

Perth College Learner Report

What is an HMIE Review?

It is an independent review of the quality of provision in Scotland's colleges by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education. The reviews concentrate on 2 aspects: one is the leadership and quality management in the college and the other focuses on specific subject areas offered and assesses the quality of learning and teaching and the outcomes for students in those areas. Each of these aspects is graded using a 4 point scale, ranging from very good to unsatisfactory.

When was Perth College reviewed?

In March 2008.

What happened during the review?

18 reviewers visited the college for a full week and during that time they observed learning and teaching and held discussions with students and staff. They examined information on a wide variety of topics, such as student attainment and the College's operational and strategic plans. They met with members of the Board of Management, community groups, partners and employers that work with the College as well as eating in the College refectory and viewing and assessing all the facilities available to students.

Which subject areas were reviewed?

The subject areas covered by the review were:

Art and Design
Care
Construction
Engineering
Hairdressing, Beauty and Complementary Therapies
Hospitality
Special Programmes

What was the outcome of the review?

All the grades we were given in this review were either Good or Very Good. This shows a consistently high standard of performance across the board. The reviewers agreed with us that the College is well managed and is improving the quality of its services for learners. They also expressed confidence that we have in place effective learning and teaching processes and that our learners progress well and achieve appropriate outcomes, overall.

We were particularly pleased that the guidance and support we provide to our learners and the resources for learning and teaching were given a Very Good rating. Giving our students the very best experience possible is extremely important to us and we are constantly working to improve all aspects of this experience.

Our teaching staff in all the subject areas reviewed (see above) were found to be well qualified and highly focussed on learner needs. Our staff made constructive use of feedback to support and encourage learning. The reviewers noted that we give a high priority to obtaining learner views and we effectively analyse learner feedback.

What happens next?

The reviewers identified some points for action and improvement. In response to these we will further develop our business planning process and ensure that we fully comply with legislation on inclusion and equality. We will also consider ways to improve accessibility for all learners within our campus and implement suggestions such as improving the induction and evaluation of staff development for teaching staff. We will consult with our students on effective ways to evaluate our learning and teaching processes and will identify specific targets for improvement in all of these areas. A particular area where we are planning to focus our improvement strategy is in learner attainment and achievement. We aim to ensure that all our learners leave the college with a recognised award and enhanced skills and wider achievements. Where a student leaves without gaining a full recognised award, they will have enhanced transferable skills to equip them for employment as well as partial award successes.

Conclusion

We welcome this review because it gave us an opportunity to demonstrate what we do really well and to identify and take action in areas where we could do even better. If you would like to read the report in more detail, you will find it on the HMIE website: www.hmie.gov.uk.