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February 2009

Majella Kofoed  
FLLN Co-ordinator  
Sefton FAST  
FAST Resource Centre  
Lydiate Road  
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Dear Majella

Ofsted Good Practice Survey Programme 2008/09

An evaluation of the benefits of family learning for individuals, families and communities

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation during my visit on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2009. I am particularly grateful to you, all your staff and learners for the hard work involved in preparing for the visit and for giving up a great deal of time during the visit to meet with me. Please pass on my thanks to all those concerned.

The visit provided much useful evidence, which will contribute to our national evaluation and reporting for the family learning survey. I was particularly pleased to meet learners at Start Right in Springwell Park Community Primary School and at Bedford Primary School, and to hear how their learning had helped them to become more self aware, promote positive family relationships and how their children's confidence, and enjoyment of learning, had improved. I was also impressed by the positive experiences outlined by parents who had taken part in the home visiting programme.

The evidence used to inform the judgements made on this one-day visit included: interviews with staff, learners and observations of family learning sessions. A range of documentation and reports was reviewed.

The family learning provision I sampled during my one-day visit at Sefton is very good. I agreed to provide a summary of the good practice seen and to identify some areas for development, and I outline the main findings as bulleted points below.

The main strengths are:

- Very good development of skills, confidence and attitudes by both parents and children
- Very effective one-to-one work to develop parenting skills
- Good training of teachers across the area to develop capacity in family learning and in raising awareness of teachers of wider community issues
- Very good engagement model which successfully targets learners from pre-school onwards with a particular emphasis on home visits
- Good use of outreach to support families
- Very good and sustained partnerships
- Well-managed provision

Areas for further development

- Insufficient use of ICT in teaching and learning
- Insufficient strategies to reach under-represented groups
- Insufficient tracking of progress

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop your Family Learning provision. If there are any points or aspects of the visit you wish to discuss, please contact me. As we will be evaluating the survey, you may be contacted in the future to find out your views. I hope you will contribute to this evaluation.

As I explained in my previous letter, a copy of this letter will be published on the Ofsted Website.

Yours sincerely

June Cramman  
Her Majesty's Inspector