



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

College of Agriculture, Food and  
Rural Enterprise (CAFRE)

Report of a Quality Improvement  
Planning Inspection in  
January 2020



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## **Introduction**

In January 2020, the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out a quality improvement planning inspection of the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) to evaluate the effectiveness of the organisation's self-evaluation and quality improvement planning processes. At the last inspection in January 2017, the organisation demonstrated a high level of capacity for sustained improvement.

## **Focus of the quality improvement planning inspection**

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

- to develop further the essential skills provision in line with the requirements of the revised curriculum, and to better integrate literacy and numeracy into lesson planning in the professional and technical programmes; and
- to develop further the apprentices' Information and Communication Technology (ICT) skills, the utilisation of Information and Learning Technology (ILT) in learning, training and teaching and to develop a wider range of assessment strategies.

The arrangements for safeguarding were also included.

## **Key findings**

The inspection identified the following key findings.

- The senior managers have reviewed and amended the sub-contracting arrangement for the essential skills. The college has productive collaborative links with the current sub-contractor and the delivery is well-tailored to the apprentices' needs, the revised curriculum and associated assessment process. The CAFRE staff monitor regularly the provision, with good systems in place to track the apprentices' attendance and progress. As a result, the achievement rates are high and all those who have been entered for the essential skills to date have achieved their targeted level. The planning for the professional and technical areas is being revised appropriately to identify greater opportunities for the development and application of the apprentices' literacy and numeracy skills, with a good focus on the development of their extended writing. There is good evidence of the apprentices' numeracy skills being developed to good effect in their professional and technical classes.
- The college has identified appropriately the need to further develop the apprentices' ICT skills. This is an ongoing process and progress has been curtailed due to a lack of access by the apprentices to appropriate resources, particularly in the out-centres. The college has made a considerable investment in mobile computer technology, tractor driving simulators and horse riding simulators that allow the apprentices to develop new skills in a safe environment. There is evidence of ILT being used to good effect to promote learning in most of the sessions observed, including well-planned interactive quiz technology for formative assessment purposes. There are missed opportunities, however, to make use of a wider range of strategies to further engage the apprentices in their learning. The use of electronic portfolios has been piloted successfully with the horticulture apprentices and plans are in place to roll it out to apprenticeships more generally.

## **Safeguarding**

On the basis of the evidence provided at the time of the inspection, the arrangements for safeguarding young people and adults at risk reflect broadly current legislation and practice. However, the organisation needs to:

- ensure that the vetting process that has already commenced for the small number of staff in post prior to the introduction of the vetting procedures are completed; and
- review and update the policies and procedures for safeguarding young people and adults at risk.

## **Overall Outcome**

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

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

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