



Education and Training
Inspectorate

European Social Fund provision in
Rural Area Partnership in Derry
(RAPID) Limited

SoFarm Project

Report of a Quality Improvement
Planning Inspection in
November 2019



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
and other commissioning Departments



Introduction

In November 2019, the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out a quality improvement planning inspection of Rural Area Partnership in Derry (RAPID) to evaluate the effectiveness of the project promoter's self-evaluation and quality improvement planning processes. At the last inspection in January 2017, the project promoter demonstrated its capacity to identify and bring about improvement.

Focus of the quality improvement planning inspection

The quality improvement planning inspection focused on the following key areas which the organisation had prioritised for improvement through its self-evaluation and quality improvement planning processes:

- the range of work-experience and employment opportunities available to meet more effectively the diverse ability range of the participants to ensure that they all progress appropriately; and
- the quality of the participants' personal training plans and the associated tracking and monitoring systems used to monitor their progress.

The arrangements for safeguarding were also included.

Key findings

The inspection identified the following key findings:

- The range of work-experience activities for the participants has been broadened and enhanced by the project promoter to include, for example, the rearing of young calves, horticulture activities and firewood processing tasks, all of which are contributing to meeting more effectively their diverse range of abilities and interests. The project promoter has engaged well with a number of local employers which has contributed to the targets for progression into employment being met. The project promoter continues to increase engagement and develop links with a wider range of employers in order to facilitate further work-experience and employment opportunities.
- The pre-entry advice and guidance for the participants is effective and the project promoter maintains good links with the various referral agencies; all of this information is used well to inform the participants' individual training plans. The plans capture well the participants' barriers to learning and employment along with the areas that need to be further developed and the training that they will undertake. The individualised training plans are updated regularly and are used effectively to record progress in skills development and unit achievement. An effective tool is being used to good effect to measure progress in the participants' soft skill outcomes and this also informs the individual training plans. Progress is tracked and monitored regularly by the project officer during review meetings with the relevant staff and action agreed and taken in a timely manner to intervene as required.

Safeguarding

Based on the evidence available at the time of the quality improvement planning inspection, the arrangements for safeguarding participants reflect broadly current legislation and practice. The project promoter, however, needs to:

- update and contemporise its safeguarding policies and procedures, including the documentation to record disclosures; and
- review the safeguarding training for designated staff, and ensure that all training is up-to-date for all of the staff.

Overall Outcome

At the time of the quality improvement planning inspection visit, and in the areas evaluated, the project promoter continues to demonstrate its capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the quality of the provision.

The outcome from this inspection will inform the next steps for the project promoter with regard to the inspection cycle.

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