

# Newbarns Children's Centre

Rising Side, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, LA13 9ET

<b>Inspection dates</b>	30 September – 1 October 2014
<b>Previous inspection date</b>	Not previously inspected

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

## Summary of key findings for children and families

### This is a good centre.

- A very large majority of families regularly and routinely attend services and benefit from the activities provided by the centre. The centre works closely with key partners to ensure that almost all children who are eligible to receive early education funding access good-quality early years provision.
- A range of good-quality sessions that are open to all and those specifically for the families identified as most in need are offered across the area. These are matched to the needs of families; they help parents to support children's early learning and development and to keep them safe and healthy.
- Children and families who may be experiencing difficulties in their lives are very well supported by the centre staff's highly effective work.
- The centre has forged strong and effective partnerships with a wide range of professionals in the area. Together they have a clear aim which is to help all families succeed, thrive and to be happy and healthy.
- Grandparents of looked after children receive exceptional support from the centre. As a result, most children remain within the family unit during times of crisis.
- Leadership, governance and management of the centre are effective in most aspects. The centre knows its strengths and weaknesses. Effective centre leaders are aspirational and dedicated to improving families' lives. As a result, the quality of practice and services is continuously improving.

### It is not outstanding because:

- Clear priorities to improve families' lives are in place but not all priorities are sufficiently sharp or measurable. This means that the centre is not yet in a robust position to show just how well it is helping families in the area.
- The advisory board, while supportive, has yet to fully challenge the centre's performance. As a result, members are not yet able to say with confidence that the centre is improving the lives of families.

### What does the centre need to do to improve further?

- further improve the centre's development plan so that all targets are precise and measurable.
- strengthen the way in which the advisory board challenges the centre and holds it to account for its work.

### 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 parents, centre staff, members of the advisory board, the headteacher of Newbarns Primary School, representatives from professional partnerships including health, early years providers, and an officer from the local authority.

Inspectors observed the centre's work activities and undertook a joint observation with centre staff. The inspectors also visited activities at Greengate Children's Centre, Roose Nursery and the Hindpool Annexe.

Inspectors took into account parents' views as expressed directly to them during the inspection, as well as through their recorded evaluations about the centre's work. Inspectors looked at a range of relevant documentation such as the centre's checks on its performance, development plans and data, information relating to safeguarding and a selection of case files.

### Inspection team

Janet Stacey, Lead inspector

Additional inspector

Priscilla McGuire

Additional inspector

## Full report

### Information about the centre

Newbarns Children's Centre is a stand-alone centre which shares its site with Newbarns Primary School. The centre is situated in the local authority district of Barrow-in-Furness and is made up of the wards of Hawcoat, Newbarns, Parkside and Roosecote. The local authority has delegated responsibility for governance of the centre to Action for Children. Most of the families in the area are of White British heritage.

The centre offers a range of services which include family support, early learning activities and parenting programmes. Health services are offered at Greengate Children's Centre and Abbotsvale Community Centre. Linked childcare provision is provided by private and voluntary early years organisations in the local area. These provisions and Newbarns Primary School are subject to separate inspection arrangements and reports on their quality are available on the Ofsted website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk). Data show that a majority of children in the area enter early years provision with skills in line with those typical for their age.

There are approximately 882 children under five years of age living in the area. The centre serves a mix of affluent and disadvantaged areas, Newbarns and Roosecote being within the 20% most deprived communities in the country. Data show that 16.4% of children live in workless households. The centre has identified children living in Newbarns, children living in domestic abuse households, young teenage parents, looked after children and children with disabilities as in most need of their support.

## Inspection judgements

### Access to services by young children and families

**Good**

- A very large majority of families are registered at the centre and have access to good-quality services, information and guidance. Activities such as 'Young Mums to Be' are effective at engaging expectant parents in services, particularly young teenage parents. Effective outreach work and good partnership working with health teams have led to a 50% increase in those accessing services since 2012.
- The centre staff know the community well and offer a very good level of support to some vulnerable families. They target support and advice appropriately and effectively to meet the needs of these families, particularly those in need of intensive support. As a result, a very large majority of families living in the most disadvantaged areas, young teenage parents, looked after children, children with a disability and children living in domestic abuse households, engage with activities and are accessing the centre's services.
- A wide range of services that are open to all and those specifically for those families identified as most in need of help is offered at the centre. Programmes are advertised to all families in the area through newsletters and effective support is in place from a wide range of professionals to help engage new and existing families, including those who may be reluctant to do so.
- Almost all three- and four-year-olds are taking up their free education in good or better settings. The centre has worked closely with parents and the local authority so that the vast majority of two-year-olds are taking up their free entitlement to nursery education. Systems are just starting to be put in place for providers to share with the centre the progress that these children are making.

### The quality of practice and services

**Good**

- Children with disabilities are well supported through good access to well-resourced centres. Partnership with Oaklea Trust ensures a wide range of specialist support and respite care. Good partnership working and joint training with schools and early years settings ensure that these children are being supported to get the best start in their education.

- Good links with partners, such as 'Women's Community Matters', are helping to increase adults' awareness of domestic violence. Effective programmes such as 'The Recovery Toolkit' and 'Positive You' are helping children that live in these households to lead happier, safer lives.
- The centre has established excellent links with local schools and early years providers. Effective joint working and activities such as 'Helping Hands' at Newbarns Primary School are increasing children's understanding of feeling safe and promoting safe behaviour. As a result, the area has seen a rise in the numbers of children living in the area, particularly Newbarns, starting school at the same level as their more advantaged peers.
- Centre staff work collaboratively with Furness General Hospital and the midwifery team to deliver a shared service of breastfeeding support on the wards. This joint working initiative is starting to have an impact as sustained breastfeeding rates are increasing year-on-year. All partners recognise that there is still some way to go to change attitudes from bottle feeding to breastfeeding, particularly in Newbarns.
- The centre provides a wide range of parenting programmes, including one specifically designed for young teenage parents. Here they learn parenting techniques and how to manage children's behaviour. Sessions are evaluated and good impact is recorded. Attendees are starting to track and comment on their progress in their 'My Learning Journeys'.
- Excellent support is provided for grandparents who take on the role of looking after their grandchildren. This is a rising trend in the area and the centre has acted swiftly by establishing a 'Grandparents Group'. Users receive support to help them understand children's learning and development. In addition, they are signposted to relevant agencies to receive effective and timely support that is matched to their needs, improves their life chances and reduces inequalities.
- Job Centre Plus is visible and works closely with centre staff to help adults find work. Together they run 'Back to my Future', which offers accredited training for parents and provides guidance on progression to employment and further education. As a result, adults are achieving things that were previously beyond them, building up their self-esteem and gaining confidence to find work.
- Excellent support for volunteers is in place through a well-structured programme of induction, training and supervision. A good percentage of volunteers have progressed to employment and act as positive role models in the area.

### **The effectiveness of leadership, governance and management**

**Good**

- Governance, leadership and management arrangements are clear, well understood and generally effective. The local authority regularly monitors the performance of the centre. In addition, it provides appropriate data to the centre. However, while the centre's development plan identifies appropriate priorities, centre leaders do not fully analyse and use data to set clear baselines on which to measure progress. As a result, the centre is not yet in a secure position to fully demonstrate that it is making a sufficient enough difference to the lives of families in the community.
- The advisory board is attended by a wide range of partners who share information to help meet the needs of families. However, the board covers six children's centres and, at times, the challenge specifically aimed at Newbarns Children's Centre becomes lost. This results in the board not having a full overview of the centre's performance.
- Dynamic centre managers ensure that staff attend a good range of courses and have a very good range of skills and abilities. As a result, staff know the community well and are helping families to improve their outcomes, particularly for those families that the centre has identified in most need of their help.
- The commitment to promote inclusion is good, particularly for children with a disability. Good use of shared resources means that families, particularly those living in the most deprived areas, can access services easily and feel no barriers to engagement.
- Effective referral processes between partners and the centre ensure that the right support is provided swiftly to families, including those whose problems have been assessed using the Common Assessment Framework process, those subject to a child protection plan and looked after children. As a result, families inspectors talked to speak highly of the support they receive, saying it has

transformed their lives, helped to develop their confidence and raised their self-esteem.

- Resources are shared across the centres in the locality to enable users to access services and the centre to meet users' needs. Leaders are very resourceful in 'thinking outside the box' and have been successful in obtaining external funding to run several projects. As a result, families have access to a good and varied range of services.
- A real strength of the centre is its exemplary partnership working with a wide range of professionals. Very evident is a shared ethos to really give children the best chance they deserve and reduce inequalities.
- Parents demonstrate good levels of satisfaction with the centre and make their views known through the advisory board. As a result, parents have a meaningful role in helping to shape services at the centre.

**What inspection judgements mean**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Judgement</b>	<b>Description</b>
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 well-being 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**

<b>Unique reference number</b>	22110
<b>Local authority</b>	Cumbria
<b>Inspection number</b>	447481
<b>Managed by</b>	Action for Children on behalf of the local authority

<b>Approximate number of children under five in the reach area</b>	882
<b>Centre leader</b>	Lisa Scott
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	Not previously inspected
<b>Telephone number</b>	01229 877220
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