

*eti*

*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 Visit**

**Priority Skills Area level 2 Programmes  
South West College**

**November 2010**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF THE ESSENTIAL SKILLS PROVISION FOR PRIORITY SKILLS AREA LEVEL 2 STUDENTS AT SOUTH WEST COLLEGE**

The focused inspection of the South West College's essential skills provision for students on the designated priority skills programme at level 2, in March 2009, identified the need for improvement in the following areas:

- the development and implementation of a coherent strategic policy and procedures for the management and co-ordination of the essential skills provision across the South West College;
- the arrangements for essential skills lecturers to meet, and to share and develop good practice across the South West College; and
- the poor success rates, particularly in numeracy.

In the interval since the inspection, a new Director and a new Head of Curriculum and Business Development have been appointed. The South West College has taken the following steps which affect the work of the curricular area:

- the temporary appointment of an essential skills Project Manager to take responsibility for the development and implementation of a whole college essential skills policy, including improvements in key performance indicators;
- the appointment of an essential skills curriculum committee;
- the appointment of coordinators for each essential skill area within each of the college's three main campuses; and
- the inclusion of essential skills performance indicators within all of the professional and technical self-evaluation reports.

Since the original inspection in March 2009, the Inspectorate has carried out an interim monitoring visit in March 2010 and a follow-up inspection in November 2010.

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

The following are the most important improvements since the focused inspection:

- the strategic planning and commitment by senior management to effect improvement in the college's essential skills provision;
- the development and implementation of a whole college essential skills policy and procedures, which ensures an appropriately consistent curriculum provision across all of the campuses;
- the very good quality assurance arrangements in place for the essential skills provision, which are effective in promoting ongoing improvements;
- the significant improvements in the success rates, which have increased from 70% to 80% for literacy, and from 57% to 89% for numeracy;

- the good arrangements for the essential skills lecturers to share and develop good practice; and
- the good or better quality of the teaching and learning in all of the lessons observed, with 60% of these being very good to excellent.

The areas that require further development are:

- the further embedding of the existing good management arrangements for the essential skills provision;
- the clarification of the roles and responsibilities of the essential skills co-ordinators; and
- the consistent use of information learning technology to support and enhance teaching and learning in essential skills lessons.

## **CONCLUSION**

In the area inspected, the quality of training provided by South West College is now good. The college has important strengths in most of its essential skills provision. The follow-up inspection has identified some aspects of the areas for improvement still to be addressed but equally the organisation has demonstrated the capacity to address these.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2010

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the ETI website:  
[www.etini.gov.uk](http://www.etini.gov.uk)

