

Local authority services for school improvement

This document provides chairs of governors and headteachers of primary and secondary phase schools with guidance on local authority commissioned and traded services in support of school improvement as the government funded School Improvement Partnership system in Norfolk draws to a close this summer. It outlines LA funded support to all schools as well as a menu of standard and extended services for schools to purchase according to need within available financial resources.

What LA funded school improvement support will a school receive next academic year?

Every school will have an annual discussion with a LA adviser in relation to school performance data and improvement priorities identified through a robust self-evaluation process as now. This is a standard service funded by the LA through the Schools Forum and it does not include support to governing bodies for Headteacher Performance Management.

Schools of concern to the LA including those not meeting national performance standards and in Ofsted categories will receive some additional LA commissioned support but all such schools will, as now, make a contribution to the cost of external support. Further details of the schools involved will be sent to governing bodies and headteachers later in the term.

Part of the agenda for the summer term SIP visit is to discuss external support for the forthcoming academic year and arrangements governors will make for headteacher performance management next term.

What additional SIP type activities are available to schools to purchase from Norfolk Integrated Education Advisory Services (NIEAS)?

There is a wide range of school improvement and curriculum development support to purchase from the recently remodelled Integrated Education Advisory Services who remain an integral part of Norfolk Children's Services. We have retained a large, highly skilled and very experienced team who know schools in Norfolk well. The recently produced 'Network' magazine gives a brief insight into some of the new services on offer to both primary and secondary schools.

Network: Issue 1 can be found on the Norfolk Schools website:

 http://schools.norfolk.gov.uk/myportal/page_86.cfm?p=2561.index

NIEAS traded service options: local, reliable and responsive

What options are available to a governing body to retain SIP like support?

Option 1

- Some primary schools, through the annual **Services to Schools** contract, have purchased one or two **Primary Improvement Partnership Packages (PIPP) for 2011/12**. Each PIPP includes an element of school based advice and support for example, for monitoring provision or moderating school self-evaluation evidence linked to leadership and curriculum development. Additional PIPP school based support can be purchased, as required and it is still possible to purchase a PIPP too.

Option 2

- Another alternative for both primary and secondary schools is to use the **Pay As You Go** option. This means paying for SIP type services such as **headteacher performance management**, lesson observations etc. as and when you need them, but ideally as an integral part of support to a school's development and improvement cycle. A half day of school based advice and support is **£330** and a full day is **£640** per school (£360 and £680 for non maintained schools) in Norfolk.

Option 3

School Improvement Partnership Programme (SIPP)

- We understand that many high schools and primary schools want to know if they can purchase a service similar to the one provided through the LA SIP system as now. The answer is that it can be purchased through this new **School Improvement Partnership Programme (SIPP) for 2011/12**.

What is SIPP?

- The **School Improvement Partnership Programme** is an annual programme, not unlike the current model, of termly school based visits and includes support for **headteacher performance management** resourced from a highly experienced team of advisers, headteachers and consultants. An outline of the full programme is attached and can be tailored to meet your school's specific needs in terms of the level and nature of support required. This example of full service delivery over an academic year costs **£2650 per school and £2820 for non-maintained schools**.

Can we purchase a SIPP for a group of schools or cluster?

- Yes you can. If there are several schools who want to work together on common school improvement issues and wish to build capacity between schools say within a cluster, we can provide you with a discuss a joint contract for this service. **Headteacher performance management services** could be purchased by a group of schools but tailored and resourced to suit the number and phase of schools involved. Contact us via one of the named Business Support Officers for an initial discussion about your requirements.

A quick reminder of the different products **NIEAS** can provide within its school improvement services, beyond the current arrangements for a nationally funded SIP service:

1. Primary Improvement Partnership Package (PIPP)

- PIPP A – Compass Setting, Goal Getting Schools
- PIPP B – Learning Worlds
- Both A and B contains a school based element for SIPP type activities and additional support, for example for headteacher performance management, can be purchased.

2. Pay As You Go – secondary and primary

- Data analysis,
- School self evaluation
- Monitoring
- Headteacher Performance Management

3. School Improvement Partnership Programme (SIPP) for secondary and primary

- Data analysis and Target Setting
- School Self Evaluation
- Support for Governors for Headteacher Performance Management
- Annual meeting full with governing body
- For one or more schools.

What you need to do next

To purchase a **Standard School Improvement Partnership Programme** for 2011/12 at £2650 per school (£2,820 non-maintained schools) or to discuss any of the other services to meet your school's needs as outlined in this document please contact the Business Support Team.

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