

Sure Start children's centre summary self-evaluation form for a centre or group of centres

Section A. Self-evaluation

Introduction

This self-evaluation form is linked to the judgements that Ofsted will make at inspection. Its purpose is to:

- help you in your own self-evaluation
- be used as a basis for the inspection of your children's centre/s.

You do not need to complete this form if you have a different way of recording the self-evaluation for your children's centre/s. We will consider any evidence of self-evaluation that you wish us to consider.

Where a centre is part of a group of centres that share leadership and management and integrated services, and is recorded as such for inspection purposes on the Surestart-on database, you should consider only having one SEF for the group.

You should refer closely to the grade descriptors in the evaluation schedule when deciding on a grade; briefly listing your major reasons for deciding on this grade. You should include only the minimum amount of detail in support of your judgement; bullet points are quite acceptable. You do not need to include any detailed analysis or evidence.

Each question in this self-evaluation form starts by asking centres to grade aspects of their work on a four-point scale:

- Grade 1: outstanding
- Grade 2: good
- Grade 3: requires improvement
- Grade 4: inadequate.

Access to services by young children and families	1	2	3	4
Grade:			x	

Briefly list your main reasons for deciding on this grade for the centre or group of centres. Include the strengths of individual centres within a group and key areas for development. (Boxes will expand.)

West Exe is a multi-agency children’s centre (we have about 80 members of staff), with public health and midwifery on site and an active part of the senior leadership team within the Centre, it also has an outstanding maintained nursery school which provides excellent communication between agencies and close working relationships which lead to a holistic service for families. We have a very high registration rate at 94% (over 2000 under 5s in reach). 58% of these children are seen regularly and we can evidence that reach is high the majority of our concerning LSOAs (65%). Some services are still co-delivered with health colleagues – Young Parents and Baby Club and the Centre employs some health professionals for breastfeeding, parentcraft, weaning, resuscitation etc.

We hold a monthly families meeting with all agencies to look at vulnerable families that need additional support.

The Centre have a strong working relationship with CYPs and attend all initial CP conferences and strategy meetings. We work with a high number of level ¾ cases as well as a large number of families at level 2 for earlier intervention. A number of assessment tools are used and cases are regularly monitoring to ensure appropriate progress/support and action.

We also hold a contract for targeted families (The government Troubled Families scheme) and these families receive a robust service to meet the targets within the contract.

We are beginning to develop a pilot programme for a number of families with children in their 1st 1001 days – these are targeted families who we believe may have been referred to us at a later date. This is a multi-agency piece of work.

We are also looking at a more intensive approach to childhood obesity as we have the highest number of overweight reception children in the country (this figure is currently being checked for accuracy). Some staff have attended additional training to support these families and we are working with Active Devon to provide more targeted provision in the area. Recent Open Afternoon have included the themes of Health and Wellbeing, which have included support from local sports clubs and gyms. Public health and nutrition messages are regularly displayed in the Centre and via social media. Families can now be referred to 3E which is a targeted service for families with overweight families 2 – 5 in Devon.

We run cookery skills courses throughout the year to help parents learning to cook healthy, budget conscious meals and learn about nutrition for their families.

We provide a breast pump loan service for families and have an excellent support service for breastfeeding mums.

The Young Parents group is well attended and led by a multi-agency team to ensure they receive tailor made support and are supported to move onto other services as their children grow older. We have a dedicated teenage pregnancy midwife who supported young parents to attend the group antenatally. This is often attended by young parents from outside our patch.

The Centre has a thriving Dads Group accessed by Dads with a variety of social backgrounds, with some Dads using it for contact with their children.

We work with Splitz to support families with domestic violence and all staff have had an appropriate level of training to support these families. The head contributes to the MARAC process. We have a fairly high level of domestic violence in our patch.

We support families in finding work both on an individual basis and also with the support of a JCP worker to re-developing drop in and appointment sessions. We display job opportunities and supply a computer for families to use the internet.

We are currently reviewed our basic skills offer with Exeter College but continue to provide creative opportunities for parents, this has been particularly beneficial for women with mental health needs. Basic skills provision has been more difficult recently due to restrictions for further education establishments.

We have a clear picture of where our most vulnerable families live and have the ability to act quickly to support these families via the families meeting. We have one LSOA just outside the top 20% IMD. We monitor 7 LSOAs in our patch that fall in the top 40%, but all have a registration rate of over 75% and in most we have reached over 65% on a regular basis, however we need to improve this figure in two LSOAs, we are targeting two of the primary schools in the area to help with this and are offering some services in one of them. The head works very closely with all the primary schools and secondary school in the area and the Nursery School is part of the local Learning Trust. Over 30% of the Nursery School children come from our most deprived areas ensuring they get access to outstanding nursery provide and high quality support in communication which is an area of concern. Children are screened for speech and language at 2 years and referred onto a targeted programme and re-screened on completion. This service is multi-agency run and we are awaiting the first set of data for this. The Head is also auditing all reception children to ensure other settings are identifying children's additional needs at an appropriate time.

We have a very high take up of ¾ year old funding and 2gether funding in the area and this is now more consistent across the patch. We are also giving

bookstart packs to eligible families.

We distribute vitamins to eligible families. Our immunisation rate is high at 97%.

We provide a universal stay and play session three times a week, this helps us to identify families in early need of support. One of these is held out in the community.

All staff have the required level of safeguarding training and are appropriately trained to use both DAF and the threshold tool to ensure children receive the right level of safeguarding.

The Centre provides a playscheme (judged good by OFSTED) in the Summer and Easter holidays to help working parents.

We have a toy library in the Centre which allows parents to access appropriate toys and resources at very low cost. We also provide a library of resource boxes for other settings to use to support their EYFS provision.

We have an outstanding outdoor environment that is used extensively by the Centre and school but is also available and used by other settings and schools.

We provide a regular support session for childminders that is well attended.

The quality and impact of practice and services	1	2	3	4
Grade:			x	

Briefly list your main reasons for deciding on this grade for the centre or group of centres. Include the strengths of individual centres within a group and key areas for development.

The Centre has a high level of engagement and works with a high number of our most vulnerable families. We have a highly skilled and experienced workforce and work closely with colleagues from other agencies ensuring timely interventions and good information sharing.

All cases and services are regularly monitored and evaluated ensuring we review our provision and adapt to ensure high quality. We use a range of evaluation tools and methods to measure this and regularly undertake case studies.

We are able to ensure that the most vulnerable children attend our outstanding nursery school and can evidence good progress. Families get a truly multi-agency service.

Close working with local schools help to ensure we see the 'whole picture' for families and the head leads safeguarding across the whole Learning Trust to share good practice and ensure learning is shared.

We effectively use the expertise of our colleagues in other services i.e Splitz, JCP etc although provision from housing and mental health services is less used due to lack of provision/engagement.

We produce our own profile of data to support evidence of effective services and also help us to identify where to use our resources.

Planning for children and families is high quality and shows good progress, children in targeted groups have individual books showing their progress and some children may also have THRIVE plans (we have a high number of staff trained in the THRIVE approach and this underpins the ethos in both the family services team and the nursery school).

We provide 4 evidence based parenting courses a year, 3 Solihull and 1 Mellow Parenting. Engagement and completion is high and attendees have clear ongoing plans on completion.

All 1-1 family support files show evidence of regular monitoring and updated action plans to ensure progress. All staff receive regular supervision.

Parents are regularly asked for feedback and can pass comments/suggestions in a variety of ways. There are parents on the advisory board and the governing body and we regularly consult with parents. We have some parent volunteers in both the nursery and breastfeeding support group.

The effectiveness of leadership and governance	1	2	3	4
Grade:			x	

Briefly list your main reasons for deciding on this grade for the centre or group of centres. Include the strengths of individual centres within a group and key areas for development.

The Head is accountable to the Governing Body and regularly reports on areas of strengths and weaknesses as do other service leads.

The leadership team are all very experienced and highly qualified in their respective areas of expertise.

We provide an annual service plan to the local authority based on data and the needs of our community which is monitored by the advisory board and the governing body (who hold the Childrens Centre contract). The terms of reference for both are regularly reviewed as is the membership.

The Head is further challenged and supported by her fellow Heads across the Learning Trust to ensure good practice is shared.

The Head holds regular Senior Leadership meetings to ensure all leaders are both challenged and supported to sustain and improve on quality of provision.

Good evaluation takes place both in 1-1 work and groups.

Staff are well trained and have quality supervision.

Data is produced on a regular basis to ensure trends and concerns are looked at and addressed. This includes information on the level of work taking place i.e level $\frac{3}{4}$ cases, 1-1 work, DAFs, outcome stars etc.

Staff turnover is very low and any conduct/competence issues are dealt with promptly and appropriately following DCC policies.

There is an ongoing challenge of reducing budgets and increasing demands on workload across all agencies and it has become even more critical to ensure we work closely together to maintain high quality provision.

Overall effectiveness	1	2	3	4
Grade:			x	

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Briefly list your main reasons for deciding on this grade for the centre or group of centres. Include the strengths of individual centres within a group and key areas for development.

All staff at the Centre have high expectations of both themselves and the services we provide. They are passionate about they do and have high aspirations for both children and their parents. There is a clear vision and children are at the heart of all our decisions.

We know our community and partners well having provided a service for nearly 10 years and are wary about becoming complacent by being reflective on what we deliver.

All staff are well qualified practitioners who strive to update their knowledge and adapt their practice as necessary. They are well supported to provide a high quality service.

Other OFSTED reports within the Centre are outstanding or good.

We need to establish a new way of providing access to basic skills for our parents and a way of obtaining more up to date figures from some partner agencies i.e JCP

Section B. Factual information about your children's centre/s

This section should include:

Information about the area/locality (centre or group of centres to be inspected)

Include information on the name and number of centres in the group or locality; if appropriate, list separately the numbers of children under five years living in each of the centre's reach areas.

State the level of the offer made by each of the centre/s.

West Exe is a stand alone Centre covering a large geographical patch West of the River Exe – see map and organisational chart. It is aligned to both the public health and learning community areas.

We have been open for nearly 10 years and have just over 2000 children in our reach.

Governance, leadership and management arrangements

Please outline the governance arrangements – standalone, group or merger (include whether advisory boards are separate or shared).

Please outline the leadership and management arrangements (for example a group or locality manager or leader).

Please outline whether the centre/s is/are managed on behalf of the local authority by a school or other third party organisation.

The Head is accountable to the Governing Body of the Nursery School who hold the local authority contract for the Centre.

Context

Include a description of the geographical area served by the centre/s or area/locality; levels of deprivation; ethnicity of the area.

The area is mainly urban with significant areas of high deprivation which is diluted by more affluent areas. We have a small but increasing population of Eastern Europeans, but are predominately white british. There is a small rural patch with our area.

The needs of children and their families

Describe the significant target groups identified by the centre/s as in most need of support, such as workless households; teenage mothers.

We have a particular target of young parents, dads, domestic violence, child protection.

We have an increasing EYFS profile but continue to have high levels of communication need inc English as an additional language.

Any other relevant information

Please provide information of any particular features of the centre/s or area/locality. Note any significant changes since any previous inspection, such as changes to group/cluster arrangements/mergers, etc.

