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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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**Providing Inspection Services for
Department of Education
Department for Employment and Learning
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure**



Education and Training Inspectorate

Educational Oversight Inspection (Home Office)

Annual Monitoring Review Inspection Report

North West Academy

May 2015

Context

The original inspection in February 2014 highlighted a number of strengths including the:

- high quality of the leadership and management of the provision;
- relevant curriculum offer which was enhanced by the provision of an appropriate range of social and cultural activities for the learners;
- wide range of links and partnerships developed to support the delivery of the provision;
- good or better quality of the teaching and learning observed, including the effective use of information and learning technology (ILT) to motivate and engage the learners;
- effective pastoral and learning support provided for the learners; and
- high outcomes achieved by the learners in both the in-house certified and external examination classes.

The inspection also identified the need for development in the following areas:

- the development of more integrated and cohesive systems to plan and manage all aspects of the learning programmes, including more formal arrangements to record and report on the progress and achievements of the learners; and
- the need to formalise and develop further the processes for self-evaluation and quality improvement planning, to support ongoing improvement in the overall quality of the provision across the organisation.

Since the original inspection, enrolment numbers have remained steady with 1019 learners enrolled in 2014, an increase on the previous year, and outcomes remain very high for both in-house certified and external examination classes. No learners have been registered under the Home Office Tier 4 points system since the original inspection.

Inspection Overview

The first annual monitoring review inspection was carried out in May 2015. This involved a scrutiny of the inspection documentation submitted to the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) by the North West Academy prior to an inspection visit to the organisation by a team of two inspectors.

During the visit, the inspection team spoke to the managing director; the operations and marketing director; the managers with responsibility for academic programmes, work placements and accommodation; the designated officer for safeguarding and one welfare officer; one lesson was observed; a focus group meeting was carried out with learners; and other relevant documentation was scrutinised.

The inspection team evaluated the quality of the self-evaluation report which was submitted by North West Academy prior to the annual monitoring review inspection, and reported to the organisation during the visit that the self-evaluation report and quality improvement plan were of a satisfactory quality.

Changes to the provision

In the interval since the ETI educational oversight inspection, North West Academy has taken the following actions, which affect its provision:

- an operations and marketing director, with responsibility for the overall management of the organisation, has been appointed;
- the roles and responsibilities of staff across the organisation have been reviewed and revised; and
- the organisation has become an examination centre for the University of Cambridge English language examinations, and the management team are currently applying to become an examinations centre for Trinity College London's Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (CertTESOL).

Main developments

The following are the most important developments that have taken place since the original ETI educational oversight inspection:

- the departmental managers and teaching staff have been given greater autonomy and responsibility for promoting improvement within their specialist areas;
- two members of teaching staff are currently undertaking an on-line Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) course to support the delivery of specialist subject areas through English;
- to support ongoing improvements in the quality of teaching and learning a number of mobile devices have been acquired, a 'white-room' has been developed, and staff have participated in a number of European projects and other training events, such as 'Flip the Classroom' and 'Future Classrooms';
- a virtual learning environment has been implemented to support students in their learning, although it is still at an early stage of development; and
- action has been taken to address the areas for development identified in the ETI inspection report, including the implementation of a more integrated electronic system to record information and monitor the progress of the learners on their programmes, and improved arrangements for action planning as part of the self-evaluation and quality improvement planning processes.

Further improvement

To improve the quality of provision further, North West Academy needs to take action to address the following areas:

- develop a more coherent strategy for the development and embedding of ILT, including the use of mobile devices, to support ongoing improvement in the quality of teaching and learning; and

- continue to strengthen the processes used for self-evaluation and quality improvement planning, by including all opportunities for learning and feedback from key stakeholders, and by prioritising the key areas for improvement and setting more specific and measurable targets in the quality improvement plan.

Conclusion

The annual monitoring review inspection visit confirms that the provision in North West Academy is satisfactory and continues to meet the requirements for educational oversight. The Home Office will be informed of the outcome of the annual monitoring review inspection.

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