

Piper Training Limited

Monitoring visit report

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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.

Piper Training Limited (Piper Training) currently has 112 apprentices based throughout England. Most apprentices are studying apprenticeships in heating and ventilation at levels 2 and 3. A very small number of apprentices are studying project management apprenticeships at level 4. The majority of apprentices are following apprenticeship frameworks.

Theme

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

Leaders and managers have worked methodically to address adequately most of the significant weaknesses identified at the previous monitoring visit.

Managers have reviewed and updated safeguarding policies and processes, including those for the 'Prevent' duty. The revised policies and processes require further development. For example, leaders and managers have yet to establish a sufficient range of external contacts for 'Prevent'.

Following the previous monitoring visit, leaders reviewed and amended appropriately the safeguarding arrangements. No safeguarding referrals have been received. Therefore, safeguarding arrangements remain untested.

The designated safeguarding officer (DSO) now receives support from two deputy designated safeguarding officers (DDSO). All three have completed specific DSO training. Leaders and managers now ensure that a member of the safeguarding team is always available to deal with safeguarding concerns and issues. Apprentices and employers are aware of who the DSO and her deputies are. They understand how and when to report safeguarding or safeguarding-related concerns.

Since the previous monitoring visit, all staff have completed level 3 safeguarding training and level 2 training in the 'Prevent' duty. Staff now have a greater

understanding of safeguarding, the 'Prevent' duty and what they should do if they have concerns about an apprentice or colleague.

Subcontractor arrangements for safeguarding are now more stringent. Managers complete annual quality assurance audits of subcontractors' safeguarding arrangements. They plan to record the audit details and action points for improvement on the management information system. However, the management information system has yet to be fully implemented.

Apprentices benefit from an induction and training handbook that provides basic information about safeguarding and safeguarding-related issues. As a result, apprentices have an adequate understanding of safeguarding, safeguarding-related issues and the dangers associated with radicalisation and extremism. They are aware of the steps they should take if they have any concerns about themselves or their peers.

Safeguarding and the 'Prevent' duty are mandatory topics during apprentices' reviews. Training support coordinators (TSC) use 'hot topics' during reviews to develop apprentices' understanding of safeguarding and the threats of radicalisation and extremism. However, the recording of these discussions is too brief. Review documentation does not capture accurately safeguarding discussions between apprentices and their TSCs. Apprentices' reviews and learning plans do not record learning points or safeguarding training undertaken.

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