



*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

**Magnet Young Adult Centre
Newry**

June 2011

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF MAGNET YOUNG ADULT CENTRE, NEWRY, CO DOWN, BT34 1DG

The inspection of Magnet Young Adult Centre (Magnet) in the Southern Education Library Board (SELB) in January 2009 highlighted the following strengths: the commitment and dedication of the management committee of young people who accept a high level of responsibility in managing, and making decisions about, the organisation; the inclusive ethos of the centre that celebrates diversity and provides an environment that demonstrates mutual respect and positive relationships; the good opportunities for young people to acquire new skills, interest, and knowledge through the small group programmes on offer; the very good quality of pastoral care provided by the organisation and the specialist advice available to young people in need of support and help; the equality of opportunity and access for all young people irrespective of needs or background; and the positive progress made by the worker-in-charge in developing new programmes and providing good leadership to the young people.

The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the need to increase the number of core members so that more young people in Newry and the surrounding areas can benefit from the good provision and learning opportunities on offer in Magnet;
- the need to ensure that all the staff and management are using appropriate self-evaluation and action planning processes to review the effectiveness of the youth work interactions so that learning opportunities are recorded to measure the impact of the youth work practice; and
- the need to review the afternoon provision so that the available resources are used to provide a more stimulating and challenging experience.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a safeguarding visit and two monitoring visits: a follow-up inspection took place over two days, as part of the Armagh and Newry area inspection in October 2010, and a final visit took place in June 2011.

Good progress has been in most of the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection. The organisation has adequately evaluated the progress made and has demonstrated the capacity to continue to address the few remaining areas identified during the original inspection.

In the interval since the inspection, the following actions which affect the youth provision within the area have taken place:

- the management committee of young people aged 17-24 worked well with the effective facilitation of the full-time youth worker, during the 12 months after the inspection to put together a good response and an effective action plan to meet the areas for improvement identified in the inspection report; and
- the introduction of a registration and tracking system for all of the membership.

The following are the most important improvements since the inspection:

- a satisfactory increase in core members attending day-time and evening sessions; figures included in the quarterly monitor reports indicate an average of 60 young people attending at peak times of the year during the afternoon programmes;
- the good start made to developing greater self-evaluation and recording of youth work practice through the use of evidence files for recording the work of the part-time staff;
- the good development of evaluation of individual sessions and group work, including peer recording sheets; and
- the enhancement of the afternoon provision through the links with Southern Regional College and the delivery of accredited programmes in the early evening.

To continue the improvement, there is the need to:

- ensure that the outcomes from the good development of the monitoring and self-evaluation by staff lead to sustained improvement in the delivery of youth work.

CONCLUSION

In the areas inspected, the quality of youth work provided by this organisation is now good. The organisation has important strengths across most of its youth provision. The follow-up inspection has identified some aspects of the areas for improvement to be developed further, which the organisation has demonstrated the capacity to address.

The Inspectorate will continue to monitor the organisation's progress in addressing the remaining area for improvement.

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