

EQV (UK) Ltd

Monitoring visit report

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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 monitoring visit was undertaken as part of those arrangements and as outlined in the 'Further education and skills inspection handbook', especially the sections entitled 'Providers newly directly funded to deliver apprenticeship training provision' and 'Monitoring visits'. The focus of these visits is on the theme set out below.

EQV (UK) Ltd (EQV), established in 1992, is based in Leicester. The company specialises in information technology and management training. EQV has offered directly delivered levy-funded apprenticeships since July 2017. It has 105 apprentices funded through the employer levy. Of these, 83 follow standards-based programmes for managers at level 3 and 23 at level 5. Apprentices are employed in a range of businesses in the public and private sectors.

Themes

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

Leaders and managers have taken prompt action to rectify concerns raised at the previous monitoring visit. They fully understand their safeguarding duty. Leaders and managers now place a high priority on safeguarding apprentices and have implemented appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures.

Staff are trained effectively in safeguarding and the 'Prevent' duty. They understand their responsibilities to protect apprentices including from the dangers of extremism and radicalisation. For example, apprentices now have progress reviews concentrating on welfare and safeguarding. Leaders and managers monitor responses and identify trends. Where necessary, they take action to ensure that apprentices are safe.

Apprentices understand how to stay safe, how to make a disclosure and what would happen if they did. They understand appropriately the dangers of radicalisation and extremism but are not sufficiently made aware of any specific local risks.

Leaders now carry out thorough checks on staff to ensure that they are suitable to work with apprentices. They check staff have the right to work in the United Kingdom. Workplace references are routinely collected prior to employment.

Leaders and managers have implemented fully new systems to ensure that apprentices work in a safe environment. Employers and apprentices understand appropriately their health and safety responsibilities. For example, managers complete a health and safety check with employers at the workplace before the apprentice starts their programme. Trainers carefully monitor this and discuss any potential threats with apprentices during progress reviews. As a consequence, apprentices know how to stay safe in the workplace and what to do if they have concerns.

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