

Essex School-Led Improvement System Project Board

To establish a new system in which schoolsⁱ improve themselves by working in partnership with each other in a school-led improvement system which supports children and young people 0–19 to achieve their highest aspirations in Education and Employment.

Terms of reference updated November 2018

1. Remit

Essex County Council in partnership with the Association of Secondary Heads (ASHE), Essex Primary Heads Association (EPHA), Essex Special Schools Education Trust (ESSET) and Essex School Governance Association (ESGA) have come together to support the formation of school-led improvement partnerships of schools across the county. This new strategic approach to school improvement in Essex is based upon the clear foundation that schools are responsible for their own improvement and that schools working together is proven to be the most effective way of securing rapid and sustained improvement. The moral imperative for schools to work and support each other is to achieve the best possible outcomes for children and young people across the county.

This strategy was launched during the spring term 14/15. The Project Board will promote and support the embedding and developing maturity of the school led improvement system across the county and will act in an advisory capacity, developing innovation, sharing good practice and identifying solutions where barriers exist.

2. Aims and responsibilities of the group:

- To oversee and advise on the development, implementation and embedding of the Essex School-led Improvement System Strategy.
- To have an overview and monitor the development of an effective network of school-led improvement partnerships across the county of Essex.
- To advise and support with the development and growing maturity of the partnerships.
- To support and encourage the engagement of schools in this new way of working.
- To advise on the resources and support partnerships will require including data.
- To identify gaps in support and develop solutions where barriers exist.
- To facilitate the sharing of best practice across partnerships.
- To advise and support the development of SEN networks of schools that are aligned to the school-led improvement partnerships.
- To develop an overarching county group that will quality assure and oversee the partnerships.
- To agree key components to school improvement - key element of partnership working

3. Membership of the board

- Clare Kershaw - Director Education
- Representatives from the Headteacher Associations
 - ASHE – Simon Thompson
 - EPHA – Pam Langmead
 - ESSET – Dianne Ryan
- Essex School Governor Association
 - Rod Lane - primary
 - Ruth Bird – secondary
 - John Hunter - Governor of a special school
- Lyn Wright (LA Lead School Effectiveness Partner) – to ensure that information from this board is passed on to Teaching Schools and to represent the TSA agenda
- Ruth Sturdy - LA Lead School Effectiveness Partner for Inclusion
- Nicola Woolf (LA Lead School Effectiveness Partner) – responsibility for the School Led Improvement System Strategy
- Diocesan C of E representative
- Diocesan Catholic representative
- Quadrant Chairs (serving headteachers)
- The Project Board will be chaired by Gillian Cawley - Gillian was the Director, Education Quality and Standards at Kent County Council and prior to that the Assistant Director at Hertfordshire County Council
- Simon Rea – ISOS (Education Development Trust)

Members of the project board are invited by the Local Authority to ensure a broad and fair representation of key stakeholders.

Board members represent their own organisations and can nominate a 'deputy' should the lead representative not be available for meetings.

Additional members can be brought onto the group should a gap in representation be identified.

Membership of this project board will be reviewed annually

4. Accountability:

The School-led Improvement Project Board is the accountable body for the implementation of the SLIS strategy. Members will represent their colleagues and consult and feedback information to ensure engagement and representation of their sector.

5. Review:

The role of this group will be reviewed on a regular basis and activities will be planned according to need.

6. Working methods / ways of working:

Task and finish groups will be convened to carry out specific pieces of work and appropriate membership will be agreed. Objectives, desired outcomes and timelines will be agreed on an individual group basis.

7. Meetings

Meetings will be held on a termly basis. Dates will be set in advance to maximize opportunities for attendance.

Meetings will be held at Hamptons (Marconi) Tydemans, off Beehive Lane, Chelmsford, CM2 9FH.

LA Lead for the School Led Improvement Strategy will liaise with the chair and prepare the agendas and circulate information prior to meetings. Project Board members will be asked to contribute agenda items.

Meetings will be minuted

ⁱ Refers to all schools either maintained or academy