

Bournemouth & Poole College

Bournemouth & Poole College of Further Education, Lansdowne, Meyrick Road,
Bournemouth, Dorset BH1 3JJ

Inspection of residential provision

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this further education college with residential accommodation

Bournemouth & Poole College provides further education to over 11,000 students, offering a wide range of courses and apprenticeships to young people and adults. The college is located over three sites in Bournemouth and Poole. There is no site-based residential accommodation provided by the college. The homestay provision is available to students who come from the local region, further afield in England or from overseas. In addition, students studying for the specialised chef apprenticeship are provided with accommodation. This can be with host families or accommodation provided by their work-based placement.

Inspection dates: 28 to 30 January 2020

Overall experiences and progress of young people, taking in account **good**

How well young people are helped and protected good

The effectiveness of leaders and managers good

The college provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 22 March 2017

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of young people: good

Students benefit from high levels of pastoral support from college staff, homestay carers and work-based assessors. Students report very positively about the college and living away from home; they all recommend the homestay experience to others.

Students, and many of their parents, acknowledge the warm welcome they receive from homestay carers. The college website provides good information in preparation for student arrival. Most students receive a profile of their homestay carers and arrangements are made for telephone and video calls to introduce themselves. The quality and experience of homestay are strengths of the college. Homestay carers report that this college trains and supports them very well. As a result, many carers have provided this type of care and accommodation for this college for more than 10 years.

For students arriving from overseas, the college ensures that they are greeted at the airport and transported safely to their host families. The college staff are committed to ensuring that all students receive a positive experience from the point of their arrival and throughout their period of study and learning. Some students affectionately refer to 'my host sister' or 'my host mother/father' as they describe how they are included in family life and activities.

Students are confident in contacting an adult with any concern and they report that they feel listened to. For example, a request to change to a smaller homestay was arranged in response to a student's need to be in a quieter environment. An established welfare team provides support to students with their emotional and health needs. Counselling, coaches in welfare and mental health, and financial advice are just some of the support services available on site. The college has developed strong partnerships with community resources and statutory bodies such as the police and health services.

The student voice is well established through regular surveys, discussions and an active student union. As a result of listening to students' views, the following improvements have been made: Wi-Fi access, new printers installed, free breakfast food available and the installation of water fountains. The college principal and senior leaders are visible around the college and available to students. This level of engagement is successful, resulting in no complaints from homestay students.

Students benefit from a wrap-around service at this college. They receive support with their studies and gain skills and experience in employment. The majority of homestay students are supported in developing English as an additional language. These experiences prepare students for adult life while living away from their home. In addition, some students are learning to drive through the college's partnership with a local driving school.

How well young people are helped and protected: good

The safety and well-being of students are given high regard by adults who are committed to supporting students who are living away from home. Training in safeguarding is effective. As a result, the safety and protection of students are embedded in practice throughout the college and with homestay carers. Staff are clear on the need to report and record any concern they may have. The safeguarding policy has clear procedures for reporting and reflects statutory guidance.

College staff have strong working relationships with local authorities. The designated person for safeguarding is a member of the local authority safeguarding partnership and chairs a strategic support group. Being a member of community partnerships regarding the Prevent agenda and county lines enables college staff to have current local information in order to safeguard and support students.

Students report that they feel safe and receive guidance to support them with their personal safety. The introduction of personal development tutors who do not have a teaching role has strengthened student support. Tutors follow a planned programme throughout each term, delivering topics such as radicalisation, substance misuse, safe relationships, hate crime, knife crime, road safety, mental health and resilience. This personal development programme informs students, enabling them to make safe choices.

Risk management is good, and matters of health and safety are prioritised to ensure that risks are reduced for students, staff, homestay carers and visitors. For example, fire safety systems are well established and everyone at the college knows what action to take in the event of the fire alarm being activated. Similarly, in homestay, annual fire and safety checks are completed to ensure that students are staying in a safe environment.

Students are well behaved. The college has clear expectations of students, which are detailed in the handbook. As a result, incidents of misbehaviour are very low. Students who have been discovered smoking in a bedroom or with alcohol receive a supportive response, not punitive.

Generally, safer recruitment and selection processes for staff and homestay carers adhere to the statutory guidance to ensure that all the adults supporting students are suitable to do so. One omission was identified, where a member of the welfare team was appointed before all the checks had been received. This member of staff was supervised at all times.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

Leaders and managers are ambitious in wanting to provide good-quality care and support to students. College staff and homestay carers are enthusiastic and student-focused. The college is established in working in collaboration with apprenticeship employers and local industries.

A new electronic recording and monitoring system alerts college staff to concerns

about students. The welfare team and academic staff work well together to communicate any concerns and offer appropriate support. This joined-up approach is further enhanced by the personal development tutors.

Safeguarding is promoted as a top priority by the principal of this college. In addition to the safety and welfare of students, leaders and managers consider the welfare of the staff. Supervision to reflect on safeguarding concerns is delivered by managers who have received training by the local authority. For those delivering counselling and welfare support, the end of the working week concludes with a mindfulness session. Staff value this opportunity to share feelings, reflect on their working week and resolve any difficulties before the weekend.

Each member of college staff has regular supervision and an annual appraisal of their role and responsibilities. These assessments identify any training needs and areas for their professional development. The detailed analysis to inform the training plan is worthy of wider dissemination.

Leaders and managers monitor the quality of help and support provided to students effectively. Monitoring is further enhanced by reporting to committees and the governing body. The self-assessment tool provides some understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the college.

What does the college need to do to improve?

Recommendations

- **Staff recruitment and checks on other adults**

Colleges operate safe recruitment policies and adopt recruitment procedures in line with any regulatory requirements, having due regard to any relevant guidance issued by the Secretary of State. (National minimum standard 14.1)

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of young people, using the 'Social care common inspection framework'. This inspection was carried out under the Children Act 1989 to assess the effectiveness of the service, how it meets the core functions of the service as set out in legislation, and to consider how well it complies with the national minimum standards.

Further education college with residential accommodation details

Social care unique reference number: SC041848

Principal/CEO: Mrs Diane Grannell

Inspectors

Clare Davies, Social Care Inspector

Janice Hawtin, Social Care Inspector

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