

## Academy trust name: The South Leeds Academy Trust

Academy Trust company number: 06948499

## Year ended 31 August 2013

I accept that as Principal, and Accounting Officer, of **The South Leeds Academy** 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.

### **Raising student attainment.**

This is demonstrated by a third year of improvement in results for the 2012/2013 academic year.

Targeted improvement and a focus on individual pupils has been developed by:

- Undertaking a review of the curriculum model and staffing structure;
- Introducing programmes of lesson observations to quality assure provision;
- Using professional development to support the continued development of the quality of teaching.
- Performing half-termly data analysis and termly pupil progress meetings against KPIs.
- Focussing on pastoral care to provide support where barriers to pupil attendance and achievement have been identified.
- Reviewing the impact and the use of Pupil Premium, to ensure it is used as effectively as possible to raise standards and accelerating the progress of the most vulnerable pupils.

The achievements and performance of the Academy are shown in the Report of the Directors in TSLA's Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2013.

## **Robust governance and oversight of Academy Trust finances**

The Academy benefits from support from the sponsors, highly qualified Director of Finance. Any changes to key financial policies, systems and procedures, including the use of tenders are reported to the Board of Trustees.

The Academy receives support throughout the year from its Internal and External Auditors on compliance and accounting practices and benefits from a Chief Compliance Officer, also employed centrally by SPTA.

The Board of Trustees receive monitoring reports and reports which detail compliance with the Scheme of Delegation. The Trustees approve the budget each year and are clear in their remit of the need to balance expenditure against income to ensure that the Academy Trust achieves value for money in its use of resources.

## **Ensuring the operation of the Trust demonstrates good value for money and efficient and effective use of resources**

The Academy Trust has obtained cost-effective professional support from the Schools Partnership Trust Academies (SPTA) Core Improvement Team in the areas of Academy Improvement, Finance, HR, Payroll, Recruitment, ICT, Governance, Professional Development Programmes and Facilities (including Capital Development and Health and Safety). This has allowed the Strategic Academy Leadership Team (SALT) to concentrate and focus on delivering and improving teaching and learning within the academy, while SPTA undertake business service functions centrally on their behalf.

In 2012/13, South Leeds Academy used centralised procurement processes developed by SPTA Core Improvement Team members to achieve value for money in the procurement of IT.

The Academy benchmarks financial performance against other academy trusts to demonstrate that the Trust provides good value for money.

For purchases above £1,000, but below the tender limit, 3 quotes are required.

## **Maximising income generation**

The Academy explores every opportunity to generate income within the constraints of the PFI contract. Income is generated from small bids by the Extended Services team which help to support the wider curriculum. Unfortunately the PFI contract does not allow the academy to generate income through lettings.

## **Reviewing controls and managing risks**

The Trustees have agreed that SPTA will provide challenge and support in reviewing controls and managing risks at the Academy. The Principal, Associate Principal and Chair of the EAB attended Keep-in-Touch meetings throughout the

year with key personnel from the SPTA Core Team. These meetings reviewed progress against targets that have been agreed with the Principal and provided an opportunity to identify key risks to achieving these targets and outline any mitigating actions necessary. The risks identified were reviewed and updated at each subsequent meeting.

SPTA appointed Baker Tilly as Internal Auditors and as part of their remit, internal audit has also been carried out at South Leeds Academy. Over this financial year Baker Tilly have reviewed and reported to the Trustees in respect of Financial Controls. Baker Tilly were also appointed as external auditors and issued an unqualified opinion on the Academy's Trust's financial statements and regularity opinion in the period.

The Academy Strategic Academy Leadership Team (SALT) reviews expenditure within each budget heading for which they are responsible and continues to make adjustments to ensure that value for money is always sought, through a carefully planned curriculum offer and through strategies identified in the Academy Action Plan.

**Moving forward:**

The Academy's results in summer 2013 showed an improvement on previous years, with Post 16 results in most subjects being above national averages. To secure the ongoing improvements at the Academy, the following strategies have been implemented in 2013/14:

- A more forensic approach to data tracking has been introduced to enable the Academy to plan targeted interventions for the year ahead;
- A new attendance strategy has been introduced;
- Additional support in the delivery of alternative provision, staff training, literacy and phonics has been agreed;
- An ICT strategy to support teaching and learning will be developed by SPTA Core ICT in the 2013/14 academic year;
- A new approach to governance at the Academy has been developed in conjunction with the Trustees.

**Signed:**.....

**Name:** Colette Jones

**Academy Trust Accounting Officer**

**Date:** 20 December 2013