Children & Young People Strategy 2015—2018
“Services should be supportive of developing independence and resilience for families, so that they are able to find their own solutions and reach their potential.”
About Blaby District

Blaby District has a population size of 94,593. Young People 0-19 make up around a quarter of the total population. (23.67%)

The District is made up of diverse nature and size of settlements, being a mix of urban and rural areas. 19.5% of all 0-19’s from Blaby District live in rural areas.

Blaby District has low levels of deprivation.

It is the 2nd least deprived District in Leicestershire.

Blaby is ranked 297 least deprived in England (where 354 is the least deprived and 1 is the most deprived). This is a move from rank 326 in 2007, meaning there is more deprivation in the District.

The health of people in Blaby is generally better than the England average.

Life expectancy at birth is good, 80.7 years for men and 84.6 years for women compared to 79 and 83 years nationally.

Feedback from the Blaby District Council 2013 Residents Survey. Respondents were asked how satisfied they were with a range of public sector services, below are the responses regarding children and young people:

- 81% were satisfied with facilities for Children
- 53% were satisfied with facilities for Teenagers and Young People
Our Overarching Principles — How We Do Things

Help people to help themselves

Be open to new and innovative ways of working

Focus on and adapt to what matters to our customers

Work in partnership, using resources wisely to meet the needs of our customers
Welcome to the

FOREWORD
We want all children and young people in the district of Blaby to fulfil their potential and to get the best possible start in life and achieve the best that they can.

INTRODUCTION
This Children and Young Peoples Strategy sets out our ambitions to strengthen our support to children, young people and their families in our district. A key element to this is to be committed to partnerships, working together to ensure that we identify needs and support at the earliest possible stage, improving outcomes and reducing costs. Early help means providing assistance for children and families as soon as problems start to emerge or when there are signs that problems will emerge in the future, this will help families resolve difficulties quickly and gain more control of their circumstances before they become unmanageable.

Services should be supportive of developing independence and resilience for families, so that they are able to find their own solutions and reach their potential. Central to this strategy is the recognition that all the agencies working with children and young people, in the statutory, voluntary and independent sectors, can deliver more by working together rather than by working alone. Achievement of the ambitions set out in this strategy are dependent on our partnerships, to provide the best possible opportunities, experiences and outcomes at all ages, as they will be key to delivering alongside us. We must also ensure that children and young people are involved at every step of the way and that they are given a voice in shaping services, we are committed to active involvement to capture the voice of young people and our youth council will be key in helping this happen. Public services are under pressure to cut public spending and face further cuts, so we are determined that our services need to be focussed and built around the needs of children, young people and their families in our area.

The foundations for this strategy have been developed through local district and countywide data, national research and we have actively engaged with professionals, children, young people and families in our stakeholder consultation.
How will we deliver this Strategy

• We are going to listen to our children, young people and families and learn how we can improve.

• We are going to develop a fantastic Youth Council.

• We are going to work hard at relationships with others to get the best outcomes for Children and Young people in our district.

• We will support Leicestershire County Council in the delivery of their Early Help model.

• We will monitor the delivery of the Action Plan for the Strategy.

• We will revise and refresh the Strategy and Action Plan annually responding to needs of the district and available funding.
**District Context:**

**What we know about the children and young people in Blaby District.**

Using existing local research, data and consultation we are building a picture of the overall needs of children and young people in the Blaby District. This overview identifies groups who are most likely to be in need of support. This information will inform the delivery plan that will underpin the strategy and targeting of resources.

The following sources of information and consultation methods have been used:

- Health Profile 2015—Public Health England
- Blaby District Council Residents Survey 2013
- Census Data 2011, Office of National Statistics
- 2010 Indices of Deprivation
- Blaby District Council Support Services
- Youth Offending Service Report 2013/14
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2012
- Leicestershire Teenage Pregnancy Partnerships Toolkit 2014
- Prospects Performance Information Report 2014
- Ofsted website

**Consultation:** The consultation process began with a workshop with our key partner agencies to look at what the ambitions/goals should be for children and young people in the district. All of the data that was gathered was presented to the Blaby District Youth Council for their input. Questionnaires were then given to all pupils aged 11+ attending the local schools/academies, put on our website and given to families attending the Children Centres in order to help gather as much information to shape this strategy.

**Partnership Needs Analysis:** the annual needs analysis event brings together over 50 partners from providers who deliver services to children, young people and families. The event is aimed at gaining knowledge from local practitioners and provides a picture of gaps in services.
About Blaby District’s Children and Young People

Blaby Youth Council is a group of young people who meet on a regular basis with the goal of working together to make changes and get the voice of young people heard.

- 68.6% of mothers breastfeed their babies in the first 48 hours, this is lower than the England average.
- 8.8% of women smoke at delivery time.
- Number of offences committed by young people is falling.
- Children are affected in 83% of domestic abuse cases referred to the council.
- Between April 2013 to June 2014 we have seen 300 families from the district referred to the locality hub.
- Significant debt is a rising problem for families.
- Number of under 18 conceptions has risen and is higher than the England average.
- Number of young people NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) in the district is low at 2.5%.
- Child on parent abuse is increasing.
- Children’s Centres achieved a ‘good’ Ofsted rating.
- In year 6, 14.2% (122 children) which is better than the England average.
- 215 (56.7%) of pupils achieved GCSE’s (5A*-C) including maths and English.
- Approximately 1,500 children (9.1%) in the District live in poverty.
- 87% of schools in the district rated as ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’ by Ofsted.
- Children’s Centres achieved a ‘good’ Ofsted rating.

Children & Young People Strategy 2015—2018
Our Priorities

**Priority 1**

All children and young people are ready, able and willing to get involved in their communities and make a positive contribution.

**This means:**

**Ambition 1**
Jobs and opportunities for school leavers (it is important for young people to know what jobs are available and what they need to apply).

**Ambition 2**
Apprenticeships (gain a qualification and develop skills while earning money).

**Ambition 3**
Help with life skills – how to manage your money.
Our Priorities

Priority 2

All children and young people get a good education that helps them to develop ideas about what to do in the future and go on to achieve these goals.

This means:

**Ambition 1**
Help with being work ready.

**Ambition 2**
Support for children and young people who are experiencing poor mental health (feeling sad, self harm etc).

**Ambition 3**
Help to build self confidence (e.g. feeling good about yourself and the skills you have).

**Ambition 4**
Being ready for school.
Our Priorities

Priority 3
All children and young people are happy, healthy and free from poverty.

This means:

**Ambition 1**
Providing advice on healthy eating and cooking (for young people and families).

**Ambition 2**
Providing help and advice to people with emotional health difficulties (e.g. feeling sad, self harm, managing anger).

**Ambition 3**
Providing access to physical activity (so young people of all ages can keep fit and healthy) and all children and young people encouraged to be physically active.
Priority 4
All children and young people feel that they are cared for, valued and that they are safe and secure.

This means:

**Ambition 1**
Help with problems at home or in the family (e.g. divorce, violent relationships etc.).

**Ambition 2**
Help to feel safe when out and about (going to the park or youth club).

**Ambition 3**
Help with peer pressure.
National and Local Picture

There have been a number of influential independent reviews and policy developments over recent years that have the same common theme of ‘the importance of Early Help’ and how influential it is in predicting improved long term outcomes. Pregnancy and the first years of life have a critical impact on life chances of children, the early help model recognises that targeted early intervention and prevention are more effective to the family in avoiding the escalation of difficulties. The County Council have developed a model that will coordinate key partnerships, this will increase working together and sharing of information and seeks to avoid children and young people being discussed at more than one forum. For families this will mean that support offered will be maximised to our vulnerable and more complex families and will avoid having different workers being involved with the family. Locally, Supporting Leicestershire Families and Strengthening Families services have moved together into fully integrated mixed teams and will be working in localities, championing the early help model for the whole family, working across children and family services and working with partners to continue developing the early help offer.

Voice

Listening and where possible acting on the views of children and young people will remain a priority for us. The views of children and young people have been an essential contribution in shaping the priorities within this strategy, as have those of parents. The development of the youth council will be key to supporting the priorities in the strategy and making sure that young people have a voice, and active role in shaping service that impact them. The youth council will aim to enable and empower young people to be heard and champion what is important to them.
Michael Marmot:  
‘Fair Society – Healthy Lives’ 2010

The Marmot Review provides evidence that there is a disproportionate impact on health for those living in deprivation and supports the importance of early intervention. “The foundation for virtually every aspect of human development – physical, intellectual and emotional are laid in early childhood. What happens during those years, starting in the womb, has lifelong effects on many aspects of health and well being, from obesity, heart disease and mental health, to educational and economic achievement……… Later interventions, although important, are considerably less effective if they have not had a good foundation.” The review identifies that a good start in life: a decent home, quality education, adequate income, healthy habits, being part of a community that is safe, good nutrition and citizenship are important to reducing health inequalities.

Frank Field:  
‘The Foundation Years, Preventing Poor Children Becoming Poor Adults’ 2010

The Field report also supports the evidence that children’s life chances are predominately predicted in the first 5 years of life.

“We have found overwhelming evidence that children’s life chances are most heavily predicted on their development in the first five years of life. It is family background, parental education, good parenting and opportunities for learning and development in those crucial years that together matter more to children than money, in determining whether their potential is realised in adults life”

Graham Allen completed a review on early intervention for the Government and published two reports which both highlighted how effective early intervention is at improving outcomes for children and also the long term savings to the public purse.

“If we intervene early enough, we can give children the vital social and emotional foundation which will help to keep them happy, healthy and achieving throughout their lives and, above all, equip them to raise children of their own, who will also enjoy higher levels of wellbeing.”

The Child Poverty Strategy 2011 draws on Allen’s report and the work of Frank Field ‘The Foundation Years, Preventing Poor Children Becoming Poor Adults’ 2010. The strategy sets out a new approach to tackling poverty. At its core are strengthening families and providing support to the most vulnerable.


Professor Munro suggests in of her review that ‘Sharing Responsibility For Early Help’ is key and says: “Preventative services can do more to reduce abuse and neglect than reactive services. Many services and professions help children and families so co-ordinating their work is important to reduce inefficiencies and omissions.” Munro outlines three levels of prevention: primary, secondary and tertiary, these have been adapted to provide the framework to which the County Council are working with families. The Munro findings have been accepted by the government and have been influential in shaping the current Leicestershire County Council model.
The Children and Families Act (2014)

This Act establishes a pathway for children with special educational needs and disabilities which work towards clearly defined outcomes, from birth to 25. Central to the Act is preparation for adulthood and the enablers seen as key to supporting preparation are personalisation, co-production and integration. The Act makes changes to help children get adopted faster if adoption is the right thing for them. It will help children who are in the care of the council to do better at school. It will make changes to help the family courts work better for children. It will also change the way the Children’s Commissioner works for children.

The Act makes changes to help with many sorts of difficulties or challenges children can face in their lives. It will make sure schools give more help to children who have medical problems. It will mean more help for young carers who look after someone else. For children in care, there are changes to improve children’s homes. There are changes that will let foster children carry on staying with the families who have fostered them after they reach 18. All children will be able to have free school lunches in their first few years at school. And it will make changes to protect children from getting addicted to tobacco or harmed by smoking.
Equalities Act 2014

When we are delivering services we must make sure that everyone has the same chances to use them. We can do this by

• Eliminating discrimination and harassment.
• Ensuring all groups have equal opportunity and access.
• Encouraging good relations between communities and groups.

The children and young people strategy aims to deliver these through the action plan. For example, through consultation and engagement, and by gaining a greater understanding of the varying needs of the community, and identifying appropriate actions.

The strategy aims to promote and take into account the Human Rights of Children and Young People promoting values such as dignity, fairness, equality and respect.
Governance

Governance arrangements for this strategy will be managed by the Blaby Locality Partnership known as the ‘Blaby Families Group’, which is a multi agency partnership made up of statutory and non statutory organisations.
Community Services Team
The Community Services Team offers a range of specialist support services.
0116 2727725

Domestic Abuse Outreach
This service is for anyone affected by domestic abuse regardless of gender or sexual orientation. Support is provided on a one-to-one basis or through group programmes where appropriate.
0116 2727637

Blaby Supporting Leicestershire Families
Your Family Support Worker will:
• Offer practical support such as helping get your children into a morning routine so they get to school on time
• Be your main contact if you are working with other services and organisations
• Visit your family in your home so you feel comfortable and happy
• Access any other services you may need.
0116 2727755

Substance Misuse Service
This service provides one-to-one or group support to people using drugs and/or alcohol as well as support to families affected by substance misuse and awareness sessions to young people in schools or other youth settings.
0116 2727672

Youth Development Worker
The BB19 Youth Bus is an open access, mobile youth provision for young people aged 11-19. It provides educational and diversionary resources in areas where anti-social behaviour is occurring as well as daytime activities in schools during term-time.
0116 272 7723

Health & Leisure Team
The Health & Leisure Team can provide information about local sports clubs and activities taking place for children and young people across the district.
0116 2727703

Positive Activity Referral Scheme (PARS)
PARS is a scheme which provides young people who are at risk or involved in anti-social behaviour or offending with a positive sport or physical activity. The scheme combines both the sport/physical activity along with sessions to develop leadership in sport. Groups or individual young people can be referred to the scheme.
0116 2727699

Housing Options Team
Provide advice on all housing matters including private landlords. They will also offer advice to those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness for any reason.
0116 2727770

BEAT (Blaby Employment & Training)
This is a service to support Blaby residents of working age into work or closer to work. It includes one-to-one support with job searching, filling in job applications, interview coaching, help finding work placements or volunteering, advice on training and CV workshops.
0116 2727746
Leicestershire County Council
Children & Family Services – Early Help

Early Help services include the following three programmes:

**Children’s Centres**
The Children’s Centre programme seeks to improve outcomes for young children and families, with a particular focus on the most dis-advantaged families. The programme works with families with children between the ages of 0 and 5.

**Youth Offending Service**
The Youth Offending Service works with children and young people between the ages of 8 and 17 in order to prevent offending and re-offending.

**Supporting Leicestershire Families**
This multi-agency service addresses the needs of children and their families from 0 -19 years and up to 25 years for young people with special educational needs. The service will be targeted at vulnerable children, young people and families with additional and or complex needs which cannot be met by community and universal services.

New referrals for these services is through First Response Children’s Duty at

http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/children_families/professionals/firstresponse.htm

0116 305 0005
Leicestershire County Council Children & Family Services – Early Help

Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services
Support for children and young people with emotional and behavioural issues. Referral is normally via a GP, social worker or educational establishment.
0116 2952992

Leicestershire Teenage Pregnancy Partnership
This service is part of the Public Health Team at Leicestershire County Council. The partnership delivers sexual health services, counselling and support to young parents.
0116 305 9238 or letstalktp@leics.gov.uk

Prospects
Provide careers information, advice & guidance for young people not in education, employment or training. Nearest centre:
51 Castle Street Hinckley
01455 632719

Citizens Advice Bureau
CAB offer a wide range of advice including benefits, debt and civil disputes.
0300 3301025

Main Branch:
Blaby District Council Offices
Desford Road, Narborough LE19 2EP
Tuesdays 10am-3pm
Wednesdays 10am-3pm

Outreach Services:
Braunstone Civic Centre
Kingsway, Braunstone Town LE3 2PP
Thursdays 9.30am-3.30pm
Call 0116 2890045 to book an appointment

Glenfield Parish Council
Park House, Stamford Street,
Glenfield LE3 8DL
Alternate Mondays 9.30-11.30am
Call 07929 922237 to book an appointment

Stoney Stanton Library
St Michael’s Court, Stoney Stanton LE9 4TH
Alternate Tuesdays 10am-12pm
Call 07929 922237 to book an appointment

National Debt Helpline
0808 8084000

Blaby Young Carers
Young Carers is for 12-19 year old young people who care for family members who are physically or mentally ill, disabled or have drug or alcohol issues. The group offers fun activities, trips out and a chance to make new friends.

Countesthorpe Community College
Tuesdays, 7.00pm – 9.00pm
0116 286 3722 extn 135

Twenty Twenty
This is an early intervention mentoring scheme for young people aged 10-19 years old. Young people can be referred as a result of being at risk of offending, ASB or if they are disengaged from education or training.
0116 2619790 www.twentytwenty.org.uk

LGBT Centre
Advice and support to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people in Leicester and Leicestershire, including counselling and groups.
15 Wellington Street, Leicester
0116 2547412
“Services should be supportive of developing independence and resilience for families, so that they are able to find their own solutions and reach their potential.”
Contact Us

This document can be made available on request, in other languages and formats (large print, Braille or on audio tape) by contacting:

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