



Education and Training
Inspectorate

European Social Fund provision in
Start360

Switch Onto Employment

Report of a Quality Improvement
Planning Inspection in
November 2019



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
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Introduction

In November 2019, the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out a quality improvement planning inspection of Start360 to evaluate the effectiveness of the project promoter's self-evaluation and quality improvement planning processes. At the last inspection in November 2016, 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 organisation had prioritised for improvement through its self-evaluation and quality improvement planning processes:

- the development of extracurricular activities, including involving external partners, with a specific focus on improving outcomes and supporting an inclusive and holistic learning and training experience for participants; and
- the priority to drive continuous improvement of the essential skills provision to ensure high quality learning experiences for the participants.

The arrangements for safeguarding were also included.

Key findings

The inspection identified the following key findings:

- Start360 promotes and creates an inclusive and holistic learning and training experience for the participants, providing them with access to a well-targeted programme of well-being activities to address their personal, social and emotional needs. The project promoter works very effectively in partnership with a range of external partners and agencies to support participants' diverse needs, providing access to appropriate referral services. Start360 also provides a specialist advocacy role to enable participants to access a range of financial support, including childcare and transport. Through the delivery of innovative curriculum enrichments that encourage social interaction and build resilience, the participants are supported to attend and engage in a range of events and activities, including an annual residential that involves them in a creative writing experience. The full impact of the work undertaken is demonstrated in the very good outcomes attained by the participants.
- The improvement of the provision for the essential skills is prioritised appropriately in the project promoter's quality improvement plan. Each participant is provided with a tailored personal learning plan to reflect, and build effectively on, their prior learning experiences and which informs well the planning for learning in the essential skills. The one-to-one sessions are very effective. The sessions are underpinned by high quality one-to-one mentoring support, which is tailored well to individual participant needs. The project promoter supports the participants beyond their completion of level 1 in the essential skills, providing sessions to prepare them to progress to level 2. A strength of the project has been its success in exceeding well its targets for the participants' achievements in the essential skills.

Safeguarding

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

Overall Outcome

At the time of the quality improvement planning inspection visit, and in the areas evaluated, Start360 continues to demonstrate a high level of capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the quality of provision.

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

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