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Denise Newcomb  
Prostart  
Long Eaton

Dear Denise

Ofsted Good Practice Survey Programme 2008/09

An evaluation of adult progression in learning

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation during my visit on the 19th of February 2009. I am particularly grateful to you and all your staff for the hard work involved in preparing for the visit and for giving up a great deal of time during the visit to meet with me. Please pass on my thanks to all those concerned.

The visit provided much useful evidence which will contribute to our national evaluation and reporting for the Adult Progression survey, as well as a wider survey we are carrying out on progression, titled 'Moving Through The System'.

The evidence used to inform the judgements made on this one-day visit included: interviews with staff, scrutiny of the examples of good practice provided and a review of a range of documents.

Overall, the progression rates and arrangements to facilitate adult progression provided by Prostart are good. I agreed to provide a summary of the good practice seen and to identify some areas for development, and I outline the main findings as bulleted points below.

The main strengths are:

- High success rates

Prostart has high success rates across its programme which it has maintained since its last inspection. More specifically, in the current contract year 78% of entry to employment (E2E) learners have a positive destination. Success rates in work-based learning are 83% with 74% timely. Eighty five percent of learners in Train to Gain programmes succeed of which 77% are timely.

- Well structured curriculum

Prostart has a well structured curriculum with programmes offered ranging from those for 14-19 year old school children to those for advanced apprenticeships and programmes for adults. This structure enables learners to progress within Prostart throughout their learning journey within an organisation that they understand.

- Strong partnership working

Prostart participates in strong partnership working. Partnerships include working with Connexions, well established links with other local providers and a good network of employers who are best able to support learners with learning and social difficulties.

- High level of performance monitoring of progression activities

Learner progression and development is monitored on a weekly basis at the staff meetings. Interventions identified as key to success and progression are monitored by a quality reviewer. Support for learners is well structured and includes considerable one to one time for those learners with most needs.

Areas for further development

- To continue to develop information systems for external progression

Prostart collects and analyses data which measures learners progression well. However, other types of progression within Prostart, for instance, that of learners progressing to other provision or progressing in their employment is not well recorded or analysed.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop your adult provision. If there are any points or aspects of the visit you wish to discuss, please contact me. As we will be evaluating the survey, you may be contacted in the future to find out your views. I hope you will contribute to this evaluation.

As I explained in my previous letter, a copy of this letter will be published on the Ofsted Website.

Yours sincerely

Maxine Mayer HMI