



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

9 February 2023

Mr David Walker
Chair of Trustees
Brighter Academy Trust
Farringdon Community Academy
Allendale Road
Sunderland
SR3 3EL
Company Number: 08557883

Dear Mr Walker

Notice to Improve: Brighter Academy Trust

On 17 March 2022, I wrote to your predecessor in their capacity as the Chair of Trustees at Brighter Academy Trust to serve notice that Brighter Academy Trust (‘the trust’) was required to improve its compliance under the Academy Trust Handbook (ATH) 2021.

This was as a consequence of the concerns around governance and oversight of financial management by the Board. The Notice to Improve (NtI) set out the actions that were needed to be taken by the trust to make sure necessary improvements were made.

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

- The trust must establish an audit and risk committee.
- The trust is to create a trust website in order to be transparent with its governance arrangements.
- The trust must ensure there are clear lines of accountability between the Accounting Officer of the Trust and the trustees.
- The trust must establish a revised or up to date scheme of delegation.
- The trust is to implement new financial management and monitoring structures.
- The trust is required to submit all financial documents on time.
- The trust requests approval from the ESFA, in advance, for any actions under the revoked freedoms in 6.21 of the ATH 2021.
- The trust ensures that all necessary Trustee contact details are up-to-date in compliance with the ATH.
- The trust must consider transferring the academy to a strong Multi-Academy Trust (MAT).

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.

This letter will be published on the GOV.UK website. I am copying this letter to Barbara McCrudden, Accounting Officer of the trust and Katherine Cowell, Department for Education (DfE) Regional Director for North East.

It is important that the trust continues to exercise strong financial and governance oversight to maintain the progress you have achieved. I would like to thank you for your contribution in ensuring the trust has reached this position.

Yours sincerely



Warwick Sharp
Director, Schools Financial Support and Oversight

CC. Barbara McCrudden, Accounting Officer
Katherine Cowell Regional Director for North East, Regions Group (DfE)
Darren Andrews (Member)
James Bromiley (Member)
Elizabeth Horne CBE (Member)