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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**

**of**

**Further Education Media Provision**

**in**

**South Eastern Regional College**

**May 2012**

## **FOLLOW UP TO THE INSPECTION OF SOUTH EASTERN REGIONAL COLLEGE'S FURTHER EDUCATION MEDIA PROVISION**

The inspection report in March 2011 highlighted strengths in the provision for media, including: the strong leadership and management provided by the head and assistant head of school; the very good specialist resources and accommodation for media and photography programmes; and, the good or better standards of work demonstrated by most of the first year level 3 media students.

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

- the poor retention and achievement rates across most of the media provision;
- the satisfactory teaching and learning in a significant minority of sessions observed; and
- the limited stretch, challenge and slow pace of progression in learning for a significant minority of students on level 2 and second year level 3 media programmes.

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

- the review of operational management roles and responsibilities and subsequent changes, leading to improved cross-college communication, enhanced standardisation of assessments and provision, and more holistic planning to improve the overall quality of the provision;
- the strategies to improve student retention and achievement including the introduction of student residential courses focused on early skills development, and case conferences to monitor, track and review the progress and achievements of the students;
- the revised curriculum which now includes a broader range of subjects matched more appropriately to the different interests and aspirations of the students;
- the provision of staff development, with a particular focus on the use of information and learning technology (ILT) to improve the quality of teaching and learning; and
- the extended opportunities for students to improve the quality of their work through on-location film and photo shoots, specialist visits, and client-based project work.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out an interim follow-up visit in November 2011, and a follow-up inspection in May 2012.

The action plan produced by the College in response to the evaluation findings was of very good quality.

The following are the most important improvements since the original evaluation:

- the revised operational management of the media provision across the College which is now very good;
- a more balanced curriculum offer that is matched well to student needs, and more effectively prepares them for progression;
- the very good quality assurance process in place that is now well-embedded and informs to good effect the course improvement planning;
- the quality of teaching and learning across the provision which is now very good;
- more extensive work-related learning opportunities for students including internal and external project work for a wide range of clients;
- extended opportunities for the students to develop and apply practical skills, and to develop their interpersonal skills, confidence and motivation through high quality residential workshops;
- the standard of most of the students' work across the provision which is now very good; and
- the attendance and early retention rates which are now mostly good.

The area that requires further development is:

- to sustain and continue to develop strategies to improve attendance, retention and achievement across the provision.

## **CONCLUSION**

In media, the quality of education and training provided by the South Eastern Regional College is now very good.

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