



Summons to and
Agenda for a
Meeting on
**Thursday, 17th July,
2014**
at **10.00 am**



DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
SESSIONS HOUSE
MAIDSTONE

Tuesday, 8 July 2014

To: All Members of the County Council

Please attend the meeting of the County Council in the Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Thursday, 17 July 2014 at **10.00 am** to deal with the following business. **The meeting is scheduled to end by 4.30 pm.**

Webcasting Notice

Please note: this meeting may be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site – at the start of the meeting the Chairman will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed.

By entering the meeting room you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes. If you do not wish to have your image captured then you should make the Clerk of the meeting aware.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or Other Significant Interests
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2014 and, if in order, to be approved as a correct record **(Pages 5 - 18)**
4. Chairman's Announcements
5. Questions **(Pages 19 - 40)**
6. Report by Leader of the Council (Oral)
7. Electoral Review of Kent County Council's Area **(Pages 41 - 98)**
8. Kent Safeguarding Children Board - 2013/14 Annual Report **(Pages 99 - 134)**
9. Apprentice Participation - Virtual School Kent **(Pages 135 - 140)**
10. Motion for Time Limited Debate

Mr G Cowan will propose, Mr R Truelove will second,

"Kent County Council supports the actions taken so far by Thanet District Council to retain Manston as a regional airport. We recognise the value that a regional airport brings to East Kent and are disappointed at its closure. Kent County Council further recognises that Thanet District Council is unlikely to have the resources to go through with a Compulsory Purchase Order, with all of the linked legal cost, by itself. Therefore as the Upper Tier Authority we agree to support Thanet District Council's investigations into the viability of a Compulsory Purchase Order with financial contributions and support from our legal team. Should Thanet District Council proceed with a Compulsory Purchase Order, we agree to support them further with financial and legal support."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Sass', written in a cursive style.

Peter Sass
Head of Democratic Services
01622 694002

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Kent County Council held in the Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Thursday, 15 May 2014.

PRESENT:

Mr P J Homewood (Chairman)
Mr M J Harrison (Vice-Chairman)

Mrs A D Allen, MBE, Mr M J Angell, Mr D Baker, Mr M Baldock, Mr M A C Balfour, Mr R H Bird, Mr H Birkby, Mr N J Bond, Mr A H T Bowles, Mr D L Brazier, Mrs P Brivio, Mr R E Brookbank, Mr L Burgess, Mr C W Caller, Miss S J Carey, Mr P B Carter, CBE, Mr N J D Chard, Mr I S Chittenden, Mr B E Clark, Mrs P T Cole, Mr G Cooke, Mr G Cowan, Mrs M E Crabtree, Ms C J Cribbon, Mr A D Crowther, Mrs V J Dagger, Mr D S Daley, Mr M C Dance, Mr J A Davies, Mrs T Dean, MBE, Dr M R Eddy, Mr J Elenor, Mrs M Elenor, Mr T Gates, Mr G K Gibbens, Mr R W Gough, Mr P M Harman, Ms A Harrison, Mr M Heale, Mr P M Hill, OBE, Mr C P D Hoare, Mrs S V Hohler, Mr S Holden, Mr E E C Hotson, Mrs S Howes, Mr A J King, MBE, Mr J A Kite, MBE, Mr S J G Koowaree, Mr R A Latchford, OBE, Mr R L H Long, TD, Mr G Lymer, Mr B E MacDowall, Mr T A Maddison, Mr S C Manion, Mr R A Marsh, Mr F McKenna, Mr B Neaves, Mr M J Northey, Mr P J Oakford, Mr J M Ozog, Mr R J Parry, Mr C R Pearman, Mr L B Ridings, MBE, Mrs E D Rowbotham, Mr J E Scholes, Mr W Scobie, Mr T L Shonk, Mr C Simkins, Mr C P Smith, Mr D Smyth, Mrs P A V Stockell, Mr B J Sweetland, Mr A Terry, Mr N S Thandi, Mr M J Vye, Mr J N Wedgbury, Mrs J Whittle, Mr M E Whybrow, Mr M A Wickham and Mrs Z Wiltshire

IN ATTENDANCE: Geoff Wild (Director of Governance and Law) and Peter Sass (Head of Democratic Services)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

1. Presentation of the Kent Invicta Award to Miss Lizzy Yarnold

(Mr E E C Hotson presided for this item)

Please note that this part of the meeting was not webcast due to copyright of the BBC clip showing the Gold Medal winning run by Lizzy Yarnold.

(1) As one of his final duties as outgoing Chairman of the County Council Mr Hotson presented Lizzy Yarnold with the Kent Invicta Award. The Kent Invicta Award recognises residents of Kent who have achieved excellence in their chosen field or who have provided an exceptional service to the county. It was noted that Lizzy Yarnold had won a Gold Medal at the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi.

(2) Mr Hotson stated that he was delighted that the Group Leaders had agreed unanimously that the Award should be presented to Lizzy Yarnold and it gave him great pleasure, on behalf of all KCC Members, to present her with the award and two cheques totalling £5,000 for her chosen charities.

(3) Accepting the Award Lizzy Yarnold stated "I am absolutely thrilled and very honoured to have received this recognition from Kent County Council. Thank you all from the deepest part of my heart."

2. Election of Chairman

(Mr E E C Hotson the present Chairman presided for this item)

(1) Mr Smith moved and Mr Sweetland seconded that:

Mr P J Homewood be appointed Chairman of the County Council.

Carried without a vote

(2) Thereupon Mr Homewood took the chair, made his declaration of acceptance of office and returned thanks for his election.

(3) Mr Homewood paid tribute to Mr Hotson and thanked him for the manner in which he had carried out his duties as Chairman of the Council from May 2013 to the present day.

(4) Mr Hotson suitably replied.

3. Election of Vice Chairman

(1) Miss Carey moved, Mrs Whittle seconded that:-

Mr M J Harrison be appointed Vice Chairman of the Council.

Carried without a vote

(2) Mr Harrison thereupon made his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and returned thanks for his appointment.

4. Apologies for Absence

The Director of Governance and Law reported apologies for absence from the following Members:

Mr John Simmonds
Mr Roger Truelove

5. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or Other Significant Interests

(1) Mrs Allen declared an interest in Item 12 as a trustee of North West Kent Age Concern.

(2) Mr Cowan made a declaration in that both he and his wife were foster carers for Kent County Council.

(3) Mr Brookbank declared an interest in Item 12 as a trustee of Darent Valley Age UK.

(4) Mr Hoare declared an interest in relation to Question 5 as a director of Conduit, a community interest company that gets young people into employment in the construction industry.

6. Minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2014 and, if in order, to be approved as a correct record

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2014 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Mr Cowan raised a concern that the opposition Group Leaders' responses to the Leader's report were not recorded in any detail in the Minutes and asked for there to be more balance in the recording of Group Leaders' responses in future.

7. Chairman's Announcements

(a) Mrs Joyce Esterson

(1) The Chairman announced that it was with much sadness that he had to inform Members of the death of Mrs Joyce Esterson on Friday 11 April 2014. Mrs Esterson was elected to serve as the Labour Member for the Gravesend East Division from 1985 until 2001. She was the co-chair of the former Education Committee from 1993 to 1997. In 1993, Mrs Esterson was a major influence in the development of nursery units. She was also the Labour Group Secretary during the 1990s. Mrs Esterson was appointed as an Honorary Alderman for the County of Kent on 19 December 2009.

(2) Mr Cowan, Mrs Dean and Mr Carter give tribute to Mrs Esterson.

(3) At the end of the tributes, all Members stood in silence in memory of Mrs Esterson.

(4) After the minute's silence, the Chairman moved, the Vice Chairman seconded and it was:

Resolved unanimously: that the Council desires to record the sense of loss it feels on the sad passing of Mrs Esterson and extends to her family and friends its heartfelt sympathy to them in their sad bereavement.

(b) UK Property Investment Award

(5) The Chairman announced that KCC's Superannuation Fund portfolio had won the Investment Property Databank (IPD)/Investment Property Forum (IPF) UK Property Investment Award for the highest three year annualised return to December 2013 for Segregated Pension Funds between £100m and £350m. The Fund delivered a very impressive three year annualised return to December 2013 of 9.6%.

(6) The Chairman stated that this was a great achievement for KCC's Superannuation Fund, which reflected the quality of the portfolio and recognised the successful implementation of the agreed strategy year after year. On behalf of the County Council, he offered his sincere congratulations to all concerned.

(c) Queens Award Winners 2014 for International Trade

(7) The Chairman stated that he was pleased to announce that Kent had secured another three winners of The Queen's Awards for International Trade this year. They winners were:

Jon Tibbs Associates Ltd - Speldhurst

Founded in 2001, Jon Tibbs Associates Ltd (JTA) provides strategic brand building and communications consultancy in the international sports movement.

Marco Ltd – Edenbridge

Established in 1985, Marco Ltd manufactures intelligent fresh produce packaging equipment for pre-packed soft fruit, grapes, tomatoes, salads and vegetables.

Maviga International (Holdings) Ltd - Yalding

Established in 1994, Maviga International (Holdings) Ltd supplies dried edible pulses (peas, beans, lentils and chick peas) and other special crops including sesame seeds.

(d) Long Service

(8) The Chairman congratulated Sarah Hohler and Alex King, MBE on achieving twenty five years as Members of the County Council.

8. Questions

Under Procedure Rule 1.17 (4) 10 questions were asked and replies given.

9. Report by Leader of the Council (Oral)

(1) The Leader began his report by stating that he would reserve his comments on the Transformation agenda for items later on in the meeting but that he felt it was enormously significant to articulate the progress that had already been made on Facing the Challenge.

(2) He announced that Florence Kroll had been appointed as the new Director of Early Help and Preventative Services. Florence came from the London Borough of Hackney where she had a formidable track record as the Assistant Director of Young Hackney.

(3) He also stated that good progress was being made on the unmet costs of asylum in the county, with James Brokenshire, the new Home Office Minister for Immigration, taking a keen and thorough interest in finding a solution to the problem.

(4) Mr Carter made reference to the recent 2020 Business Expo Conference at Detling and offered his congratulations to the County Showground on the opening of their new exhibition centre, which he believed would be of enormous benefit to the county in the future. He stated that he had spoken at the opening of the Expo about the continued trend of the fast improving economy in the county and had quoted several statistics showing performance above the national average.

(5) The Leader stated that whilst he was talking about the economic future of the county, it would be wrong not to mention what a sad day it was for East Kent with the closure of Manston Airport at 5pm. Kent County Council had done all that it could over many years, indeed decades, to help and support Manston Airport thrive and he knew everyone was greatly saddened by the closure of the airport. To the best of his knowledge and KCC's Economic Development Officers, there had been no credible or viable proposition put to Kent County Council or via the current owners of the airport.

(6) He added that he had made it quite clear to Ann Gloag's organisation and others that KCC had always stood ready to help and support any company that may be interested with a viable proposition to help and support through application of the Regional Growth Fund. There was now a need to get behind Ann Gloag's business to find alternative propositions for reopening the airport and other commercial uses to make sure that what had been done so successfully at Discovery Park in Sandwich in rescuing businesses from closure could be applied to Manston.

(7) Mr Carter stated that an announcement from government was eagerly awaited on its recently submitted Kent & Medway Growth Strategy as part of the South East LEP Strategy and the Leader hoped that there would be a generous settlement as part of the single pot allocation.

(8) Finally the Leader stated that there were still concerns on the ongoing negotiations with the Department for Education on the Council's basic need allocation, which he had mentioned in previous Leader's reports, in trying to better understand the £30m deficit on basic need allocation in 2015-16 and 2016-17. Negotiations were ongoing as to why Kent, and Oxfordshire, was not receiving a settlement comparable with all other counties across the country.

(9) Mr Latchford thanked the Leader for his report and touched briefly on the issue of Troubled Families, which the Leader had not spoken about, noting that 2,153 families were actively being worked with, of which 153 had been successfully helped.

(10) In relation to the LEP and noting that funds would be available from the EU, he stated that his party's concern was that this was only the country's own funding being given back with strings attached. He hoped that one of the main focuses for use of this money would be to ensure broadband connectivity was enhanced in all the county's rural areas as this was essential for rural enterprise.

(11) Mr Latchford stated that while the Peer Review had been very successful for KCC, Thanet District Council (TDC) had had a very bad review, being branded as 'toxic' and amongst the worst in the UK. TDC were meeting later that day to elect a new leader and the new ruling group would, he believed, be earnestly in need of help. He asked the Leader if he would consider what he could do should they need any assistance.

(12) Mr Latchford noted the appointment of the new Director of Early Help and Preventative Service and wished Ms Kroll every success.

(13) With regard to Manston, Mr Latchford agreed wholeheartedly with Mr Carter that it was a disaster for Thanet. Although there was an increase in employment figures in the county, the closure of the airport would mean a decrease of 150 employees at Manston and 600 jobs in ancillary supporting companies who had serviced the airport. The gossip around some quarters was of the possible development of the site for housing instead of an operational airport and Mr Latchford hoped that this would not be the case. The local MP had worked hard in support of the airport and the matter had been included at Prime Minister's Question Time. As a group, UKIP were very strongly in support of Manston, it had been in their manifesto and they stood by this and were very keen for its survival.

(14) Mr Latchford stated that it was good news to hear that some of the costs of asylum were being met, that the problem had now been acknowledged and that help looked like it would be forthcoming.

(15) Mr Cowan began his response to the Leader's speech by stating that it was indeed great news that unemployment figures had fallen to a record five year low and it was always very welcome to receive such figures going forward. He sounded a note of caution with regard to employment figures and the danger of these being heavily oversubscribed with part time and zero hour contracts and stated that was important that any employment was in jobs that were real and for the foreseeable future.

(16) Turning to the unmet costs of asylum, Mr Cowan stated that he hoped that there was indeed a solution.

(17) Mr Cowan spoke of the announcement Mr Carter had made on the closure of the Pfizer Pharmaceutical site at Sandwich with the loss of some 4,000 jobs. The Leader, along with those in central government and other interested parties, had immediately formed a task force with the hope of securing the site for the future which had, to date, been incredibly successful with a number of new businesses on site. Although a task force had indeed been set up to secure the best outcome for Manston, Mr Cowan had been surprised that the Leader had not reacted the same way as he had about Pfizer, especially given that in the Council's Bold Steps for Aviation document there was the statement "In Kent Manston Airport has the potential to make a significant contribution providing excellent connections to European destinations with reduced flight times. Manston has one of the longest runways in Europe, 2,752 metres and is therefore it is able to cater for all modern aircraft". The report then went on to state that the development of Manston as a regional airport would create employment opportunities in one of England's most disadvantaged areas and could create some 6,000 additional direct or indirect jobs within the area. Taking forward the proposed Thanet Parkway Rail Station was also part of the report which would complement the airport and increase passenger numbers.

(18) Mr Cowan drew his response to a close by asking the Leader what his commitment was to Manston, what effects this would have on the proposed Thanet

Parkway proposals and how important were the closure of the airport and the Parkway proposals for the regeneration of East Kent.

(19) Mrs Dean began her response by congratulating the Chairman on his appointment stating it was great to see a fellow Tonbridge and Malling Member in the chair.

(20) Mrs Dean also welcomed the appointment of the Director of Early Help and Preventative Services and she stressed that it was absolutely crucial that preventative services was one of the themes that was discussed later on in the agenda in the Select Committee: Commissioning item. The Director needed to be given full access to the preparation of the Council's Commissioning Plans to enable her to ensure that preventative services were a theme that ran throughout them. She stated that it was unfortunate that in the past few days the government had announced the money for children's health commissioning for 0-5 year olds, including the appointment of health visitors, would not transfer to local authorities until October 2015. This was much later than had been expected and was apparently the result of government not being convinced that local authorities can use their powers sufficiently quickly to involve themselves in the preventative agenda. Mrs Dean hoped that the Leader would put pressure on government to expedite the transfer because if they had no influence in the appointment of health visitors the Council's early preventative work would be severely weakened.

(21) Mrs Dean stated that she was pleased to see the employment and business figures but hoped that she was wrong in thinking that the reduction in the Council's contracts that was intended in social care work from over 100 firms to 23 firms would not unduly disadvantage small and medium size businesses in Kent. If this was a theme that was to be reflected on all the Council's services as they went into commissioning it would mean working with a much diminished number of larger concerns and 99% of the businesses in the non-public sector of Kent would be bypassed. There had to be a way to ensure that small and medium enterprises continued to be able to do work for Kent.

(22) With regard to Manston Mrs Dean stated that she used to be the local Member for West Malling airfield and she clearly remembered similar debates being held when the County Council purchased West Malling and submitted an application from an airfield. The essence of the arguments that surrounded the future of West Malling airfield at that time was based solely on the need for the service.

(23) She stated that many people in Kent were perplexed by the amount of money that was seen to be going into Manston in terms of investment, which was clearly being invested in the North East of Kent. Local people still asked why the Council continued to invest money in a site which seemed not to be succeeding. There was a lot of tax payers' money going into Manston and Mrs Dean felt that the Council needed to produce a very clear statement of where the need for Manston came from and what its future was intended to be before they continued to invest in the site.

(24) Mr Whybrow also congratulated the Chairman on his appointment.

(25) He very much welcomed the good news Mr Carter had shared regarding the employment and business figures and he hoped that new jobs being created in Kent were well paid and worthwhile and hopefully bringing people off the benefit system.

(26) From KCC's perspective there were two things that could be looked at; a milestone Mr Carter hadn't mentioned was that the Kent Support & Assistance Service (KSAS) had just come to the end of its first year. A local voluntary body had described KSAS to Mr Whybrow as 'really disappointing'. KSAS was a KCC run service or safety net and had £2.8m to provide each year for people in need of assistance. In its first year it had only spent just over £1m but had had over 34,000 people come forward for assistance proving that there was obviously the demand. Mr Whybrow suggested that the bar had been set too high which meant that people were being turned away when they most needed help and assistance.

(27) Mr Whybrow stated that despite all the good things Mr Carter had no doubt seen at the Business 2020 Expo the Council needed to be aware that inequality was continuing to increase across the county. Something which had become a bit of a political football recently had been the Welfare Reform report, which Mr Whybrow stated had been commissioned for worthwhile reasons and he would be interested to know if there were any plans to revisit the issue and have the report refreshed.

(28) The Leader responded to the points raised by the opposition group leaders in their responses starting with Manston Airport. He stated that he had attended task group meetings, including one where he had missed a Cabinet meeting to do so which he said showed how important he thought the task group was. He was kept informed daily of progress on the situation and was in regular contact with KCC Economic Development Officers as well as both Thanet MPs, Roger Gale and Laura Sandys. He too had been disappointed that Manston had not been mentioned in the Davis Review. Bold Steps for Aviation had done all it could to promote Manston Airport with the potential to create significant job growth through the expansion thereof.

(29) He stated that no substantive money had been spent on Manston Airport. Prior to his leadership some help and support had been given to Flybe but Infratil during their ownership had very much dipped into their own pockets to sustain a substantial loss over many years. Ann Gloag's team had also suffered losses running of the airport over the last six months.

(30) KCC had invested in Manston Industrial Park and the EuroKent site and the Leader was hopeful that as the country came out of recession and KCC went through the appeal process on planning there would be good news to announce on this in due course.

(31) In response to Mrs Dean's comments on health visitors, the Leader stated that it was a retrograde step to delay this coming under the control and remit of local government. Health visitors needed to be a part of the integrated teams around GP surgeries and patients and the sooner it could be resolved how best to deploy and join together these community health and preventative services the better.

(32) He stated that of course KCC would continue to support Thanet District Council in any way that it could, they always had done under Labour control as well as Conservative control, one only had to look at the good track record of what had gone on in the partnership between KCC and TDC.

(33) Finally he apologised that he had not mentioned Troubled Families, as he had indicated to the opposition leaders that he would but he had replaced this, quite

rightly he felt, with the topic of Manston Airport. Again however good progress was being made in supporting Troubled Families across the county of Kent. It had taken time to get the logistics sorted and the right people in place but now the work was gathering considerable momentum and the Leader hoped that the next published set of data would put the Council even further up the league tables.

10. LGA Peer Challenge - Feedback and KCC's response

(1) Mr Carter moved, Mr Hill seconded that the County Council:

- (a) note and agree the LGA's feedback letter on the Corporate Peer Challenge;
- (b) agree the acceptance of all of the recommendations made in the feedback letter; and
- (c) thank the LGA, members of the Peer Challenge team and everyone who contributed to the Peer Challenge, including officers, Members and partners who took the time to meet with the Peers and share their views.

(2) Following the debate the Chairman put to the vote Recommendations (a) to (c) as set out in para (1) above when the voting was as follows:

For (63)

Mrs A Allen, Mr M Angell, Mr D Baker, Mr M Baldock, Mr M Balfour, Mr R Bird, Mr H Birkby, Mr N Bond, Mr A Bowles, Mr D Brazier, Mr R Brookbank, Mr L Burgess, Miss S Carey, Mr P Carter, Mr N Chard, Mr I Chittenden, Mr B Clark, Mrs P Cole, Mr G Cooke, Mrs M Crabtree, Mr A Crowther, Mrs V Dagger, Mr D Daley, Mr M Dance, Mr J Davies, Mr J Elenor, Mrs M Elenor, Mr G Gibbens, Mr R Gough, Mr P Harman, Mr M Harrison, Mr M Heale, Mr M Hill, Mr C Hoare, Mrs S Hohler, Mr S Holden, Mr P Homewood, Mr E Hotson, Mr A King, Mr R Latchford, Mr R Long, Mr G Lymer, Mr S Manion, Mr F McKenna, Mr B Neaves, Mr M Northey, Mr P Oakford, Mr J Ozog, Mr R Parry, Mr C Pearman, Mr L Ridings, Mr J Scholes, Mr T Shonk, Mr C Simkins, Mr C Smith, Mrs P Stockell, Mr B Sweetland, Mr A Terry, Mr J Wedgbury, Mrs J Whittle, Mr M Whybrow, Mr A Wickham, Mrs Z Wiltshire

Abstain (11)

Mrs P Brivio, Mr C Caller, Mr G Cowan, Ms J Cribbon, Dr M Eddy, Ms A Harrison, Ms S Howes, Mrs E Rowbotham, Mr W Scobie, Mr D Smyth, Mr N Thandi

Against (1)

Mr B MacDowall

Carried

(3) RESOLVED that the County Council:

- (a) note and agree the LGA's feedback letter on the Corporate Peer Challenge;

- (b) agree the acceptance of all of the recommendations made in the feedback letter; and
- (c) thank the LGA, members of the Peer Challenge team and everyone who contributed to the Peer Challenge, including officers, Members and partners who took the time to meet with the Peers and share their views.

11. Facing the Challenge: Closing down Bold Steps for Kent

- (1) Mr Carter moved, Mr Hill seconded that the County Council:
 - (i) note the achievements of Bold Steps for Kent;
 - (ii) note the lessons learnt from Bold Steps for Kent; and
 - (iii) agree the close down of Bold Steps for Kent.
- (2) RESOLVED that the above recommendations be agreed.

12. Facing the Challenge: Phase 1 Service Review and Market Engagement Outturn Report

- (1) Mr Carter moved, Mr Hill seconded that the Council:
 - (i) endorse the preferred options to be taken forward to Full Business Case for the Phase 1 reviews, as set out in section 3 of the report;
 - (ii) endorse the approach to engaging the market for a Joint Venture partnership covering a range of suitable services as set out in section 4 of the report;
 - (iii) note the indicative financial savings for Phase 1 reviews as set out in section 5 of the report; and
 - (iv) note the next steps, in particular the route for approval of Full Business Case and any Key Decision approvals, as set out in section 6 of the report.
- (2) Following a debate the Chairman put the recommendations to the vote when the results were as follows:

For (45)

Mrs A Allen, Mr M Angell, Mr D Baker, Mr A Bowles, Mr D Brazier, Mr R Brookbank, Miss S Carey, Mr P Carter, Mr N Chard, Mrs P Cole, Mr G Cooke, Mrs M Crabtree, Mr A Crowther, Mrs V Dagger, Mr M Dance, Mr J Davies, Mr G Gibbens, Mr R Gough, Mr P Harman, Mr M Harrison, Mr M Hill, Mrs S Hohler, Mr S Holden, Mr P Homewood, Mr E Hotson, Mr A King, Mr R Long, Mr G Lymer, Mr S Manion, Mr M Northey, Mr P Oakford, Mr J Ozog, Mr R Parry, Mr C Pearman, Mr L Ridings, Mr J Scholes, Mr C Simkins, Mr C Smith, Mrs P Stockell, Mr B Sweetland, Mr J Wedgbury, Mrs J Whittle, Mr M Whybrow, Mr A Wickham, Mrs Z Wiltshire

Abstain (7)

Mr R Bird, Mr I Chittenden, Mr B Clark, Mr D Daley, Mrs T Dean, Mr R Latchford, Mr M Vye

Against (20)

Mr M Baldock, Mr H Birkby, Mr N Bond, Mr C Caller, Mr G Cowan, Ms J Cribbon, Dr M Eddy, Mr J Elenor, Mrs M Elenor, Ms A Harrison, Mr C Hoare, Ms S Howes, Mr B MacDowall, Mr F McKenna, Mr B Neaves, Mrs E Rowbotham, Mr T Shonk, Mr D Smyth, Mr A Terry, Mr N Thandi

Carried

(3) RESOLVED that the recommendations as set out in paragraph (1) (i) to (iv) above be agreed.

13. Select Committee: Commissioning

(1) Mr Carter moved, Mr Hill seconded that the County Council support the following recommendations that:

- (i) the Select Committee be thanked for its work and for producing a relevant and balanced document; and
- (ii) witnesses and others who provided evidence and made valuable contributions to the Select Committee are thanked.

(2) RESOLVED that the above recommendations be agreed.

14. Facing the Challenge: Towards a Strategic Commissioning Authority

(1) Mr Carter moved, Mr Hill seconded that the County Council agree the following recommendations:

- a) The development of the Council's Strategic Commissioning Plan as set out in section 6 of the report;
- b) The role of providing effective and joined up commissioning leadership across KCC should lie with Cabinet, as outlined in section 7.10 of the report;
- c) The cross-party Transformation Board be tasked to examine in more detail the role of Members in commissioning, as set out in section 7.12 of the report;
- d) A set of projects be established by the Corporate Director for Strategic and Corporate Services/Head of Paid Service, in his role as Senior Responsible Officer for the Business Capability Transformation Change Portfolio, to:
 - develop a Strategic Commissioning Plan and Outcomes Framework;

- work with commissioners to develop a Commissioning Framework for KCC; and
- define and improve our Commissioning Support offer to commissioners.

(2) Following debate the Chairman put the recommendations to the vote where the results were as follows:

For (60)

Mrs A Allen, Mr M Angell, Mr D Baker, Mr R Bird, Mr H Birkby, Mr N Bond, Mr A Bowles, Mr D Brazier, Mr R Brookbank, Miss S Carey, Mr P Carter, Mr N Chard, Mr I Chittenden, Mr B Clark, Mrs P Cole, Mr G Cooke, Mrs M Crabtree, Mr A Crowther, Mrs V Dagger, Mr D Daley, Mr M Dance, Mr J Davies, Mrs T Dean, Mrs M Elenor, Mr G Gibbens, Mr R Gough, Mr P Harman, Mr M Harrison, Mr M Hill, Mr C Hoare, Mrs S Hohler, Mr S Holden, Mr P Homewood, Mr E Hotson, Mr A King, Mr R Long, Mr G Lymer, Mr B MacDowall, Mr S Manion, Mr F McKenna, Mr B Neaves, Mr M Northey, Mr P Oakford, Mr J Ozog, Mr R Parry, Mr C Pearman, Mr L Ridings, Mr J Scholes, Mr T Shonk, Mr C Simkins, Mr C Smith, Mrs P Stockell, Mr B Sweetland, Mr A Terry, Mr M Vye, Mr J Wedgbury, Mrs J Whittle, Mr M Whybrow, Mr A Wickham, Mrs Z Wiltshire

Abstain (1)

Mr M Baldock

Against (10)

Mr C Caller, Mr G Cowan, Ms J Cribbon, Dr M Eddy, Mr J Elenor, Ms A Harrison, Ms S Howes, Mrs E Rowbotham, Mr D Smyth, Mr N Thandi

Carried

(3) RESOLVED that the recommendations as set out in paragraph (1) (a) to (d) above be agreed.

15. Revision to the Joint Accountability Protocol for the Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member for Children's Services

(1) Mrs Whittle moved, Mr Oakford seconded and it was:

RESOLVED that the County Council approve the revised Accountability Protocol for the Director of Children's Services and Lead Member for Children's as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

16. Members' Allowances Scheme - 2014/15

(1) The Chairman moved, the Vice Chairman seconded and it was:

15 MAY 2014

RESOLVED: that the County Council adopt the Members' Allowances Scheme for the period 1 June 2014 to 31 May 2015 as set out in the Appendix to the report.

17. Superannuation Fund Update

- (1) Mr Scholes moved, Mr Daley seconded that the County Council note the report.
- (2) RESOLVED that the report be noted.

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COUNTY COUNCIL**Thursday 17 July 2014****Question by Angela Harrison to
Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education & Health Reform**

Given the continuing press coverage of non-LEA controlled schools, would the Cabinet Member for Education let me know what would happen if an Academy failed and was closed down? Would the land, buildings and other assets revert back to the LEA?

Answer

The Secretary of State has powers to remove an academy from the control of one trust and put it under the control of another. He would typically exercise this power where it could be demonstrated that the trust had failed to maintain educational standards, adequate financial management or had breached its funding agreement with the Secretary of State, for that academy, in some other way. There is no known limit to the number of times an academy could be assigned to a new trust as there are few precedents.

If successive trusts were unable to raise standards or make the academy financially viable and it closed then the position regarding land would depend on the predecessor school's former designation.

The Local Authority is obliged to grant a 125 year lease to the acquiring academy trust for former community school sites. If the academy were to close and the funding agreement dissolved then the lease would terminate and the site would revert to the LA.

In the case of a foundation school the site is already owned by the school and its governors are the freeholders to the title deeds. Accordingly it is not held on KCC's capital register of assets. At the time of conversion to academy status a direction is issued by the Secretary of State to allow this ownership to transfer to the academy trustees. As the LA had no previous interest in the site then presumably no part of it would have to revert to us following an academy closure.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Thursday 17 July 2014

**Question by Colin Caller to
Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education & Health Reform**

Mr Gough is probably aware of the significant number of parents that were unable to secure a primary school place of choice for their children in the Gravesham East area. This problem appears to have been exacerbated by the number of schools in the area such as Academies and Voluntary Aided Schools that are permitted to apply a different admissions policy to that of the primary schools controlled by Kent County Council. This inconsistency in admissions policy across the schools not only generates confusion for parents when making their preference choices but also results in children living miles from a school being given a place in preference to another child that is living within a few yards of a school's gate.

Can Mr Gough reassure parents of my division by advising what further action is to be taken in time for the next academic year to increase the number of primary school places in the Gravesham East area and inform members whether he supports or opposes the establishment of any more schools that are outside the control of this council?

Answer

Schools do indeed have different admissions arrangements, if they are not maintained by the local authority and if they are church schools, and every effort is made to communicate these differences to parents in the KCC annual Admissions booklets for applications to Primary and Secondary schools. It is government policy to have a more diverse education system and the growth of academy schools means each school is its own admissions authority, but within the prescriptions of the national Admissions Code. Distance continues to be the main criterion for applications to all schools, alongside other criteria that express the particular characteristics of individual schools.

We recognise the particular pressures that this creates in some parts of the county. Kent's Education Commissioning Plan has identified Gravesham as a priority area in need of additional school places, and an additional 78 places have been created for September 2014 and a further 6 forms of entry (180 places) between 2015 and 2018.

On Primary offer day in April 2014 there were more places available in Gravesham than the number of first preferences received so whilst it will have been disappointing for some parents not to have secured their preferred school, sufficient school places were available for the LA to meet its duty to offer a school place to every child that wanted one.

Any local authority school which has changed to Academy status must retain the existing admissions arrangements in the first instance and then consult should the governors decide to amend arrangements at a later date. This legal requirement

affords the LA and indeed the local community, the opportunity to ensure admissions criteria are not introduced that might restrict admission to local schools.

It is slightly different for church schools and in Gravesham there are a number of very popular faith- based schools which prioritise pupils who are practicing families of that faith. This is a long standing arrangement and KCC recognises the significant demand for such schools and the place for them amongst the rich and diverse mix of schools in Kent.

Legislation now requires that any new school must be either an Academy or a Free School, therefore any new schools will have admissions policies outside direct local authority control.

It should, however, be reassuring to Mr Caller's constituents to know that new non – faith academies invariably set admissions arrangements that serve the local community first and foremost, so it is expected that any new schools that do not have a faith- based intake will serve their immediate local communities, as do many faith schools also.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Thursday 17 July 2014

**Question by Mike Eddy to
David Brazier, Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport**

Can the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways outline his proposals to deal with the road safety issues on Deal seafront, particularly in the vicinity of the Royal Hotel, bearing in mind that my county councillor colleague and I have found that any meaningful change is well beyond our now reduced Members' Highways Fund?

Answer

The County Council takes road safety extremely seriously and to this end I have just approved a new Casualty Reduction Strategy in which it is set out how the County plans to reduce road casualties in Kent up to 2020 by using a combination of education, enforcement and engineering intervention measures.

Currently the County Council prioritises road safety funding to those locations where crashes are occurring which result in personal injury. This is to ensure we get the best value for the public out of the limited resources and budgets that are available. In the new casualty reduction strategy it is however proposed that in future other risk factors such as damage only and local concerns will be taken into account as opposed to simply relying solely on the crash record. This process is still in development therefore funding is currently still being targeted and those sites with the poorest crash history in the first instance.

The personal injury crash record for Deal seafront has been analysed and in the past three years, up to the end of February 2014, there have only been two slight personal injury crashes along the whole front, neither of which occurred in the vicinity of The Royal Hotel. The Police reports for these crashes both indicate the major contributing factor was driver error and there is no evidence any intervention measures available to KCC would have prevented them.

We are aware of that there was road traffic crash by The Royal Hotel which occurred in April of this year and we are awaiting full details of the crash from Kent Police. If, as a result of their investigations, the Police raise any concerns about the road, we will of course take any necessary and justifiable action to address these concerns. There are currently 'road narrows' warning signs and road markings in place on the approaches to the Hotel. I have received a number of tranches of an informal petition bearing, for the most part, the names of people without the town of Deal. I made a visit to Deal on a recent weekend to achieve a better understanding of the officer briefings I have received: I am not, of course, an engineer, but there was nothing about the physical environment of Beach Street or any behaviour I saw or thought likely that persuaded me that any intervention on the highways authority's part was necessary.

As far as I am aware the local member has not submitted an application to his Combined Member Grant to investigate improving road safety at this location and if

this is indeed an important local issue then I see no reason why an application could not be submitted for officers to investigate and suggest affordable highway improvements.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Thursday 17 July 2014

**Question by Sue Howes to
David Brazier, Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport**

Mr Brazier is no doubt aware of the high level of complaint by residents of Gravesham in relation to the "Safe and Sensible Street Lighting" initiative. Residents have voiced particular concern about street lights being switch off after midnight in minor roads, alleyways and other routes that are used by pedestrians to get to/from work or where there is an on-going problem with anti-social behaviour.

Would Mr Brazier please advise members whether consideration was given to the position of a street light; pedestrian usage; or the surrounding environment to determine whether a light should remain lit and would he also advise members whether this initiative had the positive support of Kent Police, Kent Fire and Kent Ambulance services.

Answer

We are converting around 70,000 of our 120,000 street lights to part-night lighting so that they switch-off at around midnight and then back on again at about 5.30am GMT (1am and 6.30am BST respectively). This was backed by 75% of residents who took part in a summer-long consultation.

All street lights are suitable for conversion unless they meet one or more of the exclusion criteria that we consulted upon. We will not be switching off any street lights in town centres, areas with CCTV, antisocial behaviour areas, at busy road junctions, roundabouts or sites with road safety issues.

We have worked very closely with Kent Police, using their crime statistics and experience, to identify sites having a record of crime or the potential for increased crime if the street lighting regime was changed; these sites continue to be lit on an all-night basis. We continue to work closely with the Police and will review the lighting requirements if any increase in crime can be attributed to the absence of street lighting. Kent Police have recently said that it is too early in the scheme to give any accurate indication as to whether the reduction of lighting levels has impacted on crime.

We also consulted with Kent Fire and Rescue Service and South East Coast Ambulance Service and they did not object to our Part-night proposals, on the basis that there are numerous other roads in Kent that are unlit, they carry their own light sources and use satellite navigation devices.

I acknowledge that a minority will be a little inconvenienced but we need to make savings to support frontline services. The intention here is to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions by switching off lights when they are least needed.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Thursday 17 July 2014

**Question by Roger Truelove to
Mark Dance, Cabinet Member for Economic Development**

Just over a year ago I asked you how the completion of the Northern Relief Road in Sittingbourne from East Hall to Bapchild was progressing. I think you gave me an optimistic reply. Could you give the Council a further update?

Answer

As Mr Truelove will be aware a public consultation on a preferred route option for the last section of the Sittingbourne Northern Relief Road/ Bapchild Link (SNRR) was carried out by KCC in 2010. The results of that consultation were inconclusive with no consensus on a preferred option. At the same time the national economic situation meant that funding for major transport schemes was significantly reduced with the incoming Government halting many pipeline schemes.

The establishment of Local Enterprise Partnerships over the last couple of years, along with Governments' intention to devolve significant funding for transport, housing and skills through the Single Local Growth Fund via the LEPs from 2015, now provides a means of funding projects such as the Sittingbourne Northern Relief Road. This scheme was one of 42 transport schemes put forward by KCC for funding through this mechanism.

Government announced on 7 July the Growth Deal for the South East LEP. Unfortunately, Sittingbourne Northern Relief Road has not been awarded funding and given that this funding mechanism is the principal one for delivery of major transport schemes, it appears unlikely this project will be funded in the short to medium term.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Thursday 17 July 2014

**Question by Lee Burgess to
Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education & Health Reform**

With the advent of the new National Curriculum for Primary Schools in September can you inform me as to where within it the topics relating to the First and Second World Wars will fall?

At the moment schools tend to use either Britain since the 30's or the Second World War to fulfil this necessary function and I would like confirmation that similar opportunities will still exist from the new school year, I invite the Cabinet Member to advise the Council on this important issue.

Answer

The new National Curriculum for both Primary and Secondary Schools differs to its predecessors in that it is much less prescriptive about the subject content that must be taught at each key stage. Ultimately it is up to each school to determine for itself the amount of focus that they give to the First and Second World Wars and how these subjects are approached as part of the history curriculum. The new National Curriculum provides an outline of core knowledge around which teachers develop lessons to promote the development of pupils' knowledge, understanding and skills as part of the wider school curriculum. The new National Curriculum programmes of study for each subject have been published, setting out the 'matters, skills and processes' to be taught at each key stage. Schools are free to choose how they organise their school day and subject content, as long as the content of the national curriculum programmes of study is taught to all pupils.

In Key Stage 1, pupils will be given the opportunity to gain some conceptual understanding of what "war" is and as such teachers may touch upon the First and Second World Wars as examples but this is not specifically stated in what pupils should be taught.

In Key Stage 2, pupils are to be taught the chronology of Britain and whilst it is not specifically written that the First and Second World War should be taught at this stage, these events can be used as a frame of reference when learning about different historical contexts. Schools will be familiar with teaching aspects of the world wars and it is reasonable to expect that they will continue to feature in the history projects covered by pupils.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Thursday 17 July 2014

**Question by Eileen Rowbotham to
David Brazier, Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport**

Could the portfolio holder for Environment and Transport inform this Council what action he has taken to address the problems caused by Southern Water's failure to address the inability of the mains drainage system in Albert Road, Deal, to cope with even moderate rainfall as demonstrated in May this year and on previous occasions?

Answer

As the Lead Local Flood Authority, the County Council has a duty to investigate incidents of surface water flooding. Our Officers are leading a full investigation of the incident on 21 May and the outcome of this will be shared with the divisional Members and residents in early August.

Our highway drainage system discharges into the Southern Water surface water sewer. Work completed to date has confirmed that although our own infrastructure is in good condition, it is believed that the surface water sewer was overwhelmed by very heavy rainfall on the evening of 21 May. This situation was made worse by an unexpected electrical fault occurring at a nearby Southern Water pumping station which exacerbated the situation and ultimately resulted in the foul sewer surcharging on Albert Road.

Southern Water Services are conducting their own investigation into the incident and so far, have been fully cooperative. If continued support from Southern Water to resolve this issue is not forthcoming, senior officers and the Cabinet Member will be advised so that the matter can be escalated within Southern Water. If necessary, intervention from the industry regulator OFWAT may be sought.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Thursday 17 July 2014

**Question by Roger Latchford to
Paul Carter, Leader of the County Council**

The Manston Airport issue is now subject to mounting public concern and the apparent lack of involvement and support by KCC. Can the Leader please advise this Council what the current situation is and what steps KCC is taking to resolve the current impasse with Mrs Gloag, in order to keep Manston open as an operational airfield.

Answer

Securing a strong viable economic future for Manston is of prime importance to the County Council, and the County Council is taking all appropriate action.

The announcement of the closure of Manston Airport had been unexpected and as soon as I heard the news, I ensured arrangements were in place to support the local people whose jobs were at risk.

I have been very supportive of the task force set up by Sir Roger Gale to seek a successful future for Manston and I have attended the meeting at Portcullis House, led by Sir Roger and Laura Sandys MP, to consider the best way forward.

I have let it be known publicly that I'd welcome a meeting with any prospective investor that had a viable and credible business plan for Manston as an airport. To that end, I met with RiverOak on 19 June and requested a copy of their airport business plan so the Council could form a view of their proposal, and I await their response. I am also liaising with the Thanet & East Kent Chamber of Commerce to receive their plan.

This month, I met Ann Gloag to hear her own plans. She told me Manston Airport had made losses for 15 years and the previous owner had spent two years trying to sell it. When she bought the airport she believed she could succeed: she had brought in a highly skilled and respected aviation turnaround team to work alongside her. She said that, despite her team's strenuous efforts, no potential passenger or freight carriers considered Manston a viable option for them. That, coupled with the financial situation and negative projections of future revenue, had left her with no alternative but to close the airport.

She told me she had received a number of credible approaches from legitimate parties interested in being part of the future of Manston and she would be reviewing these over the coming weeks. At present, she was reviewing all possible options.

I said that the County Council was ready to work with Mrs Gloag and any other potential investors to secure an ambitious future for Manston. We concluded the meeting with Mrs Gloag agreeing to discuss with me her future proposals when these were clearer.

Recognising the pivotal role played by Thanet District Council, I have also had discussions with TDC's Leader and Deputy Leader on how we can work together to secure the best outcome.

At all my meetings and in all my endeavours I have made it quite clear that Kent County Council will do all that is within our power to act in the best interests of the East Kent economy. I have clarified that we are ready to help and support any viable and credible investor just as I led the highly successful taskforce implementing the packages of support three years ago when Pfizer announced they were pulling out of R&D at Sandwich.

As members will recall, this Pfizer taskforce transformed the site, whose future lay in the balance, into one of the most successful enterprise zones in the country by securing £40 million from the Regional Growth Fund, flood defence funding and immediate start-up grants for new businesses in East Kent, so there are now 60 companies employing 1400 people in total.

I am in no doubt that a similar bright future can be secured for Manston.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Thursday 17 July 2014

**Question by Brian MacDowall to
David Brazier, Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport**

Given the Westgate traffic trial in Canterbury was returned to the original road layout after strong public protest, what is KCC's response to the Westgate Towers "Mark 2 or Little Brother" scheme announced recently in the local press and to be paid for with taxpayer money

Answer

I cannot comment upon what Mr MacDowall may have read in his local paper. However, what is being implemented in the St Dunstan's area of Canterbury are the measures directly supported by the public consultation in late 2013 and endorsed by the Steering Group set up to determine this matter. These comprise speed, width and weight restrictions; a new pedestrian crossing of Station Road West and the consolidation of the widened pavement in St Dunstan's Street. The layout of the public highway will remain exactly as it is now. My officers and I remain more than happy to personally brief Mr MacDowall on this matter.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Thursday 17 July 2014

**Question by Nick Bond to
David Brazier, Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport**

Could the Cabinet Member for Transport please explain how the Canterbury District Transport Strategy be issued for consultation without any input/involvement from the area's county councillors or indeed consulting the Canterbury Joint Transport Board?

Answer

Canterbury City Council are currently conducting a full public consultation on their Local Plan and the associated transport strategy as part of the statutory process which all such documents must follow. This is the City Council's prerogative as the plan making authority and it has been done without any endorsement or approval from the County Council's Cabinet. The transport strategy and the views of the public upon it being gathered now will be reported to the September meeting of the Joint Transportation Board, subject to KCC receiving a number of key assurances around the viability and phasing of the Plan to ensure that the public infrastructure it requires can be delivered sensibly and practically. It is my firmly held belief that, as the upper tier infrastructure provider, the County Council must reserve its position until these fundamental issues are addressed.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Thursday 17 July 2014

**Question by Martin Vye to
Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education & Health Reform**

Given the recent well-publicised measures taken by the Government, OfSTED, and the local authority with regard to certain schools in Birmingham, will the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform outline the measures taken by his Directorate to monitor the possible transmission of dangerous extremist views in schools in Kent; and will he list the number of racist incidents logged in Kent schools for each of the last four years?

Answer

Schools and their governing bodies have a duty to ensure that they undertake work to build cohesion within their communities. There is strong evidence that schools in Kent do this work.

The LA does not monitor the transmission of dangerous extremist views in schools in Kent. There has been no indication from schools that there have been incidents relating to the transmission of dangerous extremist views in Kent schools. Schools would alert the LA if any such incidents arose.

Schools are aware of the challenge and risks in relation to safeguarding the wellbeing of young people from grooming and exploitation. A key element of this concerns the transmission of dangerous extremist views. It is expected that schools and governing bodies are able to identify and respond to those who are vulnerable to the transmission of extremist ideas both in relation to young people and staff. No school, in an Ofsted inspection, has been found to be failing or to have a cause for concern in relation to this issue.

Zak Programme

PREVENT is part of an overarching national counter terrorism strategy that aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The ZAK programme, delivered by Kent Police, was developed through Kent's Prevent Steering Group. The ZAK team have visited a number of schools across the County and worked with leaders in order to explore the radicalisation of young people and respond through early intervention. Meetings held in Ashford schools and Tunbridge Wells in early spring were well attended by key members of staff from schools in those districts. The ZAK lead officer has also worked on a one to one basis with young people in the county through referrals.

Safeguarding

Kent Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB) is a partnership group that works to promote the welfare of children, and ensure the effectiveness of body's in that purpose. The Education sub-group will monitor schools and education settings to

ensure children are getting effective care, and will offer support, advice and guidance in this area.

Cabinet Office Report Recommendations

There was a recent report from the Cabinet Office called *Tackling Extremism in the UK* that made a number of proposals, including setting out that all schools must expect to be inspected and assessed on measures to protect their pupils from extremist material.

Racial Incidents in Schools

Number of racist incidents reported by schools in the last 4 academic years:

2009/10 – 874 (24 schools did not respond to survey)
2010/11 – 929 (24 schools did not respond to survey)
2011/12 – 749 (73 schools did not respond to survey)
2012/13 – 803 (103 schools did not respond to survey)

The Equality Act 2010 removed the requirement for schools to report racial incidents to the LA. Kent continues to ask schools to voluntarily supply this information in order to support schools to respond not only to racial bullying but all identity based bullying incidents. The data also allows the LA to see trends (if any) in order to provide strategic support and advice. The occurrence of racial incidents is not an indicator of extremist activity.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Thursday 17 July 2014

**Question by Tom Maddison to
Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education & Health Reform**

Would the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Education please inform me if the admissions criteria for Primary Schools in the county has changed, in particular with the priority previously given to siblings attending the same school.

I have recently received concerns and complaints from a number of parents in my division who have been refused a place for their second child to attend the same school as their first.

Answer

There has been no change to the admissions arrangements for primary schools where KCC is the admissions authority in relation to the priority to pupils with a sibling link. We are also not aware of any other primary schools having removed or amended their sibling link arrangements so if Mr Maddison would care to refer any specific admissions cases to Mr Scott Bagshaw, Head of Fair Access he would be happy to investigate further.

Mr Maddison should be aware that it is possible for the sibling link to be broken. If a family have an older sibling in a school and have moved out of the immediate area of the school to a distance of more than 2 miles, from when the older child was admitted, then the sibling link is broken for the younger child. This policy was introduced to prevent families moving into catchment areas for schools to secure a place for a first child and then moving out of the area but retaining a sibling link which displaced local children. As a broad county policy we have long considered schools should serve their local communities first and foremost.

Mr Maddison would need to look at the circumstances of the individual cases. If his constituents have secured places in faith schools, but are not practicing members of that faith, it should be noted that some faith schools will prioritise children who are practicing members of a faith, which is the same denomination as the school, ahead of siblings from families who are not of faith.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Thursday 17 July 2014

**Question by Brian Clark to
David Brazier, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport**

Can the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport provide details of any planning applications where KCC has raised flood risk concern in the last year?

Earlier this year KCC raised no great concern with a housing plan for Langley Park and subsequently the planning application was passed. At the time land at the south of the site was severely affected by flooding at Brishing Dam (prompting KCC emergency planning response). Given the cost of flood response, can he assure members that KCC will now provide a clear opinion to planners on the suitability of housing development, based on the latest flood risk data and the lessons learned from recent flooding in Kent?

Answer

KCC is the lead local flood authority for Kent. The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 gives lead local flood authorities powers and duties for the strategic overview of local flooding, which is flooding from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses. KCC is not a statutory consultee in planning for flood risk matters, but I would like to assure the council that where KCC is approached, either by a developer or a planning authority, we provide advice and guidance on local flood risk using all current information available'.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Thursday 17 July 2014

**Question by Rob Bird to
Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education and Young People**

With increasing demands on teachers it is vital that schools are led by Headteachers who are healthy, motivated and happy in their roles. Across the country it is increasingly difficult to find suitably qualified Headteachers who are capable of taking on the stress and challenge of improving under-performing schools.

Can the Cabinet Member for Education and Young People highlight what steps KCC are taking to ensure that the health and wellbeing of our Headteachers is supported to increase retention in an ever-decreasing vocation in Kent?

Answer

Kent County Council has a strong commitment to supporting all schools to improve and to securing the best educational outcomes for all children and young people. As the champion of families, children and young people our priorities are to ensure a good or better school is available to all learners; we secure and support the highest quality school leadership and governance; we promote the best educational practice; and we broker the influence of the best schools by facilitating strong collaborations between schools and with the local authority.

This means providing strong support for Headteachers to be effective, so that we achieve continuous improvement in standards, a significant narrowing of achievement gaps for vulnerable groups of learners, and a rapid rate of improvement in the number of good and outstanding schools.

We recognise that the best education systems have highly effective school leadership and consistently good and better teaching. Instructional leadership and system leadership are highly prized skill sets that we strive to develop and promote across the county.

The majority of schools in Kent are well led and are on a secure pathway to further improvement. 76% of schools are currently (July 2014) rated good and outstanding by Ofsted, compared to 80% of schools nationally. This includes 72% of Primary schools, 83% of Secondary schools and 79% of Special schools in Kent. We have been and continue to close the gap with national levels.

The quality of school leadership is key to success. Our strategy is to work directly with and support school leaders to be highly effective; to support and advise governors to make the best appointments to headship; to provide mentoring and leadership development opportunities for newly appointed headteachers and those in the early years of headship; to provide leadership development opportunities and succession planning for aspiring headteachers and senior leaders; and to facilitate peer support and collaborative work among school leaders that helps to spread the most effective educational leadership skills across the county.

We provide advice, practical help and support, training, headteacher mentoring, and regular contact with experienced headteachers who are Kent or National Leaders of Education and joint work through collaboration with other schools.

All schools have a designated LA officer / consultant who links directly with the school, undertaking **monitoring and support visits**. These visits are undertaken to support Headteacher's in their role and are an opportunity for the Headteacher to raise pressing issues and request support.

Newly appointed Headteachers are assigned an experienced Headteacher to be their **mentor** and they have access to the **LA Headteacher Induction Programme** consisting of six one day sessions which are funded by the LA. One key focus of this programme is the wellbeing of these Headteachers.

All Headteachers have **Dedicated Headship Time** by right, being up to ten percent of the working week. It is the responsibility of the governing body to ensure that their Headteacher has a reasonable workload, in support of a reasonable work-life balance, having regard to their health and welfare. To that end, through the Appraisal procedure, governing bodies are duty bound to make sure that this time is being taken and that work-life balance is monitored.

The LA also runs **targeted leadership programmes for Headteachers**, particularly those leading challenging schools where significant improvement is required. These programmes are generally six sessions across the academic year where the strategic role of a Headteacher is discussed and a key part of that is the Head's own wellbeing and health.

Most schools in Kent are now part of **collaborations** and peer to peer Headteacher support is a fundamental underpinning principal of this structure. Increasingly schools are also formed into triads or pairs with Headteachers in a coaching role. To that end the LA also runs three day **Mentor Coaching courses** for teachers, senior leaders and Headteachers; which are very well attended. The LA works in very close partnership with the Kent Association of Headteachers to ensure that support for school leaders is equitable across the county and is targeted towards those in need of additional support. .

Each District facilitates **Headteacher Briefings**; these are designed to keep Headteacher abreast of current development nationally and locally with the express aim of helping to reduce individual workloads.

The majority of Kent schools still buy in to '**Support Line**' which enables teachers and senior leaders alike to access six confidential counselling sessions by trained counsellors. The LA Recruitment and Retention team have also facilitated '**Wellbeing sessions**' targeted towards Headteachers and senior leaders.

In addition to this support, Kent teach.com, a KCC trading unit providing recruitment and retention advice to schools, also offers a Wellness Programme. This aims to support Headteachers in both managing their own wellbeing and the wellbeing of their staff, highlighting potential problem areas and giving advice and guidance for making improvements. The team is also currently exploring other ways in which we can support Headteachers' wellbeing in cost effective ways for schools of all sizes.

Overall, therefore, we believe Headteachers in Kent are well supported professionally and have access to a wide range of networks and opportunities to promote their wellbeing and professional development. Currently there is not a high vacancy rate for headteacher posts, 17 schools out of 600 are without a permanent headteacher and all have effective interim management arrangements in place.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Thursday 17 July 2014

**Question by Trudy Dean to
John Simmonds, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement**

In view of the Church of England's decision to withdraw from all connections with pay day lending firm Wonga, can the Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement please say what action KCC has taken to withdraw from all connections with such firms, to issue consumer advice to our own staff and report on the performance of KCC supported alternative products.

Answer

Firstly I am able to say that the Council has no investments with organisations such as Wonga who prey on those in society who are most vulnerable.

Mrs Dean will be aware that the Council has been a key supporter and, more importantly, funder of the Kent Savers credit union which was established 5 years ago. This is a very tangible way of addressing financial exclusion in the community. Kent Savers has issued loans of over £1.3m in total in this time. With the support of the Church they have recently established a sub branch in Murston and this is particularly welcome as it addresses wider issues of advice and support. We hope that further sub branches will open.

We are keen to see other bodies in the county such as the Church, District Councils and Housing Associations play their full part in making Kent Savers financially viable in the long term. It is our intention to meet up with these bodies with a view to helping Kent Savers grow and thus provide a service to the vulnerable. In doing this we must always be aware of the risks involved.

We are also working with Kent Savers to make KCC staff aware of their services.

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From: Graham Gibbens, Chairman of the Electoral and Boundary Review Committee
 Geoff Wild, Director of Governance & Law and County Returning Officer

To: County Council – 17 July 2014

Subject: Electoral Review of Kent County Council’s Area – Draft submission on Council Size

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report invites the County Council to comment on, amend as necessary and approve for submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) the County Council’s submission on Council Size as part of the Electoral Review of KCC’s area.

1. Introduction

- (1) Members will recall that on 30 April 2014, representatives from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) gave a presentation to all Members on the Electoral Boundary Review of Kent County Council’s area.
- (2) All Members received a copy of the LGBCE’s “Electoral Review of Kent County Council – A guide for Councillors”, which is attached at **Appendix A** for ease of reference.
- (3) The Electoral Boundary Review is being conducted in two distinct parts.

Council size

Before any electoral boundary division boundaries are re-drawn, the Commission will come to a view on the total number of councillors to be elected to the Council in future. The Commission will come to a conclusion on Council size after hearing the Council’s (and/or Councillors’) views during the preliminary phase.

Electoral Division boundaries

The Commission will then re-draw electoral division boundaries so that they meet the statutory criteria: Delivering electoral equality for local voters; interests and identities of local communities; and effective and convenient local government. The County Council will have an opportunity to put forward ideas and proposals in two phases of public consultation.

2. Council size

- (1) The Electoral and Boundary Review Committee has met three times (1 April, 5 June and 7 July) to consider the issue of Council size and at its meeting on 7 July agreed to recommend to the County Council that the Council should remain at 84 Members and that as part of this recommendation, the LGBCE be asked to note the Council's preference for single Member divisions where possible. Accordingly, the draft submission on Council Size has now been finalised and is attached at **Appendix B** for the County Council's consideration.

3. Next Steps

- (1) The deadline for the County Council and/or Council groups' submission to the LGBCE on Council Size is 8 August 2014. It is important to note that any single member or group of members can submit a proposal for Council Size. The LGBCE places no more weight on a submission which has agreement by full council than a single member submission. The LGBCE is looking for evidence, supported by an explanation of how the proposal meets the Commission's statutory criteria, to back up the submission.

Recommendations:

1. The County Council is invited to comment on, amend as necessary and approve for submission to the LGBCE the County Council's submission on Council size.
2. That authority be delegated to the Head of Democratic Services, in consultation with the Chairman of the Electoral and Boundary Review Committee to make any final amendments to the submission that are necessary prior to the deadline for submission.

Background Documents:

Previous update reports to the Electoral Boundary Committee

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APPENDIX A



Taking part in the
Electoral review of Kent County Council

A guide for councillors



A message from Max Caller CBE: Chair of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England

This briefing tells you all you need to know about the electoral review of your council. It tells you what an electoral review is, why we are conducting it and how you can influence the outcome.

The electoral review is an opportunity for you to shape your council for the future. On council size, the review will help you decide how you will represent communities in the future and ensure that your governance arrangements reflect your long term ambitions. When we come to consider boundaries, we will aim to build electoral divisions that reflect communities and lock in electoral fairness for future elections.

The outcome of the review is not pre-determined. The Commission will only take decisions after giving careful consideration to the evidence provided by you, your council and local communities throughout the process.

Your local knowledge will be valuable in helping us come to our conclusions. The best electoral reviews are those where councillors engage with the process. The Commission will take decisions on the strength of evidence provided during the review after we have assessed all submissions against our statutory criteria. It doesn't matter whether evidence comes from the council, council groups or individual councillors, we have an open mind about which proposals we will put forward as formal recommendations.

The electoral arrangements of your council will change. Our experience of electoral reviews clearly shows that changing boundaries in one part of your area will inevitably have an impact on other areas. Most divisions are likely to experience a change to one or more of their boundaries, name or number of councillors representing them. We will look to you to influence the nature of those changes.

We will make it as easy as possible for you to influence the process. In addition to our preliminary dealings with the council, we will hold at least two phases of public consultation before we finalise the recommendations of the review. We encourage you to engage with your communities about the review so we can get the broadest possible spread of evidence.

I hope you find this briefing helpful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Caller', written in a cursive style.

Max Caller CBE

Electoral review timetable

The timetable for your electoral review is set out below. Timescales occasionally change during the review but you can keep up to date with developments by looking at the dedicated page for your review on our website: www.lgbce.org.uk

Stage of review	Date/duration	Description	Note	Outputs
Preliminary stage	February 2014 – September 2014	Commission gathers information about the council e.g. electorate forecasts and briefs group leaders, the full council and parishes/community groups on the process.	<p>This is the council's opportunity to put forward its view on future council size: the total number of councillors to be elected to the council.</p> <p>We will also work with council staff to build electorate forecasts for the next 5/6 years as required by law.</p> <p>As county divisions cannot cross external district boundaries, you will need to work out an allocation of a whole number of county councillors for each district which could influence your view on council size.</p>	<p>The Commission expects to receive submissions from the council and/or council groups at the end of this phase which provides a rationale, backed up with evidence, for a proposed council size.</p> <p>The Commission will consider the council's submission(s) from the preliminary phase before deciding on a number which will form the basis of its work to draw up new division boundaries.</p> <p>In some circumstances, for example where a major change in council size is proposed, the Commission will consider holding a public consultation on the proposal.</p>
Stage One	23 September 2014 – 1 December 2014	Public consultation on new electoral division boundaries.	<p>The Commission will publish a council size which it is 'minded to' recommend and invite electoral division proposals based on that council size and the allocation of county councillors between districts.</p> <p>The council size will provide us with an optimum councillor: elector ratio to build divisions which deliver electoral fairness.</p>	<p>The Commission usually receives a council scheme for proposed new divisions across the local authority. We will also consider localised evidence from organisations and members of the public on the most appropriate division pattern for your area to help us draw up draft recommendations.</p>

Stage of review	Date/duration	Description	Note	Outputs
Draft recommendations consultation	12 May 2015 – 6 July 2015	Publication of draft recommendations on new divisions for the local authority and a public consultation on them.	The Commission will publish full draft proposals for new electoral arrangements: new divisions, division boundaries and division names for public comment.	<p>We will gather views on our draft proposals where they support the recommendations or whether they propose alternative electoral division patterns.</p> <p>The Commission will then finalise its recommendations after considering all the evidence received at each stage of the review.</p>
Publication of final recommendations	29 September 2015	Once the consultation on draft recommendations has concluded, the Commission will consider all the evidence before drawing up its final recommendations for new electoral arrangements.	This stage marks the end of the Commission's direct involvement with your authority on the review. Once we have published final recommendations, we are unable to amend them.	We will produce a draft order – the legal document which will bring into force the final recommendations – in preparation for laying in Parliament.
Parliamentary scrutiny	November 2015	A draft order seeking the implementation of the final recommendation will be laid in both Houses of Parliament under the negative resolution procedure	<p>The draft order will be placed in both Houses of Parliament for 40 days (with possible gaps depending on recesses) for the consideration of members.</p> <p>Parliament can accept or reject the recommendations. It cannot modify them.</p>	Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the Commission will 'make' the order at the end of the 40 days and inform the council that order is now complete so that you can prepare for elections on the new arrangements.
Implementation	Local elections 2017	New electoral arrangements: council size, division boundaries and division names comes into effect at the elections.	District councils will have prepared electoral registers and other arrangements on the basis of the order e.g. polling districts and polling stations.	New electoral arrangements for your area come into effect.

Local Government Boundary Commission for England

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body established by Parliament in April 2010. We are not part of government and are accountable to Parliament through the Speaker's Committee.

Our organisation consists of the Chair of the Commission and five Commissioners who are supported by approximately 25 members of staff.

What is an electoral review?

An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for the whole local authority. These are:

- The total number of councillors to be elected to the council: council size.
- The names, number and boundaries of wards or electoral divisions.
- The number of councillors to be elected from each ward or division.

The review is likely to have implications for the whole local authority not just areas with high levels of electoral inequality.

Why Kent County Council?

The Commission is conducting the review to deliver electoral equality for voters in local elections.

Every year, the Commission assesses electorate data for each local authority in England and we will intervene where 'significant' electoral inequality exists.

Significant electoral inequality, sufficient to trigger a review, is where:

- 30% (or more) wards or divisions have an electoral variance of more than 10% from the average for the authority and/or:
- One (or more) ward or division has an electoral variance of more than 30% from the average.

The Commission's criteria for intervention are well established and were the subject of a consultation in November 2010.

Kent triggers the review criteria as 31% of divisions have an electoral variance of more than 10% from the average with little prospect of the variances correcting themselves through development or population movements. A full table of current divisions and their variances is appended to this briefing.

Electoral review process

The electoral review will have two distinct parts:

- **Council size** – before we re-draw division boundaries, the Commission will come to a view on the total number of councillors to be elected to the council in future. We will come to a conclusion on council size after hearing the council's (and/or councillors') views during the preliminary phase.
- **Electoral division boundaries** – we will re-draw division boundaries so that they meet our statutory criteria (see page 9). You will have an opportunity to put forward your ideas in two phases of public consultation.

You, and the communities you represent, can influence the review. Please refer to the timetable on pages 3-4 to find out when you can have your say.

Part one: council size

Key date:

Deadline for council and/or council groups' submission on council size:

8 August 2014

The first part of the review will determine the total number of councillors to be elected to the council in the future. We call this 'council size'. We will not consider electoral division boundaries until we have completed this phase.

By the end of the preliminary stage of the review, we expect the council and/or its political groups, to present the Commission with a case for a council size that they believe is right for their authority.

The Commission will make its judgment on council size by considering three broad areas:

- We will look at the **governance arrangements** of the council and how it takes decisions across the broad range of its responsibilities.
- The Commission will look at the council's **scrutiny functions** relating to its own decision making and the council's responsibilities to outside bodies.
- We will also consider the **representational role of councillors in the local community** and how they engage with people, conduct casework and represent the council on local partner organisations.

If you plan to make a submission to us on council size (whether it's for an increase, reduction or maintaining current arrangements), you should make sure you address these areas and that your view is backed up by evidence.

Below, we explain more about the three areas:

Governance arrangements

The Commission aims to ensure that councils have the right number of councillors to take decisions and manage the business of the council in an effective way now and in the future.

To support your view, the Commission is looking for evidence about cabinet and/or committee responsibilities, number of committees and their workload, delegation to officials, other bodies and plans for the future.

Scrutiny functions

Every local authority has mechanisms to scrutinise the executive functions of the council and other local bodies. They also have significant discretion over

the kind (and extent) of activities involved in that process. In considering council size, the Commission will want to satisfy itself that these responsibilities can be administered in a convenient and effective way.

To support your view, the Commission is looking for evidence about the number of councillors your authority needs to hold the decision makers to account and ensure that the council can discharge its responsibilities to other organisations (e.g. other public sector bodies, partnerships, trusts and).

Representational role of councillors

The Commission understands that there is no single approach to representation and members will represent and provide leadership to their communities in different ways. However, we are interested in hearing about the extent to which members routinely engage with communities and how this affects workload and responsibilities.

To support your view, the Commission is looking for evidence about how councillors interact with their communities, their caseloads and the kind of support they need effectively to represent local people and groups.

County councillor allocation across districts

By law, electoral divisions cannot cross the external boundaries of any district. Therefore, we will need to allocate a specific number of county councillors to each district before we start to draw up a pattern of divisions. We will base the allocation on the current and forecast electorates for each district. You are strongly advised to consider how county councillors will be allocated between districts as you draw up your proposal for an overall council size.

Making an effective representation

When you put forward a council size, we will assess your number (or range of numbers) against your 15 'nearest neighbour' authorities as set out by CIPFA:
www.cipfastats.net/resources/nearestneighbours/profile.asp?view=select&dataset=england.

If your proposal means that your council size would be well above or below the average of your statistical neighbours, you need to ensure your case for that council size is particularly strong. In some cases, your current council size could put you outside the range of your neighbours so we would need a strong case to retain the *status quo*.

If you want to make sure your case on council size is as strong as possible, you should:

- Make sure you address the three main areas outlined on pages 7 and 8.
- Support your case with evidence e.g. of councillor workload, volume of decisions and councillor representation in the community.
- Ensure that you have taken into account future trends and that the council size you suggest will still be right in future years.
- Find out more about council size in our more detailed guide for councillors and council staff at: <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/policy-and-publications/guidance>

Part two: electoral division patterns

Key dates:

Stage One - public consultation on new electoral division boundaries:

23 September 2014 - 1 December 2014

Draft recommendations - public consultation

12 May 2015 - 6 July 2015

We will carry out two phases of public consultation when we will invite you to present your proposals for new electoral division boundaries within your local authority.

The first phase will be our Stage One consultation which will ask for proposals on new division boundaries. We will use responses to that consultation to draw up draft recommendations for new boundaries across your area and we will hold a second phase of consultation on those proposals during which time you will be able to comment on them and propose alternatives.

The Commission will draw up new electoral arrangements that provide the best balance of our statutory criteria. The criteria include three main elements:

Statutory criteria

- **Delivering electoral equality for local voters** – this means ensuring that each councillor represents roughly the same number of voters so that the value of your vote is the same regardless of where you live in the local authority area.
- **Interests and identities of local communities** – this means establishing electoral arrangements which, as far as possible, avoid splitting local ties and where boundaries are easily identifiable.
- **Effective and convenient local government** – this means ensuring that the electoral divisions can be represented effectively by their elected representative(s) and that the new electoral arrangements as a whole, including both the council size decision and electoral division arrangements, allow the local authority to conduct its business effectively.

You should ensure that any proposal you make to the Commission, during either phase of consultation, takes into account the statutory criteria. The most persuasive cases are those that are also supported by evidence. Over the next five pages, you will find further explanation about the types of evidence the Commission usually receives under each of the criteria. This might help you build your own submission.

Delivering electoral equality for local voters

The Commission aims to deliver a pattern of divisions where each councillor represents approximately the same number of electors.

We base decisions on the number of electors in a division and not the total population. The Commission's obligation, set out in law, is to deliver electoral equality where councillors represent a similar number of electors. This could not be achieved if we considered population statistics rather than electoral register totals.

Once the Commission has taken a view on council size, it gives us, and anyone interested in submitting proposals to the review, a clear idea of the target for achieving electoral equality for future patterns of electoral divisions.

Although we strive for perfect electoral equality for all divisions, we recognise that this is unlikely to be exactly achieved. If you propose a boundary that would lead to an electoral variance for the division (see exhibit 1), the Commission will need to see evidence that such electoral inequality is justified on the grounds of the Commission's other statutory criteria. The higher the level of electoral variance you are proposing for a division, the more persuasive your evidence will need to be.

The Commission has an obligation, set out in law, to consider electorate forecasts five years after the completion of the review. The purpose of the forecasts is to try and ensure that the review delivers electoral equality for voters in the longer term. We will work with council officers to draw up realistic forecasts for your authority. Further guidance on how we calculate projected electorates are available on our website at:

http://www.lgbce.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/10394/electorate-forecasts-guidance-2012.pdf

Exhibit one, over the page, shows an excerpt from the Buckinghamshire County Council review showing how the Commission calculates and presents electoral variances.

Table C1 (cont.): Final recommendations for Buckinghamshire County Council

Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2010)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2017)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
42 Ridgeway West	1	7,806	7,806	0%	7,868	7,868	-3%
43 Ryemead & Micklefield	1	7,257	7,257	-7%	7,735	7,735	-5%
44 Terriers & Amersham Hill	1	7,344	7,344	-6%	7,849	7,849	-3%
45 The Risboroughs	1	7,538	7,538	-3%	8,202	8,202	1%
46 The Wooburns, Bourne End & Hedsor	1	8,333	8,333	7%	8,329	8,329	3%
47 Totteridge & Bowerdean	1	7,666	7,666	-2%	7,584	7,584	-7%
48 Tylers Green & Loudwater	1	8,012	8,012	3%	8,120	8,120	0%
49 West Wycombe	1	7,094	7,094	-9%	7,259	7,259	-11%
Totals	49	381,570	-	-	397,546	-	-
Averages	-	-	7,787	-	-	8,113	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Buckinghamshire County Council.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor in each electoral division varies from the average for the county. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Exhibit 1: shows an extract from our final recommendations report for new electoral arrangements for Buckinghamshire County Council. You can see from the table how the Commission calculates electoral variances for each proposed division based on the current electorate and forecast electorate.

You can read the full report, which includes the complete table of divisions at:

http://www.lgbce.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0012/10236/bucks-final-recommendations-report-final.pdf

Interests and identities of local communities

Unlike electoral equality, it isn't possible to measure levels of community identity so we will be looking for evidence on a range of issues to support your reasoning. The best evidence for community identity is normally a combination of factual information such as the existence of communication links, facilities and organisations along with an explanation of how local people use those facilities.

Below are some issues that we often use to assess community interests and identity. You may wish to use some of these examples to tell us why you are putting forward your view:

Transport links – Are there good communication links within the proposed division? Is there any form of public transport? If you are proposing that two areas (e.g. villages, estates or parishes) should be included in the same division together, how easily can you travel between them?

Parishes - In areas where parishes exist, the parish boundaries often represent the extent of a community. In fact, the Commission often uses parishes as the building blocks of electoral divisions. Parishes which share a secretariat or other arrangements often fit together well in the same electoral division.

Shared interests – Are there particular issues that affect your community which aren't necessarily relevant to neighbouring areas that might help us determine where a division boundary should be drawn? For example, many local authorities contain areas which have urban, suburban and rural characteristics. Each of those areas may have different needs and interests though they could be located next to each other. One area might be more affected by urban issues such as the local economy while an adjacent area might be more concerned with local transport matters. We would like to hear evidence about what those issues are and how they mean boundaries should combine or separate the areas in question.

Community groups – Is there a residents' group or any other local organisation that represents the area? What area does that group cover? What kind of activities do they undertake and are there any joint-working relationships between organisations that could indicate shared community interests between different geographical areas?

Facilities – Where do local people in your area go for shopping, medical services, leisure facilities etc? The location of public facilities can represent the centre or focal point of a community as do some service arrangements such as NHS commissioning groups. We would like to hear evidence from local people about how they interact with those facilities so that we can understand the shape of local communities and the movement and behaviours of their residents.

Identifiable boundaries – Natural features such as rivers can often provide strong and recognisable boundaries. Similarly, constructions such as major roads and railway lines can also form well known and effective barriers between communities.

These are issues you may wish to consider when proposing a pattern of electoral divisions or if you are commenting on the Commission's proposals. It is not – and is not intended to be – an exhaustive list of matters the Commission will consider when coming to a conclusion on divisions and their boundaries. Similarly, the Commission attaches no specific weighting to any of the issues above when taking decisions. This guide simply intends to provide some prompts for you to be able to have your say.

There are also a number of things the Commission does **not** consider to be strong evidence when it takes decisions. For example, an area's history and tradition may be the basis of a sense of community identity. However, communities change over time and perceptions can vary between individuals as to the nature of those ties. The Commission would need to hear how and why those traditional arrangements reflect communities **now**.

In addition, whilst social and economic data (e.g. from the census or other statistical sources) can tell you a lot about individuals living in an area, it doesn't necessarily explain the nature of communities and is often a poor guide their interests and identities. The Commission considers that this kind of evidence can provide useful background information for an area but we will treat it with caution when proposing new divisions and their boundaries.

Effective and convenient local government

We also consider whether an electoral division pattern would help deliver effective and convenient local government to people. If you are providing evidence to the Commission, there are a number of issues you might want to consider so that our recommendations can help us meet this obligation.

Size of division – we will look at the geographic size of the division and try to ensure that it is not so large that it would be difficult for a councillor to represent. Similarly, in urban areas, a division might be so small in area that its councillor might not be able to contribute effectively to the wider business of the council.

District council boundaries – if we are carrying out a review of a county council, electoral divisions will never cross the existing external district council boundary. This is a rule which is set out in law so that all electoral divisions will be wholly contained within a district.

Coterminosity – if the Commission is carrying out a review of a county council, we will try to match the boundary of the new electoral divisions – as far as possible – with the existing district ward boundaries. Where existing district ward boundaries match the boundaries of electoral divisions, we call it ‘coterminosity’ where coordination between the two councils in question can help to deliver effective and convenient local government.

‘Doughnut’ divisions – we occasionally receive proposals for a pattern of divisions which propose an ‘inner’ division and an ‘outer’ electoral division for a town or village. We will not normally recommend this kind of pattern because the communication links between the north and south of the outer division are usually poor and we also often find that people in the northern part of the outer division share higher levels of community identity with residents in the north of the inner division than with residents in the south of the outer division. Where we need to divide a town or village to achieve electoral equality, we will usually seek an alternative to this pattern.

Detached divisions – the Commission is sometimes presented with proposals to include two geographically separate areas in the same division. We will not usually accept a proposal of this kind, except in extraordinary geographical circumstances such as for offshore islands, as it is unlikely to meet our criteria for promoting community identity and interests or delivering effective and convenient local government.

Number of councillors for each electoral division

There is no limit, in law, to the number of councillors that can be elected to represent a ward or division. However, as a matter of policy, the Commission will not accept a proposal for more than three councillors to represent an electoral division as we do not think such an arrangement does not promote effective and convenient local government or local accountability.

For county councils, where whole-council elections are held every four years, the Commission is able to propose any pattern of divisions that it believes best meets its statutory criteria. This is usually a mixture of single-, two- and three-member electoral divisions although most county councils have a uniform pattern of single-member divisions.

Councils that elect by whole-council election are able formally to request a single-member division review. Such a request must be made to the Commission before the start of the Stage One consultation. In a single-member division review, the Commission will have a presumption in favour of a uniform pattern of single-member electoral divisions for the whole county.

How to have your say

An electoral review is a consultative process. You, and your community, can influence the outcome. We have an open mind about adopting proposals from groups or individuals that are supported by evidence and complement the statutory criteria.

In addition to the preliminary phase of the review, when we gather information about the council and assess your views on council size, we will hold at least two phases of public consultation.

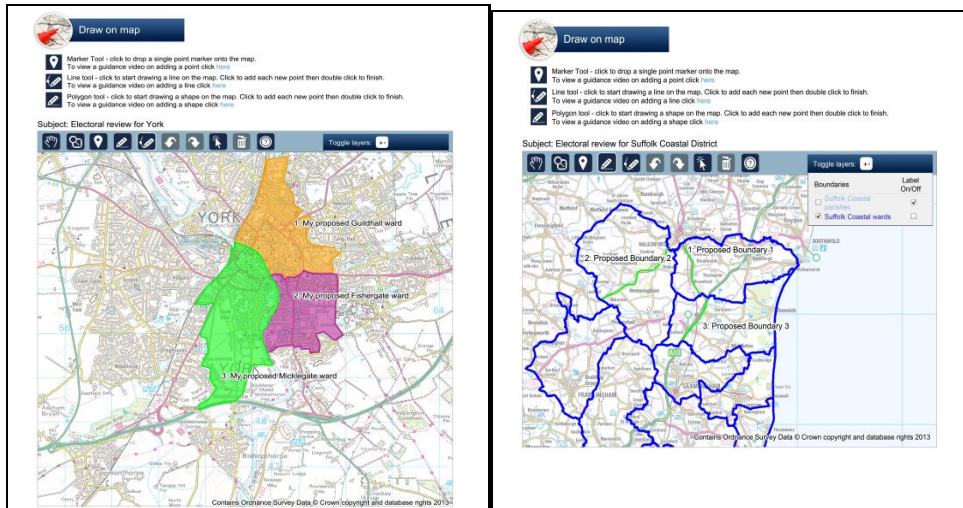
We encourage councillors to take part in each phase of consultation, as individuals or as groups, and we hope that elected members can also encourage communities to take part in consultation.

We are only able to consider evidence that is made to us in writing as all decisions are taken by formal meetings of the whole Commission. The best evidence includes the reasons why you agree with our proposals or why you disagree with them. If you do not think our proposals are right for your area, we would welcome alternative suggestions for boundaries that meet our criteria.

There are several ways in which you can keep up to date with the progress of the review and to have your say:

Website: you can keep track of the electoral review for your area through our website at www.lgbce.org.uk. We set up a dedicated web page for each review where you will find details of its timetable, our reports, maps, proposals and guidance. You can comment on our proposals directly through our website or by emailing: reviews@lgbce.org.uk. And you can write to us at the address shown on the contacts page (see page 25). We also publish all the submissions we receive so you can see what kind of evidence we relied on to make our decisions.

Interactive consultation portal: the portal allows you to view and interact with our maps as well as comment on our proposals directly. By logging on to consultation.lgbce.org.uk you will be able to view our proposals down to street level, draw your own pattern of divisions or annotate the maps to tell us about the nature of community interests and identities in your area. Over the page, you can see what the site looks like and how you might be able to put forward your views.



Log on to consultation.lgbce.org.uk to find out how you can interact with our mapping

Parishes and residents groups: if your area has parish councils, we will offer to hold a briefing meeting locally at the start of an electoral review with representatives of the parishes. Alternatively, we will consider offering a briefing meeting for residents associations at the start of a review to brief them on the process.

Members of Parliament: the Commission offers to brief all local MPs at each phase of consultation and will keep them updated on the progress of the review.

Lead commissioner: one of our commissioners will be appointed as lead commissioner for the review and will represent the Commission in meetings with the council though all decisions are taken by the Commission collectively. The lead commissioner and key staff will also conduct at least one tour of the local authority area to assess the issues 'on the ground' and areas of contention as we draw up recommendations.

Publicity: we will issue a press release at every stage of an electoral review to local press and media to encourage engagement in the process by local people. We will also ask the council to publicise the review. We will produce posters at each stage to be displayed in council offices, libraries and by parish councils and we will ensure that we produce hard copies of all our reports and maps for display in council buildings and libraries for those who do not have internet access. Follow us on Twitter [@LGBCE](https://twitter.com/LGBCE).

Community groups: at the start of a review, we will ask your local authority for information and contact details for local community groups and organisations that might be interested in the review and who might also wish to contribute to it. We will write to all those groups with information about the review at each stage and invite evidence from them. We will also ensure that we make contact with local organisations that represent minority groups that might otherwise have been excluded from the consultation process. We will provide translations and accessible versions of our material on request.

Making an effective representation

A persuasive representation to the Commission will usually:

- **Be submitted at the right time.** If you have a view on division boundaries, don't just wait until we have published draft recommendations. Make a submission during the Stage One consultation to ensure we can build in your proposal at the earliest possible stage.
- **Take account of our statutory criteria** (see page 9). The Commission will judge all submissions, and make recommendations, based on those criteria.
- **Consider the consequences of the proposal across the wider area.** Most proposals will have a knock on effect elsewhere in the county.
- **Be based on evidence.** Tell us *why* your view should be accepted and *how* your suggestion meets the criteria.
- **Suggest an alternative.** If you are objecting to a proposal, tell us where we should draw the boundaries.

Finally, the Commission welcomes submissions that support its recommendations as much as those that propose alternatives. It is very likely that people who oppose our draft recommendations will get in touch with the Commission to put forward their alternative proposals. So, if you support our recommendations, you should make sure you tell us so that we can balance the evidence.

Recent county reviews

The Commission's rolling programme of reviews means other county councils have been through the process in recent years. For the 2013 elections, eight county councils had new electoral arrangements as a result of reviews conducted by the Commission since 2010. You may find their experiences useful for a number of reasons:

- Read their council size submissions of all the counties to find out what arguments they put to the Commission and the evidence they provided.
- Learn how county councillors were allocated between districts.
- Find out how councils put their division patterns together and which proposals the Commission found persuasive.

Our website includes dedicated web pages for all previous electoral reviews and you can read all the evidence we received as well as our draft and final recommendations reports.

Some specific examples of recent county reviews include:

Buckinghamshire

The review recommended a reduction of eight councillors as proposed by the county council.

Buckinghamshire County Council also asked the Commission to carry out a single-member ward review and the final recommendations proposed a uniform pattern of 49 single-member divisions across the county.

You can find all the submissions, reports and maps associated with the review at:

<http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-east/buckinghamshire/buckingham-county-council-fer>

Surrey

The review proposed an increase of one councillor to 81. During the course of the review, the Commission agreed to increase the number of county councillors by one to provide for a better allocation between districts.

Read all the papers here:

<http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-east/surrey/surrey-county-council-fer>

Northamptonshire

The Commission agreed to a substantial reduction in council size to 57 (from 73). The final recommendations put forward a mixed pattern of single-, two- and three-member divisions.

Find out more here:

<http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/east-midlands/northamptonshire/northamptonshire-county-council-fer>

Frequently asked questions

What characterises a good electoral review?

The best electoral reviews are those where the council and councillors have engaged with the process at an early stage.

On council size, authorities that have thought seriously about how they want to manage the business of the council and represent local people for the long term, usually put forward strong submissions.

Where local authorities and/or members have put together a division pattern that meets our statutory criteria and where the proposals are supported by evidence, we tend to be able to draw up recommendations that are largely built on consensus.

Councils that have been able to gain input from local groups and individuals on their proposals usually put forward a strong submission especially where it is supported by evidence.

What don't you consider in an electoral review?

Polling districts, school catchment areas, addresses and postcodes are not matters the Commission will take into account when drawing new electoral division boundaries. Although some existing divisions may have strong boundaries and reflect local communities, we start with a clean sheet of paper when drawing up recommendations.

We take no account of parliamentary constituency boundaries (see below for more details).

Similarly, we do not take into account possible political implications of our recommendations.

Why can't you consider boundaries at the same time as the number of councillors?

The Commission will make a judgment on council size before we consider division boundaries. This means that everybody who wishes to take part in the consultation will know the optimum number of electors per councillor which we need to achieve to deliver electoral equality in our pattern of divisions. If you do not know the total number of councillors who will be elected to the council, it makes it very difficult to come up with a proposal for a division pattern that will deliver this crucial statutory criterion.

On some occasions, the Commission will alter its view on council size in its draft or final recommendations by one councillor if that number provides for a scheme of electoral divisions which better reflects our statutory criteria.

How much will the review cost?

The Commission does not charge local authorities to undertake an electoral review and our funding is agreed by the Speaker's Committee in the House of Commons.

Every review is different and some are more resource intensive than others. For example, a county will require more resources than a small district in terms of the quantity of maps, time spent drawing up recommendations and consultation materials.

Like most other public sector organisations, the Commission is under an obligation to reduce costs. Since 2010, the Commission has reduced its budget by around 30% in real terms and will make further savings in the coming years.

My division has the right number of electors already. Will it change?

Changes to division boundaries are usually extensive in every review we conduct. For example, if we propose to change council size in a significant way, it is unlikely that your division will then contain the optimum councillor: elector ratio. In addition, the knock on effects of changing boundaries in one part of the local authority can have an impact elsewhere which usually leads to substantial changes.

If you wish to retain an existing boundary, you should tell us why such an arrangement complements the statutory criteria.

Will you look at the external boundaries of the council?

No. The electoral review will only consider internal electoral division boundaries. External boundaries can only be changed through a different type of review: a Principal Area Boundary Review (PABR).

More details on PABRs can be found on our website at http://www.lgbce.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/10402/pabr-technical-guidance.pdf

Will parliamentary constituency boundaries be affected?

Reviews of constituency boundaries are the responsibility of the Boundary Commission for England which is a separate body and operates under different legislation. You can find out more about their work on their website at: boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/.

The Commission has no obligation to consider constituency boundaries as we draw up recommendations. As such, there is a possibility that new divisions could cross constituency boundaries.

Will parishes be affected?

We have no powers to alter the external boundaries of local parishes. However, if our recommendations propose to divide parishes between divisions, we will alter the electoral arrangements of that parish to create parish wards. We can also make changes to the years in which parish council elections take place so that they do so in the same years as district elections in their associated divisions.

More information about possible implications for parishes are set out in our technical guidance:

http://www.lgbce.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/10411/technical-guidance-july-2013-web-version.pdf

Can the council veto your recommendations?

No. We will work consultatively with you throughout the review and seek to build consensus. However, the final recommendations of the review are those of the Commission. After we publish our final recommendations, we will lay a draft order – the legal document that seeks to implement the recommendations – in both Houses of Parliament. It is up to Parliament to approve or reject that draft order before it is implemented.

Will you hold public meetings and/or meet with political groups during the process?

We will always brief a meeting of the full council in the early stages of the review. We will also offer a briefing meeting with local parishes and/or residents groups.

During the rest of the review, we will not usually offer to meet any groups or individuals. We try to ensure that everyone has an equal chance of influencing the Commission during consultation and, as such, we do not want to be seen to favour any group by holding meetings to which other interested parties do not have access.

Why don't you consider the population of electoral divisions and not just the electorate?

The Commission has a statutory obligation under the *Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009* 'to secure that the ratio of the number of local government electors to the number of members of the council to be elected is, as nearly as possible, the same in every electoral area of the council'. This means that we can only consider the number of local government electors when we draw up boundaries which will deliver electoral equality.

In what forms do you accept submissions?

The Commission only accepts submissions which are made in writing by hard copy, email or through our website. The Commission takes decisions collectively and will consider every submission received before coming to a conclusion.

You can also use our consultation portal to draw your own boundaries and submit them directly to the Commission. You are strongly advised to include an explanation of why the boundaries you are putting forward are appropriate and complement our statutory criteria.

Submissions to the Commission are rarely persuasive if they are not supported by an explanation of how the proposal meets the Commission's statutory criteria. As such, petitions which simply object to a proposal do not usually constitute strong evidence on which the Commission can base alternative recommendations. In the same way, resolutions of council which do not provide for alternative arrangements that are supported by a rationale will not normally prove to be persuasive.

To what extent do you change your recommendations during the process and as a result of consultation?

Since the establishment of the Commission as a stand-alone body in April 2010, the Commission has made amendments to its draft recommendations in most cases as a result of submission received during consultation. We consider every submission and believe the electoral review process is strongest where local authorities have engaged in it.

How will you involve local people in the review?

We will engage with local press and media at every stage of consultation through press releases and social media. We also publish all relevant information on our website, including every submission we receive. Our new online consultation portal allows users of the site to draw their own boundaries and engage in the process in a detailed way.

If your area has parishes, we will engage directly with them through a briefing meeting and via correspondence to alert them to each phase of consultation. Similarly, we have asked the council for their help in identifying local residents groups and organisations so we can write to them with advice and guidance on the review.

We have also asked the council to help us publicise the review by using its own communication channels with residents and local groups and we will provide posters to display in council buildings. We hope elected members can also use their networks to engage communities in the process.

Do ward and electoral division boundaries need to match?

When we are conducting a review of a county council, we will seek to provide for coterminosity between district wards and county divisions. However, the aim to deliver coterminosity does not override our other statutory criteria which can be found on page 9. This means that we some district wards could cross electoral division boundaries as part of our recommendations.

For county reviews, no electoral division will cross the external district boundary.

Contacts

The key contacts for the electoral review of Kent County Council are:

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Tel: 020 7664 8535

Richard Buck – Review Manager
richard.buck@lgbce.org.uk
Tel: 020 7664 8511

If you want to send in a submission on the review:

Address:

Kent review
Local Government Boundary
Commission for England
Layden House
76-86 Turnmill Street
London EC1M 5LG

Send us views directly through the
online consultation portal:
consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Website:
www.lgbce.org.uk

Email:
mark.cooper@lgbce.org.uk

Twitter:
[@LGBCE](https://twitter.com/LGBCE)

Further reading:

Our website: www.lgbce.org.uk – here you will be able to find the dedicated web page for your review which will tell you the timetable, representations received and all reports, maps and other information on the review.

Our consultation portal: consultation.lgbce.org.uk – here you can have your say directly at each stage of public consultation. Interactive maps will be available as we prepare new boundaries where you can draw your own divisions and send them to us.

Technical guidance:

http://www.lgbce.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/10411/technical-guidance-july-2013-web-version.pdf - is our formal guidance on electoral reviews.

Council size guide:

http://www.lgbce.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0013/10390/council-size-guide.pdf - a more detailed guide on how to approach council size which includes some prompts to stimulate debate.

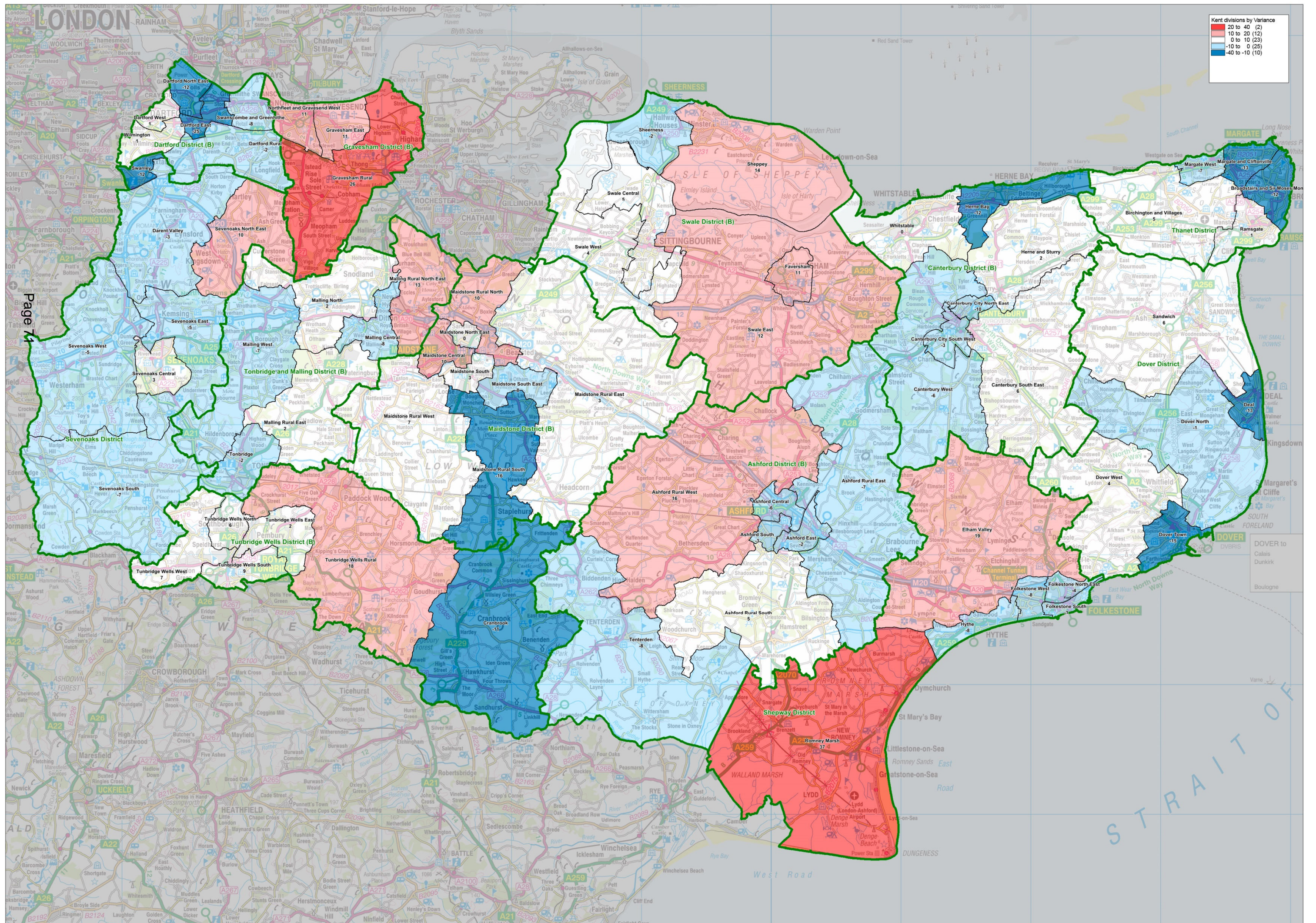
Electoral Divisions in Kent

Name of ward	Cllr	Electorate 2013	Variance 2013
Ashford			
Ashford Central	1	12,289	-6%
Ashford East	1	12,796	-2%
Ashford Rural East	1	12,226	-7%
Ashford Rural South	1	13,680	5%
Ashford Rural West	1	15,156	16%
Ashford South	1	12,732	-3%
Tenterden	1	12,057	-8%
Canterbury			
Canterbury City North East	1	11,802	-10%
Canterbury City South West	1	12,724	-3%
Canterbury South East	1	13,933	6%
Canterbury West	1	12,314	-6%
Herne & Sturry	1	13,396	2%
Herne Bay	2	22,948	-12%
Whitstable	2	26,082	0%
Dartford			
Dartford East	1	9,770	-25%
Dartford North East	1	11,549	-12%
Dartford Rural	1	12,760	-2%
Dartford West	1	13,167	1%
Swanscombe & Greenhithe	1	12,090	-8%
Wilmington	1	13,279	1%
Dover			
Deal	2	22,840	-13%
Dover North	1	12,909	-1%
Dover Town	2	22,139	-15%
Dover West	1	13,580	4%
Sandwich	1	13,830	6%
Gravesham			
Gravesham East	2	29,111	11%
Gravesham Rural	1	16,461	26%
Northfleet & Gravesend West	2	28,929	11%
Maidstone			
Maidstone Central	2	28,695	10%
Maidstone North East	1	13,058	0%
Maidstone Rural East	1	13,490	3%
Maidstone Rural North	1	14,440	10%
Maidstone Rural South	1	11,047	-16%
Maidstone Rural West	1	13,963	7%
Maidstone South	1	13,524	3%
Maidstone South East	1	12,078	-8%
Sevenoaks			
Darent Valley	1	12,756	-3%
Sevenoaks Central	1	13,473	3%
Sevenoaks East	1	12,462	-5%
Sevenoaks North East	1	14,380	10%
Sevenoaks South	1	12,202	-7%

Sevenoaks West	1	12,411	-5%
Swanley	1	11,490	-12%
Shepway			
Elham Valley	1	15,631	19%
Folkestone North East	1	12,516	-4%
Folkestone South	1	12,720	-3%
Folkestone West	1	12,068	-8%
Hythe	1	11,974	-8%
Romney Marsh	1	17,908	37%
Swale			
Faversham	1	14,474	11%
Sheerness	1	12,795	-2%
Sheppey	1	14,976	14%
Swale Central	2	27,544	5%
Swale East	1	14,655	12%
Swale West	1	13,563	4%
Thanet			
Birchington & Villages	1	13,705	5%
Broadstairs & Sir Moses Montefiore	2	23,067	-12%
Margate & Cliftonville	2	22,825	-13%
Margate West	1	12,341	-6%
Ramsgate	2	26,384	1%
Tonbridge & Malling			
Malling Central	1	12,053	-8%
Malling North	1	13,380	2%
Malling Rural East	1	13,397	2%
Malling Rural North East	1	14,842	13%
Malling West	1	12,173	-7%
Tonbridge	2	25,599	-2%
Tunbridge Wells			
Cranbrook	1	11,629	-11%
Tunbridge Wells East	1	13,314	2%
Tunbridge Wells North	1	13,860	6%
Tunbridge Wells Rural	1	15,384	18%
Tunbridge Wells South	1	14,207	9%
Tunbridge Wells West	1	14,001	7%

Map

The existing electoral arrangements for Kent County Council are included on a map over the page. We have included the current electoral variances on the map to give you an idea of how divisions might need to change during the review.



Kent divisions by Variance	
20 to 40	(2)
10 to 20	(12)
0 to 10	(23)
-10 to 0	(25)
-40 to -10	(10)

Page 7

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Calais
Dunkirk
Boulogne

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Kent County Council

Submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) on Council size

July 2014

Introduction:

1. This submission sets out the views of Kent County Council (KCC) on the number of County Councillors that are needed in order to support effective, efficient and accountable local democracy in Kent. The submission takes into account the political structure of the Authority and the nature of the different roles that County Councillors are required to undertake in order to deliver effective local government in Kent. In particular, the submission provides a detailed analysis of Council size in the three key areas that the Commission uses to make their judgement:

- The County Council's **governance arrangements** and how KCC takes decisions across the broad range of its responsibilities;
- The County Council's **scrutiny functions** relating to its own decision making and the Council's responsibilities to outside bodies; and
- The **representational role of Councillors in the local community** and how they engage with people, conduct casework and represent the Council on local partner organisations.

Profile of KCC's area

2. The County of Kent is large and diverse, as can be seen from the following key facts and figures about Kent:

- Land area of 1,368 square miles and just over 350 miles of coastline;
- Resident population of 1.48million and growing faster than the national average;
- An ageing population – the number of 65+ year olds is forecast to increase by 56% by 2031;
- 78% of Kent's working population are economically active (in work or actively looking);
- 10% of working age residents are claiming out of work benefits;

- Just under a quarter of the Kent workforce is qualified to at least NVQ level 4, lower than the national and South East average;
- Kent is ranked 102nd out of 152 authorities in the Indices of Deprivation, although lots of variation, with some areas of Kent falling into the 20% most deprived in the country;
- 50,600 businesses are based in Kent; 89% of which employ fewer than 10 people;
- Professional, scientific and technical industries account for the largest proportion of Kent businesses, followed by construction, while businesses in wholesale and retail trade have the largest population of employees; and
- Health and wellbeing in Kent is generally good, although there are significant health inequalities, with a 15 year gap in life expectancy between the healthiest and least healthy areas.

3. Kent's public sector landscape is complex. It is a two-tier area with 12 District, Borough and City Councils and also has 314 Town and Parish Councils. Medway Unitary Council neighbours KCC's area. There are eight Clinical Commissioning Groups (including Medway) and 460 schools and 129 Academies. Kent has an active voluntary and community sector with over 4,700 registered charities. KCC works within this complexity, and this will become more important if the Authority looks to integrate services with those provided by other organisations where this leads to better outcomes for our customers and better efficiency.

Population Forecast

Outline of methodology

4. To begin with a set of district level population forecasts have been produced using the POPGROUP forecasting model. This is a demographic forecasting model owned and supported by the Local Government Association and used by over 100 authorities. It uses the cohort survival methodology and takes account of future changes to fertility, mortality, migration and household representative rates based on the information available to us at the current time.

5. The forecasts are strategy-based and take account of future housing developments. Each Kent local authority's planning department has provided information on recent completions and current applications for sites that are expected to come forward between now and 2020.

6. The forecasts provide an estimate of the population aged 17+ and 18+ in 2020. Business Intelligence has converted this to a forecast of the electorate by applying a population to electorate ratio specific to each Kent local authority district, calculated using an average of data for the last 3-years.

7. A set of electoral ward level forecasts has then been produced using a model developed in-house. The model takes account of future housing growth due to occur in each ward based on the information provided by each local authority planning department. Again, the population forecast is converted to an electorate forecast, specific to each ward, using historic RPF29 data from each local authority for the last 3-years. The ward level forecasts are constrained to the district level forecasts to ensure consistency.

Summary of results

8. Business Intelligence forecasts estimate that the electorate (aged 18+) for the Kent County Council area as a whole will increase by 6.1% between 2014 and 2020.

9. As the forecasts are strategy-based, the largest increases in electorate can be found in the main growth areas of Dartford, Maidstone and Ashford, with significant increases also expected in Dover and Tonbridge & Malling.

10. Kent's electorate aged 18+ in 2020 is forecast to be 1,169,800 (rounded to the nearest one hundred). Based on the current Council size of 84 Members this will result in each Member representing an average electorate of 13,806. This is just over 850 more electors than currently represented by each Member. A schedule showing the population forecasts for 2020 for each of the twelve District areas down to District Ward level is appended to this submission.

Current Structure of the Council:

11. The County Council is currently composed of 84 Members representing 60 single Member divisions and 12 two Member divisions. Elections are held every four years and the next elections will take place in May 2017. Each County Councillor represents an average of 12,952 electors (as at February 2014). The current political composition of the County Council is as follows:

Political group	Number of seats
Conservative	45
UKIP	17
Labour	13
Liberal Democrat	7
Independents	2

12. The County Council operates a strong executive Leader model.

KCC's governance arrangements:**Executive Functions**

13. KCC is a strongly Member-led authority and the involvement of elected Members in both executive and non-executive decision-making, including the pre-consideration of forthcoming executive decisions features significantly in the County Council's governance arrangements.

14. The Leader of the Council is appointed by the County Council for a four year term. The Leader appoints the Cabinet and decides the scheme of delegation to executive Members and Officers. Key decisions cannot be taken by officers under the existing scheme of delegation. The Cabinet meets collectively in public every month, although the majority of executive decisions (approximately 200 per year) are taken by individual portfolio holders. The Cabinet comprises the Leader, Deputy Leader and 8 other portfolio holders, as follows:

- Leader, Business Strategy, Audit and Transformation
- Deputy Leader, Finance and Procurement
- Environment and Transport
- Corporate and Democratic Services
- Economic Development
- Adult Social Care and Public Health
- Education and Health Reform
- Community Services
- Commercial and Traded Services
- Specialist Children's Services

15. Cabinet Members may, with the consent of the Leader, appoint other Members of the Council as their "Deputy Cabinet Members" (currently 11) for such purposes as the Leader and Cabinet Member may agree. A Deputy Cabinet Member may not take decisions on behalf of the Cabinet Member nor vote at a Cabinet meeting. Deputy Cabinet Members have the following responsibilities:

- (a) Leading on the development of policy proposals, as directed;
- (b) Substituting at appropriate internal meetings, including Cabinet and Scrutiny;
- (c) Advising on decisions to be taken by the Cabinet Member;
- (d) Representing the Council and Cabinet Member at external meetings;
- (e) Chairing relevant advisory boards, as appropriate; and
- (f) Handling media interviews and enquiries on behalf of the Cabinet Member in his or her absence.

16. In April 2012, the County Council introduced a revised system of governance, which included the introduction of six cross-party Cabinet

Committees, which are advisory Committees to the Executive and meet up to six times a year. Cabinet Committees consider and either endorse or make recommendations on key and other significant decisions to be taken by the Leader, a Cabinet Member, the Cabinet or officers; and advise on the development of the policy framework. Cabinet Committees review performance of the functions that fall within the remit of their particular Committee and make recommendations to decision makers accordingly. Cabinet Committees are also able to hold petition debates on petitions that have reached the required signature threshold as set out in the Council's Petition Scheme. The current Cabinet Committees are:

- Adult Social Care and Health
- Children's Social Care and Health
- Education and Young People's Services
- Environment and Transport
- Growth, Economic Development and Communities
- Policy and Resources (including a Property Sub Committee)

17. The three largest Opposition Groups all organise themselves in such a way as to appoint Members of their groups to shadow the work of the Cabinet portfolio holders, which will include being the lead spokesperson on relevant Committees and examining the documentation published on forthcoming executive decisions within their areas of responsibility.

Non-Executive functions

18. The full Council meets up to seven times per year. It is responsible for approving the County Council's budget and Council Tax, agreeing major policies and debating issues that affect the residents of Kent. The full Council has established a number of Committees, as follows:

Electoral and Boundary Review Committee – responsible for dealing with all matters relating to elections, reviews of electoral and local government boundaries and the creation of parish councils. It has 9 Members and meets 4-5 times a year.

Personnel Committee – responsible for agreeing all matters relating to staff terms and conditions (except those imposed by national agreements) and changes to the delegations to officers under the Personnel Management Rules. The Committee also recommends to the Council the appointment and removal of the Head of Paid Service; appoints senior managers and determines their terms and conditions; recommends the designation of individual officers as statutory proper officers. It has 9 Members and meets 5-6 times a year.

Planning Applications Committee – responsible for the determination of planning applications and related matters. It has 19 Members and meets 10 times a year.

Regulation Committee – responsible for a range of enforcement and regulatory action in relation to development control, approved marriage premises, public rights of way, village greens and commons, school transport appeals (via sub committees), gating orders and mental health guardianship. The main Committee has 17 Members and meets 3 times a year, but the relevant sub committees meet approximately 30 to 40 times a year.

Selection and Member Services Committee – responsible for keeping the Constitution and governance arrangements under regular review; developing the roles of Members, making recommendations to the Council as and when necessary in relation to political proportionality and appointments to outside bodies, appointing and removing local authority appointed school governors and other appointments, overseeing all Member accommodation and support services for Members and making recommendations to the Cabinet Member as appropriate. It has 9 Members and meets 4-5 times a year

Superannuation Fund Committee – responsible for discharging the functions of the Council in relation to the control and investment of the Superannuation Fund. It has 9 Members, plus 3 District Council Members (voting) and 5 other Members (non-voting) and meets 4 times a year.

Governance and Audit Committee – responsible for ensuring that the County Council's financial affairs are properly and efficiently conducted and reviewing assurance as to the adequacy of the risk management and governance framework and the associated control environment. It has 15 Members and meets 4 times a year.

Standards Committee – responsible for discharging the functions contained in Chapter 7 of the Localism Act (other than those reserved to the Council) in relation to promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct at Member level and dealing with complaints made about the conduct of Members under the adopted Member Code of Conduct. It has 7 Members and meets 3-4 times a year.

Overview and Scrutiny

19. A key role of the Cabinet Committees (see paragraph 16 above) is to examine forthcoming executive decisions before they are made, which the County Council has found is a more effective way of engaging backbench and opposition Members in executive decision-making. This has resulted in far fewer executive decisions being called-in to the Scrutiny Committee for post-decision scrutiny. However, the County Council maintains a Scrutiny Committee, which has all of the statutory powers contained in S.21 of the Local Government Act 2000 to delay the implementation of executive decisions and require the attendance of decision-makers to explain their decisions and answer questions.

The Scrutiny Committee has 11 Members, plus 3 faith and 2 parent governor representatives (for education matters only) and is diarised to meet monthly.

Crime and Disorder Committee – responsible for the scrutiny of authorities responsible for delivering crime and disorder strategies. It has 11 Members and meets 1-2 times a year.

Flood Risk Management Committee – responsible for reviewing and scrutinising the exercise by risk management authorities of flood risk management functions or coastal erosion risk management functions, which may affect the local authority's area. It has 7 Members and meets 3 times a year.

Select Committees – these are time-limited, task-specific Sub Committees of the Scrutiny Committee appointed to carry out reviews on behalf of the Scrutiny Committee. These reviews tend to be in-depth and cross-cutting and tackle subjects such as Dementia services; alcohol misuse; activities for young people; and domestic abuse. These Committees have 9 Members and meet frequently during a period of up to 9 months.

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – responsible for reviewing and scrutinising matters relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services in Kent. It has 13 Members plus 4 District/Borough Council representatives and meets 8-9 times a year.

Joint Committees, Outside Bodies and regional structures

20. KCC is also represented on a number of Joint Committees, regional and partnership bodies, including the Local Enterprise Partnership, the Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority, the Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel, the Kent Health and Wellbeing Board, the Kent Community Safety Partnership, the Kent and Medway Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as well as a large number of District-based participative and deliberative structures involving County, District, Borough, Town and Parish Council Members; for example neighbourhood forums and Joint Transportation Boards.

21. KCC also appoints elected Members to some 90 outside bodies, ranging from the Local Government Association to more local organisations, trusts and charities. Being represented on outside bodies is a vital element of the community representative role, which all Members take seriously.

The representational role of Councillors in their communities

22. As detailed above, elected Members at KCC are heavily involved in both executive and non-executive decision making, joint committees and partnership governance and there is an active and thorough approach to both pre and post

decision overview and scrutiny within the authority. All Members take their various roles extremely seriously and there are a large number of informal meetings, such as agenda planning meetings and briefing meetings that involve key Members including Cabinet Members, Deputy Cabinet Members, Committee Chairmen and Committee Group Spokespeople in preparing for formal Council, Cabinet and Committee meetings.

23. The significance and importance of all Members in representing the views of their local community and in relation to undertaking casework on their constituents' behalf and encouraging two-way communication between the County Council and its various communities is detailed specifically in the Member Role Description, which forms an appendix to the County Council's adopted Member Code of Conduct and is included in the Constitution. In order to establish and quantify accurate and current information concerning Members' representational roles within their communities, a survey was designed and all Members were invited to complete it during May and June 2014. A total of 69 Members responded to the survey, which sought responses to a number of questions about constituency business, attendance at Town and Parish Council meetings, attendance at formal KCC meetings and related matters.

24. The survey contained 18 questions, with the opportunity to make further comments (Q19). A summary with survey highlights from 69 responses is provided below. 77% of those who responded represent a district that is parished; the majority (59%) having 1 to 5 parishes but a small number (13%) having 11 to 15 parishes. Some Members perform multiple roles, e.g. serving as both District and County Councillors. Nine of those who responded held a Cabinet Member role.

- The majority (47%) of all Members who responded spend 1 to 5 hours per week sitting on formal KCC appointed committee meetings though a large proportion – 35% - spend 5-10 hours and some spend more than 20 hours (69 responses).
- 33% of Members with an additional role such as Cabinet Member spend over 20 hours per week on that role (51 responses). **Cabinet Members spend over 20 hours.**
- Constituency issues within electoral divisions most commonly (42% of responses) take up 5-10 hours per week of Members' time though, again, some Members spend over 20 hours on these. (59 responses). Constituency issues cover a wide range of topics; the top three being highways; education and issues relating to a district or parish function. (69 responses)
- The most common method of engagement with Parish/Town Councils is by regular attendance at meetings (78% of responses) while others attend occasionally, distribute newsletters and engage in a variety of other ways.

- Most Members (64%) spend 1 to 5 hours per week on Parish/Town Council engagement.
- The most common method of engagement with local Borough/District Councils is by attendance at forums comprising District and County Members (87% of responses,
- Most Members (64%) spend 1 to 5 hours per week on local Borough/District Council engagement.
- Members engage with a wide variety of community and other organisations locally; the top three answers being Residents Associations, Age UK and Schools (through governorship).
- The majority of Members (78%) spend 1 to 5 hours engaging with these other organisations.
- Members use a variety of methods to engage with their local communities; the top three being newsletter (82%), surgery (47%) and social media (35%). The majority of Members (68%) spend 1 to 5 hours on community engagement though a high proportion (26%) spend 5 to 10 hours on this.
- The majority of Members who use a newsletter, surgery or blog for community engagement (38%) do so on a monthly basis; 28% on a 1-3 month basis and a further 24% every 3-6 months (50 responses).
- 59% of Members who organise a surgery do so at different venues across their electoral division.
- When asked about the support required to perform their role, Members responses included: meeting rooms, admin (and IT) facilities, officer/assistants (particularly Democratic Services), resources, advice and information/briefings/research.
- Additional comments mainly related to workload and the ability to provide effective representation.

25. KCC operates a Member Grant Scheme, where each Member of the County Council has allocated to them a sum of £25,000 to spend on projects in their divisions that effect community benefit. Members are supported by KCC Community Engagement Officers with the administration of the grant scheme but each Member decides for themselves which of the many competing projects and initiatives they will allocate funding to, which requires a significant investment of time each year in publicising the availability of grants; meeting with a wide range of community organisations; and assessing priorities for funding.

The role of Members in a Commissioning Authority

26. KCC has voted in favour of moving towards a strategic commissioning authority - which involves a greater focus on outcomes and less focus on process, which drives our three transformation themes of – ‘market engagement

and service review', 'integration and service redesign', and 'managing change better'. As KCC progresses into Phase 2 of our whole-council transformation programme – 'Facing the Challenge' - it is essential for Members and the whole organisation to have a clear vision of the role of our Members in a strategic commissioning authority. The council has recently been Peer Reviewed by the Local Government Association (LGA) who have emphasised the need for members to understand their roles and responsibilities within a commissioning authority, and this has also been highlighted by a recent KCC Commissioning Select Committee report.

27. Although the member role in a strategic commissioning authority will develop over time, we can anticipate some likely changes now. KCC is, and will remain, a strongly member-led authority – and a commissioning authority model will further strengthen and reinforce this role, for both executive and non-executive members, with them acting as the strong client responsible for holding commissioners and providers to account for delivery of strategic outcomes. Members' local leadership role will be vital in ensuring the needs of their local communities are reflected in the KCCs priorities and commissioning decisions, given that these place the resident and service user at its heart. As the delivery models for many KCC services are likely to change, there will be a need to establish an in-house intelligent client function, which retains key strategic roles within the Council to commission and procure high quality, cost effective services. A core responsibility of this function will be to act as a point of contact for Members to raise any concerns or issues that surround individual constituents and contracted services, and ensure that providers address these concerns as part of the contract delivery.

28. Whilst the role of Members as decision-makers will not change, how Members discharge their role may change. It will move from direct day-to-day oversight and management of service delivery, to managing the delivery of outcomes through the commissioning cycle. For example: Agreeing the strategic commissioning plan and outcomes framework for the authority, identifying the key outcomes that Members want the authority to achieve over the four-year period, providing an essential 'challenge' role, overseeing key procurement exercises, reviewing commissioned services, and engaging with market providers to help maintain effective provider relationships.

29. KCC has a strong track record in the developing effective and relevant member training and support. Training for Members around these skills is in the early stages of being developed – a programme is being developed with the Institute of Local Government Studies (INLOGOV) - and this will be essential in ensuring Members are equipped for their role within the strategic commissioning authority. We also plan to undertake further work around the role of Members in a commissioning authority, as in many respects this is uncharted waters, and therefore it is proposed that the existing cross-party Transformation Board

examine the issues and options in more detail, in particular about the non-executive member role at each stage of the commissioning cycle.

Support to Members in their various roles:

30. A strongly Member-led authority such as KCC requires a hardworking officer team supporting the decision-making process and in providing support services to all elected Members, but especially to the Leader and his Cabinet, political group Leaders and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council. It is vital to ensure that all Members spend as much of their time as possible supporting their constituents.

31. Officers right across KCC work hard to ensure that all Members have the information they need to perform their various roles in whatever form is the most convenient. Officers realise and understand the multiple commitments that Members have and it is only right that all Members are supported appropriately so that they are not spending hours each week on tasks that keep them away from their responsibilities as community representatives.

32. KCC takes its responsibilities for Member Learning and Development seriously and was the first County Council in England to achieve the South East Employers Member Development Charter plus. 70% of all Members have participated in a personal development plan discussion, which has informed the overall Learning and Development Plan for elected Members. The plan is designed to assist Members in the most appropriate way to be more effective in their communities, to make the best use of their time and in relation to their various formal and informal roles as elected Members. All Member Briefings are used to provide information on key aspects of KCC's responsibilities and regular bulletins are provided, which provide written summaries of emerging legislation, press releases, major Government consultations, research reports etc. All of the County Council's formal meeting papers are available online via the intranet site and the Council has provided all Members with IT equipment to ensure that they have access to a whole raft of information and are able to communicate electronically with KCC staff and others on the move and in their communities. There is a dedicated Members' Intranet, known as Members' KNet, where all of the key information a Member might need quickly is available to download.

Parish Councils:

33. There are 314 Town and Parish Councils in Kent. Some of the existing County Divisions contain no parish councils while others are completely parished. The Member survey goes some way to determining what effect the existence of Parish Councils has on the workloads of County Councillors. In some respects, it could be argued that the existence of a Parish Council can decrease the workload of a County Councillor on the basis that a proportion of constituency work will be requests for information, which the Parish Council is

able to provide or signpost. On the other hand, County Councillors may be expected to attend a number of Parish Council meetings in their divisions and they may be lobbied by a Parish Council over a particular issue.

Conclusions on Council size:

34. The deliberations on Council size have been led by the cross-party Electoral and Boundary Review Committee, which met on three occasions to discuss Council size (1 April, 5 June and 7 July 2014) and made recommendations to the full Council at its meeting on 17 July. Members also benefitted from the attendance of key officials from the Boundary Commission for the all-Member briefing session on 30 April 2014.

35. The projections for Kent's population going forward are significant in terms of Members having larger numbers of constituents to represent in the future. The analysis undertaken in relation to KCC's nearest neighbour comparator authorities demonstrates that the average number of electors per Member across all 16 County Authorities is 9,825 as the table below indicates. The figure for Kent is 12,952, which is only exceeded by two Authorities in the comparator group: Essex (14,419) and Hampshire (13,202). If KCC had the average number of electors per Councillor as per the nearest neighbour authorities (9,825), KCC would need 111 Councillors. The population forecasts for 2020 will increase the average number of electors for each Councillor to 13,806.

Neighbour Authorities (County Councils)	Number of Wards/ Divisions	Council Size	Total Electorate at 15/02/2014	Electors per Councillor	Area (Hectares)	Density (Electors per Hectare)
Kent	72	84	1,087,980	12,952	354,353	3.07
Lancashire	84	84	905,240	10,777	290,320	3.12
Hertfordshire	77	77	853,400	11,083	164,307	5.19
Hampshire	75	78	1,029,785	13,202	367,895	2.80
West Sussex	71	71	628,800	8856	199,049	3.16
Essex	70	75	1,081,444*	14,419	346,439	3.12
Derbyshire	61	64	609,990*	9,531	254,670	2.40
Oxfordshire	61	63	498,160	7,907	260,492	1.91
Cambridgeshire	60	69	464,560	6,733	304,624	1.53
Staffordshire	60	62	662,560	10,686	262,028	2.53
Northamptonshire	57	57	516,422*	9,060	236,397	2.18
Warwickshire	56	62	422,940	6,822	197,508	2.14
Nottinghamshire	54	67	595,481*	8,888	208,477	2.86
Gloucestershire	53	53	477,220	9,004	265,325	1.80
Worcestershire	52	57	448,080	7,861	174,052	2.57
Leicestershire	52	55	517,700*	9,413	208,288	2.49
* 2013 Total Electorate data						
Average number of Electors per Councillor for all counties listed:						9,825
Number of Kent divisions if the average per division were 9,825:						111

36. Taking into account the number of places allocated to political groups on all of the Council's formal Committees and Outside Bodies (excluding Select Committees, which are time-limited), each elected Member serves on an average of more than 5 Committees and outside bodies.

37. Paragraphs 26 to 29 above highlight the changing roles of elected Members under a commissioning authority, which is regarded as being at least as onerous on elected Members' time as is presently the case.

38. The conclusion that has been reached is that KCC's 84 Members are fully occupied in relation to their various roles and will get busier as the County's population increases in future years. However, the Authority does not consider it appropriate to increase the number of County Councillors beyond the current number of 84. Accordingly, the County Council's formal submission to the LG BCE is that Kent County Council should remain at 84 Members and that as part of the formal submission, the Commission be asked to note the County Council's preference for single Member divisions where possible.

Appendices:

1. Population projections to 2020 down to District Ward level

KCC Strategy-based Population Forecast (March 2014) - ASHFORD

Forecast of population aged 18+ and aged 17+ as at 2020

This workbook prepared by presented by Business Intelligence, Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Rounded to the nearest 10 for presentation

Ward code	Ward Name	Electorate (Those aged 18+)	Electorate including attainers (Those aged 17+)
E05004867	Aylesford Green	3,250	3,290
E05004868	Beaver	4,370	4,420
E05004869	Biddenden	2,040	2,070
E05004870	Bockhanger	2,020	2,040
E05004871	Boughton Aluph and Eastwell	2,270	2,300
E05004872	Bybrook	1,890	1,910
E05004873	Charing	2,170	2,180
E05004874	Downs North	2,010	2,030
E05004875	Downs West	1,890	1,910
E05004876	Godinton	6,260	6,320
E05004877	Great Chart with Singleton North	2,480	2,510
E05004878	Highfield	1,830	1,840
E05004879	Isle of Oxney	2,160	2,180
E05004880	Kennington	1,800	1,820
E05004881	Little Burton Farm	2,250	2,280
E05004882	Norman	1,840	1,860
E05004883	North Willesborough	4,880	4,920
E05004884	Park Farm North	2,190	2,240
E05004885	Park Farm South	2,040	2,070
E05004886	Rolvenden and Tenterden West	2,070	2,090
E05004887	St Michaels	2,930	2,940
E05004888	Saxon Shore	1,900	1,920
E05004889	Singleton South	3,800	3,820
E05004890	South Willesborough	2,080	2,090
E05004891	Stanhope	1,630	1,660
E05004892	Stour	3,730	3,770
E05004893	Tenterden North	1,910	1,920
E05004894	Tenterden South	2,480	2,500
E05004895	Victoria	6,260	6,320
E05004896	Washford	2,510	2,540
E05004897	Weald Central	3,810	3,880
E05004898	Weald East	4,380	4,430
E05004899	Weald North	1,880	1,900
E05004900	Weald South	4,260	4,310
E05004901	Wye	1,910	1,930
Total For Ashford		97,190	98,210

KCC Strategy-based Population Forecast (March 2014) - CANTERBURY

Forecast of population aged 18+ and aged 17+ as at 2020

This workbook prepared by presented by Business Intelligence, Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Rounded to the nearest 10 for presentation

Ward code	Ward Name	Electorate (Those aged 18+)	Electorate - including attainers (Those aged 17+)
E05004902	Barham Downs	2,240	2,260
E05004903	Barton	7,140	7,200
E05004904	Blean Forest	5,120	5,130
E05004905	Chartham and Stone Street	4,520	4,580
E05004906	Chestfield and Swalecliffe	7,230	7,290
E05004907	Gorrell	5,380	5,430
E05004908	Greenhill and Eddington	4,710	4,780
E05004909	Harbledown	2,090	2,100
E05004910	Harbour	4,680	4,710
E05004911	Herne and Broomfield	7,200	7,290
E05004912	Heron	7,360	7,410
E05004913	Little Stour	2,160	2,200
E05004914	Marshside	2,490	2,520
E05004915	North Nailbourne	2,230	2,260
E05004916	Northgate	5,220	5,240
E05004917	Reculver	7,410	7,470
E05004918	St Stephens	5,990	6,030
E05004919	Seasalter	6,840	6,900
E05004920	Sturry North	2,260	2,280
E05004921	Sturry South	2,480	2,510
E05004922	Tankerton	3,940	3,980
E05004923	West Bay	5,340	5,390
E05004924	Westgate	6,760	6,780
E05004925	Wincheap	6,690	6,740
Total for Canterbury		117,500	118,480

KCC Strategy-based Population Forecast (March 2014) - DARTFORD

Forecast of population aged 18+ and aged 17+ as at 2020

This workbook prepared by presented by Business Intelligence, Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Rounded to the nearest 10 for presentation

Ward code	Ward Name	Electorate (Those aged 18+)	Electorate including attainers (Those aged 17+)
E05004926	Bean and Darenth	4,390	4,430
E05004927	Brent	5,460	5,510
E05004928	Castle	1,930	1,950
E05004929	Greenhithe	9,150	9,240
E05004930	Heath	4,900	4,970
E05004931	Joyce Green	5,660	5,720
E05004932	Joydens Wood	5,840	5,910
E05004933	Littlebrook	3,450	3,490
E05004934	Longfield, New Barn and Southfleet	5,840	5,910
E05004935	Newtown	5,500	5,550
E05004936	Princes	4,560	4,620
E05004937	Stone	6,560	6,630
E05004938	Sutton-at-Hone and Hawley	3,390	3,430
E05004939	Swanscombe	6,100	6,180
E05004940	Town	3,700	3,720
E05004941	West Hill	5,400	5,460
E05004942	Wilmington	3,390	3,430
Total for Dartford		85,230	86,140

KCCStrategy-basedPopulationForecast(March2014) - DOVER

Forecast of population aged 18+ and aged 17+ as at 2020

This workbook prepared by presented by Business Intelligence, Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Rounded to the nearest 10 for presentation

Wardcode	WardName	Electorate (Those aged 18+)	Electorate- including at ainers (Those aged d17+)
E05004943	Aylesham	4,940	4,970
E05004944	Buckland	5,730	5,780
E05004945	Capel-le-Ferne	2,050	2,070
E05004946	Castle	1,750	1,760
E05004947	Eastry	5,400	5,430
E05004948	Eythorne and Shepherdswell	4,020	4,050
E05004949	Little Stour and Ashstone	5,990	6,030
E05004950	Lydden and Temple Ewell	2,110	2,120
E05004951	Maxton, Elms Vale and Priory	5,880	5,920
E05004952	Middle Deal and Sholden	6,780	6,820
E05004953	Mill Hill	6,540	6,610
E05004954	North Deal	6,210	6,240
E05004955	Ringwould	2,000	2,020
E05004956	River	3,940	3,980
E05004957	St Margaret's-at-Cliffe	4,300	4,310
E05004958	St Radigunds	4,820	4,860
E05004959	Sandwich	4,900	4,950
E05004960	Tower Hamlets	4,260	4,290
E05004961	Town and Pier	1,790	1,800
E05004962	Walmer	6,900	6,950
E05004963	Whitfield	4,320	4,340
Total for Dover		94,650	95,300

KCC Strategy-based Population Forecast (March 2014) - GRAVESHAM - AMENDED

Forecast of population aged 18+ and aged 17+ as at 2020

This workbook prepared by presented by Business Intelligence, Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Rounded to the nearest 10 for presentation

Ward code	Ward Name	Electorate (Those aged 18+)	Electorate - including attainers (Those aged 17+)
E05004964	Central	4,740	4,770
E05004965	Chalk	1,820	1,830
E05004966	Coldharbour	3,290	3,310
E05004967	Higham	3,310	3,340
E05004968	Istead Rise	2,920	2,950
E05004969	Meopham North	3,630	3,670
E05004970	Meopham South and Vigo	3,640	3,670
E05004971	Northfleet North	5,490	5,520
E05004972	Northfleet South	5,850	5,900
E05004973	Painters Ash	4,660	4,710
E05004974	Pelham	5,510	5,540
E05004975	Riverside	5,710	5,740
E05004976	Riverview	3,460	3,490
E05004977	Shorne, Cobham and Luddesdown	3,440	3,460
E05004978	Singlewell	5,420	5,480
E05004979	Westcourt	4,930	4,970
E05004980	Whitehill	3,200	3,230
E05004981	Woodlands	5,070	5,120
Total for Gravesham		76,090	76,710

KCC Strategy-based Population Forecast (March 2014) - MAIDSTONE

Forecast of population aged 18+ and aged 17+ as at 2020

This workbook prepared by presented by Business Intelligence, Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Rounded to the nearest 10 for presentation

Ward code	Ward Name	Electorate (Those aged 18+)	Electorate including attainers (Those aged 17+)
E05004982	Allington	6,920	6,980
E05004983	Barming	2,510	2,530
E05004984	Bearsted	7,200	7,270
E05004985	Boughton Monchelsea and Chart Sutton	2,160	2,180
E05004986	Boxley	7,330	7,410
E05004987	Bridge	4,590	4,620
E05004989	Detling and Thurnham	2,590	2,620
E05004990	Downswood and Otham	2,620	2,640
E05004991	East	6,900	6,970
E05004992	Fant	7,060	7,120
E05004993	Harrietsham and Lenham	5,110	5,140
E05004994	Headcorn	4,380	4,410
E05004995	Heath	4,500	4,560
E05004996	High Street	6,980	7,060
E05004997	Leeds	2,140	2,150
E05004999	Marden and Yalding	6,520	6,580
E05005000	North	6,200	6,260
E05005001	North Downs	2,120	2,130
E05005002	Park Wood	5,970	6,050
E05005003	Shepway North	6,960	7,090
E05005004	Shepway South	4,830	4,880
E05005006	Staplehurst	5,210	5,270
E05005007	Sutton Valence and Langley	2,260	2,280
E05008553	Coxheath and Hunton	6,190	6,270
E05008554	Loose	2,180	2,200
E05008555	South	8,010	8,070
Total for Maidstone		129,430	130,740

KCC Strategy-based Population Forecast (March 2014) - SEVENOAKS

Forecast of population aged 18+ and aged 17+ as at 2020

This workbook prepared by presented by Business Intelligence, Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Rounded to the nearest 10 for presentation

Ward code	Ward Name	Electorate (Those aged 18+)	Electorate including attainers (Those aged 17+)
E05005008	Ash and New Ash Green	4,610	4,670
E05005009	Brasted, Chevening and Sundridge	4,940	4,990
E05005010	Cowden and Hever	1,560	1,580
E05005011	Crockenhill and Well Hill	1,490	1,510
E05005012	Dunton Green and Riverhead	4,210	4,260
E05005013	Edenbridge North and East	3,620	3,670
E05005014	Edenbridge South and West	3,150	3,190
E05005015	Eynsford	1,460	1,470
E05005016	Farningham, Horton Kirby and South Darenth	3,710	3,740
E05005017	Fawkham and West Kingsdown	4,770	4,810
E05005018	Halstead, Knockholt and Badgers Mount	2,740	2,770
E05005019	Hartley and Hodsoll Street	4,810	4,860
E05005020	Hextable	3,290	3,330
E05005021	Kemsing	3,230	3,260
E05005022	Leigh and Chiddingstone Causeway	1,860	1,880
E05005023	Otford and Shoreham	3,530	3,570
E05005024	Penshurst, Fordcombe and Chiddingstone	1,940	1,960
E05005025	Seal and Weald	3,140	3,180
E05005026	Sevenoaks Eastern	2,940	2,970
E05005027	Sevenoaks Kippington	3,400	3,460
E05005028	Sevenoaks Northern	3,180	3,200
E05005029	Sevenoaks Town and St John's	4,940	4,990
E05005030	Swanley Christchurch and Swanley Village	4,820	4,890
E05005031	Swanley St Mary's	3,130	3,160
E05005032	Swanley White Oak	4,630	4,680
E05005033	Westerham and Crockham Hill	3,280	3,300
Total for Sevenoaks		88,370	89,340

KCC Strategy-based Population Forecast (March 2014) - SHEPWAY

Forecast of population aged 18+ and aged 17+ as at 2020

This workbook prepared by presented by Business Intelligence, Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Rounded to the nearest 10 for presentation

Ward code	Ward Name	Electorate (Those aged 18+)	Electorate including attainers (Those aged 17+)
E05005034	Dymchurch and St Mary's Bay	5,440	5,460
E05005035	Elham and Stelling Minnis	1,810	1,820
E05005036	Folkestone Cheriton	5,190	5,230
E05005037	Folkestone East	3,620	3,620
E05005038	Folkestone Foord	4,100	4,110
E05005039	Folkestone Harbour	4,040	4,040
E05005040	Folkestone Harvey Central	5,360	5,360
E05005041	Folkestone Harvey West	3,420	3,440
E05005042	Folkestone Morehall	3,380	3,390
E05005043	Folkestone Park	5,180	5,200
E05005044	Folkestone Sandgate	3,550	3,560
E05005045	Hythe Central	5,660	5,670
E05005046	Hythe East	3,590	3,600
E05005047	Hythe West	4,490	4,510
E05005048	Lydd	5,300	5,310
E05005049	Lympne and Stanford	1,590	1,600
E05005050	New Romney Coast	3,050	3,060
E05005051	New Romney Town	2,960	2,980
E05005052	North Downs East	7,050	7,100
E05005053	North Downs West	3,620	3,630
E05005054	Romney Marsh	2,020	2,040
E05005055	Tolsford	1,680	1,690
Total for Shepway		86,080	86,410

KCC Strategy-based Population Forecast (March 2014) - SWALE

Forecast of population aged 18+ and aged 17+ as at 2020

This workbook prepared by presented by Business Intelligence, Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Rounded to the nearest 10 for presentation

Ward code	Ward Name	Electorate (Those aged 18+)	Electorate including attainers (Those aged 17+)
E05005056	Abbey	4,760	4,790
E05005057	Borden	1,930	1,940
E05005058	Boughton and Courtenay	4,120	4,150
E05005059	Chalkwell	4,360	4,390
E05005060	Davington Priory	2,030	2,040
E05005061	East Downs	2,130	2,140
E05005062	Grove	5,200	5,230
E05005063	Hartlip, Newington and Upchurch	4,420	4,460
E05005064	Iwade and Lower Halstow	3,670	3,700
E05005065	Kemsley	4,640	4,660
E05005066	Leysdown and Warden	2,560	2,570
E05005067	Milton Regis	3,520	3,550
E05005068	Minster Cliffs	6,020	6,050
E05005069	Murston	4,290	4,320
E05005070	Queenborough and Halfway	6,260	6,300
E05005071	Roman	3,510	3,540
E05005072	St Ann's	4,430	4,470
E05005073	St Michaels	8,570	8,690
E05005074	Sheerness East	2,860	2,870
E05005075	Sheerness West	4,090	4,130
E05005076	Sheppey Central	3,830	3,840
E05005077	Teynham and Lynsted	4,390	4,410
E05005078	Watling	4,050	4,070
E05005079	West Downs	2,270	2,280
E05005080	Woodstock	4,070	4,100
Total for Swale		101,990	102,660

KCC Strategy-based Population Forecast (March 2014) - THANET

Forecast of population aged 18+ and aged 17+ as at 2020

This workbook prepared by presented by Business Intelligence, Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Rounded to the nearest 10 for presentation

Ward code	Ward Name	Electorate (Those aged 18+)	Electorate including attainers (Those aged 17+)
E05005081	Beacon Road	3,350	3,380
E05005082	Birchington North	3,470	3,480
E05005083	Birchington South	5,410	5,440
E05005084	Bradstowe	3,280	3,300
E05005085	Central Harbour	5,960	6,000
E05005086	Cliffsend and Pegwell	3,960	3,990
E05005087	Cliftonville East	5,230	5,250
E05005088	Cliftonville West	4,970	5,000
E05005089	Dane Valley	5,340	5,390
E05005090	Eastcliff	5,450	5,510
E05005091	Garlinge	3,670	3,710
E05005092	Kingsgate	1,800	1,810
E05005093	Margate Central	3,530	3,560
E05005094	Nethercourt	3,520	3,550
E05005095	Newington	3,360	3,400
E05005096	Northwood	5,110	5,150
E05005097	St Peters	4,070	4,090
E05005098	Salmestone	4,690	4,750
E05005099	Sir Moses Montefiore	4,040	4,070
E05005100	Thanet Villages	6,110	6,150
E05005101	Viking	5,790	5,830
E05005102	Westbrook	3,600	3,630
E05005103	Westgate-on-Sea	5,570	5,610
Total for Thanet		101,270	102,030

KCC Strategy-based Population Forecast (March 2014) - TONBRIDGE & MALLING

Forecast of population aged 18+ and aged 17+ as at 2020

This workbook prepared by presented by Business Intelligence, Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Rounded to the nearest 10 for presentation

Ward code	Ward Name	Electorate (Those aged 18+)	Electorate including attainers (Those aged 17+)
E05005104	Aylesford	4,630	4,660
E05005105	Blue Bell Hill and Walderslade	3,280	3,320
E05005106	Borough Green and Long Mill	5,570	5,630
E05005107	Burham, Eccles and Wouldham	4,600	4,660
E05005108	Cage Green	3,400	3,430
E05005109	Castle	3,780	3,820
E05005111	Downs	3,170	3,200
E05005112	East Malling	3,780	3,810
E05005113	East Peckham and Golden Green	3,240	3,270
E05005114	Hadlow, Mereworth and West Peckham	3,450	3,520
E05005115	Higham	4,740	4,770
E05005116	Hildenborough	4,050	4,090
E05005117	Ightham	1,570	1,580
E05005118	Judd	3,480	3,520
E05005119	Kings Hill	5,440	5,500
E05005121	Larkfield South	3,340	3,370
E05005122	Medway	4,890	4,940
E05005123	Snodland East	4,050	4,070
E05005124	Snodland West	4,960	5,000
E05005125	Trench	3,050	3,080
E05005126	Vauxhall	3,600	3,640
E05005127	Wateringbury	1,660	1,670
E05005128	West Malling and Leybourne	5,660	5,710
E05005129	Wrotham	1,490	1,500
E05008540	Ditton	3,830	3,860
E05008541	Larkfield North	4,120	4,150
Total for Tonbridge and Malling		98,820	99,750

KCC Strategy-based Population Forecast (March 2014) - TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Forecast of population aged 18+ and aged 17+ as at 2020

This workbook prepared by presented by Business Intelligence, Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Rounded to the nearest 10 for presentation

Ward code	Ward Name	Electorate (Those aged 18+)	Electorate including attainers (Those aged 17+)
E05005130	Benenden and Cranbrook	5,400	5,470
E05005131	Brenchley and Horsmonden	4,000	4,040
E05005132	Broadwater	4,110	4,140
E05005133	Capel	1,780	1,790
E05005134	Culverden	5,880	5,930
E05005135	Frittenden and Sissinghurst	1,670	1,690
E05005136	Goudhurst and Lamberhurst	3,210	3,260
E05005137	Hawkhurst and Sandhurst	4,780	4,820
E05005138	Paddock Wood East	3,500	3,530
E05005139	Paddock Wood West	2,790	2,820
E05005140	Pantiles and St Mark's	4,910	4,960
E05005141	Park	5,600	5,650
E05005142	Pembury	4,440	4,480
E05005143	Rusthall	3,620	3,660
E05005144	St James'	2,620	2,650
E05005145	St John's	4,050	4,100
E05005146	Sherwood	4,220	4,240
E05005147	Southborough and High Brooms	5,110	5,150
E05005148	Southborough North	5,430	5,560
E05005149	Speldhurst and Bidborough	5,950	6,050
Total for Tunbridge Wells		83,060	83,980

By: Peter Oakford, Cabinet Member for Specialist Children’s Services
 Andrew Ireland, Corporate Director, Families and Social Care
 Gill Rigg, Independent Chair of Kent Safeguarding Children Board

To: County Council – 17th July 2014

Subject: Kent Safeguarding Children Board – 2013/14 Annual Report

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This attached annual report from Kent Safeguarding Children Board describes the progress made in improving the safeguarding services provided to Kent’s children and young people over 2013/14, and outlines the challenges ahead over the next year.

Recommendation: County Council is asked to COMMENT on the progress made and NOTE the 2013/14 Annual Report attached.

1. Introduction

(1) This report presents the 2013/14 Annual Report produced by the Independent Chair of Kent Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB) and endorsed by members of that Board. Current Government guidance captured in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2013) sets out the requirement introduced through The Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2006 for Local Safeguarding Children Boards to produce and publish an annual report. This report provides a rigorous and transparent assessment of the effectiveness of local child protection arrangements and has been designed for circulation to all front line staff working with children across Kent.

(2) This report identifies progress across Kent in improving the child protection system and also identifies areas of vulnerabilities and what action is being taken to address challenges where they remain.

(3) The Annual Report includes lessons from management reviews, serious case reviews and child deaths within the reporting period.

(4) In Working Together 2013, (issued by the Department for Education), it is recommended that once the report is published it should be submitted to the Chief Executive (where one is in situ) and Leader of the Council, the local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

(5) KSCB is forceful in carrying out its scrutiny role in overseeing child protection arrangements in Kent, and findings from its multi agency audits, Section 11 audits and all SCRs can be found on the KSCB website.

(6) In March 2014, Gill Rigg was appointed the new Independent Chair of KSCB, taking over from Maggie Blyth.

2. The 2013/14 Annual Report

(1) The report details the ongoing activities undertaken by agencies to ensure that children in Kent are safe.

(2) As the report indicates, the number of children with a Child Protection Plan (CPP) has risen slightly from 1025 in March 2013 to 1177 in March 2014. KSCB will continue to monitor this to see if this continues to be in line with those of our statistical neighbours. KSCB will make sure that the focus remains on ensuring that all agencies have a common understanding of thresholds for child protection intervention.

(3) During the year 2013-14, KSCB has noted the improved use of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) with an increase of 53% on last year. What is extremely positive is the number of Team Around the Family (TAF) closed with the outcomes recorded as 'achieved' has increased by 121%.

(4) Ofsted identified that interventions for children in need (CIN) across Kent were inconsistent which reinforced the need for KSCB scrutiny across the partnership about support given to this group of children. This will continue to be a focus with the number of children who have been on a Child In Need Plan for more than 6 months and more than 12 months having risen over the last year.

(5) There has been significant progress over the last 12 months in how Kent is responding to the risks highlighted by the Children's Commissioner and more recently, the HO Select Committee, to children at risk of child sexual exploitation (CSE). KSCB has continued to develop training for front line staff and a toolkit for assisting in identifying and assessing risk of CSE and publicity material has been distributed, drawing attention to the signs that may indicate that young people are at risk of CSE.

(6) To ensure that the spotlight is retained on those young people at risk of going missing and CSE, more detailed multi-agency work is being undertaken to ensure greater accuracy on the reporting and recording of missing incidents as well as putting in place tighter arrangements for offering 'return interviews' to those young people who go missing. This will provide partners with a greater understanding of what happens to young people when they go missing and provide intelligence that can be used to implement more preventative measures. KSCB is also requiring statutory agencies to understand more clearly the trends relating to children missing in Kent to ensure that the most vulnerable young people are supported at the right time.

(7) KSCB is committed to publishing the findings from all Case Reviews. There were no new Serious Case Reviews (SCR) commissioned during the last year. Other reviews have been undertaken and the lessons from all of these and from other National SCRs have influenced the focus of KSCB's multi-agency learning and development strategy and training programme. KSCB obtains assurance from all Kent agencies that actions following these reviews are properly monitored and progress evidenced.

(8) Specific challenges are highlighted around action taken to learn lessons from cases when things go wrong and where children are the subject of sexual abuse.

These areas feature within the 2014/15 Strategic Priorities and specific work has been commissioned by the Case Review and Quality and Effectiveness Sub Groups to look into this area in more depth.

(9) During this reporting period KSCB has undertaken a number of multi agency audits to understand what is happening across different front line settings in protecting children. The follow up to the Section 11 audit was undertaken with statutory agencies across Kent providing evidence to the Board on how they are meeting the many aspects of their action plans following their original submissions. Where specific action has been required by certain agencies to improve their contributions, KSCB is closely monitoring this to ensure all agencies are discharging their safeguarding duties.

(10) The work of supporting Kent's 1831 Children in Care (including 190 unaccompanied asylum seeking children), as well as the 1194 looked after children placed by other local authorities in the county, continues to place massive pressures on public agencies responsible for supporting vulnerable children in Kent, including Specialist Children's Services, schools, police, and health services. KSCB will continue to seek evidence that Kent agencies are adequately able to care for all children placed in the County and supports more rigorous risk assessments for children placed in Kent by other authorities.

(11) The Annual Report states that there remain concerns about assessment and treatment of vulnerable groups of children with emotional wellbeing and mental health needs. Waiting times in the West of Kent have reduced significantly in recent weeks but KSCB will continue to require NHS representatives to report on progress in this area.

3. Conclusions

(1) The Improvement Notice was lifted on 11th December 2013. Kent agencies have worked hard to ensure that the failings identified in 2010 by Ofsted have been addressed. Overall, the Independent Chair of KSCB is satisfied that progress has been made and that the child protection system in Kent has improved. However, challenges remain to ensure that there is a common understanding of thresholds in Kent; that partnership agencies in Kent are suitably equipped to support the most vulnerable children and young people; and that those children identified as children in need are supported by all partner interventions.

(2) The revised Improvement Notice placed specific expectations on KSCB during 2013/14. All agencies in Kent were required to demonstrate improved outcomes for children in relation to safeguarding and will be reporting on this to the Improvement Board. Through its Quality Assurance Framework, KSCB has evidenced its capability to take on the role of the Improvement Board, through the reviewing of members' progress reports. This was supported by findings from the Executive Group member 'walk-about' of front line settings.

(3) Furthermore, there are specific challenges for Kent agencies in supporting those children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation and having a greater understanding of the picture of children who go missing.

(4) The Independent Chair of the Improvement Board will undertake a 6 month review of Kent's continued progress in July 2014.

4. Recommendations

(1) County Council is asked to:

- (a) COMMENT on the progress and improvements made during 2013/14, as detailed in the Annual Report from Kent Safeguarding Children Board
- (b) NOTE the 2013/14 Annual Report attached. Following this meeting, this document will be available for download at the KSCB website.

5. Background Documents

None

6. Contact details

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Annual Report 2013/14



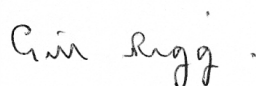
Foreword by Independent Chair - Gill Rigg

As the recently appointed Independent Chair of Kent Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB), I am delighted to introduce the annual report of the Board to inform you of what the Board has done from April 2013 to March 2014. The report identifies the significant progress that has been made to improve the safeguarding of the children and young people who live in Kent and who number over 322,000. I hope that you find this report helpful and interesting. I took up the role of the Independent Chair in March 2014, and feel very privileged to be your Chair.

It is of note during the year, that the Improvement Notice to Kent County Council, from the Department for Education was lifted, and the LSCB was seen as being competent to oversee the ongoing safeguarding agenda. This is, in no small measure, down to the commitment, dedication, and hard work of the very many partners who make up the membership of the Board, and was a significant step forward.

As ever in safeguarding activities, it has been a busy and challenging year. April 2013 saw the introduction of Working Together 2013, and we particularly welcomed the freedom to move away from a prescribed way of undertaking Serious Case Reviews to a more learning culture. We also saw the piloting, and then the introduction of the new Ofsted framework of inspections, and the new approach of Ofsted reviewing the work of the Boards.

The work of the Board, its Executive and the sub groups continues to drive the safeguarding agenda forward, and I am immensely grateful to you all who work so hard to keep children and young people safe in Kent.



Gill Rigg
Independent Chair, KSCB



Introduction

All of the work of the Kent Safeguarding Children Board is aimed at making Kent as safe a place as possible for children and young people to grow up in as we can. This report summarises the Board's structure, activity and progress during 2013/14, with a focus on what has been undertaken as required by the Department of Education to lift the Improvement Notice.

There are just over 322,000 children and young people living in Kent, making up 22% of the population. It is impossible to offer a complete picture of the children whose safety is at risk in Kent because some abuse or neglect may be hidden, despite the best efforts of local services to identify and step in to support children who are being harmed.

In Kent, trafficked children who arrive in British ports to be transported throughout the country are vulnerable because their traffickers work hard to keep them 'invisible'. In other cases, families themselves mask abuse or neglect and neighbours may turn a blind eye to a child's need for protection.

That is why the Department for Education 'Working Together' guidance (2013) emphasises the shared responsibility we all have in keeping children safe.

Role of the Board

What is Kent Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB) and what does it do?

KSCB is the partnership body responsible for coordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of Kent Services in protecting and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

The Board is made up of senior representatives from all the main agencies and organisations in Kent concerned with protecting children.

KSCB provides a vital link in the chain between various organisational activities, both statutory and voluntary, to protect children and young people in Kent. Our aim is to ensure that these activities work effectively in the provision of a joined up service.

KSCB is responsible for scrutinising and challenging the work of its partners to ensure that services provided to children and young people are effective and make a difference.

We are also responsible for raising awareness of child protection issues in Kent so that everybody in the community can play a role in making Kent a safer place for children and young people.

Our message is – **Protecting Children From Harm is Everyone's Business**

Government Guidance

Working Together 2013 outlines the statutory objectives and functions of LSCBs as:

An LSCB must be established for every local authority area. The LSCB has a range of roles and statutory functions including developing local safeguarding policy and procedures and scrutinising local arrangements. The statutory objectives and functions of the LSCB are:

Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 sets out the objectives of LSCBs, which are:

- A) to coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and
- B) to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

Regulation 5 (1) of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006:

- a) developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority, including policies and procedures in relation to:
 1. the action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare, including thresholds for intervention;
 2. training of persons who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children;
 3. recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children;
 4. investigation of allegations concerning persons who work with children;
 5. safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered;
 6. cooperation with neighbouring children's services authorities and their Board partners;
- b) communicating to persons and bodies in the area of the authority the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising their awareness of how this can best be done and encouraging them to do so;
- c) monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advising them on ways to improve;
- d) participating in the planning of services for children in the area of the authority; and
- e) undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned.

Regulation 5 (2) relates to the LSCB Serious Case Reviews function and **Regulation 6** relates to the LSCB Child Death functions.

Regulation 5 (3) provides that an LSCB may also engage in any other activity that facilitates, or is conducive to, the achievement of its objectives.

In order to fulfil its statutory function under Regulation 5 an LSCB should use multi-agency data and, as a minimum, should:

- assess the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families, including early help;
- assess whether LSCB partners are fulfilling their statutory obligations set out in Section 11 of the Children Act 2004;
- quality assure practice, including through joint audits of case files involving practitioners and identifying lessons to be learned; and
- monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of training, including multi-agency training, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

LSCBs do not commission or deliver direct frontline services though they may provide training. While LSCBs do not have the power to direct other organisations they do have a role in making clear where improvement is needed. Each Board partner retains their own existing line of accountability for safeguarding.

A structure chart, including the links to the Health and Wellbeing Board and Children and Young Persons' Joint Commissioning Board and list of Board members can be found at **Appendices A and B**.

A summary of agency attendance at Board and Sub Group meetings is published on the KSCB website – www.kscb.org.uk

2013 to 2014 – What did we do?

The main focus of KSCB and Partner activity throughout 2013/14 was to ensure that in its follow up Inspections, Ofsted witnessed evidence of practice improvements and better outcomes for children and young people and have confidence to lift the Improvement Notice issued in 2011. As is explained later in this Report, this was achieved in December 2013.

Since July 2013, the KSCB has aligned itself to Improvement Board meetings and agenda, in order to ensure a holistic oversight and scrutiny of all areas of the Council's performance. KSCB is now in a position of considerable strength, with robust partnership arrangements.

Evidence of Improvement

The establishment of robust governance arrangements which has supported the efficient execution of board business including the effective running of streamlined sub groups that have become the hub of LSCB activity. Evidence of improvement is supported by the following:

- Chairing of each sub group by Executive Member of Board, ensuring senior management/chief officer oversight of all key work streams
- Regular and consistent attendance at Board, Executive and Sub Group meetings (over 90%) by senior managers from across the partnership
- A memorandum of understanding with the Children and Young Persons Joint Commissioning Board and Health and Wellbeing Board regarding respective reporting on system improvement.
- A re-structure of the Board support functions to focus on programme management and performance reporting against the KSCB Business Plan.
- The establishment of a Health Safeguarding Sub Group to ensure that the new Clinical Commissioning Groups, NHS Local Area Team (LAT) and all health providers working across Kent are able to demonstrate how they discharge safeguarding duties. This group is chaired by the LAT Director of Nursing.
- The establishment of an Education Advisory Group to ensure that the education sector is fully represented across KSCB. This group is chaired by the Corporate Director for Education Learning and Skills.

All key building blocks of QA activity report regularly to the Executive and full Board allowing meaningful challenge and scrutiny of partnership activity. Evidence of improvement is supported by the following:

- Quarterly reporting to the Board from individual agencies with exception reporting where challenges remain in relation to safeguarding improvement i.e. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Common Assessment Framework (CAF), Children in Need (CiN) activity, repeat Child Protection Plans (CPPs) and re-referrals;
- The development of a comprehensive multi-agency data set providing regular information and analysis;
- The completion of an annual multi-agency audit plan, including deep dives of multi-agency activity, reported through the Quality Assurance Framework with a particular focus on threshold application and work with children in need;
- The establishment of Executive/Board walkabouts to front line settings

The development of a learning and improvement framework which outlines the KSCB approach to Serious Case Reviews (SCR) and Management Reviews of cases where children and young people have been the subject of significant harm. Evidence of improvement is supported by:

- The commissioning of regular reviews where the criteria for a SCR is not met but significant learning is considered important to support system improvement;
- The development of KSCB's immersive learning suite to ensure dissemination of learning to front line practitioners following relevant SCR/Management Reviews.
- The absence of any newly commissioned SCR in a 12 month period.

There has also been a focus from KSCB in responding to local challenges for the child protection system in Kent as part of its integrated support to system improvement. This has led to specific pieces of work in relation to tackling risks associated with Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Trafficking and in supporting those children placed in residential care. Evidence of improvement in relation to local needs is supported by:

- The successful completion of the workplan of the Trafficking and CSE Sub Group;
- The establishment of a new focus on children going missing.

Department for Education Improvement Plan:

In response to the Ofsted Inspection of KCC's arrangement for the protection of children, published in January 2013, which rated the arrangements as 'adequate', one of the key outstanding actions was to manage the transition towards the Kent Safeguarding Children Board taking on the role of the Improvement Board for driving further improvements in Kent. In order to do this, KSCB were required to provide evidence on a number of key areas:

1. KSCB must in particular ensure that services to children in need provided by the Council and all relevant parties are timely and effective, driven by accurate and timely assessments and clear and effective and outcome focused plans. KSCB must seek quarterly reports on this work from June 2013 onwards which should then be presented to and scrutinised by the Improvement Board.
2. Both the Improvement Board and KSCB must seek regular reports on developments in the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services service across the County. These reports must not only identify work being done to reduce waiting times for assessment (down to an average of not greater than 6 weeks) and increased treatment timetables, they must also identify impact of the treatment on children and young people, emerging identification of therapeutic themes and proposed future service developments.
3. KSCB must demonstrate to the Improvement Board an **increasing effectiveness in its role especially in relation to performance challenge and scrutiny across the partnership**. The Improvement Board Chair and the KSCB Chair must work together to effectively plan the handover of future challenge and scrutiny from the Improvement Board and the KSCB. The plan must be presented to the Improvement Board for scrutiny.
4. KSCB must ensure it is compliant with the terms set out in Working Together 2013.
5. Ensure that multi-agency audits are undertaken by the LSCB and reported to the Improvement Board outlining the key lessons to be learnt and improvements to be made.

Evidence was provided to the Independent Chair of the Improvement Board and subsequently to the Government Minister and on 11th December 2013, Kent received formal notification of the lifting of the Improvement Notice.

KSCB Strategic Priorities 2013/14:

1. Positive outcomes for all children and young people in Kent;

- We know we will have made a difference when we can evidence a multi-agency understanding of the Thresholds for accessing services for children resulting in a reduction in the number of 'inappropriate' contacts and referrals to Specialist Children's Services.

KSCB have reviewed the Threshold Criteria and have continued to deliver specific multi-agency Threshold Workshops. Thresholds have been integrated into all other training sessions, including Early Help and Common Assessment Training provided by KSCB, and also by designated staff in single agency training. This will continue to be a focus in the KSCB Strategic Priorities and Business Plan for 2014/15.

Multi-agency referrals into the Central Duty Team have risen from 14,301 in 2012/13 to 19,751 in 2013/14. This is reflected in the increase of Children in Need and Children under Child Protection Plans (see below).

2. Holding partner agencies to account for their part in improving safeguarding of all children in Kent;

- We know we will have made a difference when our audits show that assessments and plans are robust, responsive and facilitate multi-agency working.

There has been a noticeable improvement in the findings from both single and multi-agency audits. There are however, some continuing themes that need to be continually monitored, e.g. record keeping, using the voice of the child to influence outcomes and greater case supervision. KSCB will ensure that these remain at the forefront of its priorities for 2014/15.

3. Demonstrating a robust safeguarding partnership that can effectively undertake the work of Kent's Improvement Board.

- We will know we have made a difference when the Chair of the Improvement Board is confident that KSCB is in a position to take over the role of the Improvement Board.

The evidence of success in this area is demonstrated by the withdrawal of the Improvement Notice.

Aisha Paulose – Named GP

Understanding the importance of Safeguarding children has improved and progressed a great deal over the last 3 years. The training of GPs and GP trainees has been heavily supported by KSCB and active plans are in place to continue this training and development. During such training, multiple links and contacts have been made within agencies helping to further the links when delivering and making training plans for the future across Kent. This has a significant and positive knock on effect and front line working GPs feel more linked with other agencies and are keen to improve practice.

KSCB have worked in a consistent and enthusiastic manner with the clinical designated leads for child safeguarding.

How safe are Children and Young People in Kent?

Whilst we can never ensure that no child is hurt, all our efforts are to try to minimise any risk to children. The following show some of the figures for children helped and supported in Kent. The figures included below are provisional snapshot figures taken at the end of each performance monitoring year (March 31st).

Children in Care (CiC):

CiC are those looked after by the Local Authority. A decision to take a child away from his or her home without the parents' agreement is an extremely difficult one and can only be taken following a court decision. It is only taken after every possibility of protecting the child at home has been explored and where the decision really is the best option of ensuring the child's safety and wellbeing. There are, however, other cases where some children are in voluntary care. The key governing Board for the local Kent Children in Care is the Corporate Parenting Panel. This has the responsibility for ensuring that their safety and wellbeing is promoted. In December 2013, following evidence provided in the Children in Care Action Plan, the Ofsted Improvement Notice was lifted. Specialist Children's Services (SCS) are continuing in their efforts to ensure that having achieved 'satisfactory', the aspiration was to provide 'good' services. In order to do this, they will focus on supervision, participation, child focussed practice and good quality care plans. Performance against these areas will continue to be monitored by the Corporate Parenting Panel.

The year on year figures show very little change with **1842** CiC in Kent at the end of March 2014, **11** more than at the same time as last year.

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC):

Some of the most vulnerable children in Kent arrive in Dover each year seeking entry into the UK. Most turn up seeking asylum whilst others have been trafficked for exploitation. Where the UK Border Agency identifies unaccompanied children; they pass responsibility for these children to Kent County Council. There are significant child protection implications in how the local Immigration Team in Kent organises the processing arrangement for these children, and also for the police and the local authority in how they deal with or receive these highly vulnerable children. Support for these young people is delivered by the UASC Service, but in a complex operational environment.

The issue of asylum seekers receives high profile media and political attention prompting frequent legislative changes that affect Kent's protection arrangements for these children. In the last year, there were **229** UASC. This is an increase from **190** in 2013.

This continues to be a serious concern as these children are especially vulnerable to exploitation. The KSCB's Trafficking and Child Sexual Exploitation Sub Group will closely monitor progress across agencies in tackling this problem. This key priority will continue into 2014/15.

Children in Care placed in Kent by Other Local Authorities:

As of the end of March 2014, there were over **1,200** children placed in Kent by other local authorities, with two thirds of them placed by London councils. This high number of other local authority Children in Care placed in Kent has been consistent for many years. This places massive pressures on public agencies responsible for supporting vulnerable children in Kent, including SCS, Schools, Police, and Health Services.

Following the recent high profile conviction of those involved in sexual exploitation networks across the Country, all councils must make sure they can properly safeguard teenagers placed in residential children's homes, particularly those placed many miles from home, which increases their vulnerability. These are young people at particular risk of being sexually exploited by criminal networks and gangs and it is extremely difficult for other local authorities, as the corporate parents, to properly safeguard these young people when they are placed so many miles away.

With Kent placing **212** of its CiC out of County (snapshot as at 31st March 2014), KSCB will also want assurance from local agencies that Kent children placed out of the County are appropriately safeguarded.

Children with a Child Protection Plan (CPP):

Children who have a CPP are considered to be in need of protection from either neglect, physical, sexual or emotional abuse; or a combination of these factors.

Evidence nationally shows that children who grow up in families where there is domestic violence, mental illness and/or parental substance misuse are most likely to be at risk of serious harm. There continue to be low levels of children with plans relating to sexual abuse both nationally and in Kent.

The CPP details the main areas of concern, what action will be taken to reduce those concerns, how the child will be kept safe and how we will know when progress is being made.

At year end, 2013/14, the number of children on CPPs was **1,177**. This compares to **1,025** at the last year end. This is an increase of **152**. KSCB is provided with regular analysis of this information to ensure that the figures reflect statistical neighbours. We are satisfied that currently, cases are effectively reviewed and children are being provided with a range of appropriate multi-agency interventions in support of their needs.

Children in Need (CiN):

Children in Need is an area that all partner agencies are continuing to work closely to address the issues of 'drift' identified in the Improvement Notice. At year end, 2013/14, there were **3,162** CiN cases that had been open for 12 months or more, this compares to **3,061** the previous year, an increase in **101** cases. For CiN cases open for 6 months or more (not reaching 12 months) the figures were **4,110** for 2013/14 against **3,786** for 2012/13, an increase of **324**.

Significant work is being undertaken to examine CiN cases, both by Specialist Children's Services, through in depth on-line quality assurance audits, and by KSCB's Quality and Effectiveness Sub Group by way of multi-agency audits. Early indications show that where there is strong supportive supervision of CiN cases, there is little 'drift' and the CiN plan is more likely to be effective and obtain positive outcomes for the child or young person.

This will continue to be a priority for KSCB to monitor throughout 2014/15.

Early Help:

A significant amount of multi-agency effort has been put in to the offer of Early Help. There has been an increase in the number of Common Assessment undertaken over the last two years with last year showing an increase of **53.5%** on the previous year (**3,754** CAFs completed).

With numbers on the increase, the emphasis has moved to the outcomes of the Team Around the Family (TAF), actions. The number of TAFs closed with their outcomes recorded as achieved in 2013/14 was **1,554**, compared to **702** the previous year, an increase of **121.4%**.

The number of Team Around the Family closed with their outcomes recorded as requiring single agency support in 2013/14 was **904**, compared to **352** the previous year, an increase of **156.6%**.

The impact of Early Help and the outcomes of TAFs will continue to feature as a priority and the longer term effect on referrals to Specialist Children's Services will be monitored.

Report on the Voice of the Child

We on the Board very much recognise the importance of hearing the voice of children and young people in Kent and have been seeking different ways of ensuring that their voice is heard and influences the Board priorities and work that is undertaken.

A young person, currently in care in Kent, jointly opened our Annual Conference with our Independent Chair, and spoke to the conference on issues that were relevant and important to all young people in Kent.

The Board actively supports Kent Youth County Council (KYCC) through their identified campaigns. For the third year running the campaign which has received the most votes has been on anti-bullying, with a particular emphasis on cyber-bullying. As part of this, the KYCC have developed an anti-bullying policy for schools to support them in addressing the issues of cyber-bullying. Representatives from KYCC were invited to launch this policy at the annual conference in November. The group also showed a video clip that they had written, filmed and produced to show the effects of bullying.

In addition KYCC run a safeguarding interest group, which is working on a project to reduce the stigma attached to mental health issues. This project is currently underway with the results expected over the next few months.

The Board also invited another group of young people, the Young Health Champions, who work within schools as part of Kent Integrated Adolescent Support Services (KIASS) to present their work at the Conference. Liaisons with these young people will continue to support the identification of health issues which are key for young people.

The Board are keen to understand issues which are pertinent to young people and have engaged with a Young Evaluators Group from the Dartford and Gravesham area to develop a survey which will be rolled out to children and young people later this year. This group have ensured that the context and wording of the survey is appropriate and 'young people friendly'.

Work has begun in Gravesend with a particular group of schools who have concerns around young people becoming involved in exploitative relationships. This is a peer led programme which will encourage vulnerable young people to discuss issues around positive relationships and where to turn to for help if they have any concerns. Once this project has been piloted in Gravesend it will be available to all schools across the County.

Kerry Sildatke - Joint Chair of the KSCB Annual Conference 2013

My name is Kerry Sildatke and I am 17 years old. I have been in care since the age of four, in both foster and residential placements. During this time I have attended both special needs and mainstream schools so will be speaking from both personal and professional experience.

Professionally my journey started at the age of 11 as a peer mentor for children with special needs in a mainstream school. When I then transferred to a special needs school, due to my autism, I began peer mentoring there, and am now a Heart Mentor meaning I help new students settle in. Through this I spent a year as an online mentor for Beat Bullying with a special interest in mental health, however have had to give this up due to other commitments.

I am currently a part of Kent Youth County Council, where I chair the Safeguarding and anti-bullying group both of which work closely with KSCB.

Views of Practitioners

Practitioners Survey

The KSCB Practitioners Survey was developed by the Business unit in 2013 to gain an understanding of the issues that practitioners were facing whilst working with children and their families in Kent. The survey also gave practitioners the opportunity to feedback to the board regarding training gaps and their knowledge of designated safeguarding roles within their organisations.

The Survey was launched in February 2014 and was distributed across a wide range of agencies across all sectors. The survey was live for a month and closed in March 2014. A total of 740 respondents completed the survey from across the county, from a wide range of agencies including many from the voluntary community sector. The data was evaluated and grouped into district data so that the findings from the survey could be shared with Team Managers on District levels to inform practice and ensure local training needs could be met.

Some of the main findings from the survey were as follows:

Thresholds:

- 33% of practitioners were not aware of the Kent and Medway Thresholds and Tiers of Intervention

Knowledge of specialist staff:

- 56% of practitioners did not know the role of the Designated Nurse
- 36% of practitioners did not know the role of a Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

Multi-agency working:

27% of practitioners did not feel that they have a good working relationship with other agencies / organisations in their area. The main reasons that were suggested were:

- Poor information sharing between agencies, lack of consistency around information sharing between agencies (20%)
- Lack of understanding of other agencies/organisations in the area and their remit (17%)
- Lack of understanding of who the key contacts are in relation to safeguarding (14%)
- Lack of multi- agency networking opportunities (11%)

Multi-Agency Training:

- 19% of practitioners said that they had not had any child protection or safeguarding training in the last three years
- 23% of practitioners said that they were unable to access training easily; the practitioners said that the main barriers were:
 - The cost of training (34%)
 - They were unaware of the training that was available (15%)
 - They were unsure of how to access/book onto the training (14%)

Next Steps:

KSCB, together with partners, are using this information to inform the targeting of staff awareness-raising workshops, marketing of key safeguarding messages, passing on information on the roles and responsibilities of designated professionals and details of the comprehensive KSCB multi-agency training programme that is available.

Views of Board Members

Mike Stevens – Lay Member

As a Lay Member of the Board I have the privileged position of being able to have an overview of the Boards activities without being committed to any particular statutory or voluntary body. There is no doubt in my mind that 'safeguarding' has played and is playing an increasing role during the last twelve months in the day to day running and management of those bodies. Evidence of personnel working more closely together, sharing advice, expertise and confidence has grown and is to be welcomed. More however needs to be done as further co-operation and understanding between agencies is secured. Priority areas have been identified and inter agency work is taking place to deal with these issues.

Safeguarding within Kent has a firm foundation on which it is growing in both depth and strength.

Julie Pearce - East Kent Hospital University Foundation Trust (EKHUFT)

EKHUFT are confident that there has been an improvement in safeguarding children by having robust safeguarding processes in place with effective feedback mechanisms in order to ensure quality and improved outcome for children and their families.

Roger Sykes – Lay Member

The vast spread of safeguarding issues and the geographical and population size of Kent combine to ensure that there will always be significant challenges to safeguarding in the county. Since I became a lay member of KSCB in April 2011, I have seen definite progress in many areas, particularly within Specialist Children's Services, but nevertheless much remains to be achieved among which I would highlight the following –

- The board needs to be more effective in ensuring that appropriate members attend board and subgroup meetings;
- Minutes of all meetings need to be sufficiently detailed to demonstrate that agencies were appropriately challenged regarding processes and outcomes;
- The voices of the children do not adequately permeate the processes that the board and its member agencies design and operate;
- In common with the rest of the country, the provision and availability of mental health services for Kent children are poor.

Views from more Board members can be found throughout this Report

Reports from each Sub Group – activity and outcomes

The Quality and Effectiveness Sub Group

The Quality and Effectiveness (QE) Sub Group's main function is to co-ordinate quality assurance and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by KSCB partner agencies, individually and collectively, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It has oversight of multi-agency and single-agency audits, Section 11 audits and analysis of performance data about safeguarding from the key statutory agencies in Kent.

QE has been working hard this year to improve KSCB's approach to performance management, along with its role of professional scrutiny and challenge, by implementing a local Quality Assurance Framework alongside adopting principles from the South East Regional Framework.

The QE examine quarterly performance indicators supplied by a range of partners in order to satisfy KSCB that the arrangements in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of children are good. A wealth of information is available to the QE and the focus this year has been on partners contributing to the analysis of these statistical measures, commenting on whether outcomes have improved. We are in an improved position but the sub group still has a lot more work to do to ensure valuable contributions are available at these meetings.

KSCB Audits:

The QE carry out an annual programme of multi-agency audits and in 2013/14 these were:

Application of the Inter-Agency Threshold Criteria:

Professionals make assessments on levels of need for children and families utilising an agreed document, the "Kent and Medway Inter-Agency Threshold for Children in Need". Regular auditing of partners' understanding and use of these levels is essential in assuring the KSCB that children's welfare is being considered and safeguarding practice is of high-quality. This audit highlighted the importance of good quality information included at the referral stage and of the need to share information appropriately and promptly. In addition more work is required among partners to utilise help as early as possible in order to negate the need to escalate cases to statutory interventions.

Section 11 Self Assessments:

Following a full round of assessments collected in 2012/13, KSCB piloted a newly revised tool with the seven new Clinical Commissioning Groups in Kent and with the Sussex Partnership responsible for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. Prisons in Kent were also requested to submit a shorter self assessment tailored to their level of responsibility. Moving forward, KSCB are looking at ways the oversight of these self assessments can be improved, ensuring partners adherence to this statutory function are fully met.

'Child in Need' Deep Dive Reviews:

A new way of auditing was piloted this year focussing on involving practitioners and their managers in an in-depth discussion regarding one of their cases. Eight of these were undertaken across the County with extremely positive feedback and outcomes. Practice clearly showed a strong link between one or two professionals providing consistent and relevant support and improved outcomes for the child or young person. QE is continuing to monitor practice surrounding Child in Need as an ongoing priority, as part of KSCB's focus on early intervention and prevention.

The QE has a planned audit programme for the forthcoming year which will focus on KSCB strategic priorities, some areas to be covered are: children on Child Protection Plans; practice regarding children affected by repeat incidents of Domestic Abuse; Section 11 self assessments.

2013/14 Performance Summary:

The number of Common Assessment Frameworks completed for families in Kent has improved over the year from 75.7 completed per 10,000 children in March '13 to 116.3 in March '14. This increase is positive and QE is now focussing on the quality of these assessments by following up monthly auditing.

Referrals made into Specialist Children's Services (SCS) have increased over the year from March '13 at 442 per 10,000 children to 611.8 in March '14, a significant workload increase. This is in part down to improved recording processes implemented over the year, but also a reflection of additional workflow. The percentage of children and young people being re-referred into SCS has also increased over the period, standing at 26.6% in March '14 compared to 22.8% in March '13.

These increases are also reflected in Child in Need numbers and some of the Child Protection figures, depicted in the table below:

Performance Measure	March 2013	March 2014	Target / Benchmark March 2014
Number of Children in Need per 10,000 population under 18 (snapshot)	287.3	330.1	323.8
Number of Section 47 enquiries per 10,000 population under 18 (rolling 12 months)	109.6	130.8	103.6
Number of children with a Child Protection Plan per 10,000 population under 18 (snapshot)	30.8	36.5	34.9
Percentage of Child Protection plans lasting 2 years or more at the point of de-registration (year to date)	8.0%	4.9%	6.0%
Percentage of children becoming subject to a Child Protection Plan for a 2 nd or subsequent time within 24 months (year to date)	10.8%	8.0%	7.5%

These rises are teamed with the potential added pressures of average caseloads rising (22.6 in March '14 from 18.4 in March '13 for non Child in Care teams) and agency staff in case holding posts sitting at 18.8% in March '14 from 15.0% in March '13. KSCB will monitor this closely through the QE to ensure performance and practice does not deteriorate.

Health, Police and Education data into the QE has changed over the period, due in part to the changes in NHS and Kent County Council structures and Police identifying performance indicators that better reflect safeguarding practice, thus making comparisons from last year impractical. All partners are committed to providing high quality performance information and are valuable members of the QE.

Upcoming Challenges:

KSCB are working hard to update existing policies relating to Missing Children and are committed to overcoming barriers presented by this potentially very vulnerable group. Children missing from their home or placement could be at risk of: sexual exploitation; missing education; engagement in criminal behaviour and be more exposed to other risk-taking behaviours. Following National guidance, KSCB aims to provide a unified multi-agency approach where the needs of these children and young people are met more appropriately and effectively.

QE aims to continue to improve its effectiveness, in order to ensure the Board receives relevant and timely information that enables children in Kent to get the right help at the right time.

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

This panel has the responsibility for reviewing all deaths of children in Kent. The panel is chaired by Kent's Director of Public Health and its work is supported by two Designated Doctors for Unexpected Death; a Child Death Coordinator, partner representatives (including the Police and Social Care) and LSCB Officers. This mandatory panel works in close partnership in order to monitor trends in child death nationally and locally, analyse data relating to specific child deaths, identify modifiable factors and to promote any learning from them. Whilst there are a host of other factors that are also considered as part of this work, environmental effects and parenting issues are key and these are subject to careful deliberation in each case.

The primary aim of the CDOP is to reduce the number of preventable child deaths through systematic multi-disciplinary review, education of professionals and the general public and to make recommendations for legislation and public policy changes. These recommendations are based on panel reviews and circumstances surrounding individual causes of child death. The data is used to identify trends that require systematic solutions. In order to improve the way in which partners collect and respond to the necessary information KSCB and Health colleagues are progressing the development of a bespoke CDOP database that will provide an enhanced level of efficiency and reporting to this important process.

Key findings and learning from child death reviews

During the period 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014 the Kent CDOP reviewed 74 child deaths. It should be noted that there are still sudden deaths that occurred during this period that are outstanding for review due to coroner inquests or outcomes of enquiries still pending. Data relating to these reviews will be carried forward for inclusion in the 2014-2015 CDOP Annual Report. The gender and presence of modifiable factors are identified at Table 1 and the age of the child at Table 2.

	Number of child deaths with <u>modifiable factors</u>	Number of child deaths with <u>no modifiable factors</u>
Male	16	27
Female	5	26
TOTAL	21	53

Table 1: Child Deaths in Kent 2013-14

Age	Number of child deaths with <u>modifiable factors</u>
< 5	15
6 - 9	0
10-14 years	<5
15-17 years	<5
TOTAL	21

Table 2: Ages of children whose deaths featured modifiable factors

The data confirms that the highest proportion of child deaths in Kent during this period relate to those children who are under 1 year old. Cases with modifiable factors are further considered in the context of ten separate categories at Table 3 with the likely cause of death confirmed in Table 4.

Category	Definition	Number
1	Deliberately inflicted injury, abuse or neglect	0
2	Suicide or deliberate self-inflicted harm	<5
3	Trauma and other external factors	6
4	Malignancy	0
5	Acute medical or surgical condition	<5
6	Chronic medical condition	<5
7	Chromosomal, genetic and congenital anomalies	0
8	Perinatal/neonatal event	<5
9	Infection	<5
10	Sudden unexpected, unexplained death	8
	TOTAL	21

Table 3: Categories of Cases with Modifiable Factors

The cause of death is defined at Table 4, which information confirms that sudden unexpected death in infancy/ neonatal death accounts for over 50% of child deaths in Kent.

Cause of death	Numbers
Neonatal Death	<5
Known life limiting illness	<5
Sudden unexpected death in infancy	9
Road traffic accident/collision	<5
Drowning	<5
Other non-intentional injury/accident/trauma	<5
Substance miss use	<5
TOTAL	21

Table 4: Causes of Death where Modifiable Factors were Present

Full information relating to child deaths in Kent is regularly considered by the CDOP panel and is used to bring about improvements in local working processes and practice whenever appropriate and to inform KSCB's learning and development. As a result of emerging information from the CDOP during the period in question new Self Harm training was developed at Level 2 and 3. Further, the regular analysis of national statistical data in respect of child death 'trends' has highlighted some new areas of concern and KSCB has taken preventative action by making new baby safety information available to parents on its website in respect of the dangers of nappy sacks, hair straighteners, baby bath seats and baby slings: (http://kscb.org.uk/kscb_resources_and_library/baby_safety.aspx).

The Panel has also identified issues relating to co-sleeping and the need to provide enhanced bereavement support to parents. Joint partnership work has resulted in active preparation and development of material for these two local initiatives.

Serious Case Review Sub Group

The Serious Case Review Sub Group has fully embraced the guidance from Chapter 4 of Working Together 2013. The Group has developed a Case Review framework, identifying the criteria for undertaking the various types of reviews, (see below).

Review Type	Criteria
Serious Case Reviews	Regulation 5 (2) of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006 defines a Serious Case Review as one where: abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected; and either (i) the child has died; or (ii) the child has been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern as to the way in which the authority, their Board partners or other relevant persons have worked together to safeguard the child In addition, an SCR should always be carried out when a child dies in custody, in police custody, on remand or following sentencing, in a Young Offender Institution, in a secure training centre or a secure children's home, or where the child was detained under the Mental Health Act 2005. This includes cases where a child died by suspected suicide.
Critical Incident / Serious Incident Reviews	Criteria for an SCR not met, however, it is felt by agencies, that due to the circumstances, an alternative multi-agency review should be undertaken (the decision will be that of the SCR Sub Group based upon the information recorded and submitted on the 'Referral Form for Consideration of a Case Review')
Best Practice Reviews	There cannot be any tight criteria for this type of review. Where an agency feels that there are examples of good multi-agency practice demonstrated in a particular case which would provide good learning opportunities and positive outcomes for children, the case should be submitted to the SCR Sub Group for consideration of a good practice review.

The Group has also introduced a Case Review Notification Process where, in line with the above criteria, agencies can notify the Group of cases they feel warrant a case review. The Group are then presented with the outline circumstances of the case and make a decision as to whether a case review is required. This process has an audit trail in order to record not only the decision but also the rationale.

In 2013-14, the Group received 12 notifications from which no Serious Case Reviews were recommended or undertaken, 7 management reviews were undertaken and in the other 5, the outcomes were not to review as the issues presented were themes that were already being addressed through findings from other recent or ongoing reviews.

The decision on the type or style of review undertaken is taken by the Chair of the Sub Group and takes into account the nature of the case and the agencies involved. The outcome will be proportionate to the case presented.

The key themes from the findings of the case reviews are signed off by the Sub Group and, in line with the KSCB's Learning and Improvement Framework, are shared with the Learning and Development and Quality and Effectiveness Sub Groups. They are also circulated to Board members and cascaded to operational staff. The findings assist in informing the development of the KSCB Training Programme and themed multi-agency audits to check if practice is changing as a result of the training. Findings from Case Reviews have been used to inform the KSCB Strategic Priorities and multi-agency audit programme and are published on the KSCB website.

Learning and Development Sub Group

KSCB has a responsibility to develop policies and procedures in relation to: "... training of persons who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children ... to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of training, including multi-agency training, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children". (*Working Together, 2013*)

What We Did

With oversight from the Learning and Development Sub Group, a comprehensive multi-agency training programme was developed and delivered by KSCB during 2013/14. Issues from local and national Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) and other case reviews were analysed, considered and incorporated to ensure that the content of the training programme related to emerging issues of concern, as well as to core safeguarding learning, that all practitioners working with children and their families need to understand.

Number of E-Learning sessions offered	18	No of attendees	2,037
Number of Face-to-Face sessions offered	87	No of attendees	1,765
Number of Bespoke sessions delivered	74	No of attendees	1,664
KSCB Annual Conference		No of attendees	266
Total number of training sessions offered	179	Total attendees	5,732

Although safeguarding children is everyone's business, it can be difficult to reach all professionals in the county who require training. In order to meet the needs of our diverse workforce across all Districts, the training programme for 2013/14 was differentiated to incorporate:

E-learning

KSCB's suite of 14 modules can be used as stand-alone learning or as a pre-learning tool to maximise the effectiveness of face-to-face training so that learners acquire a good understanding of the subject matter. All courses are certificated and evaluated. In 2013/14, 2,037 practitioners successfully completed this learning and new topics that support and relate to existing learning are being identified.

Face-to-Face Training

KSCB has an established 'College of Trainers' comprising a range of multi-agency practitioners who have successfully completed the KSCB 'Train the Trainer' Course. Sixteen new trainers were recruited in 2013/14 to support the delivery of face-to-face training. 87 training sessions covering 18 topics were delivered to 1,765 practitioners from 36 different agencies in this period, including voluntary sector partners and foster carers.

In addition, KSCB delivers 'bespoke' single agency training to organisations at their own premises on request. In this way, all stakeholders are encouraged to develop the safeguarding knowledge of their staff. During the period in question, KSCB delivered 74 safeguarding training sessions to 54 individual organisations.

Immersive Learning

MAX Immersive Learning is a computer-based training simulation that is unique to KSCB in which participants interact with each other to discuss and deal with emerging issues in an evolving scenario. This innovative training gives delegates the opportunity to collectively decide the most appropriate course of action in relation to a safeguarding scenario and to understand the priorities and decision-making processes of partner agencies.

In 2013/14, 8 training sessions took place, enabling practitioners to explore the subjects of Child Abuse and Neglect, and Child Sexual Exploitation and Online Safety in some depth. Additionally KSCB worked in partnership with NHS England to develop and deliver a bespoke Safeguarding session for members of Kent's Clinical Commissioning Groups. Feedback from these courses has been extremely positive and new topics are currently under development.

Additional Learning Opportunities

KSCB further enhanced the learning and development of local practitioners by:

- hosting 7 Area Workshops on Domestic Abuse and Learning from SCRs
- offering formal and informal learning opportunities at KSCB's Annual Conference
- developing the content of KSCB's website so that Practitioners can use it to access safeguarding information and advice.

A summary of KSCB learning and development activity and overall attendance figures from 2013/14 appears at Appendix C

What was our impact?

All KSCB training is evaluated by participants and an evaluation summary produced for both KSCB and the Trainer. Evaluation forms have been revised to determine not only the quality of the training but also the level of learning of those concerned before and after the session and any additional training required.

Although at an early stage of development, this amalgamated information has already helped us to adjust the content of courses and to target specific audiences. Information shared by participants during training in respect of additional support required is shared with relevant agencies.

KSCB also commissioned Christ Church Canterbury University to research how best its new immersive learning can be evaluated. The resulting report was presented to the Learning and Development Sub Group in February and recommendations will now be implemented.

Angela Slaven – Director of Service Improvement Education and Young People's Services

The Youth Offending Teams across Kent during 2013/14 continued to prioritise the ambition of reducing the number of young people entering the criminal justice system and the downward trend supports this effort. This has been achieved through strong collaborative work with the Kent Police with the establishment of restorative justice practice at the heart of interventions with young people.

What will we do next?

With a constantly evolving children's workforce in one of the largest Local Authority in the UK, KSCB will be further developing its training programme and working with partners to collaboratively deliver effective learning to all practitioners working with children, young people and their families. We aim to:

- Ensure that the KSCB Strategic Priorities and learning from the KSCB Case Reviews and multi-agency audits undertaken inform the future training programme content
- Increase the number of bespoke training sessions delivered by engaging new organisations
- Develop the range of face-to-face training topics in partnership with statutory and voluntary stakeholders
- Increase the skills and knowledge of KSCB's College of Trainers
- Extend our immersive learning offer
- Further diversify the means by which training is delivered, using technology to best effect
- Explore more opportunities to work collaboratively with partners
- Further develop collaboration with Early Help colleagues
- Develop our evaluation methods to inform the Training Cycle.

Trafficking and Child Sexual Exploitation Sub Group

Trafficking

Concerns for children and young people who are trafficked into the UK are high on our agenda. Because of additional vulnerabilities within Kent around our ports and international rail stations, we commissioned an independent review of our procedures to help us to identify areas of good practice and also to look for ways of improving our protection of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people who arrive at our border. As a result of this report we have made changes to our assessment procedures and are working with multi agency partners, including police, social care and UK Border Force to improve the service that we offer. We are also expanding our work and support for EU young people who can travel in and out of the country with fewer restrictions, but may lead to increased vulnerability.

During the year we recorded 229 as at 31st March 2014 UASC who entered the UK and needed our support.

We have an ongoing awareness-raising training programme for frontline staff around the issues of Trafficking.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Following the well-publicised cases from other local authorities, Kent has taken the learning from these reports to inform its own response to CSE. Kent commissioned Barnardos to explore CSE in Kent and develop an informed approach to address specific issues within Kent. As a result of this, a risk assessment toolkit and CSE awareness training programme has been developed, for frontline staff across Kent to support them in identifying the signs of CSE and what to do when it is suspected.

So far 350 practitioners have received this training, with regular ongoing events being offered. Kent Police are working towards producing a CSE profile for Kent.

Tim Smith - Kent Police.

Safeguarding children is the responsibility of all Police officers. Particular responsibility falls to the Kent Police Public Protection Unit (PPU). The PPU manages the safeguarding of children on a number of levels. The multi-agency Central Referral Unit (CRU) coordinates the response to initial safeguarding referrals and notifications. Combined Safeguarding Teams on each police Division are responsible for joint working to protect children and investigate abuse.

PPU resources are available 24 hours a day and provide advice and guidance on child protection issues to other staff. PPU has developed improved practices for Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) investigations, missing children and in particular information sharing regarding children involved in domestic abuse.

The coordination of the response to missing children between police, children's services, other agencies and voluntary partners remains a challenge for the Board in 2014/15. Police are in a position to share information on a daily basis but the management of that information and response by other key partners, particularly regarding the return interviews of missing children and the associated intelligence capture, is an area for development in 2014/15.

Missing Children

In response to the Ofsted Thematic Report, 2013, and the Department for Education Statutory Guidance, 2014, Kent has set up a dedicated Missing Children Task and Finish Group to undertake a comprehensive review on the reporting, recording and response to children and young people who go missing in Kent. Following a comprehensive self assessment using the recommendations from the earlier mentioned reports, multi-agency work is underway to address those areas identified as falling short of expectations as well as ensuring best practice is implemented. This work links to that being undertaken on Child Sexual Exploitation. Kent has signed up to The Children Society Runaways Charter and changes to policy and procedures are being planned and implemented for 2014/15, together with awareness raising for staff to ensure links to other areas of concern are identified and appropriate support is offered to all children and young people who go missing from home or care. This work will also provide us with a greater understanding of the countywide picture of children who go missing.

Patricia Denney – Assistant Director, Safeguarding Unit, Specialist Children's Services

Following an Ofsted Inspection in 2010, Kent Safeguarding Services were graded as inadequate and an Improvement Notice was put in place. In 2013, Ofsted undertook two inspections looking specifically at Safeguarding and Looked after children. These inspections evidenced an improvement journey for children and their families that meant they were better protected and outcomes were vastly improved.

Action plans from the Ofsted inspections were developed. A number of actions have been completed and others remain part of ongoing work. Kent Specialist Children's Services continue on an improvement journey which will be further tested at the fourth improvement review due to be undertaken in June/July 2014. There is regular reporting to the Children Services Improvement Panel, Corporate Parenting Panel and the Kent Safeguarding Children Board.

Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy Group (KMDASG)

To increase practitioner knowledge KSCB, together with the KMDASG, has developed and delivered multi-agency domestic abuse training for practitioners to improve their knowledge and understanding of the impact that domestic abuse can have on children and young people, and the way that they respond to and work with children who have been in households where there has been Domestic Abuse.

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) provides a formal process, hosted by Kent Police, where confidential information can be shared appropriately to aid in the prevention, detection and reduction of crime, including the protection of vulnerable people; this includes victims of domestic abuse. Their reports are regularly presented to the KSCB Quality and Effectiveness Sub group and Domestic Abuse will continue to feature in the KSCB priorities. As part of its quality assurance role, KSCB will be undertaking audits on service involvement with families where there are repeat DV incidents and where children are present.

The KSCB Business Unit is represented on both the operational and strategic Domestic Abuse groups.

Karen Proctor - Kent Community Health NHS Trust (KCHT)

We have continued to work closely with our partners in Kent Social Care services, to ensure that our staff, who work predominantly with children and their families, understand the multi-agency thresholds that have been developed to help them identify and manage safeguarding and child protection concerns.

The continued application of the Common Assessment Framework, by KCHT practitioners, ensures the timely assessment of children and families' needs, which may impact upon their health/wellbeing and, where required, early and intensive support being arranged to address their specific needs.

The Children in Care Nursing Service has continued to maintain the uptake of statutory review health assessments within the required timescale at 93%. Links with the Family Nurse Partnership, to identify children in care who are pregnant, has been established. Support and advice is given to the young and pregnant individuals which will facilitate the giving and receiving of information to enable the individual young and pregnant individual to make informed decisions and positive lifestyle choices.

Nick Sherlock – Adult Safeguarding

All staff within Social Care, Health and Wellbeing recognise the need to focus on the welfare of any children involved when carrying out assessments.

KSCB Finance Report

In line with the requirements of Working Together 2013, this report outlines the KSCB financial contributions from partners and its expenditure. Working Together states:

“All LSCB member organisations have an obligation to provide LSCBs with reliable resources (including finance) that enable the LSCB to be strong and effective. Members should share the financial responsibility for the LSCB in such a way that a disproportionate burden does not fall on a small number of partner agencies.”

A breakdown of the 2013/14 finances and the projected expenditure for 2014/15 is attached at Appendix D.

During 2013/14, contributions from partners reduced to £250k from £300k in 2012/13. The variable income (grants, training and residual funds) totalled £865k, making the total income £1,111,000, a reduction of £174k on last year. With a total income of £1,111,000 and expenditure of £425k, this ensures that the overall costs of running KSCB were met as they could not have been covered solely by contributing partners.

With regard to the reserve, this has been raised with Board and Executive Group members and a programme was agreed on how this reserve is to be reduced. It is projected that, through an anticipation of a gradual reduction in Partner contributions and reduction in grants, the Board should have a break even working budget, (with a small reserve to cover the costs of any future Serious Case Review (s)) within three years.

Sally Allum - NHS England

NHS England is committed to partnership working to safeguard children, young people and adults at risk of abuse at all levels. We have worked closely with our CCG colleagues in providing professional leadership and expertise including the responsibility of named professionals for safeguarding children. We have and will continue to lead with partner agencies on the implementation of national policies to prevent child sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation, sexual violence and domestic abuse.

Our strong engagement with partner agencies has supported partnership working in priority areas such as children and young people’s mental health. We have taken a collaborative working approach to sustain improvements and share learning from serious case reviews. We continue to actively work to improve and deliver training for GPs in order that they really understand what safeguarding means and how and when to raise a concern.

What next? - Strategic Priorities 2014/15

Priority 1

Co-ordinate, monitor and challenge the effectiveness of local arrangements for the quality and appropriateness of early help and preventative services.

To address this priority detailed actions will focus on:

- Ensuring there is an embedded awareness and understanding of the Kent threshold document
- Continuing to develop safeguarding policies and procedures in line with Working Together 2013
- Ensuring effective early help is provided at the CAF/TAF stage of support
- Undertaking consistent and holistic assessments
- How early help and early intervention features in mental health support for young people
- Effective participation of all partners
- Ensuring that the voice of children and their families are listened to, and influence practice and services

Priority 2

Ensure multi-agency and joined up working which protects and supports children with specific vulnerabilities, including the provision of timely and appropriate services.

To address this priority detailed actions will focus on the following groups of vulnerable young people, although this is not an exhaustive list:

- Missing young people
- CSE young people
- Those being trafficked
- Those affected by gangs
- Those affected by 'on line' safety and those at risk of on line threats
- Those with emotional health vulnerability, at all levels
- Children with disabilities, including those with autism
- Victims of sexual abuse
- Victims/perpetrators of domestic abuse
- Those bullying or being bullied

Priority 3

Develop a family focused approach in relation to substance misuse, mental health problems and domestic abuse.

This will be developed into an action plan to focus on:

- The impact on children and young people and what happens next as a result
- The impact of working between adults and children's services
- The knowledge of staff of these specialist areas

Priority 4

Provide evidenced assurance to the KSCB through robust monitoring, scrutiny and challenge, that multi-agency safeguarding practices are improving and there is ongoing learning and development for staff.

To address this priority detailed actions will focus on:

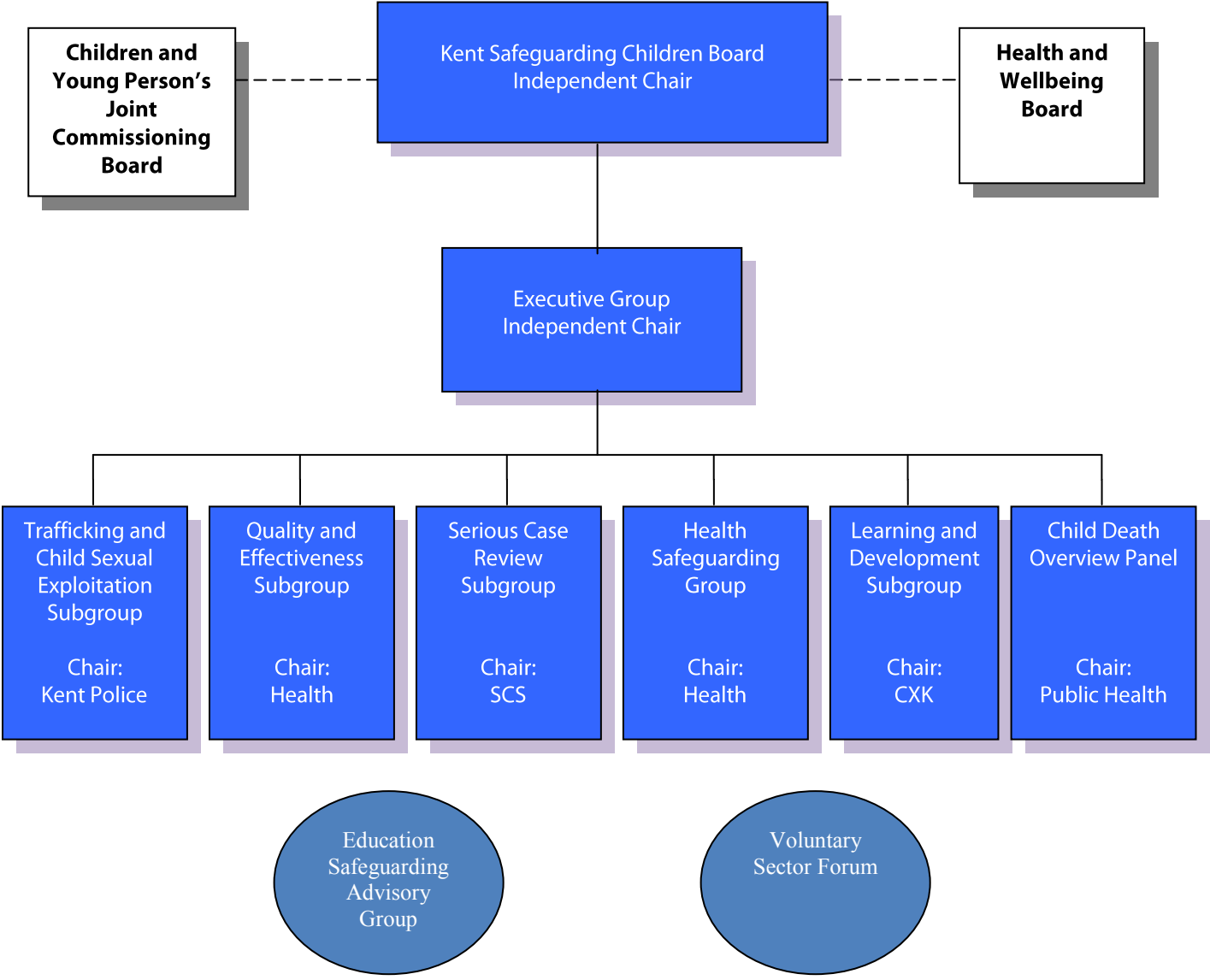
- Implementation of the Quality Assurance Framework
- Implementation of the Case Review processes
- Implementing a robust multi-agency audit programme
- Lessons learnt from case reviews and audits
- Learning from CDOP reviews
- Implementation of the Learning and Improvement Framework
- Response to Ofsted Review Framework
- Reporting from each KSCB Sub Group
- Feedback to staff

Key threads that run through all priorities:

- Voice of the Child
- Multi-agency partnership working (including the voluntary and community sectors)
- Lessons are identified and learned from case reviews and multi-agency audits undertaken and the monitoring of the implementation of recommendations (Learning and Improvement Framework)
- Knowledge and understanding of the children's workforce

The KSCB Business Plan for 2014/15 outlines key activity that will be undertaken to address these priorities. This Business Plan can be found on the KSCB website www.kscb.org.uk

Structure of Kent Safeguarding Children Board (2013/14)



This Chart reflect the Board structure and links from 2013/14.

Kent Safeguarding Children Board Membership (2013/14)

Member	Role	Agency
Maggie Blyth/Gill Rigg	Independent Chair	KSCB
Aisha Paulose	Named GP for Safeguarding Children	NHS England
Andrew Ireland	Corporate Director	Families and Social Care, KCC
Meradin Peachy	Director of Public Health	KCC
Angela Slaven	Director of Service Improvement	Education and Young People's Services, KCC
Bethan Haskins	Chief Nurse – NHS Ashford CCG and NHS Canterbury & Coastal CCG	Clinical Commissioning Groups
Jay Pye	Executive Headteacher	Loose Schools Federation
Jenny Whittle	Cabinet Member	Specialist Children's Services, KCC
Julie Pearce	Chief Nurse & Director of Quality and Operations	East Kent Hospitals University Foundation Trust
Karen Proctor	Director of Nursing and Quality	Kent Community Health Trust
Mairead MacNeil	Director for Specialist Children's Services	Specialist Children's Services, KCC
Mike Stevens	Lay Member	KSCB
Nadeem Aziz	Chief Executive	Dover District Council
Nick Sherlock	Head of Adult Safeguarding	KCC
Mark Gurrey / Mark Wheeler / Patricia Denney	Assistant Director of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance	Specialist Children's Services, KCC
Patrick Leeson	Corporate Director	Education and Young People's Services, KCC
Roger Sykes	Lay Member	KSCB
Sally Allum	Director of Nursing and Quality	NHS England
Sean Kearns	Chief Executive	CXK Limited
Stephen Bell	Director of Business Improvement	CXK Limited
Steve Hunt	Head of Service	CAFCASS Kent
Tim Smith	Detective Superintendent	Public Protection Unit, Kent Police
Tina Hughes	Acting Director North Kent LDU	National Probation Service

KSCB Learning and Development activity from 2013/14

Training	Number of sessions/ modules	Topic
E-Learning (Level 2)	18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect (Introduction) • Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect (Foundation) • Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect (Core) • Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect (Police) • Basic Awareness of Domestic Abuse Including the Impact on Children and Young People • Child Development • Cultural Awareness in Safeguarding • Hidden Harm • Parental Mental Health • Safer Recruiting • Safeguarding Children from Abuse by Sexual Exploitation • Safeguarding Children with Disabilities • Safeguarding Children - Refresher Training • Teenage Pregnancy
Face-to-Face Level 2 (9 Topics)	45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Protection Basic Awareness • Safeguarding Children with Disabilities • Attachment Theory – Introduction • Safeguarding Sexually Active Young People • E-safety – Basic Awareness • Understanding Thresholds and the Referral Process • Child Trafficking • Child Sexual Exploitation • Self-Harm - Introduction
Face-to-Face Level 3 (9 Topics)	42	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug User Screening Tool (DUST) • Participating in Child Protection Conferences, a New Approach • Safeguarding in Cases of Physical and Emotional Neglect • Child Protection for Designated Staff • Child Protection for Line Managers • Parental Mental Health and the Impact on Children and Young People • Self-Harm – Intermediate • Engaging with Hostile and Resistant Families • Fabricated and Induced illness • Transition from Early years to Adolescence
Immersive Learning (Level 3)	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Abuse and Neglect • Child Sexual Exploitation and Online Safety • Safeguarding - CCGs
Area Workshops	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Abuse & the Impact on Children & Young People
Area Workshops	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning from Serious Case Reviews
KSCB Annual Conference	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Young People - Transition, Engagement and Resilience” Attended by 280 multi-agency partners
KSCB Website	Information on a range of subjects for multi-agency partners	

KSCB Annual Report 2013/14 – Finance Report

Expenditure	2013/14	Projected 2014/15
Staff		
Salaries	294,233.22	370,000.00
Staff expenses	4,479.83	5,000.00
Staff training and development	1,479.24	6,000.00
Equipment	6,491.38	2,000.00
Total Staff expenditure	306,683.67	383,000.00
Business Unit support		
Printing, publications and promotions	1,995.54	3,000.00
Room hire and refreshments – Board and Sub Groups	10,039.66	7,500.00
Stationery	404.85	500.00
KSCB website and on line procedures	5,283.50	6,000.00
Total Business Support expenditure	17,723.55	17,000.00
Board expenditure		
Independent Chair	24,325.85	28,000.00
External consultants	8,701.70	5,000.00
Lay members	200.00	200.00
Case Reviews	6,800.00	16,000.00
Audits	4,518.75	2,500.00
Total Board expenditure	44,546.30	51,700.00
Training		
Room hire and refreshments	5,913.22	10,000.00
External trainers	16,000.00	5,000.00
Annual conference	10,000.00	12,000.00
E-Learning subscriptions	10,000.00	12,000.00
Specialist Training	4,269.98	65,000.00
CPD subscription	9,994.00	12,000.00
Total Training expenditure	56,177.20	116,000.00
Total expenditure	425,130.72	567,700.00

Income	2013/14	Projected 2014/15
Residual funds	-600,679.08	-686,230.91
Partner contributions	-250,524.00	-248,134.00
Total Partner Contributions/Residual Funds	-851,203.08	-934,364.91
Training - Bespoke	-27,775.25	-30,000.00
Training – cancellations/non-attendance charges	-18,383.30	-9,000.00
Total training income	-46,158.55	-39,000.00
KCC base funding	-199,000.00	-200,300.00
Receipts in advance	-15,000.00	
NHS GP training funding		-55,000.00
Total Income	-1,111,361.63	-1,228,664.91

Total Income	-1,111,361.63	-1,228,664.91
Total expenditure	425,130.72	567,700.00
Residual funds to carry forward to next financial year	-686,230.91	-660,964.91

Partner Contributions - breakdown

Agency	Contribution
Education Safeguarding	40,167.00
YOS	8,000.00
CSS	40,157.00
Kent Probations Service	6,276.00
Kent Police Authority	50,000.00
CAFCASS	550.00
Connexions (CXK)	10,000.00
Kent CCG	90,374.00
Kent Fire and Rescue Service	5,000.00
Total	£250,524

The logo features a circle of five stylized human figures in red, purple, orange, yellow, and blue, arranged in a ring. To the right of this graphic, the text "Kent Safeguarding Children Board" is written in a green, sans-serif font.

Kent Safeguarding Children Board



**Kent Safeguarding Children Board
Room 2.60
Sessions House
Maidstone**

01622 694859

www.kscb.org.uk

By: Sophia Dunstan – Apprentice Participation Worker – Virtual School Kent
Subject: Apprentice Participation – Virtual School Kent
To: County Council – 17th July 2014
Classification: Unrestricted

(1) I am Sophia Dunstan an Apprentice Participation Worker with the Virtual School Kent and have been asked to write a report on the behalf of the VSK Apprentice Team and the Children in Care Council (OCYPC.)

(2) As senior apprentice my main duties and responsibilities are:

- To act as a good role model to Children in Care (CiC), supporting their positive behaviour and to have a positive influence on VSK service delivery.
- Provide direct support to Children in Care on an individual or group basis to develop confidence in expressing their own views. To inform senior management, members and other professionals to improve the service delivered to Children in Care.
- Provide direct support to Children in Care at times of transition (such as change of placement or school) under the supervision of other professionals.
- To provide support and assist with training newly recruited apprentices.
- To encourage and promote Children in Care's participation & involvement in the completion of the young person's section of the ePep, by supporting them on a one to one or small group basis either in school or at their foster placement.
- To take a lead role in facilitating and supporting the Children in Care Council.
- To take a lead role in planning, and to participate actively on residential trips and participation days for Children in Care.
- Identify, and provide active support to Children in Care when they participate in interview panels. (i.e. to attend panels with the child.)
- Take a lead role in representing the county on a local, regional and national level and to attend professional regional groups to feed into the Government office agenda relating to all new Government initiatives regarding young people.
- To assist in the editing, design and administration of the VSK website.
- To prepare reports and presentations and flyers on behalf of the Children in Care Council.
- To fulfil the criteria of the required NVQ qualification. To attend all VSK service events and other training/workshops as required. To ensure that all records are kept up to date and are accurate
- To work cooperatively with VSK staff and in partnership with professionals from other areas and organisations.

(3) As Senior Apprentice and Chair of the 'Our Children and Young People's Council (OCYPC)' it's my duty to share the views and opinions of Children and Young People in care. As a care leaver myself I know some of the common challenges and problems most young people growing up in the care system face. As Chair of the OCYPC I also sit on the Corporate Parenting Panel which gives me the opportunity to represent all children and

young people's views on being in care and on the services they receive by the local authority. I really feel this is beneficial to all young people as well as the corporate parents as it bridges the gap of communication with young people and senior officers and members.

(4) This also helps enforce the 'You Said, We Did' policy which shows Children and Young People the outcome of their views and opinions and what you the corporate parents have done to change them for the better.

'Care to Listen' DVD

(5) In 2008 Kent County Council produced a DVD which featured Children and Young People to get their views on what it was like to be in care, and what their experiences of how they came into the Care System were. They also gave their opinions on what their experiences were of being a Child in Care.

(6) The main things that came out of the DVD that Children and Young People felt needed to be improved were:

- To be talked WITH and not ABOUT
- Not to be moved around from home to home too much
- A 'buddy' system to help them through everyday life in care
- More upfront information about the families they are going to be placed with

(7) At the beginning of 2014 we were asked to make a second edition of the 'Care to Listen' DVD to see what has changed in the last six years since the last one was made. We enlisted the help of our Children in Care Council and other Children in Care to feature on the DVD to give more up to date views on their experiences. We also went back to interview some of the original Children and Young People who were on the DVD now they are older and if they still have the same views as they did before.

(8) In the DVD it shows that some things have changed but there is still room for improvement.

Your Voice Matters Survey

(9) A survey of children in care in Kent, which had been co-designed and tested by the children themselves, was undertaken in the spring of 2014. The survey was responded to by 326 children across the age ranges of 7 to 16+. The Business Intelligence Unit have analysed the results.

(10) **These are the key findings of the Your Voice Matters survey:**

Positive feedback:

- Most children know who their social worker is and can talk to them about their problems, but some (particularly those aged 16+) do not feel able to contact them.
- The majority of children feel they can speak to a caring adult if they are unhappy or have a problem, usually this is a carer or parent, but teachers and social workers/case workers are also important.

- The majority of younger children reported that they get help from their teacher to learn and have friends to play with all or some of the time.

Areas of concern:

- Access to Children in Care nurses can be a problem, particularly for the 16+ age group, where 18% report not knowing how to speak to a nurse.
- There was a low awareness amongst the 11 to 15 year olds of the role of the independent reviewing officer (IRO) and also nearly one third of these children did not know how to speak to their IRO.
- Similarly, over a quarter of care leavers did not know how to contact their support worker.
- Over a quarter of care leavers did not have trust and confidence in their social worker.
- Around half of children did not have a copy of their care plan, and many felt they do not have a say in what goes into their care plan.
- Around 17% of care leavers did not feel safe or only sometimes felt safe where they live.
- A number of children told us that they do not like completing surveys and they feel that they are asked too many questions.

Leaving Care Charter

(11) The Department for Education created a charter which is a set of promises that help in decision making but do not replace laws. The principles in this charter have been developed by young people leaving care. By signing up to it, local authorities promise to provide a range of support for care leavers into their adult life.

(12) The key principles in this Charter will remain constant through any changes in Legislation, Regulation and Guidance. Care leavers urge local authorities to use these principles when they make decisions about young people's lives. The Charter for Care Leavers is designed to raise expectation, aspiration and understanding of what care leavers need and what the government and local authorities should do to be good Corporate Parents.

(13) The government asked that all local authorities' sign up to the Care Leavers Charter and Kent County Council were keen to do so. This resulted in the Corporate Parenting Panel asking for Kent to have their own Care Leavers Charter for Children and Care Leavers in Kent.

(14) The government's Charter was taken to the 16+ forum and had input from other focus groups which were attended by Care Leavers to tailor it and make it more young people friendly for the Care Leavers in Kent.

The screen shot below shows what Kent's Care Leavers Charter looks like:

As you are a Kent Care Leaver we specifically promise to:

- If you are eligible, make sure you are able to get a passport, and arrange for your National Insurance number to be issued
- Help and support your progress in education, both in further education and at university
- Find you somewhere safe to live and provide the necessary support you need to live independently. Up until you are 21, help you with council tax and make sure you don't lose out on housing benefit if you are in education, training or low-paid employment
- If you are at uni, support you with a financial package that includes the government bursary
- If you have a disability, make sure that you have your own 'communication passport' that tells others how you communicate and how they can communicate with you
- If you need to move to Adult Services, make sure the move is as smooth as possible

You can obtain a list of what you are entitled to from your Social Worker or Personal Advisor

Help us to celebrate your achievements by keeping in touch, and tell us when you need help, sooner, rather than later



Things not going right?

What should you do if you don't think these promises are being met:

You can always speak to your Social Worker
Or
You can ask for an advocate (this is a person who is independent of Kent County Council who can speak on your behalf and help make sure your voice is heard).

You Can Contact:

Voice Telephone: **0808 800 5792**
Email: help@voiceyp.org

NYAS Telephone **0300 330 3131**
Email: help@nyas.net

Our Children and Young People's Council is a group of young people in care or leaving care who meet up with Participation Worker Apprentices from the Virtual School Kent.

The meetings give young people the chance to have their say on what they feel needs to be improved and what they want changed about the care system.

To find out more: Telephone **01227 284490**
Email: VSK_participation@kent.gov.uk





Our promise to you

Kent's Charter for Care Leavers



Leaving care can be a difficult time

Kent County Council as your 'Corporate Parent' can be there to guide and support you through it.

This Charter is Kent County Council's promise to you to help support you when you leave care. It follows on from the KCC Pledge made to Children and Young People in the Care of Kent. We are committed to ensuring that you, as a Care Leaver have access to the best possible chances in life when making the transition from being in care to independence.

Some of you will be going through the immigration process, we will ensure you are supported with this. You will also be able to contact us after the service to you closes for any advice and support you may need.



Let us support you to achieve your ambitions and aspirations in education, training and employment.

Here is Kent's charter to you as you leave care. We promise to listen, support and guide you to grow into healthy, happy and successful young adults. We can do this by working together.

We will respect you and honour your identity as an individual, taking into consideration your own values, beliefs and personal needs

We will make sure we ask you about important decisions that need to be made

We will value and support, where appropriate, relationships that are important to you

We will give you support throughout your education, training and employment to give you the chance to succeed

We will work with other services for any changes in the law that affect the lives of young people

We will try to minimise any changes to placements or workers

If we don't agree with you, we will fully explain why, and we will be honest with you

We will believe in you. We will support your future plans and help you to achieve them

We want to help you to be where you want to be. We will make sure we give you the information that you need at every stage in your move to adulthood

We will point you in the right direction and help you move along at your own pace

We will keep you safe and well by making sure where you live is safe and the right place for you. We will give you the right guidance to live a healthy life

We will listen and work alongside you with a pathway plan to ensure your readiness for independent living

We will take the time to listen to you and do our best to give the right advice if things aren't going well for you

We will help and support you to keep in touch with family and friends as much as possible whilst considering your safety and well-being. We will help you manage changing relationships or come to terms with loss, trauma or other important life events

We will continue to be there for you, so get in touch with us if you need to

The Kent Pledge

(15) There has been some confusion amongst Children in Care and Young People about what the Kent Pledge actually is. We have decided that we should re-launch the pledge and re-design the flyers to make it more appealing for young people to read so therefore it would be more of an interest for them to look at.

(16) We haven't changed any of the commitments that the Council have already signed up to but the OCYPC have reviewed and revised the leaflet so the Pledge is conveyed to young people in a more appealing, user friendly way.

(17) We have also been running workshops around Kent with Children in Care to create a DVD on what the Kent Pledge is and what it means for them. There is also a Kent Pledge rap on our radio station on the Kent Cares Town Website to help get the message out there.

(18) I ask that as you all are Corporate Parents that you sign up to the Care Leavers Charter and Kent Pledge. There are boards outside the chamber for you to sign up.

We need your support.

Sophia Dunstan – 03/07/2014

Apprentice Participation Worker – Virtual School Kent

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