



Education and Training
Inspectorate

The Kinnego Centre, Dungannon,
County Tyrone

Report of a Sustaining Improvement
Inspection in June 2018



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

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Department of Education
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CUSTOMER
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Sustaining Improvement Inspection of The Kinnego Centre, Dungannon, County Tyrone, BT71 6TB

Introduction

The previous inspection in February 2015 evaluated the overall effectiveness of The Kinnego Centre as outstanding¹. Since the last inspection a sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted in June 2018.

Focus of the inspection

The purpose of the SII was to evaluate the extent to which the centre is capable of demonstrating its capacity to effect improvement through self-evaluation and effective centre development planning. The centre also provided evidence of the provision for safeguarding as part of the inspection.

The areas of focus during the SII were to:

- embed the social and emotional assessment systems within the centre; and
- support referring schools to build their capacity to manage challenging behaviour and the transition of their pupils back to school, enabling them to maintain their school placement.

Key findings

- The centre is highly effective in its mission of helping pupils to return to their school with increased confidence; its work is exemplary. The highly-trained staff use a range of assessment systems to identify and clarify the pupils' developmental gaps. The staff are highly effective in developing strategies with solutions to help themselves and the staff in the referring schools to address the individual challenges facing pupils. Of the most recent cohort of ten pupils supported by the centre, all have successfully re-integrated to mainstream school and maintained their placements with support. Overall attendance during placement in the centre was 91% with 75% of pupils improving their levels of literacy and 80% improving their levels of numeracy. In addition a further 34 pupils have benefitted from outreach support that has enabled them to maintain their place in school.
- Through training with referring schools, staff adopt a 'solution circle'-focused approach to enable schools to clarify the needs of the pupils and understand clearly the reasons behind their challenging behaviours. The approach enables school staff to identify highly effective individualised whole school support and interventions, with appropriate risk assessments, that make the re-integration of pupils back to school more successful. Through its ethos and practice of working closely with staff from the 32 referring schools, the centre ensures that the improvements made by the pupils while attending the Kinnego Centre are sustained on their return to school. The staff in the centre provide a nurturing learning experience in which the pupils respond positively and with appreciation.

¹ From September 2015, the overall effectiveness of a centre previously evaluated as outstanding or very good has been reported as a centre demonstrating a high level of capacity for sustained improvement.

During the inspection, the centre provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding pupils reflect the guidance from the Department of Education. The pupils report that they feel safe in the centre and are aware what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or welfare.

Conclusion

The Kinnego Centre continues to demonstrate a high level of capacity for sustained improvement in the interest of all the learners.

The ETI will continue to monitor how the centre sustains improvement.

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