

Vogal Group Limited

Monitoring visit report

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Name of lead inspector: Rebecca Perry, Her Majesty's Inspector

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Type of provider: Independent learning provider

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Monitoring visit: main findings

Context and focus of visit

From October 2018, Ofsted undertook to carry out monitoring visits to all newly directly funded providers of apprenticeship training provision which began to be funded from April 2017 or after by ESFA and/or the apprenticeship levy. This follow-up safeguarding monitoring visit has been carried out consequent to the provider being found to be making insufficient progress with respect to safeguarding at their previous monitoring visit. It follows the arrangements outlined in the *Further education and skills inspection handbook*.

The focus of this visit is only on the safeguarding theme below.

Vogal Training is part of the larger Vogal Group Limited. It provides apprenticeship training in engineering. Vogal Training began delivering apprenticeships through its own contract in 2017. At the time of the monitoring visit, 18 apprentices were in learning. Apprentices are all on frameworks, studying at either intermediate or advanced level.

Theme

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

Senior leaders responded swiftly to the previous monitoring visit findings. They appointed a new centre manager with good knowledge and experience of safeguarding requirements. The manager is also the designated safeguarding lead (DSL). Leaders and managers have also appointed a safeguarding officer. They have ensured that all staff have completed relevant training in safeguarding, the 'Prevent' duty and wider issues such as female genital mutilation, forced and arranged marriage and up-skirting. As a result, staff have a good awareness of safeguarding and are fully aware of their responsibilities to protect learners.

The managing director for the wider Vogal Group takes overall responsibility for safeguarding apprentices and effectively monitors arrangements. He, the DSL and the safeguarding officer have completed advanced training. Leaders have ensured that policies and procedures are up to date, fit for purpose and contain useful information for staff and apprentices. They have also ensured that, should a disclosure occur, processes in place for referring concerns are robust and effective.

Staff with safeguarding responsibilities meet regularly to review arrangements for safeguarding. As a result, leaders and managers have responded quickly to identified areas for improvement. For example, safer recruitment practices are now followed. Leaders complete relevant checks on all staff, including updated Disclosure and Barring Service checks.

Apprentices have completed online training in safeguarding, radicalisation awareness, understanding how to report concerns, and staying safe online. As a result, apprentices now have a sound understanding of these aspects. Leaders recognise that an area for improvement remains in developing and ensuring an ongoing culture of safeguarding at the provider.

Employers' understanding of safeguarding is underdeveloped. Employers are aware of the recent training that apprentices have undertaken. However, leaders have not yet ensured that employers understand fully the now effective arrangements for safeguarding within the provider.

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