

YOUTH INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Kilcooley/Clandeboye Area
Project, County Down

Report of a Follow-up Inspection
in September 2018



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

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FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF KILCOOLEY/CLANDEBOYE AREA PROJECT

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection¹ of Kilcooley/Clandeboyne Area Project in October 2016, which concluded that the Project needed to address the following important areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners:

- recruit and retain more young people to become actively involved in the project and to build their capacity for leadership;
- improve the quality of the curriculum provision, including a review of the outreach programme; and
- have a more coherent and relevant action planning process and be able to demonstrate how evaluation is leading to improvement.

The action plans were adjusted and updated appropriately in light of the inspection findings and submitted prior to the follow-up inspection. The ETI carried out an interim follow-up visit in November 2017, met with representatives of the Education Authority and conducted a follow-up inspection in September 2018.

In the interval since the original inspection, the following actions and changes which affect the work of the project have taken place:

- the Education Authority has redefined the geographical boundaries of the North Down Project, consequently, management and full-time youth worker roles and responsibilities have been restructured to include more youth workers operating across a much wider area, still including the Clandeboyne and Kilcooley regions;
- the staffing compliment has increased to: an area youth worker, a youth support worker-in-charge; and, three part-time youth support workers. A peripatetic outdoor learning worker provides additional support to the project;
- the Youth Worker and a link teacher have established and delivered a new Learning Together Programme for Key Stage (KS) 4 pupils; and, a KS 3 programme in local post-primary schools;
- the project leaders have developed appropriate links with Kilcooley Primary School where the youth centre is due to be re-located within the year; and
- a memorandum of understanding has been agreed with a local community group in the Kilcooley area.

Key findings

- The Development and Action plans submitted in response to the original inspection are good quality. The Project leaders and youth workers use a coherent system for improvement with appropriate action plans and clear processes for monitoring, evaluating and tracking progress. It will be important that the project considers the strategic development of the service, across the whole area, to improve further the current provision and build upon the effective initial work with key providers and partners.

¹ <https://www.etini.gov.uk/sites/etini.gov.uk/files/publications/youth-inspection-kilcooley-clandeboyne-area-project-county-down.pdf>

- The staff have participated in appropriate programs of professional development. It will be important that they continue to develop further their repertoire of strategies to work more effectively and manage the wide range of abilities and to meet the specific needs of the young people.
- The project has increased the opportunities to develop the young people's leadership skills whilst tripling the number of recognised and accredited training courses on offer. Consequently, the curriculum has been broadened to include programmes linked to specific areas of interest identified by the young people.
- There has been an increase in membership and sessional attendances since the original inspection. Information held by the centre indicates that more young people attain qualification in accredited courses. The project is aware of the need to develop further the pathways for young people into leadership roles.
- Staff have worked hard at improving the outreach programme, developing positive relationships with local primary and post-primary schools and establishing an important partnership with a district community association. The organisations linked to the Project speak positively about their developing relationships and advances in the quality of the provision for learners. During discussions most of the young people spoke confidently about their involvement with the project and the positive experiences during, for example, the peer mentor project or the active group-work programmes.

Overall Effectiveness

The Kilcooley/Clandeboyne Area Project demonstrates the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interests of all the learners. The ETI will monitor how the organisation sustains improvement.

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