



Education & Skills  
Funding Agency

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Tel: 0370 000 2288  
[ESFA-enquiry-form](#)

21 February 2022

Mr David Donnelly  
Chief Executive Officer  
The Heath Family (North West)  
c/o Palace Fields Primary School  
Badger Close  
Palace Fields  
Runcorn  
WA7 2QW

Company Number: 07614421

Dear Mr Donnelly

### **Financial Notice to Improve: The Heath Family (North West)**

On 01 June 2018, Mike Pettifer, Director Academies and Maintained Schools Directorate, wrote to Mr Jeremy Barnes in his capacity as the Chair of Trustees at The Heath Family (North West) to serve notice that The Heath Family (North West) (‘the trust’) was required to improve financial management, control, and governance at the trust.

This was as a consequence of the trust seeking financial support from the ESFA for a total of up to £1,720k split over 2017/18 and 2018/19 due to a cash shortfall caused by a lack of financial controls across its academies. The Financial Notice to Improve (FNTI) set out the actions that were needed to be taken by the trust to make sure the necessary improvements were made.

We have monitored closely the trust’s progress against the conditions set out in the notice, which included:

- To deliver against the recovery plan provided in March 2018 and any subsequent recovery plans. Completing the repayment of financial support by the ESFA by 31 August 2021 at the latest.

- To provide evidence of using schools' efficiency/financial health tools and integrated curriculum financial planning to improve the trust's financial position, including having a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) deployment. An updated recovery plan is required six weeks after the SRMA deployment to reflect any recommendations from the SRMA.
- To seek to reduce the amount of recoverable advances that might be sought from the ESFA in 2018/19.
- To adopt the latest model funding agreement by 31 July 2018.
- To commission an independent financial management and governance review and implement the recommendations made.
- To ensure that proper arrangements are in place, whereby the trust board has the appropriate skill set and processes in place to challenge and hold to account the Accounting Officer, Finance Officer, and other members of the executive management team and to evidence this.
- To contact the ESFA at an early stage if the trust believes that financial performance is falling behind the schedule set out in the recovery plan.
- To submit the Budget Forecast Return (BFR) by the deadline required by the ESFA. The trust is required to submit 2017/18 accounts by the deadline required by the ESFA.

I am pleased to inform you that I am satisfied that all FNtl conditions have been met. As a result, the FNtl will be lifted with effect from the date of this letter.

This letter will be published on the GOV.UK website. I am copying this letter to Craig Parkinson, trust Chief Operating Officer, and Vicky Beer CBE, Regional Schools Commissioner for Lancashire and West Yorkshire.

I would like to thank you, and your team, for your efforts in ensuring the trust has reached this improved position.

Yours sincerely



**Warwick Sharp**  
**Director, Academies and Maintained Schools Directorate**

cc: Craig Parkinson, Chief Operating Officer  
Vicky Beer CBE, Regional Schools Commissioner