

## **Report from Finance and Personnel Committee to Engage Trust Board 28<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

The Trust F&P committee has continued to meet regularly to scrutinise the accounts of the Academies within the Trust and those of the Trust itself. The last report to the Board was produced in June this year and this report will focus on the scrutiny of accounts from June until the present time.

### **Areas of concern raised during scrutiny:**

The Pinetree School excessive water costs. The water meter has been located and Anglian Water assures own use. Test during summer to confirm usage.

Concerns raised over the disparity of allocation of School Condition Allocation. Letters sent to MPs with 2 responses advising that concerns forwarded to Minister. Reply received from Lord Nash which DR has responded to. Clive Lewis has expressed a wish to visit Locksley and Norman Lamb will visit DBS this month.

Query raised in respect of the Trust's negative cash flow position and how this had happened. Advised that this had been mainly caused by excessive pupil NOR 2015/16 which had resulted in a significant overspend on Alternative Provision. Alternative Provision is used for pupils who find difficulty in the classroom environment and also to provide skills and activities for non-engagers. Lower Alternative provision costs usually expected when Y11 pupils leave after exams did not materialise this year due to increased numbers of younger pupils.

Immediate actions considered to address cash flow issue:

Maintaining pupil NOR to commissioned places

Reduction in the use of Alternative Provision

Application for advance of General Annual Grant (GaG) funding £400K from DfE

Invoice submitted to Local Authority for £435K in respect of additional pupils last year.

Longer term actions:

Recoup of £435K from Local Authority

Increase fees from £15350 to £15850 per pupil from September 2017

Staff restructure at SSSfN and introduction pool zero hour contracts for Medical Needs.

CEO requested that due to the length of time between previous meetings, 4th July to 31st October, 2017-18 calendar includes a meeting in September for this committee.

It should be noted that the renewal of the NCC contract was confirmed for 3 years and Compass for 5 years as well as likelihood of submission deficit budget 2017/18 attracting a Notice of Financial Improvement from EfA.

### **Personnel outcomes:**

The restructuring of CST staff was finalised during this period and that all vacancies had now been filled.

Facilities Manager position has been filled by fixed term secondment and consideration being made on filling the role in the future.

Directors requested that a written plan should be provided in the event that the CEO or the BD did not attend work.

There are also ongoing confidential staffing issues to be resolved and agreed.

Dennis Freeman- Chair F&P Committee  
Director