

Stanley Children's Centre

Long Causeway, Stanley, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF3 4JB

Inspection date 3–4 July 2013

Overall effectiveness	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not previously inspected	
Access to services by young children and families		Good	2
The quality of practice and services		Good	2
The effectiveness of leadership, governance and management		Good	2

Summary of key findings for children and families

This is a good centre.

- The very large majority of families in the community are registered with the centre and have good access to the wide range of services it provides. Families value the centre highly and comment a great deal about its welcoming environment and caring staff.
- Sessions such as 'Brush up Your English' and employability training help parents to improve their life chances. A large majority access good quality learning and training activities at the centre. This enables them to improve their knowledge and skills and also their ability to support their children's learning and development.
- As a result of the good work of the centre and also its effective work with partners from schools, nurseries and other providers, children make good progress from their starting points. They are well-prepared for school and do well across the Early Years Foundation Stage profile.
- Families from all types of backgrounds and circumstances receive very good support from the centre and its partners. As a result, these families overcome personal and other barriers and are kept safe from harm.
- Leadership, management and governance arrangements are good and are key to the centre's success and its constantly improving performance. Good use of data and effective work with partners enable leaders and managers to keep a close eye on the needs of the community and to plan services that match those needs.

It is not outstanding because:

- The centre is not yet engaging the very large majority of families in the community.
- Breastfeeding rates are higher than district levels but not as high as national rates.
- Monitoring from the local authority lacks ambition and challenge.

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.

Inspectors held meetings with the headteacher and deputy headteacher of Stanley St Peter's Primary School, representatives from the advisory board, health specialists, centre staff, staff from a another children's centre , representatives from the local authority, representatives from local schools and nurseries and parents.

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

Inspection team

Priscilla McGuire

Additional Inspector, Lead Inspector

Sheila Iwaskow

Additional Inspector

Full report

Information about the centre

Stanley is a phase two, stand-alone centre in Wakefield which opened in summer 2008. The majority of families are from White British backgrounds but a small number of Polish families have settled in the area. The centre is located within the 70% most deprived area and there are two significant areas of deprivation within the reach, one located in Stanley and the other in Outwood. The centre is managed by the governing body of Stanley St Peter's School on behalf of the local authority and shares its site with the school, which is subject to separate inspection arrangements. The inspection report for the school can be found on our website at www.ofsted.gov.uk. An advisory board which includes representatives from partners and parents supports the work of the centre. The most recent data indicate that about 7% of children live in households dependent on workless benefits. On entry to Early Years provision, children's skills are at levels typical for their age. Services offered at the centre include adult learning, early education, health services and family support.

At the time of inspection, the centre was in a period of transition. Since the resignation of the previous centre manager, as an interim measure, the headteacher of Stanley St Peter's School has been carrying out the responsibilities of the centre manager in conjunction with the deputy headteacher. A new centre manager has been appointed and will start at the end of July 2013.

What does the centre need to do to improve further?

- Increase participation rates further to ensure that a very large majority of families benefit from the good services offered.
- Ensure that the local authority's arrangements for monitoring the performance of the centre include ambitious and measureable targets for improvement.
- Continue to improve the effectiveness of services to help families develop healthy lifestyles by building on existing good work and increasing breastfeeding rates at six-to-eight weeks so that they are in line with or exceed national rates.

Inspection judgements

Access to services by young children and families

Good

- The very large majority of families in the community are registered with the centre and have access to good quality services and activities that they find interesting and useful. This is because staff know the local community well and plan and provide services that are relevant to families.
- Leaders and managers work well with partners such as schools, nurseries and health workers and use data to identify the needs of different types of families within the community and to ensure that those in need of the most help are given help at the earliest opportunity.
- Centre staff continually analyse data about attendance and know which families regularly access services and which need more encouragement to attend. This enables them to take successful action to provide services such as home visits or activities at different venues around the community to reach new families. A large, but not yet very large, majority of families currently engage in centre activities.
- The very large majority of families with the most needs are accessing free nursery places. This is because the centre provides good quality guidance and information about these places and also works very productively with local providers.
- Staff use their good knowledge of the needs of individual families to direct them to the most appropriate service within the centre or to refer them to other specialist sources of help that meet their needs.

The quality of practice and services

Good

- Good quality services and activities are provided for families. Activities such as 'Toddler Time' and 'Infant Massage' are very carefully planned to promote the learning and well-being of children. The centre ensures that there is an appropriate balance between services that are available for all families and those that are more specialised and aimed at particular types of family such as those with the most needs.
- The centre uses its strong partnerships with local schools and other providers to plan and provide good quality services and activities which help children to develop good skills and to be well-prepared for school. As a result, a high percentage of children do well across the Early Years Foundation Stage profile and develop skills that improve their chances of success in later life.
- A large majority of parents participate in well-planned courses and activities that improve their parenting skills. As a result, parents gain confidence in their parenting skills, learn how to manage their children's behaviour effectively and are better equipped to support their children's development.
- A large majority of parents who access adult learning courses such as 'Brush Up Your English' do well. They improve their literacy skills, gain qualifications and become better equipped to support their children's learning and to progress to further education.
- The centre's family support arrangements are highly effective and well-managed. The family support team works tirelessly to assess the needs of families and to provide families with the most appropriate source of early help. This reduces the risk of harm to families and keeps them safe.
- Good quality healthy-eating courses help parents learn how to provide healthy meals for their families. As a result, the centre is doing well in meeting targets to reduce obesity rates which are now slightly lower than national rates. However, breastfeeding rates at six-to-eight weeks after delivery, although higher than the rates for Wakefield, are still below national rates.

The effectiveness of leadership, governance and management

Good

- Leadership, management and governance arrangements are effective. The advisory board scrutinises the work of the centre and uses data well to monitor its performance. As a result, the centre receives effective support and challenge from the board and is able to assess accurately its performance.
- Inclusion and equality are actively promoted and every effort is made to reduce inequalities, to remove barriers and to challenge discrimination. The success of the centre in this regard is seen in the narrowing of the achievement gap for those children who do well and those who do not across the Early Years Foundation Stage profile. In addition, sessions such as those organised for the 'adopters' group' offer good support and activities for families who share a unique set of circumstances.
- Monitoring from the local authority is good in some aspects and some measureable targets such as those for obesity rates are set to drive improvement. However, not enough of these targets are set. Action plans for improvement lack challenge and do not include enough ambitious targets to drive improvement.
- The centre ensures that families are at the heart of its work by involving them in a range of decision-making processes. Parents are well-represented on the advisory board and also contribute to the running of the centre through their roles on the parents' forum. They also contribute ideas for activities and their views are routinely captured through the electronic survey in the centre's foyer. As a result of all of this, levels of satisfaction from families are very high.
- Partnership arrangements are strong and highly effective. This enables the centre to provide a wide range of services and activities that reflect the needs of families and the community as a whole.
- As a result of effective partnership work and skilled budgeting, the quality and range of resources and accommodation are good and well-managed. The quality of resources to promote learning such as smart boards in training rooms is also good. Staff are supervised well and their personal work targets are clearly linked to the overall priorities for the centre.
- Safeguarding arrangements, including use of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) to assess needs of families, are good. The centre and its partners do their very best to ensure that families are kept safe from harm. Through partnership work with its designated social worker and other agencies, the centre is able to provide early help to families at risk of harm and provides good support to families with children subject to child protection plans, to looked-after children and to children in need.

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.

Select details

Unique reference number	22914
Local authority	Wakefield
Inspection number	420710
Managed by	The governing body of Stanley St Peter's Primary School on behalf of the local authority
Approximate number of children under five in the reach area	922
Centre leader	Lee Wilson
Date of previous inspection	Not previously inspected
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