



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

Foyle EOTAS, Derry

Report of a Follow-up Inspection  
(Involving Action Short of Strike)  
in May 2017



The Education and Training Inspectorate  
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## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF FOYLE EDUCATION OTHER THAN AT SCHOOL (EOTAS), COUNTY DERRY**

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Foyle EOTAS in September 2015<sup>1</sup>, which concluded that the organisation needed to address urgently the significant areas for improvement identified in the interest of all the young people.

The areas for improvement included the need to:

- review the strategic planning and management structures within the Foyle EOTAS, including leadership within each centre;
- address the suitability of the provision to meet the needs of the young people, including the current model for key stage (KS) 3, the opportunities for vocational education at key stage (KS4) and the contribution of the referring schools to the ongoing education of their young people; and
- increase the opportunity for the young people to study for GCSE and other appropriate public examinations.

The organisation's action plans were of a good quality.

The ETI carried out an interim follow-up visit in September 2016 and a follow-up inspection in May 2017.

Four of the teaching unions which make up the Northern Ireland Teachers' Council (NITC) have declared industrial action primarily in relation to a pay dispute. This includes non-co-operation with the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI). Prior to the inspection, the organisation informed the ETI that almost all of the teachers would not be co-operating with the inspectors. The ETI have a statutory duty to monitor, inspect and report on the quality of education under Article 102 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986. Therefore, the inspection proceeded and the following evaluations are based on the evidence as made available at the time of the inspection.

In the interval since the initial inspection, the following actions or changes which affect the work of the organisation have taken place:

- The Education Authority (EA) has reviewed the management structures including the roles and responsibilities of the senior managers within the Foyle EOTAS.
- A number of temporary appointments have been made, including a new head of EOTAS service and a senior teacher in each centre.
- All of the young people on the Maydown and Longtower sites now have the opportunity to extend their social and emotional development by participating in daily breakfast sessions.
- The contact teaching time has been extended in line with EOTAS recommendations.
- There is now a designated and deputy designated teacher in each centre and all of the centres have secure electronic entry systems controlled by staff.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.etini.gov.uk/publications/education-other-school-inspection-foyle-eotas>

## **Key Findings**

- The leadership team are developing accountability structures and there is appropriate focus on the strategic development of the provision.
- The attendance of the young people has significantly improved in all centres and in most it is now good.
- Individual education plans have been developed and the culture of self-evaluation is beginning to develop.
- There is now a broader range of appropriate accredited courses, including GCSE and the young people in KS 4 attend vocational courses at the local college of further education.
- The uncertainty over the permanence of some key posts in the centre poses risks to the retention of experienced staff.
- Almost all of the referring schools do not yet provide access for their pupils to return to study subjects in their own schools in KS3 and in KS4.
- While the EA have not reviewed the model of provision in KS3 there remains an urgent need for a renewed focus on reintegrating the young people back to their schools, in a timely manner.
- Effective safeguarding policies and procedures are now in place.

Owing to action short of strike, the ETI was unable to evaluate fully the extent to which the areas for improvement have been addressed.

Consequently, there remains a need for Foyle EOTAS to address urgently the significant areas for improvement.

## **Conclusion**

Owing to the impact of the action short of strike being taken by the teachers, the ETI is unable to assure parents/carers, the wider community and stakeholders of the quality of education being provided for the young people. This will be reflected in future inspection activity.

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