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*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**



## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

### **Report of a Follow-up Inspection**

**Western Education and Library Board  
Youth Provision in the Fermanagh/South Tyrone Area  
(South-West Division)**

**January 2012**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF THE WESTERN EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD YOUTH PROVISION IN THE FERMANAGH/SOUTH TYRONE AREA**

Since the initial inspection in May 2010, the Western Education and Library Board (WELB) have made significant management changes in the organisation of their youth provision. The youth service has reduced from four divisions to two: North-West providing services for the Londonderry and Limavady council areas, and the South-West providing services for the Strabane, Omagh, and Fermanagh council areas. The former Fermanagh and South Tyrone area now forms part of the South-West division. The area youth officer (AYO) with responsibility for the South-West division is based in Enniskillen and has been in post for five months.

The area inspection of Fermanagh South Tyrone in May 2010 found the provision to be satisfactory. Among the strengths, it highlighted: the good examples of participative project work completed successfully by the three area youth fora and the high levels of commitment to participation by the young people; the good development of the provision and support for the young people in rural areas; the effective support and positive working relationships between the AYO, her staff and the part-time registered units; the good levels of achievement and accreditation attained by the young people; the good collaboration with other voluntary and youth work organisations which complemented and added value to the existing youth provision; and the valuable contribution given by volunteers who understood the needs of young people, and who provided appropriate programmes and services.

The inspection identified areas for improvement, including the need:

- for an agreed vision and long-term strategy, to ensure adequate youth provision across the area and, in particular, to improve the centre-based provision in Enniskillen;
- for greater collaboration with the formal sector and increased cognisance of the achievements of young people in formal education; and
- to ensure that year-on-year improvement and the educational outcomes for young people are clearly demonstrated in the rigorous evaluation of the area development plan.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a follow-up inspection in January 2012. The Inspectorate held discussions with the Deputy Head of Youth Service and the AYO, and examined a range of documentation.

In the interval since the inspection, the following actions which affect the youth provision within the area have taken place:

- the new priorities and strategy for the youth service in the South-West area link appropriately with the development planning of the WELB and with the Department of Education youth work priorities;
- the AYO and staff are making good progress in developing further the centre-based youth provision in Enniskillen through a team approach, including the involvement of the youth forum, and through working closely with other youth providers, including the Youth Action Community Leadership Programme, to use the centre more effectively;

- the very good development of a new service level agreement guidance pack, which provides clear guidelines for the setting of targets and objectives for workers in order to identify the youth work priorities of the youth centre or youth project in a defined area;
- the further development of the procedures for moderation and supervision to provide a rigorous evaluation of the new area development plan that will be implemented from April 2012-March 2013.

The follow-up inspection has identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to continue to make and develop strategic links with the formal education sector; and
- to monitor the improvement in the achievements and outcomes for the young people as a result of the changes in the action planning and in the delivery of services.

The quality of youth provision provided by the South-West (formerly Fermanagh and South Tyrone) division is now good. The inspection has identified the need for the continued development of the strategic links with the formal education sector and the further support for the young people to influence the planning and strategic direction of the youth service in Enniskillen.

The WELB has demonstrated the capacity to support this improvement. The Inspectorate will monitor the organisation's progress on the area for improvement.

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