



TEACHING SCHOOLS
EAST



Welcome to the March edition of our local newsletter for teaching school alliances and all schools in the East of England.

As usual, there is a lot to report on this month. Most importantly, there is a considerable amount of new investment coming into the region imminently through the Teaching and Leadership Innovation Fund and the Strategic School Improvement Fund. The first of these will provide highly focused funding for needy areas which include Norfolk, most of Suffolk and North Cambridgeshire and the three new Opportunity Areas in Ipswich, Norwich and East Cambridgeshire and the Fens. The second, the new school improvement fund will be different in kind from the previous one and operated through some kind of local board. TSAs will be invited to propose larger bids with clear outcomes for more than one school. So, we need to rise to the challenge now and think about what these larger bids could look like.

In his recent talk to the region's TSA leads, Sir David Carter made the point that in the future every school should be both a receiver and provider of support. It is worth remembering that a 'good' school is placed in that category because there are areas where it can still improve and addressing school improvement needs through intervention support using SLEs and others needs to become normal practice if the school led system is to thrive.

We are recruiting hard this month for our system leadership conference in April. This is a key event for teaching schools and we would like to see as many as possible represented there. Informing and developing all teaching schools so that everyone knows what resources we have and where our strengths are, is key to developing the system and every TSA needs to be involved. Remember as well that the early bird discounts will run out shortly so book now!

Lesley Birch

Eastern Region TSC



Lesley Birch is the East of England TSC representative and Executive Principal of the Cambridge Primary Education Trust (CPET).

Viv Keller-Garnett, Jim Sweetman and Sue Hammond provide support and Mark Lambell from SDSA is the administrator.

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Find us on Twitter: @TSCEastern

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Dates for Your Diary

April 21: System Leader Conference at the Genome Centre, Cambridge

May 19: TSC East Strategic Group Meeting

July 7: Discovery TSA SEND Conference

Regional News

EAST OF ENGLAND SYSTEM LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2017



TEACHING SCHOOLS
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Friday 21st April 2017

Wellcome Genome Campus
Conference Centre, Hinxton, Cambridge

Keynote speaker: Dame Alison Peacock
Guest speaker: Penny Mallory

Presentations led by Teaching Schools,
Regional School Commissioner
and local system leaders.

Cost: £150 for first delegate
£100 per additional delegate
(in same school or Academy Trust)

To book places, please email
Eastern@histonimpington-jun.cambs.sch.uk
Closing date: Friday 14th April 2017

Get Booked In Now!

You need to move fast if you are to obtain an early bird discount for this major system leader conference for all schools in the East of England. Plans are moving ahead to create a conference which will have national influence and status with key speakers and representation from the RSC and OFSTED in the group sessions.

Later in the conference, Penny Mallory will be talking about her life and the psychology of success. She went from being a seriously troubled teenager to becoming the first woman in the world to compete in a World Rally Car.

"Penny opened our annual partner's conference last year and was brilliant; thought provoking and inspirational. Conference delegates were engaged from the start and the mood continued for the duration."
Gary Corbett, Charter Group



If there is somebody else in your organisation who would like to receive this regional newsletter each month, send their email address to [Mark Lambell](mailto:Mark.Lambell@histonimpington-jun.cambs.sch.uk). To submit news about your TSA email [Jim Sweetman](mailto:Jim.Sweetman@histonimpington-jun.cambs.sch.uk)

Regional News

Sir David Carter in Cambridge

David Carter, the National Commissioner for Schools, was in Cambridge in February visiting Histon & Impington Junior School and talking to representatives from our teaching schools. It was a wide-ranging and open discussion.

He emphasised that school improvement is now a greater priority for the DFE than every school becoming an Academy and he made it clear that teaching schools are the people who have to deliver improvement in the school led system. That necessarily means more accountability but also greater investment and more innovation in the form of interventions.

He argued that, in the future, school to school support bids should be larger and more sustainable. TSAs might have to consider working together to deliver a programme across a whole range of schools with a clear understanding of the need, an analysis of what is required and the purpose of the innovation, precise information on what will be done and the preferred outcomes. Evaluations would also have to be sharper.

Decisions on school to school support are going to be regionalised although the exact form for this has not been determined. So, instead of an Eastern Region group meeting to discuss bids there are likely to be smaller groups or boards meeting sub-regionally. The benefits should be a better understanding of local need and a more coordinated and systematic approach.

Finally, he questioned the success of stand-alone academies and very small multi-academy trusts. He wanted more networking and bigger networks!

There was plenty to think about!

A New Website -

<http://teachingschoolseast.org>

Have you found our new website yet? It is now up and running and gives you the background to developments in the Regional Teaching School Council as well as covering news stories in more detail and reporting on events and CPD.

More detail is being added to cover system leaders and school improvement, developments in initial teacher training and CPD. The website also allows us to retain a repository of key documents for TSAs to access. You need to bookmark it on your browser!

Also, don't forget the Twitter feed: @TSCEastern and sign up to follow it. We are also exploring the possibility of a mobile phone app in the future.

The Teaching and Leadership Innovation Fund

This new fund is designed to improve pupil outcomes in priority areas through leadership training and CPD for schools. The funding is for three years and £75 million is available.

The focus is not only for the priority areas of which we have three in the eastern region; Ipswich, Cambridge & Fenlands, and Norwich but also for Category 5 and 6 areas, also known as Achieving Excellence Areas. They include Norfolk, Suffolk, North Cambridgeshire and parts of Essex.

TSC East is currently exploring a regional approach to some of this bidding so, before you bid, it would be good to contact [Jim Sweetman](#) and see what other areas are doing.

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Women Leading in Education: Could you offer support?

The DFE is seeking male and female school leaders from all backgrounds who would be willing to give some time to coach women teachers to help them become leaders. There is good evidence that with the right encouragement and support, more women will come to apply for senior leadership roles and the Women Leading in Education Programme is asking for your help. You don't need to be a qualified coach but you do need some experience.

You can find all of the details [here](#) as well as contact information:

Collaborative Fund Evaluation

NCTL is currently updating its lists of exactly who is responsible in the school for completing the collaborative fund documentation which shows annually where teaching schools apply their resources.

There is a short form to complete by April 14 so please do that if you have not yet done so. You can find it [here](#).

As usual, it makes sense to be prepared for this form, maintaining careful records at a micro level. So, for CPD activities, record the email addresses of attendees and the evaluations. Of course, it is a chore but providing the fullest possible picture of what teaching schools do persuades politicians that the investment is worthwhile.

The Strategic School Improvement Fund

The recent TSC discussions with David Carter emphasise how school improvement is such a priority for the government and this £140 million investment underlines that. There are likely to be two bidding rounds for funding this year but the process will not be quite the same as in the past.

It is still under discussion but the fund holder is now likely to be the office of the Regional School Commissioner and new sub-regional boards are likely to be established to make sure that the funding goes to the right schools and meets local needs. Along the way, TSAs should expect to be more accountable for the work and the outcomes.

A sensible approach now is to start to consider which schools in your TSA hinterland might benefit from support. You could even ask them! It's worth bearing in mind that a 'good' school is not outstanding because it has areas still to be developed and the mature system needs to appreciate that identifying these areas and seeking the right kind of intervention support is what effective headteachers do. Increasingly, every school should be seen as both a giver and receiver of support while intervention needs to be seen as a positive action and not as some kind of implicit criticism of the client school.

Alongside this funding for schools, there is £50 million for local authorities earmarked for schools which slide into special measures in OFSTED inspections. These are still legally the responsibility of the local authorities. There is also a £20 million Education Endowment Fund to support innovation and school-led research. That sounds to be an interesting idea!

This funding is separate from £60 million for developing Opportunity Areas, £41 million for the Mathematics Mastery Program and £13 million to support new academies.

Regional News

National Leaders of Governance (NLG) Recruitment Round Opens

Good governance is an essential for all schools so advise your chair about this recruitment round for National Leaders of Governance. It requires some extra time but being an NLG is really helpful to the individual with tailored training and an opportunity to see how governing bodies work in a range of schools. The application round runs from March 27 to April 28 and there is more detail [here](#).

NLG advocates will, in future, work with teaching schools on a regional basis. There is £200,000 nationally available to fund this work and 10% can be retained by the TSAs who will manage the work of advocates. There is a lot to be said for using a review of governance as the starting point for school support and intervention so an advocate in the region will be very useful. Watch out for developments and consider whether your TSA would like to be involved.

Teaching School Council Regions to align with RSC

The RSC and the TSC have decided that from September 2017 their areas will be aligned. This means that the Eastern Region TSC will no longer operate in Bedfordshire, Central Bedfordshire, Luton and Hertfordshire. These areas will transfer to the South-East TSC. The confusion occurred originally because when the RSC offices were set up there was an attempt to divide London, where clearly many resources would be deployed, between a number of RSCs. The TSC followed the well-established pattern of government office regions where London is one region but will now change to match the RSC pattern. We don't yet know what this will mean in terms of regional support but teaching school alliances can be assured that the TSC will continue to be involved in supporting their development.

The Visiting Teacher Programme - Spain: Would you like a teacher?

You can recruit a visiting teacher from Spain for a year from September 2017 to work across your TSA with an option to renew annually for up to 3 years.

The contract is between the school and the teacher and there is no salary subsidy. However, given the difficulties of recruiting MFL teachers, this could be an attractive option. You can find out more [here](#).

The Spring Budget Statement and Grammar Schools and Free Schools

With discussions about the expansion of selective education taking place, teaching schools need to be informed. You can find a link to the two reports from the Education Policy Institute which seem to have helped to shape government policy [here](#):

The reports identify some areas of the UK where expansion might not actually be detrimental to existing schools but there are none of these in the eastern region.

There is also more money in the budget for free schools. It is worth bearing in mind that teaching schools and multi-academy trusts are both able to establish free schools where there is a clear need. It could come to be seen as a way to replace worn out buildings. There are more details about the programme [here](#).

Meet the SEND Challenge

The Discovery TSA is hosting a major conference on Friday July 7 at Wyboston Lakes with Sue Howe and Gina Davies. More details [here](#).

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Regional News

Evaluating the TSA

How do you know if your teaching school is effective? Where is the evidence? How do you validate it?

As the TSA system matures, these are questions for all teaching schools to consider. One solution which has cropped up several times in the past is peer to peer review, finding another teaching school to act as your critical friend so that you can do likewise for them. [Here](#) is an example from our colleagues in the East Midlands.

A number of frameworks have been proposed for this in the past but, basically, they all involve a scrutiny of the work of the TSA plus a look at its finances and the outcomes of activities. Some of this can be independently validated by talking to client schools and CPD attendees. If your TSA is interested in this process - and it is reassuring to go through it - talk to your sub-regional lead

Recruitment and Retention

This is a huge problem in our region and the House of Commons Select Committee on Education has been looking into it and has just published a report. You can find it [here](#). It identifies some significant challenges ahead!

Calling all headteachers! Been in your current - 'Good' -school as head teacher for three years? Are results moving upwards? Are you involved in school-based ITT and CPD. If so, you should be thinking about an application to become a teaching school. It is easy to apply and you get generous funding. Contact your sub regional lead!

The TSC Eastern Strategic Group

This steering group for the region met on Friday, March 3 at Northstowe. Among other updates, there was a presentation from the Regional Schools Commissioner's office about developments in terms of school to school support and the possible frameworks which might emerge given the scaling up of support funding.

The meeting also heard from the Youth Sports Fund which is well equipped to support programmes across teaching schools. There will shortly be more details about these available on our TSC website.

Viv Keller Garnett reported back on the Local Leader of Education (LLE) meeting held on Wednesday, March 1. The discussions concluded that it would be valuable to have an agreed set of regional criteria which LLEs would have to meet and the next stage is to define these and to consider some kind of induction process for new LLEs.

The next meeting is scheduled provisionally for Friday May 19.



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