



Value for Money Statement

COMPANY NUMBER: 8192900

Year Ended 31st August 2013

I accept that as accounting officer of Pax Christi Catholic Academy Trust 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.

Improving Educational Results

The academy trust is in its first year of operation. It consists of five schools; Christ The King Catholic Voluntary Academy, The Good Shepherd Primary Catholic Voluntary Academy, Holy Cross Primary Catholic Voluntary Academy, Sacred Heart Primary Catholic Voluntary Academy and St Margaret Clitherow Primary and Nursery Catholic Voluntary Academy.

Christ the King Catholic Voluntary Academy

The academy has 800 students on roll between the ages of 11 and 19. The OFSTED overall judgement for the latest inspection (September 2010) stated that the school was "good with outstanding features". The latest OFSTED Data Dashboard Information shows that overall attainment falls within the second quintile when compared to schools nationally and similar schools. Progress in English falls in the second quintile whilst progress in Mathematics falls in the third.

The Good Shepherd Primary Catholic Voluntary Academy

The academy has 376 students on roll between the ages of 4 and 11. The OFSTED overall judgement for the latest inspection (June 2010) stated that the school was “good with outstanding features”. The latest OFSTED Data Dashboard information shows that overall attainment falls within the highest quintile when compared to schools nationally for English, Reading, Writing and Mathematics. Progress in English falls into the third quintile whilst progress in Mathematics falls into the highest.

Holy Cross Primary Catholic Voluntary Academy

The academy has 226 pupils on roll between the ages of 4 and 11. The OFSTED overall judgement for the latest inspection (December 2012), which was conducted under the new framework, stated that the overall judgement was “good”. The latest OFSTED Data Dashboard information shows that overall attainment falls within the highest quintile when compared to schools nationally for English, Reading, Writing and Mathematics. Progress in English falls into the fourth quintile whilst progress in Mathematics falls into the highest.

Sacred Heart Primary Catholic Voluntary Academy

The academy has 234 pupils on roll between the ages of 3 and 11. The OFSTED overall judgement for the latest inspection (November 2008) stated that the school was “outstanding”. The latest OFSTED Data Dashboard information shows that overall attainment falls within the highest quintile when compared to schools nationally for English and Reading whilst for Writing and Mathematics it falls within the second. Progress in English falls into the third quintile whilst progress in Mathematics falls into the second.

St Margaret Clitherow Primary and Nursery Catholic Voluntary Academy

The academy has 203 pupils on roll between the ages of 3 and 11. The OFSTED overall judgement for the latest inspection (November 2012), which was conducted under the new framework, stated that the overall judgement was “good”. The latest OFSTED Data Dashboard information shows that overall attainment falls within the highest quintile when compared to schools nationally for English, Reading and Mathematics whilst Writing falls in the second. Progress in English falls into the fourth quintile whilst progress in Mathematics falls into the second.

Targeted Improvement

Improving outcomes for pupils/students is our top priority. Each academy keeps its staffing structure under review and deploys staff in the most efficient way to support the delivery of the curriculum

Focus on Individual Pupils

Each academy meets the needs of individual pupils, e.g. those requiring one to one support or more stretch by targeting resources where they are most required. An example of this would be the deployment of teaching assistants in all schools to give additional support to children with special educational needs. Christ The King has utilised the year 7 catch up premium funding by recruiting a specialist mathematics mentor to work with those children who did not achieve a level 4 in the key stage 2 test. Year 6 children from across the trust who transferred to Christ The King at the end of the period were offered the opportunity to attend a Summer School.

Collaboration

The first year as a multi-academy trust gave Pax Christi academies increased opportunities to collaborate with each other. This was evident in the family of schools concert which took place during December 2012 at The Church of The Good Shepherd featuring children and young people from each of the academies. Primary school children have had the opportunity to use the enhanced science and technology facilities at Christ the King. A joint INSET day was held across the trust where revisions to the pay policy were launched. The greater contact between the primary and secondary phase within the academy structure has many benefits which we are continuing to explore.

Financial Governance and Oversight

As accounting officer I have responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year the review has been informed by:

- The work of the Responsible Officer and Duncan and Toplis Chartered Accountants who carried out termly reviews.
- The work of the external auditor, Duncan and Toplis Chartered Accountants
- The work of the Principal Finance Officer who works across the trust.
- The work of the senior leaders and members of the local governing bodies at each academy who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

The Principal Finance Officer informs me of the results of financial reviews and I ensure that plans are in place for continuous improvement, aided by accountancy services from Duncan and Toplis.

Each academy has a system of internal financial control based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular it includes:

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the local governing body and Board of Directors;
- termly reviews by the finance committee of each academy of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- monthly financial and management reports covering all departmental expenditure, and revenue budgets;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risk.

Better Purchasing

The academies in the trust have taken the opportunity to procure products and services as a trust rather than as individual academies and will continue to develop this practice in the future.

Examples of how this has been achieved include:

- Sacred Heart purchase ICT support from Christ the King instead of from the former LA at a significant cost saving.
- Traded Services were negotiated at trust level rather than individual academy level with savings being achieved in areas such as Health and Safety, legal services, HR advice etc.

Both internal and external benchmarking has taken place to measure income and expenditure performance and to inform procurement decision making at trust and individual academy level.

Better Income Generation

Academies within the trust have increased the income received from the provision of lettings etc to the local community. Three bids were made for capital funding with one being successful (Christ the King replacement Sports Hall roof).

Reviewing Controls and Managing Risks

Each academy has a business continuity plan and a risk register in place in order that it can effectively organise its internal controls and maximise the use of its assets. Investment accounts have been opened to ensure higher interest is payable on cash reserves. Insurance is procured through the Catholic Church Insurance Association who placed the policy with Zurich.

Lessons Learned

The Trust continues to review the financial position and activities of each of its member academies in order to identify where more and closer collaboration can take place in order to achieve greater economies of scale.

Signed:



David Wilson

Chair of the Board of Directors and Accounting Officer