

# Mosley Common Children's Centre

St John's CE Primary School, Mosley Common, Boothstown, Worsley, Manchester, M28 1AE

<b>Inspection dates</b>	17–18 June 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 has been very successful at increasing the number of families who are known and registered. The large majority of those living in the most deprived areas access the centre and make good use of the high-quality services on offer.
- The centre works in a very effective way with a wide range of partner organisations, such as those from health, early help, social care and housing. This ensures that families benefit from a good range of service and support.
- Support to help parents increase their self-confidence and improve their parenting skills is effective. Staff are very well qualified and use their good skills and experience effectively to understand the needs of families. 'Staff are really good at providing the right service, at the right time and in the right place to help families', is a typical comment from partner agencies.
- Excellent partnership working with local schools, early years settings and childminders ensures that work designed to improve children's readiness for school is having a very positive impact.
- Adult learning, training and volunteering are key strengths of this centre's work. Courses such as first aid, English and mathematics, alongside a work club, help parents to improve their knowledge and skills. As a result, their life chances and the quality of their lives improve significantly.
- Centre managers provide very motivational leadership. This has led to the development of a strong staff team, highly productive partnership working and high standards of practice in the centre.
- Governance arrangements are effective. The local authority, governors of the school and the locality advisory board monitor the performance of the centre very well, and support and challenge it to improve. This, combined with the very good leadership and management within the centre, means that the quality of its work and its impact continuously improve.

### It is not outstanding because:

- A small minority of families remain difficult to engage and are not benefiting from the good services offered by the centre.
- The number of families who take up their entitlement to free early education for two-year-olds has reduced and is too low.
- The centre does not always receive accurate and up-to-date information from health partners. This makes it hard for the centre to measure the full impact of its work to improve health outcomes.

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

- Enhance the impact of the leadership and management of the centre so that life chances for children and their families improve further by:
  - increasing the participation rates to ensure that almost all families benefit from the good services on offer, particularly lone parents and workless fathers
  - ensuring that a greater proportion of the families entitled to free early education for two-year-olds benefit from the offer by making sure that they receive detailed information about the support available and understand the benefits of taking up the offer
  - collaborating more closely with health partners at a strategic level to secure more robust and timely information so that the centre can measure the impact of its health promotion work more accurately.

### 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 executive headteacher, designated lead, centre manager and local authority representatives. They also held meetings with centre staff, parents, members of the locality advisory board and a number of partners, including health, education and children's social care professionals.

The inspectors visited a number of sessions including, 'Baby Moves', 'Story and Rhyme Time', 'IT for work' adult learning course, and the 'STARS Parents' Group'.

They observed the centre's work, and looked at a range of relevant documentation, such as the centre's self-evaluation report, improvement plan, a sample of case studies, parent evaluations, key policies and the centre's 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

Qaisra Shahraz Ahmad

Additional inspector

## Full report

### Information about the centre

Mosley Common Children's Centre is a stand-alone centre situated within the grounds of St John's Church of England Primary School. It offers a range of services which include child health services, family play sessions, parenting programmes, adult learning and family outreach services. The centre works in collaboration with Tyldesley and Atherton Children's Centres to deliver services to families.

There are approximately 630 children aged under five years living within the area, of whom approximately 220 live in the top 30% most deprived areas in the country. The majority of families served by the centre are of White British heritage, with a small but growing Eastern European community. Levels of unemployment are low, with 16% of children living in households dependent upon workless benefits, which is smaller than the Wigan average of 24%. Most children enter early years provision with knowledge and skills that are in line with those typical for their age. Childcare provision is delivered by a range of providers in the area. These are subject to separate inspection arrangements and the reports are available the Ofsted website: [www.gov.uk/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/ofsted).

The centre has identified lone parents, workless fathers, children in workless households, minority ethnic families and disabled children as those most in need of its support.

The centre is led by the executive headteacher, her senior management team and the governors of St John's Church of England Primary School on behalf of Wigan Local Authority, in conjunction with a shared locality advisory board that includes providers, delivery partners and members of the local community.

## Inspection judgements

### Access to services by young children and families

**Good**

- Staff have a very good understanding of the needs of local families. They work successfully with key partners to share information and ensure that almost all families with children under five years of age are registered with the centre. The large majority of families living in the most deprived areas make good use of the services on offer and the numbers continue to rise. This includes those expecting children, children living in workless households and minority ethnic communities. However, a small minority of users, such as workless fathers and lone parents, still do not participate regularly in activities.
- Well-planned and focused outreach visits that take place in families' homes are used effectively to assess the individual needs of families. Staff successfully explain to parents what services are available and how the activities and courses can help them. This makes sure that those who may be reluctant to visit the centre and access services are encouraged to get involved.
- Staff ensure that families referred for specific help, such as those with a disabled child and those at risk of domestic abuse or with mental health issues, have good access to services which are well matched to their needs. 'I'm getting my life back on track. They think about you all the time', and, 'amazing staff, they have helped us to rebuild our lives', are typical comments from parents about the work of centre's staff.
- Support to help parents to increase their self-confidence and improve parenting skills is effective. Initiatives such as 'Granny's Handbag' are helping parents to become more aware of the dangers of everyday objects. Fathers, in particular, are positive about the benefits of the weekly 'Dads' Group' which is run by volunteer fathers.
- The centre works very well with key partners to ensure that almost all three- and four-year-old children eligible for a funded early education place take up the offer. They work hard to increase the take-up of places for eligible two-year-olds. However, due to changes made by the local authority in how families are informed about these places, the uptake has reduced from 100% down to 66%. Consequently, not enough young children are developing their skills and knowledge to be better

prepared for school.

### The quality of practice and services

**Good**

- The quality and range of services that are open to all or those targeted at specific groups is good. The centre is widely recognised as a real hub of the community that improves children's well-being. 'Staff know and are part of the community', is a typical comment from partners.
- The centre has recognised that sustained breastfeeding rates in the area are historically below the national average. However, the new '4 Stage Antenatal Programme' and breastfeeding celebration events are beginning to have a positive impact on improving the way that breastfeeding is promoted to new mothers.
- Although rates of obesity in young children have decreased, they are still above both the local and national averages. The centre has addressed this by including messages about health in all its sessions such as the, 'Giggle While You Wiggle' dance and movement session. However, the centre does not always receive from its partners robust and up-to-date key health information about families living in the area. This hinders sharper and more rapid evaluation of the full impact of its services.
- Partnerships with local schools and early years providers, through the 'Under 5's Working Group', are excellent. Members of the group very effectively share information, scrutinise data to identify priorities in children's learning and put on training to support even stronger and more effective practice across the area. The centre successfully hosts transition meetings for local settings and runs 'Time to Talk' speech and language sessions in local nurseries to support children identified as most in need. As a result, outcomes for children leaving early years in school are improving and are above both the local and national averages. Furthermore, the achievement gap between the most deprived children and the rest is closing.
- The broad range of adult learning courses offered, including those leading to accredited qualifications, is an impressive feature of this centre's work. Take-up rates of courses, such as basic English, mathematics, first aid and taster courses in nail art and beauty, are good. Unemployed adults have good access to advice, guidance, training and volunteering opportunities. For instance, they access the work club, receive support about interview skills from work coaches and participate in employability programmes. This effectively helps them to become better prepared for work, improve their life chances and reduces inequalities. Several have found paid employment as a result.

### The effectiveness of leadership, governance and management

**Good**

- The centre is managed well by an energetic centre leadership team whose members lead by example. They lead a highly committed, well-supervised, well-trained team of staff who share their vision and passion to do the very best for families. The local authority representative commented that centre leaders are 'tenacious, innovative, creative and seek solutions to remove barriers for families'.
- Governance through the co-located primary school, local authority and locality advisory board is very effective in holding the centre to account and monitoring its performance. Board members know the centre very well, understand its strengths and key areas for development. They also use data effectively to monitor the centre's performance. Effective plans, informed by accurate self-evaluation, are in place to sustain on-going improvements. Members of the board commented that, 'The centre gets everyone around the table and together, we flag up issues and we make a difference.'
- The executive headteacher, governors of the co-located school and centre leadership team provide very good advice and support, which helps to promote the highly effective teamwork. Resources are particularly good and staff use them efficiently and effectively to meet local needs both in the centre and in outreach venues across the area. The whole staff team ensures that the centre provides a warm and welcoming environment where families feel relaxed, safe and very well supported.

- Centre leaders closely monitor the performance of the centre and the quality of services. They analyse data thoroughly and use trends in performance effectively to ensure that all families receive a good range of services matched to their needs. As a consequence, the centre's work continues to have a positive impact on reducing inequalities for children and families.
- Parents are actively involved in various aspects of running the centre, including as volunteers and as members of the 'STARS Parents' Group' and locality advisory board. Staff consult with parents regularly and support them to provide frequent evaluation of services and contribute new ideas.
- Centre leaders have high expectations of their staff team and support them very well. Staff are well trained and their performance is managed thoroughly, helping them to develop their practice and improve their work.
- Safeguarding arrangements, including safer recruitment policies and procedures, are effective. Staff work well with social care professionals to provide good support to families of children subject to child protection plans, looked after children and children in need. Early Help Assessments are used well to ensure that the families most in need of help receive well-organised, timely support. Through highly effective partnership working with organisations representing, for example, health, housing, social care and early help, the centre offers an effective package of support and services for families.

**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**

<b>Unique reference number</b>	22056
<b>Local authority</b>	Wigan
<b>Inspection number</b>	455112
<b>Managed by</b>	The Governors of St John's Church of England Primary School on behalf of the local authority

<b>Approximate number of children under five in the reach area</b>	630
<b>Centre leader</b>	Yvonne Brown, Christine Jones and Lyndsey Daly
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	Not previously inspected
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