

16th July 2018

Dear all,

Slough Local School Improvement Funding – update 6

Well what a year it has been! I feel very privileged to hold the post of Senior Education Liaison Officer and to, I hope, have made a difference to school improvement in Slough for not only our children and young people but also the staff in our schools who have had the opportunity to lead and/or be part of projects both in their own schools and across between one to ten schools or more. What superb opportunities for professional learning and development.

Our Local School Improvement Fund makes us quite unique as a local authority – with much internet searching and hunting around I haven't heard of any other authorities who are doing what we are to raise the profile of and implement this type of school-led improvement system.

I would like to thank every person who has applied for funding and for embracing this opportunity to make a positive impact in your own and other schools. I remember back in 2009 whilst working with Slough headteachers and John West-Burnham we spent time thinking about how we could share best practice between schools and set up projects to enable us to develop school to school improvement – nothing much happened then, we continued to mostly work in our silos, but now finally 8-9 years later we're doing it, thanks largely to this welcome pot of money!

I believe that the model we have adopted to create successful projects is the Education Endowment Foundation 5-step model:

1. Decide what you want to achieve

– identify school priorities using data and your professional judgement

2. Identify possible solutions

– consider a range of high-quality evidence to inform your choices

3. Giving it the best chance of success

– identify and apply the ingredients of effective implementation

4. Evaluating impact

– determine the impact of change and identify potential improvements for the future

5. Securing and spreading change

– mobilise the knowledge and use the findings to inform the work of the school to grow or stop the intervention

Whilst we have so far secured steps 1 – 4 we haven't done much of 5 and that now is my big task going forward. I would like all schools who have been involved in a project to create a poster presentation such as the ones created by schools involved in the [Workload Challenge Research Project](#). When these are complete, my aim is for these to be added to the Local School Improvement Fund page of [The Link](#) website so that they not only gain public recognition of your great work but also provide a useful link for schools who may be interested in doing something similar. That would certainly be number 5 of the 5-step-model activated. More on this in September but something to think about when you have a moment.

Projects Update

School	Project	Partner schools	Funding given	Notes	Visit report complete & shared with school.
Godolphin Infant	Talk for Writing	Penn Wood	£8,400	A really successful project – whole school impact. Children and staff engaged and motivated.	Yes
Herschel Grammar	English subject leaders' hub	All secondaries	£1,625	All schools (bar 2) have been involved & are keen to develop this without further funding.	Yes
Ditton Park Academy	More able provision	UCGS	£3,000	Had a super chat with the pupils who spoke highly of the impact on them.	Yes
Langley Academy (taken on by Westgate and S&E)	6 th form network & curriculum network	All secondaries	£4,925	Lots of great information from here – all schools have benefitted enormously from the creation of these hubs.	Yes
Parlaunt Pak, Foxborough, Langley Ac. Primary, Colnbrook	Improving SEND provision	UCGS	£6,000	HT at Foxborough reported that the SENDCos have become much stronger and are more focused on the needs of the SEND pupils.	Yes
Cippenham Primary + 10 others	Early language development	Penn Wood	£33,000	A fabulous project which has had an impact across 11 schools and culminated in a presentation of outcomes. Formed the basis for the SSIF application.	Yes
Iqra	Leadership and management	Marish and Willow	£4,000	HT at Iqra spoke highly of the fantastic support received – better than she could have imagined. Has hugely strengthened her L&M team	Yes
Wexham	Review of post-16 provision	Baylis Court	£2,200	The review was undertaken when the plan changed post-Ofsted. Yet to implement recommendations from the review. To revisit in autumn term 2.	Yes
Western House, St Ethelbert's,	To improve performance of	Montem	£12,000		No – due autumn term

Wexham Court	disadvantaged pupils, inc.PPG.			
SASH – led by Langley Grammar	PSHCE	All secondaries	£1,500	No - overdue
Langley Hall Primary Academy	Growing middle leaders & performance improvement	Single school	£2,617.76	No – due autumn term
Five nursery schools	Improving the quality of assessment	Slough Centre & Chalvey EY	£9,250	No – due autumn term
Beechwood	Improving outcomes for WB boys	Wexham	£8,000	No – brand new bid
Total spend			£96,517	

Pending: a bid from Cippenham Primary/Infant/ Nursery and Children’s Centre for language development in the early years – yet to go to panel.

Mental Health Toolkit Update

A first view of the logo...I hope you like it!

The tree indicates strength and has many leaves for many different facets of mental health. I wanted to go for a colour range that

Slough schools don’t have so it wasn’t seen to be assigned to any one school. The gold represents a shining example of what we are doing and the dark red represents the SBC colour.



At the conference and the follow up half day I said I would like to create a toolkit to be used and a charter to be adopted by all Slough schools. Thank you to secondary heads for the really useful feedback about this from the SASH conference. I am delighted that you are all happy to adopt the charter and to create the pages that will show what you have committed to in your schools; I know, following the SPHA conference that primary colleagues are keen to also do the same.

The charter is complete and good-to-go, the toolkit has a few final bits to work on. I will be sending an email to all schools at the start of September so that you can tell me who has the role of Mental Health Lead in your school and the mental health provision you make for your pupils and staff, then I can add this in to the toolkit. I will look to have the toolkit printed in hard copy and also on a flash drive so that hyperlinked items can be easily accessed; there will be a copy for every school.

May I wish you all a good summer break. See you in September.

Kind regards,
 Rachel Cross
 Senior Education Liaison Officer