

Mossfield and Moorside Children's Centre

Wenlock Street, Pendlebury, Swinton, Salford, Manchester, M27 9PP

Inspection dates 12–13 June 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.

- Strong partnerships have had a very positive impact on the families from different groups accessing and benefiting from a wide range of effective and targeted support and services. Excellent partnerships with health professionals mean that a large majority of families from the reach area register and engage with the centre.
- Children are well prepared for school, enjoy the excellent children's sessions and make good progress. A very large majority of them take up free early education places.
- Adults improve their parenting, vocational and employability skills. They develop in confidence, make new friends and those new to the country are better able to integrate in their local communities.
- Arrangements for safeguarding are rigorous, thereby ensuring the safety of children and their families who are accessing its services, including in their homes.
- Strong leadership, management and governance have resulted in improvement to services and good outcomes for families. Performance management and monitoring systems are robust.
- The two centre managers and their staff are highly skilled and effective. They are driven to reduce inequalities and work hard as a team to support families well. Other resources, like the sensory room, are used to good effect to ensure that families benefit from high quality services.
- The advisory board is highly pro-active and its members represent a wide range of partnerships. With the local authority, it both supports and keeps a close check on how well the centre is working.
- Parents benefit from excellent volunteering opportunities, resulting in many finding employment. Many are also active members of the parent forum and on the advisory board.

It is not outstanding because:

- Levels of engagement are not yet high enough, particularly for lone parents.
- The centre has not yet made sufficient improvement in health outcomes relating to breastfeeding, obesity for children entering Reception and smoking cessation.

What does the centre need to do to improve further?

- Increase participation rates further to ensure that almost all families benefit from the good services on offer, particularly lone parents.
- Improve further healthy outcomes for users, especially those linked to smoking cessation, breastfeeding and reducing obesity for children entering Reception by continuing to undertake targeted work with health partners to promote and encourage families to lead healthy lifestyles.

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 managers and centre staff; parents; volunteers; a range of partners from education, health and social care; an early years teacher; members of the advisory board and representatives of the local authority.

The inspectors visited Mossfield and Moorside Children's Centre and St.Thomas' Church.

The inspectors observed the centre's work, including sessions for children and adults, and looked at a range of relevant documentation, including case files, the centre's evaluation of its success and action planning, policies and practice related to safeguarding.

Inspection team

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Qaisra Shahraz, Lead inspector | Additional inspector |
| Anne Mackay | Additional inspector |
| Emily Wheeldon | Additional inspector |

Full report

Information about the centre

Mossfield and Moorside Children's Centre, originally established as two separate centres, merged to one centre in September 2011. It is directly managed by Salford local authority and is held to account by an advisory board. It serves the wards of Pendlebury, and Swinton in the north of the city of Salford.

The centre works in partnership with a wide range of organisations to deliver its services from the Moorside centre site. Its main target groups are teenage and lone parents, children with additional needs and those from the minority ethnic groups, including asylum seekers. Services include family support, health services, play and learning activities and adult education.

There are 2,072 children under five years of age living in the area, some parts of which are in the 10% to 30% most disadvantaged areas in the country. Unemployment is above the national average and 33% of families are dependent on workless benefits. Housing is mainly owner occupied. Children's skills, knowledge and abilities on entry to early years provision are generally typical or below for their age. The large majority of families living within the local area are White British, although the number of parents who do not speak English as their first language is growing.

Mossfield and Moorside Children's Centre is co-managed by two managers who are jointly responsible for the day-to-day running of the centre. A private nursery, 'Safehands Greenstart Nursery', also operates from the building. The childcare provisions are subject to separate inspection arrangements and their reports are available on the Ofsted website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

Inspection judgements

Access to services by young children and families

Good

- Registrations have increased and are currently at 75%. The large majority of those children under five years of age and expectant parents who are registered with the centre are engaged with the centre services. Families benefit from a good balance of targeted support and access to universal services being offered by the centre and its partners.
- The centre hosts a weekly on-site baby clinic and is valued as a midwifery hub. Its use of live birth data and excellent relationships with health visitors and midwives have helped the centre to identify families with young children and to increase registration figures.
- Referrals, outreach work and assessments are all used effectively to identify needs and match families to the services they require, such as speech and language. Moreover, the centre's effective system of monitoring the attendance of different groups clearly identifies those who are not attending and this leads to staff targeting these with particular effort. However, the centre is aware that, while increasing, the number of lone parents who access their services is relatively low compared to other target groups, such as teenage parents, asylum seekers and children with additional needs.
- Managers and staff have good knowledge of the varied issues facing many families from target groups. Staff are highly sensitive to their needs, including those affected by isolation as a result of being new arrivals in the country. These families benefit from a wide range of effective and targeted services, including English language courses. These considerably improve their personal circumstances, emotional well-being and help to reduce barriers. One grateful parent said: 'The centre is really good. Staff help us a lot, including people like me who are isolated and can't speak English. Here I can communicate with other mums.'
- A very large majority of children aged two, three and four years, take up their funded early education places. Effective partnership work with early years providers, with the child development forum, and thorough transition arrangements enable children to get ready for school with confidence.

- Home visits form part of the centre's highly effective outreach work and are aimed at reducing inequalities for families. Disabled children and their parents are well supported through clear signposting to specialist support groups, such as the sensory sessions. One happy parent informed the inspectors: 'I feel all aspects of my son's development have improved. He's more confident and happy to explore at home.'

The quality of practice and services

Good

- Parents regard the centre very highly. They speak warmly of the welcoming and helpful staff. The centre places strong emphasis on providing high quality services to promote the good health and social and emotional well-being of all the families it serves. Programmes such as 'Incredible Years', 'First Friends' and 'Strengthening Families' have greatly enhanced parents' confidence in their parenting skills.
- Children's outcomes are good. There is a trend of improvement in Early Years Foundation Stage profile scores across the reach area and the achievement gap between the lowest-achieving children and that of their peers is narrowing. Parents and children benefit from outstanding, enjoyable and extremely well-planned sessions such as 'Sensory Group', 'Positive Play' and 'Sunflower Club'. This results in children making good progress in their social and language development. Through the effective use of learning journals, 'Our Family File', parents are actively engaged and gain confidence in tracking the different stages of their young children's lives and the progress they make at the centre.
- Health outcomes are varied. Health-related sessions such as 'First Foods', and 'Messy Munchers' help to raise awareness of the importance of healthy eating and lifestyles. The rate for breastfeeding is improving and a higher proportion of mothers than before are sustaining breastfeeding. The centre has had some successes in reducing the rate of mothers smoking at delivery from 16.4% in 2013 to 15.2% in 2014 and in reducing obesity in children at the end of Reception Year, but these rates remain above national rates. Managers recognise the need to continue targeted work with health partners.
- The large majority of parents have engaged in adult learning and work-related courses, such as 'Readiness for Work', and 'Working in Schools'. These have improved their employability skills. Good access to 'English for Speakers of Other Languages' (ESOL) courses offered at the centre, means that those adults who are new to the country, begin to communicate in English with their neighbours, and learn about life in England. Many gain qualifications and progress to higher level ESOL courses at Salford City College and to further training.
- Outstanding volunteering opportunities at the centre enable family members to build their confidence and progress into employment, including at the centre. Some parents have become active members on the advisory board and in the 'Family Voices' forum and are successfully able to shape centre services.
- Family case files are maintained to a high standard by staff. They clearly record positive improvements in mental health, economic stability and the safety of families.

The effectiveness of leadership, governance and management

Good

- Managers are well supported and challenged to continually improve both by the local authority and the advisory board. The advisory board is made up of a range of community partners who are actively engaged in shaping centre decision making. Partners and the local authority speak highly of the centre's staff, its successful work in improving outcomes for families and the commitment to maintaining quality services in the context of recent restructuring and relocation of services.
- Self-evaluation processes are robust. Managers and governance have an accurate view of centre priorities and how well the centre is doing. They make good use of all available information, including data reports, to plan further improvements and to improve outcomes for local families.
- Performance management processes are well embedded and effective. In partnership with local authority officers, challenging and measurable targets are set and combined with readily available

data reports. These are used well for performance monitoring by managers and governance. The quality assurance cycle of activities, including annual conversations, performance reviews, supervision and session observations ensure that centre services are well monitored, resulting in improving outcomes for families and inequalities being reduced.

- The two centre managers are dynamic, highly qualified, skilled, and have detailed knowledge about the local communities. They are well supported by an equally highly skilled and enthusiastic team of centre workers and partners who share their vision, passion and ambition for the centre. All staff benefit from a wide-ranging programme of appropriate professional development. Families benefit from high quality resources and their use demonstrates good value for money.
- Safeguarding of families strongly permeates the work of the centre. This includes promotion of e-safety and safety in the home. Information sharing and strong multi-agency working result in the centre staff being fully involved in the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) process. They are effectively able to support families at risk of harm and children subject to child protection plans, looked after children and children in need.
- Staff demonstrate a strong commitment to reducing barriers for vulnerable families and those in most need, building trusting relationships and ensuring that everyone is included, irrespective of their background. The use of a bilingual volunteer helps the centre to improve communication with some families new to the country. Diversity is celebrated well through the specialist parenting programme, 'Afruka Parenting Project', choices of toys and use of positive images in centre displays of families from around the world.

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 | 22059 |
| Local authority | Salford |
| Inspection number | 443427 |
| Managed by | The Local Authority of Salford |
| Approximate number of children under five in the reach area | 2072 |
| Centre leader | Nicola Hall and Michelle Marley |
| Date of previous inspection | Not previously inspected |
| Telephone number | 0161 778 0750 (Nicola Hall) 0161 686 5291 (Michelle Marley) |
| Email address | nicola.hall@salford.gov.uk michelle.marley@salford.gov.uk |

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