



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 Peter's Immaculata Youth Centre
Belfast**

January 2012

1. CONTEXT

1.1 St Peter's Immaculata Youth Centre is a full-time voluntary youth centre located in the grounds of St Peter's Cathedral in the Divis area of west Belfast and funded through the Belfast Education and Library Board (BELB). The inspection in October 2007 identified major shortcomings in the centre's work and evaluated the quality of the provision as unsatisfactory.

1.2 The inspection identified as areas for improvement:

- an urgent review of all child protection policies and procedures in all sections of the centre;
- an urgent review by the management committee, in conjunction with BELB, of the adequacy and quality of the provision and of their monitoring and evaluation procedures; and
- a review of the roles and responsibilities at all levels of management by the management committee.

1.3 The review of child protection policies and procedures was successfully completed within six weeks of the inspection with a follow-up visit from the Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate). The policies and procedures continue to be reviewed and updated regularly.

1.4 The Inspectorate carried out a follow-up inspection in October 2008 and reported that the quality of the youth provision was inadequate and that the leadership and management committee did not demonstrate the capacity to effect improvement. The report was referred to the Department of Education (DE) to determine the next steps to be taken to address the issues which the follow-up inspection had identified.

1.5 In the interval since the follow-up inspection, the centre has been extensively refurbished and equipped providing a safe environment. The management committee has appointed a new full-time youth worker along with several part-time youth workers. The BELB youth officer continues to provide appropriate guidance and support.

2. OVERALL FINDINGS OF THE FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION

The quality of the provision in this centre is satisfactory; the strengths outweigh the areas for improvement.

3. KEY FINDINGS

3.1 ACHIEVEMENTS AND STANDARDS

The quality of the young people's achievements and standards is satisfactory.

3.1.1 The members participate enthusiastically in programmes and activities which promote their physical, social and mental well-being. They develop relevant skills, knowledge and self-confidence through completing projects successfully and achieve recognition through local celebratory events.

3.1.2 The older members supervise the younger members and make a valuable contribution to the centre and their community. The members demonstrate concern for others and raise funds for local charities.

3.2 PROVISION FOR LEARNING

The quality of provision for learning is satisfactory

3.2.1 The staff provide a programme that reflects well the youth service curriculum as outlined in 'Youth Work: A Model for Effective Practice'. The programmes are enjoyable; the intended outcomes and the learning opportunities are not set out clearly. The staff make good use of the daily report form at the end of the evening; as yet the analysis of these reports is not informing sufficiently the development of the programme.

3.2.2 The staff and volunteers make a valuable contribution to their community through their good support of the young people. The staff motivate and support the young people to achieve their best and to raise their aspirations. They listen and respond to the young people's ideas, which are used well to influence the programme. There is a need to develop formalised structures for participation.

3.2.3 The staff team work hard to maintain agreed standards of behaviour, which are reflected in the respect most of the young people have for their environment, the staff and visitors. The staff continue to develop strategies to deal with challenging behaviour among a small group of young people. During the inspection, Challenge for Youth provided an out-of-centre programme for a group of young people who present challenging behaviour.

3.2.4 The young people and their parents recognise and value the caring ethos of the centre.

3.3 LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

The quality of leadership and management is satisfactory

3.3.1 The management committee and the leadership have a clear vision for the work of the centre and now demonstrate the capacity to effect improvement. The committee provides good support for the staff and communicates effectively with other relevant organisations, including BELB, Youthcom and Youthnet to ensure effective governance. The staff and management participate regularly in safeguarding training.

3.3.2 The full-time youth worker knows the young people and their families well and has identified their needs accurately. The current youth work development plan does not represent these needs adequately; it lacks clear timescales for the long-term outcomes and targets for the young people.

3.3.3 The youth worker has established good working relationships with other youth groups and relevant agencies within the area, including one of the local primary schools, the Falls Youth Providers, the Falls Partnership Initiative and Challenge for Youth to benefit the young people.

3.3.4 The full-time youth worker has shown effective leadership and determination in addressing the challenging behaviour of a small group of young people who attend the centre. At times, the efforts required to maintain the safety and well-being of all of the members have overshadowed the good outcomes for the young people, who enjoy a varied programme of relevant activities and opportunities. The parents and the community need to support the youth worker in her efforts to improve the provision.

4. **CONCLUSION**

4.1 The management committee, staff and volunteers have made significant improvement in the quality of the youth provision. The quality of the overall youth provision is satisfactory; the strengths outweigh the areas for improvement. 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. The Inspectorate will monitor and report on the centre's progress in addressing the areas for improvement over a 12-24 month period.

4.2 The follow-up inspection has identified the need for:

- a strategic plan which reflects the identified needs of the young people and the local community; and
- improved programme planning and further development of self-evaluation as a staff team, including structured input from the young people.

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