



Record of meeting

West Yorkshire Strategic Partnership sub-regional improvement board

11 May 2018

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

Tess Mason	Chair and Teaching Schools Council Adviser for Lancashire
Kate Baddeley	Deputy Director, Regional Schools Commissioner Office, Lancashire and West Yorkshire
Yasmin Umarji	Bradford Council
Erica Hiorns	Leeds City Council
Helen Metcalfe	Kirklees Borough Council
Simone Bennett	Anglican Diocese of Leeds
Amanda Bennett	Teaching Schools Council
Leah Charlesworth	Wakefield Council

Invited representatives

Emma Brayford	Kirklees Borough Council
Jon Hairsine	National Leaders of Governance
Lesley Bower	Calderdale Council

DfE officials in attendance included

James Dumbill

Apologies

Damon Boxer	DfE, Opportunity Areas
Jackie Nellis	Calderdale Council

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

West Yorkshire Strategic Partnership sub-regional improvement board

1 December 2017

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

Tess Mason	Chair and Teaching Schools Council Adviser for Lancashire
Kate Baddeley	Deputy Director, Regional Schools Commissioner's Office, Lancashire and West Yorkshire
Yasmin Umarji	Bradford Council
Helen Metcalfe	Kirklees Borough Council
Erica Hiorns	Leeds City Council
Leah Charlesworth	Wakefield Council
Lesley Bayer	Calderdale Council
Angela Cox	Catholic Diocese of Leeds
Richard Noake	Anglican Diocese of Leeds
Amanda Bennett	Teaching Schools Council

Invited representatives

Sue Lowndes	Wakefield Council
Diane Heritage	Teaching Schools Council

DfE officials in attendance included

Lydia Bradley

Apologies

Andrew Eastwood	Leeds City Council
Judith Kirk	Bradford Council
Jo-Anne Saunders	Kirklees Borough Council
Lee Turner	DfE, Opportunity Areas Team

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 had been 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 West Yorkshire, Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds Wakefield:

1. literacy development in all key stages including early years
2. phonics in early years and key stage 1
 - implementing a systematic phonics programme
 - language acquisition and communication
3. disadvantage learners: maths and English
 - reading comprehension for boys in key stage 2, 3 and 4
 - writing in all key stages
 - key stage 4: below floor Progress 8
 - maths mastery in key stages 2, 3 and 4
4. English and maths attainment and progress
 - narrowing the gender gap in English at all key stages
 - problem solving and developing depth and a rich mathematical knowledge
5. behaviour, attendance and exclusions at key stages 2, 3 and 4
6. as strands supporting the above themes:
 - effective leadership and governance
 - reflective learning and metacognition

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

West Yorkshire Strategic Partnership sub-regional improvement board

1 November 2017

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

Tessa Mason	Chair
Kate Baddeley	Deputy Director, Regional Schools Commissioner's Office
Amanda Bennett	Teaching Schools Council
Yasmin Umarji	Bradford Council
Helen Metcalfe	Kirklees Borough Council
Erica Hiorns	Leeds City Council
Jackie Nellis	Calderdale Council
Leah Charlesworth	Wakefield Council
Angela Cox	Catholic Diocese of Leeds
Richard Noake	Anglican Diocese of Leeds

DfE officials in attendance included
James Dumbill

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 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 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

West Yorkshire Strategic Partnership sub-regional improvement board

15 September 2017

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

Tessa Mason	Chair and Teaching Schools Council Adviser for Lancashire
Kate Baddeley	Deputy Director, Regional Schools Commissioner's Office, Lancashire and West Yorkshire
Sue Lowndes	Wakefield Council
Yasmin Umarji	Bradford Council
Jo-Anne Sanders	Kirklees Borough Council
Amanda Bennett	Teaching Schools Council
Kim Porter	Leeds City Council
Jackie Nellis	Calderdale Council
Angela Cox	Catholic Diocese of Leeds
Leah Charlesworth	Wakefield Council
Judith Kirk	Bradford Council

Invited representatives

Carol Dewhurst	Chair of Bradford Diocese Academies Trust
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DfE officials in attendance included

James Dumbill, Gillian Gaskell, Lee Turner

Apologies

Richard Noake	Anglican Diocese of Leeds
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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. Conflicts of interests 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 relatively high success rate of applications from Lancashire and West Yorkshire compared to the average nationally. The West Yorkshire sub-region produced the highest number of successful applications within Lancashire and West Yorkshire 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

The closing date for round 2 applications to be sent to the DfE was confirmed as 20 October. The SSIF Roadshow in Manchester on 19th September was discussed as an opportunity to ensure round 2 applicants are supported to developed applications with a stronger evidence base.

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 West Yorkshire

1. oracy development all key stages
 2. disadvantaged learners: maths and English
 3. engagement / aspiration KS4
 4. boys' attainment and progress
 5. attendance/permanent exclusions at KS3 and KS4
 6. effective leadership governance and leadership succession*
- *as strands supporting the above themes

It was noted that these themes address regional needs based on current intelligence and that future discussion of priorities would take new and emerging evidence into account. It was noted that these priorities allow for the inclusion of 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
- WYSP 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 was scheduled for 1st November 2017.

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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