

## Value for Money Statement

### The County High School, Leftwich

Academy Trust company number 8126953

Year ended 31st August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of The County High School, Leftwich I am responsible and accountable for ensuring that the Academy delivers good value in the use of public resources. I am aware of the guide to academy value for money statements published by the Education Funding Agency and understand that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes in return for the taxpayer resources received.

I set out below how I have ensured that the Academy Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year.

#### Improving educational results:

Summer 2014 results again evidence the strength of the Academy's "Basics" curriculum (attainment in English and Mathematics which are key employability subjects) and the fact that the Academy maintained its reputation for high academic performance at a time of 'turbulence' and 'volatility' in many schools' GCSE results. The results over the past nine years are as follows:-

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
51%	53%	59%	60%	64%	75%	79%	80%	78%

(including English and Mathematics) (81% 5+A\*-C)

#### Income generation

The County High School, Leftwich continued to maximise income generation through the hire of its facilities including: - the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), the Gym, the Recording Studio and the Dance Studio. The MUGA was almost fully booked throughout the year.

#### Governance of the Academy's Finances

As Accounting Officer, I have responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year ended 31st August 2014, this review has been informed by:

- the work of a Responsible Officer
- the Audit Committee;
- external audit;

The Responsible Officer is a suitably qualified external person who reviewed key financial procedures and systems and presented a report on a termly basis to the Finance and Premises' Committee.

The Academy Trust's system of internal control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures, including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular for the year 2013/2014 it included:

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic reports which were reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body;
- regular reviews by the Finance and Premises' Committee of reports which indicated financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- A 'Handbook of Internal Financial Procedures' which was reviewed in October 2013
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing guidelines;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks.

### **Ensuring the Trust demonstrated good value for money and efficient use of resources**

All services and contracts were appraised and negotiated on a timely basis and where appropriate i.e. economies of scale or reduced cost, 3 year contracts were entered into.

The County High School, Leftwich operated a '3 quote policy' for services to be undertaken which were above £10,000 and below the tender limit. This ensured that 'best value' was derived, taking into account suitability, efficiency, time and cost. The Senior Leadership Team applied the same principles when making informed decisions on:-

- The allocation of resources to best support the curriculum
- The allocation of resources to best support the improvement in the standards of the Premises

### **Reviewing controls and managing risks**

The Academy appointed an Audit Committee to receive the termly reports from the Responsible Officer and to receive the Letter of Comment from the external auditors, Watkinson Black. Both items were in turn reported back to the Finance and Premises' Committee.

Julie Brandreth

The County High School, Leftwich Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Dated 20th November 2014