

## **VALUE FOR MONEY STATEMENT**

**Academy Trust Name : Lighthouse Harmonize Education Trust**

**Academy Trust Company No : 07657235**

**Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015**

I accept that as Accounting Officer of Lighthouse Harmonize Education Trust – Harmonize Academy I am responsible and accountable for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. I am aware of the guide to academy value for money statements published by the Education Funding Agency and understand that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

I set out below how I have ensured that the academy trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year.

The academic year commenced on 1st September 2014 with a capacity of 72 students. 48 places were commissioned from Liverpool City Council's Alternative Provision Team for students that have been permanently excluded from mainstream school. The remaining 24 places were commissioned from schools across Merseyside for those students who cannot cope in a mainstream setting for various reasons

Best value principles were applied in assessing the current needs of the academy.

The following factors were considered in the decision making process when obtaining any goods and services:

- Differing needs of our students
- Increased student numbers – revised timetable to accommodate 9 classes of 8 students
- Membership of CPC - Crescent Purchasing Consortium

### **Review of areas identified for development in previous year**

#### **Catering Contract**

Food for Thought (Merseyside) Ltd - a local 'not for profit' School Meals Company continued to provide valuable support throughout the year. They work in partnership with us to provide a catering service for our students while ensuring compliance with food hygiene and health & safety legislation. Best value was obtained by using local produce and suppliers to provide nutritional meals This continues to prove successful and will be reviewed annually as per recommendations from CPC (Crescent Purchasing Consortium) as student numbers increase.

#### **Cleaning Contract**

Harmonize Academy manage and employ our own cleaning staff which has provided value for money on the grounds of cost and suitability. The cleaning service has proved efficient and effective throughout the year considering the increase in student

numbers. However, as student numbers are set to increase to 104 students with effect from September 2015 this will need a fitness for purpose review.

### **Current Year Review**

#### **Financial governance and oversight.**

Our governance arrangements include regular monitoring by the Governing Body and its committees including the Finance and Resources Committee and Audit Committee. They receive regular reports and updates at the meetings which are held half termly.

#### **Internal controls.**

An internal financial procedures handbook is in operation. Mitchell Charlesworth, Chartered Accountants provide a Responsible Officer service and report regularly to the Audit Committee.

#### **Managing risks.**

The Risk Management Policy has been approved by the full Governing Body. The Risk Register identifies and manages the academy trust's significant risks and is reviewed continuously throughout the year. The governor sub committees evaluate and review effectively risks associated with their area of responsibility and report regularly to the full governing body.

#### **Purchasing.**

Procedures are in place for assessing need when purchasing all goods and services. The CPC membership will help us achieve value for money and support us in the tendering process for larger contracts.

(i) Minibus – It was agreed to obtain costs for either purchase or lease of 1 or 2 minibus vehicles for use from September 2015. Best value principles were applied – CPC were consulted and quotes were obtained from their recommended suppliers. Outcome - to lease 1 minibus for a period of 24 months approved by the Finance & Resources Committee.

(ii) Insurance – We opted in to the Department for Education's RPA (Risk Protection Arrangements) scheme with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015. This is an alternative insurance where losses that arise are covered by UK government funds.

#### **Curriculum**

We offer a broad and balanced curriculum with English and Maths at its core with Performing and Urban Arts as its specialism. This underpins the academy's ethos of 'A Vision for Life'. We work closely with many organisations to support the curriculum in providing opportunity for students to raise their individual levels of attainment. Examples this year have been : – Archbishop of York Youth Trust – Young Leaders Award; Liverpool Dyslexia Centre – Literacy Programme, Team Up – cabinet based initiative. University students worked with small numbers to improve English & Maths.

#### **Enrichment Programme**

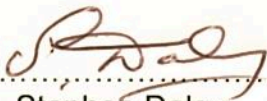
This provides opportunities to experience a variety of activities in addition to the curriculum we offer our students. It includes circus skills, dance, singing, music, music technology, Military school team building exercises, cultural trips, horse riding, P.E., football, table tennis, art, film club, catering and 1:1 English and Maths.

### **Future Objectives**

**Curriculum** – We will continue to work with outside organisations and seek to increase our connections for the benefit of our students. This academic year has

shown the importance of collaboration with other educational providers and experts in supporting the complex needs of our students.

Enrichment Programme – we aim to constantly review and improve on providing new opportunities and experiences for our students. We value the importance of our enrichment programme in helping students to develop social skills and gain confidence to achieve their true potential.

Signed .....  
Name..... Stephen Daley.....  
Academy Trust Accounting Officer  
Date..... 17/12/15.....