

# Children's Centres Progress and Successes

## Report for Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

This report provides Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee (CYPSC) with an update regarding Lincolnshire Children's Centres, demonstrating outcomes for Lincolnshire children and their families and identifying areas for development to ensure all centres are delivering quality services



*Date of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee meeting: 26 July 2013*

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## Summary

**Lincolnshire Children's Centres have undergone some changes in the last year** in line with changes in legislation and inspection arrangements and the 48 individual children centres have been constituted in 7 Groups and 5 Collaborations, enabling more effective use of resources, increased leadership capacity, and reduced number of inspections (12). We have not had any closure of buildings and we continue to have 48 delivery points.

**Annual conversations** were held across all Lincolnshire Children's Centres between September and November 2012 as part of the Quality Assurance process and performance framework. The emerging themes from the annual conversations have been considered to ensure continuing development of Children's Centre provision in Lincolnshire. The main themes are:

- Marketing and Participation
- Tracking Adult Learning
- Childcare Sufficiency
- Children's Centre Commissioning

**Measuring Impact and Outcomes** To illustrate the outcomes for Lincolnshire children and their families a number of methodologies have been used, including singular measures such as Ofsted or SEF grades, to a basket of indicators including Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and softer outcomes measures such as case studies. The following indicators help in understanding how well Lincolnshire are performing in relation to our strategic goals and identifying needs when planning services:

- Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) scores
- Breast Feeding Rates
- Child Obesity
- Qualitative indicators

- Reach and Attendance
- Child poverty data

Children Centre performance data shows that we have mostly met or exceeded our targets, however, there is still work to do in development areas. The outcomes achieved for Lincolnshire children provide evidence about effectiveness of Children's Centres in making a difference for children and their families.

### **Parental Satisfaction**

On-going evaluations and satisfaction surveys are taking place to inform on the levels of satisfaction and to help shape service delivery. A telephone customer survey is currently being undertaken seeking the views of the parents/ carers on the contact they have had with Children's Centres.

### **Children Centres and inspection arrangements**

Changes of the revised inspection framework have increased the emphasis on the Local Authority as the responsible body for Children's Centres and the local authority engagement during inspections. Other than one group (South Kesteven - South) all other centres are within a group or collaboration where the main centre has already been inspected. We have 6 main centres that are due an inspection in line with the new inspection framework. We have a very proactive approach in ensuring our Children's Centres are inspection ready, and we have no concerns should any of the centres be inspected imminently.

### **Next Steps**

There are a good range of services provided through Lincolnshire Children centres which meet the needs of the community well. We are looking at offering more activities in line with need. All centres have identified areas for development and have clear improvement plans in place.

## **Purpose of the report**

To provide Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee (CYPSC) with an update regarding Lincolnshire Children's Centres, demonstrating outcomes for Lincolnshire children and their families and identifying areas for development to ensure all centres are delivering quality services.

## **Background / Context**

### **Lincolnshire Children's Centres – The journey over the past 12 months**

In line with the Sure Start Children's Centres Statutory Guidance (April 2013) and the changes to the Children's Centre Ofsted inspection arrangements from April 2013, in Lincolnshire the Children's Centres have undergone some changes in the last year and the 48 individual children centres have been constituted in 7 Groups and 5 Collaborations, enabling more effective use of resources and increased leadership capacity, and 12 future inspections.

At present we have 25 'Main' Children's Centres each with their own Ofsted URN, with others now called 'Linked sites' (See Appendix 1). We have not had any closure of buildings; we continue to have 48 delivery points.

### **The Annual Conversations**

Annual conversations were held across all Lincolnshire Children's Centres between September and November 2012 as part of the Quality Assurance process and performance framework (See Appendix 2).

The purpose of the 'Annual Conversation' is to:

- Provide external scrutiny of the centre's self-evaluation process

- Provide a forum for reflection on current practice and in so doing gain a better understanding regarding how effective the centre is in achieving outcomes for children and their families,
- Provide support to tackle challenges faced within the Children’s Centre community and recognise and plan for future potential
- Ensure the centre is ‘OFSTED Ready’

All conversations were chaired by the locality Head of Service supported by the Quality Audit Manager and Early Intervention Officer with locality Team Managers / Centre Leaders identifying local representation. Discussion focused on the all important ‘so what’ question to reflect on what difference the centres are making for children and families. Consideration was given to what works well and where improvements can be made, specifically looking at:

- How good are outcomes for families?
- How good is provision?
- How effective is the leadership and management?
- What is the capacity for sustained improvement?
- How effective is the centre overall

The main themes from the annual conversations have been considered to ensure continuing development of Children’s Centre provision in Lincolnshire.

## **Emerging Themes from Annual Conversations**

### **Marketing and Participation**

Effective marketing of Children’s Centres has been identified as an area of development in many localities particularly where there is no dedicated resource or service commissioned to address this need. Word of mouth is the most common method that parents report to have used to find out about local services.

Work has been undertaken with Health and other colleagues to ensure early identification and engagement of families who may benefit from Children Centres services. Registration rates have started to increase accordingly. However in order to ensure sustained engagement more work needs to be done to market Children's Centres effectively.

In 2012/2013 some localities commissioned a 'Participation and Engagement' service responsible for promoting Children's Centres and developing volunteers. Successes include strong representation and engagement in Parent's Forums / Advisory Boards, safe parent led activities and enthusiastic community champions and some contracts also include targets around Adult Learning and Employability. However, commissioning arrangements were inconsistent and districts without this resource struggled to provide a full programme of activities which met the needs of local families. Future commissioning intentions needed to consider how to address this gap.

### ***Actions Implemented 1***

Commissioning plans had been agreed with ring-fenced funding allocated for core commissioning to ensure services are commissioned to meet core offer and prioritised for Enhanced Children's Centres. This includes funding for Adult Learning and Participation and Engagement activities. Additional 'Flexible Funding' has been agreed in each locality to enable local priorities to be addressed.

Key services including a new countywide Early Years Contract have been commissioned centrally to ensure PEEP will be delivered in every children's centre alongside a wide variety of Early Years activities (PEEP Plus) which are designed around local needs in consultation with families.

Throughout the Annual Conversation in 2012 locality teams requested a central resource to support with the design of quality marketing materials and development of modern technology (e.g Facebook) to reach more families across rural Lincolnshire. With the new Children's Centres arrangements, the need for effective marketing has increased, as we

need to ensure families are aware of the full range of services and delivery points across a group or collaboration.

### ***Actions Implemented 2***

A marketing group with representatives from all districts has been formed and members have developed a Marketing plan for 2013-14. The LCC website providing Children's Centre information has been updated to reflect the new children's centres arrangements and ensure consistency around e-mail addresses, centre contact numbers and 'what's on' information.

Further work around developing the website to ensure it is attractive and user friendly for parents is ongoing. Central resources through the Information Team are being accessed however a lack of capacity may require additional web work to be commissioned externally.

Negotiations have taken place with Connect Creative Media Ltd to continue to provide the existing UK Youth Chanel service within Children's Centres. Videos featuring local families engaging in regular activities (to include PEEP, Parents Forums, Health Clinics etc) will be shown on a loop with promotional videos such as Health and Safety advice, Adult Learning opportunities and Welfare Benefits information. Videos will be updated Bi-monthly.

### ***Additional plans include***

- Development of a Children's Centre App and on line booking system.
- To develop a set of standards around marketing i.e. use of corporate templates etc.
- To support the development of Children's Centre posters, information leaflets etc.
- To support development of Early Years/ Children's Centre monthly newsletter
- To monitor and quality assure the Children's Centre element of the LCC web-site to ensure content is up to date, accurate and relevant.
  
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## **Tracking Adult Learning**

This is a key issue across all localities and has been identified by OFSTED as an area for development. The annual conversations in 2012/2013 identified Children's Centres would benefit from a holistic adult learning needs analysis across all localities to establish what existing provision looks like, what are we already funding or can access free of charge and what is available to commission.

### ***Actions Implemented***

An Adult Learning Needs Assessment has been completed in 2012/ 2013. This provided information about adults of working age in Children's Centre reach areas and has been used as an evidence base to inform the commissioning of services in Children's Centres.

The Adult Learning Needs Assessment will contribute to the improvement of the performance of Children's Centres. A scorecard for all 25 main Children's Centre reach areas will be produced.

## **Childcare Sufficiency**

Locality Teams have highlighted an on-going need to develop good quality childcare, child-minder and crèche facilities.

### ***Actions implemented***

Birth to Five Services are commissioned to provide on-going support to childcare settings to drive forward improvements based on OFSTED judgements and their own welfare checks.

Through the locality budget crèche is provided for those parents that wish to contribute to Children Centre management through the advisory board or adult learning. Crèches are quality assured to ensure they are in line with expectations of best practice.

Through Children Centre services space is provided for childminders to meet regularly and share practice.

Additional funding has been made available to spend on participation / engagement to increase the take up of 2 year old entitlement.

## **Children's Centre Commissioning**

We have a clearly articulated commissioning strategy for Children's Centres which focuses on the Children's Centre core offer whilst still allowing for some local decision making based on local needs assessments.

As more services become managed on a county wide basis with robust contract management arrangements in place we should see the benefits of economies of scale along with consistency in standards in all districts.

Currently some of the centrally commissioned services include:

- Early Years Service – including PEEP
- Family Action – Family Support Service
- Health and Midwifery
- Homestart – Home Visiting and volunteering
- Domestic Abuse
- KIDS - CWD crèches
- NYAS- The advocacy service

Further consideration will be given to developing central service specifications around Participation and Engagement and Adult learning to ensure a consistent approach across the county.

## ***Actions Implemented***

Commissioning plans have been agreed and all commissioning has been achieved with all new services up and running by June 2013. All localities now commission Participation and Engagement and Adult Learning Activities / Services. The target for parent participation on Advisory boards is 50% and this has been met. Every District has commissioned a Participation and Engagement service that supports the Advisory board (Children's Centre Partnerships).

## **Measuring Impact and Outcomes**

Demonstrating tangible and measurable outcomes which can be specifically attributed to Children's Centres is not an exact science and there is currently no definitive or consistent national measure or methodology in place to capture the level of impact, benefit and improved outcomes.

The DfE has been trialling Payment by Results (PbR) for Children's Centres which ran until March 2013. Ministers have now decided 'that it is preferable to allow local authorities to consider the benefits of pursuing PbR in Children's Centres through their own schemes'. This will allow LAs to organise services locally focusing on better outcomes for children delivered by services responsive to local needs. (*letter from Tom Jeffery, DfE 13/2/13*) Evaluations from the 27 pilots will be published this summer.

Currently, a number of methodologies are being used by local authorities seeking to demonstrate impact, including singular measures such as Ofsted or SEF grades, to a basket of indicators including Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and softer outcomes measures such as case studies. KPIs provide population level outcome data and show trends over time and it can be argued that there is a causal link to activities being delivered from the Children's Centres. When it comes to measuring impact, it would be incorrect to use KPIs alone as proof of the efficacy of Children's Centre services, however, they are useful as benchmarks to help understand how well we are performing in relation to our strategic goals and to identify needs when planning services.

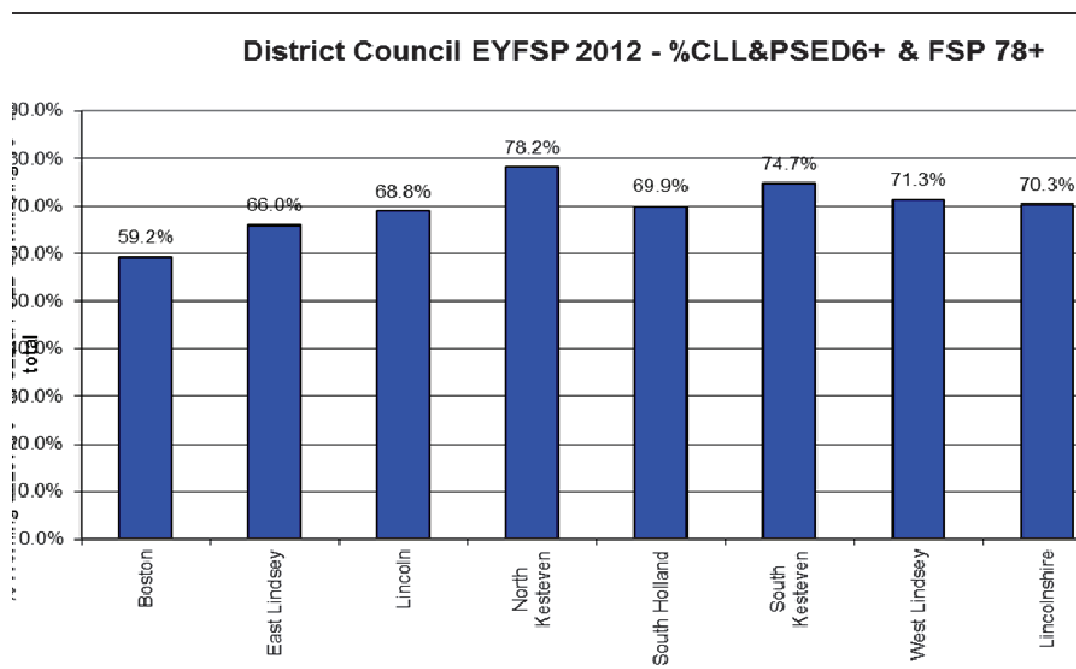
## Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) scores

One of the key targets for Lincolnshire Children’s Centres is to improve ‘Readiness for School’ and ‘Narrowing the Gap’ which can be evidenced through an improvement in our Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) scores (% children achieving CLL+ PSED 6+ and FSP 78+). The tables below show how Lincolnshire average has improved from 57.7% in 2010 to 70.3% in 2012. This shows a 12.6% increase since 2010 which is 11.3% above Lincolnshire’s target and 6.3% above National outcomes.

Measure	Geography	Year							Actual 2012	Target 2012
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011		
%Achieving 6+ in PSED&CLL plus 78+ points	Lincolnshire	63	60.1	45.8	45.7	46.8	57.7	64.8	70.3	59.0
	England		46	46	49	62.0	66.0	69.0	64.0	
	Statistical Neighbours		47	49	52	52.8	57.0	59.1	65.0	
Narrowing the GAP (NI72)	Lincolnshire	32.1	34.8	36.0	33.8	32.2	28.7	27.1	31.0	
	England		38.3	37.2	35.6	33.9	33.0	31.4	30.1	
	Statistical Neighbours		35.8	35.3	33.3	32.3	31.0	30.9	28.8	
%6+ PSED	Lincolnshire	83	81.3	70.2	68.4	68.7	78.7	84.4	86.8	
	England	75	71	71	72	74.0	77.0	79.0	82.0	
	Statistical Neighbours			73	74	75.8	79.0	80.3	83.0	
%6+ CLL	Lincolnshire	67	63.7	49.9	50.5	51.2	60.8	67.5	72.5	
	England	51	48	49	53	55.0	59.0	62.0	66.0	
	Statistical Neighbours			52	56	57.3	60.0	62.4	66.0	
%6+PSED & CLL	Lincolnshire	63	60.1	45.8	45.8	46.9	57.8	64.9	70.4	
	England	48	45	46	49	52.0	56.0	59.0	64.0	
	Statistical Neighbours			48	52	53.3	57.0	59.3	65.0	
%8+ PBRN	Lincolnshire	79	79	69	65	66.4	73.2	78.7	82.0	
	England	69	66	67	68	70.0	72.0	74.0	77.0	
	Statistical Neighbours			70	71	72.2	64.0	75.9	80.0	
% FSP 78+ points	Lincolnshire	84.3	72.1	71.4	71.5	78.6	83.5	86.5		
	England			71	73	75.0	77.0	79.0	81.0	
	Statistical Neighbours				76	76.9	80.0	79.8	83.0	

Narrowing the Gap (NI72) figures also show excellent progress demonstrating an achievement of 5.1% decrease in gap since 2010 which is 3.9% below Lincolnshire target and 3% below the National gap figure.

Locality profiles for 2012 are shown below:



Further evidence to support this measure is found through the improvement in Ofsted ratings for Lincolnshire Early Years Settings with 81% now showing as 'Good' or 'Outstanding'.

Case studies also demonstrate some of the services delivered to support improvement in EYFSP and Narrowing the Gap outcomes and include the HELP project (East Lindsey and North Hykeham) and Chatter Matters (Lincoln St Giles). See below an 'Impact Statements' taken from Billingham Children's Centre SEFs at the Annual Conversation:

*'Billingham Children's Centre has made a significant contribution to raising Foundation Stage Profile (FSP) Results. We have funded the lowest achieving schools to run FSP projects in increasing attainment. North Kesteven is the best performing district in the county for EYFS profile results with only 15% of children being within the bottom 20% with regards to narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving in the EYFSP. (Billingham Impact statement SEF 2012)*

*The centre has contributed towards increasing the number of children achieving 78+ points in EYFS from 60% (2009) to 88% (2011). The centre has worked with Birth to Five, local*

*providers and the school to narrow the gap. Billingham Primary School were within the top 15 schools to report poor FSP results, however through a specific project the results have improved the % gap between the lowest achieving from 80% in 2009, to 26% in 2010 to 6% in 2011!*

The Performance Team are currently working on matching Children's Centre attendance to the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile results for Lincolnshire children in order to analyse how the results of the cohort of children in receipt of Children's Centre services compares to average results of all children. This work is still in its early stages but we hope will provide a viable link of outcome data (attainment in Reception year) to Children's Centre attendance.

The Children's Centre data provide a detailed picture of KPIs and trends over time:

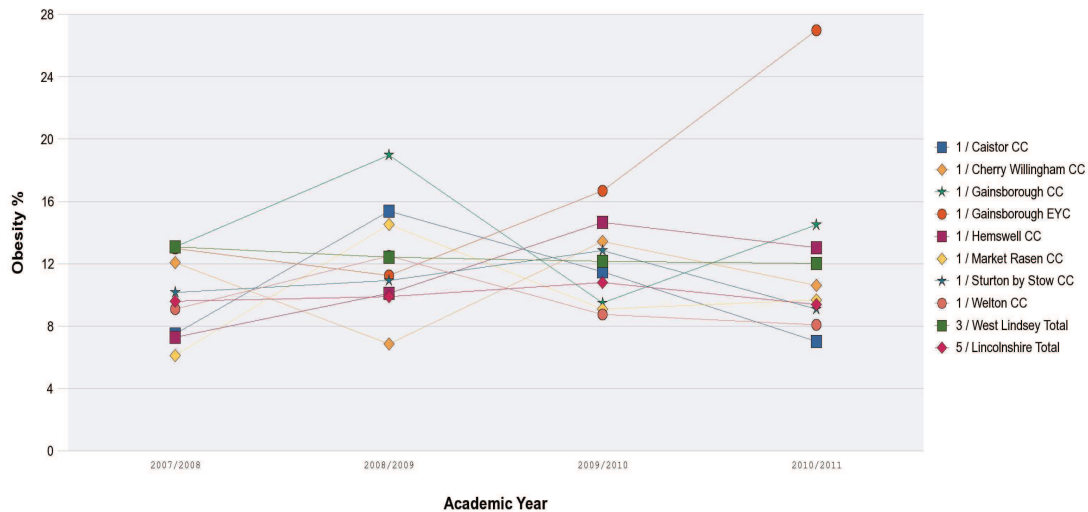
### **Breast Feeding Rates**

Breast Feeding Rates have varied between 36 - 42.5% over the last 3 years with an average in Sept 2012 of 39.5%. This remains below the average of 47% for England which has remained consistent. Children's Centres work jointly with Health to increase breastfeeding and make a positive contribution to the health of local population. Most Children Centres have breast feeding groups with peer supporters; peer supporters are volunteer mothers who are or who have successfully breastfed their baby/babies.

### **Child Obesity**

Child Obesity is a priority indicator for Lincolnshire Children's Centres and is being addressed through innovative practice including the 'Children's Centre Championship Summer' in East Lindsey which built on the legacy of the Olympics to help tackle obesity. One of the aims of the Early Years Service is tackling obesity and groups with a focus of physical activity are part of this programme. More specific targeted interventions have been implemented in Children's Centres where obesity has been identified as a priority through the annual conversation.

Obesity rates overall show a slight decrease - average 9.4% in 2011 (latest figures) compared with 9.6% in 2008 which is against the trend for England (slight increase of 9.4% to 9.6%). The data profiling enables Children’s Centre Leaders to focus activities in areas of highest need i.e West Lindsey (see below), Boston, Louth, Sleaford and Bourne.



## Qualitative indicators

Centre Leaders have also used more qualitative indicators including case studies, feedback, learning journals, observations and the voice of the child to help evidence how effective Children’s Centres are in making a difference for children and their families. Some examples are shown below.

Impact statement taken from a letter sent by a father attending Market Deeping Dad’s group:

*‘I feel closer to my daughter as a result, feel that I am more in tune with her and her with me. Have gained insight into her needs and the way she looks at the world. As a result I have increased confidence in my ability to parent my child and not panic when at home alone with her for fear that I would not know what to do. Perhaps if there were more dads groups fathers would find the support to encourage them to be better parents and*

*participate more in their children's lives.'* Fathers also fed back their concerns about supporting their pregnant partner – as a result, the centre developed an antenatal course for Expectant fathers in partnership with health colleagues.

A Lincoln case study demonstrates how a single mother supported by Women's Aid outreach worker was able to build her self-esteem and return to education; undertaking access to nursing at college. To further support the centre provided subsidised childcare for her 18 month old child to allow her to attend college and to support the child's social and emotional development. There has been a positive impact on the emotional well-being of this child as a result of both mother's ability to return to education and her day care attendance

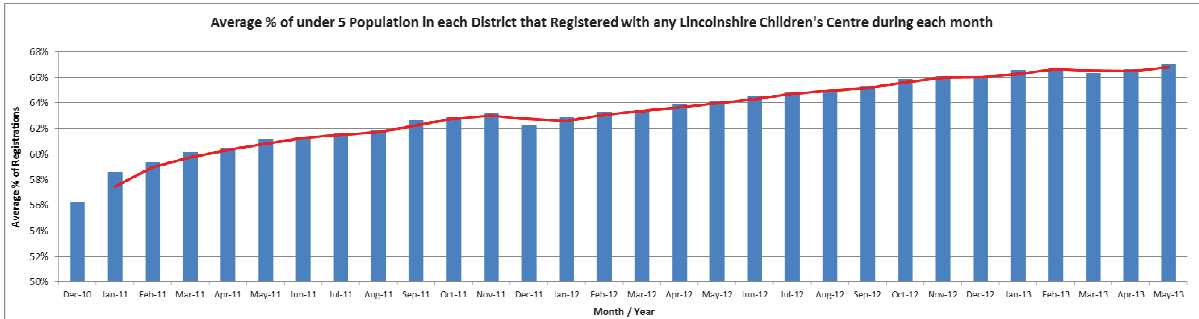
### Children's Centre Reach

Children's Centres have clear targets for 'Reach and Attendance' and have adopted the DfE definition around sustained contact with clear targets against this measure for each Children's Centre group or collaboration.

Universal Reach figures have improved year on year with Lincolnshire average reach increasing from 56% (of Lincolnshire's under five years population) registered with a Children's Centre in Dec 2010 to 66.3% in Dec 2012 and 67% in May 2013:

District	Dec-10	Dec-11	Feb-12	Apr-12	Jun-12	Aug-12	Oct-12	Dec-12	Jan-13	Feb-13	Mar-13	Apr-13	May-13
<b>Boston CCs Average</b>	62%	64%	64%	64%	64%	62%	62%	62%	62%	62%	61%	62%	61%
<b>East Lindsey CCs Average</b>	65%	73%	75%	76%	76%	77%	77%	78%	79%	79%	79%	80%	80%
<b>Lincoln CCs Average</b>	70%	70%	70%	70%	70%	71%	72%	71%	72%	71%	71%	71%	72%
<b>North Kesteven CCs Average</b>	45%	53%	54%	54%	55%	56%	57%	57%	58%	58%	57%	58%	59%
<b>South Holland CCs Average</b>	44%	52%	53%	53%	55%	56%	57%	58%	59%	59%	59%	58%	59%
<b>South Kesteven CCs Average</b>	47%	48%	49%	49%	50%	51%	52%	52%	52%	53%	52%	52%	53%
<b>West Lindsey CCs Average</b>	63%	69%	71%	72%	73%	73%	74%	74%	75%	75%	74%	74%	74%
<b>Lincolnshire CCs Average</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>67%</b>

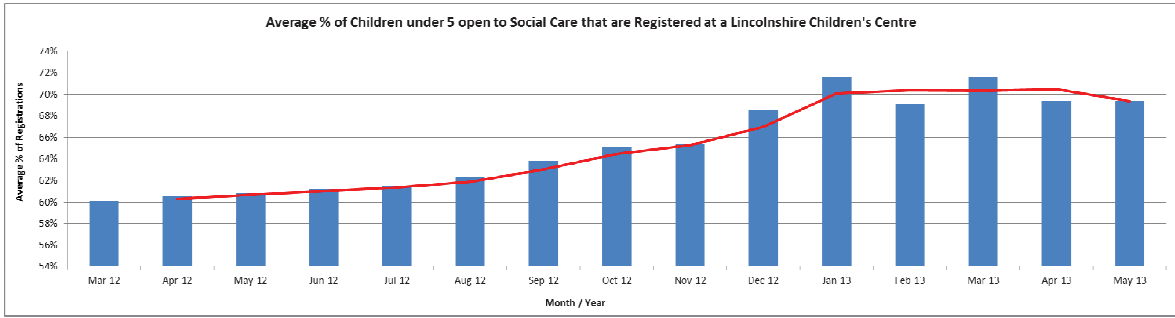




An Information Sharing Agreement is now in place enabling Health to provide regular contact information on new births and families with children under 5 who move into Lincolnshire. This agreement commenced in April 2013 and supports centres increase reach.

Targeted Reach averaged at 56% in June 2012 has increased to 74% in January 2013 (County target = 70%) showing overall that Children's Centres are focusing services on those in most need and improving contact with vulnerable families.

Reach and Attendance of Children in Social Care – Children's Services staff and colleagues have strived to ensure our most vulnerable families within social care are accessing services on offer from Children's Centres and this is demonstrated by the increase in registration rates from 57.9% in January 2012 to 68.6% in January 2013.



However it is regular attendance at the children's centres which enables families to build strong support networks and positive peer groups and attendance rates have increased from 13.6% in January 2012 to 20.6% in January 2013 and 30.1% in May 2013 for children in social care:

District	YE 2012/13 Percent	May-12 Percent	May-13/No. Attn'd	May-13 Percent
Boston	70.7%	36.0%	87	75.0%
East Lindsey	35.2%	22.7%	26	15.8%
Lincoln	27.7%	14.8%	56	35.0%
North Kesteven	29.0%	7.9%	5	11.4%
South Holland	29.3%	9.6%	3	4.2%
South Kesteven	28.9%	11.0%	22	25.9%
West Lindsey	34.8%	23.0%	24	30.0%
Out of County/ Not Recorded	0.0%	13.2%	0	0.0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>36.3%</b>	<b>17.3%</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>30.1%</b>

*Percentage of the Children under 5 open to Social Care and Registered at a Children's Centre who attended once during the previous month each month*

## Child Poverty Data

Children's Centres also use Child Poverty data to ensure services are targeted where needed most and designed according to local needs.

With the changes to benefits following the Welfare Reform this is a key area of work for Children's Centres which is supported by the Adult Learning Needs Assessment and revised commissioning intentions. Further plans including Public Access laptops in Children's Centres will support parents develop necessary skills and confidence to improve their chances of returning to employment.

## Parental Satisfaction

A telephone customer survey is currently being undertaken by Touchstone, who are part of the Customer Service Centre. They contact parent/carers via telephone and seek their views on the contact they have had with Children's Centres. It is intended to use the information from this survey in the identification of service developments.

Prior to this, the user satisfaction survey which took place in March 2011 with 1455 respondents including 213 non users (Parents who had registered but not attended in past 12 month) showed high levels of user satisfaction.

In addition to the county wide survey Children Centres undertake their own on-going evaluations and satisfaction surveys to keep them informed regarding the levels of satisfaction and to help shape service delivery. Some examples are presented below:

At Alford Children's Centre the Family Learning Service delivered an Adult Learning course called 'Recycle – Refashion' for 10 weeks. Feedback from parents attending the course was gathered- the parents requested the course to run again in order for them to gain accreditation. This has been facilitated. Parents have participated in the course for 2 years and have gained a Level 2 qualification. The parents have been given support and advice from the Family Learning service to continue with their education independently from the Children's Centre.

Feedback received from parents who attend the volunteer run Coffee & Play group at Holton le Clay Children's Centre suggested development of the outdoor area at the front of the centre and this idea has been well received. The Centre Leader is now working with the parents to develop the outdoor area. The parents have organised a sponsored toddler walk for July 30<sup>th</sup> to raise funds and a small team of dads have volunteered their services to undertake basic ground works. Once completed the garden will provide a wonderful setting for children and their families to play and learn together.

Parents have made representation at Sleaford Children's Centre Group (Billinghay, Caythorpe, Heckington, Ancaster) about developing summer activities to include school age children. They have been committed to assisting the centres develop these and ensuring that they are low cost.

## **Children's Centres due for inspection**

The main changes of the revised inspection framework are the increased emphasis on the Local Authority as the responsible body for Children's Centres and the increased local authority engagement during inspections. The revised framework will include the Centre

Leader role in the inspection process “The Children Centre Leader is part of the Inspection Team” and in particular Ofsted are interested in their quality assurance of the range of service delivery. Joint observations, case tracking and performance management- including staff supervision are other areas that have been introduced by the new framework.

The Centres will be given a judgement on their overall effectiveness by taking four areas into consideration:

- Access to services by young children and their families.
- The quality and impact of practice and services.
- The effectiveness of leadership, governance and management.
- Overall effectiveness.

When reaching a judgement on a group of centres the inspectors will also consider:

Quality of provision at each centre

How well services are integrated across centres

Whether parents can access services at a location convenient to them

There is four grades for judgement

- Outstanding
- Good
- Requires Improvement
- Inadequate

Of our 25 ‘Main’ Centres 19 have been inspected with the following outcomes:

4 Outstanding: Skegness, Spilsby, Lincoln Central, Gainsborough

12 good: Boston, Mablethorpe, Wainfleet, Abbey, Birchwood, Witham, Sleaford, Lincoln

North, Gainsborough EYCC, Grantham Belton Lane, Grantham Swingbridge, Welton

3 Satisfactory (replaced by Requiring improvement in the new framework): Spalding, Holbeach, Market Rasen

Other than one group (South Kesteven - South) all other centres are within a group or collaboration where the main centre has already been inspected. We have 6 main centres that are due an inspection in line with the new inspection framework: Sutterton, Louth, St Giles, Waddington Redwood, Stamford, South Witham.

We have a very proactive approach in ensuring our Children's Centres are inspection ready, and we have no concerns should any of the centres be inspected imminently.

### ***Actions Implemented***

Training has been delivered in data analysis and practice workshops have been arranged to work specifically with Children's Centre Leaders (CCLs) who have not yet experienced an Ofsted inspection. These CCLs are mentored by an experienced Centre Leader.

A quality assurance framework for Children's centres will be devised by September 2013, to include specific roles for CCLs in practice observations and holistic quality assurance.

### **Next Steps**

Locality teams all feel confident and prepared for Ofsted and Children's Centre leaders have been appointed in all areas.

Areas of strength in Children's Centre provision include:

- partnership working across a broad spectrum of needs and providers, including closer working with Social Care Teams,
- improved access to and interpretation of data and intelligence
- a more ambitious and challenging approach to delivery
- strong leadership and management
- better use of resources and some innovative delivery.

All centres have identified areas for development and have clear improvement plans in place. The areas for development mirror those highlighted across the wider region and findings from Ofsted. These include:

- Adult learning
- Re-visit partnerships with Health Visitors service, Midwifery and Job Centre Plus
- working closely with schools
- quality assurance
- child's voice
- marketing and participation
- Further development of Centre Leaders Network

## Appendices

### Children's Centre Groups New Inspection Arrangements



Childrens Centre  
Groups New Inspectic

### Children's Centre Performance Framework



CCentre  
Performance Framew