

Welcome to the Safeguarding newsletter for the Spring term 2011.

Safeguarding Disclosures.

Since September 2010 fifteen disclosures have been recorded on the confidential electronic system. Since the start of this term there have been 5 new cases. Three of these have been referred to external agencies.

Safeguarding Information

The second of three small information cards have been produced for students. The topic for this term is 'Stay Safe from Abuse'. The cards give key advice and contact numbers. These will be distributed via tutors.

Racist incidents in Somerset

The College has been working with Somerset Racial Equality Council (SREC) following a racist incident in Yeovil, against two members of the college community. This incident was reported as a Hate Crime and the perpetrators have been prosecuted. Further information on recognising and dealing with hate crime will be distributed to staff, through News in 90 and Team Brief. However everyone is reminded that copies of the booklet entitled "Hate Crime" produced by Avon and Somerset Constabulary were distributed last year for inclusion in the E&D folders in every staff room.

Healthy FE Status

Following the presentation by the Department of Health, of the 'You're Welcome' Award for young people friendly health services, we are delighted to report that we have also achieved the Healthy FE Award. This is part of the Healthy FE Framework and is awarded to colleges committed to developing health services for staff and students, in partnership with local health providers and, at strategic level, with the Local Authority and other organisations.

Conclusion

We should like to thank everyone in college for their support in our safeguarding work, particularly those members of staff who act as designated Deputy Safeguarding Officers. We welcome two new Deputies: Coralie Duckworth in Health, Care and Teacher Training and Richard Wyithe in Construction.

Ruth Morgan
Safeguarding Officer

Angela Coward
Deputy Safeguarding Officer

E-Safety

The new e-safety training course continues to be available to students via Tutor Groups. Sessions delivered so far have been well received and prompted useful discussions. Please contact Karen Foster if you would like to book a slot for your students. All the materials are available on Moodle and are designed to provide useful information for staff as well as students.

Training for staff

During the last two months, Refresher Safeguarding sessions have been delivered for all staff. This is mandatory up-date training. Staff who were unable to attend will be asked to complete an on-line module instead. Over 100 staff are in the process of completing the NCFE Level 2 qualification in Safeguarding Children and Young People.

Anger Management

Twelve staff attended a course, in December, on handling aggressive behaviour by students. The facilitator has worked extensively with other colleges and helped staff to develop strategies on how to manage and diffuse aggressive situations.

Moodle – Do you need Help? Button

Students who wish to access confidential information are able to access The 'Do you need Help?' button set up on Moodle, by the Student Support Services Team. There are links to external organisations and web-sites for information about abuse, racism, bullying etc. This facility featured in a case study, which was presented at the AoC National Conference, by James Hampton.