



Record of meeting

Blackpool, Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire sub-regional improvement board

10 May 2018

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

John Boyle	Independent Chair
Stephanie Hannaford	Regional Schools Commissioner's Office, Lancashire and West Yorkshire
Jessica Byrne	Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
Paul Duckworth	Lancashire County Council
Len Hampson	Diocese of Lancaster (RC)
Stephen Whittaker	Diocese of Blackburn (CofE)
Paul Turner	Blackpool Council

Invited representatives

Angela Holdsworth	Head of Tor View Teaching School
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DfE officials in attendance included

James Dumbill

Apologies

Kate Baddeley	Deputy Director, Regional Schools Commissioner's Office, Lancashire and West Yorkshire
Amanda Bennett	Teaching Schools Council
Tony Nicholson	Fylde Coast Academy Trust

Discussion points

Sub-regional improvement board members were reminded of the confidentiality of the papers and discussion at the meeting and that they must declare any actual or potential interests that might impact upon their impartiality in the review and prioritisation of applications. Conflicts of interest were dealt with in line with the published terms of reference.

Strategic School Improvement Fund (SSIF) round 3

An overview was provided of SSIF round 3 applications. Sub-regional improvement board members considered the applications and fed in their views on:

1. the fit of the proposal with the identified sub-regional priorities, including whether the schools selected were those that would most benefit from the support; and
2. whether the applicant and specified providers have the capacity and capability to successfully deliver the activity such that it delivers the desired outcomes.

The views in the meeting on round 3 applications were broadly in support of the applications submitted; on the whole, the applications were viewed as thoughtful and collaborative. The majority of applications met the sub-regional priorities. The majority of applications targeted appropriate schools for intervention, but there were some where schools with greater needs could have been included. Consideration was given to the proposed providers' capacity, capability and track record in delivering improvement support similar to that proposed in the applications. All of these points were then fed into the Department's assessment of each application.

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9 January 2018

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

Jon Boyle	Independent Chair
Jessica Byrne	Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
Paul Duckworth	Lancashire County Council
Len Hampson	Diocese of Lancaster (RC)
Paul Turner	Blackpool Council
Emma Morley	Regional Schools Commissioner's Office, Lancashire and West Yorkshire

Invited representatives

Lesley Gwinnett	Head of Tarleton Academy Teaching School
Pamela Birch	Head Teachers Board
Tony Nicholson	Head of Fylde Coast Teaching School
Jo Olsson	Senior Her Majesty's Inspector, Ofsted
Alison Ashworth-Taylor	Blackburn Teaching School
Mark Millar	Head of Woodland Community Primary Teaching School
Maxine Froggatt	Teaching Schools Council
Angela Holdsworth	Head of Tor View Teaching School

DfE officials in attendance included

Linda Moore

Apologies

Kate Baddeley	Deputy Director, Regional Schools Commissioner's Office, Lancashire and West Yorkshire
Steve Edwards	Tauheedul Education Trust

Discussion points

An overview was provided of the applications received within the sub-region for round 2 of the Strategic School Improvement Fund (SSIF). It was noted that the announcement of successful projects would be announced on the week of 22 January 2018 and that following the announcement TSC would link with teaching schools and providers to consider:

- eligible schools not yet supported by SSIF projects
- commissioning of projects to address sub-regional priorities for SSIF round 3 which had not been met in round 2.

It was noted that SSIF round 3 had opened on the 23 December 2017 and that the application form would go live at the end of January.

Ahead of SSIF round 3 the meeting discussed the data and local intelligence on priority needs for different schools within the areas. These were identified as priorities as areas of focus for some schools and were by no means exclusive.

For some schools, as relevant, across the Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire region:

1. disadvantaged pupils' attainment
2. broadening curriculum access for Ebacc
3. closing the gap and raising attainment in Maths
4. developing literacy skills for curriculum
5. early years foundation stage – communication and language, literacy
6. promoting social mobility
7. developing optimum learning cultures

The list of priorities within the region will be circulated to sub-regional improvement board attendees after the meeting. This will also be disseminated to MATs after the meeting.

The benefits to potential applicants of the SSIF advisers and the TSC being aware of the number and nature of likely applications was emphasised, including to identify any areas of overlap. Sub-regional improvement board members were encouraged to pass any knowledge of potential applications to DfE, via the SSIF adviser Amanda Bennett. This again was not for reasons of exclusivity, but to mitigate gaps in provision emerging given that the data and intelligence was showing all attendees at the meeting some important areas for focus and, subject to the Secretary of State's decisions, in due course, potential SSIF funding.

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Record of meeting

Blackpool, Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire sub-regional improvement board

9 November 2017

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

Steve Edwards	Tauheedul Education Trust (Acting Chair)
Kate Baddeley	Deputy Director, Regional Schools Commissioner's Office, Lancashire and West Yorkshire
Paul Duckworth	Lancashire County Council
Jessica Byrne	Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

DfE officials in attendance included

Linda Moore

Apologies

John Boyle	Chair
Stephen Whittaker	Diocese of Blackburn (CofE)
Amanda Whitehead	Blackpool Council
Len Hampson	Diocese of Lancaster (RC)

Discussion points

Sub-regional improvement board members were reminded of the confidentiality of the papers and discussion at the meeting and that they must declare any actual or potential interests that might impact upon their impartiality in the review and prioritisation of applications. Conflicts of interest were dealt with in line with the published terms of reference.

Strategic School Improvement Fund (SSIF) round 2

An overview was provided of SSIF round 2 applications. Sub-regional improvement board members considered the applications and fed in their views on:

1. the fit of the proposal with the identified sub-regional priorities, including whether the schools selected are those most in need of support; and
2. whether the applicant and specified providers have the capacity and capability to successfully deliver the activity such that it delivers the desired outcomes.

The views in the meeting on round 2 applications were broadly in support of the applications submitted; on the whole, the applications were viewed as thoughtful and collaborative. Most applicants, excluding a small number of cross-regional applications, met the sub-regional priorities. The majority of applications targetted appropriate schools for support but there were some

where schools with greater needs could have been included. Consideration was given to the proposed providers' capacity, capability and track record in delivering improvement support similar to that proposed in the applications. All of these points were then fed into the Department's assessment of each application.

SSIF round 3

The next BBL sub-regional improvement board meeting date was set for 9 January. It was agreed that a further meeting was not required prior to the opening of SSIF round 3. Priorities for SSIF round 3 were identified as:

1. disadvantaged pupils' attainment and progress in English
2. broadening curriculum access for Ebacc
3. closing the gap and raising attainment in Maths
4. developing literacy skills for curriculum access
5. early Years Foundation Stage - communication and language, literacy
6. promoting social mobility for all children. Particularly, the most vulnerable and those excluded, or at risk of exclusion
7. developing leadership at all levels in order to deliver quality school improvement in the sub-region.

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Record of meeting

Blackpool, Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire sub-regional improvement board

25 September 2017

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

John Boyle	Chair
Kate Baddeley	Deputy Director, Regional Schools Commissioner's Office, Lancashire and West Yorkshire
Jessica Byrne	Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
Paul Duckworth	Lancashire County Council
Paul Dyson-Knight	Lancashire County Council
Len Hampson	Diocese of Lancaster (RC)
Stephen Whittaker	Diocese of Blackburn (CofE)

Invited representatives

Steve Edwards	Tauheedul Education Trust
Tony Nicolson	Head of Fylde Coast Teaching School
Pamela Birch	Head Teacher Board
Angela Holdsworth	Teaching Schools Representative
Maxine Froggatt	Teaching Schools Council

DfE officials in attendance included

James Dumbill

Apologies

Amanda Whitehead	Blackpool Council
Robert Arrowsmith	Performance Lead, Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire
Hamid Patel	Tauheedul Education Trust
Alison Ashworth-Taylor	Blackburn Teaching School
Liz Franey	DfE, Blackpool Opportunity Area

Discussion points

The draft sub-regional improvement board terms of reference were noted as how the discussions in these meetings would operate and how decisions on funding were for the Secretary of State only.

Future meeting dates relating to round 2 of Strategic School Improvement Fund (SSIF) were agreed. An extraordinary meeting will take place on 17th October and the board will meet again on 9th November.

An overview was provided of the outcome of round 1 of the SSIF, noting the DfE announcement from early September set out the relatively high success rate of applications from Lancashire and West Yorkshire compared to the average nationally. It was noted that successful applications, although demarcated under one lead applicant on GOV.UK, represent applications on behalf of a number of schools and/or organisations.

The features that distinguished project which the Secretary of State had decided to fund through round 1 compared to those that were not were noted as:

- clearer articulation and stronger evidence of the need to be addressed in the specific schools identified
- more robust evidence for how and why the proposed intervention would deliver the proposed impact
- stronger evidence of the capacity of providers to deliver the proposed intervention
- a more specific action plan
- greater detail in plans to sustain the impact of the intervention
- clearer evidence of steps taken to secure value for money

It was noted that more applications are expected to be submitted for round 2, including the resubmission of round 1 unsuccessful applications.

The closing date for round 2 applications to be sent to the DfE was confirmed as 20 October. Updated guidance has now been published together with an updated application form. The SSIF roadshow in Manchester on 19th September was discussed as a useful opportunity to ensure round 2 applicants are supported to develop well evidenced applications. It was agreed that supporting materials from the roadshow would be shared with all potential applicants in the Blackpool, Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire region. It was noted that the timing of round 2 and round 3 will require applicants to consider their capacity for involvement and incorporate this into applications.

Ahead of SSIF round 2 the meeting discussed the data and local intelligence on priority needs for different schools within the areas. These were identified as areas of focus for some schools and were by no means exclusive:

For some schools, as relevant, across Blackpool, Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire

1. disadvantaged pupils' attainment and progress in English
2. broadening curriculum access for Ebacc
3. closing the gap and raising attainment in Maths
4. developing literacy skills for curriculum access
5. early Years Foundation Stage - communication and language, literacy
6. promoting social mobility

It was agreed that priorities will address all key stages unless specifically noted. It was noted that the identification of these themes was supported by consultation with the Teaching Schools Council, Local Authority discussions, the Department's validated 2016 data and the Secretary of State's priorities for social mobility and disadvantage. The priorities in relation to Blackpool as an Opportunity Area were discussed. The role as set out in the draft terms of reference of all sub-regional improvement board members, especially the Teaching Schools Council, in disseminating these priorities for potential round 2 applicants was noted as an urgent priority.

The benefits of maintaining an overview of the number and nature of potential applications was emphasised, including to identify any deficit or excess of applications relating to specific

geographies or priority school improvement needs. Sub-regional improvement board members were encouraged to pass any knowledge of potential applications to DfE, via the Teaching Schools Council. This again was not for reasons of exclusivity but to mitigate gaps in provision emerging given what the data and intelligence was showing all attendees at the meeting about some important areas for focus and, subject to the Secretary of State's decisions in due course, potential SSIF funding.

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