

## **Raising the Bar update for scrutiny**

The Raising the Bar Programme was reviewed in summer 2015, taking account of Cabinet decisions related to the paper "Raising Education Standards in Suffolk – the next phase in Raising the Bar" from 16 June 2015, and consultation with stakeholders. For the new phase of Raising the Bar 2015-17, the following priorities were agreed: effective and timely schools improvement, strong school to school support, excellence in leadership and governance, and developing aspirations. Supporting these is a commitment to improve communication and consultation with schools.

### **Progress on the Raising the Bar 2015-2017 priorities**

#### **Priority 1: Effective and timely school improvement**

We **restructured Suffolk County Council's Education and Learning** function, embedding a new way of working focussed on effective monitoring of achievement in all schools, in order to identify schools at risk of declining and intervene more rapidly where necessary. The team has established a constructive ongoing professional dialogue with Headteachers regarding self-evaluation and school improvement.

Locality based **Area Education & Learning Plans** have been developed in collaboration with head teachers for all parts of Suffolk, as a way to tackle locally identified weaknesses.

#### **Priority 2: Strong School to School support**

The **Suffolk School to School Support Partnership** has been launched, aiming to promote and develop a system of school-led self-improvement. This included the publication of a new **best practice website**, with quality assured case studies from Suffolk schools.

As a result of the **Raising the Bar Challenge Fund**, more than 100 schools have benefitted from a share of over £400k committed funding to introduce new innovative practise in their schools. In 2016, we have agreed a strategic partnership with the **Education Endowment Foundation**, at the heart of which is a new joint Challenge Fund for schools introduce programmes and interventions that have been independently evaluated by the EEF and shown to get results.

#### **Priority 3: Excellence in leadership and governance**

Raising the Bar launched the new teacher recruitment brand for Suffolk, **Teach Suffolk**, which is already extensively used in marketing campaigns to attract teachers to our schools, in our NQT campaign, as part of a strong new web presence, and as part of attending recruitment fairs.

To attract more graduates into teaching, we have introduced a **graduate intern scheme**; with 50 graduate interns now working in Suffolk Schools.

225 aspiring school leaders have so far taken advantage of **Raising the Bar bursaries to attend leadership training** for senior and middle leader-ship positions.

We are currently reviewing the Council's **governors' strategy**.

#### **Priority 4: Developing aspirations with families, communities, businesses**

The new national **Careers and Enterprise Company programme** is being implemented to provide stronger business links for all secondary schools in Suffolk, building on the previous Raising the Bar Work

Inspiration Brokerage Service. A new **Primary Broker** has been recruited to provide a continued service to Primary schools.

26 community projects have been funded so far through the **Raising the Bar Community Fund**, where VCS organisations work with schools to support children and young people in ‘coming to school ready to learn’. We are currently reviewing the Fund to make it more strategic.

### Priority 5: Strategy and communication(enabling priority)

The **new priorities** for the 2015-17 phase of Raising the Bar have been communicated widely.

Raising the Bar has **consulted school leaders** on its communications and consultation methods, and has made changes based on the feedback. The most significant change is that all SCC communications to all schools are now combined in single weekly bulletin.

After the success of the 2015 **Raising the Bar Awards**, many high quality nominations have been received for the 2016 Awards. A ceremony to celebrate the finalists will take place on 20 June.

## Programme budget overview

Raising the Bar has had a total budget of £3.4m. Raising the Bar entered in 2015 a new programme phase; the programme budget was baselined at that point. The tables below show the actual expenditure in the first three years of the programme, and the commitments from September 2015 to 2017.

### Expenditure 2012 to August 2015

Area of expenditure	
RSA inquiry (including publication)	£100k
Communications	£170k
Raising the Bar core activities <sup>1</sup>	£460k
Supporting innovation in schools <sup>2</sup>	£380k
Misc	£30k
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1.14m</b>

<sup>1</sup> This includes work inspiration (£100k), Governor Support (£200k), Leadership Development Bursaries (£50k), Exemplar Employer work (£50k)

<sup>2</sup> This includes Challenge Fund / Primary Advantage Maths projects (£295k), Families of Schools (£75k) and Families First (£10k)

### Commitments September 2015 to 2017

Priority	Budget commitment
1. School Improvement	£500k
2. School to School Support <sup>1</sup>	£680k
3. Leadership and Governance	£320k
4. Developing aspirations	£350k
5. Communications	£70k
Misc / not yet committed	£240k
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2.16m</b>

<sup>1</sup> This includes commitments for the Raising the Bar Challenge Fund, but does not include funding for the School to School Support Partnership which is funded through non-RtB budgets.

## Overview of Raising the Bar Challenge Fund projects

There have been three Raising the Bar Challenge Fund rounds in 2014 and 2015; a summary of the approved projects can be found in the table below. Evaluation of the projects will take place over the next 7 months.

The most recent round, run jointly with the Education Endowment Foundation, closed on 20 May 2016. It has generated significant interest amongst school leaders, giving them the opportunity to introduce programmes and interventions that have been independently evaluated by the EEF and shown to get results. The number of successful schools will be available shortly.

	<b>Project Lead &amp; Contact</b>	<b>Project Synopsis</b>
<b>Round 3: Closing the gap</b>	Newmarket Academy, with 7 primaries in West Suffolk	Implementation of the Let's Think. English programme.
	Castle Manor Academy, with two primary schools	Implementation of the Accelerated Reader programme, to support improved achievement in reading.
	Forest Heath School Sports Partnership: Great Heath Primary; Laureate Primary	Use of Create Development's Family FUNS resources and training to engage young people, parents and school staff in an intervention which will ultimately benefit physical literacy and development of the whole child.
<b>Round 2: Ambition &amp; Innovation</b>	Barrow Primary, with one other primary school	To develop mathematical understanding through the use of visual representation, in KS1 and those in need of support in KS2
	Westfield Primary Academy, with 12 other primary schools	A 2 year primary writing project led based on the Talk for Writing approach to teaching writing in primary schools.
	Aldeburgh Primary, with six other primaries in the area	A project to improve the resilience of all pupils so that they have strategies to support them in overcoming barriers to learning, involving staff, parents and members of the wider community.
	Ipswich Academy, with seven Ipswich primaries	To radically improve the literacy levels in the Ipswich Academy (IA) pyramid and its catchment area, by developing a sustainable project.
	Chilton Community Primary, with Stowmarket's other primary, middle and high schools	To improve the outcomes for all pupils in maths through developing the pedagogy, offer training, moderation and coaching in the use of the Singapore Bar method of solving mathematical problems, use quality first teaching methods.
	Parkside Pupil Referral Unit with two other settings	To implement a radical method of working with the most difficult to reach young people. This is a bespoke co-designed learning programme for each individual learner incorporating vocational learning, virtual learning and face to face engagement.
	Highfield Nursery School With Springfield Infant School	The PLUS system project will empower parents to develop the skills and confidence to support their child with mathematical learning, specifically regarding the approximate number system.
	Castle Partnership Academy Trust – secondary and 2 primary schools	The use of music tuition to improve attainment and character.

<b>Round 1: Literacy &amp; Numeracy in Primary Schools</b>	St Margaret's Primary Lowestoft, with 3 Lowestoft primary and a special school	Primary Maths Advantage
	Northgate High School, with five primary schools	Developing an innovative way of teaching mathematics using Microsoft Surface Pro 3's enabling high quality personalised communication between teacher and pupil
	Newmarket Academy, with six primary schools	Literacy project aimed at accelerating progress for EAL students due to the high % of EAL pupils in Newmarket who are not making expected levels of progress.
	Stanton Community Primary, with four primaries	Primary Maths Advantage
	Brampton Primary, with seven primaries	Improving the quality of teaching in maths through the creation of a new mathematics scheme of work suitable for mixed age classes.
	Samuel Ward Academy, with 27 primary schools	Establishing a West Suffolk Maths Collaborative to develop and embed high quality mathematics teaching through evidence based pedagogies