

28<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Dear Parent / Carer,

Following our letter earlier this month, and so that you are kept fully updated as to South Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust's progress under its new executive leadership team, we wanted to let you know of the work we have been doing internally.

We had been using Education South West (ESW) to provide back office business support for the Trust but they decided to terminate this support early. We have reviewed the resource required to fill this gap and to meet the ongoing requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook, as well as the ongoing requirements of a Financial Notice to Improve (FNtI), which was issued to the Trust today by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), as we had expected.

We have developed an action plan to address areas where we are aware South Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust can improve. This action plan details the Trust's progress under the executive leadership team, and has been developed by Lee Miller and Angela Barry, now in post as Interim Chief Operating Officer and Interim Executive Support respectively, working alongside our Chief Executive Officer, Rachel Shaw.

It includes the development of a robust and sustainable financial plan, which is being drawn up by Mr Miller, who has a proven track record of being brought in to work with and improve the finances of Academy Trusts who have received FNTIs.

The Trust is committed to repaying all recoverable funds granted by the ESFA should it be required, and is currently updating its cash requirements to meet the redundancies that have been identified. Under the funding agreement, a claim will be made to recoup the statutory element of the costs to supplement the use of current cash reserves. Should the Trust need to borrow recoverable funds on top of this then a plan will be agreed to repay this to ensure that it meets the requirements of the ESFA and the operational requirements of the organisation.

We have, as you know, been in close contact with the Department for Education and the ESFA in recent months and were aware in advance that we were going to receive the FNtI, which is published on the ESFA's website. The letter recognises that we have made progress but we also know that we have further to go and the action plan will achieve this.

We are clear that the experience and expertise in the leadership of the Trust will ensure that we continue to move forward positively and that the schools in the Trust are safeguarded for the good of the children and young people they educate. We welcome the opportunity to work with the ESFA in a transparent way and appreciate the continued support that the Department provides.

We wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience and support that you continue to give the Trust and its schools through this period – thank you.

Yours sincerely,

**Rachel Shaw**  
Chief Executive Officer  
South Dartmoor Academy

**Graeme Cock**  
Chair of Directors  
South Dartmoor Academy

**Angela Barry**  
Interim Executive Support  
South Dartmoor Academy