

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel

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WARD(S): All Wards

PART I **FOR COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION**

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP

1 Purpose of Report

To provide information to the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel on the collaboration between SBC and the Slough Teaching School Alliance in promoting school to school support and the school-led, school improvement system.

2 Recommendation

To acknowledge the partnership work to date and the stakeholders involved. To track progress of how school improvement will evolve with the council over the next year.

3 The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan

3a Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

Priority 1 – Protecting vulnerable children

3b Five Year Plan Outcomes

Outcome: Children and young people in Slough will be healthy, resilient and have positive life chances

4 **Implications**

(a) Financial

There are no significant financial implications associated with this report.

(b) Risk Management

Risk	Mitigating action	Opportunities
Legal	None	
Property	None	
Human Rights	None	
Health and Safety	None	
Employment Issues	None	
Equalities Issues	Seeking to close gaps between peers and vulnerable groups	
Community Support	None	
Communications	None	Promoting Slough's educational successes
Community Safety	None	
Financial	None	
Timetable for delivery	None	
Project Capacity	None	
Other	None	

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no significant Human Rights Act or other Legal implications.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

There is no need for an equalities impact assessment.

(e) Workforce

There are no workforce implications.

5 **Supporting Information**

Introduction

- 5.1 Last year (financial year 16/17) it was agreed at schools forum that the council would use £150,000 of centrally retained funds to work with the STSA on facilitating school to school support and partnerships across the LA. The main principle behind this was to bring schools together to collaborate and share best practice in order to raise outcomes for young people across the town. In addition, to also be able draw on excellent local expertise. The funds would be able to provide backfill for services where school leaders may need to come out of their own institutions to either do joint planning or to provide specific support for other schools.

Setting priorities

- 5.2 The council plays a key role in analysing data and identifying key priorities across the LA. We hold the overview of school performance and can identify patterns. For example that on the whole pupils of white British background achieve less highly than their peers. However this data is largely desktop data based on public statistics. The true picture and the 'story' behind the data lies with the schools themselves. Therefore they are in the strongest positions to identify their needs.
- 5.3 Now that most schools in the LA are academies, setting priorities is more a matter for schools themselves. The council can act as a source of support and a facilitator for schools in the way it is doing so with this particular initiative with the STSA. Schools have been encouraged to come together and agree what support they need. They then have a mechanism by which they can access the funds.

Council Support

- 5.4 Slough Borough Council have appointed a Senior Education Liaison Officer, whose role is to work between the council and the STSA in order to broker, facilitate and be a part of the decision making process for school to school support funds. A key function of the SELO is also to ensure that value for money is provided and there is a system to monitor the effectiveness of the support provided. The role is currently being undertaken on a secondment basis by a local Slough headteacher, working two days a week. The role lasts until March 2018 at which point it will be reviewed.

How the process works

- 5.5 See appendix A of how the process works from application and decision making to accessing the funds and also on how the impact will be monitored.

6. Conclusion

SBC and STSA are working closely in what will hopefully be a successful model. The first applications for this fund came in the summer term of 2017 and so the initiative is in its infancy. The council is looking to develop its school improvement strategy policy in light of national changes and the new role of councils in the school improvement system.

7. Comments of Other Committees

This information has not been to any other committees.

8. Appendices Attached

'A' - Slough Local School Improvement Fund

9. Background Papers

None.