

RE-INSPECTION MONITORING OF STRATFORD-UPON-AVON COLLEGE

Published November 2004

OUTCOME OF RE-INSPECTION

The provision of work-based learning in the curriculum area of health, social care and public services is now **satisfactory**.

BACKGROUND

Stratford-upon-Avon College was inspected in January 2003. Inspectors from the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) and the Adult Learning Inspectorate (ALI) carried out the inspection under Section 62 of the Learning and Skills Act. The quality of provision was found to be satisfactory or better in all areas inspected, except in work-based learning in health, social care and public services, which was found to be unsatisfactory.

Ofsted and the ALI have particular duties in relation to colleges where their inspection report indicates that individual curriculum and/or work-based learning (WBL) areas are unsatisfactory or very weak or where leadership and management are unsatisfactory or very weak. Where a college has been judged to have less than satisfactory leadership and management, or less than satisfactory provision in solely WBL, inspectors from Ofsted or the ALI will visit the college to carry out monitoring inspections of the less than satisfactory areas. As a result of the re-inspection monitoring visits, inspectors may judge that previously less than satisfactory areas of provision, or leadership and management, are now satisfactory and that no further visits are required. Where leadership and management are satisfactory, but there is curriculum provision that is less than satisfactory, there will be no monitoring visits. All less than satisfactory provision will be re-inspected, normally during one week, within two years of the original inspection.

If, after approximately 24 months, the college has not made sufficient progress to justify a judgement that the curriculum or WBL area or leadership and management are satisfactory, the original grade for the area that continues to be unsatisfactory will remain on the college's record until the next full inspection within the cycle. Ofsted will inform the local LSC that provision remains unsatisfactory and the reasons why.

DATE OF THE RE-INSPECTION MONITORING VISITS

In accordance with the above procedures, re-inspection monitoring visits of work-based learning in health, social care and public services took place on 21 to 22 October 2003, 28 to 29 April 2004 and a final visit on 1 to 2 of November 2004.

HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC SERVICES

In the January 2003 inspection, the quality of work-based learning provision in this area was judged to be unsatisfactory. The following weakness was identified in the inspection report:

Weakness

- Poor pass rates on work-based learning programmes

Following the re-inspection monitoring visits, inspectors judged that progress has been made in addressing the above weaknesses and that work-based learning provision in this area is now **satisfactory**.

Retention rates have improved and are satisfactory. Fewer learners leave the programmes early than in previous years. Of those who started in the year 2003/04, only one has left the Foundation Modern Apprenticeship (FMA) programme early, and only five of the 46 who started have left the NVQ programme.

Pass rates are satisfactory. Of those who started all programmes in the three years between 2001/02 and 2003/04 and are no longer in learning, half have achieved an NVQ. This is a significant improvement since the original inspection where inspectors reported that for the last three years few learners had achieved an NVQ.

The college is making effective use of Entry to Employment (E2E) provision as an entry route to early years programmes. Learners cover and pass some units of the early years level 2 NVQ and key skills on the E2E programme. Of those learners following this option in 2003/04, 83 percent have progressed on to a full NVQ level 2 programme. All are making satisfactory or better progress.

Progress towards achievement for those who started NVQ programmes in health and social care in 2003/04 is satisfactory. Six learners have completed successfully. Of the 35 remaining on programme, most are progressing at an appropriate pace towards completion. Standards of work in learners' portfolios of evidence are satisfactory or better.

Framework completion rates for 2002/03 starters on FMAs in both early years care and education, and in social care, are lower than those in 2001/02. However, more than half of learners starting in these two years have successfully achieved the NVQ element of the framework at level 2. Of those who started FMAs in 2003/04, all have achieved the technical certificate, and key skills where applicable, and are making satisfactory progress towards completion of their NVQ.

Many learners on all programmes achieve useful additional qualifications such as first aid and food hygiene certificates.

The college has made significant improvements to the tracking of learners' progress and the frequency of assessor visits to learners' workplaces. Assessment planning has improved. Assessors negotiate realistic targets for element and unit achievement for learners.

There will be no further monitoring visits of the college because there are no remaining unsatisfactory areas.