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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**North Coast Integrated College
Coleraine**

December 2007

FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION TO THE AREA INSPECTION OF NORTH COAST INTEGRATED COLLEGE, COLERAINE, CO LONDONDERRY, BT52 2NU (326-0290)

The area inspection in March 2006 highlighted strengths including: the inclusive ethos; the good working relationships between the pupils and the staff; the generally good behaviour of the pupils; the high quality of the pastoral care provision; the examples of good/excellent teaching observed; the strategies used to improve the standards achieved by the pupils; the developing careers provision; and the variety of vocational courses available to the pupils.

The inspection identified the following key areas as areas for improvement:

- the need for more strategic management and stronger leadership from the Principal supported by the senior management team (SMT), to provide a coherent and cohesive vision for the school that promotes improvement in the pupils' learning;
- the need to improve the standards achieved by the pupils in public examinations through more rigorous whole-school monitoring and further development of the useful initiatives that have already begun; and
- the need for rationalisation of the current post-16 provision in order to improve the pupils' learning experiences and to provide better value for the funding made available to the school.

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

- the SMT has been strengthened by the appointment of two new members;
- each member of the SMT has been assigned to work with a number of departments within the school;
- the curriculum for pupils aged 14-16 years has been modified to cater better for the wide range of need and ability in the school; and
- an assertive discipline policy has been implemented in practice.

As part of the follow-up inspection process, the school chose to provide a self-evaluative follow-up report, supported by an appropriate range of evidence. In December 2007, the Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a quality assurance inspection of the developments and the progress made since the area inspection.

The quality of the school's report and the process used to gather the evidence for it are good.

The following are the most important improvements since the original inspection:

- the effective strategies adopted by the Principal and the SMT to monitor provision and the developing culture of self-evaluation across the school;

- the improving results obtained by the pupils in external examinations through, for example, the effective use of strategies, such as target setting;
- the wider curricular choices provided for pupils aged 14-16 years;
- the strong focus on maximising the pupils' learning during lessons;
and
- the rationalisation of post-16 classes and the increased links with neighbouring post-primary schools.

The findings of the follow-up inspection endorse the good work of the Principal and the SMT in leading the development of a self-evaluative culture within the school, and the commitment of the teachers in addressing the areas for improvement. The school has identified appropriately, as a result of its own self-evaluation, its priorities for future development.

The parents, governors and broader community can have confidence in the school's commitment to improvement and the effectiveness of its action in response to the findings of the inspection.

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