



*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

Education Other Than At School Provision

in the

North-Eastern Education and Library Board

November 2014

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF THE EDUCATION OTHER THAN AT SCHOOL PROVISION IN THE NORTH-EASTERN EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD

The focused inspection in March 2012 highlighted strengths in the personal development programme that was effective and varied and engaged most of the young people. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to raise the overall achievements attained by the young people in English and mathematics;
- to improve the attendance of the young people and to put in place a common system of rewards and incentives to encourage them to achieve and attend;
- to extend the curriculum and range of accredited courses and provide the young people with the opportunity to participate in practical vocational education courses;
- for the teachers to use more effective strategies to manage the behaviour of the young people;
- to improve the Information Communication Technology (ICT) and the accommodation in the centres that is unsuitable and not fit for purpose;
- to provide opportunities for the teachers to participate in professional development and to meet to share good practice;
- to review and update the safeguarding policy and ensure there is a designated or deputy designated teacher in each centre and improve the security arrangements in three of the centres;
- to monitor the impact of the hours of attendance and the time required for the young people to successfully complete their examination courses;
- to develop better service cohesion with the behaviour support services and more formal links and partnerships with mainstream referring schools and review the strategic planning for the provision.

In the interval since the inspection, the following actions which affect the work of the centres has taken place. These are:

- the centres no longer provide programmes for young people in year eleven;
- three full time permanent senior teachers have been appointed with subject specialism in English, mathematics and careers education information advice and guidance; and
- one of the centres has closed and the remaining centres have relocated to newly refurbished former school sites.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out one monitoring visit on the 11 November 2013 and a follow-up inspection on 3 November 2014.

The action plan produced by the organisation in response to the inspection findings was of a very good quality.

The following are the most important improvements since the focused inspection:

- there has been significant improvement in the achievements of the young people particularly in English and mathematics;
- three full time permanent senior teachers have been appointed to manage each of the centres resulting in better planning and improved learning and teaching;
- the implementation of a service level agreement with schools has resulted in more effective partnership working;
- the curriculum has been extended with an appropriate range of accredited courses with opportunities for all of the young people to attend vocational education courses;
- ICT is used appropriately in lessons across the provision and extensive staff training has resulted in the teachers using more effective strategies to manage challenging behaviour;
- the centres are all located in newly refurbished premises that provide high quality accommodation that is comparable to that of mainstream schools;
- the NEELB has put in place effective management structures that ensure the behaviour support services work more effectively together;
- the strategic planning has been effective in restructuring the service and there are better opportunities for teachers to participate in professional development and to meet to plan and share good practice;
- the safeguarding policies have been updated and there is a designated and deputy designated person in each centre with appropriate security measures in place;
- the young people now attend classes for 25 hours each week and a common system of rewards and incentives has been implemented resulting in better behaviour, levels of attendance and more positive disposition to learning.

CONCLUSION

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

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