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Mr R Wells
Principal
Hartlepool Sixth Form College
Brinkburn
Blakelock Road
Hartlepool
TS25 5PF

Dear Mr Wells

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 20 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 Hartlepool Sixth Form College is included as a case study, you will have an opportunity to comment prior to publication. Individual institutions will not be identified in the main text without their consent.

Features of good practice

- Safeguarding of students has high profile. It is well resourced and is fully embedded in policies, procedures and practices at all levels. The college is proactive in seeking to identify and minimise risks for students and responds to anticipated safety issues promptly.
- Extensive safeguarding training ensures that all staff and governors understand their role in and responsibilities for safeguarding.
- Comprehensive risk assessment and the very strict enforcement of security arrangements for visitors and external contractors minimise risks to students.
- Close and extensive links with feeder schools and the strong tutorial processes help the college to identify students who are, or who might become, vulnerable.
- The college knows its students well. Levels of support for students are high. The tutorial curriculum is well developed and encourages students to make healthy and safe lifestyle decisions.

- The college's open and supportive ethos promotes good behaviour. The college expects high standards of behaviour and students are encouraged to be independent and respectful of others. Students behave well, feel safe and demonstrate safe working practices.

Area for development

- The college should consider ways of systematically involving the governor linked to safeguarding in the strategic overview of safeguarding to maximise his involvement.

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 team for your next college inspection.

Yours sincerely

Anne Taylor
Her Majesty's Inspector