

Sure Start Children's Centre Cottingham

Bacon Garth Primary School, The Garth, Cottingham, East Yorkshire, HU16 5BP

Inspection dates	10–11 December 2014
Previous inspection date	Not previously inspected

Overall effectiveness	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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 very large majority of local families are registered with the centre and the large majority of families identified as in most need of its services and support regularly access its services. This is because centre staff provide a warm welcome to all comers, treat them with respect and demonstrate high levels of sensitivity towards families' different cultures and circumstances.
- Excellent partnership working with a wide range of different professionals, such as from health, education and social care, enables the centre to provide a coherent package of support that is tailored to meet families' individual needs.
- Staff are very skilled in listening to what parents want and adapting provision accordingly. They provide a good variety of activities and services. Imaginative programming, such as running 'Babies Playing' sessions alongside the child-health clinic, entices families to become involved in, and benefit from, all that the centre has to offer.
- Parents benefit significantly from very well planned and delivered parenting courses. These develop parents' skills and understanding to be more effective in their personal lives and in their interaction with their children.
- Health outcomes, such as levels of sustained breastfeeding, smoking in pregnancy and childhood obesity, are good. Families enjoy the sessions aimed at helping them to adopt healthy lifestyles.
- The centre leader's expert leadership is pivotal to the centre's success. She has developed a highly motivated team who are passionate about improving the lives of families. As a result, leadership, management and governance of the centre are well placed to continue to improve services.

It is not outstanding because:

- Not enough eligible two-year-olds are accessing their funded nursery places.
- Not enough parents are directly involved in the centre's decision making and development through attendance at the advisory board.
- Clear priorities to improve families' lives are in place but not all targets are sufficiently sharp or measurable to monitor progress against these objectives.

What does the centre need to do to improve further?

- Increase the take up of free entitlement to early education for two-year-olds, particularly children identified as in most need of support.
- Improve the quality of leadership, governance and management by:
 - improving further the centre's action plan so that all targets are precise and measurable
 - strengthening the role of parents in centre decision-making by increasing the numbers who serve on the advisory board.

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 the children's centre manager and local authority representative. They also held meetings with centre staff, parents, members of the advisory board and a number of partners, including health, education and children's social care professionals.

The inspectors visited a number of sessions held during the inspection including, 'Finding My Feet', 'Talk Time' and 'Gypsy and Traveller Drop In'. They also involved the children's centre manager and local authority representatives in all team meetings.

They observed the centre's work, and looked at a range of relevant documentation, such as the centre's self-evaluation, action plan, a sample of case studies, parent evaluations, key policies and the centre's equality and safeguarding procedures. Throughout the inspection, they also took the opportunity to talk with adult and child users of the centre.

Inspection team

Tara Street, Lead inspector

Additional inspector

Peter Stacey

Additional inspector

Full report

Information about the centre

Sure Start Children's Centre Cottingham is a standalone centre situated within the grounds of Bacon Garth Primary School. It offers a range of services which include child health, family play sessions, parenting programmes, adult education, family outreach, crèche facilities and a sensory room.

There are approximately 884 children aged nought to five years in the reach area, of whom 8% live in the 20% to 30% most deprived areas in the country. The families that the centre has identified as in need of its services are: Gypsy and Traveller families, those families living with domestic violence, substance and alcohol misuse, mental health issues and complex needs. Most families are from White British backgrounds with a small, mixed minority ethnic community. Housing is a mix of social or private rental with some areas of high affluence and two Gypsy and Traveller sites. Levels of unemployment are low, with 13% of children living in households dependent upon workless benefits. Most children enter early years provision with knowledge and skills that are in line with those typical for their age. There are links to the seven local primary schools and childcare provision is delivered by a range of providers in the area. These are subject to separate inspection arrangements and the reports are available on our website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

The centre is managed by a centre leader on behalf of the East Riding of Yorkshire Local Authority. The centre shares an advisory board in the Haltemprice locality with Anlaby and Hessle Children's Centres.

Inspection judgements

Access to services by young children and families Good

- The centre provides a very warm, welcoming atmosphere which puts families at ease and encourages them to participate in activities. Families have good access to a wide range of important information. These are carefully displayed around the centre to offer just the right amount of guidance to support families.
- Excellent partnerships with health professionals, including weekly antenatal and healthy child clinics, mean that a very large majority of families register with the centre. This is enhanced further through robust partnership meetings where a range of professionals, including health and social care colleagues, meet to discuss the needs of families in the area. Through this, those identified as needing extra support gain swift access to highly effective help. This includes those families living with domestic violence, substance and alcohol misuse, mental health issues and complex needs.
- The large majority of families, including those expecting children, engage in centre activities. The centre's systems to monitor the attendance of different groups clearly identify those who are not attending and this leads to staff targeting these with particular effort.
- The centre is particularly successful at engaging with the Gypsy and Traveller community. They regularly access the fortnightly drop-in clinic held on the Traveller site in conjunction with health visitors and community police officers. They also enjoy a range of activities such as sewing, arts and crafts and healthy cooking at the weekly drop-in session held at the centre. A partner professional commented that: 'The staff work hard to be welcoming and a clear atmosphere of inclusion and acceptance has increased the engagement of the Traveller community.'
- Nearly all three- and four-year-olds access their funded education place. However, take up by eligible two-year-olds to free education in good or better settings is less well developed with just over half taking advantage, and therefore benefiting from these places.

The quality of practice and services Good

- The centre's services, ranging from 'Ready for Baby' sessions to adult and family learning, are varied and of good quality. They have a very positive impact on families' health and overall well-

being. Staff members' careful listening to parents and analysis of their needs lead to sensitive, skilful encouragement and guidance that helps parents take charge of improving their lives. For instance, as a result of families' comments, the centre has established a 'Twins Group' and a 'Nurture and Natter' group for mums experiencing mental health issues and postnatal depression.

- Parents enhance significantly their parenting skills and increase their understanding of how to keep their children safe by attending specific courses such as 'Family Links'. For example, one parent commented that 'the centre has helped keep our family together'. As a result, the centre is improving life chances and reducing inequalities effectively.
- The centre's support for children and families in greatest need is timely and well-integrated. Highly effective one-to-one work helps a number of families to get through times of crisis and become much better equipped to make future choices. Excellent multi-agency work, especially with health, education and social care professionals, underpins the safety net of support in place to protect those most in need.
- Sustained breastfeeding, levels of childhood obesity, uptake of immunisations and the number of mothers smoking in pregnancy are all positive features. This is due to the concerted effort of centre staff and health partners in raising families awareness of healthy living through activities such as, 'Family Toddler', 'Fitmums Buggy Sessions' and weaning support.
- Helping prepare children for school has been at the heart of the centre's ongoing work with early years partners. For instance, 'Talk Time' sessions help effectively to develop children's speech and language skills. 'Bags of support' are shared with parents in the home to help with common issues such as potty training and fussy eaters. 'Take and Make' and toy library activity resource bags effectively encourage parents to continue their child's learning in the home. As a result, outcomes at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage are improving and the achievement gap is narrowing.
- Parents are very well supported to become volunteers and the centre provides a range of good-quality adult learning activities such as 'Home Safety', 'First Aid', 'Healthy Eating on a Budget' and signpost to the development of employability skills including job search. As a result, many parents develop knowledge and skills that increase their chances of employment and of progressing to further education.

The effectiveness of leadership, governance and management

Good

- The enthusiastic small staff team are well led by a highly skilled manager who shows strong determination to move the centre forward. The team has a firm grasp on what is going well and where development is needed. Supervision arrangements work well and link closely to staff appraisal and their on-going professional development.
- Governance, leadership and management are clear, well understood and effective. There is a clear flow of information between the local authority, centre manager and advisory board. Support from the local authority includes quarterly monitoring visits and reports show the good progress the centre is making over time. The advisory board members keep a close eye on the centre's performance, including data and ask probing questions which add rigour to decision-making. However, while the centre's action plan identifies clearly appropriate priorities, these do not all have clear and precise targets set which managers and advisory board members can measure progress and the impact of the centre's work on the lives of families.
- Parents and children have an appropriate range of opportunities to put forward their views, to which centre leaders listen carefully and use to shape services. For instance, they contribute through session evaluations, a suggestion box and a 'You Said, We Did' board. Initiatives are underway to re-invigorate the parents' forum, and there are some promising signs of parents committing to attending these meetings. However, too few are directly involved in centre decision-making at a strategic level through attendance on the advisory board to ensure their voices are heard.
- Resources are of good quality and the accommodation provides an attractive, safe and flexible environment which encourages adults and children to relax and learn.
- Duties relating to safeguarding are taken very seriously. Policies and procedures are thorough and

- the Common Assessment Framework is used very effectively in order to reduce levels of risk. Case files and record keeping are maintained to a very high standard. Excellent partnership and information sharing with social care staff, health and education professionals ensure that looked after children and those subject to a child protection plan receive high quality care, guidance and support. A social care colleague commented that the work with the children's centre provided 'invaluable support and partnership' and that family support workers and community nursery nurses 'do everything and more than asked for'.

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	20833
Local authority	East Riding of Yorkshire
Inspection number	20833
Managed by	The local authority
Approximate number of children under five in the reach area	884
Centre leader	Taryn Provan
Date of previous inspection	Not previously inspected
Telephone number	01482 845636
Email address	cottingham.childrens.centre@eastriding.gov.uk

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