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26th November 2008

Angie Boyes
Head of Training
The Vocational College
1 Dacre Street
Liverpool
L20 8DN

Dear Ms Boyes

Ofsted survey inspection programme – Moving through the system

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 9 October to look at work on developing the future economic well-being of learners on your E2E programme. I also looked at how well arrangements are made to support learners as they progress from your programme.

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.

The evidence used to inform the judgements made included: interviews with staff and learners, observation of training and analysis of documentation and learners' files and portfolios.

Overall, your work in developing the future economic well-being of learners is good. Progression to further education, training or employment is good. Learners are aware of the work related skills that are required to gain and maintain employment. They are well supported by staff in both their job search and job related skills, obtaining and maintaining further education, training or employment and in the development of personal and social skills.

Features of effective practice:

- The embedding of vocational specific skills in class-based activities is effective. Learners have a good understanding that there are class-based skills that need to be achieved if they are to be successful in work.
- The support offered to individuals on commencing the programme is good. This support includes a range of staff who support personal and work issues, a new youth access point and effective regular links with Connexions.
- There is good support for the transition to employment and/or training. A progression officer works with employers and tutors to identify work readiness, and encourages employers to reinforce the need for achieving appropriate skills and qualifications before they offer employment.



Areas for further improvement, which we discussed, include:

- Learners are prepared for future economic well-being by virtue of the E2E curriculum but it is not fully integrated into programme delivery, policy or practice.
- Teaching is satisfactory, but is led by a prescriptive programme that is over reliant on worksheets with too little interaction and opportunity for learners to discuss and debate.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop the E2E curriculum and economic well-being in your organisation.

As I explained, a copy of this letter will be sent to your local authority and will be published on the Ofsted website. It will also be available to the team for your next inspection.

Yours sincerely

Alun Maddocks
Additional inspector

