



*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

**St Oliver Plunkett Youth Centre
Crossmaglen, Newry**

November 2007

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF ST OLIVER PLUNKETT YOUTH CENTRE, CROSSMAGLEN, NEWRY, CO DOWN, BT35 9AG

The inspection in St Oliver Plunkett Youth Centre, Crossmaglen in November 2004 highlighted strengths including:

- the excellent ethos created by the full-time youth worker along with the senior member group and staff team;
- the high level of member participation and ownership;
- the good range of relevant opportunities and experiences for the young people reflecting the central theme and core principles of the youth work curriculum;
- the good use of relevant accreditation opportunities to recognise the young people's achievements and contributions to the centre;
- the well organised after-school programme; and
- the involvement of young people in the management committee as specified in the centre's constitution.

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

- health and safety issues;
- child protection procedures;
- the appearance and fabric of the building;
- monitoring and evaluation procedures;
- more efficient governance by the management committee; and
- the development of further links with the local post-primary school.

In the interval since the inspection, the full-time youth worker post was vacant for 12 months; the current full-time youth worker was appointed in June 2006.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a follow-up inspection in November 2007.

The youth centre has maintained the strengths highlighted in the inspection and has made good progress. The following are the most important improvements that have taken place since the original inspection:

- urgent health and safety repairs have been completed;
- child protection procedures have been updated and all staff have received relevant child protection training;

- the management committee has submitted funding applications to refurbish the building;
- appropriate monitoring and evaluation procedures are now included in the service level agreement with the Southern Education and Library Board;
- the management committee has recruited new members and, along with the staff, has completed a development plan for 2007-2010; and
- the full-time youth worker continues to deliver personal and social education along with citizenship in the local post-primary school and has worked with the local primary school through the extended schools initiative.

The youth centre has made good progress in addressing the key areas for action. The parents and broader community can have confidence in the youth centre's commitment to and action for improvement, and the effectiveness of its action in response to the findings of the inspection.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2008

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the DE website: www.deni.gov.uk or may be obtained from the Inspection Services Branch, Department of Education, Rathgael House, 43 Balloo Road, Bangor, Co Down BT19 7PR.