

Cambridgeshire School Improvement Board

Digest of meetings held 15th March and 3rd May 2017

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

Data

An analysis of Ofsted inspections for the current academic year demonstrates Cambridgeshire to be below regional and national averages but with an upwards trend. In terms of performance tables it was recommended that Cambridgeshire should aim to be above the national and East of England average scores.

School to school support

A total of £97,500 has been allocated to TSAs to support 6 primaries and 2 secondaries, as a result of the recent bidding round instigated by the DfE.

There is to be a relaunch of SLEs – see TSA websites regarding the designation window in May. Everyone is urged to look out for the monthly TSC newsletters and to visit its website <https://www.tscouncil.org.uk/>

A trailblazer group representing schools is writing a set of standards (one set covering primary and secondary) for the new **teacher apprenticeships**. Allocation and capping issues, and specific pathways, are yet to be determined.

Updates from Secondary Sector

Cambridgeshire Secondary Headteachers have collectively sent a letter to the Secretary of State asserting their opposition to selection.

Wave 12 free school applications will be considered after Easter: admission by selection will only be considered where a school is full.

National Funding Formula – a letter has been written to Justine Greening outlining the historic underfunding for Cambridgeshire and the fact that a third of schools will be losing funding under the current proposals. Under the new formula, for four secondary schools, 95 per cent of the AWPU formula is taken up with basic costs. The AWPU allocation is not seen as sufficient for ordinary schools and would therefore be inadequate for high needs schools. Local MPs are sympathetic and changes to the proposals are felt to be likely.

Cambridgeshire Secondary Heads' conference is on 27th June 2017.

Priority 2: Commission programmes to accelerate the achievement of our disadvantaged groups

Follow up from SEND Peer Review meeting on the 20th January 2017

The SEND Peer Review's key issues:

- Poor educational outcomes for pupils with SEND;
- Poor educational outcomes for children and young people at SEN Support, compared with national figures;
- Higher percentage of pupils at SEN Support receive Free School Meals (FSM);
- Over representation of Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) and Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD)

Key recommendations:

1. Clarify to all Cambridgeshire schools and all agencies that the prime responsibility for the SEN support cohort sits with schools.
2. Clarify the roles and expectations of both the LA, partners such as health partners and schools in meeting the needs of the SEN support cohort and revisit the Local Offer to schools to improve understanding of available support and approaches.
3. Develop a culture of consistent challenge and support to schools through all directorates and partners to focus on improved learning outcomes for the SEN support cohort.
4. Develop an effective practice strategy, which draws on the most effective practice across Cambridgeshire schools, including Teaching Schools and Special Schools. Consider using the School Improvement Board as the driver for this strategy.
5. The two phase transformation process provides an opportunity to involve parents in co-production of the lifelong SEND service and consider where the Champion role sits for the SEN support cohort
6. Revise The Local Area Self Evaluation drawing on analysis of key data and involving all partners

A SEND Support Action Plan is being drafted and will be shared with all schools very soon. The working party contains representation from all phases.

Priority 3: Define and promote a Cambridgeshire entitlement for leadership development

Middle leadership work is taking place via *Ambition School Leadership* and there are a number of prospective participants. The aim is to retain the middle leadership layer. Funding for the current year is underwritten by the board – the board was reluctant to approve continued funding without evidence of impact, and intends to ask headteachers for evidence of impact in their schools; whether the work was value for money.

CMAT are bidding for NPQH National College funding for licences to deliver the new programmes: schools will still need to pay for the training.

The DfE is inviting bids for its **Teaching, Innovation and Leadership Fund**, bidding for which should happen mid-April. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/teaching-and-leadership-innovation-fund>. The CSIB is formulating a bid focusing on the support of RI schools.

The CSIB has its own resources of £190,000, one off funding allocated by the County Council.

The RSC has new **central funding for School Improvement**:

- One hundred and forty million is to be made available nationally for school improvement in academies and maintained schools and £20 million additional money is available over the next two years for evidence-based best practice.
- Delivery will be on a regional basis, there will be five sub-regional groups (all London boroughs, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough). RSC will chair the

groups. Teaching schools, local authorities, diocese and other partners will have a say around relative priorities to make a difference.

- Teaching schools will be responsible for commissioning/ brokering support and for evaluation. Bidding can be at any level – regional, local authority, groups of schools etc. The focus of bids should be on what will make a difference to children in our area. Once approved, money will transfer rapidly.
- Terms of reference are being drafted at present and more information should be available at the end of March. Details will not be finalised until the end of April and the first bidding round will be funded in July. Groups will meet six times a year and provide a holistic view of schools in their area. The first meeting will be a joint meeting at the end of May.

East Cambs and Fenland has been identified by the DfE as one of its areas eligible for a **‘Social Mobility Opportunities Ahead Fund’**. There will be approximately £6million available – more information to be available soon.

Next steps for the CSIB

The current action plan has ended and it is therefore time for the Board to review it and consider how to move forward/refocus. There is some concern about communication with headteacher organisations and ownership by schools.

The intention is to :

- revise the CSIB Terms of Reference to better deliver a school-led school improvement agenda, and
- set up a sub-group, comprising the three headteacher organisations, to generate a proposal to bring to the next meeting of the Board (4th July) regarding moving forward to a school-led group.

Strategic Review of LA Education Services

KG referred to the proposal for an education board for the combined authority of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and said that JL’s presentation highlighted real opportunities for joint working with Peterborough and that joint working opportunities with Northamptonshire and Rutland were also being presented.

With the Government dropping the Academies Bill, there will be a mixed academy and maintained establishment list for longer than originally thought. There will be joint working, e.g. joint letters between the LA and the Regional Schools Commissioner.

The wider review of education in local authorities is on hold pending the anticipated Education white paper. The combined authority is exploring options regarding sharing services where of benefit to both authorities.

Festival of Education

The Festival comprises 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. Five key themes have been identified and speakers have been approached; schools are invited to get involved by hosting open-house events all over the county

to raise the profile of teaching . See the website for more information:

<http://www.cambridgeshirefestivalofeducation.org>

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

Future meeting dates:

4th July 2017

~~19th~~-~~21st~~ September 2017