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4th December 2008

Linda Barton
Family Learning Manager
Stockton on Tees Council
Wynyard House
Queensway
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TS23 2LN

Dear Linda

Ofsted Good Practice Survey Programme 2008/09

An evaluation of the benefits of family learning for individuals, families and communities

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation during my visit on the 5th November 2009. I am particularly grateful to you, all your staff and learners 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 family learning survey. I was particularly pleased to meet learners at Kiora Hall, and to hear how their learning had helped them to become more assertive, gain qualifications, promote positive family relationships and how their children's confidence, and enjoyment of learning, had improved.

The evidence used to inform the judgements made on this one-day visit included: interviews with staff, learners and observations of family learning sessions. A range of documentation and reports was reviewed.

The family learning provision I sampled during my one-day visit at Stockton is 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:

- Good development of skills confidence and motivation for learners
- Enthusiastic and committed teaching staff who motivate and enthuse learners
- Some good repositioning of provision to better meet priority areas of deprivation
- Innovative and exciting courses to attract learners
- Well-developed strategy to embed provision in schools

Areas for further development

- Insufficient specific targeting of men
- Insufficient use of action planning and target setting for improvement
- Insufficient analysis of progression rates from activities to mainstream programmes

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop your Family Learning 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

June Cramman
Her Majesty's Inspector