

Inspection report for Bridlington 2 Children's Centre

Local authority	East Riding of Yorkshire
Inspection number	367758
Inspection dates	10-11 May 2011
Reporting inspector	Julie Pomone

Centre governance	East Riding Children's Centre, Bridlington Governing Body
Centre leader	Kay Roantree
Date of previous inspection	Not previously inspected
Centre address	Hilderthorpe Primary School, Bridlington, YO15 3PP
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Linked school if applicable	Hilderthorpe Primary School
Linked early years and childcare, if applicable	Bridlington Nursery Sunshine Daycare

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.

This inspection was carried out by one additional inspector and an early years inspector.

Inspectors held meetings with parents and service users, health, education, social care and training and employment professionals. Representatives from Connexions, Homestart, the Minority Ethnic and Traveller Achievement Service, members of the school's governing body, centre staff, senior managers and representatives from the local authority.

They observed the centre's work and play sessions as well as outreach work in the community. They also looked at a wide range of documentation which supports the centres work.

Information about the centre

Bridlington Children's Centre 2 received its designation in 2008. Initially housed in temporary accommodation it moved to the Hilderthorpe Primary School site in May 2010. The centre is linked to the East Riding Children's Centre Bridlington 1, which includes Bridlington Nursery School and Sunshine Day Nursery. The Nursery School, including Sunshine Day Nursery were subject to a separate Ofsted inspection in February 2010, followed by an inspection of the Bridlington Childrens Centre 1 in November 2010. These reports can be found at www.ofsted.gov.uk.

The children's centre is a phase two centre which sits within the north locality of the East Riding of Yorkshire. The area covers part of Bridlington town itself and the surrounding villages, most of which are rural in nature.

In addition to the designated sites, services are delivered from other sites across the town and in a number of neighbouring villages. The centre is integral to the phase 1 Bridlington Children's Centre which provides the full core offer and a wide range of

supporting services, incorporating crèche facilities, health support, adult courses and workshops.

The centre has a governing body made up of representatives of parents and carers, users and members of the local community. Strategic direction to the centre's governing body is provided by the Early Years and Extended Services Strategic Planning Group who report to the Children's Trust Board Executive

The centre serves an area of significant deprivation, with much of the town in the 10% most deprived nationally in terms of employment, income, health and education. Many families rely on seasonal work for a minimum wage, with employers in this sector traditionally not investing heavily in staff training. Families in some of the villages suffer from rural isolation caused by poor transport links and limited or no local facilities. Bridlington has a very transient population with families moving in from outside the East Riding, and other families moving regularly within the town itself. Many of these transient families live in houses of multiple occupation and limited access to outdoor play. There are also many Traveller families staying in the locality. The majority of the population in the area describe themselves as predominantly White British. Many children enter the Early Years Foundation Stage with skills lower than typically expected for their age.

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

1

Main findings

Bridlington Children's Centre 2 provides services that promote high quality support to young children and families in its locality. Both governance and leadership and management are highly effective in identifying the needs of the communities and in targeting provision to meet the needs of the most needy and vulnerable in Bridlington. Strategic vision and direction are very clear and there is very good use of a range of sophisticated data to inform and support decision making. However, the availability of a wider range of data particularly about the impact on the service on users over time is underdeveloped. Good financial planning and management has enabled services to expand and improve, however, despite being very well managed some aspects of accommodation are not best suited to the centre's needs.

The availability and use of data is allowing the centre to clearly identify where it is making a difference to its users and if, and where, it is providing value for money. Strong leadership has ensured the centre has made significant improvements in the quality and access of provision and has demonstrated that it has outstanding capacity to continue to improve the services it provides.

Operational and performance management are excellent. Well managed delegation from the centre leader motivates and challenges staff. Staff are very clear about their roles and responsibilities and are empowered and inspired to take on significant areas of responsibility and work with a range of health, social care and education and training partners in a highly integrated service. Sharing of information is effective across partner organisations and good staff development ensures staff are fully informed of support available to families across all the local services. Partnership working is outstanding and partners are highly supportive of the multi-agency working which allows the centre to be highly responsive to children and families in need. The strong leadership has ensured that services to families continue to expand and improve by providing access for families in the southern locality of Bridlington through the relocation of the centre.

Safeguarding arrangements are outstanding because the centre gives a high priority to active promotion and monitoring of safeguarding procedures. Staff, the governing body and volunteers undertake extremely rigorous checks to ensure their suitability for working at the centre. Safer recruitment procedures are very effective. The local authority supports management well. Clear direction is given by the Early Years and Extended Services Strategic Planning Group with regard to safeguarding and current national and local issues that impact on the work of the centre.

Outcomes are good overall and some are outstanding. Assessment processes are highly effective and the centre monitors well the very good progress that the children make in their learning and development. Many children attain very good levels of skills and make good transition to school often with skills above those of their peers. Provision is explicitly linked to the Early Years Foundation Stage and Every Child Matters outcomes. Although promotion of healthy life styles is good overall, there are few opportunities for families to develop cooking skills. Equality and diversity is promoted well with an inclusive approach focussed on supporting those who are most needy and vulnerable including those with special educational needs and/or learning difficulties.

What does the centre need to do to improve further?

Recommendations for further improvement

- Develop work with health and education services to provide data to measure precisely the impact on families with regard to healthy outcomes and economic stability over time.
- In conjunction with the local authority and school further develop the

accommodation and facilities available for families in the area at the co-located site.

- Increase the promotion of healthy lifestyles and nutrition by providing more opportunity for parents and carers to learn to cook.

How good are outcomes for users?

2

Outcomes for children are good and continue to improve. Improvements to the healthy lifestyles of children and adults are good because of the exceptional range of provision and links with health professionals. Families are well informed and able to make healthy choices that contribute to their health and well-being. The excellent breastfeeding programme provided to parents, and which also provides training for staff, has improved the breastfeeding initiation rates annually. The centre is forging strong links with midwives to provide early promotion of breastfeeding to expectant mothers.

Speech and language therapy is very well integrated into the early years provision and has a high priority in an area where many children enter the Early Years Foundation Stage with speech and language skills that are low. Children are successfully overcoming speech and language difficulties supported through the 'Every Child a Talker' initiative. Baby massage is a particular strength of the centre and is used effectively with a wide range of parents, babies and children and has a positive impact on baby-parent bonding and communication. The centre uses local data well to target their provision, particularly around the high incidence of teenage pregnancy and parenting skills are improving. Parenting education and support provides opportunities for users to meet other parents and carers and share experiences, advice and information. This gives parents the chance to learn skills, often before problems arise, or indeed, before becoming a parent.

The provision for the Early Years Foundation Stage promotes successful development of children's skills for the future. The centre is a calm and well-ordered environment where children enjoy playing independently and with their peers. Children are inquisitive and they interact well with adults. Parents and carers develop confidence and learn to sing together with their children as a strategy to improve communication.

Parents and carers feel very safe at the centre and they learn how to manage and improve their children's behaviour, thus reducing the amount of stress on families. The centre is very effective in developing parents' and carers' understanding of how to keep themselves safe through safe practices and the use of safety equipment. Fire safety in the home is well promoted through effective joint working with the local fire service. The trust that builds between staff and parents and carers allows staff to identify any safety concerns and respond promptly.

One parent commented 'I couldn't be where I am without the support of the children's centre' highlighting the support that she had been given with the use of

the crèche whilst she undertook training and searched for employment. Some parents and carers have undertaken courses provided by the centre. Welfare support is highly effective and parents who lack confidence or information when they are in financial crisis are given advocacy to explore ways in which they can cope and move forward.

There is a high level of satisfaction and confidence from users in the work of the centre and parents and carers are effectively involved in contributing to decision making regarding the centre's provision. They have regular opportunities to give feedback and offer their views. For example, through their involvement in the governance of the centre and The Rainbow Club parent's forum.

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	2
The extent to which children are safe and protected, their welfare concerns are identified and appropriate steps taken to address them	1
The extent to which all users enjoy and achieve educationally and in their personal and social development	1
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	2

How good is the provision?

2

The centre knows its communities well and provides high-quality targeted services which build the trust of its users. The centre accommodation is adequate but not best suited to the needs of the centre. It provides users with some good quality play sessions. Staff make the best use of this facility and ensure the site is manageable and safe.

Effective assessment processes and sharing of information between professionals identifies the starting points for parents, carers and children when they register with the centre. The centre is highly responsive to the changing needs of users and the local communities. Partnership working is strong and effectively identifies and secures provision for individuals and groups. This leads to individualised and flexible support and activities which are tailored to meet the users changing needs. The centre is aware of the need to attract more of its transient families into its provision.

There is a strong focus on purposeful learning for both parents and carers and

children, with clear, measurable outcomes planned for sessions, based on activity that promotes education attainment and supports transition to school. The centre is highly successful in attracting dads to the centre. The 'Dads Group' has dads, grandads, uncles and male carers to the Saturday session and is extremely popular. It encourages men to improve play for children and also involves trips out, and use of the outdoor play area.

Parents and carers receive outstanding support. One parent who was in crisis said 'The support provided enabled us to cope with daily needs' indicating the impact that the centre has made on families. The centre is particularly effective in informing and signposting families to support that is available in the community and ensuring they are aware of their entitlements. Welfare support personnel provide a go-between for those families who lack the confidence to approach professional bodies, and help them to sort out housing issues. Through well-planned strategies parents and carers build confidence and parenting skills. For the families involved in the centre, and for those who seek help, it improves their life chances significantly. One parent has moved from isolation to undertaking training and development and is now seeking employment. The volunteer programme is well regarded by parents and carers.

These are the grades for the quality of provision

The effectiveness of the assessment of the needs of children, parents and other users	2
The extent to which the centre promotes purposeful learning, development and enjoyment for all users	1
The extent to which the range of services, activities and opportunities meet the needs of users and the wider community	2
The quality of care, guidance and support offered to users within the centre and the wider community	1

How effective are the leadership and management?

1

The centre leader, who is the headteacher of Bridlington Nursery School, leads a highly motivated and enthusiastic team extremely well. They are all passionate about making a difference to families and children in the area. The multi-agency approach and good use of provision allows a well informed specialist service to be provided to meet the needs of its users.

Continuous improvement is a thread that runs throughout all activities and plans for the future are ambitious and well targeted. Leaders and managers are highly effective in driving improvement and provision is constantly being evaluated. They effectively analyse the needs of the reach group to accurately target provision. The centre has a very significant role to play in improving outcomes for children in Bridlington and is demonstrating that it does have a positive impact. The centre leader, in her role as a headteacher of the children's centre, has a voice at the

school's forum along with other headteachers in the locality. The centre recognises the importance of good joint working with primary schools and how the schools can further promote the services of the children's centre in the area.

The centre has a good understanding of the segregation and prejudice that is apparent between the transient and stable Bridlington populations particularly with regard to housing issues. The centre uses the knowledge it gathers about its families to manage any difficult situations that may arise in the centre. The centre finds the transient population the hardest to reach and is continuing to encourage these families to make more use of the service. The multi-agency working provides a good opportunity to challenge prejudices that exist in the local area and is working effectively with other organisations. The centre recognises the role it can play in expanding this good work.

Users' views are sought on a regular basis to evaluate the effectiveness of activities and the service. Parents and carers provide comprehensive feedback on the impact that the centre has had on their children and are confident to highlight where the centre could better focus their work.

Self-evaluation is largely accurate in identifying the successful work that the centre does, the impact on users and what further improvements are needed. The 'Rainbow Club' provides a voice for users which feeds into the evaluation process. The self-evaluation informs action planning and improvements and good use is made of user feedback to shape services. The centre gathers a wide range of internal and external data that is very well scrutinised by the centre and informs decision making.

Work with a range of agencies safeguards and promotes the welfare of children. The highly effective management and multi-agency approach and work with partners including health, social care, education and training partners and voluntary sector representatives are highly committed to supporting and meeting families' needs. The centre with its partners are successfully working towards effective early intervention for parents and carers, children and families to try to lessen the anxiety and stress that families and parents face when support is not available early enough. The centre provides a safe welcoming environment for contact sessions for parents when their children are on child protection orders. The promotion of effective ways of managing children's behaviour has raised confidence levels amongst parents and carers. They are now more confident to deal with abusive relationships because of the support provided by the centre.

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	1
The extent to which ambitious targets drive improvement, provision is integrated and there are high expectations for users and the wider community	1

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	1
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	1
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

Observations of the nursery and day care provision and a review of the November 2010 Bridlington 1 Children's Centre Ofsted inspection.

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 the phase 2 Bridlington Children's Centre on the site of Hilderthorpe school on 10-11 May 2011. We judged the centre as good overall.

We spoke with a wide range of staff and members of various partnerships at the centre. We spoke with parents and carers including those who represent you on the governing body and representatives of the parents' forum. We spoke with some of your children and we were fortunate to observe you and your children in play sessions.

We are delighted to tell you that the centre is well managed and provides excellent support to you and your families. You told us that you have built very good relationships with the centre staff and that you trust them to look after your children well and also to help you to manage your often stressful lives. They have proved to us that they do that well. We spoke with some of you who have faced significant difficulties and you told us how the staff at the children's centre had supported you and helped you to cope. We saw how you and your children play and learn together and how you discover new and interesting activities. You told us how valuable the toy library is in helping you to provide good quality toys and play for your children at home.

The centre has listened to what you have said and provided many high quality activities to support you and help you to become better parents. You have learnt effective ways of managing your children's behaviour and many of you are now more confident to deal with abusive relationships because you have some support.

You told us that you are pleased that there is now a centre nearer to where you live. The centre accommodation is adequate to provide you with some good quality play sessions and the staff are making the best use of this facility. The centre does a great deal to make this site manageable and safe. However we have asked the local authority to further improve the accommodation and facilities at this site.

Your children are well prepared for school, particularly with regard to educational and social skills, as a direct result of the support they have received through the centre. We would ask you to promote the services to other parents and carers. We have also asked the centre to gather more information to measure the impact they have on healthy lifestyles and how the work they do improves your economic stability over time. We have also asked the centre to provide more opportunity for you to learn to cook.

Thank you to everyone who spoke with us we wish you success for the future.

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