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11 January 2011

Ms C Pickup  
Principal  
European Services for People With  
Autism (ESPA) Limited  
6–7 The Cloisters  
Ashbrooke  
Sunderland  
SR2 7BD

Dear Ms Pickup

### **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 22 September 2010 to look at your provision for safeguarding learners.

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 ESPA is included as a case study, you will have an opportunity to comment on the text before publication.

#### **Features of good practice:**

- strong commitment to safeguarding from senior leaders and trustees
- successful creation of a positive health and safety culture which greatly benefits learners
- extensive partnership work that is used very effectively to strengthen safeguarding provision
- excellent staff training that ensures they are confident about safeguarding procedures
- contributions from staff and learners welcomed and used effectively as part of a culture of continuous improvement
- very effective promotion of safeguarding in the curriculum through the use of comprehensive risk assessments, and emotional literacy and relationship training which meet the needs of individual learners very well.

**Areas for development:**

- continue to simplify the amount of paperwork associated with risk assessments
- increase awareness-raising work with learners' families and guardians to promote training on independent travel.

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 may be used to inform decisions about any future inspection.

Yours sincerely

**Sue Harrison**  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**