

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

MINUTES of a meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Monday, 16 May 2022.

PRESENT: Mr R W Gough (Chairman), Mrs C Bell, Mr D L Brazier, Mrs S Chandler, Mr P M Hill, OBE, Mr D Murphy, Mr P J Oakford, Mrs S Prendergast and Mr B J Sweetland

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

1. Apologies and Substitutes

(Item 1)

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Minutes of the Meetings held on 31 March 2022 and 21 April 2022

(Item 3)

Resolved that the minutes of the meetings held on 31 March 2022 and 21 April 2022 were a correct record and that they be signed by the Chair.

3. Cabinet Member Updates

(Item 4)

1) Mrs Bell said the Covid-19 routine symptom-free testing had ended at the beginning of April 2022 so KCC was reliant on a handful of indicators for Covid-19 surveillance, such as the national Covid-19 Infection Survey which only reported at south east level. Overall, indicators had shown declining trends in both infection rates and of patients in hospital with or because of Covid-19.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) Survey figures up to the 30 April for the south east of England showed an estimated 2.2% of the population were infected with Covid-19, half the rate that had been recorded on 19 April. ONS rates by age showed infections were higher in older people, with 2.8% of over 50s infected compared to 1% of secondary education age children and 1.3% of primary education age children.

The number of care home staff and residents testing positive had continued to fall. The rolling 7-day average positive test count on 2 May was 5.4% for staff and 4.1% for residents.

People in hospital with Covid-19 had remained steady at 150 per day, down from 450 in late March 2022 and the majority were aged over 55. A daily average of 5 mechanically ventilated hospital beds were in use by Covid patients over the previous week. Weekly deaths from Covid-19 had continued to be at a nominal level. Sample sequencing for Kent showed BA.2 as the dominant strain.

The adult social care white paper was discussed at the last meeting of Cabinet. The Leader and Mrs Bell had written to Kent's MPs sharing the Cabinet report, asking them to support the call for adequate funding for the reforms and sharing the view that consideration should be given to delaying the implementation of the reforms by 6 months.

Mental Health Awareness Week took place between 9 and 15 May 2022 with the theme of 'loneliness'. Community Support Services, Live Well Kent and Kent Sheds reminded residents of the help available and activities took place online and in person at various locations across the county.

Live Well Kent is a network of community mental health and wellbeing support services delivered by charities, Porchlight and Shaw Trust, for KCC and NHS Kent and Medway CCG. The Kent Sheds Programme was set up specifically to combat loneliness, social isolation and mental health problems. KCC's Mental Health Champions, Andrew Kennedy and Jordan Meade, visited Sheds in Faversham and West Malling. Information on the support available was on KCC's website at kent.gov.uk/everymindmatters

2) Mrs Chandler said she had the opportunity to meet the Children's Social Work Teams in Swale and Gravesham and had listened to some of the issue that social workers were facing. The impact of Covid-19 and lockdowns were still being felt by frontline workers. The Covid-19 pandemic had taken a toll on children and families and this was reflected in the complexity of cases. Other agencies were only just returning to full capacity and were also still impacted by the pandemic. A letter had been written by Baroness Hallett, the Chair of the Covid-19 public inquiry to the Prime Minister asking for the Terms of Reference to be expanded to include the impact on children and young people. Thanks were given to KCC's Children's Social Work Teams for their continued hard work and dedication.

Ofsted were carrying out a routine inspection of KCC's Children's Services.

Thanks were given to Caroline Smith and her team for their organisation of the Education, Training and Employment Care Leaver event on 28 April 2022. As Corporate Parents, KCC supported over 2000 care leavers and it was a fantastic opportunity to be joined by some of those at the beginning of their careers and to look at how to support these young adults to fulfil their full potential. KCC was also present as an employer together with many external businesses and pledges were made by all those attending, some corporate and others personal. For example, one young person was given sponsorship for his kit having joined a football academy.

The Children's, Young People and Education (CYPE) directorate had supported Mental Health Awareness Week by championing the app for Kooth, a widely used online mental wellbeing community.

Matt Dunkley, Director of CYPE, was to retire. Mrs Chandler and the Leader expressed their thanks and appreciation for the work he had done as Director.

3) Mrs Prendergast said thanks to Matt Dunkley and wished him well for his retirement.

KCC had challenges regarding the overspend on the high needs dedicated schools grant, used to support children with SEN. There was an accumulated overspend of over £100 million. KCC had been invited to take part in a 'safety valve' intervention programme conducted by the Department for Education (DfE). The programme was intended to support those councils with the highest High Needs Dedicated Schools Grant deficits in the development of a deficit recovery plan, aimed at reforming the high needs system and moving the local authority to a sustainable footing as quickly as possible, along with agreeing additional funding to help pay off the deficit.

The initial meeting with the DfE was expected to take place by the end of May 2022 and would inform KCC's approach in both the further development of the plan, aligning it with the SEN Strategy and finalising the financial agreement with the DfE in the coming months.

KCC was taking the lead in developing a co-constructed action plan to help young people achieve their goals after they leave school by providing better pathways to post-16 education, skills and training. This followed the in depth review into the post-16 offer in the county commissioned by KCC to develop a shared and deeper understanding of the issues facing both young people and education, skills and training providers. Students, their parents, schools, colleges and training providers were amongst the many people who took part in the interviews, surveys and consultation work of the review. The findings from the review offered a unique and up-to-date insight into the challenges and experiences of young people and post-16 providers. Mrs Prendergast had been very encouraged by the participation in the review and the response to the findings, conclusions and recommendations. There was a clear desire and commitment across the sector to look afresh at post-16 qualifications. The DfE had published a list of qualifications which were at risk due to overlap with T-levels. Collaboration was important in improving the offer and experience for young people.

Families had continued to arrive in Kent through the Ukraine Family Scheme and Homes for Ukraine. Schools' admission guidance had been provided to schools and KCC's admission team was supporting individual cases as appropriate. Wider guidance was also available through The Education People. KCC was awaiting further information from the DfE about the funding of education for Ukrainian arrivals.

There was a virtual briefing held for School Governors to outline the key points from the Schools' white paper. There was a lot of interest from governors, seeking clarification on the implications of the paper on schools.

4) Mr Brazier said he had spent much of his time on the plans to reduce subsidies for bus services that the operators do not find to be profitable. KCC had been using its expertise to help schools and others affected by further proposed withdrawals by bus operators which were to take effect in the forthcoming weeks. Bus services to the Spires Academy had been successfully arranged, which otherwise would have been without any services. This was achieved without any cost to KCC.

Mr Brazier visited Dartford to inspect and ride on one of the new electric buses which were to replace the diesel fuelled buses operating the Fasttrack Thameside service and that will comprise the Fastrack bus services from Dover, the infrastructure for which was proceeding at pace.

Mr Brazier met with the Leader, officers and Members of Canterbury City Council to discuss the Local Plan and the radical infrastructure necessary for the Local Plan's implementation.

There were plans to improve Highways and Transport communications with residents. As part of the Live Labs programme of innovation, KCC had engaged with residents and parish councils to determine what they want from an online reporting tool and a prototype had been designed, named Community Central. There would be a 3-month pilot. The totally new and fully functioning reporting tool would be rolled out in due course.

The difficulties on Kent's highways caused by the lack of ferry capacity at Dover and other phenomena had been monitored. There had been lengthy discussions with the management at the Port of Dover about how to make smoother the movement of HGVs within the Port and how to fund the Port's proposals. Mr Brazier and the Corporate Director for Growth, Economic Development and Transport had met with Highways England, Dover District Council and the MP for Dover at a workshop to discuss improvements to access the town from the A2.

Interviews to appoint a Director of Highways and Transport had taken place and an announcement would be made.

5) Miss Carey said the official opening of the Household Waste Recycling Centre at Allington was on 5 May and it was opened to the public on 9 May. 129 residents visited the site on the opening day and bookings had been at around 100 a day. There was capacity for more than 100 visits a day and it was hoped that as news about the new site circulates, there will be more users as it is in a very convenient location and provided a good user experience. The Centre had been nominated for an award, 'best use of design and technology in a waste management facility' at the Letsrecycle Awards for Excellence.

The Solar Together Team were responsible for collective buying of solar panels and battery storage from solar panels and the scheme had been promoted across Kent. The benefit of scale meant that Kent householders were able to obtain these items for less and there had been over 2000 households that had signed contracts to install solar panels and batteries. There was demand from Kent householders who wanted to take advantage of the scheme and it was hoped that there would be other similar schemes in the future.

The new Director of Environment and Waste, Matthew Smyth was welcomed.

6) Mr Murphy said he and the Leader had attended the Business Vision Live event at the County Showground where there were over 400 business stands. It was a very good event with marketing managers, directors and human resources. There were good presentations from Ashford Borough Council and Medway Council about the ways in which they were changing their areas and the new industries being attracted to the areas. There were 3 awards for best stands, of which 2 were awarded to KCC; KCC Libraries and KCC Digital Services stands.

Panattoni had received a top ranking from Property EU for the completion of 74 million ft² of warehouse space over the previous 3 years. Panattoni were constructing warehouse space at Aylesford.

On 13 May, Mr Murphy visited the Workers' League co-working hub in Whitstable. The space was being used in an interesting way with people renting desks and used in the evening as a meeting place for events as well as a restaurant with a licensed bar.

14 Blue Flags were issued by Keep Britain Tidy to beaches in Kent. Dymchurch beach won the Seaside Award for the first time ever. This was good news for the tourist economy.

Greg Hands, Minister of State for Business, Energy and Clean Growth had written to Damien Collins, MP welcoming a meeting to discuss the possibilities of Dungeness becoming a site for the new Rolls Royce small modular reactors. Miss Carey also had a meeting with Kwasi Kwarteng, Secretary of State at the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

7) Mr Hill said the new cultural hub at Tunbridge Wells was opened on 28 April. The Amelia Scott Centre was opened by her great niece, Helen Boyce and offered a new library, museum, archive space, register office, tourist information centre and education centre. It had been a complicated project which had involved temporary relocation of the library and adult education services. Congratulations were given to all involved with the project.

It had been announced that Lullingstone Country Park had been chosen as part of a nationwide network of ancient woodlands to be dedicated to The Queen's Green Canopy in celebration of her Platinum Jubilee. The Queen's Green Canopy consists of 70 ancient woodlands and 70 ancient trees across the UK which will form part of the Ancient Canopy to celebrate Her Majesty's 70 years of service.

8) Mr Sweetland said that at the meeting of Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee on 10 May, Members were given an update on the success of KCC supporting apprenticeships in the county. In the financial year 2021-22, KCC had offered 170 apprenticeships spread across all levels of qualification and we also shared a significant proportion of apprenticeships with 84 other employers in Kent. As an employer, KCC was committed to increasing apprenticeship numbers, including those aged between 16 and 18. 24 new employers had applied to share the levy to support another 108 apprentices to gain qualifications.

With financial difficulties for residents, largely outside of their control, Kent Together had been providing a telephone hotline. The hotline provided advice about what support was available.

It was, as noted, Mental Health Awareness Week between 9 and 15 May and managers have been encouraged to continue to engage with their teams to discuss their mental health and wellbeing. A wide range of support mechanisms were in place to make sure staff remained healthy and able to provide excellent services to residents across Kent. Communications around Mental Health Awareness Week had raised awareness at KCC and all information was on the KCC website and also from the E-newsletter.

4. Strategic Statement *(Item 5)*

David Whittle, Director of Strategy, Policy, Relationships and Corporate Assurance and Jenny Dixon-Sherreard were in attendance for this item

1) The Leader introduced the agenda item.

2) Mr Whittle outlined the report. The draft Strategic Statement built on the work of the interim 5-year plan. There were challenges for KCC around commissioning, the environment and the place and space agenda. It was felt that this was the first Strategic Statement where delivery of priorities was to be carried out through others and by others.

Engagement in the process of drafting the Statement had been significant, and feedback had been reflected on and changes had been made. It had been identified through engagement that staff wanted to see equality considerations foremost in planning arrangements and the corporate equality objectives which were a statutory duty had been included. County Council will be considering the item next week and subject to its approval, an assessment framework was being developed in order to oversee the delivery.

Thanks were given to the team who had worked on the draft Strategic Statement.

3) Further to comments and questions from Members, it was noted:

- Preventative work would be one of the biggest challenges and partnership work would be important moving forward.
- The corporate equality objectives had been included at the start of the statement and this reflected their importance.
- KCC formally acknowledged the Environment and Climate Emergency in 2019; both before and subsequent to this, the local authority had been a key partner.

4) RESOLVED to endorse the recommendation as outlined in the report subject to the wording at point 8 of Priority 3 being clarified to reflect that this refers to household waste and the additional amendment above.

5. Schools White Paper

(Item 6)

Christine McInnes, Director for Education and Mark Walker, Director for SEND were in attendance for this item.

1) Mrs Prendergast introduced the report.

2) Ms McInnes outlined the presentation (attached).

3) Further to questions and comments from Members, it was noted:

- The ambition was that all schools would be involved in an academisation process by 2030. The government was altering policy to facilitate this and there would be implications for school funding. Comments were made about the provisions for local authorities to establish multi-academy trusts and it was

noted that establishing these had been difficult in the past. It was questioned what the government's thinking was around developing capacity and structures in that sector.

- KCC had more single academies, rather than larger academy trusts. The government had not developed its thinking around models for academies and it was right to pilot some models to help form the thinking. For example, some authorities had groups of academies that had formed a cooperative rather than a chief executive model. The Department for Education (DfE) was to publish a more detailed note around this.
- The proposed role of Schools' Funding Forum would be involved with the supplementary funding or high needs funding, if a national funding formula was applied.
- The 'local' nature of academy trusts was supported by the DfE and the phrase 'family of academies' was being used. There was a lot of anxiety where there was not a link through the academy governance structure with the community. This was to be addressed through the trust standards.
- The white paper suggested protection for grammar schools and the selective nature of grammar schools. There were existing academy trusts in Kent that were a mixture of selective and non-selective schools, as well as informal partnerships between other selective and non-selective schools.
- It was felt KCC would be in a good position to shape what was coming forward through participation in DfE pilot schemes.

4) RESOLVED to note the presentation.

6. SEND Green Paper

(Item 7)

Mark Walker, Director for SEND was in attendance for this item

1) Mr Walker outlined the presentation (attached).

2) Mrs Chandler outlined the second part of the presentation.

3) Further to comments and questions, it was noted:

- It was acknowledged there had been difficulties in the past with regard to SEND policies in Kent. The green paper outlined that there would be clarification of roles and responsibilities and shared accountability across partners. KCC's consultation response was to support shared accountability and propose how this might work to the benefit of children.
- There would be an update brought to Cabinet following the engagement process.

4) RESOLVED to note the presentation.

7. Findings from New Philanthropy Capital Research - Full Cost Recovery and commissioning the VCSE

(Item 8)

Lydia Jackson, Policy and Relationships Officer (VCS); David Whittle, Director of Strategy, Policy, Relationships and Corporate Assurance; Ben Watts, General Counsel; Josephine McCartney, Chief Executive of Kent Community Foundation

1) Mr Hill introduced the report.

2) Mr Whittle outlined the report. This was the first in-depth research work that had been conducted on this matter and it had attracted attention nationally from the wider public sector and from government. The research had highlighted challenges concerning consistency of practice, cost and quality. Also highlighted were challenges for the voluntary sector to respond to around behaviour, price, whether it appropriately shared risk and the responsibility of not meeting full cost recovery.

Strategic opportunities had been highlighted for KCC in how it conducts procurement moving forward and the building of strategic partnerships. Also, there were opportunities to come out of the recent procurement green paper.

The VCSE Steering Group was important in taking this work forward.

3) Mrs McCartney thanked KCC for work on this area and said it had highlighted the overall issues in the relationship with the voluntary sector and local authorities. Kent had led the way on addressing these issues and it was hoped that other local authorities and parts of the sector would also pick this up. The Steering Group had provided a forum for challenges to be shared and to open a more open relationship.

4) Ms Maynard said the research was welcomed and it was an exciting opportunity to make sure that existing commissioning activities remained fit for purpose. It had been positive to see many good examples of commissioning and contract management, where there had been a partnership ethos and mutual respect and understanding. Work was underway to adopt good practices into commissioning standards across the organisation to ensure consistency of approach and delivery to a high standard.

5) Further to comments and questions, it was noted:

- There were challenges in not reinforcing previous behaviours and in deciding the next steps so that changes could be evidenced. There would be monitoring arrangements put in place and work would be ongoing with regard to commissioning standards. A reporting mechanism would be put in place to the relevant Cabinet Committee and alignment with the Civic Society Strategy would be considered.
- There was an impact from the findings of the research on Cabinet Members' decisions moving forward and given the commitments made.

6) RESOLVED to agree the recommendations as outlined in the report.

8. Procurement of an E-voucher Distribution Provider

(Item 9)

David Adams, Reconnect Programme Manager was in attendance for this item.

1) Mr Oakford introduced the report.

2) Mr Adams outlined the report. Thanks were given to officers across KCC for their support in accommodating a tight deadline in order that support could be delivered in the summer. A lead-in time was required where the support was provided via schools. The proposed contract period was for 3 years with 2 potential 1-year extensions.

3) Further to comments from Members, it was noted:

- There would need to be full reporting on progress on this important piece of work.

4) RESOLVED to agree the recommendations as outlined in the report.

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DfE White Paper Opportunity for all March 2022

Schools Bill May 2022

Schools Bill Policy Statements

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-bill-policy-statements>

Inter-related policy changes

- **Levelling Up WP** - improving cross government working, regional development, devolution
- **Skills and Post-16 Education Act** – employers at the heart of technical education/training, quality, support for adult training, more apprenticeship, rolling out T Levels, ‘retiring’ some qualifications
- **SEND and Alternative Provision GP** – improve pupil outcomes, the SEND system and value for money
- **Independent Review of Children’s Social Care**
- **Opportunity for all: Strong schools with great teachers WP; Schools Bill**

WP- Creating a fair and cohesive system, levelling up the country by 2030

Two guiding principles

- A rigorous commitment to using, building and sharing evidence so that every school knows ‘what works’ for all of their children; and
- A focus on enabling collaboration between teachers, schools and wider children’s services so that every child is supported to realise their full potential.

Two ambitions by 2030

- 90% of primary school children will achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths, (and an ambition to increase the national GCSE average grade in both English Language and maths from 4.5 to 5)
- The percentage of children meeting the expected standard in the worst performing areas will have increased by a third.

Change at a classroom level

- Improving the quality of teaching & the curriculum, promoting evidence-based practice (Education Endowment Fund), extensive professional development programme, increasing teacher salaries
- A combination of academic and pastoral provision to help children thrive. Identifying children at risk of missing out & targeted interventions including
 - English and maths support if a child falls behind
 - Up to 6 million tutoring courses by 2024
 - Specialist support and wider children's services

Change at a school level

- Richer, longer average school week (32.5 hours)
- Better behaviour and higher attendance through more effective use of data, including an annual behaviour survey and a national data system to drive up attendance and make it easier for agencies to protect vulnerable children
- A new arms-length curriculum body (Oak Academy) that works with teachers across the country to co-create free, optional, adaptable digital curriculum resources to deliver a rigorous, high-quality

curriculum

Change at a system level

- 'The current legal and regulatory system for trusts, based around individual contracts, was designed for a small group of disruptor schools. This has become increasingly unsuited to ensuring quality and fairness in a system that already educates more than half of all children.'
- Introduction of statutory 'trust standards'
- Introduction of a single regulatory system for trusts
- LAs have a role in establishing MATs

The rationale for 100% academization

- The Government believes that all schools can benefit from being part of a strong multi academy trust
- MATs create the conditions for deep collaboration and a shared strategic vision across multiple schools, enabling clear accountability for pupil outcomes
- By working in partnership, schools within a trust can share curriculum expertise and effective teaching practices to deliver the best outcomes based on the needs of each individual school

Trust standards

The success of multi academy trusts will be judged against these standards including providing a basis for transparent assessments of their potential for growth

- **High Quality and Inclusive Education** – high quality education across their academies, including for disadvantaged children and children with SEND, and operates fair access. Effective central and school leadership teams, strong teaching, evidence-based curriculum design and implementation
- **Collaboration**- a new standard to be introduced

Trust standards cont...

- **Financial Management** – strong and effective financial management, prioritising the use of resources, including the estate, to deliver the best educational experience for children
- **Strategic Governance** – effective and robust governance that involves schools and exemplifies ethical standards. Utilises expertise and skills on its boards to oversee the strategic direction of the trusts and hold leaders to account. A strong local identity, effective engagement with parents & community

Trust standards cont...

- **School Improvement** – works quickly to improve standards within all their schools, maintaining appropriately performing schools and transforming previously under performing schools
- **Workforce** – trains, recruits, develops, deploys, retains great teachers and leaders throughout their careers, including Initial Teacher Training. Provides evidence-based professional development and opportunities to progress. Deploys the best staff in the schools where they are needed most and prioritises staff wellbeing

The Education Bill

Academy Trusts

- Trust standards
- Intervention Powers
- Faith protections
- Grammar school protections
- Local Authority Academization powers
- Transfer of land by Local Authorities

Other

- National Funding Formula reform
- Children not in school
- School attendance
- Registration, investigation & enforcement in independent institutions
- Teacher misconduct

‘Enabling’ the LA

- To plan and co-ordinate the move of maintained schools into strong multi academy trusts
- To consult governing bodies and/or obtain consent from trustees to join a multi academy trust
- To apply to the Secretary of State for an academy order
- To ‘free up’ LA resources used to maintain schools to deliver statutory duties (special educational needs and disabilities, for pupil place planning, school admissions and home to school transport)

Direction of travel...

- It would be entirely up to individual LA to decide whether to make use of this opportunity
- We expect local authorities to develop their plans with their schools and to take account of schools' preferences as to **which** trusts to join
- Where agreement cannot be reached with individual schools, whether the LA includes such schools ... will depend upon whether **the LA is prepared to continue to maintain individual schools**



The SEN Challenge Evolving in line with National Policy



An overview of the Green Paper
Mark Walker- Director SEND

Three Key Challenges:



1. Outcomes for children and young people with SEN or in alternative provision are poor
2. Navigating the SEND system and alternative provision is not a positive experience for children, young people and their families
3. Despite investment, the system is not delivering value for money for children, young people and families The Green Paper proposes that a vicious cycle of late intervention, low confidence and inefficient resource allocation is driving these challenge

A single national SEND and AP system



- Legislate for new National Standards for SEND and AP
- Review and update the SEND Code of Practice to ensure it reflects the new national standards to promote nationally consistent systems, processes and provision
- Introduce new local SEND partnerships to produce a local inclusion plan setting out how each local area will meet the National Standards
- Introduce a standardised and digitised EHCP process and template to minimise bureaucracy and deliver consistency and mandate multi-agency panels
- Introduce a new national framework of banding and price tariffs for high needs funding, matched to levels of need and types of education provision set out in the new national SEND standards
- Amend the process for naming a place in a EHCP by providing a tailored list of settings, drawn from the local inclusion plan, including mainstream, specialist and independent
- Streamline the redress process through mandatory mediation

Excellent provision from EY to adulthood:



- Increase total investment in schools' budgets by £7 billion by 2024-25, compared to 2021-22, including an additional £1 billion in 2022-23 for complex needs
- Consult on the introduction of a new SENCo NPQ, and increase the number of staff with an accredited Level 3 SENCo qualification in EY
- Commission analysis to better understand the support that children and young people with SEND need from the health workforce
- Fund more than 10,000 additional respite placements through an investment of £30 million, alongside £82 million to create a network of family hubs
- Invest £2.6 billion, over the next three years, to deliver new places and improve existing provision for pupils with SEND or who require alternative provision
- By 2030, all schools, including special & AP in a strong trust – or plans to join or form one
- Invest £18 million over the next three years to build capacity in the Supported Internships Programme, and improve transitions, introducing Common Transfer Files alongside piloting the roll out of adjustment passports

A reformed and integrated role for AP:



- Make AP an integral part of local SEND systems by requiring new local SEND partnerships to plan and deliver an alternative provision service focused on early intervention
- Give alternative provision schools the funding stability to deliver a service focused on early intervention by requiring local authorities to create and distribute an alternative provision-specific budget
- Build system capacity to deliver the vision through plans for all alternative provision schools to be in a strong multi-academy trust, and open new alternative provision free schools where they are most needed
- Develop a bespoke performance framework for alternative provision which sets standards focused on progress, re-integration into mainstream education or sustainable post-16 destinations
- Deliver greater oversight and transparency of pupil movements including placements into and out of alternative provision
- Launch a call for evidence, before the summer, on the use of unregistered provision to investigate existing practice

System roles and accountabilities:



- Deliver clarity in roles and responsibilities - health, care and local government
- The DfE, in its role as the regulator, will enter into new funding agreements with local authorities to provide greater accountability and transparency
- DfE Regions Group to take responsibility for holding local authorities and trusts to account for local delivery in line with the new national SEND standards
- Provide statutory guidance to Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) to set out clearly how statutory responsibilities for SEND should be discharged
- Introduce new inclusion dashboards for 0-25 provision, offering a timely, transparent picture of how the system is performing at a local and national level across education, health and care
- Work with Ofsted/Care Quality Commission (CQC) for an updated Local Area SEND Inspection Framework

National SEND Standards:



Proposed national standards will include:

- How needs should be identified and assessed
- The appropriate provision that should be made available for different types of need
- Standardised processes for accessing and reviewing support
- Standards for co-producing and communicating with children, young people, parents and carers
- Standards for transitions

Key metrics to monitor health of the system:



Outcomes and experiences – examples include attainment and absence rates, tribunal appeal rates, proportion of children with SEN excluded and percentage of young people with SEN in employment, apprenticeships or higher education after 16-18 study

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Identification of need – examples include proportions of children with different types of needs, percentage of pupils with EHCPs, timeliness of EHCP assessments, and measures on the availability and access to community health services (such as waiting times)

Value for money – examples include high needs spending, high needs budgets surplus or deficits and percentage of spend in and out of area provision

School and Trust accountabilities:



- Up to date comparison of School and College Performance (also known as performance tables) to support parents, young people and wider stakeholders to consider contextual information about a school or college alongside their results data.
- The new Ofsted Education Inspection Framework (EIF) (2019) has a greater emphasis on how schools support children and young people with SEND to succeed.
- A new national performance framework for AP based on 5 key outcomes: 1. effective outreach support 2. improved attendance 3. reintegration 4. academic attainment, with a focus on English and maths 5. successful post-16 transitions

Funding reform:



- Introduce a new national framework of banding and price tariffs for funding, matched to levels of need and types of education provision set out in the national standards
- Further consultations on the direct NFF will consider options for calculating notional SEN budgets within the schools NFF. DfE says that some threshold should be retained, but they will consider whether the £6,000 per pupil, per year remains the right threshold beyond which schools can expect to draw down additional high needs funding.
- In the short term, DfE will issue guidance to local authorities on how they should calculate their notional SEN budgets within their local funding formula to bring some consistency to what is currently a very variable approach taken by different local authorities.

Delivering change for children & families:



- Stabilise local SEND systems by investing an additional £300 million through the Safety Valve Programme and £85 million in the Delivering Better Value programme
- Task the DfE SEND and AP Directorate to work with system leaders from across education, health and care and the Department of Health and Social Care to develop the national SEND standards
- Support delivery through a £70 million SEND and AP change programme to both test and refine key proposals and support local SEND systems across the country to manage local improvement
- Publish a national SEND and alternative provision delivery plan setting out government's response to this public consultation and how change will be implemented in detail and by whom to deliver better outcomes for children and young people
- Establish a new National SEND Delivery Board to bring together relevant government departments with national delivery partners including parents, carers and representatives of local government, education, health and care to hold partners to account for the timely implementation of proposals



SEN Green Paper

**Kent County Councils
approach to responding to
consultation**

Lead Member(s) chaired round table



To ensure a range of views and perspective are captured it is suggested that a Lead Member chaired round table discussion with key stakeholders is held following a round of Member and staff engagement.

Held towards the end of May, the round table discussion will;

- Be chaired by Lead Members
- Be attended by a range of stakeholder representatives
- Provide an opportunity for stakeholders to understand more about the Green Paper
- Provide an opportunity for stakeholders to engage in a series of discussion points about key elements of the Green Paper
- Provide the Council with an opportunity to hear a range of perspectives to inform its response to the consultation.

Timeline



16th May	Briefing to KCC Cabinet
w/c 16th May	Lead Member engagement meetings
w/c 16th May	Staff workshops
w/c 23rd May	Lead Member round table
25th May	SENCo forum discussion
25th May	CYPE DMT Discussion
30th May	Submission deadline for Corporate Board
23 June	Paper to KCC Cabinet to endorse the response to consultation