

# Northern Ryedale Children's Centre

c/o Kirkbymoorside Community Primary School, Westfields, Kirkbymoorside, North Yorkshire, YO62 6AG

<b>Inspection dates</b>	21 – 22 April 2015
<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.

- The centre is highly popular with local families and a large majority are registered and make good use of the services. A majority of the families identified as being most in need of intervention and support are known to the centre and benefit from the high quality courses, activities and support.
- Staff work very effectively with health partners to ensure that breastfeeding rates remain high and that obesity rates remain low. Families benefit from very good advice and guidance about exercise, weaning and diet.
- Activities are very well organised and successfully reduce inequalities. Staff ensure parents understand the many different ways they are able to support their children's development.
- Almost all children have a good start to school life. Where extra support is required the centre works very effectively with schools and families to provide it.
- Home visits and community outreach work are highly effective. The centre ensures its services are available to everyone. Staff have established a network of nine delivery points throughout the area served by the centre, including some of the most isolated rural communities.
- Support to help parents improve their understanding of how to keep their children safe is very effective.
- Staff and volunteers are well qualified. They use their good experience very effectively to help parents gain greater self-confidence as they improve their parenting skills.
- Leaders, managers and the advisory board set high standards and monitor the centre's performance very effectively. The whole staff team understand what is required to improve the centre and they are ambitious for the success of everyone. As a result, the centre continually raises the quality of its work and the positive impact it has on improving the lives of families.

### It is not outstanding because:

- The proportion of families entitled to free early education for two-year-olds who take up the offer is low.
- Too few of the parents from families identified as being most in need of support are actively involved in having their say about how the centre is run.

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

- Ensure that a greater proportion of the families entitled to free early education for two-year-olds benefit from the offer by making sure they receive detailed information about the support available and understand the benefits of taking up the offer.
- Increase the number of parents involved in helping to make decisions about how the centre is run, particularly those identified as being most in need of support, by encouraging them to join 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 parents and children, the centre's leaders, outreach and support workers and representatives from the local authority. They also met health, education and early years partners, adult education coordinators, volunteers and representatives of the advisory board.

The inspectors observed the centre's work, visited satellite centres in Pickering and Helmsley, visited Sinnington Playgroup, took children's views into account, and looked at a range of relevant documentation including parents' evaluation and satisfaction surveys.

### Inspection team

Daniel Grant, Lead inspector

Additional inspector

Barbara Wearing

Additional inspector

## Full report

### Information about the centre

Northern Ryedale Children's Centre opened in February 2011. It is a stand-alone children's centre currently in the process of merging with Central Ryedale Children's Centre to form a group and share services, staff and an overall manager. The centre aims to meet its core purpose by offering a range of services including family play sessions, health clinics, parenting advice, adult learning and family support.

The centre is based on the same site as Kirkbymoorside Community Primary School (URN 121303) and Kirkbymoorside Pre-School Playgroup (URN 400308) which are subject to separate inspection arrangements. The reports from these inspections are available at [www.gov.uk/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/ofsted).

The centre is managed directly by North Yorkshire local authority. There is an advisory board to assist governance made up of representatives of local organisations, members of the local community and parents.

There are approximately 835 children under the age of five years in the area. The centre covers a large rural area and includes the market towns of Helmsley, Kirkbymoorside and Pickering. The area is largely affluent with only a few pockets of disadvantage.

The target groups identified by the centre include: families with new babies, maternal mental health and those experiencing domestic violence.

The very large majority of families served by the centre are White British. Housing is mostly private with small pockets of social housing. Levels of unemployment are low, with only a small number of children living in households dependent upon workless benefits. Most children enter early years provision with knowledge and skills typical for their age.

## Inspection judgements

### Access to services by young children and families

**Good**

- Staff work very effectively with key partners to ensure that a very large majority of families with a child under five years of age living in the area are registered with the centre. Most of these families make good use of the services the centre has to offer and the numbers involved continue to increase. Outreach visits are used effectively to engage those who may be reluctant to access the centre's services. Staff ensure that parents understand what services are available and how the staff and partners can help them.
- The centre is popular in the local community and has established a positive reputation for providing highly effective support for all families, including those expecting a baby. Staff successfully prioritise families who are most in need of services and make sure they receive well-coordinated support. Families with a new baby and children assessed as living in the relatively disadvantaged areas engage well in almost all activities.
- Staff ensure that families referred for specific help, such as those experiencing domestic abuse and those affected by maternal mental ill-health, have good access to support and services which are very well matched to their needs.
- A high number of families benefit from attendance at well-structured parenting programmes. These help families gain a clearer understanding of some of the rewards and challenges of being a parent. Staff use their skills and experience well to ensure those who attend receive good individual support to help them overcome difficulties and become more effective parents.
- The proportion of families using funding for high-quality early education for two-year-olds is not yet large enough. However, the centre works exceptionally well with key partners to ensure a large majority of three- and four-year-old children eligible for funded places take up the offer.

**The quality of practice and services****Good**

- All families, including those most in need of support who use the centre's services benefit from the high quality courses, activities and advice on offer. Staff and partner agencies respond quickly to requests to provide families with support. The impact of their work on improving the outcomes for families is recorded very thoroughly in case files.
- Staff are very well qualified and have good levels of experience which they use very effectively with health and other key partners to provide highly effective support for breastfeeding mothers. For many of these mothers the centre is the place they feel most comfortable as they begin breastfeeding. The centre's good range of information posters and leaflets has contributed well to the high proportion of mothers who continue breastfeeding at six-to-eight weeks after delivery and to the low and decreasing rate of obesity.
- The centre provides a wide range of well-organised and relevant activities which successfully support children's learning and development. The centre contributes significantly to children's good progress through activities such as Book Start and Small Talk. Systems to track the progress over time of children most in need of support are well established and effective.
- The centre has developed a highly successful initiative to reduce inequalities by ensuring all children are prepared well for school. Highly successful partnership work with schools and early years providers supports children's learning and development. Families also receive useful information leaflets and advice to help them understand what to expect when their children start school. A higher proportion of children in the area than seen nationally achieve a good level of development by the end of their Reception Year.
- The centre offers a good range of adult learning, including parenting classes, through its effective partnerships with North Yorkshire Adult and Community Learning Service. These groups are very well attended and ever popular with large numbers of parents. Basic courses on literacy and numeracy have helped many parents move on to higher level courses, secure voluntary work and, subsequently, find paid employment.
- A good range of information, advice and guidance is available in the centre and families make good use of this as they call in or attend courses. Staff are very welcoming and make sure families find solutions quickly as they encounter new challenges. Specialist services, such as counselling support, are available to parents to help them overcome specific issues that staff cannot resolve. Particularly effective work takes place with those suffering from domestic abuse.

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

- The centre has good arrangements for leadership, governance and management. Everyone involved in running the centre has a clear focus on priorities which ensure that, as the centre becomes more effective, the outcomes for local families improve. Effective and detailed development plans, informed by accurate self-evaluation, are in place to sustain on-going improvements. As a consequence, the centre's work continues to have positive impact on reducing inequalities for children and families.
- Thorough and methodical leadership by the local authority helps promote the highly effective teamwork. Resources are of a high standard, deployed very efficiently and used to full capacity to meet local needs, including those families most in need of intervention and support. The performance of the centre and the quality of its services are monitored thoroughly by senior leaders. Close analysis of data and trends in performance are used effectively by leaders to ensure all families receive a good range of relevant services.
- Parents are fully involved in many aspects of running the centre, including as members of the advisory board. However, too few of these parents are from the groups identified as being most in need of support. This means that leaders cannot be confident that these families' views are heard and used to shape future services. Staff conduct regular and thorough surveys to establish parents' views of the effectiveness of the centre's services. However, despite wide and regular consultation, a few parents do not feel included sufficiently in the centre's decision-making processes.

- The centre manager supports the staff team very well, making sure that staff are well trained and that their performance is managed thoroughly through regular supervisions. Transitional management arrangements for merging the centre are effective. Staff are clear about their new roles and responsibilities. The temporary dual-manager arrangements mean that the centre benefits from both the previous manager and new manager working together very effectively. They ensure the high quality services to families are not disrupted.
- Staff have a good understanding of safeguarding policies and procedures and use them effectively to help children and families remain safe and to promote their welfare. Arrangements for the recruitment of staff are well established, effective and thoroughly understood by staff and leaders. Staff vetting checks meet current requirements.
- Managers have clear oversight of the good work undertaken by staff as they support families with children identified as being in need. This includes those subject to child protection plans and looked after children. The centre makes very good use of the early help assessments to ensure families receive well-planned, timely support.

**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 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**

<b>Unique reference number</b>	22203
<b>Local authority</b>	North Yorkshire
<b>Inspection number</b>	455065
<b>Managed by</b>	The local authority
<b>Approximate number of children under five in the reach area</b>	835
<b>Centre manager</b>	Claire Morton and Simon Robson
<b>Telephone number</b>	01609 798345
<b>Email address</b>	Simon.robson@northyorks.gov.uk

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