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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**

**The Hammer Youth Centre  
Belfast**

**January 2015**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF THE HAMMER YOUTH CENTRE, BELFAST**

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of the Hammer Youth Centre in September 2011 and found the quality of the provision to be satisfactory. 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:

- a greater age and gender balance within the membership; and
- the further development of the structures of participation for the young people.

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

In the interval since the follow-up inspection in March 2013, the following actions that affect the work of the youth centre have taken place.

- An additional full-time youth worker has been appointed.
- The centre has extended the opening hours to include weekend provision.

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

- There has been an increase in female membership by 38 %.
- The staff have encouraged successfully the young women to participate in programmes and to use the centre more regularly.
- Young women have a greater involvement in the very good range of relevant and innovative projects.
- The levels of participation by the young people in age-appropriate programmes and issue-based group work have improved; in particular, there is a strong focus on developing effective community relations programmes.
- There are coherent progression pathways for members to progress to volunteers, through well-conceived programmes.
- Young people state that they are listened to regarding their programmes ideas, and that the staff are responsive to their suggestions.

The following area for improvement remains.

- To sustain the engagement of young females, and to develop further the youth centre's advisory forum.

In the areas inspected, the quality of the overall provision for the young people is good. The Hammer Youth Centre has important strengths in most of its youth provision. The inspection has identified an area for improvement which the organisation has demonstrated the capacity to address.

The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor, through district inspection activity, the organisation's progress on the area for improvement.

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