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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
Promoting Improvement*



Providing Inspection Services for
Department of Education
Department for Employment and Learning
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

Girls' Brigade Northern Ireland

November 2008

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF THE GIRLS' BRIGADE NORTHERN IRELAND

The inspection of the Girls' Brigade Northern Ireland (GBNI) highlighted strengths in the outstanding dedication and commitment of the volunteers, and the clear emphasis on the personal, social and spiritual development of the girls. Among the key areas for improvement, the inspection identified the need:

- for the management group to implement and disseminate information about current changes relating to the governance and structure of the organisation;
- to devise a strategic plan informed by the needs of the organisation as expressed and recorded by the volunteers and members;
- to develop a self-evaluation framework to assure the quality of outcomes across the organisation;
- to begin the accreditation process of the current training to maximise the benefits for young people attending GBNI; and
- for GBNI to ensure that sponsoring churches/missions complete the child protection arrangements in accordance with current legislation and that their own child protection policy equally reflects the requirements of current legislation.

In the interval since the inspection, the following actions which affect the work of the organisation have taken place:

- the inclusion of youth representatives on the Executive Board;
- the replacement of the National Youth Council with a new participative structure called Girls Empowering Mighty Servants; and
- the appointment of a new chairperson to the Executive Board.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out two monitoring visits during the period since the inspection and a follow-up inspection on 3 November 2008.

The organisation's development plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

Since the inspection, the organisation evaluated the progress made in the areas for improvement in the original inspection. The Inspectorate recommends that the processes for self-evaluation are developed to focus more strongly on self-evaluation as a means to bring about improvement.

The organisation has satisfactory arrangements in place for safeguarding young people.

The following are the most important improvements since the inspection:

- the consultation with stakeholders on the future of the organisation;
- the involvement of the young people in the management of the organisation; and
- the development of partnerships to develop accreditation and to initiate Youth Achievement awards within the organisation.

Very good progress has been made in the areas of improvement identified during the original inspection.

In the areas inspected, the quality of provision provided by this organisation is now very good. The organisation is meeting very effectively the needs of the young people, and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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