



Education and Training
Inspectorate

European Social Fund provision in
Belfast Metropolitan College

Skills for Industry Project

Report of a Quality Improvement
Planning Inspection in
January 2020



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
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Introduction

In January 2020, the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out a quality improvement planning inspection of the Belfast Metropolitan College's (Belfast Met) European Social Fund (ESF) project. The purpose of the inspection was to evaluate the effectiveness of the project promoter's self-evaluation and quality improvement planning processes. At the last inspection in March 2017, the project promoter demonstrated a high level of capacity to identify and bring about improvement.

Focus of the quality improvement planning inspection

The quality improvement planning inspection focused on the following key areas which the project promoter had prioritised for improvement through its self-evaluation and quality improvement planning processes:

- the management and recruitment strategies in order to meet the project's aims and targets; and
- the care, guidance and support arrangements to ensure that the participants make sustained progress and achieve outcomes in line with the project's targets.

The arrangements for safeguarding were also included.

Key findings

The inspection identified the following key findings:

- In spite of significant early challenges in the project delivery, the management team has been responsive and proactive in finding appropriate solutions to a range of issues, especially in regard to the staffing complement and participant recruitment. As a consequence, a team of highly-committed staff with the necessary skills and attributes has been established, who deliver a well-considered programme that is meeting to good effect the needs of the participants. Currently, participant recruitment levels are in line with project's revised recruitment targets.
- In line with the priorities in the quality improvement plan, the project promoter is making significant progress in providing an effective care, support and guidance provision, that is an integral part of the programme. The provision is tailored and targeted well to meet the individual needs of the participants to ensure that they make good progress in their learning and development. As a result, the progression outcomes to date, for participants being supported into employment, further education or training, are at or above the revised targets set.

Safeguarding

Based on the evidence available at the time of the quality improvement planning inspection, the arrangements for safeguarding participants reflect current legislation and practice.

Overall Outcome

At the time of the quality improvement inspection visit, and in the areas evaluated, the project promoter continues to demonstrate a high level of capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the quality of the provision.

The outcome from this inspection will inform the next steps for the project promoter with regard to the inspection cycle.

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