

# Inspection report for Baguley Sure Start Children's Centre

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Local authority	Manchester
Inspection number	367738
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Centre leader	Jacqueline Narayn-Singh
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
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Linked school if applicable	105485 Baguley Hall Primary School
Linked early years and childcare, if applicable	EY402850 Holyrood Nursery @ Baguley Children's Centre EY259036 Wythenshawe Hospital Playpen Day Nursery EY103998 Scout Drive Children's Centre

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 one early years inspector.

The inspectors held meetings with the local authority senior managers, the head of centre, outreach and centre workers, advisory board members, parents and a range of partner agencies. They observed the centre's work and looked at a range of relevant documentation.

## Information about the centre

Baguley Sure Start Children's Centre is a phase one centre which was designated in 2007. The centre operates from a purpose built building situated adjacent to Baguley Hall Primary School in Manchester. The centre works with partners agencies and commissioned services to meet its core purpose by offering services from its base, the satellite centre at Scout Drive and outreach venues.

The majority of the population within the centres reach area is of White British heritage, with a growing percentage of families from ethnic minority groups. A high percentage of adults leave school with no qualifications. The percentage of young parents is also high. The proportion of disabled children and people and those with special educational needs is low. Recent figures show that the population of children aged from birth to five years of age in the reach area is 877.

Baguley has a mix of housing which is predominantly social and private rented. There are high levels of deprivation. In West Wythenshawe 71% of families living in the super output areas are within the top 10% and 86% of families living in the super output areas are within the top 20% of most deprived areas in the country. There are significant levels of worklessness and the majority of these families at 52% are dependent on benefits.

Children enter early years provision with skills and knowledge below those expected nationally for their age. The Early Years Foundation Stage is delivered through the linked childcare provisions and group activities which the centre provides. The linked provisions are subject to separate inspection arrangements. The primary school was last inspected in July 2011, Holyrood Nursery @ Baguley Children's Centre in May 2010, Wythenshawe Hospital Playpen Day Nursery in February 2011 and Scout Drive Children's Centre in November 2010. The inspection reports can be found at [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

Governance of the centre is provided by the local authority in conjunction with an advisory board. The head of centre is responsible for two centres. The centre is open all year round. It is also open at weekends and evenings to meet community user's needs.

## 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**

**3**

### Capacity for sustained improvement

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

**3**

## Main findings

Satisfactory leadership and provision promote mostly adequate or improving outcomes for children and families. Staff morale is high despite the drastic reduction to the team in the last year. The commitment to encourage high aspirations is a real strength of the centre. As a result, attention to promoting a purposeful learning and development environment is good. Children and parents enjoy and achieve well, making secure improvements educationally. They also make good progress in their personal and social development. Although the achievement gap between the lowest achievers and the rest is not narrowing as well as it could be, where the centre has targeted action improvements can be seen. Strategies to aid children's transition onto the next stage of learning are still in the early stages of development.

Attention to safeguarding children is a high priority and all parents spoken to said that they feel safe at the very welcoming centre. Families are encouraged to be more physically active and eat healthily. The percentage of mother's breastfeeding is low. The percentage of those who smoke in pregnancy is reducing, however the figure remains high. Although the percentage of children in the Reception Year who are obese has shown signs of reducing,

this figure remains stubbornly above the national average. Consequently, health outcomes are satisfactory.

The centre satisfactorily promotes the inclusion of all children and their families. Work to increase the number of families registered and engaging with the centre is increasing. Most of the centre's target groups are registered and a majority of these are engaging with services. Trusting relationships have been formed with those families. Anecdotal evidence and case studies shows that the early intervention work has made a big difference to improving the lives of families with circumstances that make them most vulnerable.

Commissioned services have been reduced. As a consequence, the effectiveness of partnerships work is variable. Some relationships with partners, such as Barnardo's, are well developed whilst other are less so. The centre regularly seeks the views of parents to use their ideas to shape services and to meet their needs. Some parents work as volunteers in the centre and parents are now beginning to run groups and increase the range of services offered. Systems to assess the needs of those children and their families with circumstances that make them particularly vulnerable, such as coping with poverty, domestic violence and substance misuse, are good. The 'Children and Parents Service' (CAPS) effectively encourage the development of positive relationships. The centre is working with key partners and agencies to address the issue of worklessness but the number of parents returning to work is low.

Although the numbers of key partners on the advisory board have decreased, parental membership is slowly increasing. However, the head of centre is the chairperson on the advisory board which compromises the advisory board's ability to offer unbiased challenge and hold the centre fully to account.

Capacity for continued improvement is satisfactory. Several new initiatives have been developed and the head of centre has a clear, pragmatic vision of future improvements. Areas for improvement have been accurately identified. Satisfactory systems are in place for development planning, but plans have limited clear measurable success criteria. This makes it difficult to monitor improvement and fully evaluate the success of the centre.

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

### **Recommendations for further improvement**

- Improve health outcomes by working with partners to:
  - increase the number of mother's initiating and sustaining breastfeeding
  - reduce the number of children in Reception Year who are obese
  - decrease the percentage of mothers who smoke in pregnancy.
- Continue to work with partners to narrow the achievement gap between the lowest 20% in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and the rest by improving children's readiness for school.

- Strengthen the role of the advisory board so that it can effectively challenge and hold the centre to account for its work.
- Improve planning to ensure the centre can track precisely the progress made towards meeting clearly defined targets by using measurable success criteria to demonstrate the centre's effectiveness and impact on outcomes.

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

**3**

The Common Assessment Framework is used effectively to target specific tailored support for looked after children and those subject to a child protection plan. Early intervention work helps prevent some complex situations from accelerating for families. A typical comment from a parent regarding the impact of individual support was, 'it made a massive difference to my life'. Parents are confident to turn to the centre in times of crisis, or for general help and support because they know and trust the centre workers. Staff act as good role models promoting a safe environment. Parents are provided with regular safety advice to help them have a better understanding of how to keep their children safe.

Health outcomes are variable. Compelling case studies evidence adult's emotional and mental health is well supported. Improved parental confidence and self-esteem helps parents to take charge of situations within their life. Opportunities to become physically active are developing. Although only a small minority of mother's are breastfeeding at 27% compared to the national average of 74%, those who choose to are encouraged to breastfeed in the relaxed environment of the centre. Parents learn about the dangers of smoking through shocking presentations, such as the 'Chemical Soup'. However, data suggest that 44% of adults are smoking. The impact of the 'Smoke Free Homes' campaign and smoking cessation has had an initial impact on beginning to reduce this figure. Healthy eating is satisfactorily promoted and parents have opportunities to access courses specifically planned to encourage healthy home cooking. However, data show that 13.6% of children are obese in the Reception Year, which is much higher than the national average of 9.4%. The centre is actively seeking to strengthen initiatives with the health colleagues to address this issue.

Parents are confident to express their views and they treat each other with respect. They described enjoying attending the structured services that the centre provides. Parents spoke confidently about the positive impact of ignoring children's inappropriate behaviour and rewarding good behaviour with attention and praise. Some described 'feeling like a different person and looking forward to the future' following training.

The centre workers and their partners want to make a real difference to the life chances of families and children generally make good progress from low starting points. The centre continues to work with partners to narrow the achievement gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and the rest. However, over the last two years data suggest the percentage gap has increased from 33% to 37% and

initiatives to improve children's readiness for school are high priority and remain an area for development.

A strong drive is in place to promote early communication, language and literacy. A few parents have been trained to be 'Communication Ambassadors' and they have effectively delivered clear messages about the importance of developing this skill to others. Attention to achievement, particularly for boys, has led to more active outdoor learning which has improved engagement and independent learning well. Within the reach area there has been several incidents relating to arson. As a result, the centre plans exciting activities to help educate children about the dangers of fire. The 'Going on a Bear Hunt' activity provided a good opportunity for children to learn how to build safe fires for a purpose. They experienced roasting potatoes and toasting marshmallows.

Adults have access to a good range of learning opportunities to develop their basic knowledge and parenting skills. Many make the gradual progression from one course to the next and achievements are well celebrated. Satisfactory support is in place for those who are willing to follow routes which can lead to employment.

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>3</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>2</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>2</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>3</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>3</b>

## How good is the provision?

**3**

The centre has registered a majority of local families and most of these are from their target groups. Some families also travel from out of the reach area to use the centre's services. Registration at the centre is slowly increasing but the centre acknowledges there are still families in the area that would benefit from their services that are not accessing them. Regular assessment and consultation with partners delivering services and parents ensure opportunities adequately continue to meet users' needs. Consequently, the take-up of services is increasing.

The centre has created an enabling environment which welcomes families into its spacious reception area. The building was extended to provide a useful kitchen and well-resourced play room. A range of high quality resources are attractively set out to invite children's use. Space is limited and the multi-purpose rooms are used well to deliver a satisfactory range of open access and appointment only services.

Young parents are well supported by the established 'Young Parents Group'. The 'Ante-Natal Clinic' and 'Baby Clinic' run by various health colleagues are well attended. Mothers attending 'Baguley Babies Club' also enjoy the 'Baby Massage' drop-in. 'Fareshare', a national charity, deliver good quality food to the centre weekly to prevent food poverty and waste.

The 'Active Lifestyles' group facilitate the new 'Mini Movers' and the popular dance class for adults. Sessions such as 'Stay and Play' and 'Little Groovers' effectively promote good early learning through fun and active play sessions. 'Food futures' and volunteers have been engaged to support the newly developed 'Baguley Buds' group by training and monitoring parents to successfully grow their own food.

Overall parents and children receive satisfactory quality care, guidance and support. Displays are attractive and are regularly changed to ensure they are up-to-date and informative. Children have access to both satisfactory and good quality childcare in the community which helps to promote purposeful learning.

Barnardo's support the centre well to recruit volunteers. Successful 'Thank Job its Friday' sessions have been held in the past with good results. This led to the centre having a named person from the Jobcentre based there weekly. The jobs board is regularly updated and satisfactory support is in place to help adults complete job applications which can lead to employment. The centre also link with 'Family Information Services', the 'Regeneration Team' and 'Real Opportunities' to raise the ambition of adults. A programme of family learning courses is tailored to meet some users' needs and attendance is satisfactorily monitored.

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>3</b>
<b>The extent to which the centre promotes purposeful learning, development and enjoyment for all families, including those in target groups</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>The quality of care, guidance and support offered to families, including those in target groups.</b>	<b>3</b>



## How effective are the leadership and management?

3
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The relatively new head of centre and her small, highly skilled and experienced team are optimistic about the future despite the challenges they have had to face due to recent changes.

Satisfactory governance and accountability arrangements are in place. Day-to-day management arrangements are understood. The effectiveness of the advisory board is developing. The minutes from the advisory board meetings suggest the board's role is more supportive than challenging. Self-evaluation is mostly accurate but documentation is unwieldy. Impact data provided for the centre is continually improving and new services are in place. The centre recognises that they need accurate base line data to set specific and ambitious targets to promote continual improvement. Currently, target setting is limited which hampers the centre's monitoring of success and the board's ability to fully hold the centre to account for its work.

Partnerships are satisfactory. However, the 'Early Intervention Team', 'Home Start' and outreach staff work together well as multi-agencies to safeguard children. Partnerships with parents are developing and their evaluations of services are sometimes used to improve services. Childminders have their own drop-in session but the partnership with this group is in its infancy. Strong links have been made with the local school and Royal Oak Community Centre. Marketing of the centre is through a variety of different methods including the distribution of the 'What's On' guide in the area which links directly to the centre's website. The centre regularly invites the community into the centre for special events, such as the 'Royal Diamond Jubilee Tea Party' and attends community events. The head of centre is very proactive regarding making connections with local business and others in the wider community to promote future collaborative work. The sharing of resources, provision and joint training with partners helps to secure satisfactory value for money.

Good safeguarding practice is adopted across all areas of the centre's work. Recruitment and vetting procedures are robust and security at the centre is good. Early intervention and support with emotional health and well-being is effective. Staff attend regularly safeguarding training. Good support is provided for those suffering from domestic violence or substance misuse.

Equality and diversity is promoted satisfactorily in the centre. Local schools in the area have identified a greater need to adopt a community wide approach to improve the development of speech, language and communication through several effective projects, such as 'The Talk of the Town in Wythenshawe' approach. Children benefit from additional help to support their readiness for school and this is an area of the centre's work they are keen to develop. Children with disabilities and those with special educational needs receive specific bespoke support to meet their needs. Families from different ethnic minority backgrounds are fully welcomed at the centre. They have access to a bi-lingual outreach worker and information which is appropriately translated for them. Crèche facilities enable those with

young children to attend training. The centre recognises the important role fathers play in their child's development but the number of fathers attending the centre is generally low.

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>3</b>
<b>The effectiveness of evaluation and its use in setting ambitious targets which secures improvement in outcomes</b>	<b>3</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>3</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>3</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>2</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>3</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>3</b>

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

The Ofsted reports relating to the linked childcare settings were used to make judgements.

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## Summary for centre users

We inspected Baguley Sure Start Children's Centre on 4 - 5 July 2012. We judged the centre as satisfactory overall.

This established centre has undergone a great deal of change. It provides a safe place for you where you can be sure of a warm and friendly welcome. High priority is in place to safeguard families. The centre provides you with good quality opportunities to engage in

enjoyable and purposeful learning experiences. Those of you we spoke to told us how much you enjoy attending the centre. You trust the centre workers and find them very helpful.

You were positive about the impact of the 'Parental Survival' training course. Some of you told us how you now encourage more positive behaviour in your children by ignoring inappropriate behaviour and encouraging good behaviour with praise and attention. We know some of you are confident to lead a group. Several of you are interested in having important roles as volunteers which will further strengthen the work of the centre. We were impressed with 'Baguley Buds' and the good start some of you have made in order to start growing your own food. We have asked the centre to continue to work with its partners to particularly improve children's skills and development so that they are more ready for school.

The number of mothers choosing to breastfeed babies is low. We have asked the centre to work closely with their health partners to ensure those of you who choose to breastfeed are given effective support. We understand some of you are aware of the 'Smoke Free Homes' campaign. Others have learnt about the dangers of smoking through the 'Chemical Soup' presentation which raises your awareness of the associated risks of smoking. However, a high number of adults are still smoking in the presence of young children.

You told us you particularly enjoy the 'Baby Massage' and groups such as 'Baguley Babies Group' which encourages bonding with your babies. Many of you attend the popular 'Stay and Play', 'Busy Bodies' and 'Mini Movers' which enables you to be more active. Despite the opportunities to increase your physical activity, the number of children in the Reception Year who are obese is high. Therefore, we have asked the centre to work closely with their partners to further encourage more healthy lifestyles to help reduce obesity.

The centre has begun to identify targets for improvement in their development plans. However, they are hard to find in the current style of documentation. We have asked the centre to set succinct and clearly defined targets so anyone can see what they intend to do. This will enable them to monitor where they are making a difference and where more work needs to be done. We have also asked the centre to look at the structure of the advisory board so that it is in a position to independently challenge and hold the centre to account for its work.

We would like to thank everyone who was willing to speak to us. We are very grateful for your help and wish you every success in the future.

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