



TEACHING SCHOOLS
EAST



Welcome to the January edition of our local newsletter for teaching school alliances in the East of England.

2016 was a good year for the teaching school network in the East of England. We started to train and develop our own SLEs, ran a highly effective programme for key stage 2 teachers, delivered another successful system leader conference and launched our own programme to train recently qualified teachers as well as supporting aspiring heads.

New Year, New Resolutions! 2017 is going to be a crucial year in the development of the TSA network towards maturity. Two recruitment rounds for new teaching schools are planned and it is important for schools to know that the criteria have been relaxed - there are more details in this newsletter. The government has realised that there are many good schools with a track record of support which for one reason or another have not been categorised as outstanding recently and these need to be encouraged to develop as teaching schools.

Why do we need more teaching schools? The ambition for 2017 is for every school to have a link to a teaching school alliance either as a strategic partner or as a member of the network. That is important because as responsibility for professional development, initial teacher training and school to school support passes increasingly to the Teaching Schools Council and teaching school alliances, there is a genuine danger that schools which are uninvolved will miss out.

No-one wants that to happen and sharing and disseminating the good work that teaching schools are doing can help to make everyone want to be involved.

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: @TSCEast

Dates for Your Diary - TSC East of England Conference: April 21, 2017

Book the date in your diary now for this major regional conference featuring national speakers and a chance to celebrate the achievements of teaching school alliances across the East of England. There are more details in this newsletter.

Regional News

What is Teaching Schools East?

Teaching Schools East is the umbrella organisation for delivering the work of the Teaching Schools Council across the East of England. It works closely with the office of the Regional School Commissioner, with local authorities and with OFSTED. It has an increasingly important role in school to school support, professional development and initial teacher training.

Membership of the groups is not closed and you are free to join and to participate where you like. Talk to your sub-regional lead about the best way to get involved

Teaching Schools East Organisation

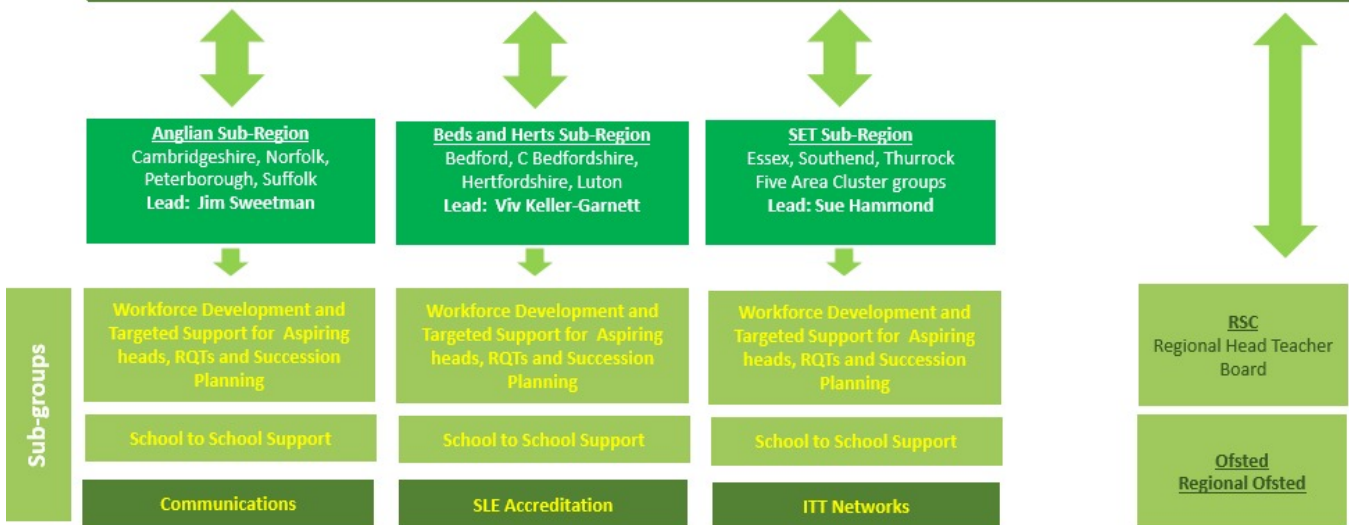


Teaching Schools East Strategic Group

Membership: TSC Regional Representative; Sub-Regional Leads; TSA leads from each sub-region with experience of targeted support, School to School Support or SLE development; Administrator.

Key roles: Act as the advisory body for the TSC representative; co-ordinate regional and government initiatives; oversee STSS; secure standards for collaborative regional accreditations; support system leaders

Meets: Half Termly



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@tsc.org.uk). To submit news about your TSA email [Jim Sweetman](mailto:Jim.Sweetman@tsc.org.uk)

Regional News

Cash for School to School Support

The outcomes from the current round of School to School Support applications will reach schools next week.

From September 2017, a new £140 million 'Strategic School Improvement Fund' is to be introduced. This is a generous level of funding and because it is guaranteed across the year it will be possible to plan school to school support more strategically. The money is likely to be held by the RSC but the TSC and, therefore, teaching school alliances can expect to have the central role in delivery.

There is also a £50 million fund for local authorities to monitor and broker school improvement for weaker maintained schools. Most importantly, this funds the local authority role in creating improvement plans for schools which are placed in special measures.

A clearer picture on LLE recruitment

As indicated in the December newsletter there were big changes coming for LLE recruitment and accreditation and NCSL has now announced that this will be left to teaching school alliances. NCSL has published its guidance documents for TSAs to use but there will no longer be a central register of local leaders or any funding for training.

Schools will have to decide what to make of this because it may make more sense to reinvigorate the Local Leader cohort as system leaders and we may see the badge disappear over time. There will need to be some consultation to ask existing local leaders what they feel will be the best way forward.

Whatever happens, the need for system leaders to support school to school support is going to increase with the new funding arrangements and TSAs should be preparing now.

Building Capacity Grants

NCSL is introducing a new set of Building Capacity Grants of £25,000 to allow existing teaching school allowances to develop their networks and to foster new teaching schools. It is a really important fund and the focus is on primary development. In much of our region, where there are many small and good schools, this funding will allow a teaching school hub to develop a highly effective network within which the small primary schools can thrive with a teaching school designation while the network can ensure the capacity to support school improvement.

In the East of England, the funding is available for Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Luton, Norfolk, Peterborough and Suffolk.

The deadline is typically very tight so put in an expression of interest by emailing teachingschools.enquiries@education.gov.uk before 16 January 2017.

NCSL would like you to include brief details (250 words) of how your support will 'equip high-potential school(s) with the right skills to lead a new teaching school alliance' within 12-18 months and the College will then work with applicants to identify schools that have potential. In other words, that is a minimal statement of intent and you do not need to identify schools at this stage which will save time.

New TSA application Round

This application round starting this month is important because it introduces new criteria which allow more schools and head teachers to qualify as TSAs and NLEs. You can find the criteria and the eligibility details [here](#). If your school does not quite meet the criteria, ask your local TSC sub-lead for advice. It may still be possible to apply.

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Regional News

Become a Specialist Leader

There will be two application windows for new SLEs in 2017 on May 31 and October 31. Having two dates makes it easier to plan the training courses offered by teaching school alliances.

The region still needs new system leaders so if you are interested watch out for information sessions offered by teaching school alliances, download an application form and check the head teacher supports you. Head teachers can build these new arrangements into professional development programmes and their financial planning.

The assessment day structure involves a presentation, a formal interview and some kind of written or group exercise. It's a really good qualification to have!

TSC East of England Conference: April 21, 2017

The plans are taking shape for this major regional conference featuring national speakers and a chance to celebrate the achievements of teaching school alliances across the East of England. Dame Alison Peacock who is the new CEO for the Chartered College of Teaching will open the day and other speakers include the rally driver and TV presenter, Penny Mallory and Tim Coulson, the Regional Schools Commissioner.

Booking details and more information will come to you in the next few weeks. There are discounts for schools wishing to send more than one delegate and this is an ideal way to reinvigorate your leadership team!

The Teaching School Handbook

The latest version of this guidance for new and established teaching schools is now available. You can find a copy [here](#).

Aspire to Headship: January 27, 2017

There are a few places left for this annual conference designed to support teachers in primary, secondary and special school leadership teams into headship. It is open to teachers from Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Book a place [here](#).

SLEs! Fancy a week in Madrid?

As reported in the last newsletter, Spain's Visiting Teachers programme is to be extended to England and provides opportunities for schools in England to recruit 'high quality' teachers from Spain to not only teach the language but also immerse pupils in cultural aspects.

The DFE is now seeking 25 SLEs to help with the sift process. This requires people to spend a week in Madrid in late March or early April conducting interviews. The exact amount of work will depend on the number of applications and to do it you will need to know about interview and appointment processes and have some experience of criteria based interviews. Schools will be compensated for the successful SLE's time as well. You do not need to speak Spanish.

This is a great way to enhance your understanding of another educational culture and to practise interview skills. The fact that you are in Madrid in the springtime (around 20C at midday), nicely accommodated and able to visit the Bernabeu Stadium and the Prado Museum with the odd cerveza and paella thrown in is, of course, by the way! If you would like to be involved contact: Spanish.vtp@education.gov.uk

The TSC website

The new TSC [website](#) is now working. Let us know if you have an event or training you'd like promoted.

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