



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

Lea Green Primary Referral  
Unit, Glengormley

Report of a Follow-up inspection  
in May 2018



The Education and Training Inspectorate  
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## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF LEA GREEN PRIMARY REFERRAL UNIT, BELFAST, BT37 0LX**

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Lea Green in November 2016<sup>1</sup> which concluded that the unit needed to address important areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners.

The areas for improvement identified in the inspection were the need to:

- develop further the planning for lessons to ensure the targets and strategies within the behaviour plans are communicated to the children consistently based on the progress reports from the referring schools to the unit each week;
- develop individual intensive therapeutic programmes with support from the educational psychology service to address the complex needs and behaviours of the children; and
- ensure all draft policies including the code of conduct for staff are ratified by the governance group and an effective service level agreement is in place with the referring schools.

The centre's action plans were amended and identified key actions to promote improvement were included.

The ETI carried out an interim follow-up visit in November 2017 and a follow-up inspection in May 2018.

In the interval since the first follow-up inspection, the following actions or changes which affect the work of the centre have taken place:

- a permanent regional head of service for primary behaviour support and provision has been appointed;
- staff have been trained and are using a social and emotional baseline assessment system;
- the planning format has been developed since the last inspection; and
- there has been training for staff in the use of the school information monitoring system (SIMS) and circle time.

### **Key Findings**

The outcomes for learners remain an important area for improvement. While the implementation of post-incident learning systems has enabled the children to discuss, reflect and evaluate their behaviours and emotions, the system is at an early stage of development. Further work is required to develop the children's literacy and numeracy skills across the curriculum by ensuring planning by the centre and schools is more consistent. The children have increased opportunities for self-assessment and can identify their strengths and areas for improvement in a range of curricular areas.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.etini.gov.uk/sites/etini.gov.uk/files/publications/eotas-inspection-lea-green-primary-referral-unit-glengormley.pdf>

The provision for learning remains an important area for improvement. While the centre has developed the planning for lessons, and the targets and strategies within the behaviour support plans are apparent, there remains an inconsistent approach to sharing the strategies with the children. Weekly evaluations from the schools inform the planning for support within the centre and progress reports from the referring schools are clearly documented within the shared learning plan. It is important that communication and collaboration between the centre and referring schools is developed further to improve the outcomes for the pupils. The centre, supported by the education psychology service is developing intensive individual therapeutic support programmes to address the complex needs and behaviours of the children, however, this is still at an early stage of development.

The quality and effectiveness of strategic leadership, management and action to promote improvement remains an important area for improvement. The management have recently reviewed a comprehensive planning and monitoring systems with schools and have in place a service level agreement. Management provides a range of professional development opportunities for staff, which informs well the planning for individual needs. However, the revised systems are not yet fully embedded and consequently the effectiveness of the interventions have not been rigorously evaluated. A more robust system to monitor the effectiveness of in-school support is required. The draft policies including the code of conduct for staff have been ratified by the governance group.

### **Overall Effectiveness**

Lea Green Primary referral Unit needs to address important areas for improvement. The follow-up inspection has identified the need to address the following areas for improvement in the interest of all learners:

- to evaluate the effectiveness of the planning and interventions and their impact on the outcomes for the children, particularly in literacy and numeracy; and
- to develop a consistent approach to sharing support strategies with the children.

The ETI will conduct a further follow-up inspection in 12 to 18 months.

**Accommodation**

The exterior of the mobile classroom is in a very poor state of repair with sections of the outer partition of the building damaged, as a result the building is no longer weatherproof and sections of the structure at the time of inspection were exposed with nails protruding.

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