

# Welcome to Reading

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# National Priorities - Joining it up Locally

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- Government policy still largely developed in Department silos
- Key current policy issues:
  - Every Child Matters/school improvement
  - Safer Communities/anti social behaviour
  - More efficient and enabling public services
  - Partnership working to join up local service delivery
  - More and better quality housing

# Social Services benefit from local joined up working

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- Promoting independence as part of Housing & Transport Strategies
- Youth offending as part of Crime/ASB and Youth Services
- Education/LSC/Economic Development initiatives support NEET's
- Improved education is best safeguard for C&YP
- Stronger communities can better support needy individuals

# Conclusion

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- See Social Services not as separate/different from the rest of public services
- Look for common agendas with others, not differences
- Build on existing experience in Social Services:
  - Partnerships with Health
  - Move towards 'enabling provision'
  - private/voluntary sector partnerships
  - See Children's Services developments as a positive
  - don't let adult/children's barriers emerge