





History



- Started in 1942 for evacuees on Homerton College site
- Moved to present site in 1968 – still strong links with the Faculty
- Quiet residential urban area
- Became an EEC in 2003
- Children's Centre in 2009
- Opened for two year olds in 2012



Now



- We are a Children's Centre and Community Childcare hub
- Training centre
- A maintained nursery school 100 3-4 year olds
- Two year old provision (inc. funded places)
- Wrap around care
- Holiday club
- Open 8.15 5.45



Context



- Currently there is a population figure of 1185 children in our Reach
- 1 LSOA in the 20% most deprived, 2 in the least
- 20% come in to the nursery below average and 20% leave above average (2013)
- Areas of rapid growth
- Facing 22% cuts in our CC and approximately 7% in our Nursery School. Our private care is sustainable

Making a difference in a Children's Centre



- Integrated organisation with one Head
- Quality of staff in maintained nursery and childcare; teachers, nursery nurses, EYPS, EYTS, teaching assistants. Expertise e.g. EYFS, SENCO, ECAT, ASD, vulnerable 2's
- CPD opportunities working closely with 5 other nursery schools applying to be a Teaching School Alliance
- Training centre All areas including ICT

Family Workers



- Social care and counselling backgrounds
- Trained in a multi-agency approach e.g. safeguarding, parenting, working with victims of DV, alcohol identification, drug dependency
- Working closely with social care and health
- 10 CP, 24 CIN, 4 LAC, 32 CAFS since Sept 2011
- 24 children with Early Support
- Obtained funding for 32 two year olds; 25 came to Homerton 4 were placed in other settings, 3 moved out of area

Community Childcare hub



- Working with 14 Early Years settings, 5 of who are childminders
- Networking to improve quality e.g. ECAT, using assessment to identify areas for improvement
- Empowering practitioners and developing an effective and sustainable self-improvement model using our experience from our Nursery Circle
- Networking to develop funded places for two year olds
- Blended childcare for parents

Adult and child pathways



- Two year olds with funded places often already known by FWs; easier to build trust in attending the setting
- When two years start attending their parents come most days and are able to drop in and see a FW
- When they are absent FWs immediately follow up with a home visit if necessary

The difference this has made to adult pathway



Case Study 1

- Referred by a health visitor
- Single mum suffering from depression, history of DV and Mum a regular cannabis user.
- Living in considerable poverty, substantial debt including rent arrears and much of mums' income support was being deducted at source. Court proceedings with a strong possibility of eviction. The house was extremely sparsely furnished
- T had just had his two year old birthday and was not accessing any groups or any experience outside of the family home.

Impact:

- Two year old funding secured
- Place in our childcare prioritised
- Liaised with housing to negotiate the amount being deducted; relationship between housing and mum had broken down – amount per month reduced
- Food bank vouchers issued (letter written to food bank to ensure that M is able to access the bank more that her allowed 4x due to need) accessed
- Funding secured from a charity to purchase bed and linen for T and a washing machine. Charity contacted to clear the garden and paint hall
- Clothing for M and T required through accessing a charity
- Process of DRO in place, debts currently over £15,000 so on hold at present
- Lunch and tea provided for T free of charge to ensure that he had food
- Strong links between nursery staff and FW to address T's behaviour issues both in the nursery and at home (biting stopped within 2 weeks)
- Not on anti-depressants and no longer smokes
- Mum volunteers in the centre to help her confidence and to get work experience on her CV in preparation for M to start paid work
- Supported transition from two year old provision to three year old nursery in setting – child assessments show child has caught up with his peers

The difference this has made to adult pathway



Case Study 2

- Referral by social care
- Single mum with child subject to a CP plan not living with mum but with a family member
- Mum was pregnant with a second child due a few weeks after FW involvement
- Complicated relationship with both fathers

Impact:

- Two year funding secured for oldest child (J), priority place given in childcare at our centre
- J returned to the family home after one months of FW involvement
- Liaised between childcare room leader, FW and mum to help with J's behaviour using strategies employed at the nursery so mum could mirror these at home – behaviour greatly improved and not seen as a problem
- Supported mum to help her adhere to the CP plan for J and A resulting in cases becoming CIN - SC stepped down to our service
- Supported mum with housing complications resulting in a threat of eviction. Liaised between housing department and housing association no eviction.
- Supported to move housing bands to optimise mum's chance of moving from temporary housing to a more permanent residence – moved to a new flat
- Facilitated monthly meetings with A's dad to establish contact arrangements between A and his dad - avoided family court proceedings
- Referred to Sp & L drop-in held at the centre on track with his peers, marginal delay in CL
- Accessed funds from charity to purchase a carpet to ensure a safe environment for a young child and baby to explore
- Mum attended our invite only 6 week Baby talk course with A

The difference this has made to child's pathway



Two devel	lopment	bands	difference
from	base line	e to exi	t data

	Funded places for twos	Private provision for twos
Communication and Language	9 out of 13	2 out of 8
PSED	6 out of 13	3 out of 8
Physical development	10 out of 13	3 out of 8

Parents said....



How do childcare sessions help your child?

- Helped with toileting and nutrition. Gave her good social skills in preparation for Nursery.
- They're amazing!!
- I do more with x playing like pirates, Number Jacks
- Brought him on leaps and bounds. He has learnt so much it's unbelievable
- Without it, I'd be in hospital
- She is able to interact with children her age, able to learn a lot more, speak more.
- Suffering from bi-polar it has helped me feel less stressed and has helped with x meeting other children and learning to play with them

Parents said....



- X's confidence has developed greatly, as have her language skills, ability to play and share with other children and general knowledge
- The sessions bought him out of himself and gave him confidence
- His physical and mental self.
- Preparing her for school. Providing a wide range of activities.
 Taking instruction from other adults. Playing with lots of different children.
- They help with literacy and numbers, have helped her confidence and social skills. Sharing with other children, taking turns etc. She has made new friends.
- Grandmother is the main carer. Gives her a break every day.



Benefits of integrated provision

- Maintained nursery 5 outstanding Ofsted judgements; vast experience and knowledge
- Support from SENCO for behaviour plans, SEN, 1-1's or small group work
- Expertise of play worker and crèche staff using nursery staff
- Monthly meetings with SENCO, FW and childcare room leader within centre and with appropriate agencies
- Staff and teacher meetings with FWs, tailoring support to families and sharing info on attendance and child development
- Family worker follow up meeting with parent e.g. attendance, child at the heart of the work, following CP plans etc
- Tracking children alongside parent journey
- Transitions

Benefits of integrated provision



- Families drop-off children daily, regular access to target families
- Nest and nursery has better knowledge of our Reach and a wider access to multi-agency work
- Easier to encourage target families to attend the centre breaking down their barriers to school
- Networking with local early years settings including childminders to improve quality
- Provision for funded places for two year olds
- Use of additional staff and facilities at no or less cost to CC
- Centre is open longer hours than LA centres therefore able to take calls from social care, health, midwifery appointments, parents etc throughout the day