

Brookwood and Pirbright Children's Centre

Connaught Road, Brookwood, Woking, GU24 0HF

Inspection date 14–15 October 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 large majority of families with young children living in the area are registered with the centre and most families from priority groups use the centre's services.
- The centre provides a good range of services that help parents to support their children and prepare them for school.
- Well-trained volunteers enjoy beneficial work experience and improve their employability skills as well as adding value to the centre's tight resources.
- The centre has a very productive partnership with Pirbright Barracks, which has enabled it to support the service families housed there very well.
- The centre manager is a highly effective and innovative leader who is the driving force behind the centre's good effectiveness and good capacity for sustained improvement.
- All parents speak of the warm welcome they receive at the centre and the high levels of care, guidance and support it provides.

It is not outstanding because:

- A minority of workless families are registered and benefit from the centre's services.
- The proportion of mothers initiating and continuing to breastfeed at six to eight weeks is insufficient to meet or better the local average.
- The centre does not show the impact of its services on the progress made by children towards the stages of their skills development.

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 centre staff, the local authority, the children's centre manager and school headteacher; members of the governing body and advisory board; parents and users of the centre; and representatives of organisations who work in partnership with the centre.

The inspectors visited activities taking place in the centre, the Five Acres Traveller Site and Pirbright Jubilee Centre. They observed the centre's work, and looked at a sample of case files and a range of relevant documentation. Inspectors observed the 'Healthy Lunch Club' session at the Jubilee Centre jointly with the centre manager.

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

Inspection team

Steve Nelson	Additional Inspector, Lead Inspector
Libby Dickson	Additional Inspector

Full report

Information about the centre

Brookwood and Pirbright Children's Centre operates in the villages of Brookwood, Pirbright and Knaphill wards, and is based on the same site as Brookwood Primary School. It provides outreach services at the Pirbright Jubilee Centre and the Five Acre Traveller Site. The range of activities offered by the centre includes support at an antenatal bump to birthday support group, breastfeeding support and baby massage. It signposts families to a range of providers that offer adult education, volunteering opportunities, and activities designed to support parents and carers back into employment and training. Activities are planned with other local children's centres to ensure a full range of services is available to families, with priority given to those most in need.

The local authority has delegated responsibility for the governance of the children's centre to the governing body of Brookwood Primary School. The centre receives advice and guidance from an advisory board, consisting of representatives from partner organisations and key stakeholders that work with the children's centre and the local authority. The centre manager is responsible for the day-to-day running of the centre and reports to the Brookwood School headteacher and children's centre leader.

The children's centre has 844 children under the age of five in its area. The large majority of the families living in the area are White British. There is an army base, Pirbright Barracks, where a significant number of families with children under five are currently located. The area is affluent with small pockets of deprivation. About 8% of children and adults who live in the area come from homes that are dependent on benefits and where no one is in work.

When they start early years education, children have skills, knowledge and abilities that are broadly typical or better than those expected for their age.

The main priority groups assessed in need of the centre's services are service families and families living on the Five Acres Traveller site.

The centre is open three days a week, Monday to Wednesday.

What does the centre need to do to improve further?

- Increase the engagement of workless families so that a large majority access services and take up opportunities to improve their economic well-being.
- Improve tracking and assessment systems to more accurately measure the impact of delivery on children's learning and development, and their readiness for school.
- Increase the proportion of mothers breastfeeding their babies at six to eight weeks by:
 - working more closely with health partners to promote the benefits of breastfeeding
 - setting a challenging target for improving the breastfeeding rate.

Inspection judgements

Access to services by young children and families

Good

- The centre has registered and engages with the large majority of young children and families living in the area, including most service families and families living on the Five Acre Traveller site. However, only a minority of children from workless households are registered and benefit from the centre's services.
- The centre's strong partnership with health services means that health visitors and midwives refer many families to the centre. The 'Bump to Birthday' group offers effective support and advice to families expecting children. Parenting skills are then developed well through a range of other

activities, as children get older.

- The centre has also focused successfully on the involvement of fathers, including grandfathers, in its work. The Saturday 'Dad Zone' provides a range of activities that have been successful in involving more of them in the centre's work to the advantage of their children.
- Participation rates and attendance levels at sessions are consistently high. Satisfaction surveys and parent feedback show high levels of satisfaction. Parents feel comfortable in the centre and know they will get a warm welcome from the staff. One parent expressed a view that was typical of many others, 'Everyone says what a lovely centre it is.'
- The centre promotes information about its activities and other services of help and advice well to encourage those less likely to access services, particularly through the use of social media. The centre's work with families in their own homes is very effective in getting them support quickly at a time of greatest need. As a result, these families join in the services of the centre and are able to make marked improvements to family life and the well-being of their children over time.
- Most eligible two-year-olds take up their early years place because of the centre's successful partnership with schools and early years providers in the area. The vast majority of three-year-olds have taken up their free early years education, which supports improved learning and development.

The quality of practice and services

Good

- There is a good range of services which balance those available to everyone with those specifically for priority groups such as the service families and families living on the Five Acre Traveller site. Feedback from children and families about the quality of the services they receive is very good. Services are planned jointly with neighbouring children's centres to ensure a full range of activities and places that are convenient for the families in the area.
- The proportion of children achieving a good level of development at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage is above average. The partner primary school confirms that the centre makes an effective contribution to getting children, especially those in need of most help, ready for school. However, the centre does not track the individual progress of children who regularly attend sessions. As a result, it is unable to fully demonstrate the impact of its work.
- The centre works well with other early years settings, and promotes children's learning and development in the community, thus making a positive contribution to narrowing the achievement gap between the lowest achieving 20% of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage and the rest. This is helping to reduce inequalities.
- Good partnerships with health services enable families to develop healthier lifestyles. The weekly 'Healthy Lunch Club' at the Pirbright Jubilee Centre is promoting healthy eating effectively. Despite an improving picture, information supplied by the centre shows that the proportion of mothers sustaining breastfeeding is below average, and is rightly a target for improvement.
- The centre provides high levels of care, guidance and support, particularly to families in most need during times of crisis. Well-maintained case files are kept up-to-date and are of a good standard. The files show how well the centre works with other agencies and partners to provide very effective, targeted help that improves families' lives.
- Information advice and guidance to parents seeking training courses and employment are suitable. Volunteers play an important role in the centre, especially given the small staff team. The centre works well with a local training provider to deliver an apprenticeship programme in childcare for the four volunteers working at the centre.

The effectiveness of leadership, governance and management

Good

- The centre manager has worked with drive and commitment to establish the centre as the hub of the community and win families' trust and respect. The governors, advisory board and local authority have effective oversight of the centre's performance and hold it to account through effective monitoring. Staff are enthusiastic and support the centre's drive for improvement. These features result in improved outcomes for children and families.

- The local authority knows the centre well through regular visits and close liaison with the manager and staff. It sets clear targets for improvement and contributes towards the centre's ongoing development. The centre knows itself and its community well. Self-evaluation accurately identifies the centre's strengths and weaknesses, and what needs to be done to improve.
- Leaders work well with key partners, and this enables them to respond effectively, and with flexibility, in meeting the needs of families. The partnership between the centre and the school is seamless. As a result, children, including those with disabilities or special educational needs, are prepared well for the next step in their learning.
- Supervision arrangements work well. Staff have regular conversations with the centre manager to check that the quality of services and groups is making a difference to families' and children's lives. Training opportunities available to staff enable them to develop and keep abreast of new developments, and to expand their knowledge, expertise and qualifications.
- The safeguarding of children and their families is of the highest priority for all staff. Procedures and policies for safeguarding are fully in place and understood by all. The centre works successfully with its key partners to reduce the risk of harm to children subject to child protection plans. There is effective intervention for children in need, and those children supported by the Common Assessment Framework procedures, including looked after children.
- Parents are very happy with the services they receive. Parents' responses to surveys help shape services. The parents' forum, and parents' representation on the governing body and advisory board ensures they formally contribute to the centre's decision making about its future development.

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.

Centre Details

Unique reference number	20473
Local authority	Surrey
Inspection number	447518
Managed by	The governing body of Brookwood Primary School

Approximate number of children under five in the reach area	844
Centre manager	Juliea Morris
Date of previous inspection	Not previously inspected
Telephone number	01483 473315
Email address	children@brookwood.surrey.sch.uk

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