

## 12. CHILDCARE (EARLY YEARS)

**Performance Level:** Very Good

### **Areas Inspected:**

- Full-time and part-time further education level 2 and level 3 courses in children's care, learning and development and playwork.

### CONTEXT

12.1 The College offers a broad and balanced curriculum in childcare, for full-time and part-time learners, with good progression opportunities for them at all levels. Enrolments have remained steady with just over 200 learners enrolling each year on children's care and playwork programmes.

### **The quality of leadership and management is very good.**

12.2 The head of school, curriculum area managers and course co-ordinators manage the provision effectively; there is a strong sense of collegiality amongst the staff and roles and responsibilities are clearly defined. The staff are provided with very good opportunities for continual professional development to ensure high standards are maintained. Good links and communication have been developed with schools and other stakeholders to ensure high quality work placements for the learners. Through the self-evaluation process, the management team have identified appropriately the strengths and areas for improvement within the provision. There is appropriate ongoing monitoring of the quality of the planning by course teams and of the quality of the learners' work.

### **The quality of provision for learning is very good.**

12.3 The quality of the teaching and learning is a strength of the provision; it is noteworthy that 67% of the sessions observed were very good or better and the remainder were good. In the most effective practice, the lecturers demonstrate a good knowledge of their subject and provide well-planned opportunities for the learners to engage in whole class, paired and group discussions. These sessions are underpinned by a good use of ILT to engage the learners and the learning resources provided for them are of a high quality. An appropriate emphasis is placed on the development of the learners' spoken and written communication skills and in the best practice there is good evidence of marking for improvement in their portfolios of evidence. The lecturers know the learners well and make very good efforts to support them and meet their individual needs. Good curricular links have been established with other colleges and relevant stakeholders, which are used well to maintain levels of staff expertise, share practice and develop further aspects of the work.

### **The achievements and standards are very good.**

12.4 In the taught sessions, most of the learners participate enthusiastically; they engage readily with their peers and share to good effect the learning from their work placement experiences. Their communication skills are mostly good; most of them can engage in meaningful discussions and are able and confident when presenting their findings to the whole group. Almost all of the learners take pride in their work and most of the portfolios of evidence contain a high standard of work. The learners are well-informed about potential career pathways and the standards required to successfully progress. The overall outcomes on level 2 and level 3 childcare programmes are very high; over the past two years, the overall rate of retention is very good at 88% and the achievement rate is outstanding at 95%.

**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 (%)
Part-Time Courses at Level 2	83	100	83	100	80	80	95	85	81
Full-Time Courses at Level 2	89	88	78	90	95	85	90	91	82
Full-Time Courses at Level 3	80	99	78	85	100	85	82.5	99	82
Part-Time Courses at Level 3	90	96	94	93	92	85	94	93	88
Overall	87	94	82	89	95	85	88	95	84