

1 December 2010

Mr R Leonard
Headteacher
Park Campus
Gipsy Road
West Norwood
London
SE27 9NP

Dear Mr Leonard

Ofsted 2010–11 survey inspection programme: alternative provision

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 3 November 2010 to look at your unit's use of alternative provision. Please also thank your colleagues from the local authority and providers who took the time to meet with me.

As outlined in my initial letter, the visit had a particular focus on examining the use of alternative provision for pupils who are vulnerable to underachieving, and the impact this has on the outcomes for these pupils.

The visit provided valuable information which will contribute to our national evaluation and reporting. Published reports are likely to list the names of the contributing institutions but individual institutions will not be identified in the main text without their consent.

This letter briefly summarises our discussion at the end of the visit.

Outcomes

- Through attending alternative providers, students have gained a range of Level 1 and Level 2 vocational awards.
- Students are positive about their placements. They recognise that they are developing knowledge and skills in various subjects such as in music, carpentry, art and fashion. The majority feel that they are gaining skills that they will build upon in their future training or work. Their attendance at the alternative providers is high.
- Through their placements some students have developed ongoing links to community organisations.

Selecting and commissioning

- Park Campus works with a wide variety of partners to broaden the curriculum offer on-site and off-site.
- Through targeted programmes, such as the 'Schools' Engagement Programme' and 'Young and Safe', Park Campus offers tailored opportunities to individual young people.
- The offer and experience of taster sessions helps many students to make an informed choice of a particular course.

Monitoring, evaluation and support

- All providers are subject to quality assurance checks by the local authority. The 'Young and Safe' Project commissions community organisations to deliver outcomes for groups or individuals.
- Students feel well supported by providers. Those on targeted programmes are supported well by a named member of Park Campus staff who ensures that progress is monitored, work remains appropriate and that students remain part of the 'Park family'.
- Close working relationships with providers and campus staff as well as detailed knowledge of each student's needs mean that any problems can be tackled quickly. Attendance is monitored carefully. Providers report on progress regularly.
- Park Campus has a wealth of evidence of the outcomes and anecdotal knowledge of how well students are progressing. It recognises that improving the tracking of students' development of skills and knowledge in the alternative provision has the potential to ensure more consistent challenge to students and more effective evaluation of different provision.

I hope that these observations are useful as you continue to develop alternative provision in the unit.

As I explained previously, a copy of this letter will be published on the Ofsted website. It may be used to inform decisions about any future inspection. A copy of this letter is also being sent to your local authority.

Yours sincerely

Stephen McShane
Her Majesty's Inspector