



Record of meeting

Sussex, Surrey, and Brighton and Hove sub-regional improvement board

1 May 2018

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

Maria Dawes	Deputy Director, Regional Schools Commissioner's Office, South East and South London (Chair)
Julie Knock Bravery	Teaching Schools Council
Carrie Beech	East Sussex County Council
Marie Ryan	Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton
Mark Storey	Brighton and Hove City Council
Paula Evans	Surrey County Council
Jonathan Gambier	Diocese of Guildford

Invited representatives

Steve Poole	Teaching School Alliance
Ani Magill	Teaching School Alliance
Brian Ball	Teaching Schools Council

DfE officials in attendance included

Jane Vaughan, Amy Barron

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 strongly supportive of the applications submitted; on the whole, the applications were viewed as thoughtful and collaborative.

All 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

Sussex, Surrey, and Brighton and Hove sub-regional improvement board

11 December 2017

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

Maria Dawes	Deputy Director, Regional Schools Commissioner's Office, South East and South London (Chair)
Julie Knock Bravery	Teaching Schools Council
Elizabeth Funge	East Sussex County Council
Marie Ryan	Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton
Mark Jenner	West Sussex County Council
Mike Hall	Diocese of Guildford
Mark Storey	Brighton and Hove City Council
Paula Evans	Surrey County Council
Lesley Hurst	Diocese of Chichester

Invited representatives

Ellen Mulvihill	Pavilion and Downs Teaching School Alliance
Ani Magill	St John the Baptist Teaching School Alliance

DfE officials in attendance included

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 as specified:

1. improving progress and outcomes for key stage 2 maths, particularly in Surrey, East Sussex, Brighton and Hove
2. absence and exclusions of vulnerable groups in primary and secondary schools, and particularly disadvantaged and SEN pupils along the East and West Sussex coast and Brighton and Hove
3. improving outcomes and narrowing the gap for disadvantaged pupils at the end key stage 2 and key stage 4
4. improving outcomes at key stage 2 in Crawley
5. improving outcomes at key stage 2 and key stage 4, in coastal areas, specifically Hastings and environs
6. narrowing the gap in early years literacy along the Sussex coast
7. improving key stage 5 outcomes in STEM subjects in the Gatwick Diamond
8. improving key stage 2 writing outcomes

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 Julie Knock Bravery. 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

Sussex, Surrey, Brighton and Hove sub-regional improvement board

6 November 2017

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

Maria Dawes	Deputy Director, Regional Schools Commissioner's Office, South East and South London (Chair)
Julie Knock Bravery	Teaching Schools Council
Elizabeth Funge	East Sussex County Council
Marie Ryan	Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton
Mark Jenner	West Sussex County Council
Alex Tear	Diocese of Guildford
Mark Storey	Brighton and Hove City Council
Paula Evans	Surrey County Council
Ruth Cumming	Diocese of Chichester

DfE officials in attendance included

Jane Vaughan

Apologies

Ann Holt	Diocese of Chichester
Deborah Myers	West Sussex County Council
Fiona Wright	East Sussex County Council
Liz Mills	Surrey County 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; the majority of which were collaborative and addressed the sub-regional priorities. There were three applications which did not address the sub-regional priorities. 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

A risk register was circulated and will be discussed at the next meeting. Members were invited to share comments with DfE electronically in the meantime.

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Record of meeting

Sussex, Surrey, Brighton and Hove sub-regional improvement board

19 September 2017

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

Maria Dawes	Deputy Director, Regional Schools Commissioner's Office, South East and South East London (Chair)
Alex Tear	Diocese of Guildford
Ann Holt	Diocese of Chichester
Carrie Beech	East Sussex County Council
Julie Knock	Teaching Schools Council
Liz Mills	Surrey County Council
Marie Ryan	Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton
Mark Jenner	West Sussex County Council
Mark Storey	Brighton and Hove City Council

Invited representatives

Brian Ball	Teaching Schools Council
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DfE officials in attendance included

Jane Vaughan

Apologies

Deborah Myers	West Sussex County Council
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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 - 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. key stage 2 maths particularly in East Sussex, Brighton and Hove
 2. key stage 2 maths in Surrey
 3. absence and exclusions of vulnerable groups particularly disadvantaged and SEND pupils along the East and West Sussex coast and Brighton and Hove – primary and secondary
 4. key stage 4 for disadvantaged pupils with SEND in Surrey and narrowing the gap with all other pupils nationally
 5. improvements to primary schools in Crawley
 6. improvements to primary and secondary schools in Hastings and environs
 7. narrowing the gap in early years literacy along the Sussex coast.