

Roundhay Children's Centre

Gledhow Primary School, Lidgett Lane, Leeds North, LS8 1PL

Inspection date 21-23 January 2014

| 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 quality of information the centre has about families attending the centre is very good and provides up-to-date, accurate information about performance and the difference the centre is making. This, along with regularly seeking the views of parents and partners, helps the leader and staff plan and deliver a range of good-quality services which engage and benefit the vast majority of local families, including those families most in need.
- The local authority provides detailed information and useful support, and visits regularly to check how well the centre is doing, and how secure the evidence is for this. The centre's leadership, management and governance can show year-on-year improvement to practice and services.
- Parents report high levels of satisfaction and feel very involved in the centre. They are fully involved in helping to shape services and contribute well to the advisory board.
- The centre and its health partners pay particularly good attention to improving the health of parents and children. As a result, local children and families enjoy very good health outcomes.
- The highly effective team of outreach workers provides much-needed help to families who face significant barriers including increasing numbers of Czech and Polish Gypsy Roma families who face additional problems. This, combined with effective partnership working, has helped some families become involved in the centre who otherwise might have chosen not to access services.
- Safeguarding is at the heart of the centre's activities and families say the centre provides a safe, welcoming and friendly environment.

It is not outstanding because:

- The leadership does not know the difference the centre makes to the achievement of children from families using their centre because it does not track children's progress systematically. The centre does not work with local schools closely enough to be able to compare the difference in the children's levels on entry to school-based provision.
- There are not enough good or better quality places for all eligible two-year-olds in the reach.
- The advisory board is not able to support, challenge and hold the centre fully to account because not all advisory board members have received training to support their roles.

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. It was carried out at the same time as the inspection of Moortown Children's Centre.

This inspection was carried out by two of Her Majesty's Inspectors and one additional inspector.

The inspectors held meetings with the leaders of Moortown and Roundhay centres, managers of the NEXT cluster, local headteachers, outreach workers, Jobcentre Plus, officers from the local authority and local training partners. They met with health, education and early years partners, parents, volunteers and spoke with the Chair of the Advisory Board. They reviewed the centre's self-evaluation, action plan, safeguarding policies and procedures, and tracked a sample of cases.

The inspectors visited three children centres, a local nursery and local school.

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

Inspection team

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Dr Pamela Blackman | Her Majesty's Inspector, Lead Inspector |
| Linda Mclarty | Her Majesty's Inspector |
| Cathryn Parry | Additional Inspector |

Full report

Information about the centre

Roundhay Children's Centre is a phase 3 children's centre located on the school site of Gledhow Primary School, 4.4 miles north of Leeds city centre. Roundhay and Moortown Children's Centre share line management and advisory board arrangements and deliver a joint timetable of courses and activities. Joint governance is provided by the Leeds Next Cluster Joint Collaborative Committee. Roundhay centre does not offer integrated childcare.

While the ward appears to be one of moderate affluence, areas such as the Lincombes and Brackenwood display high levels of deprivation and are ranked 10% in the most deprived nationally, according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007. Roundhay is a diverse area of Leeds with increasing numbers of families from ethnic minority heritage groups, working families and families on low incomes. The levels of deprivation within the area are increasing with high levels of privately rented property and a transient population. Increasing numbers of families are moving in to the area from the Czech Republic and Poland, especially within two Super Output Areas of the reach area.

There are 2262 children under five years living in the Roundhay and Moortown area of whom 95% are registered with the centre. The children enter school-based early years provision with skills and knowledge below those expected for their age.

Working collaboratively with Moortown Children's Centre, Roundhay offers a wide range of services designed to support new parents, growing children and adults. These include health advice and checks, adult and family learning opportunities, outreach family support work and services within three local primary schools. The centre seeks to focus much of its work on families and children who most need support, including: lone parents, families suffering domestic violence, families where parents have mental health issues, families who are unemployed or with low incomes and children with additional needs, including those subject to child protection plans.

What does the centre need to do to improve further?

- Work with the private and voluntary settings and primary schools to develop and implement robust systems to track children's progress in order to measure how well the centre prepares children for school, and how well it narrows the achievement gap between the lowest-performing 20% of children and their peers.
- Work with the local authority to provide sufficient good or better quality places for all current and anticipated eligible two-year-olds, so they receive good-quality care and learning experiences.
- Improve the ability of the advisory board to offer sufficient challenge, and to hold the centre to account for the difference it is making to local families' lives, by providing suitable training for all board members.

Inspection judgements

Access to services by young children and families

Good

- All staff working at Roundhay centre have a very thorough understanding of the needs of local families. This is well informed by the centre's own activities, including extended local outreach and door knocking. It is based on a very accurate analysis of the thorough and detailed data provided by the local authority and effective partnerships with most other local agencies, particularly health and children's social care. As a result, the vast majority of families in the locality are known to the centre, with good levels of contact during pregnancy.
- Roundhay centre has been successful in ensuring that over 95% of local families are regularly involved in centre activities, the large majority of which are from targeted groups. Involvement with families is carefully monitored, helping the centre measure the impact of its work.
- Tracking shows that the very large majority of targeted families who are referred to centre services remain engaged until their needs are met, after which they return to universal services, where monitoring carries on, in order to ensure that provision continues to meet needs.
- Outreach workers are very proactive in the local community, developing and supporting families to engage with the centre and other local services. This has facilitated the engagement of an increasing number of families experiencing domestic violence, parenting issues, mental health concerns, housing and financial issues and ensures that the provision of good support for families is helping them improve their own and their children's health, well-being and economic circumstances.
- Staff at Roundhay work particularly effectively with the increasing numbers of Czech and Polish Gypsy Roma Traveller families who face additional challenges in relation to language barriers and stigma in the local area. Staff are very proactive, working well in partnership with advisory staff in the local authority to ensure that the services they offer are tailored appropriately to meet the needs of these families.
- All three- and four-year-olds take up their funded places. Just under half of all eligible two-year-olds take up their entitlement to free nursery education, although all of them currently attend settings judged by Ofsted to be good or better. However, there are currently not enough good or better quality places for all eligible two-year-olds in the areas served by the children's centre.

The quality of practice and services

Good

- The centre has a healthy balance of universal and targeted services, and regularly checks with parents that the services it offers continue to meet their needs. The high engagement levels show that this is effective.
- The centre leader accurately checks the quality of the sessions regularly. Centre staff in these good-quality sessions show parents how to make the most of the learning opportunities through the use of the attractive range of resources and interesting activities on offer, and this helps parents to contribute to their children's learning and development.
- An effective referral system and good multi-agency partnership working supported by the Guidance and Support Panel and joint allocation meetings, ensure that the families with significant challenges benefit from very targeted provision delivered by well-trained, experienced staff. One parent said about the centre, 'it would be hard to cope without them - they are thoughtful, kind and always there.'
- Well-qualified outreach workers undertake in-depth assessments of the families who are most in need. Work is very focused, with good tracking and monitoring of cases and confident analysis of risk. There is clear evidence of impact on improving the well-being and life chances of families, all of whom speak highly of the support they receive.
- Case records contain good chronologies, thorough assessments, evidence of clear decision-making and parental involvement, and effective management supervision and challenge.
- All partners and staff pay particularly good attention to the safety and well-being of families including home-safety assessments and a wide range of safety advice and guidance. Parents in

turn make good use of the advice offered to them, and speak confidently about how to keep their children safe.

- The children's centre and its partners deliver a wide range of good-quality activities to improve parents' confidence and parenting ability. The centre is highly supportive in enabling parents to attend programmes and reduce inequalities, including help with transport and crèche facilities. Parents' evaluations are overwhelmingly positive about the difference these opportunities have made to them in developing their confidence and improving their parenting abilities.
- Good links with adult learning providers through Leeds City College are helping parents to develop their employment skills. Adults have access to some well-delivered learning sessions in English as a second language, leading to some good achievements at all levels from entry levels to Levels 1 and 2. A very small number of parents has been supported to take up volunteering opportunities which are of high quality and resulted in appropriate qualifications and ultimately suitable employment.
- Well-developed links with Jobcentre Plus and the Citizens' Advice Bureau mean that parents get good, timely advice and guidance to improve their economic well-being, including working well with interpreters when required. Staff diligently follow up any signposting to additional services to make sure it has been effective and families are receiving the support they need.
- The centre, along with its partners, pays particularly good attention to supporting the health of parents and children. Clinics and groups are very well attended and popular. Families consistently report that the range of provision is improving their understanding of how to keep themselves and their children healthy. As a result, children and families in the local area enjoy good health outcomes, including high rates of breastfeeding and low levels of obesity and smoking.
- The systematic tracking of children's progress is not yet in place which means that staff do not know the difference they are making to children's readiness for school. In Roundhay, the large majority of children attends schools where a higher proportion of children reach a good level of development compared to children in England overall. Therefore, at least a large majority of children using centre services achieve a good level of development as measured by the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile scores.

The effectiveness of leadership, governance and management

Good

- Increasingly effective challenge and support is provided by the local authority through the annual conversation. The leader sets clear priorities for the centre and provides effective oversight to ensure staff reach their targets and improve. The local authority, governance, leaders and staff at all levels have a clear understanding of the strengths and areas for development. As a result, self-evaluation is accurate and demonstrates a precise knowledge of the needs of the area and how the centre is reducing inequalities and improving life chances for local children and families.
- Membership of the Early Start team has resulted in good information-sharing between partners, which means centre staff have contact with families from pregnancy onwards and services are not duplicated. This is helping the centre to register all families, and is keeping families well engaged with centre services because there is early identification of need and swift support for local families.
- Staff are well-qualified. Opportunities for continuous professional development are encouraged and staff feel well-supported and highly valued because professional supervision is regular and effective and all are encouraged to progress within the staff structure.
- Parents spoken to throughout the inspection value highly the work of the centre. As one parent put it 'the staff here are like my second family'. Individuals recounted powerful stories of the difference the centre has made to their lives.
- Parents' views help shape service delivery and design through good parent participation on the advisory Board and regular evaluations and feedback. However parents on the advisory board have not been offered training and, as a result, their ability and confidence to challenge staff effectively about targets and improvements is not sufficiently systematic.
- Resources are used effectively, increasing participation and improving the lives of families,

particularly those facing specific challenges. Frequent consultation with parents helps them share their views about the services and activities offered, and their feedback is used to ensure that services continue to meet needs. Consultation indicates high levels of satisfaction with services.

- Safeguarding policies and procedures are in place and implemented well. All staff are aware of what to do if there is a concern about a child's well-being or safety and are well-trained. The use of the local Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is well established in the area and used appropriately and well.
- Strong local relations with children's social care and health colleagues ensure close joint working and information-sharing, particularly for those subject to a child protection plan, looked-after children and those identified as in need. Staff understand social care thresholds very well. The early intervention work of the centre often pre-empts the need for statutory intervention.

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

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|--------------------------------|--|
| Unique reference number | 22564 |
| Local authority | Leeds |
| Inspection number | 430159 |
| Managed by | Leeds Next Cluster Collaborative Committee who delegate line management responsibilities to Allerton Grange High School. |

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Approximate number of children under five in the reach area | 1180 |
| Centre leader | Wendy Wooler |
| Date of previous inspection | Not previously inspected |
| Telephone number | 0113 2160214 |
| Email address | wwooler@gledhowschool.org |

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