



## Record of meeting

### North - Central sub-regional improvement board

2 May 2018

#### Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Jane Wilson      | Regional Schools Commissioner's Office, North (Chair) |
| John Hardy       | Teaching Schools Council                              |
| Richard Cullen   | Sunderland Council                                    |
| Enid Fairbrother | South Tyneside Council                                |

DfE officials in attendance included

Paul Green

Apologies

|                  |                                  |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Steve Horne      | Gateshead Council                |
| Phil Hodgson     | Durham County Council            |
| Paul Rickeard    | Dioceses of Durham and Newcastle |
| Lucie Stephenson | Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle  |

#### 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

### North - Central sub-regional improvement board

14 December 2017

#### Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Jane Wilson      | Regional Schools Commissioner's Office, North (Chair) |
| Enid Fairbrother | South Tyneside Council                                |
| Joe Hughes       | Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle                       |
| John Hardy       | Teaching Schools Council                              |
| Phil Hodgson     | Durham County Council                                 |
| Richard Cullen   | Sunderland Council                                    |
| Steve Horne      | Gateshead Council                                     |

DfE officials in attendance included

Paul Green

Apologies

Paul Rickeard                      Dioceses of Durham and Newcastle

#### 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:

Secondary

- improving Progress 8 with an emphasis on English, maths and science

## KS1/2

- increasing the numbers achieving an expected level of achievement (at or above expected standard)

## Early Years

- increasing the numbers achieving a good level of development

The SRIB is particularly interested in applications that:

- improve the quality of teaching and learning
- develop realistic and practical school-based teaching and leadership strategies to support and engage children with SEND in mainstream provision
- support an inclusive model of education through the quality of their learning and family engagement
- improve and strengthen school leadership and management
- reduce teacher workload and contribute to recruitment and retention of high quality teachers
- adopt a whole school approach through the development of effective systems, policies and culture
- improve pupils' emotional and mental health and wellbeing
- reduce the movement of pupils between educational establishments
- impact positively on parental engagement and pupils' school readiness
- improve the experience for pupils' transition from KS2 to KS3
- improve persistent absence and reduce exclusion
- improve outcomes for boys

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 TSC representative John Hardy. 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

### North - Central sub-regional improvement board

7 November 2017

#### Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Colin Knights | Regional Schools Commissioner's Office, North (Chair) |
| John Hardy    | Teaching Schools Council                              |
| Steve Horne   | Gateshead Council                                     |
| Joe Hughes    | Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle                       |

DfE officials in attendance included

Paul Green

Apologies

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Richard Cullen   | Sunderland Council                            |
| Enid Fairbrother | South Tyneside Council                        |
| Phil Hodgson     | Durham County Council                         |
| Paul Rickeard    | Dioceses of Durham and Newcastle              |
| Jane Wilson      | Regional Schools Commissioner's Office, North |

#### 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 that both covered more than one sub-regional area and failed to target the schools most in need of support within the central sub-region. The applications did not address the identified sub-regional priorities.

Consideration was given to the proposed providers' capacity, capability and track record in delivering improvement support similar to that proposed in the applications. 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.

© Crown copyright 2018



## Record of meeting

### North - Central sub-regional improvement board

28 September 2017

#### Attendance

Sub-regional improvement board members

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Jane Wilson      | Regional Schools Commissioner's office, North (Chair) |
| Richard Cullen   | Sunderland Council                                    |
| Enid Fairbrother | South Tyneside Council                                |
| Phil Hodgson     | Durham County Council                                 |
| Joe Hughes       | Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle                       |
| Rachel Mays      | Teaching Schools Council                              |
| Paul Rickeard    | Dioceses of Durham and Newcastle                      |

DfE officials in attendance included

Paul Green

Apologies

Steve Horne                      Gateshead Council

#### Discussion points

The final 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.

The next meeting of the sub-regional improvement board will review all applications which relate to the North region, including any which have not been commissioned by the sub-regional improvement board, and any that are cross-regional and include schools in the sub-region.

An overview was provided of the outcome of round 1 of the Strategic School Improvement Fund (SSIF) noting that the DfE announcement from early September included four successful applications in the North. There were no successful round 1 applications from the Central sub region.

The features that distinguished projects which the Secretary of State had decided to fund through round one 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 the Central sub-region was discussed.

The closing date for round 2 applications to be sent to DfE was confirmed as 20 October.

The key changes for round 2 of the SSIF were noted as:

- revised and improved online application form
- clarification about what makes a good application
- clearer guidance on the types of evidence DfE would expect to underpin the selected improvement approaches
- extended flexibility on eligibility criteria to PRUs, APUs and where applications are specifically to increase the proportion of children in infant/first schools meeting or exceeding expectations for language and communication, literacy and mathematics
- a requirement for MATs to support at least 25% schools outside of their Trust (or for applications in support of more than 20 schools, a minimum of five schools not in the MAT and not due to join)

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.

As part of the broad body of work to address school improvement across the Central sub-region, the sub-regional improvement board priorities for applications to round 2 of the Strategic School Improvement Fund (SSIF) are set out below.

Improving outcomes for disadvantaged pupils with a focus on:

#### Early Years

- increasing the numbers achieving a good level of development

#### KS1/2

- increasing the numbers achieving an expected level of achievement (at or above expected standard)

#### Secondary

- improving Progress 8 with an emphasis on English, Maths and Science
- reducing persistent absence

The sub-regional improvement board is particularly interested in applications that:

- improve the quality of teaching and learning
- develop realistic and practical school-based teaching and leadership strategies to support and engage children with SEND in mainstream provision
- support an inclusive model of education through the quality of their learning and family engagement
- improve and strengthen school leadership and management
- reduce teacher workload and contribute to recruitment and retention of high quality teachers

- adopt a whole school approach through the development of effective systems, policies and culture
- improve pupils' emotional and mental health and wellbeing
- reduce the movement of pupils between educational establishments
- impact positively on parental engagement and pupils' school readiness
- improve the experience for pupils' transition from KS2 to KS3

The role of all sub-regional improvement board members and especially the Teaching Schools Council (as set out in the published terms of reference for sub-regional improvement boards) in disseminating these priorities to 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 application 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.

© Crown copyright 2018