



Record of meeting

Greater Manchester Learning Partnership sub-regional improvement board

09 May 2018

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

Margaret Woodhouse	Independent Chair
Damian Cunningham	Diocese of Shrewsbury (RC)
Cathy Starbuck	Salford City Council
Jennie Winkley	Regional School Commissioner's Office, Lancashire and West Yorkshire
Alan Lindsay	Wigan Borough Council
Phil Beswick	Stockport Borough Council

Invited representatives

Helen Woodward	Teaching Schools Council
Michael Tonge	Teaching Schools Representative

DfE officials in attendance included

Delyth Mathieson

Apologies

Malcom Finney	Diocese of Manchester (CofE)
Amanda Bennett	Teaching Schools Council
Karen Samples	Trafford Borough Council
Bob Berry	Tameside Borough Council
Tony Birch	Bolton Council
Paul Cooke	Bury Council
Amanda Corcoran	Manchester City Council
Andrew Sutherland	Oldham Borough Council
Sally McFarlane	Teaching Schools Representative
Andy Kent	National Leader of Governance

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.

Members reviewed all applications, which 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 in greater need 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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Record of meeting

Greater Manchester Learning Partnership sub-regional improvement board

15 December 2017

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

Margaret Woodhouse	Independent Chair
Kate Baddeley	Deputy Director, Regional Schools Commissioner's Office, Lancashire and West Yorkshire
Damian Cunningham	Diocese of Shrewsbury (RC)
Cathy Starbuck	Salford City Council
Phil Beswick	Stockport Borough Council

Invited representatives

Michael Tonge	Teaching Schools Representative
Helen Woodward	Teaching Schools Council
Andy Kent	National Leader of Governance

DfE officials in attendance included

Delyth Mathieson

Apologies

Maxine Roberts	Teaching Schools Council
Sally McFarlane	Teaching Schools Representative
Alan Lindsay	Wigan Borough Council

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 made in 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 will open before Christmas.

Ahead of SSIF round 3 the meeting discussed the data and local intelligence and reviewed 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 Greater Manchester region:

1. early years foundation stage GLD
2. phonics and early reading
3. KS2 reading and writing
4. progress 8
5. applications should focus on disadvantaged groups
e.g. FSM pupils, EAL pupils, international new arrivals
6. and on removing barriers to learning
e.g. under performance of specific groups, attendance, behaviour, exclusions mental health, teaching and learning

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

Greater Manchester Learning Partnership sub-regional improvement board

31 October 2017

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

Margaret Woodhouse	Independent Chair
Kate Baddeley	Deputy Director, RSC Office
Malcolm Finney	Diocese of Manchester (CofE)
Mark Mountcastle	Diocese of Salford (RC)
Damian Cunningham	Diocese of Shrewsbury (RC)
Cathy Starbuck	Salford City Council
Phil Beswick	Stockport Borough Council
Alan Lindsay	Wigan Borough Council

DfE officials in attendance included
Alex Hayes

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 interested 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.

All applicants, excluding a small number of cross-regional applications, met the sub-regional priorities. The majority of applications targeted 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.

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Record of meeting

Greater Manchester Learning Partnership sub-regional improvement board

12 September 2017

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

Margaret Woodhouse	Independent Chair
Kate Baddeley	Deputy Director, Regional Schools Commissioner's Office, Lancashire and West Yorkshire
Malcom Finney	Diocese of Manchester (CofE)
Mark Mountcastle	Diocese of Salford (RC)
Dave Watson	Teaching Schools Council

Invited representatives

Maxine Roberts	Teaching Schools Council
Sally McFarlane	Teaching Schools Representative
Mike Tonge	Teaching Schools Representative

DfE officials in attendance included

James Dumbill, Gillian Gaskell, Fay Skevington

Apologies

Phil Beswick	Stockport Borough Council
Alan Lindsay	Wigan Borough Council

Discussion points

The 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. Conflicts of interest were declared.

An overview was provided of the outcome of round 1 of the Strategic School Improvement Fund (SSIF), noting the DfE announcement from early September set out the the relatively high success rate of applications from Lancashire and West Yorkshire compared to the average nationally. The geographical and thematic spread of the successful applications were noted.

The features that distinguished projects 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

An overview of successful applications to the Strategic School Improvement Emergency Fund was discussed and it was noted that future applications to this fund are anticipated.

The closing date for round 2 applications to be sent to DfE was confirmed as 20 October. Updated guidance will be published shortly together with an updated application form.

The need to identify and manage risks to successful delivery of the SSIF in Greater Manchester was discussed.

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 Greater Manchester

1. primary reading and writing
2. secondary mathematics and English
3. Ebacc
4. primary reading and writing - disadvantage
5. secondary mathematics and English - disadvantage
6. KS2/KS3 transition

It was noted that these themes address regional need based on current intelligence and that future discussion of priorities would take new and emerging evidence into account. It was agreed that these priorities would be communicated to potential round 2 applicants at the Manchester SSIF roadshow on 19th September. It was noted that these priorities allow for the inclusion applications that addresses these priorities in the wider context, such as phonics, leadership, attendance and cross-curricular activities.

The SSIF roadshow scheduled for 19th September in Manchester was discussed and it was noted that:

- lessons learned from round 1 of SSIF will be communicated
- GMLP priorities will be communicated but their non-exclusivity will be emphasised
- the impact and sustainability of applications are a key focus for potential applicants.

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.

It was noted that the second sub-regional improvement board meeting should be scheduled for week commencing 30th October.

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 some important areas for focus and, subject to the Secretary of State's decisions in due course, potential SSIF funding.

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