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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**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Education and Training Inspectorate

Area-Based Inspection

**The Link Centre
Belfast**

March 2009

AREA-BASED INSPECTION - WEST BELFAST AREA 2009: STRATEGIC PLANNING, COHERENCE IN LEARNING EXPERIENCES AND TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an area-based inspection in the Secondary Pupil Support Service (SPSS) The Link Centre during March 2009.

Strengths include:

- the very good strategic leadership, dedication and commitment of staff;
- the well-established caring and challenging ethos for both staff and pupils;
- the very good level of success in supporting pupils to return and remain in school;
- the relevant and innovative curriculum which is well matched to the needs and ability of the pupils;
- the good range of training undertaken by the staff, and the training provided by the staff for schools; and
- the very good quality of the care, guidance and support for the pupils.

The areas for improvement are the need to:

- ensure sufficient specialist staff and resources including access to Classroom 2000 (C2k); and
- review the role of the senior youth worker.

The overall composite report for the area-based inspection raises some important recurring areas for improvement. While these are not applicable in all the individual organisations, they are nevertheless important to address across the West Belfast area.

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