



Record of meeting

North sub-regional improvement board

11th May 2018

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

Martin Post	Regional Schools Commissioner, NWLSC (Chair)
Simon Newland	Hertfordshire County Council
Jackie Graham	Hertfordshire County Council
Ben Pearson	Bedford Borough Council
Judith Lovely	Bedford Borough Council
Chris Kiernan	Central Bedfordshire Council
Caroline Dawes	Luton Borough Council
Chris Connearn	Northamptonshire County Council
David Balderstone	Milton Keynes Council
David Morton	Diocese of St Albans
Charlotte Johnson	Diocese of St Albans
Lizzie Jeanes	Diocese of St Albans
JP Morrison	Diocese of Westminster
Peter Cantley	Diocese of Peterborough
Monsignor McGinnell	Diocese of Northampton
Kirsteen Roberts	Diocese of Oxford
Sarah Bennett	Teaching Schools Council

Invited representatives

Brian Ball	Teaching Schools Council
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DfE officials in attendance included

Anna Hamilton, Amanda Sasia, Kate Dethridge

Apologies

Cheryl Eyre	Milton Keynes Council
Sally Dakin	Central Bedfordshire Council
John Wigglesworth	Luton Council
Collette Curtis	Diocese of Northampton
Teresa Tunnadine	Teaching Schools Council
Stephanie Boak	Teaching Schools 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 applications 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

North sub-regional improvement board

11th December 2017

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

Martin Post	Regional Schools Commissioner, NWLSC (Chair)
Kevin Morris	Bedford Borough Council
Judith Lovely	Bedford Borough Council
Simon Newland	Hertfordshire County Council
Jackie Graham	Hertfordshire County Council
David Balderstone	Milton Keynes Council
Chris Connearn	Northamptonshire County Council
Collette Curtis	Catholic Diocese of Northampton
JP Morrison	Diocese of Westminster
Charlotte Johnson	Diocese of St Albans
Teresa Tunnadine	Teaching Schools Council
Sarah Bennett	Teaching Schools Council

Invited representatives

Brian Ball	Teaching Schools Council
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DfE officials in attendance included

Kate Dethridge

Apologies

Stuart Powell	Central Bedfordshire Council
Jenny Coles	Hertfordshire County Council
Caroline Dawes	Luton Borough Council
Michael Bracey	Milton Keynes Council
Cheryl Eyre	Milton Keynes Council
Andrew Decsillery	Hertfordshire County Council
Frances Le Pla	Diocese of Peterborough
Liz Youngman	Diocese of Peterborough
Lizzie Jeanes	Diocese of St Albans
David Morton	Diocese of St Albans
Stephanie Boak	Teaching School 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.

For some schools, as relevant, within specific local authority areas:

1. Luton: Improving the attainment of pupils with English as an additional language at KS1, KS2 and KS4
2. Central Bedfordshire: Governance, Diminishing differences for disadvantaged pupils at KS2/4
3. Northamptonshire: Improving progress and attainment in KS2 reading; improving progress and attainment in KS4 maths with a particular focus on disadvantaged pupils
4. Bedford Borough: Raising achievement in early years to ensure a great number of pupils attain GLD; improving progress and attainment at KS4 English and maths
5. Milton Keynes: Improving the progress of disadvantaged pupils: improving achievement and diminishing the difference with other pupils in English and maths at KS2, and English, maths, science and humanities at KS4
6. Hertfordshire: Improving outcomes and progress of disadvantaged pupils in KS2, particularly in East Hertfordshire, North Hertfordshire, Welwyn and Hatfield; improving outcomes and progress of disadvantaged pupils in KS4 particularly in Stevenage, Hemel Hempstead, East Hertfordshire and Welwyn and Hatfield.

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 Brian Ball. 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

North sub-regional improvement board

3 November 2017

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

Martin Post	Regional Schools Commissioner, NWLSC (Chair)
Chris Connearn	Northamptonshire County Council
Caroline Dawes	Luton Borough Council
Stuart Powell	Central Bedfordshire Council
Kevin Morris	Bedford Borough Council
Simon Newland	Herefordshire County Council
David Balderstone	Milton Keynes Council
Cheryl Eyre	Milton Keynes Council
Frances De la Pla	Diocese of Peterborough
Liz Youngman	Diocese of Peterborough
Sarah Bennett	Teaching Schools Council
Brian Ball	Teaching Schools Council

Invited representatives

Mick O'Leary	Teaching Schools Council
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DfE officials in attendance included

Dame Kate Dethridge, Jim Addison

Apologies

Teresa Tunnadine	Teaching Schools Council
Michael Bracey	Milton Keynes Council
Collette Curtis	Diocese of Northampton
David Morton	Diocese of St Albans
Judith Lovely	Bedford Borough 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 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. The majority of 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

North sub-regional improvement board

25 September 2017

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

Martin Post	Regional Schools Commissioner, NWLSC (Chair)
David Balderstone	Milton Keynes Council
Chris Connearn	Northamptonshire County Council
Collette Curtis	Catholic Diocese of Northampton
Caroline Dawes	Luton Borough Council
Charlotte Johnson	Diocese of St Albans
Judith Lovely	Bedford Borough Council
Kevin Morris	Bedford Borough Council
JP Morrison	Diocese of Westminster
Simon Newland	Hertfordshire County Council
Stuart Powell	Central Bedfordshire Council
Teresa Tunnadine	Teaching Schools Council
John Wrigglesworth	Luton Borough Council

Invited representatives

Brian Ball	Teaching Schools Council
Mick O'Leary	Teaching Schools Council
Michelle Winter	Senior HMI East of England

DfE officials in attendance included

Dame Kate Dethridge, Jim Addison

Apologies

Frances La Pla	Diocese of Peterborough
Liz Youngman	Diocese of Peterborough

Discussion points

An overview was provided of the outcome of round 1 of the Strategic School Improvement Fund (SSIF), noting the three successful applications in NWLSC. Within the North sub-regional improvement board area, Bedford Borough Council made a successful application.

The features that distinguished projects which the Secretary of State had decided to fund through round 1 compared to 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 robust and specific action plan
- more robust plans to sustain the impact of the intervention
- clearer evidence of steps taken to secure value for money

Around £19m has been spent in round 1 from the £280m available. Therefore there remains a significant opportunity in round 2 and round 3 due to the level of funding remaining if applications are suitably robust.

An overview of SSIF round 2 was provided which included:

- the closing date for round 2 applications to be sent to DfE was confirmed as 20 October 2017.
- the guidance and application form have been updated for round 2 to be clearer and more user-friendly e.g more space for text and a 'save' feature.

An overview of the TSC in the newly-formed NWLSC teaching school council region was provided, which included reference to SSIF advisors and lead schools in the region. A letter outlining this support structure has been sent to the DCS in all LAs in NWLSC and to Teaching Schools within the region from the Teaching Schools Council leads for NWLSC. The same information will be sent shortly to Dioceses and MATs by the RSC team.

In the North sub-regional improvement board region, there are two Teaching School Council sub regions:

- North which covers Central Bedfordshire, Bedfordshire, Milton Keynes, and Northamptonshire
- East which covers Hertfordshire and Luton.

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, within specific LA areas:

1. Bedford Borough: Early years and disadvantage
2. Milton Keynes: Disadvantage, SEND gap
3. Central Bedfordshire: Governance, Diminishing differences for disadvantaged pupils at KS2/ KS4
4. Hertfordshire: Disadvantage KS2/ KS4, Improving outcomes in KS1/2 in Broxbourne
5. Luton: Attainment at KS2 and KS4
6. Northamptonshire: Reading progress KS1-2, Disadvantage

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 advisors 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 advisors Brian Ball and Mick O'Leary. 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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