

# YOUTH INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

Omagh Boys' and Girls' Club

Report of an Inspection  
in October 2013

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In this report, proportions may be described as percentages, common fractions and in more general quantitative terms. Where more general terms are used, they should be interpreted as follows:

Almost/nearly all	-	more than 90%
Most	-	75%-90%
A majority	-	50%-74%
A significant minority	-	30%-49%
A minority	-	10%-29%
Very few/a small number	-	less than 10%

In assessing the various features of the provision, Inspectors relate their evaluations to six descriptors as set out below:

DESCRIPTOR
Outstanding
Very Good
Good
Satisfactory
Inadequate
Unsatisfactory

## 1. Context

Omagh Boys' and Girls' Club is a full-time voluntary youth centre, located in the Station Centre in Omagh, Co Tyrone.

The youth centre is open on five evenings per week, with extended opening hours at the weekend. According to information supplied by the centre, the average yearly membership over the last four years was 577 young people; the average attendance at weekly sessions is 275. Approximately 20% of the young people who attend currently have been members over the last four years.

There are three full-time staff; a full-time youth worker employed by the Western Education and Library Board (WELB), a full-time centre manager, who is responsible for the Station Centre, and a full-time caretaker employed by the management committee. There are also 12 part-time staff and 12 volunteers.

## 2. Focus of the Inspection

The inspection focused on:

- the young people's achievements and standards;
- the quality of the provision for learning; and
- the quality of the leadership and management, including the processes for self-evaluation leading to improvement.

## 3. Overall findings of the inspection

Overall Performance Level	Very good
Achievements and Standards	Very good
Provision for Learning	Very good
Leadership and Management	Very good

## 4. Achievements and standards

The young people demonstrate very good levels of participation in a wide range of relevant programmes which are well matched to their identified needs and interests; they display high levels of motivation and enthusiasm, and interact confidently with their peers and adults.

A majority of the senior members have completed successfully an appropriate range of accredited and non-accredited courses (see appendix 2). In discussions with the inspection team, most of the young people spoke confidently about the acquisition and development of their personal and social skills including: increased self confidence; problem solving; and the ability to work effectively as members of a team.

The young people use the skills they have developed in a range of settings, including non-formal and formal learning environments. For example, the young people involved in the 'West Tyrone Young People's Research Project'<sup>1</sup> have developed a number of key skills including: peer research techniques; improved communication; interview skills; and political awareness. They have used these effectively to highlight a number of issues which impact on the lives of young people and have demonstrated their learning to their peers and other stakeholders through the successful completion of the peer research training.

## **5. Provision for learning**

Most of the youth work sessions observed were good or very good. The well-experienced staff have mutually respectful working relationships with the young people. There is a strong emphasis on the involvement of young people in planning for, and evaluating, their own learning. This is demonstrated well by the young people's active involvement in management committee meetings. The recreational activities are well-structured allowing for progression in skills and leadership opportunities. The staff have an appropriately strong focus on improving the mental health and physical well-being of the young people.

The part-time staff and volunteers have a thorough understanding of the role and purpose of youth work and how it contributes to the young people's social and personal development. They plan well for the development and progression of the young people's knowledge and skills. For example, the young people are supported to participate in age-appropriate leadership training which prepares them for volunteer or part-time employment opportunities within the centre.

There are effective links with formal education through their ongoing work with the primary and post-primary sectors. For example, the well planned 'Transitions' programme for year seven pupils transferring to post-primary education, and the personal development courses provided for year 13 pupils in partnership with one of the local post-primary schools.

The centre provides very good programmes to the young people on community relations, equity, and diversity, and works effectively to meet the needs of those young people likely to experience barriers to learning.

The quality of the pastoral care is very good. The staff demonstrate a strong pastoral focus in all areas of their work and know the young people and their families well. They maintain an inclusive ethos which contributes to a positive learning environment. In discussions with the inspection team, the young people reported that they feel safe in the centre, and are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety and well-being. Those parents who spoke to the inspection team, endorsed the high quality of the pastoral care provided by the staff, and were extremely positive about the quality of the programmes, including the summer provision.

## **6. Leadership and management**

The management committee, the full-time staff, and the WELB staff work effectively together and provide very good strategic leadership in raising the standards of youth work, and supporting the young people. An appropriate memorandum of understanding between the management committee and the WELB helps guide the management arrangements within

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<sup>1</sup> This research was commissioned by the centre to ascertain the views of young people about a number of issues which impact on their lives. The participative approach to the research involved the young people in the design, delivery and analysis of the findings ensuring that they reflected their views.

the centre. The management committee maintain a high standard of governance and are fully involved in the life and work of the centre. The centre has made a good initial response to the findings of the 'West Tyrone Young People's Research Project' and is developing further action in consultation with the research group.

The centre staff provide very good curricular leadership and management which meets very well the diverse needs of the young people. There is a very clear vision for the continuous development of the centre which is understood and agreed between the management, staff and the young people. The agreed priorities within the Service Level Agreement between the management committee and the WELB reflect well the identified needs of the young people. The staff team demonstrate a very good collegial approach in promoting and sustaining improvement, through an effective self-evaluation and review process.

On the basis of the evidence available at the time of the inspection, the centre has comprehensive arrangements for safeguarding children and young people. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued by the Department of Education.

## **7. Conclusion**

In the areas inspected, the quality of provision and the quality of pastoral care in this youth centre is very good. The centre has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

## APPENDIX 1

### Total membership

Age group	4-9		10-15		16-18		19 +		TOTAL
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
2009/10	103	103	215	90	36	11	18	13	588
2010/11	191	35	223	18	28	18	19	9	541
2011/12	180	70	172	113	26	12	11	8	592
2012/13	132	68	217	94	34	15	20	6	586
2013/14	76	39	102	68	7	2	2	0	296

**Accredited and non-accredited training**

Title and date of course including accreditation details	Number of young people enrolled	Percentage completing successfully
Personal Development June 2011 OCN Level 2	13	100%
Personal Development June 2012 OCN Level 2	12	100%
Personal Development June 2013 OCN Level 2	15	100%
Transitions July 2011	*	100%
Transitions July 2012	*	100%
Transitions July 2013	*	100%
Job Skills March 2012	10	90%
Drugs and Alcohol June 2012	12	100%
Young Men's Project December 2012	12	100%
Presentation Skills March 2013	*	100%
CRED Project March 2013	10	100%
Coping Skills May 2013	9	100%
Drugs and Alcohol May 2013	9	100%
Drugs and Alcohol June 2013	13	100%

- denotes numbers of 5 or fewer



**Health and Safety**

- The volume and flow of traffic within the car park presents a risk to the young people and adults entering and leaving the centre.

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