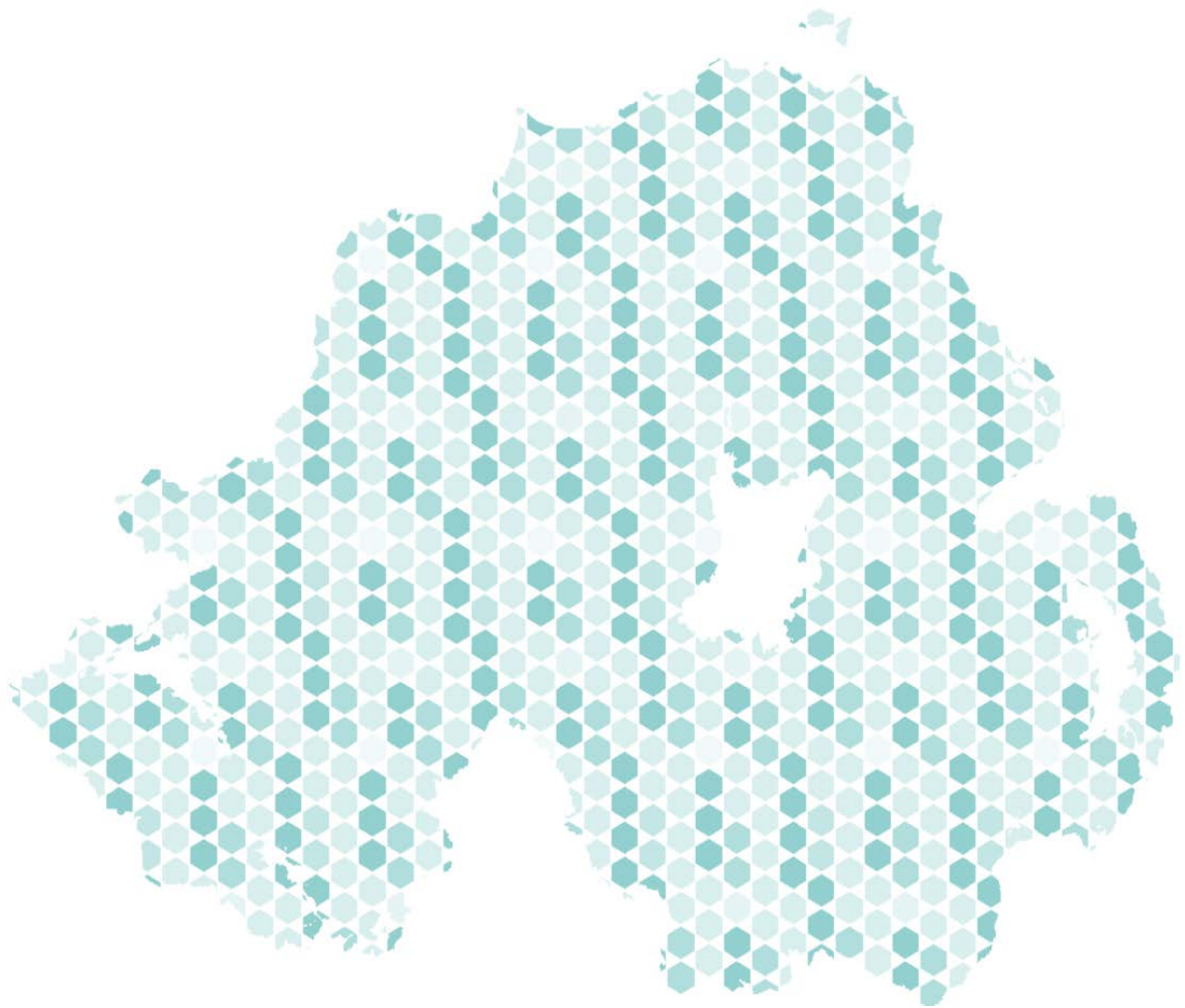


YOUTH INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

St John Bosco Youth Centre,
Newry

Report of an Inspection
in February 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 St John Bosco Youth Centre is located in Newry, County Down. The youth provision is managed by a local management committee and is funded primarily by the Southern Education and Library Board (SELB). According to data provided by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, the centre is located within one of the most deprived areas in Northern Ireland. The current membership of the centre is 630, which represents approximately 47% of the local youth population. During the inspection, the average nightly attendance, including the single activity sessions, was approximately 100 young people.

1.2 The centre is staffed by one full-time youth worker, two youth support workers, two assistant youth support workers, and one volunteer. The varied programme on offer operates over five evenings each week with a range of activities featuring inclusion group work, multi-cultural work, arts and crafts, drama and choral singing, boxing and football. Additional well-targeted activities take place at the week-end, including competitive football; outdoor activities for young men and residential visits.

1.3 The premises have been refurbished recently and now provide suitable disabled access. They are used regularly by local community and activity groups, including the local schools, Surestart, an Irish dancing school, and Voice of Young People in Care.

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 centre's processes for self-evaluation leading to improvement.

3. Overall findings of the inspection

In the areas inspected, the quality of provision in this youth centre is good. The centre has important strengths in most of its youth work provision. The inspection has identified areas 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 achievements and standards is good.

4.1.1 The young people demonstrate high levels of enjoyment through their active participation in an appropriate mix of well-organised activities and programmes. For example, through issue-based youth work which includes the topics of drugs and alcohol and sexual health to support the young people well in making positive decisions about their lifestyle.

4.1.2 The young people benefit from very good working relationships with each other; they demonstrate initiative, and problem-solving skills, and work collaboratively with their peers and with adults. They are well motivated and make a very valuable contribution to the community, especially during the summer scheme through their commitment to volunteering.

4.1.3 Approximately a third of the overall membership has completed successfully appropriate accredited and non accredited youth work programmes. Over 20 young people completed the Prince's Trust XL programme, 13 young people achieved the Millennium volunteer award and nine young people complete successfully the Open College Network Introduction to Leadership; a further 108 have taken part in focused youth work programmes including, Allotment Training, Pointer Scheme and Child Protection and Disability Awareness training.

4.1.4 The senior members of the centre accept responsibility well, and in the presentation held for members of the inspection team, they articulated clearly how the skills developed and the leadership qualifications gained have enhanced their life skills and employment opportunities.

4.1.5 The wide range of residential experience, with a particular focus on inclusion, provides suitable opportunities for the young people to gain valuable personal and social skills in working well with others and celebrating diversity.

4.1.6 In discussions held with staff and young people it was evident that the drama production of 'Footloose' provided the young people with valuable opportunities to develop confidence, creativity and independence.

4.2 Provision for learning

The quality of the provision for learning is good.

4.2.1 The overall quality of the youth work in the sessions observed ranged from very good to satisfactory. In the best practice, the young people were fully involved in the planning and preparation of the sessions and were able to articulate their learning in a courteous and confident manner. In two of the sessions observed good use was made of the practical application of mathematics, information and communication technology and of relevant external facilitators to promote informal learning.

4.2.2 There is a very good range of programmes and activities that reflect well, Youth Work; A Model for Effective Practice with a strong emphasis on inclusion. The good balance of sporting and issue based activities are well attended and enjoyed by 630 members. For example, the effective youth work with young travellers and young people with a disability is a key feature of the programme.

4.2.3 The full-time youth worker has established a good range of mutually beneficial links with external agencies to extend the young people's learning opportunities and to enable them to establish new friendships with their peers from other areas. For example, the young people spoke highly of the Pointer scheme, which they completed last summer and raised £7000 towards the cost of the educational visit to Pittsburgh.

4.2.4 The link with the local post-primary school continues to be an important feature of the full-time youth worker's daytime provision; at the time of the inspection little recorded evidence was available relating to this aspect of the centre's programme. Inspection evidence confirms that the unplanned drop-in sessions currently available for the young people are a further aspect for future development within the centre.

4.2.5 The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the centre is very good. The staff promote and work hard to maintain an inclusive ethos that keeps the young people safe and creates a positive learning environment. The youth workers know the young people and their families well and are aware of issues that may have a negative impact on the young people achieving their full potential. In the discussions held with the young people they reported that they feel safe in the centre and are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their health and well-being.

4.3 Leadership and management

The quality of the leadership and management is good.

4.3.1 The full-time youth worker inspires confidence and respect among the staff and young people. She provides effective curricular leadership and is supported well by the wider staff team to ensure good quality provision.

4.3.2 The staff are in the early stages of embedding a culture of self-evaluation; their commitment to improvement is evident in the good standard of discussions led by staff during the individual activities. Planning and evaluation processes need to be developed further to identify and record the core skills which the young people need to acquire.

4.3.3 The annual service level agreement contains a range of eight relevant priority areas which also reflect the priority areas in the SELB Area Plan. In the associated aims and objectives there is not sufficient quantifiable targets and specific learning outcomes to facilitate a strategic and robust evaluation of the priority areas.

4.3.4 The management committee is committed to excellence and quality improvement and demonstrate a good understanding of the local issues affecting the lives of young people. They recognise the need to develop further the good provision in the centre, and are keen to complete bespoke training to fulfil their role more effectively.

4.3.5 On the basis of the evidence available at the time of the inspection the organisation has comprehensive arrangements in place for safeguarding children/young people. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued by the Department of Education.

5. Conclusion

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

5.2 The main areas for improvement are the need:

- to develop a robust strategic self-evaluation process to identify and record more effectively the good learning outcomes for the young people and to sustain continuous improvement.

APPENDIX

Total Membership

Age group	4-9		10-15		16-18		19 +		Numbers involved in outreach/detached	TOTAL
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		
2010/11	73	52	172	97	64	56	27	31		572
2011/12	56	50	134	94	22	53	6	18		433
2012/13	79	57	218	140	71	32	24	11		632

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