

## Adult Learning and Skills, Gateshead Council



**Gateshead Council** is a Local Authority Provider. The Adult Learning and Skills sits within Raising Achievement Service. There are approximately 42 full-time members of staff and around 70 active sessional tutors and learning support staff (147 on actual tutor pool). All tutors, whether they are active or not, have been invited to attend the training sessions. The council work with approximately 9,000 learners (part time learners) a year. These are learners participating on either community learning, Skills for Life, Skills for Jobs, Family Learning or vocational programmes. The Council has in place effective partnerships with a variety of employers, voluntary and charitable organisations.

### **LSIS training we accessed:**

The Council was keen to train staff to ensure they could cascade safeguarding training to the wider workforce. Two full-time members of staff, the Quality Manager and Family Learning Manager, attended the LSIS one day, face-to-face safeguarding facilitator training. The training provided a better understanding for the two staff involved and allowed them to access the LSIS facilitator resources on the VL and use the resources to adapt a tailored training package for Adult Learning and Skills staff.

### **What we did as a result of the training:**

As a result of the training the two members of staff tailored a training package that would allow them the flexibility to ensure all staff received at least 2.5 hours training in safeguarding, tailored to their needs. Sessions are delivered at a range of community venues, voluntary organisations, schools (primary and comprehensive) and Children's Centres.

### **Impact of safeguarding training:**

Since March 2010, 93 members of staff have accessed the Adult Learning and Skills safeguarding training. There is a choice of sessions available - morning, afternoon,

evening and weekend. There are at least 3 sessions a month that staff can attend. To date 60% of the overall workforce has been trained.

Three questions were asked of staff after they had completed the safeguarding training, Do you: 1) Feel more familiar with the legislative context and key policy? 2) Identify ways of safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults? 3) Implement safer recruitment processes and practices? Feedback from the training is shown below:

<b>Feedback from safeguarding training</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>
Feel more familiar with the legislative context and key policy	54%	46%
Identify ways of safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults	67%	33%
Implement safer recruitment processes and practices	53%	47%

### **Positive change**

- Gateshead Adult Learning and Skills has created a Safeguarding policy and code of practice in consultation with staff and learners.
- We have identified the need for refresher training sessions as the subject matter changes constantly. The refresher training will enable staff to have up-to-date and relevant information on a regular basis.
- Safeguarding is now an agenda item on the monthly team meetings.
- There is a designated person (DP) in post. The designated person (Family Learning Manager) has attended the face-to-face training provided by LSIS and is in post.
- The designated person sits on the Local Safeguarding Children’s Board (LSCB) and the Principle Manager for Adult Learning and Skills sits on the Economy, Skills, Housing and Transport and also the Safer, Stronger Communities committees.
- The impact of the changes has been noticed through safeguarding being discussed and raised in achievement and development meetings with tutors and staff.
- Staff are a lot more aware about safeguarding issues and what they need to do to report any allegations of abuse. Associate providers and employers are asking the service to provide safeguard training for their own staff.