
York Schools Forum

12th July 2023

Report of the Assistant Director, Education and Skills

School Improvement Commissioning Fund and YSAB annual report

Summary

- 1 This paper provides a summary of the use of centrally retained School Improvement (SI) funding allocated to support city wide priorities and the support for schools causing concern allocated by the York Schools and Academies Board (YSAB) during the academic year 2022-23.

Background

- 2 The board has met for its usual cycle of half termly business meetings to consider priorities for the York school system and to allocate funding for support to schools causing concern. The impact of funding allocations has been evaluated through progress reports to the board. The use of the centrally retained funding continues to be well governed by the York Schools and Academies Board and has been increasingly directed towards system leadership priorities.

School Improvement Priorities during 2022-23

3. During 2022-23 the board allocated money from the School Improvement Commissioning Fund to support the delivery of whole system priorities these priorities have included:
 - Improving school attendance (£100K) – funding to support two fixed term attendance officer posts
 - Early Talk for York (£165K) – to support the continued whole city roll out of Early Talk for York
 - SEND CPD – the SEND champion course and adaptive teaching.

Allocation of schools causing concern funding

4. In 2022-23 a total of £119,600 was allocated from schools causing concern fund. It was allocated as follows:

York High School - £73K. To continue the support for the STAR centre to reduce permanent exclusions and improve attendance. This support will be continued for 2023-24

Naburn Primary - £46,600. To increase leadership capacity to support school improvement. The YSAB support for Naburn Primary contributed to the school being removed from special measures in 2023.

Other funded projects

- 5 £105K is retained annually to support the School Wellbeing worker service.

End of year balance and future commitments

- 6 The end of year balance for 2022/23 for centrally retained school improvement commissioning fund is £507,418. The following future commitments have been made for 2023/24:
- Funding for extension and development of the York High School alternative provision centre - £79K
 - Funding for Early Talk for York - £90K

This leaves an uncommitted balance of £507,229K.

Future arrangements for YSAB

- 7 The board continues to keep its terms of reference, membership and priorities under review and in 2023-24 and has identified the following system leadership priorities for 2023/24:
- SEND and alternative provision
 - Improving school attendance
 - Poverty proofing schools

At its July meeting the board will be reviewing requests to extend the funding of the fixed term attendance officer posts and an extension of the Adaptive Teaching CPD to offer 2 funded places per school. This is designed to support the introduction of the Ordinarily Available Provision guidance from September 2023.

8. During 2023-24 YSAB will publish a half -termly newsletter to provide all headteachers with information about the work of the board and the progress of YSAB funded projects and workstreams.

Recommendations

- 9 The forum is asked to note the contents of this report and to receive an update on the use of funding to support whole system priorities in the autumn term 2023.

Contact Details Authors:	Chief Officers Responsible for the Report:
Maxine Squire Assistant Director, Education and Skills Tel: 01904 553007	Martin Kelly Corporate Director of Children's Services and Education Tel:

email: maxine.squire@york.gov.uk	Report Approved		Date	
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For further information please contact the author of the report