

REQUEST	RESPONSE
<p>I raised an FOI number 14114. In this FOI there are two emails sent from the SEND Team Manager at the Council dated the 19th July 2022 at 08:13 and the 19th of July 2022 at 16:41.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I require the names of the sender and the receiver/s of these emails, in addition to the name omitted from the email sent 19th July 2022 at 08:13 2. In addition I require the LAs Action Plan which was attached to the email sent 19th of July 2022 at 16:41. 3. In the email sent on the 19th of July 2022 at 16:41 the second paragraph states "I will follow up with senior managers around putting something in writing outlining the LA's reasons for pursuing termination as opposed to working with My Life to make the necessary improvements to their current provision". <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. I want a copy of the follow up email that was sent outlining the reasons. b. If this email was not sent as a follow up then state none was sent. c. If none was sent I want the reasons senior managers at the council choose to terminate rather than support My Life Learning through their first OFSTED evaluation process from May 21 to July 22. d. I want the names of those senior managers who came up with the reasons. e. I want the minutes of any meetings where these reasons were discussed and determined. 4. I also require detail of meetings plus minutes and names of attendees of how the council came to these reasons to not support My Life. This should include the council's evaluation of the impact the decision not to support My Life would have on the community My Life supports, the young people & their families whose lives were significantly impacted, the wider communities that My Life supports and individuals and services that were dependant on My Life's services. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We do not provide officer names below Assistant Director and would not provide names of colleagues in other organisations. This is because names are personal data and therefore potentially exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Only the most senior of staff would expect their names to be in the public domain and we do not have the consent of less senior staff to disclose their names. As there is no legitimate interest in disclosing the names to the world at large, which is the effect of disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, disclosure would be a breach of the first data protection principle and therefore the exemption under section 40(2) is engaged. 2. See below, redacted in line with the exemption detailed in the response to question 1 above. 3. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The email and attachment was included in FOI 14114 and is provided below, redacted in line with the exemption detailed in the response to question 1 above. b. n/a c. n/a d. Catherine Pealing, Assistant Director for Education, in consultation with Senior Managers (we do not release the names of officers below Assistant Director, as detailed in the response to question 1 above). e. Formal minutes were not taken of meetings where these reasons were discussed. 4. As above, formal minutes of meetings were not recorded.

My Life LA Action Plan

Action	Who	Timescale	Updates
Contact Expanse Learning to determine whether they can facilitate placements for any of My Life's continuing learners	██████████	19/07/2022	██████ has had an initial conversation with ██████ ██████ at Expanse RE: MLL cohort. ██████ shared that Expanse feel that they could facilitate placements for all learners subject to suitability.
Brief the PFA Hub around senior leaderships views around termination of contract with MLL and next steps	████	19/07/2022	Meeting scheduled for 10:15am to brief the team, which will include asking them to prepare pen portraits to send to Expanse.
Update ██████████ from ESFA RE: proposed decision to terminate contract with MLL	████	19/07/2022	Meeting scheduled with RM at 2:30pm
Update senior management team RE: outcome of meeting with RM	████	19/07/2022	
Liaise with other commissioning LA's to inform them of decision to terminate contract and ascertain their intentions around continuation of placements	████	20/07/2022	
Pen portraits to be completed and shared with Expanse for consideration	██████████ ██████████████████ ██████████████████ ██████ ██████████	20/07/2022	

Liaise with relevant senior managers in Adult Social Care to brief them on outcome of OFSTED inspection and LEA's proposed next steps	█ / █	22/07/2022	Various attempts made to contact service managers in social care with no success – may require support from █ to escalate.
Expense to provide a view around suitability for all learners, including potential indicative costs and programmes of study/pathways	█	26/07/2022	
Meet with My Life to discuss termination of contract and advise around plans moving forward for existing learners	█ / █ █	By 28/07/2022	
Draft letter to send to all parents / young people who are continuing learners informing them of decisions made and next steps	█ / █	28/07/2022	
Make follow up phone calls to all parents to discuss next steps	█ █, █, █	28/07/2022	█), █ and █ may need to make further phone calls if parents wish to escalate any complaints/concerns as a result phone calls made by EHCP Coordinators
Where parents are in agreement with offer of Expense (if indication is that needs can be met and placement can be offered), places to be confirmed with Expense, including costs and transition arrangements	█ / █)	W/C 01/08/2022 (if possible)	

Expanse to offer visits for families and young people over the summer period	■	August 2022	
Follow up any transport implications with senior managers in transport as a result of change of provision, and during transition period	■	August 2022	
Learners to return to MLL in Sept 2022 and transition arrangements to Expanse to be in full effect	MLL / Expanse	Sept 2022	
All learners to have successfully transitioned over to Expanse Learning and be attending on a full-time basis.	Expanse	By October half term	

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Wigan Council My Life Notification Letter
Date: 22 July 2022 15:43:50
Attachments: [ESFA Notification Letter FINAL.doc](#)
[Wigan Council My Life Notification Letter FINAL.doc](#)
Importance: High

Good Afternoon [REDACTED],

Please find attached a copy of a letter confirming Wigan Council's notification of its decision to withdraw all existing learners from My Life Learning as a result of the outcome of their recent OFSTED inspection in which they were graded inadequate. I have also provided a copy of the letter which has been sent to My Life today informing them of the formal decision, in writing, following on from the meeting yesterday that you, [REDACTED] and I attended. Hopefully this provides the level of detail you require to understand the factors that have informed our decision making, as well as details pertaining to next steps.

Should you require anything else, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

Wigan Council

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██████████
My Life Learning
Thompson House Equestrian Centre
Pepper Lane
Standish
Wigan
WN6 0PP

Our reference: WigSEND/My Life
Your reference: WigSEND/My Life
Please ask for: ██████████ / ██████████
██████████
Extension:
Direct line: 01942 486136
Date: Friday 22nd July 2022

Dear ██████████

Following on from the meeting which took place at My Life Learning on Thursday 21st July 2022, involving ██████████ (Education Skills Funding Agency) and ██████████ (Agency), I am writing this letter to formally notify you of Wigan Council's decision to withdraw all learners who we currently commission places for at My Life Learning.

The Local Authority (LA) reached the decision to withdraw our learners as we feel that it is in their best interests to do so, given the extent of concerns raised through Ofsted's recent inspection in which My Life Learning was graded inadequate in all areas.

The LA agrees with the perspective shared by OFSTED that My Life have not been able to make the necessary improvements in all areas at the pace required, and as such, we are not assured that My Life is in a position to currently provide our existing learners with the high-quality education offer that needs to be afforded to them. In addition, whilst no immediate concerns around the safety of learners have been disclosed, the deficiencies and inadequacies raised by OFSTED in respect of internal safeguarding processes and procedures is of significant concern to the LA and these have been factored into the decision made to withdraw.

The LA will be liaising with other providers in the area to secure alternative placements and may require some learners to return to My Life in September to aid transition arrangements. The LA is hopeful that all learners will have a formal offer of provision and have successfully transitioned to their onward provision on a full-time basis by no later than October half term (2022). As such, we would appreciate My Life's support and cooperation with facilitating transition during this time period. Financial commitment will be made by the LA to My Life to enable this.

The LA will now be working at pace to ensure that families and young people are updated regarding plans moving forward. A letter will be sent to all families and young people informing them of the LA's decision to withdraw learners and advise them of their next steps. This will be followed up with individual phone calls to ensure that families and young people's views and concerns are listened to and acknowledged. In order to support My Life's planning, we will provide prompt updates once all discussions have taken place with families to ensure that you are aware of those learners who will be returning.

The LA would like to take this opportunity to wish My Life well in the future and to thank you for the support you have extended to our learners that have been placed with you and their families. Should you have any questions or queries regarding the content of this letter or require further clarity around the LA's decision to withdraw learners or plans moving forward, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area. A faint, illegible signature is visible behind the box.


SEND Service Lead

For Colette Dutton
Director of Children's Services