



Lord Agnew Kt DL

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the School System
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Mr Aidan Mullan
Hartlepool College of Further Education
Stockton Street
Hartlepool
TS24 7NT

Dear Mr Mullan,

15/10

October 2019

I am writing following the FE Commissioner's assessment of Hartlepool College of Further Education. The FEC team visited the college on 6 to 7 June 2019 to undertake a formal intervention triggered by inadequate financial health.

The Commissioner's report shows that you, your governors and senior leadership team now fully recognise the urgent need to take swift actions in order to address the significant financial challenges facing the college.

It is imperative that a future strategy is quickly developed, which clearly sets out a realistic pathway for the college to be graded Ofsted Outstanding and achieve financial recovery at pace. The plan should also include measures to address all the ESFA required actions in the Financial Health Notice to Improve.

Given the significant concerns over the financial sustainability of the college that may put the student experience and opportunities for learners at risk, I have asked the FE Commissioner to consult with the Tees Valley Combined Authority, Durham County Council and the ESFA with a view of undertaking a Local Provision Review for the Tees Valley and Durham area.

The Commissioner has made a number of further recommendations including that the board should work with a National Leader of Governance to review governance practices and processes with an emphasis on the succession of the chair, clerk and chairs of committees.

The Commissioner, his team and the Education and Skills Funding Agency

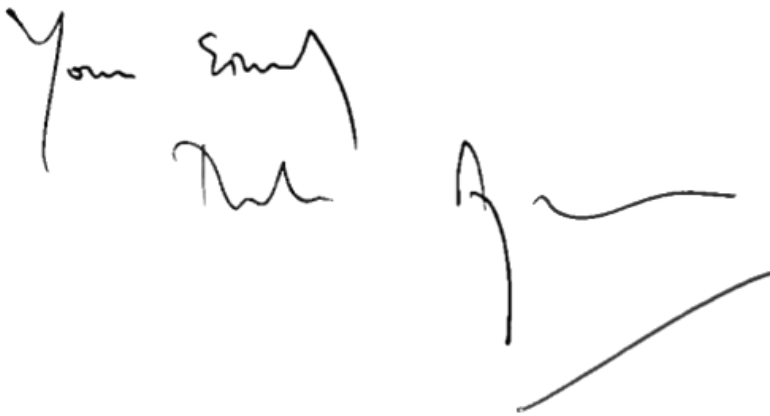
(EFSA) will engage regularly with the college to monitor progress throughout the proposed Local Provision Review.

I have accepted all of the recommendations of the Commissioner and a summary of the initial 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 Commissioners findings:

Mike Hill MP	Hartlepool
Grahame Morris MP	Easington
Phil Wilson MP	Sedgefield
Alex Cunningham MP	Stockton North
Andy McDonald MP	Middlesbrough
Anna Turley MP	Redcar

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'You Envy' followed by a stylized flourish and a long horizontal line.

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