

Nottinghamshire - Butlers Hill & Broomhill/High Leys/Market Place

Broomhill Road, Hucknall, Nottinghamshire, NG15 6AJ

Inspection dates	9–10 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 group

- Most children and families living in the area are registered with the group. The large majority of children and families with the most pressing needs remain in contact until their needs are met.
- Outreach work is particularly effective in helping families during times of crises. Strong collaborative work, including that with specialist services, ensures that families receive timely, well-integrated support. Case files are maintained to a good standard.
- Centre activities are of good quality. Children with communication problems are supported well in their learning and development. The take up of free education by three and four year-olds is high. The gap in achievement between those children at risk of falling behind and the rest is narrowing.
- Parents from priority groups benefit from well-resourced activities that improve their personal skills and self-esteem. The strong focus on positive behaviour management helps many to build confident parenting skills. Mothers and children experiencing domestic abuse receive tailor-made support to help keep them safe and enhance their well-being.
- Volunteering is promoted successfully and offers a clear pathway for a high number of parents to enhance their experience and skills and move into paid work.
- Good leadership, management and governance are driving continuous improvement.

It is not outstanding because:

- Information is not used well enough by leaders to help focus priority actions, set challenging targets and measure performance. This is particularly the case where checking access is concerned, particularly those on low incomes.
- Not enough eligible two year-olds are accessing free education. The tracking of children's progress over time lacks cohesion.
- The provision of adult learning is not well-coordinated and progress checks are incomplete.

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

- Sharpen leaders' use of data to inform the setting and monitoring of challenging targets, particularly to focus the group's work on further increasing the engagement of low income families.
- Work with early years partners to increase the take up of free education by most eligible two year-olds.
- Strengthen the tracking of children's progress during centre activities and when they move on, so that there is clear evidence about achievement.
- Ensure that there is a joined up approach to meeting adults' learning and skills needs, and implement procedures to track and measure the progress they make when they access partners' services.

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 inspection covered the following children's centres: Butlers Hill and Broomhill, High Leys and Market Place.

The inspectors held meetings with centre leaders, staff, local authority officers, focus groups, partners, volunteers, parents and members of the local advisory group.

The inspectors visited activities held at all three centres in the group including 'Baby Business', St Mark's Toddler Group, 'Messy Play', a health drop-in and an adult basic skills session.

Inspectors took into account parents' views as expressed directly to them during the inspection, as well as through their recorded evaluations about the centre's work.

They observed the group's work, and looked at a range of relevant documentation.

Inspection team

Christine Field, Lead Inspector	Additional inspector
Patricia Hornsby	Additional inspector
Aileen King	Additional inspector

Full report

Information about the centre group

The group, comprising of Butlers Hill and Broomhill, High Leys and Market Place children's centres was formed in January 2012. The group serves the wards of Hucknall East, Hucknall West, Hucknall North, Central and also Bestwood Village. Hucknall is situated seven miles North West of Nottingham City. It is part of Ashfield District within Nottinghamshire County, an area hard hit by the demise of mining and with high-level deprivation. The group works in collaboration with other children's centres in the Ashfield District to meet local needs.

Prior to the grouping, each centre was stand-alone. Butlers Hill and Broomhill and Market Place were inspected previously, but High Leys was not. Their reports can be found at www.ofsted.gov.uk. The children's centre group has been managed on behalf of the local authority by the Nottinghamshire Children and Families Partnership (NCFP) since June 2013. Day-to-day leadership is provided by the centre coordinator, who oversees the work of the staff team and is responsible to the district manager. The team consists of nine early years practitioners, eight health and family support workers, a specialist early years teacher, a speech and language therapist, two community development workers and three administrative support staff. A local advisory group is established to support governance.

There are 2,239 children under the age of five years living in the area served by the group. Most children are assessed as living in low income households; a quarter live in workless homes. Most families are White British. Children's skills on entry to early year's provision are typical for their age, except in communication, language and literacy where they are below the level expected.

Target groups have been identified as: children living in low income households, children and families affected by domestic abuse, children with communication and language delay, and families where the parent/carer has a custodial sentence.

Inspection judgements

Access to services by young children and families

Good

- Highly effective partnership work, supported by regular information sharing between agencies working in the area, enables the group to have a thorough knowledge of children's and families' needs. Registrations are high and improving. Virtually all children with communication and language delay, families where the parent or carer has a custodial sentence and families affected by domestic violence, keep in regular contact until their needs are met.
- Specific group sessions, such as 'Baby Business', result in good engagement by very young children and families. Toddler groups held at various community venues mean that parents have a session right on their doorstep that caters for their children as they get older. Some sessions are held to meet specific needs, such as 'Play and Learn' which is held in the visitors room at Nottingham Prison.
- Various marketing tools including social media are used effectively to keep in touch with parents and prospective parents, and to make sure they know about the good range of services available. A wide range of information is on hand to help leaders spot trends in the take up of services and to pinpoint any families who have not been seen recently. However, this information is not being used precisely enough to drive improvement, particularly concerning the 40% of low income families who are not accessing centre group services regularly.
- Some 97% of three and four year-olds access their free education place. Local headteachers identify that this is helping children prepare well for school. Partnership work is strong amongst early year's providers, and the robust analysis of boys' relative under-achievement, communication and language delays and dips in achievement in the High Leys area underpins the shared approach to improvement.
- At 59%, the take up of free education by eligible two year-olds is well below the 80% seen nationally. Not enough is being done to find out why this is or to explore what other services these children might be accessing. In addition, a small but significant number of those who are accessing a place are doing so at settings requiring improvement. The centre group is not yet prioritising its support for these settings or checking closely enough whether these children are receiving the very best start.

The quality of practice and services

Good

- There is a good range of services which balances those services available to everyone with ones specifically for priority groups such as children with communication problems. Feedback from parents about the quality of the services they receive is extremely positive. Fathers enjoy the Sunday activities which help strengthen relationships and enable quality time with their children.
- The support for families facing particular challenges in their lives is very effective. The case file system used for supporting children not involved in social care involves all other agencies who provide services logging information in one record. This ensures that everyone has up-to-date information at their finger tips. It is planned that social care will also use this system in going forward.
- Regular meetings are held between different agencies to share information and coordinate support for families affected by domestic violence. The centre group also organises a specific programme to help mothers build resilience and take back control of their lives. The group holds 'reunions' some months after the programme has finished to take stock of the longer term impact.
- The Early Years Foundation Stage profile results showing children's achievement have been improving year-on-year and reflect positively on the group and its partners' work to reduce inequalities. The proportion of children achieving a good level of development is close to the national average. The gap

in achievement between the lowest achieving 20% of children and the rest is narrowing over time, except in High Leys. The group has begun to establish the levels of achievement of children, particularly target children, who have accessed children centres services. When completed, this work will help to evaluate more fully the impact of the group's interventions.

- Parents' understanding about how to keep their children safe and healthy is nurtured well. Health drop-in sessions provide helpful advice on weaning, sleeping and developmental stages. Specific parenting programmes have well-evidenced benefits in helping parents manage their child's behaviour positively.
- There are plenty of opportunities provided by a range of partners to assist parents in enhancing their education and basic skills. The centre group provides a crèche so that parents can undertake their course knowing that their children are being looked after. However, no one in the group is taking an overview of this provision, following up the quality of experiences, or monitoring how well parents progress when they are referred to particular courses.
- Volunteering is very well structured and organised. The 26 current volunteers add additional capacity to the group's resources, and help individuals to build their experience and expertise through a variety of roles including helping run sessions. Some have progressed successfully, taking up higher education, moving into paid work or chairing the advisory group.

The effectiveness of leadership, governance and management

Good

- The centre coordinator leads the group well and has the full support of the dedicated staff team. Induction and supervision arrangements are effective. Staff appraisal is viewed positively and links clearly to meeting group priorities and individual needs.
- Self-evaluation is an inclusive process involving staff, parents, partners and the advisory group in identifying strengths and areas for development. Regular checks by the local authority and on-going discussions with the district manager ensure a close eye is kept on the group's performance.
- Resources are deployed sensibly; the collaboration with other children's centres in the locality aids efficiencies and enables best practice to be shared. The current improvement plan is focussed on the right priorities to drive positive change, but some targets lack sufficient challenge.
- Governance is effective. The local advisory group, well attended by a wide range of partners and chaired by a parent, provides both support and challenge to the group of centres. Every agenda includes feedback from the 'Time2Talk' parents' forum; this helps to ensure that centre users have their say in strategic decisions.
- Safeguarding is central to the group's work and its policies and procedures meet current requirements. Some good work has recently taken place to raise parents' and staff awareness about e-safety. Referrals from the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) are followed through rigorously. Collaborative working amongst the various agencies active in the area served by the group ensures that early help practice reduces the risk of harm to vulnerable children, including those subject to a child protection plan, in need or looked after.
- Parents have high levels of satisfaction with the services they receive. For example, following the completion of the specific programme for mothers experiencing domestic abuse, a participant stated 'It is great being able to express my feelings without being judged', and another said 'I have learnt that it is not my fault'. The positive impact of the group's many services is well reflected in the feedback shared with inspectors.

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 Group details

Unique reference number	80662
Local authority	Nottinghamshire
Inspection number	447652
Managed by	Nottinghamshire Children and Families Partnership on behalf of the local authority

Approximate number of children under five in the reach area	2,239
Centre leader	Mark Hoyland
Date of previous inspection	Not previously inspected as a group
Telephone number	0115 9488910
Email address	mark.hoyland@nottshc.nhs.uk

This group consists of the following children's centres:

- 20522 Butlers Hill and Broomhill Children's Centre
- 21472 High Leys Children's Centre
- 21934 Market Place Children's Centre

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