



Record of meeting

Cambridge and Peterborough sub-regional improvement board

11 May 2018

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

Alan Parnum	Deputy Director, Regional Schools Commissioner's Office, East of England and North East London (Chair)
Jonathan Lewis	Cambridgeshire County Council
Andrew Read	Anglican Diocese of Ely
Flavio Vettese	Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia
Julie O'Connor	Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia
Simon Eardley	Peterborough Primary Headteachers' Association
Julie Taylor	Peterborough Secondary Headteachers' Association
Tony Davies	Cambridgeshire Primary Headteachers' Association
Jonathan Digby	Cambridgeshire Secondary Headteachers' Association
Jacki Parris	Teaching Schools Council Representative

Invited representatives

Mark Lambell	Teaching Schools Council Representative
Lesley Birch	Teaching Schools Council Representative
Gary Perkins	Teaching Schools Council Representative

DfE officials in attendance included

Dan Cooke, Charlotte McKeown

Apologies

Wendi Ogle-Welbourn	Peterborough City Council
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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 positively. 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, and some schools that may not have capacity to engage with the 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.

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Record of meeting

Cambridge and Peterborough sub-regional improvement board

18 December 2017

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

Jonathan Lewis	Deputy Director, Regional Schools Commissioner's Office, East of England and North East London (Chair)
Keith Grimwade	Cambridgeshire County Council
Andrew Read	Anglican Diocese of Ely
Julie O'Connor	Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia
Simon Eardley	Peterborough Primary Headteachers' Association
Julie Taylor	Peterborough Secondary Headteachers' Association
Tony Davies	Cambridgeshire Primary Headteachers' Association
Jonathan Digby	Cambridgeshire Secondary Headteachers' Association
Lesley Birch	Teaching Schools Council Representative

Invited representatives

Mark Lambell	Teaching Schools Council
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DfE officials in attendance included

Dan Cooke, Jamie Weatherhead, Debbie Barrigan

Apologies

Miranda Robinson	Diocese of Peterborough
Terry Reynolds	Peterborough County Council

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:

- improve maths outcomes at key stage 2
- improve literacy outcomes at key stage 2
- improve phonics outcomes in year 1
- improve social mobility by supporting disadvantaged and vulnerable groups to improve outcomes (including, but not exclusively: English as an Additional Language; young carers; looked after children; SEND; mental health; and behavioural issues)
- increase the capacity of schools to support home learning
- early years – early literacy development in schools
- recruit, develop and retain the best teachers and leaders
- ensure long-term financial viability by improving financial management in schools

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 Jacki Parris. 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

Cambridge and Peterborough sub-regional improvement board

6 November 2017

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

Jonathan Lewis	Deputy Director, Regional Schools Commissioner's Office, East of England and North East London (Chair)
Lesley Birch	Teaching Schools Council
Jacki Parris	Teaching Schools Council
Miranda Robinson	Diocese of Peterborough
Julie O'Connor	Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia
Andrew Read	Anglican Diocese of Ely
Keith Grimwade	Cambridgeshire County Council
Mark Lambell	Teaching Schools Council
Jonathan Digby	Cambridgeshire Secondary Headteachers' Association
Julie Taylor	Peterborough Secondary Headteachers' Association
Tony Davies	Cambridgeshire Primary Headteachers' Association

DfE officials in attendance included

Dan Cooke, Deborah Barrigan

Apologies

Flavio Vittese	Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia
Wendi Ogle-Welbourn	Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council
Anna Reader	Cambridgeshire Secondary Headteachers' Association
Terry Reynolds	Peterborough City Council
Simon Eardley	Peterborough Primary Headteachers' Association
Jamie Weatherhead	Opportunity Areas Team, DfE

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; on the whole, the applications were viewed as well-considered, although some could be strengthened through greater collaboration in round 3. All applicants, with the exception of two cross-regional applications, met the sub-regional priorities, although three had only limited links. The majority of applications target 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.

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

Cambridge and Peterborough sub-regional improvement board

28 September 2017

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

Jon Lewis	Deputy Director, Regional School Commissioner's Office, East of England and North East London (Chair)
Andrew Reed	Diocese of Ely
Flavio Vittese	Diocese of East Anglia
Wendi Ogle-Welbourn	Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council
Keith Grimewade	Cambridgeshire County Council
Jonathan Digby	Cambridgeshire Secondary Headteachers' Association
Anna Reader	Cambridgeshire Secondary Headteachers' Association
Julie Taylor	Peterborough Secondary Headteachers' Association
Simon Eardley	Peterborough Primary Headteachers' Association
Mark Lambell	Teaching Schools Council

DfE officials in attendance included

Cheryl Oakman, Ebadur Tarafdar

Apologies

Julie O'Connor	Diocese of East Anglia
Tony Davies	Cambridge Primary Headteachers' Association
Miranda Robinson	Diocese of Peterborough

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 Cambridgeshire/Peterborough 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.

It was also noted that:

- there was a clear curriculum theme running through all the successful applications
- there was a need to ensure a more joined up approach to link the potential applications ahead of round 2.

The need to identify and manage risks to successful delivery of the SSIF in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough 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 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, across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

- maths at Key Stage 2
- literacy at Key Stage 2
- progress with Phonics at Key Stage 1
- supporting disadvantage and vulnerable groups at all stages (Fenland and Cambridgeshire)
- early years – early literacy development in schools
- fixed term exclusions / regional admission inefficiencies / inschool movement
- behavioural issues
- teacher recruitment and retention
- social emotional and mental health (SEMH) / Well Being at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4
- governance / regional and local system leadership
- reducing inequality, removing barriers to learning, and improving access to learning
- ebacc take-up and performance
- english as an additional language (supporting pupils with SEN, FSM, CIN, LAC)
- achievement of young carers
- parental engagement
- financial management / financial efficiency / funding management in small schools.

The important role 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 and 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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