

# Value for Money Statement

**Academy trust name: School Partnership Trust**

**Year ended 31 August 2016**

I accept that as Head of Academy of **The Elland Academy (TEA)** 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 achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

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

## **Improving Individual Pupil Progress and Outcomes:**

- TEA has developed new systems to record all aspects of pupil progress, including both academic and behavioural achievement during the course of their placement and SLT ensure that interventions and support are targeted to achieve excellent value for money.
- There are a range of support packages in place to target pupils identified by Pupil Premium criteria (Ever 6).
- Budget monitoring is being developed to ensure that subject coordinators become more accountable for identifying best value resources. Specific requests, associated with curriculum change/development require the submission of a written and costed application to SLT for their consideration. All proposed changes need to closely match the developments as proposed in the Academy Development Plan
- All staff received OfSTED training with regards to new Frame work. This was shared with both St Wilfrid's Academy and The Grove academy. TEA will be due an OfSTED any time as it is in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Year of opening.

## **Financial Governance and Accountability**

- Budget reports are generated for the full Education Advisory Board. The Finance Committee meets termly to ensure that the budget is stringently reviewed. Reports are analysed at each meeting and challenged by members. If necessary, further analysis is undertaken. The report from the Finance Committee is given at the next full EAB meeting.
- Regular bank auditing is completed to ensure all monies are accounted for and cash flow is adequately maintained.

- Financial reporting is done monthly as per SPTA requirements. All reports are submitted to Core Finance.
- Controls are in place to ensure all orders are authorised at the appropriate level; there is separation of duties between ordering, receiving and payment of goods and services.
- The Finance Officer for TEA is also shared with The Grove Academy and St Wilfrid's Academy. This in turn saves money for both Academies and ensures streamlining of accounting practices in line with SPTA requirements.
- Examples of steps taken to ensure value for money when purchasing include:
  - Exploring alternative purchasing options in order to secure best value.
  - Networking with colleagues to raise awareness of products/services before purchasing.
  - Considering whether the purchase is absolutely necessary.
  - Following SPTA's policy and practice during the tender process for major purchases and contracts as detailed in the Governance Handbook.
- TEA's Finance Manager has completed an AAT Level 4 qualification. This promotes correct procedures within the financial running of the academy and understanding of the budget and ensuring value for money.

### **Future Objectives**

- TEA is planning to extend and expand the Vocational Curriculum on offer and make accredited courses available to both SPTA and Non-SPTA schools in order to gain an income for the Academy. Investment in Lenton Drive is an agenda item for the Finance and resources Sub-Committee.
- There is a new development starting in October 16 to develop a Therapeutic unit. This is to cater for the next layer in meeting the complex needs of students at the academy who need that next layer of support. Proposals have been submitted and approved by the EAB. Work is set to begin the needs of the most vulnerable students are met.
- To ensure that students at the academy get an all-round experience. The Muga is being developed to allow students a chance to play net games. This development will support the TEA as a healthy school to ensure students get physical exercise during the day.

**Signed:** .....

**Name:** .....

**Academy Trust Accounting Officer**

**Date:** .....