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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

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Clubs for Young People (NI)
Belfast**

April 2010

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF CLUBS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE (NI), BELFAST

Among the strengths highlighted in the inspection of the Clubs for Young People (NI) in November 2005 were the following: the good leadership of the Chief Executive Officer and his development of strategic links with relevant organisations in the community, voluntary and statutory sectors of the youth service; the sound management and excellent support provided by the management committee; the very good support provided by the administration team and the good communication structures within the organisation; the ethos of co-operation between all of the staff in the organisation; and the efforts made to increase the number of girls and young women taking part in sporting activities.

The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- a review of the strategic and operational plans to ensure that the objectives and targets outlined are achievable within the stated time-frame;
- the development of a system of self-evaluation for each programme area that is clearly integrated into the organisation's strategic and operational plan;
- the need to ensure that all staff have adequate knowledge of the youth work curriculum and that the central theme and core principles of the curriculum are clearly reflected in all elements of the services and programmes provided; and
- a review of child protection procedures to ensure that volunteers from affiliated groups assisting with Clubs for Young People (NI) programmes are vetted in line with current legislation.

The Education and Training Inspectorate received an action plan in February 2007, carried out a monitoring visit in June 2008 and a follow-up inspection in April 2010. In the interval since the last inspection a new staff team has been put in place, including a training and administration manager, a sports development officer and a regional development officer based in the North-West area. A number of key part-time consultants have also been employed to assist with human resources, the development of information and communication technology and finance and fundraising.

Good progress has been in most of the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection. The organisation has adequately evaluated the progress made and has demonstrated the capacity to continue to address the few remaining areas identified during the original inspection.

The following are the most important improvements since the inspection:

- the new strategic plan for 2010-2012 that includes four appropriate priority areas;
- the development of a business plan based on the four key strategic business priorities;
- the review of child protection policy and the implementation of procedures which ensure that all relevant personnel are vetted in line with the current requirements;
- the appropriate and relevant training received by the designated officer for child protection;

- the increased knowledge by staff on the central theme and core principles of 'The Model for Effective Practice'; and
- the new service level agreement and appropriate system of programme and financial monitoring carried out by the Youth Council for Northern Ireland.

To continue the improvement, there is the need to:

- ensure that effective monitoring and evaluation procedures and the planned outcomes for the organisation are clearly integrated into the new business plan and the staff operational plans.

In the areas inspected, the quality of youth work provided by this organisation continues to be good. The organisation has important strengths across most of its youth provision. The follow-up inspection has identified some aspects of the areas for improvement still to be addressed but equally the organisation has demonstrated the capacity to address these.

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