



Doncaster CVS

Quality Systems



The Common Inspection Framework

Overview:

The Common Inspection Framework looks at the quality of education and training, standards achieved by those receiving education and training and whether financial resources made available to those providing education and training are managed effectively and used in a way which provides value for money. The common inspection framework applies to the inspection of provision funded by the Learning and Skills Council, and the funding bodies that will succeed it, and the Department for Work and Pensions. This provision is provided by:

- Further education colleges, sixth-form colleges and independent specialist colleges.
- Independent learning providers
- Local authorities
- Employers
- Not-for-profit organisations
- Higher education institutions providing further education.

Inspection of sixth forms in maintained schools is covered by the school inspection framework, which shares common inspection grade characteristics with the common inspection framework. The different types of provision inspected under the common inspection framework include:

- Education and training for learners aged 16 -18 and 19+
- Apprenticeships and Train to Gain
- Informal adult learning
- Nextstep
- Learning provision in the judicial services
- Employability programmes.

Benefits:

All learners' have the right to be supported in the best possible way, and funders' need to be able to justify the use of their money. Equally, organisations' owe a duty to themselves, their staff and their clients to deliver the best and highest quality services possible. This means that mechanisms to ensure high quality and continuous improvement are essential, not only to satisfy the current inspection regimes, but also to allow organisations' to develop and move on.



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Key Criteria:

Ofsted believe that inspection is something that they do 'with' providers rather than 'to' them and that it should be a collaborative, transparent process. Consequently, the lead inspector works closely with the provider's nominee, involving them in planning and keeping them fully informed.

The provider's nominee can sit in at all inspector team meetings and see how inspectors come to their judgements and grades and is then usually well placed to lead further improvements following inspection. In this way, the role of the nominee cements the links between self assessment, action-planning, independent inspection and continuous improvement. Nominees often become quality improvement experts within their organisation.

The Common Inspection Framework comprises:

- The Common Inspection Schedule
- Procedures in the case the provision is inadequate
- Principles of inspection
- Code of conduct for inspectors
- A procedure for making complaints about inspection.

The schedule lists the questions the inspectors must ask of every provider of education and training and when conducting an inspection the inspectors will look at the following areas:

Overall effectiveness:

How effective and efficient is the provider in meeting the needs of learners and other users, and why?

Capacity to improve:

What is the provider's capacity to make and sustain improvements?

Outcomes for learners:

How well do learners achieve and enjoy their learning?

Quality of provision:

How effectively do teaching, training and assessment support learning and development?

Leadership and management:

How effectively do leaders and managers raise expectations and promote ambition throughout the organisation?

(Note: In judging Leadership and Management and Overall Effectiveness of providers of learning for children, inspectors will consider the contribution made to all five outcomes.)

On completion of the inspection organisations' are awarded a Grade against a four point scale with 1 being Outstanding, 2 being Good, 3 being Satisfactory and 4 being Inadequate.

Time Frames:

No two organisations' are the same so the length of an inspection may vary.

Costs:

There is no set fee for inspection work. Further information on the Common Inspection Framework can be obtained by visiting the Ofsted web site www.ofsted.gov.uk

Support:

Support for implementing any quality system your group or organisation chooses is available by contacting Janet Gillott on Tel: 01302 343300 Ext 217

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