

Value for Money Statement
Crofton Schools Academy Trust
Company number: 07824714

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of Crofton Schools 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:

We have ensured that resources are directed where they are most needed and most effective in meeting educational requirements, for example by:

- Targeting resources in key subject areas such as literacy and numeracy to include one to one support and small groups.
- Monitoring the needs of particular pupils and ensuring that the support they receive is relevant to them and enables them to reach their full potential.
- Monitoring the performance of particular staff and ensuring that relevant action is taken to address weaknesses to include additional training or support where necessary.
- We work with other local schools to form a cluster group to share experience, advice and skills.

The effectiveness of these strategies can be seen in the improved student achievements.

Financial governance and oversight:

Our governance arrangements include regular monitoring by the Governing Body and its committees, including the Finance & Premises Committee and Audit Committee. They receive regular reports, and ask relevant questions as recorded in the minutes.

The Trust has appointed a board member who acts as a Responsible Officer and London Borough of Bromley Internal Audit were appointed to carry out internal audit reviews and the reports of these further informs the committees.

Better Purchasing:

Examples of steps taken to ensure value for money when purchasing include:

- Tender process for the cleaning contract across the Trust to ensure best value and high levels of cleanliness
- Considering whether the purchase is necessary
- Benchmarking is carried out with other Academies using the year end Academy reports released by the EFA.

Better income generation:

Examples of steps taken to maximise income include:

We continue to generate income from letting out the school premises.

Reviewing controls and managing risks:

Regular monitoring reports have been reviewed by the Finance & Premises Committee as well as by budget holders, in order to ensure that spending is within budget.

Actions taken to manage risk include the purchase of an appropriate level of insurance cover. Professional advice (e.g. HR/Legal) has also been sought when needed.

Future objectives:

We recognise the need to work towards staffing costs (whether arising from ongoing contracts, additional hours, or supply staff) that are sustainable and controlled, while still meeting operational needs.

Signed: *AJ Cowley*

Name: *ANDRWA CARLEN*

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: *16-12-14*