7th Annual Sure Start Conference 2009

Children's centre inspections

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24 September 2009

Powers of inspection

Existing powers

- Childcare Act 2006 and Education Act 2005
- Early years provision in maintained schools
- Early years provision in the private and voluntary sector
- Adult and community learning

Proposals for inspecting children's centres

Key judgements

- Outcomes
- Quality of provision
- Leadership and management
- Capacity to improve
- Overall effectiveness

Proposals for inspecting children's centres

Key messages

- Focus on outcomes
- Effectiveness of integrated delivery of multi agency services
- Arrangements for safeguarding and child protection
- Involvement of users in planning and reviewing services
- Overall accountability of local authority, regardless of specific management arrangements

Pilot inspections

Pilot inspections

- Selection of centres
- Allocation of inspectors
- Reporting arrangements
- Next steps

Pilot inspections

Developments in children's centres

- In phase 3 the focus is very much on parents
- Providing an integrated, multi-agency approach
- Improving outcomes for parents, families and, consequently, for children.

Pilot inspections

Outcomes of pilot inspections

Centres are having a positive impact on some very vulnerable families through engaging with parents

Centres find it hard to provide evidence to demonstrate how they make a difference to parents and their children

Pilot inspections

Outstanding provision

- Engages all the key agencies and is delivered in a thoughtful and integrated manner
- Is very well matched to the identified needs of the area
- Parents are fully involved in reviewing and planning the provision

Pilot inspections

Outstanding provision

- practice in all aspects of the centre's work is good or outstanding, including of course in the critical areas of safeguarding, equality and diversity
- Outreach work is proving successful in engaging the most vulnerable groups in the local community

In summary:

- As a result of the high quality planning and services, outcomes are demonstrably and consistently improving for families and children in the area.

Consultation process

Consultation events

- On line consultation which can be accessed at the Ofsted website closed on18 September 2009
- Consultation event for those who have taken part in pilots
- Parent groups
- Stakeholders

Questions