

Cambridgeshire School Improvement Board

Digest of meeting held 4th July 2017

Priority 1: Champion raised aspirations, achievement, progress and outcomes for all Cambridgeshire children

The 'Bridge the Gap project' funded by the CSIB, has linked schools across different parts of the county, resulting in a very enthusiastic and innovative group.

The project Group comprised senior teachers from a triad of Lionel Walden, Littleport and St Matthews and involved Pupil Premium and Non-Pupil Premium pupils from Years 5 and 6. Good practice was shared in Reading, Writing and Mathematics. Seven group members presented to CSIB and spoke very positively about the experience: sharing of ideas benefitting their own schools; use of an assessment book to record gaps in a child's learning; TAs having one-to-one sessions with children 'overlearning' to enforce what taught earlier in the day. Six sessions had been devised on the theme of things to excite boys with a view to formulating ideas to use to make boys write. Each school delivered two/three lessons and the group met subsequently to celebrate what the children had achieved. It was felt that group work helped with boys' learning, that they felt safe in the structure, were more confident with writing and had the freedom to be creative with no fear of 'getting it wrong'. Three-way assessment was used (child/teacher/friend) and peer feedback was 'brimming with ideas'. The group were pleased with the impact for Pupil Premium children and improvement was seen at the end of the year; there was still a gap but seven per cent less than in the Spring. Next steps are to continue sharing ideas with wider staff, realise the value of the planning phase in projects and value the opportunity of sharing work across three schools.

Next steps for the CSIB

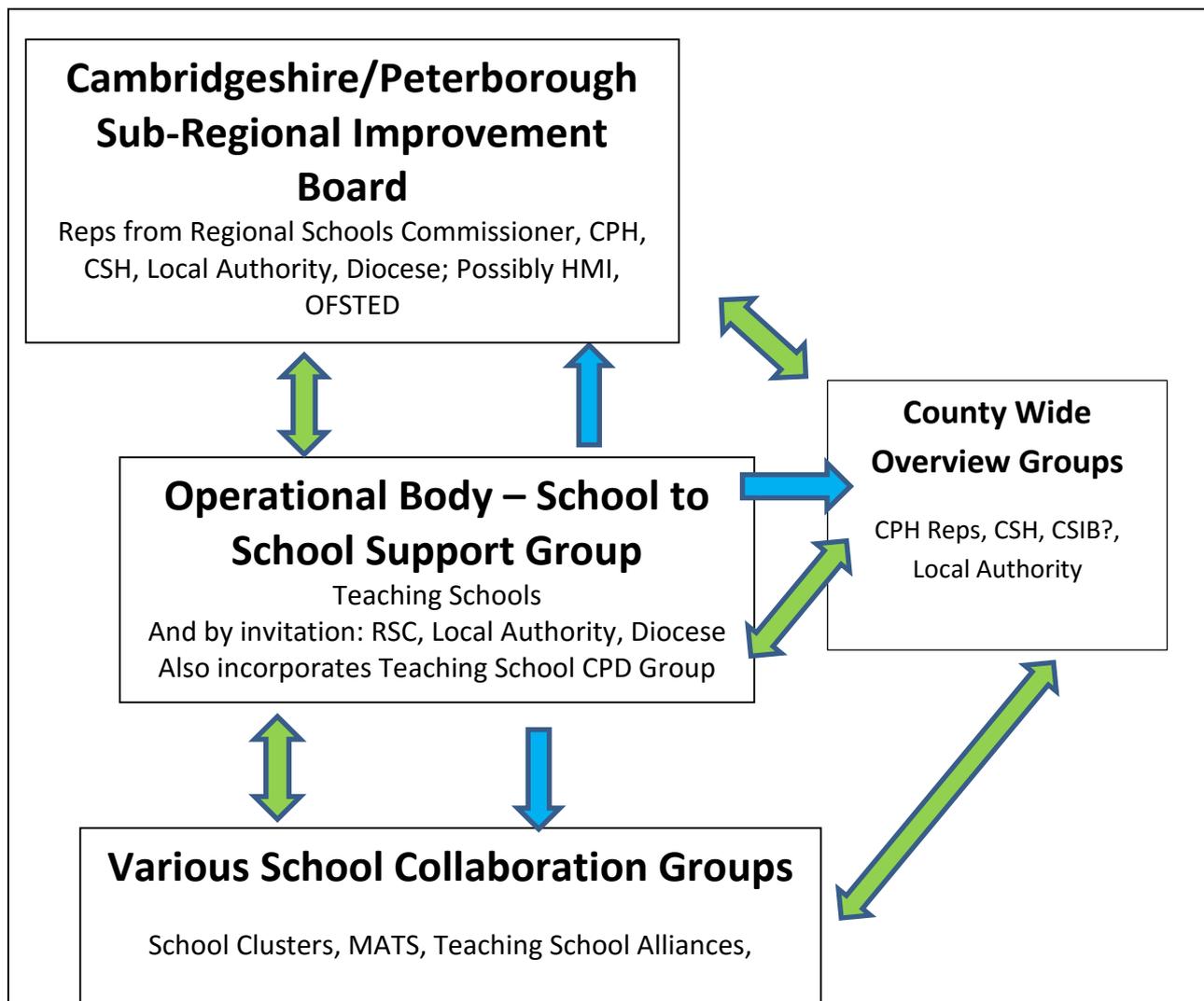
A process to use to bid for CSIB funding for projects is being designed by a sub-group and will be made available in September.

CPH and CSH members are to be consulted on the way forward for the CSIB, given the fact that new entities such as the Sub-regional School Improvement Board (SRIB) are coming into being and that the CSIB's role may therefore need to change.

Discussion Paper re School-led School Improvement for the CSIB, 4th July 2017

A Possible Structure for School-led School Improvement

This structure envisages that the key working relationships would be between individual schools, their clusters and other collaborative groups and the School to School Support Group and its other sub-groups (particularly its CPD Group). Representative groups such as CPH and CSH would have an overview of the work being done through feedback from its various members and summary reports from the School to School Support Group. The paper envisages that the CSIB may take on a similar "overview" role.



Green arrows show flow of information

Blue arrows show direction of reporting to enable groups to have oversight of provision and outcomes

Annual Cycle of Activity

1. Regional Groups (CPH Clusters and others) receive data analysis reports collating outcomes for their groupings and the schools within them (e.g. using Nexus, CSH Data-sharing spreadsheet model, Aspire etc to enable data to be useable in a timely fashion - by September?
Commissioned and paid for out of by funds held by CSIB? Part of bid to Sub-regional School Improvement Board?
2. Each school completes School Improvement Requirements Questionnaire (see Section Three) to identify their school improvement needs
3. This information is collated into reports for each of the school groupings
 - a. These reports inform planning of school improvement work within the group
 - b. Commissioned and paid for out of by funds held by CSIB? Part of bid to Sub-regional School Improvement Board?
4. A representative of the Operational Group attends a Regional Group Meeting to agree the school improvement work for that grouping
 - a. Representative is "of" not necessarily "from" the Operational Body, e.g. may be a rep from a local Teaching School Alliance
 - b. School Improvement Work for each group is collated in a plan with clear objectives and actions
 - c. That plan will form the basis of the Regional Group being able to hold the Operational Group to account

5. The Operational Group produces summary reports for CPH (and other “county wide overview groups”) as follows:
 - a. Autumn Term – planned objectives and planned school improvement activity
 - b. Spring Term – progress in terms of implementation of plans
 - c. Summer / Autumn – outcomes (both in terms of
 - i. pupil outcomes and other stated objectives,
 - ii. actual delivery of school improvement work and
 - iii. “customer satisfaction”

Proposals for a School Improvement Priorities Questionnaire

To enable our school improvement system to be school led, CPH said that we need to be able to feed information about our self-evaluation, development priorities and requirements for school improvement work into the system. This part of the paper looks to support us in developing a questionnaire to achieve that.

The aim is to produce a simple questionnaire that would:

- Enable schools to communicate their development priorities and needs
- Enable groups of schools to collate information about their development priorities, whether the group be a school cluster, members of a teaching school alliance, an academy chain etc.
- For individual schools, groups of schools and the Teaching School Strategy Board to be able to use this information to plan provision to meet those needs.

Festival of Education

The Festival comprised a week of celebratory events taking place across Cambridgeshire, starting on 24th June and culminating in a conference event at Anglia Ruskin University Cambridge Campus on Saturday 1st July 2017. There was media presence, a TES online article and 500 followers on Twitter. Comments received:

- impressed by the quality of the event and the securing of national keynote speakers.
- audience members shared openly and collaboratively.
- a number of young teachers attended: all said they came because they saw the advertisement and thought the event sounded interesting, relevant and affordable.
- a returning teacher said she had been apprehensive about going back to the classroom but was now excited by the prospect;
others said that the Festival reminded them of why they love the profession and that they felt more positive as a result of attending.

If you would like to suggest agenda items or bring information to the Board’s attention, please email helen.manley@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Next meeting:

21st September 2017