



Record of meeting

Suffolk sub-regional improvement board

10 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)
Jane Sheat	Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich
Flavio Vettese	Diocese of East Anglia
Christine Fogg	Suffolk County Council
Julia Grainger	Suffolk County Council
Jacqui Frost	Suffolk Primary Headteachers' Association
Madeline Vigar	Suffolk Secondary Headteachers' Association
Andy Samways	Teaching Schools Council

DfE officials in attendance included

Dan Cooke, Becky Digby, James Crane

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.



Record of meeting

Suffolk sub-regional improvement board

15 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)
Christine Fogg	Suffolk County Council
Jane Sheat	Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich
Flavio Vettese	Diocese of East Anglia
Caroline Gibson	Suffolk Secondary Headteachers' Association
Louise Spall	Suffolk Primary Headteachers' Association
Andy Samways	Teaching Schools Council

DfE officials in attendance included

Dan Cooke, Jamie Weatherhead

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 at key stages 1, 2 and 4, including transition into key stage 3
- develop quality of governance, peer-to-peer leadership support and middle/senior leader development
- improve progress and attainment for disadvantaged and vulnerable students from early years to post-16

- place-based improvements in Ipswich, Lowestoft, West/Breckland, Forest Heath, Waveney, Babergh, Mid Suffolk and St Edmundsbury
- improve language and literacy skills across transition phases
- build attitudes, skills and behaviours that support children's learning, health and mental well-being
- teacher recruitment and retention (workload)

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 Andy Samways. 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

Suffolk sub-regional improvement board

9 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)
Andy Samways	Teaching Schools Council
Jeremy Spencer	HMI, East of England
Adrian Orr	Suffolk County Council
Flavio Vittese	Diocese of East Anglia
Caroline Gibson	Suffolk Secondary Head Teachers' Association
Madeleine Vigar	Suffolk Secondary Head Teachers' Association
Jane Sheat	Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich (Anglican)

DfE officials in attendance included

Dan Cooke, Jamie Weatherhead

Apologies

Christien Fogg	Suffolk County Council
Cheryl Singleton	Suffolk Secondary Headteachers' Association
Louise Spall	Suffolk Secondary Headteachers' Association
Lesley Birch	Teaching Schools 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 interested 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 thoughtful and collaborative. All

applicants, with the exception of two cross-regional applications, met the sub-regional priorities. 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.

© Crown copyright 2018



Record of meeting

Suffolk sub-regional improvement board

14 September 2017

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

Jonathan Lewis	Deputy Director, Regional Schools Commissioner's Office, East of England and North East London (Chair)
Jane Sheat	Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich
Flavio Vitesse	Diocese of East Anglia
Andy Samways	Teaching Schools Council
Adrian Orr	Suffolk County Council
Christine Fogg	Suffolk County Council
Madeline Vigar	Suffolk Association of Secondary Heads
Louise Spall	Suffolk Primary Headteachers' Association

DfE officials in attendance included

Jamie Weatherhead, Dan Cooke

Apologies

Mark Lambell Teaching Schools Council

Discussion points

The 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 no Suffolk-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 closing date for round 2 applications to be sent to DfE was confirmed as 20 October. Updated guidance will be published shortly 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 Suffolk

- improving maths at Key Stages 1, 2 and 4
- developing school leadership including governance
- improving attainment for disadvantaged pupils at Key Stage 4
- place-based improvement in Ipswich, Lowestoft, and the West/Breckland areas
- progress of pupils with SEN/disabilities
- literacy and maths improvement for pupils from a black minority ethnic background
- developing pupil voice in learning / Learning to Learn (meta cognition)
- formative assessment/ feedback to improve pupils' learning
- overcoming barriers to engagement such as: spread of gang culture and mental health issues
- teacher recruitment/retention (workload)
- early years / early intervention
- progression into further/higher education and careers.

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.

© Crown copyright 2018