



Skills Funding Agency

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Christopher Bilsland
Chair of the Corporation
Lewisham Southwark College
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Dear Mr Bilsland

As Chief Executive of the Skills Funding Agency in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, I am writing to provide an update on the position of Lewisham Southwark College (the *college*) in light of the Further Education (FE) Commissioner's ongoing review.

As you are aware, the college received an inadequate grading from Ofsted in November 2013 triggering an initial assessment by the FE commissioner, David Collins, during January and February 2014, and subsequently received a second inadequate grading in February 2015. The Skills Funding Agency (the SFA) has recently revised its notice of concern to reflect the Ofsted recommendations.

In light of the second inadequate grading, the significant weaknesses identified in the FE commissioner's initial assessment and ongoing concerns about the long-term future of the College, I am placing the college into Administered College status with immediate effect.


Being placed in Administered College status means the FE commissioner's monitoring and review role is enhanced. The commissioner will advise on significant decisions or changes required to secure necessary improvement. The college's governing body shall remain responsible for discharging its legislative duties. You can see further information regarding the consequences of Administered College status here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/bis-publishes-strengthened-intervention-process-to-drive-up-standards-in-further-education>.

I know that you met with David Collins on 20 April to discuss his area-based assessment of FE provision in Lewisham, Southwark and neighbouring boroughs, and am grateful for your support of that work. I can confirm that the review will take the form of two linked Structure and Prospects Appraisals of Lewisham Southwark and Greenwich Community Colleges, as well as a broader examination of the best arrangements to deliver strong outcomes for learners and employers across the area, in which other colleges and stakeholders have agreed to participate. The FE

commissioner's office will continue to liaise directly with you to confirm the practical arrangements and schedule for the review.

Following receipt of your response to this letter, this letter will be published in due course on www.gov.uk. If you have any questions about the FE commissioner's ongoing review or this letter please contact Malcolm Rodrigues (malcolm.rodrigues@sfa.bis.gov.uk) at SFA in the first instance.

Yours sincerely



Peter Lauener
Chief Executive