

John Leggott College

Inspection report for further education college

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Inspector	Robert Curr / Paul Scott
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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

John Leggott College 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 levels.

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

Summary

The overall quality rating is good.

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

This was an announced inspection, to look at how the college promotes and safeguards the welfare of students under 18 years old, for whom the college arranges accommodation with host families. All the key national minimum standards (NMS) for Further Education colleges were inspected. The recommendations made at the previous inspection were followed up and details of these are outlined in improvement section of this report.

The college provides excellent holistic support to students, with good procedures to protect their welfare. The international centre provides an experienced, competent and consistent staff team that promotes the students well-being. Students receive services that positively promote their good health and well-being. This includes access to an array of health professionals and direct contact with a counsellor. The catering arrangements provide students with a very good quality service to meet their dietary needs.

There are no issues with bullying in the college and effective methods of communication, enables students to raise any concerns they may have. There are excellent levels of student involvement and great emphasis is placed on inclusion throughout the college.

A good practice recommendation has been made, to further develop the students' welfare. This relates to host families receiving a more comprehensive level of advice, guidance and support in relation to some of the colleges main policies and practices around student wellbeing.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, recommendations were made in relation to recruitment. Robust staff recruitment practices are established to ensure the protection of students. These practices ensure that new college staff and volunteers are suitably

vetted and do not commence employment in the college until all the relevant checks have been carried out.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Students' health and well-being is effectively promoted because there is good communication between all staff at the college with welfare responsibilities. These arrangements help ensure strong support for students whilst keeping sensitive issues private and confidential. Students health histories are known from the point of enrolment by both the health officer and host families. Health issues are not a barrier to attending the college. Confidential medical records are held as necessary and there is effective monitoring of accidents and illness. No medicines are administered on site and students are responsible for the storage and self-administration of their own medication. All college staff have completed first aid training.

Students are extremely well supported in relation to any health or personal problems; they are able to confidently identify staff that they can go to for advice and support. In addition, students have access to a confidential counselling service and visiting sexual health professionals who can sign post students to other services as required. This means that students can choose from a wide range of ways to access health information, services and help. In addition there is an excellent tutorial system which provides students with information and opportunities to discuss health issues such as smoking cessation, alcohol and misuse.

Students benefit from a good quality catering provision which supplies nutritious and well balanced meals. Students are encouraged and supported to maintain a healthy diet because thought and consideration is given to menu planning. Within the host family homes students are able to express their choices and preferences and they are supported to eat healthily. Host families can evidence that menus are varied and realistically reflect diversity and provide for any special dietary needs of students.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Students live in host family homes that are safe and secure, and where their welfare and protection is conscientiously monitored and promoted by staff. Students are carefully supervised by host families to ensure their whereabouts are known so that hosts can be confident that they are safe. Students protection is promoted through a clear and comprehensive set of policies and procedures which support good safeguarding practices. College staff have a clear understanding about their responsibilities in respect of keeping students safe.

The arrangements for child protection are well managed. There are designated child protection coordinators who are clear about their roles. There are effective working relationships between the college and the Local Safeguarding Children Board and the

local authority. College staff have training in safeguarding and demonstrate a good awareness of the procedures.

The college has a clear policy on countering bullying and harassment. Students do not report bullying as a concern and say that staff challenge any forms of bullying. The college has clear and appropriate policies and guidelines relating to behaviour and discipline. Students are encouraged to maintain appropriate behaviour through an ethos where respect and consideration for others is encouraged and promoted. Students show respect towards each other, college staff and to the host families whose homes they share; they are well behaved, friendly and represent the college well.

The students say they are clear about the complaints procedure and identified a number of ways they could raise a concern which include approaching the international support team as well as other staff in the college. Students are clear that they are listened to. Complaints are taken seriously and are swiftly acted upon.

The privacy of students is respected. Students say that host families knock on doors before they enter.

Students health and safety is promoted well with a systematic approach to assessing risks and taking actions to ensure the college and host houses are safe. Students are protected in college from the risk of fire by safety precautions and well-trained staff. Regular fire evacuations take place and all fire safety equipment is checked and serviced in line with the necessary requirements. Students demonstrate an understanding of the evacuation procedures where they live which helps to them keep safe. There are a range of risk assessments undertaken for activities, in order to minimise risk. Written permission is obtained for unsupervised activities away from college.

Overall, there are robust recruitment and selection processes in place for the selection of college staff to make sure students are safeguarded. Arrangements are also in place to ensure the college is aware of people who are on-site that need to be monitored or supervised such as contractors.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Students at the college benefit from excellent levels of personal support. There is an established network of support systems across the college which students are made aware of via written information that also includes contact details of external support agencies. International support staff ensure that they are available to students when required or called upon throughout a 24 hour period. There is an excellent system of tutor and progress mentorship that supports other students who need help with academic work or welfare matters. This results in students make excellent progress in their educational, personal and cultural development. There is a dedicated pastoral team and the communication between the whole staff team is seamless, which

promotes students well-being.

The college's policies outline and demonstrate a clear commitment to deliver and promote services in relation to diversity and equality of opportunity. Students live and learn in an environment where social inclusion is vitally important and discrimination in any form is not tolerated.

There is a range of activities provided for the students which they can choose to participate in if they wish. Host families include students in a wide range of family events and celebrations.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

The college actively seeks the views and opinions of students. They benefit from the college having a variety of ways in which they can express their views and influence the way in which the college operates. These include the election of an international student representative, college council, student surveys, along with specific focus groups such as an equality and diversity forum. There is also a dedicated international and accommodation welfare officer with specific responsibility for the residential arrangements. These are excellent examples of the college's ethos of working in partnership with students. Students wholeheartedly feel consulted and involved about matters affecting them.

Students say they have generally very good relationships with the staff and communication between them is positive. Students can maintain contact with their parents and families. Most have mobile phones and access to email. Hosts say that staff within the international support team are highly active at keeping in touch with them. Any welfare concerns are given high priority.

Achieving economic wellbeing

The provision is good.

Host families are sought by the college to accommodate international students. Not all hosts have a full understanding of matters concerning college policies. All host families interviewed stated that they would appreciate more awareness around health care, safeguarding and mental health issues. They would also like to meet more frequently with the college to broaden their understanding around the needs of the variety of faiths and cultures represented at the college. This is not having a detrimental effect on students.

Students live in very appealing and comfortable host family homes that are matched and allocated by the international centre staff. Close attention is paid to the matching and allocation of accommodation so needs in relation to nationality, gender and age are appropriately considered. Students are able to personalise their own rooms with posters and personal possessions which makes the accommodation feel more homely

and personal. Students report that the support staff are swift to help them move to other host homes if they are not happy with their accommodation.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

There is effective management and organisation within the college which ensures consistent support in relation to student welfare. There is plenty of essential information for students and their parents about the college and accommodation arrangements, helping to make arrivals, induction and departures a smooth process. The information provided to parents by the college gives a detailed and comprehensive picture of college and residential arrangements.

College staff report that there is a supportive senior management team who are in turn supported by a governing body. The manager of the international centre is driving improvements which safeguard students and ensure their experience is a positive one. The international centre team are capable, experienced and dedicated. The ongoing training that they undertake gives them the skills and knowledge to work with the students who are hosted. There are good policies and guidance which is kept under review and is known by staff, this helps ensure that students are well looked after during their time at the college.

Students welfare is promoted by appropriate monitoring systems. The welfare officer has a clear overview of the host provision and its operation which helps to ensure that students are cared for in a consistent and safe manner.

College staff are provided with clear guidance about anti-discriminatory practice and expected standards of professional behaviour. The college provides an environment where students differences are acknowledged, they are treated fairly and with equal concern. Staff actively promote students social inclusion within the college and wider community.

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):

- endeavour to broaden the guidance given to host families relating to college polices and practice. (NMS 46.6)