

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

Training for Success and ApprenticeshipsNI provision In Essential Skills

Riverpark Training and Development (NI) Ltd

April 2016

FOLLOW-UP TO THE APPRENTICESHIPSNI INSPECTION IN RIVERPARK TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT (NI) LTD

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection¹ of Riverpark Training and Development in December 2014 when the quality of the education and training in essential skills was evaluated as satisfactory².

The main areas for improvement were the need to:

- plan a more coherent essential skills programme to ensure that the apprentices develop and complete their essential skills in a more timely fashion to support their professional and technical training;
- improve the co-ordination of the provision and the processes used to monitor the progress being made by the apprentices in their essential skills;
- make better use of the results of initial and diagnostic assessment to plan for the delivery for essential skills; and
- further embed and consolidate the apprentices literacy and numeracy skills in their professional and technical work.

The organisation's improvement plan submitted in response to the inspection lacked sufficient detail and was subsequently adjusted appropriately in the light of feedback given by the ETI.

The ETI carried out an interim follow-up visit during October 2015, with a follow-up inspection in April 2016.

In the interval since the original inspection, the following actions or changes within the area of essential skills have taken place:

- an essential skills co-ordinator has been appointed to manage the provision;
- a tracking system has been developed and implemented to monitor the apprentices' progress in essential skills;
- the organisation has invested in a new classroom, equipped with 12 new computers to support the delivery of the essential skills provision;
- the delivery model for essential skills has been reviewed to ensure that all of the apprentices commence their essential skills training at the start of their training programme;
- the essential skills tutor have been provided with opportunities to work with the professional and technical tutors to understand better the specialist area context;
- classroom observations and feedback have been introduced for all the tutors; and

¹ [ApprenticeshipsNI Report, December 2014](#)

² From September 2015, the overall effectiveness for essential skills previously evaluated as satisfactory, will now be evaluated as 'important areas for improvement'.

- the backlog for essential skills has been cleared with only a small number of apprentices who commenced in September 2014 to complete their literacy qualifications; however, they are on target to achieve these qualifications shortly.

Key findings

- The organisation at all levels now puts an appropriately high emphasis on essential skills with the provision of good resources including accommodation and learning materials.
- The essential skills provision is now well managed with the apprentices' progress is being tracked and monitored regularly to ensure they make appropriate progress.
- The apprentices now commence their essential skills training following effective initial and diagnostic assessment procedures at the start of their training programme.
- The essential skills tutors have been provided with good opportunities to work with the professional and technical tutors to develop their understanding of the specialist area context.
- The professional and technical tutors have an increased emphasis on supporting the apprentices to develop their essential skills, through well designed activities that include extended writing, in both their practical work and theory sessions.
- The quality of teaching and learning in the sessions observed is good with the apprentices being well engaged through relevant professional and technical contexts.
- The standards and achievements are now good with nearly all the apprentices progressing well in their essential skills and they are able to transfer these skills into the professional and technical work.

In order to improve the essential skills provision further Riverpark Training and Development needs to:

- further improve the quality of the learning, teaching and training;
- ensure that the learning and support needs of a small number of the apprentices are addressed in a more timely fashion; and
- continue to develop self-evaluation and quality improvement planning processes in order to bring about continued and sustained improvement.

Overall Outcome

In essential skills, the quality of the education and training provided by Riverview Training and Development is now good.

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