

The Inspection Process

Information for Youth Workers

INSPECTIONS OF YOUTH CENTRES/ORGANISATIONS

Youth centres/organisations are inspected and visited regularly by Inspectors from the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI).

The inspection in your youth centre/organisation will tell you and others about:

- > the quality of the leadership and management of the provision
- > the quality of the programmes what is particularly good and those areas which may need improvement;
- > how well the provision is helping the young people to develop as individuals; and
- > how well the staff members are attending to the young people's care, welfare and safety.

Inspections inform all interested parties, including, parents, the Education Authority, the Voluntary Headquarters Organisations, the Youth Council for Northern Ireland, the Department of Education and the Government, how good the Youth Service in Northern Ireland is and what needs to improve.

WHO INSPECTS?

An inspection team has inspectors who have experience and qualifications in education and/or the Youth Service. Occasionally, an Associate Assessor, who is a current practitioner in the Youth Service, will be part of the team. The Reporting Inspector leads the inspection and is responsible for writing up the report of the findings.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING AN INSPECTION?

During the inspection, the inspectors:

- > observe and evaluate the quality of the programmes across the youth centre/organisation;
- > talk to the young people about the activities and their experiences, including the arrangements for pastoral care, and safeguarding;
- > talk to the youth workers and volunteers about their work in the centre/organisation;
- > evaluate how well the young people participate in activities, and how they help plan, and on occasions, lead the activities;
- > evaluate how well the centre/organisation relates to the parents and the wider community; and
- > evaluate how well the centre/organisation is led and managed.

Two members of the team will talk to small groups of the young people about:

- > the programmes they enjoy in the youth centre/organisation;
- > how the centre/organisation promotes positive behaviour;
- > the skills and knowledge that they gain as a result of their involvement in the centre;
- > how they are supervised during both centre-based and out of centre activities; and
- > how their concerns or worries are dealt with.

HOW CAN I BE INVOLVED IN THE INSPECTION PROCESS?

You can give your views on the quality of the youth centre's/organisation's provision by:

- > meeting with an inspector during the inspection.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER AN INSPECTION?

When the report is published, it will be available on the ETI website at www.etini.gov.uk.

If the report finds that there are important areas for development, a follow-up inspection will take place in the following year.

If you wish to comment on any aspect of the inspection or the report, or to receive any further information about the inspection process, you should write to the Chief Inspector at the address below.

The Chief Inspector, the Reporting Inspector and Inspection Services Branch may be contacted at:

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