

Derby College (Broomfield)

Inspection report for further education college

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Inspector	Julian Mason
Type of Inspection	Key

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Date of last inspection	3 July 2006

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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

Broomfield Hall is part of Derby College. It is situated in Morley near Ilkeston and is within reasonable distance from Derby city centre. The hall is situated in 500 acres overlooking the Derwent Valley in its own grounds and surrounded by the college farms and estate. It is mainly used by students following a range of courses in land-based industries such as agriculture, horticulture, equine studies and small animal care.

The residential accommodation is all located at the Broomfield Hall campus. There are 49 single rooms available for students organised into five purpose built blocks. At the time of the inspection three blocks were being used to accommodate students who are under the age of 18.

Summary

This was a full announced inspection that concentrated on key National Minimum Standards for Further Education Colleges. 18 students were living at the college who were under 18 years of age. Many were present during the visit and seven students participated in some of the inspection process. The inspection focused on areas related to being healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution, achieving economic wellbeing and how staffing and management arrangements supported the operation of the college.

Broomfield Hall College is judged as good with some outstanding features. Students are positive about the college and their experiences of education and residential life. The college is safe and nurturing which supports students personal growth and development. Support is consistent and to a high standard because residential staff are provided with effective and supportive leadership which is focused on students needs and welfare. The college values students as individuals and encourages them to express their views and opinions about their learning and residential experiences.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

No recommendations were made at the last inspection visit.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Students health and wellbeing is effectively promoted because there is good communication between all staff at the college with welfare responsibilities. These arrangements help ensure strong support for students whilst keeping sensitive issues private and confidential. Staff are well equipped to respond to accidents and unforeseen medical needs because they have access to first aid boxes and have been trained in first aid skills.

Students are provided with and have access to a range of information and education that helps them make informed choices about their own health. The college nurse maintains confidential medical records as necessary and there is effective monitoring of accidents and illness. No

medicines are administered on site and students are responsible for the storage and self-administration of their own medication.

Students are supported in relation to any health or personal problems; they are able to confidently identify staff who they can go to for advice and support. In addition, students have access to a confidential counselling service and a range of external welfare agencies and organisations are well advertised around the college site. This means that students can choose from a wide range of ways to access health information, services and help.

Students benefit from a good quality catering provision which supplies nutritious and well balanced meals. Students are encouraged and supported to maintain a healthy diet because thought and consideration is given to menu planning. Students are able to express their choices and preferences and they are actively educated about healthy eating. Menus are varied and realistically reflect the diversity, special diets and budgets of students.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Students live in a safe and secure environment where their welfare and protection is conscientiously monitored and promoted by staff. Students are carefully supervised to ensure their whereabouts are known so staff can be confident that they are safe. Students' protection is promoted through a clear and comprehensive set of policies and procedures which support good safeguarding practices. Staff have a clear understanding about their responsibilities in respect of keeping students safe. The college has designated child protection officers and all staff have attended up-to-date child protection training that is consistent with their role.

There is no bullying at the college and staff practice regarding student discipline is fair and consistent. The college has clear and appropriate policies and guidelines relating to behaviour and discipline. Students are encouraged to maintain appropriate behaviour through the minimal use of punishments and an ethos where respect and consideration for others is encouraged and promoted. Students show respect towards each other and to the residential staff, they are well behaved, friendly and represent the college well.

Students expressed confidence in the college's ability to deal with their complaints and concerns. Many students identified a number of ways they could raise a concern which included approaching wardens as well as other staff in the college. Students are clear that they are listened to. In the main, complaints are dealt with informally but the college has a more formal process for students and parents to use if necessary.

Students' health and safety is promoted well with a robust and systematic approach to assessing risks and taking actions to ensure the college and residencies are safe. Students are protected from the risk of fire by rigorous safety precautions and well-trained staff. Regular fire evacuations take place and all fire safety equipment is checked and serviced in line with the necessary requirements. Students demonstrate a very good understanding of the college's evacuation procedures which helps to them keep safe.

Overall, there are adequate recruitment and selection processes in place to make sure students are safeguarded. Arrangements are also in place to ensure the college is aware of people who are on-site that need to be monitored or supervised such as contractors. There are some minor shortfalls in recruitment practices when compared to the National Minimum Standard

requirements. For instance, references are not verified, existing employee's who are employed into other roles are not subject to the college's full recruitment and selection processes. Employees who have standard Criminal Record Checks who are recruited into jobs that require enhanced checks are placed in these positions before the outcome of the checks are known. These circumstances do add a small element of risk in determining the suitability of staff to newly appointed positions.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Students at the college benefit from excellent levels of personal support being available to them. There is an established network of support systems across the college which students are made aware of via written information that also includes contact details of external support agencies. Residential staff ensure that they are available to students when required or called upon. New students are provided with an induction programme which introduces them to the facilities available and they are well informed about how to access support when necessary. Wardens and tutors play a central role in the support for students, but this is not to the exclusion of other staff offering or providing help. Effective, regular communication allows information to be shared appropriately and consistently between staff with different roles. The college's policies outline and demonstrate a clear commitment to deliver and promote services in relation to diversity and equality of opportunity. Students live and learn in an environment where social inclusion is important and discrimination in any form is not tolerated.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

The college actively seeks the views and opinions of students. They benefit from the college having a variety of ways in which they can express their views and influence the way in which the college operates. These include student meetings, the election of student representatives, student surveys and tutorials. Students at the college feel appropriately consulted and involved about matters affecting them. Consultation arrangements within the residencies provide an excellent example of the college's ethos of working in partnership with students.

Students benefit from excellent guidance and support from a range of staff both on arrival and in preparation for leaving the college. The majority of students have mobile phones and there are no concerns amongst students about being able to contact their parents, friends and families.

Achieving economic wellbeing

The provision is satisfactory.

Student accommodation is basic but comfortable, reasonably furnished and maintained. The residencies are kept clean and tidy and some areas have benefited from recent decoration. Close attention is paid to the allocation of accommodation so needs in relation to gender and age are appropriately considered. Overall, the accommodation and some fixtures and fittings are tired and dated especially in some communal areas such as kitchenettes and lounges. The college and students make the best possible use of the available accommodation. Students are able to personalise their own rooms with posters and personal possessions which makes the accommodation feel more homely and personal.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

There is effective management and organisation within the college which ensures good student welfare. There is plenty of essential information for students and their parents about the college and accommodation arrangements, helping to make arrivals, induction and departures a smooth process. The information provided by the college gives a detailed and comprehensive picture of campus and residential life. Staff are capable, experienced and dedicated to making the college experience a positive one for students.

The promotion of equality and diversity is good. Staff are provided with clear guidance about anti-discriminatory practice and expected standards of professional behaviour. Broomfield Hall provides an environment where students differences are acknowledged, they are treated fairly and with equal concern. Staff actively promote students social inclusion within the college and wider community.

There are good policies and guidance, kept under review, known by staff, helping to ensure students are looked after well during their time at the college. In addition, student welfare is promoted by appropriate monitoring systems. Managers have a clear overview of the residential operation which helps to ensure that students are cared for in a consistent and safe manner.

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
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Recommendations

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

- ensure the college's system for recruiting all staff who will work with students under 18 includes all necessary vetting checks before appointment which can be verified from recruitment records (National Minimum Standard 34).