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12 February 2015

I am writing to inform you of the government's view of the position of Lancashire Adult Learning in light of the Further Education (FE) Commissioner's review, and the next steps that will be taken to secure improvement.

As you are aware, in light of the inadequate grading following the Ofsted inspection of Lancashire Adult Learning in November 2014, I asked the FE Commissioner, David Collins, to carry out a short, sharp assessment. The assessment of Lancashire Adult Learning was conducted between 20 January and 22 January 2015.

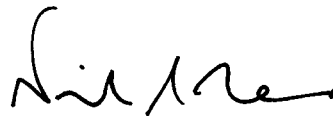
I have now considered the FE Commissioner's assessment, which includes a set of recommendations. I have accepted all these recommendations. A summary of the assessment and the recommendations is provided with this letter. The summary and my letter to you will be published on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) following receipt of your response to this letter.

As you will see, the report identifies an opportunity to rationalise provision across the county for the overall benefit of learners. Recognising the importance of adult and community learning to your strategy to develop local communities, I would encourage you to work with Lancashire Adult Learning to ensure that a focus in this area delivers high quality provision in line with a robust post inspection action plan. Governance arrangements involving council and non-council representatives should provide a high level of scrutiny and challenge in the implementation of these improvements. I have asked my officials at the Skills Funding Agency to work with you and experienced colleges and providers in the area to ensure that high quality skills programmes remain on offer to the learners of Lancashire.

My officials at the Skills Funding Agency will be in touch shortly to arrange a meeting between you, the Leader of the Council and the FE Commissioner to discuss this letter and agree next steps, and how Lancashire Adult Learning will work with the FE Commissioner. It is suggested that an FE Adviser monitor the implementation of your recovery plan, ahead of a further Stocktake Assessment in the summer term.

If you have any questions about the FE Commissioner's assessment or this letter please contact Debbie Corcoran ([debbie.corcoran@sfa.bis.gov.uk](mailto:debbie.corcoran@sfa.bis.gov.uk)) at SFA in the first instance.

I am copying this letter to Jenny Mein, Leader of Lancashire County Council.



**NICK BOLES MP**