

Bishop Auckland college

Monitoring visit report

Unique reference number: 130657

Name of lead inspector: Gill Reay HMI

Last day of inspection: 4 March 2014

Type of provider: General further education college

Address: Woodhouse Lane
Bishop Auckland
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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 one of Her Majesty's Inspectors. The last full inspection of Bishop Auckland College took place in January 2012 when inspectors judged the college's overall effectiveness to be good. This inspection judged that the college met its statutory requirements to safeguard learners.

Theme

Safeguarding

The inspector did not find any cause for concern for learners' safeguarding. The college's procedures and practices for safeguarding learners are fit for purpose and applied consistently and rigorously. Learners and staff understand clearly who they should go to if they have concerns about any aspect of safeguarding. The single central register fulfils statutory requirements.

All new staff have level one safeguarding training at their induction. College records show that all staff have had level one safeguarding training in the last three years. Named safeguarding officers and managers have a level two safeguarding qualification.

The inspector spoke to several groups of learners and visited the Woodhouse Lane and Spennymoor campuses. All of these learners reported that they felt safe at the college and trusted their student engagement officers and personal tutors to resolve any issue they raised. They were confident that any concerns would be sorted out by staff. High staffing ratios at the Spennymoor campus ensure that behaviour is managed effectively and any potential conflict between students is diffused. The college is planning additional facilities to be available at break and lunch times to encourage students to be active and engaged in recreational activities.

During the visit, the inspector examined student disciplinary records on both sites and compared them to individual student disciplinary reports. This analysis showed that record keeping on both campuses matched the college's policy and procedures and that they were consistently applied. Student records show that appropriate action is taken in relation to suspensions and students' re-entry to college.

The college's record of complaints investigations shows that complaints are investigated rigorously and that appropriate actions are taken. It is clear from the analysis of complaints records that the college pays good attention to equality and fairness.

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