

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

**St Michael's Youth Centre
Belfast**

January 2015

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF ST MICHAEL'S YOUTH CENTRE, BELFAST

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of St Michael's Youth Centre in January 2011 and evaluated the overall effectiveness of the provision to be satisfactory. After the original inspection the full-time worker was seconded, and the centre was designated as part-time provision. A follow-up inspection was completed in March 2013 and the provision remained satisfactory.

The follow-up inspection highlighted the following key areas to be improved:

- the unit plan requires development based on more clearly defined outcomes, the assessed needs of the young people, and robust evaluation processes;
- greater opportunity should be provided for the young people to influence the planning of provision; and
- staff training to be implemented further to support both the development of programme planning and group work skills.

The ETI carried out an interim follow-up visit in October 2014 and a second follow-up inspection in January 2015.

In the interval since the first follow-up inspection, the following actions that affect the work of the youth centre have taken place:

- the part-time youth support worker-in-charge appointed in June 2013 has been absent since October 2014, which has had delayed the development of robust evaluation processes;
- a temporary part-time youth support worker-in-charge is maintaining the administration and daily management of the centre;
- the centre has extended the opening hours to include week-end provision; and
- there has been an increase in senior membership and nightly attendance.

Since the first follow-up inspection, the following important improvements have been effected:

- a clear rationale for the purpose of the provision has been established including a response to the emerging needs of the young people within the community over the week-end period;
- training to support and challenge the staff has resulted in the further development of effective participative and inclusive youth work practice;
- the curriculum has been extended to include age-appropriate and relevant programmes in direct response to the needs of the young people and the local community, such as the young women's group;
- the effective planning for group work programmes is matched more appropriately to the needs of the young people;

- there are increased opportunities for young people to influence planning and develop skills as peer mentors, particularly through the CRED¹ programme;
- the young people have better access to good opportunities to complete relevant training to enable access to further education and employment;
- senior members are participating in volunteering opportunities, making a valuable contribution to the provision; and
- there has been continued development of the residential and international experiences to enhance the young people's personal and social development.

Conclusion

In the areas inspected, the quality of provision in St Michael's Youth Centre remains satisfactory; the strengths outweigh areas for improvement. The inspection has identified an area for improvement which needs to be addressed if the needs of the young people are to be met more effectively.

The Education and Training Inspectorate will continue to monitor and report on the organisation's progress in addressing the area for improvement over a 12-24 month period.

The following area for improvement remains.

- The ongoing development of robust evaluation processes at all levels to further improve the quality of the provision, including a focus on the impact and outcomes for the young people.

¹ Community Relations, Equality and Diversity

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