



## Record of meeting

### Essex, Southend and Thurrock sub-regional improvement board

11 May 2018

#### Attendance

##### Sub-regional improvement board members

Claire Mycock	Deputy Director, Regional Schools Commissioner's Office, East of England and North East London (Chair)
Tim Elbourne	Anglican Diocese of Chelmsford
Clare Kershaw	Essex County Council
Lyn Wright	Essex County Council
Andrea Winstone	Thurrock Borough Council
Brin Martin	Southend-on-Sea Council
Sue Hammond	Teaching Schools Council

##### Invited representatives

Ann Wilks	Teaching Schools Council
Tony Ward	Teaching Schools Council

##### DfE officials in attendance included

Ebadur Tarafdar, Sarah Fielding

##### Apologies

Robert Simpson	Roman Catholic Diocese of Brentwood
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#### 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 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

### Essex, Southend and Thurrock sub-regional improvement board

4 January 2018

#### Attendance

##### Sub-regional improvement board members

Claire Mycock	Deputy Director, Regional Schools Commissioner's Office, East of England and North East London (Chair)
Tim Elbourne	Anglican Diocese of Chelmsford
Lyn Wright	Essex County Council
Brin Martin	Southend-on-Sea Council
Stephen Myers	Roman Catholic Diocese of Brentwood

##### Invited representatives

Ann Wilks	Teaching Schools Council
Sue Hammond	Teaching Schools Council
Tony Ward	Teaching Schools Council

##### DfE officials in attendance included

Dan Cooke, Ian Jacobs

##### Apologies

Rory Patterson	Thurrock Borough Council
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#### 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 opened on 22 December.

For 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:

- recruit the best teachers by improving the workload, and therefore capacity, of teachers and to develop the workforce into effective leaders.
- improve the strength and retention of trustees and governors.
- support schools to prevent exclusions and reduce persistent absence to improve attendance.
- improve provisions for pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs across both key stage 2 and key stage 4.
- improve key stage 5 outcomes for all groups across Essex, Southend and Thurrock.
- improve early years support at the transitioning point into key stage 2, and improve progress outcomes including in Essex junior schools.
- improve financial efficiency across small rural schools.
- improve attainment and progress outcomes in coastal areas.
- improve key stage 2 and key stage 4 attainment and progress outcomes for disadvantaged, white British, white other pupils and looked after children.

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 Sue Hammond. 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

### Essex, Southend and Thurrock sub-regional improvement board

1 November 2017 and 7 November 2017

#### Attendance

##### Sub-regional improvement board members

Claire Mycock	Deputy Director, Regional Schools Commissioner's Office, East of England and North East London (Chair)
Martin Lavelle	Teaching Schools Council
Sue Hammond	Teaching Schools Council
Tim Elbourne	Anglican Diocese of Chelmsford
Stephen Myers	Roman Catholic Diocese of Brentwood
Clare Kershaw	Essex County Council
Lyn Wright	Essex County Council
Roger Edwardson	Thurrock Borough Council
Andrea Winstone	Thurrock Borough Council
Brin Martin	Southend-on-Sea Council

##### DfE officials in attendance included

Dan Cooke, Ian Jacobs

##### Apologies

Simon Leftley	Southend-on-Sea Council
Robert Simpson	Roman Catholic Diocese of Brentwood

#### 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; overall, the applications were viewed as well considered and concerted. Due to time constraints, the meeting was held over two days. The session on 1 November focused on applications from applicants that were supporting schools in the Essex, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock sub-region, while the meeting of 7 November focused on cross regional applications. All applicants, with the exception of three cross-regional applications, met the sub-regional priorities. One of the applications, which did not meet a sub-regional priority, was also identified as ineligible. 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

### Essex, Southend and Thurrock sub-regional improvement board

13 September 2017

#### Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

Claire Mycock	Deputy Director, Regional School Commissioner's Office, East of England and North East London (Chair)
Revd Tim Elbourne	Diocese of Chelmsford
Fr Stephen Myers	Diocese of Brentwood
Sue Hammond	Teaching Schools Council
Martin Lavell	Teaching Schools Council
Clare Kershaw	Essex County Council
Brin Martin	Southend Borough Council

DfE officials in attendance included

Ebadur Tarafdar

Apologies

Lyn Wright	Essex County Council
Roger Edmondson	Thurrock Council

#### 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 that some Essex based applications were approved. Re-submission of revised applications was encouraged.

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 and ultimately improve outcomes for children
- stronger evidence of the capacity of providers to deliver the proposed intervention showing why specific schools should be supported and that they would engage

- a more specific action plan with clear milestones and risk management
- more robust plans to sustain the impact of the intervention
- clearer evidence of steps taken to secure value for money including a more specific breakdown of project costs and benchmarking.

The need to identify and manage risks to successful delivery of the SSIF in Essex was discussed. The burden on schools should be considered when submitting applications, and the commitment required from supported schools must be made clear from the onset.

The closing date for round 2 applications to be sent to the DfE was confirmed as 20 October. Updated guidance will be published shortly, together with an updated application form.

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:

- improving progress at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4
- improving attainment and progress for White British and White Other pupils
- improving outcomes for disadvantaged pupils with SEN/disabilities and/or those in alternative provision.

For some schools, as relevant, within specific areas:

- improving attainment and progress in coastal Essex (Tendring and Maldon)
- improving KS4 attainment and progress in Thurrock and South Essex (especially Basildon)
- improving attainment and progress outcomes for disadvantaged pupils in all secondary schools in Thurrock.

[The areas of focus were discussed again on 9 October by some members. See Annex A.]

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 as an urgent priority.

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.

## **Annex A**

9 October 2017

Ahead of SSIF round 2 the meeting reviewed 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 Essex, Thurrock and Southend



- improving progress at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4, including in Essex junior schools
- improving attainment and progress for White British and White Other pupils
- improving outcomes for disadvantaged pupils with SEN/disabilities and/or those in alternative provision.

For some schools, as relevant, within specific LA areas

- improving attainment and progress in coastal Essex (Tendring and Maldon)
- improving KS4 attainment and progress in Thurrock and South Essex (especially Basildon)
- improving attainment and progress outcomes for disadvantaged and disadvantaged 'more able' pupils in all secondary schools in Thurrock.

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