



## AGENDA

### SCHOOL ORGANISATION ADVISORY BOARD

Thursday, 4th February, 2010, at 10.30 am      Ask for:      **Geoff Mills/Karen Mannering**

**Darent Room, Sessions House, County Hall,  
Maidstone**

Telephone      **(01622)  
694289/694367**

*Tea/Coffee will be available from 10.15am in the meeting room*

#### **UNRESTRICTED ITEMS**

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

1. Substitutes
2. Declarations of Interests by Members in items on the Agenda for this meeting.
3. Minutes - 3 December 2009 (Pages 1 - 2)
4. The Proposed Change of Age Range for Aylesham (Community) Primary School (from 3-11 years to 4-11 years) and the Closure of the Maintained Nursery Class (Pages 3 - 20)
5. The Proposed Relocation of Laleham Gap (Community Special) School (Pages 21 - 38)
6. Update on Proposals following the Cancellation of the School Organisation Advisory Board on 7 January 2010 (Pages 39 - 40)
7. Schools Applying for Foundation/Trust Status (Pages 41 - 42)

#### **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)*

Peter Sass  
Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership  
(01622) 694002

**Wednesday, 27 January 2010**

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

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**

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**SCHOOL ORGANISATION ADVISORY BOARD**

MINUTES of a meeting of the School Organisation Advisory Board held at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Thursday, 3 December 2009.

PRESENT: Mrs V J Dagger (Chairman), Mr D L Brazier, Mr C J Capon, Miss S J Carey and Mr M J Vye

ALSO PRESENT: Mr G Cooke

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr D Adams (Area Children's Services Officer, Ashford & Shepway) and Mr M Doole (Area Education Officer Thanet & Dover) and Mr G Mills ( Democratic Services)

**UNRESTRICTED ITEMS**

**1. Minutes - 4 November 2009**

*(Item 3)*

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2009 be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**2. School Organisation - School Improvement Models**

*(Item 4)*

*Report by Mrs Rosalind Turner, Managing Director Children, Families and Education)*

(1) This report provided details on the different types of schools in Kent and commented on new models being introduced to support school improvement.

(2) During the course of discussion members of the Advisory Board raised a number of questions, particularly in relation to the establishment and operation of academies, to which officers responded accordingly.

(3) Following discussion the Board noted the report and placed on record it's thanks to officers for bringing these matters forward for discussion.

**3. Proposed Closure of Archers Court Maths and Computing College (Dover) and its replacement with a Government Funded Academy**

*(Item 5)*

*Report by Mrs Rosalind Turner, Managing Director Children, Families and Education)*

(1) This report set out the results of the public consultation on the proposal to close Archers Court Maths and Computing College, Dover in order that it may be replaced with a government funded Academy.

(2) In presenting this report Mr Doole circulated a supplementary paper summarising the written responses. This showed that 180 consultation documents had been circulated to which there had been ten replies, all supporting the proposal. He also reported orally that 14 responses had been sent direct to the school and of these there were 13 in favour of the proposal with 1 against.

(3) During the course of discussion Members of the Advisory Board raised a number of questions regarding the establishment and operation of the academy to which Mr Doole responded accordingly. Mr Doole also gave assurances regarding the continuing role of the Aspen 2 Unit in providing specialist facilities for students with Profound Severe and Complex needs.

(4) Following further discussion the Advisory Board endorsed the proposals to close Archers Court Maths and Computing College, Dover and agreed the issuing of a public notice to close the school so that it may be replaced by a government funded Academy.

By: Rosalind Turner, Managing Director, Children Families and Education

To: School Organisation Advisory Board – 4 February 2010

Subject: THE PROPOSED CHANGE OF AGE RANGE FOR AYLESHAM (COMMUNITY) PRIMARY SCHOOL (FROM 3-11 YEARS TO 4-11 YEARS) AND THE CLOSURE OF THE MAINTAINED NURSERY CLASS

Classification: Unrestricted

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Summary: This report sets out the results of the public consultation on the proposal to close the maintained nursery class at Aylesham Primary School and to change the age range from 3-11 years to 4-11 years with effect from 1 September 2010. It seeks the views of the School Organisation Advisory Board on the issuing of a public notice.

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**This paper should be read in conjunction with the report to School Organisation Advisory Board of 4 November 2009.**

## **Introduction**

1. (1) The maintained nursery class at Aylesham Primary School was established by Kent County Council in 1997 alongside a private pre-school provider which had been operating in a classroom in the school since 1986. The private provider offered morning and afternoon sessions and when the maintained nursery class began operating in an adjacent classroom, the private pre-school extended its offer to include after school provision in order to enhance the services available to the families of Aylesham and to help ensure its viability.

(2) In 2003 the private pre-school was dissolved and taken over by the Pre-School Learning Alliance (PLA). With funding obtained through the New Opportunities Fund, the PLA established a Neighbourhood Nursery in new demountable accommodation on the school site. The maintained nursery class and the pre-school worked closely together and both moved into the new accommodation.

(3) The two provisions operate together as the Sunshine Corner Neighbourhood Nursery but each is funded separately. The nursery is well established and is a valuable asset to the community. The nursery is also part of the local Children's Centre Offer. The financial viability of the joint venture was achieved through

- (a) Neighbourhood Nursery revenue funding and
- (b) implementation of a agreed formula for sharing the Nursery Education Funding between the School and the PLA, and with the approval of KCC
- (c) the award of both revenue and capital grant monies from a number of bodies (including KCC) against successful funding bids.

(4) Neighbourhood Nursery revenue funding came to an end 3 years ago and as a result it has proved extremely difficult to cover the operational costs of the nursery. A number of management initiatives have been taken to both improve the fee income and keep costs under control while still ensuring a quality environment for young children. However, whilst these initiatives have realised some tangible benefits there still needs to be further action taken to achieve sustainability for the setting.

## **The Proposal**

2. (1) The proposal is to merge the school's maintained nursery and the full day-care Neighbourhood Nursery. Both Aylesham Primary School and the Pre-School Learning Alliance support the proposal. This would be achieved by changing the age-range of Aylesham Primary School from 3-11 years to 4-11 years and effectively closing the maintained nursery class.

(2) Technically, the school would cease to offer nursery classes from 1 September 2010. However the actual places would still be available although technically under the aegis of the Pre-School Learning Alliance from that time. The provision would continue to be an integral part of the Aylesham Children's Centre. Funding is therefore available to employ a qualified nursery teacher who would lead on Early Years Foundation Stage practice within the nursery. The employment of a qualified nursery teacher by Kent County Council would ensure that the Sunshine Corner Neighbourhood Nursery, as the designated nursery for the Aylesham Children's Centre, continued to have extensive support from a qualified nursery teacher. Part of the nursery teacher's role would be the development and management of the curriculum within the nursery setting to ensure that all children have access to the curriculum and make progress commensurate with their developing abilities irrespective of their gender, ethnic or social background, disability or other special needs. There would be no loss of childcare places as the school nursery classes are currently accommodated within the existing capacity. This proposal would give more flexibility to tailor services to meet the needs of parents/carers in the Aylesham community.

(3) If the maintained nursery closes, all the Nursery Education Funding payments would be made to the Neighbourhood Nursery and all the finances would be under the control of the Pre-School Learning Alliance. This would have a significant, beneficial impact on the Neighbourhood Nursery's long term sustainability and any additional initiatives, such as increasing the number of places available for children aged 0 to 2 years, would help towards achieving that goal.

(4) This proposal offers seamless continuity of services. The Pre-School Learning Alliance would continue its commitment to work in partnership with the school to help monitor quality and delivery of the Early Years Foundation curriculum. The Neighbourhood Nursery would also continue to be part of the Children's Centre core offer.

## **The Consultation**

3. (1) The consultation document was distributed to parents/carers, school staff, nursery staff, governors and County Councillors, Member of Parliament, the Diocesan Authorities, local library, local Children's Centre, the District and Parish Councils and others in accordance with the agreed County policy. The document was also posted on the KCC website and the link to the website widely circulated via email.

(2) Approximately 600 copies of the public consultation document were circulated, which included a form for written responses. A copy of the public consultation document is attached as Appendix 1.

## **Responses to the Public Consultation**

### *Written Responses*

4. (1) Twenty six responses have been received. All 26 responses are in favour of the proposal.

(2) A summary of written responses is attached as Appendix 2.

### *Public Meeting Responses*

(3) A summary of the points, questions and comments made at the public consultation meeting is attached as Appendix 3.

## **Views of Local Member**

5. The Local Member is Mr Steve Manion. Mr Manion attended the public meeting and has indicated his support for the proposal.

## **Views of Local Member of Parliament**

6. The Local MP is Mr Gwyn Prosser. He was sent a copy of the consultation document and a reminder but has not responded. If subsequently a response is received it will be reported at the meeting.

## **Views of the Parish Council and Dover District Council**

7. Dr Linda Keen and Mr Bob Thompson are both Parish and District Councillors and provided the following response:

*“We have no objections to the proposal on the grounds that it appears to be necessary for financial reasons, and will not result in any increase in costs for the end-users, or diminution of service.”*

## **Views of the Governing Body**

8. The governing body unanimously support the proposal.

## **Views of the Local Children’s Centre**

9. The local Children’s Centre has responded as follows:

“The Children’s Centre fully supports the proposal to sustain the designated Children’s Centre childcare offer. This will ensure that the Children’s Centre will meet its full core

offer in a sustainable way. We have a good partnership with both the school and the Pre-School Learning Alliance and believe this is the best way forward to continue the successful provision of full day care in the Aylesham Children's Centre catchment area."

### **Views of the Local Children's Services Partnership Board**

10. The Partnership Board discussed the proposal at its meeting on 14 December and agreed to support the proposed closure of the maintained nursery class for the reasons outlined in the public consultation document.

### **Views of the Area Children's Services Officer**

11. (1) The proposal will protect the full range of pre-school provision and childcare which is currently available and will secure seamlessly, essential services for the community. This is a sensible and pragmatic approach which will enable parents and children to benefit from continuing access to high quality services without loss of amenity and with no discernable adverse implications.

### **Resource Issues**

#### *Capital & Revenue*

12. (1) Both the school and the private nursery are facing financial difficulties with the funding operating as it does currently. KCC awarded the Neighbourhood Nursery a sustainability grant of £70k at the end of 2008/9 to enable it to continue until a long term solution can be found. The long term solution would be to close the maintained nursery class and for the Sunshine Corner Neighbourhood Nursery to receive the full Nursery Education Funding.

#### *Human*

(2) The primary school employs a full time nursery teacher who is currently on maternity leave. An agency teacher is employed on a temporary contract to cover the maternity leave. If the maintained nursery class closes, the teacher on return from maternity leave would continue her employment with Aylesham Primary School as a class teacher.

(3) A nursery assistant is currently employed on a temporary term time only contract by the school. If the maintained nursery class closes, the PLA has indicated that it would be in a position to offer her a contract of employment.

### **Proposed Timetable**

13. If it is decided that a public notice should be issued in respect of the proposal, the following timetable could apply.

Cabinet Member decision (to issue a public notice)	End of February 2010
Public Notice period	5 March to 16 April 2010
Decision by Local Authority	May 2010

Adjudication (if required)	June/July 2010
Implementation	September 2010

### **Recommendation**

14. The views of the School Organisation Advisory Board are sought on:
- (a) The closure of the maintained nursery class at Aylesham Primary School and change of age-range from 3-11 years to 4-11 years, and
  - (b) if agrees the issuing of a public notice.

Martyn Doole  
Area Children's Services Officer  
Dover & Thanet  
01227 284707  
Martyn.doole@kent.gov.uk

The Local Member is Mr Steve Manion

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*Background Documents:*

None

*Previous Committee Reports:*

School Organisation Advisory Board – 4 November 2009

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## Public Consultation Document Aylesham Primary School



Kent County Council would like to hear your views on a proposal to change the age range of Aylesham Primary School (from 3-11 years to 4-11 years) and the closure of the maintained nursery class.

**Date of Public Meeting: Thursday 10 December at 7.00 pm**

**Venue: Aylesham Primary School**



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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Kent County Council would like to consult the families in Aylesham on a need to consider a proposal to close the maintained nursery class at Aylesham Primary School and to change the age range of the school from 3-11 years to 4-11 years.

This proposal is being brought forward because of the financial difficulties that both the school and the Pre-School Learning Alliance voluntary nursery are facing. The difficulties have arisen as a result of the way the funding of both the maintained nursery class and private nursery provision operates.

This document contains details of how you can take part in and respond to this public consultation. Implementation of the proposal is subject to the outcome of this consultation and decision making process and the timescale is outlined on page 6.

Martyn Doole  
Area Children's Services Officer, Dover & Thanet  
Kent County Council

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## 2. BACKGROUND

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The Aylesham Primary School maintained nursery class was established in 1997 by Kent County Council alongside an existing private pre-school provider which had been operating in a classroom since 1986.

In 2003 the Pre-School Learning Alliance were successful in obtaining funding from the New Opportunities Fund (NOF), now known as the Big Lottery Fund. The funding enabled the purchase of a demountable building, which was sited on the primary school site in 2004. The private pre-school was dissolved at this time and its assets, including the staff, transferred to the Pre-School Learning Alliance. With capital funding from NOF, the Pre-School Learning Alliance set up a nursery under the Neighbourhood Nursery Initiative (NNI). As the Neighbourhood Nursery and the maintained nursery class worked closely together, they both moved into the new Neighbourhood Nursery building. The Sunshine Corner Neighbourhood Nursery is a joint venture between the Pre-School Learning Alliance and Aylesham Primary School.

The Sunshine Corner Neighbourhood Nursery is well established and a valuable asset to the Aylesham community. It is one of the providers delivering the childcare element of the Children's Centre 'core offer' under a partnership agreement with the Children's Centre. It is registered for thirty two places for 3 to 5 year olds, eight places for 2 to 3 year olds and six places for 0 to 2 year olds. It is open five days a week all year round and offers before and after school provision.

In its first three years, the financial viability of the joint venture was achieved through neighbourhood nursery revenue grant funding, and the implementation of an agreed formula for sharing the Nursery Education Funding between the school and the Pre-School Learning Alliance (with the approval of Kent County Council) and through awards of both revenue and capital grant monies from a number of bodies (including KCC) against successful funding bids.

The Neighbourhood Nursery revenue funding came to an end three years ago and as a result it has proved extremely difficult to cover the operational costs of the nursery. The nursery has had to seek sustainability funding from KCC. A number of management initiatives have been taken to both improve the fee income and keep costs under control while still ensuring a quality environment for young children. However, whilst these initiative have realised some tangible benefits there still needs to be further action taken to achieve sustainability for the setting.



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### 3. THE PROPOSAL

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The proposal is to merge the school's maintained nursery and the full day-care Neighbourhood Nursery. Both Aylesham Primary School and the Pre-School Learning Alliance support the proposal. This would be achieved by changing the age-range of Aylesham Primary School from 3-11 years to 4-11 years and effectively closing the maintained nursery class.

Although the school would cease to offer nursery classes from 1 September 2010 the actual places would still be available through the Sunshine Corner Neighbourhood Nursery which would then be solely under the control of the Pre-School Learning Alliance. The provision would continue to be an integral part of the Aylesham Children's Centre and there would be a qualified nursery teacher who would lead on Early Years Foundation Stage practice within the nursery. This would ensure that all children would continue to have access to the Early Years Foundation stage framework. This proposal would give more flexibility to tailor services to meet the needs of parents/carers in the Aylesham community.

If the maintained nursery class ceased, all the Nursery Education Funding payments would be made to the Neighbourhood Nursery and all the finances would be under the control of the Pre-School Learning Alliance. This would have a significant beneficial impact on the Neighbourhood Nursery's long term sustainability and any additional initiatives, such as increasing the number of places available for children aged 0-2 years, would help towards achieving that goal.

This proposal offers seamless continuity of services. The Pre-School Learning Alliance would continue its commitment to work in partnership with the school to help monitor quality and delivery of the Early Years Foundation stage.

**If the proposal goes ahead**

- All of the children entitled to receive the Early Years Foundation Stage Entitlement for 15 hours a term after their 3rd birthday would continue to do so.
- All 3-5 year olds would continue to be able to attend term time only and have access to the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum.
- The Sunshine Corner Neighbourhood Nursery would continue as a viable provision and there would be no loss of childcare places.

**If the proposal does not go ahead**

- There would be a risk that the Neighbourhood Nursery element of the Sunshine Corner Neighbourhood Nursery would cease. This would mean that the current full day care provision would no longer continue.
- The maintained nursery class would continue to operate during term time only for 3-5 year olds offering morning or afternoon sessions.
- There would be no provision for 0-2 year olds.
- The Children's Centre would no longer be able meet the requirements for a full 'core offer'.

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## 4. HOW TO GIVE YOUR VIEWS

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▶ **Complete and return the response form to:**

Martyn Doole, Area Children's Services Officer (Dover & Thanet)  
Clover House, John Wilson Business Park, Thanet Way,  
Whitstable, Kent CT5 3QZ. Fax: 01227 772290  
*(Your comments must reach us by 19 January 2009)*

▶ **Come to a public meeting on:**

**Thursday 10 December at 7.00 pm** at  
Aylesham Primary School, Atlee Avenue, Aylesham, Kent CT3 3BS

- An elected member of Kent County Council will chair this meeting, at which all interested parties will have an opportunity to put forward their views.
- Officers from the Local Authority will also be present to clarify points of detail.

▶ **Email your comments to: [school.consultations@kent.gov.uk](mailto:school.consultations@kent.gov.uk)**

**(We will note all you say, but will not be able to respond individually to response forms, letters or emails)**

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## 5. CONSULTATION & DECISION MAKING TIMETABLE

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Public Consultation Period	25 November 2009 to 19 January 2010
Public Meeting	Thursday 10 December, 7 pm
Report Back to the Kent County Council School Organisation Advisory Board *	4 February 2010
Public Notice Issued (subject to Cabinet Member decision)	5 March 2010
Public Notice Expires	16 April 2010
Decision by Local Authority	May 2010
Adjudication (if required)	June/July 2010
Implementation	September 2010

\* The School Organisation Advisory Board meeting is held at County Hall, Maidstone and the webcast can be watched via the [kent.gov.uk](http://kent.gov.uk) website.

**The meeting is open to the public.**

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## 6. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

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- Following this consultation, all views received, either in writing, by email or at the Public Meeting, will be reported to the School Organisation Advisory Board of Kent County Council.
- A Cabinet Member decision will be made on whether to take the proposal forward.
- If so, a Public Notice will be published in a local newspaper, at the school and nursery and in public places like the library or community centre. The Public Notice will run for six weeks. Representations about the proposal can be made.
- A decision will then be reached on whether the proposal is to be implemented.
- In certain circumstances this could include referral to the statutory Schools Adjudicator.
- All views will be considered before a decision is made.

## Public Consultation Response Form

The proposed change of age range for Aylesham (Community) Primary School (from 3-11 years to 4-11 years) and the closure of the maintained nursery class.

**PLEASE RETURN NO LATER THAN 19 January 2010**

**To: Martyn Doole, Area Children's Services Officer (Dover & Thanet)  
Clover House, John Wilson Business Park, Thanet Way,  
Whitstable, Kent CT5 3QZ.  
Fax: 01227 772290**

**You can also email your views to: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk**

Do you agree with the proposal?

<b>Yes</b>	<input style="width: 40px; height: 30px;" type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b>	<input style="width: 40px; height: 30px;" type="checkbox"/>
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Do you have a child aged 3 to 4 years attending the Sunshine Corner Neighbourhood Nursery term time only

<b>Yes</b>	<input style="width: 40px; height: 30px;" type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b>	<input style="width: 40px; height: 30px;" type="checkbox"/>
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**I am:** (please tick as appropriate)

The parent/carer of a pupil at Aylesham Primary School	<input style="width: 40px; height: 30px;" type="checkbox"/>	The parent/carer of a child attending the Sunshine Corner Neighbourhood Nursery	<input style="width: 40px; height: 30px;" type="checkbox"/>
A member of staff at Aylesham Primary School	<input style="width: 40px; height: 30px;" type="checkbox"/>	A member of staff at the Sunshine Corner Neighbourhood Nursery	<input style="width: 40px; height: 30px;" type="checkbox"/>
A governor of Aylesham Primary School	<input style="width: 40px; height: 30px;" type="checkbox"/>	Other interested party (please state interest)	<input style="width: 40px; height: 30px;" type="checkbox"/>

.....

**Name:**

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**Address:**

Kent County Council is a data controller under the Data Protection Act 1998 and will comply with the requirements of the Act at all times. We will ensure that your personal information is processed fairly and lawfully and in this instance used only for the purpose of validation, which will enable a fair and just consultation.

**PLEASE WRITE YOUR COMMENTS OVERLEAF**

My comments are as follows:

*Please continue on another sheet if necessary*

This document is available on:  
<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-learning/about-education-service/consultations/>  
Responses can be emailed to: [school.consultations@kent.gov.uk](mailto:school.consultations@kent.gov.uk)

*If you have difficulty reading this document and require it in another format please contact your school.*

**PROPOSED CHANGE OF AGE RANGE OF AYLESHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL AND THE CLOSURE OF THE MAINTAINED NURSERY CLASS**

**Summary of written responses**

Consultation documents distributed: 600  
 Responses received: 26

	Support	Against	Undecided	Total
Parents/Carers of pupils at Aylesham Primary School	2	0	0	2
Parents/Carers of children attending the Sunshine Corner Neighbourhood Nursery	8	0	0	8
Members of staff at Aylesham Primary School	0	0	0	0
Members of staff at the Sunshine Corner Neighbourhood Nursery	6	0	0	6
Governors at Aylesham Primary School	0	0	0	0
Interested party	10	0	0	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26</b>

Comments on the proposal:

- The care and stimulation given to my child is excellent and I believe that the Sunshine Corner Neighbourhood Nursery provides the highest standards of any of the nurseries in the local area.
- This proposal is essential to ensure the future viability of the nursery.
- I give my full support to the proposal if it allows the nursery to continue its practice.
- I am in support of the proposal as the nursery is very much needed and really helps to bring people together in the community.

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**PROPOSED CHANGE OF AGE RANGE FOR AYLESHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL AND THE CLOSURE OF THE MAINTAINED NURSERY CLASS**

**Summary of the Public Meetings held on 10 December 2010**

The key issues raised are summarised below with responses from the Head of Early Years and Childcare in italics.

Approximately 30 people attended the public meeting including parents, staff, governors, the local member, members of the parish and district council and other interested parties.

**Martyn Doole** the Area Children's Services Officer outlined the background to the proposal explaining why it was being brought forward. The maintained nursery class and the neighbourhood nursery operate together as the Sunshine Corner Neighbourhood Nursery. Now that the neighbourhood nursery funding has ended it is becoming increasingly difficult to operate in this way as a viable provision. The proposed closure of the maintained nursery class would enable the Neighbourhood Nursery to receive the full nursery education funding and ensure its sustainability. There would be no loss of places for 3 to 4 year olds and the free entitlement would continue.

**Abigal Birch** the headteacher of Aylesham Primary School had anticipated what the Aylesham community would want to know:

Why has this proposal come forward?

- Not possible to sustain both maintained class and neighbourhood nursery as they are currently run
- Neighbourhood Nursery funding has come to an end
- Bidding for extra funding to continue to operate
- Sustainability not guaranteed
- Long term solution is being sought

Why cannot just the school run the nursery?

- The school is not funded to do this.
- The school would not be able to provide for toddlers and babies.

What other solution could there be?

- Parents take on the neighbourhood nursery
  - There would still be the same financial problems and parents would have to bid for funding to sustain the nursery
- No-one has been able to put forward an alternative sustainable solution.
- The Pre-School Learning Alliance (PLA) is a non-profit making organisation who put funding back into their provisions.
- The PLA has a national pricing system.
- The provision would not change under this proposal.
- Transition for the children moving from the nursery into the school would still be in place.
- The school would continue to work with the nursery to monitor the quality of the provision.
- Family learning opportunities would continue.

- The child/adult ratio would improve (currently 1:13 but would be 1:8 under this proposal)
- There would be qualified teacher input and highly trained staff.
- The current qualified nursery teacher employed by the school for the maintained nursery class would transfer to the primary school. The nursery assistant currently employed by the school would transfer to the employ of the PLA.
- Everyone is confident that the PLA would continue to provide a good level of care for the children of Aylesham.

### **Chair of Governors**

The governing body unanimously support the proposal.

### **Pre-School Learning Alliance**

- The PLA is a charitable organisation experienced in running community groups and directly managing pre-schools and nurseries.
- The ethos of the nursery is set with the community.
- If the neighbourhood nursery element of the Sunshine Corner Neighbourhood Nursery closed there would not longer be day care provision.
- This proposal offers more flexibility as parents could choose to use their free entitlement and pay for increased session times.
- The free entitlement could be spread over 52 weeks.
- Parents would have more choice.
- The dedicated staff are part of the community.
- If this proposal went ahead the nursery would be sustainable at a level the local community could afford.

### **The following points were made at the meeting**

What would happen if the PLA had to close the nursery at a later date?

Is this a cost cutting exercise?

The children of Aylesham must come first.

*If in the future the PLA were unable to run the nursery and it had to close, KCC could consult on opening the maintained nursery again if that was what the community wanted. KCC has a statutory obligation to ensure that adequate provision is in place to meet the statutory requirements for the Children's Centre.*

*There would be no cost saving for KCC. Funding from KCC for the free entitlement either for the maintained nursery class or the PLA is still the same funding.*

By: Rosalind Turner, Managing Director, Children Families and Education

To: School Organisation Advisory Board – 4 February 2010

Subject: THE PROPOSED RELOCATION OF LALEHAM GAP (COMMUNITY SPECIAL) SCHOOL

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report sets out the results of the public consultation on the proposal to relocate Laleham Gap (Community Special) School into purpose-build buildings on a single site at Newlands Lane, Ramsgate. It seeks the views of the School Organisation Advisory Board on the issuing of a public notice.

**This paper should be read in conjunction with the report to School Organisation Advisory Board of 4 November 2009**

## **Introduction**

1. (1) Laleham Gap School was established in April 2005 as the County’s specialist provision for high functioning pupils aged 3 to 16 years with Autistic Spectrum Disorder and/or Speech and Language disorders. The new school was established from the amalgamation of Laleham School in Margate and Gap House School in Broadstairs and since 2005 has continued to operate across both sites.

(2) Under Wave 4 of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme, secondary and special schools in Thanet will benefit from substantial capital investment, with the potential to deliver exciting and innovative design solutions to meet current and future learning needs.

## **The Proposal**

2. (1) The proposal is to relocate Laleham Gap School to a site at Newland’s Lane (off of Pysons Road) in Ramsgate. The BSF programme will enable the complete rebuilding of the school to a design of the highest quality. Building work would commence late 2010 and be completed by April/September 2012. The new buildings would accommodate 164 pupils, 44 places for pupils aged 3 to 11 years, 120 places for pupils aged 11 to 16 years and would include 60 residential spaces. It would mean that for the first time the school can be consolidated on a single site with enhanced opportunities for cross phase association, more efficient timetabling and access to state of the art facilities.

(2) The Ellington and Hereson school is already established on the large site at Newland’s Lane and the relocation of Laleham Gap School, adjacent to The Ellington Hereson School would realise the site’s optimum potential. The two schools would occupy separate and distinct buildings and each would be self sufficient in terms of learning space and facilities. The possibility of deriving added value from sharing some sports facilities, etc, would be explored carefully.

(3) There is a Public Right of Way (PROW) running through the site. It is therefore proposed that the school will be designed with the buildings on one side and the playing field on the other. The PROW would be fenced off with 'crossing gates' between the buildings and the playing field where pupils would cross with supervision.

## **The Consultation**

3. (1) The consultation document was distributed to parents/carers, staff, governors of Laleham Gap School and The Ellington & Hereson School, local residents, County Councillors, Member of Parliament, the Diocesan Authorities, local library, the District Council, PCT and others in accordance with the agreed County policy. The document was also posted on the KCC website and the link to the website widely circulated via email.

(2) Approximately 1800 copies of the public consultation document were circulated, which included a form for written responses. A copy is attached as Appendix 1.

## **Responses to the Public Consultation**

### *Written Responses*

4. (1) Twenty one responses have been received, of which 18 are in favour, and 3 are opposed.

(2) A summary of written responses is attached as Appendix 2.

### *Public Meeting Responses*

(3) A summary of the points, questions and comments made at the public consultation meeting is attached as Appendix 3.

## **Views of Local Members**

5. (1) Mr Michael Jarvis and Mr Chris Wells are the local members for the current Laleham Gap School site. Mr John Kirby and Mrs Elizabeth Green are the local members for the proposed new site at Newlands Lane in Ramsgate.

(2) Mr Michael Jarvis is fully supportive for this proposed relocation of Laleham Gap School and the benefits it will bring to both staff and pupils respectively.

(3) Mr Chris Wells agrees that it is an excellent proposal and gives it his full support.

(4) Mr John Kirby fully supports the proposal as long as Laleham Gap School and The Ellington & Hereson School retain their independence.

(5) Mrs Elizabeth Green has not submitted her views on this proposal.

## **Views of Local Members of Parliament**

6. The Local MPs for the current and proposed site are Dr Stephen Ladyman and Mr Roger Gale. Both were sent hard copies of the consultation document and email reminders, but have not responded so far. If subsequently responses are received, their views will be reported at the meeting.

## **Views of Thanet District Council**

7. Thanet District Council was consulted and hard copies of the consultation document were sent to the Leader and Chief Executive. This was followed up with an email reminder. Responses have not yet been received but will be reported to the meeting should they be available.

## **Views of the Governing Body**

8. The governing body is resolved that the relocation represents the best available option for the school and that it will deliver enhanced facilities for students.

## **Views of the Local Children's Services Partnership Boards**

9. (1) The issue of the relocation of Laleham Gap School was brought to the attention of Thanet 1 Headteachers and the LCSP Board last term and no objections were raised. Nedine Watson-Cutts, Thanet 1 LCSP Manager gives her full support to the plans as she is aware of the limitations of the current site, and agrees that purpose built accommodation would greatly benefit the school and would enable it to meet the needs of the pupils.

(2) The Thanet 2 LCSP Board supports the proposal as the proposed relocation will consolidate the currently separate Laleham and Gap House provision on a single site and provide the best possible learning environment for pupils and staff.

## **Views of Highways**

10. Highways have not raised objections in principle to the proposal but would be looking for the following concerns to be addressed in any building proposal that comes forward for the proposed site.

- The amount of additional traffic that would be expected to be generated and how this would affect the operation of the junctions, with a view to providing mitigating measures if necessary.
- Car parking (including management of the same to ensure Newlands Lane does not get blocked with parked cars).
- Suitable access and drop off/pick up arrangements for pupils.
- Construction management.

## **Views of the Area Children's Services Officer**

11. (1) The proposal will enable all of the students at Laleham Gap School to benefit from new, high quality learning facilities. For the first time since Laleham and Gap House

schools were amalgamated, the success school would be operating from a single site with all the attendant benefits for organisation and management which accrue from co-location. None of the technical issues relating to access and circulation of traffic, etc, are insurmountable. Goodwill exists on all sides to make this work. Effective partnership is now the key to translating exciting ideas into reality and providing all the students with facilities fit for 21 century learning.

## Resource Issues

### *Capital & Revenue*

12. (1) The new school building will be funded through BSF. The intention is to sell the existing Laleham site and to use the capital receipt to support KCC's contribution to the broader BSF programme. The existing site at Gap House will be adapted for use by Stone Bay Special School as the centre for its residential provision.

(2) Maintenance and other premises related costs are likely to be reduced with consolidation and new build facilitating more efficient use of space with modern heating, lighting and utilities.

### *Human*

(3) There will be minimal human resource implications beyond some potential efficiencies arising from the use of a single site. Most staff will transfer to the new location.

## Proposed Timetable

13. If it is decided that a public notice should be issued in respect of the proposal, the following timetable could apply.

Cabinet Member decision (to issue a public notice)	End of February 2010
Public Notice period	5 March to 16 April 2010
Decision by Local Authority	May 2010
Adjudication (if required)	June/July 2010
Building work commences	Late 2010
Implementation	April/September 2012

## Recommendation

14. The views of the School Organisation Advisory Board are sought on:  
 (a) the relocation of Laleham Gap School and  
 (b) if agreed, the issuing of a public notice.

Martyn Doole

Area Children's Services Officer  
Dover & Thanet  
01227 284407

The Local Members are

Michael Jarvis, Chris Wells, Elizabeth Green and John Kirby

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*Background Documents:*

None

*Previous Committee Reports:*

School Organisation Advisory Board – 4 November 2009

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## Public Consultation Document Laleham Gap School



The Secondary Department  
Margate ←

The Primary Department  
Broadstairs →



Kent County Council would like to hear your views on a proposal to relocate Laleham Gap (Community Special) School into purpose-built buildings on a single site at Newlands Lane, Broadstairs

**Date of Public Meeting: Monday 30 November at 7.00 pm**

This document is also available at:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-learning/about-education-service/consultations/>



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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Laleham Gap School was established in April 2005 as the county's specialist provision for high functioning pupils aged 3 to 16 years with Autistic Spectrum Disorder and/or Speech and Language disorders. The new school was established from the amalgamation of Laleham School and Gap House School and since 2005 has continued to operate across both sites.

Through the Government's Building Schools for the Future programme, secondary and special schools in Thanet are benefiting from substantial capital investment. This has enabled Kent County Council to bring forward this proposal to build a new school for Laleham Gap School to a design of the highest quality. It will mean that for the first time the school can be consolidated in purpose built buildings on a single site.

This document contains details of why Kent County Council is proposing to relocate Laleham Gap School and gives details of how you can respond to this consultation.

Implementation of the proposal is subject to the outcome of this consultation and decision making process and the timescale is outlined on page 6.

**Martyn Doole**  
**Area Children's Services Officer**  
**Thanet & Dover**  
**Kent County Council**  
**Children, Families and Education**



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## 2. THE PROPOSAL

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The proposed location of the new school buildings is on greenfield space which currently is exclusively occupied by the new Ellington and Hereson School. The site is large and was always envisaged as being suitable for up to 3 schools.

Although Laleham Gap School and The Ellington and Hereson School would be relatively close, they would each retain their own separate and distinct buildings and facilities, although the possibility of deriving added value from the sharing of sports facilities would be carefully explored.

The Kent County Council Building Schools for the Future team would work with the school on 'visioning' for their new school buildings. The new school buildings would be designed to provide innovative accommodation to suit the needs of the pupils and provide the best possible learning environment.

The new buildings would accommodate 164 pupils, 44 places for pupils aged 3 to 11 years, 120 places for pupils aged 11 to 16 years, and include 60 residential spaces.

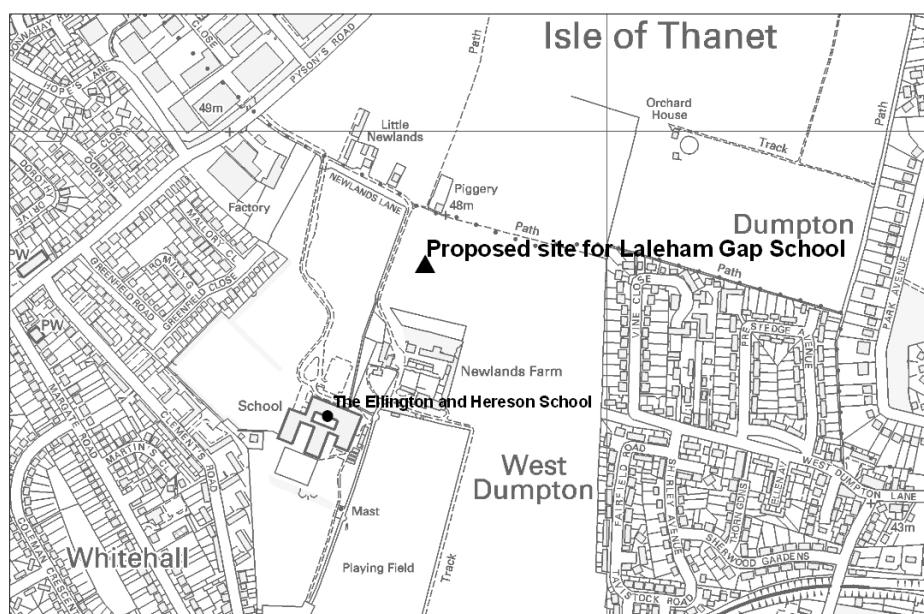
There is a public right of way running through the proposed location of the new building. Careful consideration will be given to this to ensure that the footprint of the new buildings makes optimum use of available space. Consideration will also be given to ensuring that access to the site is suitably adapted to accommodate the needs of Laleham Gap students.



### 3. WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THIS PROPOSAL?

- Currently Laleham Gap School is located on two sites and this proposal would consolidate the school on one site. Secondary aged students currently attend the Laleham site in Margate and primary aged students attend the Gap House site in Broadstairs. The existing Laleham site itself is divided by a footpath and the accommodation on both sites is unsuitable for the long term needs of the school.
  - It would be very difficult to adapt the existing Laleham Gap sites because of the space available and the constraints of the existing accommodation.

*Map showing the proposed new location for Laleham Gap School*



Based upon the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (C) Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Kent County Council licence No. 100019238. August 8th, 2009



- This proposal would provide the school with purpose built accommodation to meet the needs of the pupils.
  - The school would be involved from the beginning in helping to create buildings designed to provide the best possible educational environment for all its pupils.

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## 4. HOW TO GIVE YOUR VIEWS

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▶ **Complete and return the response form (on page 7) to:**

Martyn Doole, Area Children's Services Officer  
East Kent Education Office, Clover House,  
John Wilson Business Park, Thanet Way,  
Whitstable, Kent CT5 3QZ.

Fax: 01227 772290

(your comments must reach us by 11 January 2010)

▶ **Come to a public meeting**

on: **Monday 30 November at 7.00 pm**

at: **Laleham Gap School**

**Northdown Park Road, Margate, Kent CT9 2TP**

- An elected member of Kent County Council will chair this meeting, at which all interested parties will have an opportunity to put forward their views.
- Officers from the Local Authority will also be present to clarify points of detail.

▶ **Email your comments to:**

**[school.consultations@kent.gov.uk](mailto:school.consultations@kent.gov.uk)**

(We will note all you say, but will not be able to respond individually to response forms, letters or emails)



## 5. CONSULTATION & DECISION MAKING TIMETABLE

Public Consultation Period	16 November 2009 to 11 January 2010
Public Meeting	30 November at 7.00 pm
Report Back to the Kent County Council School Organisation Advisory Board *	4 February 2010
Public Notice Issued (subject to Cabinet Member decision)	12 March 2010
Public Notice Expires	23 April 2010
Decision by Local Authority	May 2010
Adjudication (if required)	June/July 2010
Building work commences	Late 2010
Implementation	April/September 2012

\* The School Organisation Advisory Board meeting is held at County Hall, Maidstone and the webcast can be watched via the [kent.gov.uk](http://kent.gov.uk) website.

**The meeting is open to the public.**

## 6. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- Following this consultation, all views received, either in writing, by email or at the Public Meeting, will be reported to the School Organisation Advisory Board of Kent County Council.
- A Cabinet Member decision will be made on whether to take the proposal forward.
- If so, a Public Notice will be published in a local newspaper, at the school and in public places like the library. The Public Notice will run for six weeks. Representations about the proposal can be made.
- A determination will then be reached on whether the proposal is to be implemented.
- In certain circumstances this could include referral to the statutory Schools Adjudicator.
- All views will be considered before a decision is made.



## Public Consultation Response Form

### The proposed relocation of Laleham Gap School

PLEASE RETURN NO LATER THAN 11 January 2010

To: Martyn Doole, Area Children's Services Officer  
East Kent Education Office, Clover House,  
John Wilson Business Park, Thanet Way,  
Whitstable, Kent CT5 3QZ.

Fax: 01227 772290

You can also email your views to: [school.consultations@kent.gov.uk](mailto:school.consultations@kent.gov.uk)

Do you agree with the proposal?

Yes

No

I am: (please tick as appropriate)

The parent/carer of a pupil  
at Laleham Gap School

A Governor of Laleham Gap  
School

A member of staff at  
Laleham Gap School

A pupil at Laleham Gap  
School

Other interested party

Name of other school or interested party

Name:

Address:

Kent County Council is a data controller under the Data Protection Act 1998 and will comply with the requirements of the Act at all times. We will ensure that your personal information is processed fairly and lawfully and in this instance used only for the purpose of validation, which will enable a fair and just consultation.

PLEASE WRITE YOUR COMMENTS OVERLEAF



My comments are as follows:

*Please continue on another sheet if necessary*

**PROPOSED RELOCATION OF LALEHAM GAP SCHOOL**

**Summary of written responses**

Consultation documents distributed: 1800

Responses received: 21

	Support	Against	Undecided	Total
Parents/Carers of pupils at Laleham Gap School	5	1	0	6
Members of staff at Laleham Gap School	7	0	0	7
Governors at Laleham Gap School	3	0	0	3
Pupils attending at Laleham Gap School	0	0	0	0
Interested party	6	2	0	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>

Please note: Some of those who responded fitted into more than one category. The totals show the number of responses received.

Comments in support of the proposal

- An excellent proposal
- A bespoke building designed to meet the need would create an ideal solution for a much sought after resource.
- The secondary and primary children being together on one site will be even better for this already excellent school.
- One purpose built building would be no less than the children and staff should have for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- A very sensible proposal.

Against the proposal

- The proposal would be unacceptable to local residents because of the proposed location of the buildings close to the rear of properties in Greenfield Road.

Comments for further consideration by the LA

- The inclusion of Year 12 students in the future should be considered.
- The security of the site must be a high priority.
- The problem of the increased weight of traffic with the addition of Laleham Gap School to the site must be addressed.
- Entrance/drop off area should be located away from residential properties to reduce the noise level and disturbance.

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## **PROPOSED RELOCATION OF LALEHAM GAP SCHOOL**

### **Summary of the Public Meeting held on 30 November 2009 at Laleham Gap School**

Approximately 30 people attended the public meeting including parents, governors and other interested parties.

The key issues raised are summarised below with responses from the Local Authority in italics.

**Martyn Doole** the Area Children's Services Officer outlined the background to the proposal explaining that since the amalgamation of Laleham School and Gap House School in 2005 the school had continued to operate across both sites. There was now an opportunity to consolidate the school on a single site in new buildings through BSF funding. The site at Pysons Road in Ramsgate had always been intended for up to three schools. The school would be involved in the design for the new building which would provide state-of-the-art facilities for the pupils of Laleham Gap School.

**Keith Mileham** the headteacher of Laleham Gap School said that the governors and the senior management team of Laleham Gap School along with many others fully supported the proposal. The relocation into new accommodation with excellent facilities would provide the pupils of Laleham Gap School with a much better deal in the future.

**The following points were made about the proposal by different members of the public, including parents, staff and residents, some of the points being made more than once.**

- Concerns were raised about the amount of traffic that would be generated by the addition of another school on the site at Newlands Lane.
- Assurances were sought that there would be secure fencing and a proper road structure with a box junction.
- Will Kent County Council or Thanet District Council be the planning authority?
- Could a piece of ground be purchased as an overflow car park?
- Please could the Montrose playing field be transferred to Cliftonville Primary School if the proposal goes ahead?
- Could the age range of the school be extended to take 17 year olds?
- There may be transport difficulties for some parents taking their children to the new site.
- *Planners will work on the best way for traffic flow on and off the site and all issues concerning traffic and fencing will be worked through during the design stage.*
- *Kent County Council will be the planning authority and Thanet District Council will be a consultee representing the views of the local community. Anyone can send in comments and views on planning applications.*
- *Financial constraints may prevent the purchase of any additional land, as this would take away money available for the new building.*
- *There will be negotiations over the future of the current site and any development would be carefully considered.*
- *It is not proposed that the age range would change at this stage but there will be a degree of flexibility built into the design.*
- *Transport needs for the new school site would be addressed in the appropriate way.*

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By: Rosalind Turner, Managing Director – Children, Families and Education

To: School Organisation Advisory Board Members – 4<sup>th</sup> February 2010

Subject: UPDATE ON PROPOSALS FOLLOWING THE CANCELLATION OF THE SCHOOL ORGANISATION ADVISORY BOARD ON 7<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2010

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report updates the School Organisation Advisory Board on the recommendation to the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education on the proposals due to be discussed at the cancelled meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

## **For Information**

### **Introduction**

1. (1) The reports listed below were due to be discussed at the meeting of the School Organisation Advisory Board on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2010. However, due to adverse weather conditions the meeting had to be cancelled;

- (i) Proposed Amalgamation of Walmer (Community) Science College and Castle Community College.
- (ii) Proposed Closure Of Wilmington Enterprise College and its Replacement with a Government Funded Academy.
- (iii) Proposed Closure of Astor of Hever School and its Replacement with a Government Funded Academy.
- (iv) Possible need for a New Primary School on the Goat Lees Estate, Ashford.

(2) In order to avoid delay in moving proposals forward it was agreed that Members would be contacted to request that any comments and recommendations were sent to the Board's Chairman.

### **Outcome**

2. (1) On 12 January, following receipt of the comments and recommendations expressed by the Members of the School Organisation Advisory Board, the Chair, Mrs Valerie Dagger recommended to the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education;

- (i) to endorse the proposal from the governing bodies of Walmer (Community) Science College and Castle Community College, working with their external partners, to establish a new Trust School. Subject to the formal endorsement of the Local Authority an application would then be submitted by the promoters to the Secretary of State for exemption from the competition process.

- (ii) to undertake a public consultation on the proposed closure of Wilmington Enterprise College and its replacement with a government funded academy.
- (iii) to issue a public notice to close the Astor of Hever School and its replacement with a government funded academy
- (iv) to issue a competition notice for a new primary school on the Goat Lees Estate, Ashford.

### **Recommendation**

3. The Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education subsequently decided to act in accordance with the recommendations from the School Organisation Advisory Board.

David Adams  
Area Children's Services Officer  
Ashford & Shepway  
Tel 01233 898559

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*Background Documents:*

None

*Previous Committee Reports:*

School Organisation Advisory Board - 7 January 2010

By: Rosalind Turner, Managing Director, Children Families and Education

To: School Organisation Advisory Board – 4 February 2010

Subject: SCHOOLS APPLYING FOR FOUNDATION/TRUST STATUS

Classification: Unrestricted

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Summary: To inform Members of SOAB of the current situation regarding Foundation/Trust proposals

## **FOR INFORMATION**

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### **Background**

1. (1) A paper was presented to SOAB on 17 October 2007 informing Members of the Government's encouragement of all schools to consider Foundation/Trust status, and of the 'fast track' procedures to achieve it. These procedures require a governing body to consult 'interested parties' (including the LA) over a minimum of a four week period, before determining themselves.

### **Determinations**

2. (1) Since the last report to the Board there has been one new determination reported to the local authority.

(2) On 30 December 2009 a letter was received from the **Federation of Ramsgate Grammar Schools**, advising us that following full consultation, including a Public Notice process, the governors, at a full governing body meeting on 7 December 2009, had decided to change **Clarendon House Grammar School** category of from Community to Foundation with effect from 8 December 2009. The Local Members Ms. Elizabeth Green and Mr. John Kirby were informed.

(3) There are now 62 Foundation schools in Kent (13 Primary, 48 Secondary and 1 Special), 92 Aided schools (80 Primary and 12 Secondary), 6 Trust Schools (1 Primary and 5 Secondary) and in addition 10 Academies = a total of 170.

(5) For the sake of simplicity, Aided schools should be considered as having the same status as Foundation/Trust schools.

(6) In implementing the decision of the Governing Body of Clarendon House Grammar School, the Local Authority will proceed with transferring the staff and land/buildings to the Governing Body. The school will continue to be maintained by the Local Authority and to receive a delegated budget.

(7) In respect of the school the Local Authority will continue to have monitoring, evaluation and intervention functions, when necessary.

## **Consultations**

3. Since the last report no new schools have informed us that they have begun consultations

## **Recommendations**

4. Members are asked to note the report.

David Adams  
Area Children's Service Officer  
01233 898550  
david.adams@kent.gov.uk

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### *Background Documents:*

- School Standards and Framework Act; DFES 1998
- Education and Inspection Act; DFES 2006
- Changing Category to Foundation; DCSF 2007
- School Organisation; Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools in England Regulations; DCSF 2007
- Schools Applying for Foundation/Trust Status;  
SOAB - 17 October 2007/ 14 November 2007/  
10 January 2008/ 7 February 2008/ 2 April 2008/  
7 May 2008/ 17 July 2008/ 5 November 2008 / 10 December  
2008/ 8 January 2009/ 12 March 2009/ 23 April 2009/ 16  
July 2009.