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Mr G Pyle
Principal
Beaumont College
Slyne Road
Lancaster
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Dear Mr Pyle

Ofsted 2010–11 best practice survey: safeguarding in colleges

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 12 October 2010 to look at your provision for safeguarding students.

The visit provided valuable information which will contribute to our publication about best practice in safeguarding in colleges. The publication will include case studies about individual providers. If Beaumont College is included as a case study, you will have an opportunity to comment on the text prior to publication. Individual institutions will not be identified in the main text without their consent.

Features of good practice

- excellent staff training that is delivered in an engaging and interactive manner that ensures staff have a detailed and thorough understanding of safeguarding procedures and confidence to implement them
- a culture of openness which places a high value on input from all staff, underpinned by strong strategic leadership on safeguarding and exemplary policies and procedures
- imaginative deployment of staff specialisms to meet the safeguarding needs of individual students, which supports the culture of early identification of potential issues well
- very effective communication between staff about vulnerable learners and excellent liaison with external agencies, in particular the health service
- very good support from the parent company, a national charity, which has in place its own well-established safeguarding unit.

Area for development

- Continue to refine risk assessment processes to promote learners' independence further.

I hope that these observations are useful as you continue to develop safeguarding provision in the college.

As explained previously, a copy of this letter will be published on the Ofsted website. It will also be available to the inspection team for your next college inspection.

Yours sincerely

Sue Harrison
Her Majesty's Inspector