

Pudsey Children's Centre

Southroyd Primary School, Littlemoor Crescent, Pudsey, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS28 8AT

Inspection date 25–27 September 2013

Overall effectiveness	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not previously inspected	
Access to services by young children and families		Good	2
The quality of practice and services		Good	2
The effectiveness of leadership, governance and management		Good	2

Summary of key findings for children and families

This is a good centre.

- A very large number of families are registered through strong links with local health services. Families who are not sufficiently confident or able to attend sessions at the centre are supported and encouraged to do so. Outreach workers are improving outcomes for families with high levels of needs. In many cases, joint work between outreach workers, education and health professionals prevents intervention from social care services.
- Services are easy to access. Families who live far from Pudsey Children's Centre can use services at Tyersal Children's Centre in Bradford and collaborative arrangements with Bradford local authority are effective. Services are also available in Swinnow and Farsley and Calverley Children's Centres as part of the joint locality provision.
- The centre is a welcoming place. Staff are highly committed, experienced and help parents to access specialist services to meet their specific needs. Parents said that the people working at the centre are very understanding and always willing to help.
- The links with the primary school and early years providers in the area are strong. This means that children benefit from positive play and learning experiences at an early age. They are well prepared for school and make good progress in their personal and physical development.
- The headteacher and governing body of Southroyd Primary School play a key role in challenging the centre to improve. The manager is an experienced leader. She supports staff very well and knows what to do to improve services and practice further.

It is not outstanding because:

- Data used to improve the work of the centre are not always sufficiently comprehensive or brought together in an easy-to-use system. Consequently, the local authority is setting some targets that are not of direct relevance to all the priority groups and families living in Pudsey.
- There is insufficient tracking and monitoring of adults, especially younger parents, who are in education or training.

Information about this inspection

The inspection of this children's centre was carried out under Part 3A of the Childcare Act 2006 as amended by the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009. It was carried out at the same time as inspections at other children's centres which were Swinnow Children's Centre and Farsley and Calverley Children's Centre.

This inspection was carried out by two of Her Majesty's Inspectors and one additional inspector.

The inspectors held meetings with the headteachers of the three primary schools where the centres are based, the centres' managers, senior leaders in the local authority, health and education professionals, outreach workers and early years practitioners. The lead inspector for Pudsey Children's Centre spoke to the Chair of the Governing Body of Southroyd Primary School. She met parents in the locality and looked at outcomes of satisfaction surveys.

The inspectors visited services provided at Pudsey Children's Centre as well as Swinnow Children's Centre and Farsley and Calverley Children's Centre.

Inspectors observed the centres' work and looked at a range of relevant documentation.

Inspection team

Marianick Ellender-Gele	Her Majesty's Inspector, Lead Inspector
Joanne Smith	Her Majesty's Inspector
Elaine Murray	Additional inspector

Full report

Information about the centre

Pudsey Children's Centre is located in Southroyd Primary School in Pudsey to the west of Leeds, bordering Bradford. The centre offers childcare through Sunflowers (URN EY370195). The school and childcare provision are subject to separate inspections and their reports can be found on the Ofsted website www.ofsted.gov.uk.

The centre opened in 2008 and is one of three centres which form the Pudsey Early Start team. The other two centres in the locality are Swinnow Children's Centre and Farsley and Calverley Children's Centre. These three centres work collaboratively to meet their core purpose and support families across the Pudsey area. The three centres share some services, such as health and social care services, parenting advice, staff training and adult learning courses. Pudsey Children's Centre helps families to access specialist professionals, such as counselling, mental health and domestic abuse services. Governors of Southroyd Primary School manage the centre on behalf of the local authority.

There are approximately 1200 children aged under five years in the Pudsey area and the very large majority are from a White British background. The area is socially diverse with some relatively affluent neighbourhoods and some pockets of high deprivation. Just over 200 children live in households in receipt of workless benefits. There is an increasing number of families where domestic violence and mental health needs are prevalent. There are six children in care registered at the centre. Other identified priority groups include children known to social care services, lone parents and young parents. A number of Pudsey families live near Bradford and there are arrangements for them to access services at Tyersal Children's Centre run by Bradford local authority. Children enter early years provision with skills, knowledge and abilities below those expected for their age.

What does the centre need to do to improve further?

- Work with the local authority to gather robust data so that:
 - target groups are identified more accurately
 - all priorities for improvement are relevant to the families living in Pudsey.

- Track the progress and outcomes of adults, especially young parents, who are in education or training by liaising more closely with local schools, colleges and adult learning providers in order to:
 - improve adults' literacy and numeracy skills
 - support those at risk of not completing their courses
 - develop their employability skills.

Inspection judgements

Access to services by young children and families

Good

- Health visitors register parents automatically during their regular visits and tell families about the centre and services on offer. Staff often visit the town centre, local churches and community groups to explain to families what services they can access across the locality. All families are welcomed to the centre. They have equal access to activities and support, regardless of their background.
- Professionals in the early start team work well across the area to ensure that families access services wherever they live. This includes Pudsey families who live close to Bradford local authority. Staff work jointly to make it easy for them to go to Tyersal Children's Centre in Bradford. Pudsey Children's centre is increasing the number of families they are working with from their target groups. This includes the large majority of families living in areas of high deprivation, lone parents, children living with parents who have emotional or mental health needs and families where domestic abuse is a concern.
- Staff deal effectively with referrals from health, education and social care professionals. Outreach workers use effectively the local authority's Common Internal Framework which precedes the Common Assessment Framework to assess families most in need of intervention and support and coordinate specific help from a range of agencies, such as housing and benefit advice.
- Adults access relevant learning and training in the area. The accredited volunteering scheme enables parents to gain experience and confidence to return to work. Due to the lack of a robust data system, the centre is not monitoring closely enough the participation of adults in education and training.
- Staff help parents who are eligible to take up their free entitlement to good early years education. Partnerships with the Sunflowers childcare setting, other local early years providers and Southroyd Primary School are well established. As a result, the centre is making good progress towards its target of ensuring that the large majority of eligible two-year-olds access services.

The quality of practice and services

Good

- Many parents told the inspector that activities and sessions are very helpful, including the parenting programmes and health clinics. In the words of one mother, 'we are much more aware of the impact of our conflicts on the children.' The summer activities bring all families in the area together, including grandparents and fathers. The evaluation of services is overwhelmingly positive and parents said that their children are benefiting socially and emotionally. This was evidenced by joyful photographic records of family events.
- Parents said that there is always someone to turn to. Outreach workers provide regular guidance and advice on a wide range of issues, such as managing tight budgets and improving the health and general well-being of children. Workers liaise effectively with other agencies, particularly health and social care services, when children are in care, or subject to a child in need or a child protection plan. Health visitors make a positive contribution to the centre's work. For example, they do joint visits with the family outreach worker when a baby is born. Birth data are made available to the centre manager.
- Professionals are skilled at showing parents how to help their children learn through play. The teacher in Pudsey Children's Centre has a good knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage. From their low starting points, children make good progress in their personal development and their learning. Results in the Early Years Foundation Stage have improved year on year.
- Success is also seen in the improved rate of attendance at school. Levels of development in language and communication skills on entry to Reception Year are still below those expected, particularly for boys. The teacher is currently refining the strategies to improve these skills through the Early Years Network Group. The Families Enjoying Everything Together (FEET) initiative is ensuring smooth transition from home to school.
- Adults, including young parents, access a range of training and education opportunities across the locality. This is improving the life chances of families and their children. During this inspection, a

group of adults were observed developing good skills in a health and safety session, learning about essential vocabulary and using tablet computers effectively. Due to limited monitoring, the local authority and centre staff cannot be assured that quality is sufficiently strong to raise the literacy, numeracy and information and communication technology skills required to secure parents' economic stability. Neither do they effectively develop these adults' employability skills or support those at risk of not completing courses.

The effectiveness of leadership, governance and management

Good

- Governance and management arrangements are effective. The headteacher and governing body of Southroyd Primary school review the performance of the centre to check progress against key priorities. The manager knows the centre's strengths and weaknesses. For example, she is aware of the need to engage more parents in improving services. The recently formed parents' forum has this objective in hand.
- The local authority set strategic targets for improvement in March 2013. The data and other information used to inform these targets were not, at that time, sufficiently reliable. Consequently, current targets, such as those concerned with improving rates for breastfeeding, are not key to the centre's success because outcomes in health are already quite good. More urgent priorities, such as those concerned with engaging teenage parents or children living with a disabled parent, are not featured strongly enough in action plans. This is because data are not brought together in an easy-to-use package.
- Safeguarding policies and procedures, including for the recruitment of staff, are comprehensive. Professionals understand their roles and responsibilities well. The effectiveness of one-to-one work is checked during weekly supervision. The Common Internal Assessment is used effectively to ensure that support for families is prompt. Staff who attend strategy meetings to protect children known to social care services are well prepared. They ensure that information is transferred to the receiving local authorities when families move out of the area.
- The centre is well resourced. The environment is safe. Materials are used efficiently to maximise learning opportunities. The primary school enhances the resources and capacity of the centre. For example, the school's special needs coordinator is on hand to provide expert advice when children show signs of developmental delay. The children's centre manager and teacher are on the school's senior leadership team and so have a clear overview of strategic needs in the area.
- The early start team and the arrangements to share services across the locality ensure that most efficient use is made of partners' time and expertise. This works well to meet agreed priorities and increase capacity. For example adult learning opportunities are provided jointly, the early start team allocates high-needs cases to the most relevant of the three centres through regular locality meetings and the JobCentre Plus input is coordinated across the area.

What inspection judgements mean

Grade	Judgement	Description
Grade 1	Outstanding	Practice consistently reflects the highest aspirations for children and their families and as a result inequalities are reducing rapidly and gaps are closing.
Grade 2	Good	Practice enables most children and their families to access good quality services that improve children's wellbeing and achieve the stated outcomes for families.
Grade 3	Requires improvement	Performance is not as good as it might reasonably be expected to be in one or more key areas.
Grade 4	Inadequate	The needs of children and families in its area are not being met and/or the leaders and managers are not providing sufficient challenge to bring about improvement to the quality of services.

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Local authority	Leeds
Inspection number	427654
Managed by	Southroyd Primary School on behalf of the local authority

Approximate number of children under five in the reach area	1038
Centre manager	Sue Broadhurst
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
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