



Education and Training
Inspectorate

European Social Fund provision in
The Conservation Volunteers

Training for Employment

Report of a Quality Improvement
Planning Inspection in
September 2018

eti

The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
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Introduction

In September 2018, the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out a quality improvement planning inspection of The Conservation Volunteers. The purpose of the inspection was 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 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 project promoter had prioritised for improvement through its self-evaluation and quality improvement planning processes:

- the breadth of the curriculum to meet better the needs of the participants; and
- the more effective use of data and targets to support its quality improvement planning processes.

Key findings

The inspection identified the following key findings:

- in line with its quality improvement plan, the project promoter has very recently introduced a broader range of vocational and professional qualifications in order to improve recruitment, the uptake of accredited training and to meet more effectively the diverse training and progression needs of the participants; and
- while the project promoter's self-evaluation process has identified key areas for improvement which have informed a high-level action plan, the use of data, including incremental measurable targets against which progress can be monitored and evaluated, is underdeveloped. In addition, the action planning process lacks sufficient attention to detail. Consequently, a revised, more comprehensive quality improvement plan is required.

Safeguarding

Based on the evidence available at the time of the quality improvement planning inspection, the arrangements for safeguarding participants reflect broadly the guidance from the Department for the Economy (Department). The project promoter, however, needs to:

- update the written information provided for the participants in order to inform them fully of the organisation's approach to the safeguarding of young people and adults at risk; and
- ensure that the deputy designated person, in addition to the safeguarding of young people and adults at risk training already completed, also completes training for the role of adult safeguarding champion.

Overall Outcome

At the time of the quality improvement planning inspection, and in the areas evaluated, The Conservation Volunteers has not demonstrated sufficient capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the quality of the provision. The ETI will continue to monitor how the project promoter brings about improvement and the Department may consider further action.

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

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