



Record of meeting

Liverpool City Region and Warrington sub-regional improvement board

09 May 2018

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

Judy Boyce	Liverpool City Council
Tim Warren	Catholic Diocese of Liverpool
Damian Cunningham	Diocese of Shrewsbury
Hillary Smith	Warrington Borough Council
Jill Farrell	Halton Borough Council
Nicky Bevington	Regional Schools Commissioner's Office, Lancashire and West Yorkshire

Invited representatives

Yvonne Gandy	Teaching Schools Council
Pat Speed	Head of Great Cosby Catholic Primary School
Neil Dymont	Teaching Schools Representative
Tim Long	Head of Bridgewater High School
Kirsty Haw	Teaching Schools Representative

DfE officials in attendance included

Suzanne Romano	Chair
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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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Record of meeting

Learn and Lead sub-regional improvement board

4 December 2017

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

David Ashley	Independent Chair, Learn and Lead
Kate Baddeley	Deputy Director, Regional Schools Commissioner's Office, Lancashire and West Yorkshire
Mil Vasic	Halton Borough Council
Judy Boyce	Liverpool City Council
Hillary Smith	Warrington Borough Council
Maria Taylor	Knowsley Borough Council
Alison Simpson	Wirral Borough Council
Tim Warren	Catholic Diocese of Liverpool
Damian Cunningham	Diocese of Shrewsbury

Invited representatives

Jill Stanton	Learn and Lead
John O'Callaghan	Teaching Schools Council
Kirsty Haw	Teaching Schools Representative
Neil Dymant	Teaching Schools Representative
Tim Long	Teaching Schools Representative

DfE officials in attendance included

Suzanne Romano

Apologies

Lesley Curtis	Teaching Schools Council
Laurie Kwissa	Liverpool Anglican Diocese
Joanne Davies	St Helens Borough Council
Pat Speed	Teaching Schools Council
Chris Penn	Chester Anglican Diocese
Yvonne Gandy	Teaching Schools 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 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. SRIB members confirmed SSIF R3 priorities would stay the same.

For some schools, as relevant, across the Learn and Lead Region:

1. maths, English and science at all key stages
2. transition
3. early years
4. all areas of disadvantage - enhancing social mobility, including but not limited to:
 - improve attainment and progression of lower attending pupils
 - improve mental health and social/emotional wellbeing
5. phonics
6. included as supporting the above themes:
 - increasing leadership capacity and expertise

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 Yvonne Gandy. 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

Learn and Lead sub-regional improvement board

15 November 2017

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

David Ashley	Independent Chair, Learn and Lead
Kate Baddeley	Deputy Director, Regional Schools Commissioner's Office, Lancashire and West Yorkshire
Laurie Kwissa	Liverpool Anglican Diocese
Mil Vasic	Halton Borough Council
Judy Boyce	Liverpool City Council
Joanne Davies	St Helens Borough Council
Hillary Smith	Warrington Borough Council
Maria Taylor	Knowsley Borough Council
Alison Simpson	Wirral Borough Council
Yvonne Gandy	Teaching Schools Council
Lesley Curtis	Teaching Schools Council

DfE officials in attendance included
Suzanne Romano

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 Board (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

Learn and Lead sub-regional improvement board

14 September 2017

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

David Ashley	Independent Chair
Kate Baddeley	Deputy Director, Regional Schools Commissioner's office, Lancashire and West Yorkshire
Laurie Kwissa	Liverpool Anglican Diocese
Mil Vasic	Halton Borough Council
Maria Taylor	Knowsley Borough Council
Jennifer Cunningham	Sefton Borough Council
Joanne Davies	Liverpool City Council
Judy Boyce	Liverpool City Council
Dianne Hollis	Wirral Borough Council
Hillary Smith	Warrington Borough Council
Yvonne Gandy	Teaching Schools Council

Invited representatives

Jill Stanton	Learn and Lead
Kirsty Haw	Teaching Schools Representative
Neil Dymant	Teaching Schools Representative

DfE officials in attendance included

James Dumbill

Apologies

Lesley Curtis	Teaching Schools Council
Tim Warren	Catholic Diocese of Liverpool
Damian Cunningham	Diocese of Shrewsbury

Discussion points

The board met and discussed:

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.

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 number of applications submitted by the Learn and Lead region.

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

It was agreed that greater partnership with DfE and Teaching Schools Council teams would aid in the development of a greater number of successful applications for future rounds. It was noted that a collaborative approach to developing applications for round 1 had been taken in the Learn and Lead region.

The closing date for round 2 applications to be sent to DfE was confirmed as 20 October. Updated guidance has now been published together with an updated application form. The potential for double funding was discussed and the need for applicants to make any double funding conflicts explicit. The SSIF roadshow in Manchester on 19th September was discussed as an opportunity to ensure round 2 applicants are supported to develop well evidenced applications.

The need to identify and manage risks to ensure successful delivery of the SSIF in the Learn and Lead region was discussed, with particular reference to ensuring agreed sub-regional priorities are communicated efficiently to round 2 applicants.

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 the Learn and Lead region

1. maths KS4
2. english KS4
3. early years language and communication
4. KS2 to KS3 transition
5. disadvantage - enhancing social mobility

It was noted that the identification of these themes was supported by consultation with the Teaching Schools Council, Local Authority discussions and feedback from round 1 SSIF applications. It was noted that these broad priorities allow for the inclusion of more specific sub-regional priorities within specific round 2 SSIF applications, such as teaching and learning, leadership, attendance, SEND, recruitment and retention and secondary science.

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.