

Regional schools commissioners (RSCs) act on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education and are accountable to the National Schools Commissioner, the post is currently held by Sir David Carter. The RSC responsible for Bradford is Vicky Beer (Lancashire and West Yorkshire).

RSCs main responsibilities include:

- taking action where academies and free schools are underperforming;
- intervening in academies where governance is inadequate;
- deciding on applications from local-authority-maintained schools to convert to academy status;
- improving underperforming maintained schools by providing them with support from a strong sponsor;
- taking action to improve poorly performing sponsors;
- advising on proposals for new free schools;
- deciding on applications to make significant changes to academies and free schools.

There are eight RSCs that operate across eight regions in England: East of England and North-East London; East Midlands and the Humber; Lancashire and West Yorkshire; North of England; North-West London and South-Central England; South-East England and South London; South-West England; and West Midlands

RSCs work closely with a number of partners, including leaders from the education sector, Ofsted, local authorities and local dioceses.

RSCs do not intervene directly in schools, instead they commission teaching schools, national leaders in education, Multi Academy Trusts and other leaders in education to improve underperforming schools.

What does this mean for Bradford?

The 'educational excellence everywhere' white paper set out the government's plans for a system where every school is an academy by 2022 and local authorities no longer have a role in maintaining schools. However, the white paper is yet to be debated in either house. The change of Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Education over the summer may mean that the government amends its focus in terms of full academisation, as recent debates about grammar schools exemplify. Until the policy landscape and the implications for local authorities is clearer, the RSC will continue to work with Bradford and its partners to intervene in underperforming maintained schools and supporting schools becoming academies.