

# Inspection report for Moulsecoomb Children's Centre

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<b>Local authority</b>	Brighton and Hove
<b>Inspection number</b>	383705
<b>Inspection dates</b>	27–28 June 2012
<b>Reporting inspector</b>	Joanne Caswell HMI

<b>Centre leader</b>	Celia Lamden
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	Not previously inspected
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<b>Linked school if applicable</b>	Not applicable
<b>Linked early years and childcare, if applicable</b>	Jump Start Nursery (EY380580)

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.

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## 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 of Her Majesty's Inspectors and an early years inspector. The inspectors held meetings with the centre management team, the local authority, health professionals, representatives from the advisory group, front-line staff, parents and partner agencies. They observed the centre's work, visited outreach services and looked at a range of relevant documentation.

## Information about the centre

Moulsecoomb Children's Centre is a phase one centre which was designated in March 2006. The centre operates from a refurbished infant school in the Moulsecoomb area of Brighton. It serves the areas of Moulsecoomb, Bevendean, Bates Estate, Meadowview and Coldean. There are outreach services delivered from Bevendean Primary School and Coldean Primary School. Within the centre's catchment area, there are high levels of inter-generational unemployment and long-term sickness so dependence on benefits is high with many families classified as living in poverty.

The centre is located in a very disadvantaged area with a predominantly White British population and small numbers of Bangladeshi and Eastern European families. Housing consists primarily of local authority homes and some privately owned accommodation. A total of 1,117 children aged under five years live in the centre's reach area. There are high numbers of teenage parents, lone parents, children subject to child protection plans and children who are looked after by the local authority. Children's levels on entry to early years provision and school are typically lower than those expected for their age.

The local authority and Primary Care Trust provide governance to the centre, arranged through a Section 75 agreement. An advisory group is in place to represent the views of local families and includes membership of parents, partner agencies, the local authority, stakeholders and multi-disciplinary professionals. Moulsecoomb Children's Centre is a health-led model, which involves health professionals, such as midwives and health visitors, operating directly from the centre. Full day-care

provision is delivered by Jump Start Nursery which is open from 8.00am to 6.00pm, throughout the year and was inspected separately by Ofsted in April 2009.

## 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 families**

1
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### Capacity for sustained improvement

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

1
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## Main findings

Moulsecomb Children’s Centre is an outstanding centre which provides an excellent range of services that meet the needs of the local community exceptionally well. The combined expertise of leaders and managers and the significant investment in services for disadvantaged young children by the local authority result in outstanding provision. As a result, all outcomes for the most vulnerable families are improving at a rapid rate and are outstanding overall. Significant improvements are continually seen in children’s progress at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The achievement gap between the 20% most disadvantaged children and the rest is closing substantially each year.

The health-led model plays a fundamental part in streamlining services and integrating provision. Ante-natal and post-natal services are delivered directly from the centre. As a result, the centre reaches 100% of children aged under five years living in the area. Highly effective intervention by the centre’s health partners has made an impressive impact on children’s welfare and family well-being. For example, obesity levels of children at the end of Reception Year continue to decline due to the early intervention work. Breastfeeding rates at six weeks far exceed local and national averages at 68%. In the last year, the number of teenage pregnancies has reduced by 50% as a result of the highly effective targeted intervention.

Safeguarding arrangements are exemplary across all areas of provision. Children’s services’ data indicate a significant reduction in the number of children requiring child protection plans and commend the services of the centre in protecting vulnerable children. Highly effective assessment ensures early identification of need and excellent preventative services to those families most in need. Partner agencies work cohesively together to ensure families identified as being at risk receive excellent levels of support. Families view the centre positively as a ‘one-stop shop’ and recognise they can access an exceptional range of services. One parent summarised

the view of many by stating, 'The centre provides a lifeline for many families, especially with the first child.'

The leadership and management of the centre are outstanding. All managers are inspirational in their drive and determination to meet the needs of local families and they lead teams of highly committed, early years professionals. As a result, all services are of exemplary quality and all staff consistently reflect on their practice to identify further ways to improve. Self-evaluation procedures are fully embedded at every level and data are scrutinised rigorously to ensure the centre's performance meets challenging targets.

Procedures are fully in place to track the long-term improvements of all families and evidence clearly indicates that the centre makes an exceptional impact on all families. Tracking systems are fully in place to measure the long-term impact of the centre's services on each family. The centre recognises that further development is required to extend tracking to all groups, for example lone parents, in order to fully assess the impact of services on each target group.

The local authority monitors the centre highly effectively and is stringent in its approach towards holding the centre to account and ensuring services are delivered to families most in need. Resources are consistently deployed effectively to secure best value. Improvements in all outcome areas have been consistent over time and the centre continues to make a significantly positive impact on families identified as being most at risk. Reach data consistently show that 100% of all families within the centre's area are frequently engaging with the centre's health services and targeted provision. Leaders are stringent in their approach towards continuous development and concerted action is consistently taken to identify innovative ways in order to further improve the exemplary range of services and provision. As a result, the centre demonstrates outstanding capacity to improve.

## **What does the centre need to do to improve further?**

### **Recommendations for further improvement**

- Develop further the highly effective tracking systems already in place for monitoring the impact of the centre's services on individual families to include all target groups.

## **How good are outcomes for families?**

<b>1</b>
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The centre is an extremely safe and secure environment where children's well-being is consistently given the highest priority. Parents comment how safe they feel and know they can seek help and professional advice about any aspect of family welfare. Children on the child protection register, looked after children and those supported by the Common Assessment Framework process are supported extremely well through the Jump Start Nursery and through the highly effective multi-agency team approach. As a result, any indicators that a child may be at risk are addressed swiftly

and this has an exceptionally positive impact on keeping vulnerable children safe.

Parents confirm they are significantly better informed about safety within the home through regular home assessments by the centre and the provision of equipment, such as safety gates. The majority of parents feel much more confident about dealing with accidents as they have completed paediatric first-aid courses. There is a marked reduction in the number of children having accidents due to parents' raised awareness of how to keep children safe.

Parents confirm the centre has made them feel far more confident as parents and it has significantly improved their emotional health and well-being. One parent told inspectors, 'The centre has given me confidence as a parent that you're doing the right thing.' Frequent and easy access to health professionals based directly in the centre enables parents to seek help and advice at the earliest opportunity. As a result, parents receive expert advice on health issues, diet, smoking cessation, drug/alcohol dependency issues and speech and language support. As a result, the health outcomes of all families are improving at a rapid rate. One parent commended the range of services by stating, 'The centre has got me from the lowest I have been in my life to the happiest I have been as a person and a parent.'

Parents develop an excellent understanding of how to support children's learning and development. The extensive range of activities and different groups enable parents to engage in high quality early years provision and interact positively with their children through purposeful play. Staff role-model highly effective interactions and this helps parents to successfully extend children's learning and support early language development. Children clearly enjoy their time spent at the centre and arrive enthusiastically for all activities. Families report how much they enjoy spending quality time with their children and socialising with other adults, making them feel more confident as parents and removing their feelings of isolation. All children make outstanding progress at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage from their initial starting points. Scrupulous assessment by nursery staff ensures children identified as being at risk of underachieving are monitored closely. This process is highly effective and results in the most disadvantaged children making excellent progress. In June 2012, 25% of these children who started at a low baseline were assessed as exceeding the levels expected for their age.

Families using the centre are fully engaged in the governance arrangements and contribute positively towards key decisions. The advisory group is chaired by parents and is exceptionally proactive in representing the views of all target groups. Services are adapted in response to parental feedback. Parents report community cohesion between all target groups within the local area has significantly improved as a result of the centre's services.

A very large majority of families using the centre improve their skills, personal development and economic stability through attendance at groups, participation in the volunteer programme and the completion of training. Parents successfully lead their own groups within the centre and initiate services, for example the clothes and

book share schemes. As a result, parents develop self-confidence and are inspired to successfully return to education and employment. One parent stated, 'The centre has inspired me to find the career I want.' Excellent links with partner agencies ensure parents have easy access to information regarding benefits, housing issues, training opportunities and employment options. As a result, a greater number of families are helped to reduce poverty and break the historic cycle of unemployment.

*These are the grades for the outcomes for families*

<b>The extent to which children, including those from target groups, are physically, mentally and emotionally healthy and families have healthy lifestyles</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>The extent to which children are safe and protected, their welfare concerns are identified and appropriate steps taken to address them</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>The extent to which all children and parents, including those from target groups, enjoy and achieve educationally and in their personal and social development</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>The extent to which children engage in positive behaviour and develop positive relationships and parents, including those from target groups, contribute to decision-making and governance of the centre</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>The extent to which children are developing skills for the future and parents, including those from target groups, are developing economic stability and independence including access to training and employment</b>	<b>1</b>

## **How good is the provision?**

<b>1</b>
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All staff, partner agencies and the local authority have an in-depth understanding of the needs of local families and match services according to need. Centre staff work tirelessly to successfully engage with the hardest to reach families and this has an exceptional impact on improving outcomes for the most disadvantaged groups. Exceptional intervention by the speech and language team has significantly enhanced children's communication skills. Targeted support through all centre activities and home visits have played an excellent part in promoting children's language development through everyday activities. As a result, children start school with significantly improved communication skills and this plays a fundamental part in securing their future learning. Exemplary work has been carried out in engaging with a greater number of fathers and male carers through the Dads' group. As a result, fathers and children engage positively in activities together and this strengthens family relationships.

The provision for learning and development of both children and adults is outstanding. All programmes are personalised and rigorous assessment ensures that development opportunities are tailored according to individual need. Strong links are in place with adult learning providers who play an instrumental role in supporting parents on an individual basis in helping them to build confidence, raise aspirations and support them in returning to education and employment. One parent summarised this by stating, 'The centre opened up new doors and helped me set

goals which were achievable.’

The care, guidance and support offered to families are outstanding. Health visitors, social workers, midwives and early years visitors work tirelessly to identify the most vulnerable families and signpost to relevant support services. Agencies work seamlessly together, offering families an exemplary level of professional support, especially at times of crisis.

*These are the grades for the quality of provision*

<b>The extent to which the range of services, activities and opportunities meet the needs of families, including those in target groups</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>The extent to which the centre promotes purposeful learning, development and enjoyment for all families, including those in target groups</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>The quality of care, guidance and support offered to families, including those in target groups</b>	<b>1</b>

### **How effective are the leadership and management?**

<b>1</b>
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Governance and accountability arrangements are exceptional. All staff have an excellent understanding of their roles and responsibilities and share the same ambition, drive and dedication towards providing services which meet local families’ needs. Excellent partnerships with other agencies ensure the centre meets its core purpose by offering a fully integrated delivery of services. The advisory group plays a key role in challenging the centre’s leaders and driving its improvement. Parents and children frequently share their views and are instrumental in shaping services through regular satisfaction surveys, the parents’ voice forum and by liaising with the Parent Involvement Worker.

Safeguarding arrangements are exemplary. Recruitment procedures are rigorous and meticulous detail is applied to checking the suitability of all adults who work with families. Parents experiencing domestic violence receive exceptional levels of support through many programmes and referrals to relevant groups, such as ‘Feeling Good, Feeling Safe’. Disabled children and their families are supported extremely well through the centre’s strong links with the Seaside View Child Development Centre. Specialist medical and therapy staff link cohesively with the centre’s staff to offer an holistic range of services. Consequently, many disabled children who have been supported by the centre have successfully progressed into a mainstream school.

The promotion of equality and diversity is outstanding. Supporting inclusion is at the heart of the centre’s services and every family is valued. Consequently, the outcomes for all target groups are exceptional. Staff utilise every opportunity to assess personal need and overcome every potential barrier to success. Books, resources and information are adapted in many different formats to ensure they are easily accessible to all and are reflective and representative of the needs of local families.



Concerted action is taken to drive the centre forward and services are continually adapted to meet changing needs. The centre consistently provides services of the highest quality which result in rapid improvements in outcomes for families representing all target groups. Parents view the centre as an integral part of the community and commend its services and the positive impact it has on their lives and the welfare of their children. One parent stated, 'The centre is just as much for me as a parent, as for my child.' The centre is maintained to the highest standards and provides an exceptionally welcoming, stimulating and totally safe environment. Quality assurance methods are incisive and take account of changing needs and parents' feedback. As a result, services are consistently monitored to ensure they deliver outstanding value for money and contribute effectively towards helping the families most in need of support.

*These are the grades for leadership and management*

<b>The extent to which governance, accountability, professional supervision and day-to-day management arrangements are clear and understood</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>The effectiveness of evaluation and its use in setting ambitious targets which secure improvement in outcomes</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>The extent to which resources are used and managed efficiently and effectively to meet the needs of families, including those in target groups</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>The extent to which equality is promoted and diversity celebrated, illegal or unlawful discrimination is tackled and the centre fulfils its statutory duties</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>The effectiveness of the centre's policy, procedures and work with key agencies in safeguarding children and, where applicable, vulnerable adults</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>The extent to which partnerships with other agencies ensure the integrated delivery of the range of services provided by the centre to meet its core purpose</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>The extent to which the centre supports and encourages families in the reach area to engage with services and uses their views to develop the range of provision</b>	<b>1</b>

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

None

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](http://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](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk).

## Summary for centre users

We inspected Moulescoomb Children's Centre on 27 and 28 June 2012. We judged the centre as outstanding. We would like to thank all of you who took the time to talk with us about your experiences and involvement with the centre. It was a pleasure to meet you and your children and it was very helpful to hear what the centre means to you and the difference it has made to your lives. It is clear to us that you are extremely happy with the centre's services.

The centre staff have an exceptional understanding of the needs of local families and adapt services to address these. It is especially helpful that health staff work directly from the centre and play a key part in linking services and assessing your personal needs to ensure you get the best levels of support. All staff are exceptionally dedicated and totally committed towards helping you and your families and reaching those of you who are most in need. We were particularly impressed with the very high number of families using the centre and benefiting from its excellent range of services.

The partnerships between all agencies who work at the centre are exceptional. This means that families receive excellent levels of support from a number of different services. All staff are extremely passionate about ensuring families are safe. As a result, families receive very high levels of support when they are most vulnerable. Many of you told us about how much the staff had helped you during challenging times. Midwives, health visitors and other professionals are readily available within the centre for you to approach for help and advice and this means children's development is closely supported. As a result, children benefit from healthier lifestyles.

The learning and development opportunities within the centre are outstanding. There is an excellent range of activities and training provided enabling all families to develop their skills and knowledge and be successful in returning to education and employment. Many of you told us how the centre staff had raised your confidence to succeed and had given you inspiration to undertake training and seek employment opportunities.

Children make outstanding progress in their learning and development too. Staff deliver an exceptional range of high quality early years services, which enable your children to benefit from quality play experiences. They help you understand how to interact with your children positively and support their learning through play at home. As a result, we noted from the centre's data that children are making outstanding progress by the time they start school.

Safeguarding arrangements are excellent within the centre. All staff provide a very friendly and welcoming environment and develop very trusting relationships with all families. Parents told us how much this helps them to seek help and advice when they need to. All staff work together exceptionally well to ensure any issues

concerning children's welfare are identified early and relevant action is taken to keep all children safe.

The centre's management team is exceptional. The centre leader is an inspirational manager and she is supported by an excellent team. All staff share a strong commitment towards providing the highest standards and delivering services which local families need. The centre's management team and the local authority continually review all services and frequently ask for your feedback to ensure services are having the very best impact. We noted the centre uses comprehensive measures to track the ongoing progress of all children and parents to demonstrate how well the centre has supported them. New procedures are being introduced to track the progress of groups of families over longer periods of time and we have asked the centre to develop this further.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to come and speak with us. We are very grateful and wish you and your families every success for the future.

The full report is available from your centre or on our website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk).