



Record of meeting

South Yorkshire sub-regional improvement board

10 May 2018

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

John Edwards	Regional Schools Commissioner for East Midlands and the Humber (Chair)
Margaret Libreri	Barnsley Council
Pamela Smith	Sheffield City Council
Del Rew	Rotherham Borough Council
Huw Thomas	Diocese of Sheffield
Philip Patterson	Diocese of Hallam
Paul Ruane	Doncaster Council
Chris Abbott	Teaching Schools Council

Invited representatives

Tom Banham	Teaching Schools Council Local Hub Lead (Barnsley)
Sarah Rockliff	Teaching Schools Council Local Hub Lead (Sheffield)
Greg Burke	Teaching Schools Council Local Hub Lead
Sarah Page	Teaching Schools Council Local Hub Lead (Rotherham)
Pat Dubas	Teaching Schools Council

DfE officials in attendance included

Helen Pledger

Apologies

Janet Foster	Teaching Schools Council Local Hub Lead (Doncaster)
Stephen Betts	Sheffield City Council
Helen Bellinger	Doncaster Research School

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) rounds 1 & 2

A discussion took place on the progress of SSIF rounds 1 and 2 projects being delivered in the sub-region. The group discussed any knowledge they had of projects' recent successes or challenges.

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 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 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 noted to be fed into the Department's assessment of each application.

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Record of meeting

South Yorkshire sub-regional improvement board

13 December 2017

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

John Edwards	Regional Schools Commissioner for East Midlands and the Humber (Chair)
Margaret Libreri	Barnsley Council
Damian Allen	Doncaster Council
Leanne Hornsby	Doncaster Council
Pamela Smith	Sheffield City Council
Stephen Betts	Sheffield City Council
Del Rew	Rotherham Borough Council
Chris Hilliard	Rotherham Borough Council

Invited representatives

Greg Burke	South Yorkshire Futures
Pat Dubas	Teaching Schools Council

DfE officials in attendance included

Chris Caroe, Christina Roberts

Apologies

Philip Patterson	Diocese of Hallam
Chris Abbott	Teaching Schools Council
Jayne Ludlam	Sheffield City Council
Huw Thomas	Diocese of Sheffield

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 South Yorkshire sub-region:

- improving reading outcomes throughout early years and the primary phase particularly for disadvantaged pupils
- improving numeracy outcomes in the primary phase particularly for schools in the Doncaster Opportunity Area
- building the capacity and quality of secondary schools in order to improve attainment and progress by the end of KS4
- improving outcomes for targeted pupil groups through inclusive practice and curriculum that improve behaviour, and reduce persistent absence and exclusion rates
- improving outcomes for pupils eligible for pupil premium and those with SEND
- improving the achievement of white disadvantaged pupils.

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 Pat Dubas. 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

South Yorkshire sub-regional improvement board

10 November 2017

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

John Edwards	Regional Schools Commissioner for East Midlands and the Humber (Chair)
Margaret Libreri	Barnsley Council
Joel Hardwick	Sheffield City Council
Jayne Ludlam	Sheffield City Council
Damian Allen	Doncaster Council
Phillip Patterson	Diocese of Hallam
Greg Burke	Sheffield Hallam University
Chris Abbott	Teaching Schools Council

Invited representatives

Pat Dubas	Teaching Schools Council
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DfE officials in attendance included

Debbie Usherwood, Helen Pledger

Apologies

Huw Thomas	Diocese of Sheffield
Richard Noake	Diocese of Leeds

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 thoughtful and collaborative. All applicants, with the exception of a small number of 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. In these cases, the view of members was that greater collaboration during application development would have ensured the right schools were identified.

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 register was discussed. Risks were assessed and amended to reflect the likelihood of the risk continuing or materialising. The register will be amended and produced for the next meeting.

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Record of meeting

South Yorkshire sub-regional improvement board

5 September 2017

Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

John Edwards	Regional Schools Commissioner for East Midlands and the Humber (Chair)
Margaret Libreri	Barnsley Council
Damian Allen	Doncaster Borough Council
Karen Borthwick	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Pamela Smith	Sheffield City Council
Jayne Ludlam	Sheffield City Council
Stephen Betts	Sheffield City Council (Learn Sheffield)
Huw Thomas	Diocese of Sheffield (CofE)
Richard Noake	Diocese of Leeds (CofE)
Philip Patterson	Diocese of Hallam
Chris Wheatley	Teaching Schools Council

Invited representatives

Kate McKenna	Teaching Schools Council
Greg Burke	South Yorkshire Futures

DfE officials in attendance included

Carol Gray, Chris Caroe, Joanne Kaczmarek

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 relatively high success rate of applications from South Yorkshire compared to the average nationally. John recognised and thanked both applicants and sub-regional improvement board members for all of the hard work that had gone into round 1 applications.

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 South Yorkshire was discussed.

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 South Yorkshire

1. developing inclusive practice to improve behaviour, and reduce persistent absence and exclusion rates, with a focus on disadvantaged and SEN pupils
2. improving outcomes for disadvantage pupils, with a focus on SEN and LAC
3. translating pupils' academic achievement into long term educational progression and better life chances including through building aspiration, character and resilience

For some schools, as relevant, within specific LA areas

4. Barnsley: Building the capacity and quality of secondary schools
5. Doncaster: Improving KS2 maths and reading outcomes
6. Rotherham: Improving the attainment of the most able disadvantaged pupils – including through building their resilience and aspirations
7. Sheffield: improving the achievement of white disadvantaged pupils

The role as set out in the draft 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, about potential SSIF funding.

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