

Value for Money Statement

Academy trust name: CTC Kingshurst Academy

Academy trust company number: 2268092

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that, as accounting officer of the CTC Kingshurst Academy, 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 and Supporting Students to Reach their Potential

CTC Kingshurst Academy is committed to providing a high quality, inclusive education for all. Through regular assessment, we have a clear picture of the potential and progress of every student and provide support and extension work for those students who need it. Students that receive Pupil Premium are clearly identified and their individual performance reviewed to ensure that their progress is carefully monitored.

The Academy meets the needs of our diverse community of learners with specific and individual programmes of learning and bespoke learning pathways, ensuring that there are appropriate developmental achievement benchmarks for each and every student. All students have full access to an age-appropriate curriculum, which is enhanced by specific interventions, where appropriate, that focus on the specific needs of students. This has been achieved via a number of strategies, with the use of Graduate Coaches to undertake targeted intervention being a notable development this year. A strong emphasis is placed on the development of independence and resilience, and students are encouraged to develop appropriate abilities which will stand them in good stead throughout their lives.

Robust Governance and Oversight of Academy Finances

The structure in which we operate and govern our financial activity comprises termly meetings with the full governing body and the Finance, Facilities and Personnel committee from which financial objectives are set. These are, in turn, shared with the Academy's senior leadership team to assist with the running of the Academy and in meeting statutory duties. Senior and

middle leaders, who are budget holders, receive regular budget reports with remedial action taken to address any significant variances that may have a detrimental effect on the budget. This information is then, in turn, shared with governors.

The boards monitor and assess the financial performance of the Academy and the senior leadership team. This creates a level of control and accountability and ensures that the internal financial management is assessed and appraised regularly by an external body.

The governing body receive termly financial reports to ensure effective management of budgets and financial performance against forecasts, in addition to receiving documentation to approve any major capital expenditure. These reports provide financial, capital planning and HR information. The governing body also approve the budget each year, in addition to approving the annual accounts and the external auditor's management letter.

The Academy's Responsible Officer provides governors with an independent oversight of the Academy's financial affairs. The Responsible Officer reviews key financial policies, systems and procedures, including the use of tenders, and reports termly to the Finance, Facilities and Personnel Committee. The review to August 2014 gave good assurance for banking, payroll and financial reporting system controls. The Responsible Officer reports directly to the Audit Committee which has operated throughout the year. The Audit Committee has responsibility for overseeing the effective functioning of the Academy's internal financial control system, including oversight of external audit services, and the Academy's risk management processes.

Value for Money and Efficient and Effective Use of Resources

The Academy regularly appraises and re-negotiates contracts to ensure value for money. Measures in place include: competitive tendering procedures and cost benefit analysis. More specifically, business cases have to be prepared to support major items of capital expenditure; these outline the rationale for the purchase, the benefits expected to accrue and how value for money is achieved. Business cases are vetted by the Director of Finance and are approved by the Principal, Finance, Facilities and Personnel Committee or full governing body, depending on the amount of the expenditure.

Purchasing follows best value principles. A scheme of delegation is in place. All orders over £5,000 require three written quotations and should be chosen from a list of approved suppliers; orders over £20,000 require three written quotations, a business case and are authorised by the Finance, Facilities and Personnel Committee. All goods and services ordered with a value of £100,000, or for a series of contracts which in total exceed £100,000, are subject to formal tendering procedures and are authorised by the Finance, Facilities and Personnel Committee and the full governing body. EU procurement regulations are fully complied with. Governors and staff accept that the best value quotes may not be the cheapest as other factors, including workmanship, reliability and quality of services, need to be considered.

The Academy's Facilities Manager takes an active approach in reducing costs, whilst maintaining a clean and functional site and 'fit for purpose' facilities. The Academy buildings require continual maintenance. Major maintenance works are assessed before work is put out to tender, and, where possible, the Academy's skilled staff undertake repairs, maintenance and decoration to reduce use of external contractors.

Rising energy costs are an important area of expenditure for the Academy, but through robust tendering and partnering with a consultant two year fixed gas and electricity contracts at a competitive tariff were contracted. This creates financial stability for two years on a very volatile area of expense, whilst removing uncertainty from our forecasting.

The Academy has a high proportion of skilled and experienced teaching and associate staff, who are very effectively deployed to provide best value for money. Teachers' performance management and support staff appraisals are in place, and HR policies, such as Managing Absence, Whistleblowing and Dignity at Work, are implemented.

Faculty and curriculum allocations are allocated to specifically meet day to day needs, thus ensuring that significant expenditure remains within the control of senior management. Option appraisal is then the focus before any purchase proceeds.

Careful and prudent management of financial resources have ensured that the annual expenditure budget remains within the total income generated for the year.

The Academy believes in the benefits of partnerships and collaborative working with other organisations; this supports the Academy in delivering value for money. During the year membership of the Unity collaborative has enabled the Academy to source cost effective CPD for its teaching staff, educational support staff and senior leadership team. As the organisation develops, it is envisaged economies of scale will accrue in other areas. The Academy also works closely with the local authority, with the placement of its insurance contract a prime example of the value of this relationship.

Maximising Income Generation

As a fully extended school, the Academy realises that continuity is essential for clubs to flourish and serve the needs of the community. Therefore, the Academy is open all year around except for Bank Holidays and between Christmas Eve and New Year's Day. Enquiries are welcome from providers who can add to the well-established community use programme and enhance opportunity further for students, parents and the wider community. To maximise provision the wide range of activities are promoted through the website, open evenings and texts home, so parents are aware of the opportunities available. As a result the Academy generates income through the hiring of its facilities, providing educational services to other schools, learning establishments and clubs. All revenue generated by community usage is invested in our extended services programme to ensure sustainability of the programme and that all our on-site

enrichments before, during and after school remain free of charge, so all students can get fully involved.

The Academy will continue to build revenue generating opportunities with strong educational benefits. It is in the process of developing outside facilities to include an outdoor education and adventure centre, a full sized 3G football pitch, changing pavilion and improved grass pitches. The Academy will maximise hire in the evening and at weekends to generate further income. Value for money has been maximised in this area, with nearly £1/2 million of Sport England / FA funding facilitating the development. Grant funding has also been obtained to support the development of the outdoor education and adventure centre.

The re-focusing of K2 (a faculty of CTC Kingshurst Academy) provides the Academy with a further area to develop external income generating opportunities, whilst developing its overall educational offer, benefitting both internal and external students. This year it has delivered vocational courses and training opportunities for Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 students. The students carry out training in Pre-Apprenticeships and NVQs in Hospitality Services, Customer Service, Business Administration and Logistics. K2 will continue to develop in a range of areas including full apprenticeships and adult training

CTC Kingshurst Academy and 'Choices' Psychological Services have created a successful collaborative partnership that is now being offered to the wider community in the West Midlands. The Academy offers psychological services to any organisation or individual who requires support for children and young people in schools, care settings, who have mental health conditions or are in the Criminal Justice system.

The Academy also ensures that it maximises income generation from surplus cash balances. The appointment of a new IFA, after a competitive process, is expected to yield benefits in this area, it has already enabled a reduction in professional costs. Investment opportunities will continue to be selected carefully to provide the most acceptable balance of return and risk.

The Future

It is likely that the national financial climate in coming years will present significant challenges, and the Academy will continue to endeavour to make savings through effective purchasing, working with other organisations to gain economies of scale and take every opportunity to obtain value for money in order to improve outcomes for students..

Ann Jones

Accounting Officer

CTC Kingshurst Academy

Date: 22 December 2014