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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**

### **Seven Towers Training Ballymena**

**March 2009**

## **AREA-BASED INSPECTION - BALLYMENA AREA 2009: STRATEGIC PLANNING, COHERENCE IN LEARNING EXPERIENCES AND TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI), carried out an area-based inspection in Seven Towers Training during March 2009.

### **The strengths include:**

- the very good care, guidance and support provided for trainees to facilitate their personal development and career planning;
- the very good range of learning experiences provided for apprentices and trainees in engineering and hairdressing to develop relevant occupational skills;
- the outstanding partnership with a local manufacturing company to provide school leavers with progression opportunities to an apprenticeship in engineering; and
- the good to very good standards of work achieved by most apprentices and trainees.

### **The areas for improvement include the need to:**

- develop appropriate arrangements with local post-primary schools to ensure that there is effective sharing of reliable information, in order to effectively support trainee progression;
- develop links with local learning partnerships, and the workforce development forum in order to contribute to strategic planning for education and training within the area; and
- develop more effective links and better communication with parents, particularly with regard to information on child protection, information on training programmes options and career pathways, and to improve attendance and retention on the training programmes.

While a few specific areas for improvement have been identified in this report, the composite report from the area-based inspection raises broader issues which need to be addressed by all of the schools and organisations visited.

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