

Beeford Children's Centre

Main Street, Beeford, East Yorkshire, YO25 8AY

Inspection dates	24–25 June 2015
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Overall effectiveness	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
		Not previously inspected	
Access to services by young children and families		Outstanding	1
The quality of practice and services		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of leadership, governance and management		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for children and families

This is an outstanding centre.

- Centre leadership is excellent and teamwork is a real strength. The centre leader has high expectations of the staff and this is reflected in the outstanding quality of practice and services that they provide. The centre has an outstanding capacity to continually improve because leaders, management and governance pursue and achieve excellence in all that they do.
- The commitment of the staff to meeting the needs of both adults and children is extremely impressive. They are dedicated to helping children to lead happy healthy lifestyles and are constantly looking for ways to improve what they do.
- Wide-ranging systems are used to assess the needs of the children and families who use the centre. The needs of these families are well known and understood by all partners. Outreach staff are extremely successful in using home visits to reach out to those who are unable to access services at the centre.
- Relationships between the centre and other services, including health, social services and schools, are excellent. As a result of this highly effective working relationship, the vast majority of local families are registered with the centre and regularly attend groups and access wider services.
- The centre has excellent systems in place for tracking the involvement of families in centre services. Concerted action is taken to sustain contact with these families. Any non-attendance is quickly followed up and staff work tirelessly to ensure the families most in need quickly access the support they require.
- The vast majority of two-year-olds eligible for nursery places take-up places in high-quality childcare settings. Centre staff know which settings these children attend. While they are told informally of the progress these children are making, they have yet to put in place a more robust system so that they can fully evidence that all of these children are starting school ready to learn.
- Safeguarding is robust. Staff are confident in their knowledge of child protection: their training is regular and up to date. Excellent partnership working ensures that effective support is given to families at times of crisis.

What does the centre need to do to improve further?

- Build on the excellent tracking systems so that they include the progress of two-year-old children in receipt of funded nursery education.

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 senior leaders, members of staff and partner professionals from other agencies, such as health, social services, schools and childcare providers. Discussions were held with members of the advisory board, representatives from the local authority and parents. The inspectors visited a 'Let's Play' activity that took place at Skipsea Primary School.

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

Inspection team

Janet Stacey, Lead inspector

Additional inspector

Heather Hartmann

Additional inspector

Full report

Information about the centre

SureStart Children's Centre Beeford is a stand alone centre co-located on the site of Beeford Primary School, near to Drifffield. The reach offers a service to families and children living across a large rural area. The local authority is responsible for governance of the centre, supported by an advisory board.

The centre offers a range of services both at the centre and across the whole community, which include family activities, family support and parenting programmes. Health services are offered at health clinics in Hornsea, Bridlington and Beverley. Linked childcare provision is provided by private and voluntary early year's organisations across the area. These provisions are subject to separate inspection arrangements and are available on the Ofsted website: www.gov.uk/ofsted. Children's skills on entry to early education vary across the area served by the centre, between broadly typical for their age and below those that are typical.

There are approximately 549 children under five-years-of-age living in the reach area. Most families living in the area are of White British heritage. Most of the area is fairly affluent with only small pockets of disadvantage and very low numbers of families receiving out-of-work benefits. The centre has identified rural, isolated families living across an 86 mile radius and children of seasonal workers as those that need the most support.

Inspection judgements

Access to services by young children and families

Outstanding

- Leaders and staff make excellent use of a very wide range of information to supplement exceptional local knowledge of the community. There are rigorous procedures to ensure that no one slips through the net. This includes families who are identified as most needing the centre's support, those expecting children and those less likely to participate. As a result, almost all of the children and families in the area are registered with the centre. Children and families access the wide range of services that are offered both at the centre and across the vast rural area that the centre covers.
- Receipt of live-birth data and the excellent collaboration with midwives and health visitors keeps the centre fully informed about the babies born in the area each month. Very good communication with a wide range of partners also informs the centre of the children who move into the area. This information is vital given the high number of families that take-up seasonal work during the holiday period. All of the centre's partners are very proactive in informing parents of the centre's services and helping to obtain families' consent to be contacted.
- Staff are dedicated to removing any barriers to families accessing their services. Their work takes them over a wide area. However, this does not daunt, or deter them from reaching out to as many families as they can possibly reach.
- Staff have established excellent relationships with all eight schools across the area, childcare settings and with a wide range of partners that offer services in the most rural parts of the community. Staff take almost all of what they offer in the centre out into these areas. As a result, no child, or adult, including those living in the most isolated areas, misses out and all are able to benefit from the high-quality services, activities and support that the centre offers.
- Staff are assiduous in encouraging families to access nursery education for their children. The centres use their strong links with childminders, childcare providers, as well as all schools to direct parents to good-quality nursery provision. As a result of these efforts, all families who have two- three- and four-year-old children who are eligible for funded nursery places take up the offer. While this is extremely positive, the centre does not always know how much progress each child is making to ensure that all children have the skills and knowledge they need to start school.

The quality of practice and services**Outstanding**

- The range of activities and courses on offer is outstanding, with a varied and wide balance of services that are open to all, and specifically for the families identified as most in need of help. Extensive work with families in their home ensures that the centre is successfully reaching out into the wider community and improving children's well-being and the lives of families.
- The commitment of the staff to meeting the needs of both adults and children is very impressive and they are constantly looking for ways to improve what they do. This contributes to an open and friendly atmosphere where everyone feels free to ask for help when they need it. Parents speak with enthusiasm about the support they receive: as one commented, 'This centre is a godsend; I could not have done it without them.'
- Staff in the centre are flexible in everything that they do and adapt services to meet developing individual and community needs. For example, 'Let's Play' is delivered at the centre and in all schools across the area. In addition, outstanding focus is given to involving fathers. 'Saturday Dad's Club', which runs monthly, has very good attendance and offers lots of opportunities for fathers to spend quality time with their children. Staff plan exciting activities and themes and also incorporate sessions offered during the week, such as 'Baby Massage' to ensure dads do not miss out on their child's play and development.
- Close collaboration with health, results in a seamless programme of support to ensure all children are supported to live healthy lifestyles. 'Bumps To Babies' enables expectant parents, particularly those living in the most rural areas, to form friendships and feel more confident through pregnancy to when their child is born. This support leads onto 'Baby Massage', 'Talk Time', and 'Let's Play'. All activities are meticulously planned with a clear focus on learning through play.
- Good promotion of breastfeeding within the centre, in the community and in the home results in the proportion of mothers breastfeeding their children at six to eight weeks being in line the national average. The number of children starting schools obese is virtually non-existent as is the number of women smoking during pregnancy.
- Helping children to be ready for school runs as a 'golden thread' throughout the centre's work. Staff have forged excellent relationships with all schools across the area. Together, they identify the gaps in children's development and work seamlessly to look at ways in which they can help all children to thrive. In addition, the 'Friendship Group', which is run jointly at the local childcare provision to support disabled children or those with an additional need, provides an informal time for parents to talk about common issues, challenges and successes and provide a space where children are able to have fun and engage in activities that are meaningful and positive.
- 'Take and Make' is a unique activity that contains a wide range of creative and home safety materials at low cost, which is taken out into the community. These packs contain pictorial handouts on how to extend creative play in the home. In addition, puppet packs, again with pictorial information to accompany materials, help adults and children to make puppets at home. A wonderful, imaginative resource that is taken out into areas where staff know there are no shops to purchase these materials.
- The centre's work with adults is very carefully planned and is highly successful in enhancing families' economic and general well-being. Robust tracking of attendance and progress shows that many complete courses and go on to further training, volunteering or employment. Those who volunteer at the centre are particularly successful at moving into employment, greatly helped by the high-quality induction, supervision and support that the centre manager provides.

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

- The centre is led by a very skilled and experienced centre manager that knows the area well. She provides inspirational leadership and has established a strong, multi-skilled, dedicated staff team, which has the resilience, optimism and motivation to form strong partnerships that really help make a difference for children and families.
- The passion to help all families across the area is shared by strong leadership from the local

authority who set ambitious goals and monitor the centre's performance with rigour. The advisory board has excellent membership from a wide range of partner organisations and parents. They understand data and use these well to monitor the centre's ability to close the gap and reduce inequalities. Management of resources is carefully scrutinised, which contributes significantly to the success of the centre in reaching out to the hardest to engage families living across the rural community.

- Day-to-day management is excellent. Roles and responsibilities are clearly understood and effectively delegated to centre staff. Performance management and supervision are extremely well-established and methodical. They include direct observation of sessions and regular training days. Staff training and the appraisal process are linked to the centre's priorities for development.
- The centre manager effectively uses the good range of data and information provided to her by a range of sources including parents, partner organisations and staff to explore the difference the centre is making to children and families and to set accurate and precise priorities that are focused on helping children to flourish.
- Safeguarding is robust and processes for monitoring the welfare of children and the sharing of concerns are applied with rigour. Staff are confident in their knowledge of child protection: their training is regular and up to date. Excellent relationships with health and social services ensure joined-up provision for families in need, especially those with children subject to child-protection plans, looked-after children, children identified as in need or those who have been assessed under the Common Assessment Framework.
- The voice of both the child and adults is at the forefront of the centre's work. In the more serious cases the families' voice is pivotal to agreeing any course of action to help reduce risk. In addition, parents regularly put forward suggestions and ideas to the advisory board for consideration, which are then used to help shape services.

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	20249
Local authority	East Riding of Yorkshire
Inspection number	455037
Managed by	The local authority
Approximate number of children under five in the reach area	549
Centre leader	Anne M Wright
Date of previous inspection	Not previously inspected
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