

Coleridge Children's Centre

Coleridge Primary School, Coleridge Road, Rotherham, South Yorkshire, S65 1LW

Inspection date 24–25 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.

- A large majority of young children and their families, from an extremely diverse multicultural community, live together harmoniously. They access a good range of vibrant, high quality and inclusive services that the centre provides.
- The highly skilled staff are very passionate about supporting families to manage very difficult situations well for themselves. As a result, they have built very trusting relationships with parents, some of whom now eagerly support the centre's work.
- All children using the centre services make good progress from some low starting points. Careful planning with daycare providers across the area helps to make sure children are well prepared for entering a school environment.
- Partnership working is good and parents can rely on good quality care, guidance and support. A wide range of professionals, with different backgrounds and expertise, work well together to help parents improve their life chances and keep children safe from harm.
- Leadership, management and governance arrangements are good and drive the centre's success. Regular consultation with families and close checking of information the centre collects help staff to make sure practice and services are well planned to match culturally diverse families' needs.

It is not outstanding because:

- A high number of mothers smoke during pregnancy, and the percentage of children who are overweight when they enter school continues to remain stubbornly high.
- Development planning is complex and lengthy so the centre reduces the amount of information that they share with parents and partners on the advisory board at any one time. However, this hampers the board members' knowledge and understanding of the full picture regarding the centre's on-going future development plans.

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, the senior leadership team, family support and outreach workers and representatives from the local authority. They also met with members of the advisory board, parents and key partners.

The inspectors visited the activities which took place at the centre, in families' homes, and at the 'Community Café' and Eastwood village community room.

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

Inspection team

Sue Pepper	Additional Inspector, Lead Inspector
Jean Webb	Additional Inspector

Full report

Information about the centre

Coleridge Children's Centre was designated as a phase one single centre in 2007. It is located on a shared site within Coleridge Primary School alongside the integrated daycare. The school and the daycare provision are subject to separate inspection arrangements and their reports can be found on the Ofsted website at www.ofsted.gov.uk. The local authority is now responsible for the management of the centre with the aid of an established advisory board.

The centre is situated in the Eastwood area of Rotherham. Over half of the families living in the area originate from different countries and over 30 different home languages are spoken. There has been a significant rise in Eastern European families, many of whom arrive speaking little or no English, and an increasing number of families seeking asylum who reside temporarily within the area.

All families live in an area ranked amongst the 30% most deprived nationally, with half living within the 5% most deprived nationally. There are significant levels of social and economic disadvantage and high levels of unemployment. Lone parents are a significant target group. The majority of parents are in receipt of benefits. Families face a varied range of challenges and issues including substance misuse, domestic violence and mental health issues. Parents have access to family support, adult learning and health services. Approximately 970 children under five years of age live in the community. Most children enter early years provision with a range of experiences and skills below those expected for their age.

What does the centre need to do to improve further?

- Build on the existing good work with health services to promote further healthy lifestyles in the area by:
 - increasing the percentage of children in the Reception Year who are a healthy weight
 - checking more closely the impact of smoking cessation programmes on reducing the number of mothers who smoke in pregnancy.
- Strengthen the capacity of the advisory board to challenge further the centre's on-going development by simplifying the development planning so that parents and partners can see more easily what the centre does well and where it needs to improve.

Inspection judgements

Access to services by young children and families

Good

- Good partnerships with midwives and health visitors help the centre to identify most families with young children. As a result, the centre has greatly increased the registration and engagement of families. They are constantly striving to increase further the numbers attending their wide range of services, especially fathers.
- Families seeking asylum are extremely positive about the warm welcome and good support they receive during their time in the area. Staff know which families need more encouragement to join in. They keep in regular contact by meeting them in their own homes, at services or by sending parents regular texts alerts.
- Parents are regularly consulted to make sure the centre's services are easy for families to access. For example, the centre provides crèche facilities so parents can attend training and leaders responded to requests from parents for more services near to where they live. Groups running from schools and venues within the community are thriving. Families particularly enjoy the good range of interesting summer holiday events and free trips to the seaside which the centre provides.
- The centre manager works closely with schools and providers offering daycare to children to ensure services continue to meet the needs of the different multicultural families within the diverse community. Provision is developing well to meet the increasing demand for nursery places for two-year-olds. A large majority of parents are well supported to access free, good quality early years nursery places for their children.
- Family support and outreach workers have good knowledge of the varied and extremely difficult issues facing many families. Those who are suffering real poverty quickly get the right professional, practical help they need, such as clothes, food parcels or basic safety equipment. A parent stated this support was 'a remarkable turning point in our life'.

The quality of practice and services

Good

- A strong commitment is in place to promote the good health, well-being and equality of children even before they are born. For example, the 'Bumps and Babes' playgroup provides good quality support and advice for all expectant mothers. Uptake of immunisation is high. Despite more families agreeing to keep their homes smoke free through targeted support, it is unclear how many mothers stop smoking during pregnancy and numbers remain too high.
- Parents are taught how to care for their babies' teeth to reduce dental decay, which is widespread. Healthy eating is highly encouraged through good quality courses, such as 'Cook and Eat' where parents learn about the importance of later weaning, what a healthy balanced diet consists of and how this can be achieved on a low budget. Through 'Fit Family Walks', families are becoming more physically active, although high levels of obesity continue to be an issue in the area, particularly for children.
- There is a strong emphasis on improving children's communication and language skills. This support is starting to show dividends as the gap in children's achievements is slowly beginning to close. High numbers of children are registered with the 'Imagination Library' and they receive monthly, high quality, age-appropriate free books. This superb opportunity promotes a love of stories and staff use characters from them well to plan exciting creative activities to develop children's imaginations further.
- Parents say that by attending 'Little Learners' or borrowing story sacks they are supported to improve their parenting skills and help their children learn at home. Close partnership work with schools and local private providers of childcare helps drive the good quality assessment and observations on individual children. These help children make at least good progress in their learning and development.
- There are good opportunities for parents to improve their parenting skills and self-confidence. Some parents have attended a wide range of courses such as, English lessons for speakers of other languages, sewing, first aid and basic numeracy. Some of these courses are accredited and the numbers attending are high. Work with, for example, 'Wiseability', local colleges and the well-

established 'Work Club' is helping to improve adults' employability skills.

The effectiveness of leadership, governance and management

Good

- Effective partnership arrangements with the co-located school promote good sharing of resources. The newly appointed and efficient centre manager has very quickly adapted to her new role because she was the centre's previous deputy manager and lead teacher.
- Good governance has ensured the small staff team has increased in size to meet the high level of need in the area. Effective procedures are in place to ensure staff are well supported and trained. Leaders know the centre has a good impact locally due to the good quality practice and services.
- The local authority set challenging targets to increase the attendance of target groups to reduce inequalities. Self-evaluation is accurate and staff have show clear commitment to implementing their extensive development plans. They acknowledge however, that they are difficult to share with others due to their complexity. This hinders the capacity of the advisory board to challenge the centre's work further.
- A strong, inclusive community spirit drives the school and centre motto, 'it takes a community to raise a child'. The centre works closely with 'Clifton Partnership' to promote superb community events. For example, transport is provided for significant numbers of Eastern European families living in Eastwood village to travel to the 'Community Café' where they enjoy good support and a communal meal at an extremely positive social event.
- Some parents act as volunteers. 'Rising Stars' is a self-help group set up by a parent to support others with disabled children or children with special educational needs. Other parents act as translators or are trained as breastfeeding peer supporters.
- Parents are confident and valued members of the advisory board who understand their roles to support and challenge the centre's performance; a parent is the chairperson.
- The experienced staff team work well together and have built a very good reputation within the local community. They help parents who are not ready to express their ideas formally to be more involved in decision making by constantly seeking their views. All users of the centre are able to contribute to the shaping of efficient services and express high levels of satisfaction.
- The safeguarding of families is a real strength. Staff follow and regularly review a comprehensive range of policies and procedures. Staff use the Common Assessment Framework well to work with children subject to child protection plans or identified as in need. They provide good practical support in some extreme situations such as very poor housing conditions which helps parents to create a safer home environment for their children.

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	20792
Local authority	Rotherham
Inspection number	421453
Managed by	The local authority
Approximate number of children under five in the reach area	970
Centre leader	Anita Butcher
Date of previous inspection	Not previously inspected
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