



Record of meeting

Birmingham sub-regional improvement board

4 May 2018

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

Ceri Morgan	Deputy Director, Regional Schools Commissioners Office, West Midlands (Chair)
Richard Gill	Teaching Schools Council
Tim Boyes	Birmingham Education Partnership
Yvonne Brennan	Archdiocese of Birmingham

Invited representatives

Kirsten Nelson	Coventry City Council
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DfE officials in attendance included

Alex Turner

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. 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.



Record of meeting

Birmingham sub-regional improvement board

8 December 2017

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

Chris Quinn	Regional Schools Commissioner West Midlands, (Chair)
Tim Boyes	Birmingham Education Partnership
Sarah Smith	Diocese of Birmingham
Yvonne Brennan	Archdiocese of Birmingham
Kelvin Peel	Teaching Schools Council
Richard Gill	Teaching Schools Council

Invited representatives

Kirsten Nelson	Coventry City Council
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DfE officials in attendance included

Ceri Morgan, Alex Turner

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:

- raising attainment in secondary for disadvantaged pupil
- raising attainment in secondary for white British pupils
- reduce fixed term exclusions and improve attendance through strong leadership for inclusion

- close the gap (to the national average) of disadvantaged boys reaching age related expectations for communication and language at EYFS
- close the gap to the national average performance in Reading and Writing at KS2, which may include a focus on BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) pupils

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 Kelvin Peel. 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

Birmingham sub-regional improvement board

1 November 2017

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

Chris Quinn	Regional Schools Commissioner, West Midlands (Chair)
Richard Gill	Teaching Schools Council
Tim Boyes	Birmingham Education Partnership
Tracey Ruddle	Birmingham Education Partnership
Kelvin Peel	Teaching Schools Council
Charlotte Ward-Lewis	Diocese of Birmingham (CofE)
Julie Young	Birmingham City Council

DfE officials in attendance included
Ceri Morgan, Alex Turner

Apologies

Richard Gill	Teaching Schools Council
Colin Diamond	Birmingham City 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 applicants met the sub-regional priorities. All the applications targeted appropriate schools for support, with the exception of one cross-regional application where some 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.

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. The risks of submitting large scale applications in large cities were discussed, issues identified were noted and taken away for discussion.

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Record of meeting

Birmingham sub-regional improvement board

19 September 2017

Attendance

Sub regional improvement board members

Chris Quinn	Regional Schools Commissioner, West Midlands (Chair)
Kelvin Peel	Teaching Schools Council
Colin Diamond	Birmingham City Council
Julie Young	Birmingham City Council
Tim Boyes	Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP)
Tracy Ruddle	Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP)
Sarah Smith	Diocese of Birmingham
Yvonne Brennan	Archdiocese of Birmingham

DfE officials in attendance included

Ceri Morgan, Jonathan Goldstein

Apologies

Richard Gill	Teaching Schools Council
Adam Hardy	Archdiocese of Birmingham

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.

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 success rate of applications for Birmingham and the wider West Midlands compared to the average nationally.

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 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

The need to identify and manage risks to successful delivery of the SSIF in Birmingham was discussed.

The closing date for round 2 applications to be sent to DfE was confirmed as 20 October. Updated guidance has been published together with an updated application form as part of the launch of round 2 on 12 September 2017.

The monitoring process for successful projects was discussed and that certain projects will require visits from Educational Advisers as part of this monitoring.

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 Birmingham

- closing the gap in performance in:
 1. reading at KS2
 2. EYFS
- raising attainment in secondary for disadvantaged pupils
- developing strong leadership for inclusion

The role as set out in the 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.

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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