

**CHILDREN'S, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION
CABINET COMMITTEE**

Thursday, 22nd June, 2017

10.00 am

Darent Room, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone





AGENDA

CHILDREN'S, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION CABINET COMMITTEE

Thursday, 22 June 2017 at 10.00 am
Darent Room, Sessions House, County Hall,
Maidstone

Ask for: **Emma West**
Telephone: **03000 412421**

Tea/Coffee will be available 15 minutes before the start of the meeting

Membership (15)

Conservative (12): Mr G Cooke (Chairman), Mrs A D Allen, MBE, Mrs R Binks,
Mrs S Chandler, Mrs P T Cole, Mrs L Game, Mrs S Gent,
Mr R C Love, Mr S C Manion, Mr D Murphy, Mr M J Northey and
Mrs S Prendergast

Liberal Democrat (2): Mrs T Dean, MBE and Ida Linfield

Labour (1) Dr L Sullivan

Webcasting Notice

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UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

(During these items the meeting is likely to be open to the public)

- 1 Introduction/Webcast announcement
- 2 Apologies and Substitutes
To receive apologies for absence and notification of any substitutes present
- 3 Election of Vice-Chairman
To elect a Vice-Chairman for the Cabinet Committee.
- 4 Declarations of Interest by Members in items on the Agenda

To receive any declarations of interest made by Members in relation to any matter on the agenda. Members are reminded to specify the agenda item number to which it refers and the nature of the interest being declared

- 5 Minutes of the meetings of the former Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee held on 30 March 2017 and the former Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee held on 23 March 2017, and of the first meeting of this committee held on 25 May 2017(Pages 7 - 32) (Pages 7 - 32)

To consider and approve the minutes as a correct record

- 6 Minutes of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 20 March 2017 (Pages 33 - 36)

To note the minutes.

- 7 Verbal updates

- 8 Review of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education 2017-2021 (Pages 37 - 60)

This report is provided to the Cabinet Committee annually and sets out for Members the progress made in implementing the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education in delivering the necessary schools places for Kent and other provision for SEN, Early years and post 16 education and training.

- 9 17/00059 - Allocation of additional funding for Oakley (Special) School nursery project due to unforeseen cost pressures (Pages 61 - 66)

To advise Members of the unforeseen cost pressures with the establishment of nursery provision at Oakley (Special) School and to seek additional capital funding. The Cabinet Committee is asked to comment on and either endorse or make a recommendation to the Cabinet Member on the proposed decision set out in the report.

- 10 17/00058 - Langley Park Primary Academy (phase 2) (Pages 67 - 74)

The Cabinet Committee is asked to comment on and either endorse or make a recommendation to the Cabinet Member on the proposed decision set out in the report.

- 11 17/00049 - Proposal to permanently change the age range of Herne Bay (Community) Infant School from 3-7 years to 2-7 years from September 2017 (Pages 75 - 84)

This report sets out the results of the public consultation on the proposal to permanently change the age range of Herne Bay Infant School from the current 3-7 years to 2-7 years from September 2017. The Cabinet Committee is asked to comment on and either endorse or make a recommendation to the Cabinet Member on the proposed decision set out in the report.

- 12 17/00052 - Revision to Term Dates for the School Years 2018/19 and 2019/20 (Pages 85 - 98)

To consider and make recommendations on the decision to revise the school term dates for the years 2018-19 and 2019-20. The Cabinet Committee is asked to comment on and either endorse or make a recommendation to the Cabinet Member on the proposed decision set out in the report.

- 13 Ofsted inspection outcome, to present inspection report and recommendations (Pages 99 - 136)

To present the Ofsted report, published on 13 June.

- 14 17/00046 Contract Award for Children and Young People Mental Health Service (Pages 137 - 146)

This report provides an update on the contract award for future Children and Young People Mental Health Services (CYPMHS) within Kent, previously known as CAMHS. The Cabinet Committee is asked to comment on and either endorse or make a recommendation to the Cabinet Member on the proposed decision set out in the report.

- 15 17/00056 - Proposal to approve a new two form entry Primary school with a 26 place nursery, and SEN specialist provision for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, at Chilmington Green, Ashford (Pages 147 - 154)

Proposal to approve a new two form entry Primary school with a 26 place nursery, and SEN specialist provision for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, at Chilmington Green, Ashford. The Cabinet Committee is asked to comment on and either endorse or make a recommendation to the Cabinet Member on the proposed decision set out in the report.

- 16 Performance Scorecard (Pages 155 - 172)

This item will have the Performance Scorecard that would have been received by the Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee as part A and the Specialist Children's Services Dashboard that would have been received by the Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee as part B. For the future, the scorecards and dashboard will be amalgamated

- 17 Work Programme 2017/18 (Pages 173 - 176)

To receive the report from the Head of Democratic Services that gives details of the proposed Work Programme for the Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee.

EXEMPT ITEMS

(At the time of preparing the agenda there were no exempt items. During any such items which may arise the meeting is likely NOT to be open to the public)

John Lynch,
Head of Democratic Services
03000 410466

Wednesday, 14 June 2017

Please note that any background documents referred to in the accompanying papers may be inspected by arrangement with the officer responsible for preparing the relevant report.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

**EDUCATION AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES CABINET
COMMITTEE**

MINUTES of a meeting of the Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee held in the Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Thursday, 30 March 2017.

PRESENT: Mr L B Ridings, MBE (Chairman), Mrs P T Cole (Vice-Chairman), Mr D Brunning, Mr G Cowan, Mr M J Horwood, Mr S C Manion, Mr M J Northey, Mr J M Ozog, Mr Q Roper, Mr C R Pearman, Mrs P A V Stockell, Mr T L Shonk and Mr M J Vye

ALSO PRESENT: Mr R W Gough, Mr P M Hill, OBE and Mr P J Oakford

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr P Leeson (Corporate Director Children, Young People and Education), Mr S Bagshaw (Head of Fair Access), Mr Willett (Interim Director of Education Quality Standards), Mrs A Hunter (Principal Democratic Services Officer) For minutes 5 to 12, Miss E West (Democratic Services Officer) and Mrs L Whitaker (Democratic Services Manager (Executive)) For minutes 13 to 23.

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

5. Apologies and Substitutes
(Item A2)

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Truelove and Mr Tear.

6. Declarations of Interest by Members in items on the Agenda
(Item A3)

No Declarations of Interest were made, however during the Kent Post 16 Transport Policy Statement (item C5), Mrs Cole made a Declaration of Interest as her son has a post 16 travel card.

7. Minutes of the meetings held on 17 January, 1 February and 7 March 2017
(Item A4)

Resolved that the minutes of the meetings held on 17 January, 1 February and 7 March 2017 are now correctly recorded, and they be signed by the Chairman.

8. Verbal updates
(Item A5)

1. Mr Oakford, Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services, gave the following update:
 - a) OFSTED had confirmed that there will not be any formal result known until after the 'purdah' period, although there were signs of progress being made.

b) Mr Oakford, Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services, drew the Committee's attention to Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC), confirming that the UASC under 18 year olds in Kent has dropped by half since the peak of 2015. Arrivals continued to be very low, the majority of these children had now moved on outside of Kent through the National Dispersal Programme. Since the programme started, 311 young people had been dispersed to other Local Authorities. 2 reception centres have closed and there were only 7 young people in the Millbank reception centre.

2. Mr Hill, Cabinet Member for Community Services, gave the following update:

a) The second phase of the Troubled Families' programme has now been running for 1 year. During the second phase, the number of troubled families had increased dramatically and the amount of money available had reduced which made this very challenging.

9. 17/00013 Proposal to expand Deal Parochial CE Primary School, by 1FE, from September 2018
(Item B1)

1. Mr Adams, Area Education Officer (South Kent), confirmed that the consultation regarding the expansion of Deal Parochial CE Primary School had been undertaken and the majority were in favour, including the Head Teacher, the governing body and the Parish Council. Mr Adams reported that there were an estimated 1,000 housing units coming through. The key issues which had arisen through the consultation process were the concerns around the design, traffic and access, and whether other schools should be expanded instead of Deal. The comments were taken on board.

2. A Member commented on the need to plan for secondary school places. In response to the question, Mr Adams said that the priority was to ensure there were sufficient places for children.

3. RESOLVED – That the Cabinet Committee endorsed the proposed decision of the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform to:

(i) Expand Deal Parochial CE Primary School by 1FE from September 2018, subject to planning approval.

And subject to no new objections to the public notice:

(ii) Implement the proposals for September 2018.

(iii) Authorise the Corporate Director - Education and Young People's Services to issue a Public Notice to expand Deal Parochial CE Primary School by 1FE, with a published admissions number of 60 from September 2018 (subject to planning permission being granted);

(iv) Allocate £2.85 million from the Education and Young People's Service Capital budget;

(v) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure, in consultation with the General Counsel to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council; and

(vi) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts. Variations to contract value to be no more than 10% above the capital funding agreed by the Cabinet Member without requiring a new Record of Decision.

10. 17/00022 - Proposal to permanently expand Mayfield Grammar School, Gravesend, from a PAN of 145 to 180
(Item B2)

1. Mr Watts, Area Education Officer (North Kent), said the proposal to expand Mayfield Grammar School in Gravesend would maintain an element of proportionality between selective and non-selective schools. Mr Watts brought the current pressures in the area to the Cabinet Committee's attention and explained that this was due to oversubscription within the admissions criteria. The report requested a maximum sum of £5.2 million for the expansion and Mr Watts confirmed that the team were working closely with the Education Funding Agency as the School was eligible for the Priority Schools Build Programme. The Head Teacher and Governing Body fully supported the proposal.

2. RESOLVED – That the Cabinet Committee endorsed the proposed decision of the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform to:

(i) Allocate a sum of up to £5.2 million from the Education and Young People's Services Capital Budget to fund any necessary additional works or variations to accommodation.

(ii) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure, in consultation with the General Counsel, to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council.

(iii) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts.

11. 17/00015 -Proposal to increase the physical capacity of Meadowfield (Foundation Special) School from September 2017
(Item B3)

1. Ms White, Area Education Officer (East Kent), reported on the case for the allocation of capital funding to provide sufficient accommodation for the increased number of pupils that Meadowfield Special School had been taking over a period of years. A proposal may be brought forward in the future to increase the designated number permanently from its current 209 to 270; following consultation and investigation into the accommodation that could be put on site to provide for the additional numbers of children. The Head Teacher and Governing Body fully supported the proposal.

2. Ms White confirmed that an Equality and Impact Assessment had been undertaken, but a more detailed Assessment would be required for the permanent expansion of the School.

3. RESOLVED that the Cabinet Committee endorsed the proposed decision of the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform to:

(i) Allocate £1.14 million from the Education and Young People's Service Capital budget;

(ii) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure, in consultation with the General Counsel to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council; and

(iii) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts. Variations to contract value to be no more than 10% above the capital funding agreed by the Cabinet Member without requiring a new Record of Decision.

12. 16/00139 Proposal to expand Regis Manor Primary (Academy) School, increasing the capacity from 420 school places to 630 school places and increasing the PAN from 60 to 90 for Year R entry in September 2018
(Item B4)

1. Ms White confirmed that the need to expand Regis Manor Primary School had been identified as part of the Kent Commissioning Plan in response to the growing need for primary places in North Sittingbourne. Consultation was undertaken by Swale Academies Trust and 118 responses were received. The majority of the responses that were against the proposal came from residents who had concerns around the parking arrangements and traffic which will be taken into account as part of the planning consultation. There would be an additional and new access to the rear of the school which would provide additional access and distribute the pressure, a drive in/drop off point and additional parking in order to deal with current and future pressures arising from the increase in pupil numbers.

2. RESOLVED – That the Cabinet Committee endorsed the proposed decision of the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform to:

(i) Allocate £3.3m from the Education and Young People's Service Capital budget;

(ii) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure, in consultation with the General Counsel to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council; and

(iii) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts. Variations to contract value to be no more than 10% above the capital funding agreed by the Cabinet Member without requiring a new Record of Decision.

This proposal is also subject to agreement from the Secretary of State for Education and Planning Agreement.

13. Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy 2017-2019
(Item B5)

1. Mr Gough, Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform, reported on current success of the Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy and said that a great amount had been done in terms of delivering the 2013-2016 strategy. Mr Gough confirmed that there was still a significant amount to be achieved and some of the SEND targets had shifted. Much of the work had been around implementation of the Act, achieving significant culture change within the organisation, ensuring that the team moved ahead rapidly with conversions of statements to Education, Health and Care plans, and that the delivery of assessments took place within a tighter frame work. Mr Gough explained that the main focus had been on High Needs Funding within mainstream education. There were many challenges ahead and there was more to do in the area of attainment, the post 16 provision and in partnerships.
2. In addition to Mr Gough's points, Mr Leeson, Corporate Director - Education and Young People's Services commented on the SEND Strategy progress and the need to keep pace with changing needs and levels of demand. Mr Leeson explained that KCC had invested in improving and expanding special schools which not only had provided better accommodation but also provided 350 additional places. Mr Leeson said that the most important objective of the strategy was to ensure that children with SEN were getting a good education and achieving good progress. The special schools in Kent were good or outstanding and nearly all of the children with SEN were going to a good or outstanding school. Attainment and progress rates improved for children with SEN. However, whilst progress rates have improved and compared more favourably with other similar children nationally in Primary schools, KS4 and GCSE progress rates were below national comparisons for children with SEN. The number of children with autism and speech, language and communication difficulties continued to increase. Mr Leeson said it was a core requirement to provide for the needs of children with SEN across all schools. Going forward, the aim was to make sure the attainment levels continued to improve and ensure the right provision is in the right place.
 - (a) In response to a question relating to the requirement to change from an SEN to the Education Health and Care Plan, Ms Ely, Head of SEN Assessment and Placement said that the new Education Health and Care Plan introduced a single assessment and plan from birth to 25 and focussed on the long term outcomes as well as introducing the rights of appeal.
 - (b) In response to a question relating to the involvement of agencies, Ms Ely confirmed the different statutory provisions for the Local Authority and explained that the principal objective was the opportunity for greater involvement. The team had invested in working alongside colleagues from other agencies.
 - (c) In response to a question relating to how the evidence of success was captured, Mr Leeson said that the special schools in Kent were assessed as

good or outstanding and that achievements were being monitored in a more systematic way.

- (d) In response to a question relating to the transition process as an individual reaches the age of 18, Mr Leeson confirmed that a 0-25 disabled people's service was being introduced in Kent which would provide a smoother transition into adult services. The current priority was to make sure the transition planning that took place at age 14 clearly mapped the pathways for every young person. By the age of 16, there was a clear understanding of what would happen for them.
- (e) In response to a question, Mr Leeson confirmed that in order to get an Education Health and Care plan, a statutory assessment was required. The resources for High Needs Funding have increased in mainstream schools from £8 million to £22 million which allowed children with SEN in mainstream schools to be supported with additional resources without the need for the statutory plan. In terms of advice for parents, the parents' forum provide independent advice for parents and a local offer had been developed which was available for parents to provide a good understanding of the range of support that was available in the school.
- (f) In response to a question, Mr Leeson confirmed that if there was a health need there would possibly be a case for an Education Health and Care plan, depending on the circumstance. Ms Ely followed on from Mr Leeson's comments by stating that the length of absence from the classroom resulted in gaps in their learning. The website 'KELSI' was used to provide guidance to schools regarding the health needs of children and provide guidance to putting forward health plans of children.
- (g) In response to questions relating to potential bullying and receiving additional support, Ms Ely said there was a requirement for schools to inform parents when children were added to the SEN register, but parents do not have to give consent for their children to be on the SEN register. Mr Leeson confirmed that one of the key ways that governors could discharge their duty was to demonstrate they had discharged their duty of 'best endeavours' and to be clear on the resources that the school had for SEN support and how that resource is being used.

3. RESOLVED - That the progress in delivering the SEND Strategy be noted.

- (i) The proposed decision to approve the new revised Kent SEND Strategy for 2017-19 which sets out the Council's priorities for action leading up to 2020 be endorsed.

14. 17/00039 Revised 14 - 24 Learning, Employment and Skills Strategy 2017 - 2020
(Item B6)

- 1. Mr Gough reported on the Revised 14 - 24 Learning, Employment and Skills Strategy confirming the 4 key areas of focus: raising attainment, boosting technical education and apprenticeships, increasing participation and employment and supporting vulnerable learners. Mr Leeson discussed the redesign of the Education and Skills landscape in Kent and said this would create much more

organised, coherent, technical and vocational offers for children and young people and provide the curriculum pathways and opportunities for new qualifications to become more available to young people. Significant progress had already been made and apprenticeships in Kent were expanding. The number of young people who are NEET in Kent had gone down to 2.9% from 5-6%, but there were still challenges providing the right level of courses and qualification routes for young people who had lower starting points at the age of 16.

2. Sue Dunn, Head of Skills and Employability commented on the work evidenced as 'good practice' in terms of providing pathways for young people. Young people in schools now have the opportunity of an academic or technical pathway, and also a pathway into employment. A number of schools working with vulnerable young people were offered a very focused and targeted programme to provide the young people with basic skills in English and Maths and to get the young people into employment and training. Around 500 young people have applied for apprenticeships within the last 6 months through the 'Made In Kent' campaign, digital communication and social media contributed to its success. The target of over 3,000 16 to 18 year olds taking apprenticeships was exceeded last year. The main priority was to make sure that vulnerable young people had the opportunity to move into sustained employment opportunities. A supported internship programme has been introduced this year and 90% of the young people involved in the programme are now either in full employment or have gone into a college programme.

a) In response to a query relating to the high number of young people out of employment, Mr Leeson said the work of the Virtual Schools Kent that takes place in schools and colleges and with the Skills and Employability team had been co-ordinated more effectively in order to ensure that children in care were fully supported and did not end up becoming NEET. The numbers have been significantly high but have recently dropped. The main priority is to make sure that the right courses and support are available for the young people.

3. RESOLVED – That the proposed decision of the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform be endorsed:

(i) To approve the revised strategy towards achieving the new priorities and new key performance indicators of the 14 – 24 Learning, Employment and Skills Strategy from 2017 to 2020 be endorsed.

15. 17/00037 The HeadStart Programme in Kent
(Item B7)

1. Mr Gough and Mr Leeson reported on the HeadStart Programme in Kent and explained that the main focus of the programme relates to resilience, tackling emotional mental health and emotional wellbeing issues particularly for those aged 10-16. Mr Leeson referred to the importance of the commissioning of Child Adolescent Mental Health Services and the development of the Education Health Needs service which supported schools to support children with emotional difficulties; and the work that had been carried out with public health to ensure mental health and emotional wellbeing were a much stronger feature of the work school nurses do. Kent had received £10 million through the lottery fund to carry out the HeadStart work which has been introduced following pilot work. The

programme is going to play a very significant part in building up the capacity of schools to support children with those needs with the additional resources received.

2. Stuart Collins, Interim Director of Early Help and Preventative Services, confirmed that the programme had been delivered in collaboration with schools and was a co-designed programme with children and young people. It was essential that the programme was perceived as part of the wider emotional health and wellbeing pathway and was aligned to the work that had been carried out previously. Mr Collins also said it was important that the programme was sustainable, accessible and embedded in schools.
3. RESOLVED – That the HeadStart Kent programme is implemented in line with the requirements of the Big Lottery Grant Agreement and as set out in the report.
 - (i) The necessary procurement exercises undertaken for goods and services required to deliver the programme.
 - (ii) Authority is delegated to the Corporate Director of Education and Young People's Services to award the necessary contracts for HeadStart Kent to justify providers selected through the procurement process and to award the HeadStart Kent grants to selected schools to deliver the HeadStart Programme in accordance with the Big Lottery Grant Agreement.

16. Work Programme 2017-18
(Item C1)

1. Mrs Whitaker, Democratic Services Manager (Executive) presented the work programme for the committee.
2. RESOLVED – That the Work Programme for 2017-18 be noted.

17. Education and Young People's Services Directorate Business Plan 2017- 8
(Item C2)

1. Mr Leeson provided an update on the Education and Young People's Services Directorate Business Plan.
2. RESOLVED That the Business Plan 2017-18 be endorsed.
 - (i) It be noted that the Directorate Business Plan would be published online in April 2017.

18. Risk Management: Education and Young People's Services
(Item C3)

1. Mr Scrivener, Corporate Risk Manager commented on the risks that were discussed in the Committee as normal business throughout the year and explained that it helps to give an overall view of the key risks in one place and look at risks that could impact objectives going forward.

2. Mr Leeson confirmed that there are a small number of high level risks. Including an overspend on SEN and delivering school places to meet the increased pupil numbers particularly as funding and the sponsorship of new schools depend on the Education and Skills Funding agency to provide the resources.
 - a) Mr Leeson responded to questions by confirming that there were often shortfalls in the funding provided by the Government in terms of Capital programme. However, the most serious challenge was the way in which the work was being managed within the EFA.
3. Mr Abbott, Director of Education Planning and Access confirmed that the position with the EFA had changed over the past couple of months, so there are now a few areas where schools sponsors have not come forward where there is the clear demographic pressure emerging those children are currently in primary school, without the sponsor, the Department for Education have decided that they will no longer make speculative purchases. Mr Abbott highlighted the issues and consequences that KCC may face if projects are not delivered on time. Temporary arrangements may have to be made with the possibility of an extra cost requirement and more budget pressure. Mr Gough also commented on the changing position with the EFA and reoccurring risks due to funding implications. Mr Leeson also touched upon the way in which EFA operate and the expenditure.
 - a) Comments were made about the EFA's decision not to fund new free schools or academies unless a sponsor was in place and potential impact on the provision of additional school places.
 - b) Comments were made about the potential loss of 30 hours free child care and its impact on poorer areas of the country and;
 - c) Comments were made about the persistent underperformance in particular schools.
4. RESOLVED – That the directorate risk register and relevant corporate risk outlined in appendices 1 and 2 of the report be noted.

19. Elective Home Education (EHE), Children Missing Education (CME) Update
(Item C4)

1. Mr Gough gave an update on EHE and CME and explained that the choice of parents to Home Educate must be respected. The data has shown an increase in the number of children recorded as EHE who came into various vulnerable categories that were often being advised into EHE at some stage, often coming into secondary school.
2. Mr Leeson said there were currently over 1,700 children in Kent that are being home educated. This number had increased significantly over the last few years which was a concern if those children were not receiving a suitable education, if their wellbeing was not being assured or if there were safeguarding concerns. If not enough is done to help these young people then they may end up becoming 'NEET'.

3. Mr Bagshaw commented on the high numbers of children being home educated and explained that although the numbers were high, about half of these children are dedicated consistent home educators. The rest of these children and families are being supported with an education access in an educational setting. Of over 1,000 home visits last academic year, only 50 were declined which is a very positive statement.
 - a) In response to a question, Mr Bagshaw said the authority worked with parents to support guidance and support families who choose to home educate and re-integrate children into schools where appropriate.
 - b) In response to a question, Mr Bagshaw said that the increase in the number of children being educated at home in particular could be related to the nature of communities within the area, pressure on school places or the failure to get a place at a preferred school.
4. RESOLVED – That the ongoing approach to Elective Home Education and Children Missing Education adopted by KCC be endorsed including the new approach of the team which will:
 - (i) Ensure all families are contacted within 5 days of option to Home Educate.
 - (ii) Ensure families are given the support necessary to enable their children to return to school after receiving an education from home, without delay.
 - (iii) Signpost home educating to families via a dedicated web page on kent.gov.uk to useful resources and other home educating groups providing clarity on best practice, legislation and what help can be expected.
 - (iv) Expect parents to demonstrate their children are accessing suitable education in line with county EHE Policy to enable the LA to meet its legal obligations.
 - (v) Ensure children registered as missing from education are promptly identified to the relevant departments and agencies until found or shown to be accessing education.
 - (vi) Effectively track and monitor both EHE and CME numbers and associated data to maintain an awareness of vulnerability within the groups and to help influence future policy in this area.

20. 17/00027 Kent Post 16 Transport Policy Statement
(Item C5)

1. Mr Leeson provided a short update on the Kent Post 16 Transport Policy and advised that very little has changed.
2. Mr Bagshaw touched upon Mr Leeson's comments and confirmed that the feedback from the consultation was similar to previous years. Many people had commented on the price increase but the scheme was provided entirely at the discretion of the local authority. The scheme was available to Kent Young Adults to use in evenings and weekends unlike other schemes, so provided access for employment and education.

3. At this point, Mrs Cole made a Declaration of Interest as her son has a post 16 travel card.

4. RESOLVED - That the proposed decision of the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform to publish by 31 May 2017 be endorsed.

(i) The proposed Post 16 Transport Policy which is currently out to consultation and remains unchanged from 2016/17 be noted.

21. Education Trading Services Company Update

(Item C6)

1. Mr Leeson said the Cabinet had approved the establishment of the Education Services Company.

22. Community Learning and Skills (CLS) - Mid Year review 2016- 17

(Item C7)

1. The Cabinet Member for Communities, Mr Hill, reported on the Community Learning and Skills Mid-Year review, highlighting the challenges that had been overcome as different delivery models had been explored. Mr Hill also commented on the Ofsted report which said that CLS were above the national state average.

2. RESOLVED – That the report and note the performance of Community Learning and Skills over the academic year 2016-17 to date be noted

23. Education and Young People's Services Directorate Scorecard

(Item D1)

1. Mr Leeson provided a short update on the key performance indicator progress.

2. RESOLVED – That the Education and Young People's Services performance scorecard, which includes all Education and Early Help services be noted.

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CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH CABINET COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee held in the Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Thursday, 23 March 2017.

PRESENT: Mrs J Whittle (Chairman), Mrs A D Allen, MBE (Vice-Chairman), Mr H Birkby, Mrs P Brivio, Mrs P T Cole, Mrs V J Dagger, Mr D S Daley (Substitute for Mr M J Vye), Mrs M Elenor, Mr G Lymer, Mr M J Northey, Mr C P Smith and Mrs Z Wiltshire

ALSO PRESENT: Mr G K Gibbens and Mr P J Oakford

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr A Ireland (Corporate Director Social Care, Health and Wellbeing), Mr A Scott-Clark (Director of Public Health), Mr P Segurola (Director of Specialist Children's Services) and Miss T A Grayell (Democratic Services Officer)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

202. Apologies and Substitutes

(Item A2)

1. Apologies for absence had been received from Mr M J Vye. Mr D S Daley was present as a substitute for Mr Vye.
2. The Chairman advised the committee that Mr Ireland and Mr Segurola were attending interviews with visiting Ofsted inspectors and so would be delayed in joining the meeting, and that the Cabinet Member, Mr Oakford, was serving on an interview panel and would attend only briefly to give a verbal update.

203. Declarations of Interest by Members in items on the Agenda

(Item A3)

There were no declarations of interest.

204. Minutes of the meetings held on 11 January 2017 and 16 January 2017

(Item A4)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 11 January 2017 and 16 January 2017 are correctly recorded and they both be signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising from either set of minutes.

205. Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 20 January 2017

(Item A5)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 20 January 2017 be noted.

206. Verbal updates by Cabinet Members and Directors *(Item A6)*

Children and Young People's Public Health

1. The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, Mr G K Gibbens, gave a verbal update on the following issues:-

6 February – visit from Duncan Selbie, Chief Executive of Public Health England. Mr Selbie had been very complimentary about the County Council's work in public health since it took over responsibility for it in April 2013, especially on addressing health inequalities, and acknowledged the ongoing challenge faced by Kent and many other local authorities across the country in tackling this issue.

9 March – attended Local Government Association Public Health Conference in London. At this event, the Minister had focussed on the Childhood Obesity Plan and the prevalence of obesity among Year R children. There was much integrated working between professionals to address these issues. Local Authorities would be judged by the way in which they managed public health issues, since taking responsibility for them in April 2013.

2. The Director of Public Health, Mr A Scott-Clark, then gave a verbal update on the following issues:-

Public Health ring-fenced budget extension - at the Local Government Association Public Health Conference in London, it had been announced that the ring-fencing of local authorities' public health funding would continue until 2019. Thereafter, it would form part of an authority's care budget.

Public Health Mandate for 0-5 Healthy Child Programme extension – the timeframe within which local authorities had to implement this mandate had been extended by 18 months, which was helpful in terms of work management as there was much work to do.

NHS Maternity Transformation Event 'Implementing Better Births' – Mr Scott-Clark had recently attended a meeting with NHS England which had discussed work to reduce the number of still-births by 2030. This work would be helped by the closer working between public health and maternity services.

In response to a question about what the County Council could do to press for maternity services to stay at Maidstone Hospital, rather than move to Tunbridge Wells, Mr Scott-Clark advised that the County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) would need to discuss any such major change as a 'substantial variation of service', but said he was not expecting there to be such a change. Another speaker, who served on the HOSC, advised that it was proposed that only the day unit should move from Maidstone to Tunbridge Wells; there would be no change to Maidstone's pre-natal or post-natal clinics or the birthing unit. This smaller change was a clinical decision and would not therefore need to be discussed by the HOSC.

In response to a question about heavily-sugared drinks, Mr Gibbens advised that the LGA had done a lot of work on the sugar tax and that this issue would gain prominence in the political agenda in the future.

Children's Social Care

3. The Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services, Mr P J Oakford, gave a verbal update on the following issues:-

Interviews for Strategic Commissioner post – these were going on today and he was on the interview panel, but had arranged a break to allow him to attend the CSCH meeting. *NOTE: The panel subsequently appointed Vincent Godfrey.*

Ofsted inspection – Ofsted inspectors had been in Kent for three weeks and had undertaken many interviews with staff, service directors and Members. In his interview he had raised the issue of the high number of children placed within Kent by other local authorities (OLAs). Two Kent MPs were currently on board and he was aiming to meet with all Kent MPs about this issue. There were currently 1,316 children placed in Kent by OLAs, while Kent's own care population was 1,400.

Annual Foster Carers awards evening - he had recently attended this excellent event, at which one Kent couple had been rewarded for 35 years of fostering, during which time they had cared for 55 children and young people.

Kent Fostering Association had recently held a Family Fun day for foster families, including both birth and fostered children. This event had taken over a bowling alley for the day and had been attended by 144 people.

UASC – there were now only 500 UASC under 18 in Kent, half the number there had been at the peak in 2015. A large number were reaching 18 and attaining care leaver status; there were currently 750 but this was expected to rise to 1,000 by mid-2017. This cohort brought a number of challenges, including accommodation, provision of English as a Second Language (ESOL) courses, etc. The **Leaving Care** service had recently been restructured and the number of personal advisors increased. He reassured Members that both citizen children and UASC now had access to the same services as care leavers. The **National Transfer Scheme (NTS)**, which Kent lobbied the Government for, was introduced as a voluntary scheme in July 2016 and has moved 300 UASC from Kent to other local authorities around the UK. These receiving authorities would take over full responsibility of caring for the UASC sent to them under the scheme. The **Millbank** reception centre now housed only 11 young people who were waiting to be moved under the NTS, and in the last week there had been only 23 **new arrivals** in the county.

The Chairman thanked Mr Oakford for his commitment and passion as Cabinet Member in pursuing the issues faced by children and young people in care and leaving care, for the active role he had taken in lobbying the Government to address the burden placed upon Kent by UASC and excessive OLA placements and for the time and energy he had given to travelling around the county to meet and talk to frontline staff.

4. The Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, Mr A Ireland, then gave a verbal update on the following issues:-

Ofsted inspection – to what Mr Oakford had said, Mr Ireland added that the Ofsted inspection would conclude on 30 March, after which a draft report would then be prepared. A draft report and letter would be sent to the County Council, but not until after the May election, to allow the Council an opportunity to comment on any factual inaccuracies, and then the final report would be published towards the end of May.

Education Select Committee – fostering inquiry. This had taken place two weeks ago, had been well chaired and a very useful session, to which Kent had been able to make a good contribution.

Social Work Bill – the County Council had made contributions to the consultation stage of this, after which, clauses 32–39, which had caused much controversy, had been removed. It had had its third reading on 7 March and would then go on to the Commons amendment stage and then to the House of Lords, hopefully with a straightforward passage.

5. RESOLVED that the verbal updates be noted.

207. 16/00133 - Proposed Revision of Rates Payable and Charges Levied for Children's Services in 2017-18
(Item B1)

Miss M Goldsmith., Finance Business Partner, was in attendance for this item.

1. Miss Goldsmith introduced the report and Mr Segurola responded to a question about the cost of services provided to children in care placed by other local authorities within Kent. These costs were not extensive, relating only to in-house respite residential beds, but were recouped by the County Council.

2. RESOLVED that the decision proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services, to:

a) approve the proposed changes to rates payable and charges levied for Children's Services in 2017-18, as detailed below:

i. The increase to:

All Placements under 2	£148.62
All Placements 2-4	£152.92
All Placements 5-8	£170.15
All Placements 9-10	£170.15
All Placements 11-15	£192.77
All Placements 16-17	£227.23
All Placements 18+	£227.23

ii. The Foster Care Reward element to increase to:

Non related placements 0-8 yrs -	£110.29
Non related placements 9-18 yrs -	£209.49

iii. The Foster Care Skills based payment increase to:

Level 2 -	£20.43
Level 3 -	£51.05

iv. The Single placement supplement increase to:

Age 0-8 yr -	£220.58
Age 9-18 yrs -	£418.98

v. To increase the Therapeutic Fostering Supplement to:£646.21

vi For Local Authority Charges for Children Services

vii Assessment hourly rate to increase to £70.27 per hour

viii Administration Fee increase to £10.46

b) note the rates which are dictated by external agencies, i.e. Inter-agency charges and Essential Living Allowance;

c) confirm that the charge for other local authorities for use of in-house respite residential beds is to be calculated on the basis of full cost recovery; and

d) delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, or other nominated officer, to undertake the necessary actions to implement the decision,

be endorsed.

208. 17/00023 - Future Commissioning Arrangements for External Fostering Placements
(Item B2)

Ms K Sharp, as Head of Children's Commissioning, and Ms M L Hall, Commissioning Manager, were in attendance for this item.

1. Ms Sharp introduced the report and explained that the County Council needed to commission a small number of external foster placements to supplement its in-house fostering service. Ms Hall added that the renewal deadline for the current commissioning arrangements of September 2017 had brought an opportunity to review the effectiveness of the current arrangements and assess how these could be simplified in the future. With Mr Ireland and Mr Segurola, they responded to comments and questions from Members, as follows:-

- a) 83% of the market had reported that very little of their custom came from the County Council; most came from children placed by other local authorities, and competing with this, and the rates paid by other local authorities, many of them from London, would be a challenge;
- b) the type of placement sought was changing, and increasing demand for wraparound care would decrease the use of external fostering placements. The County Council needed to be able to offer choice and range of placement, and this range was as important as the quantity of the placements available;
- c) it was envisaged that the amount of custom given to external providers would diminish over the life of the new commissioning arrangement, but working with a smaller section of the external market would give better value for money. External providers could be recruited to work exclusively with the County Council and guaranteed a volume of trade;
- d) in response to a question about the extent of spot-purchasing over the last financial year, Ms Hall undertook to provide this information outside the meeting;

- e) in response to a question about the extent of competitive tendering which was possible within the market, Mr Ireland explained that the market was limited to a finite number of accredited and approved foster carers, and the County Council had to compete with independent fostering agencies (IFAs) to engage them. The extent to which foster carers could be matched was limited by the number of foster carers available at the time, and would need to take account of the needs of the child and the foster family; and
 - f) in response to a question about the possibility of reducing costs by not using an agency but employing external foster carers directly, Mr Segurola added that, to be able to accommodate all the children in care it was asked to place, the County Council had necessarily to work with external providers. It was vital that it could be confident that external providers were of good quality.
2. RESOLVED that the decision proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services, to:
- a) approve the approach to the future commissioning of external fostering placements for children and young people aged 0–18 years; and
 - b) delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, or other nominated officer, to undertake the necessary actions to award the contract and implement the decision,

be endorsed.

209. Draft Specialist Children's Services Divisional Business Plan 2017/18
(Item C1)

Mr M Thomas-Sam, Head of Strategy and Business Support, and Dr J Maiden-Brooks, Policy Advisor, were in attendance for this item.

1. Mr Thomas-Sam introduced the report and explained that Business Plans for the coming year had been prepared using the new Directorate names which would come into being in April 2017. Dr Maiden-Brooks added that the Business Plan included a new section on operating environment and a simplified list of services. As part of earlier consultation, the Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services had asked that safeguarding be listed as the first priority in Section C of the Plan, and this change would be made. The Cabinet Committee was now being consulted on the Plan content, and any changes requested would be made before the final Plan was approved by the Corporate Director and Cabinet Member. Mr Ireland and Mr Segurola then responded to comments and questions from Members, as follows:-

- a) to the amendment requested by the Cabinet Member and any comment made by the Cabinet Committee, any comment or recommendation made by Ofsted, following the current inspection, would need to be included in the final Plan;

- b) in response to a question about the target listed for performance indicator SCS03 in Section J of the Plan, Mr Segurola undertook to check the figures and advise Members outside the meeting of the correct target;
- c) in response to a concern about recruitment and retention of qualified social work staff (priority 4 in Section B), Mr Segurola reassured Members that the posts not filled by permanent social workers were filled by temporary, agency social workers. No frontline social work posts were filled by unqualified staff; a social worker must be fully qualified to undertake regulatory work;
- d) in response to a concern about the expense of employing agency staff, balanced with the short-term nature of their employment, Mr Segurola added that employing temporary agency staff offered flexibility at a time of change. It was always the hope that some staff recruited via agencies may wish to join the County Council as permanent staff, and the tax incentive attached to agency working was soon to be discontinued. The usual pattern of recruitment was that a quantity of newly-qualified social workers would join the County Council each summer;
- e) regarding development of the corporate parenting agenda (priority 3 in Section B), Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel had never been as well informed as they currently were, but many other County Council Members clearly did not understand the corporate parent role they all shared as elected Members. A challenge for the forthcoming election was to boost corporate parenting training to help new Members to better understand this role, and attendance at such training should be compulsory for all Members. Mr Ireland commented that many Members retiring in May had long-term experience of the corporate parent role, and building the understanding of remaining and new Members would be a challenge for the period following the election. The presence of this target in the Business Plan was welcomed and would raise the profile of the need for increased training;
- f) in response to a question about missing children, how many of these were UASC and how the risks around this group were managed, Mr Segurola advised that there were currently no citizen children missing but several UASC. It was known from past patterns that some UASC tended to go missing early, soon after arriving in the county, as they used Kent as a stopping-off point *en route* elsewhere. The County Council retained its duty of care to these UASC and monitored numbers of those going missing. Every UASC arriving in Kent would be risk-assessed, to try to predict their risk of being trafficked and of going missing. It was suggested that a report on missing children be made to a future meeting of the Cabinet Committee, to set out figures and patterns, what was and could be done and the process for handling periods of absence, eg return interviews. Although any figure quoted would only ever be a snapshot of a moment in time, any repeated absence was a concern to be addressed. Some young people reported missing had simply returned home late, but their foster carer was obliged to report them as 'missing', while other young people went missing for longer periods, or did so repeatedly; and

- g) the inclusion in the Business Plan of aspects recommended by the former Corporate Parenting Select Committee was welcomed, and officers were thanked for their work in developing the new Plan.
2. RESOLVED that the draft Directorate Business Plan 2017/18 for the Specialist Children's Services Division be welcomed, and the comments made by Members, set out above, be noted, prior to the final version being approved by the Corporate Director and the Cabinet Member.

210. Financial Element of the Updated Care Leaver Policy *(Item C2)*

1. Mr Segurola introduced the report and outlined the changes made to the policy. These changes included, under 'Staying Put', giving young people in care the same opportunities to stay with a foster family as a family's birth children would have, to cover the end of their compulsory full-time education at 18. Kent was ahead of many other local authorities in the UK as it had published its core offer to its care leavers before being obliged to do so. The document had been prepared to be clear and user-friendly for young readers.
2. The clear and comprehensive content of the policy was welcomed, and a comment made that the document, with training on the corporate parent role discussed under the previous item, be shared with all newly-elected Members after the May election. In response to a question about the wording of part 17 of the Policy – 'Ending the Staying Put Arrangement' – which seemed incomplete, Mr Segurola undertook to check and advise Members outside the meeting of the full wording.
3. RESOLVED that the proposed guidance documents, the proposed changes and the publishing of the attached policy and guidance documents be welcomed and endorsed, subject to the clarification of the full wording of part 17.

211. Risk Management *(Item D1)*

Mr A Mort, Customer Care and Operations Manager, was in attendance for this item.

1. Mr Mort introduced the report and explained that the risk register would be adapted to reflect the new Directorate structure. He and Mr Ireland responded to comments and questions from Members, as follows:-
- a) in response to a question about the pattern of risk over recent years, Mr Ireland explained that, over the whole of the former Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Directorate, some risks had been increased to cover growing pressures, eg adult safeguarding;
- b) for issues such as UASC, the level of risk would need to take into account the much reduced numbers of new arrivals but the increase in the number of UASC reaching 18 and attaining care leaver status, with the related costs and new responsibilities which this brought for the County Council. Although the National Transfer Scheme was working well, it would only apply to and address the needs of new arrivals; it would not help Kent's

residue UASC population, and those reaching 18. Government funding, given to cover the costs of receiving and caring for UASC, would not cover the time and commitment invested in supporting them, finding them education placements, safeguarding and supporting them, etc; and

- c) the County Council would continue to cope with the significant impact of UASC and placements by other local authorities and had to manage these responsibilities.

2. RESOLVED that risks presented in the Directorate Risk Register be noted.

212. Specialist Children's Services Performance Scorecard

(Item D2)

1. Mr Segurola introduced the scorecard and explained the reasons behind the one area of performance rated red, the percentage of returner interviews completed within three days of a missing child's return. Sometimes it proved difficult to meet a child and complete an interview until four days after their return. He reassured Members that, despite these difficulties, every missing child would be interviewed about their reasons for going missing.

2. RESOLVED that the performance scorecard be noted.

213. Public Health Performance - Children and Young People

(Item D3)

Ms K Sharp, as Head of Public Health Commissioning, was in attendance for this item.

1. Ms Sharp introduced the report and highlighted that progress across the range of performance indicators had been mixed. Work to address the number of women smoking during pregnancy had necessarily had to become more creative, to tackle this difficult and complex area. A campaign called "What the Bump?" was currently running on Sheppey, with leaflets being circulated in locations such as nail bars. Research had shown that, if a pregnancy were unplanned, women may take longer to adjust their habits to accommodate the pregnancy. Midwives and maternity services would shortly have a greater role to play in advising women during pregnancy, and the positive influence of this would hopefully be seen in future figures. Ms Sharp and Mr Scott-Clark responded to comments and questions from Members, as follows:-

- a) in response to a question about how the UK compared to other countries in terms of breastfeeding rates, and what could be done to improve the UK's rates, Mr Scott-Clark advised that there were two stages to the campaign to increase breastfeeding rates; initiation and continuation. Work on these could be helped by closer working between public health and the NHS, and public health would urge more involvement by maternity services. In some European countries, eg Russia, to breastfeed was the norm;
- b) a factor in mothers' views on breastfeeding was the speed at which new mothers were sent home from hospital after giving birth. Years ago, a hospital stay of several days would allow a mother to rest and recover from

the birth, while encouragement and support were on hand to attempt and persevere with breastfeeding. Many mothers gave up trying to breastfeed simply due to exhaustion and lack of sleep. In addition, many women had to return to work as soon as possible after the birth and did not have the family support network that would once have been common. All these were factors in a decision not to start, or not to persevere with, breastfeeding;

- c) in response to a query about smoking rates in Kent and nationally, and what could be done to address these, Ms Sharp explained that work to address this, and to increased engagement with expectant mothers, was ongoing. In a survey in Sheppey, 133 out of 510 expectant mothers had continued to smoke through their pregnancy. Two local schools had offered to run campaigns to address this issue, using material supplied to them by the County Council's public health team, and local Members were also able to take part in promoting public health messages in their local communities. Mr Scott-Clark added that NHS England had given £3m to CCGs in Thanet, Swale and South Kent Coastal to target smoking during pregnancy. This could help to extend CO2 monitoring of expectant mothers, as this was not currently available universally. The effectiveness of the 'stop smoking' message would depend in part on who was delivering it to mothers;
 - d) in response to a question about childhood obesity pilot projects in Dover schools, Mr Scott-Clark undertook to put the speaker in touch with the colleague working on the projects;
 - e) in response to a comment about the number of home visits completed within 14 days of birth, on which performance was mixed but for which figures did not seem low, Mr Scott-Clark advised that approximately 17,500 such visits were undertaken in Kent each year. This presented a huge workload for Health Visitors, who needed to identify the needs of every family visited; and
 - f) the Cabinet Member, Mr Gibbens, referred to the number of children being assessed as having excess weight in Year R and commented that, as those children were only just starting their school career, the excess weight had not been gained as a result of the school's regime. The committee then discussed the value of establishing a policy to encourage all school children to run one mile a day, and the benefit to their physical fitness of those who were able to walk to school. Some Members said that schools in their local area already had a policy of running one mile a day. Mr Scott-Clark advised that, although there was much evidence of the value of daily physical activity for children, and the proven value of school sports clubs, the County Council could not impose a policy of any particular daily activity. The Council could instead foster an environment of encouraging physical activity, and raise awareness of its value, and could support any school which wanted to establish such a policy or try a project.
2. RESOLVED that the current performance and actions of public health-commissioned services, and the information set out in response to comments and questions, be noted.

214. Work Programme 2017

(Item D4)

RESOLVED that, with the addition of a report on missing children to a future meeting, the Cabinet Committee's work programme for 2017 be noted.

215. Vote of Thanks

1. The Chairman ended the meeting by thanking committee Members for their interest in the items reported and the quality of debate and depth of questioning which the Committee had achieved at its meetings.

2. She then thanked Mr Ireland, Mr Scott-Clark, Mr Segurola, report authors and presenters for the quality and clarity of the information presented in reports and given in response to Members' questions, and the Democratic Services Officer, Miss Grayell, for her support and advice on the smooth running of the Committee's meetings.

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

**CHILDREN'S, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION CABINET
COMMITTEE**

MINUTES of a meeting of the Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee held at Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Thursday, 25th May, 2017.

PRESENT: Mrs A Allen (MBE), Mrs R Binks, Mrs S Chandler, Mrs P T Cole, Mr G Cooke, Mrs T Dean (MBE), Mrs L Game, Mrs S Gent, Ida Linfield, Mr R C Love, Mr D Murphy, Mr M J Northey, Mrs S Prendergast and Dr L Sullivan.

OFFICERS: Mr J Lynch (Head of Democratic Services)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

1. Election of Chairman.
(Item. 3)

1. It was proposed and seconded that Mr Cooke be elected Chairman of the Cabinet Committee.
2. Resolved that Mr Cooke be elected Chairman of the Cabinet Committee.

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held in Darent Room, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Monday, 20 March 2017.

PRESENT: Mrs A D Allen, MBE (Chairman), Mrs Z Wiltshire (Vice-Chairman), Mr R H Bird (Substitute for Mr M J Vye), Mrs P Brivio (Substitute for Mrs S Howes), Mrs P T Cole, Ms M Emptage (Substitute for Ms S Dunn), Ms L Fisher, Mr S Gray, Mr A Heather, Ms N Khosla, Ms D Marsh, Ms C Mutton, Mr P Segurola, Mr A Terry and Mrs J Whittle

ALSO PRESENT: Mr P J Oakford

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs S Skinner (Head of Adoption Service), Ms C Smith (Head of Fostering Service), Ms G O'Grady (Participation Co-ordinator, Specialist Children's Services) and Mr P Savage (Democratic Service Officer)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

195. Membership

(Item A1)

The Panel noted that, since the last meeting of the Panel, the following changes had been made to the Panel's Membership:

- Reece Graves and Chloe Mutton had joined the Panel, in place of Bella Taylor and to fill the vacant VSK seat.
- Alan Terry had joined the Panel, in place of Bob Neaves.

196. Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 20 January 2017

(Item A3)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Panel's meeting held on 20 January 2017 were correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

197. Chairman's Announcements

(Item A4)

The Chairman reported that she was being interviewed by OFSTED on 21 March 2017 as OFSTED were interested in the issue of corporate parenting.

198. Verbal Update from Our Children and Young People's Council (OCYPC)

(Item A5)

1. Ms Mutton gave a verbal update on recent work undertaken by the participation team on behalf of the Children in Care Councils (CICCs), the Super Council and Young Adult Council (YAC). *The text of the update is appended to these minutes.*

2. In response to questions from the Panel to Ms Mutton, Ms O'Grady and Ms Smith, and in subsequent discussion, the following points were raised:
 - Young people were assisting with the development of the commissioning documents and the process for interviewing and evaluating foster care providers of the future by identifying important needs for children in care
 - Many foster carers would appreciate the important factors as reminders
 - Young people were helping keep the conversation going between themselves, foster carers and the local authority
 - Some of the initiatives being pursued would help participants to develop crucial life skills
3. The Panel would welcome a report on the IRO film entitled "Chairing your own review" and asked for it to be included in the work programme for the next meeting.
4. RESOLVED that the verbal update be noted with thanks.

199. Corporate Parenting - Challenge Cards

(Item A6)

1. Officers introduced the report which provided Members with an overview of the Challenge Cards process, progress made and current challenges.
2. RESOLVED that Panel note the Challenge Card process and progress to date and request that quarterly updates be submitted on issues and requirements.

200. Verbal Update by Cabinet Member

(Item A7)

1. Mr P.J. Oakford gave a verbal update on the following issues:
 - He had attended the foster carer awards event on 8 February 2017 which had included a couple who had fostered 55 children over 35 years
 - He had also attended the CFCA foster family celebration on 5 March 2017 at which 144 had participated. This involved total families – ie all parents/carers with both foster and birth children
 - He was lobbying Kent MPs on the issue of other local authorities placing their foster children in Kent: this had already resulted in a television interview of Sir Roger Gale, MP, and was likely to involve a meeting with all Kent's MPs
 - Unaccompanied asylum seeking children: there was nothing significant to report on this area at this time. Numbers continued to remain much lower than the peak of 2015 with the national dispersal programme working effectively since July 2016. There were 725 known care leavers which might result in pressures in the future
2. In response to comments and questions from the Panel, Mr Oakford explained the following:
 - He had lobbied ministers and MPs on the issue of tracing out of authority placements and would also raise with OFSTED when he was interviewed as part of the current review. It was important to remember that these children remained the responsibility of the placing authority
 - Private fostering continued both with friends and family and also through independent fostering agencies, which was especially popular with London boroughs. It was a significant issue with language schools

and work was underway in terms of assuring that adequate checks and safeguards were in place.

- There were 321 young people from Kent in out of authority placements
3. RESOLVED that the verbal update be noted.

201. Kent Adoption Service - Statement of Purpose

(Item B1)

1. Ms Skinner introduced the report. The Statement of Purpose set out the framework for Kent County Council's Adoption Service, as required under the Adoption and Children Act 2002, the Adoption Agencies Regulations and Guidance 2013 and the Adoption National Minimum Standards (Care Standards Act 2000). In discussion the following comments were made:
 - Members of the Panel agreed that good work was being undertaken but would welcome more data to monitor
 - There had been 77 adoptions since April 2016 which was a slight reduction on the past year but was in excess of the target. Average adoption times were quicker than previously. This was also a national problem and it was agreed to raise with Members of Parliament and Ministers
 - Data would be produced on the breakdown rates of Special Guardianship Orders
 - The information contained in this document about partnership agencies such as Barnado's was appropriate for the public domain and was available on websites
 - Recommendations were made to amend and re-order the core values
 - Mentoring was available to all new adoptive parents but was not compulsory
 - The Intercountry Adoption Centre was a statutory requirement which involved very few children and was certainly not used as a recruitment route for adoptions
2. RESOLVED that (1) the Panel supported the aim to develop the range of services provided and their suitability to meet the needs of adoptees and their families in order to provide an 'Outstanding' service; and (2) it be recommended that the core values be amended so as the second and third bullet points be reversed in order and the word "prospective" be deleted from the penultimate bullet point.

202. Placement Stability - 'Sense of Belonging'

(Item B2)

1. Ms Smith introduced the report which outlined the Kent offer to foster carers to create and provide increased placement stability. There were three components of the newly developed 'Sense of Belonging' offer; this offer created choices for foster carers, children and young people that allowed them to consider what would provide the best opportunities for children to thrive and develop in their placements and prevent further disruption. Kent Fostering Service was proposing the implementation of additional support for their most vulnerable fostering placements, where additional pressures upon the foster carers meant there was a higher risk of a placement breakdown. In discussion the following comments were made:

- Panel members welcomed the initiative and supported the inclusion of Ms Chloe Mutton as a member of the commissioning panel.
2. RESOLVED that (1) the initiative be noted and (2) Ms Chloe Mutton serve on the commissioning panel for selection of provider.

203. Conclusion

(Item)

This being the last meeting of the Administration, Chairman thanked all members of the Panel for their service over the past four years and especially thanked Ms Jenny Whittle who had indicated that she would no longer be available to serve on the Panel.

From: **Roger Gough, Cabinet Member Children, Young People and Education**

Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education

To: **Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee – 22 June 2017**

Subject: **Review of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education 2017-21**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Past Pathway of Paper:

Summary: This report is provided to the Cabinet Committee annually and sets out for Members the progress made in implementing the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education in delivering the necessary schools places for Kent and other provision for SEN, Early years and post 16 education and training.

Recommendation(s):

The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to note the progress achieved and the issues identified for further development, and consider the report prior to the next version of the Commissioning Plan in autumn 2017.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent sets out how the County Council, as Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision, will provide sufficient good quality provision across all types and phases of education, in the right locations, to meet the demands of increased pupil numbers and parental preferences. The Plan is updated annually.
- 1.2 This mid-year report reviews the progress over the past year in implementing the Plan's priorities. It covers:
- Progress in implementing the expansion of school places;
 - Review of forecasting accuracy;
 - Progress against our targets;
 - Progress in implementing the review of school places for SEN pupils;
 - Progress and achievements in relation to Early Years provision; and
 - Progress and achievements in relation to post-16 commissioning.
- 1.3 In summary, this Review demonstrates that:
- Commissioning and implementing the planned number of new school places for September 2017 has been successful with 7 of the 9.5 forms of entry at

Primary level being delivered. Much of the remainder was not brought forward as local demand did not materialise in full or there was capacity in neighbouring planning areas. As for Secondary 12FE (an increase of 2FE) of provision was delivered.

- Further progress has been made on delivering our commitment to rebuild or refurbish our Special schools with a further project being completed and the final three being in construction. This programme, together with the re-designation of pupil numbers has provided just fewer than 800 extra places in Special provision since 2012.
- Our forecasting methodology is accurate to within the +/- 1% target. Reception Year pupils were 0.1% under forecast, all Primary school pupils in line with the forecast, Year 7 pupils 0.1% under forecast and all Secondary school pupils 0.6% over forecast.
- Surplus capacity in the Primary school sector is at 5.6% in Reception Year and is 4.6% across all Primary school year groups. This is broadly in line with the 5% surplus place target. The surplus Primary school places in the districts vary from -0.8% in Dartford to 8.1% in Sevenoaks.
- Surplus capacity across the Secondary school sector is at 7.5% in Year 7 and at 9.6% across all years. This is above the 5% surplus capacity target and will reduce as the larger Primary school cohorts move into the Secondary sector. The surplus capacity in Year 7 places varies across travel to learn areas with the range being 3.0% in Canterbury and 15.0% in Dover. A similar picture can be seen across Years 7-11 with the range being 3.8% in Canterbury and 15.3% in Dover. The pressures in Canterbury will be alleviated in 2017-18 with the addition of capacity at The Canterbury Academy, The Spires Academy and Barton Court Grammar School.
- 87.2% of parents secured their 1st preference Primary school place for September 2017. This is in line with the target of 87%. The picture was slightly different for Secondary school places with 81.4% securing their 1st preference against the target of 83%. However, just shy of 300 more pupils secured their preferred Secondary school than in the previous year.

2. Progress in Expanding the Number of School Places

2.1 Figure 2.1 summarises the places identified in the 2017- 21 Commissioning Plan as needing to be delivered by September 2017, and compares this to the places delivered¹ by May 2017. This shows that 2.5FE of the Primary places identified as needed were not delivered. This was due to a variety of reasons as outlined in Figure 2.2. The Secondary plans were delivered, with an additional 2FE commissioned in Tunbridge Wells and 70 Year 7 places in Thanet as demand was higher than anticipated.

Figure 2.1: Comparison of need identified by September 2017 with places delivered by May 2017

	Primary			Secondary	
	Permanent Year R	Temporary Year R	Temporary Years 1-5	Permanent Year 7	Temporary Year 7
Need identified	9.5FE	150	30 Yr. 2 30 Yr. 3	10FE	0

¹ Delivered in this context includes places that have been agreed for 1-9-17 but may not be in place at the moment.

	Primary			Secondary	
	Permanent Year R	Temporary Year R	Temporary Years 1-5	Permanent Year 7	Temporary Year 7
in Plan					
Places delivered	7FE	90	30 Yr. 2 30 Yr. 5	12FE	70
Difference	-2.5FE	-60	-30 Yr. 3 +30 Yr. 5	+2FE	+70

2.2 Figures 2.2 and 2.3 set out the variations between what we planned to commission and what we have commissioned for September 2017. Included in the variations are “needs” that have not been commissioned, alternatives, and additions.

Figure 2.2: Variations from the commissioning intentions for delivery by September 2017 - Primary Provision

District	Planning Area	To be Commissioned by 2017-18	Variation	Reason	Impact
Dartford	Dartford North	30 Year 3 Places	Not Commissioned	Current indication is that it will not be needed	None at present. The situation is being monitored. Provision may need to be added in year.
	Dartford Rural South	0.5FE expansion	Commissioned in the Gravesham Rural planning group.	Additional 0.5FE put in a local school in an adjoining planning area which the AEO believes will be sufficient to cover rural demand for both Dartford & Gravesham	Positive -places available for local children.
Gravesham	Gravesham West		1FE expansion	Commissioned	Additional 1FE commissioned in Gravesham West, providing local places.
	Northfleet	1FE new provision	Not commissioned for 2017/2018	The original 2017 opening date of The Hope Free School was determined by the ESFA. They have subsequently deferred the opening until 2018	None. 2017 forecasts indicated a small dip in the otherwise upward trend line. Actual numbers suggest that the cohort number is lower than forecast.
	Higham / Cobham & Shorne	0.5FE expansion	Not commissioned	Demand is increasing in the planning area, but the demand is not centred near a single school. Some of that demand is	Reduction in families receiving 1 st preference of school in this planning area.

District	Planning Area	To be Commissioned by 2017-18	Variation	Reason	Impact
				out-of-county. Expansion opportunities in the planning area are very limited.	
Maidstone	Maidstone North	60 Year R Places	30 places commissioned.	30 places were enough to place pupils on National Offer Day. There is 7% surplus capacity across the town.	No impact on parental choice as there is sufficient capacity.
Shepway	Folkestone West	30 Year R places	Not commissioned	Application numbers lower than forecast.	No impact on parental choice as the school which would have offered the extra places was under subscribed.
Thanet	Ramsgate		30 Year 5 places added at Dame Janet Primary Academy	Local demand for Year 5 places increased.	Places available for local children.
Tonbridge and Malling	Larkfield and Leybourne	1FE at Valley Invicta Primary in Leybourne	Not commissioned	Surplus capacity in the adjacent Snodland planning group accommodated the shortfall from Larkfield and Leybourne. This was because places in Snodland schools were closer to the pressure than Leybourne, despite being in separate planning groups.	Places available for local children

Figure 2.3: Variations from the commissioning intentions for delivery by September 2016 - Secondary Provision

District	To be Commissioned	Variation	Reason	Impact
District	By 2017-18			
Thanet		30 Year 7 places added at Ursuline College 30 Year 7 places added at Royal Harbour Academy 10 Year 7 places added at St. Georges CE Foundation School	Demand for Year 7 places higher than forecast.	Places available for local children.
Tunbridge Wells	2FE	4FE additional provision was commissioned through temporary expansion of existing schools.	Actual numbers higher than anticipated.	Places available for local children.

2.3 There continues to be a growing number of academy schools operating in Kent. Figure 2.4 lists the maintained schools that have converted to become an academy, academies which have transferred to a new sponsor, and new free schools.

Figure 2.4: Academies created since September 2016

Area	School	Date	Promoter	Status
Thanet	The Charles Dickens School	01 March 2017	Barton Court Grammar School Academy	Converted
Tonbridge & Malling	Leybourne, St Peter and St Paul Church of England Primary School	01 March 2017	The Tenax Schools Trust	Converted
Maidstone	The Lenham School (was Swadelands)	01 March 2017	Valley Invicta Academies Trust	Converted
Gravesham	Westcourt Primary School	01 February 2017	The Primary First Trust	Converted
Swale	Richmond Academy	01 January 2017	The Stour Academy Trust	Transfer
Swale	Thistle Hill Academy	01 January 2017	The Stour Academy Trust	Transfer
Dartford	Knockhall Academy	01 January 2017	The Woodland Academy Trust	Transfer
Shepway	Martello Primary	01 January 2017	Turner Schools	Transfer
Shepway	Morehall Primary	01 January 2017	Turner Schools	Transfer
Ashford	St Michael's CEP School	01 December 2016	Tenterden Schools Trust	Converted
Ashford	Tenterden CEJ School	01 December 2016	Tenterden Schools Trust	Converted
Ashford	Tenterden Infant School	01 December 2016	Tenterden Schools Trust	Converted
Swale	Halfway Houses Primary School	01 November 2016	The Island Learning Trust	Converted
Swale	Minster In Sheppey Primary School	01 November 2016	The Island Learning Trust	Converted
Shepway	Brenzett CE Primary School	01 October 2016	Aquila (Diocese of Canterbury Academy Trust)	Converted
Dover	Temple Ewell CEP school	01 September 2016	Aquila (Diocese of Canterbury Academy Trust)	Transfer
Maidstone	Langley Park Primary Academy	01 September 2016	Leigh Academies Trust	New Academy

Dartford	Oakfield Primary Academy	01 September 2016	The Galaxy Trust	Converted
Dartford	Temple Hill Primary Academy	01 September 2016	The Galaxy Trust	Converted
Thanet	Upton Junior School	01 September 2016	Viking Academy Trust	Converted
Dartford	Horton Kirby Church of England Primary School	01 April 2017	Aletheia Anglican Academy Trust	Converted
Dartford	Stone St Mary's CE Primary School	01 April 2017	Aletheia Anglican Academy Trust	Converted

2.4 Figure 2.5 below sets out other changes to schools during the academic year 2016/17.

Figure 2.5: Changes to school status other than academisation

School(s)	District	Change	Date
Kingswood PS, Ulcombe CEPS and Leeds & Broomfield CEPS	Maidstone	Federated	1 April 2017
Homesdale and The Malling School	Tonbridge and Malling	Defederation	1 January 2017
Murston Infants and Juniors- now Sunny Bank PS	Swale	Amalgamation	1 September 2016
Ifield School and Kings Farm PS	Gravesham	Federated	1 September 2016.
Aylesham PS and Vale View PS	Dover	Defederation	18 April 2017

3. Review of Forecasting Accuracy

3.1 The Plan sets out forecast roll numbers (by planning areas at Primary school level and by district at Secondary school level) across each District in Kent. In figures 3.1 to 3.4 below, the forecast 2016/17 rolls are compared to the actual rolls as at January 2017. Our target is to be accurate to within plus or minus 1% at County level. However, we use this benchmark for each district and for each phase. It can be noted that we significantly under forecast the Year R roll and the Year R-6 roll in the Dartford District. The almost doubling of housing completions in 2015-16 across the District, where there is already significant population movement, has impacted on the variance seen. A more detailed commentary outlining the likely reasons for variances between forecast and actual rolls will be completed once all the necessary datasets are available.

Forecasting Accuracy for Reception Year Numbers

- 3.2 Figure 3.1 sets out the accuracy of the Year R forecasts. It shows that for Kent overall, forecasts are accurate to within -0.1%. This is extremely accurate and continues to show the improvements in our forecasting models. However there are variations across the districts with 3 districts being accurate within +/-1%, 6 districts within +/-1 to 2% and 3 districts under or over forecast by more than +/-2%. This is similar to the previous year.

Figure 3.1: Comparison of Year R forecast v January 2017 roll

Area and District	Forecast Year R roll (2016/17)	Actual Year R roll Jan 2017	Difference (forecast less actual)	Over / under forecast (%)
East Kent	5,067	5,088	-21	-0.4
Canterbury	1,479	1,505	-26	-1.7
Swale	1,910	1,934	-24	-1.2
Thanet	1,678	1,649	29	1.7
North Kent	4,353	4,374	-21	-0.5
Dartford	1,467	1,548	-81	-5.2
Gravesham	1,458	1,438	20	1.4
Sevenoaks	1,428	1,388	40	2.9
South Kent	4,068	4,033	35	0.9
Ashford	1,594	1,597	-3	-0.2
Dover	1,266	1,256	10	0.8
Shepway	1,209	1,180	29	2.4
West Kent	4,809	4,819	-10	-0.2
Maidstone	1,919	1,958	-39	-2.0
Tonbridge and Malling	1,621	1,608	13	0.8
Tunbridge Wells	1,269	1,253	16	1.3
Kent Totals	18,297	18,314	-17	-0.1

Forecasting Accuracy of Primary School Roll Numbers

- 3.3 Figure 3.2 sets out the accuracy of the forecasts for Primary age pupils. Across Kent, the forecast was in line with actual rolls. This shows a very high level of accuracy. There are variations across the districts with 8 districts being within the +/-1% target, and 4 between +/-1 to 2%. This is similar to the previous year.

Figure 3.2: Comparison of Primary (Year R-6) forecast v January 2017 roll

Area and District	Forecast Primary roll (2016/17)	Actual Primary roll Jan 2017	Difference (forecast less actual)	Over / under forecast (%)
East Kent	34,300	34,417	-117	-0.3
Canterbury	10,254	10,391	-137	-1.3
Swale	12,724	12,775	-51	-0.4
Thanet	11,322	11,251	71	0.6
North Kent	28,894	28,873	21	0.1

Area and District	Forecast Primary roll (2016/17)	Actual Primary roll Jan 2017	Difference (forecast less actual)	Over / under forecast (%)
Dartford	9,751	9,923	-172	-1.8
Gravesham	9,514	9,468	46	0.5
Sevenoaks	9,630	9,482	148	1.5
South Kent	27,702	27,602	100	0.4
Ashford	10,726	10,773	-47	-0.4
Dover	8,482	8,425	57	0.7
Shepway	8,494	8,404	90	1.1
West Kent	32,294	32,329	-35	-0.1
Maidstone	12,573	12,647	-74	-0.6
Tonbridge	10,985	10,989	-4	0.0
Tunbridge Wells	8,736	8,693	43	0.5
Kent Totals	123,189	123,221	-32	0.0

Forecasting Accuracy for Year 7 Pupils

- 3.4 Figure 3.3 sets out the accuracy of the Year 7 pupil forecasts. Across Kent there were 22 more pupils than forecast in Year 7, which is a very high degree of accuracy. There are variations across the districts with 3 being within the +/-1% target, 5 districts being between +/-1 to 2% and 4 districts over +/- 2%. This is an improvement on the previous year where only one district was within the +/-1% target (Swale), 5 were between +/- 1 to 2% and 6 were over +/-2%.

Figure 3.3: Comparison of Year 7 forecast v January 2017 roll

Area and District	Forecast Year 7 roll (2016/17)	Actual Year 7 roll Jan 2017	Difference (forecast less actual)	Over / under forecast (%)
East Kent	4,601	4,568	33	0.7
Canterbury	1,554	1,541	13	0.8
Swale	1,629	1,628	1	0.1
Thanet	1,418	1,399	19	1.3
North Kent	3,376	3,399	-23	-0.7
Dartford	1,567	1,573	-6	-0.4
Gravesham	1,331	1,358	-27	-2.0
Sevenoaks	479	468	11	2.4
South Kent	3,583	3,575	8	0.2
Ashford	1,339	1,382	-43	-3.1
Dover	1,205	1,143	62	5.4
Shepway	1,039	1,050	-11	-1.1
West Kent	4,884	4,925	-41	-0.8
Maidstone	1,954	1,925	29	1.5
Tonbridge and Malling	1,556	1,580	-24	-1.5
Tunbridge Wells	1,374	1,420	-46	-3.2
Kent Totals	16,445	16,467	-22	-0.1

Forecasting Accuracy of Secondary School Roll Numbers

- 3.5 Figure 3.4 below sets out the accuracy of the Year 7-11 pupil forecasts. Across Kent these were 0.6% higher than actual rolls. This shows a high level of accuracy. There are variations across the districts with 7 of the districts being within the +/-1% target, 4 between +/-1 to 2% and one over + 2%. This is similar to the previous year.

Figure 3.4: Comparison of Year 7-11 forecast v January 2016 roll

Area and District	Forecast Secondary roll (2016/17)	Actual Secondary roll Jan 2017	Difference (forecast less actual)	Over / under forecast (%)
East Kent	22,070	21,850	220	1.0
Canterbury	7,486	7,445	41	0.6
Swale	7,662	7,608	54	0.7
Thanet	6,922	6,797	125	1.8
North Kent	15,761	15,638	123	0.8
Dartford	7,391	7,323	68	0.9
Gravesham	6,185	6,184	1	0.0
Sevenoaks	2,185	2,131	54	2.6
South Kent	17,283	17,207	76	0.4
Ashford	6,553	6,628	-75	-1.1
Dover	5,796	5,698	98	1.7
Shepway	4,934	4,881	53	1.1
West Kent	24,138	24,106	32	0.1
Maidstone	9,366	9,307	59	0.6
Tonbridge and Malling	7,612	7,632	-20	-0.3
Tunbridge Wells	7,160	7,167	-7	-0.1
Kent Totals	79,253	78,801	452	0.6

4. Progress in Achieving Our Targets

- 4.1 The targets which relate to providing sufficient school places are set out in 'Vision and Priorities for Improvement', and are reproduced in Figure 4.1 below.
- 4.2 Maintaining sufficient surplus capacity in schools across an area is essential both to meet increased demand and to enable parental preferences to be met. We strive to maintain at least 5% surplus capacity in school places in line with demand and parental preferences, each year.
- 4.3 Figure 4.1 shows that surplus capacity in Reception classes across Kent is at 5.6% and for all Primary aged pupils it is 4.6%. This is broadly in line with the 5% target. Four districts are operating below 5% surplus Year R capacity, four at between 5% to 7% surplus, and the remaining four districts operate above 7% surplus capacity. Across all Primary School year groups (Reception to Year 6) seven districts are operating below 5% surplus capacity, two at between 5% to 7% surplus, and the remaining three districts operate above 7% surplus.

- 4.4 Figure 4.1 shows that surplus capacity in Yr. 7 across Kent is at 7.5%. Across Years 7-11 it is at 9.6%. We expect to see increased numbers of Primary aged pupils transfer to Secondary schools over the next few years, thus surplus capacity will return to an effective operating level. Four travel to learn areas have less than the 5% target surplus places in Year 7 (Dartford, Gravesham and North Sevenoaks travel to learn area, Canterbury, Shepway and Thanet). Across Years 7-11 one area has surplus places below the 5% target, this being Canterbury.

Figure 4.1

Targets	January 2017		
Maintain at least 5% surplus Primary School capacity in each District.	District	%	%
	Ashford	Year R	Yrs. R-6
	Canterbury	6.3	4.6
	Dartford	5.2	5.2
	Dover	1.5	-0.8
	Gravesham	7.8	7.9
	Maidstone	2.6	0.8
	Sevenoaks	2.8	4.1
	Shepway	10.6	8.1
	Swale	8.1	5.0
	Thanet	4.0	3.5
	Tonbridge and Malling	8.4	4.5
	Tunbridge Wells	5.2	4.8
	6.2	7.5	
	Kent	5.6%	4.6%
Maintain at least 5% surplus Secondary School capacity in each travel to learn area.	Area	%	%
	Dartford, Gravesham & N. Sevenoaks.	Yr. 7	Yrs. 7-11
	S. Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Tunbridge Wells.	4.5	8.0
	Maidstone & Malling.	8.5	9.1
	Ashford	12.4	13.3
	Canterbury	8.6	10.8
	Dover	3.0	3.8
	Shepway	15.0	15.3
	Swale	4.4	9.1
	Thanet	5.1	10.2
	4.3	6.8	
	Kent	7.5%	9.6%

- 4.5 We set targets for the percentage of families securing their first preference school for entry in September 2017. For Primary schools the target was 87% and on Offer Day 87.2% of parents secured their first preference.
- 4.6 For Secondary schools the target was 83% and 81.4% of parents secured their first preference. This was the same as in the previous year, although just shy of 300 more pupils secured their preferred school.
- 4.7 The target for first and second preferences for both Primary and Secondary schools was 95%, with 95.3% securing their first or second preference in a Primary school and 91.7% of parents securing their first or second preference at a Secondary school.

5. Progress in implementing Changes to Provision for SEND Pupils

5.1 There have been considerable achievements through the delivery of our current Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy, particularly around implementation of the Children and Families Act. The most important objective of the strategy was to ensure that children with SEND are getting a good education and achieving good progress.

Our achievements have included significant culture change, ensuring the Council moves ahead rapidly with conversions of statements to Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) and undertakes assessments within a tighter 20 week framework. KCC has also invested to improve and expand Special schools; with greatly improved accommodation.

5.2 All Special schools in Kent were rated as Good or better by Ofsted and nearly all of the children with SEND were going to a good or outstanding school. Attainment and progress rates improved for children with SEN. However, whilst progress rates have improved in Primary schools, and compared more favourably with other similar children nationally, KS4 and GCSE progress rates were below national comparisons for children with SEN. The number of children with autism and speech, language and communication difficulties continued to increase. Going forward, the aims are to continue to improve attainment levels and ensure the right provision is in the right place.

5.3 The County Council's capital programme continues to prioritise the commitment to ensuring sufficient Special school places in high quality environments. Since the Plan for 2017-21 was written, a further Special school project has been completed, Foreland (East Kent), and the final projects are in progress on site:

- Five Acre Wood (West Kent) – The project is a complex redevelopment of the existing Five Acre Wood site, which has been dependent on agreements with third parties. The refurbishment works within the existing school; the extensions to hall, reception and kitchen; and the main new build extension have been completed. The final phase, which includes some internal remodelling and development of some external areas, is ongoing.
- Portal House School (South Kent) – The project involves the redevelopment of the existing Portal House site, with significant new build and remodelling of part of the existing building. The project is being completed in two main phases. Phase 1, the provision of new teaching accommodation and administrative areas as well as some external work, is planned to be completed by August 2017. Phase 2, the provision of a new sports hall, changing and vocational teaching spaces, is planned to be completed by August 2018.
- Ridge View (West Kent) - New build school on a new site. The project is planned to be completed for September 2017. Alongside this, additional plans have been put in place to create a satellite of Ridge View, which will provide additional classes at the relocated Wouldham All Saints Primary School for 2017/18. Construction works for the new school buildings are ongoing.

- Wyvern School (South Kent) - Additional Year R and Key Stage 1 pupils have been admitted from September 2016. The associated capital expansion project consists of additional class bases, a new studio hall, ancillary spaces and additional external spaces, including further parking. The construction is progressing well and is planned to be completed by September 2017.
- Meadowfield School (East Kent) – Phases 1 and 2 have been completed, providing the school with three additional class bases and a hygiene suite. It is planned to permanently increase the designated number of the school from 209 to 270. This permanent increase is dependent on finding a solution to provide the school with additional classrooms, specialist/practical rooms and facilities and storage.

5.4 **Increasing the designated number of places available**

As at September 2016 there were 3,832 Special school places available. This is an increase of just under 800 places since the first Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent was published for the 2012-17 period.

- 5.5 Following the completion of an education statutory process, 24 additional places have been created at Oakley School (Tunbridge Wells) increasing the designated number of places offered from 218 to 242 from 1 September 2017. This increase is to facilitate an observation and assessment provision for up to 24 nursery children. It is anticipated that this provision will accommodate children between aged 3 and 4 years who claim the free entitlement funding and children eligible for the two year old funding. Including these additional places, the designated number of Special school places for September 2017 is 3,856.

5.6 **Specialist Resource Provision (SRP)**

For many pupils, appropriate early intervention and suitable support is available in mainstream Primary schools. However, when they reach Secondary age, an increasing number require Special school provision. Analysis of current placements shows a marked reduction in the proportion of pupils accessing mainstream school after Year 6. 55% of Primary aged pupils with SEN are successfully placed in mainstream with 45% needing a Special school placement. Of those Primary pupils with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in mainstream schools, only 3% are placed in an SRP. At Secondary age, the proportion in mainstream drops significantly to 40% with 6% of those requiring placement in a mainstream SRP to access support. 60% of Secondary aged pupils with an EHCP are taught in Special schools.

Three new resourced provisions opened in Primary schools in September 2016. Two were for pupils with ASD (Martello Grove PS, Shepway and Langley PS, Maidstone). The third was for pupils with pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs (Thistle Hill PS, Swale). Four new provisions are due to open in September 2017. Two will support pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs (Finberry, Ashford and Holborough Lakes, Tonbridge and Malling). The third will be for pupils with ASD (Kings Hill, Tonbridge and Malling) and the fourth for pupils with Speech, Language and Communication Needs (Cherry Orchard PS, Dartford). The opening of the provision for pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs at Leybourne Chase PS is yet to be agreed. It was

disappointing that there has been a delayed start to admission to the SRPs in the new academies at Kings Hill, Leybourne and Holborough Lakes.

5.7 **Special School Satellite Provision**

We now have satellite provision for four of our Profound, Severe and Complex Needs (PSCN) Special schools linked to Oakley, Five Acre Wood, Ridge View and St Nicholas schools. These satellites are based on mainstream school sites. Pupils who attend are on the rolls of the Special schools concerned, but pupils integrate into the mainstream schools' classes, with support, where this is suitable and appropriate for the individual pupil.

We have commissioned satellite provision linked to Ridge View School (Tonbridge & Malling), which is set to open on the Wouldham All Saints CEP School site during the 2017/18 school year. The new provision will grow incrementally over time and will eventually provide for up to 48 Primary aged pupils with moderate to complex learning difficulties. The accommodation will provide 4 fully integrated SEN class bases and associated resourced staff areas, group therapy and hygiene rooms.

5.8 **Independent/non-maintained placements**

Where the needs of individual pupils cannot be met in Kent maintained Special schools, placements are commissioned in the independent non-maintained sector (sometimes referred to as 'Out of County'). Whilst the overall number of children and young people with EHCPs has increased by 16% since January 2016, the proportion of children placed in this sector has decreased for the second year running, from 7.5% of all pupils with an EHCP to 7%.

5.9 **New Free Schools**

The County Council receives no financial support from Central Government to increase Special school capacity. We are therefore, entirely dependent upon our own resources or the Government free school programme to increase capacity. Under current statutory guidance all new schools must be free schools. On 12 April 2017 the Government announced the outcome of 'Wave 12' applications for free schools, including approval for one new Primary Special school and one additional Secondary Special school within Kent. However, it must be noted that the average time in pre-opening of a school is approximately 26 months and we therefore do not expect the provision to open until September 2019. As ASD continues to be the most prevalent need type, Special free schools catering for this group of pupils is most welcomed. Approved free special schools are:

Bearsted Academy – Secondary Free school (West Kent)

The Bearsted Academy free school is in response to our identified need for high functioning Secondary aged ASD pupils in the Maidstone area. We have previously set out our intention to commission up to 144 places for pupils aged 11-19 years old (120 KS2-KS4, 24 KS5).

Aspire Free School – Primary (East Kent)

This provision is on track to open in the 2018/19 academic year.

5.10 In the KCP additional provision was identified as being needed as follows:

Location	Need	Position as of June 2017
Swale (Isle of	A 120 place provision for pupils	No wave application at

Location	Need	Position as of June 2017
Sheppey)	7-16 years with a designation of Behaviour and Learning on the Isle of Sheppey (Swale District). We would envisage that the school would be prepared to work collaboratively with other schools on the Isle of Sheppey and provide support to schools across the Swale District.	present. This remains a significant priority due to the high numbers of pupils transported (70+) from the Isle of Sheppey to Bower Grove Special school in Maidstone and the cost of alternative placements for Primary aged pupils who meet the Bower Grove criteria (£358K pa).
Dover	Up to 168 (120 KS3-KS4, 48 KS5) place provision for pupils aged 11-19 years with a designation of Profound Severe and Complex Needs in Dover District	No wave application at present. This still remains a priority as existing specialist provision in Dover has exceeded places available and the nearest Special school provision is in Shepway.
Dartford, Gravesham or Sevenoaks	Up to 210 (150 KS3-KS4, 60 KS5) place provision for pupils aged 11-19 years with a designation of Profound Severe and Complex Needs in the North of the County.	No wave application at present. This remains a priority as existing special schools serving the districts are larger than average.

6. Progress in implementing Changes to Provision for Early Years

6.1 The Early Years and Childcare element of the Commissioning Plan included the following key issues/actions:

- The take up of free for 2 places had continued to rise across the County.
- All districts continued to have surplus early education places with the exception of Gravesham.
- Surplus provision in a district can mask a deficit of places at a planning group level. Particular issues were noted in four planning areas within Swale, Maidstone and Gravesham districts. An update on the progress in providing places in these planning areas is noted in Figure 6.1.
- Six bids were submitted to the DfE Early Years Capital Fund to increase places in key locations with each bid being successful. These bids are noted in Figure 6.2. Two of the bids were in Gravesham and have increased the provision by 100 places in that district and by 244 places across the county.

Figure 6.1: Update of progress in providing places in planning areas with a notable deficiency of places

Planning area	Progress in ensuring provision
Isle of Sheppey	There have been no developments or closures in the Isle of

Planning area	Progress in ensuring provision
	Sheppey (Eastchurch and Warden Bay planning area) since the last KCP. However, Eastchurch CEPS's maintained nursery class (Little Owls) are now registered for Free For 2 children. There has been an enquiry from the new Thistle Hill School regarding opening a nursery, this development would be welcomed but is dependent on securing a source of capital funding.
Shepway and Parkwood, Maidstone	Langley Park Primary Academy opened in September 2016 and includes new nursery provision for 3 and 4 year olds. The nursery provides full day care and offers 30 places.
SW Gravesend	There have been no developments or closures in the SW Gravesend planning area; however, there are two new nurseries planned in the neighbouring planning areas of Gravesend East and Gravesend North which may help to meet the demand for places in Southwest Gravesend.

6.2: Successful bids to the DfE Early Years Capital Fund

District	Locality for Development	Early Years DfE Capital Funding applications submitted
Canterbury	Canterbury City	St. John's C E Primary School: Bid agreed to fund the expansion of the existing nursery from 26 to 52 places
Dover	Aylesham	Aylesham Youth Centre site: Bid agreed to fund a new 60 place provision
Gravesham	Northfleet South, Coldharbour, Riverview	Mayfield Grammar School, Gravesend: Bid agreed to fund a new 40 place provision. Gravesend Rugby Club: Bid agreed to fund a new 60 place provision
Shepway	New Romney	Abacus (Grounds of St Nicholas Primary Academy), New Romney: Bid agreed to fund the expansion of existing nursery from 48 to 60 places
Tonbridge & Malling	Kings Hill	Valley Invicta Primary: Bid agreed to fund a new 40 place provision

6.2 Issues moving forward

There continues to be a growing need for places arising from housing developments which cannot always be met through the local school or PVI provision that is available. When a new Primary school is delivered within a development, according to the EFA baseline design, a nursery space is included. This will typically offer 26 full time equivalent places which, in reality, is not enough to mitigate the demand for places.

Moving forward KCC will need to consider how the shortfall of preschool places could be met and whether this may have to be through developer contributions.

7. Post-16 Commissioning

7.1 The Post-16 commissioning element of the Commissioning Plan 2016/20 included the following current priorities:

- Raise Attainment
- Target support to vulnerable young people
- Improve and Extend Vocational Education
- Increase Participation and Employment

7.2 Raise Attainment- Post 16 Outcomes

- A Level Average Point Score per entry achieved by students in Kent schools is 30.9 which is in line with the national average of 30.8 and equivalent to a C grade. Kent is ranked fourth out of its statistical neighbours
- Academic results include A Level, AS Level, International Baccalaureate, International Baccalaureate Career Programme and extended project qualifications. In 2016, the Average Point Score per entry achieved by Academic students in Kent schools is 32.2 which is above the national average of 31.0 and equivalent to a C+. Kent is ranked second out of its statistical neighbours and 27th out of 150 local authorities nationally for this measure.
- The Skills and Employability Service has developed packages in English and maths to support students in making progress in numeracy and literacy. These have been piloted with schools and FE colleges to test marketability and effectiveness.

The Skills and Employability Service has supported the premise that schools should evaluate which qualifications should be offered at key stage 5 for the profile of their learners. For many students in high schools A levels and academic qualifications are inappropriate and even positive progression to a low grade has little currency. Through the use of the most appropriate qualification it should be possible to reach an average C+ or a Distinction in either applied general or technical qualification.

7.3 Target support to vulnerable young people

Outcomes and actions in this area include the following:

- 3.0% of 16-17 year old pupils were NEET as of January 2017. This was above the 2.5% target but a reduction of 3.3% compared with the previous year. The destination of pupils recorded as 'not known' was 3.2% compared to 5.45% in January 2016. This is a significant improvement due to increasing the capacity of the Tracking Team within Skills and Employability and the focused work of services across the Directorate and its partner organisations.
- We have ensured focused activities are in place in all districts to identify those

young people who are likely to become NEET and those young people who are NEET. These activities are coordinated within the districts through the District Participation meetings which meet monthly.

- We have implemented an integrated and high quality data system to track all 16-18 year old learners across all KCC services.
- We are developing focused, collaborative and integrated working, not only between services within KCC, but also between KCC, schools, FE Colleges and work based learning providers. This has included focused work and interventions for the most vulnerable groups, which includes Children in Care, SEND, Young Offenders, Teenage Parents, and Elective Home Educated.
- We are providing high quality personalised pathways with positive destinations across all districts. A particular focus was to ensure vulnerable learners have the necessary support to progress into appropriate pathways, internships, supported employment, or apprenticeships.
- The Skills and Employability Service have held discussions with FE college SENCOs and staff with responsibility for vulnerable learners to identify how KCC and the colleges can work together to improve progression pathways and the transition between settings for vulnerable learners. Also work has been undertaken with Adult Social Care to develop a model that reduces the deskilling of SEND young people once they have left education. There are 2 pilots taking place in Kent to model practice for the future.
- The Skills and Employability Service work with providers to develop innovative approaches to 14 – 19 Programmes to develop the employability skills of young people, particularly for vulnerable learners to narrow the gaps in attainment so they can achieve positive destinations at 18. Examples of these are:
 - Four applications to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) for specialist post 16 institution status to widen the offer to SEND young people to give them more post 16 options. Supajam (music and media), Skillnet (music and arts), Liberty Training (employability skills) and Brogdale CIC (grounds maintenance, horticulture, retail and customer service skills).
 - Work with Early Help to put together EET activities for teenage parents based in Children Centres
 - Supporting Skills Training UK (STUK) who have the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) funded contract to deliver in Kent to ensure that they add to, not duplicate provision, which is already available in areas where we have identified a need.
 - Partnership working with Virtual Schools Kent (VSK) and the Care Leaver team to ensure that there are suitable Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) engagement activities available.
 - A SEND and Vulnerable Learner Group with FE representation was established to develop ways of reducing the number of SEND NEETS and constructing high quality progression pathways.

7.3 Improve and Extend Vocational Education

Figure 7.1 shows the increase in uptake of applied general and technical education qualifications showing that schools are now offering both an academic and technical pathway at age 16 in line with the guidance set out in the DfE Post 16 Skills Plan. Further work is needed with individual schools to improve KS5

progression for students with just below 40 KS4 points who are able to achieve a distinction in applied general qualifications.

Figure 7.1: Uptake of applied general and technical education qualification

Students	Vocational	Technical	Applied General	Total
2016		693	2843	3536
2015	2573			2573
2014	2583			2583

7.4 Increase Participation and Employment

Key to the success of the Learning, Employment and Skills Strategy is meaningful engagement with employers. This has been successfully promoted through developing a Guild Model, which is a partnership between employers and education providers. The Guilds provide an interface between local employers and education and training providers, which focus on developing young people's aspirations, attitudes and achievements in preparation for accessing progression pathways, particularly in the growth employment sectors. The following 8 Guilds have been created in response to the classification of certain sectors as having 'priority status' either within Kent or the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) region these are:

- Sciences
- Creative and Media
- Land-Based Industries
- Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing
- Construction and the Built Environment
- Hospitality & Tourism
- Health and Social Care
- Financial Services

7.5 Careers Education, Support and Apprenticeships

- The Skills and Employability Service continues to run a strong network to support the delivery of Careers Education.
- Providers have had the benefit of the Kent Careers Framework which supports the Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) offer in organisations and an audit tool which measures the development of employability within the institution.
- The Skills and Employability Service have commissioned a Careers Enterprise coordinator, who is partly funded by the Careers Enterprise Company. Tristram Hooley, from the University of Derby and now a director of that company, was commissioned by the Service to examine careers education in Kent's coastal schools, a sub set of schools nationally drawn into the DFE's attention. Schools were assessed on the Gatsby criteria, a set of principles developed to identify

excellent CEIAG practice. Outcomes of this research suggested a varied response to employer engagement and the careers enterprise coordinator's role is to link 20 schools, in this case, to an enterprise adviser to facilitate employer engagement and enterprise activities. 16 schools have signed up to the scheme and 10 schools have been matched with an adviser.

- The West Kent Partnership has recently put in a bid for an enterprise network.
- The Kent Choices 4 U (KC4U) live event was attended by 2589 young people from across Kent and Medway. The KC4U website enables young people to search and apply for courses online.
- Kent Supported Employment has helped 316 vulnerable learners with physical disabilities, ASD and learning difficulties move into a variety of sustainable employment outcomes over the last year including 58% into paid sustainable employment,
- By July 2016 over 3000 young people aged 16 to 18 had started an apprenticeship across Kent, which is the highest number achieved for this age group.
- Schools, FE colleges and work-based training providers continue to work with young people with the support of KCC. Two new websites have been developed to help young people make informed choices around apprenticeships (www.apprenticekent.com) and provide support to improve their employability skills (www.readytoworkkent.co.uk)

8. Issues emerging from the ESFA Wave 12 Free School announcements and the impact on Capital Funding

- 8.1 KCC has supported the DfE policy position of increasing the number of Free Schools, as aligned to the Commissioning Plan which demonstrates the Basic Need they are intended to address. Unfortunately a number of Free School projects which had been factored into our plans (as the only way of balancing demand with the available funding) are now unlikely to come forward in the required timescales. The impact of delays to the previous round of Free Schools is already being felt and the failure to open Wave 12 projects on time will result in an insufficient number of school places in some parts of the county over the next three years unless other action is taken. Announcements on Wave 12 bids were made later than expected during Easter and there remains a complete lack of clarity on both the timing and nature of Wave 13. This latest round should have opened in March but may not now do so until autumn this year, as a result of the general election, and under a revised process which may revert to addressing 'diversity' and play more to the creation of new selective provision than simply addressing basic need for places in all schools.
- 8.2 The ESFA and Ministers have reiterated that the statutory duty to provide sufficient places rests with the LA and that KCC will therefore need to take mitigating action. In the last three months senior KCC officers have written to, spoken and met with more than 40 ESFA officials. At each of the meetings we have raised our considerable concerns over funding, the performance of the ESFA in relation to project delivery, the revised policy stance adopted in relation to future projects and the implications of the Wave 12 announcements and the delay of Wave 13

8.3 Our discussions have focussed predominantly on those schemes that are most urgently needed to create places for 2018, 2019 and 2020. Our most pressing concerns include:

- The ESFA decision to substantially revise its policy approach to site acquisition which means it now refuses to make any “speculative” land purchases, as defined by any project for which a sponsor has not been selected.
- The ESFA’s newly articulated assumption that where a Wave process does not result in a sponsor being selected the onus will fall to the LA to run a competition process outside of the wave process. There is no obvious current source of funds to meet the resulting site purchase and build costs which all fall to KCC under this process. To compound this neither is there sufficient time in which to bring forward projects via this route in order to ensure permanent school buildings are delivered in the necessary timescales. This is an issue we initially raised with the ESFA two years ago.
- There is a lack of urgency being displayed by the ESFA. They clearly have not appreciated the impact of the current policy positions, and are seemingly impervious to the additional level of complexity which they have introduced. The ESFA appear ill-prepared to navigate the complex local planning processes in Kent, which has already impacted upon their delivery of new free schools in Tonbridge and Maidstone and resulted in a reduction in capacity at Jubilee School in Maidstone

8.4 The recent Wave 12 decisions coupled with subsequent discussions with the ESFA have only reinforced our concerns. Of the 13 projects we had expected to be secured in this particular round, 7 were approved, 5 rejected and no sponsors came forward for the remaining project. As a result there are now 6 additional ‘projects’ for which KCC may have to run a competition process. The associated timescales make this very difficult, as first raised with the ESFA in early 2015. The projects in question are:

- Tunbridge Wells Secondary – 6FE – Sept 18
- Thanet Secondary – 4FE (of 8FE) – Sept 19
- Dartford Secondary (Ebbsfleet Alkerdene)* 4FE (of 8FE) – Sept 20
- Warden Bay Primary – 1FE – Sept 19
- Shorncliffe Primary* – 1FE (1 of 2FE) – Sept 19
- Dartford Primary (Ebbsfleet Green)* – 1FE (of 2 FE) – Sept 19

Three of the above projects (marked with an asterisk) are almost entirely funded through Developer Contributions but this is not the case for the Thanet and Tunbridge Wells Secondary schools or Warden Bay Primary school. These three are not built into the agreed capital programme and therefore represent a major budget pressure and service risk for the County Council. Fluctuating demand levels on the Isle of Sheppey may mean that we are able to manage without a new school at Warden Bay in the shorter term, a position we will continue to monitor. We face the perverse scenario at Shorncliffe of holding signed s106 agreements and could therefore afford to build the school save for the absence of a sponsor; the case for the school in the immediate future having been somewhat undermined by the RSC’s decision in January 2017 to allow Morehall Academy to expand.

- 8.5 Added to this the DfE has already signalled that the majority of the seven approved projects will not be delivered 'on time', in permanent buildings. The ESFA holds the view that it is unreasonable to expect Academy Trusts to open in temporary accommodation. In the rare instances where this does happen it is only with the express agreement of the Trust and where the ESFA agree that there is "an overwhelming and compelling reason to do so" which overrides their standard policy position. KCC is therefore left with the additional difficulty and expense of managing and funding the fallout from this position. This comes further to the Wave 11 project in Maidstone (VIAT sponsored 6FE Secondary School) where KCC may face significant costs for the above reasons. These costs have not been accounted for within the agreed capital programme or revenue budget.
- 8.6 For Kent families this means that the information we provide this September on admissions for 2018 may be no more than pointing them to the various Trusts (or suggesting they contact the ESFA themselves) saying that they need to monitor their websites for news as to whether these schools will actually open. Clearly this is an unsatisfactory position.
- 8.7 Assuming the seven approved projects do go ahead broadly as planned then the cost to KCC of building the other six schools listed above (assuming a successful competition process) could amount to £90m including land acquisition and construction costs. This could reduce to £81m if we are able to manage without a new school at Warden Bay. The additional cost of any temporary arrangements arising from late delivery by the ESFA of the seven Free Schools they have approved is estimated at £34m - £37m, excluding any possible revenue costs such as additional Home to School Transport. These figures assume that the Academy replacing Pent Valley Secondary school in Folkestone will open as planned, albeit there are already doubts emerging here too despite it being the easiest of all the projects for the ESFA to deliver.

9. Next Steps

- 9.1 The focus in future years will increasingly be on delivering the additional Secondary school places required as pressure moves into this sector.
- 9.2 Pressure remains to control the cost of providing the additional capacity required. Concerted efforts to ensure KCC is joined up in its requests for developer contributions will continue.
- 9.3 Analysis of the impact of operating small levels of surplus capacity is required to evaluate whether this is disproportionately impacting on any group with protected characteristics.
- 9.4 We will continue to lobby the ESFA and Secretary of State over the place planning issues and funding shortfall highlighted above, whilst trying to identify contingency arrangements and options for covering the funding shortfall that we now face.

10. Recommendations:

The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to note the progress achieved and the issues identified for further development, and consider the report prior to the next version of the Commissioning Plan in autumn 2017.

11.1 Vision and Priorities for Improvement:

[Vision and Priorities for Improvement](#)

11.2 Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2015-2019:

[Kent Commissioning Plan 2016-20](#)

Report Author and Relevant Director:

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From: Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education

Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education

To: Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee – 22 June 2017

Subject: Allocation of additional funding for Oakley (Special) School nursery project due to unforeseen cost pressures

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: Education and Young People's Cabinet Committee – Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 23 November 2016.

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member Decision

Electoral Division: Catherine Rankin, Tunbridge Wells South

Summary: To advise Members of the unforeseen cost pressures with the establishment of nursery provision at Oakley (Special) School and to seek additional capital funding.

Recommendation(s):

The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education on the decision to:

- (i) Allocate £114,000 from the Basic Need Capital Programme Budget to fund the establishment of nursery provision at Oakley School
- (ii) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with General Counsel to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council
- (iii) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts

1. Introduction

At its meeting of 23 November 2016, the Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee considered and endorsed proposals to establish a nursery at Oakley (Special) School. The Cabinet Member subsequently agreed the proposals, allocating £586,000 from the Education and Young People's Services Capital Budget to meet the anticipated cost.

Officers implemented the proposals by commissioning GEN2 to provide the necessary nursery building and associated external works. GEN2 have subsequently advised of an unforeseen increase in the cost of the scheme, necessitating additional funding of £114,000 to complete the scheme.

2. Background

For a number of years the County Council has had an arrangement with Barnardo's to provide nursery provision for Tunbridge Wells children with complex special educational needs (SEND). The existing contract (which for education covers outreach and nursery provision) is coming to an end and cannot be extended. Kent County Council must have arrangements in place for 1 September 2017 for the children who will no longer be at Barnardo's Ravensdale Nursery.

Oakley School is currently the only district Special school which does not deliver nursery provision from age 2. Oakley School serves children with complex needs from across Tunbridge Wells with high quality local specialist provision. Oakley was rated 'Good' by Ofsted in March 2015 and is a popular and successful school. To ensure the needs of children are met locally the proposal was that Oakley School should extend its offer to admit children from age 2 as other district Special schools do.

3. Financial, Legal and Equalities Implications

Financial Implications: The Cabinet Member decision provided an allocation for the project of £586,000. As a consequence of unforeseen cost pressures, an additional allocation of £114,000 from the Basic Need Capital Programme Budget is needed to complete the programme of works. These costs became apparent as detailed site surveys and the tender process were undertaken and relate to the costs of essential additional ground and drainage works. In the event that the costs of the scheme exceed the total funding allocation by more than 10%, a further decision will be required.

Legal Implications: None

Equalities Implications: An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed as part of the original proposal.

4. Kent Policy Framework

These proposals will help to secure our ambition "to ensure that Kent's young people have access to the education, work and skills opportunities necessary to support Kent business to grow and be increasingly competitive in the national and international economy" as set out in 'Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement (2015-2020)'

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2017-2021 sets out how we will carry out our responsibility for ensuring there are sufficient places of high quality, in the right places, for all learners and this proposal supports that aim to provide sufficient places where they are needed.

5. Views

The View of the Local Member for Tunbridge Wells South, Catherine Rankin

The Local Member was consulted on this proposal and provided the following comment: 'I am delighted that there will be nursery provision in Tunbridge wells, but disappointed at the large cost over-run.'

The View of the Area Education Officer

The Area Education Officer for West Kent fully supports this proposal as necessary to deliver on the decision to establish specialist nursery provision at Oakley School.

6. Conclusions

This report highlights the cost pressures with the Oakley (Special) School programme of works and sets out the need for an additional allocation of £114,000 from the Basic Need Capital Programme Budget to fund the establishment of nursery provision.

7. Recommendation(s):

The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education on the decision to:

- (i) Allocate £114,000 from the Basic Need Capital Programme Budget to fund the establishment of nursery provision at Oakley (Special) School
- (ii) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with General Counsel to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council
- (iii) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts

8. Background Documents (plus links to document)

Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement 2015-2020 <http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/corporate-policies/increasing-opportunities-improving-outcomes>

Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2017-2021
http://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/66990/Kent-Commissioning-Plan-for-Education-Provision-2017-21.pdf

Consultation Document and Equalities Impact Assessment
www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations

Strategy for Children & Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities http://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0012/13323/Strategy-children-young-people-SEN-Disabilities.pdf

Contact details

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Relevant Director:

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,
Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education

DECISION NO:

For publication

Subject: Allocation of additional funding for Oakley (Special) School due to unforeseen cost pressure.

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education Cabinet I agree to:

- (i) Allocate £114,000 from the Basic Need Capital Programme Budget to fund the establishment of nursery provision at Oakley (Special) School
- (ii) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with General Counsel to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council
- (iii) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts

In the event that the costs of the scheme exceed the total funding allocation by more than 10%, a further decision will be required.

Reason(s) for decision:

The cost allocation for the project was £586,000, but due to unforeseen cost pressures an additional allocation of £114,000 from the Basic Need Capital Programme Budget is needed to complete the programme of works and enable the establishment of nursery provision. The programme of works will:

- (i) increase the designated number of places from 218 to 242
- (ii) extend the lower age range at Oakley (Special) School to age 2 for 1st September 2017 in order to develop an observation and assessment nursery provision

Financial Implications:

Allocate of £114,000 from the Basic Need Capital Programme Budget to fund the establishment of nursery provision at Oakley (Special) School.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

To be added after Committee meeting

Any alternatives considered:

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

.....

Signed

.....

Date

....

From: Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education
Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education

To: Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee – 22 June 2017

Subject: Langley Park Primary Academy Phase 2

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper:

**Education and Young People's Cabinet Committee
Commissioning Plan for Education Provision - 24
September 2014.**

**Decision by Cabinet Member for Education and Health
Reform – Decision No: 14/00140 – 15 December 2015.**

Future Pathway of Paper: **Cabinet Member Decision**

Electoral Division: **Gary Cooke, Maidstone South East; Eric Hotson,
Maidstone Rural South**

Summary: This report requests endorsement for the Cabinet Member to allocate the funding for the second phase of the Langley Park Primary Academy build.

Recommendation(s):

The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education on the decision to:

- (i) Allocate £2.6 million from the Basic Need Capital Programme Budget to fund the phased build of Langley Park Primary School
- (ii) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with General Counsel to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council
- (iii) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts

1. Introduction

In September 2016 Langley Park Primary Academy opened as a two-form entry school (2FE), admitting two Reception classes until the school reaches its full

capacity of 420 pupils. The plans for the new school building were designed to be delivered in two phases, in order to maximise KCC's capital funding position. The first phase was completed in summer 2016 and will accommodate the school and its SEN specialist resource provision for two academic years (2016-17 and 2017-18). It is now necessary to bring forward the second phase of the building project for September 2018, to ensure the school can continue to admit up to its published admissions number.

Planning consent was obtained for the complete building, including the second phase. The first phase included the key communal infrastructure within the building to support two forms of entry (2FE). Therefore the second phase of the project entails building works to provide the classroom facilities needed to maintain the existing school intake and associated external works. The Basic Need for the second phase is highlighted in the school place forecasts in the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2017-2021, which indicates significant pressure for Primary school places in Maidstone.

2. Background

The requirement for a 2FE school in Maidstone was initially highlighted in the 2015-2019 Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent and was linked to the Langley Park development within the planning group of Shepway and Parkwood. The Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) also identified a need for specialist resource provisions (SRP) for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

The 2015-2019 Commissioning Plan for Education Provision was endorsed by the Education and Young People's Cabinet Committee on 24 September 2014. Decision Number 14/00140 to approve the initial phase of the build was signed by the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on 15 December 2014.

3. Financial, Legal and Equalities Implications

Financial Implications: The funding allocation required to complete the second phase of the build programme is expected to be £2.6 million from the Basic Need Capital Programme Budget. In the event of an increase of costs exceeding 10% of the allocated funding, a further decision will be required.

A phased scheme enabled KCC to maximise the developer contributions sought from local development and to spread the overall cost of the scheme over a longer period.

Legal Implications: None

Equalities Implications: An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed as part of the original proposal.

4. Consultation

As this proposal does not entail the expansion of the school's intake it is not necessary to undertake additional consultation or seek the Secretary of State's approval, as would be the case for permanent expansion. An Equality Impact

Assessment was completed and consultation undertaken during the first phase of the programme.

5. Kent Policy Framework

These proposals will help to secure our ambition “to ensure that Kent’s young people have access to the education, work and skills opportunities necessary to support Kent business to grow and be increasingly competitive in the national and international economy” as set out in ‘Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council’s Strategic Statement (2015-2020)’

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2017-2021 sets out how we carry out our responsibility for ensuring there are sufficient places of high quality, in the right places, for all learners and this proposal supports that aim to provide sufficient places where they are needed.

6. Views

The Local Members for Maidstone South East, Gary Cooke and Maidstone Rural South, Eric Hotson, were consulted on this proposal.

Gary Cooke, Local Member for Maidstone South East, provided the following comment:

‘As the local member I would comment that I am supportive of bringing this forward so as to complete the works necessary to deliver a full 2FE Primary school at Langley Park.

It is important that build standards established in Phase One are maintained throughout the ensuing phases and that there is no lowering of standards in the provision of this new and important local primary school place provision.

It is also important to note that in an area of substantial growth through housing as provided through Maidstone Borough Council's Local Plan, further provision will likely be required and it is disappointing to note therefore that the borough council appears to be excluding KCC from local developer discussions regarding 106 contributions - such actions by MBC are to be regretted.’

Headteacher

The Headteacher fully supports this proposal.

The View of the Academy Trust

The students and staff have settled well into phase one of Langley Park Primary Academy, completed in September 2016. The building is designed in such a way to provide the best possible environment for innovation, creativity and high quality education. Leigh Academies Trust, staff, and pupils look forward to expanding into phase two of this capital programme in September 2018.

The View of the Area Education Officer

The Area Education Officer for West Kent fully supports this proposal as meeting KCC's commitment to provide the school with sufficient accommodation to maintain its current intake.

7. Conclusions

This report sets out the need for the completion of the second phase of the planned build of the Langley Park Primary Academy. The second phase of the development will enable the school to progress to its total roll, providing the additional accommodation needed for the initial number Reception year pupils through the school.

8. Recommendation(s):

The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education on the decision to:

- (i) Allocate £2.6 million from the Basic Need Capital Programme Budget to fund the phased build of Langley Park Primary School.
- (ii) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with General Counsel to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council
- (iii) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts

9. Background Documents (plus links to document)

Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement 2015-2020 <http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/corporate-policies/increasing-opportunities-improving-outcomes>

Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2017-2021
http://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/66990/Kent-Commissioning-Plan-for-Education-Provision-2017-21.pdf

Consultation Document and Equalities Impact Assessment
www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations

Strategy for Children & Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities http://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0012/13323/Strategy-children-young-people-SEN-Disabilities.pdf

Proposers for a new school at Langley Park <http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/education-provision/education-provision-plan/langley-park>

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Appendix 1

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education

DECISION NO:

For publication

Subject: Langley Park Primary Academy Phase 2

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education I agree to:

- (i) Allocate £2.6 million from the Basic Need Capital Programme Budget to fund the phased build of Langley Park Primary School.
- (ii) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with General Counsel to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council
- (iii) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts

In the event of an increase of costs exceeding 10% of the allocated funding, a further decision will be required.

Reason(s) for decision:

To allocate the funding needed to complete the second phase of the Langley Park Academy build that will enable the school to accommodate its total roll.

The Basic Need for the second phase as highlighted in the forecasts in the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2017-2021, which indicates significant pressure for Primary school places in Maidstone.

In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

- the consultation and Equality Impact Assessment completed in phase one
- the views of the Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee which are set out below

Financial Implications:

The funding allocation needed to complete the second phase of the build programme is £2.6 million from the Basic Need Capital Programme Budget.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation: To be added after Committee meeting
Any alternatives considered: N/A
Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

.....

.....

Signed

Date

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From: Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education
Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education

To: Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee – 22 June 2017

Decision No: 17/00049

Subject: Proposal to permanently change the age range of Herne Bay (Community) Infant School from 3-7 years to 2-7 years from September 2017

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: None

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: Herne Bay East – Andrew Cook
Whitstable and Herne Bay West – Ian Thomas

Summary: This report sets out the results of the public consultation on the proposal to permanently change the age range of Herne Bay Infant School from the current 3-7 years to 2-7 years from September 2017.

Recommendation(s):

The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse, or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education on the proposed decision to:

(a) Authorise the Corporate Director - Children, Young People and Education to issue a Public Notice to permanently change the age range of Herne Bay Infant School from 3-7 years to 2-7 years from September 2017.

Should objections, not already considered by the Cabinet Member when taking this decision be received during the public notice period, a separate decision will be required in order to continue with the proposal, to allow for proper consideration of the points raised.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Early Years Education and Childcare section of the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2017-2021 sets out the legislative context by which the local authority commissions additional Early Years places. Section 7 of the Childcare Act gives local authorities a related duty to secure Free Early Education provision for Pre-school children and the Childcare Act 2016

sets out the Government's intention to increase the Free Entitlement, including for 2 year olds meeting the criteria. Kent was set a target by the Government to initially create 3,095 'Free for 2' places in September 2013 rising to 7,000 places by September 2014 and continuing to date.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 Herne Bay Infant School currently provides Early Years Education for children aged 3 and 4 in the maintained nursery class. The provision operates under the school's Ofsted registration. Following discussions with KCC Early Years and Childcare Service around gaps in provision locally, the school is seeking to provide places for 2 year olds from September 2017, so that local families can benefit by having access to places at their local setting. It is therefore proposed to permanently lower the age range of the school by one year and admit up to 4 children aged 2 per session into the maintained nursery class. Two of the 4 places will be available for children meeting the criteria for Free entitlement.

3. Financial, Legal and Equalities Implications

Financial Implications: There are no financial implications relating to this decision.

Legal Implications: These proposals are set out in accordance with Section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Kent County Council intends to make prescribed alterations to Herne Bay Infant School in order to permanently change the age range from 3-7 years to 2-7 years from September 2017.

Equalities Implications: An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed as part of the consultation. To date no comments have been received and no changes are required to the Equality Impact Assessment.

4. Vision and Priorities for Improvement

- 4.1 This proposal will help to secure our ambition "to ensure that Kent's young people have access to the education, work and skills opportunities necessary to support Kent business to grow and be increasingly competitive in the national and international economy" as set out in 'Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement (2016-2020)'.
- 4.2 This proposal supports the aims of the Early Years and Childcare Strategy 2016-2019 to:
- develop a more integrated approach to early years and childcare provision and services
 - ensure better continuity of provision and services across the 0 – 5 age range
 - ensure an increasing number of children are school ready at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage
 - mitigate the effect of poverty, inequality and disadvantage through the provision of high quality early education and childcare, including support for parents and carers and narrowing early development achievement gaps.

4.3 The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2017-2021 sets out how we will carry out our responsibility for ensuring there are sufficient places of high quality, in the right places, for all learners and this proposal supports that aim to provide sufficient places where they are needed.

5. Report on the Consultation Outcomes

5.1 A four week public consultation took place between 2 and 30 May 2017.

5.1 A total of 42 written responses were received. An analysis of the responses received is provided at Appendix 1.

5.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed as part of the consultation. To date no comments have been received. A copy of the Equality Impact Assessment, together with the public consultation letter can be found at: <http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/HerneBayInfantSchool>

6. Views

6.1 The view of the Local Members

The local members prior to the County Council elections were informed of the proposal.

6.2 The view of the Headteacher and Governing Body

The Headteacher and Governing Body fully support the proposal and believe it will be beneficial to the families in their school community.

6.3 The view of the Area Education Officer

This proposal has come forward based on the identified need for additional places for children aged two in Heron ward. Herne Bay Infant School is best placed to provide these places, two of which will be for children who meet the criteria for funded places. The provision of additional places for two year olds will help to address the gap in outcomes between all children and children from vulnerable groups such as those with Special Educational Needs or those who would attract pupil premium.

7. Delegation to Officers

7.1 The Officer Scheme of Delegation; under Appendix 2 part 4 of the Council's Constitution, provides a clear and appropriate link between this decision and the actions needed to implement it.

8. Conclusions

8.1 This proposal to permanently lower the age range of Herne Bay Infant School will enable the school to provide places for 2 year olds, benefiting local families. The proposal will also support the sustainability of the maintained nursery class.

9. Recommendation(s)

Recommendation(s):

The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse, or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education on the proposed decision to:

(a) Authorise the Corporate Director - Children, Young People and Education to issue a Public Notice to permanently change the age range of Herne Bay Infant School from 3-7 years to 2-7 years from September 2017.

Should objections, not already considered by the Cabinet Member when taking this decision be received during the public notice period, a separate decision will be required in order to continue with the proposal, to allow for proper consideration of the points raised.

10. Background Documents

10.1 Vision and Priorities for Improvement

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/education-skills-andemployment-policies/vision-and-priorities-for-improvement>

10.2 Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2017-21

www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision

10.3 Consultation Document and Equality Impact Assessment.

<http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/HerneBayInfantSchool>

11. Contact details

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Relevant Director:

- Keith Abbott
- Director of Education Planning and Access
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Appendix 1

Proposal to permanently change the age range of Herne Bay Infant School from 3-7 years to 2-7 years from September 2017.

Summary of written responses

Consultation documents (hard copies) distributed: 400 (approx.)

Responses received: 42

	Support	Against	Undecided	Total
Parents/Carers – School	11	2	2	16
Parents/Carers – School and Seashells Nursery	-	1	-	1
Parent/Carers – Seashells Nursery	7	-	-	7
Parents/Carers – School and another local nursery	1	2	-	3
Parents/Carers – another local nursery	1	-	-	1
Governors	1	-	-	1
Parent/Governor	1			
Members of Staff	12	-	-	12
Other Interested Party	-	1	-	1
Total	34	6	2	42

A summary of the main points:

In support of the proposal

Parents of children attending Seashells Nursery

- Child starts Year R in September and sibling turns two in November, currently searching for a nursery. Sibling is familiar with Seashells and some of the staff there. On a practical note it would be really convenient for us to have our children attend the same schools/nursery.
- My child attends Seashells, I also have a two year old who I would like to attend the Nursery asap (x2)
- My child is very happy at the nursery and having two year olds will be good for the older children to relate with younger children, learning to behave socially in different situations.
- I understand that the Nursery like children to be independent but do feel that areas such as the painting easel and toilets need more supervision.
- From 2 ½ my child was ready to attend pre-school but understand this would not suit every child.

Attending Herne Bay Junior School

- I would definitely make use of this proposal if it proceeds. I think earlier education is becoming increasingly more important. (Has a 6 month old).

Staff

- A welcomed change.
- This is a very exciting prospect for our school.
- Good idea for both families and Herne Bay Infant School
- Lowering the age range will benefit those parents who have older children at the school/setting by providing childcare within just one setting.
- Lowering the starting age to two years will enable children who begin their school life with Herne Bay Infant School longer to reach their potential. The Nursery will have a rich and valuable time frame with the 2 years+ children therefore building a strong framework and foundation for the children's education.
- It is harder to find childcare.
- Children will be used to the school environment, should they choose to continue at the school.
- Children can enter Reception with the skills they need to assist them with learning to read, write and work with numbers. This will save on a lot of the 'catch up' work that we need to achieve with children coming to school from different Nursery settings.
- The school has the facilities, space and access to outside space to offer a wonderful nursery setting that other settings in the local area are unable to offer (personal opinion).
- Seashells Nursery is run by a qualified teacher and managed by a highly experienced deputy head teachers. This will ensure that Early Years curriculum on offer is delivered to an exceptionally high standard.
- Herne Bay Infant School is situated in a disadvantaged area, opening our doors to younger children can assist families in obtaining employment.
- The Nursery is an excellent provision and extending the age group will allow it to be more accessible to parents in our area. It will also make it a more viable business and able to provide a similar provision to the private nurseries in the area.
- Fully support this proposal so that nursery can continue to support current families, as well as offering opportunities for more children to attend a setting promoting excellent early year's education.

Governors

- Seashells Nursery has a provide track record of providing motivating and exciting learning environments where children are nurtured and challenged (Ofsted April 2016). The transition from Nursery to our own Reception has always been seamless and given children the best possible start to school. Extending the provision to two year olds can only further reinforce this and add to the children's opportunities.
- Parents wishing their children to start nursery at two would not need to transfer from another setting at three as is presently the case.
- Parents would appreciate the logistics of having their children on one site for ease of transportation.
- Extending provision would generate additional income to support the continuing existence of Seashells Nursery which may otherwise be a threat because of budget constraints on the main school budget. The Nursery is an asset to the school (supported by Age Related Expectation data) and to Herne Bay families and children but needs to be sustainable.

Against the proposal

Parents

- Having two year olds at Seashells would adversely affect the offer at the Nursery.
- It feels very much like a pre-school where the children are preparing for school by being given more independence and starting to learn Phonics. I do not think many two year olds would be ready or interested in Phonics and are still learning potty training and needing lots of help.

Other Interested Parties:

- The proposal states that the age should be lowered so that local families can benefit by having to year old places at their local setting. However, offering only 4 places wouldn't really address this and as a manager of a nursery less than 5 minutes' walk from the school, we are able to offer two year old places to local families and we have space available for two year olds from September 16 – May 2017 which would indicate that there is no need for additional places to be offered.
- It is a very broad age range to cater for. It is hard to keep four year olds (who might nearly be five) engaged and interested as well as children half their age – everyone ends up compromising.
- If you have two year olds staying all day how would you facilitate naps?

Undecided about the proposal

Parents attending Herne Bay Infant School

- In principle I would support this provision if better access arrangements we
- -re made. Currently the entrance to the nursery/reception is very congested at pick up/drop-off times and it can be chaotic, especially for the children.
- My child previously attended 2-4 nursery it was lovely but child did not learn and develop as much as sibling who attended Seashells Nursery as I think they simply were not able to offer the same educational experience to the age range.
- Any activities had to be tailored towards younger children so that everyone could be included.
- I do not agree because children age two will required more care, nappies etc. which could affect the care and time given to the older children.
- Will there be more staff hired to care for these two year olds? My other child will hopefully be starting at Seashells in September and I would like my child to be in a more school like atmosphere not a toddler group.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,

Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education

DECISION NO:

For publication

Subject: Proposal to permanently change the age range of Herne Bay (Community) Infant School from 3-7 years to 2-7 years from September 2017.

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education I agree to:

- a) Authorise the Corporate Director – Children, Young People and Education to issue a Public Notice to permanently change the age range of Herne Bay Infant School from 3-7 years to 2-7 years from September 2017.

Should objections not already considered by the Cabinet Member when taking this decision be received during the public notice period, a separate decision will be required in order to continue with the proposal, to allow for proper consideration of the points raised.

Reason(s) for decision:

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent (2017-21) sets out the local authority's duty to secure Free Early Education provision for Pre-school children, including places for 2 year olds;

In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

- The analysis of the views put in writing in response to the consultation;
- The views of the Area Education Officer and the Headteacher and Governing Body of Herne Bay Infant School;
- The Equalities Impact Assessment and comments received regarding this; and
- the views of the Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee which are set out below

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications relating to this decision.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:
To be added after Committee meeting

Any alternatives considered:

None

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

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Signed

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Date

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From: Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director, Children, Young People and Education

To: Children's, Young People's and Education Cabinet Committee – 22nd June 2017

Subject: Revision To School Term Dates For The Years 2018-19 & 2019-20

Classification: Unrestricted

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: All

Recommendation:

The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to:

- i. consider and make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education on the decision to revise the school term dates for the years 2018-19 and 2019-20. (As set out in sections 2.4 and 2.5 of this report.)

1. Background

- 1.1 KCC is responsible for setting term dates for community and voluntary controlled schools, while governing bodies of foundation and voluntary aided schools are responsible for setting their own term dates. Academies and free schools also have the freedom to decide their dates and length of terms.
- 1.2 In previous years, the Local Government Association (LGA) has coordinated the preparation of a draft Standard School Year. However, the LGA has decided to stop coordinating the development of draft models for standard school years. This is because only around 40% of areas are now following the Standard School Year, as more academies and free schools determine the term dates for their schools.
- 1.3 Over a school year, pupils are required to attend for 190 days/380 sessions. In total, teachers may be required to be available for work on up to 195 days, with the additional days specified by individual schools as non-contact days. Schools may also require teachers to work additional hours before or after school sessions, as an alternative to full non-contact days, provided that any teacher is not required to work in aggregate more than 1,265 hours during a school year. Schools may therefore choose to require teachers to make up the full equivalent of the 5 non-contact days wholly through additional hours, or use a mixture of additional hours and non-contact days.
- 1.4 The Department for Education (DfE) announced last year that the proposed Deregulation Bill will not allow maintained schools the power to set their own

term dates, as there has been no real clamour from schools that do not have this power to have this freedom. The Government decided that due to the lack of interest, and the concerns raised by the National Union of Teachers (NUT) regarding parental confusion and lack of cohesion between schools, it would not be appropriate to allow all maintained schools to set their own dates.

- 1.5 In determining the proposed future school term dates, KCC is required to consult on the proposed dates.

2. Proposed Dates

- 2.1 In March 2016, the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform agreed to determine the school year term dates for 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20. This followed a consultation with all schools and other key stakeholders such as governors (including parent groups), the Diocesan bodies, trade unions and other neighbouring authorities. The general public was also encouraged to participate.
- 2.2 Feedback from this consultation included a request from teachers that Term 5 should end later in both 2018-19 and 2019-20 to help regulate the length of each term. Subsequently, the decision was taken to extend Term 5 in 2019 from 23 to 27 days with term ending on 31st May 2019 and Term 6 beginning on 10th June 2019. In 2020, Term 5 was extended from 25 to 28 days with term ending on 29th May 2020 and Term 6 beginning on 8th June 2020.
- 2.3 Since this decision, proposed examination dates for Secondary school pupils have been released by Examination Boards and Awarding Bodies. In 2019 and 2020, Secondary education level exams have been scheduled to take place during the first week of June. Therefore, it has been necessary to hold a consultation on the proposal to alter the date on which Term 5 ends in both 2019 and 2020 (see Appendices A & B).
- 2.4 Instead of Term 5 ending on Friday 31st May 2019 it is proposed that the last day of term will be Friday 24th May 2019. Pupils will then return to school on Monday 3rd June 2019 instead of Monday 10th June 2019. In the following year, instead of Term 5 ending on Friday 29th May 2020, it is proposed that the last day of term will be Friday 22nd May 2020. Pupils will then return to school on Monday 1st June 2020 instead of Monday 8th June 2020.
- 2.5 The late May Bank Holiday would fall during the half term holiday so for both 2019 and 2020, it is proposed Term 6 would end a day earlier than currently determined.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no direct cost implications arising from the decision on the school calendar. However, if individual foundation, voluntary aided schools, academies or free schools determine a different pattern of term dates, they may incur additional costs in relation to home to school transport, as the authority passes any additional costs on to the schools concerned.

4. Policy Framework

- 4.1 Legislation requires KCC to consult on, and set school term dates for maintained schools. It is important that these dates support, rather than conflict with, public examinations.

5. Consultation and Statutory Public Notice

- 5.1 KCC consulted on the proposed revision to term dates for the academic years 2018-19 and 2019-20 from 17th May to 14th June 2017. The consultation was circulated to all schools via the e-bulletin and with other key stakeholders such as governors, parents, the Diocesan bodies and trade unions.
- 5.2 The consultation received 29 responses, as follows: 14 Headteachers, 5 teachers, 1 school governor, 5 parents, 2 union representatives and 2 school administrators.
- 5.3 Eighteen responses agreed with the proposal to move the holiday at the end of Term 5 to the last week of May in both 2019 and 2020.
- 5.4 Eleven respondents, all of whom are associated with Primary schools, would prefer the holiday at the end of Term 5 to remain the first week of June as this helps to regulate the length of Terms 5 and 6. One commented, *“For Primary schools, the long term 6 is a real struggle as pupils become very tired. A longer term 5 would, in my opinion, have a positive impact on schools and this decision should not be altered”*.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 An equality impact assessment has been completed and is available at the following link:
<http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/SchoolTermDatesReview>

The conclusion following the public consultation is that the presumptions made in the initial assessment still remain and that it is not necessary to initiate a further Equality Impact Assessment.

7. Legal Implications

None

8. Conclusions

- 8.1 Following the feedback from the consultation Members are asked to comment on and endorse the proposed revised school term dates calendar for 2018-19 and 2019-20.

9. Recommendation(s)

Recommendation:

- | |
|---|
| <p>i. The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education on the decision to revise the school term dates for the years 2018-19 and 2019-20. (As set out in sections 2.4 and 2.5 of this report.)</p> |
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10. Background Documents

10.1 The public consultation document is available via the following link:

<http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/SchoolTermDatesReview>

11. Contact details

Report Author:

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Relevant Director:

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Director of Planning and Access

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,
Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education

DECISION NO:

17/00052

For publication

Subject: Revision To School Term Dates For The Years 2018-19 & 2019-20

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education I agree to:

Revise the school term dates for the years 2018-19 and 2019-20, as set out in sections 2.4 and 2.5 of the Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee Report which was considered by Members on 22nd June 2017.

Reasons for Decision:

In March 2016, the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform agreed to determine the school year term dates for 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20. This followed a consultation with all schools and other key stakeholders such as governors (including parent groups), the Diocesan bodies, trade unions and other neighbouring authorities. The general public was also encouraged to participate.

Feedback from this consultation included a request from teachers that Term 5 should end later in both 2018-19 and 2019-20 to help regulate the length of each term. Subsequently, the decision was taken to extend Term 5 in 2019 from 23 to 27 days with term ending on 31st May 2019 and Term 6 beginning on 10th June 2019. In 2020, Term 5 was extended from 25 to 28 days with term ending on 29th May 2020 and Term 6 beginning on 8th June 2020.

Since this decision, proposed examination dates for Secondary school pupils have been released by Examination Boards and Awarding Bodies. In 2019 and 2020, Secondary education level exams have been scheduled to take place during the first week of June. Therefore, it has been necessary to hold a consultation on the proposal to alter the date on which Term 5 ends in both 2019 and 2020.

Instead of Term 5 ending on Friday 31st May 2019 it is proposed that the last day of term will be Friday 24th May 2019. Pupils will then return to school on Monday 3rd June 2019 instead of Monday 10th June 2019. In the following year, instead of Term 5 ending on Friday 29th May 2020, it is proposed that the last day of term will be Friday 22nd May 2020. Pupils will then return to school on Monday 1st June 2020 instead of Monday 8th June 2020.

The late May Bank Holiday would fall during the half term holiday so for both 2019 and 2020, it is proposed Term 6 would end a day earlier than currently determined.

Financial Implications:

There are no direct cost implications arising from the decision on the school calendar. However, if individual foundation, voluntary aided schools, academies or free schools determine a different pattern of term dates, they may incur additional costs in relation to home to school transport, as the Local Authority passes any additional costs on to the schools concerned.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:
To be added after Committee meeting

Any alternatives considered:

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

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Signed

Date

August 2018							September 2018							October 2018							November 2018						
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		

December 2018							January 2019							February 2019							March 2019						
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31																											

April 2019							May 2019							June 2019							July 2019						
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				




August 2019						
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

INSET/ Non-contact days for teachers:
 Over a school year, pupils are required to attend for 190 days/380 sessions. In total, teachers may be required to be available for work on up to 195 days, with the additional days specified by individual schools as non-contact days. Schools may also require teachers to work additional hours before or after school sessions, as an alternative to full non-contact days, provided that any teacher is not required to work in aggregate more than 1,265 hours during a school year. Schools may therefore choose to require teachers to make up the full equivalent of the 5 non-contact days wholly through additional hours, or use a mixture of additional hours and non-contact days.

2018/19

Standard School
 Year based on
 6 terms with
 additional INSET
 days

- Term 1 35 days 3/09/18 - 19/10/18
- Term 2 38 days 29/10/18 - 19/12/18
- Term 3 32 days 03/01/19 - 15/02/19
- Term 4 30 days 25/02/19 - 5/04/19
- Term 5 23 days 23/04/19 - 24/05/19
- Term 6 37 days 03/06/19 - 23/07/19

	School day
	School holiday
	Bank holiday

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August 2018						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30	31		

September 2018						
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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2018/19

Standard School
 Year based on
 6 terms with
 additional INSET
 days

- Term 1 35 days 3/09/18 - 19/10/18
- Term 2 38 days 29/10/18 - 19/12/18
- Term 3 32 days 03/01/19 - 15/02/19
- Term 4 30 days 25/02/19 - 5/04/19
- Term 5 27 days 23/04/19 - 31/05/19
- Term 6 33 days 10/06/19 - 24/07/19

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2019/20

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	Bank holiday

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From: Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education
Andrew Ireland, Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing

To: Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee - 22 June 2017

Subject: **KENT COUNTY COUNCIL'S OFSTED INSPECTION OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Classification: Unrestricted

Previous Pathway of Paper: None

Future Pathway of Paper: None

Electoral Division: All

Summary: Kent County Council's services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers were inspected between 6 and 30 March 2017. The inspection report was published on 13 June 2017, confirming that Ofsted found the Services' overall effectiveness to be 'Good'. A copy of the inspection report is attached as Appendix 1.

Recommendation(s): The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to **CONSIDER** and **COMMENT** on the content of the inspection report.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Ofsted has a statutory duty under Section 136 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to regularly inspect each of the 152 English Local Authorities' Children's Services. Although Kent County Council received a Child Sexual Exploitation thematic inspection in late 2014, the Council's Children's Services had not been holistically evaluated with a published judgement, since 2013, when services were found to be 'Adequate'. Since November 2013, Ofsted has been assessing Local Authorities under the Single Inspection Framework (SIF).
- 1.2 In accordance with the Ofsted Single Inspection Framework Evaluation Schedule, every Local Authority must produce an 'action plan' of how it intends to respond to recommendations. This applies regardless of the judgement that Authorities receive. The Local Authority must send a copy of their plans for development, in line with recommendations, within 70 working days of receiving their final report. For the Council, this plan must be with the Inspectorate by mid-September 2017.

- 1.3 An Ofsted Practice Development Plan is accordingly being compiled to address the actions arising from the ten recommendations made in the Ofsted report, together with other issues identified over the course of the inspection. The Practice Development Plan will be presented to a future meeting of the Children's Young People and Education Cabinet Committee with details of arrangements for monitoring of progress against the agreed actions.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Recommendations: The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to **CONSIDER** and **COMMENT** on the content of the inspection report.

3. Background Documents

None

4. Contact details

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Philip Segurola

Director of Specialist Children's Services

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Kent County Council

Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers

and

Review of the effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board¹

Inspection dates: 6 March to 30 March 2017

Report published: 13 June 2017

Children's services in Kent are good		
1. Children who need help and protection		Requires improvement
2. Children looked after and achieving permanence		Good
	2.1 Adoption performance	Good
	2.2 Experiences and progress of care leavers	Good
3. Leadership, management and governance		Good

¹ Ofsted produces this report under its power to combine reports in accordance with section 152 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. This report includes the report of the inspection of local authority functions carried out under section 136 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the report of the review of the Local Safeguarding Children Board carried out under the Local Safeguarding Children Boards (Review) Regulations 2013.

Executive summary

Kent County Council is delivering a good service to children and families. Leaders and senior managers have responded purposefully and methodically to service weaknesses, resulting in strengthened services and improved outcomes for children. Through his effective leadership, the director of children's services (DCS) sets clear priorities, demonstrating a firm resolve to improve outcomes for children and young people. This is in the context of a significant increase in the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children arriving in Kent during 2015–16. The local authority tackled the increased demand on children's services effectively, along with work it was already doing. Senior managers have responded swiftly to these changing needs through considered restructuring of services for care leavers. Political leaders have been responsive to budget pressures, supporting increased financial investment.

Following an inspection of safeguarding and children looked after in 2010, which found services for children inadequate, the local authority has engaged with partners in a substantial improvement journey. By 2013, inspections of child protection and children looked after found services had improved to adequate. Building on these foundations, managers have systematically tackled weaknesses across the service, using a comprehensive quality-assurance framework and regular case-auditing to identify areas for practice improvement. However, the help and protection that children receive continue to require improvement. Some aspects of practice have improved, but more work is required to ensure consistently effective decision-making when children first come to the attention of the service, as well as to improve the quality of assessment for those children living in private fostering arrangements.

Services are well targeted and coordinated to meet the specific needs of communities of Kent. Children and their families have access to a wide range of early help services from the earliest point of need. When need becomes more complex, children are referred to the Central Referral Unit (CRU) and most receive a prompt response that ensures their needs are met at the earliest opportunity. However, some referrals closed prematurely, before all relevant information had been gathered and analysed to ensure safe and appropriate decision-making. Once alerted to this by inspectors, senior managers took decisive action to review recent referrals, reopening some for further scrutiny, and revising working practices, structure and management oversight in this part of the service.

Social workers develop strong and constructive relationships with children. They see them regularly and use creative direct work to ensure that they understand children's experiences and views. The majority of assessments are analytical and result in high-quality plans that focus on the needs of children and lead to effective interventions, with positive outcomes. When child protection referrals lead to strategy discussions, they involve relevant professionals, are mainly timely, and, when appropriate, result in initial child protection conferences. However, for a small number of children open to the district social work teams, there are delays in recognising escalating risk. This is particularly evident for children living in neglectful circumstances or affected by

domestic violence. The local authority appropriately identifies children who are at risk of sexual exploitation and has developed strong working relationships through the multi-agency child sexual exploitation team. Adolescent risk management (ARM) panels are in place, but vary in their effectiveness. The local authority identifies and responds to children who go missing from home or care, but the quality and timeliness of return home interviews is too variable.

Effective services, including adolescent support teams and family group conferences, support children on the edge of care. This ensures that when possible children remain with their families. Children looked after by the local authority receive a good service. The vast majority become looked after at the right time and benefit from comprehensive assessments of their needs, and the majority live in stable placements. Assessments for foster carers, connected persons and special guardians are comprehensive. However, for a small number of children there is a lack of clarity about the steps required to formalise living arrangements with family and friends.

Children who have a care plan for adoption benefit from the effective service that the adoption team provides. Services for care leavers are good. Personal advisers remain in touch with large numbers of young people and most live in suitable accommodation. More work is required to ensure that young people in custody have regular visits and focused planning for their discharge.

Performance management systems provide detailed data and helpful analysis to monitor and develop services effectively. However, some data relating to care leavers is not accurate or reliable enough to enable proper scrutiny and oversight. Management oversight and case supervision and direction have significantly improved. Inspectors saw some examples of analytical case supervision, but the quality is not always good enough, and managers do not always sufficiently identify risks or challenge lack of progress.

The local authority recognises the vulnerabilities of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and works closely with the Home Office, immigration services, police and partners from adult services. They work effectively to reduce risks such as those related to trafficking, sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation and possible radicalisation. Arrangements for tracking missing unaccompanied asylum-seeking children are rigorous. A panel provides management oversight of those children who are missing, or at high risk of harm, to ensure that risks are understood and minimised when possible.

Young people aged 16 and 17 at risk of homelessness are supported by housing officers. There is a lack of consistent protocols with district housing departments. As a result, arrangements for support and accommodation are too variable. No young people were in bed and breakfast accommodation at the time of the inspection but this is used by district housing departments in some circumstances, which is not acceptable practice and leaves young people potentially vulnerable.

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The local authority

Information about this local authority area²

Previous Ofsted inspections

- The local authority operates five children's homes. Four were judged to be good or outstanding in their most recent Ofsted inspections.
- The last inspection of the local authority's arrangements for the protection of children was in January 2013. The local authority was judged to be adequate.
- The last inspection of the local authority's services for children looked after was in August 2013. The local authority was judged to be adequate.

Local leadership

- The corporate director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing is the DCS for Kent County Council and has been in post since November 2011.
- The DCS is also responsible for adult services and public health.
- Kent County Council does not have a chief executive. The DCS is currently responsible directly to the County Council. However, following a County Council decision in January 2017, the DCS will report to the head of Paid Service with effect from 3 April 2017.
- The chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) has been in post since March 2014.
- The local authority uses the Signs of Safety model of social work.

Children living in this area

- Approximately 330,000 children and young people under the age of 18 live in Kent. This is 22% of the total population in the area.
- Approximately 17% of the local authority's children aged under 16 are living in low-income families.
- The proportion of children entitled to free school meals:
 - in primary schools is 12% (the national average is 15%)
 - in secondary schools is 10% (the national average is 13%).
- Children and young people from minority ethnic groups account for 9% of all children living in the area, compared with 21% in the country as a whole.

² The local authority was given the opportunity to review this section of the report and has updated it with local unvalidated data when this was available.

- The largest minority ethnic groups of children and young people in the area are Mixed and Asian/Asian British.
- The proportion of children and young people with English as an additional language:
 - in primary schools is 11% (the national average is 20%)
 - in secondary schools is 8% (the national average is 16%).
- Due to over 1,300 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children entering Kent since January 2015, the county (including the unitary Medway towns) continues to look after and accommodate disproportionately high numbers of children and young people from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa.

Child protection in this area

- At 6 March 2017, 9,193 children had been identified through assessment as being formally in need of a specialist children’s service. This is a reduction from 9,290 at 31 March 2016.
- At 6 March 2017, 1,176 children and young people were the subject of a child protection plan (a rate of 36 per 10,000 children). This is an increase from 1,049 children (32 per 10,000 children) at 31 March 2016.
- At 6 March 2017, 40 children lived in a privately arranged fostering placement. This is an increase from 25 at 31 March 2015.
- In the last two years prior to inspection, 19 serious incident notifications had been submitted to Ofsted and one serious case review has been completed.
- There are four serious case reviews ongoing at the time of the inspection.

Children looked after in this area

- At 6 March 2017, 1,893 children were being looked after by the local authority (a rate of 57 per 10,000 children). This is a reduction from 2,310 (70 per 10,000 children) at 31 March 2016. Of this number:
 - 338 (18%) live outside the local authority area
 - 79 live in residential children’s homes, of whom 33 (42%) live out of the authority area
 - 10 live in residential special schools³, of whom two (20%) live out of the authority area
 - 1,353 live with foster families, of whom 160 (12%) live out of the authority area
 - 25 live with parents, of whom one (4%) lives out of the authority area

³ These are residential special schools that look after children for 295 days or less per year.

- 500 are unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.
- In the last 12 months:
 - there have been 86 adoptions
 - 51 children became the subject of special guardianship orders
 - 1,316 children ceased to be looked after, of whom 37 (3%) subsequently returned to be looked after
 - 462 children and young people ceased to be looked after and moved on to independent living
 - 286 children and young people who ceased to be looked after are now care leavers living in houses in multiple occupation.

Recommendations

1. Ensure that prompt consideration is given to convening strategy discussions and, when appropriate, that strategy discussions are held for all children when risk increases.
2. Ensure that private fostering assessments are robust and include all required safeguarding checks, and that visits to children are timely.
3. Ensure that homeless young people aged 16 and 17 years are aware of their right to become looked after, assessments of risk are completed and there is adequate accommodation to meet their needs.
4. Improve the response to all children at risk of sexual exploitation, ensuring that assessments and safety plans are of a consistently good quality.
5. Improve the timeliness and quality of return home interviews for children who go missing, to ensure that they are an effective tool to safeguard individual children and inform strategic response.
6. Ensure that all care leavers in prison or secure training centres have purposeful visits and an up-to-date pathway plan.
7. Review the data routinely provided to the Kent Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB), and in conjunction with the board take steps to ensure that this is sufficiently comprehensive to enable the partnership to scrutinise the local authority's safeguarding performance.
8. Evaluate the quality of case and staff supervision across teams and districts and take steps to ensure that managers pay sufficient attention to social workers' performance, and to their development needs.
9. Ensure that data relating to care leavers is accurate, and that it provides leaders, managers and corporate parents with a clear view of the performance of the service.
10. In partnership with the KSCB, launch the multi-agency neglect strategy and ensure that early help and specialist children's services and professionals who work with families at all levels of need are equipped to identify, assess and address neglect within families.

Summary for children and young people

- In 2013, inspectors found that children in Kent did not get good enough services. Since that time, senior leaders, managers and social workers have worked hard to make changes to ensure that children get the help and support they need. In this inspection in March 2017, inspectors found that nearly all services in Kent are good.
- Political leaders have a real commitment to improving the lives of children. They have made sure that there is enough money available so that children get the help they need.
- When professionals are worried about children, they know who to contact to ensure that children get the help and support they need to keep them safe. However, social workers do not always find out enough information to make the right decisions. Managers know what they need to do and plans are already in place to make improvements.
- Social workers are good at working with other professionals, such as police officers, health visitors and teachers, to keep children safe. They meet children regularly, listen to what they have to say, and work hard to improve things for them.
- Social workers have a good understanding of what support children need to help them to lead fulfilling lives. Social workers ensure that children get the support they need to live with their families when possible.
- When children cannot live safely with their families, social workers work hard to ensure that children live with families that take good care of them.
- Social workers are good at ensuring that children are adopted quickly when this is the right decision for them.
- Nearly all children looked after go to good schools. Most have good attendance and are helped to do their best in their studies.
- When young people leave care, staff visit them regularly and provide the right support to help them live independently. Young people spoken to by inspectors said they feel safe where they live.
- The well-established Children in Care Council ensures that children are involved in helping to develop services. They regularly attend council meetings, sit on interview panels, and help to arrange interesting events, such as activity days, where they have fun and meet new friends.

<p>The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection</p>	<p>Requires improvement</p>
<p>Summary</p> <p>A comprehensive range of early help services provide good support to children and their families from the earliest point of need. Services are well targeted and coordinated to meet the specific needs of the communities of Kent. When need becomes more complex, step-up to statutory social work services is timely.</p> <p>Decision-making in the CRU for children requiring statutory intervention is not yet consistently good. As a result, some children do not receive intervention as early as required. When immediate risks to children are identified, the response is timely and proportionate. Strategy discussions involve relevant agencies, and make the right decisions about the next steps. Initial child protection and review conferences are timely and well attended by agencies. However, in a small number of children’s cases open to the district social work teams, action is not consistently timely in response to escalating concerns. Consequently, inspectors saw a small minority of children who had remained in situations of unassessed risk for too long.</p> <p>Social workers see children regularly and know them well. Effective direct work enables social workers to gain a comprehensive understanding of children’s wishes and views and to understand what life is really like for them. Assessments are analytical, and capture family histories, views and experiences and result in high-quality plans. Plans focus on the needs of children and lead to effective interventions, with positive outcomes. However, the quality of some assessments is not good, with some lacking analysis and not recognising all risk factors. Support for a small number of children subject to child protection plans ends too soon, before change has been sustained, resulting in children’s circumstances deteriorating.</p> <p>Inspectors saw appropriate action taken in the multi-agency child sexual exploitation team to monitor and reduce risks for children identified as being at risk of sexual exploitation. However, inconsistencies in the effectiveness of district ARM panels mean that intervention is not always successful in reducing risks for all children. Arrangements for children who go missing are variable, and improvement is required to ensure that all children have timely return home interviews and safety plans.</p> <p>Children living in private fostering arrangements are identified but assessments are not rigorous enough to ensure that the arrangements are suitable. Services to homeless 16- and 17-year-olds are underdeveloped. District housing departments do not always refer homeless young people to specialist children’s services for an assessment of their needs.</p>	

Inspection findings

11. Children and families benefit from a wide range of early help services, including commissioned services, children's centres and youth hubs that ensure that support is available as soon as need is identified. Intensive early help is delivered successfully through early help units across Kent, supporting 3,080 children and families in response to needs resulting from a variety of issues, including domestic abuse, parental substance misuse and behavioural issues.
12. Early help assessments are mostly good. Early help plans are well targeted, set clear expectations of parents and professionals and include specific timescales. Weekly step-down panels ensure that decisions to step support plans down from specialist children's services to early help are appropriate and that families experience a smooth transition between services. An effective quality-assurance process is informed by feedback from children, parents and carers, which evaluates the quality and impact of support provided and is used to inform service planning. Inspectors saw examples of early help preventing escalation to specialist children's services and making a tangible difference to children's lives.
13. The multi-agency CRU is the first point of contact for members of the public, professionals and families when there are concerns about children's welfare. This supports comprehensive information-sharing and provides immediate child protection responses. Partner agencies have the opportunity to consult with social workers to inform decision-making regarding next steps, which reduces the number of inappropriate referrals. Recent changes to the recording of these consultations have provided greater clarity about professional responsibility for subsequent actions. Consent to share information is appropriately sought from parents. In children's cases sampled by inspectors, the vast majority demonstrated partner agencies understanding the threshold criteria for access to children's social care.
14. Managers screen all contacts and referrals and swiftly determine whether they meet the criteria for statutory intervention or early help services. Although thresholds for referral are clear, they are not consistently applied in the CRU. Inspectors saw a small number of referrals closed prematurely before all relevant information had been gathered and analysed to ensure safe and appropriate decision-making. Senior managers accepted inspectors' findings and took immediate and appropriate action to address these shortfalls.
15. When child protection concerns arise, the response is timely in the majority of cases. When strategy discussions and meetings are held, they are effective, attended by relevant agencies, result in appropriate outcomes, and ensure that children are protected. Child protection enquiries are comprehensive, and when appropriate lead to initial child protection conferences.
16. Inspectors identified a small minority of children for whom progress of plans was poor, risk had escalated or there had been a lack of professional curiosity.

For these children, strategy discussions should have been held to consider whether a child protection enquiry was needed to further explore and understand risk. The local authority accepted inspectors' concerns and took action to strengthen children's plans or to arrange strategy discussions to consider whether child protection enquiries were necessary. (Recommendation)

17. The majority of children's assessments, including pre-birth assessments, are comprehensive, with sound analysis of risks, and result in coherent plans. However, the quality of practice in the district children's social work teams is too variable, with a small number of weaker assessments seen. Together with a lack of professional curiosity, these assessments did not fully explore the potential impact of cultural differences or consider the views of significant adults, including non-resident fathers. Consequently, these assessments are superficial and fail to provide the focus needed to help improve children's circumstances at a sufficient pace.
18. The local authority has completed a number of deep-dive audits to understand why the majority of children are subject to child protection plans under the category of neglect, and to address the increasing number of repeat child protection plans under this category. Despite the prevalence of this issue, the local authority and the KSCB have been slow to take decisive action to equip professionals to assess and respond to neglect within families. A draft multi-agency neglect strategy is yet to be approved. (Recommendation)
19. Child protection conferences and core group meetings are sensitively chaired and well attended by agencies. They are effective in ensuring that risks to children are understood and reduced. Children are supported to attend their meetings to ensure that their views are known and considered. However, social workers are not clear about recent changes in how to access advocacy services. As a result, the number of referrals to the commissioned advocacy service has reduced.
20. Inspectors saw some good examples of outcome-focused plans, created and owned by families, that reflected children's needs well, but overall the quality of plans is too variable. Weaker plans are not sufficiently outcome-focused and do not track change effectively, which hampers progress. A small number of children's cases seen by inspectors had been stepped down from a child protection plan to a child in need plan before sustained change had occurred. The impact of this was that concerns re-emerged and children re-entered the child protection system. Social workers visit children regularly and develop trusting relationships with them. Inspectors saw many examples of effective and creative direct work by social workers to enable children to express their views and inform assessments and intervention plans.
21. The quality of management oversight and supervision is not yet consistently good. Supervision generally covers immediate casework issues, but is not sufficiently rigorous in driving planning and reviewing overall progress. As a result, complexities and concerns in children's lives are not fully explored, and,

for a small number of children, this has led to drift and delay in taking decisive action to meet their needs and to ensure that they are protected.

22. Specialist disabled children's teams support children who have disabilities effectively. Social workers provide good-quality, child-focused work, which leads to improved outcomes for children.
23. A good range of services are available, and these are improving outcomes for children, including those who have experienced domestic abuse. Multi-agency public protection arrangements and multi-agency risk assessment conferences are effective in sharing information, identifying risks and developing appropriate protective responses for children who have contact with adults assessed as high risk.
24. The Public Law Outline is in place, with letters to parents clearly outlining concerns and actions required. When children's circumstances do not improve or risks escalate, legal planning meetings are, for the majority of children, swiftly convened. However, management oversight and monitoring needs to improve to ensure that letters are timely and children do not spend extended periods at this stage with no progress made against agreed actions.
25. Robust strategic partnerships support early identification and management of children at risk of sexual exploitation. Operational practice within the multi-agency child sexual exploitation team is effective, with many examples of successful risk reduction. However, the quality of risk assessments needs strengthening to ensure that they are regularly updated and proactively used to inform safety plans. The district ARM panels vary in effectiveness, with some lacking clear actions and safety planning. As a result, professionals are not clear about what they should collectively do to safeguard children, and risks do not reduce quickly enough. (Recommendation)
26. The local authority has recently strengthened its response to children who go missing from home, school or care. Two missing coordinators within the CRU track and record all missing notifications effectively. They ensure that local authorities who place children looked after in Kent are informed of missing episodes. Social workers or early help workers offer children return interviews. Some of these conversations are meaningful and help practitioners to understand children better, but they are not always timely and the quality of the records is not consistently good enough to inform safety plans and reduce risk. (Recommendation)
27. Arrangements for tracking children missing education are effective. The children missing education team works closely with schools and other partners to return children to school or improve attendance. Alternative provision meets the needs of 668 children well, and virtually all are on full timetables.
28. Notifications to the local authority of private fostering arrangements have increased in the past year. At the time of the inspection, 40 children were living

in private fostering arrangements. Children's needs are assessed, but assessments are not sufficiently rigorous to ensure the suitability of placements. Inspectors saw a small minority of children living in arrangements that were not meeting their needs, with delays in visiting and in providing appropriate support. (Recommendation)

29. When young people aged 16 and 17 present as homeless to district housing departments, they are offered support and mediation to help them to return to their families. However, district housing departments do not refer all young people to specialist children's services for a joint assessment of need. As a result, some young people are placed in bed and breakfast establishments by district housing departments. The local authority recognises that this is unacceptable and intends to review the housing protocol as a matter of urgency. (Recommendation)
30. When allegations are made about adults who work with children, the designated officer provides a timely and effective response. Work to raise awareness of the designated officer role has taken place, with a wide range of professionals engaged, including foster carers.

<p>The experiences and progress of children looked after and achieving permanence</p>	<p>Good</p>
<p>Summary</p> <p>A range of good services appropriately support children who are on the edge of care, to remain living safely with their families whenever possible. Decisions for children to become looked after are timely and proportionate. When children return home, they are well supported and monitored.</p> <p>The large majority of children looked after live in stable, local placements in which their identified needs are met. Children develop meaningful and consistent relationships with social workers who visit them regularly and know them well. Children benefit from regular direct work, including life-story work, which helps them to understand their histories. Children regularly participate in their own timely reviews. The majority of children’s assessments are of good quality, with their wishes and feelings carefully considered. However, the quality of children’s plans is more variable.</p> <p>Senior managers closely monitor children’s plans for permanence. Fostering panels are used well to agree long-term placement matches for children. For a small number of children, there is a lack of clarity about the steps required to formalise living arrangements with family and friends.</p> <p>Inspectors saw appropriate action taken to monitor and reduce risks for children who are missing or at risk of sexual exploitation. However, inconsistencies in the effectiveness of district ARM panels means that risks are not always reducing for some children. Children benefit from regular and thorough health assessments and access to well-established services for emotional support.</p> <p>Educational outcomes for children looked after are improving at key stages 1, 2 and 4. The virtual school uses personal education plans well to enable pupils to get the right support for personal and social development and academic progress.</p> <p>Children who need to be adopted benefit from timely decision-making and effective planning. Good assessment, training and support are available for prospective adopters. Children enjoy stability and thrive in their adoptive families.</p> <p>Care leavers form good relationships with their personal advisers, who know them well and visit them regularly. Pathway plans are effective and help care leavers to develop the skills needed for independent living. Managers and staff ensure the active participation of young people in service improvements, such as in the new pathway plan and in the recruitment of staff.</p>	

Inspection findings

31. Kent children's services appropriately support children on the 'edge of care' with a wide range of services. These include an effective family group conferencing service and the adolescent support teams who work alongside families to enable them to find their own solutions to effect change that is sustainable. As a result, children are able to remain safely in the care of their birth families whenever possible, and only become looked after when it is in their best interests.
32. At the time of the inspection, Kent was looking after 1,893 children. Inspectors found thresholds for children to become looked after were timely and proportionate. When children no longer need to be looked after by the local authority, they return home safely to their birth families with comprehensive support plans, which are regularly monitored.
33. Senior managers and legal representatives regularly meet with the local judiciary and the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service to ensure timely court decision-making for children. Close scrutiny and monitoring of the recent decline in timeliness of court performance is supporting the progression of court work effectively.
34. Children enjoy meaningful and consistent relationships with social workers who know them well and visit them regularly. Children benefit from regular direct work, including good-quality life-story work, which helps them to understand their histories. This is not yet consistent across all children in care teams. Children are encouraged to use an advocate if needed. Some children benefit from having an independent visitor. However, the service does not currently have the capacity to allocate a visitor to all children who would benefit from this. At the time of the inspection, 28 children were waiting for an independent visitor.
35. Inspectors found regularly updated, comprehensive assessments of children's needs. A minority of plans seen were of poorer quality, but plans do routinely outline children's wishes and feelings. Management oversight demonstrates a clear focus on improving less effective care plans and placement plans, to ensure that they are clear, with a focus on meeting children's needs in a timely way.
36. There is a clear focus on ensuring that children achieve permanence at the earliest opportunity. Managers oversee permanence decision-making and ensure that children move to permanent placements in a timely way. Children who are long-term fostered are carefully matched at fostering panels. Social work teams track children who are waiting to be matched with permanent carers effectively.
37. The identification of risks to children looked after, who are missing or at risk of sexual exploitation result in appropriate actions to reduce harm, with the

support of the child sexual exploitation team. However, discussions at the ARM panels vary in their effectiveness, resulting in risks not always reducing for some children.

38. Work with health partners over the last 12 months has significantly improved performance relating to health assessments and dental checks for children, ensuring that their identified needs are well met in children's timescales. Child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) for children looked after are undergoing a substantial redesign as part of the re-tendering of local emotional and mental health services. Innovative health practices for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, jointly run with a local university, provide advice and support across a range of areas, such as nutrition and sleep projects. Work is under way to further develop this so that it will benefit all children looked after.
39. The large majority of children looked after attend schools judged by Ofsted to be good or outstanding. A very small proportion who are not on a school roll are children who have specialist complex needs and are waiting for an assessment, or unaccompanied asylum-seeking children awaiting assessment at a reception centre.
40. At key stages 1 and 2, children looked after typically make better progress and improve their levels of development after a period of stability in placement. In 2016, at key stage 2 the proportion reaching the expected standard in reading and mathematics was in line with national rates and above these in writing. The number achieving 5 GCSEs A*–C in English and mathematics at key stage 4 improved from previous years and is in line with the national rate for children looked after.
41. The attendance of all children looked after up to the age of 16 is 90%. No children looked after are permanently excluded. Robust approaches by the inclusion and attendance officers of the virtual school, together with improved curriculum arrangements, have contributed to the decrease in the numbers of those experiencing fixed-term exclusions over the previous year to January 2017.
42. The careful monitoring of the progress and achievement of children looked after by the virtual school has resulted in a decrease in the differences in achievement between children looked after and their peers at the different key stages. Several supplementary and highly appropriate arrangements, such as activity days, buddying and participating in fostering workshops, improve the confidence, self-esteem and resilience of children. There are 39 children in alternative provision, mainly at pupil referral units, primarily for behavioural reasons. Participation and progression officers work effectively with local schools to secure re-entry of these pupils to appropriate schools.
43. Sound use of the Pupil Premium funding and other additional payments have contributed to improving the outcomes for children looked after. For example, it is used to fund appropriate tuition. English language support and 'school ready'

projects for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children are provided, alongside literacy and numeracy development programmes and projects that improve the emotional and social well-being of pupils. Personal education plans show clearly how well the Pupil Premium is used, directly related to the needs of the pupils. Plans focus well on pupils' attendance and identify activities that will benefit their academic progress and social development. However, targets are not precise enough and plans do not show pupils' views about their progress, achievements and aspirations. They also do not contain meaningful contributions from foster carers towards supporting pupils.

44. The large majority of children live with their brothers and sisters, benefiting from stable local placements, with access to a wide range of educational, social and recreational opportunities. Comprehensive assessments inform decision-making regarding whether children should be placed with their brothers and sisters. A helpful in-house supervised contact service ensures that children are able to maintain regular contact with family members.
45. Close monitoring of performance in relation to short-term placement stability is in place, with appropriate actions being taken to improve the figure of 13% at the time of inspection. For example, the 'sense of belonging' project, outdoor activity days and residential courses provide more targeted support for carers and children. A relaunched focus on thorough matching and placement planning was due.
46. In response to the large number of children who are placed in Kent by other local authorities (1,309 at the time of the inspection), the local authority has innovatively appointed an out-of-area officer who assertively liaises with the 106 placing authorities.
47. The high demand for placements for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children has had an impact on placement availability for all children. However, effective commissioning arrangements and monitoring of external placements for children, alongside the fostering recruitment strategy, are working to increase the range of local placements available. Since June 2016, the appointment of new senior managers in the fostering service has led to active and successful progression of a wide range of developments, and has ensured that high-quality foster care is in place. Foster carers spoken to by inspectors were positive about the implementation of these developments.
48. Inspectors found that the fostering service was mostly compliant with fostering regulations. While assessments of connected carers and special guardians are comprehensive, confusion over the procedures for assessing connected carers has resulted in a very small number of placements being unregulated for short periods of time. Inspectors found that while regulations had not been robustly followed for the children in these arrangements, appropriate actions had been taken to ensure that their needs were met and they were safeguarded. Senior managers have acknowledged this issue and taken immediate action.

49. The three Children in Care Councils, separated into children of primary school age, children of secondary school age and young people aged over 16, are well established. Children's views regularly inform the corporate parenting panel, service development and commissioning activity, through a range of engaging participation events.
50. The very large majority of children participate in their own timely reviews, with their wishes and feelings carefully considered by independent reviewing officers (IROs) who know them well. Caseloads for IROs are manageable. IROs meet children before their reviews, and monitor the progress of plans between reviews. A culture of challenge is in place across the service, and appropriate dispute resolutions are progressed.

The graded judgement for adoption performance is that it is good

51. Adoption is considered as an option for all children at the earliest opportunity. Planning is purposeful and any unnecessary delays are avoided. The local authority actively pursues parallel plans for children to minimise delays in securing permanence. During 2016, the local authority placed 88 children for adoption. Of these children, 41 had additional complexities to consider when matching with adoptive families. The local authority is successful in securing adoption for older children and brothers and sisters together. Very few children experience disruption. On the rare occasion that this happens, managers take steps to identify what they can learn from the child's experience.
52. In January 2016, a four-year partnership for externally managing Kent adoption services ended and Kent resumed the management of its adoption service, while continuing to work with the provider as an improvement and innovation partner. Effective oversight of this transition has seen adoption performance improve. Senior managers track and maintain regular oversight of each individual child's progress to adoption effectively. This is proving successful, and for those children coming into care in the last 12 months, they have achieved timely adoptive placements and adoption orders. The head of the adoption service, supported by experienced managers and teams, scrutinises all performance and drives improvements effectively.
53. Children are well prepared for adoption. Child permanence reports are thorough, focus on the child and inform their plans well. Adopters report positively about how well they are informed about children and prepared for introductions. Wherever possible, birth parents are involved in meeting prospective adopters and supporting their child's plan. A number of adopters noted that their child had recognised them when they arrived for a first visit, which demonstrates how well prepared children are to meet them.

54. Children have colourful and individual life-story books and direct work to help them understand their history. Adopters receive helpful training to support their child's ongoing life-story work. Children receive informative and sensitively written later-life letters to help them make sense of their identity and history when they are older.
55. The local authority has made steady progress since 2012 in reducing the time it takes for children to be matched with, and move to live with, their adoptive families. The local authority's data demonstrates that performance continues to improve, with a reducing number of children waiting to be linked with families or to be placed for adoption. However, for a very small minority of children efforts to find adoptive families went on too long before alternative plans were made.
56. Children benefit from timely adoption orders once they are placed, and make good progress in their adoptive families. Adopters are very positive about their experiences of contacting the service. They consistently told inspectors that they had received clear information and prompt responses to enquiries, and that the quality of the training prepared them well. Prospective adopter assessments are thorough, and reports are analytical and child-centred, with clear rationales for supporting the recommendations to approve prospective adopters. A number of adopters had already successfully adopted with Kent. This demonstrates their confidence in the experience they will have in adopting their second or third child. The local authority has a well-promoted policy for fostering to adopt, and this has successfully supported children to form early attachments and not experience further moves when adoption becomes the plan. The capacity to offer fostering to adopt placements continues to increase, with six carers due to be considered for dual approval at adoption panel at the time of inspection.
57. The adoption panels provide effective scrutiny, focus on children and test information to carefully consider their recommendations for approving adopters and matching children. The panel quality-assures all presenting information and regularly reports to the agency its findings on the quality of practice. This has supported improvements, for example in the quality of prospective adopter reports. The agency decision makers (ADMs) make timely decisions, and challenge on the rare occasions that information is insufficient. The ADMs meet regularly with panel chairs and undertake appraisals to maintain oversight and accountability. Panel members receive regular appraisals and comprehensive training to ensure that their contributions are informed by current practice and developments in the service.
58. The local authority works closely with two neighbouring local authorities to ensure that a wider resource of potential adopters can be considered for the needs of children. At the time of inspection there were 14 Kent adopters approved and waiting for a link. The local authority utilises all local, regional and national events to link adopters and children. If no matches can be

identified at an early point, the local authority promptly refers to the adoption register and adoption link.

59. The quality of post-adoption support is excellent. There is an effective and innovative range of options and services provided by a multi-disciplinary team under partnership arrangements. The support offered is flexible, and options include group workshops, training, specific and tailored support groups for adults and children, mentoring of newly approved adopters, and individual and family therapeutic interventions. There is creative and very successful use of the adoption support fund to support adoptive families. The team members are intuitive and use their expertise well. The capacity of the team has recently been increased to ensure that it can provide the full scope of therapeutic assessments and interventions. Adopters are extremely positive about the post-adoption support they and their children receive. For example, one adopter described the support as 'phenomenal, so pertinent to what we need'.

The graded judgement about the experience and progress of care leavers is that it is good

60. Care leavers in Kent receive good support and, for the vast majority of young people, outcomes are good. The local authority has high aspirations for its care leavers and has taken timely, proactive steps to plan for the increase in unaccompanied asylum-seeking children who became looked after during 2015–16 and are due to turn 18 during the forthcoming months. Personal advisers in the 18-plus service support 1,278 care leavers effectively, of which 586 arrived as unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.
61. Staying put arrangements are in place and enable young people to remain with their foster carers as they progress into adulthood. The local authority has recognised that arrangements for young people moving from the children-in-care teams to the 18-plus service do not start early enough. Advanced plans are in place for young people to be introduced to personal advisers at an earlier stage.
62. The vast majority of young people enjoy positive and trusting relationships with their personal advisers, who are enthusiastic, persistent and tenacious on their behalf. Young people who met with inspectors spoke highly of their personal advisers' commitment to 'getting things done'. When young people lose touch with the 18-plus service, personal advisers make persistent efforts to engage them and continue to support them indirectly through family members. Assertive steps are taken to trace young people through last-known associates. However, managers and personal advisers have not maintained sufficient oversight of, and contact with, care leavers in custody. The result is that pre-release planning is not always effective and does not help young people to find

suitable and stable accommodation and reduce the likelihood of reoffending.
(Recommendation)

63. Personal advisers engage young people positively in developing their pathway plans. The large majority of pathway plans are comprehensive; they identify risks, contain appropriate actions and contingency plans, and are regularly reviewed.
64. Young people receive information about events and resources to help them with decisions about their future. Foster carers and accommodation providers attend helpful workshops on how to support transition to adulthood. Unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people regularly attend 'drop-ins' run by a voluntary organisation that provides helpful emotional and practical support for independent living.
65. Personal advisers work closely with the Home Office, immigration services, police and partners from adult services. They recognise risks such as those related to trafficking, sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation and possible radicalisation. A panel considers young people who are missing or at high risk of harm, and provides sound management oversight of these young people to ensure that risks are mitigated and managed.
66. A range of professionals, including the family nurse partnership, provide good support to care leavers who are parents. However, the practice of referring all care leavers who are expecting a child to children's specialist services for an assessment is not proportionate to young people's differing needs. Senior managers acknowledged that there was some confusion in practice and are taking immediate action to clarify practitioners' understanding.
67. Young people benefit from the support they receive from personal advisers in maintaining their accommodation and budgeting. Personal advisers ensure that they make applications for permanent accommodation in a timely manner, and young people attend workshops to help prepare them for managing their tenancies. The local authority reports that 92% of those that they are in touch with are living in suitable accommodation. Taking careful account of the views of young people, it has increased its supported accommodation and shared housing. Good placements meet the needs of the vast majority of young people, and all those spoken with by inspectors felt safe in their accommodation and reported that it was in a good state of repair.
68. A very small minority of young people aged 19 and 20 were in bed and breakfast accommodation at the time of the inspection. This type of accommodation is used only in exceptional circumstances, and some young people in bed and breakfast accommodation had rejected other suitable alternative accommodation offered to them. The local authority recognises that the use of bed and breakfast accommodation is not acceptable practice and is actively reducing this. It has introduced safety pods to provide emergency accommodation for young people while more permanent options are explored.

69. Care leavers receive appropriate advice and support from the 18-plus support officers to help them into education, training or employment. As a result, the numbers of young people not in education, employment or training reduced from 305 in 2015–16 to 179 in February 2017. The virtual school has supported care leavers to undertake apprenticeships and supports care leavers in higher education.
70. Some care leavers who have more recently transferred to the 18-plus team have not received initial health assessments or their health history. The health service is rectifying the situation through the provision of increased resources. It has also responded well to increased demands to meet the emotional and mental health needs of asylum-seeking young people by providing innovative support programmes.
71. Personal advisers help young people to understand their rights and entitlements. Care leavers also receive a pack of information about their rights and the pledge, which is translated when necessary. The authority has approved a new leaflet describing financial entitlements.
72. Managers and staff ensure the active participation of young people in service improvements, for example in the development of the new pathway plans and in the recruitment of staff. The Young Adults Council, facilitated by an apprentice from the virtual school, has been involved in reviewing the pledge and the council's commitment to care leavers. Personal advisers take pride in the young people they work with and take steps to ensure that their achievements are recognised and celebrated.

Leadership, management and governance	Good
<p>Summary</p> <p>Determined senior leadership, sustained over a number of years, and firm political support are key factors in the steady progress made by Kent in improving services for vulnerable children from a low base. Senior managers have adopted a systematic approach to analysing practice through comprehensive quality-assurance activity and detailed performance information. This has ensured that, in almost all parts of the service, leaders have an accurate view of whether practice meets expected standards, and whether the help families receive is leading to good outcomes for children. Senior managers seek external advice and peer review to identify weaknesses and plan service improvements. This has led to positive changes in key areas, such as in the fostering and adoption services.</p> <p>Senior and political leaders are proud to be the corporate parents of Kent’s children looked after and care leavers. They demonstrate this through listening to children’s care experiences, the comprehensive work programme of the corporate parenting board and members’ self-critical analysis of their progress against the promises made to children in the pledge. Key forums receive and interrogate helpful performance information. However, some data relating to care leavers is not accurate or reliable enough to enable proper scrutiny and oversight.</p> <p>The local authority works well with partners in the police and health services to agree priorities, such as tackling domestic abuse and ensuring a comprehensive response to children at risk of sexual exploitation or radicalisation. A common purpose is evident. This facilitates improvements in service provision when a need is identified. Together with its partners, the local authority is recommissioning services such as CAMHS, early help, accommodation for care leavers and domestic abuse. Although not all new services were in place at the time of the inspection, the approach evidences detailed needs analyses and close consultation with young people and families in order to provide better services. Close partnership working at a strategic level has helped staff to find creative solutions to challenging problems, such as the co-location of Kent staff with the Home Office to provide a more joined-up early response to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.</p> <p>Senior managers engage well with the KSCB and are influential in the work of the board’s sub-groups, but the local authority does not share detailed enough data with the board to enable partners to scrutinise safeguarding performance. Social workers are positive about the environment they work in. Morale is good, workforce stability is improving and staff at all levels have ample opportunity to develop their skills and experience. However, not all team managers provide sufficiently challenging, analytical or supportive supervision. Although staff have access to largely comprehensive procedures, guidance and training, more work is needed to ensure that staff in early help and specialist children’s services are properly equipped to understand and respond to neglect within families.</p>	

Inspection findings

73. Led by the DCS, senior and political leaders have established strong relationships with each other and with key partners. In most cases, these relationships have been sustained over a number of years, cemented through local challenges, such as the influx of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. Leaders routinely share child-related concerns and service risks, strengths and weaknesses. Cross-party commitment is clear. This is underpinned by financial investment, which supports improvement, such as the substantial additional funds dedicated to the leaving-care service in order to meet demand and reduce caseloads. The lead member for children's services has a good understanding of the needs of vulnerable children and brings his influence to bear on behalf of children and social workers. He has been instrumental in improving reward packages for social workers who are loyal to Kent, and in improving mobile technology for staff.
74. Appropriate formal links between local authority leaders and the KSCB are in place. Senior managers positively influence the work of the board through the chairing of sub-groups and work-streams. However, senior managers have not engaged assertively enough with the board to ensure that it has the right information to scrutinise frontline practice within children's services properly. For example, the board does not receive data relating to the conversion rates from strategy meetings, child protection enquiries, conferences and plans, or the rate of repeat child protection plans. This is a joint responsibility.
(Recommendation)
75. Senior and political leaders are committed and nurturing corporate parents. They aim high for children looked after and care leavers, and enthusiastically congratulate them on their progress and achievements. The co-chairs of the corporate parenting board are passionate and well-informed; this helps the board to interrogate data effectively and improve children's experiences. Children attend the board regularly and participate well. Children were actively involved in developing the pledge, which has received full council sign-up. Senior and political leaders seek out opportunities to hear what young people think about their experiences, and routinely consult them about important decisions, such as the appointment of social care staff.
76. Through a proactive strategic and operational response, leaders have made good progress in increasing the sufficiency of accommodation for the unexpectedly large group of care leavers. The recommissioning of supported lodgings accommodation was well informed by detailed analysis and consultation with care leavers. The provider now provides places for 250 young people with host families who are carefully vetted and overseen. The two remaining stages of the accommodation review, to increase the range and quality of semi-independent accommodation and floating support, have not yet taken effect. Senior managers are taking appropriate steps to increase the range and number of placements for children looked after, with increasing

numbers of foster carers responding to targeted recruitment campaigns and subsequently being approved.

77. The children's services workforce is increasingly stable. The local authority almost met its target to achieve 83% permanent staff by 1 April 2016. Turnover is also steadily reducing. Senior and human resources managers have taken the right steps to attract and retain staff at all levels. Loyalty payments, targeted at the parts of the service most difficult to recruit to, complement a supportive environment in which staff at all levels can develop their skills and careers. Caseloads in most teams are manageable, and when they are not, there are firm plans in place to address this. For example, in Thanet the boundary lines have been changed to better balance the caseloads of the teams in that area.
78. Most social workers say that they enjoy working for Kent and they appreciate the training they receive, which is comprehensive. Morale is good. The principal social worker has led the successful implementation of the chosen model of assessment, and inspectors saw the positive effect of this approach in casework. However, further work is needed to ensure that social workers and early help practitioners have the right tools to properly understand the impact of neglect on children. (Recommendation)
79. First-line managers regularly oversee plans for individual children. Inspectors saw some good examples of analytical case supervision, which is helping social workers to work more effectively with complex families. However, not all social workers benefit from this high-quality oversight, support and direction. In the cases brought to the attention of senior managers by inspectors, managers had often not identified risks or sufficiently challenged a lack of progress in children's lives. The quality of staff supervision, including appraisal and attention to social workers' overall development needs, is also too inconsistent across teams. (Recommendation)
80. Quality-assurance activity is extensive across specialist children's services and early help. Overall, it is helping managers to gain a clear view of practice and it is leading to service improvement. Robust monitoring of minimum standards ensures clear messages to staff about the importance of, for instance, comprehensive chronology. Senior managers have not taken a 'one size fits all' approach to interrogating the quality of practice. They use a range of methods, including a strong emphasis on individual observation and coaching through a team of professional development officers, overseen by the principal social worker. Managers at all levels are involved in case-auditing, and they plan to strengthen this activity further through the imminent roll-out of a more analytical and reflective auditing tool. Overall, case audits undertaken by managers for the inspection were an accurate appraisal of practice. Senior managers have identified a need to track more robustly all quality-assurance related actions to ensure maximum whole-service learning. During the inspection, inspectors identified a small number of weaknesses that had not previously been identified, for example the lack of performance monitoring of

'no further action' decision-making in the CRU, and the quality of support for children who are privately fostered.

81. Performance information and data are comprehensive overall. Management information lead officers work closely with senior and operational managers to ensure that data is intuitive, easy to navigate and flexible to changing priorities across specialist children's services and early help. Commentary and clear benchmarking help to ensure that performance information is well understood and valued by leaders, managers and key forums in all parts of the service and is supporting service improvement. For example, a recent detailed analysis of children who go missing identified gaps in the recording of the reasons why children run away. Improving this has resulted in the identification of an increase in children looked after going missing to see family and friends, and to emerging targeted work to support older children to enjoy this contact in a more planned way. The live-data dashboard, updated each night, is tailored to the needs of each team. It is particularly useful to managers in analysing the work of their teams. However, inaccuracies and anomalies in data relating to care leavers have limited the line of sight of senior leaders in some key areas, such as the proportion of care leavers who are in touch with the service.
(Recommendation)
82. The corporate complaints team ensures that, in most cases, the response to complaints made by children and parents is timely and proportionate. The analysis of themes and issues raised by complainants is increasingly detailed, and this is helping leaders and managers to better identify the need for service changes. The next step is to establish a more coherent approach to ensuring that specific actions are followed up, and that the experiences of other children and families improve as a result. Most children who complain do so with the support of an advocate, but for some children more could be done to resolve their issues and worries at an earlier stage.
83. The oversight and coordination of commissioned services improved in the six months prior to the inspection. Clear commissioning plans are now in place. Detailed mapping and consultation informs specific reviews such as the recommissioning of early help services. Senior managers and partners engage well with children, families and stakeholders, such as general practitioners, when they are planning to change a commissioned service. The major review and recommissioning of CAMHS and emotional well-being services demonstrate a commitment across the partnership to increasing service capacity for the most vulnerable children. Although only part of the new service is in place, the firm plans to create a single point of entry for all children who need emotional or mental health support evidences an understanding of the needs of local children, including those who have been placed in Kent by other local authorities.
84. It is positive that the local authority has been proactive in establishing a 0-25 health and well-being board, to promote a clearer focus on children, including vulnerable children. The 0-25 board has been instrumental in establishing local

children's partnership groups in all 12 districts, each signing up to an agreed set of local indicators linked to Kent health and well-being priorities. Although a recent development, with some groups not yet fully functional, it is an important step in public health, clinical commissioning groups and the local authority integrating the district councils with the health and well-being agenda. A named council member is linked to each group. Grant funding facilitates commissioning of local services to meet local need.

85. Partnership working is effective. The local strategic response to child sexual exploitation and children who go missing is informed by a careful analysis of the community, joint investment in services, and a strong commitment to educating the local community to be able to spot the signs of abuse. A well-developed strategy and clear structures are in place to ensure that the 'Prevent' duty is implemented across the county in a proactive rather than reactive way. Good in-house expertise and effective links with Home Office and counter terrorism units are used well to develop comprehensive training packages for a range of professionals, including foster carers, elected members and school governors. Appropriate referrals to the channel panel are increasing.
86. Despite tenacious follow-up by Kent specialist children's services, routine sharing of information from return home interviews for other local authority children looked after who are placed in Kent, does not routinely occur. This hampers the development of strategic local knowledge, limiting opportunities for targeted disruption activity to reduce risks for all children.
87. Inspectors saw a number of examples of strong and creative work with partners, such as the actions taken with health, education, housing, the police and the UK Border Agency in response to the increase in unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. The co-location of Home Office and Kent staff is a creative and child-focused development. Leaders continue to seek opportunities to develop services in an innovative way, for instance through a partnership with an independent agency to support the transformation of children's services using a whole-system approach. Social innovation money is funding a different model of working through the launch of a new kind of family group conference. The approach is designed to build safe and enduring relationships between children looked after and their friends, carers and family members in order to promote resilience as they head towards independence. Early signs, based on pilot meetings and consultations with staff and families, are promising.

The Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

The Local Safeguarding Children Board requires improvement

Executive summary

The Kent Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB) requires improvement to be good. The board is meeting its statutory responsibilities, and the experienced chair has ensured that robust governance arrangements are in place. In some areas, the board positively influences local safeguarding arrangements, such as the strategic response to child sexual exploitation and radicalisation. However, it does not collect all the performance information that it needs to be able to fully challenge partner agencies and hold them to account. An audit programme is in place, but it is not robust enough to enable the board to assure itself about the effectiveness of local safeguarding practice. The board does not have a mechanism to ensure effective oversight of the key risks that might reduce the ability of partner agencies to safeguard children.

Partners are well represented on the board and attendance is good. The board has two lay members, who are valuable participants. A well-developed sub-group structure ensures that the board is able to deliver its work programme. The board's website includes helpful information about campaigns and safeguarding updates, alongside reports on recent learning reviews and serious case reviews. Up-to-date multi-agency procedures are in place and are available on the website. The board has not responded to the issue of neglect at sufficient pace; a multi-agency strategy is yet to be approved and multi-agency training is underdeveloped. The board's annual report does not provide a comprehensive analysis of all key areas of safeguarding practice.

The case review group and the child death overview panel (CDOP) are well developed and effective. The board has taken appropriate steps to disseminate learning from serious case and child death reviews. However, due to a lack of robust follow-up, there is limited evidence that the impact of learning from these reviews has improved practice. Robust strategic and operational arrangements are in place to safeguard and protect those children who go missing, are at risk of child sexual exploitation, or are at risk of being radicalised.

The board has ensured that an up-to-date multi-agency threshold document is in place, and has taken reasonable steps to ensure that it has an understanding of the application of thresholds. Although the board has identified a lack of agency understanding about these thresholds, it has not done sufficient further work to fully understand this. Although a process for undertaking and learning from multi-agency Section 11 audits is in place, local schools have not conducted a regular and comprehensive evaluation of their safeguarding arrangements. Through their active engagement, young people are positively influencing the work of the board.

Recommendations

88. Ensure that a comprehensive multi-agency dataset is in place to enable the board to scrutinise local safeguarding performance.
89. Ensure that the board has systems in place to monitor risks that have the potential to have an impact on the ability of agencies to safeguard and protect children.
90. Further develop a comprehensive programme of single- and multi-agency audits to improve the scrutiny of safeguarding practice across partner agencies.
91. Develop the annual report to ensure that it provides rigorous and transparent assessment and scrutiny of frontline practice, the effectiveness of safeguarding services and the work of the independent reviewing service, as well as learning from serious case reviews and child deaths.
92. In partnership with the local authority, launch the multi-agency neglect strategy and ensure that local professionals working with families, at all levels of need, are equipped to identify, assess and address neglect within families.
93. Put in place a system for the board to receive assurance regarding safeguarding practice within early years settings, schools and colleges.

Inspection findings – the Local Safeguarding Children Board

94. The board is meeting its statutory responsibilities, but has further work to do before it can be considered to be good. Governance arrangements between the KSCB and the local authority are effective, with a well-developed sub-group structure and appropriate communication between the board and the sub-groups to ensure that priorities and work plans are shared. The chair meets regularly with the head of Paid Service and the DCS, and a joint working protocol clearly defines the relationships between the different strategic boards. The chair, who attends the health and well-being 0-25 board, ensures that safeguarding issues are given a sufficiently high profile.
95. Partner agencies are well represented on the board at an appropriately senior level to be able to influence safeguarding practice within their own organisations. They regularly challenge each other to understand and improve services for vulnerable children. Attendance is good, and a shared commitment to delivering high-quality safeguarding services is evident. The board's two lay members bring a unique perspective to the board's work. Sitting both on the board and on a number of sub-groups, they have been able to offer challenge and honest evaluation of the effectiveness of agencies in safeguarding of children. The chair holds agencies to account for the delivery and improvement of services to vulnerable children in some key areas, and this has contributed

to, for example, a coordinated and effective response to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

96. Children and young people's experiences shape and influence the work of the board and its priorities. Young people deliver presentations to the board, in which they share and reflect on their experiences. This has resulted in appropriate action to improve services, for example in relation to police responses to youth homelessness and the provision of more suitable young people's housing by district councils.
97. A multi-agency dataset is in place and some information is routinely received, such as the number of early help assessments undertaken and the number and rate of referrals made to specialist children's services. However, the board has not received data relating to the proportion of referrals to specialist children's services that result in child protection enquiries, or how many child protection enquiries lead to a child protection conference. This has reduced the board's ability to identify any potential themes or trends in the application of child protection thresholds. The board has considered the report of the designated officer and the annual private fostering report, but it has not had sight of the annual report by the independent reviewing officers IROs or performance reports from child protection conference chairs. The board recognises that the breadth and depth of the multi-agency performance information it receives needs to be further improved. (Recommendation)
98. The board maintains a risk register in relation to the delivery of its work programme as well as a challenge log. There is a reliance on partners to report any identified risks that have an impact on agency performance to the board, and these are not automatically transferred to the challenge log. In the absence of a single, shared risk register, the board cannot be confident that it has a sufficiently clear overview of risk across the partnership, and this makes it difficult for the board to be sure that any risks are addressed in a timely way. (Recommendation)
99. The board has ensured that a clear and up-to-date multi-agency threshold document is in place, and has undertaken some work to test the application of thresholds across the partnership. A number of audits undertaken in the 12 months preceding the inspection highlighted potential gaps in professionals' understanding of thresholds, inconsistencies in the consideration of consent and some concerns about the multi-agency use of safeguarding leads within professionals' own organisations. Although these issues were highlighted and shared, the board has not taken sufficiently assertive action to further interrogate or address these issues.
100. Effective strategic arrangements are in place to identify and safeguard children and young people who go missing or who are at risk of sexual exploitation. The multi-agency sexual exploitation sub-group oversees the multi-agency sexual exploitation team effectively and has recently completed a problem profile. A significant awareness-raising and training campaign has been delivered, and

child sexual exploitation champions have been appointed across agencies. These champions are appropriately trained and are expected to be proactive in advising colleagues and cascading learning. Following a review of the sexual exploitation tool, a shorter version is being developed to better support professionals in identifying and responding to sexual exploitation. Taxi drivers and hoteliers have received training to increase their awareness of child sexual exploitation. Direct and assertive action is taken when safeguarding concerns are identified. Considerable work has been undertaken across agencies to promote awareness and improve the local response to radicalisation.

101. The board, supported by the quality and effectiveness sub-group, has developed an audit programme that reflects its business priorities. A range of multi-agency audits are undertaken in order to analyse the effectiveness of frontline practice. Audits have identified relevant learning across the partnership, with appropriate recommendations to improve multi-agency working. The board is unable to assess fully how well agencies are implementing these findings, or to judge the impact of the learning on practice, because it has not put into place a robust process to track actions or analyse practice changes. The board also has not established a system for routinely overseeing or receiving the findings from single-agency audits. This means that it cannot judge whether each agency is doing enough to interrogate practice within their own organisation, and cannot assimilate or share relevant findings. (Recommendation)
102. The board undertakes a bi-annual programme of Section 11 audits. These audits are subject to appropriate peer review and provide assurance to the board regarding safeguarding practice within agencies. Underpinning evidence is robust. However, the board, together with the local authority, has not consistently required local schools, early years settings and colleges to undertake a regular and comprehensive evaluation of the arrangements they have in place to safeguard children. (Recommendation)
103. Established and clear arrangements are in place to review and learn from child deaths. The CDOP is effective and there is good multi-agency engagement in the child death process. The development of an innovative e-system has addressed the backlog of cases and ensured an effective and efficient response to, and consideration of, child deaths. The annual report is appropriately detailed, reflects the work undertaken by CDOP and identifies key priorities. The CDOP has led a successful campaign on safe sleeping, producing information and tools that have been distributed to parents and rolling out training for health professionals. Learning from child deaths is routinely shared with partners and cases are referred to the case review panel for consideration, as appropriate.
104. A learning and improvement framework ensures that decisions to initiate a serious case review or, in those cases which do not meet the criteria for such a review, a learning review, are appropriate. The board has completed two serious case reviews in the last 12 months, which are due to be published. A

number of events have been held alongside informative material to disseminate learning across partner agencies. Safeguarding procedures are regularly updated and reflect learning from audits and case reviews, as well as national developments. However, the board does not rigorously evaluate the impact of learning from serious case reviews on frontline practice.

105. The board delivers a wide range of multi-agency safeguarding courses. A training strategy is in place and is available on the website, alongside the 'training tree', which sets out a simple training development structure. Training events and courses reflect the findings from local serious case reviews and learning reviews, and trainers are subject to a thorough quality-assurance process. However, the board has been slow to ensure that local professionals are properly equipped to identify and assess neglect within families, and the current programme does not sufficiently address this. Action has been taken to improve agency attendance at courses and the completion of e-learning modules. A recently developed training matrix assists agency professionals in identifying appropriate courses to attend according to their role. The board has not undertaken a multi-agency training needs analysis to inform the future training plan, limiting its ability to target learning and training activity effectively. Evaluation of the impact of training on frontline practice has so far been limited and the board has identified this as an area for further development.
106. The annual report for 2015–16 includes data in an easy to understand format, highlights key achievements and identifies areas for development. However, it does not provide a rigorous and transparent assessment and scrutiny of frontline practice, or a comprehensive assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. While the report includes limited analysis of a number of key aspects of safeguarding, such as managing allegations against professionals, it does not include learning from serious case and child death reviews. (Recommendation)

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences of children and young people who have needed or still need help and/or protection. This also includes children and young people who are looked after and young people who are leaving care and starting their lives as young adults.

Inspectors considered the quality of work and the difference adults make to the lives of children, young people and families. They read case files, watched how professional staff work with families and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care given to children and young people. Wherever possible, they talked to children, young people and their families. In addition, the inspectors have tried to understand what the local authority knows about how well it is performing, how well it is doing and what difference it is making for the people who it is trying to help, protect and look after.

The inspection of the local authority was carried out under section 136 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

The review of the Local Safeguarding Children Board was carried out under section 15A of the Children Act 2004.

Ofsted produces this report of the inspection of local authority functions and the review of the local safeguarding children board under its power to combine reports in accordance with section 152 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

The inspection team consisted of seven of Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI), one regulatory inspector (RI) and two additional inspectors (AI).

The inspection team

Lead inspector: Linda Steele HMI

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From: Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education
Andrew Ireland, Corporate Director of Social Care Health and Wellbeing

To: Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee – 22 June 2017

Subject: **CONTRACT AWARD OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE**

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: None

Future Pathway of Paper: None

Electoral Division: All

Summary: This report provides an update on the contract award for future Children and Young People Mental Health Services (CYPMHS) within Kent, previously known as CAMHS. The contract with the incumbent Provider is due to expire in August 2017, following an agreed extension. It is imperative that the new service commences in September 2017 to coincide with the contract finishing as well as aligning with transformation of Children and Young People Mental Health Services, (Future in Mind).

The conclusion of the procurement process resulted in the recommendation to the Clinical Commissioning Group Governing Bodies that the contract for the provision of services for the term of five years (with a further two years option to extend) be awarded to **North East London Foundation Trust (NELFT)**. The contract mobilisation started in May and will conclude at the end of August, the new service will start on 1 September 2017.

**Contract Value £80,456,905.00 (five years)
plus up to an additional £1.4m for transformation.**

NELFT successfully passed both the Selection stage and reached the minimum score (60%) required for the Invitation to Submit Outline Solution (ISOS) and Invitation to Submit Final Tender (ISFT), award stage. This Provider achieved the highest quality score (85%) and the highest price per quality score.

This recommendation was considered and approved by each of the Clinical Commissioning Group Governing Bodies during March and April 2017. The contract report provides information relating to the decision.

Recommendation: The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to **NOTE** the content of the report.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Council's Care Procurement Team, on behalf of Kent's Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG), working collaboratively, was commissioned to manage the procurement for Children and Young People's Mental Health Service. The procurement exercise was launched in June 2016 with a Market Engagement event at which a presentation was given to key stakeholders on the intentions around the new service, the project timeline and objectives for the system change, as well the procurement structure and process to the market. The procurement entailed the following lots:
- Lots 1 & 2 for Children and Young People Mental Health services within Kent.
 - Lot 3, Public Health School Nursing 5 – 11 age range, and
 - Lot 4, Public Health School Nursing and Emotional Wellbeing 11 – 18 age range.
- 1.2 The procurement route selected for this project was a Competitive Dialogue procedure, which provided both the Council and the CCGs and potential Providers the opportunity to develop and work together on the future service model and how the specification should be delivered. The procurement started with seven providers and the final Invitation to Submit Final Tender (ISFT) stage resulted in three providers participating.
- 1.3 Prior to ISFT publication, the services were to be delivered separately across the county, with one Single Point of Access (SPA). However, it was agreed that the most effective contract to deliver the new service, would be to combine Lots 1 & 2 together. This decision was made following dialogue with the providers and if 2 lots remaining some of the key services would require duplication and increase cost.
- 1.4 The table below outlines the timeline for the project.

Publication of Advert and Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) Documentation on the Kent Business Portal	24 June 2016 (Tender period 30 days)
Deadline to submit requests for clarification via the Kent Business Portal Discussion facility	12:00 (noon) one week before the deadline for responses, 15 July 2016
Deadline for PQQ Responses	12:00 (noon) 22 July 2016
PQQ Evaluation Period (including notifying Providers of outcomes)	23 July 2016 – 8 August 2016

Publication of Invitation to Submit Outline Solution (ISOS)	3 August 2016
Deadline for ISOS Responses	31 August 2016
ISOS Evaluation Period (including notifying Providers of outcomes)	1 September 2016 – 16 September 2016
Competitive Dialogue	28 September 2016 – 17 November 2016
Publication of Invitation to Submit Final Solution (ISFT)	17 January 2017
Deadline ISFT Responses	26 January 2017
Evaluation for Award (including post tender clarifications and moderation)	27 January 2017 – 1 March 2017
Project Board Contract Award Recommendation Report	15 March 2017
CCG Governing Body approval	
West Kent CCG	28 March 2017
DGS CCG	28 March 2017
Swale CCG	31 March 2017
Canterbury	6 April 2017
Thanet CCG	11 April 2017
South Kent Coast	12 April 2017
Ashford	13 April 2017
FINAL DATE FOR CCG APPROVAL	13 April 2017
STAND STILL PERIOD AND END DATE	27 April 2017
Schedule of Agreements Meeting	28 April 2017
Publication of Decision to Award	28 April 2017
Contract Award	8 May 2017
Mobilisation Period	8 May to 31 August 2017
Contract Commencement Date	1 September 2017

2. Commissioning Requirements for KCC

- 2.1 The new contract has many benefits for Children and Young People (CYP) and also for both the Council and the CCGs. One of these is the development of a SPA for Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing, which will operate on a 'no wrong door approach'. The SPA (Lots 3 and 4) will be hosted within Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust (KCHFT) Providers' Maidstone premises. Having a co-located SPA will promote full integration of Emotional Wellbeing Services. This integrated model aims to achieve holistic Mental Health provision for CYP.
- 2.2 There are also other specific service benefits for Children and Families for whom the Council funds services:
- The Provider will prioritise the assessment of Children in Care (CiC), over and above children with a similar level of need
 - The Provider will align mental health practitioners to each of the Council's Early Help Units
 - The Provider will work with support staff and Children in the Kent Health Needs Pupil Referral Units, providing intensive interventions to the young person/child/parents/carers. Their goal will be getting the child back into mainstream education stream as soon as reasonably possible

- Working closely with Kent schools/Head Teachers to promote emotional wellbeing prevention strategies.

3. Strategic Statement and Policy Framework

3.1 This project supports the Strategic Statement Outcome “Children and young people in Kent get the best start in life”.

3.2 Specifically the following Supporting Outcomes:

- Keeping vulnerable families out of crisis and more children and young people out of KCC care
- Children and young people have better physical and mental health
- All children and young people are engaged, thrive and achieve their potential through academic and vocational education
- Kent young people are confident and ambitious with choices and access to work, education and training opportunities.

4. Background and Overview

4.1 Kent County Council and the Kent Clinical Commissioning Groups (the Contracting Parties) have been working together since early 2014 to improve the quality and scope of universal provision to deliver a new whole system of support that extends beyond the traditional reach of commissioned services.

4.2 As partners in Kent, the Contracting Parties want to support CYP and their families as they make their journey through life, and work together in helping them respond to and overcome specific challenges they may face. Enjoying positive Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health opens the door to improved physical and cognitive development, better relationships with family members and peers, and a smoother transition to adult independence.

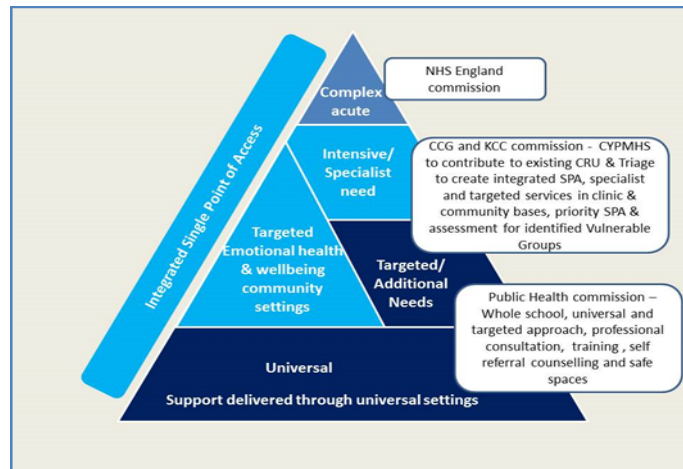
4.3 The new service model and commissioning approach aims to address the current gaps and blockages in the pathway that CYP and their families tell us they experience when accessing Mental Health Services in Kent.

4.4 The new model, which has been developed alongside the principles and approaches, articulated within Future in Mind, outlines a whole system approach to emotional wellbeing and mental health in which there is a SPA and clear seamless pathways to support ranging from Universal ‘Early Help’ through to Highly Specialist care with better transition between services.

4.5 Within the service specifications the importance of working with HeadStart Kent is clearly articulated and it is through this service that the HeadStart Kent service will be commissioned and delivered.

4.6 Commissioners will ensure that the new School Public Health Services are aligned with the wider changes in children’s services and the implementation of the Emotional Wellbeing Strategy. This will include implementing the emerging

evidence from the HeadStart evaluation and the transformation of targeted and specialist Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Services for CYP.



4.7 This model represents a significant shift in the way that support and services are to be provided to CYP across the system.

4.8 Over the lifetime of the contract there is an absolute requirement for the Provider, North East London Foundation Trust to embed transformation of children’s Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Services. The service specification embraces this approach, introducing flexibility around delivery of Mental Health Services for children.

4.9 The Emotional Health and Wellbeing (EWB) Programme envisages all Providers working together to achieve common outcomes for the benefit of CYP, this will be underpinned by the inclusion of:

- an interface agreement
- joint outcomes and Key Performance Indicators (KPI) within the contracts.

4.10 The key principles are:

- a. Obliges Providers to use their expertise to establish, with children, young people and families, the most appropriate intervention to their current need
- b. A key element in achieving these outcomes are the interfaces or linkages created and maintained to ensure CYP receive appropriate treatment, in the right place, at the right time
- c. The purpose of this Interface Agreement is to define how the Contracting Parties expect Providers to work together in a climate of mutual trust and support to ensure that the required service deliverables are achieved and CYP gain the required outcomes
- d. The Contract expects all Providers to look beyond simply meeting their own individual responsibilities, rather, working as a group, being jointly accountable for achieving core outcomes in a culture of joint success
- e. Providers will ensure the values and behaviours detailed in the contract apply to any subcontractors used in the delivery of the services

4.10 NELFT will act as the Strategic Partner for the programme and will operate a SPA, which is anticipated to be hosted within the KCHFT premises in Maidstone. KCHFT is the contracted provider delivering Emotional Wellbeing under the School Public Health contract for KCC.

5. Evaluation and Commercial

5.1 All evaluation was undertaken by the relevant subject matter experts and a broad range of stakeholders, including service user representatives. The table below outlines the outcome of the evaluated scores for the three remaining Providers.

		NELFT	Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust	Virgin Care
Section	Weighting	Score	Score	Score
1. Single Point of Access	15%	11.25%	7.5%	7.5%
2. Service Model	25%	18.75%	14.06%	10.63%
3. IT	10%	5%	5%	5%
4. Commercial	20%	15%	5%	12%
5. Patient Experience	10%	10%	2.5%	2.5%
6. Workforce, Training & Quality	10%	10%	3.75%	3.75%
7. Leadership & Service Transformation	10%	7.5%	4.13%	5.88%
8. Presentation Score	10%	7.5%	2.50%	5%
	Total	85%	44.44%	52.25%
	Rank	1	3	2

5.2 The same Financial Envelope (FE) per annum, was given to Providers detailing breakdown of the funding amounts for each service which was to be costed for each of for the five year contract term.

Financial envelope (including CQUINs and outcome based payments)	Total	£16,091,381	
	East Kent CCGs	North/West Kent CCGs	
Targeted and Specialist Services	£7,096,797	£5,831,584	
KCC LAC Enhanced-priority assessment	£614,091	£385,909	
Early Help Units	£600,000	£600,000	
Prescribing costs	£836,000	£127,000	
Total	£9,146,888	£6,944,493	£16,091,381

5.3 The amounts highlighted in bold are the Council's contribution which will be funded through a Section 76 agreement. The necessary key decision to authorise this, and the spending of this money, is 16/00052 (Children & Young People Mental Health Service) which was taken by the then Cabinet Member

following discussion at the 5 July 2016 Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee

- 5.4 The maximum FE available under this agreement is **£80,456,905.00** for delivery of the Children's and Young Peoples Mental Health Services across Kent.
- 5.5 Additional funding was also made available from the CCGs for transformation of services and was dependent on the quality score obtained by the Provider. The total transformation financial amount available was £2,048,077.00, ring-fenced for the first 2.5 contract years. NELFT in agreement with the CCGs will be eligible for up to **£1.4m**.
- 5.6 Over the life of the Contract the Provider will be required to deliver the stipulated volumes against the service cost and outcome within the annually agreed FE.
- 5.7 The payment mechanism will reflect the potential increase/decrease in demand volumes after the baseline has been set in year one.
- 5.8 An element of the FE will be linked to the delivery of the Whole System Outcomes across the Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Services, which have an element of interdependency.
- 5.9 The Outcomes related to the payment will be jointly agreed between the Providers and the Contract Managers during year one of the contract, in line with the Interface Agreement. Additionally financial penalties have been set against a number of KPIs which will come into force from month nine of the contract. Any monies drawn back through penalties will be reinvested into the service.

6 Contract Management

- 6.1 A Contract Management Model was embedded within the procurement and the new Contract. The Contract Management Schedule outlines the commissioners/contract leads expectations from the key stakeholders and providers.
- 6.2 Within the Contract Management Schedule and the subsequent Operations Manual, contract management occurs at two levels - Operational and Strategic.

6.3 Operational Contract Monitoring Meetings

- 6.3.1 The following individuals (or their nominated representative(s)) will be expected to attend regular Contract Monitoring Meetings between the Providers across Children and Young Persons Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service, the Contracting Parties and any other relevant parties with the aim of achieving integrated performance management of the new services

- East, West and North Kent Coordinating Commissioners/Contract Managers

- Provider Contract Manager
- Provider Operational Lead/s (such as Single Point of Access Manager)
- Provider Performance Lead
- KCC Commissioning representatives, KCC Early Help, KCC Specialist Children's Services (SCS)

6.3.2 The Operational Monitoring Meetings will be organised by NELFT with the Contract Managers.

6.3.4 Such topics to include at the meeting are, but not limited to:

- Review Monthly Operational Reporting
- Review KPI performance and applicable Red, Amber, Green (RAG) status
- Effectiveness of the Interface Agreement
- Service Quality (including service issues such as complaints, serious incidents, service user feedback)
- Review of Risk Registers
- Dispute Resolution
- Finance and management of efficiencies savings
- Proposed contract variations
- Issues to escalate to the Strategic Quarterly Review meeting

6.4 Strategic Contract Management

6.4.1 Throughout the life of the Contract, Providers and the Project Board across the Children and Young Persons Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service (including all relevant stakeholders) must meet quarterly. The Council will have the following representatives present on this Project Board:

- Assistant Area Director, SCS
- Director of Early Help and Preventative Services
- Head of Commissioning, Children's Services

6.4.2 The Strategic Partner, NELFT, is responsible for organising and facilitating this with the objectives of:

- Facilitating a collaborative working relationship between the Contracting Parties, Clinical Commissioning Groups and all Providers
- Discuss demand related aspects of the Service in relation to recommendations around increase/decreases in demand management
- Enabling an open and transparent exchange of information and views to encourage the identification of issues and their resolution;
- Reviewing the performance of the Providers in delivering the service and achieving the required outcomes and agreeing Penalties if necessary
- Reviewing and considering other relevant matters throughout the lifetime of the Contract

- Reviewing and understanding the implications of the transformation agenda from a National and Local perspective
- Reviewing performance and delivery of outcomes in line with the Interface Agreement
- Developing, agreeing and where appropriate implementing improvements across the integrated Service.
- Developing and agreeing the key Outcomes to be measured across the service in relation to delivering the Outcomes payment required from year two of the Contract (September 2018, month 12 of the contract)

6.4.3 Additionally, the Interface Agreement document outlines the key principles of the strategic partnership working across the contracted parties.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 A Section 76 agreement will be in place between the CCGs and Kent County Council for the financial contribution element for the contract.

8. Legal Implications

8.1 None.

9. Equality Implications

9.1 A full EQIA was undertaken as part of the procurement process.

10. Conclusions

10.1 The new Contract will take time to embed the new model of working, however, this new contract signifies full integration of Children and Young People Mental Health Services across Kent.

10.2 NELFT has been awarded the Eating Disorders Contract on behalf of the Kent CCGs, including Medway, which was carried out under a separate procurement exercise. NELFT has also been successfully awarded the Medway Children and Young People Mental Health Service, all of which supports the transformation of Children and Young Peoples Mental Health Services.

11 Recommendation(s)

11.1 Recommendation(s): The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to **NOTE** the content of the report.

12. Background Documents

Future in mind

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/improving-mental-health-services-for-young-people>

Emotional Wellbeing Strategy

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/health-policies/emotional-wellbeing-strategy>

Report to Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee – 5 July 2016

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s69769/B2%20-%20Children%20and%20Young%20People%20Mental%20Health%20Service.pdf>

13. Report Author

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From: Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education

Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education

To: Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee – 22 June 2017

Subject: Proposal to approve a new two form entry Primary school with a 26 place nursery, and SEN specialist provision for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, at Chilmington Green, Ashford

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: None
Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Divisions: Ashford South (Dara Farrell), Ashford Rural South (Mike Angel), Ashford Rural West (Charlie Simkins)

Summary:

This report sets out the need for a new two form entry (2FE) Primary school at Chilmington Green, Ashford, to open in September 2018. The school will include a 26 place nursery and SEN specialist provision for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. The new school will open off site in the former Ashford South Primary School buildings.

Recommendation(s):

The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education on the decision to:

- a) Allocate £7.2m from the Children, Young People and Education Capital Budget;
- b) To authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the General Counsel to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council; and
- c) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts. Variations to contract value to be no more than 10% above the capital funding agreed by the Cabinet Member without requiring a new Record of Decision.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Ashford Borough Local Plan sets the expectation that 20,350 new homes will be built in the District between 2001 and 2021 with the development at Chilmington Green being an integral part of this plan. The development is located south west of Ashford Town and bordered on the west by the A28. The development will be a new community of some 5,750 homes, alongside significant leisure and community facilities. The development will produce additional demand for Primary and Secondary school places which cannot be met locally. Once the development reaches capacity there are planned to be three new 2FE Primary schools, a 1FE Primary school and a Secondary school accommodating up to 8FE. Therefore, we are seeking a sponsor for the first new 2FE free school that will serve the District Centre of the development.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 We are proposing the opening of the first of the Primary schools. Our intention is that it will be a 2FE Primary school with a 26 place nursery. The Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) identifies the need to provide additional places for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). We are proposing, therefore that the school contains specialist provision for pupils with ASD. This could be via a satellite unit of Wyvern Special School on the new school site. The alternative is for the sponsor to operate a Specialist Resourced Provision within the school.

3. The Need For School Places

- 3.1 The developers of Chilmington Green have commenced construction of the site access and work is underway to discharge all pre-commencement conditions. It is anticipated house building will commence in winter 2017 with occupations in 2018. The rate of house building is forecast to be 350 units per year. This would be expected to produce 98 Primary aged pupils per year, or half a form of entry. At this rate a new 2 FE school will be full within four years.
- 3.2 Figures 1 and 2 show the forecast surplus and deficit places across the Ashford District and across the Ashford South planning area and across Ashford South adjoining planning areas if no action is taken.

Figure 1: Year R Surplus/deficit capacity if no further action is taken

Planning Group	2015-16 capacity	2015-16 (A)	2016-17 (F)	2017-18 (F)	2018-19 (F)	2019-20 (F)	2020-21 (F)	2020-21 capacity
Ashford South	360	8	11	-4	27	17	19	360
Ashford South and adjoining planning areas	1,181	104	77	30	78	18	42	1,181
Ashford	1,635	134	111	102	160	63	105	1,630

Figure 2: All Year Groups Surplus/deficit capacity if no further action is taken

Planning Group	2015-16 capacity	2015-16 (A)	2016-17 (F)	2017-18 (F)	2018-19 (F)	2019-20 (F)	2020-21 (F)	2020-21 capacity
Ashford South	2,520	86	113	75	85	90	105	2,520
Ashford South and adjoining planning areas	7,916	340	358	284	307	271	266	8,372
Ashford	11,009	533	559	470	528	501	528	11,520

The forecasts show that from 2017-18 Ashford District is forecast to be operating with less than 5% surplus school places available across Years R-6. This picture is similar in the Ashford South Planning Area, where the new development is located, and in the adjacent planning areas. It is evident that there will be insufficient capacity in the local planning areas to meet the need of approximately 100 extra pupils in each year. Indeed, we would forecast a deficit of places across Ashford South and the adjoining planning areas by 2020-21. With this in mind we are proposing that the new school will initially open in September 2018 in premises located at the former Ashford South School, Jemmett Road, Ashford. On completion of the new school building in Chilmington Green the school will relocate. This is expected to be in September 2019.

4. The Free School Presumption Process

- 4.1 The Education Act 2011 changed the arrangements for establishing new schools and introduced Section 6A (the academy and free school presumption) to the Education and Inspections Act 2006. This was amended in March 2015 to be only a free school presumption. Where a local authority thinks there is a need for a new school in its area it must seek proposals to establish a free school. All new free school proposals require the Secretary of State's approval. The local authority must assess all proposals received and send the outcome of the assessment to the Secretary of State for consideration and approval. The preference indicated by the local authority will be a key factor in that consideration. We are presently completing the competition process following the timetable outlined in figure 3.

Figure 3: Timeline for the free school competition

Event	Proposed Dates
Invitation to submit a proposal published	3 April 2017
Deadline for receipt of applications	19 May 2017
KCC informs DfE of all proposals received	23 May 2017
Promoter Assessment Panel meets	6 June 2017
Education Commission considers proposals	20 June 2017
KCC submits all proposals to the Secretary of State	27 June 2017
Secretary of State appoints the successful sponsor	End July 2017
School opens off site	September 2018
School open in the development	September 2019

4.2 In order to encourage the widest choice of quality sponsors the LA has:

- Published information about the competition on the KCC website. This included an indicative 3-year budget profile, an application form for potential sponsors to complete, and assessment criteria against which the applications would be assessed on.
- Sent the competition information to the Free Schools Presumption team who forward this to the New School Network.
- Written to all Ashford Headteachers.
- Written to trusts who had already expressed an interest.
- Written to 18 trusts that sponsor Academies in Kent.
- Included the need for a free school in Chilmington Green in KCC's Education Commissioning Plan 2017-21.

We have initiated engagement with the local community through:

- Sharing all the competition information with Ashford Borough Council, the local MP and the local Parish Councils.
- Arranging a meeting with Chilmington Green Stakeholder Group on 13 June 2017 to gather their views on the need for primary provision in Chilmington Green

5. Financial Implications

5.1

- a. Capital –The estimated cost of the new school is in the region of £7.2m. Developer contributions totalling £6m have been agreed towards the school with KCC providing the residual funding from the Children, Young People and Education capital budget. Capital funding will also be allocated to enable the School to resource each new classroom as they come on line, presently at a value of £6,000 per classroom.
- b. Revenue - A one-off £25,000 grant will be provided to the successful sponsor by the Department for Education to cover legal expenses. KCC will provide a budget of £50,000 for start-up costs which will typically commence from January through to 31 August prior to the new school opening on 1 September 2018. The school will receive funding through its GAG, via the Education and Skills Funding Agency. In accordance with the Pupil Growth Policy established by KCC and its Schools' Funding Forum, the school will receive guaranteed funding during the first three years. The growth fund will support the school financially to ensure it can put in place a staffing structure to provide the places commissioned. For the purposes of providing a guaranteed budget we are assuming the organisation as laid out in figure 4 below. We will review the admission numbers and the school structure with the successful sponsor regularly, to ensure sufficient capacity will be in place when required without a significant overcapacity that will place an unnecessary pressure on the growth fund.

Figure 4: Proposed Admissions Numbers at the new school over the first 3 years

	Yr. R	Yr. 1	Yr. 2	Yr. 3	Yr. 4	Yr. 5	Yr. 6	Number of Classes Funded	Pupil Numbers Funded
2018/19	30	15	15	15	15	0	0	3	90
2019/20	30	30	30	15	15	15	0	5	150
2020/21	30	30	30	30	15	15	15	6	180

- c. Human – The school will appoint additional staff as required, as the School size increases and the need arises, utilising its revenue budget.

5. Vision and Priorities for Improvement

- 6.1 These proposals will help to secure our ambition that “Every child and young person should go to a good or outstanding early years setting and school” as set out in Vision and Priorities for Improvement 2016-2019.
- 6.2 The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2017-21 identified the need to commission the new school in Chilmington Green.

7. Delegation to Officers

- 7.1 The Officer Scheme of Delegation; under Appendix 2 part 4 of the Council’s Constitution, provides a clear and appropriate link between this decision and the actions needed to implement it. For information it is envisaged, if the proposal goes ahead, that the Director of Infrastructure will sign contracts on behalf of the County Council.

8. Conclusion

- 8.1 The new school will provide the initial 2FE of provision, a 26 place nursery and specialist ASD provision for the Chilmington Green development thus ensuring that pupils have a school place and access to a local school.

9. Recommendation(s)

<p>Recommendation(s): The Children’s, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education on the decision to:</p> <p>a) Allocate £7.2m from the Children, Young People and Education Capital Budget;</p> <p>b) To authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the General Counsel to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council; and</p> <p>c) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts. Variations to contract value to be no more than 10% above the capital funding agreed by the Cabinet Member without requiring a new Record of Decision.</p>

10. Background Documents

- 10.1 Vision and Priorities for Improvement
<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/education-skills-and-employment-policies/vision-and-priorities-for-improvement>
- 10.2 Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2017-21
<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/education-skills-and-employment-policies/education-provision-plan>
- 10.3 Competition Document and Equalities Impact Assessment.
<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/education-provision/provision-of-new-schools#tab-3>

11. Contact details

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,
Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education

DECISION NO:

For publication

Subject: Proposal to approve a new 2FE primary school with a 26FTE place nursery, and specialist provision for pupils with Autistic Spectrum disorder, at Chilmington Green, Ashford

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education I agree to:

- a) Allocate £7.2m from the Education and Young People's Service Capital budget;
- b) To authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the General Counsel to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council; and
- c) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts. Variations to contract value to be no more than 10% above the capital funding agreed by the Cabinet Member without requiring a new Record of Decision.

Reason(s) for decision:

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent (2017-21) sets out the intention to commission additional school places in Ashford. The Plan also mentioned a specific need for a 2FE school in Chilmington Green.

In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

- The need for extra school places required in Chilmington Green due to housing developments;
- The views of the Area Education Officer;
- The Equalities Impact Assessment and comments received regarding this; and
- The views of the Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee which are set out below

Financial Implications

- a. Capital –The estimated cost of the new school is in the region of £7.2m. Developer contributions totalling £6m have been agreed towards the school with KCC providing the residual funding from the Children, Young People and Education capital budget. Capital funding will also be allocated to enable the School to resource each new classroom as they come on line, presently at a value of £6,000 per classroom.
- b. Revenue - A one-off £25,000 grant will be provided to the successful sponsor by the Department for Education to cover legal expenses. KCC will provide a budget of £50,000 for start-up costs which will typically commence from January through to 31 August prior to the new school opening on 1 September 2018. The school will receive funding through its GAG, via the Education and Skills Funding Agency. In accordance with the Pupil Growth Policy established by KCC and its Schools' Funding Forum, the school will receive guaranteed funding during the first three years. The growth fund will support the school financially to ensure it can place a staffing structure to provide the places

commissioned. For the purposes of providing a guaranteed budget we are assuming the organisation as laid out in figure 4. We will review the admission numbers and the school structure with the successful sponsor regularly, to ensure sufficient capacity will be in place when required without a significant overcapacity that will place an unnecessary pressure on the growth fund.

Figure 4: Proposed Admissions Numbers at the new school over the first 3 years

	Yr. R	Yr. 1	Yr. 2	Yr. 3	Yr. 4	Yr. 5	Yr. 6	Number of Classes Funded	Pupil Numbers Funded
2018/19	30	15	15	15	15	0	0	3	90
2019/20	30	30	30	15	15	15	0	5	150
2020/21	30	30	30	30	15	15	15	6	180

- c. Human – The school will appoint additional staff as required, as the school size increases and the need arises, utilising its revenue budget.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:
To be added after Committee meeting

Any alternatives considered:

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

.....

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Signed

Date

From: Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education

Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education

To: Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee – 22 June 2017

Subject: Children, Young People and Education Directorate Scorecard

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: The Children, Young People and Education performance management framework is the monitoring tool for the targets and the milestones for each year up to 2020, set out in the Strategic Priority Statement, Vision and Priorities for Improvement, and service business plans. This is a regular standing item for the Cabinet Committee to monitor performance on all key measures.

Recommendations: The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to review and comment on the Children, Young People and Education performance scorecard, which includes all Education and Early Help services.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Each Cabinet Committee receives a performance management scorecard which is intended to support Committee Members in reviewing performance against the targets set out in the Strategic Priority Statement, Vision and Priorities for Improvement, and service business plans.

2. Children, Young People and Education Performance Management Framework

- 2.1 The performance scorecard indicators are grouped by frequency; the first section shows monthly and quarterly indicators, the second details annual measures.
- 2.2 Management Information, working with Heads of Service, also produces service scorecards, which are more detailed than the summary level Directorate scorecard. In addition to the Directorate scorecard there is an Early Help and Preventative Services monthly scorecard and a quarterly scorecard for School Improvement, Skills and Employability services and Early Years and Childcare. There are also monthly performance reports for young people Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET), exclusions and those with Special Educational Needs (SEN).
- 2.3 The indicators in the Directorate scorecard provide a broad overview of performance, and are supported by the greater detail within the service scorecards.

3. Current Performance

- 3.1 The performance scorecard highlights some notable progress and some areas for improvement as indicated by their RAG status. Some indicators and targets have been updated to align with the latest version of Vision and Priorities. Please note that, unlike the Quarterly Performance Report, the targets are not phased.
- 3.2 The data sources page (page 28 of the scorecard report) details the date each indicator relates to, as the reporting period differs between measures. Indicator definitions are given on pages 29 -31.
- 3.3 There is variation in performance between the districts. This commentary is based on the overall aggregate for Kent.
- 3.4 The percentage of Early Years settings that were good or outstanding at 96.4% is in line with the ambitious target of 97%. Delivering further improvements such as increasing the amount of outstanding provision remains a key priority for the Early Years and Childcare Service. The take-up for two year olds in March 2017 was 69.8%. Other priorities include preparing for the delivery of 30 Hours of Free Childcare with effect from September 2017, working in partnership with Children's Centres to continue to increase the take up of Free Early Education places by eligible two year olds, increasing the number of children achieving a Good Level of Development at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage, narrowing achievement gaps, and increasing the number of Early Years settings working within a collaboration.
- 3.5 The percentage of schools that are good or outstanding has increased to 91.2% which is just below the 2016/17 target of 92%. In March 2017, 496 of the 546 schools in Kent were good or outstanding, which was 91.2% of the 544 schools with a current inspection. This means in Kent 89.2% of pupils were attending good or outstanding schools compared to 84.2% at the same time last year, an increase of 13,500 children receiving a better education. Kent has 22% of schools judged to be outstanding compared to the national figure of 21%. We will continue the positive trajectory seen in Kent. Improving outcomes and reducing the gap in performance differences remain key priorities. One of the priorities moving forward is to increase the number of schools graded as outstanding and moving those who require improvement to become good as quickly as possible. We are on track for our long term target that 95% of schools will be good or outstanding. One school remains in an Ofsted category (special measures or serious weakness) which is three fewer than reported in December. The target for 2016/17 is for no schools to be in a category of concern.
- 3.6 The percentage of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) issued within the statutory 20 weeks is down this quarter to 80.2% against a service target of 90%. In addition to 1004 new assessments completed during 2016, an increase from the previous year's total of 900, KCC must transfer all existing Statements to EHCPs by March 2018. DfE data showed Kent had completed 30% of transfers compared with a national average of 18%. During the last quarter, January to March 2017, Kent maintained its early pace, focussing on children in Year 6 moving to secondary school in September 2017 with 93% of these completed within time and completing 78% of all transfers. Only 1588 are yet to be completed from a total of over 8000. Last quarter performance included transfers for young people moving on to post 16 which is the largest area of growth in work for the service. In March 2017, the DfE announced that all LAs must submit monthly data on the number of outstanding transfers. It will publish 2016 data by June 2017

- 3.7 The number of permanent exclusions of Primary aged pupils is 16, one above the target. The number of permanent exclusions from Secondary schools remains at 43, higher than the target of 40, but the rate is lower than last year and the the national figure. Overall permanent exclusions have reduced significantly, as a result of improved arrangements in Pupil Referral Units, better alternative provision and Primary school projects to better support pupils with challenging behaviour. 85.7% of PRUs are now rated good or outstanding.
- 3.8 As of September 2016 the DfE no longer requires Local Authorities to submit data on the number of young people in Year 14 (academic age 18) who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). Therefore the indicator has been changed to reflect this and now includes young people in Years 12 and 13 (academic age 16 and 17). The data for March shows 3.2% of this cohort is NEET which is 0.7% short of the target. However the three month rolling average for November, December and January, which the DfE uses as its performance measure, shows Kent to be 2.8% which is in line with national figure of 2.7%. This is an improvement on the 2015/16 level of 3.0% for Kent, compared to 2.7% nationally. Significant progress continues to be made to reduce both NEET and Not Knowns. The Not Known figures are the lowest they have been for 4 years. An increasing number of districts have met the monthly targets for NEET and in the other districts the number of NEETs has remained relatively stable due to effective partnerships with schools and employers being established.
- 3.9 The rate of Early Help notifications received per 10,000 of the 0 – 18 population has increased from 328.7 in December 2016 to 341.2 in March 2017. The percentage of Early Help cases closed by Early Help Units with outcomes achieved has also increased from 76.9% from 79.6% and is below the target of 86%. Further analysis of the data shows that Early Help is receiving higher volumes of Domestic Abuse Notifications which come from the Police prior to consent being gained with a significant proportion of these families not wishing to engage with any services so the cases are closed due to disengagement. The percentage of cases closed to SCS that were safely stepped-down to Early Help and Preventative Services was 23% for the quarter, below the 25% target. Early Help has the capacity to accept a higher level of step-downs from SCS and joint step-down guidance for workers in both Early Help and SCS supports best practice and integrated working and ensure safe and appropriate handover for those cases stepped-down.
- 3.10 The rate of re-offending by children and young people was 32.0% (based on a 12 month cohort) worse than the 28% target. The number of first time entrants to the Youth Justice system at 300 has also shown further reduction well ahead of the target of 520.
- 3.11 Results at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) shows Kent improved in 2015/16 with 74.8% of children achieving a good level of development compared to 73% in 2014/15. Kent is 5.5 percentage points above the England average figure of 69.3%. The FSM gap is 19 percentage points which means the target of 10 percentage points has not been met. Increasing the number of children achieving a Good Level of Development at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage and narrowing achievement gaps remains one of the Early Years priorities
- 3.12 The 2016 key stage 2 assessments are the first which assess the new, more challenging National Curriculum which was introduced in 2014. Results are no longer reported as levels. Because of these changes figures for 2016 are not comparable to those for earlier years. The expectations for pupils at the end of key Stage 2 have been raised. The percentage of pupils achieving age-related

expectation in reading, writing and maths is 59% which is above the national figure of 53%. The FSM gap is 25 percentage points which means that the target of 15 percentage points was not achieved. Improving outcomes and narrowing the gap remain key priorities for the School Improvement team.

- 3.13 New Secondary school headline performance measures for 2016 include Attainment 8 which is based upon pupils' performance across eight subjects: (doubled weighted) English and mathematics elements, three from sciences, computer science, geography, history and languages and three from further qualifications from the range of English Baccalaureate subjects, or any other high value arts, academic, or vocational qualification approved for inclusion in the performance tables. The average score at KS4 in Attainment 8 is 50.4 which compares favourably to the National average figure of 49.9 and the national all schools figure of 48.2. The FSM gap is 16.2 percentage points. Targets have been set from 2016/17 onwards.
- 3.14 The DfE has reduced the threshold used to define persistent absenteeism from 15% to 10%. The percentage of Primary pupils who are persistently absent using the lower threshold for 2015/16 is 8.7%, meaning the target of 6.5% was not met. The national figure is 8.2%. The percentage of Secondary pupils who are persistently absent using the lower threshold is 14.2%, again not meeting the target of 12.5% and is also above the national figure of 13.1%

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to review and comment on the Children, Young People and Education performance scorecard.

Background Documents

CYPE Directorate Scorecard – April 2017 release (March 2017 data)

Contact details

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Kent Children's Social Care

Performance Management Report

April 2017

Produced By: SCS Management Information

Publication Date: 19 May 2017



Guidance Notes




POLARITY

H	The aim of this indicator is to achieve the highest number/percentage possible.
L	The aim of this indicator is to achieve the lowest number/percentage possible.
T	The aim of this indicator is to stay close to the target that has been set.

RAG RATINGS

R	A red rating indicates that the current performance is significantly away from the target set.
A	An amber rating indicates that the current performance is close to the target set.
G	A green rating indicates that the current performance has met the target that has been set.
No RAG Rating	RAG ratings are not applied to indicators that have a denominator less than 5.

DIRECTION OF TRAVEL (DOT)

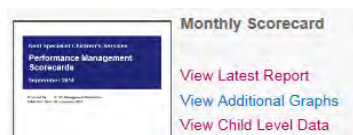
	A green arrow indicates that performance has improved this month when compared to last month. Depending on the polarity of the indicator, an improvement in performance could either be a reduction or increase in numbers/percentage.
	An amber arrow indicates that performance has remained the same as last month.
	A red arrow indicates that performance has worsened this month when compared to last month. Depending on the polarity of the indicator, a worsening in performance could either be a reduction or increase in numbers/percentage.

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

Num	Numerator	CP	Child Protection
Denom	Denominator	CIC	Children in Care
R12M	Rolling 12 Months	BLA	Becoming Looked After
SS	Snapshot	SGO	Special Guardianship Order
C&F Assessments	Child and Family Assessments	UASC	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children
CIN	Child in Need	QSW	Qualified Social Worker
PF	Private Fostering	CSWT	Childrens Social Work Teams
IHA	Initial Health Assessment	PEP	Personal Education Plan

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR GRAPHS AND CHILD LEVEL DATA

The latest graphs and Child level data are published on the SCS Performance Management website (see screenshot below)



KEY CHANGES MADE TO THE REPORT THIS MONTH

New 17/18 scorecard indicators and targets added

SMALL DENOMINATORS

Caution should be applied in the overinterpretation of the results for those performance measures which are calculated against low numbers. In order to highlight this, any denominators with a value between 1 and 9 have been highlighted in light blue. Any indicators that have a denominator that is less than 5 have no RAG rating applied to them.

ROLLING 12 MONTHS

The rolling 12 month period that is being used in this report is: 01/05/2016 to 30/04/2017

ADOPTION & SG TEAM, ADOLESCENT TEAMS AND CRU

Please note that these teams do not have an individual scorecard as their caseholding numbers are very small, however, the performance of the children associated with these teams is counted within the county and relevant area level pages

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION CONTACT DETAILS

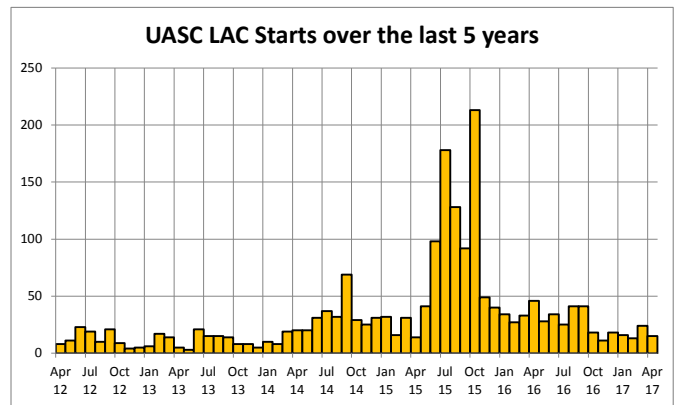
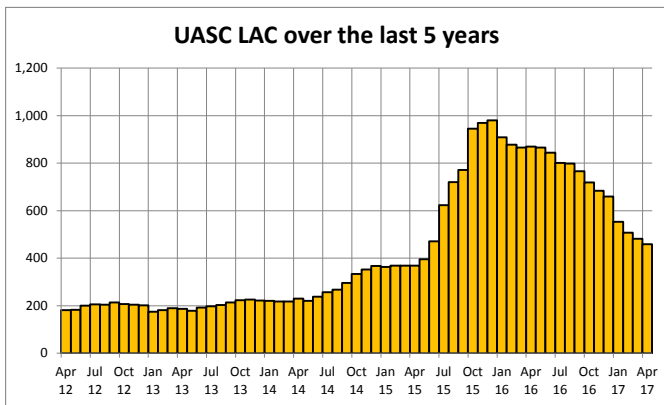
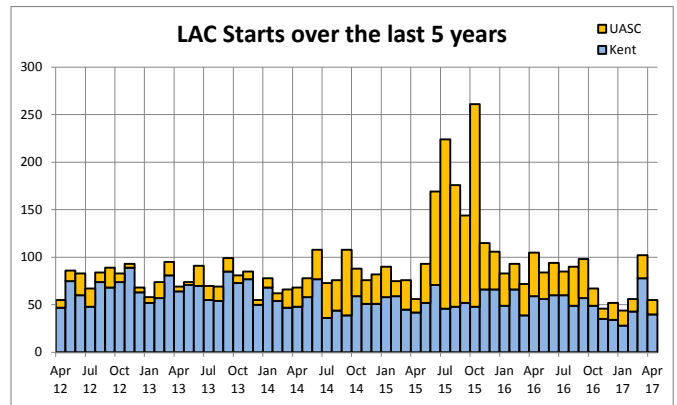
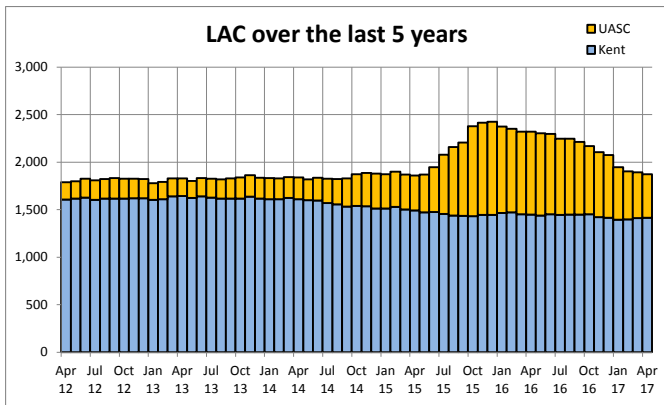
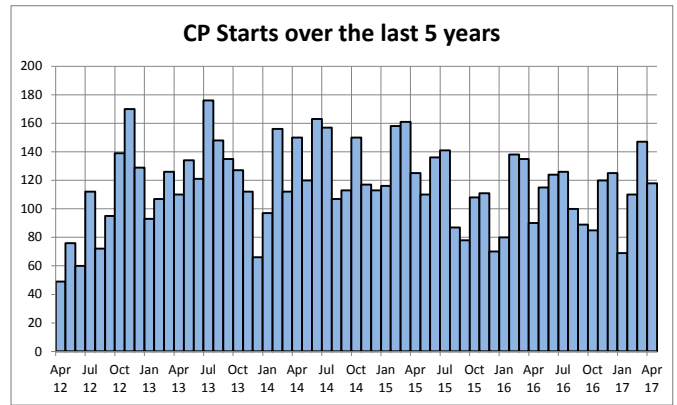
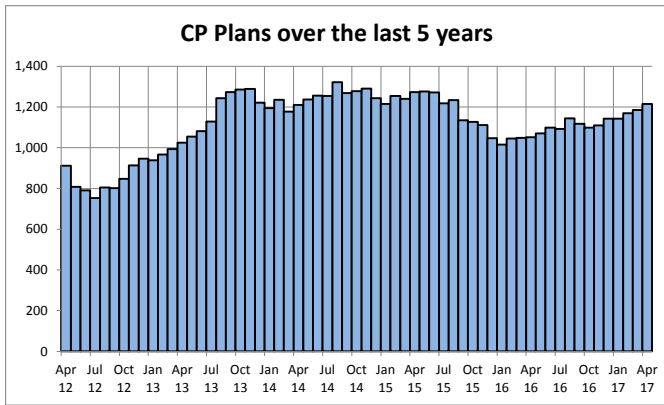
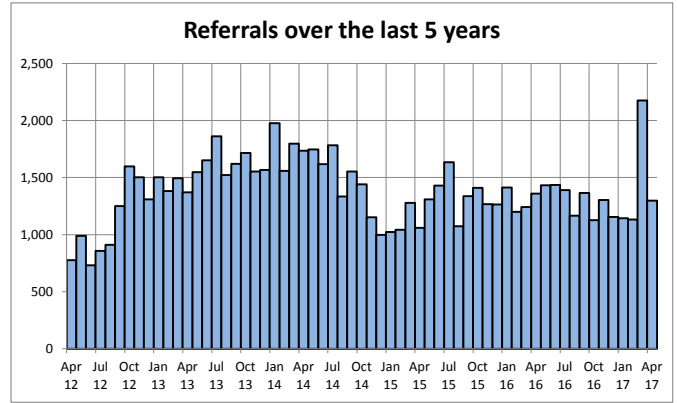
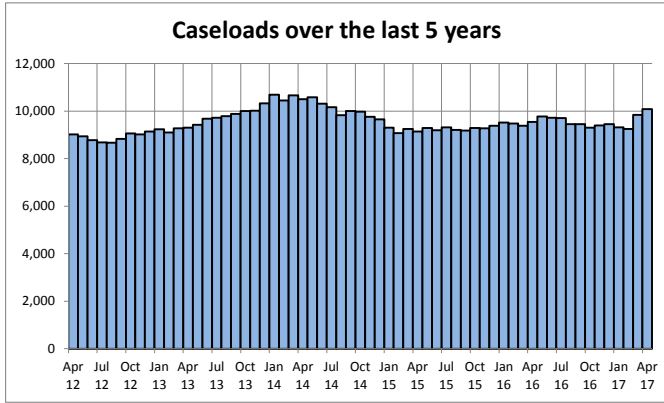
Maureen Robinson - 03000 417164	Celene Benjamin - 03000 417022
Chris Nunn - 03000 417145	Ian Valentine - 03000 417189
Paul Godden - 03000 417078	Vicky Best - 03000 415846

SCS Activity

	Caseloads - This month	Caseloads - Last month	Caseloads - Change	Referrals in last month	CF Assessments in last month	CP Plans - This month	CP Plans - Last month	CP Plans - Change	CP Starts in last month	CP Ends in last month	Total LAC - This month	Total LAC - Last month	Total LAC - Change	UASC LAC - This month	UASC LAC - Last month	UASC LAC - Change	LAC Starts in last month	LAC Ends in last month	PF Cases - This month	PF Cases - Last month	PF Cases - Change
Kent	10080	9840	+240	1297	1308	1215	1185	+30	118	88	1874	1893	-19	459	481	-22	55	69	27	27	0
North Kent	1323	1312	+11	264	303	181	185	-4	15	19	271	268	+3	64	68	-4	7	5	0	1	-1
East Kent	2630	2537	+93	430	419	410	399	+11	38	28	612	614	-2	57	64	-7	19	13	3	2	+1
South Kent	1981	1881	+100	323	262	386	364	+22	46	24	337	344	-7	46	46	0	11	20	11	10	+1
West Kent	1303	1280	+23	221	235	224	224	0	18	17	325	331	-6	66	68	-2	3	9	9	9	0
Disability Service	1164	1154	+10	16	66	14	13	+1	1	0	102	100	+2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Ashford CSWT	496	453	+43	111	89	121	125	-4	5	9	4	4	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	2	0
Canterbury CSWT	393	398	-5	81	112	99	92	+7	17	7	6	6	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	0	+1
Dartford CSWT	270	237	+33	87	95	60	50	+10	4	6	4	0	+4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dover CSWT	521	496	+25	113	93	125	104	+21	26	3	2	5	-3	0	0	0	4	5	8	8	0
Gravesham CSWT	436	453	-17	114	97	69	66	+3	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0
Maidstone CSWT	411	405	+6	97	115	88	88	0	7	5	2	1	+1	0	0	0	1	0	5	5	0
Sevenoaks CSWT	277	277	0	59	104	35	34	+1	2	1	3	1	+2	0	0	0	3	1	0	1	-1
Shepway CSWT	574	543	+31	94	73	136	133	+3	15	11	6	3	+3	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	+1
Swale CSWT	780	709	+71	172	133	130	121	+9	14	5	13	8	+5	0	0	0	7	1	2	2	0
Thanet Margate CSWT	414	429	-15	84	87	77	97	-20	2	10	4	10	-6	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	-1
Thanet Ramsgate CSWT	358	316	+42	87	75	82	69	+13	4	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0
The Weald CSWT	511	484	+27	121	114	120	115	+5	11	5	7	9	-2	0	0	0	1	0	4	4	0
North Kent CIC	299	307	-8	1	3	16	35	-19	0	11	262	264	-2	64	68	-4	0	3	0	0	0
East Kent (Can/Swa) CIC	359	357	+2	2	3	13	11	+2	0	1	323	316	+7	43	42	+1	5	2	0	0	0
East Kent (Tha) CIC	279	277	+2	0	3	8	9	-1	0	3	246	255	-9	14	22	-8	1	8	0	0	0
South Kent CIC	362	357	+5	2	2	4	2	+2	0	1	323	329	-6	46	46	0	0	15	0	0	0
West Kent CIC	354	361	-7	0	2	16	21	-5	0	7	314	318	-4	66	68	-2	1	8	0	0	0
SUASC Service	241	251	-10	12	20	0	0	0	0	0	225	234	-9	225	234	-9	10	22	0	0	0
Disability EK	536	595	-59	8	33	10	10	0	0	0	60	65	-5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disability WK	628	559	+69	8	33	4	3	+1	1	0	42	35	+7	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Adoption & SG	117	100	+17	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Care Leaver Service (18+)	1297	1296	+1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

SCS Activity

County Level



Scorecard - Kent

Apr 2017

ID	Indicators	Polarity	Data Period	Latest Result				1 month ago		1 year ago		Short Term Performance: Rolling 3 months and RAG Status
				Latest Result and RAG Status	Num	Denom	Target	Result	DoT	Result	DoT	
REFERRAL AND ASSESSMENTS												
1	% of referrals with a previous referral within 12 months	L	R12M	22.5% G	3635	16125	25.0%	23.4% ↑		21.7% ↓		21.9% G
2	% of C&F Assessments that were carried out within 45 working days	H	R12M	91.5% G	14894	16285	90.0%	91.3% ↑		89.4% ↑		90.7% G
3	% of Children seen at C&F Assessment	H	R12M	98.0% A	15208	15520	98.0%	98.2% ↓		98.3% ↓		97.5% A
CHILDREN IN NEED												
4	% of CIN with a CIN Plan in place	H	SS	86.8% A	1962	2261	90.0%	87.7% ↓		87.0% ↓		- -
5	% of CIN who have been seen in the last 28 days	H	SS	80.1% A	1431	1786	90.0%	85.8% ↓		83.4% ↓		- -
6	Numbers of Unallocated Cases	L	SS	73 R	-	-	0	1 ↓		0 ↓		- -
PRIVATE FOSTERING												
7	% of PF visits held in timescale (Current PF Arrangements only)	H	SS	81.2% A	125	154	90.0%	83.9% ↓		87.3% ↓		- -
MISSING CHILDREN												
8	% of Returner Interviews completed within 3 working days	H	R12M	74.7% R	1303	1744	85.0%	74.8% ↓		62.5% ↓		74.7% R
CHILD PROTECTION												
9	% of Current CP Plans lasting 18 months or more	L	SS	6.3% G	76	1215	10.0%	5.7% ↓		8.0% ↑		- -
10	% of CP Visits held within timescale (Current CP only)	H	SS	88.2% A	19060	21606	90.0%	89.2% ↓		90.8% ↓		- -
11	% of CP cases which were reviewed within required timescales	H	SS	100.0% G	844	844	98.0%	100.0% ↓		99.9% ↑		- -
12	% of Children becoming CP for a second or subsequent time	T	R12M	19.4% G	257	1328	17.5%	19.4% ↑		19.6% ↑		16.5% G
13	% of CP Plans lasting 2 years or more at the point of de-registration	L	R12M	4.0% G	47	1161	5.0%	3.8% ↓		2.3% ↓		5.0% G
14	% of Children seen at Section 47 enquiry	H	R12M	98.0% A	4552	4646	98.0%	98.1% ↓		98.1% ↓		96.5% A
15	% of ICPC's held within 15 working days of the S47 enquiry starting	H	R12M	86.3% G	1161	1345	85.0%	85.6% ↑		84.2% ↑		83.6% A
CHILDREN IN CARE												
16	CIC Placement Stability: % with 3 or more placements in the last 12 months	L	SS	12.9% A	242	1874	10.0%	12.6% ↓		12.8% ↓		- -
17	CIC Placement Stability: % in same placement for last 2 years	H	SS	68.9% A	377	547	70.0%	69.0% ↓		69.3% ↓		- -
18	% of CIC Foster Care in KCC Foster Care/Rel & Friends placements (exc UASC)	H	SS	86.9% G	998	1149	85.0%	86.5% ↑		87.4% ↓		- -
19	% of CIC placed within 20 miles from home (exc UASC)	H	SS	81.2% G	1108	1364	80.0%	81.3% ↓		81.5% ↓		- -
20	% of Placement Arrangement Meetings completed within 5 working days	H	R12M	60.7% R	1315	2165	90.0%	61.8% ↓				63.2% R
21	% of Children who participated at CIC Reviews	H	R12M	96.1% G	5111	5316	95.0%	96.3% ↓		95.3% ↑		96.3% G
22	% of CIC cases which were reviewed within required timescales	H	SS	99.1% G	1808	1824	98.0%	98.2% ↑		96.4% ↑		- -
23	% of CIC cases where all Dental Checks were held within required timescale	H	SS	88.1% A	1608	1826	90.0%	85.6% ↑		95.6% ↓		- -
24	% of CIC cases where all Health Assessments were held within required timescale	H	SS	86.9% A	1586	1826	90.0%	87.4% ↓		79.8% ↑		- -
25	% of IHA referrals within 5 working days of becoming Looked After	H	R12M	85.0% A	446	525	90.0%	85.5% ↓		37.0% ↑		89.9% A
26	% of CIC for 18 mths and allocated to the same worker for the last 12 mths	H	SS	45.5% A	550	1210	60.0%	51.5% ↓		60.2% ↓		- -
ADOPTION												
27	% of cases adoption agreed as plan within 4mths, for those with an agency decision	H	R12M	68.0% R	68	100	80.0%	69.3% ↓		63.9% ↑		59.1% R
28	Ave. no of days between bla and moving in with adoptive family (for children adopted)	L	R12M	354.6 G	30494	86	426.0	351.4 ↓		487.1 ↑		428.3 A
29	Ave. no of days between court authority to place a child and the decision on a match	L	R12M	115.8 G	9495	82	121.0	113.5 ↓		222.2 ↑		142.3 A
30	% of Children leaving care who were adopted (exc UASC)	H	R12M	14.1% A	86	608	15.0%	12.8% ↑		15.0% ↓		17.6% G
CARE LEAVERS												
31	% of Care Leavers that Kent is in touch with	H	R12M	85.7% G	1329	1550	85.0%	86.0% ↓		58.0% ↑		84.3% A
32	% of Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation (of those we are in touch with)	H	R12M	94.7% G	1258	1328	90.0%	94.6% ↑		92.2% ↑		92.9% G
33	% of Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training (of those we are in touch with)	H	R12M	63.2% A	839	1328	65.0%	62.7% ↑		58.4% ↑		64.5% A
34	% of Care Leavers with a Pathway Plan updated in the last 6 months	H	SS	94.4% G	1240	1313	90.0%	98.1% ↓		94.4% ↑		- -
QUALITY ASSURANCE												
35	% of Case File Audits completed	H	R12M	97.4% G	601	617	95.0%	97.7% ↓		99.1% ↓		91.5% A
36	% of Case File Audits rated good or outstanding	H	R12M	68.2% A	410	601	70.0%	67.4% ↑		61.2% ↑		76.0% G
37	% of CP Social Work Reports rated good or outstanding	H	R12M	65.3% A	1514	2317	75.0%	65.1% ↑		66.5% ↓		65.6% A
38	% of CIC Care Plans rated good or outstanding	H	R12M	69.2% A	3634	5251	75.0%	69.3% ↓		62.3% ↑		66.7% A
STAFFING												
39	% of caseholding posts filled by KCC Permanent QSW	H	SS	80.3% A	401.5	499.8	85.0%	80.1% ↑		74.6% ↑		- -
40	% of caseholding posts filled by agency staff	L	SS	14.0% G	70.2	499.8	15.0%	13.8% ↓		21.2% ↑		- -
41	Average Caseloads of social workers in CIC Teams	L	SS	15.6 A	1653	105.8	15.0	15.5 ↓		16.1 ↑		- -
42	Average Caseloads of social workers in CSWTs	L	SS	23.4 R	5441	232.5	18.0	22.0 ↓		21.1 ↓		- -
43	Average Caseloads of fostering social workers	L	SS	16.8 G	790	47.0	18.0	17.2 ↑		18.3 ↑		- -

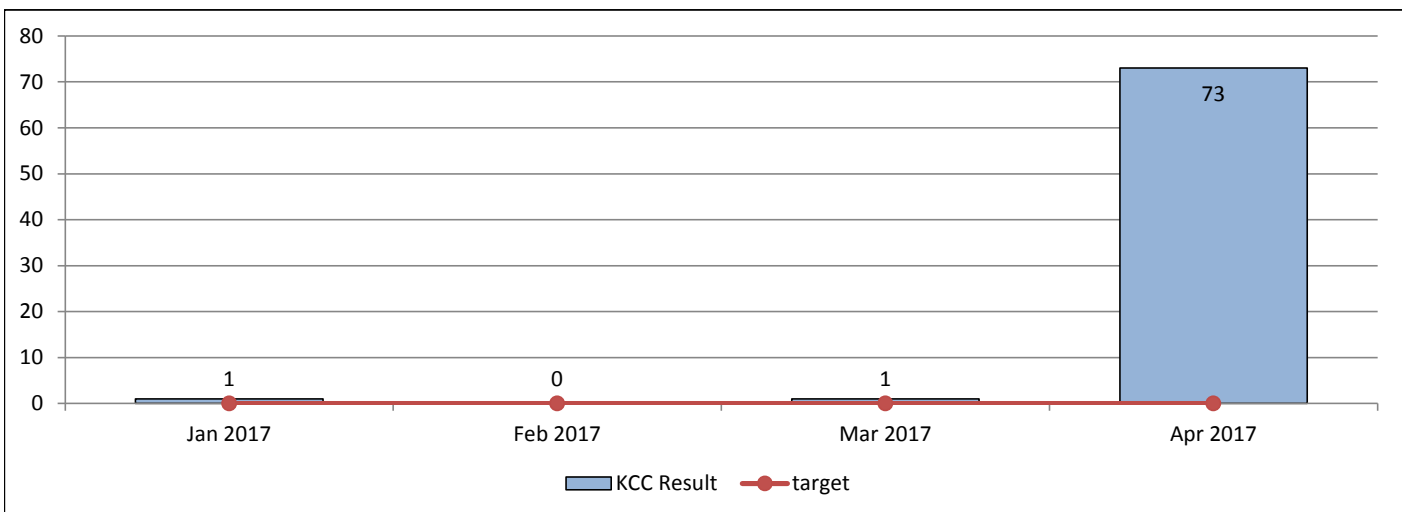
GREEN	AMBER	RED
19	19	5

LATEST PERFORMANCE RAG RATING

Scorecard - Impact of UASC

Indicators	Polarity	Data Period	INCLUDING UASC				EXCLUDING UASC			Variance with UASC excluded		
			Latest Result and RAG Status	Num	Denom	Target for 16/17	Latest Result and RAG Status	Num	Denom			
CHILDREN IN CARE - KENT												
CIC Placement Stability: % with 3 or more placements in the last 12 months	L	SS	12.9%	A	242	1874	10.0%	12.6%	A	178	1415	-0.3%
CIC Placement Stability: % in same placement for last 2 years	H	SS	68.9%	A	377	547	70.0%	69.2%	A	375	542	+0.3%
% of Placement Arrangement Meetings completed within 5 working days	H	R12M	60.7%	R	1315	2165	90.0%	62.7%	R	911	1454	+1.9%
% of Children who participated at CIC Reviews	H	R12M	96.1%	G	5111	5316	95.0%	98.2%	G	3379	3441	+2.1%
% of CIC cases which were reviewed within required timescales	H	SS	99.1%	G	1808	1824	98.0%	99.7%	G	1373	1377	+0.6%
% of CIC cases where all Dental Checks were held within required timescale	H	SS	88.1%	A	1608	1826	90.0%	88.0%	A	1213	1378	-0.0%
% of CIC cases where all Health Assessments were held within required timescale	H	SS	86.9%	A	1586	1826	90.0%	90.7%	G	1250	1378	+3.9%
% of IHA referrals within 5 working days of becoming Looked After	H	R12M	85.0%	A	446	525	90.0%	84.3%	A	393	466	-0.6%
% of CIC for 18 mths and allocated to the same worker for the last 12 mths	H	SS	45.5%	A	550	1210	60.0%	52.5%	A	479	912	+7.1%
CHILDREN IN CARE - NORTH KENT AREA												
CIC Placement Stability: % with 3 or more placements in the last 12 months	L	SS	13.3%	R	36	271	10.0%	14.5%	R	30	207	+1.2%
CIC Placement Stability: % in same placement for last 2 years	H	SS	68.0%	A	51	75	70.0%	68.0%	A	51	75	0.0%
% of Placement Arrangement Meetings completed within 5 working days	H	R12M	69.2%	R	171	247	90.0%	67.3%	R	144	214	-1.9%
% of Children who participated at CIC Reviews	H	R12M	98.4%	G	669	680	95.0%	98.6%	G	490	497	+0.2%
% of CIC cases which were reviewed within required timescales	H	SS	98.5%	G	260	264	98.0%	98.5%	G	197	200	+0.0%
% of CIC cases where all Dental Checks were held within required timescale	H	SS	92.1%	G	244	265	90.0%	91.0%	G	183	201	-1.0%
% of CIC cases where all Health Assessments were held within required timescale	H	SS	86.0%	A	228	265	90.0%	89.6%	A	180	201	+3.5%
% of IHA referrals within 5 working days of becoming Looked After	H	R12M	88.6%	A	62	70	90.0%	88.6%	A	62	70	0.0%
% of CIC for 18 mths and allocated to the same worker for the last 12 mths	H	SS	40.4%	R	67	166	60.0%	42.3%	R	55	130	+1.9%
CHILDREN IN CARE - EAST KENT AREA												
CIC Placement Stability: % with 3 or more placements in the last 12 months	L	SS	12.6%	A	77	612	10.0%	11.2%	A	62	555	-1.4%
CIC Placement Stability: % in same placement for last 2 years	H	SS	71.5%	G	153	214	70.0%	72.2%	G	153	212	+0.7%
% of Placement Arrangement Meetings completed within 5 working days	H	R12M	56.9%	R	345	606	90.0%	56.9%	R	315	554	-0.1%
% of Children who participated at CIC Reviews	H	R12M	96.6%	G	1484	1536	95.0%	98.7%	G	1313	1330	+2.1%
% of CIC cases which were reviewed within required timescales	H	SS	99.8%	G	593	594	98.0%	100.0%	G	538	538	+0.2%
% of CIC cases where all Dental Checks were held within required timescale	H	SS	79.8%	R	474	594	90.0%	80.5%	R	433	538	+0.7%
% of CIC cases where all Health Assessments were held within required timescale	H	SS	89.4%	A	531	594	90.0%	90.7%	G	488	538	+1.3%
% of IHA referrals within 5 working days of becoming Looked After	H	R12M	82.7%	A	162	196	90.0%	82.7%	A	162	196	0.0%
% of CIC for 18 mths and allocated to the same worker for the last 12 mths	H	SS	51.2%	A	208	406	60.0%	51.2%	A	185	361	+0.0%
CHILDREN IN CARE - SOUTH KENT AREA												
CIC Placement Stability: % with 3 or more placements in the last 12 months	L	SS	17.8%	R	60	337	10.0%	18.2%	R	53	291	+0.4%
CIC Placement Stability: % in same placement for last 2 years	H	SS	62.5%	R	65	104	70.0%	62.7%	R	64	102	+0.2%
% of Placement Arrangement Meetings completed within 5 working days	H	R12M	64.2%	R	256	399	90.0%	63.7%	R	230	361	-0.4%
% of Children who participated at CIC Reviews	H	R12M	97.3%	G	867	891	95.0%	97.8%	G	726	742	+0.5%
% of CIC cases which were reviewed within required timescales	H	SS	99.7%	G	326	327	98.0%	100.0%	G	281	281	+0.3%
% of CIC cases where all Dental Checks were held within required timescale	H	SS	96.6%	G	316	327	90.0%	96.4%	G	271	281	-0.2%
% of CIC cases where all Health Assessments were held within required timescale	H	SS	94.5%	G	309	327	90.0%	94.3%	G	265	281	-0.2%
% of IHA referrals within 5 working days of becoming Looked After	H	R12M	82.8%	A	77	93	90.0%	82.8%	A	77	93	0.0%
% of CIC for 18 mths and allocated to the same worker for the last 12 mths	H	SS	59.7%	A	123	206	60.0%	61.9%	G	109	176	+2.2%
CHILDREN IN CARE - WEST KENT AREA												
CIC Placement Stability: % with 3 or more placements in the last 12 months	L	SS	12.0%	A	39	325	10.0%	10.8%	A	28	259	-1.2%
CIC Placement Stability: % in same placement for last 2 years	H	SS	66.0%	A	70	106	70.0%	65.7%	A	69	105	-0.3%
% of Placement Arrangement Meetings completed within 5 working days	H	R12M	68.6%	R	212	309	90.0%	66.3%	R	177	267	-2.3%
% of Children who participated at CIC Reviews	H	R12M	98.3%	G	827	841	95.0%	98.6%	G	617	626	+0.2%
% of CIC cases which were reviewed within required timescales	H	SS	99.7%	G	321	322	98.0%	100.0%	G	256	256	+0.3%
% of CIC cases where all Dental Checks were held within required timescale	H	SS	89.1%	A	287	322	90.0%	91.0%	G	233	256	+1.9%
% of CIC cases where all Health Assessments were held within required timescale	H	SS	87.9%	A	283	322	90.0%	88.3%	A	226	256	+0.4%
% of IHA referrals within 5 working days of becoming Looked After	H	R12M	91.4%	G	85	93	90.0%	91.4%	G	85	93	0.0%
% of CIC for 18 mths and allocated to the same worker for the last 12 mths	H	SS	56.7%	A	122	215	60.0%	63.3%	G	105	166	+6.5%
OTHER INDICATORS - KENT												
% of Care Leavers that Kent is in touch with	H	R12M	85.7%	G	1329	1550	85.0%	89.1%	G	684	768	+3.3%
% of Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation (of those we are in touch with)	H	R12M	94.7%	G	1258	1328	90.0%	93.4%	G	634	679	-1.4%
% of Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training (of those we are in touch with)	H	R12M	63.2%	A	839	1328	65.0%	49.5%	R	336	679	-13.7%
% of Care Leavers with a Pathway Plan updated in the last 6 months	H	SS	94.4%	G	1240	1313	90.0%	95.4%	G	559	586	+1.0%
% of C&F Assessments that were carried out within 45 working days	H	R12M	91.5%	G	14894	16285	90.0%	91.6%	G	14628	15971	+0.1%
Numbers of Unallocated Cases	L	SS	73	R	-	-	0	73	R	-	-	0

Number of unallocated cases			Red
Cabinet Member	Roger Gough	Director	Philip Segurola
Portfolio	Children, Young People and Education	Division	Specialist Children's Services



Trend Data – Month End	Jan 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2017
KCC Result	1	0	1	73
Target	0	0	0	0
RAG Rating	Amber	Green	Amber	Red

Commentary

During April there were a significant number of unallocated cases, the majority of which (58) were due to the restructuring within the Disabled Children and Young Peoples Teams. None of these cases involved Children who were subject to a Child Protection Plan, or who were in the care of the Local Authority. All of the cases were allocated to an Assistant Social worker who ensured that the children were seen within the appropriate timescales. The allocation to Assistant Social Workers is a change in practice within this new structure which requires changes to the IT system used. These system changes are in progress and once in place will accurately reflect the practice guidelines which have been put in place.

The remaining 15 unallocated cases were within Specialist Children's Services teams and were the result of increased demand following a significant rise in referral rates during March 2017. For the period that they were unallocated the cases were overseen by the relevant Team Manager and all of these cases have subsequently been allocated to a Social Worker.

Data Notes

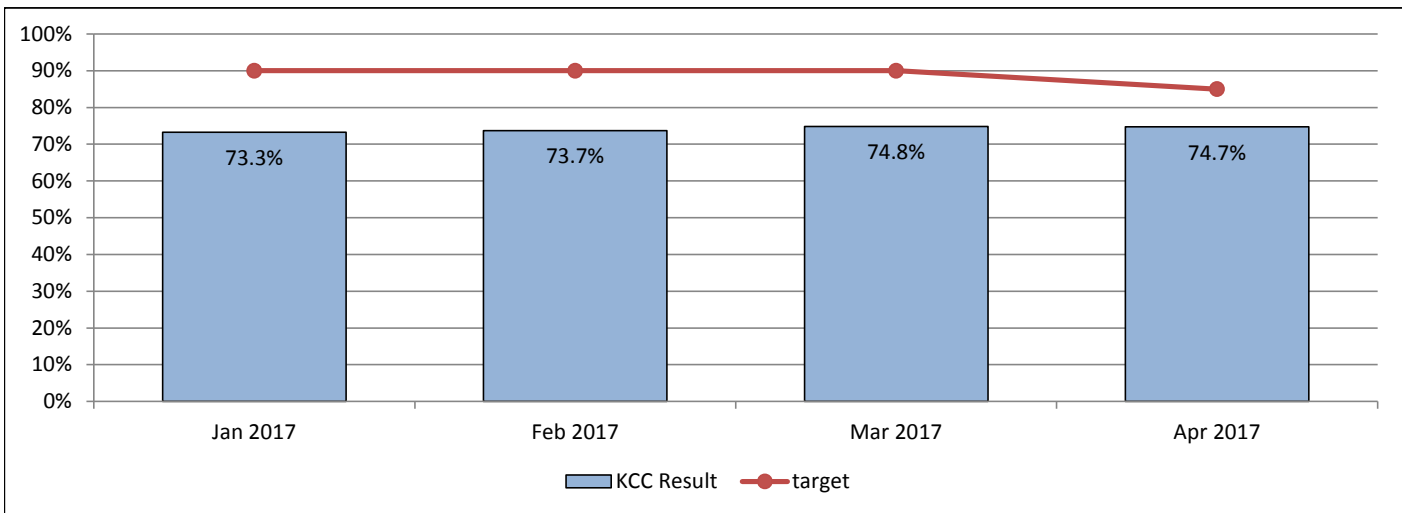
Target: 0 (RAG Bandings: Above 10 = Red, 1 to 10 = Amber, 0 = Green)

Tolerance: Lower values are better

Data: Figures shown are based on a snapshot as at the end of the reporting month

Data Source: Liberi

% of Returner Interviews completed within 3 working days			Red
Cabinet Member	Roger Gough	Director	Philip Segurola
Portfolio	Children, Young People and Education	Division	Specialist Children's Services



Trend Data – Month End	Jan 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2017
KCC Result	73.3%	73.7%	74.8%	74.7%
Target	90.0%	90.0%	90.0%	85.0%
RAG Rating	Red	Red	Red	Red

Commentary

Performance for the percentage of Returner Interviews carried out within 3 working days of a child/young person being located following a missing incident has remained between 72% and 74% for the last 12 months.

Although there is an expectation that Returner Interviews will be conducted within 72 hours there is no national or regional benchmarking data available. The absence of benchmarking data makes it difficult to assess Kent's performance but a local target of 85% has been set to drive up the timeliness of these Returner Interviews. This target has been reduced from the previous Target of 90% which was felt to be unrealistic given the challenges and the performance rates for 2016/17.

At 74.7%, performance for this measure is 0.3% away from moving within the Amber banding.

Of those outside of the 3 day timescale an additional 16.6% had a Returner Interview completed, providing a total completion rate of 91.3%.

Data Notes

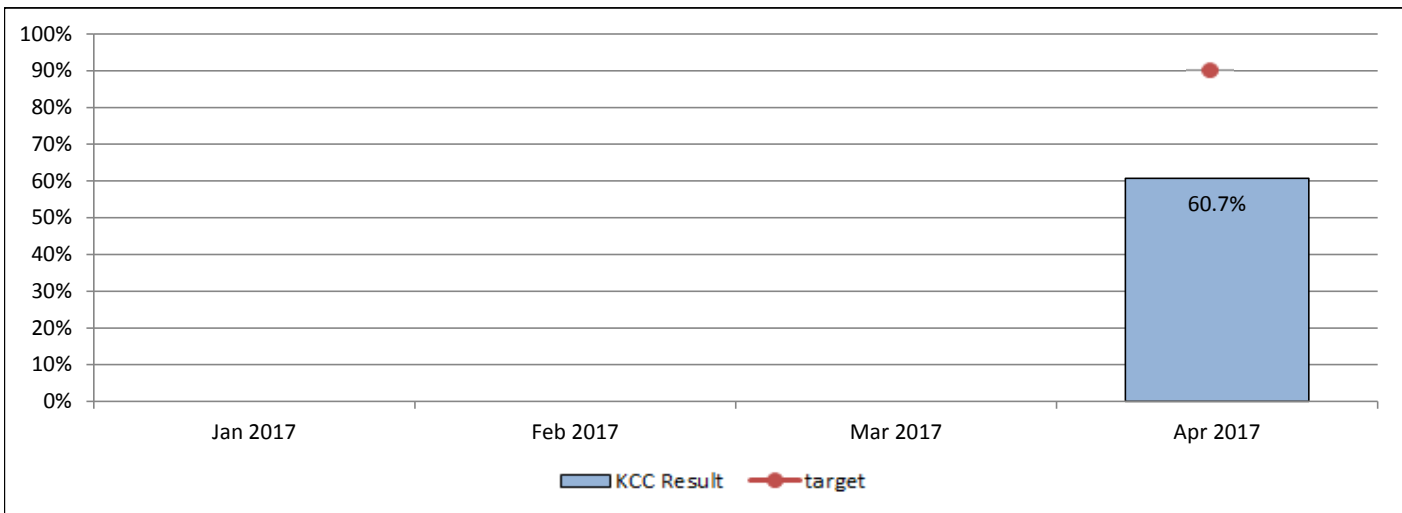
Target: 85% (RAG Bandings: Below 75% = Red, 75% to 85% = Amber, 85% and above = Green)

Tolerance: Higher values are better

Data: Figures shown are based on a rolling 12 month period. The result for Apr 2017 for example shows performance for May 2016 to Apr 2017.

Data Source: Liberi

% of placement arrangement meetings held within 5 working days			Red
Cabinet Member	Roger Gough	Director	Philip Segurola
Portfolio	Children, Young People and Education	Division	Specialist Children's Services



Trend Data – Month End	Jan 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2017
KCC Result	-	-	-	60.7%
Target	-	-	-	90.0%
RAG Rating				Red

Commentary

This is a new performance indicator, introduced for 2017/18 to measure compliance against the timeliness of placement arrangement meetings.

A Placement Arrangement meeting sets out the expectations for the child/young person's placement and it is hoped that applying more rigour to the timeliness and quality of these meetings will have a positive impact upon placement stability.

This performance measure is calculated over a rolling 12 month period and is currently within the Red RAG banding. Additional monitoring and tracking processes were implemented in February 2017 alongside a re-launch of the responsibilities under the care planning regulations. Both of these actions should lead to an improvement in data recording, and in performance against this measure, over the coming months.

Data Notes

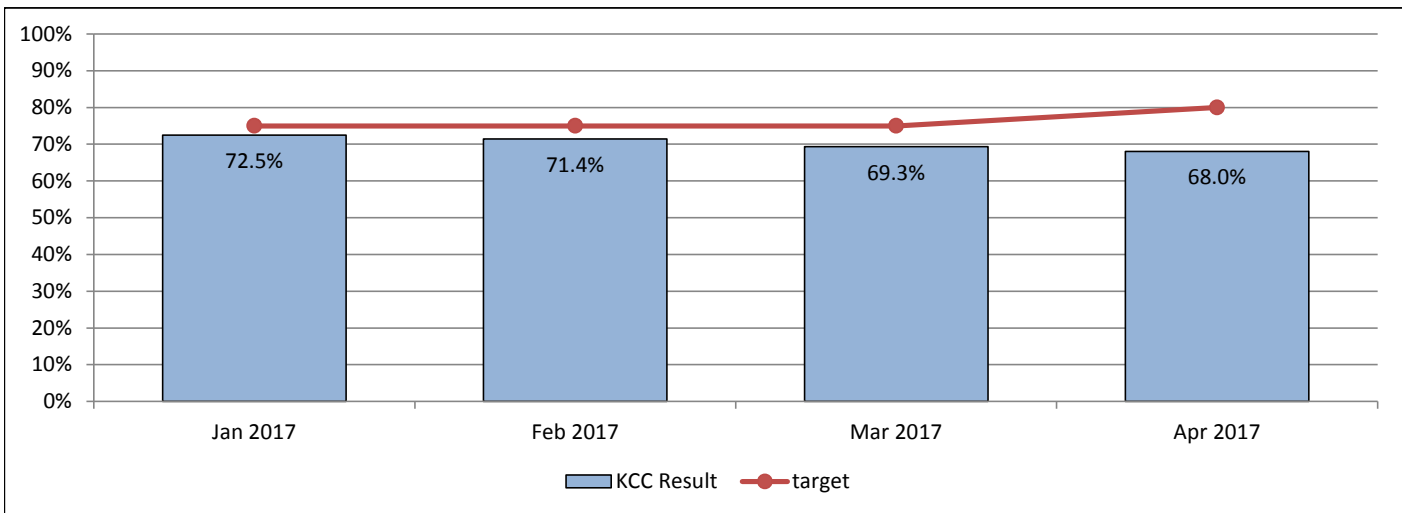
Target: 90% (RAG Bandings: Below 75% = Red, 75% to 90% = Amber, 90% and above = Green)

Tolerance: Higher values are better

Data: Figures shown are based on a rolling 12 month period. The result for Apr 2017 for example shows performance for May 2016 to Apr 2017.

Data Source: Liberi

% of cases where adoption agreed as plan within 4 months, for those with an agency decision			Red
Cabinet Member	Roger Gough	Director	Philip Segurola
Portfolio	Children, Young People and Education	Division	Specialist Children's Services



Trend Data – Month End	Jan 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2017
KCC Result	72.5%	71.4%	69.3%	68.0%
Target	75.0%	75.0%	75.0%	80.0%
RAG Rating	Amber	Amber	Amber	Red

Commentary

This performance measure has moved in to the Red RAG banding following an increase in the Target and RAG bandings for 2017/18.

The definition for this measure requires Adoption to be the sole plan at the 2nd Review, which is a maximum of four months after a child becomes 'Looked After' by the Local Authority. Some children will however have had more than 2 reviews within this timescale. For a number of children alternative plans were still being considered at the second review and this will be the correct course of action for these children as reunification to parents or extended family options will be being considered.

For 32 children over the 12 month period a decision on Adoption as the plan for permanence was not agreed within the first four months of coming into care. For 12 of these children the decision was made within 5 months. Had these been within the 4 months the Target for this measure would have been met. However, as explained above, a decision outside of the four-month time period may have been entirely appropriate.

Data Notes

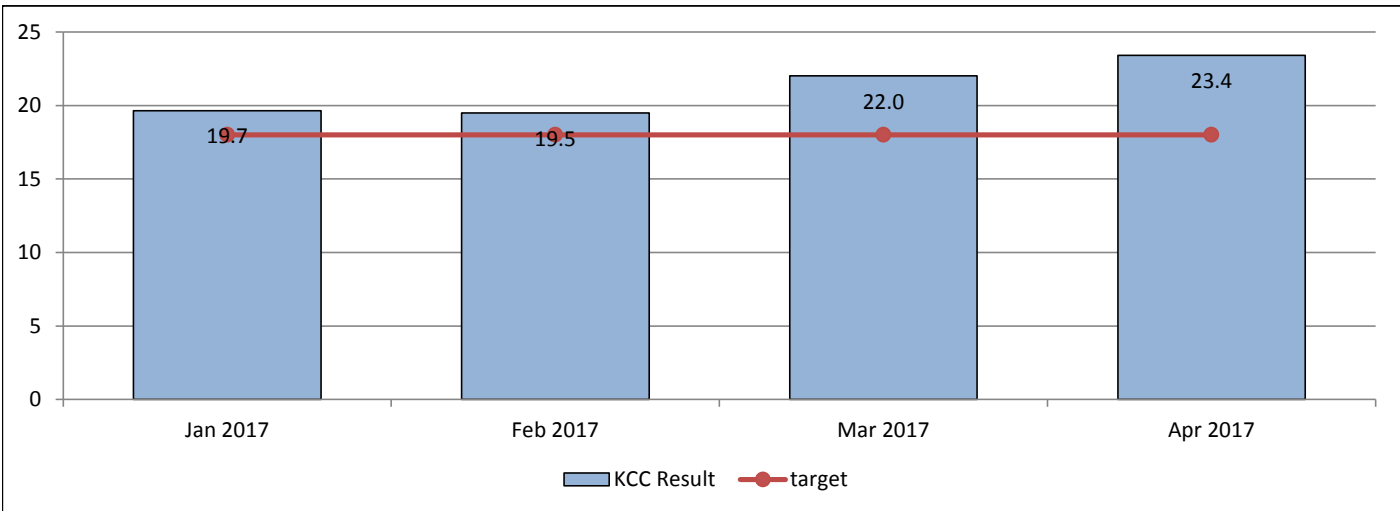
Target: 80% (RAG Bandings: Below 70% = Red, 70% to 80% = Amber, 80% and above = Green)

Tolerance: Higher values are better

Data: Figures shown are based on a rolling 12 month period. The result for Apr 2017 for example shows performance for May 2016 to Apr 2017.

Data Source: Liberi

Average Caseload of Social Workers in CSWTs			Red
Cabinet Member	Roger Gough	Director	Philip Segurola
Portfolio	Children, Young People and Education	Division	Specialist Children's Services



Trend Data – Month End	Jan 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2017
KCC Result	19.7	19.5	22.0	23.4
Target	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0
RAG Rating	Amber	Amber	Red	Red

Commentary

At the outset of the Ofsted inspection they pursued a line of enquiry that Kent's referral rate into Children's Social Care Service was lower than national comparators. They subsequently found what they considered corroboratory evidence in identifying some contacts which had been closed in the Central Referral Unit (CRU) either prematurely or inappropriately. The response requires resources in a substantial increase in referrals going into the Children's Social Work Teams. This increase has now started to taper, but we anticipate that there will still be a residual impact longer term which will result in increased workload for SCS with resulting resource implications. Interim arrangements for additional agency staff are being made in those areas most under pressure.

Data Notes

Target: 18 (RAG Bandings: Above 22 = Red, 18 to 22 = Amber, 18 and below = Green)

Tolerance: Lower values are better

Data: Figures shown are based on a snapshot as at the end of the reporting month

Data Source: Liberi and Area Staffing Spreadsheets

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From: Roger Gough Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education
Andrew Ireland, Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing

To Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee – 22 June 2017

Subject: **SPECIALIST CHILDREN'S SERVICES PERFORMANCE SCORECARD**

Classification: Unrestricted

Electoral Divisions: All

Previous Pathway of Paper: None

Future Pathway of Paper: None

Summary: The Specialist Children's Service performance scorecard provides members with progress against targets set for key performance and activity indicators.

Recommendation: The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to **CONSIDER** and **COMMENT** on the performance scorecard.

1. Introduction

1.1 Appendix 2 Part 4 of the Kent County Council Constitution states that:

"Cabinet Committees shall review the performance of the functions of the Council that fall within the remit of the Cabinet Committee in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and the customer experience."

1.2 To this end, each Cabinet Committee receives performance scorecards.

2. Children's Social Care Performance Report

2.1 The scorecard for Specialist Children's Services (SCS) is attached as Appendix A.

2.2 The SCS performance scorecard includes latest available results which are for April 2017.

2.3 The indicators included are based on key priorities for Specialist Children's Services as outlined in the Strategic Priority Statement, and also includes operational data that is regularly used within the Directorate. Cabinet Committees have a role to review the selection of indicators included in scorecards, improving the focus on strategic issues and qualitative outcomes.

2.4 The results in the scorecard are shown as snapshot figures (taken on the last working day of the reporting period), year-to-date (April-March) or a rolling 12 months.

- 2.5 Members are asked to note that the SCS scorecard is used within the Children's, Young People and Education Directorate to support the Transformation programme.
- 2.6 A subset of these indicators is used within the KCC Quarterly Performance Report which is submitted to Cabinet.
- 2.7 As an outcome of this report, members may make reports and recommendations to the Leader, Cabinet Members, the Cabinet or officers.
- 2.8 Performance results are assigned an alert on the following basis:

Green: Current target achieved or exceeded

Red: Performance is below a pre-defined minimum standard

Amber: Performance is below current target but above minimum standard.

3. Summary of Performance

- 3.1 There are 43 measures within the SCS Performance Scorecard which have a RAG (Red, Amber, Green) rating applied.
- 3.2 For April 2017, 19 performance measures are rated as Green, 19 as Amber and five as Red. Exception reporting against these five measures is included within the attached report. The report also includes a separate page showing the impact of the cohort of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) upon the relevant performance measures.

4. Recommendations

4.1. Recommendations: The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to CONSIDER and COMMENT on the performance scorecard.
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5. Background Documents

None

6. Lead Officer

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From: John Lynch, Head of Democratic Services

To: Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee – 22 June 2017

Subject: **Work Programme 2017/18**

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: None

Future Pathway of Paper: Standard item

Summary: This report gives details of the proposed work programme for the Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee.

Recommendation: The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and agree its work programme for 2017/18.

- 1.1 The proposed Work Programme has been compiled from items on the Forthcoming Executive Decisions List, from actions arising from previous meetings and from topics identified at agenda setting meetings, held six weeks before each Cabinet Committee meeting, in accordance with the Constitution, and attended by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Group Spokesmen. Whilst the Chairman, in consultation with the Cabinet Member, is responsible for the final selection of items for the agenda, this report gives all Members of the Cabinet Committee the opportunity to suggest amendments and additional agenda items where appropriate.
2. **Work Programme 2017**
 - 2.1 An agenda setting meeting was held at which items for this meeting were agreed and future agenda items planned. The Cabinet Committee is requested to consider and note the items within the proposed Work Programme, set out in the appendix to this report, and to suggest any additional topics that they wish to be considered for inclusion to the agenda of future meetings.
 - 2.2 The schedule of commissioning activity which falls within the remit of this Cabinet Committee will be included in the Work Programme and considered at future agenda setting meetings. This will support more effective forward agenda planning and allow Members to have oversight of significant service delivery decisions in advance.
 - 2.3 When selecting future items, the Cabinet Committee should give consideration to the contents of performance monitoring reports. Any 'for information' or briefing items will be sent to Members of the Cabinet Committee separately to the agenda, or separate Member briefings will be arranged, where appropriate.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 It is vital for the Cabinet Committee process that the Committee takes ownership of its work programme, to help the Cabinet Member to deliver informed and considered decisions. A regular report will be submitted to each meeting of the Cabinet Committee to give updates of requested topics and to seek suggestions of future items to be considered. This does not preclude Members making requests to the Chairman or the Democratic Services Officer between meetings, for consideration.

4. **Recommendation:** The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and agree its work programme for 2017/18.

5. Background Documents

None.

6. Contact details

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WORK PROGRAMME –2017/18

Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee

Agenda Section	Items
Thursday 7 September 2017	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • Early Help and Preventive Commissioned Services Update • Education Traded Services Company update (written report) • Recruitment of teachers (annually) • Commissioning Plan • Proposal to expand Marden School • West Kent Expansion Programme • Report on missing children (setting out figures and patterns (eg where do they go?), what was and could be done and the process for handling absence) – TBC • Annual Complaints report • Annual Equalities and Diversity Report • Performance Scorecard/Dashboard • Work Programme 	
Wednesday 22 November 2017	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • Education Traded Services Company update • Kent Commissioning Plan 2018-2022 • Action Plan arising from Ofsted Inspection (alternate meetings) • School Performance – Exam Results (annual) • Performance Scorecard/Dashboard • Visions and Priorities Update (annual) • Work Programme 	
Thursday 18 January 2018	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget Consultation and Draft Revenue and Capital Budgets • CAMHS monitoring (perhaps also to HRPH Cabinet Committee) • Education Traded Services Company update • Performance Scorecard/Dashboard • Work Programme 	
Thursday 8 March 2018	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rates and Charges 2018/19 • Action Plan arising from Ofsted Inspection (alternate meetings) • Draft Directorate Business Plan 2018/19 • Directorate Risk Report • Performance Scorecard/Dashboard • Work Programme 	

Other items

- Gang culture and the risk to vulnerable children in care, in terms of child sexual exploitation and drugs in Kent schools (Suggested by CPP)
- The Virtual School Kent Annual report (Referred by CPP on 20 Jan 17)