



*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 an Inspection

**Caw Youth Centre
Londonderry**

Inspected: September 2008

CONTENTS

Section		Page
1.	INTRODUCTION	1
2.	THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND STANDARDS ATTAINED BY THE YOUNG PEOPLE	1
3.	QUALITY OF PROVISION FOR LEARNING	2
4.	LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT	2
5.	SUMMARY OF MAIN FINDINGS	3
6.	CONCLUSION	3

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Caw Youth Centre is a full-time controlled centre in the Limavady division of the Western Education and Library Board (WELB). It is situated in the Caw estate in the Waterside area of Londonderry, an estate in the top 25% of the most deprived wards in Northern Ireland.

1.2 The youth centre began 31 years ago on the current site as a part-time club. The WELB provided funding to erect a purpose-built centre in 1998; a new wing has been added recently.

1.3 The Limavady division has a number of vacant full-time youth worker posts. The area youth officer (AYO) reports difficulty in replacing full-time and part-time youth workers across the division over the past few years. This situation has led to changes in the deployment of staff and has reduced the level of support available to all units across the division.

1.4 A number of local community organisations use the centre for 20.5 hours per week. The current programme of activities for young people totals 15 hours per week and includes an afternoon homework club and intermediate and senior programmes on four evenings a week. During the inspection the centre had to suspend a number of activities as a result of the unavailability of some of the part-time staff.

1.5 The centre has an advisory committee made up of community representatives, including councillors, parents and young people; the AYO from the WELB attends meetings of the committee, which are held approximately four times a year.

1.6 As a result of the absence of the full-time youth worker shortly before the inspection, and following discussions with the head of youth service in the WELB, the agreed timetable for the inspection was adjusted to include two evening visits and two afternoon visits to the centre.

1.7 The evaluation presented in this report is based on the observations made during those visits, on discussions held with the administrator and the part-time worker-in-charge and on meetings with the AYO and the head of youth service. The inspection team examined the available relevant documentation, including the development plan for the centre for 2008-2011.

2. THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND STANDARDS ATTAINED BY THE YOUNG PEOPLE

2.1 The senior members' group interviewed described their positive experiences while attending the senior members' course facilitated by an external organisation. In addition, four of the group attended a Growing, Learning and Developing (GLAD) certificate course during the summer and all spoke positively of their experiences. The group received a runners-up place in the 2008 Northern Ireland (NI) Youth Achievement Awards. The GLAD course is an Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network (ASDAN) course in personal and social development.

2.2 In the two evening sessions observed the intermediate club members aged 10-14 years had few activities to choose from – football in the main hall, computer games, and a limited range of arts and craft materials in the social area. In the afternoon sessions observed, three young people attended the homework club and the proposed senior members' committee meeting was cancelled.

3. QUALITY OF PROVISION FOR LEARNING

3.1 The majority of the young people attending enjoyed an activity-based programme in the sessions observed. The part-time staff found it difficult to cope with the behaviour of a small minority of members at the end of the second evening session.

3.2 The youth centre is a bright purpose-built building with two new rooms; this range of space in the centre was not utilised. There was little evidence of planning and implementing a programme that reflects the youth work curriculum.

3.3 The arrangements for child protection have a few strengths. There are, however, important areas for improvement which require prompt action to ensure that the policies and procedures are fully in line with the guidance outlined in the relevant Department of Education Circulars. In particular, the WELB needs to put effective measures in place to ensure positive behaviour in the youth centre and to review the implementation of the policy and procedures on the use of the Internet.

3.4 The arrangements for pastoral care in the youth centre are inadequate. In particular, there is a need to provide appropriate training in pastoral care issues for all staff, as well as a safe and secure environment for the young people in which they can feel at ease to engage in quality learning activities.

4. LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

4.1 The part-time staff members are committed and dedicated and know the area well. The inspection established that the part-time staff had limited experience and training to work effectively with the young people who attend the youth activities. There is a need for urgent training and support for all staff to improve the quality of the programme on offer and to help deal with incidents of poor behaviour from a minority of members.

4.2 The AYO and the WELB management have worked with the community advisory group to enhance youth provision in the area. They need to increase the level and quality of their monitoring procedures and to ensure that enough suitably qualified and experienced staff are available during all of the youth sessions held in the centre. It is also vital that the members of the youth advisory committee, who have a key role in advising and supporting all aspects of the youth centre's provision, work more closely with the WELB to ensure greater community involvement in the centre's youth programme.

5. SUMMARY OF MAIN FINDINGS

5.1 The strengths of the provision are:

- the commitment and dedication of the part-time staff who know the area well and have good communication with local community groups and organisations; and
- the small group of senior members who successfully completed a GLAD programme and were runners up at the NI youth awards in 2008.

5.2 The areas for improvement include the need for:

- immediate action to address the child protection issues raised in this report;
- urgent support and staff training to enable the youth centre to operate effectively and to provide a suitably challenging programme that reflects the needs and interests of the young people in the area;
- further training for staff to cope with the poor behaviour of a minority of members and to assist in the work with children and young people with additional needs;
- the WELB youth service management to increase the level of monitoring and to put procedures in place to ensure that sufficient suitably qualified and experienced staff are available during all of the youth sessions held in the centre.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 In almost all of the areas inspected, the quality of the provision provided by this youth centre is inadequate; the areas for improvement outweigh the strengths in the provision. The inspection has identified significant areas for improvement in the quality of the provision, pastoral care and child protection and leadership and management, which need to be addressed urgently if the youth centre is to meet effectively the needs of all of the young people.

The District Inspector will carry out a monitoring visit to the youth centre within six weeks to ensure that the important issues identified in the child protection arrangements are addressed appropriately.

The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor and report on the youth centre's progress in addressing the other significant areas for improvement, over a 12-18 month period.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2009

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.