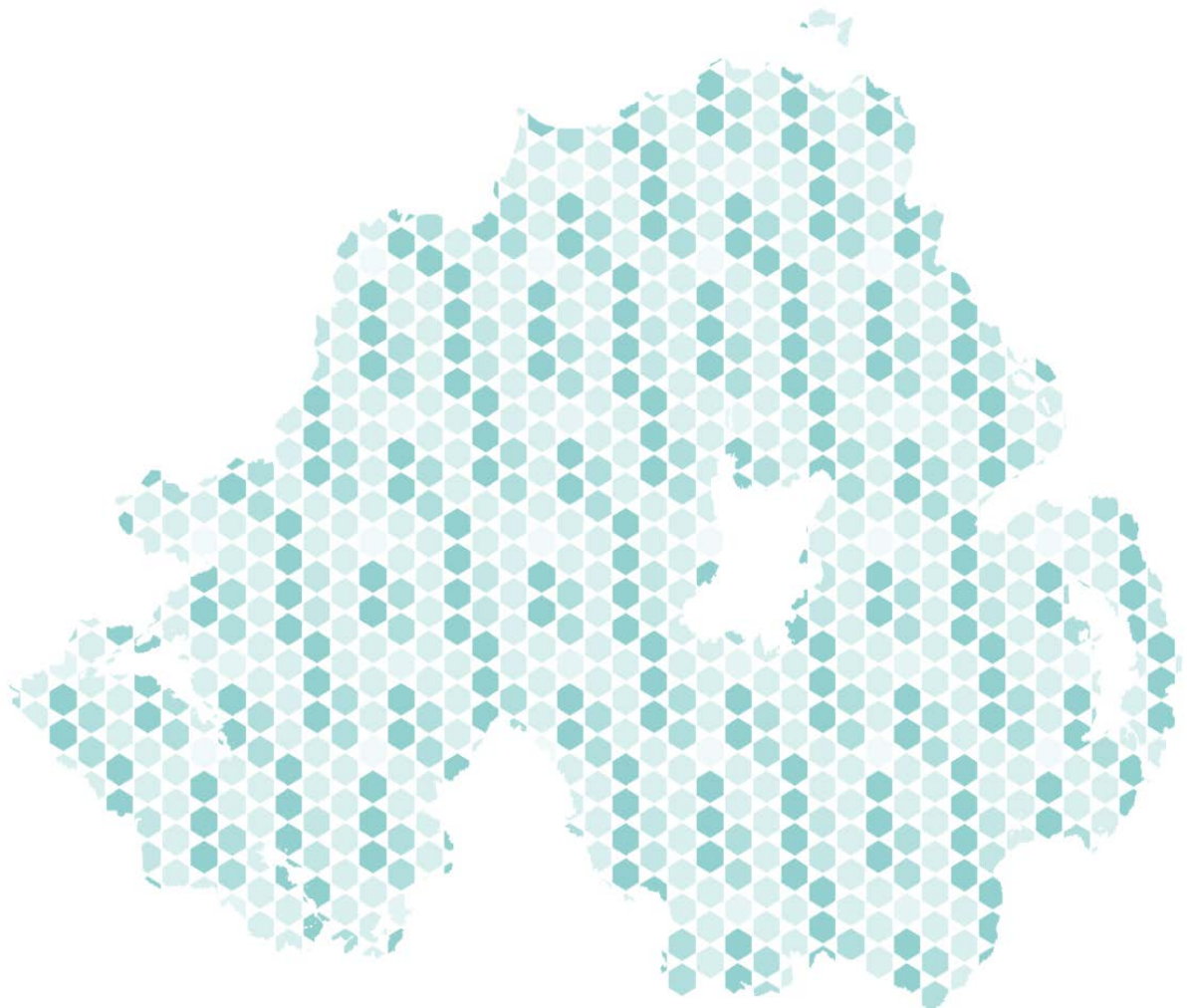


# YOUTH INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

Seagoe Youth Group,  
Portadown

Report of an Inspection  
in March 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**

1.1 Seagoe Youth Group (Seagoe) is a voluntary organisation that includes the two main youth centres of Killicomaine and TRAX; it is located within the Seagoe Church of Ireland Parish in Portadown.

1.2 The full-time youth worker, in post since December 2012, employed by the Southern Education and Library Board (SELB), is seconded to Seagoe on a temporary one year position. He is line managed by the SELB team leader and works within a mutually beneficial partnership agreement between Seagoe management committee and the SELB youth service.

1.3 The team of part-time staff include, a part-time leader-in-charge of the TRAX centre, five assistant support workers and a large number of volunteers who work within the Church Lads' and Girls' Brigades and in the youth centres. Two of the assistant support workers have been allocated between 15-20 additional part-time hours to deliver an extended opening provision at weekends and other specified times, as part of a pilot outreach and detached initiative. An administrative assistant, who works nine hours a week, provides an important link between the SELB and the management committee.

1.4 The centre is open for 46 weeks in the year and provides structured youth work sessions on six evenings and one afternoon each week. In addition to the centre-based programmes, the full-time worker and two assistant support staff work, two days a week, with six classes, in Killicomaine Junior High School. According to the figures supplied by the centre, the current membership stands at 571 demonstrating an increasing trend in membership, over the past four years. This represents 42% of the overall youth population and is within the expected membership level identified by the SELB.

The appendices at the end of the report provide further details of the statistical data.

## **2. Focus**

The inspection of the organisation focused on the youth programmes including, youth work in schools and community programmes.

The inspection focused on:

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

## **3. Overall findings of the inspection**

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this centre is good. The centre has important strengths in most of its youth work provision. The inspection has identified an area for improvement which the centre has demonstrated the capacity to address. The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor the organisation's progress on the areas for improvement.

## Summary of key findings

<b>Overall performance level</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>Contributory performance levels:</b>	
Achievements and standards	Good
Provision for learning	Good
Leadership and management	Very good

### 4. Key findings

#### 4.1 Achievements and standards

##### **The quality of the young people's achievements and standards is good.**

4.1.1 Almost all of the young people observed demonstrated high levels of commitment, enjoyment and engagement in an appropriate range of activity-based and personal development programmes. There are good levels of active participation in almost all of the programmes in both of the youth centres.

4.1.2 In the last two years, over 100 young people have achieved relevant accredited training in various courses, 16 young adults successfully completed the Northern Ireland Open College Network Level 1 youth leadership training course and an additional group of 16 young people recently completed the bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award; all of the group will progress to the silver award. When given the opportunity many of the young people were able to talk confidently about the activities they enjoy and their learning; most of them value and recognise the significant progress they make in the development of their personal and social skills.

4.1.3 The younger members, attending the TRAX centre, were observed enjoying a variety of well organised, structured and informal activities; they participate enthusiastically in the activities and develop good teambuilding and communication skills. The young people who attend the after-schools club in the Killicomaine centre benefit from the availability of resources and ICT facilities to support their learning; the centre staff are very supportive and there are good opportunities for the young people to engage with their peers in both academic and recreational activities.

4.1.4 The members of the youth forum feel that their opinions are valued by the staff; they contribute well to the life and work of Seagoe and the local community. It is appropriate that the full-time youth worker has identified, as a priority, the need to develop further the role of the youth forum and to enhance the member's responsibility in the organisation and management of the centre.

#### 4.2 Quality of provision

##### **The quality of the provision for learning is good.**

4.2.1 The quality of the youth work sessions observed ranged from very good to satisfactory; the majority were good or better. The wide range of programmes available to the young people are age appropriate, enjoyable and matched very well to their needs. In the best practice, the sessions were planned appropriately to maximise the participation, learning and development of all the young people involved. In a minority of sessions observed the young people's behaviour was inappropriate. It will be important that the management and staff develop further strategies to manage more effectively the challenging behaviour of a minority of members.

4.2.2 The experienced staff team are enthusiastic, hard working and actively encourage the young people to become positive role models within their community. The extensive range of diversity and inclusion programmes, including the strong partnership with St Mary's youth centre in Portadown, are very appropriate and meet the needs of the young people; they are building positive relationships with their peers and others from different communities and cultural backgrounds. The diversity and inclusion work, reflects well, the core values that underpin the principles of equity diversity and inclusion as outlined in 'Youth Work-A Model for Effective Practice'. The excellent leadership and organisation of the Church Girls' Brigade provides the young people with a very good range of activities that contribute positively to their mental and physical well being.

4.2.3 The extended opening provision is successful in, reaching out to and supporting very well, vulnerable young people in the community. The staff involved in the initiative, use their considerable local knowledge effectively to build positive working relationships with the young people and to provide them with positive life choices.

4.2.4 The effective links and partnerships with formal education, the Police Service for Northern Ireland and local community organisations add significant value to the youth work programmes. The quality of the school based youth work in the local Junior High School is satisfactory. In order to improve the provision it is necessary for the school and the youth service to agree a shared understanding of common educational outcomes and a need to rigorously monitor the quality of the practice.

**The quality of pastoral care is very good.**

4.2.5 The mission statement of Seagoe, "to promote the progress of young people towards adult life with a desire to enrich the lives of others" is evident throughout the life and work of the organisation. There is an inclusive and caring ethos that is apparent through the positive relationships between the staff and between the staff and the young people. The young people are friendly, welcoming and engage easily with the staff and visitors to the centre. In discussions with the inspection team, the young people reported that they feel safe in the organisation and are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety and well-being.

4.3 Leadership and management

**The quality of the leadership and management is very good.**

4.3.1 The unique partnership between the management committee and the SELB is highly effective; there is an agreed strategic vision for the future development of Seagoe. The deployment of a full-time statutory worker to a voluntary youth organisation is very successful, due to the clear and open channels of communication between the Seagoe management committee and the SELB. The management committee demonstrate a clear understanding of their role and responsibilities; they are committed to quality improvement at all levels and they provide a constructive challenge function to staff. An appropriate service level agreement helps guide the work of the centre.

4.3.2 The recently appointed full-time worker is enthusiastic and understands the varying needs of the young people in the area. He manages the centre well and provides satisfactory leadership of the youth work programmes; it will be important that, he maintains the improvement made, both in increasing the membership and extending the curriculum provision. In addition the steps identified for improvement need to be clear, agreed and understood by all of the staff and management.

4.3.3 There is a very good collegial approach taken by the well qualified staff team who are appropriately deployed across the centres. The team are highly motivated and work very well together to improve the quality of the provision. They are actively engaged in continuous professional development and participate in a wide range of additional training courses. They set high standards and expectations for themselves and for the young people. The worker in charge of TRAX utilises her considerable experience to manage effectively the programme of activities and provides good leadership.

4.3.4 On the basis of the evidence available at the time of the inspection, the centre has satisfactory arrangements in place for safeguarding children and young people. These arrangements broadly reflect the guidance issued by the Department of Education. However there is a need to ensure that all of the staff and the members of the management committee receive updated training in relating to the safeguarding of young people; and that the guidelines and responsibility for the monitoring of the social network site are reviewed.

## **5. Conclusion**

5.1 In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this organisation is good. The centre has important strengths in most of its youth work provision. The inspection has identified an area for improvement which the centre has demonstrated the capacity to address. The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor the organisation's progress on the areas for improvement.

5.2 The main area for improvement is the need:

- for the staff to monitor and evaluate, the overall provision more rigorously, particularly in the school-based work, in order to inform future planning and promote further improvement.

APPENDIX 1

**Total Membership**

Age group	4-9		10-15		16-18		19 +		Outreach/ detached work	TOTAL
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		
2009/10	60	66	107	84	27	18	10	4		376
2010/11	58	60	94	103	38	20	12	8		393
2012/12	115	72	123	130	42	9	4	1		496
<b>Current membership</b>	117	74	171	138	47	12	5	7	182 (contacts)	571

The number of young people engaged in school based youth work are not included in these figures.



**APPENDIX 2**

**Training (training courses provided for young people and youth workers in the youth centre/project since 2010)**

Title of course including accreditation details	Number of young people enrolled	Number of adults enrolled	Percentage successfully completing
Seagoe Youth Group – Safe Guarding Trust Training, Annually.		All	100%
Inclusive Games 2010		1	100%
Outreach/Detached Training – SELB, 2011		2	100%
In Service Staff Development Training		6	100%
Leadership in Youth Work for Young people 2010/2011	8		100%
Duke of Edinburgh Award – Ongoing	16		100%
Youth Forum 2011	13		100%
Drugs & Alcohol Training OCN Level 2, 2012	17	1	100%
Recognising Issues of Substance Misuse OCN Level 1 2013	9		Pending
Using Teamwork Skills OCN Level 1 2012	13		Pending
Inclusive Games Training 2011		2	100%
Contentious culture issues OCN Level 2 2012	4	1	100%
Inclusive Games Training 2012		1	100%
Community Development and Civic Leadership OCN Level 2		2	Ongoing
Youth Work Training OCN Level 2 & 3, 2012/2013		3	Ongoing
Disability Awareness Training 2013		4	100%
Leadership in Youth Work for Young People OCN Level 1	8		Ongoing
Duke of Edinburgh Award 2012/13	13		Ongoing

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