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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
Promoting Improvement*



CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

Providing Inspection Services for
**Department of Education
Department for Employment and Learning
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

Roe Valley Community Education Forum

March 2008

A number of quantitative terms are used in the report. In percentages, the terms correspond as follows:

More than 90%	- almost/nearly all
75%-90%	- most
50%-74%	- a majority
30%-49%	- a significant minority
10%-29%	- a minority
Less than 10%	- very few/a small minority

Grading System

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) is piloting a new 6-point grading scale to replace the original 4-point scale as set out below. Where grades are recorded in this report, the grade is given on both the old and the revised scales.

ORIGINAL GRADE	REVISED GRADE	DESCRIPTOR
1	1	Outstanding characterised by excellence.
1	2	Consistently good; major strengths.
2	3	Important strengths in most of provision. Areas for improvement which organisation has the capacity to address.
2	4	Overall sound/satisfactory but with areas for improvement in important areas which need to be addressed.
3	5	A few strengths; significant areas for improvement which require prompt action.
4	6	Poor; major shortcomings which require urgent action.

FOLLOW-UP TO THE NEW DEAL INSPECTION OF ROE VALLEY COMMUNITY EDUCATION FORUM

The original inspection from May 2006 highlighted a number of strengths in the provision. These included the:

- development of a good range of occupational skills on the Full-Time Education and Training, Voluntary Sector Option, Education and Training Option and Environmental Task Force options;
- good retention rate (89%) on the Preparation for Employment Programme option;
- hard work of staff at all levels across the consortium to develop the self-esteem and confidence of participants on all the New Deal options;
- well-planned directed training sessions;
- regular monitoring in the workplace;
- strong emphasis on inclusion at strategic level, promoted and sustained by the lead partner;
- lead partner's effective operational and administrative arrangements; and
- mostly good quality of the accommodation and the range of learning resources across the consortium.

The inspection also identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- progression rates to employment and/or further education across the options;
- inadequate emphasis on the development of Essential Skills to enhance employment opportunities for participants with weaknesses in literacy and numeracy and the need to provide opportunities to gain Essential Skills accreditation, where appropriate, across the provision;
- success rates for participants across the options;

- need to improve the initial assessment processes for participants across the New Deal options;
- need for a more robust and evaluative approach to the recording of participants' progress across the provision;
- need to strengthen self-evaluation and quality assurance procedures, particularly the use of management information to review and plan provision;
- need to develop and implement a coherent programme of Careers Education Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) for all participants;
- need to plan, monitor and review regularly the range of provision to ensure that it is aligned closely to labour market information and to the skills needs of the local economy;
- need to continue to improve disability access facilities across the consortium; and
- need to ensure that all staff are fully trained on all matters relating to the protection of vulnerable adults.

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

- a new general manager was appointed following a recruitment process in 2006;
- the post of New Deal development officer has been enhanced; and
- the membership of the consortium has changed. It continues to be lead by Roe Valley Community Education Forum and includes two of the original partners, the North West Lifelong Learning Association and Rutledge Joblink, and four new partners, the North-West Independent Clinic, the Dry Arch Family Centre, Hands that Talk and Limavady Community Development Initiative.

In March 2008, the Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a follow-up inspection, and the following are the most significant improvements since the original inspection:

- the development of more appropriate management strategies to improve achievement rates and progression to sustained employment;
- the development of improved procedures within the provision for CEIAG including a mentoring support programme for participants, where appropriate;
- the provision of appropriate staff training on matters pertaining to child protection and the protection of vulnerable adults;
- the renewal of links to the local Further Education college to expand the range of available training options for participants across the consortium;

- the effective expansion of the employer base to facilitate wider access to placement and employment opportunities for participants; and
- the expansion of the essential skills provision.

The areas which remain in need of further improvement are the:

- need for the consortium, at a strategic level, to develop a more effective tracking and monitoring system to evaluate the progression and personal development of all participants;
- need to continue to improve the self-evaluation and quality assurance procedures across the consortium;
- further development of the essential skills provision to ensure more effective use of the outcomes of initial assessment to plan for learning within a vocational context; and
- need to continue to improve the disability access facilities across the consortium.

In the areas inspected, Roe Valley Community Education Forum has strengths in key aspects of its educational and training provision. The inspection has identified areas for improvement in important aspects of provision which need to be addressed to meet effectively the needs of all the learners, and the needs of the community and the economy.

The Inspectorate will monitor and report on the organisation's progress in addressing these areas for improvement.

	Original Inspection Grade	Follow-up Inspection Grade
Overall	3	4
Standards and Outcomes	3	4
Quality of Training and Learning	2	4
Leadership and Management	3	4

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