



Record of meeting

South West London sub-regional improvement board

30th April 2018

Attendance

Jonathan Duff	Deputy Director, Regional Schools Commissioner's Office, SESL region (Chair)
Paul Foster	Teaching Schools Council
Tom Gibson	Archdiocese of Southwark
Rosemary Hafeez	Achieving for Children
Jane McSherry	Merton London Borough Council
Mike McKeaveney	Diocese of Southwark
Davina Salmon	Wandsworth London Borough Council

DfE officials in attendance included
Vicky O'Keeffe, Nicola Archer

Apologies	
Brian Ball	Teaching Schools Council
David Butler	Croydon London Borough Council
Kieran Holliday	Sutton Council
John Johnson	Wandsworth London Borough Council
Denys Wallace	Strategic School Improvement Delivery Hubs
Nick Whitfield CBE	Achieving for Children

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 but there were some that did not explicitly target 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

South West London sub-regional improvement board

7th December 2017

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

Jonathan Duff	Deputy Director, Regional Schools Commissioner's Office, South East and South London (Chair)
Stephen Bryan	Archdiocese of Southwark
Colin Powell	Diocese of Southwark
Jane McSherry	Merton London Borough Council
Davina Salmon	Strategic School Improvement Delivery Hubs
John Johnson	Wandsworth London Borough Council
Rosemary Hafeez	Kingston London Borough Council

Invited representatives

Paul Foster	Teaching Schools Council
Brian Ball	Teaching Schools Council

DfE officials in attendance included

Theo Brady, Jane Vaughan

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, across the sub-region:

1. progress for disadvantaged pupils at KS4 across SW London

2. KS5 across SW London
3. increased capacity to support pupils with SEND to reduce mobility and improve transitions
4. improving transition for pupils from KS2 to KS3 in SW London
5. progress of underperforming black and other minority ethnic groups in SW London

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 Paul Foster. 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

South West London sub-regional improvement board

7 November 2017

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

Jonathan Duff	Deputy Director Regional School Commissioner's Office, South East and South London (Chair)
Julie Knock Bravery	Teaching Schools Council
Paul Foster	Teaching Schools Council
Stephen Bryan	Archdiocese of Southwark
Colin Powell	Diocese of Southwark
David Butler	Croydon London Borough Council
Jane McSherry	Merton London Borough Council
Devina Salmon	Wandsworth London Borough Council
Michael McKeaveney	Diocese of Southwark

DfE officials in attendance included

Jane Vaughan

Apologies

Charis Penfold	Achieving for Children
Nick Whitfield	Achieving for Children
Kieran Holliday	Sutton 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 applications where collaborative preparation had taken place and which directly addressed a sub-regional priority.

Some applications met the sub-regional priorities. In the supported applications the view was broadly that the applicants targeted appropriate schools for support but that there were some schools with greater needs that could have been included and that the scope for support could be wider. 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.

Risk register

The risk identified was the need to develop applications relatively quickly between publication of round 2 outcomes and the window for round 3 closing.

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Record of meeting

South West London sub-regional improvement board

14 September 2017

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

Jonathan Duff	Deputy Director, Regional Schools Commissioner's office, South East and South West London (Chair)
Charis Penfold	Achieving for Children
David Butler	Croydon London Borough Council
Jane McSherry	Merton London Borough Council
John Johnson	Wandsworth London Borough Council
Julie Knock	Teaching Schools Council
Kieran Holiday	Sutton London Borough Council
Mike McKeaveney	Diocese of Southwark

DfE officials in attendance included

Jane Vaughan

Apologies

Anne Bamford	Catholic Diocese of Southwark
Nick Whitfield	Achieving for Children

Discussion points

The group met and discussed:

- the draft terms of reference for the group, how the discussions in these meetings would operate and how decisions on funding were for the Secretary of State only
- outcomes from round 1 of the Strategic School Improvement Fund (SSIF) - as announced by DfE in early September - and the features that distinguished projects the Secretary of State had decided to fund compared to those that were not funded. These included:
 - 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
- expected arrangements for round 2 of the strategic school improvement fund including:
 - applications would open in early September 2017 with a deadline of midday on Friday 20 October 2017 for applications to be sent to DfE
 - the current application guidance would be updated and a new, improved application form made available once the application round opened. The revised guidance would include clarification about what makes a good application and some minor changes including:
 - eligibility criteria for supported schools – confirmation that the criteria relating to pupil progress and attainment should continue to be based on the 2015 to 2016 performance data as that is the most recent published data
 - clearer guidance on the types of evidence we would expect to underpin the selected improvement approaches
 - increased flexibility on the number of eligible schools in applications supporting pupil referral units, alternative provision units and special educational needs and disability (SEND) in mainstream schools
- the role of the Regional Schools Commissioner and other members of the group in communicating sub regional priorities and encouraging applications
- the role of the Teaching Schools Council and the Strategic School Improvement Delivery (SSID) teaching school in coordinating the development of applications from teaching schools, multi academy trusts and local authorities
- ahead of Strategic School Improvement Fund (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:
 1. progress for disadvantaged pupils at key stage 4 across south west London
 2. key stage 5 across south west London
 3. increasing capacity to support pupils with SEND to reduce mobility and improve transitions
 4. improving transition for pupils from key stage 2 to key stage 3 in south west London.

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