



Lord Agnew Kt DL

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the School System
Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

Councillor Abi Brown
Leader of the Council
Stoke-on-Trent City Council
One Smithfield
Leonard Coates Way
Hanley
Stoke-on-Trent
ST1 4FA

22 January 2020

Dear Cll. Brown,

I am writing following the FE Commissioner's assessment of Stoke-on-Trent City Council. The FE Commissioner's Team visited the council on 10 and 11 September 2019 to undertake a formal intervention triggered by an inadequate assessment by Ofsted for the Council's Employment, Learning and Skills provision in June 2019.

It is clear from the FE Commissioner's report that governance, leadership and management of the Council's Employment, Learning and Skills provision has previously been poor. The former management structure evidently did not allow for effective oversight of the quality of provision and had failed to put in place any clear management information arrangements that would have facilitated robust scrutiny and challenge of provision.

I appreciate that the recent management restructure provides greater clarity to roles and responsibilities at an organisational level. However, I concur with the FE Commissioner's recommendation that, in order to ensure there are clear lines of accountability across the whole service, the Council must extend their review of management improvements quickly and urgently to include all adult provision.

I am encouraged by the measures the Council have started to put in place to drive forward improvement, and I fully support your decision to bring together the management of apprenticeships and adult education provision. This appears to

be an effective strategy to strengthen quality assurance arrangements and to allow for the robust scrutiny of the quality of provision and its impact.

Notwithstanding the progress that has been made, I must urge the Council to expedite the pace of implementing consistent quality assurance procedures across the service.

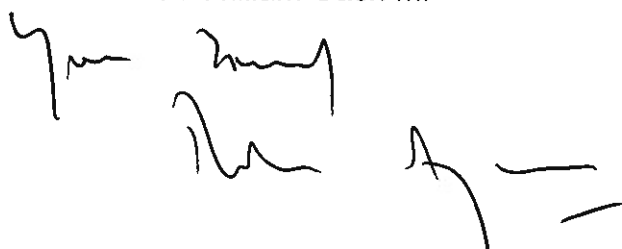
I expect you to work closely with officials to develop an effective revised post-inspection plan which should include clear and concise objectives, targets and milestones within an agreed timeframe.

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 Commissioners findings:

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|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| • Jo Gideon MP | Stoke-on-Trent Central |
| • Jonathan Gullis MP | Stoke-on-Trent North |
| • Jack Brereton MP | Stoke-on-Trent South |
| • Aaron Bell MP | Newcastle-under-Lyme |
| • Karen Bradley MP | Staffordshire Moorlands |
| • Sir William Cash MP | Stone |



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