

The Curious Lounge C.I.C (trading as the Curious Academy)

Monitoring visit report

Unique reference number: 2748204

Name of lead inspector: Sara Woodward, His Majesty's Inspector

Inspection date: 30 October 2024

Type of provider: Independent learning provider

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20 Tudor Road
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Monitoring visit: main findings

Context and focus of visit

The Curious Lounge is an independent learning provider based in Reading, Berkshire. It offers Skills Bootcamps in data analytics and digital marketing to unemployed adults or self-employed people aiming to develop their businesses. At the time of the monitoring visit, 24 students were studying data analytics and 16 students were studying digital marketing.

At the previous monitoring visit in July 2024, inspectors judged safeguarding arrangements to be generally appropriate. However, the Curious Lounge was not meeting its responsibilities in relation to the 'Prevent' duty.

Themes

How much progress have leaders and managers made in ensuring that effective safeguarding arrangements are in place? **Reasonable progress**

Leaders have taken effective actions to strengthen safeguarding arrangements. They have developed a suitable 'Prevent' duty risk assessment to identify and mitigate the potential dangers of radicalisation and extremism. They have established productive links with the local council and regional 'Prevent' coordinators. Through these partnerships, leaders receive timely information and guidance about national, regional and local threats. For example, they have provided useful advice and support to students about right-wing extremist activity in the area. Consequently, leaders help keep students safe from these risks.

Trainers make sure that students have a secure understanding of the dangers associated with radicalisation and extremism. For instance, students can explain how misinformation online can influence and manipulate others towards extremist views. Trainers help them to identify the warning signs in those who may be at risk of radicalisation, such as changes in behaviour and withdrawal from friendships. Students know how to report any concerns should they need to. They know how to protect themselves and others from these risks effectively.

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