

Camp Hill Children's Centre Nuneaton

Camp Hill Primary and Early Years Centre, Hollystitches Road, Nuneaton, CV10 9QA

Inspection date 3–4 July 2013

Overall effectiveness	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
Access to services by young children and families		Requires improvement	3
The quality of practice and services		Requires improvement	3
The effectiveness of leadership, governance and management		Requires improvement	3

Summary of key findings for children and families

This is a centre that requires improvement. It is not good because:

- The collection and use of data to plan and monitor services and the impact they have on all target groups is not fully effective.
- The centre does not consistently follow up parents that have attended adult training to find out how well they do. This is also the case for children who attend the centre sessions such as 'Play and Stay', and when they move on to school.
- Activities delivered with health partners, to encourage mothers to breastfeed are not yet having a good enough effect on improving breastfeeding rates.
- Not enough parents are involved in the centre's decision-making or governance. There are currently no parents on the advisory board.
- New developments in local authority target setting and review systems are not yet enabling a clear view of the centre's performance.

This centre has the following strengths:

- Support for families with the most need who engage with services is timely, of a good quality and delivered through effective joint working with other professional and voluntary agencies.
- Parents benefit greatly from attending structured parenting programmes and from individual support. They gain in confidence, learn new parenting skills and develop a better understanding of their children's needs.
- Safeguarding arrangements are good and safety is actively promoted. Staff work well with a wide range of partners to reduce the risk of harm to families.
- Day to day management of the staff team is good and there is a strong commitment to improving services at all levels.

Information about this inspection

The inspection of this children's centre was carried out under Part 3A of the Childcare Act 2006 as amended by the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009.

This inspection was carried out by two additional inspectors.

The inspectors held meetings with the centre manager, family support and early years workers, officers from the local authority and members of the governing body. They also met health, education and early years partners, parents, volunteers and representatives of the advisory board. Visits to activities were undertaken by inspectors, some jointly with the centre manager who attended all team meetings. Inspectors looked at the centre's self-evaluation, action planning, a sample of case studies, safeguarding procedures and a range of other relevant documentation.

Inspection team

Mary Dudley Lead inspector	Additional inspector
Karen Cooper	Additional inspector

Full report

Information about the centre/group

Camp Hill Children's Centre was opened as a stand-alone centre in 2005 in a former mining area in the north-west of Nuneaton. A regeneration programme, 'Pride of Camp Hill' is underway in the area and much of the housing stock is currently being upgraded or replaced. Most of the families in the area are White British (93.3%) with no other ethnic group of any size. The area has the highest teenage pregnancy rate in the county, considerable levels of unemployment, families in receipt of benefits and workless households. A high percentage of adults have no formal qualifications, one in ten 16-18 year olds are not in education, training or employment, and most children in the area enter Early Years provision with skills typically below the level expected for their age.

The centre is part of the Camp Hill Early Years Centre and in partnership with other providers, it delivers early education, health services, family support and adult learning courses. Camp Hill Nursery and Hollyberries Daycare share the building and are subject to separate inspection arrangements. The centre manager manages the children's centre and also has responsibility for the whole Early Years Centre building, though not the other services delivered from it.. The children's centre is managed by the governing body of Camp Hill Primary and Early Years Centre on behalf of Warwickshire County Council. It is also supported by an advisory board which also oversees Stockingford and Park Lane children's centres. The local authority is currently consulting on its review of children's centres across the county.

The centre has identified its specific target groups as teenage and young parents, workless families, fathers and lone parents.

What does the centre need to do to improve further?

- Strengthen the level of challenge from the local authority and governing body by:
 - improving the collection and use of data to provide a clear picture of the families using the centres' services and the difference they are making to their lives.
 - embedding local authority target setting and review systems so that the centre's performance is monitored more rigorously
 - quickly establishing the business plan for this year.
- Measure how well children and adults make progress during their engagement with centre-led activities and always keep track of how well they do when they take up other services.
- Work with health colleagues to develop more ante-natal support that encourages a much higher proportion of mothers to breastfeed their babies for longer.
- Extend parents' involvement in the governance of the centre and increase their representation on the advisory board.

Inspection judgements

Access to services by young children and families

Requires improvement

- Despite registering the very large majority of local families, the centre is not sure exactly how many target families they are helping to improve their lives, because they are not collecting all the information they have in one place. For example, the families that they are providing with additional support are not recorded on the same system as those that attend activities.
- Staff at the centre know the families in the community well, through their own local knowledge and through that of partner organisations such as health and education. They make contact with all families with new born babies and do many home visits to make sure that families who need help are supported effectively until their needs are met. This is a positive strategy for encouraging

families to participate in appropriate services in going forward.

- The centre is keen to offer activities for all families with young children, so many activities such as 'Play and Stay' sessions, a Drop In café and summer events are put on for all families to enjoy. Families that may find themselves in difficult circumstances or who need advice or information, for example about education and training, are well served by caring and knowledgeable staff at the centre.
- Outreach work has a positive impact on the lives of teenage parents, young mothers and fathers who benefit from groups such as the 'Parents Group' that help them to sustain their involvement with services. Fathers are also encouraged to join the 'Dad's Group' which helps them build stronger relationships with their children.
- The centre works well with local providers to ensure that many disadvantaged two-year-old children benefit from early education. Staff also provide information for parents on pre-schools and nurseries for three and four-year-olds, but don't always follow up to be sure parents have been successful in finding the place they want for their child.

The quality of practice and services

Requires improvement

- Target families that find themselves in difficult circumstances are helped to identify the most pressing issues they face and are then supported to address them. For example, bespoke early help assists teenage, workless and lone parents to deal with housing and benefit issues, sort out debt problems and overcome feelings of isolation.
- The proportion of mothers that breastfeed their babies when they are born, and who are still breastfeeding when babies are six weeks old is well below the national average. Practical sessions such as 'Breast Friends Hour' are in place to give encouragement to new mothers. However, the centre has recognised that there is a greater need for more ante-natal support if breastfeeding rates are to improve.
- In groups such as 'Chatter Matters', progress is monitored and improvement in children's speech and language is carefully recorded. However in 'Play and Stay' sessions there is no initial assessment of the needs of the children that attend regularly, and the recent introduction of learning journeys is still very new so that children's progress cannot be effectively shared with parents. The centre does not track the children it works with to identify how well they achieve when they go into Nursery or other Early Years provision and this is a missed opportunity to check the impact of its work to reduce inequalities.
- An effective partnership with Adult and Community Learning Services means that parents are offered a wide range of courses at the centre. Parents who complete literacy, numeracy and information technology (IT) courses almost all successfully gain qualifications. However, the centre does not check to see whether parents it refers to courses successfully complete them, or if they go on to further training or employment.
- Volunteers in the centre, some of whom are parents, benefit from good quality training and as a result many of them go on to employment and further training. Some parents contribute new ideas for activities and all parents are encouraged to evaluate the activities they have taken part in, but not many do.
- Children and families most in need of support are appropriately assessed and provided with the early help they need to improve their well-being. Case files are carefully maintained. Where a developmental need is identified at a child's two year progress check, effective support is offered to meet that need.
- The centre balances its programme to enable access for all with specific services planned to meet the needs of key groups. For example, it regularly runs successful parenting programmes and many families have taken part in them in recent years. Parents speak passionately of the skills and techniques they have learnt which they say make them better parents and as a consequence recognise improvements in their children's behaviour.

The effectiveness of leadership, governance and management

Requires improvement

- Changes to target setting and review processes have led to some confusion and a lack of rigour in the local authority's monitoring of the centre's performance. For example, the evaluation of the 2012 business plan is incomplete three months after the end of the planning year. Additionally, the new business plan is not yet in place.
- The governing body is conscientious in its oversight of the centre. It regularly challenges information provided in order to drive forward the centre's improvement. However, the collection of data is not sufficient to allow governors to accurately monitor the impact of all of the services provided to families.
- Parent's views are gathered informally and are used to help shape services. There are two parents on the governing body but no parental representation on the advisory board and no parents' forum, as such parents have limited involvement in the governance and decision-making of the centre.
- The centre manager provides good day to day management of the centre and has a proactive role in the community and its regeneration. There is a strong commitment to improving services both in the centre and the wider community.
- The culture of safeguarding is well-established in the centre. Staff work closely with health and social care partners to reduce the risk of harm to children, including those subject to a child protection plan or who are identified as being in need. Strong family support systems are in place that help improve the safety and well-being of children and are underpinned by good use of the Common Assessment Framework process.
- Resources are used efficiently to meet the needs of children and families in the area. Staff share in the centre leader's vision, work creatively with other children's centres and partner organisations to overcome challenges to effective service delivery. Staff feel well supported through regular supervision and the opportunities they have for their on-going professional development.

What inspection judgements mean

Grade	Judgement	Description
Grade 1	Outstanding	Practice consistently reflects the highest aspirations for children and their families and as a result inequalities are reducing rapidly and gaps are closing.
Grade 2	Good	Practice enables most children and their families to access good quality services that improve children's wellbeing and achieve the stated outcomes for families.
Grade 3	Requires improvement	Performance is not as good as it might reasonably be expected to be in one or more key areas.
Grade 4	Inadequate	The needs of children and families in its area are not being met and/or the leaders and managers are not providing sufficient challenge to bring about improvement to the quality of services.

Children's Centre details

Unique reference number	20550
Local authority	Warwickshire
Inspection number	423065
Managed by	The governing body of Camp Hill Primary School and Early Years Centre on behalf of the local authority

Approximate number of children under five in the reach area	567
Centre leader	Denise Galland
Date of previous inspection	Not previously inspected
Telephone number	02476-346155
Email address	galland.d@welearn365.com; admin2640@welearn.com

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