

Leicestershire Adult Learning Service: Moving the safeguarding agenda forward



Leicestershire Adult Learning Service is located within the Children and Young People's Service Department of the Leicestershire County Council. Delivery is via 17 enrolment centres and approximately 60 outstations, community centres, libraries, schools, village halls, pubs, care homes and County Hall. There are:

- 20.5 FTE managers
- 21 coordinators
- 2 full time courses for LLDD transition learners
- total number of learners 5573 (ALR), 5560 (PCDL)
- overall total number of courses 1667

Focus for safeguarding training

One of the three learning support managers for the Service with a remit for E&D and Safeguarding attended the one day LSIS training for Safer Learning and Safer Recruitment. The purpose of staff attending was to roll out a programme of training and procedures within the organisation. Previously most safeguarding training had been targeted solely within learning support and in some cases in development work learning. The manager is also a trained facilitator for the local safeguarding training devised via the safeguarding board.

As a result of the training several actions have taken place:

- A leaflet relevant to Leicestershire Adult Learning Service has been produced for all staff alongside a flow chart demonstrating the role of the designated person
- A safeguarding section on the 'learning platform' (an e-site for staff) has been developed and resources uploaded. A system to CRB external support staff is now in place.
- Training for coordinators on LSIS Safeguarding Modules 1 and 2 has taken place with a second training session for managers scheduled. This sits alongside local

safeguarding training “Alerters A” course which was rolled out to 40 learning support staff and a further session planned for development workers.

- The manager has now become a member of the local safeguarding board gaining a better understanding of prevalence in Leicestershire and partner working within the County Council.
- Colleagues also have reflected on discrepancies in their practice and have agreed to revisit key areas linked to safeguarding. Colleagues looked at organisational, curriculum and own barriers to embedding safeguarding.
- All managers were asked to complete a self assessment for their area based on OFSTED requirements and using the LSIS Towards Excellence framework

Measuring the impact:

Staff evaluation forms have shown they now understand the whole organisational approach to safeguarding and understand the need to be more vigilant and aware. Issues around E&D and safeguarding are being incorporated into documentation including the staff handbook. Staff are familiar with routes to support for their concerns. Safeguarding now fits within the Health and Safety Working Group. Policies and procedures are currently being revisited including induction and risk assessments to ensure safeguarding procedures are robust. The organisation is also looking at the LSIS Safer Recruitment Audit tool within Peer Review.

Next steps:

After this round of training the intention is to set up Safeguarding Champions within each curriculum area. Also, current work going alongside Valuing People and working with the organisation’s ILT strategy is looking at e-safety and cyber bullying. Learner involvement activities around safeguarding are planned within learning support courses to coincide with learning disability week theme ‘report hate crime’. Some of this work is being shared with the local voluntary sector. A catalogue of resources for LLDD Learners devised with Valuing People, Police and Trading Standards will be available as a resource to all staff in Learning Support.