



*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

**The Ógras Centre
Coalisland**

February 2009

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF THE ÓGRAS CENTRE, COALISLAND, CO TYRONE, BT71 4PF

The inspection of the Ógras Centre (Ógras) in October 2007 highlighted strengths in the following areas:

- the good participation and sense of enjoyment displayed by junior members in the afternoon sessions;
- the opportunities for a small number of young people in the senior section to progress to leadership and to work towards appropriate accreditation;
- the positive behaviour programme that has helped to establish more consistent standards of behaviour; and
- the dedication and commitment of the staff and volunteers.

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

- better quality provision to meet the needs of an increased number of young people in the area and especially those in the 12+ age group;
- effective quality assurance arrangements to inform future planning; and
- a review of the policies and procedures to guide the work of Ógras, and in particular, to ensure compliance with child protection requirements.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a monitoring visit within six weeks of the inspection to ensure that Ógras had addressed adequately the child protection issues raised during the inspection. In the interval, the management committee met and put in place a new child protection policy that is compliant with the relevant requirements. The worker-in-charge attended a nine-hour course for designated child protection officers through the Southern Education and Library Board (SELB) and all staff received an initial child protection awareness training session.

The Inspectorate carried out a further monitoring visit in June 2008 and a follow-up inspection in February 2009. The full-time youth worker-in-charge was on extended leave of absence at the time of the follow-up inspection. A part-time youth worker-in-charge has been appointed to cover the leave of absence.

The following are the most important improvements since the inspection.

- The worker-in-charge and all of the part-time staff have successfully completed recognised child protection training.
- All parents have been adequately informed about the new child protection policy.
- The management committee discuss all policies and procedures as a formal agenda item at meetings which are held every six weeks.
- The young people and staff made a successful funding application, which resulted in the refurbishment of a new area in the centre dedicated to senior members only. The young people participated in the refurbishment programme.

- There has been a significant increase in the numbers of young people in the 12+ age group attending Ógras with 20-25 senior members at each session.
- There are improved quality assurance arrangements, including: six-weekly joint support and supervision meetings for the worker-in-charge with the chairperson of the management committee and the area youth officer; and additional moderation visits, including a one-week review in March 2008, by SELB officers.
- An appropriate action plan has been drawn up against the main areas for improvement.

Since the inspection, the organisation evaluated the progress made in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection. The Inspectorate recommends that the processes for self-evaluation are developed to focus more strongly on self-evaluation as a means to bring about improvement.

The Inspectorate is confident that the organisation's action plan is beginning to address the key areas for improvement highlighted in the report. The management committee will, however, need to monitor and evaluate the action plan to ensure that:

- the three year development plan is completed and includes clear targets and outcomes for the young people;
- the supervision structures for the worker-in-charge are effective; and
- the health and safety issues highlighted in the inspection report are addressed: the need to ensure that access to the building is controlled effectively during youth work sessions; and the need for staff and management to review procedures for locking up in the evening and at other times.

In most of the areas inspected the quality of youth work provided by this organisation is now satisfactory; the strengths outweigh areas for improvement in the provision. The organisation has demonstrated some evidence of improvement but areas for improvement in management and health and safety remain to be addressed if the needs of all the learners are to be met effectively.

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

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