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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 Management and Quality of Provision for pupils in Alternative Education Provision in the Western Education and Library Board

February 2013

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROVISION IN THE WESTERN EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD

The focused inspection in November 2009 highlighted strengths in the excellent quality of pastoral care across the Alternative Education Programme centres and the majority of the pupils' positive behaviour and re-engagement with education. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to rationalise and clarify the overall governance of the provision;
- to address the duplication of provision, the viability of Altnagelvin Hospital school and the high level of re referrals; and
- to develop a system for collating and analysing the data on pupil progress to inform planning and promote consistency within and across the centres.

Following the inspection, a number of significant issues arose which prevented follow-up action by the Inspectorate within the appropriate timescale. The Reporting Inspector kept regularly in touch with the Assistant Senior Education Officer to ensure the areas for improvement were being addressed as circumstances allowed.

In the interval since the inspection, the following actions which affect the work of the provision have taken place. These are:

- Altnagelvin Hospital school has closed;
- the Principal of the school/tuition service and the Teacher Leader of the Laurel Centre have retired;
- the Western Education and Library Board has initiated an action plan to re-structure and integrate provision for pupils in AEP and to reduce the duplication of provision and clarify the referral system;
- a broader range of accredited courses, with a greater focus on practical skills, has been introduced;
- a panel has been established to ensure consistency in the referral criteria and to provide schools with a step-by-step approach to accessing the provision; and
- multi-agency working team meetings are now an aspect of the provision of support.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a follow-up inspection on 15 and 22 February 2013. The following are the most important improvements since the inspection:

- the pupils are accessing a broader range of appropriate courses and a small minority and increasing number are achieving three to six GCSEs A-C;
- referrals to the provision are more rigorously considered; agreed procedures and referral criteria are applied to ensure this;

- senior managers monitor individual pupil progress and discuss the outcomes with staff to inform the teaching and learning approaches; and
- links with referring schools have been strengthened and good efforts are made to encourage schools to retain part responsibility for the education of the pupils.

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

CONCLUSION

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the WELB remains good. The follow-up inspection has identified improvements which the WELB has demonstrated the capacity to maintain and develop further. The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor the organisation's progress on the areas for improvement.

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