

## 11. ART AND DESIGN

**Performance Level:** Good

**Areas inspected: Further Education Provision**

- Full-time further education art and design courses at levels 2 and 3.

### CONTEXT

11.1 The College provides an appropriate range of full-time art and design courses at levels 2 and 3 which provide learners with good opportunities to progress to higher level programmes. One and two-year programmes are provided at level 3. The majority of learners who achieve a level 3 qualification progress to art and design related higher education courses. At the time of the inspection, 169 learners were registered on art and design programmes at the College; recruitment to the level 2 provision, however, is too low accounting for just 13% of the total enrolments.

**The quality of the leadership and management is good.**

11.2 The head of school and curriculum area manager provide good leadership. They are highly supportive of the course teams and, within a challenging time scale, have already identified and begun to address key areas for improvement. To this end, for example, a review of the curriculum has resulted in decisive action to streamline the excessive range of courses, in order to improve the rigour of the recruitment process and to help address the undue variation in retention rates across the programmes. At course team level, the self-evaluation process, properly informed by the analysis of key performance data, is under-developed. In addition, course teams are not sufficiently involved in the improvement planning process and consequently action planning is not sufficiently robust to consistently effect improvement. Course co-ordinators demonstrate their high level of commitment to the learners in the effective management of their respective courses, despite the insufficient time allocated to the role. The imbalance in the ratio of full-time to associate lecturers presents additional challenges in ensuring better cohesion in course co-ordination.

**The quality of the provision for learning is good.**

11.3 The quality of teaching and learning is very good in the majority (67%) of the sessions observed and good in the remainder. The better sessions are characterised by a good range of teaching approaches, including effective one-to-one guidance and support, practical demonstrations and group critiques. The learners benefit from good pastoral support which is complemented well by effective careers advice and guidance delivered by their tutors, most of whom are practising artists and designers. There is an appropriate focus on the use of drawing and first hand research to develop ideas through sketch books and design sheets, and good opportunities for learners to develop their practical skills to a level where they can be applied creatively in the production of high quality work.

**Achievements and standards are good.**

11.4 The learners are highly motivated and almost all are committed to pursuing careers within the creative industries. They develop very good communication skills and high levels of self-awareness and confidence. Whilst the overall retention rate is good at 72%, there is undue variation in the retention rates across the courses on offer. The achievement rate for the learners who complete their art and design course is outstanding at 95% and the overall progression rate for these learners to higher programmes or employment is also outstanding.

**Table of Achievements (over the last two years)**

Course Type	Completion Year 2011			Completion Year 2012			Two Year Average		
	Ret (%)	Ach (%)	Succ (%)	Ret (%)	Ach (%)	Succ (%)	Ret (%)	Ach (%)	Succ (%)
Full-Time Courses at Level 2	67	100	67	63	100	63	65	100	65
Full-Time Courses at Level 3	80	92	73	65	99	65	73	95	69
Part-Time Courses at Level 3	100	100	100	-	-	-	100	100	100
Overall	79	92	73	65	99	64	72	95	69