

Briefing for Governors - July 11, 2011



EducationKingston
the learning partnership

Owned and operated *by* schools, *for* schools

Schedule for this evening:

- Introduction Rachel Hollis
- What is EducationKingston? Graham Willett
- What is the alternative? Tina Herring
- Timescales and Project Board Chris Hodges
- View from a school Coombe Junior School
- Discussion exercise All
- Closing remarks Tina Herring

Aims of this meeting

- to ensure GBs have sufficient information to begin to aid decision making, recognising full brief out in September.
- to provide opportunity for GBs to discuss, give views and raise issues that may need further consideration by EK board.

What is **EducationKingston**?

Background

Context

- Current political climate, White Paper and Education Bill
- Challenging financial conditions
- Need to recognise increasing school autonomy
- Desire to preserve relationships and partnership
- Schools have expressed interest in collaborative approaches
- Development of localism

Options to consider

- Continue with current model
 - But unlikely to be funded
- Reduce to fulfilling minimum obligations
 - Unattractive
- Develop a new model
 - Opportunity to engage with changing pattern of school improvement proposed by government policy

Key considerations – Guiding Principles

- We wish to continue to secure the best outcomes for children and young people
- We see the need to continue to work to close gaps in achievement between different groups
- We want to ensure the highest possible standards in schools
- We believe in the importance of schools sharing their excellence with others
- We believe that good schools strengthen communities and enhance life chances

Key considerations - Schools

- Schools are gaining extra freedoms to determine for themselves how to solve their challenges
- Schools benefit from external challenge which is most effective when it is underpinned by rich local knowledge
- Strong leadership welcomes external challenge
- All schools possess expertise from which other schools could benefit
- Schools share common challenges which are often more difficult or expensive to solve alone
- Schools are facing challenging financial conditions

Key considerations - RBK

- RBK recognises the strategic value of promoting and supporting high-quality schools in Kingston
- The LA role in school improvement is largely non-statutory and subject to budgetary considerations
- RBK's approach to school improvement has been recognised nationally as being of high-quality and very effective
- The LA will retain powers of intervention in under-performing maintained schools
- The LA will have no direct powers of intervention in under-performing Academies or free schools

Key considerations – Schools & LA

- The quality of relationships between schools and between schools and the LA is very high in Kingston
- The partnership that exists within the school sector in Kingston is collaborative, productive and highly-valued
- Schools and the LA have expressed a clear desire to maintain the benefits of working in partnership and a willingness to explore new ways of achieving that

Proposal

1. Schools to create a not-for-profit organisation – working title **EducationKingston** – jointly owned *by schools, for schools*

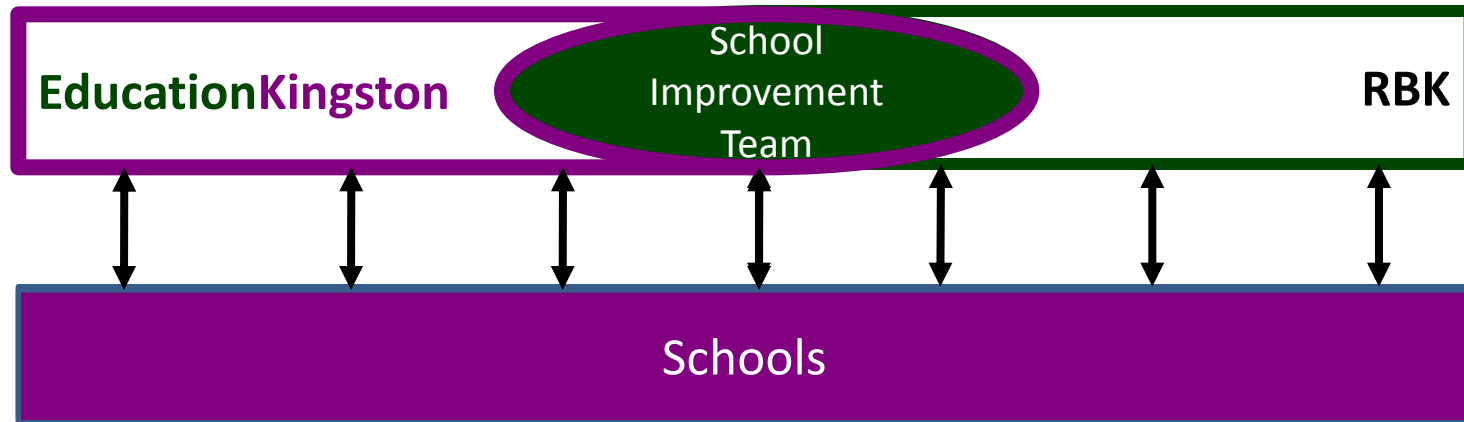
2. EducationKingston to operate a subscription based Schools Partnership whose main function will be to provide a School Improvement Service

3. RBK to commission EducationKingston to carry out its statutory functions with regard to school improvement and to provide reports on school standards. This to be for an initial term of 5 years

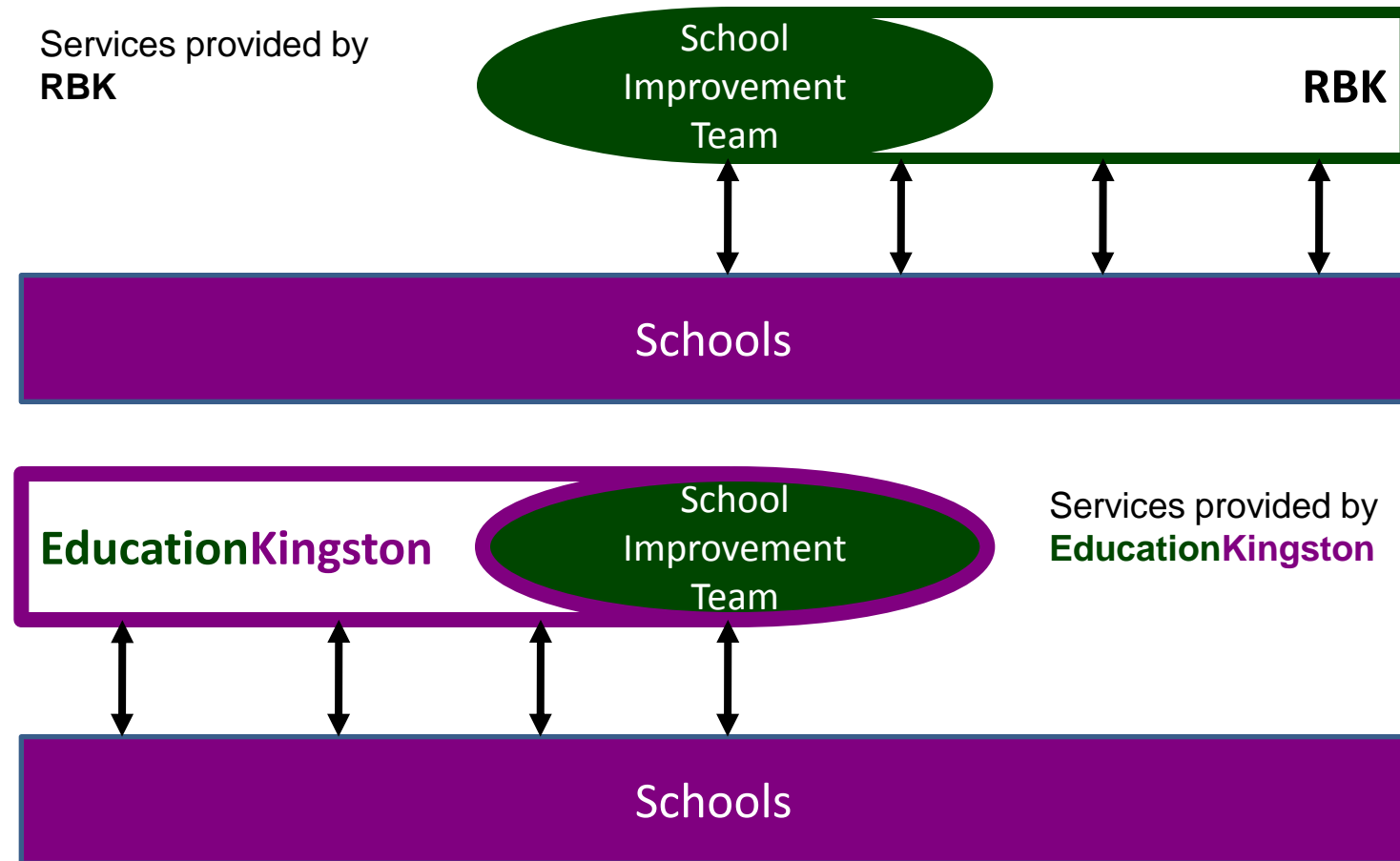
4. Founding schools to commit to subscribing to full (foundation) membership of **EducationKingston** Schools Partnership for an initial term of 5 years

How it might work

EducationKingston, Schools & RBK



EducationKingston, Schools & RBK



What type of organisation?

- In deciding on the nature of the organisation consideration will have to be given to the degree of legal control that is required.
- Examples of the possible types of organisation include:
 - Informal Association
 - Club with a constitution
 - Charity
 - Company
 - Charitable Company
- This proposal envisages that, whatever the agreed nature of the organisation, EducationKingston operates to principles in keeping with it being a membership-owned club.

EducationKingston Governance

One of the core principles of the proposal is that EducationKingston is owned and operated by schools for schools. As such it is essential that schools have sufficient means to shape and direct the work of EK.

It is not envisaged that this needs to be a heavily bureaucratic or time-consuming responsibility but to secure the ability to shape and direct there may need to be three layers of governance:

1. An EducationKingston Forum to give long term representation for all members (analogous to a shareholders' meeting)
2. An EK Executive Board to periodically review the operation of the various service elements.
3. Service Panels to review and direct the work within each element

Note: The relationship with RBK would be recognised through its representation on the Executive Board and Service Panels.

EK Forum

Founding School HTs



EK Executive Board

Panel Chairs (HTs)
LA Representative(s)
EK Leads



Service Panels

HT Chair
School Representatives
EK Leads and/or LA Representatives

EducationKingston Income

EducationKingston will have two main income streams in the form of annual subscriptions from foundation members and income “in kind” from RBK

Additional income will be generated from:

- Annual subscriptions from full & associate members
- Charging for non-subscription services
- Charging for services to non-members
- Grants
- Government initiatives

EducationKingston RBK Contribution

EducationKingston will receive “in kind” benefits from RBK.

These will be in the form of:

- the staff in a seconded School Improvement Team
- sufficient accommodation and ICT support to meet the operational needs of EK staff

The staff within the School Improvement Team will be employed by RBK but integrated into EducationKingston staffing and managed by the Executive Board.

School Improvement Service

The main purpose of this service is to aid schools in improving provision and raising achievement.

The service will provide support, challenge, advice, guidance and training for schools, staff and governors.

It will also provide reports on school performance to governing bodies and the local authority.

Note: Consideration will need to be given to how this service can work with and alongside teaching schools as they become part of the pattern of integrated provision.

School to School Support

- There is an expectation that schools will in future support each other with their improvement
- Schools already offer each other support through various arrangements
- Additional school to school support is currently brokered by LA officers
- This development can also be seen as an extension of programmes such as AST, expert teacher etc.
- While generally seen as a good idea it does present some difficulties which central coordination may help manage:
 - Do schools have the capacity?
 - Can they identify their own expertise accurately?
 - How will schools know where to get their support?
 - How will it be quality assured?
 - How will it be developed?

What is the alternative?

Timescale

Date:	Item:
11 th July	Meeting for Governors to discuss EK Proposal
19 th July	EK Project Board Meeting
26 th August	Full Draft of EK Proposal completed
05 th September	Final Draft of EK Proposal sent to the EK Project Board for review and comments
08 th September	EK Project Board Meeting to sign-off Final Proposal Final EK Proposal sent to Chairs of Governors
12 th September	Meeting for Governors to discuss the published EK Proposal
14 th October	Deadline for formal 'sign-up' to EK for Governing Bodies
18 th October	Formal EducationKingston Proposal presented to the Council

View from a school

Discussion Exercise