Value for Money Statement

Organisation name: Christ the King Catholic Collegiate

Company number: 8933913

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of Christ the King Catholic Collegiate 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.

The Headteachers continue to meet regularly to discuss standards and identify areas where further collaborative working can take place to enhance curriculum provision across all key stages.
A team of senior leaders across the schools has met pre and post conversation to agree and publish a joint SEND offer for the multi academy.
Senior leaders continue to collaborate to refine and harmonise policy and practice in relation to a range of issues including assessment and pupil premium grant.
The multi academy has employed from 1st May 2014 an attendance consultant to further enhance the work undertaken in each school to target non attendance. We expect to see further positive outcomes going forward.
The multi academy serves a wide and diverse community that includes many very vulnerable children and families. The partnership employs a Family Support Worker though the Catholic Social Care Agency of the archdiocese to provide advice and support to families. This has been in place in the secondary school with strong evidence of positive impact in terms of the relationships between parents and children, the parenting skills of some parents and the capacity of the child and family to sustain a place in school. This successful model is now in place across the partners. Primary partnerships are accessing curriculum support in PE from the secondary school thus fulfilling their responsibility and establishing transition readiness. A limited MFL offer is also in place and plans are underway to extend this for 2015-2016.
Areas identified for development include:

• Increased flexibility with staffing across the multi academy
• further detailed work on curriculum provision including a shared assessment system
• refinement of SEND practice across the partnership including the potential for temporary placements of support staff where appropriate to the needs of the individual learners

Establishing a multi academy company facilitated the rationalisation and consolidation of business and operational services across the four partner schools. The focus during pre and post conversion periods was to identify core services where preferred providers could be engaged to deliver a single solution. We concentrated on establishing a streamline financial framework for the MAC, serviced by a financial software system producing meaningful and accurate MI at both consolidated and school level. This has enabled us to develop an efficient supplier payment system and brought a tighter focus to budget monitoring.
Our financial footprint supported the appointment of a single Reporting Auditor for the group thereby securing cost efficiencies.We applied best value principles to a thorough selection and interview process, three firms were interviewed by the board and we were able to appoint Dains who work with us across all school locations on issues of financial compliance. This partnership has enabled us to build up a level of local expertise and understanding of systems and controls.
Payroll and HR Services have also been amalgamated across the group. A comprehensive business case was worked up and presented to shadow directors/directors for their consideration at a number of meetings. As our schools were previously based across two local authorities careful scrutiny of the amalgamated service on offer was requried. On this occasion the preferred provider was the best priced but offered the best fit solution for our business.
Our business team structure was not front loaded with resources but continues to develop as the MAC matures.

Expertise was bought in from the Local Authority to support financial services whilst the structure was built. We are to recruit a part time qualified Accountant for the group who will work alongside existing experienced Operation Managers supported by local business teams. This structure will be put into place early 2015 and will enable us to deliver an effectiet service at a sensible cost. The board have supported but equally challenged the proposals as the stability of the business must be secured. It is anticipated that the team will review a significant number of Service Level Agreements and contracts across the group in 2014/15, consolidating services and driving out cost savings in the process

The group has entered into an agreement with West Midlands Academies Insurance Group for the All Risks insurance cover. This has been a cost effective choice as well as providing one provider for insurance related issues.

Both the main board and the finance board met regularly during the period February - August 2014. They were hands on with shaping and challenging business and finance related decisions.

The audit committee has met twice to discuss their remit and have also identified through a best value process an Internal Auditor to support them in their work on assurance.

Name: Ms Fionnuala Hegarty
Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 16 Dec 2014