

John Leggott College

Inspection report for further education college

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Type of Inspection Key

Address North Lincolnshire

Scotter House

West Common Lane

Scunthorpe

South Humberside

DN17 1DS

Telephone number 01724 282998

Email

Registered person John Leggott College

Head of care Nic Dakin

Head / Principal

Date of last inspection 28 April 2005



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

John Leggott is a Sixth Form College offering a range of academic and vocational courses. The majority of students are aged 16 to 18 years and study subjects at the General Certificate of Education Advanced and Advanced Subsidiary (GCE A and AS) levels.

The college has a flourishing International Centre for overseas students, which arranges accommodation for them with host families in the Scunthorpe area.

The college has approximately 2400 students in total and has the capacity to accommodate 120 overseas students.

Summary

This was an announced inspection of how the college promotes and safeguards the welfare of students under 18 years for whom the college arranges accommodation. All outcome areas were covered.

There is excellent welfare and pastoral support for students and there is also outstanding practice by the college in promoting and maintaining overseas contact with parents of students. There is good healthcare support and a variety of ways students can influence the running of the college. Accommodation arrangements with host families are good and the school is well managed. Students report there is no bullying at the college and there are good procedures for protecting students' welfare and resolving complaints.

Two good practice recommendations are made with regards to improving the recruitment practices of staff working in the college and also of host families to help ensure further protection of students' welfare.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

The college has complied with all the recommendations for the last inspection. Policies have been reviewed, practice and record keeping have improved and all staff receive child protection training, which all helps to ensure the welfare and safety of students are safeguarded.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

There is good, solid practice with regards to the promotion and protection of the health of students. Over the last year the college has improved healthy outcomes for students in several ways, including: the appointment of a health officer who is keen to promote good health throughout the college; more healthy food choices in the canteen; a no-smoking policy within the college; and a weekly drop-in health clinic.

The health officer provides good support to students with any health or personal problems. This is enhanced by her involvement with local action groups dealing with substance misuse, teenage pregnancy and obesity. There is good communication between all the staff in college

with welfare responsibilities to help ensure strong support for students whilst keeping sensitive issues confidential. Staff are also able to refer students to local professional health services if needed.

There is good quality catering provision in the college. This offers healthy options with a range of freshly cooked meals. The college will cater for students' special dietary needs as well as themed and special events to support the cultural needs of overseas students.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Overall the college and accommodation arranged are safe for students to live and learn in.

There is no bullying at the college and practice regarding student discipline is good and fair.

There are reliable arrangements including staff training to ensure any issues of alleged or suspected harm to students are dealt with well.

Students know how to complain and there is a good process ensuring complaints are resolved well and promptly.

Health and safety procedures are good, helping to ensure that accommodation and the college are physically safe, well maintained and secure from unnecessary public intrusion.

Recruitment practices help ensure that only suitable staff work at the college in order to help protect students' welfare. There are some shortfalls in recruitment practice when compared to the National Minimum Standard (NMS) requirements for recruitment.

The recruitment process for host families does not always ensure there is an up to date Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check before students are placed with the family. This weakness in the process does pose some potential risk to student welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

There are outstanding arrangements to ensure students receive excellent personal support. This includes support to students who have a range of different needs reflecting their race, culture, religion and ability.

There is an exceptionally strong and very effective personal tutorial system. This ensures any personal, welfare and pastoral concerns are treated sensitively, confidentially and managed very well for the benefit of students. This is reflected in such typical comments from students as: 'I am so grateful to all of you for what you have done for me'. Tutors have introduced a new student passport system aimed at furthering personal, social and health education of students. Students who successfully complete this are awarded the 'John Leggott Diploma' in recognition of their achievement. The college also has a wide variety of extra-curricula courses in its enrichment programme aimed at providing students with an all-round education.

The excellent support for students helps to ensure very good attendance at lessons and outstanding academic achievements.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

There are very good formal and informal ways that students can make their views known about the running of the college, their accommodation, welfare and support. Students feel listened to by the college, which is good at taking action in response.

Students are able to keep in touch with their families via telephone and email whilst living at the college. The college maintains regular contact with parents. There is exceptional practice by the college in undertaking trips abroad to meet parents of overseas students face to face.

There is very good guidance and support for students both on arrival and in preparation to leave the college.

Achieving economic wellbeing

The provision is good.

There are good arrangements for providing lodgings with host families in the Scunthorpe area for overseas students. This helps to promote and safeguard the welfare of students. There are also good arrangements for protecting the welfare of students on trips away from college.

Staff from the college's International Centre are experienced at finding good accommodation with host families. The accommodation arrangements are monitored regularly with both the host families and students to help ensure good student welfare. The college is very flexible in moving students if they are not happy where they are living. Host families take their roles seriously and are committed to looking after students well. They are able to contact the college at any time if they have any concerns about student welfare.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

There is strong 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 and induction a smooth process.

Staff are capable, experienced and dedicated to making the college experience a positive one for students. Host families are clear about their roles and receive good support and guidance from college staff about student welfare issues.

There are good policies and guidance, kept under review, known by all staff, helping to ensure students are looked after well during their time at college. This is reflected in comments made by students, of which these are typical: 'I think I have been blessed all the time I've spent here, I love this college' and, 'I am very happy to study at John Leggott College'.

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 the systems for recruiting staff include all the steps detailed in NMS 34.2 before appointing staff and keep records to verify this is the case (NMS 34.2)
- ensure that all adult members of host families are checked through the CRB with a satisfactory outcome known before any student is placed (NMS 46.4)