

# YOUTH INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

Banbridge Youth Resource  
Centre

Report of an Inspection in  
May 2014

### Quantitative terms

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%

### Performance levels

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) use the following performance levels in reports:

DESCRIPTOR
Outstanding
Very Good
Good
Satisfactory
Inadequate
Unsatisfactory

## Contents

Section	Page
1. Context	
2. Focus of inspection	
3. Overall finding	
4. Achievements and standards	
5. Provision	
6. Leadership and management	
7. Conclusion	
Appendices	

## **1. Context**

Banbridge Youth Resource Centre is a controlled youth project, managed by the Southern Education and Library Board (SELB). The project is based in the Cut area of Banbridge which is in the top 25% areas of multiple deprivation in Northern Ireland. Membership figures show a significant increase in the membership of both male and female in the 16-18 years age range since 2011. (Appendix 1)

The centre accommodates a part-time youth centre and is an administrative base for four professional youth workers who have specific responsibilities across the Banbridge council area. There is a full-time centre-based youth worker, a senior youth worker for the divisional area, and two area youth workers one of whom has responsibility for inclusion. A part-time youth support worker in charge has responsibility for the three-night a week youth provision in the centre. The youth resource centre provides a blend of centre-based, outreach and inclusion work across the Banbridge council area.

In addition, the Every Night Project, which receives a financial contribution from the Banbridge District Council, is a leased facility in the Rathfriland Street area of the town that is open five evenings and two days a week. The Every Night Project is used as a base to support outreach and detached youth work.

Furthermore the youth workers are currently delivering programmes in one-half of the post primary schools within the council area..

## **2. Focus of Inspection**

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 finding**

<b>Overall effectiveness</b>	<b>Very good</b>
<b>Achievements and standards</b>	<b>Very good</b>
<b>Provision</b>	<b>Very good</b>
<b>Leadership and management</b>	<b>Very good</b>

## **4. Achievements and standards**

- Across the individual programmes, there is a strong and developing culture of the young people using relevant information and research to shape and determine their own programmes.

- Twelve young people from the centre manage the Youthbank initiative that helps build further their confidence, self-esteem and teamwork. They allocate the money they raise through various activities in the form of small grants to local youth organisations. These young people report that they have developed key life skills including financial management and decision making, which they transfer to other aspects of their learning and personal development.
- A group of year 11 and year 12 pupils in a local post primary school used a Youthbank grant effectively to research and develop an innovative resource pack for teachers to help them support vulnerable pupils as part of the civic action programme. The young people presented their findings in a competent and confident manner and were able to clearly articulate their learning.
- In the last eighteen months, 38 young people have achieved recognised and accredited training through Open College Network. In addition, six young women have completed a food safety and hygiene course that was delivered well by a tutor from the local Further Education College. The youth workers involved with the development of this work have provided outstanding support to the young women and gained their confidence and trust to enable them to achieve, what will be for some, their first recognised qualification.
- The young people involved in the school based work are contributing effectively to the life and work of their school through, for example, the mentor and the closing the gap programmes that help young people overcome barriers to learning and reach their full potential. It is evident that the strengthening of the youth work role in the school is making a significant difference to pupils; it is helping to improve attendance, behaviour, achievement and home and community links.

## **5. Provision**

- The quality of the planning for the young people's progression in knowledge, skills and understanding is consistently very good. The youth workers understand, plan for, and help the young people to have realistic aspirations appropriate to their age, ability and individual need. The highly effective planning takes into account the needs of specific interest groups across the Banbridge area and, in particular, responds well to those groups of young people who are most vulnerable.
- In most of the sessions observed, the quality of the youth work was good or better. In the best practice the youth workers provide relevant programmes based on a sound knowledge of the young people's needs and the environment in which they live. They use comprehensive self-evaluation and reflective practice that informs and improves their youth work.
- There is a robust consultation process with the young people and they are fully involved in the planning, management and evaluation of their own programmes. There are outstanding links with a range of appropriate agencies and community groups that add value to the youth work delivery. The Banbridge Area Support Youth Network is a very good example of strategic interagency co-operation that benefits the young people across the council area. Likewise, the work with the Banbridge Youth Council, the Banbridge District Council and the Police

Community Safety Partnership illustrates the valuable contribution made by young people to their local community. In the Every Night Project the young people are managing their own centre and resources and are creating a welcoming environment for outreach groups including, the Banbridge Youth Council, an LGBT<sup>1</sup> group and a weekend drop-in facility.

- The centre based and outreach programmes provide very good opportunities for the young people to meet and work with their peers and promote effectively the core values of equity, diversity and interdependence. The young people, who regularly attend the centre-based provision, participate enthusiastically and enjoy the good range of recreational and educational activities including summer provision. In particular, the centre has focused on the issues of bullying, drug and alcohol awareness and promotes inter-club activities within the local community.
- There are also very good strategic links with the post-primary schools in the area. The new Learning Together Programme offers young people the opportunity to access youth workers' support to enable them to make best use of their education. The programme is being developed in full partnership with teachers and school management; it is a positive action to meet the key educational priority of closing the performance gap for young people who may be at risk of low achievement and disaffection in schools.
- The quality of pastoral care is outstanding. The quality of the working relationships between the staff and the young people is excellent; there is outstanding support and guidance for those young people with complex social and emotional issues. The parents report that they are happy with the activities and programmes provided by the centre, in particular the well-organised summer programme. The young people reported that they feel safe in the centre and across the programmes, and are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety and well-being.

## **6. Leadership and management**

- The SELB area youth officer and senior youth work team leader provide clear direction for the provision in the Banbridge area based on an accurate assessment of need in partnership with the key agencies and others working with young people. On the basis of the excellent needs analysis, the staff are effectively deployed through a range of intervention strategies including outreach, inclusion, centre-based, and detached work.
- The centre-based full-time youth worker provides outstanding curricular leadership and management that ensure very good quality provision for the young people. All of the staff work effectively and provide support and challenge for one another. The cluster team meetings provide a structured forum for professional support and opportunities to share good practice. The staff use a varied range of resources and methodologies to meet the realistic targets set in their curriculum delivery agreements.
- The part-time staff and volunteers are dedicated to the well-being and the development of the young people and make a much valued contribution to the quality and range of the provision.

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<sup>1</sup> LGBT – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender

- The staff have effective methods of evaluation in place that make very good use of relevant data to sustain continuous improvement and to raise standards. They are aware of the need to develop further qualitative evaluation reports and increase their use of technology and other methods to enhance the recording of the young people's achievements and learning.
- On the basis of the evidence available at the time of the inspection, the centre has comprehensive arrangements in place 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 the overall provision for the young people is very good. Banbridge Youth Resource Centre is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the learners; and 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	
2010/11	42	39	96	45	21	28	*	*	275
2011/12	34	30	57	42	57	67	*	*	290
2012/13	30	31	83	62	87	84	*	5	384
Current – excluding summer provision membership	10	6	77	45	57	49	*	7	252

Where \* denotes figures fewer than 5

## APPENDIX 2

### Leadership training

Title and date of course including accreditation details	Number of young people enrolled	Number of adults enrolled	Percentage completing successfully
OCN Skills and Techniques (Laurencetown Street Group) January 2014	*		100%
OCN Grant Making	13		100%
OCN Leadership in Youth Work	10		80%
OCN Skills and Techniques	10		80%
OCN Level II Trainee Leadership		14	90%
Think U Know/ Internet Safety Training		*	100%
Rescue Emergency Care		7	80%
Child Protection Training Course		*	100%
Bounce Training – Developing Resilience Work with Young People		*	100%
Moving Ahead with CRED		*	100%

Where \* denotes figures fewer than 5

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