### Official Statistics Release

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy area:</th>
<th>Children’s centre inspections and outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theme:</td>
<td>Education, children’s services and skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Published on:</td>
<td>27 November 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coverage:</td>
<td>England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period covered:</td>
<td>1 April 2010 to 31 August 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status:</td>
<td>Final - Annual Report Academic Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issued by:</td>
<td>Office for Standards in Education, Children’s Services and Skills (Ofsted) Aviation House 125 Kingsway London WC2B 6SE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responsible director:</td>
<td>Susan Gregory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistician:</td>
<td>Louise Butler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public enquiries:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk">enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Press enquiries:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pressenquiries@ofsted.gov.uk">pressenquiries@ofsted.gov.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication medium:</td>
<td>Ofsted website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication frequency:</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Introduction

This official statistics release reports on children’s centre inspections that occurred between 1 April 2010 and 31 August 2012 under Section 3A of the Childcare Act 2006.

This release reports on inspections carried out between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012 and supports the findings in the Early Years sector report which is published alongside the 2011/12 Ofsted Annual Report.

Ofsted recently undertook a review of the effectiveness of this and other official statistics releases to ensure they are fit for purpose and meeting user needs. This consultation is now closed but a response to the comments and suggestions received will be published in the near future.

Contents

Introduction ........................................................................................................................................... 2
Key findings ............................................................................................................................................ 3
Methodology .......................................................................................................................................... 4
Additional information .......................................................................................................................... 5
Chart 1: Key inspection judgements for children’s centres inspected between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012....................................................................................................................... 6
Chart 2: Overall effectiveness of children’s centres inspected over two inspection years ............. 6
Table 1: Number of children’s centres inspected between 1 April 2010 and 31 August 2012 ........ 7
Table 2: Inspection outcomes of children’s centres inspected between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012................................................................................................................................................. 8
Table 3: Most recent inspection outcomes of children’s centres as at 31 August 2012 ................. 10
Table 4: Overall effectiveness of children’s centres inspected over two years............................... 12
Glossary .................................................................................................................................................. 13
Key findings

Latest inspection year (1 September 2011 – 31 August 2012)

- Of the 708 children’s centres inspected between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012, 65% were judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness. This is a decrease of eight percentage points from the proportion judged good or outstanding in the previous inspection year. This could be the result of a move towards inspecting more of the less established children’s centres this year and this decline in grades highlights a clear difference between the quality of centres that have been established longest and those established more recently. In addition, the inspection criteria for children’s centres were strengthened in September 2011, making it harder for centres to be judged good or outstanding.

- Eighteen of the children’s centres inspected this year were judged inadequate. This is six more than during the previous year.

- The strongest aspects of provision were found in the quality of care, guidance and support offered to families and the effectiveness of the centre’s policy, procedures and work with key agencies in safeguarding, where 85% of children’s centres inspected this year were judged good or outstanding for both areas.

- The least positive outcome for users is the extent to which children are developing skills for the future and parents are developing economic stability and independence, where 53% of children’s centres were judged good or outstanding.

Most recent inspections (as at 31 August 2012)

- The inspection of children’s centres commenced in May 2010. By 31 August 2012, 1,443 children’s centres had been inspected and their findings published on the Ofsted website.

- Of the 1,443 centres inspected, 69% were judged as good or outstanding for overall effectiveness at their most recent inspection and almost all (98%) were judged to be at least satisfactory.

- At a regional level, the North East has the highest percentage of children’s centres judged as good or outstanding (84%), in contrast to the South West with 55% of inspected children’s centres judged good or outstanding.

- Thirty four children’s centres have been judged inadequate since May 2010. Of these, 14 centres have received a second inspection. All 14 were judged satisfactory for overall effectiveness at this most recent inspection.
Methodology

1. The data in this release are from inspections carried out between 1 April 2010 and 31 August 2012. For this period, all inspection reports were published within one month of the end of the inspection period, therefore, the data are final.

2. Following an evaluation of the first year of children’s centre inspection, the children’s centre inspection framework was refreshed to remove repetition and ensure a sharper focus on families in target groups. The refreshed evaluation schedule took effect on 1 September 2011 and impacts on the way the statistics should be viewed. Two judgements in the quality of provision section and two in the leadership and management section were combined. The outcomes for these new judgements do not match across to either of the judgements they replaced. Conversely, whilst the wording of most of the remaining children’s centre judgements were slightly amended to increase the focus on outcomes, in particular for families in target groups and those most in need of intervention and support, the focus of these has not significantly changed. These revised judgements, therefore, can be matched across to the relevant pre-September 2011 outcomes.

3. In earlier quarterly publications there had been two tables covering inspection outcomes over the full period since April 2010. Previously table 3 covered all inspections carried out, including the re-inspection of centres found inadequate at their first inspection, and table 4 covered only each centre’s most recent inspection. The table which covered all inspections (previously table 3) was removed from the January 2012 to March 2012 provisional publication to bring the statistics published for children’s centres into line with those published by Ofsted for other types of provider. Now only the most recent inspection for each centre is published. This change is also reflected in Table 6, which provides most recent inspection outcomes broken down by region and local authority, and the supplied provider level data in Excel and csv file format. Only a small number of centres have received more than one inspection and so the impact of this change is small.

4. Revisions are published in line with Ofsted’s revisions policy for official statistics which can be found on the Ofsted website:


5. The inspection framework for children’s centres was published in April 2010 and refreshed in September 2011. For more information about the framework and how Ofsted inspects children’s centres please go to the Ofsted website:

Additional information

All the tables and charts shown in this release, along with additional analysis at regional and local authority level, are available in Excel and csv format on the Ofsted website in the same location as this document.
Chart 1: Key inspection judgements for children's centres inspected between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012¹

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Outstanding</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Satisfactory</th>
<th>Inadequate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall effectiveness (708)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How good are outcomes for users? (708)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How good is the provision? (708)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How effective are the leadership and management? (708)</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Ofsted Inspections

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

Chart 2: Overall effectiveness of children's centres inspected over two inspection years ¹

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Outstanding</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Satisfactory</th>
<th>Inadequate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 September 2011 - 31 August 2012 (708)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 September 2010 - 31 August 2011 (710)</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Ofsted Inspections

¹. Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100.
Table 1: Number of children's centres inspected between 1 April 2010 and 31 August 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Full inspections</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All inspections since April 2010(^1)</td>
<td>1,457</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 September 2011 - 31 August 2012</td>
<td>708</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Ofsted Inspections

\(^1\) These are all inspections since April 2010, including 14 re-inspections
### Table 2: Inspection outcomes of children's centres inspected between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total number inspected</th>
<th>Outstanding Number</th>
<th>Outstanding %</th>
<th>Good Number</th>
<th>Good %</th>
<th>Satisfactory Number</th>
<th>Satisfactory %</th>
<th>Inadequate Number</th>
<th>Inadequate %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The effectiveness of the children’s centre in meeting the needs of and improving outcomes for families</td>
<td>708</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The centre’s capacity for sustained improvement, including the quality of its leadership and management</td>
<td>708</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How good are outcomes for families?</td>
<td>708</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The extent to which children, including those from target groups, are physically, mentally and emotionally healthy and families have healthy lifestyles</td>
<td>708</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>374</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The extent to which children are safe and protected, their welfare concerns are identified and appropriate steps taken to address them</td>
<td>708</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>416</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The extent to which all children and parents, including those from target groups, enjoy and achieve educationally and in their personal and social development</td>
<td>708</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>407</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The extent to which children engage in positive behaviour and develop positive relationships and parents, including those from target groups, contribute to decision-making and governance of the centre</td>
<td>708</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The extent to which children are developing skills for the future and parents, including those from target groups, are developing economic stability and independence including access to training and employment</td>
<td>708</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How good is the provision?</td>
<td>708</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>387</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The effectiveness of the assessment of the needs of children, parents and other users²</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The extent to which the range of services, activities and opportunities meet the needs of families, including those in target groups²</td>
<td>707</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The extent to which the centre promotes purposeful learning, development and enjoyment for all families, including those in target groups</td>
<td>708</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The extent to which the range of services, activities and opportunities meet the needs of users and the wider community²</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 2 (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total number inspected</th>
<th>Outstanding</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Satisfactory</th>
<th>Inadequate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The quality of care, guidance and support offered to families, including those in target groups</td>
<td>708</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>How effective are the leadership and management?</strong></td>
<td><strong>708</strong></td>
<td><strong>94</strong></td>
<td><strong>13</strong></td>
<td><strong>378</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The extent to which governance, accountability, professional supervision and day-to-day management arrangements are clear and understood</td>
<td>708</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The effectiveness of evaluation and its use in setting ambitious targets which secure improvement in outcomes</td>
<td>707</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The extent to which ambitious targets drive improvement, provision is integrated and there are high expectations for users and the wider community</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The extent to which resources are used and managed efficiently and effectively to meet the needs of families, including those in target groups</td>
<td>708</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The extent to which equality is promoted and diversity celebrated, illegal or unlawful discrimination is tackled and the centre fulfils its statutory duties</td>
<td>708</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The effectiveness of the centre's policy, procedures and work with key agencies in safeguarding children and, where applicable, vulnerable adults</td>
<td>708</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The extent to which evaluation is used to shape and improve services and activities</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The extent to which partnerships with other agencies ensure the integrated delivery of the range of services provided by the centre to meet its core purpose</td>
<td>708</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The extent to which the centre supports and encourages families in the reach area to engage with services and uses their views to develop the range of provision</td>
<td>708</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100.
2. One inspection began in August and ended in September 2011. Although the inspection was completed in September, outcomes were recorded against 4 judgements that were no longer part of the inspection framework after 1 September 2011 and 2 new outcomes included after 1 September 2011 were not judged. Several re-worded judgements were amalgamated.

Source: Ofsted Inspections
### Table 3: Most recent inspection outcomes of children's centres as at 31 August 2012\(^1\) \(^2\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The extent to which children, including those from target groups, are physically, mentally and emotionally healthy and families have healthy lifestyles</td>
<td>1,443</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>814</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How good are outcomes for families?</td>
<td>1,443</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>804</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The extent to which all children and parents, including those from target groups, enjoy and achieve educationally and in their personal and social development</td>
<td>1,443</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>857</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>387</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How good is the provision?</td>
<td>1,443</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>824</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>412</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The effectiveness of the children's centre in meeting the needs of and improving outcomes for families</td>
<td>1,443</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>887</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The effectiveness of the assessment of the needs of children, parents and other users</td>
<td>737</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The extent to which the range of services, activities and opportunities meet the needs of families, including those in target groups</td>
<td>706</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The extent to which children engage in positive behaviour and develop positive relationships and parents, including those from target groups, contribute to decision-making and governance of the centre</td>
<td>1,443</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>769</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The extent to which children are developing skills for the future and parents, including those from target groups, are developing economic stability and independence including access to training and employment</td>
<td>1,443</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>715</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>568</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How good is the provision?</td>
<td>1,443</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>830</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 The extent to which children, including those from target groups, are physically, mentally and emotionally healthy and families have healthy lifestyles</td>
<td>737</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>412</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The quality of care, guidance and support offered to families, including those in target groups</td>
<td>1,443</td>
<td>493</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>758</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>How effective are the leadership and management?</strong></td>
<td>1,443</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>811</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>403</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The extent to which governance, accountability, professional supervision and day-to-day management arrangements are clear and understood</td>
<td>1,443</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>769</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>438</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 The effectiveness of evaluation and its use in setting ambitious targets which secure improvement in outcomes</td>
<td>706</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 The extent to which ambitious targets drive improvement, provision is integrated and there are high expectations for users and the wider community</td>
<td>737</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>392</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The extent to which resources are used and managed efficiently and effectively to meet the needs of families, including those in target groups</td>
<td>1,443</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>759</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The extent to which equality is promoted and diversity celebrated, illegal or unlawful discrimination is tackled and the centre fulfils its statutory duties</td>
<td>1,443</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>814</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>402</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The effectiveness of the centre’s policy, procedures and work with key agencies in safeguarding children and, where applicable, vulnerable adults</td>
<td>1,443</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>843</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 The extent to which evaluation is used to shape and improve services and activities</td>
<td>737</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The extent to which partnerships with other agencies ensure the integrated delivery of the range of services provided by the centre to meet its core purpose</td>
<td>1,443</td>
<td>393</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>727</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The extent to which the centre supports and encourages families in the reach area to engage with services and uses their views to develop the range of provision</td>
<td>1,443</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>754</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>451</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Ofsted Inspections*

1. Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100.
2. Wording of some judgements refreshed on 1 Sept 2011 but the criteria for assessing them is unchanged. Data are amalgamated for inspections conducted before and after this date.
3. Judgement only made at inspections since 1 September 2011.
4. Judgement only made at inspections between 1 April 2010 and 31 August 2011.
Table 4: Overall effectiveness of children’s centres inspected over two years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total number inspected</th>
<th>Outstanding Number</th>
<th>Outstanding %</th>
<th>Good Number</th>
<th>Good %</th>
<th>Satisfactory Number</th>
<th>Satisfactory %</th>
<th>Inadequate Number</th>
<th>Inadequate %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012</td>
<td>708</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 September 2010 and 31 August 2011</td>
<td>710</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Ofsted Inspections
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.

Children centre phases

Children’s centres are categorised by three phases. Phase 1 are centres established between 2004 and 2006 under the Sure Start Local Programme. This delivered Sure Start through community based local programmes reaching a minimum of the top 20% most deprived wards in England. Phase 2 incorporates centres established between 2006 and 2008 and reached a minimum of the top 30% most deprived wards. Phase 3 established centres ensured that, by March 2010, every community had access to a Sure Start Children's Centre. Phase three centres reach 70% of the least disadvantaged areas.

The inspection cycle began in April 2010 and initially focused on inspecting phase 1 children’s centres. By August 2012, the cycle had progressed to include inspections of a high number of phase 2 centres.

Additional full inspections

Children’s centres judged inadequate for overall effectiveness will receive an additional full inspection approximately 12 months after the inspection that judged them to be inadequate. Apart from inadequate provision, Ofsted will inspect all other provision once in the current cycle.

---

1 This may include partnership working with other services to provide services to parents and prospective parents on site or by referral elsewhere.