



## Record of meeting

### West Midlands central sub-regional improvement board

2 May 2018

#### Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

Chris Quinn	Regional Schools Commissioner West Midlands, (Chair)
Richard Gill	Teaching Schools Council
Kelvin Peel	Teaching Schools Council
Matthew Osborne	Dudley Borough Council
Amanda Newbold	Wolverhampton City Council
Chris Matthew	Shropshire Council
Liz Smith	Telford & Wrekin Council
Connie Bernie	Walsall Council
Andrew Timmins	Sandwell Borough Council
Colin Hopkins	Diocese of Lichfield

DfE officials in attendance included  
Jonathan Goldstein, Ceri Morgan

#### 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 questions were raised on whether the right schools were 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.

© Crown copyright 2018



## Record of meeting

### West Midlands Central sub-regional improvement board

15 December 2017

#### Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

Chris Quinn	Regional Schools Commissioner, West Midlands (Chair)
Amanda Newbold	Wolverhampton Local Authority
Suzanne Edwards	Dudley Local Authority
Emma Balchin	Wolverhampton City Council
Chris Matthews	Shropshire Council
Liz Smith	Telford & Wrekin Council
Connie Bernie	Walsall Council
Lynda Poole	Walsall Council

DfE officials in attendance included  
Richard Coneron

#### 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.

For some schools, as relevant, across the sub-region:

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:

- closing the gap for vulnerable groups
- developing inclusive practice to reduce persistent absence and exclusion rates
- SEND - specifically focused on raising the attainment of pupils with SEND; (including focus on identifying SEND, putting in place effective interventions, commissioning

specialist support, parental involvement, transitions, minimising exclusion and preparation for adulthood)

- low attainment – KS3/KS4 core subjects
- rurality/small schools in Shropshire

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.

© Crown copyright 2018



## Record of meeting

### West Midlands central sub-regional improvement board

3 November 2017

#### Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

Chris Quinn	Regional Schools Commissioner West Midlands (Chair)
Richard Gill	Teaching Schools Council
Damian Cunningham	Diocese of Shrewsbury
Chris Ward	Education, Skills and Employment
Justine Lomas	Archdiocese of Birmingham
Lynda Poole	Walsall Council
Suzanne Edwards	Dudley Borough Council
Liz Smith	Telford & Wrekin Council
Philip Sell	Herefordshire Diocese
Andy Timmins	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

DfE officials in attendance included  
Ceri Morgan, Richard Coneron

Apologies included  
Adam Hardy Archdiocese of Birmingham

#### 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 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. All applications, with the exception of one cross-regional application, met the sub-regional priorities. All applications targeted appropriate schools for support. 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 only risk identified additional to those presented to the meeting was the amount of time and commitment needed in monitoring the successful applications.

© Crown copyright 2018



## Record of meeting

### West Midlands central sub-regional improvement board

13 September 2017

#### Attendance

##### Sub-regional improvement board members

Chris Quinn	Regional Schools Commissioner, West Midlands (Chair)
Richard Gill	Teaching Schools Council
Kelvin Peel	West Midlands Teaching Schools Co-ordinator
Kirston Nelson	Coventry City Council
David Townsend	Worcestershire County Council
Phil Leivers	Solihull Borough Council
Nigel Minns	Warwickshire County Council
Lisa Fraser	Herefordshire County Council
Joanne Evans	Coventry Diocese
Philip Sell	Hereford Diocese
Anne Robertson	Diocese of Cardiff
Ted Hammond	Birmingham Archdiocese
Yvonne Brennan	Birmingham Archdiocese

##### DfE officials in attendance included

Ceri Morgan, Jonathan Goldstein

##### Apologies

Anna Barker	Deputy Director for WM – DfE
Sally Hodges	Solihull Borough Council
John Edwards	Herefordshire County Council
Chris Baird	Herefordshire County Council
Margaret James	Worcester Diocese
Adam Hardy	Birmingham Archdiocese
Linda Wainscott	Coventry Diocese

#### 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 high success rate of applications from Coventry, Solihull, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcester 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 Coventry, Solihull, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcester 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 Coventry, Solihull, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcester:

- closing the gap particularly in Rurality/Small schools (At a LA level: Herefordshire, Worcester, Warwickshire)
- higher achievers (At a LA level: Worcester, Warwickshire, Coventry, Solihull)
- vulnerable groups
- inclusion/SEND – specifically focused on raising the attainment of pupils with SEND; (including focus on identifying SEND, putting in place effective interventions, commissioning specialist support, parental involvement, transitions, minimising exclusion and preparation for adulthood).
- low attainment – KS4 data/KS2 Maths
- early years (At a LA level: Worcester, Warwickshire, Coventry, Solihull)

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.

© Crown copyright 2018