

Inspection report for Greenside Primary and Children's Centre

Local authority	Tameside
Inspection number	362489
Inspection dates	20-21 October 2010
Reporting inspector	Liam Trippier

Centre governance	Governing Body of Greenside Primary School and Children's Centre
Centre leader	Emma Lewis
Date of previous inspection	N/A
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Linked school if applicable	Greenside Primary
Linked early years and childcare, if applicable	Greenside Day Nursery URN EY395976

The inspection of this Sure Start Children's Centre was carried out under Part 3A of the Childcare Act 2006 as inserted by section 199 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009.

Introduction

The inspection addresses the centre's contribution to:

- facilitating access to early childhood services by parents, prospective parents and young children
- maximising the benefit of those services to parents, prospective parents and young children
- improving the well-being of young children.

The report is made to the local authority and a copy is sent to the children's centre. The local authority may send the report to such persons it considers appropriate and must arrange for an action plan to be produced in relation to the findings in this report.

An inspection of the linked school was carried out at the same time as the inspection of the centre under Section 5 of the Education Act 2005. The report of this inspection is available on our website www.ofsted.gov.uk.

This inspection was carried out by three additional inspectors. The inspectors held meetings with the centre manager, members of the Steering Group and members of the governing body, a range of providers, parents and carers, users and the local authority officers linked to the centre. They observed the centre's work and looked at sessions operating in the children's centre and in nearby locations. They also looked at a range of documentation including the centre's operational plans, evaluations, key policies and safeguarding procedures.

Information about the centre

Greenside Children's Centre is co-located on a school site serving the area of Droylesden West. It has been working towards providing the full core offer for children's centres in areas with the highest deprivation since 2002. Within the reach of the centre there are significant issues surrounding youth unemployment, teenage pregnancy, crime and low levels of literacy and numeracy skills. Children's overall levels on entry to the provision are below those found typically and sometimes well below. Nearly all families are from White British heritage. The centre's manager maintains strong links with the attached primary school and the local authority.

Governance of the centre is provided by the linked primary school's governing body in conjunction with the centre's Steering Group which includes providers, members of the local community and users who attend the children's centre. There is a range of health, social care, childcare, family support and education services operating from the centre with associated professionals and staff.

The centre provides childcare in the daily before- and after-school clubs and crèche sessions. These facilities were visited as a part of this inspection. The Ofsted inspection report for Greenside Nursery from January 2010 judged the provision as good and was taken into account for this inspection. This report can be viewed at www.ofsted.gov.uk

Inspection judgements

Grades: 1 is outstanding, 2 is good, 3 is satisfactory, and 4 is inadequate

Overall effectiveness

The effectiveness of the children's centre in meeting the needs of and improving outcomes for users and the wider community

2

Capacity for sustained improvement

The centre's capacity for sustained improvement, including the quality of its leadership and management

2

Main findings

Greenside Children's Centre provides a friendly, welcoming and safe environment for all its users. The good quality of care underpins everything the centre does to improve users' lives. Users appreciate what the centre does and they are confident the staff will help them. A typical view expressed by a user is, 'I always know there is someone here to help sort me out so I feel fine again.'

Arrangements by leaders and managers to monitor and improve the effectiveness of the centre's work are strong, established and effective. Rigorous procedures ensure that policies are put into practice and staff and providers are appropriately held to account. Strengths and weaknesses are known well and action plans to address them are based upon strong evidence.

Safeguarding and equality procedures are of good quality and all policies are up to date and followed correctly. Users' views are heard through the informal Parents' Group and the established Steering Group. These groups, in conjunction with the governing body, effectively challenge and support the centre.

Through the scrutiny of data, observations by inspectors, evaluations by the centre and case studies provided, outcomes for users and the provision offered are good and improving. Children achieve especially well. Users are kept safe and can contribute to the running of the centre. They enjoy their time spent in the centre. Good relationships and behaviour were observed between users and staff and a high level of mutual respect was evident throughout the inspection.

Not enough health services are provided at the centre to quickly improve

breastfeeding rates and reduce the number of adults smoking currently in the area. The centre has rightly identified these issues and the need to provide more adult education and training programmes in the near future.

The local authority provides a good level of support and challenge for the centre. Regular and systematic reviews by officers hold the managers to account to further improve outcomes for users. Partnerships with the local authority and the linked school are strong and effective. Relationships with all partners are strong but are not as effective with health services as their outcomes information is not shared routinely with the children's centre. This slows down the development of health provision within the centre's reach.

The centre's overall performance has improved considerably in the last two years. Action to address weaknesses and develop positive relationships has been effective. The reach of the centre has doubled in the last three years and registration rates are increasing significantly due to effective outreach work. Leaders' self-evaluation is thorough, accurate and effective and consequently the capacity to improve is good.

What does the centre need to do to improve further?

Recommendations for further improvement

- Further improve outcomes and provision, by:
 - strengthening the strategic work with health partners to focus effectively upon outcomes for users and to demonstrate the impact of all health services delivered
 - ensuring that the planned adult education/training courses effectively meet their needs and interests.

How good are outcomes for users?

2

Increasing numbers of users, from a wide variety of backgrounds, access the centre's services. Retention rates on courses and in the childcare provision are good. Outreach workers ensure all new-born babies are assessed by centre staff and the children's centre is promoted effectively to meet the needs and interests of these families within the reach of the centre. One user, who recognised the positive changes made in her life due to support from the centre, commented, 'Coming to Greenside was the best thing that could have happened to me.' Good quality relationships between adults from different backgrounds have developed through the activities within the centre to provide sustainable, mutual and beneficial support within the community.

Users report that some health services have been very effective in improving outcomes for their families. Portage services and speech and language therapy sessions effectively assist families with children identified with special educational

needs and/or disabilities. A good range of information is available at the centre and families are signposted to a variety of appropriate health services. However, good outcomes are not consistent across all health provision and some services are not effective enough. For example, increasing numbers of young children are being classified as obese in the area despite the work of professionals on this issue.

All services within the centre keep users safe. The centre's good relationships with families allow staff to identify any safety concerns swiftly and refer families to the appropriate service. For example, during a home visit, a safety assessment was made and a referral to the fire service allowed smoke alarms to be installed quickly. Case study evidence demonstrates that access to good quality parenting courses improves supervision at home and improves children's behaviour and safety. One parent reported that her child's behaviour had changed dramatically as a result of the course and her improved relationship with her child. Inspectors observed that the behaviour of all users was good throughout the inspection and users contribute to the running of the centre through clear and established communication systems. Their views are valued and used to influence the planning and delivery of services and to improve outcomes further.

Children are well prepared for nursery and mainstream school due to the effective delivery of the Early Years Foundation Stage within the centre. Learning experiences are generally of good quality and adults and children thoroughly enjoy their time with the staff. Staff ensure children's needs and interests are incorporated into their sessions. The courses offered to adults are good quality and often retain all participants throughout. The centre provided compelling evidence through data and case studies that they were raising achievement in the area and narrowing the attainment gap for the most vulnerable.

Children identified as vulnerable by the centre are well supported by social care professionals and a variety of agencies working together to ensure that needs are addressed quickly and effectively. The children's centre is seen as a 'safe haven' by families and used appropriately by users and professionals to work effectively together.

Users benefit from a good partnership with Jobcentre Plus and the children's centre. They are effectively signposted to relevant jobs and information is readily available in the reception area and notice boards for users to see. The centre has rightly identified that more courses should be offered to further raise users' levels of literacy and numeracy in the area and to provide more training for routes to employment.

These are the grades for the outcomes for users

The extent to which children, including those from vulnerable groups, are physically, mentally and emotionally healthy and families have healthy lifestyles	3
The extent to which children are safe and protected, their welfare concerns are identified and appropriate steps taken to address them	2

The extent to which all users enjoy and achieve educationally and in their personal and social development	2
The extent to which children engage in positive behaviour and develop positive relationships and users contribute to decision-making and governance of the centre	2
The extent to which children are developing skills for the future and parents are developing economic stability and independence including access to training	3

How good is the provision?

2

Assessment of users' needs by the centre ensures that most aspects of provision are appropriately matched to improve outcomes. Assessment is strongest when it is swift and when different agencies such as health, the staff from the children's centre and social care work closely together to share relevant information to improve outcomes for families identified as vulnerable. Good assessment in childcare groups and in Mini-Movers ensures activities are meaningful and engage the children well to promote good learning. For example, staff in the After-School Club effectively liaise with teachers when they collect the children at the end of the school day to work on developing reading skills to support and enhance learning done in school.

Learning and development is promoted well overall and any gaps in the provision for adult learners have been identified and addressed. Several case studies demonstrated the significant impact of the centre upon users' personal development. One parent commented that effective and flexible guidance and care helped her children to overcome many social difficulties and improve considerably their educational achievement.

An adequate and appropriate range of services is offered to users in the centre. Childcare services and learning provision are good overall and outreach work is particularly effective by the Early Years Workers. However, the lack of breastfeeding and smoking cessation support in the centre reduces the effectiveness of the range of services offered to fully meet the needs of the people in the area.

The quality of care for users and their children in the centre is good. Support for users' well-being is good across most outcomes and families report that their lives are better for working with the centre on tailored programmes of support. Relationships within the centre and with the community are strong due to the effective guidance provided to those within the centre's reach. Inspectors noted a high level of respect for the centre staff in all user interviews during the inspection.

These are the grades for the quality of provision

The effectiveness of the assessment of the needs of children, parents	2
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and other users	
The extent to which the centre promotes purposeful learning, development and enjoyment for all users	2
The extent to which the range of services, activities and opportunities meet the needs of users and the wider community	3
The quality of care, guidance and support offered to users within the centre and the wider community	2

How effective are the leadership and management?

2

Leaders and managers at all levels have a clear view of the provision and know where improvements should be made. This clarity is reflected in the generally accurate self-evaluation. Staff are supervised particularly well by the manager. Rigorous and effective procedures are in place to hold them to account. Staff receive good quality professional development opportunities which informs their daily practice. Users' views are effectively summarised to shape strategic developments and regularly inform evaluations.

The centre's development plans address local and national priorities well. They are based on a detailed and accurate data set to ensure targets are appropriate, challenging and precise. Most partners, and in particular the school, provide timely and relevant information to influence the development of the integrated provision but this level of communication is not yet consistent across all providers.

Value for money is good because outcomes are good overall. The centre's environment is welcoming and well-maintained in many respects but the community room is not developed currently to meet users' needs. The centre is consulting users to explore ways to improve this room's use.

Governance procedures are effective and focussed upon outcomes. The local authority provides good support and challenge for the centre. Safeguarding requirements are met fully and equality and diversity are promoted successfully. Leaders have worked effectively to ensure fathers and male carers engage well with their children. Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities are particularly well served by the centre. Community cohesion is promoted well and the centre has appropriate future plans for the development of user-led groups to improve confidence and life chances for people in the area.

These are the grades for leadership and management

The extent to which governance, accountability, professional supervision and day to day management arrangements are clear and understood	2
The extent to which ambitious targets drive improvement, provision is integrated and there are high expectations for users and the wider	2

community	
The extent to which resources are used and managed efficiently and effectively to meet the needs of users and the wider community	2
The extent to which equality is promoted and diversity celebrated, illegal or unlawful discrimination is tackled and the centre fulfils its statutory duties	2
The effectiveness of the centre's policy, procedures and work with key agencies in safeguarding children and, where applicable, vulnerable adults	2
The extent to which evaluation is used to shape and improve services and activities	2
The extent to which partnerships with other agencies ensure the integrated delivery of the range of services the centre has been commissioned to provide	3
The extent to which the centre supports and encourages the wider community to engage with services and uses their views to develop the range of provision	2

Any other information used to inform the judgements made during this inspection

The Ofsted reports for the linked school and private nursery were taken into account in the provision and outcomes judgements. Nearly all children who attend the children's centre attend the school. The overall effectiveness of the school is satisfactory and for Greenside Nursery it is good.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Complaining about inspections', which is available from our website: www.ofsted.gov.uk. If you would like us to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

Summary for centre users

We inspected Greenside Primary and Children's Centre on 20-21 October 2010. We judged the centre as good overall.

Those of you who we spoke to were eager to tell us how well Greenside has supported your families and improved lives within the local community. You also told us how much you appreciate the friendly and approachable staff. The centre successfully demonstrated the work done in your community and within the last three years the centre has doubled the number of people it reaches.

Overall, the centre is working well with a range of partners and providers such as social care, some health services and education. It provides very effective support for children to make sure they get a good start in life. Adults' lives are also improved through the services offered and many find employment. However, the centre does not currently provide enough courses and training to suit all your needs and interests. Some health issues such as reducing the number of adults smoking and increasing the number of mothers breastfeeding in your area are being addressed but not entirely successfully.

The variety of courses and services provided meet a wide range of users' needs effectively. Mini-Movers and Bookstart sessions are well attended and provide parents and children with good opportunities to play, explore and learn. Staff make sure all participants are safe and provide a warm welcome. The Thursday morning parenting course has successfully improved family life for many with improved safety and better relationships in the home. Attendance at sessions is high and most people stay on the course throughout its duration.

Greenside children's centre is led well by the coordinator and her team. Your views are heard through your evaluations, your regular contact with staff, the informal Parents' Group and Steering Group to influence the planning and development of the centre. The local authority and governing body oversee the centre's work effectively. They challenge and support the staff well to ensure better outcomes for families in the area.

The inspectors have made the following recommendations to help improve the centre:

- Further improve provision and outcomes for users, by:
 - strengthening the work with health services to focus effectively upon outcomes for users and to demonstrate the impact of all health services delivered
 - ensuring that the planned adult education/training courses effectively meet their needs and interests.

The full report is available from your centre or on our website www.ofsted.gov.uk.