



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Action Deaf Youth

Supporting Young People into
Employment

Report of a Follow-up Inspection in
January 2018



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
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CUSTOMER
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FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF ACTION DEAF YOUTH

The original inspection carried out in January 2017¹ concluded that the project promoter needed to address important areas for improvement in the interest of all the participants.

The main areas for improvement were the need to:

- increase recruitment to the project;
- commence urgently the delivery of the essential skills and employability training;
- develop further planning to meet the progression needs of each individual participant;
- increase the number of work-experience placements available for participants; and
- strengthen the self-evaluation and quality improvement planning processes to include the use of performance data and stakeholder feedback.

The ETI carried out an interim follow-up visit in June 2017 and a follow-up inspection in January 2018. In the interval since the original inspection, the following key actions and changes which affect the work of the project promoter have taken place:

- substantive staffing changes, including the recruitment of two part-time essential skills tutors and two part-time employment outreach mentors;
- commencement of the delivery of essential skills and employability training;
- the recent development and implementation of a marketing strategy to increase recruitment; and
- the development of appropriate documentation to enable better planning.

Subsequently, the project promoter has decided not to continue with the project after the end of March 2018.

Key Findings

The outcomes for learners remain an important area for improvement:

- recruitment of participants to the project has increased slightly but remains too low at just 32% of the target set²; and
- while there is an increased focus on the participants' progression, the progress attained by them against the targets remains too low.

¹ <https://www.etini.gov.uk/publications/european-social-fund-provision-action-deaf-youth-supporting-deaf-young-people>

² All performance data in this report was provided by the ESF project promoter at the time of inspection.

The quality of provision remains an important area for improvement:

- a small number of participants have completed some units, including life skills and personal development; and
- the participants' folders are better structured and organised, although there is a need for clearer tracking of their progress in units and work-experience, which are linked to their progression goals.

The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement remains an important area for improvement:

- limited progress has been made in strengthening the self-evaluation and quality improvement planning processes; and
- too few of the participants have had the opportunity to engage in work-experience placements.

Overall Effectiveness

Action Deaf Youth needs to address important areas for improvement. The follow-up inspection has identified the following key area for improvement:

- meet with each of the remaining participants as a matter of urgency to ensure that they are aware of appropriate and available progression routes before the contract ends.

Further action will be considered by the Department for the Economy.

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