

Value for Money Statement

Organisation name: ContinU Plus Academy Trust

Company number: 8228379

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of ContinU Plus 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.

Pupil Achievement & Engagement

The ContinU Plus Academy is committed to working with young people who are excluded or at risk of exclusion from The ContinU Trust consortium of schools and to proactively target productive Post 16 destinations. Pupils can suffer multiple barriers to education and work and the approach of the CPA is to offer Alternative Provision based on addressing the personal, social, core and vocational skills of our learners. The CPA employs a personalised approach with agreed Individual Learning Plans for each student to provide the skills required to take control of their lives and make the transition back into mainstream education, further education, training or employment. It delivers value for money by providing a specialised Alternative Provision service utilising a range of appropriate specialised staff and high quality but relatively low cost premises.

The Academy opened on 1 September 2013 and during the first term of operation the school was required to operate from both temporary classroom accommodation in Portakabins and offsite facilities at Bishops Wood Outdoor Learning Centre. A strong focus on Outdoor Education and Team Building helped the students settle into their new school and work with staff in assessing and formulating Individual Learning Plans.

During the Spring and Summer terms, the school building was completed over two phases enabling an increased level of classroom based learning to combine with a curriculum of Outdoor Education to build self-esteem, improve health and well-being and promote social and vocational skills.

CPA achievements for Year 11 leavers 2014 (first year of operation)

No. pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C = 0

Percentage of pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs at grades A* - G = 25

Percentage of pupils achieving at least 1 pass at GCSE = 100

Percentage Comparison with similar schools nationally (National percentages shown in brackets)

5+ GCSE or Equiv Entry = 25 (25.1)

5+ A* - C = 0 (3.6)

5+ A* - C (inc. E/M) = 0 (1.7)

5+ A* - G = 25 (18.4)

5+ A* - G (inc. E/M) = 19 (15)

1+ GCSE or Equiv Entry = 100 (71.3)

Percentage who achieved GCSE or equivalent

1 A-C = 75 (21.7)

Any = 100 (76)

EBacc = n/a

Average points score for 2014 Year 11 leavers = 177

100% of our 2014 leavers gained placement in employment, education or training.

Financial Governance & Oversight

As Accounting Officer I have responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of Internal Control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:-

- The work of the Responsible Officer
- The work of the External Auditors
- The work of the team at Stourport High School who provide accounting services to the CPA

The system of Internal Financial Control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. It includes:-

- Budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports to the Resources & Structures Committee which are reviewed monthly then agreed by the Full Governing Body;
- Regular reviews by the Resources & Structures Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, any capital works and expenditure programmes;
- Clearly defined purchasing guidelines
- Identification and management of risks

Purchasing

As the CPA moves into the second year of operation and the first complete year in the new building, services and contracts will be reviewed as they fall due for renewal to ensure the best mix of quality and effectiveness.

The Academy can demonstrate its principles of 'Best Value' in its current arrangements to share resources with Stourport High School and The ContinU Trust e.g. Educational Psychologist Services, Catering Provision, Financial and Human Resource Services and Health & Safety Training. The CPA also benefits from the added value of educational support and experience from across the ContinU Trust partners through the wider ContinU infrastructure and networking arrangements.

The Resources & Structures Committee has appointed Bishop Fleming LLP as External Auditors.

Name: Sara Devo

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date signed: 9/12/2014

Name: Ms Sara Devo

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 16 Dec 2014