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Frequently Asked Questions – should I ask to see a provider’s risk assessments?

Should Visit Leaders obtain copies of risk assessments from providers and facilities?

The short answer to this question is almost certainly NO.

Where a provider holds a Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge (LOtC QB) there is no reason to seek further assurances about the safety of their provision.

Even where a provider does not hold external accreditation, their risk assessment records are unlikely to be of use to a Visit Leader. Risk assessments that are written for the provider’s own purposes will mean little to others - unless they are qualified to understand, assess and, if necessary, challenge them.

The Visit Leader does need information about the venue, facilities and activities that will be helpful to the Visit Leadership Team in planning how they will supervise their group. For example:

- Who is responsible for what aspects of supervision and when?
- Are there any particular hazards or threats that need to be considered in the visit planning and supervision?
- Does the Provider have any ‘rules’ or ‘conditions’ that they expect the Visit Leader to inform young people about?
- What options are available if the conditions or circumstances on the day don’t allow for the planned activities or programme?

Practical information (e.g. a site plan, photographs, local advice) obtained from the provider, together with the knowledge and experience from a preliminary visit, are likely to be the most helpful to Visit Leaders’ decision making and planning.

Visit Leaders do have a duty of care to ensure that the provider they use meets acceptable standards. For further advice on how to do this see the document ‘Using external providers and facilities’ in section 4 of this guidance.

