

YOUTH INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Ardcarnet Youth Centre,
Belfast

Report of a Follow-up Inspection
in October 2018



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

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FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF ARDCARNET YOUTH CENTRE

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection¹ of Ardcarnet youth centre in March 2017, which concluded that the centre needed to address the following important areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners:

- review and evaluate the current action plan to ensure that the key actions for improvement are measurable and in particular inform future curriculum planning;
- engage and retain more young people and develop appropriate leadership pathways; and
- increase the number of volunteers and develop more effective support and supervision structures for the part-time staff.

The action plans were submitted prior to the follow-up inspection and outlined the specific actions that the centre was taking and intended to take in response to the findings in the inspection report. The ETI were presented with an updated version of the action plan at the follow-up inspection.

The ETI carried out an interim follow-up visit in November 2017, met with staff and representatives of the Education Authority and conducted a follow-up inspection in October 2018.

In the interval since the original inspection, the following actions and changes which affect the work of the project have taken place:

- the Education Authority has redefined the geographical boundaries of youth services across Northern Ireland and Ardcarnet youth centre now moves into the Belfast North and East area;
- there is a new management structure from 1 September 2018 comprising of a senior youth officer and senior youth worker/team leader;
- the role and functions of the post has changed since the inspection with the youth support worker-in-charge has left the post and the area youth worker now managing Ardcarnet youth centre;
- the building has been refurbished and was completed in June 2017;
- a new controlled delivery agreement has been drawn up in line with the new area plan based on the needs of the identified needs of young people in the area;
- a new target monitor is in place to assist with the monitoring and evaluation of the project; and
- the staffing cohort has increased to staffing complement has increased from 3 to 5 part-time youth support workers:

¹ <https://www.etini.gov.uk/publications/youth-inspection-ardcarnet-youth-centre-belfast>

Key findings

- The new controlled delivery agreement and action plan has been reviewed appropriately to include a needs assessment of 178 young people in Tullycarnet with key actions recorded through a target monitor system which are linked to the area plan and to the 'Priorities for Youth' youth work policy.
- The membership of the centre has increased from 97, during the original inspection, to 153 currently. There are now appropriate pathways to leadership through the different age group with initiatives including junior peer mentors through to 'Leaders in Training'. A broader and more balanced curriculum is now on offer including healthy eating programmes, work with post-primary schools and opportunities for young people to develop cross community and cross cultural links.
- The process for support and supervision for staff is clear with timetabled meetings for the year. Staff have received training on a number of issues including a session of group work training.

Overall Effectiveness

The Ardarnet youth centre demonstrates the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interests of all the learners. The ETI will monitor how the organisation sustains improvement.

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