

Record of meeting

Norfolk sub-regional improvement board

15 May 2018

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

Alan Parnum	Deputy Director, Schools Commissioner's Office, East of England and North East London (Chair)
Chris Snudden	Norfolk County Council
John Crowley	Norfolk County Council
Carol Dallas	Norfolk Secondary Education Leaders
Sarah Shirras	Norfolk Primary Headteachers' Association
Jonathan Rice	Norfolk Primary Headteachers' Association
Anne Stokes	Teaching Schools Council

DfE officials in attendance included

Judith Davies, Sarah Fielding

Apologies

Julie O'Connor	Diocese of East Anglia (Roman Catholic)
Paul Dunning	Diocese of Norwich (Anglican)

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 applications met the sub-regional priorities. The 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

Norfolk sub-regional improvement board

12 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)
Chris Snudden	Norfolk County Council
John Crowley	Norfolk County Council
Carol Dallas	Norfolk Secondary Education Leaders
Sarah Shirras	Norfolk Primary Headteachers' Association
Paul Dunning	Diocese of Norwich (Anglican)
Flavio Vettese	Diocese of East Anglia (Roman Catholic)
Anne Stokes	Teaching Schools Council

Invited representatives

Keith McKenzie	Teaching Schools Council
Lesley Birch	Teaching Schools Council

DfE officials in attendance included:

Jasumati Pankhania, Jamie Weatherhead, Kevin Hall

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:

Across all primary and secondary schools:

- raise standards in communication and learning for disadvantaged boys across all year groups
- build capacity to reduce rates of fixed term and permanent exclusion
- strengthen governance, leadership and financial efficiencies at all levels
- recruit, develop and retain the best teachers and leaders
- improving outcomes for disadvantaged pupils with mental health, SEN/disabilities working in collaboration with alternative provision and special schools to build capacity across mainstream and small schools
- increase the standards and subject pillars for number of students achieving the EBACC, with a focus on humanities and languages from primary school to A level

Early years / key stage 1:

- increase the number of pupils, especially disadvantaged who exceed the Early Learning Goals
- raise standards in phonics in those schools where the percentage of pupils achieving expected standards remains below national averages

Key stage 2:

- continue to raise standards in Mathematics by focussing more on:
 - pupils abilities to multiply and divide across all year groups
 - developing understanding of calculations with fractions in upper key stage 2
 - the number of girls achieving a high standard
- raise standards in the lowest performing schools so no school is below floor standards or meets coasting school criteria

Key stage 4 and post 16:

- increase the number of students achieving higher grades at A level
- raise standards in mathematics for girls in key stage 3 and key stage 4 ensuring continued progress from key stage 2

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 adviser 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 Keith McKenzie. 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

Norfolk sub-regional improvement board

3 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)
Matt Dunkley	Norfolk County Council
Chris Snudden	Norfolk County Council
John Crowley	Norfolk County Council
Carol Dallas	Norfolk Secondary Education Leaders
Sarah Shirras	Norfolk Primary Headteachers' Association
Julie O'Connon	Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia
Paul Dunning	Anglican Diocese of Norwich
Anne Stokes	Teaching Schools Council
Elaine Woolner	Teaching Schools Council

DfE officials in attendance included

Daniel Cooke

Apologies

Flavio Vetesse	Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia
Lesley Birch	Teaching Schools Council
Penny Sheppard	Norfolk Primary Headteachers' Association
Keith McKenzie	Norfolk Special School Headteachers' Association
Paul Brooker	HMI, East of England
Jamie Weatherhead	Opportunity Areas, DfE
Chris Smith	Opportunity Areas, DfE
Kevin Hall	Regional Schools Commissioner's Office

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 seven applications including one cross sub-regional application 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, although some could be strengthened or improved for round 3. All applicants met the sub-regional priorities, with the exception of one cross-regional application and another that indirectly met the 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.

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.

Next meeting

Members agreed the date of next meeting: 12 December at 2:30pm, same venue.

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Record of meeting

Norfolk sub-regional improvement board

13 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)
Paul Dunning	Diocese of Norwich
Flavio Vitesse	Diocese of East Anglia
Anne Stokes	Teaching Schools Council
Chris Snudden	Norfolk County Council
John Crowley	Norfolk County Council
Mark Adams	Norfolk County Council
Neil Groves	Norfolk County Council
Sebastian Gasse	Norfolk County Council
Carol Dallas	Norfolk Secondary Education Leaders
Sarah Shirras	Norfolk Primary Headteachers' Association
Penny Sheppard	Norfolk Primary Headteachers' Association

DfE officials in attendance included

Jamie Weatherhead, Dan Cooke, Kevin Hall

Apologies

Keith McKenzie Norfolk Association of Special School Heads

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 Norfolk 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:

- some schools to be supported are proposed in more than one application
- Norfolk has a relatively low number of teaching schools as a proportion of total schools.

The need to identify and manage risks to successful delivery of the SSIF in Norfolk 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 Norfolk

Primary and secondary schools

- raise standards in English for disadvantaged boys across all year groups
- reduce rates of fixed term and permanent exclusion
- strengthen governance and leadership at all levels

Primary & subjects – individual school outcomes

- focus on curriculum design to: a) enable all pupils to embed their learning through adequate opportunity for independent application; b) secure development of language and reading – especially for disadvantaged boys; c) ensure that teaching and intervention addresses gaps in understanding from previous years and key stage
- raise achievement for disadvantaged pupils in small schools

Early Years / Key Stage One

- increase the number of pupils, especially disadvantaged who exceed the Early Learning Goals
- raise standards in Phonics in those schools where the percentage of pupils achieving expected standards remains below national averages

Key Stage Two

- continue to raise standards in Mathematics by focussing more on: a) pupils abilities to multiply and divide across all year groups; b) developing understanding of calculations with fractions in upper key stage 2; c) the number of girls achieving a high standard
- raise standards in the lowest performing schools so no school is below floor standards or meets coasting school criteria

Key Stage 4 and post 16

- increase the number of students achieving the EBACC
- ensure sustainability for a broad A level curriculum offer available to students, especially focussing on languages
- increase the number of students achieving higher grades at A level
- increase the percentage of students progressing to higher education.

It was noted that the sub-region presents particular challenges, particularly around the rural corridor and Norwich Opportunity Area.

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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