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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

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

Essential Skills Provision VT Training

May 2009

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%

Grading System

The Education and Training Inspectorate is piloting a new 6-point grading scale to replace the original 4-point scale as set out below. Where grades are recorded in this report, the grade is given on both the old and the revised scales.

ORIGINAL GRADE	REVISED GRADE	DESCRIPTOR
1	1	Outstanding characterised by excellence.
1	2	Consistently good; major strengths.
2	3	Important strengths in most of provision. Areas for improvement which organisation has the capacity to address.
2	4	Overall sound/satisfactory but with areas for improvement in important areas which need to be addressed.
3	5	A few strengths; significant areas for improvement which require prompt action.
4	6	Poor, major shortcomings which require urgent action.

FINAL FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION OF THE ESSENTIAL SKILLS PROVISION IN VT TRAINING

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a focused inspection of the Training for Success provision in VT Training in November 2008 which highlighted a number of important areas for improvement within the essential skills provision.

These included:

- the further development of a wide range of training, learning and assessment strategies to meet the needs of all learners, in relation to essential skills; and
- the further development of opportunities for peer and group learning, supported, where appropriate, by the use of information and learning technology.

The action plan produced by VT Training in response to the inspection findings was of good quality.

Good progress has been made in the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection.

In the interval since the inspection, the following are the most important improvements that have taken place:

- the organisation of group learning sessions on 12 employer premises to promote and support the delivery of essential skills, and vocational learning;
- the high priority placed on the development of the essential skills provision by management to support improvement;
- the provision of opportunities for essential skills tutors to liaise effectively with vocational tutors to embed and enhance the essential skills provision;
- the good start to the introduction, and use of information and learning technology to support learning in essential skills;
- the marked improvement in the achievement rate for essential skills; to date 187 learners have achieved an essential skills qualification at an appropriate level;
- the success of 40 learners, with no qualifications on entry to their programme, in achieving a full framework; and
- the introduction of internal training and learning observations to improve professional discussion, improve performance and enhance quality.

The area which requires further action:

- improved liaison between learners and employers to further embed and facilitate peer and group learning.

CONCLUSION

In the area inspected, the quality of the education and training provided by VT Training is now good. The organisation has important strengths in most of its educational (and pastoral) provision. The organisation has demonstrated the capacity to address the area for improvement.

The Inspectorate will monitor the organisation's progress in addressing the remaining area for improvement.

Total no of trainees	Original Grade	Revised Grade
339	4	3

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