

Value for Money Statement

Academy trust name: Route 39 Academy

Academy trust company number: 7945060

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of **Route 39 Academy** I am responsible and accountable for ensuring that the academy trust 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 achieved 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.

Context:

This was the first operational year of Route 39 Academy. The focus in year 1 was to develop and embed the new educational provision as well as establish the community, ethos and approach and so provide a spring board for further development and growth. The academy had fewer students join than initially anticipated however in the pre-opening period the trust had worked on 2 budget models to ensure that there was financial viability. The trust also had money carried forward from pre-opening to support the first year actions.

Developing our educational outcomes:

- **Targeted development:** TLO training and Coaching training supported the development of the new curriculum approach. Specialist subject support was bought in for NQT colleagues in order to provide subject specific mentoring. A training residential ensured that staff and new staff were able to work on curriculum planning and development in readiness for the second year.
- **Staffing:** The Academy overstaffed in year one in order to provide additional PPA time for development of the curriculum, staff training and collaboration.
- **Focus on individual pupils:** The Academy bought in Specialist Literacy Support, Specialist THRIVE intervention and dedicated off site provision. This enabled students with additional needs to access specialist support
- **Collaboration:** South Dartmoor Community College provided support and moderation for members of staff- this was important due to the small size of the school.

- **Initiatives:** Pre- opening money was allocated to support the development of Key Personal training with the Scary Guy- this led to improved behaviour and a reduction in exclusions. In addition it provided training and support sessions for parents and the community as well as targeted intervention for more vulnerable students.
- **Quantifying improvements:** 100% of parents state that their child is happy at Route 39 and 92% of parents state that Route 39 Academy has had a positive impact on their child's wellbeing- none disagreed and 73% strongly agreed (survey July 2014) Behaviour over the period improved with a reduction in exclusions. Attainment over the period is broadly in line with national averages and improving.

Financial governance and oversight- Reviewing controls and Managing Risks:

- The Academy Finance and Personnel Committee review expenditure within each budget heading annually and make adjustments based on the effectiveness of strategies introduced in previous years, curriculum offer and any new strategies identified.
- The Full Governing Body approves the budget each year and is mindful of the need to balance expenditure against income to ensure the Academy Trust remains a going concern. The Governing Body also receives and approves the Annual Accounts and External Auditors report.
- The Finance and Personnel Committee monitors financial risk and financial controls. During the year the academy took advantage of the resignation of the Responsible Officer to consider the alternative options available in the Academies Financial Handbook 2013 for the provision of a process for independent checking of financial controls, systems, transactions and risks. As a result of this review, the academy is in the process of engaging regular, independent checks of its systems and controls.
- The Finance and Personnel Committee have worked to ensure the quality of financial reporting. During the year a new Financial Management System was procured which will further improve this further in the coming year.
- A clear and rigorous Finance Policy is in place. There are clear delegated authority levels. Contracts and agreements are awarded in line with the Academy Finance Policy which requires three written quotations for tenders estimated to be above £2,500.

Better purchasing:

- **Fitness for purpose:** this was the first year of contracts- towards the end of the year the trust moved from contracted to in-house cleaning resulting in a cost saving. The academy

used Devon County Transport team to tender for transport routes and their tendering process ensures VFM.

- **Options appraisal:** Following an open tender process the academy secured a catering contract from a local company. This provided a quality of service that linked to the longer term ethos of the academy as well as supporting local business. This contract has been renewed.
- **Economies of scale:** The academy was not in a position this year to move forward on this in the first year of opening. It is expected that this will become more effective as the Academy grows.

Maximising income generation:

- The academy is not in a position to do this whilst in temporary accommodation.

Lessons Learned:

- An FSM has been purchased to support ease of regular budget reports and greater immediate clarity.
- A permanent Business Manager has been appointed to drive forward improvement

Signed:



Name:J.Glossop.....

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date:27/11/14.....