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Angela Cox  
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Dear Angela

**Ofsted inspection of ITE provision leading to Awarding Body qualifications in the lifelong learning/further education sector**

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave when I inspected your provision on w/c 16 January, for the time you gave to our telephone discussions and for the information which you provided before and during the inspection.

The visit provided valuable information which will contribute to our national evaluation and to a published national overview report. This report will identify the overall quality of provision leading to Awarding Body qualifications and identify the overall strengths and areas for development. However, in line with previous practice, inspectors will not make graded judgements of the quality of the provision in each centre; they will evaluate and feed back identified strengths and any points for further development. These are outlined below for your centre.

The published overview report will list the names of the contributing institutions but individual institutions will not be identified in the main text.

**Outcomes for trainees**

Success rates are high across all programmes and for all modes of delivery. During 2010/11 success rates for Certificate in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector (CTLLS) programmes overall were around ten percentage points above national averages. On some individual programmes during the past three years success rates have exceeded national averages by as much

as twenty percentage points. On Preparation to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (PTLLS) programmes, success rates are just above a high national average. Retention rates are high for all modes of delivery, averaging 95% across the past three years.

Trainees make at least good and sometimes very rapid progress from their starting points. Progression between PTLLS and CTLLS programmes is good, and shows a rising trend across the past three years. In 2009/10 and 2010/11, around 50% of trainees from CTLLS programmes progressed to certificate in education (Cert. Ed.) or professional graduate certificate in education (PGCE) provision. Many trainees entering the college to pursue only a PTLLS award have progressed to higher level awards, including Cert. Ed., PGCE, or a BA (Hons) in post-compulsory education and training (PCET) at the college's linked higher education institution.

### **Key strengths identified during the visit:**

- good alignment of ITE team and programmes with the quality and innovation team to play a core role in college quality improvement strategies
- high success and retention rates for all modes of delivery, with success rates around ten percentage points above national average
- very good progression across awarding body qualifications and from awarding body qualifications to higher education institution awards at graduate and post-graduate levels
- trainees make at least good and often very rapid progress from their starting points
- Trainees demonstrate a very good understanding of their own progress and development
- trainees have high personal and professional standards in their approaches to the courses and their learners
- feedback on assignments and after lesson observation is at least good, and sometimes excellent, with the finest examples identifying and correcting stylistic, grammatical and other technical errors.

### **Areas for development identified during the visit:**

- develop trainers' understanding of the wider lifelong learning sector so that they may in turn broaden trainees' understandings.

As explained in the inspection guidance, a copy of this letter will be published on the Ofsted website. It will also be available to the team for your next inspection.

Many thanks for your hospitality and co-operation during my visit.

Yours sincerely

**Richard Beynon**

**Her Majesty's Inspector**