

Inspection report for Sedgeley Children's Centre

Local authority	Bury
Inspection number	383810
Inspection dates	10 - 11 September 2012
Reporting inspector	Qaisra Shahraz

Centre leader	Victoria Watson
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Centre address	Bishops Road Prestwich Bury M25 0HT
Telephone number	0161 253 7474
Fax number	0161 253 7472
Email address	v.watson@bury.gov.uk

Linked school if applicable	Sedgeley Park Community Primary 105308
Linked early years and childcare, if applicable	Not applicable

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.

Report Published: September 2012

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at www.ofsted.gov.uk/publications/100080.

To receive regular email alerts about new publications, including survey reports and school inspection reports, please visit our website and go to 'Subscribe'.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk



No.100080

© Crown copyright 2012

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 one Early-years Inspector. The inspectors held meetings with representatives of the local authority, centre staff, advisory board members, health professionals, voluntary and statutory partner organisations, one headteacher and parents. They observed the centre's work and looked at a range of relevant documentation.

Information about the centre

Sedgley Children's Centre is a phase two centre. It is located on the same site as Sedgley Park Community Primary School in the ward of Sedgley in Prestwich. The centre offers a range of universal and targeted services including family support, parenting programmes, outreach services and home visiting. Some of the services provided by the children's centre are run from satellite venues such as the Maccabi Centre and Sedgley Park Community Primary School.

Sedgley Children's Centre works within a very diverse community. The large majority of families in the centre's reach area are predominantly White British with a small percentage of families from Asian and Eastern European groups. Prestwich has one of the highest Jewish populations in the country. Smoking is prevalent with 22% of people in Prestwich who smoke. Prestwich has one of the highest levels of households living in poor conditions with some overcrowding.

There are 1213 children under the age of five in the Sedgley reach area, of these 62% are registered with the children centre and 8% live in households dependent on workless benefits. Out of the 13 children recorded with a disability, 39% have attended in the last year. There are 268 lone parents and 9% are fathers respectively. Children's skills on entry to Early Years provision are generally well below those expected for their age.

The governance of the centre is provided by the school governing body. It has an advisory board made up of representatives from various professional partnerships and two parents.

The headteacher of the school is also the head of the centre. He is supported by a centre coordinator. The centre is part of a pilot cluster arrangement with Toodle Hill Children's Centre and the centre coordinator is responsible for coordinating both centres and staff are shared across the cluster. The centre's childcare was previously provided through an affiliated child care provider. However, more recently Bury Local Authority has set up a partnership scheme inviting all child care providers within the reach to provide childcare.

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

2

Capacity for sustained improvement

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

2

Main findings

This is a good children's centre which is highly regarded within the community. It has several outstanding features. As one happy user described it, 'The centre is such a welcoming, calming place to come to with great happy staff who are always willing to talk and help.' Outcomes for both adults and children are good and improving. Children are making good progress in their learning and development. Adult users demonstrate much improved parenting skills, knowledge of healthy lifestyles and excellent positive relationships. Health outcomes, particularly for breastfeeding are good. Staff are highly committed to further improving health outcomes, particularly for oral health and smoking cessation.

The centre provides a good range of quality services and learning opportunities for local families. A high level of user satisfaction is demonstrated, with families greatly valuing the excellent advice, guidance and support on offer.. The centre is extremely responsive to the changing needs of the community and adapts its services accordingly. However, staff recognise the need to continue to increase participation rates, particularly from some of the hard-to-reach families and groups.

Leadership and management are good and governance and accountability arrangements are strong. The centre coordinator is highly skilled and very effectively leads a team of hardworking and motivated staff. Supported by the cost effectiveness systems, the centre's management, review and use of its resources, including its deployment of staff, is outstanding.

Excellent partnership working is enabling the centre to identify quickly the most vulnerable families and services are targeted quickly to those who are in most need. The centre's approach to safeguarding, child protection, safe recruitment and its comprehensive monitoring arrangements are outstanding. Promotion of equality and diversity throughout the centre's work is exceptional. The staff are highly sensitive to the needs of different faith groups and cultures. They seek to understand and break down cultural and language barriers.

Self-assessment is robust with managers having a clear view of the centre's strengths and areas for improvement. They make good use of community consultation and engagement of users. Staff are aware of the need to improve the tracking of adult-users' outcomes, including routes into employment and further education to further improve their economic stability. With its improving outcomes, good quality of provision and strong leadership and management the overall effectiveness of the centre and its capacity for improvement is good.

What does the centre need to do to improve further?

Recommendations for further improvement

- Improve further health outcomes for users, in particular those linked to oral health and smoking cessation.
- Increase participation of all the hardest to reach target groups including disabled children and children of disabled parents, families with learning difficulties and families from Black and Minority Ethnic groups, so that they too can benefit from using the centre's services.
- Improve the tracking of adult users' achievements and progress including routes into employment and further education to further improve their economic stability.

How good are outcomes for families?

2

The health of most users is improving. For example, the rate of mothers breastfeeding continues to rise because of the excellent support and advice on offer. Currently the rates for sustained breastfeeding have increased to 69%, which is above the borough average. The centre devotes a lot of its energies in successfully promoting healthy lifestyles through a variety of recognised schemes. However, the centre recognises that it needs to continue to further improve its health outcomes, in relation to children's oral health and smoking cessation.

Adult users report a high level of enjoyment and achievement. To enable families to find work the centre provides a daily update of jobs and help with filling in of application forms. One happy user informed inspectors, 'The centre has helped me to get my CV together and to use the computer to apply for a job'. The centre takes pride in the achievement of its

families, including four of its previous users who have successfully achieved qualifications and gained employment in the centre. Staff recognise the need for a more robust system of tracking adults learning outcomes, in order to provide more accurate data and analysis. Children are happy in the sessions and make good progress. Parents appreciate the improved behaviour of their children. Effective strategies are in place to narrow the achievement gap as indicated by the improving outcomes. At one feeder school 93% of children achieved at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage profile scores. The 'Getting ready for school' event to support parents enables the children to experience a smooth and confident transition into school.

Security within the centre is excellent. Parents state that they feel very safe. Families have developed a thorough understanding of safety. Early intervention strategies by the centre and social care staff ensure that children are protected effectively against harm. All centre staff are trained in and make very effective use of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) to ensure that those children with circumstances that make them vulnerable receive well-targeted support at an early stage, including children who are subject to a child protection plan. Twenty-five families have benefited from carefully planned packages of support in the previous year, of whom some have taken active ownership of their plans for improvement.

Through its positive approach and strong vision the centre demonstrates an excellent capacity for promoting positive relationships, tolerance and fostering community cohesion amongst different community groups. One user greatly appreciated the social interaction between Jewish, Muslim and Eastern European parents in sessions attended, as indicated by her comment, 'Great getting the opportunity to speak to mums who are from different cultures and religions and the kids all play together.' Adults who previously felt isolated also speak highly of the social aspect of the centre's life, particularly in helping them to make new friends.

Adult users are encouraged to become involved in all aspects of the centre and make a good contribution to shaping services and in the governance of the centre. Currently five volunteers and eight parents from the 'Parent Forum' are actively engaged in various centre activities. Similarly some users enjoyed writing recipes in their cookery sessions, which were later published in a textbook called, 'Bury Children Centre's Cook Book'.

These are the grades for the outcomes for families:

The extent to which children, including those from target 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 children and parents, including those from target groups, 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 parents, including those from target groups, contribute to decision-making and governance of the centre	1
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.	2

How good is the provision?

2

The centre is highly inclusive. Its active community engagements are leading to increased user participations, currently at 62%, an increase of 15% from the previous year, in particular from the local Jewish community. However, the centre management team is committed to encouraging greater participation from other target groups including disabled children and children of disabled parents, families with learning difficulties and families from Black and Minority Ethnic groups.

The centre offers a wide range of enjoyable and purposeful learning opportunities for its users, including many successful parenting courses. Excellent relationships with a wide range of partners, particularly with the health midwifery team, contribute significantly to the centre's rich programme of universal and targeted activities. Children's health is promoted extremely well through antenatal and postnatal services offered on site.

The centre is committed to adapting all its services, including outreach, to meet the needs of the users. For example, its opening hours and use of venues are adjusted to meet the needs of the Jewish and Muslim communities. As a result the number of Jewish families since using the Maccabi Jewish Sport Centre has tripled. Many female users, for cultural reasons, value the women only exercise sessions provided. Of these women, 47% reported that these sessions developed their physical fitness and resulted in healthy eating and weight loss. Fathers also play an integral part in the life of the centre. Last year 63 fathers had accessed one or more sessions, including the popular and enjoyable 'Monthly Fun Music' sessions with their babies.

Care, guidance and support are outstanding. Exemplary personalised support ensures that many of the hard-to-engage families are helped to access centre services. There is very effective signposting to other agencies as appropriate. Families in crisis or those experiencing domestic abuse are strongly supported by multi-agency teams. 'I will be lost without the help they provide for me and my little boy,' are the words of one such user. Sessions such as the 'Respite Crèche', 'Multiple Births' and 'Downs Syndrome' provide specialist support for families with specific needs.

These are the grades for the quality of provision:

The extent to which the range of services, activities and opportunities meet the needs of families, including those in target groups	2
---	----------

The extent to which the centre promotes purposeful learning, development and enjoyment for all families, including those in target groups	2
The quality of care, guidance and support offered to families, including those in target groups.	1

How effective are the leadership and management?

2

The leadership provided by the governing body, the head of centre and co-ordinator is strong and good overall. Day-to-day management of the centre is good. Morale is high across the centre. The work of the centre co-ordinator is often inspirational. She and her deputy work hard and are highly regarded by their staff and users. There is excellent teamwork and communication amongst the staff and partners. They all demonstrate enthusiasm, sensitivity and highest level of commitment to their work of supporting users.

A strong culture of continuous improvement and quality monitoring is underpinned by robust supervision of staff and evaluation of services undertaken by the centre and the local authority which plays a key strategic role through challenging annual conversations. The use of good quality data is improving and helps to enhance and adjust the quality of provision. Outstanding partnership work is highly valued by users and staff. All partners stated that they enjoy working together as a team and welcome the opportunity to making a direct contribution to improving the lives of families. As one partner commented, 'Working at the centre is like being part of a family'.

The centre provides outstanding value for money. The excellent review and use of its resources, deployment of staff and accommodation helps to ensure high-levels of efficiency in providing services and to maximise their use. Parents' views have a major impact on shaping the services provided by the centre. They are creatively shared through the 'Sedgley Evaluation Tree' wall display.

Safeguarding practices are exemplary and are given the highest priority by all at the centre, including its partners. The rigorous monitoring of safeguarding processes and procedures, implementing of policies and vetting of staff is excellent. On-going training for staff and robust risk assessments of all activities ensures that the children's safety and safeguarding is at the forefront of all their work. Currently thirty-two parents have benefited from the knowledge gained on the Paediatric First Aid course on how to keep themselves and their children safe.

The centre's promotion of equality and diversity and ability to remove barriers is exceptional. English languages classes and interpreters are provided to support those users for whom English is a second language to access its services. All staff have undertaken training around disability and cultural awareness. Thus a strong ethos of cultural sensitivity underpins all the centre's work. For example, staff are sensitive about their dress code and adhere to food preparation protocols for all faiths attending. The centre's large 'Sedgley Teddy Bear'

displayed prominently in the reception area is routinely dressed up in a range of costumes to celebrate different world festivals. Superb displays and photographs throughout the centre are not only sensitively displayed but also celebrate diversity to ensure all users feel welcome.

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 effectiveness of evaluation and its use in setting ambitious targets which secures improvement in outcomes	2
The extent to which resources are used and managed efficiently and effectively to meet the needs of families, including those in target groups	1
The extent to which equality is promoted and diversity celebrated, illegal or unlawful discrimination is tackled and the centre fulfils its statutory duties	1
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 partnerships with other agencies ensure the integrated delivery of the range of services provided by the centre to meet its core purpose	1
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.	2

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

The findings from the inspection of Sedgeley Park Community Primary contributed to the children's centre report and judgements. A copy of the report is available on the ofsted website.

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 Sedgley Children's Centre on 10 September 2012. We judged the centre as good.

We really appreciated the opportunity to talk with many of you during the inspection. It is obvious that the centre is hugely important to all of you who use it, including the Jewish and Muslim community in the area. All of you say that the centre is a very warm and welcoming place to be where you and your children can take part in a varied range of enjoyable activities and make new friends, including mixing well with parents from other backgrounds. Many of you told us how much you enjoyed attending many of the sessions and the benefits you have gained in using the centre services.

We can see that outcomes for you and your children have improved. Even your young babies are making good progress. You tell us you have gained in confidence, increased your knowledge and developed new skills, including parenting skills. Some of you have even lost a lot of weight as a result of exercise and learning about healthy eating. It was pleasing to note that some of the mothers are enjoying breastfeeding and really benefit from the support given. One of you told us how you have also been helped with CV writing and applying for jobs. Everyone we spoke to was full of praise for the way the staff go out of their way to be helpful and provide excellent support.

Leadership and management of the centre are good overall with some excellent aspects. For example, your centre is excellent in the way it uses and constantly reviews its resources, including its staff in order to get the best value for money. The centre manager's work is exceptional in some areas. She is highly skilled, very approachable, ambitious and extremely good at running the centre and knows all of you and your local community well. She also has a team of excellent staff and partners who work very hard. All are keen to support you and meet your needs. This includes the health professionals who offer their services from the centre, including the baby clinics.

We were particularly impressed by the centre's commitment to ensuring equality of opportunity and its work to increase participation rates and integrate people from different faiths. Your centre is particularly sensitive to the cultural behaviours of different community groups and exceedingly good in celebrating diversity. For instance, it does this through the celebration of world festivals, including dressing up the 'Sedgley Teddy Bear' in the reception area in different costumes. During the inspection he was dressed up as a Jewish gentleman, with a skull cap to celebrate the Jewish New Year.

We were also impressed by the security at the centre and the way staff ensure that you are safe both at the centre and at home. The centre encourages you to take part in the governance and running of the centre. Several of you are active members of the parent forum or have become volunteers at the centre and actively contribute to the evaluation of the centre services. Well done! This process has helped to ensure that the centre only provides the services that you and your family require.

We have asked the centre leaders to continue to carry out research to include more fully disabled children and children of disabled parents, families with learning difficulties and families from Black and Minority Ethnic groups. We have requested that staff continue to improve your health outcomes, particularly relating to the oral health of your children and to support some of you in giving up smoking, leading to healthier lifestyles. We have also

asked the centre staff to become more robust in tracking and documenting your achievements whilst accessing centre services, whether it is a course or gaining work skills.

Thank you all for your time and enthusiasm in talking to us. We appreciate it very much. We would like to wish you all the very best in the future.

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