

Derby College (Broomfield)

Inspection report for further education college

Unique reference number	SC060178
Inspection date	22/09/2011
Inspector	Carole Moore
Type of inspection	Social Care Inspection

Setting address	Derby College, Broomfield Hall, Broomfield Estate, Morley, ILKESTON, Derbyshire, DE7 6DN
Telephone number	01332 836 600
Email	louise.curd@derby-college.ac.uk
Registered person	Derby College (Broomfield)
Head/ Principal	
Nominated person	David Freeman
Date of last inspection	25/02/2009

© Crown copyright 2011

Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

You can obtain copies of The Children Act 2004, Every Child Matters and The National Minimum Standards for Children's Services from: The Stationery Office (TSO) PO Box 29, St Crispins, Duke Street, Norwich, NR3 1GN. Tel: 0870 600 5522. Online ordering: www.tso.co.uk/bookshop

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 outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004 and the relevant National Minimum Standards for the service.

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 30 single rooms available for students organised into three 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

The overall quality rating is good.

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

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Section 87 of the Children Act 1989. The inspection was announced and covered the key national minimum standards in the Every Child Matters outcome areas plus an assessment of the management of the organisation.

The college has good systems for promoting the health and welfare of all learners and provides excellent support for students while they are living in residence. Arrangements for safeguarding is judged as good reflecting the college priorities for the safety of students. The arrangements for personal support are outstanding. The living environment is well managed making it a safe place to live and learn, despite ongoing renovations and improvements to the grounds. Students receive detailed information about what opportunities are open to them and are encouraged to share their views for the development of the college. These are listened to and acted upon thus strengthening students' affiliation.

This inspection found one shortfall in relation to the contracted catering service's safeguarding procedures.

Improvements since the last inspection

There have been improvements to the recruitment procedures since the last inspection in February 2009.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Student's good health and well-being is actively promoted by a range of competent and professional staff. There are many health related benefits that students gain because of the way in which services are organised and delivered. In particular, students gain valuable information through their induction into college life that helps them know about available services and how to stay fit and healthy. This good start is reinforced and consolidated by a range of ongoing educational activities that encourage a greater awareness of how to prevent illness and poor health. As students are not permanently resident during term time, they are able to go home at weekends and are generally drawn from the local catchment area. A pragmatic and proportionate approach is taken for responding to medical and health related matters. The college is very well supported through established links with a responsive hospital walk-in service and can access urgent dental treatment locally if required. When ill, learners are supported according to their wishes. The college does not have a dedicated sick bay, however, for minor ailments students are permitted to remain in their rooms with support from wardens and friends. Parents are informed and asked to collect and return the student home for episodes of prolonged illness.

Initial student application forms and residential information identify any medical conditions, allergies and treatments within the student's health and fitness agreement. This is signed by parents and students. Such personal information is securely retained and kept confidential. No medicines are administered or retained on site as students take responsibility for the self-administration of their own medication.

Students' day-to-day health and well-being is effectively promoted because there is a dedicated student services department which offers extensive internal and external support mechanisms for students to help support their physical, emotional and social well-being. A confidential counselling service is available to students who may have personal or emotional difficulties. These arrangements help ensure effective and timely support for students while keeping sensitive issues private and confidential. There is also a new intervention service which signposts students to a variety of services as well as carrying out immediate support for a variety of issues. Staff are well equipped to respond to accidents and unforeseen medical needs because they have been trained in the use of first aid. The college takes a firm stance regarding the use of alcohol and under age drinking.

Students have widely differing views on the standard of food provided. Students have a variety of choices for each of the three meals that are provided each day. There is clear evidence of a variety of healthy options and salads are always on the menu. The catering manager explained that the canteen has to respond to the demands of students, but there are always healthy options provided daily as well as the less healthy options of chips and pies. Any special diets are readily catered for. Students have ready access to drinking water and snacks at reasonable times.

Resident students have facilities within their accommodation to prepare drinks and hot food should they choose to do so.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The college places the highest importance on safeguarding and the safety and well-being of students is paramount in all college activities. Although the college campus is spread over a large open area, students live in a safe, contained environment. Their welfare and protection is promoted and effectively monitored by the staff responsible for them. Resident students are unobtrusively supervised by wardens to ensure their whereabouts are known and that they are kept safe when on site. There are clear operational policies and procedures that are communicated effectively to promote the safety and welfare of all students. The college has a designated team for safeguarding and the strong leadership consistently promotes an environment where safety is important. Students say they feel safe with comments like: 'I feel safe at the college' and 'there's always a warden to talk to.'

The college has, and follows, an appropriate policy on protection of students from abuse, and response to allegations, which is consistent with the Local Safeguarding Children Board. There is an ongoing programme of safeguarding training for all staff including ancillary staff with the exception of the catering team. However, training has already been identified for all of the catering team in the very near future. These arrangements ensure that staff are aware of what action to take if they have concern or need to report a safeguarding matter.

Students' privacy and confidentiality is promoted and respected. There are a number of policies that underpin and guide staff practice in this area. Students expressed the view that personal information about them is kept safe and that staff work in a way that keeps personal matters confidential. Students and parents are provided with information in an appropriate format about how to make a complaint. Most students are clear about how to raise a concern and say that staff listen to them if they have a complaint or are unhappy about anything.

The college follows transparent and well-circulated policies and guidelines relating to behaviour and discipline. Students are encouraged to behave appropriately through a college ethos promoting respect and consideration for others. Students are fully aware that indiscipline and poor behaviour can seriously compromise their placement. There is very little bullying at the college; bullying is not tolerated. Staff practice regarding discipline is fair and consistent which matches student feedback that staff are 'reasonable'. The staff team have very good communication and information sharing systems to assist with maintaining consistent standards of behaviour throughout the college.

Students' health and safety is promoted well with a robust and systematic approach to assessing risks and taking actions to ensure the college campuses and residencies are safe. Young people learn how to protect themselves in an emergency because

they have regular opportunities to practice the evacuation of their residencies which helps to keep them safe. They also have training on self-protection and are provided with safety alarms and clothing which identifies them with the college. The accommodation is safe and secure and the college demonstrates a vigilant approach to maintaining this for everyone. Monitoring of the site through the evening and night is maintained with students clear on what to do if they have any concerns.

Overall, there are robust recruitment, selection and vetting processes in place to make sure students are provided with appropriate adults to work with them. All staff with access to the Halls of Residence have enhanced Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checks prior to commencing employment. All visitors to the college are asked to sign in and are given an identity badge. Other adults on site are also checked in line with the latest recruitment procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Students benefit from excellent levels of personal support because college staff ensure that they are available when required or called upon. The wardens organise and coordinate a range of social activities for all students. New students are provided with a very good induction which gives them an excellent start in terms of knowing what support is available to them. Students are very clear which members of staff they can go to for personal support and freely initiate interaction and seek help from a variety of different people across the campuses. Booklets explaining guidance and welfare, confidential counselling services and learning mentors are provided to students on arrival at the college. Students have said they find this level of support reassuring when away from home.

Wardens play a central role in supporting students as well as staff in the support services team. In addition, students benefit from a well-coordinated tutorial system which helps to bridge academic and welfare matters. This means that there is effective, regular communication which allows information to be shared appropriately between staff with different roles. Some of the wardens have additional college duties which permit them to engage with learners both academically and away from the classroom. All wardens have emergency mobile phone numbers allowing them to be contacted; they are accessible at any time.

College wardens fully appreciate and understand the importance of building-up relationships with residential students and getting to know them. The importance of the induction period for students is considered as invaluable for forming positive relationships that will benefit all aspects of their college experience.

The college provides an environment where equality of opportunity is important and diversity is understood and promoted which is good. There is a commitment to actively promoting equality, celebrating diversity and eliminating discrimination. Staff ensure students can reach their full potential and are not disadvantaged in any

way. Students live and learn in an environment where social inclusion for everyone is prioritised 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. The college promotes the 'learners voice' in everything it does and this approach is embedded into campus life. Students benefit from the college having a variety of ways in which they can express their views and influence the way in which the campus operates. These include: student forums, student union, wardens' meetings as well as regular surveys and consultation via the internet, known as 'Little Stevie'. In practice students confirm that there are formal and informal mechanisms that they know of that really do effect change. Students confirm that most day-to-day issues within halls of residence can be addressed simply and directly by talking with wardens. Some areas that students have affected change are the introduction of face book, new televisions and laptops and differences to the menus.

Students benefit from guidance and support from a range of staff both on arrival and in preparation for leaving the college. There are several excellent induction booklets that welcome students to the college and provide information about life in college and in the local area. There is also a DVD that explains fully from a student's perspective what college life is going to be like.

The majority of students have mobile telephones and there are no concerns amongst students about being able to contact their parents, friends and families. There is excellent communication between the college and parents throughout the year.

Achieving economic wellbeing

The provision is satisfactory.

Students spend a relatively short period of time in residence and comment that they are relatively happy with their present facilities because of this. The accommodation and services being currently provided is satisfactory for this reduced frequency and level of occupancy. No students presently board in off site lodgings.

Students are provided with reasonable quality accommodation that is comfortable, clean, adequately furnished and well maintained. Each student has an individual bedroom with adequate facilities. They have access to communal areas in each residency which includes kitchens and common rooms.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

There is effective management and organisation within the college and an enthusiastic group of wardens; these ensure good student welfare. Staff are experienced and committed to making college life a happy and positive one for all students. There are sufficient staff to maintain adequate supervision of students outside teaching time and there are sufficient on call arrangements to cover sickness or absence. The college has, and follows, a clear policy for the safety of students during college organised and arranged journeys, covering college transport, and as far as practicable, use of private vehicles and college use of public transport. Managers have a clear overview of the residential operation which helps to ensure that students are supported in a consistent and safe manner.

The statement of college principles and practice is covered by a range of accessible documents and leaflets. The comprehensive college prospectus is readily available and updated annually. Packs containing useful information provide good information about the college and its facilities are readily available for all potential students. These documents complement the pre admission meetings and induction days that inform students and their families what they may expect from the curriculum and facilities. The prospectus accurately reflects the actual practice and aspirations of the college. All information is available electronically from the college website.

Senior managers have a very good insight into how well students are being supported. Staff deliver professional and supportive services because they work in partnership with each other and as a team. They are also provided with clear guidance about their roles from competent and supportive managers.

All staff with particular responsibilities for the supervision of students or the provision of welfare services have job descriptions reflecting those duties. They have the appropriate competence, receive induction training in those responsibilities when newly appointed, and receive regular review of their supervisory and student welfare practice. There are clear opportunities for them to access continuing training. There is also an appropriate process for the regular review of the performance of each member of staff.

What must be done to secure future improvement?

Recommendations

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

- ensure that all staff, including ancillary staff are given training on child protection. NMS 3.6