

## **Item: 4**

**College Management Council Sub-committee: 24 October 2022.**

**Education Scotland Safeguarding Inspection Visit to Orkney College.**

**Report by Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing.**

### **1. Purpose of Report**

To present a summary of findings of Education Scotland's Safeguarding Inspection Visit to Orkney College in June 2022.

### **2. Recommendations**

The Sub-committee is invited to note:

#### **2.1.**

That, on 17 June 2022, Education Scotland undertook a safeguarding inspection of Orkney College.

#### **2.2.**

That Summary of Findings regarding the Safeguarding Visit, attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

The Sub-committee is invited to scrutinise:

#### **2.3.**

Progress with actions arising from the Education Scotland Safeguarding Inspection Visit, detailed in section 4.2 of this report, in order to obtain assurance that action has been taken or agreed as necessary.

### **3. Background**

#### **3.1.**

On 3 May 2022, the College's Principal received notification by Education Scotland that Orkney College would receive a Safeguarding Inspection Visit within six weeks.

#### **3.2.**

The dates of the visit were subsequently confirmed as 17 June 2022 and that the Education Scotland Safeguarding Inspection Visit would be undertaken by HMI's Barbara Nelson.

### **3.3.**

The Education Scotland Safeguarding Inspection Visit requested that a self-evaluation document for Orkney College be completed prior to the visit, which was provided to the Inspector.

### **3.4.**

Education Scotland Inspectors were informed that the Assistant Principal would lead and co-ordinate the Safeguarding Inspection Visit. Prior to the visit, Education Scotland Inspectors requested the following information to inform the sessions which were required to be arranged for the visit:

- Child Protection and safeguarding policy documents.
- Records or logs of incidents of bullying.
- Information related to current or recent safeguarding related complaints.
- Training records demonstrating the regular Child Protection and safeguarding training undertaken by all staff and, where applicable, volunteers.
- Where relevant, samples of files.

## **4. Summary of Progress**

### **4.1.**

The Summary of Findings, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, indicates the outcome of the Inspection, as well as outlining a number of key strengths together with areas for further action.

### **4.2.**

The undernoted addresses the actions referred to in the attached Summary of Findings, and details progress made to date:

- Additional external supervision support has been accessed for key staff members involved in aspects of safeguarding. The College already access similar external supervision for the Mental Health Counsellor. This will be ongoing and monitored.
- Two Safeguarding Training Sessions were held at in-service days by one of the Safeguarding Officers. All staff have been reminded to undertake the required online training. The training reinforced the need for all staff to be aware of and act on Safeguarding issues in line with policy. Staff will continue to be reminded of the need to undertake and refresh this training through the staff newsletter and departmental team meetings. Uptake will be monitored on an ongoing basis by line managers and College Management Team.
- All staff undertake mandatory iLearn training including Prevent, which is monitored and reminders to complete this forwarded to them individually, as appropriate.
- Additionally, the College is also required to comply with UHi training as a partner of UHI. The new Prevent module launched week commencing 12 September 2022, by UHI, has been covered in College News. This module had previously been reviewed by an Assistant Principal at the invitation of the Home Office. This

was taken to the College Senior Staff Meeting 26 September for Senior Staff with a recommendation that all staff undertake within their departmental meetings. This was agreed by the College Senior Management Team and will be undertaken as ongoing training by Departments and reviewed by the Safeguarding Committee.

- The College will review the HISA and College UHI Safeguarding policies to review any significant anomalies as an action through the College's Safeguarding Committee.
- The Safeguarding Committee will be the main forum for monitoring progress against the Safeguarding Inspection Report and reporting back to CMT.

## **5. Corporate Governance**

This report relates to the Council complying with governance and scrutiny and therefore does not directly support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Council Plan and the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.

## **6. Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications arising from this report for consideration.

## **7. Legal Aspects**

The Council should comply with all Inspection recommendations made and subject to that, there are no legal implications arising from this noting report.

## **8. Contact Officers**

James Wylie, Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, Email [james.wylie@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:james.wylie@orkney.gov.uk).

Edward Abbott-Halpin, Principal, Orkney College, Email [edward.abbott-halpin@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:edward.abbott-halpin@uhi.ac.uk).

## **9. Appendix**

Appendix 1: HMI Safeguarding Inspection Visit Report.


**Summary of findings    Safeguarding Visit    College - Orkney College UHI**

**To be completed by college HMI/LI/member of the evaluation team**

I have discussed with relevant staff the safeguarding, Child Protection and care experienced returns provided by the college. Based on the evidence provided by the establishment, we have agreed the following with the college:

- The college has in place a range of comprehensive policies and processes to give a coherent and adopted safeguarding culture.
- Staff responsible for safeguarding policies are knowledgeable and highly aware of the Orkney context. They work well together to support each other however processes for supervision are informal. Staff are especially cognisant of the small community and take particular care to assess situations based on fact not local knowledge.
- Safeguarding staff work very well with a range of external agencies to ensure appropriate signposting to relevant services. These partnerships are highly effective in ensuring all learners are kept safe by the relevant agency.
- Staff and learners in the college have a high level of awareness of the services available and how to access these. There is a however a narrow view of staffs role in the safeguarding process and they do not have a full understanding about their role as a collective team in ensuring the safeguarding of both learners and staff.
- The student association HISA has its own guidelines for safeguarding which are not always aligned to the Orkney College UHI guidance.
- The college continues to support staff through ongoing and up to date CLPL for issues relating to safeguarding.
- The college has online access to a range of services and an out of hours service that learners are aware of.
- The reductions in levels of funding for mental health services is a concern for the college. This reduction limits the capacity of the college to address the needs of learners.

These issues have been drawn to the attention of appropriate senior staff. Accountability for appropriate action that needs to be taken to address these issues now resides with the senior managers within the college/centre.

<b>Signature of senior manager or college/centre nominee</b>	
<b>Post held</b>	Principal
<b>Date</b>	<b>29/06/2022</b>

<b>Signature of College HMI/LI:</b>	
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<b>Name</b>	Barbara A Nelson
<b>Date</b>	<b>14/09/2022</b>