



*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

Derry New Deal Consortium

March 2009

In this report, proportions may be described as percentages, common fractions and in more general quantitative terms. Where more general terms are used, they should be interpreted as follows:

Almost/nearly all	-	more than 90%
Most	-	75% - 90%
A majority	-	50% - 74%
A significant minority	-	30% - 49%
A minority	-	10% - 29%
Very few/a small number	-	less than 10%

Grading System

The Education and Training Inspectorate is piloting a new 6-point grading scale to replace the original 4-point scale as set out below. Where grades are recorded in this report, the grade is given on both the old and the revised scales.

ORIGINAL GRADE	REVISED GRADE	DESCRIPTOR
1	1	Outstanding characterised by excellence.
1	2	Consistently good; major strengths.
2	3	Important strengths in most of provision. Areas for improvement which organisation has the capacity to address.
2	4	Overall sound/satisfactory but with areas for improvement in important areas which need to be addressed.
3	5	A few strengths; significant areas for improvement which require prompt action.
4	6	Poor, major shortcomings which require urgent action.

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF THE DERRY NEW DEAL CONSORTIUM MARCH 2009

The inspection, in January to March 2007, highlighted strengths in development of occupational skills by the majority of the participants and the good support offered to participants by the individual training providers. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the poor progression to sustained employment for participants on both the 18- 24 (13%) and 25 plus (6%) programmes;
- the low achievement rates of target qualifications by participants on both the 18-24 (3%) and 25 plus (2%) programmes;
- the development of a systematic programme of learning support for participants across the consortium;
- the development of robust quality assurance systems for the consortium by the lead partner;
- the collection and effective use of management information and emerging labour market information by the lead partner; and
- the leadership and management of the consortium.

In the interval since the inspection, the following action which affects the work of the consortium has taken place:

- in April 2007, Rutledge Joblink Derry, replaced Training Direct as the lead partner for the consortium;
- the planned introduction by the Department for Employment and Learning of the 'Steps to Work' programme for the Foyle area from 30 March 2009; it will subsume New Deal programmes, and will aim to assist people who are unemployed or are economically inactive, find and sustain employment; and

- the increased levels of unemployment in the Derry District Council area, from 4.6% to 5.7%, as reported in the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Industry, December 2008 'Monthly Labour Market Report.'

Since the original inspection, the Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a follow-up inspection in March 2009.

The action plan produced by the consortium in response to the inspection findings was of a good quality.

Satisfactory progress has been made in the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection.

The following are the most important improvements since the inspection:

- the implementation by the lead partner, of more effective management and administration systems across the consortium;
- the effective use of management information by the lead partner, particularly in the collation of data to monitor participant outcomes for each member of the consortium across all of the New Deal programmes;
- the significantly higher levels of achievement in the target vocational qualifications across the consortium; and
- the development of a learning support handbook by the lead partner for participants in the consortium.

Further improvements are needed in the following areas:

- further action to improve progression rates to sustained employment across the consortium, which are poor, particularly on the 25 plus programme; there are significant variations in the progression rates across the different consortium members in each programme; and
- significant improvements in the planning and delivery of the Voluntary Section Option, and the Preparation for Employment Programme, by Derry Youth and Community Workshop, which is one of the main providers, under New Deal in the consortium.

Since the inspection, the lead partner evaluated the progress made in the areas for improvement identified 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.

CONCLUSION

In the areas inspected the quality of education and training provided by the Derry New Deal Consortium, is now satisfactory; the strengths outweigh areas for improvement in the provision. The consortium has demonstrated evidence of improvement but areas for improvement in learning and training, particularly in one provider, remain to be addressed if the needs of all the participants are to be met effectively.

The Inspectorate will monitor the consortium's progress in addressing the remaining areas for improvement.

Total no of Participants	Original Grade	Revised Grade
314	5	4

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