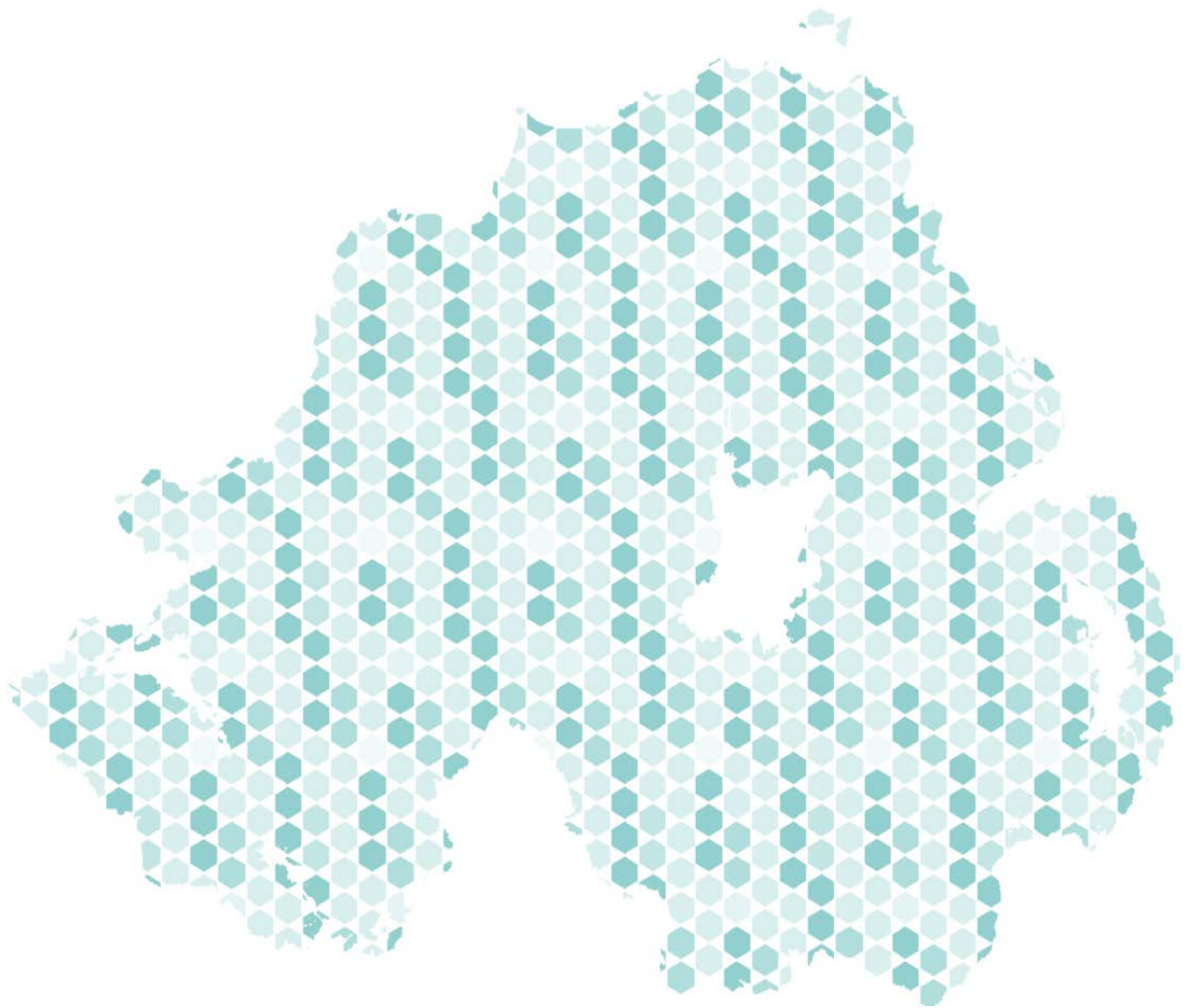


YOUTH INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Clann Eireann Youth Centre,
Lurgan

Report of an Inspection
in April 2013



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In this report, proportions may be described as percentages, common fractions and in more general quantitative terms. Where more general terms are used, they should be interpreted as follows:

Almost/nearly all	-	more than 90%
Most	-	75%-90%
A majority	-	50%-74%
A significant minority	-	30%-49%
A minority	-	10%-29%
Very few/a small number	-	less than 10%

In assessing the various features of the provision, Inspectors relate their evaluations to six descriptors as set out below:

DESCRIPTOR
Outstanding
Very Good
Good
Satisfactory
Inadequate
Unsatisfactory

1. Context

1.1 The Clann Eireann Youth Centre is a voluntary organisation; it is located within North Lurgan; managed by a sub-committee of the Clann Eireann Gaelic Athletic Club (GAC) and funded primarily by the Southern Education and Library Board. According to figures provided by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, the centre is located within one of the most deprived areas in Northern Ireland.

1.2 The full-time youth worker is in post since 2001 and most of the part-time staff and volunteers have a lifelong association with the youth centre and other sections of the Clann Eireann GAC. The staff team includes nine part-time youth workers and 14 volunteers. The centre has recently appointed two staff, one full-time and one part-time, to develop the extended provision.

1.3 The centre is open for 46 weeks in the year and provides structured youth work sessions on five evenings each week. The extended provision takes place mid-week and at the weekend to engage those young people who are most vulnerable within the community. In addition to the centre-based programmes, the full-time worker also delivers school-based programmes. According to the figures supplied by the centre, the current membership stands at 640; this includes the young people who also participate in the Clann Eireann GAC. The core membership of the youth centre is 200. The total membership represents 26 per cent of the overall youth population within the catchment area. During the inspection the average nightly attendance was 30 young people.

2. Focus

The inspection focused on:

- the young people's achievements and standards;
- the quality of the provision; and
- the quality of the leadership and management, including the processes for self-evaluation leading to improvement.

3. Overall findings of the inspection

In the areas inspected, the quality of provision in Clann Eireann youth centre is good. The centre has important strengths in most of its youth work provision. The inspection has identified an area for improvement which the centre has demonstrated the capacity to address. The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor the organisation's progress on the areas for improvement.

Summary of key findings

Overall performance level	Good
Contributory performance levels:	
Achievements and standards	Good
Provision for learning	Good
Leadership and management	Good

4. Key findings

4.1 Achievements and standards

The quality of the young people's achievements and standards is good.

4.1.1 The young people are well motivated and enjoy participating in programmes which are well matched to their needs and reflect issues which are relevant to their everyday lives. They acquire new skills; develop their talents and interests across a range of contemporary programmes including, community relations and specialist programmes.

4.1.2 In the last two years, 10 young people have achieved relevant accredited training in mentoring and understanding; 40 young people have completed single identity and cross community programmes and nine others have completed an accredited course in shared history.

4.1.3 The older members of the centre accept responsibility readily and make a valuable contribution to aspects of the programme and, in particular, to the summer scheme. They act as important role models for the younger members and volunteer enthusiastically in supervising activities alongside the staff. Across the provision the young people are respectful of, and sensitive to, the rights and feelings of others. The centre's ethos of promoting mutual understanding and good community relationships is reflected in the views and opinions of most of the young people engaged in group work.

4.1.4 During the inspection the members of the recently established youth forum indicated in discussions that their opinions are valued and that they are supported well by the staff. It is appropriate that the full-time youth worker has identified, as a priority, the need to develop further the role of the youth forum and to enhance the member's responsibility in the organisation and management of the centre.

4.2 Quality of provision

The quality of the provision for learning is good.

4.2.1 The quality of the youth work sessions observed ranged from satisfactory to very good; a majority was good. In those sessions which were facilitated well there was effective group work which challenged and stimulated discussion among the young people. The dedicated and enthusiastic staff have an empathetic and good rapport with each other, and also with the young people. While the staff listen actively and value highly the young people's views they should involve the young people more in the planning and evaluation of the current and future programmes.

4.2.2 The extended provision has set appropriate targets to engage those young people who are most vulnerable within the community. The staff involved are committed and enthusiastic in their work. In developing the provision further there is a need to reflect on, and evaluate more robustly, the impact of the programme on the young people.

4.2.3 The staff work collegially to maintain an inclusive ethos, to keep the young people safe, and create a positive learning environment. The young people are friendly, welcoming and engage easily with the staff and visitors to the centre. The youth workers know the young people and their communities well. In further discussions with the inspection team the young people reported that they feel safe in the centre and are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety and well-being.

4.2.4 On the basis of the evidence available at the time of the inspection, the centre has comprehensive arrangements in place for safeguarding children and young people. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued by the Department of Education.

4.3 Leadership and management

The quality of the leadership and management is good.

4.3.1 The full-time youth worker is a caring and conscientious leader. Alongside the well-focused and hardworking management committee he is committed to providing a high quality youth provision to meet the complex and challenging needs of the young people and the local community.

4.3.2 Effective local, national and international links and partnerships have been established with relevant organisations. These links and financial support benefit the young people and the wider community.

4.3.3 A service level agreement helps guide the work of the centre and prioritises staff development as an area for further improvement. The quality assurance processes are underdeveloped; they require a much stronger focus on planning, practice and the impact of the programmes on the young people.

4.3.4 The facilities within the centre for socialising, group work and for those young people with special educational needs are very limited.

5. Conclusion

5.1 In the areas inspected, the quality of provision in Clann Eireann youth centre is good. The centre has important strengths in most of its youth work provision. The inspection has identified an area for improvement which the centre has demonstrated the capacity to address. The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor the organisation's progress on the area for improvement.

5.2 The main area for improvement is the need:

- to develop quality assurance processes which focus more appropriately on the planning, practice and the impact of the programmes on the young people.

APPENDIX

Total Membership

Age group	4-9 140		10-15 280		16-18 130		19-25 90		Numbers involved in outreach/ detached	TOTAL
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		
2009/10	54	39	130	120	53	45	36	42	40	519
2010/11	55	40	135	115	54	43	34	44	34	520
2011/12	58	38	137	117	56	42	35	46	40	529
2012/13	79	61	156	124	74	56	44	46	60	640

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