



Lord Agnew Kt DL

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the School System
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Councillor Rob Waltham MBE
North Lincolnshire Council
Church Square House
30-40 High Street
Scunthorpe
DN15 6NL

21 February 2020

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Dear Cllr Waltham,

I am writing following the assessment of North Lincolnshire Council by the Further Education (FE) Commissioner. The FE Commissioner's team conducted an intervention assessment on 8 to 9 November 2019, following an 'inadequate' Ofsted inspection grade in June 2019 for the council's Adult Education and Community Learning (AECL) provision.

The Commissioner's report describes the council as fully acknowledging that previous poor governance and accountability arrangements have contributed to the poor quality of AECL's provision. It is encouraging to learn that the new governing board, with support from the progress board and a reformed staff structure, have begun implementing quality assurance improvements, particularly through the use of data in monitoring learner underachievement.

This is a positive development that should be further embedded across the service and include the routine tracking of all learners' progress to ensure high standards are actively maintained.

It is clear that the council have been responsive to the needs of the community and local employment priorities, and that the improvements made to the relevance of the curriculum being offered now provide realistic opportunities for learners to progress to work, training or other educational courses.

The actions the council have taken following the Ofsted inspection are encouraging, however, there is still capacity for improvement. The latest self-

assessment report appears overly optimistic in judgements about performance and is insufficiently self-critical. Similarly, the quality improvement plan lacks sufficient quantitative data to allow accurate analysis of performance to inform future actions.

I advise the council to maintain the momentum and enthusiasm for change it has so far demonstrated, and to continue its rigorous approach towards improving the quality assurance of AECL provision.

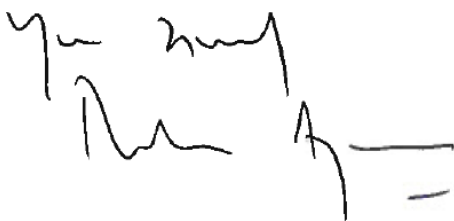
I have accepted all the recommendations of the FE Commissioner and a copy of the assessment is provided with this letter. This document and my letter will be published on gov.uk.

Please confirm within three weeks to the FE Commissioner (FE.Commissioner@education.gov.uk) what actions you are taking to address all of the recommendations and your timetable for doing so.

I have written separately to all the following local MPs who may have learners attending the college from their constituency to inform them of the FE Commissioner's findings:

Holly Mumby-Croft MP
Rt Hon Sir Edward Leigh MP
Andrew Percy MP
Martin Vickers MP

Scunthorpe
Gainsborough
Brigg and Goole
Cleethorpes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Theodore Agnew', with a horizontal line underneath.

THEODORE AGNEW
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the School System