



*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

**Finaghy Youth Centre
Belfast**

February 2008

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF FINAGHY YOUTH CENTRE, BELFAST

The inspection of Finaghy Youth Centre, Belfast in October 2005 highlighted strengths including the welcoming and safe environment, the excellent relationships between the young people and the staff, the effective leadership of the full-time youth worker, the good range of recreational activities, the involvement of senior members in the planning and implementation of the centre's programme and the hard-working and dedicated staff.

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

- a development plan delivered by all the youth work staff and volunteers;
- structured face-to-face youth work activities reflecting more fully the youth work curriculum, especially for members 15 years of age and older;
- suitable equipment and adequate supervision for members under ten years of age;
- the installation of information and communication technology (ICT) and administrative support;
- additional support for recently qualified members of staff; and
- more effective monitoring and evaluation procedures reflecting the 'Expectation of Full-Time Youth Units funded by the Belfast Education and Library Board' document and the centre's 'Key Result Areas' (KRA) document.

In the interval since the inspection, the centre has operated on reduced staffing levels and responded to a critical incident within the local community. The centre was closed for four months to allow repairs and minor works to be completed and has recently re-opened.

Health and safety issues reported in the original inspection report have been partially addressed. The outdoor football pitch is no longer in use due to the issues related to the playing surface; the lighting and the fence have not been addressed.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a follow-up inspection in February 2008.

The youth centre has maintained most of the strengths highlighted in the inspection, especially the links with the local community, and has made good progress.

The following are the most important improvements that have taken place since the original inspection:

- the good start made in using the KRA document to develop and deliver a relevant programme involving part-time staff and volunteers;
- the specific programmes which have been developed for the older members, in particular the road safety group, senior member training and the Duke of Edinburgh Award with the support of the South Belfast Area Project; and

- the effective monitoring and evaluation procedures which have been integrated with the KRAs.

There is a need to review and address the following areas:

- the provision for the members who are in the under-ten age range, in particular the suitability of the equipment for children who attend the after-school provision and the deployment of staff;
- the lack of adequate ICT resources for the members to use in developing relevant projects and programmes; and
- the staffing levels which are not adequate.

Good progress has been made in most of the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection but some areas still require improvement. The organisation is developing a rigorous process of self-evaluation which leads to improvement.

The organisation's progress in the areas for improvement will be followed-up by the District Inspector.

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