



Department for Education

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Rt. Hon. Robert Halfon MP
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I am writing to inform you of the Government's view of the position of Hereward College following the recent review by the Further Education (FE) Commissioner's team and the steps that will need to be taken to secure the necessary improvement.

As you are aware, an Ofsted inspection was triggered by a number of serious concerns over safeguarding practice at the college coupled with issues over the adequacy of the college's response and reporting mechanisms to deal with such matters. Ofsted carried out their inspection in October 2016, when they found the college to be provisionally 'Inadequate'. Clearly the College's responsibility to keep learners safe is absolutely paramount and I am grateful therefore that the College made a request for an early assessment by the FE Commissioner, which he was able to expedite.

Having read the FE Commissioner report, I am pleased to note the Board's willingness and commitment to address all of the areas of concern identified by Ofsted and the recommendations made by the FE Commissioner Team. The resignation of the previous Chair of the Corporation from the end of November is recognition of the time and commitment required to drive forward the necessary improvements and allows the college to put in place strengthened leadership and governance. I welcome your appointment and commitment to the challenge.

I am also encouraged to note that following the FEC assessment, the college has now appointed an interim Principal with the required leadership experience and expertise to help drive forward the necessary actions for improvement. I know this has been supported by an improved safeguarding policy, and strengthened experience of safeguarding at governor and management levels, and additional training for the whole

staff. These actions should ensure the college has much stronger arrangements in place in future to protect learners. It is also important that Clerking arrangements are reinforced and that the Clerk is able to support Governors' in holding the executive to account, and ensuring the College is fully compliant with its statutory responsibilities for learners.

With regard to the medium and longer term sustainability of the provision delivered at Hereward, I agree with the FE Commissioner's recommendation for the college to commission a Structure and Prospects Appraisal to identify and begin to work with a collaborative partner by February 2017. I know that work is scheduled to begin this month.

The FE Commissioner has made a number of recommendations for improvement in the short term which I endorse. I have asked the FE Commissioner to work with the Skills Funding Agency to monitor the progress made against these recommendations

You should note that you have two weeks from the date of this letter being sent to comment on the factual accuracy of the FE Commissioner's summary report, in advance of the summary report being published on www.gov.uk

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Halfon', is centered on the page. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

ROBERT HALFON MP