

Annual Report: Out of School Provision in York

April 2013 - March 2014



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Report of Out of School provision April 2013– March 2014

Purpose

This report intends to provide an update in relation to the quality of out of school provision across the city.

The report draws on information gathered during regular monitoring visits, categorisation and any instances where the Out of School Support Advisor (OSSA) or colleagues have given targeted and intensive support to groups.

Context

Local Drivers

The work of the adviser is underpinned by the vision outlined in the Children and Young Peoples Plan (CYPP) for York – ‘Dream Again’ and the specific priorities that are relevant to the work of the adviser. The plan outlines eight ways in which we will work to help all children, young people and their families to live their dreams:

- Striving for the highest standards;
- Upholding truly equal opportunities;
- Helping children and young people to always feel safe;
- Intervening early and effectively;
- Working together creatively;
- Working in genuine collaboration with children and families: mutual respect and celebration;
- Connecting with communities, within which our children live, and to the rich culture of our great city;
- Remembering that laughter and happiness are also important!

There are five specific priorities, based on evidence about where extra help is needed:

- Helping all York children enjoy a happy family life;
- Supporting those who need extra help at the earliest opportunity;
- Promoting good mental health;
- Reaching further: links to a strong economy;
- Planning well in a changing world.

The work of the adviser mirrors these expectations and priorities in the following ways:

- All out of school clubs are expected to be striving to provide the highest quality childcare provision and to be judged at least good or outstanding at Ofsted Inspection.
- The adviser targets support and prioritises in the following ways:
 - Clubs who have received an Inadequate Ofsted judgement and need intensive support to ensure that the quality of their provision is improved rapidly.
 - Clubs who have a Requires Improvement/Satisfactory judgement.
 - Clubs who are not making swift enough progress from Requires Improvement to Good
 - Clubs who maybe at risk of being downgraded at their next Ofsted Inspection to Requires Improvement or Inadequate.
- All out of school clubs must do everything within their power to ensure that children are safe, this includes the practical statutory requirements around Safeguarding Policies and Procedures, Risk Assessments, Staff Suitability
- Ensuring that staff access Safeguarding training so they are aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse and knowing what to do if a child is at risk of harm.
- Promoting inclusion and ensuring that disabled children can access out of school clubs.

Local Provision

50 clubs are currently operating in the city, offering a mix of before, afterschool and holiday provision. The management structure of the groups vary, currently there are 10 private providers, 15 school run providers and 25 providers run by Voluntary Management Committees. These providers offer approximately 2339 childcare places, this number is an approximation as Ofsted no longer set a registered number of children providers can care for as a condition of registration, nor do they set a restriction on the numbers of children aged over eight a provider may care for in their staff:child ratios.

These clubs offer a mixture of before school, after school and holiday provision for children aged 4-11years and are all registered with Ofsted. The majority of providers are registered on the Early Years and Childcare registers with two providers registered on the voluntary part of the childcare register only as they provide sports provision and have chosen to register this provision.

Improving Quality

A locally set performance indicator is in place relating to the number of good and outstanding out of school clubs across the city. Progress in relation to this is reported on a quarterly basis with the figure revised annually. Currently this performance indicator is set at 65%. Data at the end of March shows a vast

improvement in the quality of the provision across the city, evidenced by an increase in the number of providers moving from Requires Improvement to Good.

	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate	Number of Clubs on Ofsted EYS register
March 2013	6% (n3)	61% (n30)	30% (n15)	2% (n1)	49
March 2014	6% (n3)	78% (n36)	15% (n7)	0	46*

* Two providers are registered on the voluntary childcare register so do not receive a judgement and two providers are newly registered so awaiting inspection.

The OOSA undertakes a categorisation process as a means to prioritise support for those groups who need it the most. This local information gives us a clearer picture of the quality of provision as we know that the quality of a provision can differ from the snapshot that was taken during the Ofsted inspection and providers will need varied support throughout the three year inspection cycle in order to continue to provide high quality provision for the children.

In this period categorisation gave us the following set of results:

	RED	AMBER	GREEN	No. of OOSCs
March 2013	2%(n1)	44%(n23)	51%(n27)	52
October 2013	0	50%(n26)	50%(n26)	52
March 2014	0	48%(n24)	52% (n26)	50

The main focus of the advisory visits in this past year has been:

- Improving the Play environment for the children, in terms of staff interaction, resources and encouraging Playwork staff to use the tools they have picked up through training, such as the Well-Being and Involvement Scales.
- Ensuring Safer Recruitment Guidance is followed.
- Ensuring that accident records are clear, concise and monitored to reduce the risk of any reoccurring accidents.
- Monitoring the use of risk assessments ensuring that these are reflective of the needs of the individual club and that the staff team are clear about identifying hazards and can manage these effectively to ensure the children are safe.
- Supporting three clubs to undertake their Inclusion Standards award.

In December 2013, the Childcare Strategy Service appointed a Business Support Adviser. This role complements and supports the work of the adviser and in this period support has been provided in the following ways:

- Advising a group on the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) structure
- Working with the adviser to support a group experiencing sustainability issues, to enable them to work towards becoming sustainable in the longer term.
- Working with the Early Years, Learning and Welfare team and York CVS to deliver a trustee induction day

Impact of the work of the adviser

The main stream of work of the OOSA is the categorisation process. This has had a positive impact on the quality of out of school provision. Feedback from the clubs is that this process is clear for them to understand and therefore the steps they need to take to improve the quality of their provision are achievable.

Frequently during Ofsted Inspection clubs are asked to provide evidence of the support given by the LA and they have reported that it is evident that the clubs are supported by the OOSA to improve the quality of their provision. The OOSA will continue to revise and review the categorisation process to ensure it remains fit for purpose and supports the drive to improve the quality of the out of school sector and improve outcomes for children.

In addition to the categorisation system other streams of work contribute to and enable Out of School provision to engage with the service to improve the quality of provision offered to the children.

Examples of such work are:

- The DCATCH programme offered a 50% subsidy towards a level 3 diploma in Playwork qualification.
- The clubs have a self sustaining Playworker Exchange programme, this was initially funded by the DCATCH programme, but the clubs have continued to undertake this initiative with no funding as they recognise the value of sharing good practice.
- Access to the Inclusion Standards Framework and support from the OOSA and Inclusion support Adviser to complete each of the five standards.
- Access to the OOS network meetings; held every six weeks these are a good opportunity for the playworkers to see other settings and draw on each others good practice and ideas.
- Access to Playwork specific training within the Workforce Development Unit Learning and Development Prospectus.

Over the period; where groups were rated green there were some common themes; such as;

- Effective Safeguarding policies, procedures and protocols in place.
- Effective leadership from the organisation/committee and/or the senior staff member.
- Following Safer Recruitment Guidelines.
- Low staff turnover and staff that are deployed effectively during sessions.
- Staff with Level 3 or higher qualifications, with club staff regularly accessing training to improve their knowledge and skills.
- Committee members attending relevant training, so they are aware of their statutory responsibilities.
- Good grasp of the revised EYFS and a reasonable approach to this within the ethos of Playwork.

- Regular attendance at the Out of School Network meetings; this means the clubs are able to keep up to date with any changes to legislation and share good practice.
- Staff that are positive role models for the children and have effective systems in place to manage behaviour.
- Good partnerships in place with parents/carers and primary schools in relation to supporting the learning and development of EYFS children.

During the period no groups were rated red and the OOSA and colleagues are beginning to see the positive impact of the categorisation process and how this supports groups to strive to offer high quality provision.

For further information in relation to the categorisation process and other quality improvement processes please refer to our Quality Improvement Strategy for Out of School Clubs. www.yor-ok.org.uk/OOSCs.htm

Developing provision

Over the past year, the OOSA has worked with a group of parents to develop provision near to St Wilfrids Primary School. Unfortunately this provision did not open due to premises and staffing issues. We are aware that this area of the city continues to show that parents/carers do not have access to out of school childcare.

One school is considering the options for out of school provision on their site and the adviser has given some initial information to the Headteacher to consider.

Changes to provision

During this period two new providers opened. The trustees of Elvington Out of School club opened an after school and holiday club offering up to 24 places per session.

The Haxby Road Academy opened an after school club offering up to 16 places initially, this provision is managed by the governing body.

One Private provider closed a provision resulting in a loss of 16 places in the west of the city and one rural provider closed resulting in a loss of 24 places.

Some out of school providers form part of a wider provision that also offers pre school provision; these providers will also receive support from the relevant Early Years Support Adviser (EYSA). In cases where the EYSA identifies specific issues related to the Out of School element of the provision, these are shared with the OOSA. The same system allows the OOSA to raise any pre school specific issues with the EYSA and it may be that a joint visit with the EYSA would take place to offer additional support to the group.

Sufficiency of the Out of School sector – Analysis of need

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment published in March 2014 highlights the following in relation to out of school provision:

Some families have expressed that accessing before or after school provision can be challenging. When exploring levels of demand by school attended levels of demand exist but may not be at a level where by an out of school club could be sustained. Schools should be encouraged to work with partners in responding to the needs of families.

There are five wards in particular with lower places available per child of population than elsewhere in the city.

- Osbaldwick
- Hull Road
- Strensall
- Heworth
- Heworth Without
- Dringhouses and Woodthorpe

The need for a breakfast club provision is highlighted around the Bishopthorpe Infant School Area, this is something that the OSSA can investigate further with providers in the area.

Where parents/carers cannot access breakfast club or Out of school provision at their child's school, the adviser encourages partnership working between local schools and clubs to enable families to be signposted to and access local provision.

Further information in relation to the Sufficiency of the out of school sector can be found at www.yor-ok.org.uk/childcaresufficiency

Sustainability

Sustainability continues to be an issue for a small number of providers, although the increase in workload this presents for the adviser cannot be underestimated. One provider has received Sustainability funding to enable them to cover their staffing costs for the summer term. Part of the agreement to fund was that the group investigated how they could strengthen the links between the club and the local community to work together to improve the sustainability of the provision.

One group contacted the adviser as they were experiencing financial difficulties and they are currently making some changes to their provision to improve the longer term sustainability.

Overall the sustainability of the out of school sector is good and any applications for sustainability funding or requests for support tend to be from the rural providers, who provide a service to the smaller schools.

Priority visits

As explained above the adviser prioritises visits based upon the needs of the club. Other circumstances in which groups could become priority visits for the Out of School Advisor could be;

- Complaint about the provision made to the Local Authority /Ofsted
- Visit from Ofsted gives the club an inadequate judgement
- Advisor rates the setting as red, following a categorisation visit
- Change in the senior staff member of the organisation
- Another professional working with the group raises a concern, eg EYSA or colleagues at York CVS

Priorities for the coming year 14/15

It is vital that over this coming year we continue to maintain a strong partnership with York CVS through the CAPSS panel, SLA and 1:1 review meetings so that where clubs are facing financial uncertainty, targeted support is given quickly and effectively to ensure they can remain sustainable. This is strengthened by having a Business Support Adviser in the team.

The revised EYFS will come into force in September 2014 and there are specific changes that could pose a risk to the quality of out of school provision. As a result of the 'More Affordable Childcare' consultation, government have confirmed that from September 2014 out of school clubs will have to meet any qualification requirements and the adult:child ratio requirements will be aligned with schools so that clubs will be expected to have enough staff as for a class 30 children in school. This poses a risk to the quality of the provision in some cases and the adviser is working with the clubs to help them understand the potential risks associated with this. Early feedback from the sector is negative towards these steps, with most clubs confirming that they will continue to work to a 1:8 ratio and will continue to have a manager with a level 3 qualification and have 50% of their staff at level 2 or above.

The expectations in terms of the Safeguarding and Welfare requirements remain the same as these deal with the fundamental issue of child safety.

The adviser will work with colleagues to ensure a consistent message is agreed and cascaded to ensure the Local Authority is clear in its expectations on clubs should they choose to reduce their adult:child ratio and/or qualification levels. The adviser will monitor the impact of the revised framework and the feedback from Ofsted inspections and share this with the sector to ensure that all clubs are ready for inspection and providing high quality provision.

The adviser constantly promotes and strives for outstanding practice through the Out of school network meetings, advisory visits and training. This work will continue as the expectation is that all clubs will be striving towards an outstanding Ofsted judgement.

Key Priorities

The priorities of the work of the advisor are;

- Supporting settings by offering advice, support and guidance to ensure that clubs are committed to improving the quality of their provision and strive for an outstanding Ofsted judgement.
- Working closely with those settings who are 'stuck' at a satisfactory/ Requires Improvement judgement to improve the quality of their provision.
- Ensuring that Safeguarding is a thread that runs through all visits. If the advisor visits a provision and deems that children are at risk of significant harm, then in consultation with the advisor's line manager, a referral will be made to Ofsted and/or the Safeguarding Children Board.
- Working with the CYC Procurement team to ensure that the tender process for identifying providers and stimulating the childcare market is fit for purpose.
- Establishing and strengthening the Childcare Committees Forum to ensure that committee members of childcare groups understand their roles and responsibilities and have the opportunity to be part of a peer support network.
- Continuing to highlight the importance of the Childcare Guidance, so that schools, Headteachers and Governors understand the Ofsted and financial implications in relation to delivering and managing their own childcare.
- Encouraging groups to complete the Inclusion Standards Framework, to highlight the positive steps clubs take to ensure that disabled children can access their provision.
- To work with the EY and OOSC Training commissioning group to ensure that training is available and is appropriate to the specific needs of the sector.
- Ensuring that all Playwork staff have the necessary skills and knowledge to be able to make reasonable adjustments to include disabled children.

Sustaining progress to improve outcomes for children

The biggest challenge faced by the service has been to sustain the progress that clubs make in terms of quality improvement. The categorisation process goes some way to making this easier as the Out of School Advisor will be supporting clubs at the correct time with the correct type of support. The overall aim of the categorisation process is to provide tailored support to clubs, encouraging and mentoring them to be more proactive in working to raise the quality of their provision for the children.

A range of high quality training courses are available to the sector and this supports the clubs to improve and sustain the quality of their provision.

Conclusion

The Childcare Strategy Service have a clear picture of the quality out of school provision across the city. This information means that the Out of School Advisor is able to plan and prioritise visits using a methodical and rational approach.