

Schools' Strategic Partnership Board

Reconstituted June 2015

Agreed Terms of Reference

Rationale

A strong and positive relationship between a local authority and all schools within the borough is central to the success of the borough, and the shared ambition to provide the highest quality of education and opportunity for all young people from Hillingdon.

Within the context of an increasingly diverse and autonomous school system the borough is committed to developing and supporting the most effective models of school-led support and challenge, alongside its central role as strategic champion of educational excellence. The borough has a clear role and responsibility to work with partners to secure the highest standards of education, to tackle underperformance swiftly and effectively and to promote school to school collaboration.

The development of the Hillingdon Schools' Strategic Partnership Board (SSPB) is key to the development, leadership and quality-assurance of school improvement strategy and direction across the borough. This leadership group is strategically aligned with a range of partners in order to best represent the needs and vision of school leaders and professionals across the borough and to take the driving role in shaping and securing school improvement in Hillingdon. As national and local requirements regarding school and education development evolve, it is anticipated that the SSPB will broaden and extend its focus.

Principles

The principles that underpin our vision for school improvement and which are upheld by SSPB are:

- That school improvement systems are most effective when they are based on partnership and collaboration and that school leaders and the local authority will work in equal partnership
- That local solutions, supported by national best practice, are often best placed to drive improvement
- That challenge and support mechanisms across the borough should be transparent, clearly understood by all and open to interrogation to ensure the greatest impact on outcomes and opportunities for our young people
- That the council, as a strategic champion for securing the highest standards of education for all young people within the borough of Hillingdon, will provide appropriate drive and leadership; challenging, intervening and brokering where necessary to address concerns around underperformance.

Membership

- a) The SSPB will consist of appropriate representation to reflect all phases and settings of education across the borough. In order to offer representation in line with borough diversity, the following broad settings must be represented on SSPB membership:
 - All primary/infant schools
 - All secondary schools
 - Teaching Schools alliances
 - The Special School sector
 - Alternative provision/PRU settings
- b) The SSPB will include appropriate senior school improvement officers from the borough
- c) The SSPB will include Governor representation
- d) The SSPB will include representation from the LLE/NLE network
- e) The SSPB may invite temporary representation from other leaders as deemed necessary to undertake its duties
- f) The SSPB will appoint Co-Chairs and a clerk whose appointments will be re-elected on an annual basis
- g) The SSPB will operate via a co-chairing arrangement between local authority and school leaders
- h) SSPB membership will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Quorum

- a) The quorum will be 8 members, one of whom must include a borough representative and one of whom must be current Co-Chair
- b) The quorum shall vote only if the majority of members present are current borough headteachers
- c) The clerk of the meeting is not required to vote.

Meetings

- a) The SSPB will meet once per term (3 x per year) as a minimum
- b) Additional/extraordinary meetings may be held as required at the discretion of the SSPB
- c) SSPB meetings will be scheduled at least two weeks prior to Schools' Forum meetings
- d) Papers for SSPB meetings will be prepared by the SSPB clerk and, wherever possible, will be shared by email with SSPB members 7 days before each SSPB meeting. Papers will include the following:
 - Notice in writing of meeting date, time and venue
 - Copy of agenda
 - Draft minutes of previous meeting
 - Papers relevant to meeting

- e) Minutes will be taken for each SSPB meeting
- f) Following approval by Chair, minutes will be distributed to SSPB members within 14 days of each meeting
- g) Minutes will be shared with Schools' Forum as a standing item.

Responsibilities

- To take the lead in proposing, developing and supporting the school improvement strategy for the borough, ensuring that the model fully represents the interests of all stakeholders and that all schools can access appropriate and high-quality models of support and challenge to secure improvement
- To use borough-wide intelligence and data to shape priorities for school improvement
- To monitor the impact of models of support by challenging rates of improvement and use of council and delegated/other resources where necessary
- To actively promote and support collaboration and innovation between schools and providers, leading to rapid improvement in outcomes and borough cohesion
- To support the self-evaluation of school improvement services across the borough
- To regularly update associated executive committees and partners inc Schools' Forum
- To make recommendations to Schools' Forum regarding strategy and/or finance as appropriate.