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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**



## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

### **Report of a Follow-up Inspection**

**Hammer Youth Centre  
Belfast**

**March 2013**

## **FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION OF HAMMER YOUTH CENTRE, BELFAST, BT13 1GG**

The inspection in September 2011 highlighted strengths in the very good quality of pastoral care, the good range of community relations programmes and the quality of the self-evaluation which reflected accurately the areas for further development. The inspection identified the need for the improvement in the following key areas:

- a greater age and gender balance within the membership and attendance;
- a more coherent unit development plan, with increased training and accreditation opportunities for the staff and the young people; and
- an advisory committee which is representative of the local community and more formalised structures of participation for the young people.

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

- the appointment of a new full-time youth worker in November 2012;
- a decline in membership and attendance;
- the cessation of the after-school club;
- the refurbishment of the premises to include smaller rooms for group work, and facilities for band practice and a recording studio; and
- the recent development of a new youth work action plan, which was not in place at the time of the follow-up inspection.

The Education and Training Inspectorate attended the first advisory committee meeting in January 2012 and the Women's Day event in July 2012 as part of the follow-up inspection in March 2013.

The following are the most important improvements since the inspection:

- a small increase in the average nightly attendance;
- the staff and the young people have attained appropriate accreditation;
- the recruitment of a representative advisory group including young people; and
- the effective provision of a health and well-being programme for vulnerable young men.

The staff have worked well as a team to sustain the strengths identified in the original inspection and have addressed successfully some of the key areas for improvement.

The following key areas still need to be improved:

- a greater age and gender balance within the membership; and
- the further development of the structures of participation for the young people.

The quality of youth provision provided by the Hammer youth centre remains satisfactory; the strengths outweigh areas for improvement in the provision. The inspection has identified areas for improvement which need to be addressed if the needs of all the young people are to be met more effectively.

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