things did the inspectors say are good for keeping children and young people safe in Cornwall?

The inspectors found that Cornwall:

- gives very good help to families with young children, particularly those in disadvantaged areas, including early years education and day-care and children's centres
- is very good at dealing with domestic violence and supporting its victims
- is very good at finding children and young people who have gone missing from home
- is good at helping children and young people who are not educated in school.

What things are not so good for keeping children and young people safe in Cornwall?

The inspectors found that Cornwall is not so good at:

- recording children's cases within the local authority's social care service
- managing some of its care services that give help to children and young people
- providing Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- providing services for young carers.

What things did the inspectors say are good for children and young people in Cornwall with learning difficulties and/or disabilities?

The inspectors found that Cornwall:

- is good at providing for young children with complex and/or severe needs
- is very good at providing special schools and providing for children with special educational needs in secondary schools
- is good at providing residential respite care in health service premises for children and young people with severe and/or complex physical disabilities
- is good at providing education and personal support for most young people over 16.

What things did the inspectors say are not so good for children and young people in Cornwall with learning difficulties and/or disabilities?

The inspectors found that Cornwall is not so good at:

- providing speech and language therapy
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service provision
- supporting many families
- providing respite care for some young people with very challenging behaviour
- consultation with young people.

What things did the inspectors say are good for vulnerable children and young people aged over 16 in Cornwall?

The inspectors found that Cornwall:

- is good at providing education and support for vulnerable young people
- is effective at re-engagement of young people who have become unhappy with education or who have dropped out of training or employment post-16
- is successful at providing for students in most further education colleges
- is good at providing education and training for young people over 16.

What things did the inspectors say are not so good for vulnerable Children and young people aged over 16 in Cornwall?

The inspectors found that Cornwall is not so good at:

- providing fair access to education and training options for young people across the county
- giving advice and guidance for young people in some secondary schools to guide post-16 choices
- planning 14–19 education and training
- tackling the transport problems in the county which makes it hard for many young people to get education, training and employment opportunities.

What things did the inspectors say are good for children and young people in Cornwall about substance and alcohol misuse?

The inspectors found that Cornwall:

- is very good at giving information and advice about the dangers of using illegal drugs, alcohol and tobacco
- is effective at supporting young people with established and severe problems of substance and alcohol misuse.

What things did the inspectors say are not so good for children and young people in Cornwall about substance and alcohol misuse?

The inspectors found that Cornwall is not so good at:

- providing specialist services to work with young people with mild problems of alcohol and substance misuse
- providing information and training for important workers on substance and alcohol misuse
- working together with substance and alcohol abuse and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service workers.



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You can get more information on the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership at www.cornwallcyp.org.uk or get in touch with us by email (cyp@cornwall.gov.uk) or phone (01872 323506).



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