

Bridge College

Monitoring visit report

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Name of lead inspector: Charlie Henry HMI

Last day of inspection: 17 January 2014

Type of provider: Independent specialist college

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Monitoring Visit: Main Findings

Context and focus of visit

This was an unannounced monitoring inspection, which focused on the college's safeguarding procedures following concerns that had been brought to Ofsted's attention. The inspection was carried out by two of Her Majesty's Inspectors.

The last full inspection of Bridge College took place in September 2013 when inspectors judged the college's overall effectiveness to be good. This inspection judged that the college met its statutory requirements to safeguard learners and that their health and safety were promoted well.

Theme

Safeguarding

Inspectors did not find any cause for concern for learners' safeguarding.

The college management team works hard to ensure that procedures and practices for safeguarding learners are consistently and rigorously applied. There is a clear line of decision making that is known by staff should any concerns be raised. Start- and end-of-day briefings alert staff about any relevant issues regarding their learners. The briefing information is subsequently left on the two staff noticeboards to inform anyone who misses a briefing. One of these noticeboards is, however, not kept up to date; similarly, not all staff have easy access to emailed information. The single central register fulfils statutory requirements.

The inspectors met with two groups of learners from the college's student council and also with a further two learners who asked to meet them separately. All of these learners were very positive about the college and enjoy their time there. They knew who to speak with if they had any worries or if they saw others who were upset. They were confident that any concerns would be sorted out by staff.

Independent advocates have been used occasionally to ensure a learner's views are represented. This valuable method of independently gathering students' views is not used routinely.

Information available around the college informs learners of what they should do if they have any concerns. This information does not, however, fully take into account the wide range of learners' communication and literacy skills.

Two new members of staff were also interviewed. They were very clear of the actions that they must take if they have any concerns. They feel well supported, although, where appropriate, occasionally would value further guidance on aspects of students' personal care that are not covered by existing training.

New staff receive initial training about vulnerable adults and the protection of children as soon as they take up their posts. This introduction is extended by attendance at the next college safeguarding course. All staff receive annually updated safeguarding training. The college's records show that a very small number who were absent at the time of their allocated update course did not then attend the next training opportunity. The college has plans to ensure feedback on this training requirement is routinely included in senior management meetings. The designated person responsible for safeguarding vulnerable adults and child protection has undertaken additional training. This training is regularly updated.

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