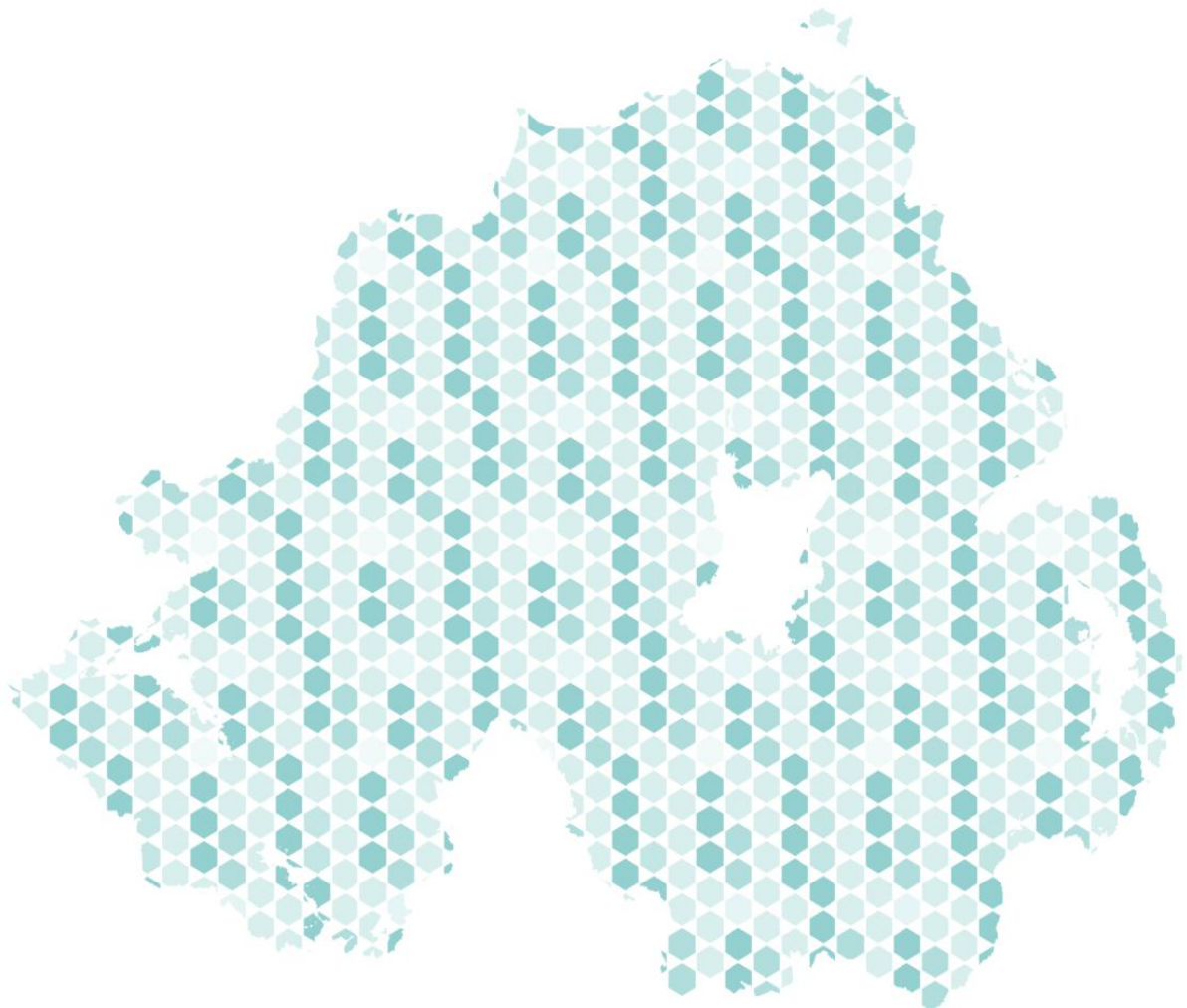


YOUTH INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Caw Youth Centre,
Londonderry

Report of an Inspection in
September 2014



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. Focus of the 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.

2. Context

Caw Youth Centre is a full-time controlled centre in the Western Education and Library Board (WELB). It is situated in the Caw and Nelson Drive estate in the Waterside area of Londonderry. According to statistics provided by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, the area is in the top 18% of the most deprived wards in Northern Ireland.

A number of local community organisations, including a parents and toddlers group, use the centre each week. The centre has youth provision six evenings and two afternoons each week with specific activities and programmes for: primary; intermediate; and senior age groups, including extended provision for senior members at the week-end.

The full-time centre-based youth worker has been in post since November 2013 and has an outreach role that is currently postponed until the appointment of a part-time youth support worker-in-charge of the youth centre. In addition, there are two part-time youth support workers-in-charge of the extended provision, and the primary section respectively, supported by seven part-time members of staff and three volunteers. The current advisory committee have recognised the need to recruit additional members from among local representatives, parents and young people.

3. Overall findings of the inspection

Overall effectiveness	Satisfactory
Achievements and standards	Satisfactory
Provision	Inadequate
Leadership and management	Satisfactory

4. Achievements and standards

- In most of the sessions observed the young people enjoy good relationships and form positive friendships with one another. In the past year a small number of senior members have successfully completed accredited training in: personal and social development; drugs and alcohol awareness; and fitness training. The centre staff recognise and celebrate the young people's accredited achievements.
- Across the three specific age groups, there is too wide a variation in the young people's achievement of personal attitudes, values and self-confidence. In the primary age group the young people demonstrate good levels of motivation and

enjoy the activities that develop their creative and thinking skills. The recent introduction of the positive behaviour programme is helping the young people in the primary club manage their behaviours in a positive and creative way.

- A minority of the senior members use their newly acquired skills effectively as volunteers in the primary club. They attend regularly, demonstrate a high degree of commitment to the centre and value the opportunity to enhance their employability skills.
- In the intermediate and senior sections, the majority of the young people are not able to articulate their learning or recognise the connections between their formal and informal education. There are too few opportunities for the young people to reflect critically on their own learning and to develop further social skills that will assist them in resolving conflict and confrontation more effectively.

5. Provision

- In the significant minority of the sessions observed the quality of the youth work was effective. Almost all of the programmes observed have planning in place, linked to the centre's action plan to guide the youth work.
- In the more effective practice, the programmes and activities were well matched to the young people's needs and abilities. The staff demonstrated good facilitation skills that kept the young people interested and engaged.
- In the less effective practice, the facilitation and delivery of the sessions did not motivate or engage the young people in meaningful learning. The involvement of the young people in the planning, delivery and evaluation of the programmes was minimal. There is a need for more structure, focus and shorter time frame to help engage the young people and facilitate learning more effectively. The staff need to develop alternative and differentiated intervention strategies for those young people who have additional learning needs.
- The curriculum provision for the intermediate and senior sections is not meeting effectively the needs of the current membership. The staff have identified the need to develop further the overall youth work provision, and to evaluate the impact of it more effectively to ensure it meets the needs of the young people.
- There is an urgent need to support the young people, particularly those who attend the intermediate and senior sections, to ensure they develop a range of coping strategies and resilience skills to manage their own behaviour effectively and enable them to overcome personal and social development barriers to learning.
- The centre provides a welcoming and comfortable environment for the young people. The staff know the young people and their families well. Almost all of the members stated that they felt safe in the centre and are aware of the availability of staff if they have any concerns about their safety and well-being. The staff, however, need to develop more positive working relationships with a majority of the senior members to engage them more effectively in the centre's programmes.

6. Leadership and management

- The management of the WELB, members of the advisory committee, and the staff demonstrate a commitment to the improvement of the quality of the youth work provision; they provide ongoing practical support and challenge to promote and develop the youth provision within the area.
- The centre's Curriculum Delivery Agreement, completed by the full-time youth worker, reflects accurately the issues facing the young people and is based on a detailed analysis of relevant local information and data. There is a need, however, to prioritise and plan for realistic measurable outcomes which will address the identified needs of the young people more appropriately, within the current staffing constraints.
- The full-time youth worker has made important links with formal education. The transition work with a local primary school was effective and prepared the pupils well for their introduction to post-primary school. In addition the Growing Learning and Development¹ programme facilitated by the full-time youth worker is meeting effectively the needs of a specific group of year 12 pupils from a local post-primary school.
- The staff benefit from good support and encouragement through regular staff meetings and individual supervision sessions. The full-time youth worker makes good use of these opportunities to further build capacity among the staff. Three of the staff are currently engaged in relevant professional qualifications. While, the part-time staff team has experienced a high staff turnover in recent years and is small, they have remained enthusiastic about their work.
- The WELB's current monitoring and the centre's self-evaluation processes do not focus sufficiently on identifying and recording the young people's outcomes.
- The staff and management need to work more effectively with external partners and relevant professionals including educational support staff, to avail of their expertise and experience, to add value and meet the diverse needs of the young people.
- The centre has satisfactory arrangements in place for safeguarding children and young people. These arrangements broadly reflect the guidance issued by the Department of Education, but the following areas need to be addressed: the new designated worker, and the deputy designated worker need to receive updated safeguarding training as soon as possible, and parents and members need to be aware of the changes and contact details of the designated staff.

Areas for improvement

There is a need to:

- prioritise and plan for realistic measurable outcomes to address the identified needs of the young people more appropriately;

¹ The Growing, Learning and Development (GLAD) programme provides young people aged 14–17 with the opportunity to gain GCSEs in the more informal setting of a youth centre.

- to evaluate the impact of the youth work provision more effectively to ensure it meets the needs of the young people; and
- support the young people, particularly those who attend the intermediate and the senior section, to ensure they develop a range of coping strategies and resilience to manage their own behaviour effectively.

7. Conclusion

In most of the areas inspected, the quality of the overall provision for the young people in Caw Youth Centre is satisfactory; the strengths outweigh areas for improvement in the provision. The inspection has identified areas for improvement, particularly in the quality of provision, which need to be addressed if the needs of all the young people are to be met more effectively.

The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor and report on the organisation's progress in addressing the areas for improvement over a 12-24 month period.

Total membership

Age group	4-9		10-15		16-18		19 +		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
2010/11	28	23	52	32	22	13	6	0	176
2011/12	32	33	45	31	20	5	2	0	168
2012/13	22	26	37	31	10	7	2	0	135
2013/14	24	17	25	21	20	9	1	0	117

Health and safety

- Lack of secure access at the front door needs to be reviewed.

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