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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



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Education and Training Inspectorate

Area-Based Inspection

Belfast Metropolitan College

March 2009

AREA-BASED INSPECTION - WEST BELFAST AREA 2009: STRATEGIC PLANNING, COHERENCE IN LEARNING EXPERIENCES AND TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an area-based inspection in Belfast Metropolitan College during March 2009.

The strengths and areas for improvement were identified as follows.

Strengths include:

- the significant contribution of the College to the provision of further and higher education in West Belfast;
- the excellent progression routes provided to a wide range of further and higher education courses; and
- the very good examples of flexible and effective collaborative work to provide 14-19 vocational training, particularly in catering and hospitality, through the Junior Chef Academy, and in Irish Medium Education.

Areas for Improvement are the need to:

- implement more robust approaches to planning to ensure that the college, as a key provider of learning pathways for pupils in West Belfast, becomes a central partner in the key strategic planning groups for education and training in West Belfast, particularly the West Belfast Area Learning Community;
- develop further the collaborative arrangements between the college and the schools to share information on both the Vocational Enhancement Programme and on full-time students, and address issues related to standards of literacy and numeracy in the West Belfast area; and
- take action to address the inadequate resources in the Whiterock Centre for hairdressing and beauty courses, including the use of information and learning technology to support learning and teaching.

The overall composite report for the area-based inspection raises some important recurring areas for improvement. While these are not applicable in all the individual organisations, they are nevertheless important to address across the West Belfast area.

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