



Rt Hon Anne Milton MP

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Dee A Sharples

4th March 2019

I am writing following the assessment of Macclesfield College by the Further Education (FE) Commissioner on 26th and 27th November 2018.

It is clear from the Commissioner's report that urgent actions are now required to address the college's financial weaknesses and secure the college's long-term future.

Income growth forecasts at the college have been overly optimistic and there has previously been insufficient challenge to the college leadership from the board.

The Commissioner has recommended that the board must ensure income growth targets are realistic and must monitor closely the in-year actual performance in order to act quickly in response to any negative variances. The governors should continuously and robustly challenge the data provided on targets, in-year performance and the year-end forecast.

Although the college has much to do, I am heartened by the FEC team's confidence in you and your governing body. It is their view that you are aware of the strategies that need to be introduced to ensure the continuing viability of the college and are putting in place the necessary measures.

The FEC team and the ESFA will engage regularly with the college to monitor progress, and to ensure the right leadership and governance capability is in place to secure recovery.

I have accepted all of the recommendations of the Commissioner and am providing a copy of the Commissioner's report with this letter. The report will be published on GOV.UK on or around the the planned date of 7 March 2019.

Please confirm, in writing, within three weeks what actions you are taking to address all of the recommendations and your timetable for doing so.

If you have any questions about the FE Commissioner's assessment or this letter, please contact the Commissioner at **FE.Commissioner@education.gov.uk**.

I have written separately to local MPs to inform them of the FE Commissioner's findings.

*Best wishes
Anne Milton.*

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