



Hampshire
County Council

Children and Young People's Select Committee

The Progress of Children's
Centres

3rd February 2014

Key Developments

- Period of stability after a year of change
- 2013-14 performance data indicates delivery of services to vulnerable families
- Improved partnership work – especially for vulnerable families
- Quality improvement framework is a useful change tool but is part of a support framework
- Priorities for children's centres are linked to the CYPP
- Services developing according to priorities and further work to be done, in particular, links with early help

Performance

- 71% of children under 5 are registered with a children's centre (Dec 2013)
- 40% of children under 5 are 'reached' by a children's centre (Dec 2013)
- 26% of the children reached are classed as vulnerable (Dec 2013)
- There has been an increase in the number of targeted, evidence based programmes being delivered including parenting programmes

Performance cont.

- There is a reported increase in the number of families supported where:
 - there is a CP plan in place
 - there is a multi disciplinary assessment in place
 - they are part of the troubled families programme
 - they are part of the two year old offer
- Staff working in children's centres are well qualified with approx. 90% holding a relevant level 3 qualification or above

Partnerships

Social Care

- Joint protocol
- Named social worker for each cluster
- Information sharing and joint working processes in place
- Children's centres are part of the early help pilot

Health

- Health visitors and midwifery clinics operate in centres
- Healthy lifestyle training takes place in children's centres
- Working together toolkit
- Work is underway to integrate the two year old checks
- Sharing of data has been agreed and established

Partnerships – Jobcentre Plus

- The JCP offer has been agreed for children's centres which includes outreach into 25 centres
- A partnership agreement is in place outlining how children's centres and JCP will work together
- There is a named JCP link for all centres
- Training has been agreed for children's centres to be delivered by JCP staff
- Information sharing processes have been agreed
- JCP provide access to resources to support pathway to employment

Ofsted

External judgements by Ofsted

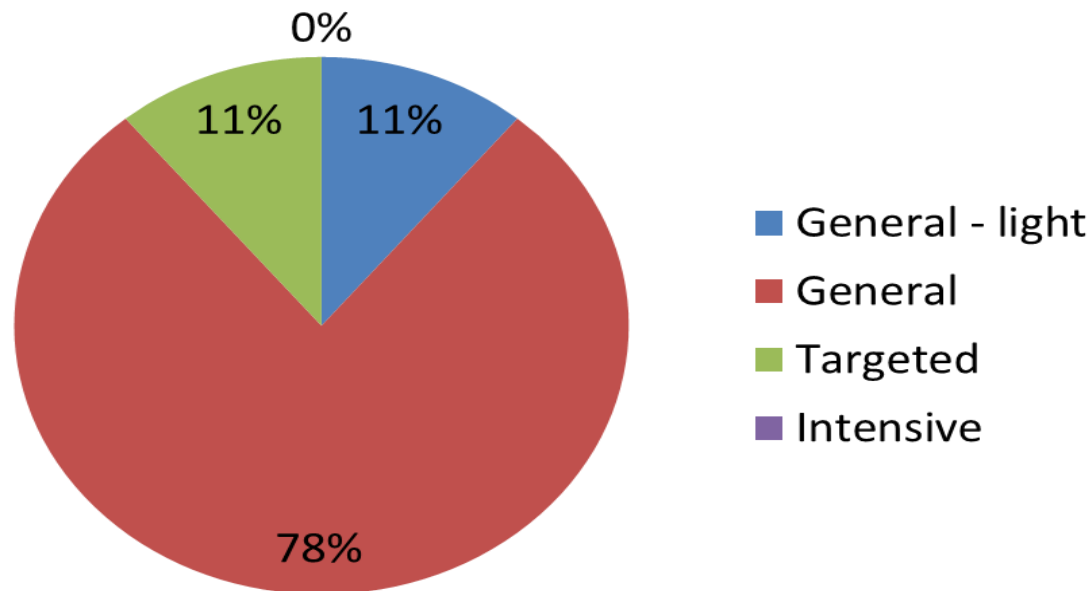
- A new framework was introduced effective from April 2013
- There are 3 key areas for inspection – access to services, quality of services, overall effectiveness
- Hampshire inspections are now cluster based with a single judgement for the cluster
- The nursery school inspections (Haven, Bushy Leaze and Lanterns) will run concurrently and receive an individual judgement
- Data and tracking are key

Monitoring performance through the Quality and Performance framework

- Quarterly visits are carried out by a team of Children's Centre Support Officers which include an 'Annual Conversation'.
- An assessment is made at the annual conversation which informs the level of monitoring and support required and enables a targeted approach to challenge and support.
- Clusters assessed as being in need of support receive additional visits from the Children's Centre Support Officer (CCSO) and local improvement plans are discussed and monitored.
- Regular meetings are held with senior managers in the contracted organisations to address issues at a strategic level.

Internal challenge and support

Assessment of children's centres through the quality & performance monitoring process 2012/13 indicated that the level of monitoring and support was as follows:



Other developments

- Parent champions
- Affiliation to address universal offer
- Pathways to employment
- Links to Troubled Families
- Core offer for families of disabled children