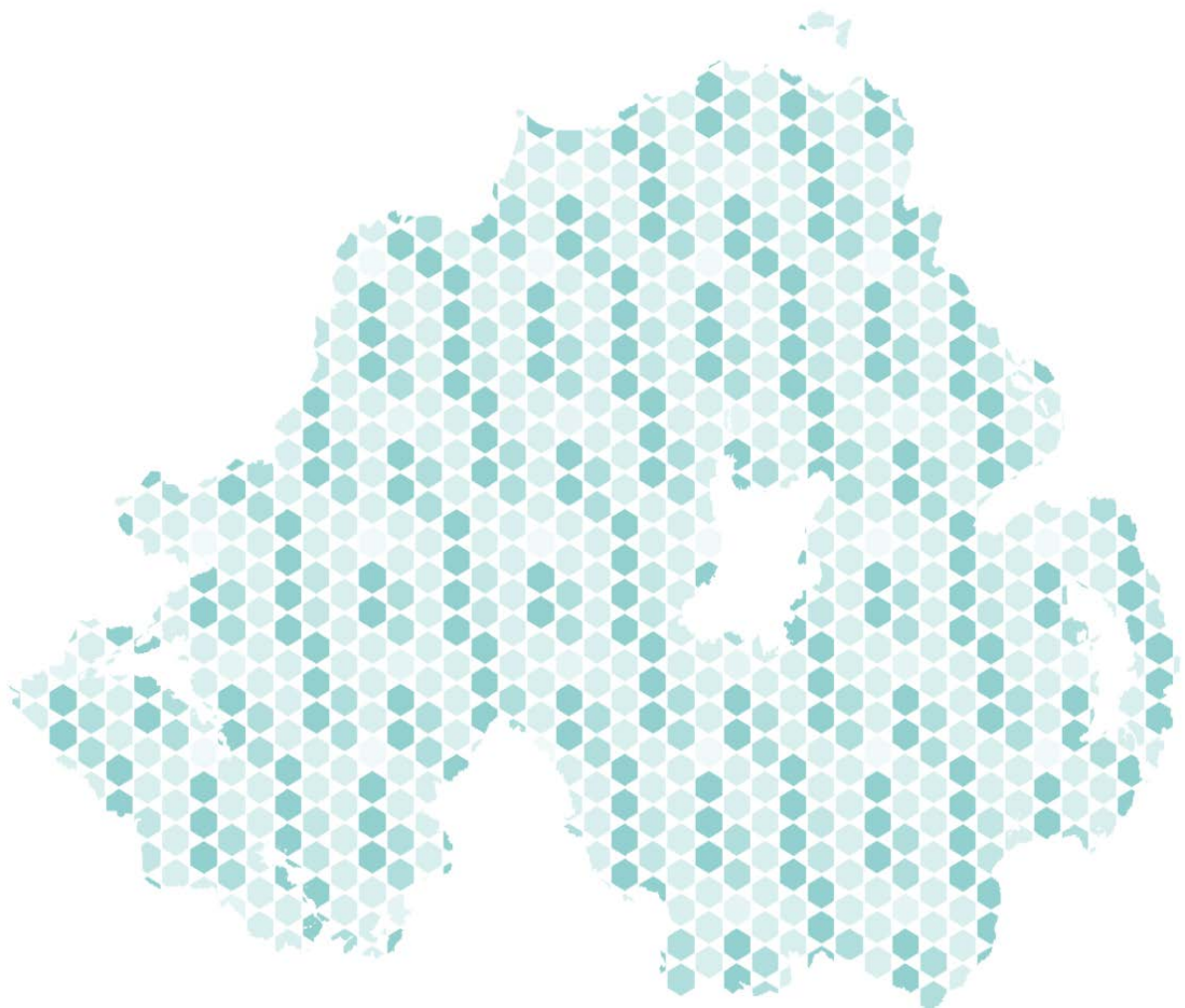


YOUTH INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Dungannon Youth Resource
Centre

Report of an inspection in
November 2013



Providing Inspection Services for

Department of Education
Department for Employment and Learning
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure



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:

PERFORMANCE LEVEL
Outstanding
Very Good
Good
Satisfactory
Inadequate
Unsatisfactory

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1. Context

Dungannon Youth Resource Centre is a full-time voluntary youth centre managed by a local management committee and funded primarily by the Southern Education and Library Board (SELB). It is open on five evenings each week, with extended opening hours at the weekend. The centre's data indicates that, there has been a substantial increase in membership over the last three years with a current membership of 462 young people. During the inspection there was an average nightly attendance of 80 young people. Approximately 50% of those who attend currently have been members over the last two years.

There is one full-time centre-based youth worker who was absent on sick leave at the time of the inspection and a temporary full-time youth worker with responsibility for the extended provision within the centre. There are also 16 part-time staff, 40 volunteers, a part-time secretary and caretaker.

2. Focus of Inspection

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 finding

Overall effectiveness	Very good
Achievements and standards	Very good
Provision for learning	Very good
Leadership and management	Very good

4. Achievements and standards

- The young people demonstrate very good levels of enjoyment and participate in a wide range of relevant and innovative programmes, which are well matched to their identified needs and interests. They attend the centre regularly and display high levels of motivation and enthusiasm. The young people develop an appropriate range of skills, attitudes and dispositions including teamwork and increased self-confidence.
- A majority of the members participate successfully in a wide range of appropriate accredited and non-accredited courses enabling them to extend their learning and personal development, in preparation to assume leadership roles. They also apply their learning in other social and learning environments; for example, they have a greater awareness of cultural diversity and inclusion through their participation in the well-planned programmes and social opportunities.

- The very high level of volunteering and commitment by the young people is a significant strength of the centre. The young people make a positive and mature contribution to the centre and the wider community through their representation on the management committee, the Dungannon and South Tyrone Youth Council and their involvement in the delivery of the summer youth centre programme. During the inspection, eight young people received recognition for completing 200 hours volunteering in the centre through “Volunteer Now”¹, and one young person was recognised as an, “ultimate volunteer”.
- In almost all of the sessions observed the young people worked effectively together displaying excellent working relationships and a caring attitude towards one another. The membership is representative of the diverse range of culture and nationalities of the local community and continues to attract and retain senior members.

5. Provision

- The majority of the sessions observed were very good, with the remainder being good. In the best practice, there was effective planning and preparation for the sessions that provided appropriate tasks and activities that challenged and stimulated the young people. The staff make effective use of the planned and unplanned opportunities in the main social area within the centre to establish mutually respectful working relationships with the young people.
- The centre makes very good use of external agencies and community groups to provide high quality, innovative and enjoyable programmes that focus appropriately on the young people’s physical, emotional and mental well-being. The centre’s extended programme has established good links with two local post-primary schools through the effective delivery of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. The outreach youth workers identify and support young people at risk of social exclusion and marginalisation from their peers and the community as another aspect of the extended programme.
- There is an age appropriate curriculum that reflects well the core principles in Youth Work: A Model for Effective Practice. The part-time staff and volunteers have a clear understanding of the role and purpose of youth work and how it contributes to the young people’s social and personal development. They plan well for the development and progression of the young people’s knowledge and skills and record the learning and achievements indicating that there are very good outcomes for the young people. There is an effective, well-established system for recording the learning outcomes at the end of each evening to inform their self-evaluation.

¹ ‘Volunteer Now’ works to promote, enhance and support volunteering across Northern Ireland.

- The quality of the pastoral care is very good. The relationships at all levels are positive, and the very good ethos provides a sound basis for the personal and social development of the young people. The staff, and in particular, the young volunteers maintain an inclusive and welcoming environment that ensures that newcomers feel valued and encouraged to participate in all aspects of the centre programmes. The young people spoke positively about their experiences and informed the inspection team 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. There are very good displays of the young people's work celebrating the range of programmes and issue-based projects.

6. Leadership and management

- The management committee, the full-time staff, and the SELB staff work together effectively and provide very good strategic leadership in raising the standards of youth work. They are supporting the young people very well and demonstrate a commitment to excellence and quality improvement at all levels of provision.
- The management committee provides a high standard of governance and are actively involved in the life and work of the centre, providing adequate challenge and support for the staff. The committee reports that it has benefited from recent management training with the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action and is at the initial stages of implementing change to develop further the roles of the management, the staff and the young people.
- The full-time staff provide very good curricular leadership and have a very clear vision for the continuous development of the centre, which is understood and agreed between the management, staff and the young people. The agreed priorities within the Service Level Agreement reflect well the identified needs of the young people. The staff team adopt a collegial approach and use their skills and experience to good effect in developing the provision.
- On the basis of the evidence available at the time of the inspection, the centre has comprehensive arrangements for safeguarding children and young people. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued by the Department of Education.

7. Conclusion

In the areas inspected, the quality of provision and the quality of pastoral care in this youth centre is very good. The centre has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

APPENDIX 1

Total Membership

Age group	4-9		10-15		16-18		19 +		TOTAL
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
2009/10	109	47	95	73	7	10	17	*	360
2010/11	53	17	44	36	8	8	*	*	171
2011/12	26	5	25	21	*	*	*	*	79
2012/13	41	43	58	48	9	13	26	8	246
2013/14	99	113	114	96	14	13	11	*	462

*Denotes numbers of fewer than 5

APPENDIX 2

Training completed by young people 2011-2013

Title of course including accreditation details	Number of young people enrolled	Percentage completing successfully
OCN Level 2 Radio Skills March 2013	8	100
OCN Level 2 Drug and Alcohol Awareness	6	100
Certificate in Disability Awareness	6	100
Working with Ethnic Minorities	6	100
John Muir Environmental Awareness Certificate Discovery	30	100
John Muir Bronze Certificate in Environment	35	100
John Muir Environmental Awareness Certificate	5	100
OCR level 1 Horticulture	5	100
Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award	10	80

Health and Safety

- The security camera at the main entrance to the building is located at a very low level suitable for wheelchair users; however it cannot identify those who are standing at the entrance wishing to gain admittance and therefore is ineffective.

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