

Winton & Eccles Children's Centre

Brindley Street, Winton, Eccles, Manchester, Lancashire M30 8 AB

Inspection date

26–27 February 2014

Overall effectiveness	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Requires improvement	3
		Not previously inspected	
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:

- Not enough families from the target areas who are in most need of childhood services are accessing them.
- The centre needs to do more work to identify the specific nature of these families' needs and to do more to sustain engagement from target groups to help reduce inequalities further.
- Not enough families participate in activities that improve their education and employability skills.
- The local authority does not always provide sufficient and accurate data in a timely manner to help the centre analyse the needs of target groups more easily and plan its services accordingly. In addition, the annual conversation does not consistently provide the centre with specific and measurable targets in order to re-focus its work and priorities, such as increasing engagement.
- Membership on the advisory board is not broad enough and it does not consistently provide good levels of challenge and hold the centre to account.

This centre has the following strengths:

- Strong partnership with social care and health results in good family support for targeted intervention and prevention for those who need it most.
- Children attending centre activities make good progress from their starting points and are well-prepared for nursery and school, which contributes well to the good levels of attainment at school.
- The activities on offer are of good quality, including the care, guidance and support, and are having a positive impact on the well-being of those families attending.
- The newly formed leadership team has a good capacity for improvement and in a short space of time has made significant improvements. For example, it has increased registration rates, improved the quality of what is on offer and re-focused the centre's work on the target areas and families.

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 three additional inspectors.

The inspectors held meetings with centre parents, staff, members of the advisory board, volunteers and representatives from professional partnerships, including health, early years and education, as well as officers from the local authority.

The inspectors visited sessions at some of the satellite venues in the community.

They observed the centre's work, and looked at a range of relevant documentation. Inspectors took into account parents' views as expressed during the inspection, as well as through recorded evaluations of the centre's work and a review of the centre's most recent parent satisfaction surveys.

Inspection team

Parm Sansoyer, Lead inspector	Additional inspector
Ken Fisher	Additional inspector
Elaine White	Additional inspector

Full report

Information about the centre

Winton and Eccles Children's Centre is a phase one centre and opened in 2004. It is a single centre with a number of satellite venues in the local community. It provides a range of services including health services, social care, family play sessions, parenting programmes, adult education and outreach services. There are two linked childcare providers, Winton Nursery and Barton Moss Nursery. They are subject to separate inspection arrangements. Inspection reports can be found at www.ofsted.gov.uk.

The majority of the centre's reach is within the 30% most deprived areas in the country and 2688 children aged under five years live in the most deprived areas. The latest data show that 37% of children are living in households dependent upon workless benefits. There is a mixture of privately owned, private rental and social housing. The very large majority of the population is of White British heritage, with an increasing number of Eastern European, Yemeni and Bangladeshi communities.

Most children who live in the targeted areas within the reach of the centre enter early years provision with knowledge and skills below those typical for their age.

Governance of the centre is provided by Salford Local Authority in conjunction with an advisory board that includes some key partners.

What does the centre need to do to improve further?

- Improve the role of the local authority by:
 - providing timely and accurate data so that the centre can plan services more easily
 - improving the annual conversation to ensure strategic and measurable targets are set to increase engagement and better assess the impact of the centre's work.
- Identify more effectively the specific nature of the needs of families in the area and increase sustained engagement from target groups, such as those from the most deprived areas, lone parents and minority ethnic groups, to help further reduce inequalities.
- Increase the range of adult learning courses including accredited training, and improve systems to track learning and progression so that education and employability skills and the economic well-being of families are improved.
- Improve membership of the advisory board to ensure a broader representation from partners and parents and nominate an independent chair to ensure that the centre is held to account and a good level of challenge is maintained.

Inspection judgements

Access to services by young children and families

Requires improvement

- The large majority of families from the target areas are registered with the centre. However, only a minority sustain engagement with the centre and its services.
- The centre has clearly identified the target areas within the reach and recognises that the majority of families who attend the centre from these areas are in most need. Families represent lone parents, workless families and families of minority ethnic groups. However, the centre has yet to identify the specific nature of some target groups and increase sustained engagement to help reduce inequalities further.
- Staff understand the importance of sharing information about families who need the most help with key partners, such as health and social care. For instance, they are committed to identifying the needs and establishing contact with these families as early as possible. However, staff capacity issues in the past have resulted in not all families receiving a visit from the centre soon after the birth of their child. This has hampered the efficiency of making early contact for all families in the area, to promote and increase engagement.
- The centre offers a broad range of universal activities and targeted groups, such as Messy Fun, Little Gems and Parent and Toddler. These are popular and used well by those families engaged with the centre.

The quality of practice and services

Requires improvement

- The quality of planning and delivery of sessions for children and their families who attend the centre are good. Consequently, children make good progress from their starting points and are well-prepared for nursery and school. A large majority of adults improve their parenting skills and learn how to safeguard their children. However, there are more families from the target areas who need to benefit from these groups and centre services in order to improve children's well-being and the lives of families in the area.
- Effective partnerships with health partners result in families receiving good health messages early. For example, baby clinic, baby massage, baby first foods, Messy Munchers and breastfeeding groups contribute well to teaching families about good health. Parents learn about weaning, reducing obesity and oral health. Although breastfeeding rates remain low, there are targeted strategies in place to help increase these further.
- Staff know the families who attend the centre well and identify their needs early. Satisfaction rates relating to the tailored and invaluable support provided for those that needed it most, are high. The centre works swiftly to meet the needs of families identified or referred by partner agencies and provides good targeted intervention. This reduces inequalities and improves life chances for families.
- The centre offers good care, guidance and support, in particular, for domestic abuse and support for those who are isolated. Key target groups are teenage mothers and pregnant teenagers and the centre has rightly focused its work on supporting them. As a result, a large majority from these target groups are engaged with centre services in a way that is helping to improve their lives.
- There are some success stories of adults completing courses and volunteering and going on to paid work. However, the range of courses on offer for adults is too narrow and too few learners have enrolled on the basic English and mathematics courses that are currently available. Not enough attention is given to improving adults' long-term employability prospects and systems to track their progression are limited. Consequently, not enough families are improving their economic well-being.

The effectiveness of leadership, governance and management

Requires improvement

- The local authority and the centre agree and implement appropriate performance measures and the business plan and areas for improvement identified are accurate. Good support is provided to the centre manager. However, the annual conversation does not implement specific and measurable targets directly enough or consistently to move the centre forward. For example, by re-focussing the centre's work and priorities, such as increasing engagement rates. The centre makes appropriate use and analysis of the data available to measure the impact it is having. However, the local authority does not provide wholly accurate and sufficient data in a timely manner to help the centre analyse the needs of target groups easily and plan its services accordingly.
- The centre has undergone two restructures due to budget cuts and a period of fragmented leadership, which has had an adverse effect on the quality and impact of the centre's work. Since April 2013 the newly formed leadership team has made significant improvements to the impact the centre's work has on the community. The manager has implemented effective systems to manage available resources, increase registration, improve the quality of what is on offer and re-focus the centre's work on the target areas and families.
- The advisory board members have an appropriate overview of the centre's work. They understand the challenges for the centre and what needs to be done to improve the centre's performance. However, they have not been instrumental in directing and driving the centre's work. This is because the nominated Chair is also the centre manager and as such, the effectiveness of the challenge has not been good enough. In addition, there is not a broad enough representation from partners and parents to contribute to the level of challenge and more readily hold the centre to account.
- Good safeguarding practice is adopted across all areas of the centre's work. The premises are safe and secure. Staff knowledge and safeguarding training is up to date. Robust risk assessments are conducted to ensure that families and staff are safe. Effective vetting and recruitment procedures and checking of all staff, including those from partner agencies, are robust. Staff and partner agencies use the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) well in supporting families and high priority is given to children subject to a child protection plan and looked-after children.
- The committed staff team shows enthusiasm, despite the numerous changes and is led well by a competent leadership team. Effective induction, supervision, coaching and training have resulted in an effective team which is happy and well supported.
- The centre provides good opportunities for families to evaluate and influence the activities and classes they and their children attend. In addition, the recent rejuvenation of the parents' voice group has resulted in an active number of parents who are keen to voice their ideas and suggestions. However, currently there are no parents on the advisory board. This means not enough families' views are heard and therefore, opportunities to influence the direction of the centre at a more strategic level are limited.

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

Unique reference number	23630A
Local authority	Salford
Inspection number	430210
Managed by	The Salford local authority
Approximate number of children under five in the reach area	2656
Centre leader	Michelle Marley
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable.
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