

Sure Start Children's Centre Self-Evaluation Reports 2008/09 – Brighton and Hove Citywide Summary

1. Introduction

This report summarises the results from the 2008 self-evaluation reports for children's centres in Brighton and Hove. Children's centres complete a self-assessment which brings together all the performance information for the year, reflects on the previous year's performance and proposes priorities for the coming year. The self-assessments have followed the national guidance on the process and format of the assessment. Linked children's centres are included in the same SEF document but performance against each indicator is shown separately for each catchment area.

The SEF's include gradings against the Every Child Matters outcomes and other national outcomes together with an overall grading. The performance grades are based on national guidance on descriptors of standards for each grade. This report includes a summary grade for each outcome for the city as a whole.

Children's centres are still very new in some areas of the city with five having been open for less than a year: City View opened in March 2008, and Conway Court, South Portslade, Hangleton Park and West Hove in May 2008. Three new Children's Centres are planned to open by 2011: Westdene, Preston Park and Saltdean/Rottingdean.

2. Performance indicators

Children's centres work towards a national performance management framework which includes Public Service Agreement targets on the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile, childhood obesity and children in low income households. Annex 1 includes charts which show performance against the main indicators across the children's centre reach areas.

3. Progress over the last year and citywide judgements (2008/09)

Being Healthy

- Citywide performance is outstanding with a very strong health led integrated model involving health visitors and midwives.
- The children's centres teams deliver the nationally direct Child Health Promotion Programme which includes health promotion and assesses the health and progress of all children under 5.

- There are postnatal depression support groups in each area of the city.
- Data quality has improved, particularly on breastfeeding, which has increased the ability to target services to areas where they are most needed.

Stay Safe

- Citywide performance is good with strong links with social care and effective early intervention.
- Free childcare places were provided in children's centre nurseries and with childminders for vulnerable children.
- Triple P Parenting Programmes were run during 2008 to support parents to find solutions to parenting problems and prevent future problems arising.
- Very effective protective behaviours training in the east area.

Enjoy and achieve

- Citywide performance is good with all Children's Centre nurseries judged by Ofsted to be good or better.
- Jump Start Nursery opened in Moulsecoomb offering childcare and free early learning for 36 children, and an extension was build to Moulsecoomb Primary School nursery to provide space so that children can now stay all day.
- Children's Centres support the Bookstart initiative and distribute packs to babies.
- There is a developed childminding network for the city.
- Speech and language services operate from children's centres.

Make a positive contribution / parental and community involvement

- Citywide performance is satisfactory and improving.
- Enhanced individual support is provided to children and families through the targeting process
- Parental involvement in children's centres has increased, with parents joining, and in some cases chairing, children's centre advisory groups, and parents leading sessions for children. This work has been supported by newly-appointed parent involvement workers. Some volunteering opportunities are offered and this is being expanded.

Achieve economic well-being

- Citywide performance is generally satisfactory and improving
- A citywide anti-poverty conference for children's centre staff increased the focus on anti-poverty work.

- There are strong links with the Family Information Service
- Jobcentre Plus provide a basic service including notice boards in children's centres but have not been able to resource outreach visits.

Excluded Groups

- Citywide performance is satisfactory with some good features is limited by the existing PIMS performance management system which does not allow contacts to be monitored by different target groups.
- Children's centre teams offer an enhanced targeted service to children and parents with additional needs including children with a Child Protection Plan, children with disabilities and looked after children.
- Work with disadvantaged groups was developed and improved, including One O'Clock Clubs for families with English as an Additional Language and groups for teenage parents and for disabled children and their parents.
- Work with fathers has improved, including employing a fathers' worker and developing groups for dads including funding the citywide "Baby Boogie" monthly session for fathers in the Jubilee Library.

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Centre leadership and financial management

- Citywide performance is good with a lean management structure, effective budget management and advisory groups established for each group of children's centres.
- The full offer children's centre buildings are well used.

Partnership Working

- Citywide performance is generally good with room for improvement in some areas.
- There is very good engagement with health partners and the local authority but room for improvement in links with Jobcentre Plus and local private and voluntary providers.

4. Key objectives and planned outcomes for next year (2009/10)

Objective	Action	Outcome
Be Healthy	<p>Develop breastfeeding project, including peer support to support areas of high priority for breastfeeding education</p> <p>Implement city-wide obesity strategy including reviewing work on healthy eating and weaning advice</p> <p>Improve links and develop joint working with GPs</p> <p>Evaluate children's centre groups in order to establish baseline data and review progress towards outcomes</p> <p>Ensure smoking cessation plans are integrated</p> <p>Maintain data compliance at 90% or above</p>	<p>Improve performance against the breastfeeding and obesity PIs in under performing CCs</p> <p>Data quality sustained and improved</p>
Stay Safe	<p>Improve links across the age groups</p> <p>Embed Common Assessment Framework and Team Around the Child/Family more widely</p> <p>Increase the number of childcare places for children with child protection plans including developing a specialist childminder network</p> <p>Improve links with social care teams</p>	<p>Better transition for children and families</p> <p>CAFs completed for all children with additional needs on transition to school</p> <p>Increase in the number of children with CP plans benefitting from good quality childcare</p> <p>Care plans agreed jointly with the family resulting in improved outcomes for</p>

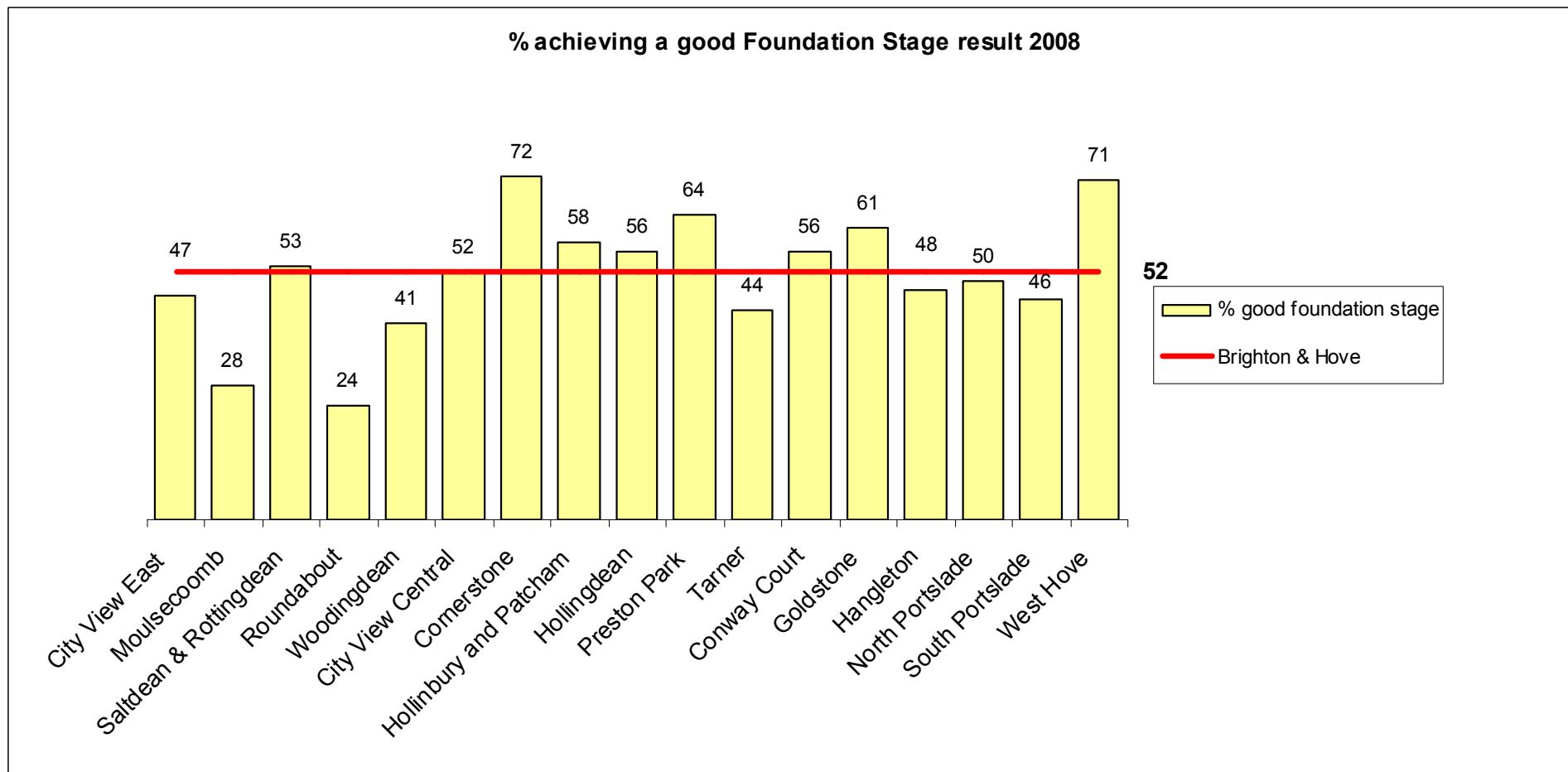
	<p>Strengthen teenage parents support team</p> <p>Establish Stay Safe groups in all Children's Centres</p>	<p>children</p> <p>Reduce second conceptions and teenage parents who are not in employment, education or training</p> <p>Reduce accidental injuries.</p>
Enjoy and Achieve	<p>Promote the importance of the home learning environment to parents and carers by ensuring staff understand the EYFS and developing the role of teachers outside the nurseries.</p> <p>Improve links with city-wide early years services, local schools, other early years setting and childminder networks to focus on narrowing the gap in outcomes for the most disadvantaged young children</p> <p>Ensure children with additional needs are offered coordinated support services to enable them to maximise their potential</p> <p>Improve access to speech and language therapy support</p> <p>Strengthen the childminder networks</p> <p>Commission the Playbus to work in partnership with selected Children's Centres to extend play opportunities.</p>	<p>Improvement in the FSPs scores and narrowing the gap for the most disadvantaged children</p> <p>Parents understand the factors which improve and are confident in engaging in their child's development and learning.</p> <p>Improved school readiness and reduced need for additional support when in school</p> <p>Increased number of network childminders</p> <p>Increase play opportunities for children</p>
Make a Positive Contribution / Parent and	<p>To develop the use of information about older siblings including school exclusions, NEETs and those in the Criminal Justice system to influence preventative work for children under 5</p>	<p>Services are fully evaluated and processes in place to measure effectiveness and outcomes</p>

<p>Community Participation</p>	<p>including learning from the experience of the Family Pathfinder Project.</p> <p>Develop a formal approach to engage with service users to evaluate the outcomes from services offered, including a comprehensive parental/user survey which identifies satisfaction against each ECM outcome</p> <p>Agree volunteering principles and policy, and increase number of parents sitting on children's centre advisory groups</p> <p>Maintain and increase parent consultation and participation on advisory groups</p> <p>Provide staff training on evaluation</p> <p>Involve children in evaluating services, including "listening to children" projects</p>	<p>Improved understanding of parents' views of children's centre services</p> <p>Parents have more confidence and self-esteem and feel ready to identify their needs, influence and facilitate children's centre activities</p> <p>More parents feel able to consider training and routes back into employment</p> <p>Children are more fully engaged and their children's centre experiences are learned from</p>
<p>Achieve Economic Well-being</p>	<p>Improve information regarding organisations offering support to parents who wish to return to work and provide them with clear and supported pathways</p> <p>Ensure Children's Centre staff can refer parents to the Adult Advancement Service</p> <p>Pilot partnership with debt counselling agencies in the East area.</p>	<p>Fewer children living with parents dependent on benefits</p> <p>Increase in the take up of the Working Tax Credit for childcare in under-performing areas</p> <p>Improved service from Job Centre Plus provided</p>

	<p>Continue to try to engage with Job Centre Plus get them to deliver activities in Children's Centres including lobbying at a regional and national level.</p> <p>Support parents to take up volunteering opportunities in order to help develop their skills and assist them to secure future employment or training</p>	
Excluded Groups	<p>Improve the promotion and take up of children's centre services to excluded members of the local communities</p> <p>Review the criteria and processes of targeting children for additional support</p> <p>Establish effective monitoring systems for contact with children and families from most excluded groups</p> <p>Involve hard to reach parents in developing services and overcoming barriers.</p> <p>Improve links between children's centres and Seaside View Child Development Centre</p> <p>Increase disabled children's access to mainstream children's centre activities as part of the Early Support Programme</p>	<p>Improved understanding of children's centre catchment areas and system in place to identify hard to reach groups and to capture and analyse data</p> <p>All children with additional needs have a care plans with clear targets agreed with parents</p> <p>More children from disadvantaged groups using children's centre services</p> <p>More disabled children using children's centre services</p> <p>The CCs make a positive difference to the lives of the most vulnerable children and their families</p>
Centre Leadership and Financial Management	<p>Strengthen the management team by developing Children's Centre Information and Development Managers, to oversee publicity, monitoring, evaluation and partnership working strategies for children's centre activities</p>	<p>Improved management capacity to oversee delivery of communication and evaluation aspects of centre</p>

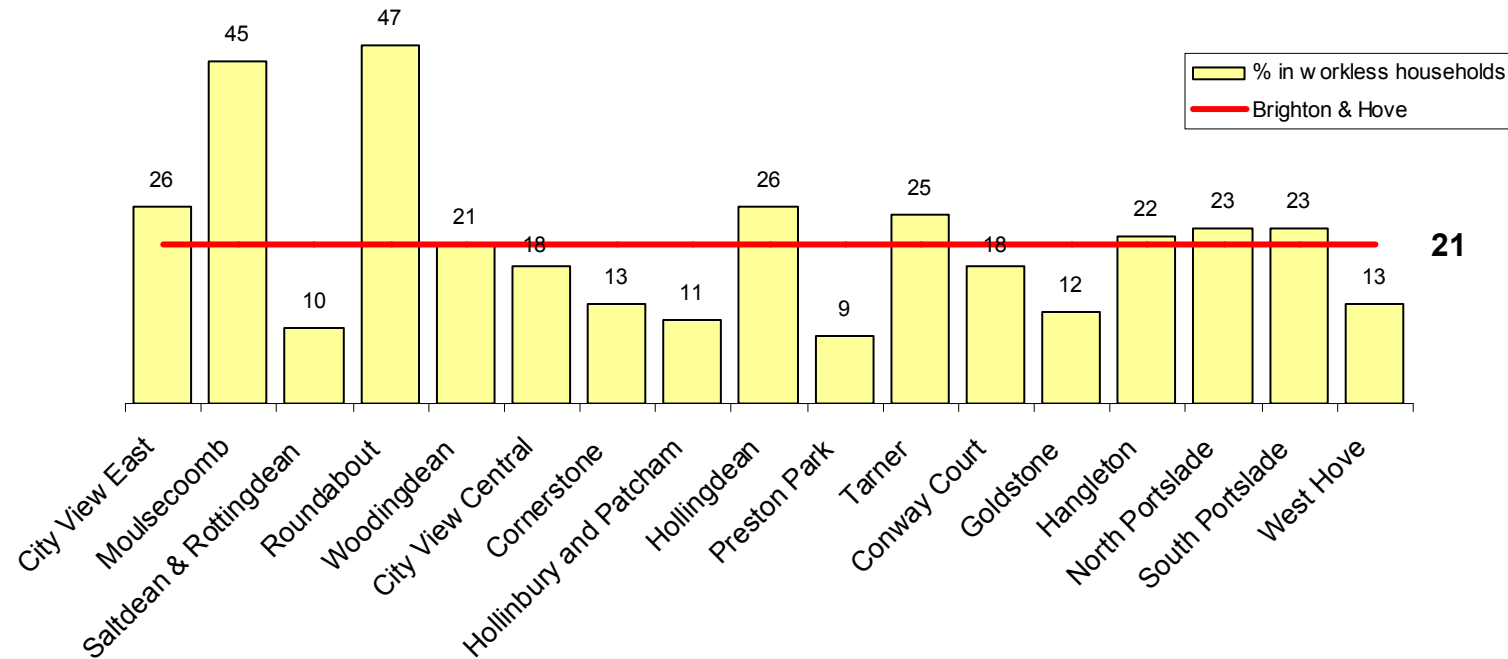
	<p>Develop the Children's Centre teacher role outside the nursery for children 0-5</p> <p>The new area Children's Centre Information and Development Managers either have or will be working towards the NPQICL qualification.</p> <p>Develop the gateway Children's Centre budgets to reflect the work of the children's centre team in the catchment area and ensure the resources allocated to each area reflects the needs of that area.</p>	
<p>Partnership Working</p>	<p>Develop stronger links with early years providers based in the gateway CCs and improve links with other providers in the area by attending network meetings and improved information.</p> <p>Develop more coherent system for commissioning services that cannot be provided by children's centres through lack of staff capacity or space</p> <p>Improve links with extended services for reception aged children especially for childcare</p>	<p>All partners in the area understand the needs of the children in the reach area and work in partnership to improve outcomes for young children with a focus on the most disadvantaged.</p>

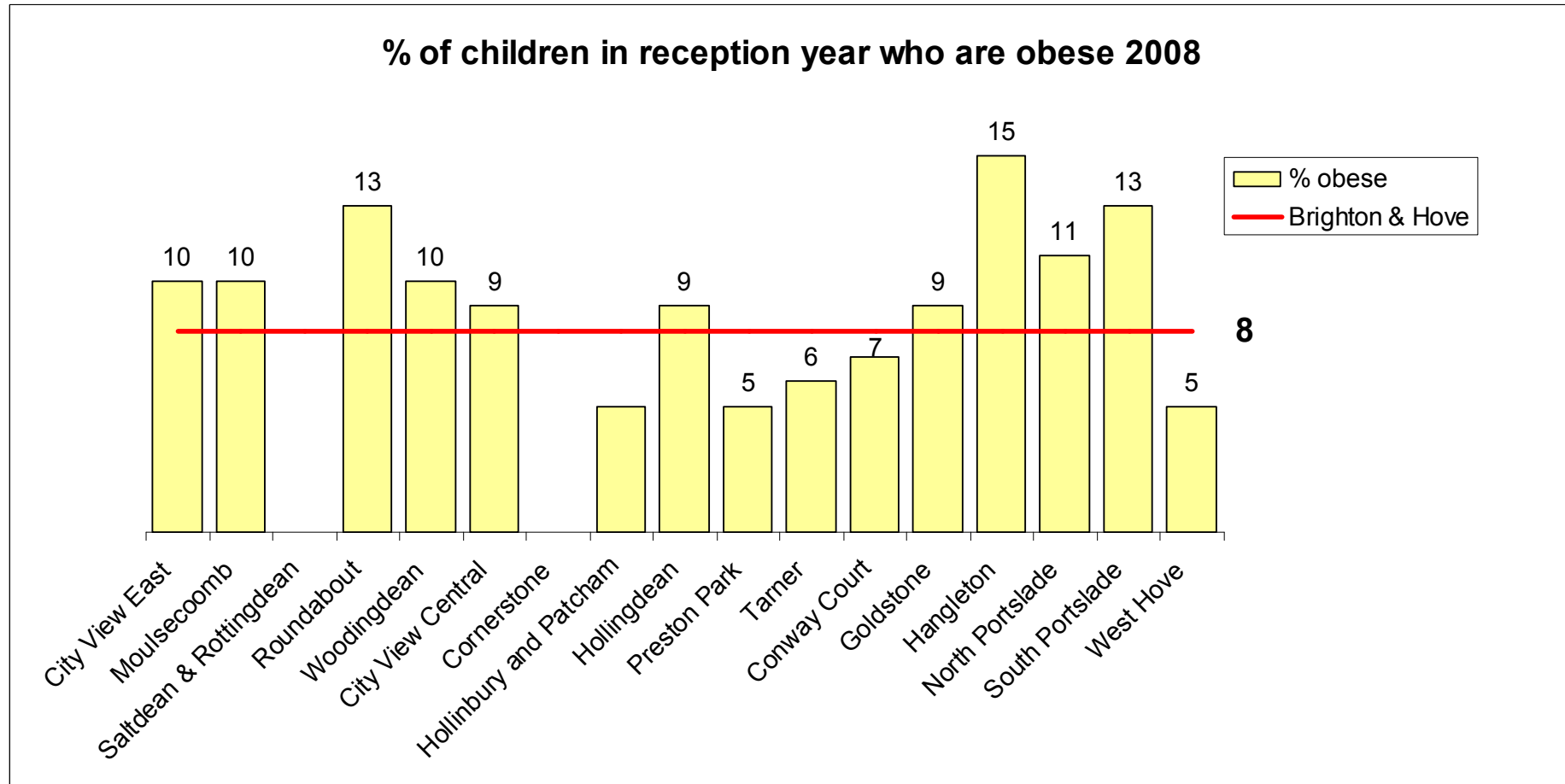
Annex - Charts for the Children's Centre Evaluation April 2009



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% of children aged 0-4 living in households dependent on workless benefits 2007





NB Data for Saltdean/Rottingdean and Cornerstone was not available

