



Education & Skills
Funding Agency

Education and Skills Funding Agency
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT
Tel: 0370 000 2288
www.education.gov.uk/efa-enquiry-form

3 February 2023

Mr John Rutherford
Chair of Trustees
Learners' Trust
Eckington Business Centre II
Gosber Street
Sheffield
S21 4DA

Company Number: 10224802

Dear Mr Rutherford

Notice to Improve: Learners' Trust

On 2 November 2021, I wrote to you in your capacity as the Chair of Trustees at Learners' Trust ('the trust') to serve notice that the trust was required to improve financial management, internal controls and oversight.

This was a consequence of continued concerns over the weak level of financial management and oversight at the trust and the trust's deficit position. The Notice to Improve (Ntl) set out the actions that needed to be taken by the trust to make sure necessary improvements were made.

We have closely monitored the trust's progress against the 12 conditions set out in the notice, which included:

- submission of financial information to demonstrate compliance with the Academy Trust Handbook (ATH)
- submission of trust board meeting minutes and a further External Review of Governance (ERG) to demonstrate robust oversight of financial matters by the trustees
- continued implementation of the financial stability action plan to demonstrate all actions from the trust's internal audits, the ERG and the Ntl are being met by deadlines set.

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

As conditions of lifting the Ntl, the trust is required to continue to submit internal audit reports, monthly management accounts, and minutes from all board and audit committee

meetings for academic year 2022/23. This will provide continued assurance of sustained compliance with the ATH and the trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State.

This letter will be published on the GOV.UK website. I am copying this letter to the Accounting Officer of the trust Matt Freeston, trust members; Dino Blackburn, Ian Powell, Kevin Walker, and the Regional Directors for East Midlands; Carol Gray and Kate Copley.

It is important the trust continues to exercise strong financial oversight. I would like to thank you, Matt Freeston and Gary Mizler for your contribution in ensuring the trust has reached this position.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Warwick Sharp', written in a cursive style.

Warwick Sharp
Director, Schools Financial Support and Oversight

CC: Matt Freeston, Accounting Officer
Dino Blackburn, Ian Powell, Kevin Walker – trust members
Carol Gray and Kate Copley – Regional Directors for East Midlands