

Inspection report for Angel Raynham Children's Centre

Local authority	London Borough of Enfield
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Linked school if applicable	Raynham Primary School 102023
Linked early years and childcare, if applicable	Angel Raynham Children's Centre EY338496

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 managers and staff, parents, representatives of the governing body, health professionals and representatives of partner agencies and the local authority. The inspectors held informal talks with children and parents throughout the inspection.

They observed the centre's work, and looked at a range of relevant documentation.

Information about the centre

Angel Raynham Children's Centre is a phase one centre designated in September 2006. It serves a densely populated area of Edmonton in the London borough of Enfield. It is located on the site of Raynham Primary School, where it and shares some facilities with the school's nursery and Reception classes. The centre meets its core purpose and provides 58 full- and part-time day care places for children aged six months to five years and crèche facilities for families using the centre. The centre and school share extensive outdoor areas, including a farm yard housing ducks, pigs, goats and other animals. Services are mainly delivered on the main site, and additional outreach activities are held in community settings, schools and parks in the reach area. The centre is accountable to the local authority. Governance is through the school governing body and an advisory board is in place. The headteacher of the school manages two joint centre managers. The centre managers are supported by eight outreach, stay-and-play and administrative staff and 31 staff in daycare, working under a childcare manager. The centre shares premises and finance support with the school. The local authority commissions services centrally. The centre currently provide leadership and management to Hazelwood Children's Centre, which is designated as a centre in its own right.

The centre serves approximately 1350 children aged under five. The number and character of the population served changes continually as mobility is very high. Many families live in poor housing conditions and are overcrowded. The area is among the 10% most disadvantaged in the country, with 46% of children living in households dependent on workless benefits. A further few children live in poverty but they are not counted in this measure because their families have no recourse to public funds. The quality of the living environment is ranked among the lowest 20% nationally. The local community is exceptionally diverse compared with London and England as a whole, with 77% of all people and 98% of children attending the linked primary school having minority ethnic heritage. The largest groups are African, particularly Somali (about 30% of total), Turkish and White European. This is reflected in the area's linguistic diversity, as the vast majority of people in the area speak English as an additional language. Over 50 languages are spoken among pupils in the linked school, with the most common being Somali and Turkish. On entry to Early Years Foundation Stage provision, children's skills, knowledge and abilities are well below those 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 families

1

Capacity for sustained improvement

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

1

Main findings

Angel Raynham Children's Centre has outstanding impact on the lives of families in the community. The inclusion is at the heart of the centre's vision and its drive to give all children and families the support they need in the area. Leaders and managers continually assess the needs of groups and individuals in the ever-changing population locally and bring in well-founded, innovative new programmes that break down barriers to families achieving well. Mindful of the extremely deprived living conditions for some families, the centre, in partnership with the linked Raynham Primary School, provides a wonderful surrounding outdoor environment and excellent care, in which families flourish.

Children and parents make outstanding progress from their starting points in their leaning and personal development. Children and parents have great freedom to explore the space and resources to follow their own interests. The centre's focus on developing communication and language skills, in partnership with Enfield Libraries

and speech and language therapists and through supporting parents to take English as a second language courses, has excellent impact on achievements of children and their parents. Children are very well prepared for starting school through their very good experience at the centre.

Partnerships are key to the flexibility of the programme at the centre and success in meeting changing needs. Skilled practitioners assess the needs of participants and work with partner organisations to shape services accordingly. Parents, including fathers, speakers of English as a second language and the many lone parents in the area, grow in confidence in their parenting. Excellent guidance from staff encourages parents in their learning and raises their aspirations. The very good range of guidance and support has an excellent impact on improving the economic stability of the large majority of families in the area.

The care for families' safety is excellent. Parents in crisis turn readily to the centre and, through outstanding partnership work, services are found and secured. The safety of families receiving support, for example through Common Assessment Framework arrangements and referral protocols, is secured outstandingly well. The gaps in health measures, which have been persistently lower in the area than elsewhere in the borough, are closing so that the health of families is good. Families attending the centre regularly grow in emotional well-being and make significant changes in their lives to improve healthy eating and take up enjoyable exercise with their families. With encouragement from outreach workers and with the convenience of clinics held at the centre, all but a small minority of families take up health checks and immunisations and sustain breastfeeding.

Although few parents are aware of, or feel able to take up, formal representative opportunities on the governing body and advisory board, parents' views are absolutely integral to all decisions made about the activities provided and commissioned for the centre. Partnerships are strengthening the centre's evaluation of its own effectiveness and help to secure excellent value for money. The centre's capacity to continue its high level of performance and further improve outcomes is outstanding.

What does the centre need to do to improve further?

Recommendations for further improvement

- The centre should work with health practitioners to promote agreed health measures, such as take-up of immunisations, attendance at midwifery appointments and continuation of breastfeeding, rigorously to targeted groups and individuals to improve the health chances of vulnerable groups.
- Work with all partner organisations to raise awareness among families of how to get involved in the governance of, and advice to, the centre so that families in the area have as much influence as possible and their voice is represented consistently and strongly over time.

How good are outcomes for families?

1

Health outcomes for families in the area, particularly for target groups of families with identified health risks, are good. A large majority of families in the area take up midwifery and health visitor services. Support from the centre ensures that vulnerable groups, such as teenage parents and those new to the area, are encouraged to take up family health checks and immunisations on time and to continue breastfeeding, and rates are good overall. Health visitor clinics and speech and language therapy drop-ins have enabled increasingly speedy identification and response to children's development needs. Families easily access borough-wide commissioned counselling services at the centre. Obesity rates in the area are high but concerted action by the centre through the Change4life initiative is taking effect. Parents using the centre regularly typically comment on the positive influence that the centre has in changing their attitudes to health and well-being. Families look carefully at ingredients in processed food and take more exercise with their children, and the physical development of children attending regularly is good.

The centre's outstanding safeguarding arrangements result in children and their families being exceptionally well protected. With care and guidance, children behave well and parents' understanding of how to keep children safe is exceptional. Relationships between staff and families are strong. Procedures for referring families at risk of harm or seeking help with problems concerning children's behaviour and domestic violence are robust and sensitive. Information about where to get help with domestic violence is subtly displayed and families turn to the centre with confidence in a crisis. The centre leads the way in implementing the Common Assessment Framework locally and its highly effective work has significant impact on reducing the number of formal child protection plans and the length of time children are on such plans. Targeted parents make measurable improvement in their ability to protect their children through 'Strengthening families' courses. Home safety awareness is built into all home visits and targeted to families living in unsafe and often severely overcrowded conditions. Equipment loans and guidance ensure that accidents in homes are reducing.

Families make outstanding progress in their learning and development through attending all recreational sessions, library story time and targeted sessions such as ETAPP - play groups for families in temporary accommodation. Children being cared for, and attending crèche or drop-in sessions, respond to the excellent well-planned activities and the playful interaction and guidance of practitioners. A very large majority of children, including those speaking English as an additional language and boys who are targeted for improvement in communication and language development, make outstanding progress in the Early Years Foundation Stage. The percentage of children in the area gaining a good level of development has improved rapidly from 48.8% in 2011 to 77% in 2012. The gap in attainment between the lowest achieving group and their peers has narrowed more rapidly than nationally, to a low level of 25.9%. The integration of children's centre provision with the linked primary school means that children attending the centre are seamlessly introduced to

school and settle in rapidly when they move on.

The centre is, as many parents and professionals put it, 'the hub of life in the Angel area'. Families living in the area for a short while and those that have put down roots say that the positive relationships they have built are essential to their well-being and to help them improve their lives. Families treat each other with respect and build up a sense of belonging and form friendships across language groups. Parents attend breakfasts and 'knit and natter' session that give staff the opportunity to capture their views and routinely feed these through to management and governance reports. Some parents are becoming interested in, and taking up, training for a formal representative role on the advisory board.

Benefits and financial advice sessions, particularly around forthcoming benefits changes, are doing a lot to enable parents to plan forward. The centre works with parents to provide English as a Second Language classes in line with parents' levels of need and listens to requests for different course themes. The take-up of basic English as a Second Language and levels of referral to basic skills classes is high and success rates are outstanding. The large numbers of volunteers make very good headway in building their curriculum vitae, taking up formal qualifications to move on when they wish to take up employment.

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	1
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	2
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	1

How good is the provision?

The centre offers an exemplary match of the programme and services to the current needs of groups and individuals through outreach and partnership working. Although a high proportion of families come and go from the area during any one year, the numbers contacted and encouraged to take up services are high. Nearly all targeted families engage with the centre and show very good improvement in outcomes. Outcomes are improving for the large majority in the area. Where outcomes are not yet improving as well as the centre and partners would like, for example in the take-up of midwifery services among some groups in the community, the centre further adapts the programme and its efforts.

Close operational links with early intervention, health and social services partners ensures that assessments of individual needs are accurate and their circumstances fully understood. The centre has been among the leaders of change in gathering information from parents through simplifying initial registration forms. Staff are enthusing parents, including those at a very early stage of speaking English, with the implementation of video recording methodology, 'making learning visible', to capture parents' views about their children's progress in ways that ensure the full participation of parents. Ongoing detailed and robust assessment of children's progress and parents' engagement enables exemplary information-sharing with other professionals such as social workers.

Exceptional partnership work with the linked Raynham Primary School ensures that the environment for children and families to learn is outstanding. Staff are highly skilled and benefit from continual professional development, particularly as they implement the 'Growing together' stay-and-play programme for targeted families. Staff focus outstandingly well on the quality of their interaction with children, promoting new vocabulary and understanding throughout the day, in child-initiated sorting activities, at snack time and when visiting the farm. Activities are chosen with care for each family attending stay and play so that enthusiasm for learning runs through every session. Parents are encouraged to stretch their learning through volunteering and courses. Celebrations of achievements are held frequently and embrace diverse cultures and languages.

Children are cared for exceptionally well in day care, as is evident in their enjoyment of activities and appetites for the delicious healthy lunches. Skilled intervention by practitioners ensures that children with learning difficulties, and the many at a very early stage of learning English, are included and can take part fully. The centre coordinates guidance to parents for a range of developmental and social needs. Staff ensure that information and advice are always ready and given in a way that is relevant to individuals in the centre. As one parent commented, 'The centre wastes no time in telling me what is new as I pass through the corridor.' Appointments with JobCentre Plus advisors, counsellors and therapists are at a time and in places that parents can reach. Outreach workers make sure that parents access their appointments and keep careful track of outcomes to maintain improvement.

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

How effective are the leadership and management?

1

Leaders and managers of the centre are innovative and show their drive to excellence through well-founded changes in care and learning provision. To sustain services but better serve the immediate community, the centre is shifting priorities to target families for closer work with parents through the 'Growing together' scheme and two-year-old part-time places. The management team of the centre works closely with the linked primary school to provide supervision and high quality professional development for all staff. The head of centre and governors skilfully scrutinise the work of the centre, leading with a vision of high expectations for families in the area. High performance and improving outcomes have been maintained through the dedication of staff at all levels, underpinned by the centre's profound understanding of the challenges facing the large majority of families in the area.

Leaders, managers and partners, guided by the strategic visions of the local authority, carefully shape the programme of coherent integrated services to have greatest impact on targeted groups and individuals, forming the majority of the reach population, while maintaining access to all through universal services. Financial management is sound and well supported by the local authority systems. Priorities are well founded on evidence. The centre works hard with local partners to gain a complete and accurate picture where data provided by the local authority through commissioning are not detailed to the centre's reach area level. It does this, for example to gather local breastfeeding data and the end of Early Years Foundation Stage profile information from other than from the linked primary school.

Operational arrangements with service-provider partners focus on priorities and are monitored highly effectively by the centre's managers. Partnerships contribute outstandingly well to the breadth of the programme, particularly for safeguarding and to provide early intervention services for children with additional needs. Safeguarding is at the top of all staff's and volunteers' agenda. Systems are effectively in place to ensure safety checks and safeguarding procedures are thoroughly implemented. Safe recruitment and visitor monitoring are robust. Staff are very well trained in child protection procedures and demonstrate best practice, which supports the excellent outcomes for vulnerable families.

The advisory board strongly incorporates the views of essential local authority and health partners. User views are routinely sought among current and potential families and systematically feed in through the centre’s managers to the advisory board discussions. With a highly mobile local population, the centre has done much through creative groupwork to ensure that the voices of families and the community are heard. A parent is currently in training to become an advisory board representative. However, awareness among parents of the formal opportunities to become representatives is low.

Inclusion and overcoming barriers to achievement drives the work of the centre. These are reflected in the accessible and inspirational environment that does so much to improve both the physical and emotional well-being of families attending the centre, no matter what their background. The flexibility of the programme is a strength and is central to the centre’s ability to narrow the achievement gap and improve outcomes for disadvantaged families. Outstanding value for money is achieved through partnerships, excellent outreach services and through maximising the use of the premises and the high reach figures. The significant strengths in partnerships ensure sustainability of the centre’s success.

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 effectiveness of evaluation and its use in setting ambitious targets which secure improvement in outcomes	1
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

Inspectors took account of the most recent inspection findings for Raynham Primary School. The school was last inspected in December 2012 and was judged to have good overall effectiveness with outstanding features. The full inspection report is available from our website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

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Summary for centre users

We inspected the Angel Raynham Children's Centre on 9 and 10 January 2013. We judged the centre as outstanding overall.

We would like to thank all the parents and children that we met during our visit. Thank you very much for taking the time to talk to us about the work of the centre and for letting us join in activities with you.

Angel Raynham Children's Centre gives you outstanding support to make the most of your children's early years.

The centre makes all families, whether new to the area or established in the community, and no matter what language you speak, welcome at the centre and has great hopes for all to do as well as possible. All managers, leaders and staff do their best to find out about difficulties you are facing and to overcome them.

The centre works very closely with Raynham Primary School to provide the wonderful outdoor area and farm which many of you told us you love to walk and play in. You and your children told us you feel free to learn and explore here and your attendance is very good.

You and your children learn and develop personal skills outstandingly well. Other organisations such as Enfield Libraries, speech and language therapists and English as a Second Language tutors are a great help. There is always good advice and information available. You grow in your confidence in parenting and many of you are supported to take steps in further training and getting into employment if you want to.

Children are very well prepared for starting school through their very good experience at the centre. From whatever level children start at, they make excellent progress and the large majority reach a good level of skills by the time they go into school.

The care for families' safety is excellent. You are safeguarded extremely well by staff at the centre and their partner organisations. All but a small minority take up health checks at the right time, get support for breastfeeding and get immunisations for their children. Health workers would like to see nearly all families doing these things and we have asked the centre to help them encourage these families.

The centre does a lot to make sure they listen to your views of what works and what you would like to see at the centre. We found that not many of you are aware of how you can become more involved in making decisions that affect the centre through the governors and advisory board. We have asked the centre and partner organisations to find ways of making you more aware and helping you to get involved.

We think that the centre is very well managed and gives good value for money. The centre has a track record of deciding well what activities to put on to match what the great majority of families need. Your lives are improving as you take part in centre services. With the strong partnerships in place, we are certain that the centre can go on improving its work.

We wish you and your children every success in the future.

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