

Honilands, Prince of Wales and Oasis Children's Centre

Salisbury Road, Enfield, EN3 6HG

Inspection dates

17–18 February 2015

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.

- Most children in the area served by the centre are registered and access services. The centre has been particularly successful in registering children living in the least advantaged areas and ensuring they make regular use of services so that the large majority now do so.
- There are very good links with health services. Baby and antenatal clinics delivered from the centre and new birth information sharing have improved registration levels as well as helping substantially more families access health services.
- Strong partnerships have been forged with a wide variety of services including counselling, speech and language therapy, a group for single parents, and social care. This, combined with the excellent levels of one-to-one support provided by centre staff, has led to often outstanding outcomes that families typically describe as being 'life-changing' and 'life-saving'.
- There is a strong focus on children's early development and particularly on boys' achievement. This is having a positive impact on how well children settle when they move on to nursery or school and the progress they make by the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The percentage of children who achieved a good level of development at the end of Reception in the local area improved substantially in 2014.
- Those who lead and manage the centre, as well as the local authority, have a clear and accurate understanding of the strengths and areas for development. Information is used well to monitor and evaluate services, to check who is using the centre and to set challenging targets. This gives the centre a good capacity to continue to improve.

It is not outstanding because:

- Although the centre has registered most of the families in workless households, the large majority are not sustaining their engagement as well as other priority groups. Services are not yet tailored specifically enough to meet their needs partly because of a lack of input from Jobcentre Plus.
- The number of young children who are very overweight is well above the national average.
- The advisory board membership is too narrow as there is not enough representation from partners or parents.

What does the centre need to do to improve further?

- Ensure that more children and families from workless households use centre services regularly after they have registered, by:
 - identifying the specific needs of those families and identifying why more are not using services
 - working with the local authority to strengthen partnerships with relevant agencies, particularly Jobcentre Plus
 - adapting services to meet the specific needs of this priority group.
- Reduce the number of young children who are very overweight and increase the take up of immunisations by:
 - working with health services and local community groups to ascertain the main reasons for the current levels of high obesity and low immunisations
 - setting clear targets to measure the centre's impact
 - ensuring there is an even stronger focus on encouraging healthy lifestyles at every opportunity.
- Widen the membership of the advisory board so that more partners and parents, especially those from priority families, are represented.

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 the centre managers and their line managers as well as representatives from the local authority and the advisory board. They spoke to a range of partners including those from health, counselling, and social care as well as several charitable and voluntary organisations. They met with parents and volunteers.

The inspectors were based at the Prince of Wales centre and visited the Honilands and Oasis sites. They observed several sessions, such as Bouncing Babies at Oasis and Stay and Play at Prince of Wales. One joint observation was undertaken with a centre manager.

The inspectors looked at a range of relevant documentation including the centre's self-evaluation and development plan, safeguarding policies and procedures and a sample of case studies. The centre managers attended all the team meetings.

Inspection team

Joan Lindsay, Lead inspector	Additional inspector
David Baber	Additional inspector
Anthony Mundy	Additional inspector

Full report

Information about the centre

Honilands, Prince of Wales and Oasis Children's Centre is a standalone centre. It was created in September 2013 when three separate children's centres, all of which opened in 2008, were brought together to form a 'hub and spoke' model of delivery. The main site is the Prince of Wales centre. It is located adjacent to Prince of Wales Primary School. The Honilands centre is based at Honilands Primary School; the Oasis centre is open part time and is located in a community building near to Oasis Academy Enfield. There is a centre manager for each site. The centre provides family support, adult learning and health services.

The governing bodies of Prince of Wales Primary School and Honilands Primary School, as well as Oasis Hub Enfield (the combination of community services and secondary academy school which is run by a charitable trust), manage the centre on behalf of the local authority; the headteachers line manage the centre managers. There is a single advisory board in place. Day care provision is provided on the Prince of Wales site. The schools and the day care setting are subject to separate inspections. Their reports can be found at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk>.

There are 2,314 children aged under five in the area served by the centre. The area is relatively disadvantaged, with 10 of the 14 separately defined geographic areas being ranked in the 30% least advantaged in the country. Approximately 40% of families are in receipt of some form of benefits. The percentage of children under five living in workless households is 18% overall, which is slightly below national averages. The area is very ethnically diverse; about a third of the local children come from a White British background, with the next largest groups being of Turkish or Black African origin. Children generally enter the Early Years Foundation Stage with skills and knowledge well below those typical for their age.

The centre has identified priority groups needing most support as: young children living in workless households; families living in the least advantaged areas; two-year-olds eligible for free early education; young children who are very overweight and boys who underperform at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Inspection judgements

Access to services by young children and families

Good

- Registrations have increased substantially over the last year, so that now 91% of all young children are registered. This rises to 94% for those living in the least advantaged areas. The large majority of those children also sustain their engagement with services.
- Families, including those expecting children, have regular opportunities to access health services through antenatal appointments and baby clinics held at the Prince of Wales site. The Honilands site also holds baby clinics and advertises antenatal services at local hospitals; health visitors are available on a weekly basis at the Oasis site for baby weighing and general advice. This has had a positive impact on the number of families accessing services.
- The centre has been very effective in supporting eligible families to take up free early education for two-year-olds, aided by good levels of information exchange from the local authority. Most three- and four-year-olds are taking up early education.
- The centre identified its priority groups through an in-depth understanding of the local community. For example, although there is a high number of different ethnic groups, their needs are met by providing English language courses and having their own support networks in the community, and so they are not classed as priority families. Targeted sessions, such as TalkACTivity, are designed to support boys' relative underachievement and have increased this priority group's take up of services.
- The centre has effective systems to monitor which families are using services. From this it is

recognised that families from workless households are not engaging as frequently as other priority groups. Although there are some services provided to meet their needs, such as one off employability workshops, a lack of any input from Jobcentre Plus or other employment agencies has restricted the centre's ability to provide a wider range of targeted services to increase access by this group.

The quality of practice and services

Good

- There is a good balance of services that are open to all and those that are focused on providing specific support for priority families, especially those living in the least advantaged areas.
- The centre is particularly effective in supporting children's development and school readiness and identifying needs at an early stage. Close links with the speech and language therapist through regular drop-in sessions and groups, such as Growing Together and TalkACTivity, have had a positive impact on boys' achievement.
- Sessions are popular, well led and generally well attended by priority families. A good range of activities is available at Stay and Play sessions, for example to encourage children's independence. Parents say their children have grown in confidence as a result of coming to the centre.
- Early Years Foundation Stage outcomes for the centre's area have improved significantly from 49.9% in 2013 to 60.4% in 2014, now in line with national levels. A higher proportion of children, including boys, who have accessed the children's centre achieved the expected level compared to those who did not use the centre.
- A wide range of courses helps to improve adults' skills, including those provided by the Honilands Parents' College. The large majority who start courses complete them and there are several examples of adults progressing on to employment after attending centre-led workshops. However, the lack of any strong links with Jobcentre Plus limits the support the centre can provide to workless households in the local community.
- The volunteer programme is well established. Volunteers play an important role as breastfeeding supporters and at sessions such as Stay and Play. This helps to developing their own confidence.
- Health outcomes are mixed. Breastfeeding rates are good at 63%, and are well above the national average. However, 16% of young children are classed as obese, well above the national figure. There are several sessions aimed at encouraging healthy lifestyles, such as Come and Cook held at the Oasis site. However, the centre is aware that more needs to be done to meet the needs of families where children are very overweight.
- There are very good partnerships in place, with an extensive range of services. These include counselling for families where there have been incidences of domestic violence, general advice and support through weekly Citizens Advice Bureau sessions and Gingerbread's Talent Match sessions to support young, single parents reach their career goals. All of this has had a very positive impact on families who access these services through the centre.
- Staff provide excellent levels of one-to-one support for individual families. This is enhanced by good information sharing, particularly with social care. Consequently, families typically talk about life-changing outcomes for them and their children, summed up by comments such as, 'If not for this centre, I think people would give up.'

The effectiveness of leadership, governance and management

Good

- Data and other information are used well by leaders and managers to evaluate services and those of partners, and to track who is attending and what the impact is on their lives. This has led to an accurate assessment of the centre's strengths and areas for development. Consequently, the centre has a good capacity to continue to improve.
- Staff at all levels are highly committed, well trained and have remained enthusiastic despite a prolonged period of change. Bringing together three separate centres has been a complex exercise that is not yet finalised as there are still three line managers and separate budgets operating under

a matrix management arrangement. As a result, although staff and financial resources at each site are used effectively, they are not yet shared across the three locations to ensure even better value for money.

- Staff receive high levels of support from managers who ensure regular supervision meetings are focused on their professional development.
- Safeguarding procedures are embedded well in all the centre's work and staff are very well trained, especially in spotting and acting on any signs for concern. Close working relationships with the centre's named social worker have meant that children who are subject to child protection plans or are considered in need receive high levels of support. Staff are proactive in engaging other services to assist families through effective use of Early Help Assessments.
- Parents have very positive views of the centre, with typical comments being, 'They are a brilliant team and I cannot thank them enough.' Families are regularly consulted about services. Although only a small number attends the advisory board, parents feel strongly that their views are taken into account well through having opportunities to speak to volunteers and because staff are so approachable.
- The local authority provides a good level of support and regular monitoring of the centre. Targets are challenging and focused on reducing inequalities in the local area. The centre is meeting the large majority of those targets. Advisory board members are knowledgeable and also provide a good level of challenge. However, the membership is currently too narrow as there are few representatives from partners and only two parent members.

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

Unique reference number	22423
Local authority	London Borough of Enfield
Inspection number	461147
Managed by	The governing bodies of Prince of Wales Primary School, Honilands Primary School and Oasis Hub Enfield on behalf of the local authority.

Approximate number of children under five in the reach area	2,314
Centre manager	Wendy Bowstead
Date of previous inspection	Not previously inspected
Telephone number	01992 762140
Email address	childrencentre@princeofwales.enfield.sch.uk

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