

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

PEOPLE CABINET MEMBER

CHILDREN'S CENTRE OFSTED INSPECTION OUTCOME

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet Member of the outcome of the OFSTED inspection of Brigg Children's Centre, undertaken on 7th & 8th March 2013.
- 1.2 A full copy of the report is available in Group offices.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 All Children's Centres are subject to an OFSTED inspection on a five yearly cycle. This is the first inspection for the Brigg Children's Centre.
- 2.2 The inspections are carried out under Part 3A of the Childcare Act 2006 as inserted by section 199 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009.
- 2.3 Inspectors gather evidence from a range of interviews, observations and the examination of written information.
- 2.4 The inspection report gives an overall judgement based on:

Overall Effectiveness - The effectiveness of the children's centre in meeting the needs of and improving outcomes for users and the wider community

Capacity for Sustained Improvement- The centre's capacity for sustained improvement, including the quality of its leadership and management

- 2.5 The judgements are categorised under four criteria:
 - 1 – Outstanding
 - 2 - Good
 - 3 - Satisfactory
 - 4 - Inadequate
- 2.6 Inspectors can make judgements as to whether requirements or recommendations are needed. A requirement is a mandatory action; a recommendation is a suggestion to improve current practice.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 Brigg Children's Centre was inspected and the overall rating was GOOD.

Summary of the inspection findings:

Outcome area	Grading
Overall Effectiveness	2 – Good
Capacity for sustained development	2 – Good
How good are outcomes for Families?	2 – Good
How good is the provision?	2 – Good
How effective are the leadership and management?	2 – Good

Summary taken from the report

Brigg Children's Centre meets the needs of families well and provides a good service. Strong leadership and management, good partnership working and effective outreach services lead to good outcomes for all target groups, including those with circumstances that may make them vulnerable, and as a result, the centre has a good capacity for sustained improvement. A key strength of the centre is that it listens well to the voice of the community and makes good use of available information to ensure that it provides services to meet local needs.

Through good outreach support from early help practitioners, families with circumstances that make them vulnerable receive timely intervention and support. This has had a particularly positive impact where there are domestic violence and isolation concerns.

The centre is inclusive and promotes equality and diversity well. For example, groups, such as the 'Autism Parents Support Meeting' and 'Under 25's Young Parents' are organised specifically to meet parents and families needs.

The centre is focused on providing services for families with the greatest need and is successful in working with its target groups such as the local traveller community, workless families, lone and teenage parents and those experiencing mental health issues and domestic violence.

A good commitment to safeguarding by all staff ensures children and their families are safe. Parents receive good support, training and resources for keeping their families safe. Families trust staff and most are confident to seek help, which is often provided on an individual basis. The centre makes good use of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) processes when appropriate to establish levels of need.

Parents all say they feel very welcome in the friendly environment of the centre. As a result users of the centre benefit from the good advice and support they receive.

The centre's impact on children's learning and development has contributed well to narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving children and their peers by the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage and data show that the number of children in Reception Year who are obese and breastfeeding and immunisation rates are positive.

Over the last year there have been 48 volunteers with five going on to set up their own playgroup, one to support an existing parent and toddler group and one has moved on to study at Lincoln University. In addition there has also been recent interest shown by four members of the traveller community and two fathers.

Recommendations from report

There were three recommendations from the report:

- Extend work with the local authority and health partners to ensure the centre has access to ongoing timely, accurate and precise data for the reach area in order to fully measure its effectiveness and plan future developments.
- Develop further opportunities in centre activities that build on parents' confidence and understanding of how they can help with their children's learning.
- Increase the involvement of fathers by engaging further with those not accessing the centre's activities.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 The Cabinet Member may wish to write to the Children's Centre manager regarding the outcomes of their inspection.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 Financial - None at this time

5.2 Staffing – None

5.3 Property - None

5.4 IT - None

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (if applicable)

- 6.1 Each Centre completes a Self Evaluation document, a business plan and an annual conversation is undertaken with the centre by the Local Authority

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED

7.1 An important part of the inspection was the dialogue between the inspectors and service users, with parents commenting:

‘The staff are friendly, trustworthy and supportive, they are always there to lend a listening ear’ is a typical view expressed by parents.

7.2 Another parent commented ‘I understand my child’s needs more, and I am more aware of his well-being and safety.’

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Continue to support improvements in Brigg Children’s Centre

8.2 Cabinet Member may like to write and make suitable comments to Brigg Children’s Centre on the inspection report.

DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE’S SERVICE

Hewson House
Station Road
Brigg
North Lincolnshire
DN20 8XJ

Author: Lynne Ashcroft

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: Brigg Ofsted inspection report