

Official Statistics Release

Policy area:	Children's centre inspections and outcomes
Theme:	Education, children's services and skills
Published on:	11 September 2014
Coverage:	England
Period covered:	1 April 2010 to 30 June 2014
Status:	Provisional
Issued by:	Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) Aviation House 125 Kingsway London WC2B 6SE
Chief Statistician:	Rob Pike
Statistician:	Selina Gibb
Public enquiries:	enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
Press enquiries:	pressenquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
Link to official statistics release web page:	http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/official-statistics-childrens-centres-inspections-and-outcomes
Publication medium:	Ofsted website
Publication frequency:	Quarterly

Introduction

This official statistics report on children’s centre inspections covers inspections carried out between 1 April 2014 and 30 June 2014 under Section 3A of the Childcare Act 2006. Most recent inspection outcomes report on children’s centre inspections that occurred between 1 April 2010 and 30 June 2014.

A new children’s centre framework was introduced on 1 April 2013. The inspections carried out under this framework focus sharply on the impact of children’s centres on targeted young children and their families, especially those that centres have identified as being in most need of intervention and support. The framework distinguishes between groups of centres that share leadership and management and work together to deliver integrated services, and single centres. Although this is a new framework it is a continuation of the same five year inspection cycle, and therefore, not all children’s centres have received an inspection.

Contents

Introduction	2
Key findings	3
Methodology	3
Additional information	5
Chart 1: Inspection outcomes of children's centres inspected between 1 April 2014 to 30 June 2014 (provisional)	6
Chart 2: Most recent inspection outcomes of children's centres inspected as at 30 June 2014 – all judgements (provisional)	7
Table 1: Overall effectiveness for children's centres inspected between 1 April 2014 and 30 June 2014 (provisional).....	8
Table 2: Inspection outcomes of children's centres inspected between 1 April 2014 and 30 June 2014 (provisional)	9
Table 3: Most recent inspection outcomes of children's centres inspected as at 30 June 2014 (provisional)	10
Glossary	11

Key findings

- Between 1 April 2014 and 30 June 2014, there have been 51 inspections of single children's centres and 38 inspections of children's centre groups. Forty three per cent of inspections in this period were of children's centre groups.
- Of the total 89 inspections, 43 inspections (48%) resulted in a judgement of good or outstanding for overall effectiveness. This is one percentage point lower than the proportion of centres judged good or outstanding within the previous reporting period of 1 November 2013 to 31 March 2014. That was, however, a five month reporting period compared to three months in this report.
- Of the 51 single centres inspected, 23 centres (45%) were judged good or outstanding and four centres (8%) were judged inadequate. Of the 38 group centres inspected, none were judged outstanding, 20 (53%) were judged good and five group centres (13%) were judged inadequate. These grade profiles continue a recent trend of group centres performing stronger at inspection than single centres.
- Ofsted began inspecting children's centres in April 2010, and by 30 June 2014 had inspected 2,060 children's centres. Of those inspected, 67% were judged good or outstanding, and 2% inadequate at their most recent inspection. However, as Ofsted has not completed a whole inspection cycle as yet, it is not possible to make informed statements relating to change in the quality of centres.

Impact of revisions on key points of previous release

- An update on the previous data release for the period 1 November 2013 – 31 March 2014 has also been published. This adds a further two inspections which were completed in this period but not published in time for inclusion in the previous release. Both of these resulted in judgements of inadequate for overall effectiveness.

Methodology

1. The data in this release are from inspections carried out between 1 April 2014 and 30 June 2014.
2. Statistics relate to inspections undertaken in the three month reporting period and include inspections where the inspection report was published within one month of the end of the reporting period. Data are provisional.
3. The state of the nation figures show the most recent inspection outcomes for centres open at the end of the reporting period. Under the new framework, some former single centres are now inspected as part of a children's centre group. Where centres in these groups have been inspected previously, these grades are removed from the state of nation/most recent inspections figures once the new group has been inspected. Data on which centres are working as children's centre groups are based on data received from the Department for Education (DfE), based on data submitted to the DfE by local authorities through the Sure Start_On database.
4. Revisions are published in line with Ofsted's revisions policy for official statistics which can be found on the Ofsted website:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/statistical-notice-ofsted-revisions-policy-for-official-statistics>

5. The first inspection framework for children's centres was published in April 2010 and refreshed in September 2011. A new children's centre framework was introduced on 1 April 2013. The main changes to the new framework are a reduction in the number of key judgements, increased engagement with the local authority as the responsible body for children's centres, and a more flexible framework that allows the inspection of single children's centres, joint inspection of groups of centres that the Sure Start_On database indicates share leadership and management and integrated services, and the simultaneous inspection of those that work collaboratively in a clearly defined geographical area or locality. Information and guidance on the new framework is published on our website.

Children's centre framework:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/framework-for-childrens-centre-inspection-april-2013>

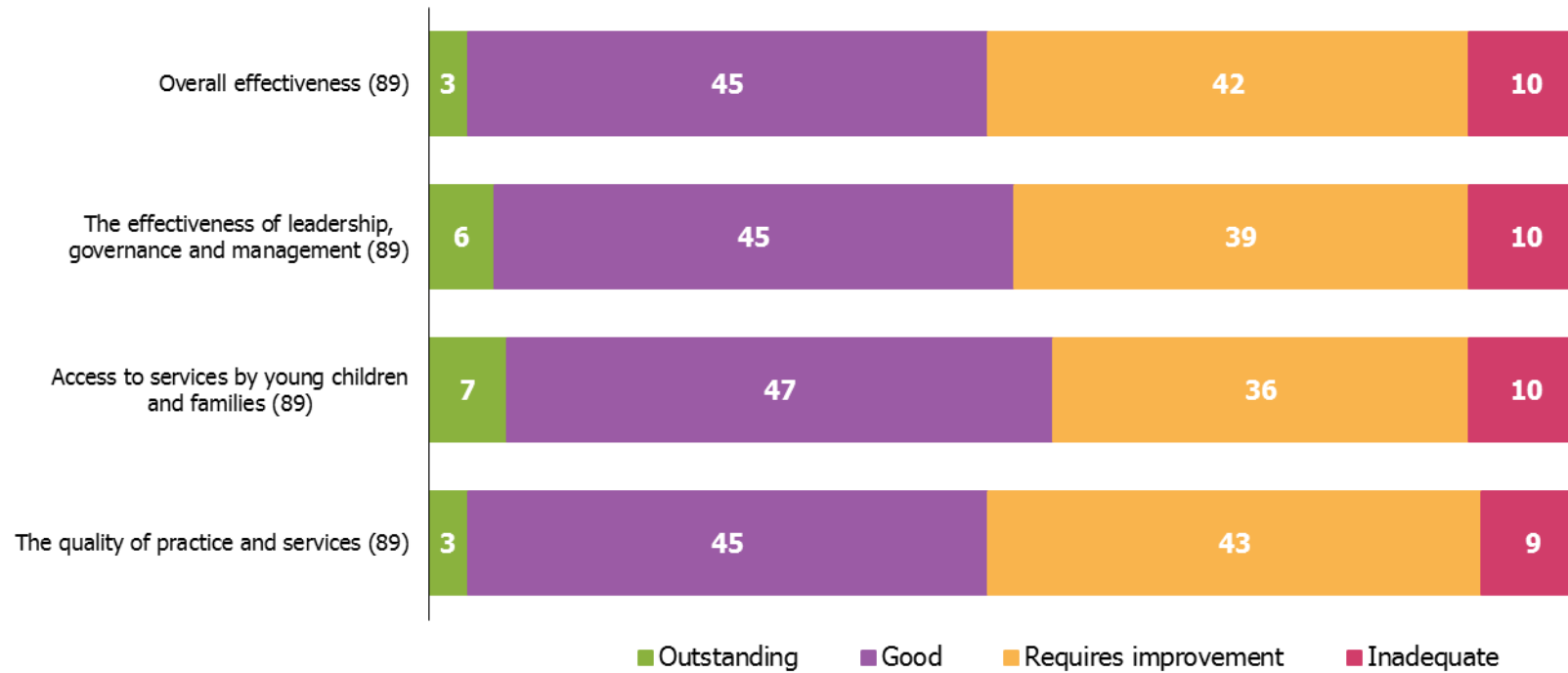
Children's centre handbook:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/childrens-centre-inspection-handbook-for-inspections-april-2013>

Additional information

All the tables and charts shown in this release are also available in Excel format along with additional analysis at regional and local authority level. Provider level data is also available in csv format. These supplementary datasets are stored on the Ofsted website in the same location as this document.

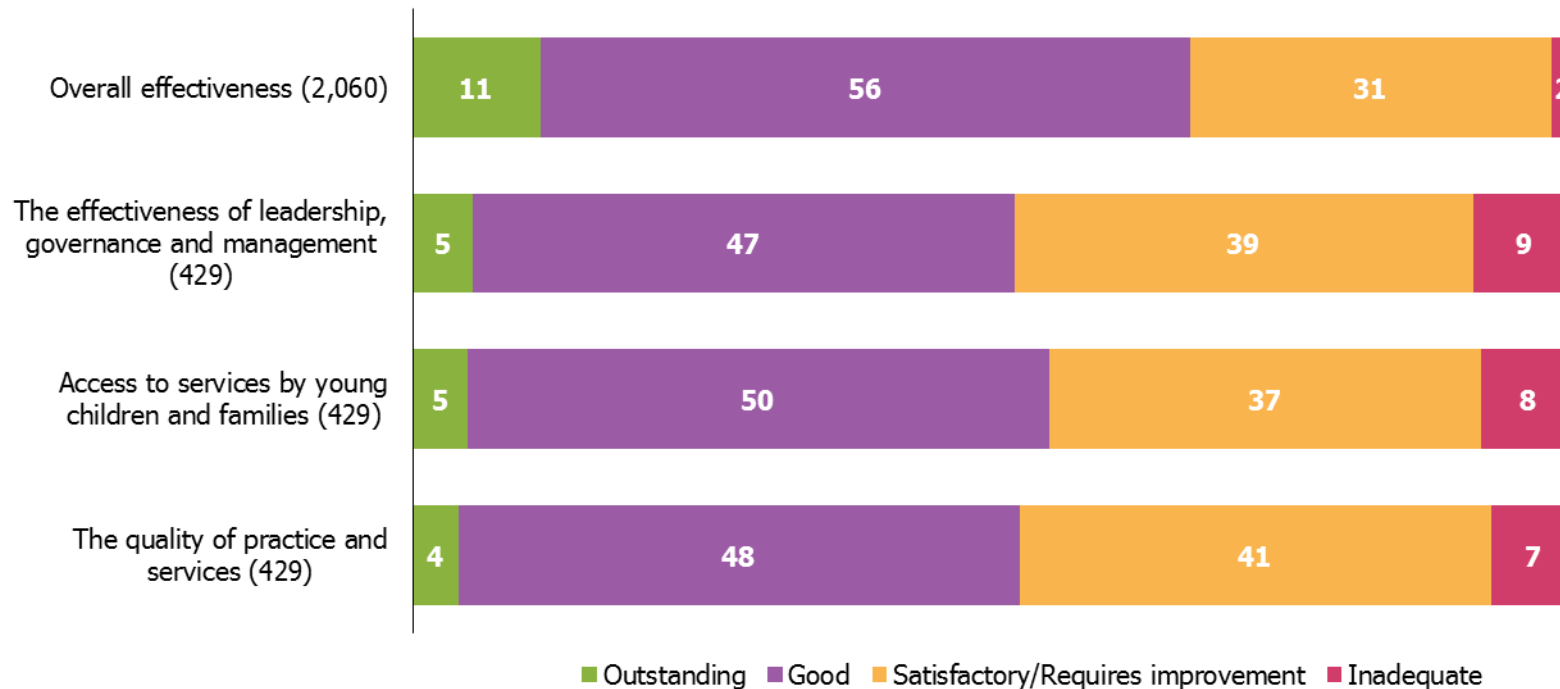
Chart 1: Inspection outcomes of children's centres inspected between 1 April 2014 and 30 June 2014 – all judgements (provisional) ¹



Source: Ofsted Inspections

1. Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100.

Chart 2: Most recent inspection outcomes of children's centres inspected as at 30 June 2014 (provisional) ^{1 2 3 4 5}



Source: Ofsted Inspections

1. Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100.
2. 'Overall effectiveness' includes the judgement 'How effective is the children's centre in meeting the needs and improving outcomes for families?' from the previous framework and 'The overall effectiveness of the children's centre' from the current framework. The overall effectiveness judgement is the only outcome recorded across frameworks. The three additional judgements were recorded at inspection since 1 April 2013.
3. 'Satisfactory' judgements were recorded at inspections that took place up until 31 March 2013. For inspections after 1 April 2013, a 'requires improvement' judgement is recorded.
4. Centres are included in the figures if they were open on the Ofsted systems as at 30 June 2014.
5. Where previously inspected single centres have joined to form a group centre, only the current group inspection outcome will be included. If the group has yet to be inspected, the previous single centre inspection outcomes will be shown. Where a single centre has joined a group after the group has been inspected, the single centre outcome will still be included.

Table 1: Overall effectiveness of children's centres inspected between 1 April 2014 and 30 June 2014 (provisional) ¹²

	Total number inspected	Number of centres				Percentage of centres			
		Outstanding	Good	Requires improvement	Inadequate	Outstanding	Good	Requires improvement	Inadequate
All inspections	89	3	40	37	9	3	45	42	10
Single centre provider	51	3	20	24	4	6	39	47	8
Group provider	38	0	20	13	5	0	53	34	13

Source: Ofsted Inspections

1. Where the number of inspections is small, percentages should be treated with caution. Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100.

2. 'Single centre provider' includes centres inspected as a stand-alone event or as part of a simultaneous inspection. A 'group provider' is when a number of children's centres share leadership and management and integrated services and are inspected as one inspection event.

Table 2: Inspection outcomes of children's centres inspected between 1 April 2014 and 30 June 2014 (provisional)¹²

	Total number inspected	Number of centres				Percentage of centres			
		Outstanding	Good	Requires improvement	Inadequate	Outstanding	Good	Requires improvement	Inadequate
Overall effectiveness	89	3	40	37	9	3	45	42	10
The effectiveness of leadership, governance and management	89	5	40	35	9	6	45	39	10
Access to services by young children and their families	89	6	42	32	9	7	47	36	10
The quality of practice and services	89	3	40	38	8	3	45	43	9

Source: Ofsted Inspections

1. Where the number of inspections is small, percentages should be treated with caution. Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100.

2. 'Single centre provider' includes centres inspected as a stand-alone event or as part of a simultaneous inspection. A 'group provider' is when a number of children's centres share leadership and management and integrated services and are inspected as one inspection event.

Table 3: Most recent inspection outcomes of children's centres inspected as at 30 June 2014 (provisional) ¹²³⁴⁵

	Total number inspected	Number of centres				Percentage of centres			
		Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory/ Requires improvement	Inadequate	Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory/ Requires improvement	Inadequate
Overall effectiveness	2060	227	1149	640	44	11	56	31	2
The effectiveness of leadership, governance and management	429	22	200	169	38	5	47	39	9
Access to services by young children and their families	429	20	215	159	35	5	50	37	8
The quality of practice and services	429	17	207	174	31	4	48	41	7

Source: Ofsted Inspections

1. Where the number of inspections is small, percentages should be treated with caution. Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100.
2. 'Overall effectiveness' includes the judgement 'How effective is the children's centre in meeting the needs and improving outcomes for families?' from the previous framework and 'The overall effectiveness of the children's centre' from the current framework. The overall effectiveness judgement is the only outcome recorded across frameworks. The three additional judgements were recorded at inspection since 1 April 2013.
3. 'Satisfactory' judgements were recorded at inspections that took place up until 31 March 2013. For inspections after 1 April 2013, a 'requires improvement' judgement is recorded.
4. Centres are included in the figures if they were open on the Ofsted systems as at 30 June 2014
5. Where previously inspected single centres have joined to form a group centre, only the current group inspection outcome will be included. If the group has yet to be inspected, the previous single centre inspection outcomes will be shown. Where a single centre has joined a group after the group has been inspected, the single centre outcome will still be included.

Glossary

Children's centres

Children's centres are expected to provide, or make arrangements for parents-to-be and families with young children, including wider family members such as grandparents, to access early childhood services. They are a local port of call when a mother, father or carer needs help or advice; whether that is in relation to their role as parent/carer, their child's well-being or learning and development, to find out about neighbourhood activities for parents or activities for children including play groups or nurseries. In this context, early childhood services are:

- childcare for young children
- social services functions of the local authority relating to young children, parents and prospective parents
- health services relating to young children, parents and prospective parents
- employment support from Jobcentre Plus for parents or prospective parents
- the local authority's information, advice and assistance service relating to childcare and other services and facilities relevant to young children and their families.

New Framework – 1 April 2013 onwards

Under this framework:

- an inspection will either be of a single centre or of a children's centre group that offers integrated services and shares leadership and management
- wherever possible and appropriate, inspections will take place simultaneously across a locality where local authorities or partner organisations deliver integrated services collaboratively
- a centre that is not yet 'good', but that is not judged 'inadequate', is a centre that 'requires improvement'
- there will be increased engagement and participation with the local authority as the responsible body for children's centres, and a more flexible framework that allows the inspection of single or groups centres, depending on the information held in the Sure Start_On database
- if a centre is judged as 'requires improvement' at two consecutive inspections and is still not 'good' at a third inspection, it is likely to be deemed 'inadequate'
- a centre judged as inadequate will be re-inspected within 12 months of the previous inspection – the quality of the action plan produced by the local authority in response to the inspection and its implementation will be an important feature of the re-inspection.

© Crown copyright

You may re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/> or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London, TW9 4DU or e-mail: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk