

## **QUESTION 8**

### **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 21 JULY 2022**

#### **Question to Cllr Price Cabinet Member for Education (and SEND)**

**By Cllr Charlotte Atkins**

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#### **Question**

In the light of Ofsted's judgement that Leek High School is inadequate and requires special measures, what support will the County Council be offering the school? What are the wider implications for education within Leek of this Ofsted verdict?

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#### **Reply**

Leek High School is part of The Talentum Learning Trust which is a Leek based academy trust. The local authority wants all children to receive the best education possible and wants all Staffordshire schools to be judged at least good. Where an academy school is judged as inadequate, it is the Regional Director (previously known as the Regional Schools Commissioner) who will make the decision about the future of the school. The WM Regional Director has issued a Termination Warning Notice to the academy trust. The trust are required to provide written evidence to demonstrate their capacity to deliver rapid and sustainable improvement at the academy. If the Regional Director is not satisfied that this can be achieved, he will consider whether to terminate the funding agreement in order to transfer the academy to an alternative academy trust.

The LA continues to meet regularly with officers from the DfE regions group' office of the Regional Director to discuss schools and academies that are causing concern. Leek High School and The Talentum Learning Trust are part of these discussions. As a decision about Leek High School are made, the LA will want to ensure this does not impact negatively on education offer across Leek.

The local authority still has a statutory responsibility for safeguarding children and young people. As soon as the LA was aware of the safeguarding concerns raised within the report, contact was made with the Academy Trust and support offered. The LA education safeguarding lead has since visited the school to undertake a robust safeguarding audit and supported in the drafting of an action plan to address safeguarding issues.

The safeguarding lead has arranged to revisit the school to review the impact of actions taken.