

Welcome to the Safeguarding newsletter for the Autumn term.

## **Safeguarding Disclosures.**

During the academic year 09/10 22 disclosures were recorded on the confidential electronic system (compared with 27 in 08/09). A total of 4 cases were referred to Somerset Direct/ Dorset Social Services and 7 to the local police. Some cases were referred to more than one agency - one was referred to a medical practitioner, one to the Local Safeguarding Children Board and two to Emergency Housing. There has also been liaison with The Youth Offending Team on one case. Social Services have made the college aware of three cases where current students were receiving support, as a result of an external safeguarding issue. Since the start of term there have been 2 new cases.

## **Safeguarding Information**

The Safeguarding Strategy has now been completed and is available on the Intranet and college website. There is also a new Health and Well-being Strategy. An Organisation Position Statement on Safeguarding has also been developed following advice from LSIS. A new leaflet 'Safeguarding Learners' has been produced and distributed to staff via Team Brief. Anti Bullying week is 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> November and small information cards have been produced for students with key advice and contact numbers. These will be distributed via tutors.

## **You're Welcome**

The College was asked to be one of nine Trailblazer Colleges in the country to work towards gaining the accreditation for 'You're welcome' an initiative by the Dept. of Health to promote young people friendly health services in colleges. The college has worked in conjunction with a local NHS lead and has completed a comprehensive self-assessment tool and related Action Plan. In October 2010 we were informed we had been awarded the accreditation. A presentation will take place on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

## **Safeguarding Audit**

Following advice from an LSIS consultant, the on-line LSIS Safeguarding Audit has been completed. The results were generally very positive. Some actions are required and these have been discussed with the Lead Governor and designated deputies.

## **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.

*Ruth Morgan*  
Safeguarding Officer

*Angela Coward*  
Deputy Safeguarding Officer

## **E-Safety**

A new cross-college e-safety Group has been set up, which meets on a regular basis. Through the Group, new training materials on e-safety have been developed for use via Moodle. A new e-safety training course has been developed which is being offered 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.

## **Training for staff**

During 09/10, in-house training sessions on Safeguarding, were delivered for 113 staff and volunteers. The training used was based on the updated cascade materials provided by the Somerset Safeguarding Children Board. The training was part of an on-going staff development programme to ensure all staff receive the required training in safeguarding. All new staff receive the training during their induction period and 15 staff have been trained so far this term. Refresher training is being developed for roll out this academic year.

## **Anger Management**

A course will be delivered in December for sixteen staff who work in areas where aggressive behaviour by students is sometimes an issue. The facilitator has worked extensively with other colleges and will develop strategies on how to manage and diffuse aggressive situations.

## **Moodle – Do you need Help? Button**

The 'Do you need Help?' button set up on Moodle, by the Student Support Services Team, enables students or staff to ask for help or report issues by confidential e-mail. They can also access links to external organisations and web-sites for information about abuse, racism, bullying etc. This facility features in a case study which will be presented at the AoC National Conference as part of a presentation about the LLUK Equality Framework, which the college is helping to pilot.