



The Education and Training Inspectorate
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Department of Education
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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection of the

Essential Skills Provision

in

Belfast Central Training

June 2016

FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION OF THE ESSENTIAL SKILLS PROVISION IN BELFAST CENTRAL TRAINING

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of the Training for Success and ApprenticeshipsNI provision in Belfast Central Training in April 2015 when the overall effectiveness of the essential skills provision was evaluated as satisfactory.

The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas of the essential skills provision:

- the development and embedding of the role of the co-ordinator and the provision of a range of appropriate continuing professional development opportunities for the co-ordinator and the essential skills team;
- the quality and the impact of learning, teaching and training;
- the contextualisation, integration and embedding of the essential skills across the full range of the curriculum, and the more effective development of the transferability of the essential skills across the professional and technical areas;
- the further development of the cycle of tutor observations and the use of the outcomes of the observation process to bring about improvement in the teaching, training and learning; and
- the strengthen of the self-evaluation and quality improvement planning processes for the essential skills and the inclusion within them of a more robust, data informed, and evidence based, evaluation of the impact of teaching and training on learning and progression.

The ETI evaluated the improvement plan which was submitted by Belfast Central Training following the original inspection, and the ETI acknowledged the positive response that the organisation had made, and planned to make, regarding the areas for improvement identified in the report.

The interim follow-up visit was carried out by the ETI in October 2015 and the follow-up inspection took place in June 2016.

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

- the essential skills co-ordinator and one essential skills tutor have been supported by the organisation to undertake relevant external staff development in relation to the essential skills;
- the organisation has continued to develop and embed the role of the essential skills co-ordinator;
- the focus on improving the quality of learning, teaching and training has been strengthened systematically;
- a cycle of peer observations for tutors has been implemented to support the development of practice; and

- the self-evaluation and quality improvement planning processes for the essential skills have been developed to include input from all of the essential skills team.

Key Findings

- The high level of commitment to improvement demonstrated by the senior management and evidenced by the significant investment in staff development for the essential skills co-ordinator and one tutor.
- The improved management and co-ordination of the essential skills provision.
- The implementation of the peer observation process in essential skills and the use of the outcomes of this process to plan for improvement in practice. This should be developed further and include a more robust analysis of the impact of learning, teaching and training and progression.
- The improved delivery arrangements, including dual staffing arrangements, in the essential skills sessions to improve the trainees' levels of engagement.
- The improving quality of the learning, teaching and training in the essential skills which is now good.
- The more effective contextualisation of the essential skills within the employability aspects of the Training for Success programme.
- The continued focus on the development of self-evaluation and quality improvement planning processes for the essential skills at team level.

Conclusion

The provision for the Essential Skills in Belfast Central Training is now good.

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