

Education: Bring Academies Back Under Local Authority Control

Figures released by the government on 7th September 2016 in response to a question by the Liberal Democrats show that an average of more than two academies per week in England are facing formal interventions because of poor performance. In the past year, 66 academies have been moved to another chain and 50 have been given warning notices to improve.

Conference notes that there is no evidence that academisation has any direct benefit on children or their education, and is concerned that the academies programme:

- has resulted in the fragmentation of the education system while undermining the local accountability of schools;*
- has undermined the national pay and conditions framework for teachers as well as local collective agreements;*
- is in danger of replicating the top heavy management structure of the NHS.*

Conference recognises concerns over all the valuable school land and buildings paid for by taxpayers and largely controlled by local authorities, that turning schools into Academies opens the door for the privatisation of highly valuable state assets.

Conference commits Labour to campaign against government plans to convert all schools in England into Academies.

Conference believes that Labour when in power should reverse this process of academisation and bring Academy schools back under local authority control so that all children receive the education that they deserve.