

New College Durham

Directorate of HR and Corporate Services

Safeguarding and Prevent Steering Group

**Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 21 November 2018
at 10 am in GR3.26**

Present: Karl Fairley (KF) (Chair), George Wraith (GW), Lynn Bertram (LB), Julie Coverley (JC), Adele Dowson (AD), Andrew Stephenson (ASt), Kay Wilson (KW), Peter Morrison (PM), Sarah Elliott (SE), Robbie Pick (RP), Philippa Baulf (PB), Elaine Bonham (EB), Karen Milne (KM), Dawn Fairlamb (DF), Graeme Nash (GN) and Lynne Moore (LM) (Notes)

Action

1 Apologies were received from: Colleen Peters (CPe), Christine Padgett (CPa), Sharon Bennett (SBe)

2 PREVENT HE and FE – Chris Sybenga

KF welcomed AD to the meeting. AD replaces H Owen as Head of School for Health, Care and Public Services.

KF then welcomed C Sybenga (CS) to the meeting. CS provided a brief update on his career with the Special Branch prior to him retiring. He is now the regional Lead for Prevent. CS explained the region he covers is from the Borders to Sheffield and Halifax including 21 FE establishments, 19 Universities and 100 colleges as well as independent providers and local authorities adult provision.

CS stated within the region he covers there are five priority areas, which are: Bradford, Leeds, Sheffield, Halifax and Huddersfield, which receive additional funding to support Prevent development. CS noted that Durham is not classed as a priority area.

CS noted that the Silver Contest Group does set targets for colleges the Office of Students and Ofsted both look to ensure that Prevent is fully embedded Ofsted in much more detail. CS informed members that the topics being explored in more depth by Ofsted are ICT and British Values.

Cont/d

Action

ICT: CS noted this is very prevalent at the moment as students are able to research certain topics on Google. Therefore, Ofsted will check to make sure institutions have the right firewall blocks and checks in place. Ofsted will test our systems for triangulation so if there is a concern flagged how is this picked up by our IT department and then followed through.

CS also noted that there needs to be an awareness of the variety of propaganda magazines available online, that seem to have ‘innocent titles’ but are in fact magazines directed at radicalisation and promotion of inappropriate views. Including readers to travel to conflict zones. ICT systems need to be robust.

Members are aware that students do need to be protected against extremist views and as a College we are vigilant, but also for some curriculum topics that research is required and we do not want to hinder their research, this is in context and would not deem to be a threat however CS informed members that GCHQ is aware of individuals viewing certain on-line topics and where they are concerns this would be followed up.

British Values: Safeguarding Lead for Ofsted will raise this during inspections therefore, Colleges are being reminded of their legal responsibility to embed British Values.

CPa

It has been noted that some colleges have their own set of values which has caused issues with Ofsted. Therefore it is best that all staff in College are aware of demonstrating extolling British Values in lessons.

CP to give any feedback from future Silver Contest meetings to the group.

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Learning Curve: On-going. Recognition that their App will be very useful, need to ensure for GDPR that the information is safe.

PREVENT/Delivery of Contracts in Tees Valley: Meeting had been held.

PREVENT: On the agenda

Cont/d

Cyber Security: NCD students are currently working on a safety awareness project for Durham County Council. This will be in the form of a video presentation which is due to be finalised this week. Therefore, not had sight of it as yet. CS did ask if JL's drama production has been recorded. KF responded saying that the production hasn't been recorded at present, KM to explore if parts of the presentation can be recorded for reference. There is a concern that recording the production will not capture the detail. It is also worth noting that the discussions after the performance are extremely valuable so they would need to be a resource behind the video.

KM

Contest: HR policies have been amended in relation to KCSiE.

4 Update on PREVENT Action Plan

ASt noted that the action plan was originally set up 3 years ago to look at the various risks associated with FE. In the first year the action plan was very detailed but over the last two years it has become much smaller due actions subsequently being completed. The plan was also impact based upon the learner and their awareness of British Values. This then resulted in a curriculum and students action plan being created which includes all the activities the schools undertake.

At the end of last academic year a summary was put together which was then shared with College Governors.

The Risk Assessment is in line with PREVENT with the overall action plan being updated four times per year. Each draft is then tabled during this forum prior to being accepted. It was agreed that a draft copy will be circulated with the minutes.

5 Current Practice/Process update on actions from Previous Minutes

Discussed under Matters Arising.

6 Oversight of Quiet Room

SE confirmed that at present five students have registered for the Quiet Room. There has since been a request for the quiet room to be located elsewhere in College, SE informed the group that there is a process in place for monitoring the use of the room and felt if this was to be placed somewhere else how would this be managed.

Cont/d

Action

Of those 5 students who have registered, 3 are males and 2 are females. Students can only register to use the room if they have a valid student enrolment number.

7 Update from Safeguarding Sub-Group

ASt briefed members on the sub-group meeting that had recently been held. Members discussed a mobile app, devised by Learning Curve, which can be uploaded onto students' phones thereby allowing them to access information if on work placement. The app also provides teaching resources as well as having a reporting notification button.

A further meeting is due to be held in relation to GDPR regulations prior to an overall decision being made to go ahead and purchase the app. ASt noted he would provide an update during the next meeting.

ASt

8 Update from Staff Development

KM provided an update following the recent staff development day. The student dramatisation on PREVENT was performed with topical discussions afterwards to reinforce the learning that had taken place. Staff valued the discussions afterwards which were very open and honest. The session will be delivered again in February but this is likely to be the last time with the students performing. Feedback from those who attended was really positive with key questions being asked. One such being that PREVENT can be seen to contradict British Values. This demonstrated the College is doing the right thing. KM noted she would be speaking to JL to look to run further presentations.

Action

KM then noted that at present the College don't offer Wrap Training as a matter of course as she feels this is covered by other means within the College. CS feels this should be undertaken and individuals are trained to become trainers. KM will explore further.

KM

SE noted that there were also two Drugs Awareness sessions held during Staff Development Day. Again positive feedback was received but staff would welcome further advice/guidance on welfare aspect. Therefore it was agreed that LM would arrange for GN, ASt, SE, KF, KM and LBe to meet to discuss the best way forward. Needs to be clarity and consistency across College processes.

LM

KF also informed members that he along with ASt and LBe will be meeting with all HoS and their VPs to discuss a consistent way to approach to tackling miss-use of drugs.

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9 Feedback from Student Induction Survey

Action

ASt updated members of feedback received from FE, HE and Apprenticeship students in which they noted that wearing lanyards would make them feel safer whilst at College.

The results from a recent induction survey indicate that 96% of students agreed they feel safe at College whilst the remaining 4% would again welcome wearing lanyards.

As the wearing of lanyards has been raised for a second year SE noted that she would speak to course reps prior to writing an overall report for KF to table at SEG.

10 Any other Business

Poster Competition: KF informed members that the Equality competition will be running again this year. KM will be sending out details and the closing date for entries is February 2019.

11 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 10 am on Wednesday 30 January 2019 in GR3.26.

Karl Fairley
Chair