

Askham Bryan College

Inspection report for further education college

Unique reference number	SC040955
Inspection date	19 June 2007
Inspector	Marcia Mackey / Simon Morley
Type of Inspection	Key

Address	Askham Bryan College Askham Bryan York YO23 3FR
Telephone number	01904 772277
Email	jul@askham-bryan.ac.uk
Registered person	Askham Bryan College Corporation
Head of care	Lindsey Johnson
Head / Principal	Lindsey Johnson
Date of last inspection	20 October 2004

© Crown copyright 2007

Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

You can obtain copies of The Children Act 2004, Every Child Matters and The National Minimum Standards for Children's Services from: The Stationery Office (TSO) PO Box 29, St Cripins, Duke Street, Norwich, NR3 1GN. Tel: 0870 600 5522. Online ordering: www.tso.co.uk/bookshop

About this inspection

The purpose of this inspection is to assure children and young people, parents, the public, local authorities and government of the quality and standard of the service provided. The inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcome for children set out in the Children Act 2004 and relevant National Minimum Standards for the establishment.

The inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding:	this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality
Good:	this aspect of the provision is strong
Satisfactory:	this aspect of the provision is sound
Inadequate:	this aspect of the provision is not good enough

Service information

Brief description of the service

Askham Bryan College is situated approximately four miles outside of the city of York and is set in spacious grounds. The college offers a range of further and higher education courses, covering subjects mainly related to the land based industries, including animal care, horticultural and agricultural studies and engineering. The college offers a mixture of learning options and has four additional non residential centres located across North Yorkshire. Term time accommodation is provided on the York site for students aged 16 to 18 years of age, in addition to separate accommodation for students who are over 18 years old and are in further or higher education. Accommodation is situated in hostel blocks within the grounds. Each student has their own study bedroom, and some accommodation offers en suite bathroom facilities. The college provides a range of student support services, including a dedicated team of wardens who supervise residential students. Askham Bryan does not arrange off site lodgings for students.

Summary

The inspection took place over a two day period and included: A tour of residential and leisure provision. Interviews with all staff members who have responsibilities for residential and welfare provision. An examination of all policies and procedures relating to residential and welfare provision. Group interviews with residential students. Breakfast, lunch and evening meals shared with students and staff in the refectory. An early morning visit to the college's equine centre.

The overall quality rating is good.

This is an overview of what the inspector found during the inspection.

Improvements since the last inspection

Students have benefited from the reorganisation of the student services support team. New posts have been created to increase student union activities. The college has improved student accommodation since the previous inspection, and now provides residential units which are compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act. Improvements have been made to the college's catering provision, and students are provided with a wide range of good quality, nutritious meals in pleasant and social surroundings. The college has developed its learner engagement strategy. This will ensure that student consultation will be extended to encompass all aspects of provision.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Student's health needs are met and they are encouraged to adopt a healthy lifestyle. The college maintains appropriate records with regard to student's individual health needs, and how these are to be met. Staff are effective in detecting early signs and symptoms of student's illness or stress, and there are appropriate health policies and procedures in place to inform their response to these issues. Wardens should ensure that their practice is underpinned by a good knowledge and understanding of these policies. The college should ensure that this knowledge is consolidated by regular staff training and supervision. Students who become ill are well cared for. Students told the inspectors that, 'you can call anyone at any time and they always come and see you, even if it's just because you're homesick'. The college is effective in responding to incidents of under age drinking and substance misuse, and there are posters and advertisements around the campus which highlight the impact of these practices on student's

health, and give guidance and contact numbers for support. The quality of catering provision is very good and improving. There is a wide range of healthy options and students feel that there has been significant improvement in this area. All students spoken to during the inspection had a good level of awareness regarding healthy eating. Health and safety issues are appropriately assessed and responded to. Records are maintained of all accidents and injuries and the college regularly monitors patterns of occurrence.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Students are protected by the college's safeguarding policies and practices, and are encouraged to behave in a responsible and safe manner. All staff, including ancillary staff, have undertaken safeguarding training. The college have developed clear written guidance with regard to staff's response to allegations and have made good links with the local safeguarding board. Further training is required to ensure that staff are able to respond safely to incidents of physical aggression by students. The college has an effective bullying policy and students report that bullying is 'rare'. The colleges response to disciplinary issues and complaints is excellent, and ensures that parents are fully involved where appropriate. The college operates robust recruitment practices and provides accommodation which is secure from public intrusion.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Students are provided with a choice of activities and receive personal support from a caring and supportive staff team. The student union officers have greatly improved the range and quantity of activities on offer at the college. Students can select from a variety of venues and events, both on and off campus. Good work has also been done in developing leisure opportunities which bring students of differing age ranges together, and there are plans to extend and consolidate these events in the future. The college actively engages students and staff in discussions regarding equality and diversity, and has good systems in place for monitoring the college's ethnic and cultural profile. New accommodation is compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), and students with disabilities confirmed that they are given an appropriate degree of support and are included in all aspects of college life. The college is effective in providing students with a variety of staff from whom they can receive help and guidance, and this is appreciated by students. Students know how to contact support and do so. There is very good communication between all staff across both the educational and residential provision. This is good practice and ensures that issues are dealt with promptly and holistically.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Students are encouraged and enabled to make a positive contribution to college life. Students are regularly consulted with regard to residential provision, and records demonstrate that their views are listened to and incorporated into the college's improvement plans. The development of the learner engagement strategy will further consolidate this collaborative approach and will ensure that student's feedback encompasses all aspects of the college's provision. All students are consulted as part of the inspection were positive about the quality of care, support and accommodation offered by the college and its staff. A recent survey of parents views reflects a high level of satisfaction with residential provision.

Achieving economic wellbeing

The provision is good.

Student accommodation is varied in quality, although no provision is less than satisfactory. The newly built residences are a significant improvement on earlier provision, some of which remains in use, and provide students with good quality living accommodation. All students expressed satisfaction with their rooms. The college now offers good provision for students with disabilities and is DDA compliant. Maintenance and repairs to buildings are undertaken regularly and outdoor areas are welcoming and well maintained, providing an attractive backdrop to college life.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Students' residential provision benefits from strong leadership and a staff team which has a wide range of experience and expertise. The college should now ensure that wardens care practice is underpinned by a thorough knowledge and understanding of relevant policies and practices, which is consolidated by regular training and supervision. Staff are highly student focussed, and communication is excellent across the whole team, including ancillary. This creates a safe and supportive living environment. Senior managers are innovative in their approach to planning the colleges future development. Residential provision is monitored and evaluated on a frequent and ongoing basis and this has led to numerous improvements since the previous inspection.

What must be done to secure future improvement?

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions, which must be taken so that the registered person meets the Care Standards Act 2000, and the National Minimum Standards. The Registered Provider must comply with the given timescales.

Standard	Action	Due date
----------	--------	----------

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure that wardens' care practice is underpinned by a thorough knowledge of relevant welfare policies and practices which is consolidated by regular staff training and supervision (National Minimum Standard 30)

Annex

Annex A

National Minimum Standards for further education college

Being healthy

The intended outcomes for these standards are:

- under-age drinking, substance abuse and possession of obscene material by students are appropriately countered (NMS 6)
- students receive first aid and health care as necessary (NMS 14)
- students are adequately supervised when ill (NMS 15)
- students are supported in relation to any health or personal problems (NMS 16)
- students receive good quality catering provision (NMS 22)
- students have access to food and drinking water in addition to main meals (NMS 23)
- students are suitably accommodated when ill (NMS 43)

Ofsted considers 14 and 16 the key standards to be inspected.

Staying safe

The intended outcomes for these standards are:

- students are protected from bullying and harassment (NMS 2)
- students are protected from abuse (NMS 3)
- use of discipline with students is fair and appropriate (NMS 4)
- students' complaints are adequately responded to (NMS 5)
- students are protected from the risk of fire (NMS 24)
- the welfare of any young people accommodated by the college other than its own students is safeguarded and promoted (NMS 26)
- students' safety and welfare are protected during high risk activities (NMS 27)
- students' personal privacy is respected (NMS 33)
- there is careful selection and vetting of all staff and volunteers working with residential students (NMS 34)
- students are protected from unsupervised contact with adults who have not been, subject to the college's complete recruitment checking procedures (NMS 35)
- students have their own living accommodation, secure from public intrusion (NMS 37)
- any security or surveillance measures provide security to protect students without compromising their privacy (NMS 38)
- students are given reasonable protection from safety hazards (NMS 42)

Ofsted considers 2, 3, 4, 5, 24, 33, 34, 35, 37 and 42 the key standards to be inspected.

Enjoying and achieving

The intended outcomes for these standards are:

- students have access to a range and choice of activities (NMS 11)
- students receive personal support from staff (NMS 13)
- students do not experience inappropriate discrimination (NMS 17)
- student welfare is not compromised by unusual or onerous demands (NMS 25)
- students have access to a range of recreational areas (NMS 41)

Ofsted considers 13 and 17 the key standards to be inspected.

Annex A

Making a positive contribution

The intended outcomes for these standards are:

- students are enabled to contribute to the operation of residential provision in the college (NMS 12)
- students can maintain private contact with their parents and families (NMS 18)
- students receive guidance, both on arrival at the college and in preparing to leave the college (NMS 20)
- there are sound relationships between staff and students (NMS 32)

Ofsted considers 12 and 18 the key standards to be inspected.

Achieving economic well-being

The intended outcomes for these standards are:

- the college's organisation of residential provision safeguards students' welfare (NMS 10)
- students' personal possessions and money are protected (NMS 19)
- students are provided with satisfactory living accommodation (NMS 36)
- students have satisfactory sleeping accommodation (NMS 39)
- students have adequate and adequately private toilet and washing facilities (NMS 40)
- there are arrangements to ensure that students' clothing and bedding are adequately laundered (NMS 44)
- students can buy food and personal requisites while accommodated at college (NMS 45)
- the welfare of students placed in lodgings by the college is safeguarded and promoted (NMS 46)
- the welfare of students is safeguarded and promoted when accommodated away from the college site on a short-stay basis (NMS 47)

Ofsted considers 46 and 47 the key standards to be inspected.

Organisation

The intended outcomes for these standards are:

- a clear statement of the principles of residential provision and student support at the college is available to those needing this information (NMS 1)
- the safeguarding and promotion of students' health and welfare are supported by appropriate records (NMS 7)
- there is clear leadership of residential provision in the college (NMS 8)
- crises affecting students' welfare are managed effectively (NMS 9)
- risk assessment and college record keeping contribute to students' welfare (NMS 21)
- students are appropriately supervised during free time (NMS 28)
- students are adequately supervised by staff (NMS 29)
- staff responsible for residential students have specific residential and welfare duties, with adequate induction and continued training (NMS 30)
- students are looked after by staff following clear residential and welfare policies and practice (NMS 31)

Ofsted considers 1, 21, 29 and 30 the key standards to be inspected.