



AGENDA

CABINET

Thursday, 25th January, 2024, at 10.00 am
Council Chamber

Ask for:

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UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

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

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 January 2024 (Pages 1 - 12)
4. Cabinet Member Updates
5. Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report - November 2023-2024 (Pages 13 - 44)
6. Revised Draft Revenue Budget 2024-25 and 2024-27 Medium Term Financial Plan, Draft Capital Programme 2024-34 and Treasury Management Strategy (Pages 45 - 186)
7. 23/00105 - Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2024-28 (Pages 187 - 338)
8. 23/00107 - Kent SEND Sufficiency Plan 2023 (Pages 339 - 420)
9. Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024 - 2029 (Pages 421 - 570)

EXEMPT ITEMS

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

Benjamin Watts
General Counsel
03000 416814

Wednesday, 17 January 2024

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

MINUTES of a meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chamber on Thursday, 4 January 2024.

PRESENT: Mr R W Gough (Chairman), Mr N Baker, Mrs C Bell, Mrs S Chandler, Mr D Jeffrey, Mr R C Love, OBE, Mr P J Oakford and Mr D Watkins

ALSO PRESENT: Mr R Thomas

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS**22. Apologies**

(Item 1)

Apologies were received from Mr Murphy and Mr Thomas was present.

23. Declarations of Interest

(Item 2)

Mr Baker declared an interest under item 9 - 23/00091 - Kent and Medway Integrated Care Strategy - in that his wife was employed by East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust

Mr Whittle declared in interest under item 9 - 23/00091 - Kent and Medway Integrated Care Strategy – in that the Integrated Care Board, on which he was a member, had already approved the document

24. Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 November 2023

(Item 3)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 30 November were a correct record and that they be signed by the Chair.

25. Cabinet Member Updates

(Item 4)

Mr Watkins, Cabinet member for Adult Social Care and Public Health), provided an update on the following:

- (a) Three public consultations were due to be launched in the coming weeks:
- New Non-residential Care Home Charging
 - The Future of Blackburn Lodge on the Isle of Sheppey
 - Voluntary Sector Grant Funding
- (b) A number of campaigns were due to launch in the coming weeks:
- Dry January

- Healthy Weight Services
- Release the Pressure - Mental Health

2. Mrs Chandler, Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services provided an update on the following:

- (a) The High Court decision at the end of November 2023 determined that the Home Secretary has acted unlawfully and vindicated the actions that Kent County Council (KCC) had taken. The ruling found that the National Transfer Scheme (NTS) and the management of the scheme was inadequate, and for large periods of time unlawful; the Home Office received instruction to remedy the issues and create a NTS that worked both fairly and sustainably in the future. In particular, Mr Justice Chamberlain stated that the approach taken by the Home Office in the management of the NTS had been unreasonably slow and unlawful in the period December 2021 to 7th July 2023. The judgement was well received by KCC and confirmed that the Judicial Review brought against the Home Office regarding the management of the NTS, was the correct course of action. The Council had been in discussion with the Home Office regarding the funding required to ensure sufficient reception accommodation for all new UASC arrivals and several possible sites had been identified across the county, with local residents informed.
- (b) England's first Kinship Care Strategy was launched by Government and from April 2024 Kent County Council would be creating a new Kinship Care Service through the utilisation of existing staff within the fostering and district teams. The Kinship Care Strategy aimed to better support kinship carers - grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings and wider family networks – who provide homes to children who can no longer live with their parents. The newly created service provided by the Council would attend family group conferences to meet with and assess potential carers, manage urgent entries into care, manage referrals into the Front Door that were subject to Special Guardianship Orders and would provide wider support to identify alternative measures of care that would minimise the need for extensive child protection measures and legal interventions. Section 17 funding would be utilised to support the new arrangements and the service would be closely monitored to review the impact that the formation of the service would have on improving the outcomes of vulnerable children and young people.
- (c) 'Any of Us', a short fostering film project supported, and part funded by Kent County Council won two prestigious awards for the 'Best collaboration' and Best Creative Comms' categories at the comms2point0 UnAwards which recognises excellence in public sector communications. The short film aimed to encourage people from backgrounds to consider becoming a foster carer for their local authority. A number of information sessions are held throughout the year with the next online session due to take place online at 7:00pm on Wednesday 10th January. Further information could be accessed via the website: [Events - Kent Fostering](#)

3. Mr Love, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, provided an update on the following:

- (a) Congratulations were offered to the students and staff at the Northfleet Technical College who picked up the Zayed Sustainability Prize at the COP28 summit, winning £1180,000 for their onsite apiary business.
 - (b) Following a number of successful SEND Roadshows in 2023, the next event is due to take place on 18th January in the Dover district. Details of upcoming events are communicated via the [SEND newsletter](#) which is available on the Council website. Further sessions were planned throughout the year as part of the Council's commitment to improving SEND services for Kent families.
 - (c) A competition was held amongst Kent Primary Schools to design a Christmas Card, with the winning design created into a digital card for circulation by Mr Love. The winner was a student from St Stephens Primary School in Canterbury. Mr Love visited the school on 12th December and had the pleasure of meeting the winning student in person, who assisted Mr Love on a tour of the school where he met a number of staff and pupils taking part in Christmas activities. Mr Love concluded the visit with both the school Headteacher and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Aspire Academy Trust.
4. Mr Hills, Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment, Provided an update on the following:
- (a) Plan Tree had delivered the plantation of 169,313 trees to date and had received £1m in grant funding. The planting rate had accelerated above the 50,000 required per year with the onward trajectory indicating that KCC was on target to achieve its 1.5m tree ambition by 2045.
 - (b) From October 2023, the Kings Hill Solar Park had generated 152,000kw and Bowerhouse II solar park which opened in 2022 had generated 32 million kw, thus making process towards net zero.
5. Mr Thomas, Deputy Cabinet Member for Growth and Economic Development, provided an update on the following:
- (a) The Kent and Medway Business Fund (KMBF) had launched in November 2023 and to date had received pre-applications totalling £8m. Work was underway to review the pre-applications with those eligible to proceed onto the next stage contacted in the coming weeks. The eligibility criteria could be found on the [Kent and Medway Business Fund](#) website.
6. Mrs Bell, Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services, provided an update on the following:
- (a) on 5th December 2023 the Jasmin Vardimon Dance Company hosted their 25th anniversary gala. Mrs Bell attended the event and watched an exert from the company's show 'Alice' which was due to go on tour shortly. Mrs Bell paid tribute to the incredible performance and talent of the dancers.

(b) On 7th December 2023, Kent County Council hosted the John Downton awards for young artists from local schools. The quality of work entered for the competition was outstanding and was on exhibition within the Stone Hall at Sessions House. A number of pieces were due to be on show at the Turner Contemporary. The event provided an opportunity to both recognise and celebrate the talent that exists among the young people of Kent; and remind them of the opportunities available within the creative arts industry, one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK which contributed over £100bn each year and employed 2.3m people.

(c) The Kent Films Office help to facilitate a number of television series that were shot in and around Kent, including:

- Call the Midwife – filmed at Chatham Dockyard
- The Crown Season 6 – filmed at Discovery Park, Rochester and Cobham School
- The Serial Killers Wife – filmed at Saltwood in Folkestone and various locations within Dover
- Mr Bates Vs The Post Office - - filmed in Folkestone, Westerham and Plaxtol

7. Mr Oakford, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services, provided an update on the following:

(a) The Human Resources and Organisational Development (HROD) team alongside Kent Supported Employment and Kent Special Schools had worked in collaboration to develop a programme which supported students in gaining experience in the workplace and had started to implement supported internships through Special Schools.

(b) Internal communications had carried out a number of actions, including, but not limited to:

- The migration of Knet onto a new platform which was more robust and offered better functionality.
- The 2023 staff surveys, which had a participation rate of 4561 responses (47% of staff)
- Provided communications and engagement support to the Kent Communities and Family Hubs Programme
- The launch of a manager mini series to reflect the change of management style required for staff to align with the Council's new ways of working. Training programmes were in development.

(c) Within Learning and Development 25 staff had completed levels 3 and 5 of the Chartered Management Institute programme with 24 awarded distinction.

(d) The first cohort of Social Work apprenticeships graduated in the autumn and created 21 newly qualified Social Workers, with a second cohort due to start the course in the new year, of which 32 had enrolled.

- (e) The Infrastructure team were responsible for the management of 885 tenancies across the Council's estate portfolio, of which 80 were negotiated this year. From April 2023 to December 2023, the Council collected £3.4m in rent from income produced in tenancies and by year end would have invoiced circa £4.8m of income from the Council's estate. Kent County Council were on target to generate £16m of capital receipts from disposals for the year 2023-2024, and over £10m of that had already been deposited, despite properties being removed from the programme to support the Council's response to unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking children and the need for reception accommodation.
- (f) Business rates continued to be a considerable cost to the Council's budget, with current spend at £7.7m. The revaluation team had recovered over £500k and anticipated a total of £800k by year end 2023-2024.
- (g) The Council had delivered a number of school expansions which created places for 692 pupils. Throughout 2024, further expansions and new schools were expected, creating an additional 650 places for students. There were also three Specialist Resource Provisions that were being developed within mainstream settings, which included Garlinge Primary School, St Nicholas satellite provision at Parkside Primary School and the modernisation of Herne Bay Infant School.
- (h) The Kent Estate Partnership Team had supported the most successful round of brown field land release funding. The round was submitted in March 2023 and had been awarded £7.6m for nine projects delivered by six councils.

26. Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report - October 2023-24 (Item 5)

Zena Cooke (Corporate Director of Finance) was in attendance for this item.

1. Mr Oakford (Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services) introduced the report that set out the overall forecast position as at 31 October 2023-2024, which presented a revenue overspend of £35.6m before management action. The forecast overspend represented 2.7% of the revenue budget and continued to present a serious and significant risk to the Council's financial sustainability. Within the overall outturn position there were still significant forecast overspends in Adult Social Care & Health totalling £31.3m, and in Children's, Young People and Education totalling £28.9m before management action. Planned management action has been identified to bring the forecast outturn to within budget by the end of the financial year.

It remained essential that all management action be delivered as planned to prevent the need to use Council reserves as this would further weaken the Council's financial resilience and would increase the requirement to replenish reserves in succeeding years. The majority of the management actions were related to one off measures; therefore those spending reductions would not flow through to the 2024-2025 budget position.

The need to restrict spending where possible had been communicated across the Council with guidelines for all staff. The spending controls in place to reduce the forecast overspends for 2023-2024 were being monitored weekly. Spending trends were also reviewed and reported to the Corporate Management Team (CMT) and the Member Finance Oversight meeting on a weekly basis. Whilst spend was reducing it was not at the pace required to balance the budget and therefore had not resulted in the corresponding reduction in the forecast. It was therefore likely that further, more stringent spending controls would be implemented.

The latest forecast projection also indicated that the outturn position was worsening. The summary position at the end of November would be presented to Cabinet on 25th January 2023.

The draft revenue budget for 2024-2025 and the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MFTP) for 2024 -2027 was published on 3rd January.

Mr Oakford commented on the acknowledgment from Cabinet on the degree of work that had been done across the Council to reduce spend and commended the support from the Corporate Directors and management teams in addressing the challenge; however, the Council needed to make further savings to balance the budget. The pressure of demand in the growth of the Council's services continued to outweigh the increase of income and therefore more stringent spending controls would need to be implemented.

2. Mrs Cooke confirmed that the organisation was acutely aware of the Council's financial situation, however, the Council was struggling to meet the pressures of inflation in both the Adult Social Care and Children, Young People and Education sector. Alternative spending control measures had been introduced and were monitored on a weekly basis, however, the position for the Cabinet meeting on 25th January 2024 would not be improved. CMT would continue to identify further action to bring the budget back into a balanced position by the end of the financial year.
3. RESOLVED to note the recommendations as outlined in the report.

27. Quarterly Performance Report, Quarter 2, 2023/24

(Item 6)

Matthew Wagner (Chief Analyst, Strategy, Policy, Relationships & Corporate Assurance) was in attendance for this item.

1. Mr Wagner outlined the report for Quarter 2 (Q2) which set out the performance data up to the end of September 2023 and highlighted the changes made to the executive summary which contained the previous quarters' RAG status. Mr Wagner said that out of the 38 KPIs contained within the Quarterly Performance Report (QPR), 15 achieved or exceeded target (rated Green), 15 achieved or exceeded the floor standard but did not meet the target (rated Amber), and 8 did not meet floor standard (rated Red). The direction of travel analysis indicated a positive trend for seven indicators (three more than the previous Quarter), 19 were stable or with no clear trend (five fewer than the previous Quarter), and 12 were

showing a negative trend (two more than the previous Quarter). Mr Wagner addressed the KPIs assessed as Red and the projected direction of travel.

2. Further to comments and questions from Members, it was noted:

- The call answer rate for customer contact through the Contact Point had reduced due to high levels of staff sickness and staff training, resulting in its Amber rating. Despite actions taken to ensure staff availability to respond to calls, the service remained under resourced, and work was ongoing to both upskill and recruit additional staff to manage demand. Work was also underway with Agilisys to improve response times where targets were not met; however, it was key to ensure that the quality of responses were not offset by the need to achieve quantity.
- Quarter 2 saw a 3% decrease in the number of complaints received compared with the previous quarter. Older cases continued to impact on the closure of new cases in timescale however an action plan had been put in place to reduce backlogs within the Special Educational Need (SEN) service; these would take some time to reduce, and the impact on performance in this service specifically would continue throughout the year. Response times continued to present a challenge within Adult Social Care in a number of localities, however, the service had implemented a number of actions to improve this. In regard to GET complaints, a majority of the backlog had been cleared.
- Freedom of Information (FOI) / Environmental Information Regulation (EIR) requests, and Data Protection Act (DPA) Subject Access requests completed within timescales remained below floor standard. FOIs and DPA Subject Access Requests continued to present a challenge in terms of the accessing historical records as these were still held in manual case files as opposed to digitalised files that could be easily accessed, impacting on the number of requests completed within timescale. Work was underway to streamline the approval process, however the complexity of cases often impacts on the services' ability to respond quickly. The service remained committed to keeping respondents informed and effectively managing delays.
- Within Children's, Young People and Education, the percentage of case holding posts filled by permanent qualified social workers decreased slightly (Red), however management action was in place to address the challenge.
- The number of citizen children in care had decreased over the last quarter which positively impacted on the Council's financial position and was a testament to the excellent work carried out by Social Workers and Early Help Workers. Mrs Chandler thanked all staff for achieving the performance measures within challenging environments and continuing to deliver good services.
- The KPIs for Highways and Transport, specifically in relation to the percent of routine pothole repairs completed within 28 days did not represent a true picture of the road conditions due to the timing of reports presented to Cabinet. The public continued to effectively report issues via the online reporting tool and the service remained committed to completing works promptly.

- The percentage of Education, Health Care Plans (EHCPs) issued within 20 weeks was expected to remain below the target while the service prioritised completing the backlog of older cases for those children and their families who had been waiting the longest. In many of these cases the 20-week timescales had already been exceeded and significantly contributed to the current performance. New working practices would further help to see a reduction in the backlog and further improve the service's ability to effectively manage new cases.
- In response to school inspections and the placement of children with Educational Health and Care Plans (EHCP) into independent or out of county special schools. Work was underway to reduce the number of children transitioning into specialist settings, thus supporting more children with EHCPs in mainstream settings, and ensuring maintained special school places were targeted at those children with the most complex needs. Recent inspections revealed that 89% of Kent schools were judged Good or Outstanding compared to 81% nationally.
- Work was underway to review the Public Health KPIs to ensure the service were focusing on the correct areas of challenge.
- Adult Social Care KPIs continued to present a challenge due to demand pressures, therefore impacting on the service's ability to achieve several of its targets. Work was underway around the recruitment and retention of staff, however the output of the services currently outweighed staffing levels. Assurance was given that the quality of work remained high and this was reflected in the metrics for those clients not returning to the service after initial intervention, indicating that they had received the correct care package or intervention required. Frontline staff were thanked and commended for continuing to provide a high quality of care in what was a challenging environment.

3. RESOLVED to note the report.

28. Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement - Presentation

(Item 7)

Zena Cooke (Corporate Director of Finance) and Dave Shipton (Head of Finance , Policy, Strategy and Planning) was in attendance for this item.

4. Mr Oakford (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services) introduced the report. He commented on the misleading announcements that had been made by Government on increased spend as Kent County Council had seen a significant reduction in the allocation of grant funding from Government.
5. Mr Shipton presented a series of slides that outlined the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement and reported the headline figures. The settlement largely confirmed previous announcements made by Government despite the increased pressures reported; however, the significant and unexpected reduction in the Services Grant (-£6.4m), of which £1.0m had been

reallocated within the Social Care grant, would have a detrimental impact on the Council's financial position and ability to balance the budget. The net £5.4m reduction was assumed to be permanent and therefore a further £5.4m would need to be identified through management action for the 2024-2025 budget and Medium Term Financial Plan. Mr Shipton advised that the £2.1m New Homes Bonus grant could be included as part of the Council's one-off solutions for 2024-25, however, this had only been extended for one more year and would need to be replaced with savings in 2025-2026.

Mr Shipton addressed the £104.2m Social Care Grant which was allocated to Councils according to the Adult Social Care Relative Needs Formula (RNF) and council tax equalisation (but available for both adults and children's social care). However, the Relative Needs Formula was based on data from 2013-2014 with a considerable number of factors based on the 2001 census, resulting in inadequate funding to Councils which did not reflect the current pressures.

The settlement was currently out for consultation with responses due to be submitted to central Government on 15th January 2023.

6. Further to comments and questions from Members, it was noted:

- The Exceptional Financial Support Framework that had been announced to assist authorities with balancing the budget would only be allocated to those Councils who could evidence an inability to balance the budget. Mrs Cooke advised that Government had not announced the criteria that would be considered as part of that evidence base to show inadequate funding, however, whilst the Council was in a position to provide discretionary services and had sufficient reserves, it would be difficult to secure funding under the exceptional support framework. Mrs Cooke assured Members that the Council would continue to challenge Government over the reduction in grants.
- That communication with the residents of Kent needed to be open and honest to ensure the correct message was being cascaded in regard to the Council's financial position and its ability to continue to deliver effective services despite inadequate funding from central government.
- Additional funding and support was required from central government to address climate change and the ability to react to emergencies created through adverse weather conditions.

7. RESOLVED to note the report.

29. Corporate Risk Register

(Item 8)

Mark Scrivener (Corporate Risk and Assurance Manager) was in attendance for this item.

1. Mr Scrivener introduced the report and addressed the significant growth in the number of risks presented on the Risk Register, a majority of which were rated as

High. Mr Scrivener highlighted the importance of reviewing the criteria in terms of what risks remained on the Corporate Risk Register and which risks (deemed to be at their target residual level and not rated as High) could be removed. Mr Scrivener addressed the wider concern in regard to desensitisation because of the number and scale of risks reported and the impact this could have on the Council's operations should inadequate checks and balances be in place. As part of the proposed refresh, attention was paid to key themes from the Budget Recovery Plan, Securing Kent's Future, and work had been done to identify any business as usual risk factors along with changed risks that could impact on the successful delivery of the budget programme.

The Corporate Risk Register would be subject to a formal review via the Corporate Management Team, Cabinet Members and through the Governance and Audit Committee.

The Risk Management Policy and Strategy was also due to be updated for review by the Governance and Audit Committee in March 2024 which would incorporate risk appetite. This would be dependent on the Council's budget situation.

2. Further to comments and questions from Members, it was noted:

- Mr Love commented on risk **CRR0057 – Home To School Transport Pressures**, advising that the risk that was previously operational in the wake of a major network re-tendering exercise had now moved to a risk associated largely with the cost pressures of Home to School Transport and the impact of this on the Council's budget. As suggested within the report, Mr Love agreed that this risk could be migrated into the budgetary corporate risks and removed as a stand alone risk.
- Mr Love queried the wording used within risk **CRR0056 - Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Delivery Improvement and High** – regarding the high needs block of DSG and how it had not kept pace with the substantial increase in demand for SEND which resulted in deficits accrued on DSG spending. Mr Love advised that this comment suggested that keeping pace with demand was outside the Council's control, which was not a true reflection as the threshold for the identification of complex SEND cases had lowered over time and work was being done within mainstream schools to better support pupils with special educational needs and reduce placements out of county or in special schools. Mr Love welcomed the opportunity to further review the wording against the risks.
- Members commented on risk **CRR0042 – Border fluidity, infrastructure, and regulatory arrangements** and sought assurance from officers that whilst the risk was largely outside the Council's control, Members would be updated in due course on the associated risks and the impact that this could have on Kent and its residents, specifically in relation to the European Union Entry/ Exit system (EES).
- Mr Oakford commented on risk **CRR0014 – Cyber and Information Security Resilience**, and thanked Lisa Gannon (Director of Technology) and her team

for the excellent procedures in place to mitigate the threats to KCC's cyber security.

3. Mr Scrivener acknowledged the comments from Members and advised that risks which could be deemed as largely outside of the Council's control should remain on the Corporate Risk Register due to the impact these could have on the Council's services.
4. RESOLVED to note the report.

30. 23/00091 - Kent and Medway Integrated Care Strategy
(Item 9)

Anjan Ghosh (Director of Public Health), David Whittle (Director of Strategy, Policy, Relationships & Corporate Assurance) and Jenny Dixon-Sherreard, (Policy Advisor) were in attendance for this item.

1. Mr Gough (Leader of the Council) introduced the Strategy that had been developed under the leadership of the three statutory partners of the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) – Kent County Council (KCC), Medway Council and NHS Kent and Medway. At its meeting on 7 December 2023, the Integrated Care Partnership recommended the Kent and Medway Integrated Care Strategy for approval by the three statutory partners, which was required before the strategy could be implemented. Cabinet were asked to approve the strategy for KCC.
2. Dr Ghosh and Ms Dixon-Sherreard outlined the purpose of the Integrated Care Strategy and the next steps in the delivery and monitoring of progress against the strategy. A shared delivery plan was already in development across the partner organisations which would bring together and build on delivery already underway across the system and would signpost to supporting strategies and action plans. The Integrated Care Partnership would provide oversight and assurance of the strategy.
3. Further to comments and questions from Members, it was noted:
 - Members welcomed the change of emphasis, tone and language used throughout the strategy which signified the importance and extent of the consultation process with partners and service users, with a strategy that now encompassed personal responsibility and the participation of those in receipt of their care as opposed to a strategy that instructed service users how they would receive their care.
 - Members paid tribute to the team for their extensive work and the development of a strategy that represented a dynamic leadership team and a passion to tackle health inequalities through unity.
4. Mr Gough reiterated his thanks to Dr Ghosh, Ms Dixon-Sherreard and colleagues for the outstanding work they had done and noted that the development of the strategy was the first step in a gradual process of embedding structures and a way of working that would benefit residents in the years to come.

5. RESOLVED to agree to the recommendations as set out in the report.

From: Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services, Peter Oakford
Acting Corporate Director Finance, John Betts

To: Cabinet, 25 January 2024

Subject: Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report – November 2023-24

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary:

The attached report sets out the revenue and capital budget monitoring position as at November 2023-24.

Recommendation(s):

Cabinet is asked to:

- a) NOTE the forecast Revenue position.
- b) NOTE the management action of £32.1m identified to bring the Council to a balanced position.
- c) NOTE the projected Schools' monitoring position of £15.4m overspend
- d) NOTE the progress on the delivery of £65.3m savings
- e) NOTE the implementation of more stringent spending controls

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The November 2023-24 budget monitoring report being presented sets out the revenue forecast position.

2 Revenue Budget Monitoring Report – November 2023-24

- 2.1 The attached report sets out the overall forecast position as at 30 November 2023-24, which is a revenue overspend of +£32.1m before management action. The overspend continues to derive from a combination of higher than budgeted spend (due partly to rate of inflation not declining as quickly as forecasts on which the budget was based and increases in unit costs in key services over and above inflation for a number of other economic and legislative reasons) and under delivery of savings plans. The unbudgeted cost increases are still the most significant factor.
- 2.2 2023-24 continues to be an extremely challenging time for local government and KCC is no exception. The latest revenue forecast outturn position for 2023-24 before further management action is an overspend of £32.1m (excluding schools). The forecast overspend represents 2.4% of the revenue budget and continues to present a serious and significant risk to the Council's financial sustainability. Within the overall outturn position there are still significant forecast overspends in Adult Social Care & Health totalling £29.7m, and in Children's, Young People and Education totalling £29.5m before management action. Planned management action has been identified to bring the forecast outturn to within budget by the end of the financial year.

- 2.3 Whilst the overall forecast before management action has reduced by £3.5m since the last report (providing evidence that spending restraint and management action is starting to have an impact) there continue to be inevitable movements in the forecast due to variations from previous cost increase/demand forecasts that obscure the picture, particularly in adults and children's. The latest forecast impact of management action in adult social care shows the amounts from actions have now been delivered and reflected in the revised forecast (albeit partially offset by higher cost/activity forecast), the amounts still expected to be achieved before the end of the year (including new amounts), and the amount that is now considered unachievable. The most significant of the unachievable actions are the amounts from collaborative working with NHS and maximising placements with framework care providers. We are now close to the point where changes in adult social care forecasts cannot be offset by curtailing non committed spend across the rest of the organisation (despite the introduction of more stringent spending controls) and alternative solutions to balance 2023-24 may be needed including use of reserves.
- 2.4 The Schools' Delegated budgets are reporting an overspend of +£15.4m. This reflects the impact of high demand for additional SEN support and greater demand for specialist provision. In 2022-23 the Council entered into a "Safety Valve" agreement with the Department for Education (DfE) and the accumulated DSG deficit will reduce from an estimated £174m to £73m as at 31st March 2024 as a result of contributions from the Council and DfE. The forecast overspend is within the agreed plan with DfE for the cumulative deficit as outlined in the Safety Valve agreement.

3. Recommendation(s)

Cabinet is asked to:

- a) NOTE the forecast Revenue position.
- b) NOTE the management action of £32.1m identified to bring the Council to a balanced position.
- c) NOTE the projected Schools' monitoring position of £15.4m overspend
- d) NOTE the progress on the delivery of £65.3m savings
- e) NOTE the implementation of more stringent spending controls

4. Contact details

Report Author

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Relevant Director

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Finance Monitoring Report

As at November 2023-24

By Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services,
Peter Oakford
Acting Corporate Director Finance, John Betts
Corporate Directors

To Cabinet – 25 January 2024

Unrestricted

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Contact Details

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1 Introduction

This summary report sets out an update of the Council's financial position as at the end November 2023. The latest revenue forecast outturn position for 2023-24 before further management action is an overspend of £32.1m (excluding schools), a reduction of £3.5m since the last reported position as at the end of October presented to Cabinet on 4 January 2024. The forecast overspend represents 2.4% of the revenue budget and continues to present a serious and significant risk to the Council's financial sustainability. Within the overall outturn position there are still significant forecast overspends in Adult Social Care & Health totalling £29.7m, and in Children's, Young People and Education totalling £29.5m before management action.

Whilst the overall forecast before management action has reduced by £3.5m since the last report (providing evidence that spending restraint and management action is starting to have an impact) there continue to be inevitable movements in the forecast due to variations from previous cost increase/demand forecasts that obscure the picture, particularly in adults and children's. The latest forecast impact of management action in adult social care shows the amounts from actions have now been delivered and reflected in the revised forecast (albeit partially offset by higher cost/activity forecast), the amounts still expected to be achieved before the end of the year (including new amounts), and the amount that is now considered unachievable.

Further management action across all directorates of £25.6m is required, including the introduction of council-wide spending controls, to bring the forecast outturn to within budget by the end of the financial year. Alternative solutions to balance 2023-24 may be needed including use of reserves.

It is essential that the identified management action is delivered as planned to minimise the need to use reserves to balance the budget at year end. Any further use of reserves weakens the council's financial resilience and increases the requirement to replenish reserves in the succeeding years. The majority of the management action is related to one-off measures, which means those spending reductions will not flow through into the 2024-25 budget position.

The need to restrict spending wherever possible has been communicated across the Council with clear guidance for all staff and additional approvals required for high value purchases (over £10,000) and staff recruitment.

The impact of additional spending controls is being monitored weekly. Spending trends are reviewed and reported to the Corporate Management Team and the Member Finance oversight meeting on a weekly basis. Whilst spend is reducing, it is not reducing at the rate required to balance the budget and is not resulting in a corresponding reduction in the forecast. It is therefore likely that more stringent spending controls will be implemented. A full monitoring position as at the end of December will take account of the latest projections and will be presented to cabinet on 21 March 2024.

The draft revenue budget for 2024-25 and medium-term financial plan for 2024-27 was published on 3 January 2024. It is essential that the budget position is not worsened by further overspends in the current year which would need to be factored into the final draft budget or from the need to replenish further drawdowns from reserves.

1.1 The overall Revenue forecast before management action is +£32.1m overspend. The Revenue General Fund projected year end position is a net overspend of +£32.1m.

Overspends are forecast in ASCH and CYPE and underspends in GET, DCED, CED and NAC. The largest overspends are +£29.7m (5.6%) in ASCH and +£29.5m (8.2%) in CYPE. NAC including Corporately Held Budgets is forecasting an underspend of -£17.1m, DCED is forecasting an underspend of -£6.0m, CED is forecasting an underspend of -£1.9m and GET is forecasting to breakeven. The recurring full year impacts of over and underspends will be reflected in the 2024-25 budget.

1 Introduction

- 1.2 There is £32.1m of planned management action. Planned management action totalling £32.1m is required to reduce the forecast out-turn to within budget by the end of the financial year. Until this action has been implemented and delivered there will continue to be a reported overspend before planned management action.

£4.5m management action has been identified by ASCH, £1.7m in CYPE and £0.3m in CED. All identified management actions in GET & DCED are now included in the forecast. £25.6m will need to be met from limiting spend across the council, using strict spending criteria. Details of the management action can be found in section 5.

- 1.3 There is £15.4m variance on the Schools' Delegated Budgets The overspend position is +£15.4m. This reflects the impact of high demand for additional SEN support and greater demand for specialist provision. In 2022-23 the Council entered into a "Safety Valve" agreement with the Department for Education (DfE) and the accumulated DSG deficit will reduce from an estimated £174m to £73m as at 31st March 2024 as a result of contributions from the Council and DfE. The Council's contributions for 2023-24 will have to be met through a transfer from other reserves which will reduce usable revenue reserves and means the Council is less resilient to withstand unexpected circumstances and costs.
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2 Recommendations

Cabinet is asked to:

- | | | |
|-----|---|---------------------------|
| 2.1 | Note the forecast revenue monitoring position of £32.1m overspend before management action | Refer to section 3 |
| 2.2 | Note the projected Schools' monitoring position of £15.4m overspend | Refer to section 3 |
| 2.3 | Note the latest position on delivering agreed savings | Refer to section 4 |
| 2.4 | Note the management action of £32.1m identified to reduce the out-turn to a balanced position | Refer to sections 3 and 5 |
| 2.5 | Note the implementation of more stringent spending controls to reduce the forecast overspend | Refer to section 3 |
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3 Revenue

General Fund projected +£32.1m overspend
Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) +£15.4m overspend

General Fund as at end of November		Forecast position as overspend/(underspend)				
Directorate	Revenue Budget	Revenue Forecast Outturn	Net Revenue Forecast Variance	Last reported position	Movement (+/-)	
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	
Adult Social Care & Health	527.5	557.2	29.7	31.3	(1.6)	
Children, Young People & Education	360.9	390.4	29.5	28.9	0.5	
Growth, Environment & Transport	195.6	194.8	(0.8)	0.0	(0.9)	
Deputy Chief Executive Department	84.7	77.6	(7.1)	(6.0)	(1.1)	
Chief Executive Department	34.1	32.1	(1.9)	(1.7)	(0.3)	
Non Attributable Costs	115.8	98.1	(17.7)	(17.5)	(0.2)	
Corporately Held Budgets	(0.3)	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.0	
General Fund	1,318.3	1,350.4	32.1	35.6	(3.5)	
Ringfenced Items						
Schools' Delegated Budgets	0.0	15.4	15.4	15.9	(0.5)	
Overall Position	1,318.3	1,365.8	47.5	51.5	(4.0)	

Position after management action:

General Fund

Directorate	Revenue Budget	Revenue Forecast Outturn	Net Revenue Forecast Variance	Management Action	Updated Net Revenue Variance
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Adult Social Care & Health	527.5	557.2	29.7	(4.5)	25.2
Children, Young People & Education	360.9	390.4	29.5	(1.7)	27.8
Growth, Environment & Transport	195.6	194.8	(0.8)	0.0	(0.8)
Deputy Chief Executive Department	84.7	77.6	(7.1)	0.0	(7.1)
Chief Executive Department	34.1	32.1	(1.9)	(0.3)	(2.2)
Non Attributable Costs	115.8	98.1	(17.7)		(17.7)
Corporately Held Budgets	(0.3)	0.1	0.4	(25.6)	(25.2)
General Fund	1,318.3	1,350.4	32.1	(32.1)	0.0
Ringfenced Items					
Schools' Delegated Budgets	0.0	15.4	15.4		15.4
Overall Position	1,318.3	1,365.8	47.5	(32.1)	15.4

The revenue forecast outturn position by Key Service is in Appendix 1.

4 Savings

Target for year £69.7m
£58.4m savings to be delivered

The budget agreed at County Council included the requirement to deliver savings and increased income totalling £65.3m during 2023-24. A further £4.4m of undelivered savings from the previous year are included in the overall 2023-24 savings requirement of £69.7m. This section does not include changes to Grant Income of £34.7m, savings of less than £50k totalling £0.2m and £10.7m for the removal of one-off or undelivered savings from 2022-23. The breakdown of the position is as follows:

- £42.2m of the overall total £65.3m agreed savings are on track to be delivered as planned
- £4.4m of savings brought forward from the previous year are not now forecast to be delivered in year.
- The Public Health, CED and DCED savings for 2023-24 are £3.4m and are on track to be delivered
- The NAC overachieved saving of £7.0m relating to investment income saving is due to increases in the base interest rate.
- A net position of £23.1m is forecast for ASCH, CYPE and GET as not achieved in 2023-24 and will slip into future years
- £4.1m has been identified by ASCH, CYPE & CHB as undeliverable
- £9.0m of alternative one-off savings have been identified.

Directorate	Previous year saving delivered in 2023-24 £m	2023-24 Target £m	Not achieved in 2023-24 £m	Alternative Saving (ongoing) £m	Alternative Saving (one-off) £m	Saving no longer required £m	Saving not Deliverable £m	Over Recovery of Saving £m	Forecast Savings 2023-24 £m
Adult Social Care & Health	(4.4)	(30.0)	12.3		(2.0)		3.4		(20.7)
Public Health		(2.2)							(2.2)
Children, Young People & Education		(14.5)	6.4		(2.6)		0.2		(10.4)
Growth, Environment & Transport		(11.0)	4.4		(4.4)				(11.0)
Deputy Chief Executive's Department		(0.1)							(0.1)
Chief Executive's Department		(1.0)							(1.0)
Non Attributable Costs		(5.9)						(7.0)	(12.9)
Corporately Held Budget		(0.5)	0.0				0.5		0.0
Total	(4.4)	(65.3)	23.1	0.0	(9.0)	0.0	4.1	(7.0)	(58.4)

Directorate	Previous year saving delivered in 2023-24 £m	2023-24 Target £m	Not achieved in 2023-24 £m	Alternative Saving (ongoing) £m	Alternative Saving (one-off) £m	Saving no longer required £m	Saving not Deliverable £m	Over Recovery of Saving £m	Forecast Savings 2023-24 £m
Adult Social Care & Health	(4.4)	(30.0)	12.3	0.0	(2.0)	0.0	3.4	0.0	(20.7)
Commissioning - 2022-23 Slipped Savings - review of all contracts	(4.4)	0.0	4.4						0.0
Efficiency: Adult Social Care - Consistently adhere to our policy framework in relation to areas such as: Third Party Top Ups; arranging support and debt for self-funders; transport and maximisation of relevant benefits; use of in-house provision and occupancy to reduce reliance on external purchasing of short term beds; people in residential care in receipt of other services; timely reviews of Section 117 status with regard to charging		(1.3)	0.7						(0.6)
Income: Adult Social Care -Estimated annual inflationary increase in Better Care Fund		(2.3)							(2.3)
Income: Review of Charges for Service Users - existing service income streams & inflationary increases		(8.5)							(8.5)
Policy: Adult Social Care contracts with Voluntary Sector		(4.3)	3.2		(2.0)				(3.1)
Policy: Adult Social Care PFI		(0.2)	0.2						0.0
Policy: Housing Related Support - Homelessness		(2.3)							(2.3)
Policy: Redesign of In House Adult Social Care Services		(3.6)	0.3						(3.3)
Transformation: Adult Social Care service redesign - Redefine our Adult Social Care operating model to align to our strategic direction of travel and ambitions		(7.5)	3.5				3.4		(0.6)

Directorate	Previous year saving delivered in 2023-24 £m	2023-24 Target £m	Not achieved in 2023-24 £m	Alternative Saving (ongoing) £m	Alternative Saving (one-off) £m	Saving no longer required £m	Saving not Deliverable £m	Over Recovery of Saving £m	Forecast Savings 2023-24 £m
Public Health	0.0	(2.2)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	(2.2)
Efficiency: Public Health - Estimated efficiency savings from Public Health Partnership working with Health		(1.0)							(1.0)
Efficiency: Public Health - Healthy Lifestyles		(0.1)							(0.1)
Efficiency: Public Health - Sexual Health		(0.2)							(0.2)
Efficiency: Public Health - Substance Misuse		(0.1)							(0.1)
Income: Public Health - Increase in external income to cover annual pay increases and new expenditure funded by external income		(0.1)							(0.1)
Policy: Public Health - Review of Public Health Services principally related to Healthy Lifestyles to ensure spending is contained within ringfenced grant		(0.4)							(0.4)
Policy: Public Health - Family Drug & Alcohol Court		(0.2)							(0.2)
Children, Young People & Education	0.0	(14.5)	6.4	0.0	(2.6)	0.0	0.2	0.0	(10.4)
Efficiency: Adult Social Care – Consistently adhere to our policy framework in relation to areas such as: Third Party Top Ups; arranging support and debt for self-funders; transport and maximisation of relevant benefits; use of in-house provision and occupancy to reduce reliance on external purchasing of short term beds; people in residential care in receipt of other services; timely reviews of Section 117 status with regard to charging		(0.3)	0.3						0.0

4 Savings

Target for year £69.7m
£58.4m savings to be delivered

Directorate	Previous year saving delivered in 2023-24 £m	2023-24 Target £m	Not achieved in 2023-24 £m	Alternative Saving (ongoing) £m	Alternative Saving (one-off) £m	Saving no longer required £m	Saving not Deliverable £m	Over Recovery of Saving £m	Forecast Savings 2023-24 £m
Efficiency: Children's Services – Review of the Practice Development Service		(0.4)							(0.4)
Efficiency: Children's Services – Reconfigure the Family Drug & Alcohol Court Services into the main Children's Social Work Teams		(0.2)							(0.2)
Efficiency: Children's Social Care – Review of Legal Services Spend through cost efficiencies by Invicta Law and review of the use of legal services by social workers		(1.0)	1.0						0.0
Efficiency: Community Learning & Skills – Development of income earning activities within the CLS service and engage in efficiency measures to reduce costs		(0.2)							(0.2)
Efficiency: 18-25 Adult Social Care Supporting Independence Service – Review of 18-25 community-based services: ensuring strict adherence to policy, review of packages with high levels of support and enhanced contributions from health		(1.8)	1.0		(0.8)				(1.6)
Efficiency: Early Help & Preventative Services – Expanding the reach of case holding Early Help services		(0.5)							(0.5)
Efficiency: Early retirements – Reduction in the number of Historic Pension Arrangements		(0.3)							(0.3)
Efficiency: Open Access – Youth & Children's Centres – Continue to implement vacancy management and avoid all non-essential spend across open access		(0.6)							(0.6)
Income: Kent 16+ Travel Saver		(0.3)	0.3		(0.2)				(0.2)

4 Savings

Target for year £69.7m
£58.4m savings to be delivered

Directorate	Previous year saving delivered in 2023-24 £m	2023-24 Target £m	Not achieved in 2023-24 £m	Alternative Saving (ongoing) £m	Alternative Saving (one-off) £m	Saving no longer required £m	Saving not Deliverable £m	Over Recovery of Saving £m	Forecast Savings 2023-24 £m
Income: Review of Charges for Service Users – existing service income streams & inflationary increases		(0.2)							(0.2)
Policy: Care Leavers – Pursue a policy where independence is reached by a Young Person’s 19 th birthday.		(0.7)	0.7		(0.7)				(0.7)
Policy: Integrated Children’s Placements – Review of Integrated Looked After Children’s Placements: Reduce dependence on high levels of additional support and seek enhanced contributions from health		(1.0)							(1.0)
Policy: Children’s Services – Review Section 17 payments and only provide where the Council has a statutory responsibility or to avoid children coming into care		(0.2)					0.2		0.0
Policy: Disabled Children’s Placements – Review of children with disability packages ensuring strict adherence to policy, review packages with high levels of support and enhanced contributions from health		(1.5)	0.8						(0.8)
Policy: Early Help & Preventative Services – Reconfigure the Positive Behaviour Service into the main Early Help Teams		(0.8)							(0.8)
Policy: Home to School Transport – Kent 16+ Travel Saver – Review the Kent 16+ Travel Saver scheme		(0.3)	0.3		(0.2)				(0.2)
Policy: Review of Open Access – Youth Services & Children’s Centres -Ceasing of the Local Children’s Services Partnership Grants		(0.6)							(0.6)

4 Savings

Target for year £69.7m
£58.4m savings to be delivered

Directorate	Previous year saving delivered in 2023-24 £m	2023-24 Target £m	Not achieved in 2023-24 £m	Alternative Saving (ongoing) £m	Alternative Saving (one-off) £m	Saving no longer required £m	Saving not Deliverable £m	Over Recovery of Saving £m	Forecast Savings 2023-24 £m
Policy: Review of Open Access – Youth Services & Children’s Centres – review of open access services in light of implementing the Family Hub model		(0.2)	0.2		(0.2)				(0.2)
Policy: Review of Open Access Estate – Youth Provision & Children’s Centres		(0.1)	0.1		(0.1)				(0.1)
Policy: Review Services Charged to Schools		(0.1)							(0.1)
Policy: Services to Schools – Review our offer to schools in light of the latest DFE funding changes and guidance including exploring alternative funding arrangements and engaging in efficiency measure to reduce costs		(0.8)	0.4		(0.4)				(0.8)
Transformation: Children’s Social Care – Explore strategies, including statutory guidance, to reduce dependency on social work agency staff		(1.0)							(1.0)
Transformation: Looked After Children – Reduce the recent increase in the number of Looked After Children placements through practice reviews & improved court proceedings		(1.5)	1.5						0.0
Growth, Environment & Transport	0.0	(11.0)	4.4	0.0	(4.4)	0.0	0.0	0.0	(11.0)
Efficiency: Environment – Planned phasing of the new structure in the Environment Team		(0.3)							(0.3)
Efficiency: Highways – Renegotiate income levels to include inflationary uplift for permit scheme, lane rental scheme & National Driver Offender Retraining Scheme		(0.1)							(0.1)

4

Savings

Target for year £69.7m
£58.4m savings to be delivered

Directorate	Previous year saving delivered in 2023-24 £m	2023-24 Target £m	Not achieved in 2023-24 £m	Alternative Saving (ongoing) £m	Alternative Saving (one-off) £m	Saving no longer required £m	Saving not Deliverable £m	Over Recovery of Saving £m	Forecast Savings 2023-24 £m
Efficiency: Libraries, Registration & Archives (LRA) – One-off reduction in Libraries Materials Fund and a one year contribution holiday for the Mobile Libraries renewals reserve		(0.2)							(0.2)
Efficiency: Transportation -Use developer agreement income to maintain current level of transportation services		(0.3)							(0.3)
Efficiency: Waste -Increased waste material segregation, increased re-use, black-bag splitting and trade waste recycling with a view to generating income or reducing cost		(0.6)	0.4		(0.4)				(0.6)
Efficiency: Waste – New waste contract efficiencies including reduction in payments to Kent Resource Partnership; new contract enabling separate disposal of currently co-mingled food waste; segregation of other waste materials		(0.2)							(0.2)
Income: Highways – Increase in net income budgets for streetworks and permit scheme		(0.6)							(0.6)
Income: Kent Travel Saver – Kent Travel Saver price realignment to offset an increase in bus operator inflationary fare increases in 2022-23 above the budgeted amount		(1.0)	1.0		(1.0)				(1.0)
Income: Kent Travel Saver (formerly Young Person’s Travel Pass) – Kent Travel Saver price realignment to offset bus operator inflationary fare increases		(1.5)	1.5		(1.5)				(1.5)

Directorate	Previous year saving delivered in 2023-24 £m	2023-24 Target £m	Not achieved in 2023-24 £m	Alternative Saving (ongoing) £m	Alternative Saving (one-off) £m	Saving no longer required £m	Saving not Deliverable £m	Over Recovery of Saving £m	Forecast Savings 2023-24 £m
Income: Review of Charges for Service Users – existing service income streams & inflationary increases – Uplift in social care client contributions in line with estimated benefit and other personal income uplifts, together with inflationary increases and a review of fees and charges across all KCC services, in relation to existing service income streams		(0.2)							(0.2)
Income: Waste – Review of fees and charges at Household Waste Recycling Centres		(0.1)							(0.1)
Policy: Arts – Review of support to the Arts		(0.2)							(0.2)
Policy: Discretionary Grants – Savings to be identified from a review of all discretionary grants		(0.1)							(0.1)
Policy: Economic Development – Review of grants and contracts with Kent Foundation and Locate in Kent		(0.1)							(0.1)
Policy: Highways – To reverse the prior decision to increase the number of swathe cuts		(0.3)							(0.3)
Policy: Highways Capital works – Removal of revenue contribution towards highways capital works		(3.0)							(3.0)
Policy: Highways Drainage – Review of highways drainage policy and level of works		(1.0)							(1.0)

4 Savings

Target for year £69.7m
£58.4m savings to be delivered

Directorate	Previous year saving delivered in 2023-24 £m	2023-24 Target £m	Not achieved in 2023-24 £m	Alternative Saving (ongoing) £m	Alternative Saving (one-off) £m	Saving no longer required £m	Saving not Deliverable £m	Over Recovery of Saving £m	Forecast Savings 2023-24 £m
Policy: Highways Winter Service – Review of highways winter service policy including service levels, salting runs and network, resulting in reduced network coverage and detrimental impact on Keeping Kent Moving policy		(0.5)	0.5		(0.5)				(0.5)
Policy: Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) – Review of the number and operation of HWRC sites		(0.5)	0.5		(0.5)				(0.5)
Policy: Review of Community Wardens		(0.5)	0.5		(0.5)				(0.5)
Deputy Chief Executive’s Department	0.0	(0.1)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	(0.1)
Income: Resilience and Emergency Planning - Additional income from reservoir work		(0.1)							(0.1)
Policy: Marketing & Resident Engagement – Review KCC’s presence at external events		(0.1)							(0.1)
Chief Executive’s Department	0.0	(1.0)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	(1.0)
Efficiency: Early retirements – Reduction in the number of Historic Pension Arrangements		(0.5)							(0.5)
Policy: Member Community Grants – Reduce Member Community Grants from £10k to £3.6k per Member		(0.5)							(0.5)
Non Attributable Costs	0.0	(5.9)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	(7.0)	(12.9)
Financing: Debt repayment		(1.0)							(1.0)

4

Savings

Target for year £69.7m
£58.4m savings to be delivered

Financing: Investment Income	(2.9)	(7.0)	(9.4)
Income: Income return from our companies	(2.0)		(2.0)

Directorate	Previous year saving delivered in 2023-24 £m	2023-24 Target £m	Not achieved in 2023-24 £m	Alternative Saving (ongoing) £m	Alternative Saving (one-off) £m	Saving no longer required £m	Saving not Deliverable £m	Over Recovery of Saving £m	Forecast Savings 2023-24 £m
Corporately Held Budgets	0.0	(0.5)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0
Income: Review of fees & charges		(0.5)					0.5		0.0
Total	(4.4)	(65.3)	23.1	0.0	(9.0)	0.0	4.1	(7.0)	(58.4)

5 Management Action

This section sets out the significant planned management action being taken to reduce the Council's forecast overspend of £32.1m. The impact of these actions have not yet resulted in measurable savings and are therefore shown separately in this report. The actions identified to date are expected to deliver a reduction in spending, bringing the Council to a balanced position by the end of the financial year. £29.8m are one-off reductions only affecting the 2023-24 position with £2.3m that would have an on-going positive impact into 2024-25 and are reflected in the initial draft 2024-25 budget. The £25.6m management action shown against Corporately Held Budgets relates to cross cutting reductions to non committed spend. To deliver this will require a relentless focus across the whole Council and further spending controls have been introduced to avoid or minimise spending wherever possible based on specific criteria to focus spending on the most essential activities and priorities until the financial position is brought under control and stabilised.

The spending controls in place as part of the cross council management action to reduce the forecast for 2023-24 are being monitored weekly. Spending trends are reviewed and reported to the Corporate Management Team and the Member Finance oversight meeting on a weekly basis. Whilst spend is reducing, it is not reducing at the rate required to balance the budget and is not resulting in a corresponding reduction in the forecast. It is therefore likely that more stringent spending controls will need to be implemented. The latest forecast projections which are currently being validated also indicate that the out-turn position is worsening. The position as at the end of December will take account of the latest projections and will be presented to Cabinet on 21 March 2024.

If the management action, even after the introduction of spending controls, is not delivered in full, any remaining overspend at the end of the financial year would need to be met from general or earmarked reserves, which reduces the Council's financial sustainability and resilience, and increases the budget gap in succeeding years through the need to replenish reserves.

Directorate	23-24 one-off £k	23-24 recurring £k	Total 2023-24 £k
Adult Social Care & Health	-2,251.9	-2,260.0	-4,511.9
Children, Young People & Education	-1,700.0	0.0	-1,700.0
Growth, Environment & Transport	0.0	0.0	0.0
Deputy Chief Executive Department	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chief Executive Department	-250.0	0.0	-250.0
Corporate Management Actions	-25,600.0	0.0	-25,600.0
TOTAL	-29,801.9	-2,260.0	-32,061.9

5 Management Action

Directorate	Details of Actions being taken	23-24 one-off	23-24 recurring	24-25
		£k	£k	£k
ASCH	Working collaboratively with NHS Colleagues to ensure the most appropriate and cost-effective pathways are in place for those people being discharged from hospital settings and ensuring that the necessary joint funding arrangements are in place, which makes clear who the lead commissioner of care and support is.		-1,600.0	-4,278.6
ASCH	Working collaboratively with NHS Colleagues to ensure the most appropriate and cost-effective pathways are in place for those people being discharged from hospital settings and ensuring that the necessary joint funding arrangements are in place, which makes clear who the lead commissioner of care and support is. Initial focus will be on those individuals who have been discharged through the Transforming Care Programme.		-660.0	-250.0
ASCH	Maximise the use of framework providers which will reduce new support being commissioned from non-framework providers. This will help reduce the administrative burden on front line social care staff and reduce overall unit costs of care and support. Harmonise processes to create capacity within framework providers to pick up support required for people who draw on care and support.	0.0		
ASCH	Data Quality: resolving data quality issues on records and files. This will significantly improve accuracy of information available for reporting.	-449.6		
ASCH	Social Care Debt: - External support being commissioned to assist with Court of Protection deputyship applications, meaning that those debts relating to non-discretionary funding' can be settled more quickly	-500.0		
ASCH	Use of Rolled Forward and uncommitted Disabled Facilities Grant to support funding of new Technology Enabled Lives Programme	Delivered		
ASCH	Explore alternatives for those people requiring low level of support	0.0		
ASCH	Review payments for community based services to ensure that invoices represent delivered hours of support	-853.2		
ASCH	Ensure all people are assessed promptly in assessment (non chargeable) beds, to allow charging for residential care	-449.1		
		-2,251.9	-2,260.0	-4,528.6

Total management action expected to be delivered in 2023-24	-4,201.9
Increase in management action expected to be delivered in 2023-24 (working collaboratively with the NHS)	-310.0
Management action delivered in 2023-24 and reflected in the forecast	-3,658.0
Undeliverable management action	-4,440.1
	-12,610.0

5 Management Action

Directorate	Details of Actions being taken	23-24 one-off	23-24 recurring	24-25
		£k	£k	£k
CYPE	Work is continuing with the NHS to explore joint commissioning opportunities (including tier 4 admissions) and joint funding agreements for eligible young people (further review of existing savings profiles)		Delivered	
CYPE	Panels have been established in every district across both Integrated Children Services and Disability Services to review suitability and level of support for all looked after children's placements. This is in addition to a further peer review focused on high cost placements. (further review of existing savings profiles)		Delivered	
CYPE	Development of a Placement Framework to explore alternative ways to support children at risk of coming into care including increasing the role of family members.		Delivered	
CYPE	Signposting of families to community services where it is available and appropriate (further review of existing savings profiles).		Delivered	
CYPE	Review of 18-25 community-based services (i.e. direct payments, supporting living, daycare and transport): Reduction in expenditure on non-framework packages of care for 18-25 year olds and ensuring strict adherence to policy (further review of existing savings profiles)		Delivered	
CYPE	Use of grant to meet statutory responsibilities	-1,700.0		
CYPE	Increase in use of personal transport budgets		Delivered	TBC
		-1,700.0	0.0	0.0

5 Management Action

Directorate	Details of Actions being taken	23-24 one-off	23-24 recurring	24-25
		£k	£k	£k
GET	Holding vacancies across all divisions	Delivered		-98.0
GET	Review demand and operational expenditure (public transport and highways)	Delivered		0.0
GET	Increased income from fees, charges and income raising activities (eg LRA)	Delivered		-550.0
GET	Proactive management of operational expenses, projects and backlog (LRA, Environment, Highways)	Delivered		0.0
GET	Use of available grants	Delivered		0.0
GET	Contract renegotiation and rescoping with focus on waste and highways	TBD		-621.0
		0.0	0.0	-1,629.0

5 Management Action

Directorate	Details of Actions being taken	23-24 one-off	23-24 recurring	24-25
		£k	£k	£k
DCED	SRP Option 1: Delete the vacant KR13 Programme Manager role (£81,039 p/a with on costs)	Delivered		
DCED	SRP Option 2: Delete the second KR12 Dependency Manager role (£70,752 p/a with on costs) when the postholder leaves and becomes a vacancy in November.	Delivered		
DCED	Hold vacancies within Infrastructure for the remainder of the year.	Delivered		
		0.0	0.0	0.0

5 Management Action

Directorate	Details of Actions being taken	23-24 one-off	23-24 recurring	24-25
		£k	£k	£k
CED	Cease the allocation of any more Member Grants in the current year and take the current underspend of c.£600k ie do not roll forward to 2024/25.	Not Approved		
CED	Re-phase the appointments to vacant posts within SPRCA	Delivered		
CED	Re-phase the appointments to vacant posts within the newly structured Commercial and Procurement Division	-250.0		
CED	Release of Early retirement budget		Delivered	-100.0
		-250.0	0.0	-100.0

5 Management Action

Directorate & Division	Details of Actions being taken on Non-Committed Spend	23-24 one-off	23-24 recurring	24-25
		£k	£k	£k
Cross Cutting Review	<p><u>Subjective spend analysis</u></p> <p>The current budget on specific cost codes (excluding the main demand led budgets) is £447.8m, with forecast spend of £474.5m and actuals of £310.9m up to the end of November 2023. This includes permanent staffing and agency costs to provide the overall staffing position. All non-committed expenditure is being reviewed as part of the management action to avoid spend and bring the budget back into balance.</p> <p>Finance have been working with budget managers to review the spend and forecasts on all codes to reduce the forecast wherever possible and Finance will undertake deep dives into specific areas to provide further options for savings considerations.</p> <p>It is recognised that some of the spend within these codes is essential, preventative and/or specific grant funded and we will need to ensure these do not duplicate actions already taken. Detailed, regular monitoring and reporting will ensure the reductions in spend are happening in practice.</p>	-25,600		
Cross Cutting Review	<p><u>Capital Projects</u></p> <p>The capital officer group are identifying invest to save capital projects to put forward for consideration to reduce revenue costs, e.g. in the care and children's sectors</p>	0	0	TBC
Cross Cutting Review	<p><u>"Balance Sheet" Review</u></p> <p>A review of specific areas on the balance sheet and other Council assets are being reviewed to determine whether there is scope to release funds, e.g. assets and provisions. Whilst the impact on the 2023-24 position is likely to be limited, there may be opportunities to review policies going forward.</p>	0	0	TBC
Cross Cutting Review	<p><u>Contractual savings</u></p> <p>A review of all contracts due to expire within the next 12 months has been undertaken with further deep dive into some specific contracts where there is potential scope to reduce specification. Whilst it is considered unlikely that savings can be made in 2023-24, any reduction in activity related to contract re-procurement will contribute towards the delivery of a balanced budget in 2024-25.</p>	TBC		

5 Management Action

<p>Cross Cutting Review</p>	<p><u>Review Of Early Payments</u></p> <p>Using Oxygen Finance Ltd for the supply of Early Payment Services under the NEPO 521 Framework Agreement (established in May 2020 by South Tyneside Council on behalf of NEPO (North East Procurement Organisation) in accordance with the contract award criteria and subject to final Legal sign off. The contract is due to be signed early in the new year, with mobilisation shortly thereafter.</p>		<p>TBC</p>	<p>TBC</p>
		<p>-25,600.0</p>	<p>0.0</p>	<p>0.0</p>

2022-23			Appendix 1 - Key Service Summary	2023-24			Last Reported Position (Sep)	Movement +/-
Revenue Budget	Outturn	Variance		Revenue Budget	Forecast	Variance		
£m	£m	£m		£m	£m	£m		
1.2	1.6	0.3	Provision for Demographic Growth - Community Based Services	10.7	1.1	-9.6	-9.0	-0.6
10.2	0.0	-10.2	Strategic Management & Directorate Support (ASCH)	5.4	3.7	-1.7	-1.7	-0.1
39.3	23.6	-15.6	Strategic Management & Directorate Budgets	16.1	4.8	-11.3	-10.6	-0.7
13.3	11.8	-1.6	Community Based Preventative Services	8.5	10.1	1.6	+1.6	-0.0
4.5	3.6	-0.9	Housing Related Support	1.5	1.4	-0.1	-0.1	+0.0
6.8	3.9	-2.9	Social Support for Carers	3.0	2.8	-0.3	-0.3	-0.0
3.2	2.7	-0.5	Partnership Support Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.0	+0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	Strategic Commissioning (Integrated and Adults)	0.0	0.0	0.0	+0.0	+0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	Strategic Commissioning (Integrated and Adults)	13.1	14.3	1.2	1.2	-0.0
0.0	-0.1	-0.1	Public Health - Advice and Other Staffing	0.0	0.0	0.0	+0.0	-0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	Public Health - Children's Programme	0.0	0.0	0.0	+0.0	+0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	Public Health - Healthy Lifestyles	0.0	0.0	0.0	+0.0	-0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	Public Health - Mental Health, Substance Misuse & Community Safety	0.0	0.0	0.0	+0.0	-0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	Public Health - Sexual Health	0.0	0.0	0.0	+0.0	+0.0
0.0	-0.1	-0.1	Public Health	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

2022-23			Appendix 1 - Key Service Summary	2023-24			Last Reported Position (Sep)	Movement +/-
Revenue Budget	Outturn	Variance		Revenue Budget	Forecast	Variance		
£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	
0.0	0.0	0.0	Adult In House Carer Services	2.4	2.5	0.2	+0.3	-0.1
2.4	2.6	0.2	Adult In House Community Services	5.8	5.9	0.0	-0.0	+0.0
5.9	5.6	-0.4	Adult In House Enablement Services	6.4	6.5	0.2	+0.1	+0.1
2.8	1.7	-1.1	Adult Case Management & Assessment Services	25.6	24.4	-1.2	-1.1	-0.2
5.7	5.5	-0.2	Adult Learning Disability - Case Management & Assessment Service	0.5	0.5	0.0	+0.0	-0.0
101.7	105.3	3.7	Adult Learning Disability - Community Based Services & Support for Carers	116.3	124.0	7.6	+7.9	-0.2
72.3	72.5	0.2	Adult Learning Disability - Residential Care Services & Support for Carers	76.6	78.2	1.5	+1.8	-0.2
10.0	9.8	-0.2	Adult Mental Health - Case Management & Assessment Services	3.2	3.5	0.3	+0.7	-0.3
11.4	17.8	6.4	Adult Mental Health - Community Based Services	17.9	24.1	6.2	+5.6	+0.6
15.6	18.0	2.3	Adult Mental Health - Residential Care Services	18.5	21.3	2.8	+3.0	-0.2
21.0	21.8	0.9	Adult Physical Disability - Community Based Services	31.3	33.9	2.6	+2.6	+0.0
17.9	20.8	3.0	Adult Physical Disability - Residential Care Services	21.3	23.6	2.4	+2.0	+0.4
6.9	6.3	-0.6	ASCH Operations - Divisional Management & Support	6.1	6.3	0.1	+0.1	+0.0
38.7	36.9	-1.8	Independent Living Support	1.0	1.0	0.0	-0.0	+0.0
9.4	9.8	0.4	Older People - Community Based Services	42.7	45.4	2.7	+3.6	-0.9
49.0	79.5	30.5	Older People - In House Provision	16.1	16.8	0.7	+0.5	+0.1
21.8	21.9	0.1	Older People - Residential Care Services	78.0	92.4	14.4	+14.2	+0.2
0.0	0.0	0.0	Older People & Physical Disability - Assessment and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Services	10.2	10.8	0.6	+0.4	+0.2
1.2	1.9	0.7	Older People & Physical Disability Carer Support - Commissioned	1.6	1.7	0.1	+0.0	+0.1
5.9	6.0	0.0	Physical Disability 26+ Lifespan Pathway & Sensory and Autism 18+ - Community Based Services	1.6	1.2	-0.4	-0.3	-0.2
1.1	1.3	0.2	Physical Disability 26+ Lifespan Pathway & Sensory and Autism 18+ - Residential Care Services	0.2	0.2	0.0	+0.0	-0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	Sensory & Autism - Assessment Service	0.7	0.7	0.0	+0.0	-0.0
0.7	0.7	0.0	Statutory and Policy Support	1.7	2.0	0.3	+0.4	-0.1
0.6	0.4	-0.2	Strategic Safeguarding	0.8	0.8	-0.1	-0.1	+0.0
5.1	1.6	-3.4	Adaptive & Assistive Technology	1.7	1.7	0.0	+0.1	-0.1
407.2	447.8	40.6	Adult Social Care & Health Operations	488.4	529.5	41.1	41.8	-0.7
8.6	8.1	-0.5	Business Delivery	10.0	8.7	-1.3	-1.0	-0.2
8.6	8.1	-0.5	Business Delivery Unit	10.0	8.7	-1.3	-1.0	-0.2
455.8	480.2	24.4	Adult Social Care & Health	527.5	557.2	29.7	31.3	-1.6
0.0	0.0	0.0	Earmarked Budgets Held Corporately	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

Appendix 1 - Key Service Summary

2022-23			2023-24			Last Reported Position (Sep)	Movement +/- £m			
Revenue Budget	Outturn	Variance	Revenue Budget	Forecast	Variance					
£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m					
2.3	1.9	-0.3	Strategic Management & Directorate Budgets			1.9	1.8	-0.1	-0.1	+0.0
15.5	15.1	-0.4	Adoption & Special Guardianship Arrangements & Service			17.1	16.7	-0.4	-0.3	-0.1
32.9	37.3	4.4	Adult Learning & Physical Disability Pathway - Community Based Services			40.1	41.9	1.8	+2.1	-0.4
9.3	9.3	0.1	Adult Learning & Physical Disability Pathway - Residential Care Services & Support for Carers			9.2	8.2	-1.0	-1.0	+0.1
-0.1	-0.1	0.0	Asylum			-0.1	-0.1	0.0	-0.0	+0.0
6.0	5.2	-0.8	Care Leavers Service			5.1	5.1	0.0	+0.1	-0.1
3.3	3.2	0.0	Children in Need - Care & Support			3.1	3.6	0.5	+0.4	+0.1
5.5	6.7	1.1	Children in Need (Disability) - Care & Support			5.9	8.0	2.1	+2.5	-0.4
4.6	3.6	-1.0	Children's Centres			4.6	3.0	-1.6	-1.4	-0.3
1.7	1.1	-0.6	Childrens Disability 0-18 Commissioning			1.7	1.4	-0.3	+0.0	-0.4
51.2	51.9	0.7	Children's Social Work Services - Assessment & Safeguarding Service			53.4	52.1	-1.4	-0.7	-0.7
9.0	9.3	0.2	Disabled Children & Young People Service (0-25 LD & Complex PD) - Assessment Service			9.7	9.2	-0.5	-0.3	-0.2
6.9	6.1	-0.8	Early Help & Preventative Services			5.2	5.2	0.0	-0.1	+0.1
5.7	4.9	-0.8	Integrated Services (Children's) Management & Directorate Support			5.8	5.2	-0.6	-0.5	-0.1
66.8	76.7	9.9	Looked After Children - Care & Support			76.5	89.2	12.7	+10.8	+2.0
16.4	17.7	1.3	Looked After Children (with Disability) - Care & Support			18.9	20.3	1.4	+0.7	+0.7
3.6	4.0	0.4	Looked After Children (with Disability) - In House Provision			3.8	4.1	0.3	+0.3	+0.0
5.7	4.2	-1.5	Youth Services			4.5	4.5	0.0	+0.1	-0.0
244.2	256.5	12.3	Integrated Children's Services (Operations and County Wide)			264.6	277.8	13.1	+12.8	+0.4

2022-23			Appendix 1 - Key Service Summary	2023-24			Last Reported Position (Sep)	Movement +/-
Revenue Budget	Outturn	Variance		Revenue Budget	Forecast	Variance		
£m	£m	£m		£m	£m	£m		
-0.4	-0.1	0.4	Community Learning & Skills (CLS)	-0.2	0.0	0.2	+0.0	+0.2
0.0	0.0	0.0	Early Years Education	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.0	+0.0
1.4	1.3	-0.2	Education Management & Division Support	1.2	1.1	-0.2	-0.2	+0.0
6.2	6.5	0.3	Education Services provided by The Education People	4.0	4.1	0.1	+0.1	+0.0
0.3	0.3	0.1	Fair Access & Planning Services	0.4	0.6	0.1	+0.1	-0.0
49.7	65.8	16.1	Home to School & College Transport	68.8	81.0	12.2	+12.2	+0.0
-11.6	-8.5	3.1	Other School Services	5.1	7.3	2.2	+2.0	+0.2
0.1	0.1	0.0	Pupil Referral Units & Inclusion	0.1	0.1	0.0	+0.0	+0.0
13.2	14.3	1.1	Special Educational Needs & Psychology Services	14.9	16.7	1.9	+2.1	-0.2
0.2	0.2	-0.1	Special Educational Needs & Disability Management & Divisional Support	0.0	0.0	0.0	+0.0	+0.0
59.1	79.8	20.8	Education & Special Educational Needs	94.4	110.8	16.5	+16.3	+0.2
305.6	338.3	32.7	Children, Young People & Education	360.9	390.4	29.5	28.9	0.5
0.0	0.0	0.0	Earmarked Budgets Held Corporately	-0.2	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0

2022-23			Appendix 1 - Key Service Summary	2023-24			Last Reported Position (Sep)	Movement +/-
Revenue Budget	Outturn	Variance		Revenue Budget	Forecast	Variance		
£m	£m	£m		£m	£m	£m		
1.4	1.3	-0.1	Strategic Management & Directorate Budgets	1.4	1.3	-0.1	-0.1	-0.0
4.7	5.1	0.4	Growth and Support to Businesses	6.2	5.5	-0.7	-0.5	-0.2
2.8	2.9	0.1	Community (Assets & Services)	2.2	2.1	0.0	-0.0	+0.0
11.4	11.0	-0.4	Public Protection	11.8	11.6	-0.3	-0.2	-0.1
9.5	8.6	-0.9	Libraries, Registration & Archives	10.5	9.9	-0.6	-0.5	-0.1
0.8	0.8	0.0	Growth and Communities Divisional management costs	0.5	0.5	0.0	+0.0	-0.0
29.1	28.4	-0.8	Growth & Communities	31.2	29.7	-1.6	-1.1	-0.4
33.0	33.8	0.7	Highway Assets Management	37.1	36.9	-0.2	+0.1	-0.3
6.6	6.0	-0.6	Transportation	6.6	5.8	-0.8	-0.6	-0.2
4.7	6.2	1.5	Supported Bus Services	5.3	5.2	-0.1	+0.0	-0.1
13.8	11.8	-2.0	English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS)	13.0	12.3	-0.7	-0.7	-0.0
4.8	6.2	1.4	Kent Travel Saver (KTS)	5.1	5.1	0.0	+0.0	-0.0
3.6	3.2	-0.4	Highways & Transportation divisional management costs	3.7	3.6	-0.2	-0.2	+0.0
66.6	67.1	0.6	Highways & Transportation	70.8	68.9	-1.8	-1.3	-0.5
2.4	2.3	-0.1	Environment	3.3	3.2	-0.1	-0.0	-0.1
45.8	45.9	0.2	Residual Waste	50.5	50.8	0.3	+0.1	+0.2
31.6	32.9	1.2	Waste Facilities & Recycling Centres	36.4	38.8	2.4	+2.4	-0.0
1.8	1.8	0.0	Environment and Circular Economy Divisional management costs	2.1	2.1	0.0	+0.0	-0.0
81.6	82.8	1.2	Environment & Circular Economy	92.2	94.8	2.6	+2.6	0.1
178.6	179.6	0.9	Growth, Environment & Transport	195.6	194.8	-0.8	0.0	-0.9
0.0	0.0	0.0	Earmarked Budgets Held Corporately	-0.3	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.0

2022-23			Appendix 1 - Key Service Summary	2023-24			Last Reported Position (Sep)	Movement +/-
Revenue Budget	Outturn	Variance		Revenue Budget	Forecast	Variance		
£m	£m	£m		£m	£m	£m		
0.0	0.0	0.0	Strategic Reset Programme	1.6	1.5	-0.1	-0.1	-0.0
0.5	0.5	0.0	Strategic Management & Departmental Support	1.1	0.9	-0.3	-0.1	-0.1
0.4	0.4	0.0	Health & Safety	0.4	0.3	0.0	-0.0	-0.0
2.1	2.0	0.0	Business & Client Relationships	2.3	2.3	0.0	-0.0	-0.0
2.9	2.9	0.0	Strategic Management & Departmental Budgets (DCED)	5.4	5.0	-0.4	-0.2	-0.2
5.1	4.8	-0.3	Human Resources & Organisational Development	5.3	5.0	-0.2	-0.2	+0.0
			Marketing & Digital Services	2.0	2.0	0.1	+0.1	-0.0
			Resident Experience - Contact Centre; Gateways; Customer care & Complaints	4.8	4.7	-0.1	+0.0	-0.1
6.0	5.8	-0.2	Marketing & Resident Experience	6.8	6.8	0.0	0.1	-0.1
5.9	5.6	-0.4	Property related services	8.2	7.2	-1.0	-0.9	-0.1
0.0	0.0	0.0	Kent Resilience	0.3	0.2	0.0	-0.0	-0.0
0.2	0.2	-0.1	Emergency Planning	0.2	0.2	0.0	+0.0	-0.0
6.2	5.8	-0.4	Infrastructure	8.6	7.6	-1.0	-0.9	-0.1
23.5	23.5	0.0	Technology	25.5	24.9	-0.6	-0.3	-0.2
0.0	0.0	0.0	Business Services Centre	0.0	0.0	0.0	+0.0	+0.0
26.5	29.0	2.5	Corporate Landlord	33.1	28.3	-4.8	-4.3	-0.5
70.1	71.7	1.6	Total - Deputy Chief Executive Department	84.7	77.6	-7.1	-6.0	-1.1
			Earmarked Budgets Held Corporately	-0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0

2022-23			Appendix 1 - Key Service Summary	2023-24			Last Reported Position (Sep)	Movement +/-
Revenue Budget	Outturn	Variance		Revenue Budget	Forecast	Variance		
£m	£m	£m		£m	£m	£m		
0.0	-0.7	-0.7	Strategic Management & Departmental Budgets	-0.5	-0.8	-0.3	-0.3	-0.0
3.2	3.1	0.0	Grants to Kent District Councils to maximise Council Tax collection	3.2	3.2	0.0	-0.0	-0.0
21.6	21.3	-0.3	Finance	10.0	9.7	-0.3	-0.3	-0.0
12.4	12.2	-0.2	Finance	13.2	12.9	-0.3	-0.3	0.0
6.9	6.4	-0.5	Governance & Law	7.3	7.0	-0.3	-0.3	-0.0
1.4	0.7	-0.8	Local Member Grants	1.0	1.0	0.0	-0.0	+0.0
8.3	7.1	-1.2	Governance, Law & Democracy	8.3	8.0	-0.3	-0.3	0.0
8.1	7.2	-0.9	Strategic Commissioning	7.6	7.7	0.0	+0.0	+0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	Childrens and Adults Safeguarding Services	0.4	0.4	0.0	-0.0	-0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	Resettlement Schemes, Domestic Abuse and Civil Society Strategy	0.4	0.3	-0.1	-0.0	-0.0
9.0	8.1	-1.0	Strategy, Policy, Relationships & Corporate Assurance	4.6	3.6	-1.0	-0.8	-0.2
4.5	4.0	-0.5	Strategy, Policy, Relationships & Corporate Assurance	5.4	4.4	-1.0	-0.8	-0.2
33.4	29.9	-3.5	Total - Chief Executive Department	34.1	32.1	-1.9	-1.7	-0.3
156.7	144.7	-12.0	Non Attributable Costs	115.8	98.1	-17.7	-17.5	-0.2
-0.3	0.0	0.3	Corporately Held Budgets (to be allocated)	0.2	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.0
1,199.8	1,244.4	+44.4	Total excluding Schools' Delegated Budgets	1,318.3	1,350.4	+32.1	35.6	-3.5

From: Roger Gough, Leader

Peter Oakford, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services

John Betts, Acting Corporate Director of Finance

To: Cabinet – 25th January 2024

Subject: **Revised Draft Revenue Budget 2024-25 and 2024-27 MTFP, Draft Capital Programme 2024-34 and Treasury Management Strategy**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Summary:

The administration's updated and balanced draft budget proposals were published on 3rd January 2024 to support the further scrutiny and democratic process of the changes and additional information since the initial draft publication on 1st November 2023 through Cabinet Committees, Cabinet Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet and culminating in the annual County Council budget setting meeting on 19th February. The publication included a comprehensive report to support the changes since the initial draft budget publication together with updated interactive dashboard providing additional information in a more accessible format.

An updated final draft report for County Council will be published on 9th February 2024. This final draft will include any changes from the revised draft (including any changes in final grant and tax base notifications) and a number of additional sections/appendices to support the final County Council decisions such as schools funding settlement, Capital Strategy including Prudential Indicators, Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) statement, and Investment Strategy.

The revised draft revenue budget shows separately the changes in core funded activity (funding from grants in the core spending power in the provisional local government finance settlement and Council Tax/retained business rates) and externally funded activity and income from ring-fenced specific grants not included in the local government settlement. The revised draft is net proposed budget of £1,416.7m, an increase of £100.0m (7.6%) on the approved budget for 2023-24. The revised budget includes forecast spending growth on core funded activities of £184.5m and savings/income on core funded activity of £87.6m including:

- £36.5m reductions from avoiding some of the forecast spending growth in adult social care and home to school transport
- £35.7m savings from spending reductions on current recurring activity
- £15.4m additional income (including income from fees and charges)

The revised draft budget is balanced with a net +£3.1m movement in core revenue funding towards reserves including +£36.7m contributions and -£14.2m drawdowns in 2024-25 (and net -£19.4m from removing previous contributions and drawdowns).

The draft budget includes a proposed 4.992% Council Tax increase for 2024-25 i.e. up to the maximum without exceeding the 3% referendum limit plus an additional up to 2% for

the adult social care levy. The proposed social care levy would mean the total levy accounting for 14.5% of the County Council share of Council Tax in 2024-25. The final decision on these Council Tax increases will be taken at the County Council meeting. The final Council Tax precept for 2024-25 must be based on the final estimated tax base notified by districts

The proposed draft capital programme 2024-34 includes spending of £1,646m of which £992m is funded from confirmed/indicative grants, £376m from borrowing and £278m other sources.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is asked to:

- a) consider any proposed amendments from Cabinet Committees.
- b) endorse the draft budget to be presented to County Council on 19th February for final decisions.

Cabinet members are asked to be able to refer to the 2024-25 draft budget report published on 3rd January 2024 for this meeting

Cabinet Members are reminded that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to any meeting where consideration is given to a matter relating to, or which might affect, the calculation of Council Tax.

Any Member of a Local Authority who is liable to pay Council Tax, and who has any unpaid Council Tax amount overdue for at least two months, even if there is an arrangement to pay off the arrears, must declare the fact that he/she is in arrears and must not cast their vote on anything related to KCC's Budget or Council Tax.

Background Documents

- 1 KCC's Budget webpage
[KCC's Budget webpage](#)
- 2 Original 2023-24 Budget approved by County Council on 9th February 2023
[2023-24 KCC Final Budget Book \(kent.gov.uk\)](#)
- 3 KCC Budget Consultation launched 13th July 2023
[2024-25 Budget Consultation \(Let's Talk Kent\) inc. the Budget Consultation report](#)
- 4 Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 18th December 2023
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/provisional-local-government-finance-settlement-england-2024-to-2025>

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Revised Draft Revenue Budget 2024-25 and 2024-27 MTFP, Draft Capital Programme 2024-34 and Treasury Management Strategy

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From Leader of the Council; Roger Gough
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services; Peter Oakford
Cabinet Members

Relevant Director(s) Corporate Director Finance; Zena Cooke
Chief Executive,
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Circulated to Cabinet Committees and Scrutiny Committee

Classification Unrestricted

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Directorates – abbreviations in this report

ASCH - Adult Social Care and Health	CYPE - Children, Young People and Education
GET - Growth, Environment & Transport	CED - Chief Executive's Department
DCED – Deputy Chief Executive's Department	NAC - Non-Attributable Costs

1.1 This report updates the initial draft revenue budget 2024-25 and three-year medium term financial plan (MTFP) 2024-27 following its publication on 1st November 2023 and subsequent scrutiny during November, setting out the administration's strategy and proposals to close the budget gap and balance the budget. It sets out the draft 10-year capital programme 2024-25 to 2033-34 and the draft Treasury Management Strategy. The report and appendices provide the key information for the scrutiny process in advance of full Council approval on 19th February 2024.

1.2 The budget gaps of £48.8m for 2024-25 and £13.9m for later years in the initial draft budget report have been balanced through a mix of recurring and one-off measures, including the use of reserves. The measures that have a recurring impact include increased funding assumptions (higher inflation flowing into retained business rates and grant settlement), reductions in spending growth from the initial draft, and further areas for savings and increased income (including bringing forward savings and income from later years). The savings and income arise largely from a review of policy-based service changes and reductions, and the scope of the Council's ambitions and further transformation of the Council's operating model as set out in Securing Kent's Future (SKF). The one-off measures that are replaced in the subsequent years of the MTFP include the use of the final year of New Homes Bonus grant to fund revenue pressures, flexible use of capital receipts to fund revenue spending, and use of reserves.

1.3 The amount of one-off actions and use of reserves, particularly in the first year, is significant and will reduce the Council's financial resilience to absorb any future financial shocks, with the need to make recurring savings and cost reductions in the following two years as these one-off measures are not a sustainable solution to increased recurring costs. The late and unexpected reduction of the Services Grant and other changes in the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2024-25 published on the 18th December 2023 have increased the gap by £5.4m. Given the lateness in the budget setting process of this funding reduction, it has been addressed by increasing the level of one-off measures in 2024-25.

1.4 The one-off measures used to balance the budget for 2024-25 will need to be replaced by an equivalent level of savings in 2025-26 and 2026-27. As highlighted above, these will be from further proposals under the SKF objectives on policy choices and transformation of the Council's operating model. At this stage all that is required is an agreement that all one-off actions to balance 2024-25 will be replaced by matched savings in 2025-26 and 2026-27 and that the detail of these savings proposals will be developed, consulted on as required and agreed during the first half of 2024-25 for implementation in 2025-26 wherever possible, although the full financial effect may not impact until 2026-27 where there is a part-year effect in 2025-26.

1.5 The spending growth pressures impacting the Council are being experienced by most other councils and the financial sustainability of councils in general is a concern. Whilst the Council will seek to take all the necessary steps to manage future spending within resources available through savings, income and future cost avoidance this will not necessarily fully secure the Council's financial resilience and sustainability if future spending growth continues at unsustainable levels. If the structural deficits in key spending areas in adults and children's services are not addressed there will come a point within the medium-term plan period where the Council is unable to balance the budget on a sustainable basis from savings in other spending areas.

1.6 The draft capital programme for 2024-25 to 2033-34 is based on the principle of rolling forward the previous programme, avoiding the need for any additional borrowing over and above that already identified in the existing programme and reducing wherever possible the need to borrow in the existing programme. Any new schemes must be funded from sources other than borrowing, including government departmental grants, other external funding, developer contributions and capital receipts. The draft capital programme includes the recently announced additional highways capital grants from the Department for Transport for 2023-24 and 2024-25 following the cancellation of the HS2 project, estimated grants from the Department for Education for schools' modernisation and basic need, and the proposed use of capital receipts to cover some current overspends and the modernisation of assets programme for two years. The capital programme also includes the use of £8m capital receipts (under the Government direction that allows revenue costs of projects that will reduce costs, increase revenue or support a more efficient provision of services to be funded from asset sale proceeds) as a one-off measure to balance the 2024-25 revenue budget. This reduces the level of receipts available to fund capital expenditure.

1.7 The Treasury Management Strategy for 2024-25 is included as an appendix to this report and requires approval by full Council in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice. The strategy sets out the Council's approach to borrowing to finance capital expenditure and investment of cash balances, including the associated monitoring arrangements. The Council's prime objective when borrowing money is to strike an appropriate balance between securing low interest costs and achieving certainty of those costs over the period for which funds are required. The prime objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and low investment returns, and ensuring sufficient liquidity to manage cashflows.

1.8 The administration's draft budget includes a 4.992% assumed increase in Council Tax. This would increase the County Council share of the bill for a typical band D household by £1.47 per week (£76.59 per year). Council Tax is the Council's most significant source of income to fund essential services, and whilst the administration seeks to keep increases to a minimum, the assumed amount is in line with the government's Council Tax referendum principles for 2024-25 (confirmed in the 2024-25 Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement) of a 3% referendum limit and 2% adult social care precept. The tax base (the number of dwellings liable for council tax after discounts, exemptions and assumed collection rates) is assumed to increase by 1.7%, which is around the normal level the Council would expect from growth in the number of households and anticipated changes to discounts. The council tax precept is based on a combination of the council tax band D charge and the estimate of the net number of band D equivalent properties in the tax base for 2024-25. The tax base estimate is ultimately determined by collection authorities (district and borough councils) for the final draft budget and council tax precept for full Council approval on 19th February.

1.9 The usable revenue reserves at the start of 2023-24 were £355.1m, comprising of £37.6m general reserve, £300.6m earmarked reserves and £16.9m public health reserve, this represents a reduction of £53m (13%) on the previous year. A further net drawdown from usable reserves is forecast in 2023-24 (including the transfer to the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) reserve for the 2023-24 local authority contribution to the Safety Valve programme). The use of usable reserves to support revenue spending significantly reduces the council's ability to withstand unexpected circumstances and costs and reduces the scope to smooth timing differences between spending and savings plans. The levels of reserves now pose a more significant risk to the council's financial resilience than levels of debt. Reserves will need to be replenished at the earliest opportunity and will need to be factored into future revenue budget plans.

2.1 The background and context set out in the initial draft budget report published at the end of October are largely unchanged. The following paragraphs set out the main updates to the draft budget since the publication date.

2.2 This revised draft revenue budget and MTFP are based on the latest estimates from the actions in Securing Kent's Future, which recognises that changing the spending patterns on adult social care, children in care and home to school transport in a sustainable way will take time. The draft budget includes some reductions in future cost increases in adult social care and home to school transport. For transparency and on-going monitoring, the spending growth is shown as a gross amount in the cost forecasts before any corrective action, and the reductions in planned spending from these actions are shown as savings. Even with these actions the net spending in these three key service areas is still forecast to grow faster than the funding available in the 2024-25 settlement and future government spending plans, and further work will be needed over the coming months to set out the detail how spending on these services will be reduced.

2.3 As well as the impacts of current year overspends and future forecast costs and demand, inflation is still forecast to remain at historically high levels during 2023-24 and into 2024-25. Inflation impacts on the costs of goods and services in revenue budgets and costs of labour, fees and materials on capital projects. The impact of inflation built into the draft budget is based on the November 2023 forecasts from the Office of Budget responsibility (OBR). The November 2023 OBR forecasts were for Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation to peak at 10.7% in quarter 4 2022, thereafter reducing to:

- 10.2% in quarter 1 2023
- 8.4% in quarter 2 2023
- 6.7% in quarter 3 2023
- 4.8% in quarter 4 2023
- 4.6% in quarter 1 2024
- 3.7% in quarter 2 2024
- 3.3% in quarter 3 2024
- 2.8% in quarter 4 2024
- 2.3% in quarter 1 2025

2.4 Inflationary uplifts are applied according to the terms of individual contracts including timing. This means that in many cases mid-year uplifts have a part year impact in 2023-24 and full year impact in 2024-25. The rate of inflation in 2023 has not reduced as quickly as the March 2023 OBR forecast, with reported CPI from Office for National Statistics (ONS) of 10.2% quarter 1, 8.4% quarter 2 and 6.7% quarter 3 2023. The rate of inflation for the year to November 2023 fell unexpectedly to 3.9% from 4.6% in October. Revenue spending subject to inflation is around £1.4bn, so each 1% adds £14m to council costs.

3.1 The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2024-25 was published on 18th December 2023. A policy statement on the settlement was published on 5th December 2023 which was intended to give an early indication of what was to be included in the settlement. The settlement largely confirms amounts announced in principle in the 2023-24 settlement last year for 2024-25. This included confirmation of council tax referendum limits for 2024-25 and further increases in the additional social care grants. As in previous years the settlement is based on a core spending power from council tax and the main departmental grants for local government from the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLHUC) within the government's overall spending plans. The settlement does not include specific grants from other government departments, retained growth from business rates or collection fund balances.

3.2 The headline from the settlement is an overall £3.9bn (6.5%) increase in spending power between 2023-24 and 2024-25. The increase for the Council is £86.3m (6.7%). The majority of the increase £2.1bn (3.5%) nationally and £54.3m (4.2%) for the Council comes from council tax. The council tax referendum principles allow for up to but not exceeding 3% increase in the general precept with a further 2% for adult social care levy for upper tier and single tier authorities. Lower tier authorities can increase council tax by the greater of up to but not exceeding 3% or £5 for band D. Police and crime commissioners can increase band D by up to £13. There are additional flexibilities allowing larger increases for specific named authorities - Slough Council, Thurrock Council and Woking Borough Council. The core spending power assumes every authority increases council tax up to maximum allowed and is based on DLHUC's autumn tax base information. The Council's budget and council tax precept is based on the council tax increase proposed to be agreed by full council, and council tax base estimates for 2024-25 provided by district and borough councils as required for the precept notification.

3.3 The previously announced additional grants for social care include:

- Social Care Grant an extra £612m nationally for adults and children's social care. The grant also includes a further additional £80m recycled from Services Grant. The total grant nationally for 2024-25 is £4,544m. £3,852m is rolled forward as the same amounts as for 2023-24, £532m is allocated according to adult social care relative needs formula (ASC RNF) and £160m (including the £80m recycled from Services Grant)_equalising the amount that can be raised through the 2% ASC council tax levy. The Council's allocation is £104.2m comprising £88.8m rolled forward from 2023-24, £13.7m from the ASC RNF and £1.8m from council tax equalisation, an overall expected increase of £15.4m on 2023-24.
- Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund an extra £283m nationally as previously announced in Autumn Budget 2022 plus further £205m nationally from the announcement of a further tranche for workforce fund in July 2023. These increase the total from £562m to £1,050m. The entire grant is allocated according to ASC RNF, the Council's share for 2024-25 is £27.0m, an expected increase of £12.5m.
- Discharge Fund an extra £200m nationally in the local authority 50% (increasing the total grant from £300m to £500m). The grant is allocated on the same basis as Improved Better Care Fund and managed in accordance with the requirements of the Better Care fund. The Council's share for 2024-25 is £11.7m, an expected increase of £4.7m

3.4 The increased social care grants in the provisional settlement have been included in the revised draft budget. The additional social care grants and increase in the adult social care council tax precept must be passported into social care budgets (with an allowable share of the social care grant for children's). This effectively sets a minimum increase in net spending on social care services between 2023-24 and 2024-25 and therefore caps the amount that can be delivered from efficiency, service reductions and transformation programmes in social care services to offset increasing costs.

3.5 The Services Grant has been unexpectedly reduced by approx. 84%. This reduces the national amount by £406.4m from £483.3m to £76.9m. This grant was introduced in the 2022-23 settlement as an un-ringfenced grant in recognition of additional spending pressures across the whole range of local services in advance of the significantly delayed Fair Funding reforms for local government that were intended to address the current outdated local government finance system. The grant was initially £822m in 2022-23. This was reduced to £483.3m in 2023-24 largely to reflect the cancellation of the employer's national insurance increase to fund social care reforms. The unexpected reduction in 2024-25 has been recycled elsewhere within the settlement including the increases in social care grant, revenue support grant, and minimum 3% funding guarantee. At this stage this still leaves a balance of £140m available, but it is not clear what this balance is for. The grant is allocated on the same basis as the Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA). The Council's provisional allocation for 2024-25 is £1.2m, which represents a 84% reduction of £6.4m on 2023-24, not including any share of the unallocated £140m. The reduced grant is reflected in the revised draft budget and due to the lateness of the announcement, has increased the amount required to be found from one-off measures in 2024-25 which will need to be replaced by additional savings in 2025-26 and 2026-27.

3.6 One final year of the New Homes Bonus (NHB) grant will be paid to authorities based upon the previous year's taxbase growth. As in recent year's this will no longer generate legacy payments in future years. 80% of NHB is paid to lower tier councils and 20% to upper tier. The Council's allocation for 2024-25 is £2.1m. This is assumed to be a one-off for 2024-25 and is included as part of the one-off solutions to balancing 2024-25 which will need to be replaced by additional recurring savings in 2025-26 and 2026-27.

3.7 The Non-Domestic Rating Act has received Royal Assent and will be implemented from April 2024. The Act confirms that the annual indexation of business rates (BR) will be based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) rather than Retail Price Index (RPI) and the increase in the small business and standard multipliers are decoupled. This makes the arrangement for the retained business rate baseline in the Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA) more complex. The SFA comprises revenue support grant (RSG) and business rates baseline. RSG will continue to be uplifted each year in line with CPI uplift to the business rate multiplier (6.6% for 2024-25). The business rate baseline will be uplifted by separate amounts for small business rate multiplier uplift and the uplift to the standard multiplier. This results in a separate and unique weighted % uplift for each council based on the mix of standard rated and small businesses in the local area.

3.8 For 2024-25 the uplift in standard BR multiplier is the same September CPI as RSG, raising the multiplier from 51.2p to 54.6p. The small business rate multiplier has been frozen at 49.9p. This results in a weighted uplift of approx. 4.6% for the Council. The highest weighted uplift is Westminster (6.09%) and the lowest Cornwall (4.01%). Councils are to be fully compensated for the freezing of the business rate multiplier through Business Rate Compensation Grant. This should mean in theory every Council has the same uplift when SFA and the compensation grant are taken into account. At this stage there is not sufficient detail within the BR compensation grant included in the core spending power to confirm this and the allocation in the spending power is assumed to be indicative at this stage (as it has been in previous years).

3.9 The SFA for the Council has increased by £9.8m (4.7%) to £215.8m, a common 6.6% uplift would have resulted in an SFA of £219.6m, an estimated reduction of £3.9m due to freezing the small business rate multiplier. The BR compensation grant for 2023-24 was £44.2m for previous freezes in BR multipliers and additional discounts. We would normally expect these previous freezes and discounts to increase by annual uplift i.e. £2.9m based on 6.6%. The BR compensation grant in the provisional settlement has increased by £5.6m i.e. an estimated £2.7m in additional grant for the small business freeze for 2024-25, a shortfall of £1.2m when compared the assumed standard uplift through in SFA. In the draft budget we have assumed this shortfall will eventually come through in the BR compensation grant along with other changes when the grant is updated for the full impact of previous freezes and discounts. This is line with the principle that the combination of SFA and compensation for small business rate freeze result in the same % uplift for all councils. Should the final calculation not result in a combined 6.6% for every council then the draft budget will need to be updated either for County Council or Cabinet (as has been the case in recent years where the final business rate retention impact has not been available in time for the budget County Council publication date).

3.10 The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement includes a number of other announcements including an extension to March 2030 on the flexibility for revenue costs to be funded from capital receipts (under the direction that allows revenue costs of projects that will reduce costs, increase revenue or support a more efficient provision of services to be funded from capital receipts). The settlement also includes a consultation that would introduce “financial levers” to disincentivise councils from operating part-time working week arrangements for full time pay. The Exceptional Financial Support framework has also been announced and provides support where a council has specific and evidenced concerns about its ability to set or maintain a balanced budget.

3.11 The overall increase in the core spending power (and therefore assumed funding for the 2024-25 draft budget) is significantly less than the forecast spending demands. This leaves a substantial gap which needs to be closed from savings, income and one-off measures such as reserves. There is no indicative settlement for 2025-26 or later years. At this stage the MTFP assumes existing grants will roll forward along with inflationary uplifts to the SFA and further permitted council tax increases.

3.12 A summary of the change in core spending power between the restated 2023-24 position and the provisional 2024-25 position is set out in table 1 below:

Table 1 – Core Spending Power

	KCC			England		
	2024-25 £'m	2023-24 £'m	Change £'m	2024-25 £'m	2023-24 £'m	Change £'m
Council Tax	931.0	876.8	54.3	36,062.2	33,984.3	2,077.9
Settlement Funding Assessment	215.8	206.0	9.8	16,562.7	15,671.1	891.5
Business Rate Compensation	38.8	33.2	5.6	2,581.3	2,204.6	376.7
Social Care Grant	104.2	88.8	15.4	4,544.0	3,852.0	692.0
MSIF/Hospital Discharge	38.7	21.4	17.2	1,550.0	862.0	688.0
iBCF	50.0	50.0	0.0	2,139.8	2,139.8	0.0
Services Grant	1.2	7.6	-6.4	76.9	483.3	-406.4
New Homes Bonus	2.1	2.3	-0.2	291.4	291.3	0.1
Rural Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	95.0	95.0	0.0
Funding Guarantee	0.0	0.0	0.0	196.5	133.3	63.2
Rolled in Grants	0.0	9.4	-9.4	0.0	480.0	-480.0
Totals	1,381.8	1,295.5	86.3	64,099.8	60,196.7	3,903.0
			6.7%			6.5%

4.1 Council Tax income is a key source of funding for council services. The amount generated through Council Tax is based on a precept on collection authorities derived from the estimated band D equivalent Council Tax Base (the number of weighted properties in each band adjusted for exemptions, discounts and assumed collection rates) and the County Council share of the band D household charge.

4.2 A significant proportion of the funding towards the revenue budget is derived from the County Council’s share of council tax. The County Council share of council tax typically amounts to around 70% of a household council tax bill. The County Council charge is the same for all households in the county (as is the share for Police & Crime Commissioner and Fire and Rescue authority), the amount for district/borough and town/parish councils will vary depending on the local area and the individual decisions of these councils.

4.3 The Council currently can, subject to legislative constraints, increase its Council Tax rate through two mechanisms, the Adult Social Care (ASC) precept and general tax rate increases. Each 1% increase in the Council Tax rate generates circa £8.9m per annum in 2024-25, which equates to an extra 29.5 pence per week for a band D property.

4.4 The council tax referendum principles for 2024-25 allow for up to but not exceeding 3% general tax rate increases without a referendum plus an additional Adult Social Care levy of up to 2%. These increases are based on the total county council share of the household charge for 2023-24 (£1,534.23 for band D household). The administration’s draft budget 2024-25 includes a proposed 2.998% increase for the general precept (up to but not exceeding the referendum level) and a further 1.994% increase for the adult social care levy (ASCL). The proposed council tax increases and overall charge by individual bands are shown in tables 2 and 3.

Table 2 – Proposed Council Tax Increases by Band

Band	Proportion of Band D Tax Rate	2023-24 (incl. ASCL) £p	2024-25 (incl. increase in ASCL) £p	Increase £p
A	6/9	1,022.82	1,073.88	51.06
B	7/9	1,193.29	1,252.86	59.57
C	8/9	1,363.76	1,431.84	68.08
D	9/9	1,534.23	1,610.82	76.59
E	11/9	1,875.17	1,968.78	93.61
F	13/9	2,216.11	2,326.74	110.63
G	15/9	2,557.05	2,684.70	127.65
H	18/9	3,068.46	3,221.64	153.18

Table 3 – Proposed Council Tax Charges by Band

Band	Proportion of Band D Tax Rate	2023-24 (incl. ASCL) £p	2024-25 (excl. increase in ASCL) £p	2024-25 (incl. increase in ASCL) £p
A	6/9	1,022.82	1,053.48	1,073.88
B	7/9	1,193.29	1,229.06	1,252.86
C	8/9	1,363.76	1,404.64	1,431.84
D	9/9	1,534.23	1,580.22	1,610.82
E	11/9	1,875.17	1,931.38	1,968.78
F	13/9	2,216.11	2,282.54	2,326.74
G	15/9	2,557.05	2,633.70	2,684.70
H	18/9	3,068.46	3,160.44	3,221.64

4.5 The County Council's 2023-24 council tax charge (including Fire and Rescue Authority to ensure valid like for like comparison) is currently mid-range at 10th highest of the 21 counties in England and 4th of the 7 south east counties. We will not know the Council's relative position on Council Tax for 2024-25 until all county councils have agreed their precept and Council Tax charge for 2024-25.

4.6 The initial draft budget assumed a tax base increase of 1.7%, based on previous patterns of housing growth and changes in discounts, exemptions and collection rates including assumption for the removal of remaining empty property discounts. The provisional estimated tax base from the 12 district and borough councils (collection authorities) is 580,886.03 band D equivalent properties compared to the final estimated tax base for 2023-24 of 571,478.39 band D equivalents, an increase of 1.65%. The change in the tax base includes increases in the number of dwellings, changes in discounts, exemptions and assumed collection rates. Most districts have removed the remaining discounts on empty dwellings contributing to the increase in tax base.

4.7 The final council tax precept and council tax funding levels will have to be based on tax base estimates notified by the 12 district and borough councils. We have received provisional estimates of tax base increases from all 12 and these are shown in table 3 below. The total estimated tax base increase of 1.65% is very close to our initial estimate of 1.7%. We are due to receive final tax base estimate figures from the 12 district and borough councils on 15th January and we have therefore left the tax base increase at 1.7% for this revised draft, and we will reflect any changes in the final draft budget papers for County Council on 19th February.

Table 4 – Provisional estimates of tax base increases from the 12 collection authorities

Collection Authority	Final 2023-24 taxbase £p	Estimated 2024-25 taxbase £p	Change £p	Change %
Ashford	48,906.00	49,832.00	926.00	1.89%
Canterbury	52,372.76	53,370.27	997.51	1.90%
Dartford	40,288.37	41,029.46	741.09	1.84%
Dover	39,974.37	40,874.50	900.13	2.25%
Folkestone & Hythe	39,977.09	40,466.09	489.00	1.22%
Gravesham	35,266.50	35,994.62	728.12	2.06%
Maidstone	67,161.69	68,263.60	1,101.91	1.64%
Sevenoaks	51,990.30	52,394.75	404.45	0.78%
Swale	49,673.46	50,367.85	694.39	1.40%
Thanet	45,759.46	46,454.06	694.60	1.52%
Tonbridge & Malling	52,706.29	53,477.93	771.64	1.46%
Tunbridge Wells	47,402.10	48,360.90	958.80	2.02%
Total	571,478.39	580,886.03	9,407.64	1.65%

4.8 The district and borough councils also have to notify us of their estimated collection fund balance for over/under collection by 24th January 2024. This must also be reflected in the final draft budget as over/under collection has to be taken into account as part of the final decision on the council tax charge for 2024-25. The revised draft budget includes an assumed £7m collection fund balance. Any variation in the assumed balance will be reflected through the local taxation equalisation reserve, which avoids any impact on the revenue budget.

5.1 The administration's initial draft revenue budget report published on 1st November was subject to the budget scrutiny process during November. This revised draft budget sets out the proposals to close the budget gap in 2024-25 and over the MTFP and the proposals to minimise the level of borrowing on the capital programme and is therefore subject to further scrutiny during January. The administration's final draft budget will take account of any feedback from the scrutiny process and will be recommended by Cabinet to County Council. The final draft budget will be published by 9th February 2024 for consideration and approval by County Council at its meeting on 19th February 2024. As required by the Council's Constitution and Financial Regulations, the final draft budget for County Council approval will be proposed by the Leader and published in a format recommended by the Corporate Director, Finance and agreed by the Leader.

5.2 The presentation of the administration's revised draft revenue budget 2024-25 and 2024-27 MTFP focuses on the key policy and strategic implications of the proposals. The revenue proposals are summarised in appendices D to G of this report. These appendices show the spending, income and savings changes from the current year's approved budget (2023-24) and the financing requirements. Appendix D provides a high-level summary of the proposed three-year plan for the whole council, showing separately the spending growth, savings & income, changes in reserves for core Council funded activity (funding from the local government settlement and local taxation) from changes in externally funded activities (largely specific grant funded).

5.3 As set out in section 3 above, the provisional local government settlement included an unexpected net reduction in grants of £5.4m for 2024-25 through the changes in Social Care Grant and Services Grant increasing the £48.8m budget gap published on the 1st November to £54.2m. The 2024-25 gap has been closed by £13.9m from increased funding through the increased indexation of SFA and business rate compensation grant and revised spending forecasts and savings plans, and further recurring savings of £16.3m from removing the risk contingency included in the initial draft and further progress on the SKF objective 2 for further savings to set a sustainable 2024-25 budget and MTFP. The remaining £23.9m has been balanced through one-off measures. These one-off measures will be replaced in 2025-26 and 2026-27 through further policy savings under SKF objective 3 (scope of Council's ambitions) and objective 4 (operating model of the Council). The revised draft budget includes as a minimum requirement the principle of replacing one-off measures with sustainable recurring savings and cost reductions, although the detail of the proposals will need to be developed and agreed over the coming months to ensure they are implemented to impact the 2025-26 budget.

5.4 Table 5 summarises the change to achieve a balanced budget for 2024-25 and MTFP.

Table 5 – Summary of Changes from Initial Draft Budget 1st November 2023

	2024-25	2025-26 & 2026-27
	£'m	£'m
Initial draft budget gap as at 1 st November 2023	48.8	13.9
Funding increase from higher inflation forecast	-3.5	-11.2
Revised spending and income forecasts	-9.2	+14.8
Further policy savings including staffing considerations	-1.2	-5.9
Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement	+5.4	
One-off solutions 2024-25	-23.9	+23.9
Remove Risk Contingency	-14.0	-1.0
Recurring savings from Securing Kent's Future	-2.3	-10.6
Policy savings to replace one-off solutions used in 2024-25		-23.9
Revised draft budget gap	0.0	0.0

5.5 Appendix E provides a directorate high level summary of the proposed plan for 2024-25, separately showing spending growth, savings & income, changes in reserves and funding for core council funded activity (funding from the local government settlement and local taxation) from changes in externally funded activities (largely specific grant funded). Throughout this report the focus is on core funded spending, savings, income and reserves as changes on externally funded spend are financially neutral.

5.6 Appendix F illustrates examples of the more detailed information available through dashboards that have been created to support the scrutiny process and for future in-year monitoring and reporting. Appendix G provides a full list of individual spending, savings & income, and reserves items including full details of the changes from the initial draft published on 1st November 2023. This appendix shows the spending forecasts, savings and income proposals, and changes in reserves for all the three years 2024-27. New savings and income for later years are included to highlight the areas that will need to deliver the required level of recurring savings in 2025-26 and 2026-27 although inevitably these savings proposals will need to be developed in more detail and subject to consultation and scrutiny in the coming months as the full detail for the subsequent years is not essential for the approval of 2024-25 budget and the MTFP at this stage. The changes between the initial draft and revised draft budget for 2024-25 are summarised in table 6.

Table 6 – Main Changes between Initial and Revised Draft Budget 2024-25

	Core Funded £'m	Externally Funded £'m	Total £'m
Planned Spending Changes	-17.0	+1.0	-16.0
Remove risk contingency (base budget) *	-14.0		-14.0
Review of provision for debt charges (base budget)	-7.0		-7.0
Energy price revisions (base budget)	-2.3		-2.3
Highway investment	-2.2		-2.2
Adult Social Care (demand & cost drivers)	+3.4		+3.4
Home to School Transport (demand & cost drivers)	+1.0		+1.0
Higher inflation forecasts (prices)	+3.3		+3.3
Other changes	+0.8	+1.0	+1.8
Savings & Income	-18.3		-18.3
One-off use of Capital Receipts	-8.0		-8.0
Policy	-4.0		-4.0
Company Dividends (income)	-3.0		-3.0
Other Income	-2.3		-2.3
Transformation & Efficiency	-0.9		-0.9
Change in Reserves	-13.4	-1.0	-14.4
Net Change in Funding	-0.2		-0.2
Total (Gap Resolved)	-48.8		-48.8

* The £14m risk contingency represents 1% of the net revenue budget. The removal of the risk contingency weakens the Council's resilience and ability to manage financial risk and it is therefore important that the recurring savings identified for 2025-26 and 2026-27 provide the ability to restore as much of the risk contingency as possible.

5.7 The final draft budget presented to County Council will include the key service analysis for 2024-25 which sets out the spending in the main service areas by directorate (at director level) as used for budget monitoring reports. The original planned spending on key services is set out in appendix E of the final approved Budget Book for 2023-24 (published in March) and is available on KCC website at [2023-24 Budget Book](#). It is not feasible or appropriate to produce a key service presentation in the revised draft budget for scrutiny as the scrutiny process needs to focus on the proposed changes to the approved budgets for 2023-24 before more detailed delivery plans are completed and these plans will inform the key service budgets for 2024-25.

5.8 The final draft budget presented to County Council on 19th February will include the impact of the Personnel Committee recommendations on Kent Scheme pay for 2024-25. The County Council agreed the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2021-2025 on 4th November 2021. This included agreement to an annual indexation formula. The annual increase under this formula is the average of two figures. The first is the average of the increases arising in sectors covered by 8 national public sector pay review bodies. The second is the percentage awarded to staff awarded 'Successful' in the Total Contribution Pay scheme based on the proposals from Personnel Committee for 2024-25. The revised draft budget includes provisional figures for both Kent Scheme pay and member allowances.

5.9 Additional proposed spending growth includes the impact of decisions and activities already being delivered in the current year not included in the current base budget and known future contractual obligations. It also includes forecasts for future cost or activity changes for the forthcoming year, or changes in Council policy. These are set out in fuller detail in dashboards including an explanation of the reasons for the change, key impacts and risks, dependencies and sensitivities. The dashboards have been introduced this year so will inevitably need further development.

5.10 The savings and income options in the dashboards follow a similar pattern with proposed savings amounts derived from the full year effect of 2023-24 plans already agreed; savings and income for 2024-25 in the original 2023-26 MTFP (albeit updated); savings/income from the application of existing policies; savings/income that do not require any changes in policy; and those that require policy changes presented as policy savings, efficiency/transformation savings, income or financing savings. Given the scale of the savings, detailed delivery plans will need to be prepared and monitoring arrangements will be put in place in addition to the arrangements already embedded through the monthly monitoring with budget managers and regular budget monitoring reports to Cabinet.

5.11 The high-level equation for changes in planned revenue spending for 2024-25 (growth and savings), income and net budget, together with the balancing changes in funding is shown in table 5 below. This summarises how the requirement to set a balanced budget will be met once the outstanding actions for 2024-25 outlined in Securing Kent's Future have been finalised and confirmed. To improve transparency the spending, savings and reserves from core Council funds are shown separately from externally funded changes (consistent with the revised presentation of appendices D and E).

5.12 The Council continues to operate its policy of full cost recovery through fees and charges that can be determined locally other than where Cabinet/County Council has agreed to provide services at a subsidy or concession e.g. Kent Travel Saver. Under this policy fees and charges are subject to an annual uplift with periodic review to ensure that uplifts ensure full cost recovery continues to apply. The uplifts and full cost reviews are reflected in the 2024-25 budget proposals and form part of the budget recovery plan within Securing Kent's Future.

Table 7 – Net Change in Spending and Funding

Change in Net Spending	Core Funded £'m	External Funded £'m	Change in Net Funding	Core Funded £'m
Estimated additional spending	184.5	-23.1	Increase in Social Care grants	32.6
Proposed savings from spending reductions and future cost avoidance	-72.2*		Net Increase in other government grants	7.5
Proposed changes in income	-15.4*	-0.3	Change in council tax base	14.9
Assumed changes in specific government grants		20.9	Assumed increase in council tax charge	44.5
Proposed net change in reserves	3.1	2.5	Change in retained business rates	2.6
			Change in net collection fund balances/S31 compensation	-2.1
Total Change in Net Spending	100.0	0.0	Total Change in Net Funding	100.0

*Net figures from original 2023-26 plan updated and new proposals

5.13 In addition to the spending pressures in core Council services, pressures arising from Special Education Needs & Disabilities (SEND) impact upon both the ring-fenced Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and the General Fund revenue budget. Pressures on DSG are being addressed primarily through the Safety Valve mechanism, whereby the Department for Education provides a substantial contribution (up to £140m), in return for improvements to the SEND system and a contribution (£82.3m) from the Council. SEND pressures on the General Fund are reflected primarily through the number of requests to assess, produce and then annually review Education & Health Care Plans (EHCP) and the associated increased SEND home to school transport costs.

5.14 There is already substantial work being undertaken to manage down this financial pressure and additional work will focus on identifying and reviewing changes to existing policy and practice so that we are meeting statutory minimum requirements, but ceasing discretionary services where they are not cost effective and only issuing EHCPs where they are necessary, and needs cannot be reasonably met by other means.

5.15 Consultation and Equality Impact Assessments (EQIA) will need to be undertaken on individual new savings and income proposals where required. The final planned amounts can only be confirmed following consideration of consultation responses and EQIAs. Any variances between the approved budget and final planned amounts will be included in the budget monitoring reports to Cabinet, together with progress on delivery and any additional measures that may be required.

5.16 The administration's draft ten-year capital programme is set out in appendices A and B of this report. Appendix A provides a high level summary of the proposed capital programme and financing requirements. The spending plans in appendix B set out proposed spending on individual projects and rolling programmes by directorate. The financing is a combination of government departmental capital grants, forecast developer contributions, external funding, capital receipts and borrowing. Inflationary and other cost pressures have significantly impacted the capital programme on both rolling programmes and individual schemes. In recognition of the financial challenge facing the Council the additional unfunded cost estimates have been absorbed within the existing programme. No new schemes with prudential borrowing have been added to the programme to avoid increasing the revenue burden of borrowing to fund capital expenditure. As a result, planned maintenance will only be carried out on the highest priority sites (those dealing with safeguarding issues and highways/waste operations) and the modernisation of assets work will need to be prioritised which is likely to result in the closure of non-priority sites. There will be consequential impact on risks and maintenance backlogs, but these will continue to be managed to mitigate risks as far as possible. This is a necessary short-term measure while the Council reviews and reduces its estate over the medium term to an affordable level which in turn should reduce future maintenance and modernisation requirements. The additional funding provided by Department for Transport for highway maintenance programmes has been included in spending plans for 2024-25. Some additional spending for 2024-25 and 2025-26 has been funded from capital receipts to maintain the policy of keeping council buildings safe, warm and dry.

5.17 Appendix C of this report provides an indication of new potential capital projects which could come forward within the next 10 years. These are identified as future proposals but have not been formally included in the administration's draft capital programme and will only be added in later years subject to business cases being completed and reviewed and affordable funding solutions being identified. Indicative costings have been provided as a guide, however, no funding or budget is being set aside for these projects at this time.

5.18 The capital strategy recognises that the capital programme must align with the Council's strategic priorities and support the priorities and principles in other key strategies such as Kent and Medway Growth and Infrastructure Framework, Local Transport Plan, Commissioning Plan for Education Provision, Asset Management Strategy etc. It is equally important that these key strategies are regularly reviewed and updated to take into account legislative requirements and the financial operating environment including both capital and revenue funding settlements. The review and updating of these strategies also needs to reflect the objectives set out in Securing Kent's Future and contribute to the delivery of the budget recovery plan.

Proposed Revised Draft 2024-25 Revenue Budget – key numbers

£1,415.7m	Assumed net revenue budget for 2024-25. This represents a £100.0m increase on the final approved budget for 2023-24 of £1,315.6m.
£184.5m	Additional estimated core funded spending growth – see paragraph 7.1 for more detail.
-£87.6m	Assumed savings, income and future cost increase avoidance. Of this £41.9m relates to proposed savings, £15.4m additional income generation (mainly fees and charges), and £30.3m reductions in the amount assumed for future demand and cost increases in adult social care and home to school transport – see paragraph 6.2 for more detail.
£3.1m	Estimated net impact on the budget of changes in the use of reserves including new contributions and removing previous years drawdown and contributions – see section 8 for more detail.
£936.2m	Estimated to be raised from Council Tax precept. An increase of £59.4m on 2023-24. £14.9m is due to a 1.7% estimated increase in the tax base due to additional dwellings, changes in discounts and exemptions and assumed collection rates. £44.5m is from the estimated increase in the household charge up to but not exceeding 5% (including £17.8m from the adult social care levy).
£40.6m	Net increases as announced in the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement. This comprises of the following changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £15.4m expected increase in Social Care Grant announced in the 2023-24 settlement from repurposed funding from social care charging reforms • £12.5m expected increase in Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund to support capacity and discharge (including £7.3m announced in 2023-24 settlement and £5.2m further announcement in summer 2023) • £4.7m expected increase in the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund • -£6.4m unexpected reduction in the Services Grant • £14.1m indexed linked uplifts in business rate top-up, business rate compensation (including estimated amount not yet announced) and Revenue Support Grant • -£0.2m continuation of New Homes Bonus Grant but at a lower value than 2023-24 • £0.5m expected net increase in local share of retained business rates and removal of S31 compensation for local taxation losses during Covid

Revenue spending: a reminder of what it is

Revenue spending is spent on the provision of day to day services, either directly through KCC staff and operational buildings, or commissioned from third parties. Revenue spending is identified as gross spend and net spend after taking account of service income and specific government grants. The net revenue budget requirement is funded by a combination of council tax, locally retained business rates and un-ring-fenced grants from the Department for Levelling-up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) included in the local government finance settlement. Grants from other government departments are ring-fenced to specific activities and are shown as income to offset the related spending.

6.1 The additional estimated core funded spending growth (i.e. excluding changes arising from external funding changes) of £184.5m for 2024-25 is summarised in appendices D and E and set out in more detail in appendix G together with more detail in the dashboard. It has been subdivided into the following categories:

Net base budget changes £22.1m	Changes to reflect full year effect of variations in the current year's monitoring forecast compared to approved budget. These adjustments are necessary to ensure the draft budget is based on a robust and sustainable basis.
Demand and future cost increase drivers £85.3m	Forecast estimates for future non-inflationary cost and demand increases such as additional care hours, increased journey lengths, etc. across a range of services including adult social care, integrated children's services, home to school transport and waste tonnage.
Price uplifts £49.6m	Contractual and negotiated price increases on contracted services, including full year effect of planned mid-year uplifts in current year and forecast future price uplifts.
Pay £14.3m	Additional net cost of estimated pay award and progression after savings from appointing new staff lower in pay ranges.
Service Strategies & Improvements £11.9m	Other estimated spending increases to deliver strategic priorities and/or service improvements and outcomes including financing the capital programme.
Government & Legislative £1.3m	Additional spending to meet compliance with legislative and regulatory changes.

6.2 The proposed savings, income and future cost increase avoidance of £87.6m for 2024-25 are summarised in appendices D and E and set out in more detail in appendix G together with more detail in the dashboards. They have been subdivided into the following categories:

Policy Savings £10.6m	Savings arising from proposed changes in Council policies including full year effect of 2023-24 savings and new proposals for 2024-25 (full year effect in later years shown in summary and will be shown in more detail in the final draft). Savings in this category are changes to charging policies and changes in the service offer.
Transformation & Efficiency Savings £50.3m	Savings aimed at achieving improved or the same outcomes at less cost including full year effect of 2023-24 savings and new proposals for 2024-25 (full year effect in later years shown in summary and will be shown in more detail in the final draft) shown in summary and will be shown in more detail in the final draft). Savings in this category include future cost increase avoidance as well as reductions to existing recurring spend. Transformation and efficiency savings include contracted spending as well as in-house spending on staffing and premises.
Financing Savings £11.3m	Review of amounts set aside for debt repayment (MRP) based on asset life and increased investment income returns.
Income Generation £15.4m	Increases in fees and charges for council services from applying existing policies on fee uplifts (including contributions from other bodies) and new income generation proposals. Existing policies include increases in client contributions in line with estimated 2024-25 benefits and other personal income increases and increases in contributions to Kent Travel Saver and 16+ pass linked to fare increases.

Proposed Draft 2024-34 Capital Programme – key numbers

£1,646m	Total planned capital spending over the ten years 2024-25 to 2033-34
£992m	Confirmed or indicative government grants to fund capital expenditure
£376m	Total proposed borrowing to fund the programme
£278m	Funding from other sources (capital receipts, developer contributions, external funding and revenue)

7.1 The ten-year Capital Programme 2023-34 was approved by County Council in February 2023. This took into account the need to set a realistic and deliverable programme and avoid the significant over-programming and subsequent underspending against capital that has been a feature for several years. The ten-year horizon allows for a longer-term plan for capital investment, taking into consideration an updated assessment of the capital financing requirements and the consequent impact on the revenue budget and borrowing strategy.

7.2 The capital programme is under pressure from inflation in the same way as revenue spending, if anything these consequences are more significant due to the longer-term nature of capital plans. Inflationary pressures and overspends on existing schemes have been absorbed within the existing programme. The capital programme is also under significant pressure due to the backlog of maintenance on highways and buildings. These backlogs cannot be addressed within the current financial constraints and the need to avoid additional borrowing that would add pressure on the revenue budget through increased financing costs. This approach does not come without increased risks.

7.3 The increased risks which include danger to life and limb if repair works are not completed, an increase in maintenance backlogs which in turn could lead to additional revenue costs for reactive works, increased future costs of works due to inflation, and costs relating to climate change resilience/adaptation will be mitigated as far as possible. For example prioritising emergency works that would avoid risk of death or serious harm, prioritising maintenance on essential assets (although this means non-essential assets would not be maintained leading to possible closures on safety grounds) and doing the minimum to meet statutory requirements at lowest cost. This is only a short term necessity while the Council reviews and reduces its estate over the medium term which in turn will reduce future maintenance and modernisation requirements. The programme will continue to be regularly reviewed and re-prioritised within the funding available.

7.4 Appendix A of this report sets out a summary of the administration's proposed 2024-34 programme and associated financing requirements for each year. The summary provides a high-level overview for the whole council. The individual directorate pages in appendix B provide more detail of rolling programmes and individual projects.

Capital spending: a reminder of what it is

Capital spending is expenditure on the purchase or enhancement of physical assets where the benefit will last longer than the year in which it is incurred e.g. school buildings, roads, economic development schemes, IT systems, etc. It includes the cost of purchasing land, construction costs, professional fees, plant and equipment and grants for capital expenditure to third parties. Capital spending plans are determined according to the Council's statutory responsibilities and local priorities as set out in the MTFP, with the aim of delivering the vision set out in the Strategic Plan.

Capital spending is funded via a variety of sources including government grants, capital receipts, external contributions and borrowing. Borrowing has to be affordable as the cost of interest and setting aside sufficient provision to cover the loan repayments are borne by the revenue budget each year based on the life of the asset.

8.1 The proposed treasury management strategy for next year is largely unchanged from the current strategy for 2023-24. This is not necessarily unexpected: the Council's strategy is designed to provide ongoing effective risk control and not to be overfitted to a particular stage of the economic cycle. That being said, the current economic outlook is an important building block of the Council's treasury strategy (as well as the overall budget strategy) and, in particular, officers have taken account of the medium term interest rate forecasts from Link Group, the Council's appointed treasury advisors. Link estimate that Bank Rate (currently at 5.25%) has likely peaked and expect both short term and long term rates to decline over the medium term.

8.2 The most pertinent internal factor, and the key driver of the treasury strategy, is the Council's capital expenditure and financing plans, which determines the Council's borrowing requirement. As set out in paragraph 22 of the strategy, the capital financing requirement, is forecast to rise marginally over 2024-25 before declining gradually in the following two years. Most of this borrowing requirement has already been met through external borrowing, and debt balances themselves are expected to decline over the medium term as existing loans mature and are not replaced. Notwithstanding this the Council is expected to have ample capacity to continue supporting internal borrowing over the medium term to meet the residual borrowing requirement not fulfilled by external debt. This is demonstrated most clearly in the liability benchmark graphic, at paragraph 32. Therefore, given that interest rates are forecast to decline and that the Council does not necessarily require new external debt at this stage, officers are not recommending that new external borrowing is undertaken in 2024/25. The proposed strategy retains the flexibility to depart from this central expectation should circumstances change during the next financial year.

8.3

The investment strategy has been reviewed and is judged to remain fit for purpose. The Council will keep the current split between internally managed, highly liquid and high-quality cash instruments (approximately two thirds of overall cash under management) and the strategic pooled funds portfolio (circa one third). One technical change proposed in the new strategy is to reduce the minimum average credit quality for the portfolio to AA- (one notch down from the current limit of AA). This has not been proposed in order to increase credit risk, but simply for consistency with the UK sovereign rating (which itself is AA-). Officers do not expect the overall credit quality of the actual investment portfolio to be reduced. All other limits and indicators have been reviewed to ensure their continued appropriateness.

9.1 Reserves are an important part of the Council's financial strategy and are held to create long-term financial stability. They enable the Council to manage change without undue impact on the Council Tax and are a key element of its financial standing and resilience.

9.2 The Council's key sources of funding face an uncertain future and the Council therefore holds earmarked reserves and a working balance to mitigate future financial risks.

9.3 There are two main types of reserves:

- Earmarked Reserves – held for identified purposes and are used to maintain a resource in order to provide for expenditure in a future year(s).
- General Reserves – these are held for 'unforeseen' events.

9.4 The Council maintains reserves both for its General Fund activities and it accounts for the reserves of its maintained schools. Schools are funded by a 100% government grant, Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Local authorities cannot fund DSG activities from the general fund without express approval from the Secretary of State. Under the Safety Valve agreement with the DfE KCC is required to make a contribution totalling £82.3m between 2022-23 to 2027-28. The contributions for 2022-23 and 2023-24 are reflected through transfers from the Council's reserves into the DSG reserve. The contributions into the DSG reserve from 2024-25 onwards are reflected in the changes to reserves in the 2024-25 revised draft revenue budget and 2024-27 MTFP. The Safety Valve agreement does not fully eliminate the risk of DSG overspends until the plan has been fully delivered and high needs spending is contained within the block of funding available within DSG.

9.5 There remains a significant risk to reserves if the forecast overspend for 2023-24 is not balanced through the further management action that is being put in place for the remainder of the current financial year. The level of reserves held is a matter of judgment which takes into account the reasons why reserves are maintained and the Council's potential financial exposure to risks. A Reserves Policy is included as Appendix H to this report. An analysis of budget risks and adequacy of reserves is included as Appendix I, and a budget risk register at Appendix J.

9.6 The Council holds reserves in order to mitigate future risks, such as increased demand and costs; to help absorb the costs of future liabilities; and to enable the Council to initially resource policy developments and initiatives without a disruptive impact on Council Tax. Capital reserves play a similar role in funding the Council's capital investment strategy.

9.7 The Council also relies on interest earned through holding cash and investment balances to support its general spending plans.

9.8 Reserves are one-off monies and, therefore, the Council generally aims to avoid using reserves to meet on-going financial commitments other than as part of a sustainable budget plan. The Council has to balance the opportunity cost of holding reserves in terms of Council Tax against the importance of interest earning and long-term future planning.

9.9 Reserves are therefore held for the following purposes:

- Providing a working balance
- Smoothing the impact of uneven expenditure profiles between years e.g. collection fund surpluses or deficits, local elections, structural building maintenance and carrying forward expenditure between years.
- Holding funds for future spending plans e.g. capital expenditure plans, and for the renewal of operational assets e.g. information technology renewal.
- Meeting future costs and liabilities where an accounting 'provision' cannot be justified.
- Meeting future costs and liabilities so as to cushion the effect on services e.g. the Insurance Reserve for self-funded liabilities arising from insurance claims.
- To provide resilience against future risks.
- To create policy capacity in the context of forecast declining future external resources.

9.10 All earmarked reserves are held for a specific purpose. A summary of the movement on each category of reserves is published annually, to accompany the annual Statement of Accounts.

9.11 The administration's revised draft budget 2024-25 includes an assumed net £3.1m increase in reserves in 2024-25 and a net reduction of £3.9m over the medium term 2024-25 to 2026-27 on the core funded budget. The externally funded element includes a net contribution of £2.5m in 2024-27 and net contribution of £3.8m over the medium term. The movement in reserves includes new contributions and removing previous years drawdown and contributions. These changes include the following main changes:

Increased/new contributions (core budget) £36.7m

- £16.2m general reserves including £11.1m repayment of 50% of the amount drawn down to balance the 2022-23 budget and £5.1m for the additional annual contribution to reflect the increase in net revenue budget to maintain general reserves at 5%. The phased repayment of 2022-23 drawdown means general reserves are not planned to be returned to the agreed 5% of the net revenue budget until 2025-26
- £15.1m DSG reserve for the planned 2024-25 Council contribution to the safety valve programme
- £4.3m repayment to smoothing reserves for planned drawdowns to support the 2023-24 budget
- £1.0m annual contribution to establish new Emergency Capital Events Reserve for emergency capital works and revenue costs related to capital spend such as temporary accommodation, and condition surveys which don't result in capital works

Drawdowns and Removal of Prior Year Drawdown and Contributions -£33.6m

- -£12.9m drawdown from reserves/reduced contributions to reserves to balance the budget as part of the package of £23.9m one-off solutions for 2024-25. These one-off solutions will need to be replaced through further savings in 2025-26 and 2026-27
- -£1.3m for funding of specific projects within the 2024-25 revenue budget proposals
- -£5.8m removal of 2023-24 contribution to general reserve for increase in net budget
- -£12m removal of the contribution to the risk reserve (now treated as contingent spend rather than reserve)
- -£5.6m removal of 2023-24 contribution to Local Taxation Equalisation reserve
- -£1.2m removal of the annual contribution for the phased repayment of long term reserves borrowed to fund grant reductions in 2011-12 as these are now fully repaid
- +£4.3m to replace the drawdown from reserves to support the 2023-24 budget
- +£1.0m to replace the drawdown from reserves for specific projects in the 2023-24 budget

Net changes in externally funded reserves £2.5m

- -£1.3m from Public Health reserves including the planned drawdown of £0.3m for one-off investments in the future of Public Health and £1.0m one-off support to safe-guard services under the Live Well Kent Mental Health contract
- +£3.8m removal of drawdowns for Public Health in the 2023-24 budget

Appendices and background documents

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Background documents

Below are click-throughs to reports, more information, etc.
Click on the item title to be taken to the relevant webpage.

KCC's Budget webpage	1
KCC's Corporate Risk Register (item 8)	2
KCC's Risk Management Strategy, Policy and Programme (item 11)	3
KCC's approved 2023-24 Budget	4
2024-25 Budget Consultation (Let's Talk Kent) inc. the Budget Consultation report	5
Revenue and Capital 2023-24 Budget Monitoring Report for October 2023 (item 5)	6
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APPENDIX A - CAPITAL INVESTMENT SUMMARY 2024-25 TO 2033-34

Capital Investment Plans:

ROW REF	Directorate		Total Cost £000s	Prior Years Spend £000s	Cash Limits			
					2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
					Year 1 £000s	Year 2 £000s	Year 3 £000s	Year 4 £000s
1	Adult Social Care & Health	ASCH	6,157	3,308	599	250	250	250
2	Children, Young People & Education	CYPE	637,685	237,001	131,048	85,725	32,739	33,922
3	Growth, Environment & Transport	GET	1,471,674	334,767	182,036	142,561	159,160	185,206
4	Chief Executive's Department	CED	3,510	2,069	-255	1,696	0	0
5	Deputy Chief Executive's Department	DCED	127,531	23,522	31,546	25,992	3,421	6,150
6	Total Cash Limit		2,246,557	600,667	344,974	256,224	195,570	225,528

Funded By:

7	Borrowing	474,064	98,170	102,989	48,217	27,269	32,419
8	Property Enterprise Fund (PEF) 2	369	369				
9	Grants	1,326,633	334,235	168,016	129,192	125,164	165,609
10	Developer Contributions	186,924	67,286	38,520	40,654	20,946	9,586
11	Other External Funding e.g. Arts Council, District Contributions etc.	25,390	14,759	5,422	3,846	1,363	
12	Revenue Contributions to Capital	73,272	11,195	6,265	6,002	6,041	6,441
13	Capital Receipts	48,832	16,296	9,324	18,197	558	557
14	Recycled Loan Repayments	111,073	58,357	14,438	10,116	14,229	10,916
16	Total Finance	2,246,557	600,667	344,974	256,224	195,570	225,528

APPENDIX A - CAPITAL INVESTMENT SUMMARY 2024-25 TO 2033-34

Capital Investment Plans:

ROW REF	Directorate	Cash Limits						
		2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	
		Year 5 £000s	Year 6 £000s	Year 7 £000s	Year 8 £000s	Year 9 £000s	Year 10 £000s	
1	Adult Social Care & Health	ASCH	250	250	250	250	250	250
2	Children, Young People & Education	CYPE	19,750	19,500	19,500	19,500	19,500	19,500
3	Growth, Environment & Transport	GET	142,886	67,016	65,209	63,348	63,335	66,150
4	Chief Executive's Department	CED	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Deputy Chief Executive's Department	DCED	6,150	6,150	6,150	6,150	6,150	6,150
6	Total Cash Limit		169,036	92,916	91,109	89,248	89,235	92,050

Funded By:

7	Borrowing	25,000	28,000	28,000	28,000	28,000	28,000
8	Property Enterprise Fund (PEF) 2		0				
9	Grants	125,778	56,350	56,251	54,393	54,415	57,230
10	Developer Contributions	8,239	1,693				
11	Other External Funding e.g. Arts Council, District Contributions etc.						
12	Revenue Contributions to Capital	6,352	6,223	6,208	6,205	6,170	6,170
13	Capital Receipts	650	650	650	650	650	650
14	Recycled Loan Repayments	3,017					
16	Total Finance	169,036	92,916	91,109	89,248	89,235	92,050

Adult Social Care & Health (ASCH)

ROW REF	Project	Description of Project	Total Cost of Scheme	Prior Years Spend	Cash Limits			
					2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
					Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
			£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	
1	Home Support Fund & Equipment [2]	Provision of equipment and/or alterations to individuals' homes	2,500		250	250	250	250
2	Total Rolling Programmes [3]		2,500		250	250	250	250
Kent Strategy for Services for Learning Disability (LD):								
3	Learning Disability Good Day Programme	To provide dedicated space, accessible equipment and facilities for people with a learning disability within inclusive community settings across the county	3,657	3,308	349	0	0	0
4	Total Individual Projects		3,657	3,308	349	0	0	0
5	Total - Adult Social Care & Health		6,157	3,308	599	250	250	250

[1] These are projects that are relying on significant elements of unsecured funding and will only go ahead if the funding is achieved

[2] Estimated allocations have been included for 2024-25 to 2033-34

[3] Rolling programmes have been included for 10 year capital programme

Adult Social Care & Health (ASCH)

ROW REF	Project	Description of Project	Cash Limits						
			2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	
			Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	
			£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
1	Home Support Fund & Equipment [2]	Provision of equipment and/or alterations to individuals' homes	250	250	250	250	250	250	250
2	Total Rolling Programmes [3]		250	250	250	250	250	250	250
Kent Strategy for Services for Learning Disability (LD):									
3	Learning Disability Good Day Programme	To provide dedicated space, accessible equipment and facilities for people with a learning disability within inclusive community settings across the county	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Total Individual Projects		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Total - Adult Social Care & Health		250	250	250	250	250	250	250

[1] These are projects that are relying on significant elements of unsecured funding and will only go ahead if the funding is achieved

[2] Estimated allocations have been included for 2024-25 to 2033-34

[3] Rolling programmes have been included for 10 year capital programme

APPENDIX B - CAPITAL INVESTMENT SUMMARY 2024-25 TO 2033-34

Children, Young People & Education (CYPE)

ROW REF	Project	Description of Project	Total Cost of Scheme	Prior Years Spend	Cash Limits			
					2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
					Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
			£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
1	Annual Planned Enhancement Programme [2]	Planned and reactive capital projects to keep schools open and operational	87,571		13,871	9,700	8,000	8,000
2	Schools Capital Expenditure funded from Devolved Formula Capital Grants for Individual Schools	Enhancement of schools	45,000		4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
3	Schools Capital Expenditure funded from Revenue	Expenditure on capital projects by individual schools	50,000		5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
4	Schools' Modernisation Programme [2]	Improving and upgrading school buildings including removal of temporary classrooms	31,208		9,956	5,252	2,000	2,000
5	Total Rolling Programmes [3]		213,779		33,327	24,452	19,500	19,500
Basic Need Schemes - to provide additional pupil places:								
6	Basic Need KCP 2017	Increasing the capacity of Kent's schools	116,518	115,334	1,184	0	0	0
7	Basic Need KCP 2018 [1]	Increasing the capacity of Kent's schools	49,283	41,539	1,666	0	400	5,428
8	Basic Need KCP 2019 [1]	Increasing the capacity of Kent's schools	101,247	51,198	47,164	2,885	0	0
9	Basic Need KCP 2021-25 [1]	Increasing the capacity of Kent's schools	11,225	2,272	500	8,453	0	0
10	Basic Need KCP 2022-26 [1]	Increasing the capacity of Kent's schools	13,833	5,522	8,311	0	0	0
11	Basic Need KCP 2023-27 [1]	Increasing the capacity of Kent's schools	66,945	1,810	15,118	30,704	11,319	7,994
12	Basic Need KCP 2024-28 [1]	Increasing the capacity of Kent's schools	6,894	187	0	6,707	0	0
Other Projects								
13	High Needs Provision 22-24	Specific projects relating to high needs provision	44,168	13,019	20,125	11,024	0	0
14	High Needs Provision 24-25	Specific projects relating to high needs provision	7,166	0	3,146	1,500	1,520	1,000
15	School Roofs	Structural repairs to school roofs	6,627	6,120	507	0	0	0
16	Total Individual Projects		423,906	237,001	97,721	61,273	13,239	14,422
17	Total - Children, Young People & Education		637,685	237,001	131,048	85,725	32,739	33,922

[1] These are projects that are relying on significant elements of unsecured funding and will only go ahead if the funding is achieved

[2] Estimated allocations have been included for 2024-25 to 2033-34

[3] Rolling programmes have been included for 10 year capital programme

APPENDIX B - CAPITAL INVESTMENT SUMMARY 2024-25 TO 2033-34

Children, Young People & Education (CYPE)

ROW REF	Project	Description of Project	Cash Limits					
			2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34
			Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
			£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
1	Annual Planned Enhancement Programme [2]	Planned and reactive capital projects to keep schools open and operational	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
2	Schools Capital Expenditure funded from Devolved Formula Capital Grants for Individual Schools	Enhancement of schools	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
3	Schools Capital Expenditure funded from Revenue	Expenditure on capital projects by individual schools	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
4	Schools' Modernisation Programme [2]	Improving and upgrading school buildings including removal of temporary classrooms	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
5	Total Rolling Programmes [3]		19,500	19,500	19,500	19,500	19,500	19,500
Basic Need Schemes - to provide additional pupil places:								
6	Basic Need KCP 2017	Increasing the capacity of Kent's schools	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Basic Need KCP 2018 [1]	Increasing the capacity of Kent's schools	250	0	0	0	0	0
8	Basic Need KCP 2019 [1]	Increasing the capacity of Kent's schools	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Basic Need KCP 2021-25 [1]	Increasing the capacity of Kent's schools	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Basic Need KCP 2022-26 [1]	Increasing the capacity of Kent's schools	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Basic Need KCP 2023-27 [1]	Increasing the capacity of Kent's schools	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Basic Need KCP 2024-28 [1]	Increasing the capacity of Kent's schools	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Projects								
13	High Needs Provision 22-24	Specific projects relating to high needs provision	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	High Needs Provision 24-25	Specific projects relating to high needs provision	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	School Roofs	Structural repairs to school roofs	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Total Individual Projects		250	0	0	0	0	0
17	Total - Children, Young People & Education		19,750	19,500	19,500	19,500	19,500	19,500

[1] These are projects that are relying on significant elements of unsecured funding and will only go ahead if the funding is achieved

[2] Estimated allocations have been included for 2024-25 to 2033-34

[3] Rolling programmes have been included for 10 year capital programme

Growth, Environment & Transport (GET)

ROW REF	Project	Description of Project	Total Cost of Scheme	Prior Years Spend	Cash Limits			
					2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
					Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
			£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Growth & Communities								
1	Country Parks Access and Development	Improvements and adaptations to country parks	700		70	70	70	70
2	Public Rights of Way	Structural improvements of public rights of way	9,487		1,387	900	900	900
3	Public Sports Facilities Improvement	Capital grants for new provision/refurbishment of sports facilities and projects in the community	713		38	75	75	75
4	Village Halls and Community Centres	Capital Grants for improvements and adaptations to village halls and community centres	713		38	75	75	75
Transportation								
5	Highways Asset Management/Annual Maintenance [1] [2]	Maintaining Kent's roads	573,725		69,725	56,000	56,000	56,000
6	Integrated Transport Schemes [1] [2]	Improvements to road safety	45,050		4,550	4,500	4,500	4,500
7	Major Schemes - Preliminary Design Fees	Preliminary design of new roads	23		23	0	0	0
8	Old Highways Schemes, Residual Works, Land Compensation Act (LCA) Part 1	Old Highways Schemes, Residual Works, LCA Part 1	72		51	21	0	0
9	Total Rolling Programmes [3]		630,483		75,882	61,641	61,620	61,620
Growth & Communities								
10	Digital Autopsy	To provide a body storage and digital autopsy facility	3,217	371	100	0	2,746	0
11	Essella Road Bridge (PROW)	Urgent works to ensure footbridge remains open	300	190	110	0	0	0
12	Public Mortuary	To consider options for the provision of a public mortuary	3,000	0	0	0	3,000	0
13	Gypsy & Traveller Site Improvements	Improvements to Gypsy and Traveller sites	4,055	1,469	2,586		0	0
14	Innovation Investment Initiative (i3)	Provision of loans to small and medium enterprises with the potential for innovation and growth, helping them to improve their productivity and create jobs	10,375	6,934	600	1,047	1,100	694
15	Javelin Way Development	To provide accomodation for creative industries and the creation of industrial units	12,787	12,787	0	0	0	0
16	Kent & Medway Business Fund	New fund using recycled receipts from Regional Growth Fund, TIGER and Escalate, to enable creation of jobs and support business start ups	42,158	20,401	4,384	4,054	8,912	4,407

Growth, Environment & Transport (GET)

ROW REF	Project	Description of Project	Total Cost of Scheme	Prior Years Spend	Cash Limits			
					2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
					Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
			£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
17	Kent Empty Property Initiative - No Use Empty (NUE)	Bringing long term empty properties including commercial buildings and vacant sites back into use as quality housing accommodation	74,482	54,042	7,454	2,817	1,337	5,815
18	The Kent Broadband Voucher Scheme	Voucher scheme to benefit properties in hard to reach locations	2,862	514	546	1,298	504	0
19	Workspace Programme (Kent Working Spaces)	A scheme that provides loans towards the development of incubator spaces for start ups or growing micro-businesses, demonstrating a net increase in employment in the area	1,500	1,325	175	0	0	0
Environment & Waste								
20	Energy and Water Efficiency Investment Fund - External	Energy Efficiency works	3,215	2,735	151	75	67	53
21	Energy Reduction and Water Efficiency Investment - KCC	Energy Efficiency works	2,439	2,051	257	27	27	25
22	Leigh (Medway) Flood Storage Area	Contribution to partnership-funded projects to provide flood defences for the River Medway	2,500	1,428	625	447	0	0
23	Maidstone Heat Network	To install heat pumps in offices in Maidstone	408	332	76	0	0	0
24	New Transfer Station - Folkestone & Hythe [1]	To provide a new waste transfer station in Folkestone & Hythe	10,302	220	3,500	6,582	0	0
25	Surface Water Flood Risk Management	To provide flood risk management and climate adaptation investment in capital infrastructure across Kent, to reduce the significant risks of local flooding and adapt to the impacts of climate change which are predicted to be substantial on the county	5,493	265	500	600	628	500
26	Windmill Asset Management & Weatherproofing	Works to ensure Windmills are in a safe and weatherproof condition	1,750	1,136	106	100	186	100
27	Local Authority Treescape Fund (LATF)	Tree planting programme funded by grant	647	350	127	80	75	15
Transportation								
28	A2 Off Slip Wincheap, Canterbury [1]	To deliver an off-slip in the coastbound direction	4,400	0	1,500	2,199	701	0
29	A226 St Clements Way	Road improvement scheme	6,571	6,557	14	0	0	0
30	A228 and B2160 Junction Improvements with B2017 Badsell Road [1]	Junction improvements	3,695	914	2,721	60	0	0
31	A28 Chart Road, Ashford [1]	Strategic highway improvement	26,247	4,456	2,465	11,380	7,676	190
32	Bath Street, Gravesend	Bus Lane project - Fastrack programme extension	5,520	4,663	44	813	0	0
33	Dartford Town Centre	A package of works to improve economic performance of Dartford Town Centre	12,000	9,895	2,105	0	0	0
34	Dover Bus Rapid Transit	To provide a high quality and reliable public transport service in the Dover area, funded from Housing Infrastructure funding	25,899	25,465	345	89	0	0

APPENDIX B - CAPITAL INVESTMENT SUMMARY 2024-25 TO 2033-34

Growth, Environment & Transport (GET)

ROW REF	Project	Description of Project	Total Cost of Scheme	Prior Years Spend	Cash Limits			
					2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
					Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
			£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
35	Fastrack Full Network - Bean Road Tunnels [1]	Construction of a tunnel linking Bluewater and the Eastern Quarry Development	14,038	2,536	6,365	3,774	1,363	0
36	Faversham Swing Bridge [1]	Restoration of an opening bridge	2,550	735	815	1,000	0	0
37	Green Corridors	Programme of schemes to improve walking and cycling in Ebbsfleet	7,549	3,567	3,982	0	0	0
38	Herne Relief Road [1]	Provision of an alternative route between Herne Bay and Canterbury to avoid Herne village	9,076	8,836	120	120	0	0
39	Housing Infrastructure Fund - Swale Infrastructure Projects	Improvements to A249 Junctions at Grovehurst Road and Keycol Roundabout	39,832	20,435	18,715	682	0	0
40	Kent Active Travel Fund Phase 2	Investment in active travel initiatives as an alternative to the travelling public for shorter journeys	4,378	3,313	1,065	0	0	0
41	Kent Active Travel Fund Phase 3	Investment in active travel initiatives as an alternative to the travelling public for shorter journeys	1,800	766	1,034	0	0	0
42	Bearsted Road Improvements - formerly Kent Medical Campus (National Productivity Investment Fund - NPIF)	Project to ease congestion in Maidstone	14,312	11,364	2,898	50	0	0
43	Kent Thameside Strategic Transport Programme (Thamesway) [1]	Strategic highway improvement in Dartford & Gravesham	10,687	1,169	9,518	0	0	0
44	LED Conversion	Upgrading street lights to more energy efficient LED lanterns & implementation of Central Monitoring System	40,605	39,410	1,195	0	0	0
45	Maidstone Integrated Transport [1]	Improving transport links with various schemes in Maidstone	10,910	8,161	2,749	0	0	0
46	Market Square Dover	Project to improve access and public realm at Market Square in Dover	3,640	3,625	15	0	0	0
47	Rathmore Road Link	Road improvement scheme	7,808	7,743	65	0	0	0
48	Sturry Link Road, Canterbury [1]	Construction of bypass	41,601	4,153	2,832	25,547	8,214	752
49	Thanet Parkway	Construction of Thanet Parkway Railway Station to enhance rail access in east Kent and act as a catalyst for economic and housing growth	43,225	43,175	50		0	0
50	Urban Traffic Management [1]	Upgrades to the existing urban traffic management system within the Ebbsfleet area.	5,476	5,153	323	0	0	0
51	A229 Bluebell Hill M2 & M20 Interchange Upgrades [1]	Scheme to upgrade junctions to increase capacity and provide freeflowing interchange wherever possible	202,082	901	7,936	11,084	48,422	81,818
52	North Thanet Link (formerly known as A28 Birchington) [1] and [4]	Creation of a relief road	76,745	2,838	1,973	2,095	11,820	28,111

Growth, Environment & Transport (GET)

ROW REF	Project	Description of Project	Total Cost of Scheme	Prior Years Spend	Cash Limits			
					2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
					Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
			£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	
53	Zebra Funding - Electric Buses and infrastructure	Grant funded projects for electric buses and infrastructure	9,525	6,500	3,025	0	0	0
54	Folkestone Brighter Futures	A package of transport and public realm improvements from Folkestone Central Station through to the Town Centre, funded from Levelling Up Fund 2, which KCC are delivering on behalf of Folkestone and Hythe District Council	15,952	1,212	10,165	4,575	0	0
55	Kent Active Travel Fund Phase 4	Investment in active travel initiatives as an alternative to the travelling public for shorter journeys	1,498	675	823	0	0	0
56	Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI)	Grant funded project to provide electric vehicle infrastructure	12,080	0	0	325	762	1,106
57	Total Individual Projects		841,191	334,767	106,154	80,920	97,540	123,586
58	Total - Growth, Environment & Transport		1,471,674	334,767	182,036	142,561	159,160	185,206

[1] These are projects that are relying on significant elements of unsecured funding and will only go ahead if the funding is achieved

[2] Estimated allocations have been included for 2024-25 to 2033-34

[3] Rolling programmes have been included for 10 year capital programme

[4] Budget is likely to further be refined before awarding a construction contract and the delivery of the project is dependent on the award of external funding

Growth, Environment & Transport (GET)

ROW REF	Project	Description of Project	Cash Limits					
			2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34
			Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
			£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Growth & Communities								
1	Country Parks Access and Development	Improvements and adaptations to country parks	70	70	70	70	70	70
2	Public Rights of Way	Structural improvements of public rights of way	900	900	900	900	900	900
3	Public Sports Facilities Improvement	Capital grants for new provision/refurbishment of sports facilities and projects in the community	75	75	75	75	75	75
4	Village Halls and Community Centres	Capital Grants for improvements and adaptations to village halls and community centres	75	75	75	75	75	75
Transportation								
5	Highways Asset Management/Annual Maintenance [1] [2]	Maintaining Kent's roads	56,000	56,000	56,000	56,000	56,000	56,000
6	Integrated Transport Schemes [1] [2]	Improvements to road safety	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
7	Major Schemes - Preliminary Design Fees	Preliminary design of new roads	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Old Highways Schemes, Residual Works, Land Compensation Act (LCA) Part 1	Old Highways Schemes, Residual Works, LCA Part 1	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Total Rolling Programmes [3]		61,620	61,620	61,620	61,620	61,620	61,620
Growth & Communities								
10	Digital Autopsy	To provide a body storage and digital autopsy facility	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Essella Road Bridge (PROW)	Urgent works to ensure footbridge remains open	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Public Mortuary	To consider options for the provision of a public mortuary	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Gypsy & Traveller Site Improvements	Improvements to Gypsy and Traveller sites	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Innovation Investment Initiative (i3)	Provision of loans to small and medium enterprises with the potential for innovation and growth, helping them to improve their productivity and create jobs	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Javelin Way Development	To provide accomodation for creative industries and the creation of industrial units	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Kent & Medway Business Fund	New fund using recycled receipts from Regional Growth Fund, TIGER and Escalate, to enable creation of jobs and support business start ups	0	0	0	0	0	0

Growth, Environment & Transport (GET)

ROW REF	Project	Description of Project	Cash Limits					
			2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34
			Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
			£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
17	Kent Empty Property Initiative - No Use Empty (NUE)	Bringing long term empty properties including commercial buildings and vacant sites back into use as quality housing accommodation	3,017	0	0	0	0	0
18	The Kent Broadband Voucher Scheme	Voucher scheme to benefit properties in hard to reach locations	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Workspace Programme (Kent Working Spaces)	A scheme that provides loans towards the development of incubator spaces for start ups or growing micro-businesses, demonstrating a net increase in employment in the area	0	0	0	0	0	0
Environment & Waste								
20	Energy and Water Efficiency Investment Fund - External	Energy Efficiency works	41	36	24	33	0	0
21	Energy Reduction and Water Efficiency Investment - KCC	Energy Efficiency works	19	17	14	2	0	0
22	Leigh (Medway) Flood Storage Area	Contribution to partnership-funded projects to provide flood defences for the River Medway	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Maidstone Heat Network	To install heat pumps in offices in Maidstone	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	New Transfer Station - Folkestone & Hythe [1]	To provide a new waste transfer station in Folkestone & Hythe	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Surface Water Flood Risk Management	To provide flood risk management and climate adaptation investment in capital infrastructure across Kent, to reduce the significant risks of local flooding and adapt to the impacts of climate change which are predicted to be substantial on the county	500	500	500	500	500	500
26	Windmill Asset Management & Weatherproofing	Works to ensure Windmills are in a safe and weatherproof condition	122	0	0	0	0	0
27	Local Authority Treescape Fund (LATF)	Tree planting programme funded by grant	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transportation								
28	A2 Off Slip Wincheap, Canterbury [1]	To deliver an off-slip in the coastbound direction	0	0	0	0	0	0
29	A226 St Clements Way	Road improvement scheme	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	A228 and B2160 Junction Improvements with B2017 Badsell Road [1]	Junction improvements	0	0	0	0	0	0
31	A28 Chart Road, Ashford [1]	Strategic highway improvement	80	0	0	0	0	0
32	Bath Street, Gravesend	Bus Lane project - Fastrack programme extension	0	0	0	0	0	0
33	Dartford Town Centre	A package of works to improve economic performance of Dartford Town Centre	0	0	0	0	0	0
34	Dover Bus Rapid Transit	To provide a high quality and reliable public transport service in the Dover area, funded from Housing Infrastructure funding	0	0	0	0	0	0

Growth, Environment & Transport (GET)

ROW REF	Project	Description of Project	Cash Limits					
			2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34
			Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
			£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
35	Fastrack Full Network - Bean Road Tunnels [1]	Construction of a tunnel linking Bluewater and the Eastern Quarry Development	0	0	0	0	0	0
36	Faversham Swing Bridge [1]	Restoration of an opening bridge	0	0	0	0	0	0
37	Green Corridors	Programme of schemes to improve walking and cycling in Ebbsfleet	0	0	0	0	0	0
38	Herne Relief Road [1]	Provision of an alternative route between Herne Bay and Canterbury to avoid Herne village	0	0	0	0	0	0
39	Housing Infrastructure Fund - Swale Infrastructure Projects	Improvements to A249 Junctions at Grovehurst Road and Keycol Roundabout	0	0	0	0	0	0
40	Kent Active Travel Fund Phase 2	Investment in active travel initiatives as an alternative to the travelling public for shorter journeys	0	0	0	0	0	0
41	Kent Active Travel Fund Phase 3	Investment in active travel initiatives as an alternative to the travelling public for shorter journeys	0	0	0	0	0	0
42	Bearsted Road Improvements - formerly Kent Medical Campus (National Productivity Investment Fund - NPIF)	Project to ease congestion in Maidstone	0	0	0	0	0	0
43	Kent Thameside Strategic Transport Programme (Thamesway) [1]	Strategic highway improvement in Dartford & Gravesham	0	0	0	0	0	0
44	LED Conversion	Upgrading street lights to more energy efficient LED lanterns & implementation of Central Monitoring System	0	0	0	0	0	0
45	Maidstone Integrated Transport [1]	Improving transport links with various schemes in Maidstone	0	0	0	0	0	0
46	Market Square Dover	Project to improve access and public realm at Market Square in Dover	0	0	0	0	0	0
47	Rathmore Road Link	Road improvement scheme	0	0	0	0	0	0
48	Sturry Link Road, Canterbury [1]	Construction of bypass	103	0	0	0	0	0
49	Thanet Parkway	Construction of Thanet Parkway Railway Station to enhance rail access in east Kent and act as a catalyst for economic and housing growth	0	0	0	0	0	0
50	Urban Traffic Management [1]	Upgrades to the existing urban traffic management system within the Ebbsfleet area.	0	0	0	0	0	0
51	A229 Bluebell Hill M2 & M20 Interchange Upgrades [1]	Scheme to upgrade junctions to increase capacity and provide freeflowing interchange wherever possible	48,041	2,000	1,880	0	0	0
52	North Thanet Link (formerly known as A28 Birchington) [1] and [4]	Creation of a relief road	28,215	1,693	0	0	0	0

Growth, Environment & Transport (GET)

ROW REF	Project	Description of Project	Cash Limits					
			2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34
			Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
			£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
53	Zebra Funding - Electric Buses and infrastructure	Grant funded projects for electric buses and infrastructure	0	0	0	0	0	0
54	Folkestone Brighter Futures	A package of transport and public realm improvements from Folkestone Central Station through to the Town Centre, funded from Levelling Up Fund 2, which KCC are delivering on behalf of Folkestone and Hythe District Council	0	0	0	0	0	0
55	Kent Active Travel Fund Phase 4	Investment in active travel initiatives as an alternative to the travelling public for shorter journeys	0	0	0	0	0	0
56	Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI)	Grant funded project to provide electric vehicle infrastructure	1,128	1,150	1,171	1,193	1,215	4,030
57	Total Individual Projects		81,266	5,396	3,589	1,728	1,715	4,530
58	Total - Growth, Environment & Transport		142,886	67,016	65,209	63,348	63,335	66,150

[1] These are projects that are relying on significant elements of unsecured funding and will only go ahead if the funding is achieved

[2] Estimated allocations have been included for 2024-25 to 2033-34

[3] Rolling programmes have been included for 10 year capital programme

[4] Budget is likely to further be refined before awarding a construction contract and the delivery of the project is dependent on the award of

Chief Executive's Department (CED)

ROW REF	Project	Description of Project	Total Cost of Scheme	Prior Years Spend	Cash Limits			
					2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
					Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
			£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	
1	Feasibility Fund [1]	Forward funding to enable future projects assess feasibility	3,510	2,069	-255	1,696	0	0
2	Total Individual Projects		3,510	2,069	-255	1,696	0	0
3	Total - Chief Executive's Department		3,510	2,069	-255	1,696	0	0

[1] These are projects that are relying on significant elements of unsecured funding and will only go ahead if the funding is achieved

[2] Estimated allocations have been included for 2024-25 to 2033-34

[3] Rolling programmes have been included for 10 year capital programme

APPENDIX B - CAPITAL INVESTMENT SUMMARY 2024-25 TO 2033-34

Chief Executive's Department (CED)

ROW REF	Project	Description of Project	Cash Limits					
			2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34
			Year 5 £000s	Year 6 £000s	Year 7 £000s	Year 8 £000s	Year 9 £000s	Year 10 £000s
1	Feasibility Fund [1]	Forward funding to enable future projects assess feasibility	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Total Individual Projects		0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Total - Chief Executive's Department		0	0	0	0	0	0

[1] These are projects that are relying on significant elements of unsecured funding and will only go ahead if the funding is achieved

[2] Estimated allocations have been included for 2024-25 to 2033-34

[3] Rolling programmes have been included for 10 year capital programme

APPENDIX B - CAPITAL INVESTMENT SUMMARY 2024-25 TO 2033-34

Deputy Chief Executive's Department (DCED)

ROW REF	Project	Description of Project	Total Cost of Scheme	Prior Years Spend	Cash Limits			
					2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
					Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
			£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	
1	Corporate Property Strategic Capital Delivery [1] [2]	Costs associated with delivering the capital programme	25,000		2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
2	Disposal Costs [1]	Costs of disposing of surplus property	6,500		650	650	650	650
3	Modernisation of Assets (MOA) [1]	Maintaining KCC estates	38,944		9,673	8,000	271	3,000
4	Total Rolling Programmes [3]		70,444		12,823	11,150	3,421	6,150
5	Asset Utilisation	Strategic utilisation of assets in order to achieve revenue savings and capital receipts	1,443	943	500	0	0	0
6	Strategic Estate Programme	Options for the council's future strategic estate	20,000	1,493	6,000	12,507	0	0
7	Strategic Reset Programme [1]	Shape our organisation through our people, technology & infrastructure, identifying & connecting priority projects for maximum impact	8,000	65	5,600	2,335	0	0
8	Dover Discovery Centre [1]	Refurbishment to make the building fit for purpose	7,903	1,580	6,323	0	0	0
9	LIVE Margate	Replace empty and poorly managed housing in Margate with high quality and well managed family housing to regenerate the area	10,208	9,908	300	0	0	0
10	Former Royal School for the Deaf		9,533	9,533	0	0	0	0
11	Total Individual Projects		57,087	23,522	18,723	14,842	0	0
12	Total - Deputy Chief Executive's Department		127,531	23,522	31,546	25,992	3,421	6,150

[1] These are projects that are relying on significant elements of unsecured funding and will only go ahead if the funding is achieved

[2] Estimated allocations have been included for 2024-25 to 2033-34

[3] Rolling programmes have been included for 10 year capital programme

APPENDIX B - CAPITAL INVESTMENT SUMMARY 2024-25 TO 2033-34

Deputy Chief Executive's Department (DCED)

ROW REF	Project	Description of Project	Cash Limits					
			2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34
			Year 5 £000s	Year 6 £000s	Year 7 £000s	Year 8 £000s	Year 9 £000s	Year 10 £000s
1	Corporate Property Strategic Capital Delivery [1] [2]	Costs associated with delivering the capital programme	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
2	Disposal Costs [1]	Costs of disposing of surplus property	650	650	650	650	650	650
3	Modernisation of Assets (MOA) [1]	Maintaining KCC estates	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
4	Total Rolling Programmes [3]		6,150	6,150	6,150	6,150	6,150	6,150
5	Asset Utilisation	Strategic utilisation of assets in order to achieve revenue savings and capital receipts	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Strategic Estate Programme	Options for the council's future strategic estate	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Strategic Reset Programme [1]	Shape our organisation through our people, technology & infrastructure, identifying & connecting priority projects for maximum impact	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Dover Discovery Centre [1]	Refurbishment to make the building fit for purpose	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	LIVE Margate	Replace empty and poorly managed housing in Margate with high quality and well managed family housing to regenerate the area	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Former Royal School for the Deaf		0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Total Individual Projects		0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Total - Deputy Chief Executive's Department		6,150	6,150	6,150	6,150	6,150	6,150

[1] These are projects that are relying on significant elements of unsecured funding and will only go ahead if the funding is achieved

[2] Estimated allocations have been included for 2024-25 to 2033-34

[3] Rolling programmes have been included for 10 year capital programme

APPENDIX C - POTENTIAL CAPITAL PROJECTS 2024-25 TO 2033-34 BY YEAR

These projects are currently very high level and commencement is subject to business case approval and affordable funding solutions identified.

Directorate	Potential Forthcoming Projects	Description of Project	Total Cost of Scheme £000s	Indicative Costs									
				2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34
				Year 1 £000s	Year 2 £000s	Year 3 £000s	Year 4 £000s	Year 5 £000s	Year 6 £000s	Year 7 £000s	Year 8 £000s	Year 9 £000s	Year 10 £000s
Shortfall on Council's Office and Highways Network to Maintain Backlogs at Steady State													
DCED	Modernisation of Assets	Maintaining KCC's Office Estate	109,656	6,327	100	8,729	13,500	13,500	13,500	13,500	13,500	13,500	13,500
CYPE	Schools Annual Planned Enhancement	Planned and reactive capital projects to keep schools open and operational	74,500	1,500	7,000	7,500	7,500	8,000	8,000	8,500	8,500	9,000	9,000
CYPE	Schools Modernisation Programme	Improving and upgrading school buildings including removal of temporary classrooms	48,000		4,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
GET	Highways Asset Management, Annual Maintenance and Programme of Significant and Urgent Safety Critical Works	Maintaining Kent's Roads	1,000,320	100,032	100,032	100,032	100,032	100,032	100,032	100,032	100,032	100,032	100,032
GET	Public Rights of Way	Structural improvements of public rights of way	25,130	2,513	2,513	2,513	2,513	2,513	2,513	2,513	2,513	2,513	2,513
GET	Public Rights of Way - Essella Road Footbridge	Essential works to ensure the footbridge remains open - option to upgrade remains £1m unfunded	1,000		1,000								
Potential Forthcoming Projects													
ASCH	Extra Care Facilities	Provision of Extra Care Accommodation	16,800		4,000	4,000	8,800						
CYPE	In-house Residential Children's Facilities	Provision of in-house residential children's facilities	4,500		1,500	1,500	1,500						
GET	Casualty Reduction/Congestion Management Schemes	Casualty reduction/congestion management scheme	7,500		7,500								
GET	Walking/Cycling/Public Transport Improvement Schemes	Walking, cycling and public transport improvement schemes	47,600	7,500	8,200	7,500	6,400	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
GET	Building Adaptations to work towards Net Zero Target	Adaptations required to KCC buildings to move towards Net Zero target e.g. heat pumps, LED lighting, insulation	24,000		4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000			
GET	Transitioning Fleet to EV	Transitioning Fleet to EV	7,500					2,500	5,000				
GET	Kent Scientific Services	Renewal/Modernisation of laboratory facilities	10,000			10,000							
GET	A228 Colts Hill Strategic Link - Road Scheme	Construction of bypass	45,000										45,000
GET	South East Maidstone Strategic Route - Road Scheme	Construction of bypass	80,000										80,000
GET	Programme of Waste site Infrastructure Requirements	Programme of Waste Site Infrastructure Requirements	53,300		5,300	11,000	5,000	16,000	16,000				
GET	Designated Funds	Programme of projects related to the Lower Thames Crossing.	12,642	12,642									
GET	Dover Access Improvements	Levelling Up Fund Round 2 bid to improve the efficiency of the port and also reduce congestion on the strategic and local road network	58,470	58,470									
GET	M20 Junction 7 Improvements	Levelling Up Fund Round 2 bid for capacity improvements	8,338	1,812	6,526								
GET	Folkestone Town Centre Improvements	Levelling Up Fund Round 2 bid for transport, public realm and regeneration improvements in Folkestone Town Centre	15,848	15,848									
GET	Thanet Way	Structural improvements to the Thanet Way A299	20,000		5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000					
DCED	Future Assets	Asset review to include community services, office estate and specialist assets	53,500		6,500	6,500	6,750	6,750	6,750	6,750	6,750	6,750	
DCED	Renewable Energy Programme	Renewable energy source options to work towards Net Zero target	32,000		8,000	7,500	16,500						
Total Potential Forthcoming Projects			1,755,604	206,644	171,171	180,774	182,495	166,295	163,795	144,295	140,295	140,795	259,045

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APPENDIX D: HIGH LEVEL 2024-27 REVENUE PLAN AND FINANCING

2023-24			SUMMARY REVENUE PLAN	2024-25			2025-26			2026-27		
core funded £000s	externally funded £000s	TOTAL £000s		core funded £000s	externally funded £000s	TOTAL £000s	core funded £000s	externally funded £000s	TOTAL £000s	core funded £000s	externally funded £000s	TOTAL £000s
1,191,493.8		1,191,493.8	Revised Base Budget	1,315,610.6		1,315,610.6	1,415,651.6		1,415,651.6	1,478,424.1		1,478,424.1
			Spending									
63,485.7	24.6	63,510.3	Base Budget Changes	22,089.2	0.0	22,089.2	23,855.0	0.0	23,855.0	19,900.0	0.0	19,900.0
1,919.8	1,186.6	3,106.4	Reduction in Grant Income	35.0	0.0	35.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
14,189.5	664.1	14,853.6	Pay	14,311.9	505.1	14,817.0	7,830.8	0.0	7,830.8	7,845.1	0.0	7,845.1
65,154.4	4,316.2	69,470.6	Prices	49,568.4	967.4	50,535.8	30,545.0	0.0	30,545.0	22,560.5	0.0	22,560.5
33,500.6	501.1	34,001.7	Demand & Cost Drivers	85,349.7	284.7	85,634.4	83,845.6	0.0	83,845.6	82,277.0	0.0	82,277.0
4,232.9	-370.5	3,862.4	Service Strategies & Improvements	11,871.7	-1,538.8	10,332.9	2,597.6	-4,952.0	-2,354.4	3,138.8	0.0	3,138.8
-221.6	30,703.9	30,482.3	Government & Legislative	1,293.1	-23,337.5	-22,044.4	-320.0	-4,520.6	-4,840.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
182,261.3	37,026.0	219,287.3	Total Spending	184,519.0	-23,119.1	161,399.9	148,354.0	-9,472.6	138,881.4	135,721.4	0.0	135,721.4
			Savings, Income & Grants									
0.0	0.0	0.0	Transformation & Efficiency - Future Cost Increase Avoidance	-36,454.8	0.0	-36,454.8	-50,282.8	0.0	-50,282.8	-38,530.7	0.0	-38,530.7
-9,741.1	-1,558.0	-11,299.1	Transformation & Efficiency - Other	-13,814.3	0.0	-13,814.3	-7,261.3	-13.9	-7,275.2	-2,521.0	0.0	-2,521.0
15,556.2	-85.1	-15,641.3	Income	-15,406.6	-281.3	-15,687.9	-3,935.5	0.0	-3,935.5	-5,044.0	0.0	-5,044.0
-3,893.3	0.0	-3,893.3	Financing	-11,279.6	0.0	-11,279.6	8,222.4	0.0	8,222.4	-281.8	0.0	-281.8
23,328.9	-608.4	-23,937.3	Policy	-10,610.2	-9.2	-10,619.4	-39,726.1	0.0	-39,726.1	-5,402.9	0.0	-5,402.9
-52,519.5	-2,251.5	-54,771.0	Total Savings & Income	-87,565.5	-290.5	-87,856.0	-92,983.3	-13.9	-92,997.2	-51,780.4	0.0	-51,780.4
660.0	-35,372.1	-34,712.1	Increases in Grants and Contributions		20,949.1	20,949.1		8,136.0	8,136.0		0.0	0.0
-51,859.5	-37,623.6	-89,483.1	Total Savings & Income & Grant	-87,565.5	20,658.6	-66,906.9	-92,983.3	8,122.1	-84,861.2	-51,780.4	0.0	-51,780.4
			RESERVES									
23,516.3	0.0	23,516.3	Contributions to reserves	36,699.7	0.0	36,699.7	29,910.0	0.0	29,910.0	15,560.0	0.0	15,560.0
-29,458.7	0.0	-29,458.7	Removal of prior year Contributions	-24,739.6	0.0	-24,739.6	-36,699.7	0.0	-36,699.7	-29,910.0	0.0	-29,910.0
-5,318.9	-3,198.1	-8,517.0	Drawdowns from reserves	-14,191.5	-1,350.5	-15,542.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
4,976.3	3,795.7	8,772.0	Removal of prior year Drawdowns	5,318.9	3,811.0	9,129.9	14,191.5	1,350.5	15,542.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
-6,285.0	597.6	-5,687.4	Net impact on MTFP	3,087.5	2,460.5	5,548.0	7,401.8	1,350.5	8,752.3	-14,350.0	0.0	-14,350.0
124,116.8	0.0	124,116.8	NET CHANGE	100,041.0	0.0	100,041.0	62,772.5	0.0	62,772.5	69,591.0	0.0	69,591.0
1,315,610.6	0.0	1,315,610.6	NET BUDGET REQUIREMENT	1,415,651.6	0.0	1,415,651.6	1,478,424.1	0.0	1,478,424.1	1,548,015.1	0.0	1,548,015.1
			MEMORANDUM:									
			The net impact on our reserves balances is:									
23,516.3	0.0	23,516.3	Contributions to Reserves	36,699.7	0.0	36,699.7	29,910.0	0.0	29,910.0	15,560.0	0.0	15,560.0
-5,318.9	-3,198.1	-8,517.0	Drawdowns from Reserves	-14,191.5	-1,350.5	-15,542.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
18,197.4	-3,198.1	14,999.3	Net movement in Reserves	22,508.2	-1,350.5	21,157.7	29,910.0	0.0	29,910.0	15,560.0	0.0	15,560.0

APPENDIX D: HIGH LEVEL 2024-27 REVENUE PLAN AND FINANCING

2023-24		2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
	FUNDING			
11,072.6	Revenue Support Grant	11,806.0	12,195.6	12,390.8
140,802.3	Business Rate Top-Up Grant	147,382.5	152,092.1	154,308.4
44,241.4	Business Rate Compensation Grant	51,039.4	52,670.4	53,437.8
88,770.7	Social Care Support Grant	104,203.5	104,203.5	104,203.5
14,435.1	Market Sustainability & Improvement Fund	26,969.4	21,703.9	21,703.9
7,012.0	Hospital Discharge Grant	11,686.6	11,686.6	11,686.6
7,599.4	Services Grant	1,195.8	1,195.8	1,195.8
50,014.7	Improved Better Care Fund	50,014.7	50,014.7	50,014.7
2,272.8	New Homes Bonus Grant	2,058.5	0.0	0.0
3,257.7	Other un-ringfenced grants	3,257.7	3,257.7	3,257.7
60,197.7	Local Share of Retained Business Rates	62,839.4	64,751.5	65,651.5
1,067.6	Business Rate Collection Fund	0.0	0.0	0.0
-1,127.6	Business Rate Collection Fund 2020-21 3-Year Deficit Write-off	N/A	N/A	N/A
2,347.5	Drawdown from reserves of S31 grant for compensation for irrecoverable local taxation losses due to Covid-19	N/A	N/A	N/A
761,106.4	Council Tax Income (including increase up to referendum limit but excluding social care levy)	800,774.3	841,243.1	884,201.0
115,672.9	Council Tax Adult Social Care Levy	135,423.8	156,409.2	178,963.4
11,488.7	Council Tax Collection Fund	7,000.0	7,000.0	7,000.0
-4,621.3	Council Tax Collection Fund 2020-21 3-Year Deficit Write-off			
1,315,610.6	Total Funding	1,415,651.6	1,478,424.1	1,548,015.1

APPENDIX E: HIGH LEVEL 2024- 25 REVENUE PLAN BY DIRECTORATE

	TOTAL			ASCH	PH	CYPE	GET	CED	DCED	NAC	CHB						
				Adult Social Care & Health			Public Health	Children, Young People & Education			Growth, Environment & Transport	Chief Exec's Dept	Deputy Chief Executive's Department	Non Attributable Costs	Corporately Held Budgets		
	core funded	externally funded	TOTAL	core funded	externally funded	TOTAL	externally funded	core funded	externally funded	TOTAL	core funded	core funded	core funded	core funded	core funded	externally funded	TOTAL
£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	
Revised Base Budget	1,315,610.6		1,315,610.6	530,009.0		530,009.0	0.0	362,041.1		362,041.1	194,699.8	28,455.6	84,641.1	116,062.2	-298.2		-298.2
Spending																	
Base Budget Changes	22,089.2	0.0	22,089.2	16,900.0	0.0	16,900.0	0.0	21,666.0	0.0	21,666.0	-1,535.0	-55.4	-4,276.5	-10,408.1	-201.8	0.0	-201.8
Reduction in Grant Income	35.0	0.0	35.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	35.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pay	14,311.9	505.1	14,817.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	505.1	659.0	0.0	659.0	85.0	0.0	0.0	67.9	13,500.0	0.0	13,500.0
Prices	49,568.4	967.4	50,535.8	28,500.0	0.0	28,500.0	967.4	14,357.0	0.0	14,357.0	5,495.9	0.0	1,170.5	45.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Demand & Cost Drivers	85,349.7	284.7	85,634.4	54,000.0	0.0	54,000.0	284.7	30,181.5	0.0	30,181.5	1,168.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Service Strategies & Improvements	11,871.7	-1,538.8	10,332.9	387.1	0.0	387.1	-1,538.8	2,008.0	0.0	2,008.0	3,640.0	656.6	-320.0	5,500.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Government & Legislative	1,293.1	-23,337.5	-22,044.4	0.0	59.9	59.9	-489.6	0.0	-777.0	-777.0	1,293.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	-22,130.8	-22,130.8	-22,130.8
Total Spending	184,519.0	-23,119.1	161,399.9	99,787.1	59.9	99,847.0	-271.2	68,871.5	-777.0	68,094.5	10,182.2	601.2	-3,426.0	-4,795.2	13,298.2	-22,130.8	-8,832.6
Savings, Income & Grants																	
Transformation & Efficiency - Future Cost Increase Avoidance	-36,454.8	0.0	-36,454.8	-30,154.8	0.0	-30,154.8	0.0	-6,300.0	0.0	-6,300.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Transformation & Efficiency - Other	-13,814.3	0.0	-13,814.3	-9,001.3	0.0	-9,001.3	0.0	-2,966.0	0.0	-2,966.0	-797.0	-255.0	-45.0	0.0	-750.0	0.0	-750.0
Income	-15,406.6	-281.3	-15,687.9	-10,471.7		-10,471.7	-281.3	-420.0		-420.0	-1,514.9	0.0	0.0	-3,500.0	500.0		500.0
Funding	-11,279.6	0.0	-11,279.6	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-11,279.6	0.0		0.0
Policy	-10,610.2	-9.2	-10,619.4	-3,600.0		-3,600.0	-9.2	-2,944.0		-2,944.0	-798.8	-102.5	-864.9	0.0	-2,300.0		-2,300.0
Total Savings & Income	-87,565.5	-290.5	-87,856.0	-53,227.8	0.0	-53,227.8	-290.5	-12,630.0	0.0	-12,630.0	-3,110.7	-357.5	-909.9	-14,779.6	-2,550.0	0.0	-2,550.0
Increases in Grants and Contributions		20,949.1	20,949.1		-59.9	-59.9	-1,898.8		777.0	777.0					22,130.8		22,130.8
Total Savings & Income & Grant	-87,565.5	20,658.6	-66,906.9	-53,227.8	-59.9	-53,287.7	-2,189.3	-12,630.0	777.0	-11,853.0	-3,110.7	-357.5	-909.9	-14,779.6	-2,550.0	22,130.8	19,580.8
RESERVES																	
Contributions to reserves	36,699.7	0.0	36,699.7	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	160.0	36,539.7	0.0		0.0
Removal of prior year Contributions	-24,739.6	0.0	-24,739.6	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	-160.0	-24,579.6	0.0		0.0
Drawdowns from reserves	-14,191.5	-1,350.5	-15,542.0	-567.2		-567.2	-1,350.5	0.0		0.0	-475.0	-262.0	0.0	-12,887.3	0.0		0.0
Removal of prior year Drawdowns	5,318.9	3,811.0	9,129.9	567.2		567.2	3,811.0	0.0		0.0	0.0	262.0	0.0	4,489.7	0.0		0.0
Net impact on MTFP	3,087.5	2,460.5	5,548.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2,460.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	-475.0	0.0	0.0	3,562.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
NET CHANGE	100,041.0	0.0	100,041.0	46,559.3	0.0	46,559.3	0.0	56,241.5	0.0	56,241.5	6,596.5	243.7	-4,335.9	-16,012.3	10,748.2	0.0	10,748.2
NET BUDGET REQUIREMENT	1,415,651.6	0.0	1,415,651.6	576,568.3	0.0	576,568.3	0.0	418,282.6	0.0	418,282.6	201,296.3	28,699.3	80,305.2	100,049.9	10,450.0	0.0	10,450.0
MEMORANDUM:																	
The net impact on our reserves balances is:																	
Contributions to Reserves	36,699.7	0.0	36,699.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	160.0	36,539.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Drawdowns from Reserves	-14,191.5	-1,350.5	-15,542.0	-567.2	0.0	-567.2	-1,350.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	-475.0	-262.0	0.0	-12,887.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net movement in Reserves	22,508.2	-1,350.5	21,157.7	-567.2	0.0	-567.2	-1,350.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	-475.0	-262.0	160.0	23,652.4	0.0	0.0	0.0

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2024-27 PowerBi Report - Mem... | app.powerbi.com/groups/me/apps/926738e9-73bd-4d81-a453-d0d207983dc8/reports/106d26e4-591e-4947-b294-f80165547782/ReportSection?ctid=3253a20d-c735-4bfe-a8b7-3e6ab37f5f90&experience=power-bi

Kent County Council | 2024-27 PowerBi Report - Members

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Summary 2024-25 Directorate View

Funding type: Core

Cabinet Member: All

2023-24 Approved Budget
1,315,610.6

2024-25 £000's

184,519.0
Total Spending Growth

-87,565.5
Total Savings and Income

3,087.5
Net Reserves Contribution

100,041.0
Net of all Templates

Net Budget Variance by Directorate - £000's

Directorate	Value (£000's)	Percentage
ASCH	46,559.3	38.7%
CYPE	56,241.5	46.7%
CHB	10,748.2	8.9%
GET	6,596.5	5.5%
CED		
DCED		
NAC		
Public Health		

Spending Templates

MTFP - Category	2024-25 £000's
Base Budget Changes	22,089.2
Reduction in Grant Income	35.0
Pay	14,311.9
Prices	49,568.4
Demand & Cost Drivers	85,349.7
Government & Legislative	1,293.1
Service Strategies & Improvements	11,871.7
Total	184,519.0

Savings Templates

MTFP - Category	2024-25 £000's
Transformation	2,380.7
Transformation - Future Cost	-36,454.8
Increase Avoidance	
Income	-15,406.6
Efficiency - Staffing	-710.0
Efficiency - Infrastructure	-95.0
Efficiency - C&P	-12,071.0
Efficiency - Other	-3,319.0
Financing	-11,279.6
Policy	-10,610.2
Total	-87,565.5

Reserves Templates

MTFP - Category	2024-25 £000's
Contributions to Reserves	36,699.7
Removal of prior year Contributions	-24,739.6
Drawdowns from Reserves	-14,191.5
Removal of prior year Drawdowns	5,318.9
Total	3,087.5

Go back

2024-27 PowerBi Report - Members

app.powerbi.com/groups/me/apps/926738e9-73bd-4d81-a453-d0d207983dc8/reports/106d26e4-591e-4947-b294-f80165547782/ReportSection7d2ce08a323428a2ad5?ctid=3253a20d-c735-4bfe-a8b7-3e6ab371f590&experience=power-bi

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2024-27 Members Area

2024-27 PowerBi Report - M...

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Funding type: Core

MTFP Spending Category:

- Base Budget Changes
- Reduction in Grant Income
- Pay
- Prices
- Demand & Cost Drivers
- Government & Legislative
- Service Strategies & Improvements

MTFP Spending category selected: --

Click on the + to see the descriptions of the templates under that Category

Please select a Individual Spending Template

Spending Templates

Directorate	No. of Templates	2024-25 £000's	2025-26 £000's	2026-27 £000's
ASCH	11	99,787.1	72,726.3	63,223.3
CYPE	23	68,871.5	37,877.9	32,042.2
GET	43	10,182.2	5,417.9	7,708.3
CED	3	601.2	121.3	115.5
DCED	11	-3,426.0	820.5	749.3
NAC	11	-4,795.2	4,090.1	93.7
CHB	4	13,298.2	27,300.0	31,789.1
Total	106	184,519.0	148,354.0	135,721.4

80%

2024-27 PowerBi Report - Members

app.powerbi.com/groups/me/apps/926738e9-73bd-4d81-a453-d0d207983dc8/reports/106d26e4-591e-4947-b294-f80165547782/ReportSection9397313318b8d94aab56?ctid=3253a20d-c735-4bfe-a8b7-3e6ab37f5f90&experience=power-bi

Kent County Council | 2024-27 PowerBi Report - Members

2024-27 Members Area

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Funding type: Core

MTFP Savings Category:

- Transformation
- Transformation - Future Cost Incr...
- Income
- Increases in Grants and Contributi...
- Efficiency - Staffing
- Efficiency - Infrastructure
- Efficiency - C&P
- Efficiency - Other
- Financing
- Policy

MTFP Savings category selected: --

Click on the + to see the descriptions of the templates under that Category

Please select a Individual Savings Template

Savings Templates

Directorate	No. of Templates	2024-25 £000's	2025-26 £000's	2026-27 £000's
<input type="checkbox"/> ASCH	19	-53,227.8	-45,257.9	-33,490.0
<input type="checkbox"/> CYPE	24	-12,630.0	-17,515.0	-13,272.6
<input type="checkbox"/> GET	30	-3,110.7	-3,515.3	-1,135.7
<input type="checkbox"/> CED	5	-357.5	-262.0	0.0
<input type="checkbox"/> DCED	4	-909.9	-1,056.1	-2,100.3
<input type="checkbox"/> NAC	4	-14,779.6	11,222.4	-281.8
<input type="checkbox"/> CHB	7	-2,550.0	-36,599.4	-1,500.0
Total	93	-87,565.5	-92,983.3	-51,780.4

2024-27 PowerBi Report - Members

app.powerbi.com/groups/me/apps/926738e9-73bd-4d81-a453-d0d207983dc8/reports/106d26e4-591e-4947-b294-f80165547782/ReportSection394358769dc25a88138b?ctid=3253a20d-c735-4bfe-a8b7-3e6ab37f5f90&experience=power-bi

Kent County Council | 2024-27 PowerBi Report - Members

2024-27 Members Area

2024-27 PowerBi Report - M... ^

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- Summary
- Directorate
- Big 6 Service Area
- Cabinet Member
- Spending
- Savings
- Reserves**

Funding type: Core

MTFP Reserves Category selected: --

Click on the + to see the descriptions of the templates under that Category

MTFP Reserves Category:

- Contributions to Reserves
- Removal of prior year Contributio...
- Drawdowns from Reserves
- Removal of prior year Drawdowns

Please select a Individual Reserves Template

Reserves Templates				
Directorate	No. of Templates	2024-25 £000's	2025-26 £000's	2026-27 £000's
ASCH	2	0.0	567.2	
GET	1	-475.0	475.0	
CED	2	0.0	262.0	
DCED	2	0.0	0.0	0.0
NAC	15	3,562.5	6,097.6	-14,350.0
Total	22	3,087.5	7,401.8	-14,350.0

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APPENDIX G: 2024-27 DRAFT BUDGET - SPENDING PROPOSALS

					177,363.8	161,399.9	-15,963.9	138,881.4	135,721.4		
MTFP Category	Directorate	Cabinet Member	Headline description of spending increase	Brief description of spending increase	Initial Draft Budget 2024-25 Amount £000's	Revised Draft Budget 2024-25 Amount £000's	2024-25 Change in value £000's	2025-26 Amount £000's	2026-27 Amount £000's	What priority service area (Big 6) does the Spending Template relate to?	Is this Externally or Core funded?
Base Budget Changes	ASCH	Dan Watkins	Adult Social Care	Realignment of Vulnerable Adults budget to reflect underlying pressure forecast in 2023-24	9,900.0	9,900.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Vulnerable Adults	Core
Base Budget Changes	ASCH	Dan Watkins	Adult Social Care	Realignment of Older People budget to reflect underlying pressure forecast in 2023-24	7,000.0	7,000.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Older People	Core
Base Budget Changes	CED	Roger Gough	Safeguarding Adults	Removal of Review Manager at the end of the two year fixed term appointment for dealing with the increased number of Adult Safeguarding reviews being undertaken and to free up capacity to undertake development work for the Safeguarding Adults Board	-55.4	-55.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	Adult Social Care staffing	Core
Base Budget Changes	CHB	Peter Oakford	Corporately Held Contingency	Emerging pressures contingency for risk of inability to deliver against approved budget estimates due to unforeseen changes in external factors that arise after the budget is set	14,000.0	0.0	-14,000.0	0.0	0.0	Other	Core
Base Budget Changes	CHB	Dylan Jeffrey	Pay and Reward	Release of 2023-24 unallocated pay and reward allocation. The costs of the pay award and increase in annual leave entitlement for some staff were less than assumed when the 2023-24 budget was set	-201.8	-201.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	Core
Base Budget Changes	CYPE	Rory Love	Home to school transport	Realignment of the home to school transport budget to reflect the full year effect of the cost and number of children being transported in 2023-24	10,900.0	10,900.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Transport	Core
Base Budget Changes	CYPE	Sue Chandler	Children's Social Care	Realignment of looked after children's placement budget to reflect the increase in cost of supporting children due to the market and complexity, and the number of children in different placement types in 2023-24	7,950.0	7,950.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Integrated Children's Services	Core
Base Budget Changes	CYPE	Sue Chandler	Children's Social Care	Realignment of children with a disability packages of care to reflect the costs seen in 2023-24 including looked after placement budgets and home support packages of care for children in need.	2,121.0	2,121.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Integrated Children's Services	Core
Base Budget Changes	CYPE	Sue Chandler	18-25 placements	Realignment of the 18-25 Adult Learning & Physical Disability Community Services budget to reflect the increase in cost of supporting these clients in 2023-24	695.0	695.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Vulnerable Adults	Core
Base Budget Changes	DCED	Peter Oakford	KCC Estate Energy	Reduction in the price of gas and electricity for the KCC estate in 2023-24 compared to the assumptions at the time of setting the budget	-3,000.0	-4,276.5	-1,276.5	0.0	0.0	Other	Core
Base Budget Changes	GET	Roger Gough	Waste prices	Realignment of prices for a variety of waste streams within the Materials Recycling Facilities contract	960.0	970.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	Waste	Core
Base Budget Changes	GET	Roger Gough	Waste haulage costs	Right sizing of budget for waste haulage contracts due to inflation being higher than the increase assumed in the 2023-24 budget	623.9	623.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	Waste	Core
Base Budget Changes	GET	Roger Gough	Waste Facilities	Right sizing of budget for household waste recycling centre and waste transfer station management fees and rent due to higher inflation than assumed in the 2023-24 budget	257.9	318.7	60.8	0.0	0.0	Waste	Core
Base Budget Changes	GET	Clair Bell	Coroners	Rightsize budget for post mortems, Coroner's pay, Senior Coroner fees, pathologists fees and funeral director costs due to increasing number and complexity of cases	223.0	223.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	Core
Base Budget Changes	GET	Clair Bell	Trading Standards	Delay in achieving income from Trading Standards Checked service due to economic climate which was originally planned for 2021 -22	-40.0	-40.0	0.0	-45.0	0.0	Other	Core
Base Budget Changes	GET	Neil Baker	Public Transport	Removal of budget for the public transport smartcard following the winding down of the scheme	-48.0	-48.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Transport	Core
Base Budget Changes	GET	Neil Baker	Supported Public Transport	To not renew Tilbury Ferry contract subsidy at end of agreement period	0.0	-75.0	-75.0	0.0	0.0	Transport	Core
Base Budget Changes	GET	Roger Gough	Waste income from paper & card	An increase in the price per tonne received for recycled paper and card	-485.8	-485.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	Waste	Core
Base Budget Changes	GET	Neil Baker	Streetlight Energy - adjustment to reflect 23/24 activity/price levels	Streetlight energy - actual price incurred in 23/24 was lower than budgeted therefore the base budget has been realigned to ensure reflective of current price levels.	-1,959.9	-3,021.8	-1,061.9	0.0	0.0	Highways	Core
Base Budget Changes	NAC	Peter Oakford	Insurance	Rightsize budget for increase in insurance premiums	564.5	564.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	Core

APPENDIX G: 2024-27 DRAFT BUDGET - SPENDING PROPOSALS

MTFP Category	Directorate	Cabinet Member	Headline description of spending increase	Brief description of spending increase	Initial Draft Budget 2024-25 Amount £000's	Revised Draft Budget 2024-25 Amount £000's	2024-25 Change in value £000's	2025-26 Amount £000's	2026-27 Amount £000's	What priority service area (Big 6) does the Spending Template relate to?	Is this Externally or Core funded?
Base Budget Changes	NAC	Peter Oakford	Other Non Attributable costs	Payment to Kent Fire and Rescue Service of 3% share of the Retained Business Rates levy in line with the Kent Business Rates pool agreement	90.0	90.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	Core
Base Budget Changes	NAC	Peter Oakford	Environment Agency Levy	Rightsize budget for the Environment Agency Levy as the increase in 2023-24 was lower than anticipated when the budget was set	-8.2	-8.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	Core
Base Budget Changes	NAC	Peter Oakford	Non Attributable Costs	Removal of budget for Transferred Services Pensions as these payments have now ceased	-16.0	-16.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	Core
Base Budget Changes	NAC	Peter Oakford	Non Attributable Costs	Release of New Burdens funding rolled into Revenue Support Grant in the 2023-24 Local Government Finance Settlement	0.0	-38.4	-38.4	0.0	0.0	Other	Core
Base Budget Changes	NAC	Peter Oakford	Capital Financing Costs	Reduction in debt charges from 2023-24 due to decisions taken by Members to contain the capital programme; significant levels of re-phasing of the capital programme in 2022-23 and 2023-24; changes in interest rates and a review of asset lives in the modelling of debt charges.	-4,000.0	-11,000.0	-7,000.0	4,000.0	0.0	Other	Core
Base Budget Changes	CHB	Peter Oakford	Emerging Pressures	Provision for emerging pressures yet to be identified	0.0	0.0	0.0	20,000.0	20,000.0	Other	Core
Base Budget Changes	DCED	Peter Oakford	Impact of Cap on Capitalisation of Property Disposal costs	Removal of short term funding for impact on the revenue budget of 4% cap on capitalisation of asset disposal costs pending improvement in market conditions and implementation of changes to asset disposal strategy	0.0	0.0	0.0	-100.0	-100.0	Other	Core
TOTAL BASE BUDGET CHANGES					45,470.2	22,089.2	-23,381.0	23,855.0	19,900.0		Core
Demand & Cost Drivers	ASCH	Dan Watkins	Adult Social Care	Provision for the impact in Vulnerable Adults Adult Social Care for the of the full year effect of all current costs of care during 2023-24 in addition to new financial demands that will placed on adult social care (a) New people requiring a funded package of support (b) Young people transitioning into adulthood from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 (c) Individuals in receipt of a funded package of support on 31st March 2024, and require an increase in funded support following a review or reassessment (d) People no longer eligible for CHC and now require funded support from ASCH from (e) People who have previously funded their own care and support and now require funded support from ASCH - Vulnerable Adults	34,945.3	23,000.0	-11,945.3	23,000.0	23,000.0	Vulnerable Adults	Core
Demand & Cost Drivers	ASCH	Dan Watkins	Adult Social Care	Provision for the impact in Older People Adult Social Care of the full year effect of all current costs of care during 2023-24 in addition to new financial demands that will placed on adult social care (a) New people requiring a funded package of support (b) Young people transitioning into adulthood from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 (c) Individuals in receipt of a funded package of support on 31st March 2024, and require an increase in funded support following a review or reassessment (d) People no longer eligible for CHC and now require funded support from ASCH from (e) People who have previously funded their own care and support and now require funded support from ASCH (f) Inflationary increases in the cost of care and support through a range of market uplifts	15,656.7	19,056.6	3,399.9	31,000.0	31,000.0	Older People	Core
Demand & Cost Drivers	ASCH	Dan Watkins	Adult Social Care	Provision in Older People Adult Social Care for an increase in costs of care resulting from existing and new clients whose needs are becoming more complex and market factors, funded from the Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund, which is shown within the general funding of the Council's budget	0.0	7,268.8	7,268.8	0.0	0.0	Older People	Core
Demand & Cost Drivers	ASCH	Dan Watkins	Adult Social Care	Provision in Older People Adult Social Care for the impact of new/additional clients being supported following discharge from hospital, funded from the ringfenced Adult Social Care Discharge Fund and shown within the general funding of the Council's budget	0.0	4,674.6	4,674.6	0.0	0.0	Older People	Core
Demand & Cost Drivers	CYPE	Rory Love	Home to School transport SEN	Estimated impact of rising pupil population on SEN Home to School and College Transport	15,500.0	16,500.0	1,000.0	14,600.0	13,100.0	Transport	Core
Demand & Cost Drivers	CYPE	Sue Chandler	Children's Social Care	Estimated impact of an increase in the population of children in Kent, leading to increased demand for children's social work and disabled children's services - number of children & increasing packages of support	6,371.5	6,371.5	0.0	7,640.9	7,769.2	Integrated Children's Services	Core
Demand & Cost Drivers	CYPE	Sue Chandler	Adult Social Care	Provision for impact of the full year effect of all current costs of care, further increases in client numbers expected through transition into adulthood from Children's Social Care, additional costs arising for existing clients and for those new clients whose needs are becoming more complex.	3,400.0	3,400.0	0.0	3,400.0	3,400.0	Vulnerable Adults	Core

APPENDIX G: 2024-27 DRAFT BUDGET - SPENDING PROPOSALS

MTFP Category	Directorate	Cabinet Member	Headline description of spending increase	Brief description of spending increase	Initial Draft Budget 2024-25 Amount £000's	Revised Draft Budget 2024-25 Amount £000's	2024-25 Change in value £000's	2025-26 Amount £000's	2026-27 Amount £000's	What priority service area (Big 6) does the Spending Template relate to?	Is this Externally or Core funded?
Demand & Cost Drivers	CYPE	Sue Chandler	Children's Social Care	Estimated impact of an increase in population of children in Kent, leading to increased demand for support services for children with a disability including complexity of packages.	2,260.0	2,260.0	0.0	2,570.0	2,470.0	Integrated Children's Services	Core
Demand & Cost Drivers	CYPE	Rory Love	Home to School transport Mainstream	Estimated impact of rising pupil population on Mainstream Home to School transport	1,400.0	1,400.0	0.0	500.0	500.0	Transport	Core
Demand & Cost Drivers	CYPE	Sue Chandler	Care Leavers	Estimated increase in number of children supported by the care leaver service	250.0	250.0	0.0	125.0	0.0	Integrated Children's Services	Core
Demand & Cost Drivers	GET	Roger Gough	Waste - tonnage changes	Estimated impact of changes in waste tonnage as a result of population and housing growth	936.7	963.7	27.0	1,016.5	1,021.7	Waste	Core
Demand & Cost Drivers	GET	Clair Bell	Coroners	Increase in budget for toxicology analysis due to increasing number and complexity of cases	60.0	60.0	0.0	3.7	4.1	Other	Core
Demand & Cost Drivers	GET	Clair Bell	Trading Standards	Increase in legal costs as a result of more Crown Court cases	55.0	55.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	Core
Demand & Cost Drivers	GET	Roger Gough	Planning Applications	Costs of the independent examination of the Minerals & Waste Local Plan by the Planning Inspectorate in the summer of 2024	50.0	50.0	0.0	-50.0	0.0	Other	Core
Demand & Cost Drivers	GET	Neil Baker	Streetlight energy & maintenance	Adoption of new streetlights at new housing developments and associated increase in energy costs	27.5	27.5	0.0	27.5	0.0	Highways	Core
Demand & Cost Drivers	GET	Clair Bell	Public Rights of Way	Adoption of new routes	12.0	12.0	0.0	12.0	12.0	Other	Core
TOTAL DEMAND & COST DRIVERS					80,924.7	85,349.7	4,425.0	83,845.6	82,277.0		Core
Government & Legislative	GET	Neil Baker	Highways	Costs of meeting our statutory duties in relation to inspection of bridges and structures and complying with the Tunnels Regulations	960.0	960.0	0.0	-500.0	0.0	Highways	Core
Government & Legislative	GET	Roger Gough	Waste legislative changes	Loss of income from removal of charging for disposal of non DIY waste materials at Household Waste Recycling centres following change in legislation	446.5	333.1	-113.4	0.0	0.0	Waste	Core
Government & Legislative	GET	Clair Bell	Coroners	Revisions to staffing structure to adhere with Government guidance on caseload and complexity	0.0	0.0	0.0	180.0	0.0	Other	Core
TOTAL GOVERNMENT & LEGISLATIVE					1,406.5	1,293.1	-113.4	-320.0	0.0		Core
Pay	CHB	Dylan Jeffrey	Pay and Reward	Contribution to pay pot and impact on base budget of uplifting pay grades in accordance with single pay reward scheme including the revision of lower Kent Scheme pay scales to further increase the differential between the lowest pay range and the Foundation Living Wage and increasing the annual leave entitlement for some staff. This is the subject of pay bargaining with Trade Unions.	13,500.0	13,500.0	0.0	7,300.0	7,300.0	Other	Core
Pay	CYPE	Sue Chandler	Pay and Reward	Uplift in pay budget in line with general pay pot, for posts which are temporarily covered by agency staff - Integrated Children's Services	332.0	394.0	62.0	248.0	255.0	Integrated Children's Services	Core
Pay	CYPE	Rory Love	Pay and Reward	Uplift in pay budget in line with general pay pot, for posts which are temporarily covered by agency staff - Special Educational Needs	181.0	205.0	24.0	129.0	133.0	Other	Core
Pay	CYPE	Sue Chandler	Pay and Reward	Uplift in pay budget in line with general pay pot, for posts which are temporarily covered by agency staff - 0-25 Disabled Children's & Young People Services	40.0	60.0	20.0	38.0	39.0	Integrated Children's Services	Core
Pay	GET	Clair Bell	Public Protection	Increase in staffing costs and consumables within Kent Scientific Services to deliver scientific testing which are offset by increased income	49.0	49.0	0.0	37.0	38.0	Other	Core
Pay	GET	Clair Bell	Coroners	Increase in pay for senior, area and assistant coroners in accordance with the pay award agreed by the national Joint Negotiating Committee for Coroners	36.0	36.0	0.0	36.0	36.0	Other	Core
Pay	NAC	Peter Oakford	Apprenticeship Levy	Increase in the Apprenticeship Levy in line with the pay award	67.9	67.9	0.0	42.8	44.1	Other	Core
TOTAL PAY					14,205.9	14,311.9	106.0	7,830.8	7,845.1		Core
Prices	ASCH	Dan Watkins	Adult Social Care	Provision for contractual and negotiated price increases across all adult social care packages including nursing, residential, domiciliary, supporting independence and direct payments - Vulnerable Adults	14,317.2	16,000.0	1,682.8	10,500.0	5,100.0	Vulnerable Adults	Core

APPENDIX G: 2024-27 DRAFT BUDGET - SPENDING PROPOSALS

MTFP Category	Directorate	Cabinet Member	Headline description of spending increase	Brief description of spending increase	Initial Draft Budget 2024-25 Amount £000's	Revised Draft Budget 2024-25 Amount £000's	2024-25 Change in value £000's	2025-26 Amount £000's	2026-27 Amount £000's	What priority service area (Big 6) does the Spending Template relate to?	Is this Externally or Core funded?
Prices	ASCH	Dan Watkins	Adult Social Care	Provision for contractual and negotiated price increases across all adult social care packages including nursing, residential, domiciliary, supporting independence and direct payments - Older People	10,075.9	12,500.0	2,424.1	8,100.0	4,000.0	Older People	Core
Prices	ASCH	Dan Watkins	Adult Social Care	Provision for contractual and negotiated price increases across all adult social care packages funded by the Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund included in the provisional local government finance settlement - Older People	2,155.1	0.0	-2,155.1	0.0	0.0	Older People	Core
Prices	ASCH	Dan Watkins	Adult Social Care	Provision for contractual and negotiated price increases across all adult social care packages funded by the Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund included in the provisional local government finance settlement - Vulnerable Adults	1,934.1	0.0	-1,934.1	0.0	0.0	Vulnerable Adults	Core
Prices	CHB	Peter Oakford	Corporately Held Contingency	Contingency for price increases	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4,489.1	Other	Core
Prices	CYPE	Sue Chandler	Children's Social Care - Non-disabled Children	Provision for price negotiations with external providers, and uplift to in-house foster carers in line with DFE guidance - Integrated Children's Services	4,513.0	5,349.0	836.0	2,921.0	1,529.0	Integrated Children's Services	Core
Prices	CYPE	Rory Love	Home to School Transport	Provision for inflation on contracted services and season tickets for mainstream & SEN Home to School and College Transport	4,933.0	4,795.0	-138.0	3,237.0	1,597.0	Transport	Core
Prices	CYPE	Sue Chandler	Adult Social Care	Provision for contractual and negotiated price increases across all adult social care packages including nursing, residential, domiciliary, supporting independence and direct payments - Vulnerable Adults 18-25	2,447.0	2,447.0	0.0	1,581.0	795.0	Vulnerable Adults	Core
Prices	CYPE	Sue Chandler	Children's Social Care - Disabled Children	Provision for price negotiations with external providers, and uplift to in-house foster carers in line with DFE guidance - lifespan pathway 0-25	937.0	1,205.0	268.0	546.0	308.0	Integrated Children's Services	Core
Prices	CYPE	Rory Love	Non specific price provision	Non specific provision for CPI inflation on other negotiated contracts without indexation clauses - Children, Young People & Education	180.0	206.0	26.0	110.0	54.0	Other	Core
Prices	CYPE	Rory Love	Facilities Management	Estimated future price uplift to new Facilities Management contracts - schools	91.0	180.0	89.0	102.0	78.0	Other	Core
Prices	CYPE	Rory Love	Kent 16+ Travel Saver	Provision for price inflation related to the Kent Travel Saver and Kent 16+ Travel Saver which is recovered through uplifting the charge for the pass - Kent 16+ Travel Saver	210.0	100.0	-110.0	104.0	0.0	Transport	Core
Prices	CYPE	Sue Chandler	Children's Social Care - Care Leavers	Provision for price negotiations with external providers, and uplift to in-house foster carers in line with DFE guidance - Care Leavers	73.0	75.0	2.0	26.0	15.0	Integrated Children's Services	Core
Prices	DCED	Peter Oakford	Facilities Management	Estimated future price uplift to new Facilities Management contracts - Corporate Landlord	867.7	751.5	-116.2	592.2	346.0	Other	Core
Prices	DCED	Peter Oakford	Corporate Landlord	Provision for price inflation for rates for the office estate	417.4	378.0	-39.4	251.0	171.8	Other	Core
Prices	DCED	Peter Oakford	Cantium Business Solutions (CBS)	Inflationary uplift on the CBS ICT contract	390.3	332.5	-57.8	249.7	125.0	Other	Core
Prices	DCED	Peter Oakford	Corporate Landlord	Provision for price inflation for rent for the office estate	269.6	229.7	-39.9	172.3	86.3	Other	Core
Prices	DCED	Peter Oakford	Technology contracts	Provision for price inflation on Third Party ICT related contracts	272.2	205.0	-67.2	166.3	85.1	Other	Core
Prices	DCED	Dylan Jeffrey	Contact Centre	Price inflation on Agilisys contract for provision of Contact Centre	103.9	103.9	0.0	108.1	0.0	Other	Core
Prices	DCED	Peter Oakford	Kent Commercial Services (KCS)	Inflationary uplift on the KCS HR Connect contract	109.6	93.4	-16.2	70.1	35.1	Other	Core
Prices	DCED	Peter Oakford	KCC Estate Energy	Anticipated price change on energy contracts for the KCC estate as estimated by Commercial Services	-948.6	-923.5	25.1	-689.2	0.0	Other	Core
Prices	GET	Roger Gough	Waste contract related inflation.	Provision for price inflation related to Waste contracts (based on contractual indices) - updated for November OBR forecasts	1,117.6	3,927.0	2,809.4	1,974.0	2,005.0	Waste	Core
Prices	GET	Neil Baker	Contract related inflation	Provision for price inflation related to Highways, Waste and other contracted services (based on contractual indices) - Highways contracts	1,170.3	1,062.0	-108.3	717.3	932.5	Highways	Core
Prices	GET	Neil Baker	Other Transport Related inflation	Provision for price inflation related to other transport services including subsidised bus services - subsidised bus routes	584.0	584.0	0.0	282.5	299.5	Transport	Core

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Prices	GET	Neil Baker	Kent Travel Saver	Provision for price inflation related to the Kent Travel Saver and Kent 16+ Travel Saver which is recovered through uplifting the charge for the pass - Kent Travel Saver	463.5	463.5	0.0	479.7	0.0	Transport	Core
Prices	GET	Neil Baker	Highways Management	The handing back of the urban grass cutting and rural verge mowing contract by Folkestone & Hythe District Council	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Highways	Core
Prices	GET	Clair Bell	Contract related inflation - PROW	Provision for price inflation related to Public Rights of Way contracts	81.7	56.3	-25.4	38.2	38.2	Other	Core
Prices	GET	Clair Bell	Contract related inflation	Provision for price inflation related to Highways, Waste and other contracted services (based on contractual indices) - Coroners Funeral Directors contract	37.0	37.0	0.0	38.0	40.0	Other	Core
Prices	GET	Clair Bell	Coroners	Provision for inflationary increase in specialist pathologist fees	25.5	25.5	0.0	10.7	11.8	Other	Core
Prices	GET	Clair Bell	Contract related inflation	Provision for price inflation related to Highways, Waste and other contracted services (based on contractual indices) - Coroners Post Mortem contract	21.2	21.2	0.0	21.6	21.9	Other	Core
Prices	GET	Clair Bell	Contract related inflation	Provision for price inflation related to Highways, Waste and other contracted services (based on contractual indices) - annual uplift to the SLA with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council for the running costs of the Amelia	13.0	13.0	0.0	13.0	13.0	Other	Core
Prices	GET	Clair Bell	Other Transport Related inflation	Provision for price inflation related to other transport services including subsidised bus services - Mobile libraries fuel	5.0	5.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	Other	Core
Prices	GET	Neil Baker	Other Transport Related inflation	Provision for price inflation related to other transport services including subsidised bus services - concessionary fares	0.0	0.0	0.0	333.6	333.6	Transport	Core
Prices	GET	Neil Baker	Provision for price inflation for Streetlight Energy	Provision for price changes related to Streetlight energy, as estimated by Commercial Services/LASER.	-777.3	-798.6	-21.3	-1,559.4	0.0	Highways	Core
Prices	NAC	Peter Oakford	Levies	Estimated increase in Environment Agency Levy together with impact of estimated change in taxbase	23.8	23.8	0.0	25.0	26.2	Other	Core
Prices	NAC	Peter Oakford	Non specific price provision	Non specific provision for CPI inflation on other negotiated contracts without indexation clauses - increase in Inshore Sea Fisheries Conservation Area (IFCA) Levy	21.2	21.2	0.0	22.3	23.4	Other	Core
TOTAL PRICES					46,234.9	49,568.4	3,333.5	30,545.0	22,560.5		Core
Reduction in Grant Income	GET	Clair Bell	EU funding	Replace a reduction in EU Funding ensuring sufficient resource is available to continue delivering the Positive Wellbeing Service at current levels	35.0	35.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Older People	Core
TOTAL REDUCTION IN GRANT INCOME					35.0	35.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		Core
Service Strategies & Improvements	ASCH	Dan Watkins	Adult Social Care	Increase in the bad debt provision to reflect the anticipated impact of the high cost of living on our income collection rates from client contributions - Older People	256.3	325.3	69.0	111.8	116.6	Older People	Core
Service Strategies & Improvements	ASCH	Dan Watkins	Adult Social Care	Increase in the bad debt provision to reflect the anticipated impact of the high cost of living on our income collection rates from client contributions - Vulnerable Adults	81.8	103.8	22.0	14.5	6.7	Vulnerable Adults	Core
Service Strategies & Improvements	ASCH	Dan Watkins	Adult Safeguarding	Removal of two year pilot to combat Serious and Organised Crime	-42.0	-42.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Adult Social Care staffing	Core
Service Strategies & Improvements	CED	Peter Oakford	Partnership Arrangements with District Councils	Incentive payments for Kent District Councils to remove the remaining empty property discounts to maximise council tax, and reimburse Kent District Councils for temporary discretionary council tax discounts provided for properties affected by fire or flooding	541.1	541.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	Core
Service Strategies & Improvements	CED	Peter Oakford	Member Allowances	Uplift to Member Allowances	115.5	115.5	0.0	121.3	115.5	Other	Core
Service Strategies & Improvements	CYPE	Rory Love	Special Educational Needs	Increase in staff numbers in SEN service to support improved quality of Education Health & Care Plans	2,000.0	2,000.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	Core
Service Strategies & Improvements	CYPE	Sue Chandler	Adult Social Care	Increase in the bad debt provision to reflect the anticipated impact of the high cost of living on our income collection rates from client contributions - Vulnerable Adults 18-25	8.0	8.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Vulnerable Adults	Core

APPENDIX G: 2024-27 DRAFT BUDGET - SPENDING PROPOSALS

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Service Strategies & Improvements	DCED	Peter Oakford	Oakwood House Development	Removal of holding costs and loss of income in the short term once Oakwood House is no longer operational, offset by savings in the longer term following change of use	-320.0	-320.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	Core
Service Strategies & Improvements	GET	Neil Baker	Highways	Increased highway spend in line with additional Outcome allocation for 2024/24. Activity focused on supporting the front line operational activities across the highway network as follows:	5,000.0	2,800.0	-2,200.0	2,200.0	0.0	Highways	Core
Service Strategies & Improvements	GET	Neil Baker	Highways - Streetlighting	Upgrade of the Streetlighting Control Management System from 3G connectivity due to the shutting down of the 3G network	0.0	475.0	475.0	-475.0	0.0	Highways	Core
Service Strategies & Improvements	GET	Neil Baker	Mobilisation costs for new HTMC contract	Mobilisation and commissioning costs associated with the new Highways Term Maintenance contract (April 2026)	0.0	300.0	300.0	300.0	2,400.0	Highways	Core
Service Strategies & Improvements	GET	Clair Bell	Country Parks	Change the funding of improvements and adaptations to country parks from capital to revenue	70.0	70.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	Core
Service Strategies & Improvements	GET	Clair Bell	Sports Facilities	Change the funding of refurbishment and provision of sports facilities and community projects from capital to revenue	37.5	37.5	0.0	37.5	0.0	Other	Core
Service Strategies & Improvements	GET	Clair Bell	Village Halls & Community Centres	Change the funding of grants for improvements and adaptations to village halls and community centres from capital to revenue	37.5	37.5	0.0	37.5	0.0	Other	Core
Service Strategies & Improvements	GET	Roger Gough	Waste - infrastructure	Operating costs of a new waste transfer facility in the Folkestone & Hythe area which is required as existing facility approaches capacity	0.0	0.0	0.0	300.0	0.0	Waste	Core
Service Strategies & Improvements	GET	Roger Gough	Asset Management	Revenue contributions to capital required to maintain and deliver asset management for Kent's Windmills and Surface Water Flood Risk Management	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	500.0	Other	Core
Service Strategies & Improvements	GET	Derek Murphy	Economic Development Recovery Plan	Removal of time limited funding for re-design of the service and additional staffing and consultancy capacity to draft and deliver the Economic Recovery Plan/Economic Strategy following the Covid pandemic	-80.0	-80.0	0.0	-50.0	0.0	Other	Core
Service Strategies & Improvements	NAC	Peter Oakford	Project Prime	Loss of income from a review of contract with Commercial Services Group, specifically due to the removal of buy back of services	3,000.0	3,000.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	Core
Service Strategies & Improvements	NAC	Peter Oakford	Capital Programme	The impact on debt charges of the review of the 2021-24 capital programme.	2,500.0	2,500.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	Core
TOTAL SERVICE STRATEGIES & IMPROVEMENTS					13,205.7	11,871.7	-1,334.0	2,597.6	3,138.8		Core
Demand & Cost Drivers	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Public Health	Estimated increase in internal recharges for support services	375.1	345.1	-30.0	0.0	0.0	Other	External
Demand & Cost Drivers	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Public Health - Healthy Lifestyles	Removal of additional temporary funding for reducing waiting lists for Postural Stability	-60.4	-60.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	External
TOTAL DEMAND & COST DRIVERS					314.7	284.7	-30.0	0.0	0.0		External
Government & Legislative	ASCH	Dan Watkins	Domestic Abuse New Burdens	Costs of undertaking domestic abuse support in safe accommodation duties funded by specific grant	59.9	59.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	External
Government & Legislative	CHB	Roger Gough	Household Support Fund	Removal of the extension of the Government funded Household Support Fund into 2023-24 as announced in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement on 17th November 2022	-22,130.8	-22,130.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	External
Government & Legislative	CYPE	Sue Chandler	Family Hubs	Estimated reduction in our share of the DfE/DHSC Family Hubs and Start for Life grant	-777.0	-777.0	0.0	-3,332.0	0.0	Integrated Children's Services	External
Government & Legislative	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Public Health - Substance Misuse	Targeted housing support interventions for people in drug and alcohol treatment funded by Drug Strategy Housing Support Grant from Office for Health Improvement & Disparities	23.1	23.1	0.0	-932.1	0.0	Other	External
Government & Legislative	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Public Health - Substance Misuse	Investment in substance misuse services funded by Individual Placement and Support in Community Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant from Office for Health Improvement & Disparities	7.5	7.5	0.0	-256.5	0.0	Other	External
Government & Legislative	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Public Health - Substance Misuse	Removal of wraparound and engagement and community treatment funded by one-off Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant from Office for Health Improvement & Disparities in 2023-24	-520.2	-520.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	External
TOTAL GOVERNMENT & LEGISLATIVE					-23,337.5	-23,337.5	0.0	-4,520.6	0.0		External

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Pay	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Public Health Pay	Estimated net impact of KCC pay award and other adjustments for KCC Public Health staff	505.1	505.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	External
TOTAL PAY					505.1	505.1	0.0	0.0	0.0		External
Prices	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Public Health contracts	Estimated increase in public health contract values linked to the NHS Agenda for change pay increases	614.2	614.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	External
Prices	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Public Health - Sexual Health	Contractual increases in other services including Sexual Health and Health Improvement	353.2	353.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	External
TOTAL PRICES					967.4	967.4	0.0	0.0	0.0		External
Service Strategies & Improvements	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Public Health - Substance Misuse	Investment in Substance Misuse services funded by Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery grant from Office for Health Improvement & Disparities	1,412.9	1,412.9	0.0	-3,615.4	0.0	Other	External
Service Strategies & Improvements	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Additional one-off funding for Live Well Kent Mental Health contract	Additional one-off funding for Live Well Kent Mental Health contract	0.0	1,000.0	1,000.0	-1,000.0	0.0	Vulnerable Adults	External
Service Strategies & Improvements	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Removal of additional one-off investment in Recovery Housing (new contract) in 24/25	Removal of additional one-off investment in Recovery Housing (new contract) in 24/25	0.0	30.0	30.0	-30.0	0.0	Other	External
Service Strategies & Improvements	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Removal of one-off investment in Cohort Modelling in 23/24 & 24/25	Removal of one-off investment in Cohort Modelling in 23/24 & 24/25	0.0	0.0	0.0	-21.0	0.0	Other	External
Service Strategies & Improvements	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Removal of temporary investment in research capacity in 23/24 & 24/25	Removal of temporary investment in research capacity in 23/24 & 24/25	0.0	0.0	0.0	-85.6	0.0	Other	External
Service Strategies & Improvements	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Removal of additional temporary investment in Public Health Consultants in 23/24 and 24/25	Removal of additional temporary investment in Public Health Consultants in 23/24 and 24/25	0.0	0.0	0.0	-200.0	0.0	Other	External
Service Strategies & Improvements	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Other	Removal of additional temporary investment in other minor service improvements	-20.0	-20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	External
Service Strategies & Improvements	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Public Health - Healthy Lifestyles	Removal of temporary investment in Public Health services to promote and support health visiting	-118.4	-118.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	External
Service Strategies & Improvements	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Public Health - Healthy Lifestyles	Removal of additional temporary investment in Public Health services to promote and support Healthy Lifestyles	-195.4	-195.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	External
Service Strategies & Improvements	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Public Health - Sexual Health	Removal of additional temporary investment in Public Health Sexual Health Services	-212.9	-212.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	External
Service Strategies & Improvements	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Public Health - Healthy Lifestyles	Removal of temporary public health contribution towards the voluntary sector in 2023-24	-350.0	-350.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	External
Service Strategies & Improvements	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Public Health - Children's Programme	Removal of additional temporary investment in counselling services for children	-1,085.0	-1,085.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	External
Service Strategies & Improvements	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Public Health - Mental Health	Removal of one-off public health investment in Live Well Kent in 2023-24	-2,000.0	-2,000.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	External
TOTAL SERVICE STRATEGIES & IMPROVEMENTS					-2,568.8	-1,538.8	1,030.0	-4,952.0	0.0		External

APPENDIX G: 2024-27 DRAFT BUDGET - SAVINGS PROPOSALS

					-48,638.0	-66,906.9	-24,423.7	-84,861.2	-51,780.4		
MTFP Category	Directorate	Cabinet Member	Headline description of saving/income	Brief description of saving/income	Initial Draft Budget 2024-25 Amount £000's	Revised Draft Budget 2024-25 Amount £000's	2024-25 Change in value £000's	2025-26 Amount £000's	2026-27 Amount £000's	What priority service area (Big 6) does the Saving/ Income Template relate to?	Is this Externally or Core Funded?
Policy	ASCH	Dan Watkins	Adult Social Care Charging	Review of the Adults Charging Policy, in line with Care Act legislation and the statutory guidance	-1,250.0	-2,600.0	-1,350.0	-800.0	0.0	Vulnerable Adults	Core
Policy	ASCH	Dan Watkins	Mental Health	One-off contribution from Public Health for Mental Health Live Well Kent contract	0.0	-1,000.0	-1,000.0	1,000.0	0.0	Vulnerable Adults	Core
Policy	CED	Peter Oakford	Partnership arrangements with District Councils	Cease Early Intervention Payments to District Councils	-82.5	-82.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	Core
Policy	CED	Peter Oakford	Member Services	End Select Committees and Short Focused Inquiries	-20.0	-20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	Core
Policy	CHB	Peter Oakford	Corporately Held saving (to be allocated before County Council in February)	Part year impact of further discretionary policy decisions and deep dive into contract renewals with consideration of reducing service specifications	0.0	-2,300.0	-2,300.0	0.0	0.0	Other	Core
Policy	CYPE	Rory Love	Services to Schools	Review our offer to schools in light of the latest DFE funding changes and guidance including exploring alternative funding arrangements and engaging in efficiency measure to reduce costs	-1,200.0	-1,200.0	0.0	-250.0	0.0	Other	Core
Policy	CYPE	Sue Chandler	Youth Services	Review of youth services offer: cease commissioned youth services contracts	0.0	-913.0	-913.0	0.0	0.0	Integrated Children's Services	Core
Policy	CYPE	Rory Love	SEN Transport	Introduction of charging for post 16 SEN transport and reductions to the Post 19 transport offer	-781.0	-781.0	0.0	-541.0	-300.0	Transport	Core
Policy	CYPE	Sue Chandler	Review of Open Access - Youth Services & Children's Centres	Review of open access services in light of implementing the Family Hub model	-1,500.0	-400.0	1,100.0	-1,600.0	0.0	Integrated Children's Services	Core
Policy	CYPE	Sue Chandler	Children's Residential Care	Development of in-house residential units to provide an alternative to independent sector residential care placements (invest to save)	100.0	100.0	0.0	200.0	-600.0	Integrated Children's Services	Core
Policy	CYPE	Rory Love	Kent 16+ Travel Saver	Removal of undeliverable 2023-24 saving and review the Kent 16+ Travel Saver scheme	250.0	250.0	0.0	0.0	-478.6	Transport	Core
Policy	DCED	Peter Oakford	Corporate Landlord	Review of Office Assets	-763.9	-763.9	0.0	-310.6	-1,238.0	Other	Core
Policy	DCED	Peter Oakford	Corporate Landlord	Review of Community Delivery including Assets	-101.0	-101.0	0.0	-604.5	-576.3	Other	Core
Policy	GET	Clair Bell	Review of Community Wardens	Review of Community Warden Service to deliver a £1m saving which is likely to result in an overall reduction in wardens	-500.0	-433.0	67.0	-67.0	0.0	Other	Core
Policy	GET	Neil Baker	Road Safety activity	Review of level of campaigns and related activity within Road Safety	0.0	-200.0	-200.0	0.0	0.0	Highways	Core
Policy	GET	Clair Bell	Trading Standards staffing	Review of staffing levels within Trading Standards service. Mix of one-off and permanent savings.	0.0	-60.8	-60.8	48.0	0.0	Other	Core
Policy	GET	Clair Bell	Reduction of Trading Standards Budget	Adjustment of Trading Standards legal costs as Courts recover post-Covid	-55.0	-55.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	Core
Policy	GET	Roger Gough	Planning Applications	Savings from delayed recruitment	-50.0	-50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	Core
Policy	GET	Roger Gough	Waste - Household Waste & Recycling Centres (HWRCs)	Review of the number and operation of HWRC sites	-616.0	0.0	616.0	-988.0	0.0	Waste	Core
Policy	ASCH	Dan Watkins	Community Based Preventative Services	Further review of contracts and grants for discretionary services including investment from other strategic partners - Older People	0.0	0.0	0.0	-7,413.5	0.0	Older People	Core
Policy	ASCH	Dan Watkins	Community Based Preventative Services	Further review of contracts and grants for discretionary services including investment from other strategic partners - Vulnerable Adults	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1,086.5	0.0	Vulnerable Adults	Core
Policy	ASCH	Dan Watkins	Adult Social Care	Review of in-house services	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1,000.0	0.0	Older People	Core
Policy	ASCH	Dan Watkins	Community Based Preventative Services	Explore alternative sources of funding for the Kent Support & Assistance Service	0.0	0.0	0.0	-567.2	0.0	Other	Core
Policy	CYPE	Sue Chandler	Looked After Children	Review contract with Health for fast tracking mental health assessments for Looked After Children	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1,000.0	0.0	Integrated Children's Services	Core
Policy	CYPE	Rory Love/ Neil Baker	SEN Home to School Transport (HTST)	Implementation of new statutory guidance for Home to School Transport (published June 23) including making use of a new system for transport planning to explore route optimisation and the use of standard pick up points, where appropriate.	0.0	0.0	0.0	500.0	-1,000.0	Transport	Core
Policy	CYPE	Rory Love	Post 19 Transport	Review of ongoing discretionary offer for post 19 education transport	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-2,000.0	Transport	Core

APPENDIX G: 2024-27 DRAFT BUDGET - SAVINGS PROPOSALS

MTFP Category	Directorate	Cabinet Member	Headline description of saving/income	Brief description of saving/income	Initial Draft Budget 2024-25 Amount £000's	Revised Draft Budget 2024-25 Amount £000's	2024-25 Change in value £000's	2025-26 Amount £000's	2026-27 Amount £000's	What priority service area (Big 6) does the Saving/ Income Template relate to?	Is this Externally or Core Funded?
Policy	CYPE	Rory Love/ Neil Baker/ Sue Chandler	Kent Travel Saver	Review of Kent Travel Saver Scheme, including a review of the ongoing discretionary offer for free transport for Looked After Children, Care Leavers and Young Carers	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1,890.0	Transport	Core
Policy	GET	Roger Gough	Waste Savings - impact of new Govt legislation	Savings from reduced incentivisation payments to districts following the introduction of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation and where DEFRA will incentivise districts directly.	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1,300.0	-1,000.0	Waste	Core
Policy	GET	Neil Baker	Review of on-street parking	Review of on-street parking, which may involve insourcing and the need to invoke a 24 month notice period, or current arrangement to be reviewed to see if synergies may exist and cost savings to be shared by KCC and its partners	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-100.0	Highways	Core
Policy	CHB	Peter Oakford	Unidentified	Further policy savings to be developed to replace the one-off solutions for closing the 2024-25 budget gap. This will need to include further savings over and above those already included in the MTFP including but not solely from the following examples: - Libraries, Registration and Archives - Kent Travel Saver - Supported Buses - Household Waste Recycling Centres - 16+ Home to School Transport - Waste Collection Partnerships - Regeneration & Economic Development - Services for Schools - Schools maintenance - Other Community Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	-23,945.8	0.0	Other	Core
TOTAL POLICY SAVINGS					-6,569.4	-10,610.2	-4,040.8	-39,726.1	-5,402.9		Core
Income	ASCH	Dan Watkins	Annual uplift in line with benefits and income uplift for social care client contributions	Uplift in social care client contributions in line with estimated benefit and other personal income uplifts, together with inflationary increases and a review of fees and charges across all KCC services, in relation to existing service income streams - Older People	-4,773.1	-6,400.0	-1,626.9	-2,900.0	-2,100.0	Older People	Core
Income	ASCH	Dan Watkins	Annual uplift in line with benefits and income uplift for social care client contributions	Uplift in social care client contributions in line with estimated benefit and other personal income uplifts, together with inflationary increases and a review of fees and charges across all KCC services, in relation to existing service income streams - Vulnerable Adults	-1,529.1	-1,600.0	-70.9	-800.0	-400.0	Vulnerable Adults	Core
Income	ASCH	Dan Watkins	Adult Social Care	Estimated annual inflationary increase in Better Care Fund - Older People	-2,188.0	-2,188.0	0.0	-2,311.8	-2,442.6	Older People	Core
Income	ASCH	Dan Watkins	Adult Social Care	Estimated annual inflationary increase in Better Care Fund - Vulnerable Adults	-179.5	-179.5	0.0	-189.7	-200.4	Vulnerable Adults	Core
Income	ASCH	Dan Watkins	Adult Social Care	Estimated annual inflationary increase in Better Care Fund - Adult Social Care Staffing	-99.8	-99.8	0.0	-105.4	-111.4	Adult Social Care staffing	Core
Income	ASCH	Dan Watkins	Adult Social Care	Estimated annual inflationary increase in Better Care Fund - Integrated Community Equipment Service and Assistive Technology	-4.4	-4.4	0.0	-4.6	-4.9	Other	Core
Income	CHB	Peter Oakford	Review of fees & charges	Removal of corporately held saving from a review of all fees and charges as these savings are reflected within the individual directorate proposals	500.0	500.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	Core
Income	CYPE	Sue Chandler	Adoption Service	Adoption Service	-200.0	-200.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Integrated Children's Services	Core
Income	CYPE	Sue Chandler	Annual uplift in line with benefits and income uplift for social care client contributions	Uplift in social care client contributions in line with estimated benefit and other personal income uplifts, together with inflationary increases and a review of fees and charges across all KCC services, in relation to existing service income streams - 0-25	-123.7	-120.0	3.7	-60.0	-30.0	Vulnerable Adults	Core
Income	CYPE	Rory Love	Kent 16+ Travel Saver	Kent 16+ Travel Saver price realignment to offset bus operator inflationary fare increases	-94.0	-100.0	-6.0	-104.0	0.0	Transport	Core
Income	GET	Neil Baker	Kent Travel Saver	Kent Travel Saver price realignment to offset bus operator inflationary fare increases	-463.5	-463.5	0.0	-479.7	0.0	Transport	Core
Income	GET	Neil Baker	Highways income	Review of Highways income based on current/projected activity levels	-100.0	-400.0	-300.0	0.0	0.0	Highways	Core
Income	GET	Clair Bell	Review of Charges for Service Users - existing service income streams & inflationary increases	A review of fees and charges across all KCC services, in relation to existing service income streams	-50.0	-200.0	-150.0	-50.0	0.0	Other	Core

APPENDIX G: 2024-27 DRAFT BUDGET - SAVINGS PROPOSALS

MTFP Category	Directorate	Cabinet Member	Headline description of saving/income	Brief description of saving/income	Initial Draft Budget 2024-25 Amount £000's	Revised Draft Budget 2024-25 Amount £000's	2024-25 Change in value £000's	2025-26 Amount £000's	2026-27 Amount £000's	What priority service area (Big 6) does the Saving/ Income Template relate to?	Is this Externally or Core Funded?
Income	GET	Neil Baker	Highways	Income from traffic management penalties including contravening traffic restrictions, box junctions and bus lanes	-100.0	-100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Highways	Core
Income	GET	Neil Baker	Public transport grant funding	Use of grant funding to support project & scheme costs	0.0	-100.0	-100.0	100.0	0.0	Transport	Core
Income	GET	Clair Bell	Public Protection	Increased income within Kent Scientific Services for toxicology analysis for the Coroners Service	-60.0	-56.0	4.0	-3.7	-4.1	Other	Core
Income	GET	Neil Baker	funding	Grant funding to support Electric Vehicle Strategy	0.0	-50.0	-50.0	0.0	0.0	Highways	Core
Income	GET	Derek Murphy	Increased income from Regeneration projects	One-off increase in profit share from East Kent Opportunities LLP	0.0	-50.0	-50.0	50.0	300.0	Other	Core
Income	GET	Clair Bell	Review of Charges for Service Users - existing service income streams & inflationary increases	Increased contribution from Medway Council under SLA relating to increasing costs for provision of Coroner service in Medway	-49.0	-49.0	0.0	-42.7	-16.0	Other	Core
Income	GET	Clair Bell	Public Protection	Inflationary increase in income levels and pricing policy for Kent Scientific Services	-45.0	-45.0	0.0	-33.3	-33.9	Other	Core
Income	GET	Clair Bell	Trading Standards	Inflationary increase in fees and charges	-1.4	-1.4	0.0	-0.6	-0.7	Other	Core
Income	NAC	Peter Oakford	Income return from our companies	Estimated increase in the income contribution from our limited companies, including a one-off increase in 2024-25.	-500.0	-3,500.0	-3,000.0	3,000.0	0.0	Other	Core
TOTAL INCOME					-10,060.5	-15,406.6	-5,346.1	-3,935.5	-5,044.0		Core
Transformation & Efficiency	ASCH	Dan Watkins	Adult Social Care service redesign	Review and reshape ASCH as set out in the sustainability plan to deliver new models of social care, which will address increases in demand and costs associated with care and support. This will include increasing take-up of direct payments for use on micro-enterprises and personal assistants, greater use of technology enabled living, and further development of digital self service. This will also include the use of self assessment, financial assessment tools, and regular reviews of both new and existing care packages to ensure that the best outcomes are being achieved. Older People.	-12,292.8	-17,436.1	-8,579.4	-17,042.1	-16,460.7	Older People	Core
Transformation & Efficiency	ASCH	Dan Watkins	Adult Social Care service redesign	Review and reshape ASCH as set out in the sustainability plan to deliver new models of social care, which will address increases in demand and costs associated with care and support. This will include increasing take-up of direct payments for use on micro-enterprises and personal assistants, greater use of technology enabled living, and further development of digital self service. This will also include the use of self assessment, financial assessment tools, and regular reviews of both new and existing care packages to ensure that the best outcomes are being achieved. Vulnerable Adults.	-18,464.0	-12,718.7	3,026.6	-12,037.1	-11,770.0	Vulnerable Adults	Core
Transformation & Efficiency	ASCH	Dan Watkins	Older People's Residential & Nursing Care	Efficiency Savings in relation to the purchasing of residential care	-8,000.0	-8,000.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Older People	Core
Transformation & Efficiency	ASCH	Dan Watkins	Care & Support in the Home	Efficiency Savings in relation to the purchasing of care and support in the home	-3,400.0	-3,400.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Older People	Core
Transformation & Efficiency	ASCH	Dan Watkins	Adult Social Care Equipment contract	Efficiencies from new contract for the supply of equipment for adult social care clients	-900.0	-900.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Older People	Core
Transformation & Efficiency	ASCH	Dan Watkins	Adult Social Care service redesign	Rephasing of 2023-24 service redesign saving - Older People.	1,356.6	1,356.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	Older People	Core
Transformation & Efficiency	ASCH	Dan Watkins	Adult Social Care service redesign	Rephasing of 2023-24 service redesign saving - Vulnerable Adults	1,942.1	1,942.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	Vulnerable Adults	Core
Transformation & Efficiency	CED	Peter Oakford	Historic Pension Costs	Reduction in the number of Historic Pension Arrangements within CED Directorate	-250.0	-250.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	Core
Transformation & Efficiency	CHB	Peter Oakford	Reduced spend on agency staff	The reduction of the volume and duration of agency staff.	0.0	-750.0	-750.0	-250.0	0.0	Other	Core
Transformation & Efficiency	CYPE	Rory Love	Home to School transport - SEN	Estimated reduction to the impact of rising pupil population on SEN Home to School and College Transport	-6,300.0	-6,300.0	0.0	-10,600.0	-10,300.0	Transport	Core
Transformation & Efficiency	CYPE	Sue Chandler	Looked After Children	Implement strategies to reduce the cost of packages for looked after children, including working with Health	-1,000.0	-1,000.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Integrated Children's Services	Core

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Transformation & Efficiency	CYPE	Sue Chandler	Adult Social Care	Review of 18-25 community-based services: ensuring strict adherence to policy, review of packages with high levels of support and enhanced contributions from health	-650.0	-650.0	0.0	-650.0	0.0	Vulnerable Adults	Core
Transformation & Efficiency	CYPE	Sue Chandler	Early Help & Preventative Services	Expanding the reach of caseholding Early Help services	-560.0	-560.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Integrated Children's Services	Core
Transformation & Efficiency	CYPE	Sue Chandler	Disabled Children's Placement and Support	Review of children with disability packages ensuring strict adherence to policy, review packages with high levels of support and enhanced contributions from health	-550.0	-550.0	0.0	-550.0	0.0	Integrated Children's Services	Core
Transformation & Efficiency	CYPE	Sue Chandler	Children's Social Care	Explore strategies, including statutory guidance, to reduce dependency on social work agency staff	-300.0	-300.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Integrated Children's Services	Core
Transformation & Efficiency	CYPE	Rory Love	Initiatives to increase use of Personal Transport Budgets	Initiatives to increase use of Personal Transport Budgets to reduce demand for Hired Transport	-300.0	-300.0	0.0	-400.0	-400.0	Transport	Core
Transformation & Efficiency	CYPE	Rory Love	Historic Pension Costs	Reduction in the number of Historic Pension Arrangements - CYPE Directorate	-180.0	-206.0	-26.0	-110.0	-54.0	Other	Core
Transformation & Efficiency	CYPE	Sue Chandler	Open Access - Youth & Children's Centres	Removal of one-off saving in 2023-24 from vacancy management and avoiding all non-essential spend across open access	600.0	600.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Integrated Children's Services	Core
Transformation & Efficiency	DCED	Peter Oakford	Corporate Landlord	Property savings from a review of specialist assets	-45.0	-45.0	0.0	-68.5	-68.5	Other	Core
Transformation & Efficiency	GET	Roger Gough	Review of green/organic waste contracts	Re-tender of green waste contract, with market analysis indicating a reduction in gate fee	0.0	-621.0	-621.0	-444.0	0.0	Waste	Core
Transformation & Efficiency	GET	Derek Murphy	Review of the level of spend/service with the 3 Brand Kent commissions (Visit Kent, Locate in Kent, Produced in Kent)	Review of the services and as aspiration for all three to be amalgamated to ensure synergies achieved in systems/back office functions and to limit any reduction in service levels	0.0	-150.0	-150.0	-42.0	0.0	Other	Core
Transformation & Efficiency	GET	Roger Gough	Waste - Household Waste & Recycling Centres (HWRCs)	Increased waste material segregation, increased re-use, black-bag splitting and trade waste recycling with a view to generating income or reducing cost	-105.0	-105.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Waste	Core
Transformation & Efficiency	GET	Neil Baker	Highways	Review of all Highways & Transportation fees and charges, that are to be increased annually in line with inflation	-50.0	-50.0	0.0	-50.0	0.0	Highways	Core
Transformation & Efficiency	GET	Roger Gough	Windmills	Temporary reduction in spend on weatherproofing windmills	-50.0	-50.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	Other	Core
Transformation & Efficiency	GET	Clair Bell	Kent Sport	Withdraw the remaining contribution to the KCC hosted Active Kent and Medway.	-28.0	-28.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	Core
Transformation & Efficiency	GET	Clair Bell	Reduction in grant fund	Reduction to the Arts Investment Fund, which provides grants to Kent-based arts organisations	0.0	-25.0	-25.0	0.0	0.0	Other	Core
Transformation & Efficiency	GET	Roger Gough	Environment	Removal of one-off saving in 2023-24 from planned delay in recruiting to the new structure in the Environment Team Closing the gap adjustment - deferred to 25/26.	300.0	0.0	-300.0	300.0	0.0	Other	Core
Transformation & Efficiency	GET	Clair Bell	Libraries, Registration & Archives (LRA)	Removal of one-off reduction in 2023-24 in the Libraries Materials Fund and one year contribution holiday for the Mobile Libraries renewals reserve	-1.0	0.0	1.0	207.0	0.0	Other	Core
Transformation & Efficiency	GET	Roger Gough	Improved Food Waste Recycling Rates through collaboration with Districts	Work with Kent District Councils to deliver savings from improving kerbside food waste recycling rates	-160.0	232.0	392.0	-388.3	0.0	Waste	Core
Transformation & Efficiency	CED	Peter Oakford	Efficiencies within Member support administration	Efficiencies within the Member support administration	0.0	-5.0	-5.0	0.0	0.0	Other	Core
Transformation & Efficiency	CED	Roger Gough	Strategic Commissioning	Explore alternative sources of funding for the administration of the Kent Support & Assistance Service	0.0	0.0	0.0	-262.0	0.0	Other	Core
Transformation & Efficiency	CHB	Peter Oakford	Review of embedded staff	Review of embedded teams in Directorates, to establish opportunities for consolidation and/or centralisation of practice	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1,300.0	0.0	Other	Core

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Transformation & Efficiency	CHB	Peter Oakford	Spans and layers	Review of structures across the Council to ensure adherence to the Council's organisation design policy	0.0	0.0	0.0	-500.0	-1,500.0	Other	Core
Transformation & Efficiency	CYPE	Sue Chandler	Looked After Children	Reduce the recent increase in the number of Looked After Children placements through practice reviews & improved court proceedings	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1,500.0	0.0	Integrated Children's Services	Core
Transformation & Efficiency	CYPE	Sue Chandler	Children's Social Care	Review of Legal Services Spend through cost efficiencies by Invicta Law and review of the use of legal services by social workers	0.0	0.0	0.0	-850.0	0.0	Integrated Children's Services	Core
Transformation & Efficiency	DCED	Dylan Jeffrey	Contact Centre	Review of service levels when the contract for the provision of the Contact Centre is renewed	0.0	0.0	0.0	-72.5	-217.5	Other	Core
Transformation & Efficiency	GET	Roger Gough	Increased food waste recycling due to new legislation	Reduced cost of food waste disposal following Govt legislation regarding consistent collections.	0.0	0.0	0.0	-331.0	-331.0	Waste	Core
Transformation & Efficiency	CHB	Peter Oakford	Corporately Held saving (to be allocated before County Council in February)	Further actions from Securing Kent's Future to reduce costs including from: - Cost drivers in demand led services, largely in Adult Social Care, Children in Care and Home to School Transport - Contract Reviews including their scope - Scope of Council ambitions - Transforming the operating model of The Council	0.0	0.0	0.0	-10,603.6	0.0	Other	Core
TOTAL TRANSFORMATION & EFFICIENCY SAVINGS					-49,387.1	-50,269.1	-7,036.8	-57,544.1	-41,051.7		Core
Financing	NAC	Peter Oakford	Flexible Use of Capital Receipts	One-off use of capital receipts under the Governments flexible use of capital receipts policy, which allows authorities to use the proceeds from asset sales to fund the revenue costs of projects that will reduce costs, increase revenue or support a more efficient provision of services	0.0	-8,000.0	-8,000.0	8,000.0	0.0	Other	Core
Financing	NAC	Peter Oakford	Investment Income	Increase in investment income largely due to the increase in base rate	-2,279.6	-2,279.6	0.0	1,222.4	718.2	Other	Core
Financing	NAC	Peter Oakford	Debt repayment	Review amounts set aside for debt repayment (MRP) based on review of asset life	-1,000.0	-1,000.0	0.0	-1,000.0	-1,000.0	Other	Core
TOTAL FINANCING SAVINGS					-3,279.6	-11,279.6	-8,000.0	8,222.4	-281.8		Core
Policy	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Public Health	Review of Public Health Services principally related to Healthy Lifestyles to ensure spending is contained within ringfenced grant	-9.2	-9.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	External
TOTAL POLICY SAVINGS					-9.2	-9.2	0.0	0.0	0.0		External
Income	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Additional income linked to HIV prevention	Additional income from NHSE to fund increased costs linked to HIV prevention	-275.2	-275.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	External
Income	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Public Health	Estimated additional income for externally funded posts	-6.1	-6.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	External
TOTAL INCOME					-281.3	-281.3	0.0	0.0	0.0		External
Transformation & Efficiency	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Reduction in expenditure relating to one-off drawdown from reserve to support 24/25 budget	Reduction in expenditure relating to one-off drawdown from reserve to support 24/25 budget	0.0	0.0	0.0	-13.9	0.0	Other	External
TOTAL TRANSFORMATION & EFFICIENCY SAVINGS					0.0	0.0	0.0	-13.9	0.0		External
Increases in Grants and Contributions	ASCH	Dan Watkins	Domestic Abuse	Increase in Domestic Abuse Duty grant to fund new burdens in providing domestic abuse support in safe accommodation	-59.9	-59.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	External
Increases in Grants and Contributions	CHB	Roger Gough	Household Support Fund	Removal of the extension of the Government funded Household Support Fund into 2023-24 as announced in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement on 17th November 2022	22,130.8	22,130.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	External
Increases in Grants and Contributions	CYPE	Sue Chandler	Family Hubs	Estimated reduction in our share of the DfE/DHSC Family Hubs and Start for Life grant	777.0	777.0	0.0	3,332.0	0.0	Integrated Children's Services	External
Increases in Grants and Contributions	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Public Health - Substance Misuse	Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery grant from Office for Health Improvement & Disparities	-1,412.9	-1,412.9	0.0	3,615.4	0.0	Other	External
Increases in Grants and Contributions	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Public Health Grant	Estimated increase in Public Health Grant pending announcement from Department of Health and Social Care	-975.5	-975.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	External
Increases in Grants and Contributions	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Public Health - Substance Misuse	Drug Strategy Housing Support Grant from Office for Health Improvement & Disparities	-23.1	-23.1	0.0	932.1	0.0	Other	External
Increases in Grants and Contributions	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Public Health - Substance Misuse	Individual Placement and Support in Community Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant from Office for Health Improvement & Disparities	-7.5	-7.5	0.0	256.5	0.0	Other	External

APPENDIX G: 2024-27 DRAFT BUDGET - SAVINGS PROPOSALS

MTFP Category	Directorate	Cabinet Member	Headline description of saving/income	Brief description of saving/income	Initial Draft Budget 2024-25 Amount £000's	Revised Draft Budget 2024-25 Amount £000's	2024-25 Change in value £000's	2025-26 Amount £000's	2026-27 Amount £000's	What priority service area (Big 6) does the Saving/ Income Template relate to?	Is this Externally or Core Funded?
Increases in Grants and Contributions	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Public Health - Substance Misuse	Remove one-off Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant from Office for Health Improvement & Disparities	520.2	520.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	External
TOTAL INCREASES IN GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS					20,949.1	20,949.1	0.0	8,136.0	0.0		External

APPENDIX G: 2024-27 DRAFT BUDGET - RESERVES PROPOSALS

					19,910.3	5,548.0	-14,362.3	8,752.3	-14,350.0		
MTFP Category	Directorate	Cabinet Member	Headline description of reserve template	Brief description of reserve template	Initial Draft Budget 2024-25 Amount £000's	Revised Draft Budget 2024-25 Amount £000's	2024-25 Change in value £000's	2025-26 Amount £000's	2026-27 Amount £000's	What priority service area does the Reserve Template relate to?	Is this Externally or Core Funded?
Contributions to reserves	DCED	Peter Oakford	Facilities Management	Contribution to reserves to smooth the impact of the mobilisation costs of the Facilities Management contracts over the life of the contracts (2022-23 to 2026-27)	160.0	160.0	0.0	160.0	160.0	Other	Core
Contributions to reserves	NAC	Peter Oakford	Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Deficit - Safety Valve	KCC Contribution towards funding the DSG deficit as agreed with DfE as part of the Safety Valve agreement	15,100.0	15,100.0	0.0	14,600.0	11,100.0	Other	Core
Contributions to reserves	NAC	Peter Oakford	General Reserves repayment	Repay the General Reserve over two years (2024-25 & 2025-26) for the drawdown required in 2022-23 to fund the overspend	11,050.0	11,050.0	0.0	11,050.0	0.0	Other	Core
Contributions to reserves	NAC	Peter Oakford	General Reserves	Contribution to reserves in order to maintain general reserve at 5% of net revenue budget	5,100.0	5,100.0	0.0	3,100.0	3,300.0	Other	Core
Contributions to reserves	NAC	Peter Oakford	Corporate Reserves	Contribution to reserves to repay the drawdown required to balance the budget in 2023-24 in order to maintain financial resilience	4,289.7	4,289.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	Core
Contributions to reserves	NAC	Peter Oakford	Emergency capital events reserve	Annual contribution to a new reserve for emergency capital works and revenue costs related to capital spend such as temporary accommodation, and condition surveys which don't result in capital works	1,000.0	1,000.0	0.0	1,000.0	1,000.0	Other	Core
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO RESERVES					36,699.7	36,699.7	0.0	29,910.0	15,560.0		Core
Drawdowns from reserves	ASCH	Dan Watkins	Drawdown corporate reserves	Fund the Kent Support and Assistance Service from Corporate Reserves for two years 2023-24 and 2024-25 - ASCH Directorate	-567.2	-567.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	Core
Drawdowns from reserves	CED	Roger Gough	Drawdown corporate reserves	Fund the Kent Support and Assistance Service from Corporate Reserves for two years 2023-24 and 2024-25 - CED Directorate	-262.0	-262.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	Core
Drawdowns from reserves	GET	Neil Baker	ICT Reserve	Drawdown of ICT reserve to fund the upgrade of the streetlighting Control Management System from 3G connectivity (subject to approval of a business case via Strategic Technology Board)	0.0	-475.0	-475.0	0.0	0.0	Highways	Core
Drawdowns from reserves	NAC	Peter Oakford	Drawdown Corporate Reserves	One-off use of corporate reserves in 2024-25 - yet to be decided which reserves this will come from or whether it is from a mix of drawdowns and/or reduced contributions to reserves.	0.0	-12,887.3	-12,887.3	0.0	0.0	Other	Core
TOTAL DRAWDOWNS FROM RESERVES					-829.2	-14,191.5	-13,362.3	0.0	0.0		Core
Removal of prior year Contributions	DCED	Peter Oakford	Facilities Management	Removal of prior year contribution to reserves to smooth the impact of the mobilisation costs of the Facilities Management contracts over the life of the contracts (2022-23 to 2026-27)	-160.0	-160.0	0.0	-160.0	-160.0	Other	Core
Removal of prior year Contributions	NAC	Peter Oakford	Risk Reserve	Removal of prior year one-off contribution to risk reserve (2023-24 increase in annual contribution)	-7,000.0	-7,000.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	Core
Removal of prior year Contributions	NAC	Peter Oakford	General Reserves	Removal of prior year one-off contribution to general reserve	-5,800.0	-5,800.0	0.0	-5,100.0	-3,100.0	Other	Core
Removal of prior year Contributions	NAC	Peter Oakford	Risk Reserve	Removal of prior year one-off contribution to risk reserve (original contribution)	-5,000.0	-5,000.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	Core
Removal of prior year Contributions	NAC	Peter Oakford	Local Taxation Equalisation - Council Tax Collection Fund	Removal of prior year contribution to Local Taxation Equalisation smoothing reserve of Council Tax Collection Fund surplus above £7m assumed	-4,488.7	-4,488.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	Core
Removal of prior year Contributions	NAC	Peter Oakford	Removal of contribution related to repayment of previous "borrowing" from reserves	Reduction & full removal of the annual repayment of the "borrowing" from reserves to support the budget in 2011-12, reflecting when the reserves will be fully repaid	-1,223.3	-1,223.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	Core
Removal of prior year Contributions	NAC	Peter Oakford	Local Taxation Equalisation - Business Rates Collection Fund	Removal of prior year contribution to the Local Taxation Equalisation smoothing reserve of the Business Rates Collection Fund surplus	-1,067.6	-1,067.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	Core
Removal of prior year Contributions	NAC	Peter Oakford	Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Deficit - Safety Valve	Removal of prior year contribution to the DSG deficit in accordance with the Safety Valve Agreement with DfE	0.0	0.0	0.0	-15,100.0	-14,600.0	Other	Core
Removal of prior year Contributions	NAC	Peter Oakford	General Reserves repayment	Removal of prior year repayment of General Reserve for the drawdown in 2022-23 to fund the overspend	0.0	0.0	0.0	-11,050.0	-11,050.0	Other	Core
Removal of prior year Contributions	NAC	Peter Oakford	Corporate Reserves	Removal of one-off repayment of reserves in 2024-25	0.0	0.0	0.0	-4,289.7	0.0	Other	Core

APPENDIX G: 2024-27 DRAFT BUDGET - RESERVES PROPOSALS

MTFP Category	Directorate	Cabinet Member	Headline description of reserve template	Brief description of reserve template	Initial Draft Budget 2024-25 Amount £000's	Revised Draft Budget 2024-25 Amount £000's	2024-25 Change in value £000's	2025-26 Amount £000's	2026-27 Amount £000's	What priority service area does the Reserve Template relate to?	Is this Externally or Core Funded?
Removal of prior year Contributions	NAC	Peter Oakford	Emergency capital events reserve	Removal of prior year contribution to the emergency capital events reserve	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1,000.0	-1,000.0	Other	Core
TOTAL REMOVAL OF PRIOR YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS					-24,739.6	-24,739.6	0.0	-36,699.7	-29,910.0		Core
Removal of prior year Drawdowns	ASCH	Dan Watkins	Drawdown corporate reserves	Removal of use of corporate reserves in prior year to fund the Kent Support and Assistance Service - ASCH Directorate	567.2	567.2	0.0	567.2		Other	Core
Removal of prior year Drawdowns	CED	Roger Gough	Remove prior year drawdown from Covid reserve	Removal of use of corporate reserves in prior year to fund the Kent Support and Assistance Service - CED Directorate	262.0	262.0	0.0	262.0		Other	Core
Removal of prior year Drawdowns	GET	Neil Baker	ICT Reserve	Removal of the drawdown in 2024-25 from the ICT reserve to fund the one-off cost of the streetlighting Control Management System upgrade from 3G connectivity	0.0	0.0	0.0	475.0		Highways	Core
Removal of prior year Drawdowns	NAC	Peter Oakford	Drawdown corporate reserves	Removal of one-off use of reserves in 2023-24	4,289.7	4,289.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	Core
Removal of prior year Drawdowns	NAC	Peter Oakford	Drawdown corporate reserves	Removal of one-off drawdown from No Use Empty reserve in 2023-24	200.0	200.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	Core
Removal of prior year Drawdowns	NAC	Peter Oakford	Drawdown Corporate Reserves	Removal of one-off use of corporate reserves in 2024-25	0.0	0.0	0.0	12,887.3		Other	Core
TOTAL REMOVAL OF PRIOR YEAR DRAWDOWNS					5,318.9	5,318.9	0.0	14,191.5	0.0		Core
Drawdowns from reserves	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Public Health Reserves	One-off funding for Live Well Kent Mental Health contract	0.0	-1,000.0	-1,000.0	0.0	0.0	Vulnerable Adults	External
Drawdowns from reserves	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Public Health Reserves	Use of Public Health reserves to fund one-off costs and invest to save initiatives in 2024-25	-336.6	-336.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	External
Drawdowns from reserves	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Public Health Reserves	Use of Public Health reserves to balance 2024-25 budget plans	-13.9	-13.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	External
TOTAL DRAWDOWNS FROM RESERVES					-350.5	-1,350.5	-1,000.0	0.0	0.0		External
Removal of prior year Drawdowns	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Public Health Reserves	Removal of use of Public Health reserves to fund one-off costs in previous year	2,440.3	2,440.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	External
Removal of prior year Drawdowns	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Public Health Reserves	Removal of use of Public Health (Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust) reserves to fund one-off costs in previous year	1,313.9	1,313.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	External
Removal of prior year Drawdowns	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Public Health Reserves	Removal of use of Public Health (Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust) reserves to fund one-off costs in previous year	56.8	56.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	Other	External
Removal of prior year Drawdowns	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Public Health Reserves	Replace one-off drawdown from Public Health Reserve 24/25	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.9	0.0	Other	External
Removal of prior year Drawdowns	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Public Health Reserves	Replace 24/25 drawdown of Public Health Reserves	0.0	0.0	0.0	336.6	0.0	Other	External
Removal of prior year Drawdowns	Public Health	Dan Watkins	Public Health Reserves	Removal of one-off funding for Live Well Kent Mental Health contract	0.0	0.0	0.0	1,000.0	0.0	Vulnerable Adults	External
TOTAL REMOVAL OF PRIOR YEAR DRAWDOWNS					3,811.0	3,811.0	0.0	1,350.5	0.0		External

Key

ASCH	Adult Social Care & Health
CED	Chief Executive's Department
CHB	Corporately Held Budgets
CYPE	Children, Young People & Education
DCED	Deputy Chief Executive's Department
GET	Growth, Environment & Transport
NAC	Non Attributable Costs

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Reserves Policy

1. Background and Context

- 1.1 Sections 32 and 43 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 require councils to consider the level of reserves when setting a budget requirement. Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 requires the Chief Financial Officer (Section 151 Officer) to report formally on the adequacy of proposed reserves when setting a budget requirement. The accounting treatment for reserves is set out in the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting.
- 1.2 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) issued Local Authority Accounting Panel (LAAP) Bulletin No.99, Guidance Note on Local Authority Reserves and Balances in July 2014, which updated previous Bulletins to reflect the new requirements of the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Code of Practice. In addition, during the period of financial austerity for the public sector, the LAAP considered it necessary to update the guidance on local authority reserves and balances. Compliance with the guidance is recommended in CIPFA's Statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government. In response to the above requirements, this policy sets out the Council's approach for compliance with the statutory regime and relevant non-statutory guidance for the Council's cash backed usable reserves.
- 1.3 All reserves are categorised as per the LAAP guidance, into the following groups:
- **Smoothing** – These are reserves which are used to manage large fluctuations in spend or income across years e.g., Private Finance Initiative (PFI) equalisation reserves. These reserves recognise the differences over time between the unitary charge and PFI credits received.
 - **Trading** – this reserve relates to the non-company trading entities of Laser and Commercial Services to cover potential trading losses and investment in business development.
 - **Renewals for Vehicles Plant & Equipment** – these reserves should be supported by an asset management plan, showing projected replacement profile and cost. These reserves help to reduce fluctuations in spend.
 - **Major projects** – set aside for future spending on projects.
 - **Insurance** - To fund the potential cost of insurance claims in excess of the amount provided for in the Insurance Fund provision, (potential or contingent liabilities)
 - **Unspent grant/external funding** – these are for unspent grants which the Council is not required to repay, but which have restrictions on what they may be used for e.g., the Public Health grant must be used on public health services. This category also consists of time limited projects funded from ringfenced external sources.
 - **Special Funds** – these are mainly held for economic development, tourism and regeneration initiatives.
 - **Partnerships** – these are reserves resulting from Council partnerships and are usually ringfenced for the benefit of the partnership or are held for investing in shared priorities.
 - **Departmental underspends** – these reserves relate to re-phasing of projects/initiatives and bids for use of year end underspending which are requested to roll forward into the following year.
- 1.4 Within the Statement of Accounts, reserves are summarised by the headings above. By categorising the reserves into the headings above, this is limited to the nine groups, plus Public

Health, Schools and General. Operationally, each will be divided into the relevant sub reserves to ensure that ownership and effective management is maintained.

- 1.5 Reserves are an important part of the Council's financial strategy and are held to create long term budgetary stability. They enable the Council to manage change without undue impact on the Council Tax and are a key element of ensuring the Council's strong financial standing and resilience. The Council's key sources of funding face an uncertain future and the Council therefore holds earmarked reserves and a working balance in order to mitigate future financial risks.
- 1.6 Earmarked reserves are reviewed regularly as part of the monitoring process and annually as part of the budget process, to determine whether the original purpose for the creation of the reserve still exists and whether or not the reserves should be released in full or in part or require topping up based on known/expected calls upon them. Particular attention is paid in the annual review to those reserves whose balances have not moved over a three-year period.

2. Overview

- 2.1 The Council's overall approach to reserves will be defined by the system of internal control.
- 2.2 The system of internal control is set out, and its effectiveness reviewed, in the Annual Governance Statement (AGS). Key elements of the internal control environment are objective setting and monitoring, policy and decision-making, compliance with statute and procedure rules, risk management, achieving value for money, financial management and performance management. The AGS includes an overview of the general financial climate which the Council is operating within and significant funding risks.
- 2.3 The Council will maintain:
 - a general reserve; and
 - a number of earmarked reserves.
- 2.4 The level of the general reserve is a matter for the Council to determine having had regard to the advice of the S151 Officer. The level of the reserve will be a matter of judgement which will take account of the specific risks identified through the various corporate processes. It will also take account of the extent to which specific risks are supported through earmarked reserves. The level will be expressed as a cash sum over the period of the general fund medium-term financial strategy. The level will also be expressed as a percentage of the general funding requirement (to provide an indication of financial context). The Council's aim is to hold general reserves of 5% of the net revenue budget to recognise the heightened financial risk the Council is facing.

3. Strategic context

- 3.1. The Council continues to face a shortfall in funding compared to spending demands and must annually review its priorities in order to address the shortfall.
- 3.2 The Council also relies on interest earned through investments of our cash balances to support its general spending plans.

3.3 Reserves are one-off money. The Council aims to avoid using reserves to meet ongoing financial commitments other than as part of a sustainable budget plan and one of the Council's financial principles is to stop the use of one-off funding to support the base budget. The Council has to balance the opportunity cost of holding reserves in terms of Council Tax against the importance of interest earning and long-term future planning.

4. Management and governance

4.1 Each reserve must be supported by a protocol. All protocols should have an end date and at that point any balance should be transferred to the general reserve. If there is a genuine reason for slippage then the protocol will need to be updated.

A questionnaire is completed by the relevant budget holder and reviewed by Finance to ensure all reserves comply with legislative and accounting requirements. A de-minimis limit has been set to avoid small funds being set up which could be managed within existing budgets or declared as an overspend and then managed collectively. This has been set at £250k.

4.2 Reserves protocols and questionnaires must be sent to the Chief Accountant's Team within Finance for review and will be approved by the Corporate Director of Finance, Corporate Management Team and then by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services. Protocols should clearly identify contributions to and drawdowns from reserves, and these will be built into the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and monitored on a quarterly basis.

Accessing reserves will only be for significant unusual spend, more minor fluctuations will be managed or declared as budget variances. In-year drawdowns from reserves will be subject to the governance process set out in the revised financial regulations. Ongoing recurring costs should not be funded from reserves. Any request contrary to this will only be considered during the budget setting process. The short term use of reserves may be agreed to provide time to plan for a sustainable funding solution in the following financial year.

Decisions on the use of reserves may be delayed until financial year end and will be dependent on the overall financial position of the council rather than the position of just one budget area.

The current Financial Regulations state:

Maintenance of reserves & provisions

A.24 The Corporate Director of Finance is responsible for:

- i. proposing the Council's Reserves Policy.
- ii. advising the Leader and the Council on prudent levels of reserves for the Authority when the annual budget is being considered having regard to assessment of the financial risks facing the Authority.
- iii. ensuring that reserves are not only adequate but also necessary.
- iv. ensuring that there are clear protocols for the establishment and use of each earmarked reserve. Reserves should not be held without a clear purpose or without a planned profile of spend and contributions, procedures for the reserves managements and control, and a process and timescale for review of the reserve to ensure continuing relevance and adequacy.

- v. ensuring that all renewals reserves are supported by a plan of budgeted contributions, based on an asset renewal plan that links to the fixed asset register.
- vi. ensuring that no money is transferred into reserves each financial year without prior agreement with him/herself.
- vii. ensuring compliance with the reserves policy and governance procedures relating to requests from the strategic priority and general corporate reserves.

4.3 All reserves are reviewed as part of the monitoring process, the budget preparation, financial management and closing of accounts processes. Cabinet is presented with the monitoring of reserves on a regular basis and in the outturn report and the Council will consider a report from the S151 Officer on the adequacy of the level of reserves in the annual budget setting process. The report will contain estimates of reserves where necessary. The Governance and Audit Committee will consider actual reserves when approving the statement of accounts each year.

4.4 The following rules apply:

- Any in year use of the General Reserve will need to be approved by Cabinet and any planned use will be part of the budget setting process.
- In considering the use of reserves, there will be no or minimal impairment to the Council's financial resilience unless there is no alternative.

4.5 The Council will review the Reserves Policy on an annual basis.

Budget Risks and Adequacy of Reserves

The assessment of budget risks and the adequacy of reserves is even more important for the 2024-25 revised draft budget and the medium-term financial plan due to the priority to restore the council's financial resilience as set out in "Securing Kent's Future – Budget Recovery Strategy" and the announcement of the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement (PLGFS) for 2024-25. The administration's revised draft budget for 2024-25 includes a package of £23.9m of one-off measures to balance the budget together with the expectation that these will be replaced by recurring savings in 2025-26/2026-27. As well as these one-off measures, the balanced position includes completely removing the 1% risk contingency, a one-off increased dividend from the trading companies, and reduced debt charges as a result of capital programme rephasing and lower levels of borrowing. The remainder of the gap has been closed through sustainable measures on spending growth and further savings and income. The PLGFS includes an unexpected reduction in Services Grant which has increased the budget saving requirement by £5.4m. Putting all this together means the revised draft is only marginally less risky than the initial draft and still requires the Council to agree and deliver significant savings both in 2024-25 and over the medium term. The package of one-off measures includes the following:

- £2.1m for the announcement of a further one-year payment of New Homes Bonus Grant
- £8.0m flexible use of capital receipts
- £13.8m use of corporate and public health reserves

The 2023-24 budget monitoring shows a significant forecast overspend largely on adult social care and children's services. Management action (the majority of which is one-off) has been identified and is expected to balance the position by year end. If this management action does not bring 2023-24 into balance by year end the only option would be a greater drawdown from reserves further weakening financial resilience going into 2024-25.

This section includes a new and separate assessment of the current position of the council against the key symptoms of financial stress identified by CIPFA in its report entitled "Building Financial Resilience".

There are a number of significant risks that could affect either the cost of providing key services and/or the level of service demand or its main sources of funding. In addition, there are general economic factors, such as the level of inflation and interest rates that can impact on the net cost of services going forward. Pressures from the main cost drivers and in some cases from service demand are evident in children's and adults social care, waste volumes, and home to school and special educational needs transport.

The main risks are summarised below.

Risks

Cost of Living

- Extraordinary increases in the costs of goods and services procured by the Council
- Market instability due to workforce capacity as a result of recruitment and retention difficulties leading to exit of suppliers, increased costs, and supply chain shortages
- Increased demand for Council Services over and above demographic demands, including crisis and welfare support
- Reductions in income from fees and charges
- Under collection of local taxation leading to collection losses and reductions in tax base
- Increased Claimant eligible for of Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme discounts

International Factors

- Impact of war in Ukraine and other conflicts
- Impact of the decision to leave the European Union
- Legacy impact of Covid-19
- Ongoing supply chain disruption including energy supplies
- Breakdown of hosting arrangements under Homes for Ukraine scheme

Regulatory Risk

- **High Court ruling on Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking (UAS) Children** – the judgement that the council is responsible for supporting all UAS children arriving in the county until they are transferred under the National Transfer Scheme impacts on the availability and therefore cost of carers for local children as well as risks of shortfalls in funding refugee schemes (see below)
- **Replacement Legislation and Regulation following Brexit** – including additional council responsibilities, impact on businesses and supply chains, and economic instability
- **Statutory overrides** – currently there are a number of statutory overrides in place which reduce short term risks e.g., high needs deficit, investment losses, etc. These are time limited and require a long-term solution
- **Funding settlements** - adequacy of the overall settlement and reliance on council tax over the medium term, and uncertainty over future settlements (especially beyond 2024-25)
- **Delayed Reforms to Social Care Charging** - uncertainty over future plans and funding, and providers' fee expectations
- **Other delayed legislative reforms** – impact on council costs and ability to deliver savings/spending reductions e.g. Extended Producer Responsibilities
- **Departmental Specific Grants** - Unanticipated changes in specific departmental grants and the ability to adjust spending in line with changes

- **Asylum and Refugee Support** – increase in numbers of refugees (adults and families) accommodated within the community impacting on council services. Inadequate medium-term government funding for asylum and refugee schemes
- **New Burdens** – Adequacy of funding commensurate with new or additional responsibilities
- **Further delay of the Local Government Funding Review** - The government has committed to updating and reforming the way local authority funding is distributed to individual authorities. However, this has now been even further delayed until 2025-26 at the earliest. The Fair Funding Review of the distribution methodology for the core grants was first announced as part of the final local government settlement for 2016-17. The majority of data used to assess funding distributions has not been updated for over 10 years, dating from 2013-14 to a large degree, and even as far back as 2000.

General Economic & Fiscal Factors

- Levels of national debt and borrowing
- Inflation continues to be well above the government target for a sustained period with consequential impacts on contracted services (see below) and household incomes (including incomes of KCC staff)
- Poor economic growth
- Rise in unemployment
- A general reduction in debt recovery levels
- Reductions in grant and third-party funding
- Increase in fraud

Increases in Service Costs and Demand

- Long term impact of Covid-19 pandemic on clients and suppliers
- Higher cost for new clients coming into care than existing clients especially but not exclusively older persons' residential and nursing care and children in care
- Adult Social Care cost and demand increases from increased complexity
- Children's Social Care including sufficiency of Foster Carers and numbers of UAS children or those with no recourse to public funds
- Significantly higher than the national average Education and Health Care Plans with consequential impact on both Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs placements/services and General Fund services for assessment and home to school transport
- Waste tonnage
- High demand for mandated Public Health services
- General demographic trends (including a rising and ageing population and growth in the number of vulnerable persons)

Contractual Price Increases

- Index linked contracts rise above budgeted amounts
- Containing locally negotiated contracts within the amounts provided in the budget
- Financial sustainability of contracted providers

Efficiencies and Savings Programme

- Slippage in the expected delivery of the savings programme
- Non-delivery of planned savings
- Shortfalls in income from fees and charges

The main opportunities are summarised below.

Opportunities

- Growth in local taxbase for both housing and businesses
- Service transformation and redesign including digital services
- Invest to save approach to reduce revenue costs
- Service remodelling
- Extension of the power to use capital receipts to fund revenue spending on transformation activity and other spending that reduce future costs until March 2030
- Further flexibilities due to be announced in January over the use of ring-fenced grants

Adequacy of Reserves

Reviewing the level of reserves the Council holds is an important part of the budget setting process. The review must be balanced and reasonable, factoring in the current financial standing of the Council, the funding outlook into the medium term and beyond, and most importantly, the financial risk environment the Council is operating in. The assessment of reserves is based on factors recommended by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) as set out below together with an indication of the direction of travel (up arrow represents an improved position i.e., the risk is less than it was last year).

Assumptions for inflation



The direction of travel for this indicator was showing as deteriorating in last year's budget due to the historically high levels of inflation that arose during 2022. The annual rate of inflation (using CPIH) peaked at 9.6% in October 2022 and has been on a downward trajectory in the subsequent months (CPI peaked at 11.1% and RPI at 14.2% in October 2022).

The November 2023 Office for Budget Responsibility forecasts are for the rate of inflation to peak in quarter 4 of 2022 (CPI 10.7% in quarter 4 2022), before the rate of prices growth falls back as follows:

- 10.2% in quarter 1 2023
- 8.4% quarter 2
- 6.7% quarter 3
- 4.8% quarter 4
- 4.6% in quarter 1 2024
- 3.7% quarter 2
- 3.3% quarter 3
- 2.8% quarter 4
- 2.3% in quarter 1 2025

Thereafter inflation is forecast to be below the 2% target.

The latest inflation release for November 2023 showed the annual rate of increases in CPI at 3.9% (compared to 4.6% in October). CPIH was 4.2% in November 2023 (compared to 4.7% in October). If these trends continue then the rate of inflation would be reducing compared to forecasts on which the revised draft budget is based although it is too early to confirm this at this stage.

The higher than forecast inflation is the reason why this measure is still showing as constant for 2024-25 and not improving. Inflation is still volatile and subject to external shocks such as a return to higher oil prices.

Estimates of the level and timing of capital receipts



The Council uses receipts as part of the funding for the capital programme. The Administration's revised draft budget for 2024-25 assumes £8m of receipts will be used to fund revenue spending using the direction powers under the Local Government Act 2003. This flexibility has now been extended to March 2030. Delivery of receipts against the target has continued to fall behind in recent years necessitating additional short-term borrowing/use of reserves. However performance is forecast to be above target in 2023-24, which together with the previous unapplied balance allows scope to use the flexibility powers.

Performance in the current year has been mixed with the rise in interest rates dampening large new-build housing developments. Although there is a reasonable pipeline of assets for disposal, the risk profile for potential delays remains high therefore leading to a continued deterioration in this measure.

Capacity to manage in-year budget pressures and strategy for dealing with demand and service delivery in the longer term



2022-23 ended with a revenue budget overspend for the first time in 23 years. The net overspend in 2022-23 was £47.1m after roll forwards (3.9% of net revenue). Overspends before roll forwards were reported in Adult Social Care & Health (ASCH) of £24.4m, Children, Young People and Education (CYPE) of £32.7m, Growth Environment and Transport (GET) of £0.9m, Deputy Chief Executive Department (DCED) of £1.6m. These were partly offset by underspends in Chief Executive Department (CED) of £3.5m and Non-Attributable Costs and Corporately held budgets (NAC) of £11.8m

The most significant overspends were:

- £30.5m older persons' residential and nursing care in ASCH
- £16.1m home to school transport in CYPE
- £9.9m children in care in CYPE

The most recent 2023-24 revenue budget monitoring reported to Cabinet on 4th January 2024 shows a forecast overspend of £35.6m before management action. This is a slight reduction on previous months following the introduction of spending controls. The latest monitoring report identifies the management action that needs to be delivered to bring the 2023-24 outturn into balance by the year end. More stringent spending controls are being considered to ensure sufficient progress is made in the remaining months of the year. The overspend is largely driven by higher spending growth than the £182.3m (excluding spending on externally funded activities) provided for in the

budget. The largest overspends are in the same main areas as 2022-23 (adult social care, children in care and home to school transport). This is despite including additional spending in the budget for the full year effect of recurring spend from 2022-23 and forecasts for future price uplifts, increases in demand and cost increases unrelated to price uplifts.

Cabinet on 5th October 2023 and County Council on 16th November 2023 agreed “Securing Kent’s Future – Budget Recovery Strategy” setting out the broad strategic approach to providing reassurance on the necessary action to bring the 2023-24 budget back into balance and the opportunity areas for further savings and avoidance of future cost increases over the medium term 2024-27.

However, until this strategic plan has been converted into detailed plans and these have been delivered, managing in-year spending and spending growth over the medium term presents the most significant risk to the Council’s financial resilience and sustainability and therefore the highest rating of deterioration.

Strength of financial reporting and ability to activate contingency plans if planned savings cannot be achieved



There continues to be a reasonable degree of confidence in the validity of financial reporting despite the uncertainties and volatility as a result of overspends. However, the ability to activate contingency plans if planned savings cannot be achieved has to date been severely restricted as a result of these overspends. although every effort is being made to reduce the forecast overspend in 2023-24.

Reporting has been enhanced to include separate analysis of delivery of savings plans, treasury management and council tax collection. Further improvements have been made in terms of the timeliness of financial monitoring and reporting to ensure corrective action is taken as early as possible.

Some areas of spending can still be changed at short notice if required as a contingency response if planned savings cannot be achieved (or there are unexpected changes in spending). A significant plank of the 2023-24 recovery strategy is to reduce non committed spending for the remainder of the year. At this stage it is expected that managers across the whole organisation will exercise this restraint to reduce forecast spending for the remainder of the year. However, if this does not result in sufficient reductions

to bring in-year spending back into balance, further more stringent spending controls will need to be introduced for the remainder of the year. These spending reductions are largely anticipated to be one-off and will not flow through into 2024-25 or later years unless the spending controls remain in place into 2024-25.

The increased focus on savings monitoring and delivery has had some impact and the majority of the overspend in 2023-24 and forecast for 2024-25 is due to unbudgeted spend rather than savings delivery, although savings delivery is still a contributory factor and remains a risk, this is no greater a risk than in previous years, hence this measure has not been rated as deteriorating.

However, if the further savings necessary to bring 2023-24 back into balance are not expected to be achieved this measure would need to be reassessed.

Risks inherent in any new partnerships, major outsourcing arrangements, and major capital developments



Partnership working with NHS and districts has improved. However, further sustained improvements are still needed to change the direction of travel.

Trading conditions for Council owned companies continue to be challenging although a higher one-off dividend is included in the administration's revised draft budget 2024-25.

A number of outsourced contracts are due for retender and the Council is still vulnerable to price changes due to market conditions.

The ability to sustain the capital programme remains a significant challenge. It is essential that capital programmes do not rely on unsustainable levels of borrowing and additional borrowing should only be considered where absolutely essential to meet statutory obligations. This will impact on the condition of non-essential assets possibly resulting in the closure of facilities although the planned spending to limit modernisation programmes to essential measures to ensure buildings are safe warm and dry has proved to be inadequate and the draft capital programme includes additional spending in 2024-25 and 2025-26 to reflect a more realistic level of spend on the assets the Council needs to sustain necessary functions. Despite the action taken to limit additional borrowing, just under ¼ of the draft capital programme (£376m) is still funded by borrowing. Slippage within individual projects remains

an issue leading to lower than planned spending in the short-term but potentially higher medium to long term costs due to inflation. This slippage defers borrowing rather than reducing it.

The quarter 2 capital monitoring report showed a forecast net underspend of £106.4m, comprising £5.7m real overspend on projects and programmes, and £112.2m reduction due to slippage. £4.3m of the real variance is due to spending on grant and externally funded projects where funding was announced after the capital programme was approved.

Financial standing of the Authority (level of borrowing, debt outstanding, use of reserves, etc.)



The financial standing of the Council has weakened significantly as a result of the overspend in 2022-23 that was balanced by the drawdown of £47.1m from general and risk reserves (39% of general reserve and all of the £25m risk reserve). Usable reserves were also reduced through the transfer of £17m from earmarked reserves to the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) reserve as part of the Council's contribution to the Safety Valve agreement with the Department for Education (DfE) in March 2023 (with a further transfer of £14.4m planned for 2023-24). Overall, the council's usable revenue reserves have reduced from £408.1m at 31/03/22 (40% of net revenue) to £355.1m at 31/03/23 (29.8% of net revenue) with a further reduction to £316.3m (24% of net revenue) forecast for 31/03/24. This forecast assumes the 2023-24 revenue spend is brought back to a balanced budget position by year end with no further draw down from reserves.

The reduction in usable reserves has significantly reduced the Council's ability to withstand unexpected circumstances and costs and reduced the scope to smooth timing differences between spending and savings plans. The levels of reserves now pose a more significant risk to the Council's financial resilience than levels of debt. Levels of reserves are now considered to be the second most significant financial risk after capacity to deal with in-year budget pressures. Reserves will need to be replenished at the earliest opportunity and will need to be factored into future revenue budget plans.

The Council has an ongoing borrowing requirement of £1.1bn arising from its historic and ongoing capital expenditure which is expected to remain broadly stable over the medium term. Most of this requirement is covered by existing external debt, which is forecast to decline gradually over the medium term (from around

72% in 2023-24 to 66% in 2026-27. The remaining portion is met via internal borrowing (namely the temporary use of internal cash balances in lieu of investing those balances with external counterparties).

Although the Council has been protected to a significant extent from the material increase in interest rates over the past two years (given that most of its borrowing requirement is already met by fixed rate debt) the higher rate environment has increased the expected cost of internal borrowing as well as costs associated with any new external borrowing over the near and medium term.

A small portion of the borrowing requirement (8.4% in 2023-24) is met via “LOBO” (Lender Option Borrower Option) loans. These instruments provide lower cost financing in exchange for giving the lender the periodic opportunity to reset the loan’s interest rate. The Council manages the risks around these loans being “called” by restricting their use to only a minor portion of the borrowing portfolio and by avoiding any concentration in the loans’ associated option dates.

In managing the structure of its borrowing (the balance between internal and external borrowing, and the portion of the latter that is made up of fixed-rate as opposed to variable-rate loans), the Council is chiefly concerned with risks arising from uncertainty around interest rates as well as ensuring it has adequate liquidity over the medium term. The Council reviews its borrowing strategy formally on an annual basis to ensure it remains appropriate. The revised draft budget report includes an updated Treasury Management Strategy.

The Authority’s record of budget and financial management including robustness of medium-term plans



The direction of travel for this factor was shown as deteriorating in the final budget presented to County Council on 9th February 2023 due to the quarter 3 monitoring for 2022-23 showing a significant £53.7m forecast revenue overspend. The overspend reduced a little by year-end to £44.4m before roll forwards (£47.1m after roll forwards). However, this was not sufficient to change the direction of travel bearing in mind the scale of the forecast overspends for 2023-24.

The most significant cause of the overspends is higher than budgeted spending growth despite significant increases already factored into the budget. The need to include the full year effect of current year overspends as a variance to the published medium-term plan

means that the capacity to manage in-year budget pressures (highest rated risk assessment) is the most significant factor in MTFP variances rather than the robustness of MTFP forecasts. This is the only reason that this particular assessment has not been shown as a significant deterioration with a double arrow. Nonetheless, the robustness of forecasts included in the MTFP does need improvement (hence this assessment is still showing a deterioration until these are improved).

The revised draft budget for 2024-25 and MTFP for 2024-27 is balanced albeit through a significant amount of one-offs for 2024-25 which are shown as being replaced in the balanced position for 2025-26 and 2026-27. However, this replacement does increase the savings requirement for these years. As yet details of these savings have not been confirmed and will only be confirmed over the coming months. Consequently, until these savings have been confirmed and are delivered, this measure is still showing as deteriorating.

Virement and year-end procedures in relation to under and overspends



The direction of travel for this factor was shown as deteriorating in last year's budget due to the 2022-23 forecast overspend and ongoing issues with Whole Government Accounts. The forecast for 2023-24 is a further forecast overspend and issues remain with Whole of Government Accounts meaning there has not been sufficient progress to date to change the direction of travel on this assessment.

The Council continues to adhere to its virement and year end procedures as set out in its financial regulations. The Council's ability to close the year-end accounts early or even on time is becoming increasingly difficult. The audit certificate for 2020-21 was issued on 4th September 2023, following confirmation that no further work was required on the Whole Government Accounts. The audit certificate for 2021-22 has not been issued due to the audit of the 2021-22 Whole of Government Accounts being outstanding as the external auditors have prioritised the audit of the 2022-23 accounts.

The draft outturn for 2022-23 was reported to Cabinet on 29th June 2023 outlining the main overspends and underspends together with roll-forward requests. This was presented alongside an update of the medium-term financial outlook. The net overspend of £47.1m was reported after roll forwards of £2.7m. The overspend was funded from a drawdown from earmarked and general reserves. The draft accounts

for 2022-23 were published on 1st July 2023 and are due to be signed off following the February Governance and Audit Committee.

The availability of reserves and government grants/other funds to deal with major unforeseen events



As identified in the assessment of the financial standing of the Council, the levels of usable reserves have reduced at the end of 2022-23 and are forecast to reduce further by the end of 2023-34. A number of significant risks remain unresolved (including at this stage balancing the 2023-24 revenue budget) which could impact on reserves and the assessment of their adequacy if the management action to reduce spending in the current year does not result in a balanced outturn.

The most significant risk to reserves in previous years has been identified from the accumulated and growing deficit on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) reserve largely from the overspending high needs support within the DSG. This has now been addressed over a number of years through the Safety Valve agreement with the Department for Education (DfE). However, at this stage the Safety Valve agreement is a recovery plan that will be delivered over a number of years with spending on high needs support gradually brought back into balance with the available grant funding and the historic accumulated deficit cleared with contributions from the DfE and the Council. However, this does not fully mitigate the risk as should the plan not be fully delivered there is a risk that the DfE could withhold contributions and a residue deficit would remain.

The reserves forecast includes the transfer to the DSG reserve of the Council's contribution for 2022-23 and a further forecast transfer for the Council's contribution in 2023-24. Provision is included in the 2024-25 revised draft budget and 2024-27 MTFP for the remaining Council contributions. The DSG reserve forecast also includes the DfE contributions for 2022-23 to 2027-28. These contributions together with the recovery plan to reduce the in-year deficit on high needs spending would see the accumulated deficit cleared by 2027-28. However, resolving this aspect of risk to reserves results in £82.3m over the term of the agreement of the Council's resources which would otherwise have been available to mitigate other risks.

Although this DSG risk has been addressed the risk of the requirement for further drawdowns if the 2023-24 current year spend and the one-offs including use of reserves in 2024-25 revised draft budget and 2024-27 MTFP and the overall forecast level of reserves means

the assessment of this risk cannot yet show an improvement and could be a further deterioration.

A new risk has arisen during 2023-24 following the high court judgment that the Council must take all possible steps to care for all Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking (UAS) children arriving in the county under the Children Act 1989, unless and until they are transferred to other local authorities under the National Transfer Scheme. The council is currently in negotiations with the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC), Home Office and Department for Education (DfE) to ensure the Council's costs are fully covered by Government to enable compliance with the judgment. Whilst circa £9m has been offered by the Home Office for revenue costs in 2023-24, negotiations continue on an updated offer for 2023-24, 2024-25 and on-going basis as this is insufficient to cover the actual and estimated one-off and recurring costs. A capital grant has been agreed with DfE for £10.39m to cover capital costs to upgrade existing property assets to provide compliant facilities and additional capacity, and negotiations are ongoing with the Home Office for sufficient capital grant to upgrade existing facilities and to secure further additional properties. Until negotiations are complete and the Council has been made whole for all costs to support UAS children arriving in the county until they are transferred to other local authorities under National Transfer Scheme this remains a major threat to the Council's financial sustainability.

A register of the most significant risks is published as part of the revised draft 2024-25 revenue budget, 2024-27 medium term plan, 2024-34 capital programme and Treasury Management Strategy.

The general financial climate including future expected levels of funding



The Autumn Statement 2022 included departmental spending plans up to 2024-25 and high-level spending plans up to 2027-28. The plans for 2023-24 and 2024-25 included additional support for local government including additional grants and increased assumptions for council tax. These plans were updated in the 2023 Autumn budget on 22nd November 2023 but are still only high-level overall forecasts beyond 2024-25 with no individual departmental details.

The Autumn Budget 2023 identified that while day to day spending on public services will continue to grow above inflation in future years (1% in real terms), public spending will continue to face many pressures and the

government remains committed to boost public sector productivity and focus spending on government priorities. This combination is likely to impact on the distribution of spending between departments and priorities. Forecasts suggest that unprotected areas of spending, including local government, could be facing a real terms reduction in funding of around 1.8% implied by the overall plans for 2024-25 to 2028-29. If these forecasts are correct this could result in another sustained period of flat cash settlements for local government.

The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement (PLGFS) only included individual grant allocations and core spending power calculations for 2024-25. The settlement did not include indicative council tax referendum levels beyond 2024-25. Other departmental specific grants are not included in the settlement.

The planned reforms to social care charging have been delayed until 2025 at the earliest. It is this delay that has enabled Government to redirect the funding allocated for social care reform as a short term increase in funding for current pressures in adult social care. A further tranche of funding for the Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund for workforce reform for 2023-24 and 2024-25 was announced in July 2023 and included in the PLGFS.

However, the inadequacy of medium to long term sustainable funding for adult social care remains, and the lack of certainty that the additional funding available in 2023-24 and 2024-25 will be baselined for subsequent years.

The lack of detailed government departmental plans beyond 2024-25, the unexpected reduction in Service Grant for 2024-25 and the forecast that the planned growth in public spending is unlikely to be distributed evenly means that the assessment of this risk has deteriorated from the initial draft budget and is now assessed as deteriorating over the medium term.

The long-awaited update and reform to the funding arrangements for local government have also been delayed again until 2025 at the earliest.

Despite increased certainty of funding for 2023-24 and 2024-25, medium term financial planning remains uncertain, particularly future spending and income forecasts. The plans for 2025-26 include a higher level

of uncertainty. Plans can only be prepared based on prudent assumptions and forecasts for later years remain highly speculative.

The adequacy of insurance arrangements



The Council's insurance policies were reviewed for January 2022. A hardening market along with changing levels of risk has resulted in a rise in premiums, with some deductibles being increased to mitigate this. The implications of limiting capital borrowing to absolutely essential statutory services increases the risk of insurance claims where assets have not been adequately maintained. A fund audit confirms the levels of insurance reserve are adequate, however as the corporate contribution to the fund is remaining unchanged, more reliance will be placed on the reserve to balance insurance claims.

Of the eleven factors used to assess risk and the adequacy of reserves, only one has improved since the initial draft in November (prospects for inflation) and one has deteriorated (expected levels of funding). The strength of financial reporting and ability to activate contingency plans remains the only other factor not deteriorating, and even this is conditional on delivering the plans to bring 2023-24 spending back into balance. The capacity to manage in-year budget pressures and strategy for dealing with demand and service delivery in the longer term, and financial standing of the Council (level of borrowing, debt outstanding, use of reserves, etc.) continue to be assessed as the most significant deterioration and therefore the biggest risks to the Council's financial sustainability and remain a cause for serious concern. There are aspects of these deteriorations as well as a number of the others that are largely due to external factors but these still need to be managed and mitigated as much as possible. No weighting has been applied to the individual factors, but the general financial risk to the Council should now be regarded as substantially and severely increased compared with a year ago, which in turn, was increased from the year before and has hardly improved since the initial draft budget.

The amounts and purposes for existing reserves have been reviewed to ensure the Council achieves compliance with Local Authority Accounting Panel (LAAP) Bulletin 99. This bulletin sets out the recommendations on the purposes for holding reserves. Reserves are split between general reserves (working balance to help cushion the impact of uneven cashflows/avoiding unnecessary temporary borrowing and contingency to cushion the impact of unexpected events/emergencies) and earmarked reserves to build up funds for known/predicted specific events.

The administration's updated draft 2024-25 budget includes a £3.1m net increase from changes in contributions and draw down from reserves in 2024-25. This includes additional contributions to replenish the draw down from general reserves in 2022-23 over two years 2024-25 and 2025-26 and provision for the Council's contribution to the DSG reserve under the safety valve agreement, as well as a further £13.8m of drawdowns from/reduced contribution to corporate reserves and use of public health reserves as part of the one-off measures to balancing 2024-25 budget. A full

reconciliation of all the changes to contributions and draw down from reserves for 2024-25 is available through the detailed dashboard of budget variations.

Appendix J: Budget Risks Register 2024-25

TOTAL £m	586.5
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Directorate	Risk Title	Source/Cause of Risk	Risk Event	Consequence	Current Likelihood (1-5)	Estimated Maximum Financial Exposure £m
Significant Risks (over £10m)						
CYPE	High Needs Spending	The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs Block does not meet the cost of demand for placements in schools, academies, colleges and independent providers.	The Safety Valve programme does not deliver the reduction to the in-year deficit on spending to support children with high needs as planned leading to a higher deficit	The Department for Education withholds its contribution towards the accumulated deficit and/or the increased overspend leaves a residue deficit. The government requires that the total deficit on the schools budget to be carried forward and does not allow authorities to offset from general funds anything above the amounts included in the Safety Valve agreement without express approval from Secretary of State. This approach does not resolve how the deficit will be eliminated and therefore still poses a significant risk to the council	4	150.0
Page 141	Non delivery of Savings and income and inability to replace one-off measures	Changes in circumstances, resulting in delays in the delivery of agreed savings or income and inability to replace one-off measures with sustainable permanent alternatives	Inability to progress with plans to generate savings or additional income as planned, due to changing circumstances	Overspend on the revenue budget, requiring alternative compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves. Potential recurring budget pressure for future years.	4	111.5
CYPE	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking (UAS) Children	The High Court has ruled that the Council is responsible for the care of all Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking children arriving in the county until such time as they are transferred to other councils under National Transfer Scheme	Failure to reach agreement with government departments (Home Office and Department for Education) to cover all costs incurred by the council in supporting UAS children	Overspend on the revenue and or capital budgets, requiring alternative compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves. Potential recurring budget pressure for future years.	3	60.0
GET	Waste capital infrastructure life expired and insufficient to cope with increased housing and population levels	A number of KCC's Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) and Waste Transfer Stations (WTS) are life expired (35-40 years old) and require significant repair or replacement/reconfiguration. In addition to this, District Local Plan targets mean additional houses, and increasing population, presents a capacity issue for the service. Council Tax allows price inflation, additional tonnes (demography) and legislative changes to be taken into account, but does not allow for renewing or adding new infrastructure. The service started securing s106 from 2023 onwards, but unless other (Government) funding can be secured, the Council will need to invest in both of these areas	Unless grant or other funding (s106, CIL) can be secured, the Council will need to fund replacing and reconfiguring (due to Government legislative unfunded changes) the existing sites, as well as building new sites. Outside of the capital programme, which includes building one new WTS, there is up to £40m investment required and noted in the 10-year capital programme. Funding has not been identified for these schemes, which include two new WTS and renewing existing sites, but is an indication of the level of investment required over the medium to long term and for which there is no currently identified funding source (one WTS/HWRC could be partner funded).	The consequence is that the Council has to put forward match funding, or the entirety of funding, for the new sites and/or reconfigured sites which means additional borrowing and the financing/borrowing costs that go along with this. £40m is the maximum financial impact figure, or accept the consequential reduction in capacity.	4	40.0

Appendix J: Budget Risks Register 2024-25

TOTAL £m	586.5
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Directorate	Risk Title	Source/Cause of Risk	Risk Event	Consequence	Current Likelihood (1-5)	Estimated Maximum Financial Exposure £m
ALL	2023-24 potential overspend impact on reserves	Under delivery of recovery plan to bring 2023-24 revenue budget into a balanced position by 31-3-24.	Overspend against the revenue budget in 2023-24 required to be met from reserves leading to a reduction in our financial resilience	Insufficient reserves available to manage risks in 2023-24 and future years	3	36.0
GET/DCED	Changing Government focus on funding to support the Net Zero/Carbon Reduction green agenda (capital spend)	Government has previously provided 100% funding for certain Net Zero/green projects e.g. Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) Funding towards the Bowerhouse and Kings Hill Solar Farms (£20m in total on community/HQ buildings, and £2m on schools), as well as LED installation, heat network or heat source pumps (gas, water). The PSDS grant is now moving focus from LED/Solar - despite the Council requiring 2 more Solar Parks as part of its Net Zero ambitions - and towards Heat Networks. Not only this, but whereas some projects were previously match funded, Government is now looking at >50% match funding requirements. The latest PSDS funding secured only funded 18% of the project. The cost of one large and one small Solar Park is in the region of £22.5m, plus a need for gas boilers on the corporate and schools estate to be replaced by heat source pumps (and/or hydrogen in the future).	The risk is that the Council has to find much higher match funding for future Net Zero projects, or review its expectations with regards to Net Zero 2030 and 2050 ambitions.	The consequence is that the Council has to put forward match funding for capital projects which can only come from borrowing or reserves. Borrowing then has a revenue implication and adds to the financing cost budget which is currently unaffordable, or accept that we will have to meet the target in other ways.	4	30.0
ALL	Full year effect of current overspends	The Council must ensure that the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) includes robust estimates for spending pressures.	Increases in forecast current year overspends on recurring activities resulting in higher full year impact on following year's budget (converse would apply to underspends)	Additional unfunded cost that leads to an overspend on the revenue budget, requiring compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves. Potential recurring budget pressure for future years.	4	20.0

Appendix J: Budget Risks Register 2024-25

TOTAL £m	586.5
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Directorate	Risk Title	Source/Cause of Risk	Risk Event	Consequence	Current Likelihood (1-5)	Estimated Maximum Financial Exposure £m
ASCH / CYPE	Market Sustainability	The long term impact of Covid-19 is still impacting on the social care market, and there continue to be concerns about the sustainability of the sector. At the moment all areas of the social care sector are under pressure in particular around workforce capacity including both recruitment and retention of staff especially for providers of services in the community, meaning that sourcing appropriate packages for all those who need it is becoming difficult. This is likely to worsen over the next few months with the pressures of winter, and increased activity in hospitals. Throughout this year we have continued to see increases in the costs of care packages and placements far greater than what would be expected and budgeted for, due to a combination of pressures in the market but also due to the increased needs and complexities of people requiring social care support.	If staffing levels remain low, vacancies unfilled and retention poor, then repeated pressure to increase pay of care staff employed in the voluntary/private sector in order to be able to compete in recruitment market. At the moment vacancy level said to be 1 in 10. The increases to the National Minimum and National Living Wage will create more challenges for the market to recruit and retain when other sectors may be paying more, so it may be that they will need to increase their wages accordingly.	Care Homes closures are not an infrequent occurrence and whilst some homes that close are either too small or poor quality others are making informed business decisions to exit the market. The more homes that exit in this unplanned manner further depletes choice and volume of beds which can create pressures in the system regarding throughput and discharge from hospital thus potentially increasing price.	4	20.0
ALL	Capital - Developer Contributions	Developer contributions built into funding assumptions for capital projects are not all banked.	Developer contributions are delayed or insufficient to fund projects at the assumed budget level.	Additional unbudgeted forward funding requirement and potential unfunded gaps in the capital programme	4	15.0
ALL	Revenue Inflation	The Council must ensure that the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) includes robust estimates for spending pressures.	Price pressures rise above the current MTFP assumptions and we are unsuccessful at suppressing these increases. Each 1% is estimated to cost £14m.	Additional unfunded cost that leads to an overspend on the revenue budget, requiring compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves. Potential recurring budget pressure for future years.	3	14.0
CYPE	Market Sustainability	Availability of suitable placements for looked after children. Availability in the market for home to school transport, due to reducing supplier base and increasing demand.	Continued use of more expensive and unregulated placements, where it is difficult to find suitable regulated placements as no suitable alternative is available. The cost of transport contracts continues to increase above inflation.	Unfunded cost that leads to an overspend on the revenue budget, requiring compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves.	4	10.0
ALL	Demand & Cost Drivers	The Council must ensure that the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) includes robust estimates for spending pressures.	Non inflationary cost increases (cost drivers) continue on recent upward trends particularly but not exclusively in adult social care, children in care and home to school transport above the current MTFP assumptions and the Council is not able to suppress these	Additional unfunded cost that leads to an overspend on the revenue budget, requiring compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves. Potential recurring budget pressure for future years.	4	10.0

Appendix J: Budget Risks Register 2024-25

TOTAL £m	586.5
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Directorate	Risk Title	Source/Cause of Risk	Risk Event	Consequence	Current Likelihood (1-5)	Estimated Maximum Financial Exposure £m
Other Risks (under £10m - individual amounts not included)						70.0
GET	Capital – asset management and rolling programmes including: Highways, Country Parks, PROW	The asset management/rolling programmes for KCC Highways are annual budgets and are not increased for inflation each year, meaning that the purchasing power reduces year on year as inflation is compounded yet the budget remains fixed.	Inflation pressures are incurred annually on these budget areas but the funding sources (Council borrowing, DfT grant) remain fixed and therefore this contributes to the ‘managed decline’ notion in that these budgets do not even maintain steady state as often the level of investment is significantly below (risk accepted by the Executive) the required level of spend - steady state asset management principles recommend £150m pa is spent. Plus year-on-year inflation is not budgeted for so the level of works commissioned reduces year-on-year also, which was exacerbated in 2023 with BCIS reaching 29% and RPIX 12%+.	A funding gap exists annually, so steady state cannot be achieved, so unless budget provision is made, the level of capital/asset management preventative works commissioned each year will reduce. This will present a revenue pressure, as more reactive works are likely to be required, plus the respective backlogs for Highways Asset Management (c£700m) will increase exponentially. The risk represents the level of annual inflation required to mitigate this risk or accept that the asset will deteriorate.	4	
GET Page 144	Capital - highways grant allocation	DfT capital grant funding has reduced by £9m resulting in insufficient capital funding available to continue at previous budgeted and approved service/investment levels, leading to an accelerated managed decline in the state of our highways network. Kent Highways invest c£70m of capital each year (£25m Council, £40-£45m pa DfT) and this is less than half of what is recommended under best practice asset management principles.	The requirement to manage safety concerns may lead to increased unbudgeted revenue spend on reactive works or an increase in the level of Category 1 & 2 works required on key strategic routes. The Council was already operating a managed decline in the state of the network due to increasing traffic volumes, increasing inflation without compensating increases in funding etc so this will further exacerbate that position.	An overspend on the capital/revenue budget, requiring alternative offsetting savings or temporary funding from reserves/other sources. A re-prioritisation of the Council's capital programme would be required or service levels would need to be reduced. Asset management backlog (currently in excess of £700m) would continue to grow at an even quicker rate.	4	
ALL	Capital	Capital project costs are subject to higher than budgeted inflation.	Increase in building inflation above that built into business cases.	Capital projects cost more than budgeted, resulting in an overspend on the capital programme, or having to re-prioritise projects to keep within the overall budget. For rolling programmes (on which there is no annual inflationary increase), the level of asset management preventative works will reduce, leading to increased revenue pressures and maintenance backlogs.	4	
ALL	Contract retender	Contracts coming up for retender are more expensive due to prevailing market conditions and recruitment difficulties	This risk could result in a shortage of potential suppliers and/or increases in tender prices over and above inflation	Higher than budgeted capital/revenue costs resulting in overspends unless that can be offset by specification changes	4	

Appendix J: Budget Risks Register 2024-25

TOTAL £m	586.5
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Directorate	Risk Title	Source/Cause of Risk	Risk Event	Consequence	Current Likelihood (1-5)	Estimated Maximum Financial Exposure £m
GET	Investment in the Public Rights of Way (PROW) network	Insufficient funding to adequately maintain the PROW network	Condition of the PROW network suffering from under-investment. A £150k allocation was included in the 2021-22 but additional one-off and base funding is likely to be needed for a service that is already operating at funding levels below best practice recommended asset management levels. This has been further exacerbated by the increased usage several years ago arising from the covid related restrictions and national lockdown	The potential for claims against the Council due to injury and from landowners and the need to undertake urgent works that lead to an overspend on the revenue budget, requiring compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves.	4	
GET	Revenue - drainage and adverse weather	Persistent heavy rainfall and more frequent storm events mean insufficient revenue and capital budget to cope with the reactive and proactive demands on the service	An additional £1m was put into the drainage budget in 2021-22 but this was below the level of overspends in the two prior years and the risk is therefore the budget is not being funded at the level of demand/activity. More erratic weather patterns also cause financial pressures on the winter service and many other budgets. The risk is that this weather pattern continues and additional unbudgeted funding is required. A £1m saving was put into the budget in 2023-24 with a view to reducing the service standards/intervention levels in this area but due to the climate/persistent rainfall, damage to the network meant that additional works were required. Despite provisionally including £1m back into the 2024-25 budget, there is still a view that the budget is £1m light due to the changing weather climate/events and that the budget could see activity/demand require an additional £1m-£1.5m being required to reduce potential for flooding on the road network and the level of defects that then arise.	Additional unfunded cost that leads to an overspend on the revenue budget, requiring compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves	4	
GET	Changing Government focus on funding to support the Net Zero/Carbon Reduction green agenda (revenue spend)	The Sustainable Business and Communities team with Net Zero within its remit has received significant EU/Interreg funding which has helped plan and deliver the plan for Net Zero by 2030/2050. This funding ceased in 2023-24 and the Council has invested £0.7m (2023-24) into the base budget to create a permanent team, with £0.3m deferred until 2025-26 (budgetary constraints) to deliver this strategy/Framing Kent's Future priority. If such funding is unaffordable to the Council then Net Zero requirements won't be met.	The risk is that the Council has to fund any reduction or cessation of funding.	The consequence is an overspend against the revenue budget, requiring compensating savings or funding from reserves, as simply not delivering Net Zero by 2050 is not an option due to Government legislation being implemented.	4	

Appendix J: Budget Risks Register 2024-25

TOTAL £m	586.5
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Directorate	Risk Title	Source/Cause of Risk	Risk Event	Consequence	Current Likelihood (1-5)	Estimated Maximum Financial Exposure £m
CYPE	Recruitment, retention & cover for social workers	Higher use of agency staff to meet demand and ensure caseloads remain at a safe level in children's social work. The Service has relied on recruitment of newly qualified staff however this is being expanded to include a more focused campaign on attracting experienced social workers. There are higher levels of sickness and maternity leave across children's social work	Inability to recruit and retain sufficient newly qualified and experienced social workers resulting in continued reliance on agency staff, at additional cost. Higher levels of sickness and maternity leave resulting in need for further use of agency staff.	Additional unfunded cost that leads to an overspend on the revenue budget, requiring compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves. Potential recurring budget pressure for future years.	4	
DCED	Cyber Security	Malicious attacks on KCC systems.	Confidentiality, integrity and availability of data or systems is negatively impacted or compromised leading to loss of service, data breaches and other significant business interruptions.	Financial loss from damages and potential capital/revenue costs as a result of lost/damaged data and need to restore systems	3	
DCED	Strategic Headquarters	Sub optimal solution for the Council's strategic headquarters following the decision to market Sessions House as an entire site (with options on individual blocks)	Capital programme includes a capped £20m allocation for strategic assets project that limits the available options	Inability to address all backlog issues increases the risk of cost overruns and potential need for higher future maintenance, running and holding costs	3	
ALL	IFRS9	Removal of statutory override that allows unrealised gains/losses resulting from changes in the fair value of pooled investment funds to be transferred to an unusable reserve until the gain/loss is realised once the financial asset has matured.	Any unrealised gain or loss as a result of stock market performance will impact on the General Fund.	A significant loss would reduce our General Fund and the council's financial resilience. There are two uncertainties: (1) the Statutory Override could be extended, and (2) the ultimate value of any impact	3	
ALL	Capital - Capital Receipts	Capital receipts not yet banked are built into the budget to fund projects.	Capital receipts are not achieved as expected in terms of timing and/or quantum.	Funding gap on capital projects requiring additional forward funding.	3	
ALL	BREXIT and EU Transition	The Council requires full reimbursement from Central Government for the additional ongoing costs of BREXIT and transition.	Full cost reimbursement not received from government. The grants received to date have not been sufficient to cover the Council's additional spending on BREXIT and transition costs.	Additional unfunded cost that leads to an overspend on the revenue budget, requiring compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves	3	
ALL	Income	The Council must ensure that the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) includes robust income estimates.	Income is less than that assumed in the MTFP.	Loss of income or reduced collection of income that leads to an overspend on the revenue budget, requiring compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves. Potential recurring budget pressure for future years.	3	

Appendix J: Budget Risks Register 2024-25

TOTAL £m	586.5
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Directorate	Risk Title	Source/Cause of Risk	Risk Event	Consequence	Current Likelihood (1-5)	Estimated Maximum Financial Exposure £m
GET	Waste income, tonnage and gate fee prices	The current market has seen a considerable volatility in the income received for certain waste streams (potentially due to other supply shortages), as well as increased gate fees due to the double digit inflation seen in 2023 (majority of Waste contracts are RPI which was 12% during the year). The budget for 2024-25 includes not only significant price pressures for contract inflation, gate fees and HWRC management costs, but also realignment of budgets from 2023-24 where the actual inflation levels at the point the contracts are uplifted being higher than budgeted. Inflation is reducing, but November OBR showed a slowing rate of reduction than March OBR.	Projected levels of income fall, or gate fees/contractual price uplifts are above budgeted levels which leave an unfunded pressure.	This will result in an unfunded pressure that leads to an overspend on the revenue budget, requiring compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves. Potential recurring budget pressure for future years.	3	
GET	English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) and Kent Travel Saver (KTS) journey levels	ENCTS journeys have reduced over time, more so during the pandemic, so a £3.4m reduction was reflected in 2022-23 budget with a further £1.9m reduction in the 2023-24 budget. Should custom/patronage return to pre-covid levels, this would lead to a £5.3m budget shortfall. This is a national scheme and the Council has to reimburse the operators for running this on the Council's behalf. There was initially a ringfenced grant for this service, it then became part of the Revenue Support Grant and now no specific grant exists so the taxpayers of Kent fund this scheme and would need to fund any update.	Activity levels return to a level of journeys in excess of the revised budget, therefore causing a financial pressure.	Additional unfunded cost that leads to an overspend on the revenue budget, requiring compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves. Potential recurring budget pressure for future years if current activity levels are not indicative of the new normal.	3	
Non Attributable Costs	Insecure funding	The 2024-25 core budget includes £14.6m from insecure funding (company dividends, business rate pool and new homes bonus).	Previously it was recognised that core spending should not be funded from insecure/volatile sources and such funding should be held in reserve and used for one-off purposes	Funding is not secured at the planned level resulting in overspend on the revenue budget, requiring compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves. Potential recurring budget pressure for future years.	3	

Appendix J: Budget Risks Register 2024-25

TOTAL £m	586.5
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Directorate	Risk Title	Source/Cause of Risk	Risk Event	Consequence	Current Likelihood (1-5)	Estimated Maximum Financial Exposure £m
Non Attributable Costs	Volatility on Investment Income	Income returns have increased in 2023-24 in line with rising interest rates. The 2023-24 budget included an assumed £2.9m additional income on financial investments under the Treasury Management Strategy and the latest budget monitoring assumes this will be overachieved. The 2024-25 budget assumes a further £2.3m of investment income.	Performance of our investments falls below predicted levels as a result of volatility in the economy	Reduction in investment income leads to an overspend on the revenue budget, requiring compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves. Potential recurring budget pressure for future years.	3	
CYPE	Home to School Transport	Lack of suitable local education placements for children with Special Education Needs	Parents seek alternative placements outside of their locality requiring additional transport support	Additional transport costs incurred resulting in an overspend on the revenue budget, requiring compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves and potential recurring budget pressure for future years; or seek to demonstrate that the available local placements are suitable for the child's needs	3	
CYPE Page 148	Changes to OFSTED regulation for 16 & 17 year olds	The Department of Education has introduced quality standards, registration and inspection requirements for providers of supported accommodation for 16 & 17 year olds looked after children. Local Authorities are no longer permitted to place or arrange accommodation in unregulated accommodation for any child under 18 from October 2023. Future commissioning must reflect the new OFSTED regulations.	The cost of regulated accommodation is more expensive and could add a further pressure on placement costs in future. Additional Government funding may not be sufficient to fully compensate.	Additional unfunded cost that leads to an overspend on the revenue budget, requiring compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves. Potential recurring budget pressure for future years. Further discussions with Home Office if the additional costs relating to UAS Children cannot be managed within existing grant rates.	3	
CYPE / DCED	Reduction in DFE grants for central services for schools and review of school services provided by the Local Authority	The government has reaffirmed its intention for all schools to become part of a multi-academy Trust. Local Authority grant funding to support schools continues to be reduced, equating to a cumulative total reduction of nearly £4m for the Council since 2019-20. Consequently the Council needs to review its relationship with schools and the services it provides free of charge.	Long term solutions cannot be implemented within timescales and may require schools agreement (which may not be achieved). There is also a risk that passing greater responsibilities to schools could have a possible negative impact on other areas of Local Authority responsibility if schools do not comply (for example: school maintenance). There is also the risk of further cuts to the Local Authority Central Services for School Grants in the future.	If this remains unresolved there is a risk that this will also have to either be met from reserves in future years or result in an overspend until a longer term solution is identified	3	
ASCH (PH)	Uplift in Public Health Grant	The anticipated 'real' increase in the Public Health grant is insufficient to meet additional costs due to i) price increases and/or increased demand; and/or ii) costs of new responsibilities.	The increase in the Public Health grant is less than the increases in costs to Public Health.	(i) Additional unfunded cost that leads to an overspend on the revenue budget, requiring compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves. (ii) Public Health Reserves could be exhausted	3	

Appendix J: Budget Risks Register 2024-25

TOTAL £m	586.5
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Directorate	Risk Title	Source/Cause of Risk	Risk Event	Consequence	Current Likelihood (1-5)	Estimated Maximum Financial Exposure £m
DCED	Highways unadopted land	Maintenance costs for residual pieces of land bought by Highways for schemes and subsequently tiny pieces not required or adopted.	Work becomes necessary on these pieces of land and neither Highways or Corporate Landlord have budget to pay for it.	Work needs to be completed whilst estates work to return the land to the original landowner	2	
DCED	Enterprise Business Capabilities (EBC)	Cost and/or timescale overruns on implementation phase for Oracle replacement	Unforeseen or higher than budgeted costs	Additional unfunded costs over and above the reserve set aside for the project	2	
DCED	Capital Investment in Modernisation of Assets	Unless the Council estate asset base is reduced sufficiently, there is risk of insufficient funding to adequately address the backlog maintenance of the Corporate Landlord estate and address statutory responsibilities such as Health & Safety requirements	Condition of the Corporate Landlord estate suffering from under-investment. Recent conditions surveys estimate an annual spend requirement of £12.7m per annum required for each of the next 10 years. Statutory Health & Safety responsibilities not met.	The estate will continue to deteriorate; buildings may have to close due to becoming unsafe; the future value of any capital receipts will be diminished. Potential for increased revenue costs for patch up repairs. Risk of legal challenge.	2	
Page 149	VAT Partial Exemption	The Council VAT Partial Exemption Limit is almost exceeded.	Additional capital schemes which are hosted by the Council result in partial exemption limit being exceeded.	Loss of ability to recovery VAT that leads to an overspend on the revenue budget, requiring compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves. Potential recurring budget pressure for future years.	2	
ALL	Capital - Climate Change	Additional costs are incurred to comply with climate change policy	Project costs increase beyond budget	Overspend on the capital programme resulting in additional borrowing	2	
CYPE	Capital - Basic Need Allocations	Estimates of future basic need allocations are included in the capital programme.	Basic need allocations are less than expected.	Funding gap for basic need projects which will need to be funded either by reprioritising the capital programme or by descoping.	2	
DCED	Backlog of maintenance for properties transferring to Corporate Landlord	Maintenance backlog historically funded by services from reserves or time limited resources which have been exhausted. Properties that have been transferred to the corporate landlord require investment.	Urgent repairs required which cannot be met from the Modernisation of Assets planned programme within the capital budget	Unavoidable urgent works that lead to an overspend on the revenue budget, requiring compensating in year savings or temporary unbudgeted funding from reserves. Potential recurring budget pressure for future years.	2	

Likelihood Rating

Very Likely	5
Likely	4
Possible	3
Unlikely	2
Very Unlikely	1

The estimated maximum financial exposure shown in the table relates to 2024-25 for the revenue risks and for the rolling programmes within capital, whereas the capital risks for specific schemes reflect the financial exposure over the life of the project

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Details of Core Grants within the 2024-25 Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement

The Council is in receipt of a mix of general un-ringfenced grants which can be used in any way the Council decides to discharge its functions (core grants) and specific grants which must be spent according to government priorities. Given the uncertainty of future settlements beyond 2024-25 assumptions will have to be included in the Medium Term Financial Plan for future years. There are risks associated with this approach as the government may decide to change its priorities and reduce or cease funding through a grant or reallocate service specific grants into more general funding with a changed distribution.

A) Revenue Support Grant

Revenue Support Grant (RSG) is a central government grant given to local authorities from the centrally retained share of business rates which can be used to finance revenue expenditure on any service. The amount of Revenue Support Grant to be provided to authorities is established through the Local Government Finance Settlement using the relevant funding formulae; the revision of these formulae (along with the redistribution of the locally retained share of business rates) is the focus of the (deferred) Fair Funding review process.

The Council's RSG has decreased from circa £161m in 2015-16 to circa £9.6m in 2020-21 with only small inflationary uplifts since then. The inflationary uplift for 2024-25 is based on September 2023 CPI (6.62%). For planning purposes we have assumed that a similar CPI inflationary uplift will be applied in subsequent years (based on OBR forecast) although there has been no confirmation of this beyond 2024-25.

B) New Homes Bonus

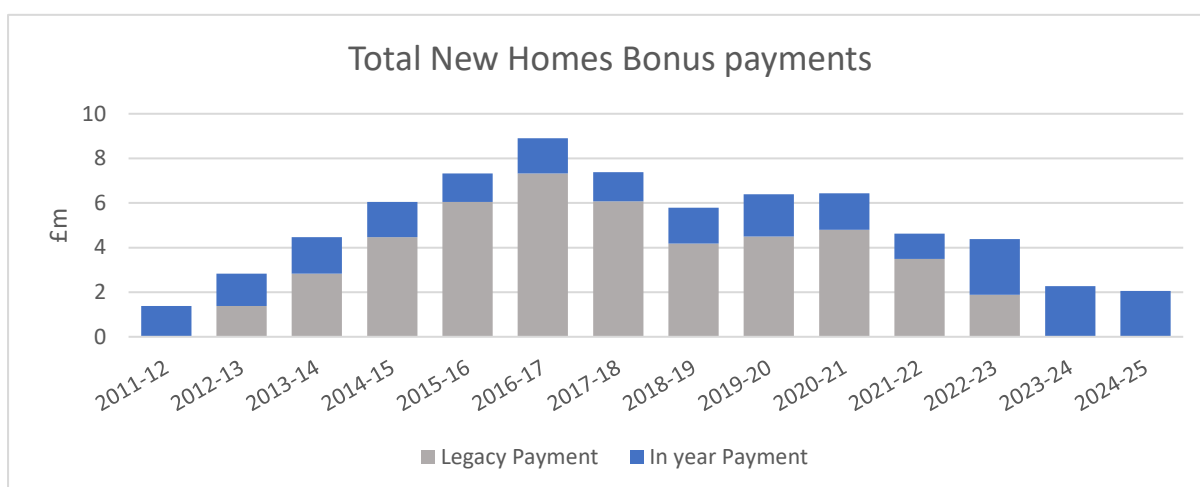
The New Homes Bonus (NHB) scheme was introduced in 2011-12 to help tackle the national housing shortage. The scheme was designed to reward those authorities that increased their housing stock either through new build or by bringing empty properties back into use. The grant is un-ringfenced.

Initially the NHB grant increased each year as the grant provided an incentive for six years by adding an additional in year growth to the previous year's legacy amount. This saw the grant peak in value in 2016-17. From 2017-18 the grant was reformed with the incentive reduced to four years in stages over two years by removing the earliest two year's legacy payments and adding in year additional growth.

A further reform was introduced in 2020-21 which saw the additional in year growth added as a one-off (i.e. not included in the subsequent year's legacy) with oldest year's legacy removed. This meant three years' worth of legacy payments in that year and one in year's growth. The same system was used in 2021-22 with one-off allocation

of in year growth and two years' worth of legacy payment. In 2022-23 the grant included the one year's remaining legacy and one further year of additional in year growth. For 2023-24 the legacy payment has expired, and the grant represented one year of growth. The provisional local government finance settlement for 2024-25 has confirmed the continuation of NHB payments for one final year, and like 2023-24 these will not attract legacy payments. The provisional settlement for 2024-25 is based on the same methodology as 2023-24 using updated data from Council Tax Base (CTB) returns and DLUHC data on affordable housing supply. Councils can make representations about the data on which allocations are based by 15th January 2024.

The graph below depicts the legacy and growth elements over the lifetime of NHB.



C) Improved Better Care Fund

The Better Care Fund (BCF) was introduced in the 2013-14 spending review. The fund is a pooled budget, bringing together local authority and NHS funding to create a national pot designed to integrate care and health services.

In addition to this, an Improved Better Care Fund (IBCF) was announced in the 2016-17 budget to support local authorities to deal with the growing health and social care pressures during the period 2017-20. The grant is allocated according to relative needs formula for social care with an equalisation adjustment to reflect the adult social care council tax precept. The allocations increased each year between 2017-18 to 2020-21. The subsequent spending reviews and local government settlements have seen the grant rolled forward at the same value in cash terms as 2020-21 (£48.5m). The grant for 2022-23 included a 3% inflationary uplift as part of the additional resources for adult social care within the settlement. The grant for 2024-25 is the same value in cash terms as 2023-24 and 2022-23 (£50m). For planning purposes we have assumed that this grant will continue at the same value in cash terms for the medium term in subsequent years although there has been no confirmation of this.

D) Social Care Grant

The social care support grant was first introduced in 2019-20 following the announcement in the Chancellor's 2019-20 budget of an additional £410m for adult and children's social services. The Council's allocation for 2019-20 was £10.5m based on a formula using the Adult Social Care (ASC) Relative Needs Formula (RNF) with an equalisation adjustment to reflect the adult social care council tax precept.

An additional £1bn was added to the 2020-21 settlement taking the total for social care grant to £1.41bn. The same formula as 2019-20 was used based on using the ASC RNF with an equalisation adjustment to reflect the adult social care council tax precept. The Council's allocation was £34.4m. The government believes there is not a single bespoke needs formula that can be used to model relative needs for both adult and children's social care, therefore the existing ASC RNF was used to distribute this Social Care Grant funding.

The 2021-22 settlement included a further £300m taking the total social care grant to £1.71bn. The same formula was used again providing the Council with an additional £4.7m, increasing the total grant value for 2021-22 to £ 39.1m.

The 2022-23 settlement included an additional £636.4m, £556.4m of this was allocated via the existing ASC RNF and the remaining £80m was allocated to reflect the 1% adult social care council tax precept. This took the total grant to £2.346bn. Combined with the rollover from 2021-22, the Council's total social care grant for 2022-23 was £54.5m, an increase of £15.4m on 2021-22.

The 2023-24 settlement included an additional £1.345bn from the additional funding for adult social care announced in Autumn Budget 2022 which was added to the £2.346bn rolled forward from 2022-23. £160m of this increase was allocated to reflect the 2% adult social care council tax precept, with the remaining £1.185bn allocated using the existing ASC RNF. In addition, the Independent Living Fund (ILF) was rolled into the Social Care Grant (accounting for £161m of the total grant figure) and will no longer be received as a separate specific grant. This took the total Social Care grant to £3.852bn in 2023-24. The Council's total Social Care Grant for 2023-24 was £88.771m including £1.920m from rolled in ILF.

The provisional settlement proposes increasing allocations of the Social Care Grant by £0.692bn, of which £0.612bn was previously announced (and expected) as part of the additional funding for social care announced in Autumn Budget 2022, and £80m was unexpectedly transferred from Services Grant. These increases have been added to the rolled forward grant from 2023-24 of £3.852bn taking the total grant for 2024-25 to £4.544bn. £0.532bn of the increase was allocated according to ASC RNF (as we had been expecting) and £160m of the increase allocated to reflect the 2% adult social care council tax precept (we had been expecting £80m via ASC council tax before the transfer of the further £80m from Services Grant). The Council's total Social Care Grant in the provisional settlement for 2024-25 is £104.2m, an increase of £15.4m on 2023-24.

The Social Care Grant is ringfenced for adults' and children's social care.

E) Services Grant

This was a new one-off, un-ringfenced grant for 2022-23. The Services Grant was £822m in 2022-23. This grant was distributed through the existing formula for assessed relative need across the sector, using 2013-14 shares of Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA). The new grant was to provide funding to all tiers of local government in recognition of the vital services, including social care, delivered at every level of local government. It also included funding for local government costs for the increase in employer National Insurance Contributions. The Council's share of this grant for 2022-23 was £13.0m.

The Services grant reduced to £483m in the 2023-24 settlement, £188m of this reduction was related to the cancellation of the increase in employer's National Insurance Contributions. The 2023-24 settlement confirmed the Council's allocation had reduced to £7.6m.

The provisional settlement for 2024-25 proposes a further significant reduction in the Services Grant to £77m, a reduction of £406m. This was an unexpected reduction although £266m has been recycled into increases in other grants (RSG, 3% funding guarantee and £80m into Social Care Grant). It is not clear at this stage what the remaining £140m balance will be used for. The Council's share reduced by £6.4m to £1.2m (an 84% reduction) which equates to net unexpected reduction in the overall provisional settlement of £5.4m after taking into the additional social care grant.

For planning purposes we have assumed that Services Grant will continue at the same value in cash terms for the medium term although there has been no confirmation of this.

F) Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund

This was a new grant for 2022-23. In total £162m out of the £3.6bn over 3 years was made available in 2022-23. The grant was allocated using the existing the Adults RNF. The Council's share of this grant was £4.2m. The charging reforms have now been delayed so the 2023-24 allocations of this grant have now been used to fund the increases to the social care grant as explained in paragraph section D of this appendix. The £162m from 2022-23 has now been rolled into the Adult Social Care Market Sustainability and Improvement Funding as explained in Section G below.

G) Adult Social Care Market Sustainability and Improvement Funding (MSIF)

The 2023-24 settlement maintained the current levels of Fair Cost of Care funding for local authorities for 2023-24 at £162 million.

The Autumn Budget 2022 announced that there will be an additional £400m for adult social care to increase MSIF to £562m for 2023-24. This additional funding was

intended to make tangible improvements to adult social care and, in particular, to address discharge delays, social care waiting times, low fee rates, workforce pressures, and to promote technological innovation in the sector. The additional grant was allocated on the same basis as 2022/23 using the ASC RNF. The Council's allocation of the additional £400m was £10.3m taking the total grant for 2023-24 to £14.4m. The grant was included in the Council's 2023-24 budget plans.

A further £600m funding for adult social care over 2023-24 and 2024-25 was announced on 28th July 2023. £570m was added to MSIF (£365m in 2023-24 and £205m in 2024-25). This additional funding was intended to fund workforce improvements.

The provisional local government finance settlement for 2024-25 has provided confirmation of an Autumn Statement 2022 announcement that this grant has increased nationally by £283m in 2024-25 and by a further £205m for the 2024-25 increase in the workforce element. The additional funding is allocated by the same mechanism as 2023-24 (ASC RNF). The Council's total allocation for 2024-25 is £26.969m, an increase of £12.5m (as expected). For planning purposes we have assumed that the grant will continue at the same value in cash terms for 2025-26 although there has been no confirmation of this.

H) Adult Social Care Discharge Fund

The Autumn Statement 2022 announced £600m of new grant funding for 2023-24 to ensure those people who need to draw on social care when they are discharged from hospital can leave as soon as possible, freeing up hospital beds for those who most need them. Local authorities received £300m of this funding. This funding is required to be pooled as part of the Better Care Fund (BCF). 50% is to be made available to local authorities in the local government finance settlement and the remaining 50% held by Health within the BCF.

In 2023-24 this grant has been distributed using the existing Improved Better Fund allocations, the Council's share was £7.0m. There are conditions attached to this grant.

The 2024-25 provisional local government finance settlement has confirmed the previous announcement in Autumn Budget 2022 that the local authority 50% share of the ASC Discharge Fund increases to £500m in 2024-25. The Council's allocation of £11.7m was confirmed in the provisional local government finance settlement for 2024-25 (as expected). For planning purposes we have assumed that this grant will continue at the same value in cash terms in 2025-26 although there has been no confirmation of this.

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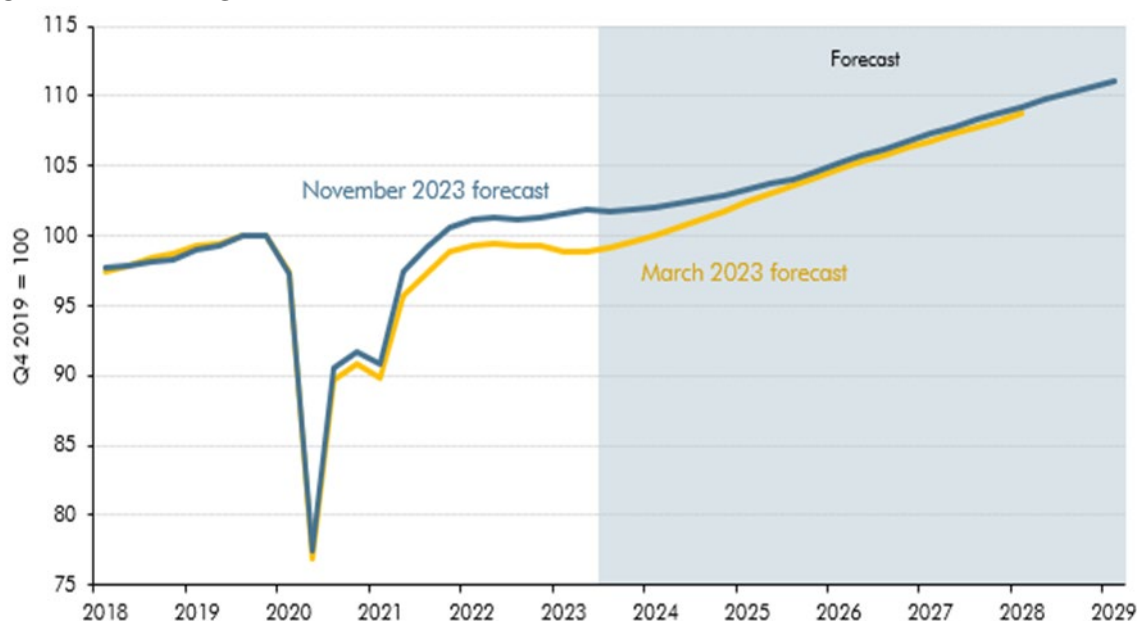
Economic & Fiscal Context

The national fiscal and economic context is an important consideration for the Council in setting the budget. This context not only determines the amount received through central government grants, but it also sets out how local government spending fits in within the totality of public spending and the wider economy. The Autumn Statement and Local Government Finance Settlement LGFS set the government's expectations of how much local authorities can raise through local taxation as well as departmental spending from which central government grants to local government are funded. The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) produces an Economic and Fiscal Outlook (EFO) report to provide the Chancellor of the Exchequer with an independent and up to date fiscal and economic forecast including impact of government policy decisions. This section of the report highlights the key elements for economic growth, inflation, and public sector spending/borrowing.

Economic Outlook - Growth

The November OBR report identified that the overall economy has recovered more fully from the Covid-19 pandemic and weathered the energy price shock better than previously anticipated. Gross domestic product (GDP) recovered to its pre-pandemic level by the end of 2021 and was 1.8% above it by mid 2023. This compares to the March 2023 forecast that GDP would be 1.1% below pre-pandemic levels at the same point in time. The EFO report indicates that survey data suggests that much of the improved economic strength can be attributed to a modest degree of excess demand. However, although GDP is starting nearly 3% higher than previous forecast, future growth is forecast to be more sluggish and GDP is only to be 0.6% higher by 2027 than the previous forecast as GDP growth is squeezed in the short-term forecasts by a combination of real wages, higher interest rates and unwinding of temporary government support. The comparison between previous and latest forecast for GDP is shown in the following chart 1 from the EFO report.

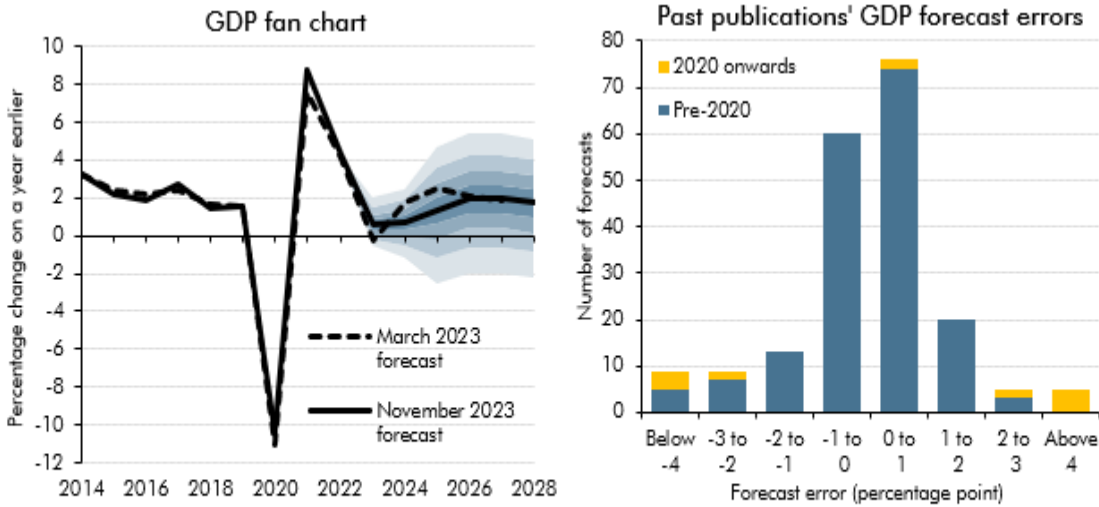
Chart 1 – Real GDP



Source: ONS, OBR

The OBR recognises there is significant uncertainty around GDP growth forecast. This is illustrated through a fan graph showing the central case (as per chart 1 above) and other potential scenarios (shaded according to probability) and the scale of errors in previous forecasts. These comparisons are shown in the following chart 2 from the EFO report.

Chart 2 – GDP Growth Fan Chart and Past GDP Forecast Errors

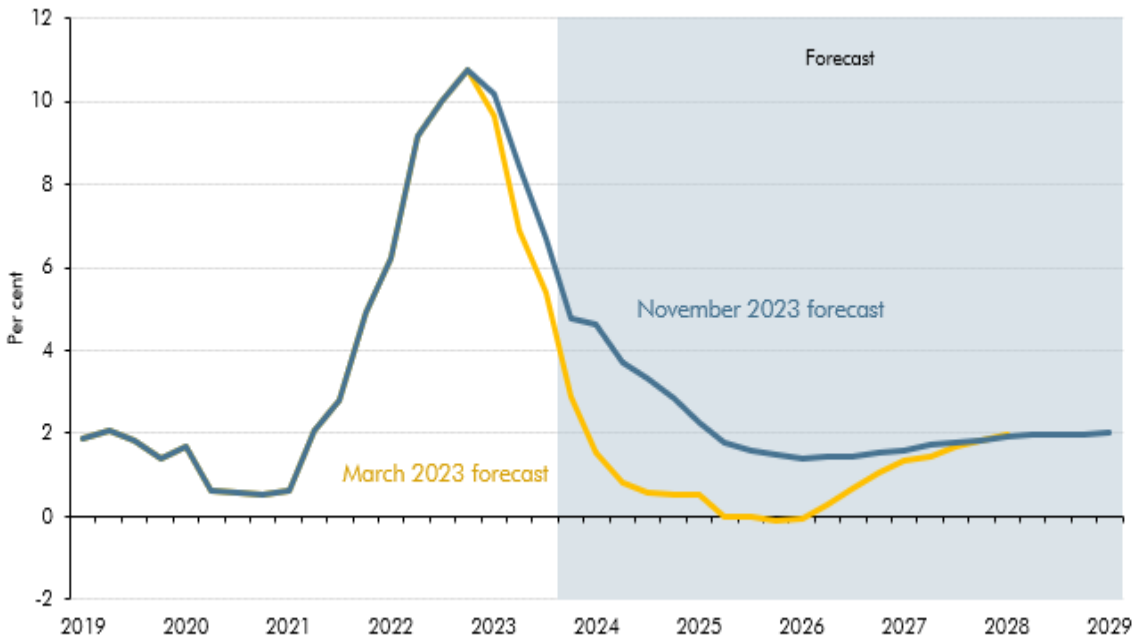


Note: On the left-hand chart, successive pairs of lighter-shaded areas around our forecast represent 20 per cent probability bands. The right-hand chart shows the distribution of forecast errors for every Autumn forecast since 1987. Source: ONS, OBR

Economic Outlook - Inflation

The OBR is forecasting that inflation will remain higher for longer, taking until the second quarter of 2025 to return to around the 2% target, this is more than a year later than in the March 2023 forecast. The OBR has concluded that this slower decline in the rate growth in inflation from previous forecast is due to domestic factors including the higher demand (and subsequent gap between demand and supply within the economy) and stronger wage growth more than offsetting the faster than expected decline in gas prices. From a peak of 10.7% in the last quarter of 2022, CPI is forecast to fall to 4.8% in the final quarter of 2023 (noting that since the OBR forecast was published CPI rate of inflation in the year to November 2023 fell to 3.9% compared to 4.6% for the year to October, and if this trend continues the quarter 4 2023 forecast would be overestimated). The OBR forecasts that as rate of GDP slows and a modest amount of spare capacity opens up and gas prices fall further that inflation is forecast dip slightly below the 2% target between 2025 to 2027, before returning to the target level in the longer-range forecast. The comparison between previous and current inflation is shown in the following chart 3 from EFO report.

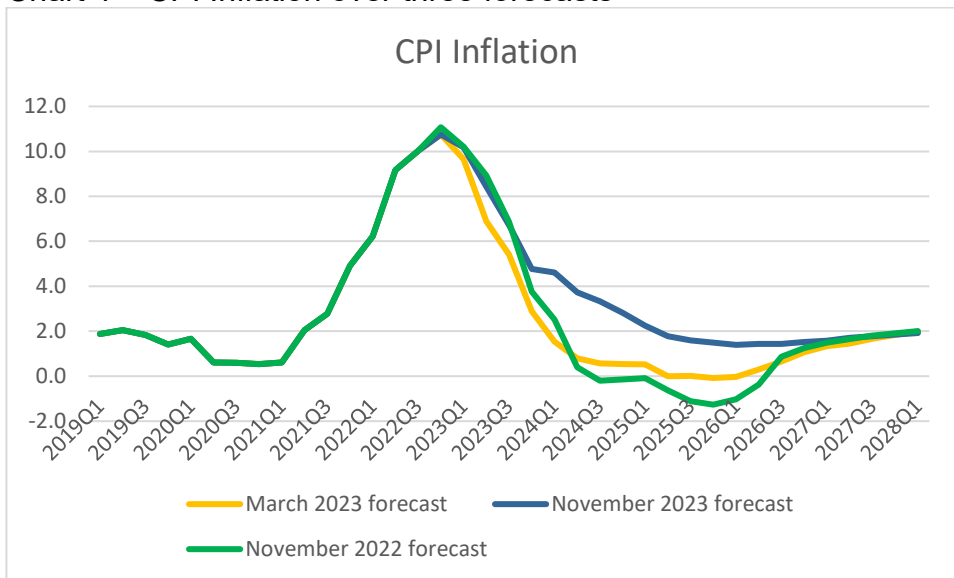
Chart 3 – CPI Inflation



Source: ONS, OBR

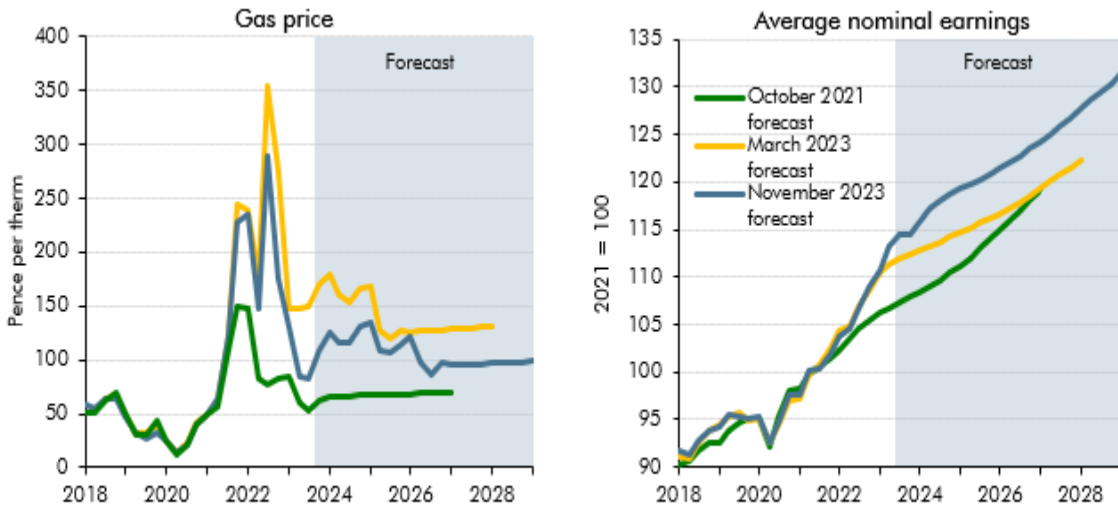
We have also compiled a comparison with previous November 2022 forecast where at one stage inflation was forecast to be negative in Chart 4 below.

Chart 4 – CPI Inflation over three forecasts



The impact of gas prices and wages on inflation were demonstrated in the EFO report as per chart 5 below.

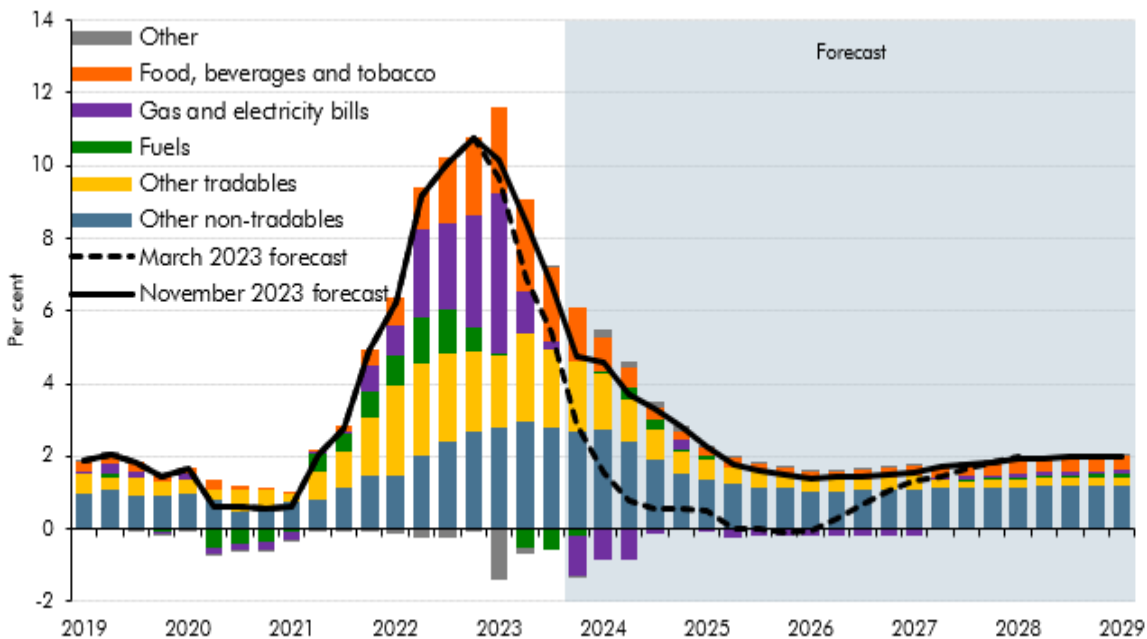
Chart 5 – Impact of Gas Prices and Average Earnings



Source: Datastream, ONS, OFGEM, Eikon, OBR

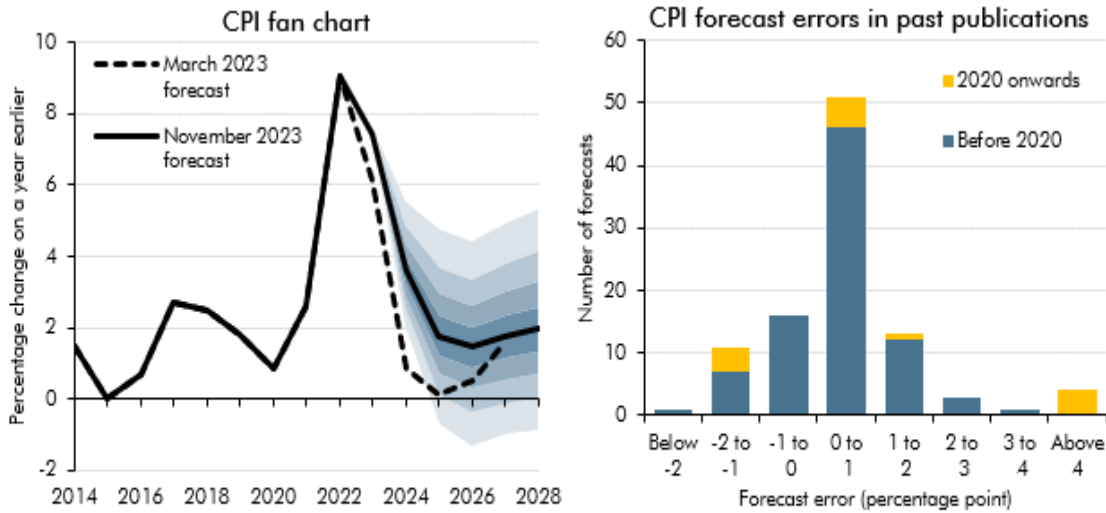
The EFO report confirms that the risks around inflation outlook remain high given both domestic and international uncertainty. The EFO report includes an analysis of the main contributors to inflation (chart 6) as well as an analysis of the more significant variations in inflation forecasts since 2020 (chart 7) similar to chart 2 for GDP uncertainty.

Chart 6 – Contributions to CPI Inflation



Source: ONS, OBR

Chart 7 – CPI Inflation Fan Chart and Forecast Errors in Previous Publications

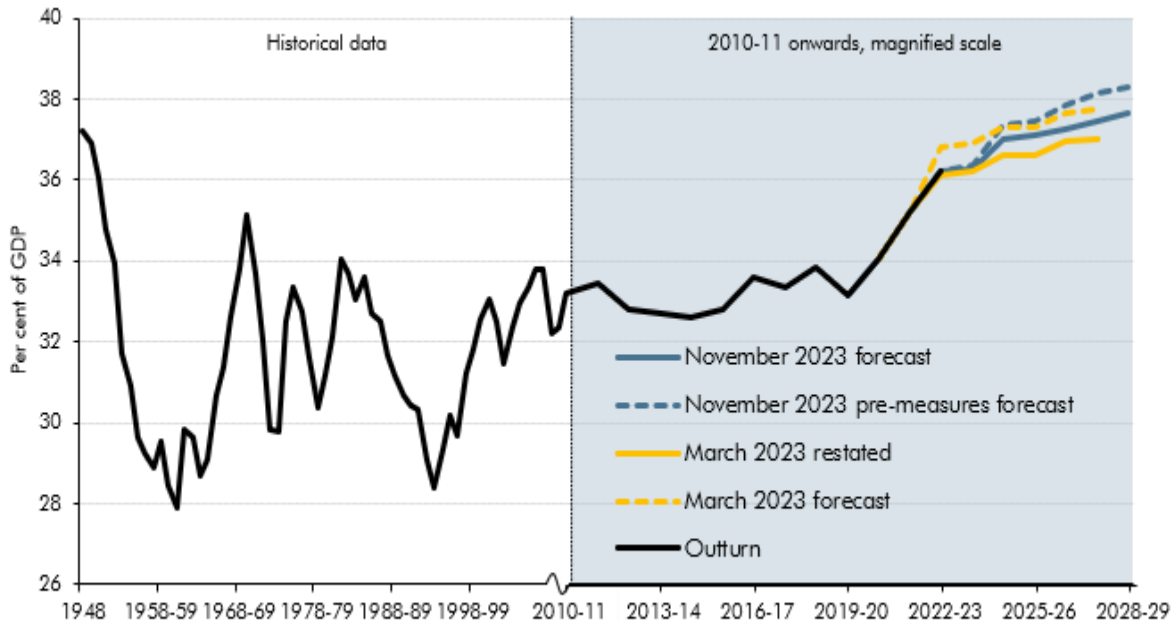


Note: On the left-hand chart, successive pairs of lighter-shaded areas around our forecast represent 20 per cent probability bands. The right-hand chart shows the distribution of forecast errors for every Autumn forecast since 2003. Source: ONS, OBR

Fiscal Outlook – Public Sector Receipts

Total public sector receipts in 2022-23 as a share of GDP reached 40.1%, a 3.2% increase on pre pandemic level of 36.8% in 2019-20. Public sector receipts are forecast to continue grow faster than GDP reaching 41.6% by 2028-29. National account taxes¹ equate to 36.2% of GDP in 2022-23 (an increase of 1% on 2021-22), and marginally higher than the restated forecast for 2022-23 in March 2023. The share of national account taxes is forecast to reach a post-war high of 37.7% of GDP in 2028-29, 4.5% above the pre pandemic level in 2019-20 of 33.1%. The share of national account taxes as % of GDP is shown in the following chart 8 from EFO report.

Chart 8 – National Account Taxes as a share of GDP



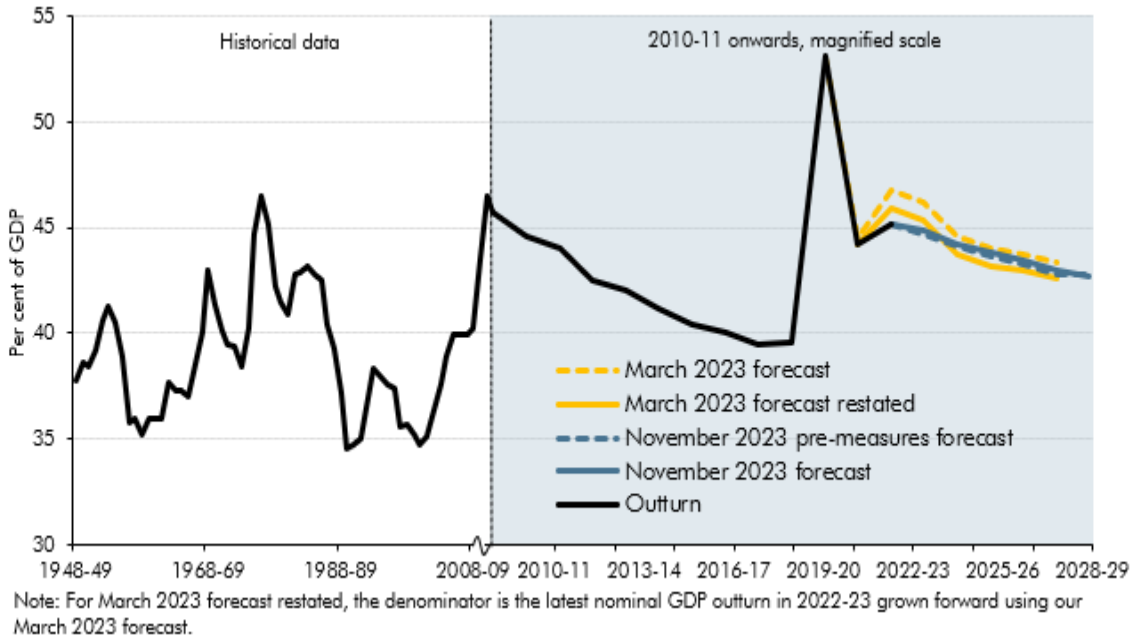
Note: For March 2023 forecast restated, the denominator is the latest nominal GDP outturn in 2022-23 grown forward using our March 2023 forecast. Source: ONS, OBR

¹ National account taxes are a slightly narrower measure of public sector receipts and are more comparable over longer historical periods as they exclude public sector gross operation surplus, interest and dividend receipts and other non-tax receipts.

Fiscal Outlook – Public Sector Expenditure

Total public spending in 2022-23 as share of GDP reached 45.1%, an increase of 0.9% on 2021-22, and 0.8% lower than the restated forecast for 2022-23 in March 2023. Total public sector spending is forecast to fall marginally to 44.8% of GDP in 2023-24 as the unwinding of energy support measures is largely offset by higher welfare costs. Public sector spending as a share of GDP is forecast to fall further each year over the forecast period as a share of GDP from 44.2% in 2024-25 to 42.7% in 2028-29. The share of public sector spending as % of GDP is shown in following chart 9 from the EFO report.

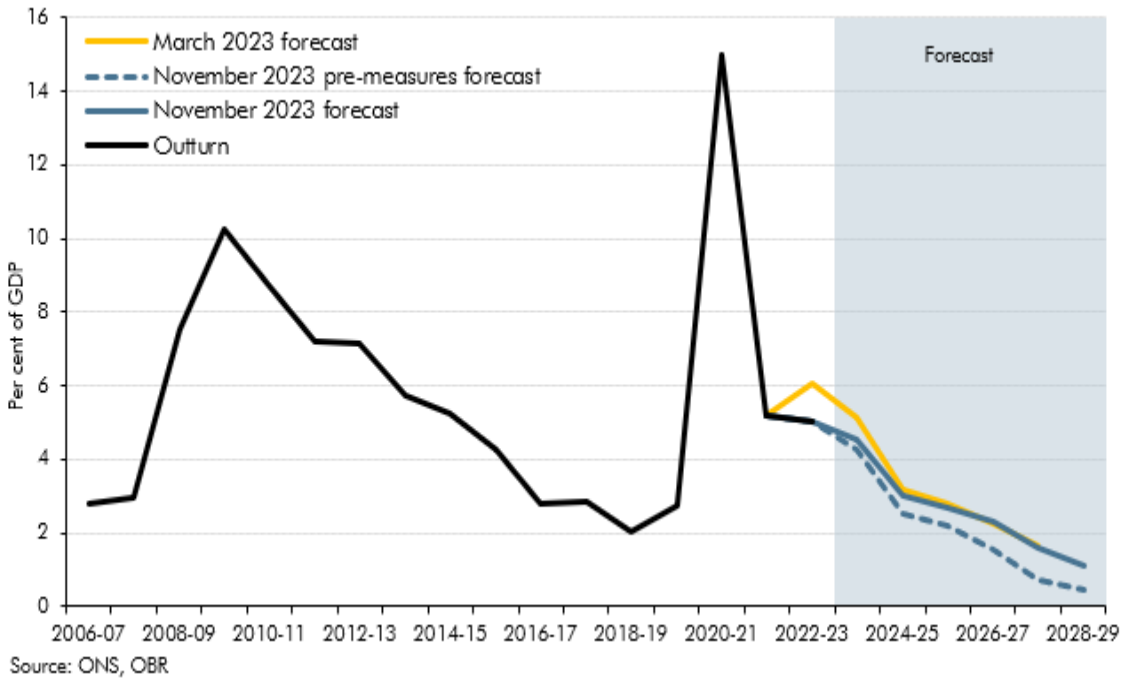
Chart 9 – Public Sector Expenditure as share of GDP



Fiscal Context – Public Sector Borrowing and Total Debt

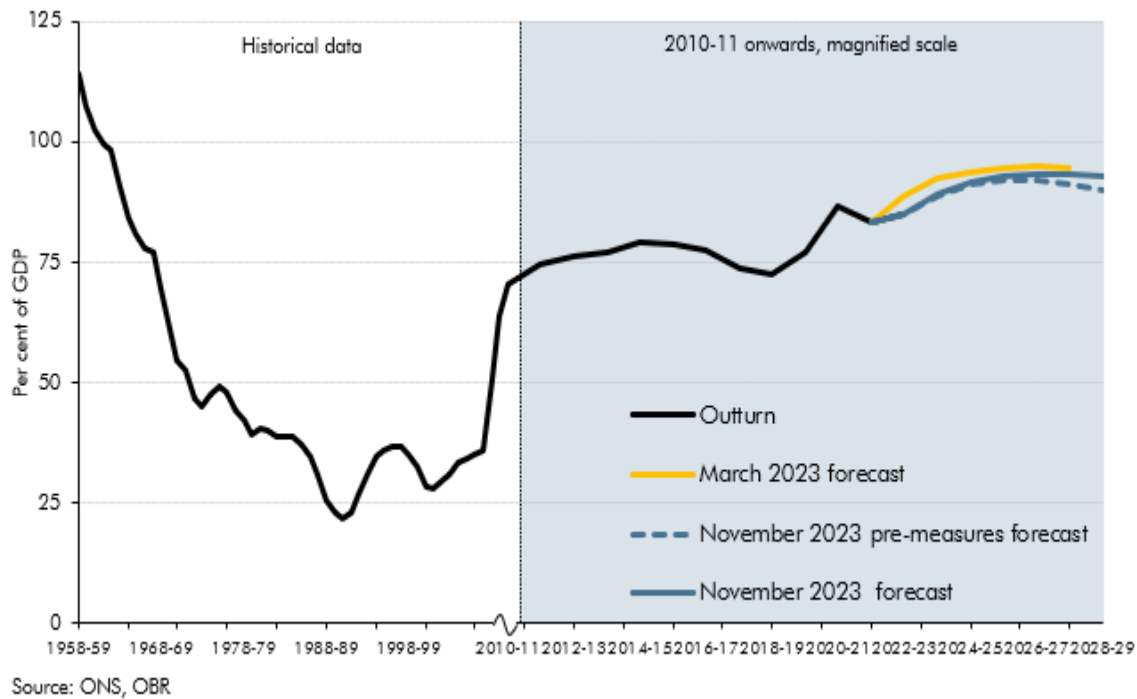
Public sector net borrowing in 2022-23 was £128.3bn (5.0% of GDP), this is a reduction from 5.2% in 2021-22. Net borrowing is forecast to fall to £123.9bn in 2023-24 (4.5% of GDP), this is 0.6% lower than the March 2023 forecast for 2023-24 of 5.1%. Net borrowing is forecast to fall further over the forecast period to £35bn by 2028-29 (1.1% of GDP). Public sector borrowing as % of GDP is shown in following chart 10 from the EFO report.

Chart 10 – Public Sector Net Borrowing



Public sector net accumulated debt was £2,251bn in 2022-23 (84.9% of GDP), an increase from 83.2% in 2021-22 but less than the March 2023 forecast for 2022-23 of 88.9%. Total debt is forecast to increase through the period to £2,458bn in 2023-24 (89.0% of GDP) to £2,845bn in 2026-27 (93.2% of GDP) and to £3,039bn by 2029-29 (92.8% of GDP). The improvement in 2023-24 is due to higher than forecast GDP and compared to the March 2023 forecast total debt as % of GDP is forecast lower in every year. Public sector net debt (excluding Bank of England) as a % of GDP is shown in the following chart 11 from the EFO report.

Chart 11 – Public Sector Net Debt (excluding Bank of England)



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Treasury Management Strategy

Introduction

1. Treasury management is the management of the Council's cash flows, borrowing and investments, and the associated risks. The Council has borrowed and invested substantial sums of money and is therefore exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of financial risk are therefore central to the Council's prudent financial management.
2. Treasury risk management at the Council is conducted within the framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2021 Edition (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Council to approve a Treasury Management Strategy before the start of each financial year. This report fulfils the Council's legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to the CIPFA Code.
3. Investments held for service purposes or for commercial profit are considered in the separate Appendix O - Investment Strategy.

External Context

Economic background

4. The following economic commentary is provided by the Council's treasury advisors, Link Group.
5. *The first half of 2023/24 saw:*
 - *Interest rates rise by a further 100bps, taking Bank Rate from 4.25% to 5.25% and, possibly, the peak in the tightening cycle.*
 - *Short, medium and long-dated gilts remain elevated as inflation continually surprised to the upside.*
 - *CPI inflation falling from 8.7% in April to 6.7% in September, its lowest rate since February 2022, but still the highest in the G7.*
 - *Core CPI inflation declining to 6.1% in September from 7.1% in April and May, a then 31 years high.*
 - *A cooling in labour market conditions, but no evidence yet that it has led to an easing in wage growth (as the 3myy growth of average earnings rose by 7.8% for the period June to August, excluding bonuses).*
6. *The registering of 0% GDP for Q3 suggests that underlying growth has lost momentum since earlier in the year. Some of the weakness in July was due to there being almost twice as many working days lost to strikes in July (281,000) than in June (160,000). But with output falling in 10 out of the 17 sectors, there is an air of underlying weakness.*

7. *The fall in the composite Purchasing Managers Index from 48.6 in August to 46.7 in September left it at its lowest level since COVID-19 lockdowns reduced activity in January 2021. At face value, it is consistent with the 0% q/q rise in real GDP in the period July to September, being followed by a contraction in the next couple of quarters.*
8. *The 0.4% m/m rebound in retail sales volumes in August is not as good as it looks as it partly reflected a pickup in sales after the unusually wet weather in July. Sales volumes in August were 0.2% below their level in May, suggesting much of the resilience in retail activity in the first half of the year has faded.*
9. *As the growing drag from higher interest rates intensifies over the next six months, we think the economy will continue to lose momentum and soon fall into a mild recession. Strong labour demand, fast wage growth and government handouts have all supported household incomes over the past year. And with CPI inflation past its peak and expected to decline further, the economy has got through the cost-of-living crisis without recession. But even though the worst of the falls in real household disposable incomes are behind us, the phasing out of financial support packages provided by the government during the energy crisis means real incomes are unlikely to grow strongly. Higher interest rates will soon bite harder too. We expect the Bank of England to keep interest rates at the probable peak of 5.25% until the second half of 2024. Mortgage rates are likely to stay above 5.0% for around a year.*
10. *The tightness of the labour market continued to ease, with employment in the three months to July falling by 207,000. The further decline in the number of job vacancies from 1.017m in July to 0.989m in August suggests that the labour market has loosened a bit further since July. That is the first time it has fallen below 1m since July 2021. At 3.0% in July, and likely to have fallen to 2.9% in August, the job vacancy rate is getting closer to 2.5%, which would be consistent with slower wage growth. Meanwhile, the 48,000 decline in the supply of workers in the three months to July offset some of the loosening in the tightness of the labour market. That was due to a 63,000 increase in inactivity in the three months to July as more people left the labour market due to long term sickness or to enter education. The supply of labour is still 0.3% below its pre-pandemic February 2020 level.*
11. *But the cooling in labour market conditions still has not fed through to an easing in wage growth. The headline 3myy rate rose 7.8% for the period June to August, which meant UK wage growth remains much faster than in the US and in the Euro-zone. Moreover, while the Bank of England's closely watched measure of regular annual average total pay growth for the private sector was 7.1% in June to August 2023, for the public sector this was 12.5% and is the highest total pay annual growth rate since comparable records began in 2001. However, this is affected by the NHS and civil service one-off non-consolidated payments made in June, July and August 2023. The Bank of England's prediction was for private sector wage growth to fall to 6.9% in September.*
12. *CPI inflation declined from 6.8% in July to 6.7% in August and September, the lowest rate since February 2022. The biggest positive surprise was the drop in core CPI inflation, which declined from 6.9% to 6.1%. That reverses all the rise since March.*
13. *In its latest monetary policy meeting on 02 November, the Bank of England left interest rates unchanged at 5.25%. The vote to keep rates on hold was a split vote, 6-3. It is clear that some members of the MPC are still concerned about the stickiness of inflation.*

14. Like the US Fed, the Bank of England wants the markets to believe in the higher for longer narrative. In terms of messaging, the Bank once again said that “further tightening in monetary policy would be required if there were evidence of more persistent inflationary pressures”, citing the rise in global bond yields and the upside risks to inflation from “energy prices given events in the Middle East”. So, like the Fed, the Bank is keeping the door open to the possibility of further rate hikes. However, it also repeated the phrase that policy will be “sufficiently restrictive for sufficiently long” and that the “MPC’s projections indicate that monetary policy is likely to need to be restrictive for an extended period of time”. Indeed, Governor Bailey was at pains in his press conference to drum home to markets that the Bank means business in squeezing inflation out of the economy.
15. This narrative makes sense as the Bank of England does not want the markets to decide that a peak in rates will be soon followed by rate cuts, which would loosen financial conditions and undermine its attempts to quash inflation. The language also gives the Bank of England the flexibility to respond to new developments. A rebound in services inflation, another surge in wage growth and/or a further leap in oil prices could conceivably force it to raise rates in the future.
16. Currently, the Fed has pushed up US rates to a range of 5.25% to 5.5%, whilst the MPC followed by raising Bank Rate to 5.25%. EZ rates have also increased to 4% with further tightening a possibility.
17. Ultimately, however, from a UK perspective it will not only be inflation data but also employment data that will mostly impact the decision-making process, although any softening in the interest rate outlook in the US may also have an effect (just as, conversely, greater tightening may also).

Interest rate forecast

18. The Council has appointed Link Group as its treasury advisor and part of their service is to assist the formulation of a view on interest rates. Link provided the following forecasts on 07 November 2023. These are forecasts for Bank Rate and PWLB certainty rates (gilt yields plus 80 bps).

Link Group Interest Rate View 07.11.23	Dec -23	Mar -24	Jun -24	Sep -24	Dec -24	Mar -25	Jun -25	Sep -25	Dec -25	Mar -26	Jun -26	Sep -26	Dec -26
Bank Rate	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.00	4.50	4.00	3.50	3.25	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
5yr PWLB	5.00	4.90	4.80	4.70	4.40	4.20	4.00	3.80	3.70	3.60	3.50	3.50	3.50
10yr PWLB	5.10	5.00	4.80	4.70	4.40	4.20	4.00	3.80	3.70	3.70	3.60	3.60	3.50
25yr PWLB	5.50	5.30	5.10	4.90	4.70	4.50	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.10	4.00	4.00	4.00
50yr PWLB	5.30	5.10	4.90	4.70	4.50	4.30	4.10	4.00	3.90	3.90	3.80	3.80	3.80

19. Link forecast that the MPC will keep Bank Rate at 5.25% for the remainder of 2023 and the first half of 2024 to combat on-going inflationary and wage pressures. Link Group do not think that the MPC will increase Bank Rate above 5.25%, but it is possible.
20. The overall longer-run trend is for gilt yields and PWLB rates to fall back over the timeline of Link Group forecasts, as inflation starts to fall through the remainder of 2023 and into 2024.

21. These interest rate forecasts are a central estimate, not a prediction, and there are upside and downside risks, which could alter the eventual path of interest rates.

Local Context

22. The following table summarises the Council's balance sheet for the current (2023/24) and previous financial year and provides a forecast for the medium term.

Balance sheet summary and forecast

	31.3.23	31.3.24	31.3.25	31.3.26	31.3.27
	Actual	Estimate	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Total CFR	1,292.4	1,271.6	1,314.6	1,300.4	1,264.0
Other long-term liabilities and adjustments	-164.6	-157.3	-149.2	-140.0	-130.8
Loans CFR	1,127.8	1,114.3	1,165.4	1,160.4	1,133.2
External borrowing	-802.4	-771.9	-742.6	-710.3	-685.1
Internal borrowing	325.4	342.4	422.8	450.1	448.1
Less balance sheet resources	-821.6	-769.8	-777.6	-792.8	-824.0
Treasury investments	496.2	427.4	354.8	342.7	376.0

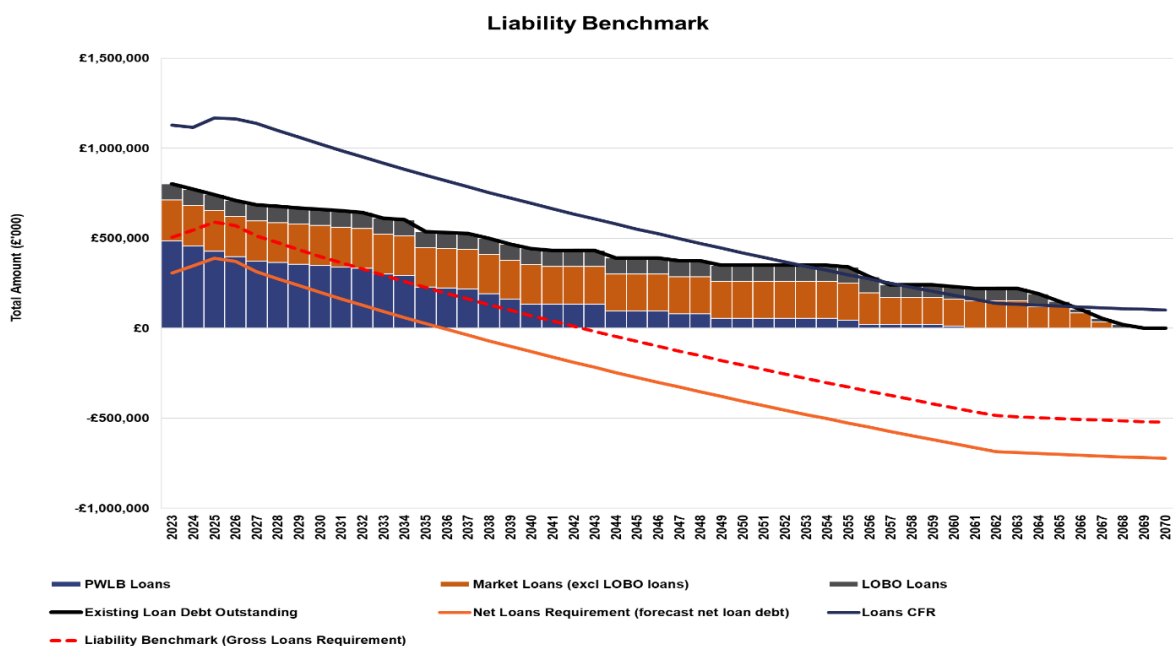
23. The Council's capital expenditure plans are the key driver of treasury management activity and the starting point for the treasury management strategy is the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). The CFR is simply the total historic outstanding capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for from either revenue or capital resources. It is essentially a measure of the Council's indebtedness and so its underlying borrowing need. Any capital expenditure, which has not immediately been paid for through a revenue or capital resource, will increase the CFR. The Council's current capital expenditure and financing plans are set out in the Capital Strategy at appendix M.
24. The CFR does not increase indefinitely, due the requirement to make a minimum revenue provision, a statutory annual revenue charge which broadly reduces the indebtedness in line with each asset's life, and so charges the economic consumption of capital assets as they are used. The MRP charge is not shown separately here but is factored into the CFR.
25. The Total CFR includes any other long-term liabilities (e.g., PFI schemes, finance leases). Whilst these increase the CFR, and therefore the Authority's borrowing requirement, these types of schemes include a borrowing facility by the PFI, PPP lease provider and so the Authority is not required to separately borrow for these schemes. For the purposes of determining the treasury management strategy, other long-term liabilities are removed to arrive at the Loans CFR.
26. The Council has externally borrowed £802.4m (as at 31 March 2023) to meet most of the borrowing requirement implied by the Loans CFR, and this figure will decline gradually over the medium term as external loans mature and are repaid (assuming no additional external borrowing is undertaken).

27. The balance of the Loans CFR borrowing requirement is met through internal borrowing, namely the temporary use of the Council's balance sheet resources on lieu of investment. The Council's internal borrowing is forecast to rise over the medium term, compensating for the change in external borrowing noted above.
28. Balance sheet resources represent the Council's underlying capacity for investment (mostly reserves, provisions and working capital). Balance sheet resources exceed internal borrowing and therefore the Council is forecast to continue to have positive external investment balances for the foreseeable future.
29. The current borrowing and investment balances, as at 30 November 2023, when the Council held £776.0m of external borrowing and £508.5m of treasury investments, are set out in further detail in Annex A.

Liability benchmark

30. To compare the Council's actual borrowing against an alternative strategy, a liability benchmark has been calculated showing the lowest risk level of borrowing. This assumes the same forecasts as table 1 above, but that cash and investment balances are kept to a minimum level of £200m at each year-end to maintain sufficient liquidity but minimise credit risk.
31. The liability benchmark is an important tool to help establish whether the Council is likely to be a long-term borrower or long-term investor in the future, and so shape its strategic focus and decision making. The liability benchmark itself represents an estimate of the minimum cumulative amount of external borrowing the Council must hold to fund its current capital and revenue plans while keeping treasury investments at the minimum level required to manage day-to-day cash flow.
32. The liability benchmark is shown in the below chart. The chart illustrates the maturity profile of the Council's existing borrowing and assumes no new capital expenditure funded by borrowing beyond 2026/27.

Figure 1: Liability Benchmark Chart



33. The chart shows the overall borrowing requirement (the Loans CFR), which is projected to increase moderately over the medium term in line with the authority's plans, before declining over the long term as the annual minimum revenue provision (MRP) charge gradually reduces the Council's borrowing requirement. The borrowing requirement is currently met by a combination of fixed rate loans, LOBO loans and internal borrowing.
34. The Council could theoretically reduce its investment balances to zero and maximise the use of internal borrowing before acquiring any external borrowing. The net loans requirement (orange solid line) represents the minimum amount of external borrowing required under this strategy. However, such an approach would naturally involve an intolerable level of liquidity risk, and therefore a minimum liquidity requirement (assessed at £200m) is added to the net loans requirement to arrive at the liability benchmark itself. In effect, the liability benchmark represents the minimum amount of debt that the Council requires to meet its borrowing requirement and to provide sufficient liquidity for day-to-day cash flow.
35. The chart demonstrates that the Council's existing stock of external debt, exceeds the minimum amount required based on current financial plans, and therefore the authority does not have a need to enter into new external borrowing. The liability benchmark is forecast to rise over the medium term due to a combined increase in capital expenditure and reduction in available balance sheet resources (usable reserves, mainly) before declining over the long term. At the same time external debt is forecast to decline as individual loans expire.
36. Although not shown in figure 1, both the Loans CFR and the liability benchmark are likely to increase in later years as new capital expenditure cycles are approved.

Borrowing Strategy

37. On 30 November 2023, the Council had £776.0m external debt, including £28.1m attributable to Medway Council, as part of its strategy for funding previous years' capital programmes. This represents a decrease of £26.5m on 31 March 2023 and reflects the Council's strategy of maintaining borrowing below the underlying levels.
38. The balance sheet forecast in table 1 shows that the Council does not expect to need to undertake additional borrowing in 2024-25. The Council may borrow to pre-fund future years' requirements, providing this does not exceed the authorised limit for borrowing set out in the Capital Strategy (Appendix M).

Objective

39. The Council's chief objective when borrowing money is to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving certainty of those costs over the period for which funds are required. The flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Council's long-term plans change is a secondary objective.

Strategy

40. Given the significant cuts to public expenditure and in particular to local government funding, the Council's borrowing strategy continues to address the key issue of affordability without compromising the longer-term stability of the debt portfolio.
41. The Council is currently maintaining an under-borrowed position. This means that the underlying borrowing need, (the Capital Financing Requirement), has not been fully funded with loan debt as cash supporting the Council's reserves, balances and cash flow has been used as a temporary measure. This strategy is prudent as medium and longer dated borrowing rates are expected to fall from their current levels once prevailing inflation concerns are addressed by tighter near-term monetary policy. That is, Bank Rate remains elevated through to the second half of 2024.
42. By doing so, the Council is able to reduce net borrowing costs and reduce investment counterparty exposure. Internal borrowing is not cost free as it is at the expense of investment returns foregone and neither does it remove the need for Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) to be made.
43. Given borrowing rates are forecast to decline over the medium term, consideration will also be given to short term rather than long term external borrowing should liquidity considerations necessitate any additional external borrowing (although it is not the Council's central expectation that borrowing will be required for liquidity reasons).
44. Against this background and the risks within the economic forecast, caution will be adopted with the 2024/25 treasury operations. The benefits of internal and short-term borrowing will be monitored regularly against the potential for incurring additional costs by deferring borrowing into future years. The Corporate Director of Finance will monitor interest rates in financial markets and adopt a pragmatic approach to changing circumstances:
 - *if it was felt that there was a significant risk of a sharp FALL in borrowing rates, then borrowing will be postponed.*
 - *if it was felt that there was a significant risk of a much sharper RISE in borrowing rates than that currently forecast, fixed rate funding will be drawn whilst interest rates are lower than they are projected to be in the next few years.*
45. The Council also retains the option to arrange forward starting loans, where the interest rate is fixed in advance, but the cash is received in later years. This would enable certainty of cost to be achieved without suffering a cost of carry in the intervening period.
46. Any decisions will be reported to the Treasury Management Group and the Governance and Audit Committee at the next available opportunity.

Sources of borrowing

47. The Council has previously raised the majority of its long-term borrowing from the PWLB and is likely to continue with this practice but will consider long-term loans from other sources including banks, pension funds and local authorities, and will investigate the

possibility of issuing bonds and similar instruments, in order to lower interest costs and reduce over-reliance on one source of funding in line with the CIPFA Code.

48. The approved sources of long-term and short-term borrowing are:

- HM Treasury's PWLB lending facility (formerly the Public Works Loan Board)
- any institution approved for investments (see below)
- any other bank or building society authorised to operate in the UK
- any other UK public sector body
- UK public and private sector pension funds (except the Kent Pension Fund)
- capital market bond investors
- UK Municipal Bonds Agency plc and other special purpose companies created to enable local Council bond issues
- UK Infrastructure Bank

49. PWLB lending arrangements have changed, and loans are no longer available to local authorities planning to buy investment assets primarily for yield. The Council does not intend to borrow to invest primarily for financial return and will retain its access to PWLB loans.

Other sources of debt finance

50. In addition, capital finance may be raised by the following methods that are not borrowing, but may be classed as other debt liabilities:

- leasing
- hire-purchase
- Private Finance Initiative
- sale and leaseback

LOBO (Lender's Option Borrower's Option) loans

51. The Council holds £90m of LOBO loans (Lender's Option Borrower's Option) loans where the lender has the option to propose an increase in the interest rate at set dates, following which the Council has the option to either accept the new rate or to repay the loan at no additional cost. LOBOs totalling £40m have option dates during 2024/25, and with interest rates having risen recently, there is a reasonable chance that lenders will exercise their options. If they do, the Council will likely take the option to repay LOBO loans to reduce refinancing risk in later years.

Debt rescheduling

52. The PWLB allows councils to repay loans before maturity and either pay a premium or receive a discount according to a set formula based on current interest rates. Other lenders may also be prepared to negotiate premature redemption terms. The Council may take advantage of this and replace some loans with new loans, or repay loans without replacement, where this is expected to lead to an overall cost saving or a reduction in risk. The recent rise in interest rates means that more favourable debt rescheduling opportunities should arise than in previous years.

53. Any decisions involving the repayment of LOBO loans or debt rescheduling will be reported to the Treasury Management Group and the Governance and Audit Committee at the next available opportunity.

Policy on Borrowing in Advance of Need

54. The Council will not borrow more than or in advance of its needs purely in order to profit from the investment of the extra sums borrowed. Any decision to borrow in advance will be within forward approved Capital Financing Requirement estimates and will be considered carefully to ensure that value for money can be demonstrated and that the Council can ensure the security of such funds.

Treasury Investment Strategy

55. The Council holds significant invested funds, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held. Since the beginning of April 2023, the Council's cash balance has ranged between £470.5m and £640.5m; investment balances are forecast to be around £427.4m at the end of 2023/24 and approximately £354.8m at the end of 2024/25.

56. **Objectives:** The CIPFA Code requires the Council to invest its treasury funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return, or yield. The Council's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults, the liquidity of investments and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income. Where balances are expected to be invested for more than one year, the Council will aim to achieve a total return that is equal or higher than the prevailing rate of inflation, in order to maintain the spending power of the sum invested. The Council aims to be a responsible investor and will consider environmental, social and governance (ESG) risks when investing.

57. **Strategy:** As demonstrated by the liability benchmark above, the Council expects to be a long-term borrower and new treasury investments will therefore be made primarily to manage day-to-day cash flows using short-term low risk instruments. The existing portfolio of strategic pooled funds will be maintained to diversify risk into different sectors and to mitigate the negative impact of inflation on the value of the Council's long-term resources.

58. **ESG policy:** The Council is committed to responsible treasury management and to being a good steward of the assets in which it invests. As stated in paragraph 1 above, the successful identification, monitoring and control of financial risk are central to the Council's prudent financial management, and this includes the identification and management of environment, social and governance (ESG) risks that arise in the course of carrying out treasury management activities. Therefore, the Council integrates ESG considerations into its treasury management decision-making process.

59. The framework for evaluating investment opportunities is still developing. When investing in banks and funds, and after satisfying security, liquidity and yield considerations, the Council will prioritise banks that are signatories to the UN Principles for Responsible Banking and funds operated by managers that are signatories to the UN Principles for Responsible Investment, the Net Zero Asset Managers Alliance and/or the UK Stewardship Code

60. Assets within the strategic pooled funds portfolio are managed by third-party investment managers responsible for the day-to-day investment decisions, including undertaking voting and engagement activities on behalf of the Council. The Council incorporates analysis of ESG integration and active ownership capabilities when selecting and monitoring investment managers.
61. The Council requires its investment managers to engage with companies to monitor and develop their management of ESG issues in order to enhance the value of the Council's investments. The Council also requires feedback from the investment managers on the activities they undertake and regularly reviews this feedback through meetings and reporting.
62. **Business models:** Under IFRS 9, the accounting for certain investments depends on the Council's "business model" for managing them. The Council aims to achieve value from its treasury investments by a business model of collecting the contractual cash flows and therefore, where other criteria are also met, these investments will continue to be accounted for at amortised cost.

Approved counterparties

63. The Council may invest its surplus funds with any of the counterparty types in the table below, subject to the limits shown.

	Time limit	Counterparty limit	Sector limit
The UK Government	50 years	unlimited	
UK Local Authorities	10 years	£25m	
Kent local authorities for cashflow purposes only	1 year		£70m
Other Government entities	25 years	£20m	£30m
UK banks and building societies (unsecured) *	13 months	£20m	Unlimited
Council's banking services provider *	Overnight	£20m	
Overseas banks (unsecured) *	13 months	£20m	£30m country limit
Money Market Funds *	n/a	£20m per fund or 0.5% of the fund size if lower	
Cash plus / short term bond funds		£20m per fund	
Secured investments *	25 years	£20m	£150m
Corporates (non-financials)	5 years	£2m per issuer	£20m
Registered Providers (unsecured) *	5 years	£10m	£50m
Loans incl. to developers in the No Use Empty programme			£40m
Strategic pooled funds and real estate investment trusts	n/a		£250m
- Absolute Return funds		£25m per fund	
- Multi Asset Income funds		£25m per fund	

- Property funds		£75m or 5% of total fund value if greater	
- Bond funds		£25m per fund	
- Equity Income Funds		£25m per fund	
- Real Estate Investment Trusts		£25m per fund	

64. This table should be read in conjunction with the notes below.

* Minimum credit rating: Treasury investments in the sectors marked with an asterisk will only be made with entities whose lowest published long-term credit rating is no lower than A-. Where available, the credit rating relevant to the specific investment or class of investment is used, otherwise the counterparty credit rating is used. However, investment decisions are never made solely based on credit ratings, and all other relevant factors including external advice will be taken into account.

65. **Government:** Loans to, and bonds and bills issued or guaranteed by, national governments, regional and local authorities and multilateral development banks. These investments are not subject to bail-in, and there is generally a lower risk of insolvency, although they are not zero risk. Investments with the UK Central Government are deemed to be zero credit risk due to its ability to create additional currency and therefore may be made in unlimited amounts for up to 50 years.

66. **Secured investments:** Investments secured on the borrower's assets, which limits the potential losses in the event of insolvency. The amount and quality of the security will be a key factor in the investment decision. Covered bonds and reverse repurchase agreements with banks and building societies are exempt from bail-in. Where there is no investment specific credit rating, but the collateral upon which the investment is secured has a credit rating, the higher of the collateral credit rating and the counterparty credit rating will be used.

67. **Banks and building societies (unsecured):** Accounts, deposits, certificates of deposit and senior unsecured bonds with banks and building societies, other than multilateral development banks. These investments are subject to the risk of credit loss via a bail-in should the regulator determine that the bank is failing or likely to fail. Unsecured investments with banks rated below the agreed minimum rating of A- are restricted to overnight deposits with the Council's current banking services provider.

68. **Registered providers (unsecured):** Loans to, and bonds issued or guaranteed by, registered providers of social housing or registered social landlords, formerly known as housing associations. These bodies are regulated by the Regulator of Social Housing. As providers of public services, they retain the likelihood of receiving government support if needed.

69. **Money Market Funds:** Short-term Money Market Funds that offer same-day liquidity and very low or no volatility will be used as an alternative to instant access bank accounts. They have the advantage over bank accounts of providing wide diversification of investment risks, coupled with the services of a professional fund manager in return for a small fee. Although no sector limit applies to Money Market Funds, the Council will take care to diversify its liquid investments over a variety of providers to ensure access to cash at all times.

70. **Pooled investment funds:** Bond, equity, multi-asset and property funds that offer enhanced returns over the longer term but are more volatile in the short term. These allow the Council to diversify into asset classes other than cash without the need to own and manage the underlying investments. Because these funds have no defined maturity date, but are available for withdrawal after a notice period, their performance and continued suitability in meeting the Council's investment objectives will be monitored regularly.
71. **Real estate investment trusts:** Shares in companies that invest mainly in real estate and pay the majority of their rental income to investors in a similar manner to pooled property funds. As with property funds, REITs offer enhanced returns over the longer term, but are more volatile especially as the share price reflects changing demand for the shares as well as changes in the value of the underlying properties.
72. **Other investment:** This category covers treasury investments not listed above, for example unsecured corporate bonds and company loans. Non-bank companies cannot be bailed-in but can become insolvent placing the Council's investment at risk.
73. **Operational bank accounts:** The Council may incur operational exposures, for example through current accounts, collection accounts and merchant acquiring services, to any UK bank with credit ratings no lower than BBB- and with assets greater than £25 billion. The Bank of England has stated that in the event of failure, banks with assets greater than £25 billion are more likely to be bailed-in than made insolvent, increasing the chance of the Council maintaining operational continuity.

Risk assessment and credit ratings

74. Credit ratings are obtained and monitored by the Council's treasury advisors, who will notify changes in ratings as they occur. Where an entity has its credit rating downgraded so that it fails to meet the approved investment criteria then:
- no new investments will be made,
 - any existing investments that can be recalled or sold at no cost will be, and
 - full consideration will be given to the recall or sale of all other existing investments with the affected counterparty.
75. Where a credit rating agency announces that a credit rating is on review for possible downgrade (also known as "rating watch negative" or "credit watch negative") so that it may fall below the approved rating criteria, then only investments that can be withdrawn on the next working day will be made with that entity until the outcome of the review is announced. This policy will not apply to negative outlooks, which indicate a long-term direction of travel rather than an imminent change of rating.

Other information on the security of investments

76. The Council understands that credit ratings are good but not perfect predictors of investment default. Full regard will therefore be given to other available information on the credit quality of the entities in which it invests, including credit default swap prices, financial statements, information on potential government support, reports in the quality financial press and analysis and advice from Link Group, the Council's treasury

management advisor. No investments will be made with an entity if there are substantive doubts about its credit quality, even though it may otherwise meet the above criteria.

77. When deteriorating financial market conditions affect the creditworthiness of all organisations, as happened in 2008 and 2020, this is not generally reflected in credit ratings, but can be seen in other market measures. In these circumstances, the Council will restrict its investments to those organisations of higher credit quality and reduce the maximum duration of its investments to maintain the required level of security. The extent of these restrictions will be in line with prevailing financial market conditions. If these restrictions mean that insufficient commercial organisations of high credit quality are available to invest the Council's cash balances, then the surplus will be deposited with the UK Government or with other local authorities. This may cause investment returns to fall but will protect the principal sum invested.

Investment limits

78. The Council may invest its surplus funds with any of the counterparty types listed above subject to the cash limits per counterparty and the durations shown in the table at paragraph 63.

Liquidity management

79. The Council forecasts its cash flow requirements to determine the maximum period for which funds may prudently be committed. The forecast is compiled on a prudent basis to minimise the risk of the Council being forced to borrow on unfavourable terms to meet its financial commitments. Limits on long-term investments are set by reference to the Council's medium-term financial plan and cash flow forecast.

80. The Council will spread its liquid cash over several bank accounts and money market funds to ensure that access to cash is maintained in the event of operational difficulties at any one provider.

Treasury Management Prudential Indicators

81. The Council measures and manages its exposures to treasury management risks using the following indicators.

82. **Security:** The Council has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to credit risk by monitoring the value-weighted average credit rating of its internally managed investment portfolio. This is calculated by applying a score to each investment (AAA=1, AA+=2, etc.) and taking the arithmetic average, weighted by the size of each investment. Unrated investments are assigned a score based on their perceived risk.

Credit risk indicator	Minimum Level
Portfolio average credit rating	AA-

83. **Liquidity:** The Council has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to liquidity risk by monitoring the amount of cash available to meet unexpected payments within a rolling three-month period, without additional borrowing.

Liquidity risk indicator	Minimum Level
Total cash available within 3 months	£75m

84. **Interest rate exposure:** The 2021 CIPFA Prudential Code removes the requirement to set treasury indicators for fixed and variable interest rate exposure. Instead, the Council is required to set out how it intends to manage interest rate exposure.

This organisation will manage its exposure to fluctuations in interest rates with a view to containing its interest costs, or securing its interest revenues, in accordance with the amounts provided in its budgetary arrangements and management information arrangements.

It will achieve this by the prudent use of its approved instruments, methods and techniques, primarily to create stability and certainty of costs and revenues, but at the same time retaining a sufficient degree of flexibility to take advantage of unexpected, potentially advantageous changes in the level or structure of interest rates.

85. **Maturity structure of borrowing:** This indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to refinancing risk. The upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of borrowing will be:

Refinancing rate risk indicator	Upper limit	Lower limit
Under 12 months	100%	0%
12 months and within 5 years	50%	0%
5 years and within 10 years	50%	0%
10 years and within 20 years	50%	0%
20 years and within 40 years	50%	0%
40 years and longer	50%	0%

Time periods start on the first day of each financial year. The maturity date of borrowing is the earliest date on which the lender can demand repayment.

86. **Principal sums invested for periods longer than a year:** The purpose of this indicator is to control the Council's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments. The prudential limits on the long-term principal sum invested to final maturities beyond the period end will be:

Price risk indicator	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	No fixed date
Limit on principal invested beyond year end	£150m	£100m	£50m	£250m

Long-term investments with no fixed maturity date include strategic pooled funds and real estate investment trusts but exclude money market funds and bank accounts with no fixed maturity date as these are considered short-term.

87. **Liability indicator:** see paragraph 32 above.

Related Matters

88. The CIPFA Code requires the Council to include the following in its Treasury Management Strategy.
89. **Financial Derivatives:** Local authorities have previously made use of financial derivatives embedded into loans and investments both to reduce interest rate risk (e.g. interest rate collars and forward deals) and to reduce costs or increase income at the expense of greater risk (e.g. LOBO loans and callable deposits). The general power of competence in Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 removes much of the uncertainty over councils' use of standalone financial derivatives (i.e. those that are not embedded into a loan or investment).
90. The Council will only use standalone financial derivatives (such as swaps, forwards, futures and options) where they can be clearly demonstrated to reduce the overall level of the financial risks that the Council is exposed to. Additional risks presented, such as credit exposure to derivative counterparties, will be considered when determining the overall level of risk. Embedded derivatives, including those present in pooled funds and forward starting transactions, will not be subject to this policy, although the risks they present will be managed in line with the overall treasury risk management strategy.
91. Financial derivative transactions may be arranged with any organisation that meets the approved investment criteria. The current value of any amount due from a derivative counterparty will count against the counterparty credit limit and the relevant foreign country limit.
92. In line with the CIPFA Code, the Council will seek external advice and will consider that advice before entering into financial derivatives to ensure that it fully understands the implications.
93. **Markets in Financial Instruments Directive:** The Council has opted up to professional client status with its providers of financial services, including advisors, banks, brokers and fund managers, allowing it access to a greater range of services but without the greater regulatory protections afforded to individuals and small companies. Given the size and range of the Council's treasury management activities, the Corporate Director of Finance believes this to be the most appropriate status.
94. **IFRS 9 Statutory Override:** Under the accounting standard IFRS 9, entities are required to recognise the revenue impact arising from the movement in value of investments held at fair value. The MHCLG (DLUHC) initially enacted a statutory over-ride from 1 April 2018 for a five-year period until 31 March 2023 following the introduction of IFRS 9 in respect of the requirement for any unrealised capital gains or losses on marketable pooled funds to be chargeable in year. This was subsequently extended to 31 March 2025 and has the effect of allowing any unrealised capital gains or losses arising from qualifying investments to be held on the balance sheet until 31 March 2025. The Council currently holds investment assets which fall under the statutory override (the strategic pooled funds) and it manages the risk arising from expiry of the statutory override on a corporate basis.

Financial Implications

95. The budget for net investment income in 2024-25 is £13.0m, based on an average investment portfolio of £426m at an average interest rate of 4.88%.¹ The budget for debt interest payable in 2024-25 is £32.5m, based on an average debt portfolio of £748.3m at an average interest rate of 4.35%. If actual levels of investments and borrowing, or actual interest rates, differ from forecast, performance against budget will be correspondingly different.

Other Options Considered

96. The CIPFA Code does not prescribe any particular Treasury Management Strategy for councils to adopt. The Corporate Director of Finance, having consulted the Treasury Management Group, believes that the above strategy represents an appropriate balance between risk management and cost effectiveness. Some alternative strategies, with their financial and risk management implications, are listed below.

Alternative	Impact on income and expenditure	Impact on risk management
Invest in a narrower range of counterparties and/or for shorter times	Interest income will be lower	Lower chance of losses from credit related defaults, but any such losses may be greater
Invest in a wider range of counterparties and/or for longer times	Interest income will be higher	Increased risk of losses from credit related defaults, but any such losses may be smaller
Borrow additional sums at long-term fixed interest rates	Debt interest costs will rise; this is unlikely to be offset by higher investment income in the long term	Higher investment balance leading to a higher impact in the event of a default; however long-term interest costs may be more certain
Borrow short-term or variable loans instead of long-term fixed rates	Debt interest costs will initially be lower	Increases in debt interest costs will be broadly offset by rising investment income in the medium term, but long-term costs may be less certain
Reduce level of borrowing	Saving on debt interest is likely to exceed lost investment income in the long term though potentially not in the short term	Reduced investment balance leading to a lower impact in the event of a default; however long-term interest costs may be less certain

¹ Gross investment income for 2024-25 is estimated to be £20.8m including £7.8m attributable to other bodies.

Training

The CIPFA Treasury Management Code requires the responsible officer to ensure that members with responsibility for treasury management receive adequate training in treasury management.

Training was most recently undertaken by members on 23 November 2023 and further training will be arranged as required.

Annex A – Existing Investment & Debt Portfolio Position

	30-Nov-23	30-Nov-23
	Actual Portfolio	Average Rate
	£m	%
External borrowing		
Public Works Loan Board	460.12	4.40
LOBO loans from banks	90.00	4.15
Banks and other lenders (Fixed term)	216.10	4.54
Streetlighting Project	9.79	2.55
Total external borrowing	776.01	4.39
Treasury investments		
Bank Call Accounts	1.00	1.92
Covered bonds (secured)	97.25	4.80
Government (incl. local authorities)	88.80	5.25
Money Market Funds	134.76	5.33
Equity	1.30	
No Use Empty Loans	16.55	4.50
Total internally managed investments	339.66	5.14
Pooled investments funds		
- Property	55.19	5.05
- Multi Asset	53.52	5.00
- Absolute Return	5.19	2.26
- Equity UK	30.21	6.24
- Equity Global	24.74	4.17
Total pooled investments	168.85	5.09
Total treasury investments	508.51	5.12
Net debt	267.50	

GLOSSARY

Local Authority Treasury Management Terms

Bond	A certificate of long-term debt issued by a company, government, or other institution, which is tradable on financial markets
Borrowing	Usually refers to the stock of outstanding loans owed and bonds issued.
CFR	Capital Financing Requirement. A council's underlying need to hold debt for capital purposes, representing the cumulative capital expenditure that has been incurred but not yet financed. The CFR increases with capital expenditure and decreases with capital finance and MRP.
Capital gain or loss	An increase or decrease in the capital value of an investment, for example through movements in its market price.
Collective investment scheme	Scheme in which multiple investors collectively hold units or shares. The investment assets in the fund are not held directly by each investor, but as part of a pool (hence these funds are also referred to as 'pooled funds').
Cost of carry	When a loan is borrowed in advance of need, the difference between the interest payable on the loan and the income earned from investing the cash in the interim.
Counterparty	The other party to a loan, investment or other contract.
Counterparty limit	The maximum amount an investor is willing to lend to a counterparty, in order to manage credit risk.
Covered bond	Bond issued by a financial institution that is secured on that institution's assets, usually residential mortgages, and is therefore lower risk than unsecured bonds. Covered bonds are exempt from bail-in.
CPI	Consumer Price Index - the measure of inflation targeted by the Monetary Policy Committee.
Deposit	A regulated placing of cash with a financial institution. Deposits are not tradable on financial markets.
Diversified income fund	A collective investment scheme that invests in a range of bonds, equity and property in order to minimise price risk, and also focuses on investments that pay income.
Dividend	Income paid to investors in shares and collective investment schemes. Dividends are not contractual, and the amount is therefore not known in advance.
DMADF	Debt Management Account Deposit Facility – a facility offered by the DMO enabling councils to deposit cash at very low credit risk. Not available in Northern Ireland.
DMO	Debt Management Office – an executive agency of HM Treasury that deals with central government's debt and investments.
Equity	An investment which usually confers ownership and voting rights
Floating rate note (FRN)	Bond where the interest rate changes at set intervals linked to a market variable, most commonly 3-month LIBOR or SONIA
FTSE	Financial Times stock exchange – a series of indices on the London Stock Exchange. The FTSE 100 is the index of the largest 100 companies on the exchange, the FTSE 250 is the next largest 250 and the FTSE 350 combines the two

GDP	Gross domestic product – the value of the national aggregate production of goods and services in the economy. Increasing GDP is known as economic growth.
GILT	Bond issued by the UK Government, taking its name from the gilt-edged paper they were originally printed on.
Income return	Return on investment from dividends, interest and rent but excluding capital gains and losses.
IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standards, the set of accounting rules in use by UK local authorities since 2010
IMF	International Monetary Fund
LIBID	London interbank bid rate - the benchmark interest rate at which banks bid to borrow cash from other banks, traditionally 0.125% lower than LIBOR.
LIBOR	London interbank offer rate - the benchmark interest rate at which banks offer to lend cash to other banks. Published every London working day at 11am for various currencies and terms. Due to be phased out by 2022.
LOBO	Lender's Option Borrower's option
MMF	Money Market Funds. A collective investment scheme which invests in a range of short-term assets providing high credit quality and high liquidity. Usually refers to Constant Net Asset Value (CNAV) and Low Volatility Net Asset Value (LVNAV) funds with a Weighted Average Maturity (WAM) under 60 days which offer instant access, but the European Union definition extends to include cash plus funds
Monetary Policy	Measures taken by central banks to boost or slow the economy, usually via changes in interest rates. Monetary easing refers to cuts in interest rates, making it cheaper for households and businesses to borrow and hence spend more, boosting the economy, while monetary tightening refers to the opposite. See also fiscal policy and quantitative easing.
MPC	Monetary Policy Committee. Committee of the Bank of England responsible for implementing monetary policy in the UK by changing Bank Rate and quantitative easing with the aim of keeping CPI inflation at around 2%.
MRP	Minimum Revenue Provision – an annual amount that local authorities are required to set aside and charge to revenue for the repayment of debt associated with capital expenditure. Local authorities are required by law to have regard to government guidance on MRP. Not applicable in Scotland, but see Loans Fund
Pooled Fund	Scheme in which multiple investors hold units or shares. The investment assets in the fund are not held directly by each investor, but as part of a pool (hence these funds are also referred to as 'pooled funds').
Prudential Code	Developed by CIPFA and introduced in April 2004 as a professional code of practice to support local authority capital investment planning within a clear, affordable, prudent and sustainable framework and in accordance with good professional practice. Local authorities are required by law to have regard to the Prudential Code. The Code was update din December 2021
PWLB	Public Works Loan Board – a statutory body operating within the Debt Management Office (DMO) that lends money from the National Loans Fund to councils and other prescribed bodies and collects the repayments. Not available in Northern Ireland.
Quantitative easing (QE)	Process by which central banks directly increase the quantity of money in the economy in order to promote GDP growth and prevent deflation. Normally achieved by the central bank buying government bonds in exchange for newly created money.

REIT	Real estate investment trust – a company whose main activity is owning investment property and is therefore similar to a property fund in many ways
Share	An equity investment, which usually also confers ownership and voting rights
Short-term	Usually means less than one year
SONIA	Based on actual transactions and reflects the average of the interest rates that banks pay to borrow sterling overnight from other financial institutions and other institutional investors
Total return	The overall return on an investment, including interest, dividends, rent, fees and capital gains and losses.
Weighted average life (WAL)	The weighted average time for principal repayment, that is, the average time it takes for every dollar of principal to be repaid. The time weights are based on the principal payments,
Weighted average maturity (WAM)	The weighted average maturity or WAM is the weighted average amount of time until the securities in a portfolio mature.

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From: Rory Love, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
Sarah Hammond, Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education

To: Cabinet – 25 January 2024

Subject: Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2024-28

Decision: 23/000105

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of report: CYPE Cabinet Committee - 21 November 2023

Future Pathway of report: Cabinet Decision

Electoral Division: All

Summary: This report provides the Cabinet with the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2024-28 for approval.

Recommendation(s):

Cabinet is asked to agree the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2024-28.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The County Council is the Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision in Kent. This Commissioning Plan (KCP) sets out how we will carry out our responsibility for ensuring there are sufficient high quality places, in the right locations for all learners, while at the same time fulfilling our other responsibilities to raise education standards and recognise parental preference. The Plan details the expected future need for education provision, thereby enabling parents and education providers to put forward proposals as to how these needs might best be met.
- 1.2 The KCP sets out the principles by which we determine proposals, and it forecasts the need for future provision. It also sets out in more detail, plans to meet the commissioning needs which arise in each district and borough in Kent during the next five years.
- 1.3 This updated KCP is a 'live' document which underpins our on-going dialogue and consultation with schools, district and borough councils, diocesan authorities, KCC Members and local communities, to ensure we meet our responsibilities.

2. The Demographic Context

- 2.1 Information from the Office for National Statistics shows that in 2005 there were 15,613 live births in Kent (excluding Medway). The number of births rose each year up to 2012 when there was a peak in births of 18,147 children. Since this time, birth numbers have fallen to 16,367 in 2022. KCC will continue to monitor this data and forecast its impact over time.
- 2.2 As we have forecast for a number of years the increased number of births until 2012, which required us to add significant primary school places, is now being felt in the secondary sector. Between the 2022-23 and 2027-28 academic years we forecast the secondary school age population resident in Kent will rise by 5,167 pupils.
- 2.3 The number of children on the rolls of Kent schools is driven by the size of the school-aged population in the county but is also influenced by the number of children resident outside of Kent on the rolls of the county's schools, the take-up of state funded school places and other factors such as the pace and type of new housing. Due to these additional factors, a change in the overall school-aged population in the county does not on its own necessarily translate into the same change in the number of children on the rolls of schools in Kent. Additionally, changes in the overall school age population at County or district level do not necessarily mirror changes in population at smaller geographic levels, such as planning groups.
- 2.4 As in previous years, the numbers of pupils identified as requiring a specialist place to meet their educational needs remains a challenge. As of January 2023, 18,930 children and young people held an EHCP in Kent. This is an increase of 1,197 (6.8%) since January 2022. In England, the number of children and young people with EHC plans increased to 517,000, in January 2023, up by 9% from 2022. The number of EHCPs have increased each year since 2010. In Kent 34% (33.5% in 2022) are educated in mainstream schools (including SRPs), whilst the England figure is 41%. In Kent, 40% of children and young people with EHCPs are educated in a special school (including independent schools) compared to 33.1% nationally.

3. Our Commissioning Intentions

- 3.1 The KCP 2024-28 identifies the need for additional permanent and temporary mainstream school and specialist places each year as follows. Additional provision will be secured through a combination of expanding existing schools and opening new ones.
- 3.2 Within the individual district/borough sections we break down the expected surplus/deficit of places into smaller planning groups. This enables us to identify in more detail where and when provision may need to be added or removed. The pupil growth generated by new homes is forecast to produce significant demand for school places in specific planning groups over and above underlying demographic trends. This is particularly apparent in earlier years of the Plan within a number of primary planning groups impacted by substantial planned house building. The longer-term impact of this house building is also represented by the forecast need for significant additional secondary places in the latter period of the Plan.

3.3 Additional provision will be secured through a combination of expanding existing schools and opening new ones. The overall county commissioning intentions are shown below:

Primary School Commissioning Intentions:

by 2024-25	by 2025-26	by 2026-27	by 2027-28	Between 2028-31	Post 2031
0.5FE 50 Year R temp places	2.3FE 30 Year R temp places	6FE 0 Year R temp places	6FE	22.6FE	6FE

Total of 43.4FE across the Plan period and up to 80 temporary Year R places

Secondary School Commissioning Intentions

by 2024-25	by 2025-26	by 2026-27	by 2027-28	Between 2028-31	Post 2031
1FE 150 Year 7 temp places	13FE 30 Year 7 temp places	8.5FE 90 Year 7 temp places	18FE 60 Year 7 temp places	4FE 30 Year 7 temp places	2FE

Total of 46.5FE across the Plan period and up to 360 temporary Year 7 places

SEND Commissioning Intentions:

by 2024-25	by 2025-26	by 2026-27	by 2027-28
209 places	155 places	500 places	0 places

A total of 864 permanent places across the Plan period

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The Local Authority as the Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision has a key role in securing funding to provide sufficient education provision in the County, particularly in schools, in order to meet its statutory responsibilities.
- 4.2 The pressure on the County’s Capital Budget continues, particularly as demand for secondary places and for specialist places grows. The cost of delivering school places is currently met from Basic Need grant from the Government, prudential borrowing by the County Council, Section 106 property developer contributions and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Government funding for ‘Basic Need’ is allocated on a formula based upon information provided by local authorities concerning forecast numbers of pupils and school capacity.
- 4.3 Basic Need funding is allocated by Government on the basis of a comparison of school capacity (not pupil admission numbers) against forecast mainstream pupil numbers from reception year to year 11 uplifted to provide a 2 per cent operating margin. Where capacity is lower than forecast, the DfE provides funding towards the gap.

- 4.4 The allocations for the 2024-25 financial year are based upon the projected need for new places by September 2025 (the start of academic year 2025/26); Kent has been allocated £5,046,624. The 'lumpy' nature of establishing new school provision means that the County Council incurs the majority of the capital costs at the outset of mitigating a forecast place deficit, e.g. expanding a school by a whole FE; whereas the Basic Need formula does not account for this and provides the Council with funding for places in an incremental way over a longer period of time.
- 4.5 One funding option which can assist with or overcome the challenges of forward funding new schools is the Free Schools programme. We encouraged promoters to submit bids to Waves 13 and 14, with some success. However, as the free school programme has become more restrictive, being targeted to certain geographical areas of the Country in relation to mainstream schools, and of limited number for special schools and alternative provisions, it will not be the answer to all our needs. Additionally, it is not risk free for the Local Authority. Delays in delivery can require the Authority to put in place temporary provision with the resultant unplanned expense.

5 Legal implications

- 5.1 Each project identified in the KCP will be subject to a separate consultation and decision-making process. The legal implications of each proposal will be identified at that time.

6. Equalities implications

- 6.1 The equality impact assessment considers whether the commissioning principles and guidelines contained within the KCP may have an impact (either positive or negative) on any protected groups and if so what action, if any, should be taken to mitigate the negative impacts. Separate, more detailed equalities impact assessments will be completed as individual project consultations come forward to consider the impacts on any protected group arising from that individual education proposal.

7. How does the proposed decision support Framing Kent's Future and Securing Kent's Future.

- 7.1 The KCP supports Priority 1: Levelling up Kent and Priority 2: Infrastructure for Communities within Framing Kent's Future. The plan details the commissioning of education places from good or better providers, with the aim of providing good quality education provision that is accessible to communities across the county. Within Priority 1 the County Council has committed to maintain KCC's strategic role in supporting schools in Kent to deliver accessible, high quality education provision for all families; the Kent Commissioning Plan outlines how we will continue to do so.
- 7.2 The commissioning intentions within the plan are based on detailed analysis, at county and district level, to accurately assess the need for primary, secondary and special school places over the coming years. In drawing up options for providing additional places, the Local Authority consider a range of practical issues, such as:

- The condition and suitability of existing premises.
- The ability to expand or alter the premises (including arrangements whilst works progress).
- The works required to expand or alter the premises.
- The estimated capital costs.
- The size and topography of the site.
- Environmental considerations.
- Future proofing.
- Road access to the site, including transport and safety issues.

7.3 Kent is committed to securing value for money when providing additional school accommodation, in line with the DfE's baseline designs, and output performance specification. The construction methods for new accommodation will be that which are the most appropriate to meet the needs of provision, e.g. temporary or permanent provision and which represents good value for money.

7.4 The analysis of demand ensures that provision is only provided when and where it is necessary, in a manner that meets the Best Value duty placed upon the council. This work supports Objective 3: Policy choices and scope of Council's ambitions of Securing Kent's Future.

8. Conclusion

8.1. The commissioning intentions outlined in the KCP are planned to ensure there are sufficient schools places, in the right locations and at the right time in order to fulfil our legal responsibility to offer an appropriate school place to all who require one. At the same time, we are committed to reducing the budget shortfall, but without compromising on the high-quality provision our children and young people deserve.

9 Recommendation(s):

9.1 Cabinet is asked to agree the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2024-28.

10. Background Documents

10.1 Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2023-27
<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/education-provision/education-provision-plan>

10.2 Early Years and Childcare Strategy 2020-23
<https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/education-skills-and-employment-policies/early-years-and-childcare-strategy-2020-2023>

10.3 Kent Strategy for SEND 2021-2024

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs/send-strategy/strategy-for-children-with-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities>

11. Contact details

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Cabinet

DECISION NO:

23/00105

For publication [Do not include information which is exempt from publication under schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972]

Key decision: YES

Key decision criteria. The decision will:

- a) *be significant in terms of its effects on a significant proportion of the community living or working within two or more electoral divisions – which will include those decisions that involve:*
- the adoption or significant amendment of major strategies or frameworks;*

Subject Matter / Title of Decision

Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2024-28

Decision:

Cabinet is asked to agree to:

- A) the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2024-28,

Reason(s) for decision:

Background

- 1.1 The County Council is the Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision in Kent. This Commissioning Plan sets out how we will carry out our responsibility for ensuring there are sufficient high quality places, in the right places for all learners, while at the same time fulfilling our other responsibilities to raise education standards and promote parental preference. The Plan details the expected future need for education provision, thereby enabling parents and education providers to put forward proposals as to how these needs might best be met.
- 1.2 The KCP details the principles by which we determine proposals, and it forecasts the need for future provision. It also sets out in more detail, plans to meet the commissioning needs which arise in each district and borough in Kent during the next five years.
- 1.3 This updated KCP is a 'live' document which underpins our on-going dialogue and consultation with schools, district and borough councils, diocesan authorities, KCC Members and local communities, to ensure we meet our responsibilities.

Our Commissioning Intentions

- 2.1 The KCP 2024-28 identifies the need for additional permanent and temporary mainstream school and specialist places each year as follows. Additional provision will be secured through a combination of expanding existing schools and opening new ones.

Primary School Commissioning Intentions:

by 2024-25	by 2025-26	by 2026-27	by 2027-28	Between 2028-31	Post 2031
0.5FE 50 Year R temp places	2.3FE 30 Year R temp places	6FE 0 Year R temp places	6FE	22.6FE	6FE

Total of 43.4FE across the Plan period and up to 80 temporary Year R places

Secondary School Commissioning Intentions

by 2024-25	by 2025-26	by 2026-27	by 2027-28	Between 2028-31	Post 2031
1FE 150 Year 7 temp places	13FE 30 Year 7 temp places	8.5FE 90 Year 7 temp places	18FE 60 Year 7 temp places	4FE 30 Year 7 temp places	2FE

Total of 46.5FE across the Plan period and up to 360 temporary Year 7 places

SEND Commissioning Intentions:

by 2024-25	by 2025-26	by 2026-27	by 2027-28
269 places	80 places	500 places	0 places

A total of 849 permanent places across the Plan period

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The Local Authority as the Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision has a key role in securing funding to provide sufficient education provision in the County, particularly in schools, in order to meet its statutory responsibilities.
- 3.2 The pressure on the County's Capital Budget continues, particularly as demand for secondary places and for specialist places grows. The cost of delivering school places is currently met from Basic Need grant from the Government, prudential borrowing by the County Council, Section 106 property developer contributions and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Government funding for 'Basic Need' is allocated on a formula based upon information provided by local authorities concerning forecast numbers of pupils and school capacity.
- 3.3 Basic Need funding is allocated by Government on the basis of a comparison of school capacity (not pupil admission numbers) against forecast mainstream pupil numbers from reception year to year 11 uplifted to provide a 2 per cent operating margin. Where capacity is lower than forecast, the DfE provides funding towards the gap.
- 3.4 The allocations for the 2024-25 financial year are based upon the projected need for new places by September 2025 (the start of academic year 2025/26); Kent has been allocated £5,046,624. The 'lumpy' nature of establishing new school provision means that the County Council incurs the majority of the capital costs at the outset of mitigating a forecast place deficit, e.g. expanding a school by a whole FE; whereas the Basic Need formula does not account for this and provides the Council with funding for places in an incremental way over a longer period of time.

3.5 One funding option which can assist with or overcome the challenges of forward funding new schools is the Free Schools programme. We encouraged promoters to submit bids to Waves 13 and 14, with some success. However, as the free school programme has become more restrictive, being targeted to certain geographical areas of the Country in relation to mainstream schools, and of limited number for special schools and alternative provisions, it will not be the answer to all our needs. Additionally, it is not risk free for the Local Authority. Delays in delivery can require the Authority to put in place temporary provision with the resultant unplanned expense.

4 Legal implications

4.1 Each project identified in the KCP will be subject to a separate consultation and decision-making process. The legal implications of each proposal will be identified at that time.

5. Equalities implications

5.1 The equality impact assessment considers whether the commissioning principles and guidelines contained within the KCP may have an impact (either positive or negative) on any protected groups and if so what action, if any, should be taken to mitigate the negative impacts. Separate, more detailed equalities impact assessments will be completed as individual project consultations come forward to consider the impacts on any protected group arising from that individual education proposal.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The Children's and Young People Cabinet Committee will consider the decision on 21 November 2023.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

The commissioning intentions outlined in the KCP are planned to ensure there are sufficient schools places, in the right locations and at the right time in order to fulfil our legal responsibility to offer an appropriate school place to all who require one.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer: None

.....
signed

.....
date

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Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent

2024 – 2028



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2. Foreword

Welcome to the County Council's Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2024-28 (KCP). This is the latest annual update of our five-year rolling Plan. It sets out our plans as Strategic Commissioner of education provision across all types and phases of education.

This Plan builds on the positive achievements of recent years. We have continued to commission new primary, secondary, and special provision to ensure we fulfil our statutory responsibility of ensuring a school place is available for every child, but also our non-statutory commitment to facilitate parental choice. This is not without its challenges, as I outline below.

For September 2023 I am pleased to report that we delivered the following commissioned provision:

- 30 temporary Year R places.
- 5 FE permanent secondary school places and 385 temporary Year 7 places.
- 25 places in special schools or specialist resource provisions.

We could not have achieved this without the support of Headteachers, Governors, and Academy Trusts who have helped us ensure there are sufficient school places while at the same time leading the recovery of their schools from the challenges of the pandemic.

We forecast that between the 2022-23 and 2027-28 academic years, total primary school rolls will reduce by 1,971 pupils and secondary rolls will increase by 5,167 pupils. The profile of change in school rolls will vary across the County with some local areas requiring additional places to meet demand. As new homes are built, and the overall Kent population increases accordingly, further pressures will likely be felt. To meet need in specific localities, and to reflect housing development, for the academic years 2024-25 to 2027-28, 14.8FE of primary provision and 80 temporary Year R places will be needed along with 40.5FE of secondary provision and 330 temporary Year 7 places.

As in previous years, the numbers of pupils identified as requiring a specialist place to meet their educational needs remains a challenge. We will address the need for high quality, sustainable SEN provision within the context of our Safety Valve Agreement with the DfE. Between the academic years 2024-25 and 2027-28, we currently intend to commission 849 additional specialist places.

The sector and the Local Authority are facing new challenges relating to price increases for goods and services and the cost of construction. We will continue to ensure a sufficient supply of places. However, without additional funding, these extra costs may influence the decision-making process around the location and timing of new education provision.

The national direction of travel is towards high quality, inclusive education to be provided through strong families of schools with the capacity to lead rapid and sustainable improvement, provide support for teachers, and deliver effective financial management. We support these principles and encourage those Kent schools not currently benefitting from such collaborative arrangements to explore their options on this journey.

Rory Love OBE, BA (Hons) - Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

3. Executive Summary

3.1. Purpose

The County Council is the Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision in Kent. This Commissioning Plan sets out how we will carry out our responsibility for ensuring there are sufficient high quality places, in the right places for all learners, while at the same time fulfilling our other responsibilities to raise education standards and promote parental preference. The Plan details the expected future need for education provision, thereby enabling parents and education providers to put forward proposals as to how these needs might best be met.

This Plan reflects the dynamic and ongoing process of ensuring there are sufficient places for Kent children in schools, and other provisions. It is subject to regular discussion and consultation with schools, district/borough councils, KCC (Kent County Council) Elected Members, the diocesan authorities, and others. The content of this Plan reflects those discussions and consultations.

3.2. The Kent Context

Kent is a diverse County. It is largely rural with a collection of small towns. Economically our communities differ, with economic advantage generally in the West, and disadvantage concentrated in our coastal communities in the South and East. Early Years education and childcare are predominantly provided by the private and voluntary sectors. Our schools are a mix of maintained and academies and include infant, junior, primary, grammar, wide ability comprehensive, all-through, single sex and faith based. Post-16 opportunities are available through schools, colleges and private training organisations.

3.3. What We Are Seeking to Achieve

Our vision is that every child and young person should go to a good or outstanding early years setting and school, have access to the best teaching, and benefit from schools and other providers working in partnership with each other to share the best practice as they continue to improve. Commissioning education provision from good or better providers can assist in securing this vision. To address the commissioning needs outlined in this Plan we welcome proposals from existing schools, trusts, the three dioceses and new providers; those proposals should be aligned to the commissioning requirements set out in the Plan.

3.4. Principles and Guidelines

The role of the Local Authority is set within a legal framework of statutory duties which are outlined in the relevant sections of the Plan. We also have a set of principles and planning guidelines to help us in our role as the Commissioner of Education Provision (Section 5). It is important that the Local Authority is transparent and clear when making commissioning decisions or assessing the relative merits of any proposals it might receive.

3.5. Kent's Demographic Trends

Information from the Office for National Statistics shows that in 2005 there were 15,613 live births in Kent (excluding Medway). The number of births rose each year up to 2012 when there was a peak in births of 18,147 children. Since this time, birth numbers have fallen to 16,367 in 2022. KCC will continue to monitor this data and forecast its impact over time.

As we have forecast for a number of years the increased number of births until 2012, which required us to add significant primary school places, is now being felt in the secondary sector. Between the 2022-23 and 2027-28 academic years we forecast the secondary school age population resident in Kent will rise by 5,167 pupils.

The number of children on the rolls of Kent schools is driven by the size of the school-aged population in the county but is also influenced by the number of children resident outside of Kent on the rolls of the county's schools, the take-up of state funded school places and other factors such as the pace and type of new housing. Due to these additional factors, a change in the overall school-aged population in the county does not on its own necessarily translate into the same change in the number of children on the rolls of schools in Kent. Additionally, changes in the overall school age population at County or district level do not necessarily mirror changes in population at smaller geographic levels, such as planning groups; these are explored in Section 7.

3.6. Capital Funding

The pressure on the County's Capital Budget continues, particularly as demand for secondary places and for specialist places grows. The cost of delivering school places is currently met from Basic Need grant from the Government, prudential borrowing by the County Council, Section 106 property developer contributions and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Government funding for 'Basic Need' is allocated on a formula based upon information provided by local authorities concerning forecast numbers of pupils and school capacity.

The Department for Education's (DfE) Free Schools Programme is another way to deliver some of the school provision Kent needs. We have encouraged promoters to submit bids to Waves 13 and 14, with some success, but this programme is not a significant contributor to places overall and does have financial risks.

KCC also secures developer contributions to the capital programme. The budget gap between what is needed for KCC to meet its statutory duties as school place commissioner and what is available is significant. All avenues are being explored to reduce the risks, but inevitably difficult decisions will have to be made to prioritise KCC's investment of the capital budget. The cost of construction has risen considerably since 2020 and is likely to continue during the Plan period. We will continue to manage and mitigate this as far as we are able to, however, pressure from inflation may become a constraint to our commissioning strategy.

3.7. Kent's Forward Plan – Commissioning Summary

Detailed analysis, at district level, of the future need for primary and secondary school places is contained in Section 7 of this Plan. Figures 3a,3b and 3c provide a summary of the need for additional places, both permanent and temporary, identified within the Commissioning Plan:

Figure 3a: Summary of the commissioning proposals for primary schools by district/borough

District	by 2024-25	by 2025-26	by 2026-27	by 2027-28	Between 2028-31	Post 2031
Ashford					4.8FE	2FE
Canterbury	0.5FE		1FE		2FE	
Dartford			1FE	2FE	3FE	
Dover			1FE	1FE	3.3FE	
Folkestone and Hythe						2FE
Gravesham		0.3FE			1FE	
Maidstone	Up to 50 Year R temp place	1FE Up to 30 Year R temp place	1FE	2FE		
Sevenoaks						
Swale		1FE			5.5FE	
Thanet					3FE	2FE
Tonbridge and Malling				1FE		
Tunbridge Wells			2FE			
Totals	0.5FE 50 Year R temp places	2.3FE 30 Year R temp places	6FE 0 Year R temp places	6FE	22.6FE	6FE

Total of 43.4FE of additional provision across the forecast period and up to 80 temporary Year R places

Figure 3b: Summary of the commissioning proposals for secondary schools by planning group

Non-Selective Planning Group	by 2024-25	by 2025-26	by 2026-27	by 2027-28	Between 2028-31	Post 2031
Ashford North		2FE				2FE
Canterbury Coastal			1.5FE			
Dartford and Swanley		6FE		2FE	2FE	
Dover					2FE	
Faversham				1FE		
Gravesham and Longfield	1FE	2FE	1FE	1FE	Up to 30 Year 7 temp places	
Maidstone District	Up to 90 Year 7 temp places	3FE		6FE		
Sevenoaks and Borough Green	Up to 30 Year 7 temp places					
Sittingbourne				6FE		
Selective Planning Group	by 2024-25	by 2025-26	by 2026-27	by 2027-28	Between 2028-31	Post 2031
Canterbury and Faversham				1FE		
Maidstone and Malling				1FE		
North West Kent			6FE			
Thanet	Up to 30 Year 7 temp places	Up to 30 Year 7 temp places	Up to 30 Year 7 temp places	Up to 30 Year 7 temp places		
West Kent			Up to 60 Year 7 temp places	Up to 30 Year 7 temp places		
Total secondary commissioning	1FE 150 Year 7 temp places	13FE 30 Year 7 temp places	8.5FE 90 Year 7 temp places	18FE 60 Year 7 temp places	4FE 30 Year 7 temp places	2FE

Total of 46.5FE across the forecast period and 360 temporary Year 7 places

Figure 3c: Summary of commissioning intentions for specialist provision

District	by 2024-25	by 2025-26	by 2026-27	by 2027-28
Ashford				
Canterbury	9 places		120 places	
Dartford			40 places	
Dover	30 Places			
Folkestone and Hythe	30 Places			
Gravesham				
Maidstone				
Sevenoaks			250 places	
Swale	200 places		40 places	
Thanet		30 Places		
Tonbridge and Malling		50 places		
Tunbridge Wells			50 places	
Totals	269 places	80 places	500 places	0 places

A total of 849 permanent places across the planned period

3.8. Special Educational Needs

The LA is responsible for issuing and maintaining Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) for children and young people between the ages of 0-25 years. As of January 2023, this totalled 18,930 children and young people with an EHCP in Kent. This is an increase of 1,197 (6.8%) since January 2022. In England, the number of children and young people with EHC plans increased to 517,000, in January 2023, up by 9% from 2022. The number of EHCPs have increased each year since 2010.

In Kent 34% (33.5% in 2022) are educated in mainstream schools (including SRPs), whilst the England figure is 41%. In Kent, 40% of children and young people with EHCPs are educated in a special school (including independent schools) compared to 33.1% nationally.

To ensure the LA is able to provide sustainable high quality provision, the system needs to be realigned and the proportion of children and young people catered for within each provision type brought in line with national figures, so that specialist places are only for those children and young people with the most complex needs. A significant change programme is ongoing to improve mainstream school SEND inclusion capacity so staff are skilled, confident and able to educate and support more children with EHCPs. This realignment will be supported by the inclusive practices within Kent's Countywide Approach to Inclusive Education (CATIE) and will ensure a greater proportion of Kent's children and young people will be supported and achieve their full potential in mainstream schools close to their homes.

To meet the need for specialist places across Kent, including meeting the needs in areas of population growth, a mixture of new special schools, expansions of existing schools and the establishment of satellites and SRPs will be commissioned across Kent. This plan will only reflect a proportion of our commissioning intentions at this stage as the full plan will need to be informed by the review of our continuum of SEND provision, reporting in the first half of 2024.

KCC has developed its first Kent Sufficiency Plan for children and young people with SEND. This first plan is limited in scope due to the need to await the outcomes of the reviews of Special Schools, Specialist Resource Provisions and Early Years Provision, all of which will contribute to a revised SEND Strategy, setting out the direction for the next five years. The outcomes from these reviews and further work to inform KCC's approach to supporting children and young people with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs, aligned with our approach to Alternative Provision across all twelve of Kent's districts, will inform the revision of the Sufficiency Plan later in 2024.

The Sufficiency Plan will sit under the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent to inform strategic educational place planning. The purpose of the Sufficiency Plan is to inform and support the Local Authority in its development of strategic place planning for SEND educational provision in the medium to long term.

3.9. Early Education and Childcare

Early Education and Childcare in Kent is available through a large, diverse and constantly shifting market of maintained, private, voluntary, independent and school-run providers, childminders and academies, all of which operate as individual businesses and are therefore subject to market forces.

The annual Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) shows the supply of, and demand for, early years and childcare provision across the County, including where there might be over supply and particularly a deficit in provision. The percentage of funded three and four year olds accessing a setting within the planning area in which they live can be used to interpret the deficit in each planning area along with qualitative analysis to understand whether the

variation in local take up rates is driven by a preference for particular providers, commuting patterns or a lack of places in the local area.

Across the whole county, there are forecast to be sufficient childcare places for 0-4 year olds. However, the CSA indicates that there are deficits of places in specific planning groups. The Education People's Early Years and Childcare Service will work with providers and potential providers to encourage the establishment of additional provision where it is required.

The supply of Free Entitlement places for two, three and four year olds will be kept under review as planned new housing developments are built and potentially increase the demand for places. Where housing developments are proposed in areas where there is an indicative deficit of places or where the size of a development means that it will require new provision; KCC will engage in discussions with developers to seek funding to provide nursery provision and when a new school is delivered according to the ESFA Baseline Design, a nursery space is now included in the design.

When a new school is delivered according to the ESFA Baseline Design, a nursery space is now included in the design. As new schools are planned, KCC will work with the sponsor to identify early years provision and the most appropriate way to deliver this.

3.10. Post-16 Education and Training in Kent

The KCC review of 16-19 education, Pathways for All is now in its implementation phase. A strategic board, consisting of representatives from parts of the sector, has been appointed and groups have been established to drive forward the recommendations.

The groups are at different stages and new strands of work are likely to be adopted as the Kent context changes. The main overarching focus for the medium term is to develop the board into the forum that promotes collaboration and becomes the strategic leadership for the county. This is in line with government policy of developing a provider-led system. There is a recognition that there are gaps opening for lower achieving and vulnerable learners across the county and that the sector will need to come together to meet this need.

4. What We Are Seeking to Achieve

The Children, Young People and Education Directorate has a clear Mission Statement. This being as follows:

Our aim: Making Kent a county that works for all children.

Our vision: All Kent children feel safe, secure, loved, fulfilled, happy and optimistic.

We will do this by:

- Joining up services to support families at the right time and in the right place;
- Securing the best childcare, education and training opportunities;
- Being the best Corporate Parent, we can be;
- Developing a culture of high aspiration and empathy for children and their families;
- Valuing children and young people's voices and listening to them.

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent aims to support the Mission statement through 'securing the best childcare, education and training opportunities.'

Our Principles and Planning Guidelines (Section 6) underpin our commissioning decisions. This is further supported by a suite of key strategies including, but not limited to:

- Early Years and Childcare Strategy 2020-23
- Kent Strategy for SEND 2021-2024
- Strategy for School Improvement; Achieving Excellence 2019 -2020
- Kent 16 to 19 Review - Pathways For All

To this extent we aim to:

- Ensure sufficient good or better school places for all children and young people in Kent.
- Implement the Early Years and Childcare Strategy 2020-23 to ensure we: develop a more integrated approach to early years and childcare provision and services; ensure better continuity of provision and services across the 0-5 year old age range; ensure an increasing number of children are school ready at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage and mitigate the effect of poverty, inequality and disadvantage through the provision of high quality early education and childcare, including support for parents and carers and narrowing early development achievement gaps.
- Commission more high-quality specialist provision and support for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Speech, Language and Communication Needs and Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs in mainstream and special schools.
- Work with schools, colleges, employers and training organisations to deliver the recommendations of the Kent 16 to 19 Review - Pathways For All Review to ensure the post-16 offer meets the requirements of increasing participation and offers a wide range of options which lead to progressive routes towards sustainable further or higher learning, employment with training or employment.
- Ensure all education settings are part of a formal or informal network or "family" of education settings which supports their ongoing development, resilience, and improvement.

5. Principles and Planning Guidelines

In the national policy context, the Local Authority is the Commissioner of Education Provision and providers come from the private, voluntary, charitable and maintained sectors. The role of the Local Authority is set within a legal framework of statutory duties; the duties for each phase or type of education in Kent are shown under the relevant section in this Plan. Within this framework, the Local Authority continues to be the major provider of education by maintaining most Kent schools and it also fulfils the function of “provider of last resort” to ensure new provision is made if no other acceptable new provider comes forward.

Education in Kent is divided into three phases, although there is some overlap between these. These three phases are:

- Early Years: primarily delivered by private, voluntary and independent pre-school providers, accredited child-minders, and schools with maintained nursery classes.
- 4-16 years: “compulsory school age” during which schools are the main providers.
- Post-16: colleges and schools both offer substantial provision, with colleges as the sole provider for young people aged 19-25 years.

The Local Authority also has specific duties in relation to provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs, pupils excluded from school or pupils unable to attend school due to ill health.

5.1. Principles and Guidelines

It is important that the Local Authority is open and transparent in its role as the Strategic Commissioner of Education. To help guide us in this role we abide by clear principles and consider school organisation proposals against our planning guidelines. We stress that planning guidelines are not absolutes, but a starting point for the consideration of proposals.

5.2. Over-Arching Principles

- We will always put the assessed needs of the learners first.
- Every child should have access to a **local**, good or outstanding school, which is appropriate to their needs.
- All education provision in Kent should be financially efficient and viable.
- We will aim to meet the needs and aspirations of the local community.
- We will recognise parental preference.
- We recognise perceptions may differ as to benefits and detrimental impacts of future proposals. We will ensure our consultation processes capture the voice of all communities, but to be supported proposals must demonstrate overall benefit to the whole community.
- The needs of Children in Care and those with SEN and disabilities will be given enhanced consideration in any commissioning decision.
- We will also give priority to organisational changes that create environments better able to meet the needs of other vulnerable children, including those from minority ethnic communities and/or from low income families.
- We will make the most efficient use of resources.
- Any educational provision facing difficulties will be supported and challenged to recover in an efficient and timely manner. Where sufficient progress is not achieved, we will seek to commission alternative provision or another provider.
- If a provision is considered or found to be inadequate by Ofsted, we will seek to commission alternative provision where we and the local community believe this to be the quickest route to provide high quality provision.

- In areas of housing growth, we will require developer contributions to fund or part fund new and additional school provision.
- In areas of high surplus capacity, we will take action to reduce such surplus.¹

5.3. Planning Guidelines – Primary

- The curriculum is generally delivered in Key Stage specific classes. Therefore, for curriculum viability, primary schools should be able to operate at least four classes.
- We will actively promote opportunities for small primary schools to work together.
- Where possible, planned Published Admission Numbers (PANs) will be multiples of 30, but where this is not possible, multiples of 15 are used.
- We believe all-through primary schools deliver better continuity of learning as the model for primary phase education in Kent. When the opportunity arises, we will seek to amalgamate separate infant and junior schools into a single primary school. However, we will have regard to existing local arrangements and seek to avoid leaving existing schools without links on which they have previously depended.
- At present primary school provision is co-educational, and we anticipate that future arrangements will conform to this pattern.
- Over time we have concluded that a minimum of 2FE provision (420 places) is preferred in terms of the efficient deployment of resources.

5.4. Planning Guidelines – Secondary

- All schools must offer a broad and balanced curriculum and progression pathways for 14-19 year olds either alone, or through robust partnership arrangements.
- PANs for secondary schools will not normally be less than 120 or greater than 360. PANs for secondary schools will normally be multiples of 30.
- Over time we have concluded that the ideal size for the efficient deployment of resources is between 6FE and 8FE.
- Proposals for additional secondary places need to demonstrate a balance between selective and non-selective school places.
- We will encourage the formation of all-aged schools (primary through to secondary) if this is in the interests of the local community.

5.5. Planning Guidelines - Special Educational Needs

- We aim to build capacity in mainstream schools by broadening the skills and special arrangements that can be made within this sector to ensure compliance with the relevant duties under SEN and disability legislation.
- For children and young people for whom mainstream provision is assessed not to be appropriate, we seek to make provision through Kent special schools. For young people aged 16-19 years, provision may be at school or college. For young people who are aged 19-25 years, provision is likely to be college based.
- We will support children and young people to benefit from living within their local community where possible and we will seek to provide them with day places unless residential provision is specifically needed for social care or health reasons. In such cases, agreement to joint placement and support will be sought from the relevant KCC teams or the Health Service. This agreement will be preceded by the relevant health or social care assessments.
- We will reduce the need for children to be transported to schools far away from their local communities by developing local provision to meet need.

¹ Actions might include re-classifying accommodation, removing temporary or unsuitable accommodation, leasing spaces to other users and promoting closures or amalgamations. We recognise that, increasingly, providers will be responsible for making such decisions about the use of their buildings, but we believe we all recognise the economic imperatives for such actions.

5.6. Planning Guidelines - Expansion of Popular Schools and New Provision

- We support diversity in the range of education provision available to children and young people. We recognise that new providers are entering the market, and that parents and communities are able to make free school applications.
- We also recognise that popular schools may wish to expand or be under pressure from the local community to do so.
- As the Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision, we welcome proposals from existing schools and new providers that address the needs identified in this Plan. This includes new provision to meet increased demand and new provision to address concerns about quality.
- In order for us to support any such proposal, they must meet an identified need and should adhere to the planning principles and guidelines set out above.

5.7. Small Schools

KCC defines small schools as ‘those schools with fewer than 150 pupils on roll and/or a measured capacity of less than 150 places’. We have over 100 primary schools that fit this criterion.

We value the work of our small schools and recognise the challenges faced. We continue to work with partners to maximise the resilience of small schools to deal with the challenges they face in terms of leadership and management, teaching and learning, and governance and finance so that they can enable their pupils to grow up, learn, develop and achieve, and continue to play a valued role in their communities.

KCC and its partners, in particular the dioceses, will ensure that:

- Support is given to small schools seeking to join appropriate multi-academy trusts, or take other steps on such a pathway.
- All such partners will work closely together to support the protection and maintenance of the distinctive character and ethos of small Church of England schools in future collaborative arrangements.

5.8. Families of Schools

KCC has encouraged schools to work collaboratively together for many years. Such collaborations take many forms in the current education landscape, such as being a church school within Canterbury, Rochester or Southwark’s purview, forming a collaboration with neighbouring schools to work jointly on shared school improvement objectives, formally federating or joining a shared schools trust, or academising within a MAT. All have been important in ensuring no school becomes isolated.

The national direction of travel is towards high quality, inclusive education to be provided through families of schools within strong multi-academy trusts. This is underpinned by the ability of strong trusts to deliver rapid and sustainable school improvement, excellent support for teachers and teaching, strategic leadership and governance, and effective financial management. We support these principles and encourage those Kent schools not currently benefitting from such collaborative arrangements to explore their options to join or form a multi-academy trust.

6. Capital Funding

6.1. Introduction

The Local Authority as Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision has a key role in securing funding to provide sufficient education provision in the County, particularly in schools.

The cost of providing additional school places is met from Government Basic Need Grant, prudential borrowing by KCC and developer contributions. It continues to be clear through the County Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan that KCC is not in a position to undertake prudential borrowing to support new provision. To do so would place undue pressure on the revenue budget in what are already challenging times for the Authority. The prospect of having to meet the growth in demand for places through additional borrowing confronts the County Council with a dilemma between delivering its statutory duty on school places and maintaining its financial soundness. Members and officers continue to lobby Ministers and officials within the DfE over this critical issue. Delivery of the additional school places needed in the County will rely more than ever on an appropriate level of funding from Government and securing the maximum possible contribution from housing developers.

6.2. Basic Need

Basic Need funding is allocated by Government on the basis of a comparison of school capacity (not pupil admission numbers) against forecast mainstream pupil numbers from reception year to year 11 uplifted to provide a 2 per cent operating margin. Where capacity is lower than forecast, the DfE provides funding towards the gap.

The allocations for the 2024-25 financial year are based upon the projected need for new places by September 2025 (the start of academic year 2025/26); Kent has been allocated £5,046,624. The 'lumpy' nature of establishing new school provision means that the County Council incurs the majority of the capital costs at the outset of mitigating a forecast place deficit, e.g. expanding a school by a whole FE; whereas the Basic Need formula does not account for this and provides the Council with funding for places in an incremental way over a longer period of time.

6.3. Free Schools Programme

One funding option which can assist with or overcome the challenges of forward funding new schools is the Free Schools programme. We encouraged promoters to submit bids to Waves 13 and 14, with some success. However, as the free school programme has become more restrictive, being targeted to certain geographical areas of the Country in relation to mainstream schools, and of limited number for special schools and alternative provisions, it will not be the answer to all our needs. Additionally, it is not risk free for the Local Authority. Delays in delivery can require the Authority to put in place temporary provision with the resultant unplanned expense.

6.4. Developer Contributions

Each of the 12 districts in Kent are planning significant housing growth, it is essential that this growth is supported by sufficient education provision that is well integrated within the areas of growth and established at the right time. The cost of providing school places in response to housing growth is significant, the County Council seeks developer contributions towards mitigating this cost. Developer contributions for education are secured either through Section 106 (s106) agreements or through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

S106 agreements are secured from housing developers at the time that planning permission is granted, they are intended to ensure development proposals are acceptable in planning terms.

When securing a s106 agreement KCC will outline the additional impact the development would have on local schools, where we would need to add additional provision in response and the cost of doing so. Whilst district authorities, as the relevant Local Planning Authority, are the decision maker on whether contributions towards education provision should be made or not, once a s106 agreement is in place the housing developer becomes legally obligated to pay KCC contributions at specified points. We will continue to seek developer contributions at every opportunity allowed through legislation and apply funding secured to the most appropriate project in order to mitigate development. Where additional secondary school places are required in order to mitigate development we will seek to secure funding towards both selective and non-selective places on the basis of 25% of the additional demand being within the selective sector; this will not preclude future residents of the development being able to apply for and access a school place in the same way as all other residents in Kent and does not impact the commissioning approach in an area which is based on the forecast need.

Five districts in Kent have adopted CIL, which has largely replaced s106 agreements in those areas. The levy is a tariff-based system where developers are charged a set rate per square metre of development. There is no direct link between the development's impact on local infrastructure and the amount it pays. All CIL funding is paid to the relevant district or borough, which then determines how it will be spent once it is received; there is no funding ring-fenced for education provision and KCC will usually be required to 'bid' to the Borough for a share of the funding. This provides KCC with no security that development charged under CIL will contribute to the cost of new school provision at the time planning permission is granted. Under CIL the amounts collected for community infrastructure are typically lower than could be secured through s106 and the spending of CIL is entirely at the discretion of the District Authority and not KCC, which places the County Council at significant risk moving forward.

The County Council is keen to work with the Government to ensure that reforms to developer contributions are effective in securing the necessary infrastructure to support growth. On 26 October 2023 the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill that includes the removal of Section 106 and the Community Infrastructure Levy, to be replaced with the Infrastructure Levy, became law. Generally, KCC welcomes the aims of the proposed Infrastructure Levy, but raised concern during the technical consultation on the Bill regarding the implications for the County Council in its role as a key strategic infrastructure provider and the level of funding available. The Act itself received Royal Assent on the 26th October 2023. However, most of its provisions are not yet in force because they require secondary legislation and this includes the Infrastructure Levy, which does not yet have an appointed commencement date. There remains continued uncertainty as to the effects it will have on securing funding towards Education infrastructure given the nature and scope of the reforms.

6.5. Value for Money

In drawing up options for providing additional places, in addition to the Principles and Planning Guidelines set out in Section 5, the Local Authority consider a range of practical issues, such as:

- The condition and suitability of existing premises.
- The ability to expand or alter the premises (including arrangements whilst works progress).
- The works required to expand or alter the premises.
- The estimated capital costs.
- The size and topography of the site.
- Environmental considerations.
- Future proofing.

- Road access to the site, including transport and safety issues.

Kent is committed to securing value for money when providing additional school accommodation, in line with the DfE’s baseline designs, and output performance specification. The construction method for new accommodation will be that which is the most appropriate to meet the needs of provision, e.g. temporary or permanent provision and that which represents good value for money.

One of the key benchmarks against which we will be monitoring all Basic Need projects is the ‘cost per pupil’. This benchmark divides the construction cost of the project by the number of pupils that the facility will accommodate to provide a project cost per pupil.

This table provides high level findings of a comparison between KCC costs and the National Schools Delivery Cost Benchmark database. KCC’s average historic cost of delivering additional places in the primary and secondary phase is higher than the national average. These represent historic average costs (at Q3 2023 prices) and will increase with inflation in line with the cost of construction over time.

A further high level review comparing KCC costs to the National Schools Delivery Cost Benchmark database rebased to Southeast has been carried out. This details that the KCC cost for Primary phase expansion is currently lower than the Southeast average, however New build is slightly higher. The Secondary Phase is showing that both expansion and new build are lower than the Southeast benchmark, sitting between the national and Southeast benchmark.

Figure 6a: Average costs - National and Kent

Primary Education Phase:

Type	National School Delivery Average Costs	National School Delivery Average Costs (South East)	KCC Average Costs
Expansion	£19,425	£21,950	£20,472
New Build	£23,192	£26,207	£26,782

Secondary Education Phase:

Type	National School Delivery Average Costs	National School Delivery Average Costs (South East)	KCC Average Costs
Expansion	£26,717	£30,190	£28,218
New Build	£28,096	£31,749	£29,584

7. Commissioning Statutory School Provision

7.1. Duties to Provide for Ages 4-16 Years

The law requires local authorities to make provision for the education of children from the September following their fourth birthday to the end of the academic year in which their sixteenth birthday falls. Most Kent parents choose to send their children to Kent schools. Some parents choose to educate their children independently, either at independent schools or otherwise than at school (i.e. at home); others will send their children to maintained schools outside Kent (Kent maintained schools also admit some children from other areas). Kent will offer a school place to any resident child aged between 4-16 years.

A minority of young people aged 14-16 years old are offered college placements or alternative curriculum provision, usually through school links. Some children are educated in special schools or non-school forms of special education provision because of their special educational needs.

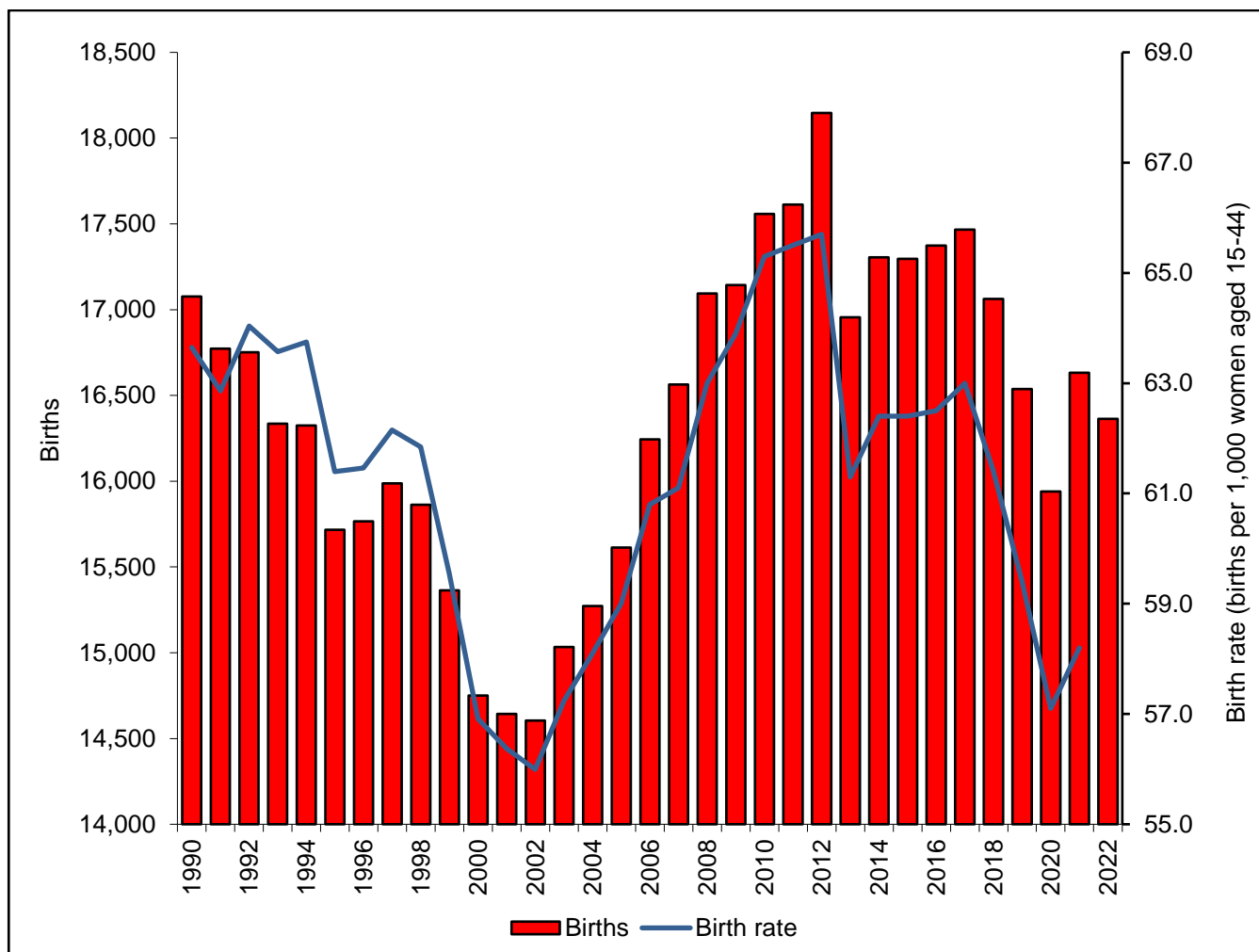
The local authority has a statutory duty to provide full time education for pupils “not in education by reason of illness, exclusion or otherwise” which is appropriate to individual pupil needs. This duty is discharged through pupil referral units, alternative provision commissioned by secondary schools and the Health Needs Education Service.

7.2. Kent-Wide Summary

Detail on the requirement for additional school places is contained in the district/borough commentaries which follow. For 2024-25 and 2025-26 many projects are already in progress. For later years, the need for expansion in planning groups has been noted, but specific schools may not have been identified. For projects beyond 2025 the commissioning proposals may be dependent on the pace of planned housing development being realised. A Countywide summary of the proposals for primary, secondary and SEN school places in each district/borough are set out in Section 3.7.

Figure 7a shows the Kent birth rate and the number of recorded births as published by the Office of National Statistics (ONS). Births recorded by the ONS provide a consistent way of measuring and demonstrating changes in births over the last 30 years; it should be noted that the quantum of school places needed is not solely driven by the number of births and our forecasting takes into account those children resident in the county that were born elsewhere, and the forecast inward migration led by housing growth and other factors. Overall, Kent birth figures indicate a significant fall in the number of births since 2017 but show a slight upturn in 2021 before dropping back slightly in 2022.

Figure 7a: Kent births and birth rates 1990-2022



*Source: Office for National Statistics, 2021

Figure 7b sets out the long-term population forecasts as generated by Kent Analytics. These represent a resident-based forecast of the number of children projected to reside in each district in the relevant periods, incorporating each district’s adopted housing plans. These long-term forecasts provide strategic context to the Plan and forecast beyond the period that the more detailed school-based forecasts (included in each District section of this document) can offer.

At a County level, these forecasts suggest that the number of primary aged children will decrease by 2,273 pupils by 2028-29. However, the cohort is then forecast to increase steadily and by 2033-34 the primary aged population will have increased by 918 pupils over the 2023-24 total. The number of secondary aged young people is forecast to rise by 2,712 over the next five years, however by 2038-39 there will be a slight reduction back to around the 2023-24 figure. Whilst in the short and medium term, the forecast is significantly affected by recent and current birth rates, in the long term additional housing growth has greater influence on the total school age population forecasts.

There are distinct differences in the population forecasts between the district/boroughs which need to be considered when making commissioning decisions. For example, both the primary and secondary aged child population in Ashford is expected to rise while in Folkestone and Hythe the school aged population is expected to fall throughout the period.

Figure 7b: Long term population projections by district (KCC Business Intelligence)

District	Primary Children Aged 4-11 Years				Secondary Children Aged 11-16 Years			
	2023-24	2028-29	2033-34	2038-39	2023-24	2028-29	2033-34	2038-39
Ashford	12,310	12,357	13,141	14,043	9,351	9,863	9,526	9,913
Canterbury	11,569	11,564	12,005	12,542	9,624	9,642	9,311	9,585
Dartford	12,413	12,473	12,227	12,502	8,773	9,477	9,553	9,281
Dover	9,126	8,885	8,902	8,859	7,256	7,372	6,865	6,880
Folkestone and Hythe	8,225	7,909	8,006	8,226	6,546	6,321	5,927	5,957
Gravesham	10,323	10,153	10,232	10,475	7,646	8,034	7,543	7,559
Maidstone	16,205	15,860	16,011	16,420	11,721	12,417	12,047	12,133
Sevenoaks	10,978	10,796	11,446	12,267	8,670	8,720	8,438	8,763
Swale	13,902	13,422	13,484	13,953	10,543	10,731	10,281	10,191
Thanet	11,613	11,374	11,853	12,734	9,148	9,382	8,931	8,956
Tonbridge and Malling	12,293	12,351	12,879	13,460	9,479	9,922	9,785	10,096
Tunbridge Wells	10,092	9,630	9,780	10,306	8,959	8,545	8,096	8,098
Kent	139,048	136,775	139,966	145,787	107,715	110,427	106,303	107,411

Figure 7c: Housing completions and future housing supply 2001-26

District	Completions				Period 2021-26			Grand total 2001-26
	2001-06	2006-11	2011-16	2016-21	Extant	Allocations	Total	
Ashford	4,020	2,653	2,484	4,072	3,924	1,807	5,731	18,960
Canterbury	2,662	3,651	2,417	2,338	4,493	621	5,114	16,182
Dartford	2,839	2,423	2,926	4,391	1,629	2,885	4,514	17,093
Dover	1,796	1,507	1,850	2,310	3,300	235	3,535	10,998
Folkestone & Hythe	2,451	1,513	1,286	2,279	2,945	1,368	4,313	11,842
Gravesham	1,283	1,554	1,190	1,150	2,309	0	2,309	7,486
Maidstone	3,232	3,629	3,069	7,193	5,093	0	5,093	22,216
Sevenoaks	1,487	1,363	1,420	1,701	2,022	0	2,022	7,993
Swale	3,196	3,332	2,430	3,445	3,578	1,385	4,963	17,366
Thanet	2,214	3,773	1,750	2,070	3,307	1,715	5,022	14,829
Tonbridge & Malling	3,169	3,358	3,058	3,320	2,878	0	2,878	15,783
Tunbridge Wells	1,790	2,031	1,343	2,855	2,839	148	2,987	11,006
Kent	30,139	30,787	25,223	37,124	38,317	10,164	48,481	171,754

Source: Housing Information Audit (HIA) 2020-21, Kent Analytics, KCC

Notes:

- (1) Housing data relates to financial year (i.e. 2020-21 is the year up to 31st March 2021)
- (2) The first four 5-year time periods between 2001-21 show actual housing completions
- (3) The period 2021-26 shows expected housing completions (extant permissions and allocations)
- (4) No data was provided for Gravesham, Maidstone, Sevenoaks and Tonbridge & Malling allocations

*Completions - Dwellings completed; Extant- Dwellings with planning permission but construction not yet completed; Allocations - Dwellings within an area designated for future housing development but not yet with planning permission

Figure 7c outlines the historic and forecast house building by district/borough. All districts/boroughs are planning for significant house building, each district/borough is at a different stage of adopting their Local Plan, the figures above incorporate housing numbers from adopted Local Plans, not every district currently has a Local Plan covering the period 2026-31, however our school-based forecasts incorporate all consented housing whether that housing was allocated within a Local Plan or not.

Around 6,000 dwellings were built annually in the ten-year period up to 31st March 2011. This reduced to circa 5,000 dwellings per year in period 2011-16. A significant step change in housing completions has been seen since 2016-17 with 37,124 new homes built in the five year period 2016-21, an average of 7,425 new homes in each year. A long-term yearly average of around 9,700 dwellings is anticipated for the period 2021-26.

We need to ensure we are planning for the education infrastructure required. How we plan to provide for new housing is outlined in the individual district/borough sections. It is important to note that additional demand for school places from proposed housing plans that do not yet have planning permission or form part of a Borough's adopted Local Plan are not incorporated within the forecasts presented in Figures 7d to 7i. It is equally important to recognise that while surplus places might exist in districts, these will not always be in the right place to support demand generated by new housing.

7.3. Forecast Pupils in Mainstream Primary/Secondary Schools

For Kent primary schools we have seen a steady rise in the overall number of pupils since 2009-10 to 2019-20, rising from 106,097 to 126,251. However, in 2020-21 the primary total saw a slight drop to 125,939, before increasing to 126,768 in 2021-22 and in 2022-23 to 127,765 that represented an annual increase of 997 and represents an increase in excess of 21% since 2009-10.

Figure 7d provides a breakdown of expected surplus or deficit capacity in Year R by district/borough, across the ten-year period to 2032-33. The forecast indicates that there will be surpluses of places across the county for the Plan Period. However, in the individual district/borough sections we break down the expected surplus/deficit of places into smaller planning groups. This enables us to identify in more detail where and when provision may need to be added or removed.

Figure 7d: School-based surplus/deficit capacity summary (Year R) if No Further Action is Taken

District	2022-23 capacity	2022-23 (A)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2032-33 capacity
Ashford	1,715	150	297	229	259	267	270	264	258	254	250	249	1,715
Canterbury	1,544	126	120	219	187	206	205	211	219	229	238	248	1,544
Dartford	1,752	137	126	154	130	110	101	103	95	89	82	78	1,755
Dover	1,350	243	264	216	213	196	187	179	174	170	168	165	1,320
Folkestone & Hythe	1,308	237	210	284	275	265	261	259	261	261	263	264	1,278
Gravesham	1,506	171	206	165	181	172	185	194	202	209	214	219	1,506
Maidstone	2,129	53	111	130	161	83	78	78	67	60	56	53	2,149
Sevenoaks	1,517	232	210	288	201	216	213	209	208	210	212	215	1,467
Swale	2,060	248	156	293	302	278	281	278	272	268	265	260	2,010
Thanet	1,680	178	261	260	332	326	327	335	332	336	335	334	1,635
Tonbridge & Malling	1,772	175	220	197	190	227	220	215	204	196	192	191	1,742
Tunbridge Wells	1,296	112	99	105	116	158	161	166	168	170	173	177	1,301
Kent	19,629	2,062	2,279	2,541	2,548	2,503	2,490	2,492	2,459	2,451	2,448	2,454	19,422

Source: Management Information, Children, Young People and Education, KCC

The overall number of pupils in Kent secondary schools has risen since 2014-15, from 77,931 pupils to 91,785 in 2022-23, an increase in excess of 17% over an eight-year period. This has been driven by larger Year 6 cohorts entering the secondary sector and demand generated by housing development. We anticipate that the Year 7 rolls continue to increase during the Plan Period. This this level of roll will continue to require significant further investment in the secondary estate to maintain sufficiency of school places and will represent a major challenge to the Council and its commissioning partners in the years to come.

Figures 7e and 7f provides a breakdown of expected surplus or deficit capacity in Year 7 by non-selective and selective planning groups, across the 10-year period to 2033-33. Many of districts/boroughs are showing a need for additional non-selective Year 7 secondary school places at some point in the forecast period. Within the selective sector the forecast (Figure 7f) a similar pattern of deficits of Year 7 places throughout the forecast period for the many of planning groups. In part this has been due to selective schools accepting over PAN for a number of years rather than cohorts growing significantly.

The need for additional places in part can be managed through existing schools increasing the number of places offered on a temporary or permanent bases, but as not all of the pressure can be managed this way, there will be a need for new schools or satellites of existing schools. The individual district/borough sections break down the expected surplus/deficit of places into smaller planning groups based on pupil travel to learn patterns for both selective and non-selective. This enables us to identify in more detail where and when provision may be needed.

Figure 7e: Non-selective school-based surplus/deficit capacity summary (Year 7) if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2022-23 capacity	2022-23 (A)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2032-33 capacity
Ashford North	870	0	-32	-40	70	17	20	10	25	144	108	130	938
Canterbury City	710	57	26	19	15	-14	-50	-41	-55	-70	-54	-78	680
Canterbury Coastal	618	-11	-58	-2	16	-1	-14	21	-6	2	75	74	618
Tenterden and Cranbrook	390	46	-16	13	-1	-22	-31	-30	-39	-37	-52	-42	360
Dartford and Swanley	1,260	11	16	36	-2	-15	-34	-100	-45	-65	-25	-52	1,260
Dover	500	76	26	-5	-3	-18	-21	-8	20	27	41	45	420
Deal and Sandwich	435	19	5	-2	16	21	12	11	16	40	27	31	435
Folkestone and Hythe	625	21	-15	-14	34	43	14	36	79	56	122	115	625
Faversham	210	34	7	1	12	13	-27	-13	-10	-42	-12	-28	210
Gravesham and Longfield	1,340	38	-96	-27	-82	-119	-136	-143	-96	-62	-79	-89	1,340
Maidstone District	1,560	-20	-148	-129	-160	-195	-241	-288	-320	-257	-238	-199	1,530
Malling	543	65	66	54	80	86	50	69	77	70	54	79	543
Romney Marsh	180	-15	-19	-22	-15	3	1	-20	-6	7	13	18	180
Sevenoaks and Borough Green	585	-20	6	-22	40	8	23	31	38	46	79	38	630
Isle of Sheppey	390	130	89	78	105	108	112	105	107	110	136	155	390
Sittingbourne	810	-26	-123	-93	-118	-75	-160	-121	-94	-136	-44	-40	765
Thanet District	1,159	2	-21	-22	-30	-23	-34	-10	-19	86	89	139	1,099
Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells	1,584	58	16	96	88	25	53	34	20	71	105	81	1,584
Kent	13,769	465	-271	-81	63	-158	-464	-458	-308	-11	344	377	13,607

Source: Management Information, Children, Young People and Education, KCC

Figure 7f: Selective school-based surplus/deficit capacity summary (Year 7) if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2022-23 capacity	2022-23 (A)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2032-33 capacity
Ashford	420	26	-3	3	5	-12	-16	-20	-19	14	-4	4	420
Canterbury and Faversham	615	-29	14	19	33	16	-24	-2	-11	-27	18	-3	645
North West Kent	720	-3	-19	-8	-22	-33	-36	-57	-37	-40	-15	-20	720
Dover District	440	35	5	5	20	6	8	1	24	41	47	49	440
Folkestone and Hythe District	330	-26	33	34	31	30	33	30	31	30	34	31	330
Gravesham and Longfield	420	-18	-66	-39	-62	-72	-79	-82	-70	-60	-67	-71	420
Sittingbourne and Sheppey	300	30	-24	8	7	21	-4	13	12	4	36	39	300
Thanet District	345	-7	-2	8	6	8	4	15	9	20	24	35	345
Maidstone and Malling	785	9	13	18	12	5	-22	-33	-44	-27	-30	-9	815
West Kent	1,265	-26	-48	-22	-7	-53	-40	-29	-6	5	70	51	1,235
Cranbrook	60	0	22	25	31	26	18	19	18	16	17	10	90
Kent	5,700	-9	-74	52	53	-57	-158	-146	-94	-23	129	116	5,760

Source: Management Information, Children, Young People and Education, KCC

7.4. Travel to School Flows

Figures 7g and 7h outline the travel to school flows for selective and non-selective provision in Kent districts. There are big differences between both the scale of travel to school flows and the direction of flows between districts; for example, Sevenoaks has a net outflow of circa 3,400 pupils across the selective and non-selective sectors combined (excluding out of county pupils), whereas Maidstone has a net inflow of over 850 pupils. Dartford had the highest number of out of county pupils with over 1,500 traveling from adjacent boroughs. Tunbridge Wells has a high flow of pupils into the District particularly to access both non-selective denominational provision and selective provision. Tonbridge and Malling has high flows into and out of the District for both selective and non-selective provision.

Figure 7g: Travel to school flows for non-selective pupils (years 7-11) in Kent mainstream schools (Autumn 2022)

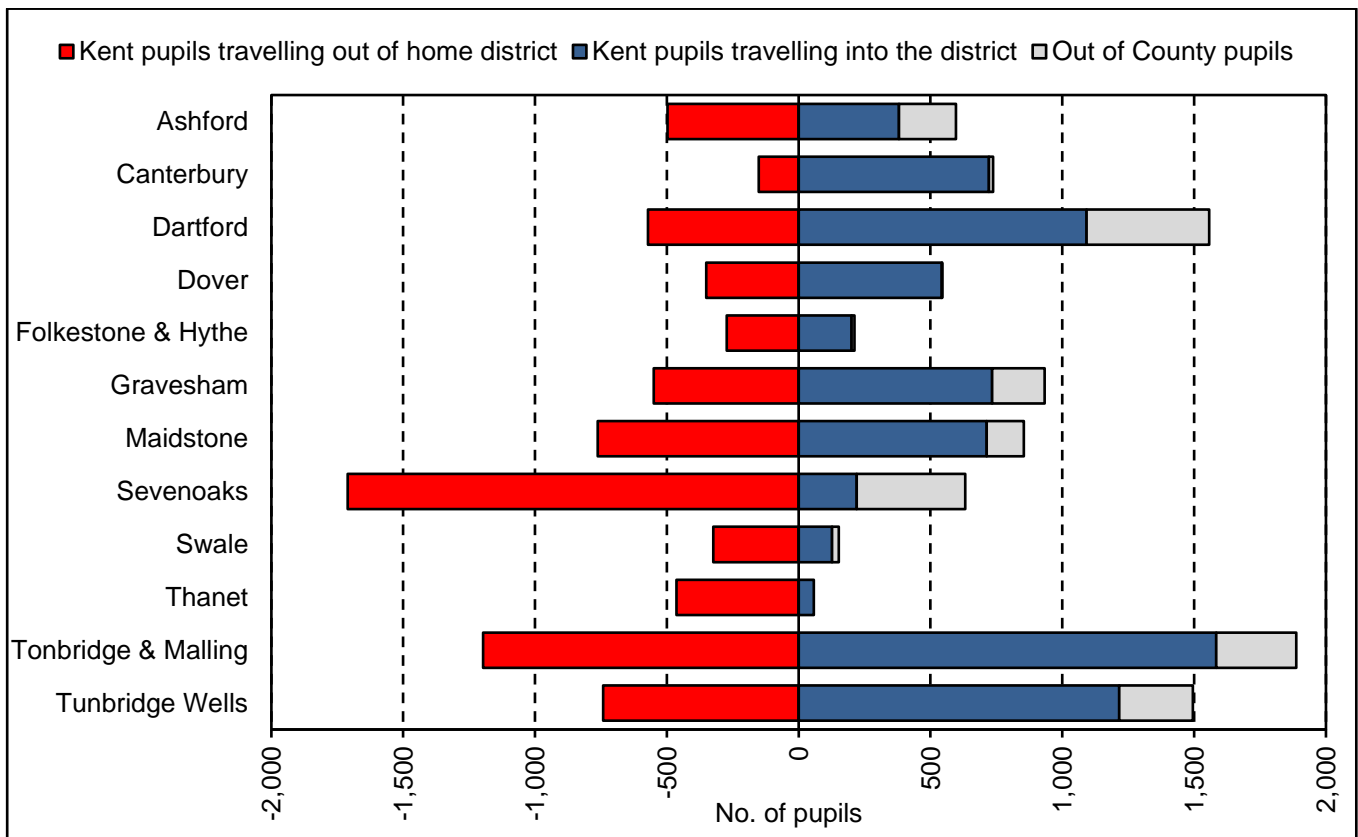
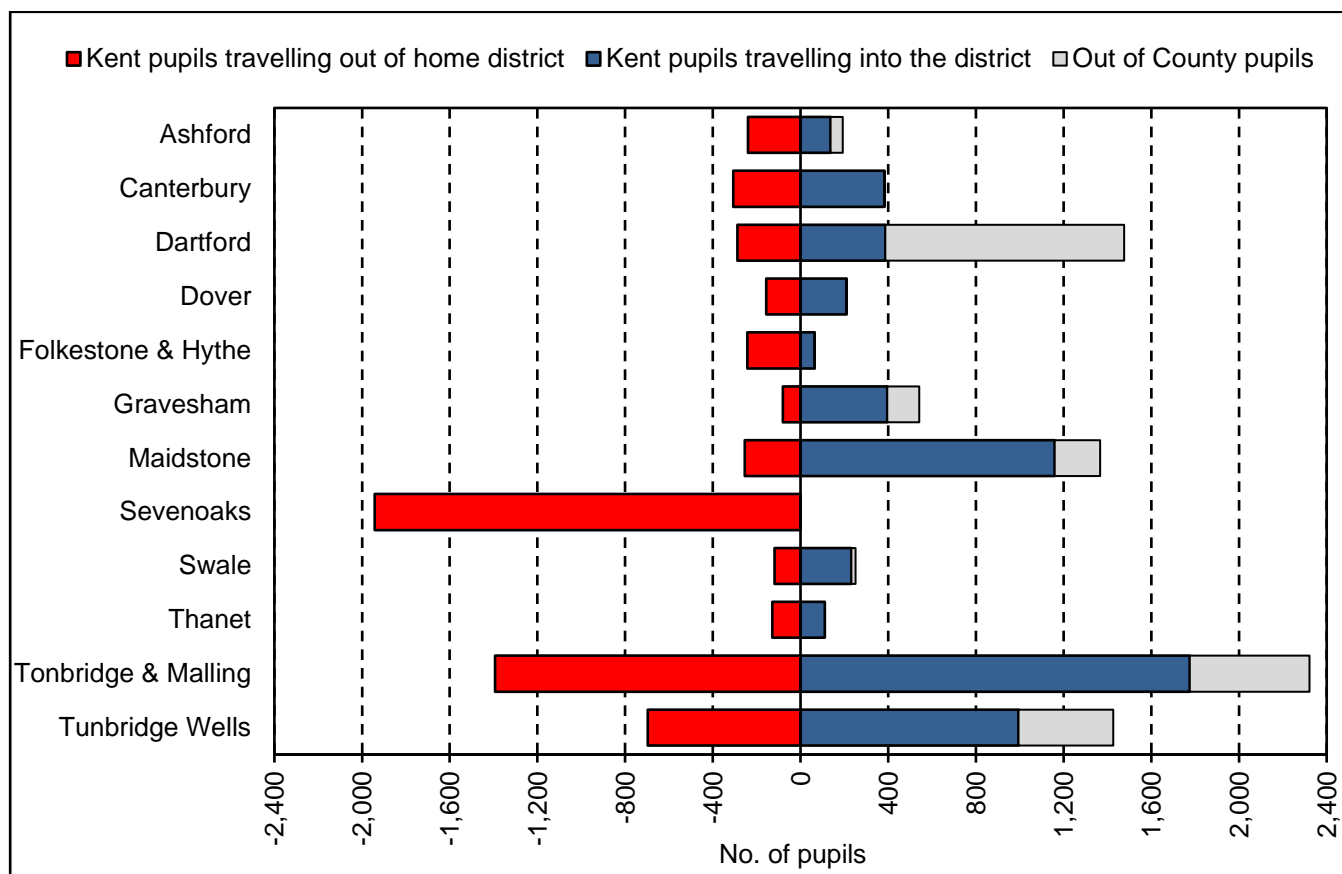


Figure 7h: Travel to school flows for selective grammar pupils (years 7-11) in Kent mainstream schools (Autumn 2022)



Source: Management Information and Intelligence, Children, Young People and Education, KCC

Notes:

(1) Actual roll data 2022-23 - Schools Census, Autumn 2022

(2) Data excludes Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover

(3) The Sevenoaks Annex of Weald of Kent Grammar School is treated as being located in Tonbridge and Malling and the Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys is treated as being located in Tunbridge Wells.

7.5. Migration into Kent

Figure 7i sets out the net migration by pre-school, primary school and secondary school ages for 2019 and 2020. This shows that there was a significant decline in net migration of school-age children to Kent; this includes three months of the Covid crisis where families may have put planned moves on (temporary) hold from the start of the pandemic in mid-March 2020 to end June 2020.

Figure 7i: Pre-school (0-3 year olds), primary (4-10 year olds) and secondary aged (11-15 year olds) net migration year ending 30th June 2020

District	2019				2020			
	Kent districts*	London	Elsewhere	Total	Kent districts*	London	Elsewhere	Total
Pre-school	46	1,420	-368	1,098	67	1,051	-252	865
Primary	133	2,017	-408	1,742	67	1,576	-326	1,317
Secondary	22	956	-122	856	62	815	-127	750

*Including Medway

Source: Office for National Statistics, Table IM2018-20

Across the County as a whole, any fluctuation in migration may only have a small proportional impact on pupil numbers. However, at a district/borough level the fluctuation from one year to the next can be significant requiring the LA to respond swiftly to ensure sufficient school places.

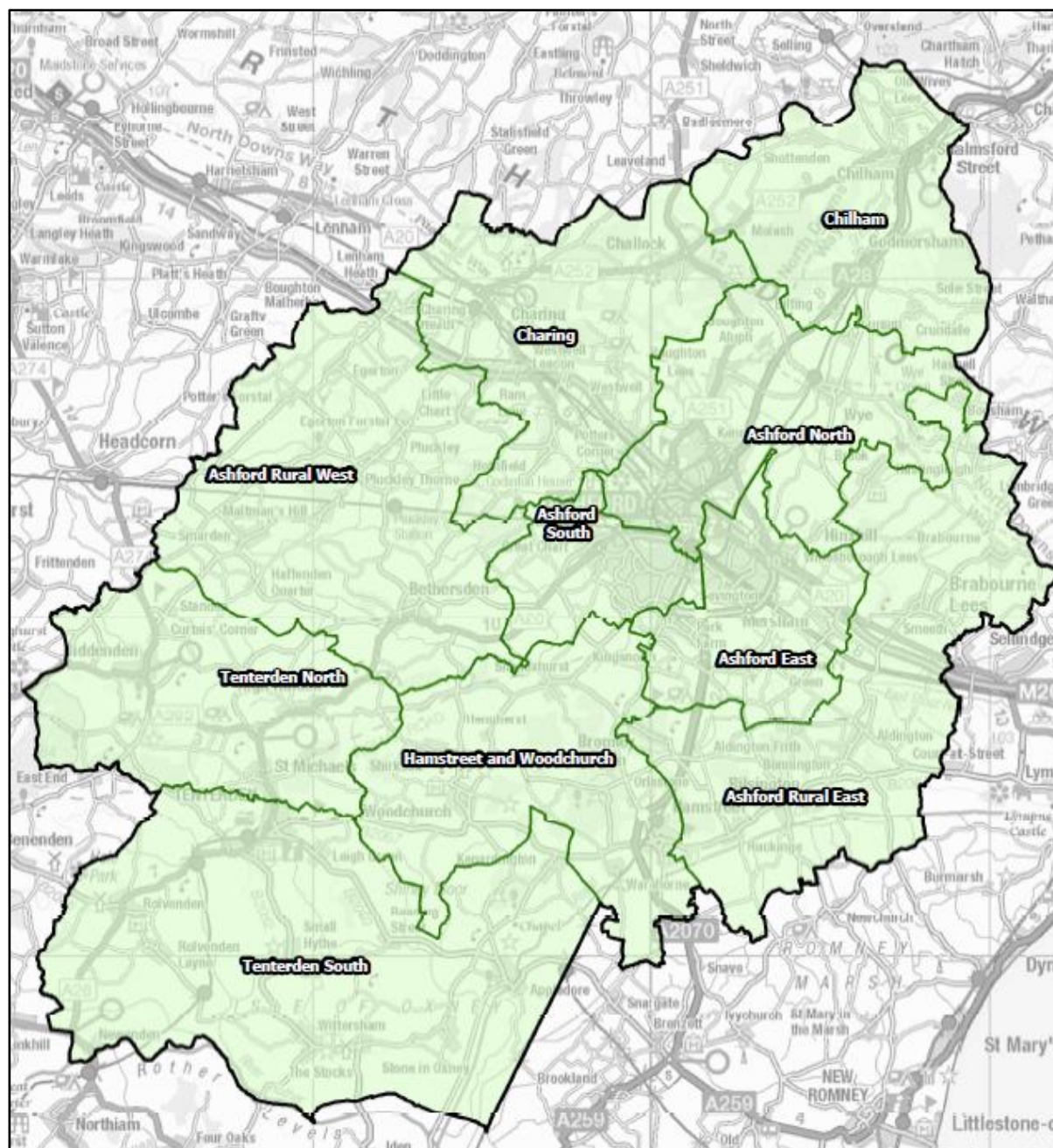
8. Commissioning Statutory School Provision by Districts

8.1. Ashford

Borough Commentary

- The birth rate in Ashford (2021) has continued on a downward trend since 2017, at a greater rate than both the County and national averages. The number of recorded births (2022) has risen by 26 births but is still 130 births below the last high point in 2017.
- We forecast an increasing surplus of primary school places across the District throughout the Plan period, although housebuilding will create some localised pressures which may need to be addressed.
- The opening of Chilmington Green Secondary School off-site from September 2023 added a further 120 places into the system. This alongside the additional places offered in existing secondary schools ensured sufficient Year 7 places across the Borough for September 2023.
- Once Chilmington Green locates onto the permanent site, 180 places will be offered. This will ensure sufficient secondary school places across the Ashford North non-selective planning group which has been under pressure.
- The Local Plan (up to 2030) was adopted in the first quarter of 2019. Within the Plan, the Borough Council have identified that up to 13,544 new homes could be delivered by 2030. This equates to an average of 1,129 new homes per annum. During the period 2011/12 to 2020/21 an average of 647 homes were completed per annum (Kent Analytics Statistical Bulletin May 2023).

Map of the Ashford Borough primary planning groups



Ashford primary schools by planning group

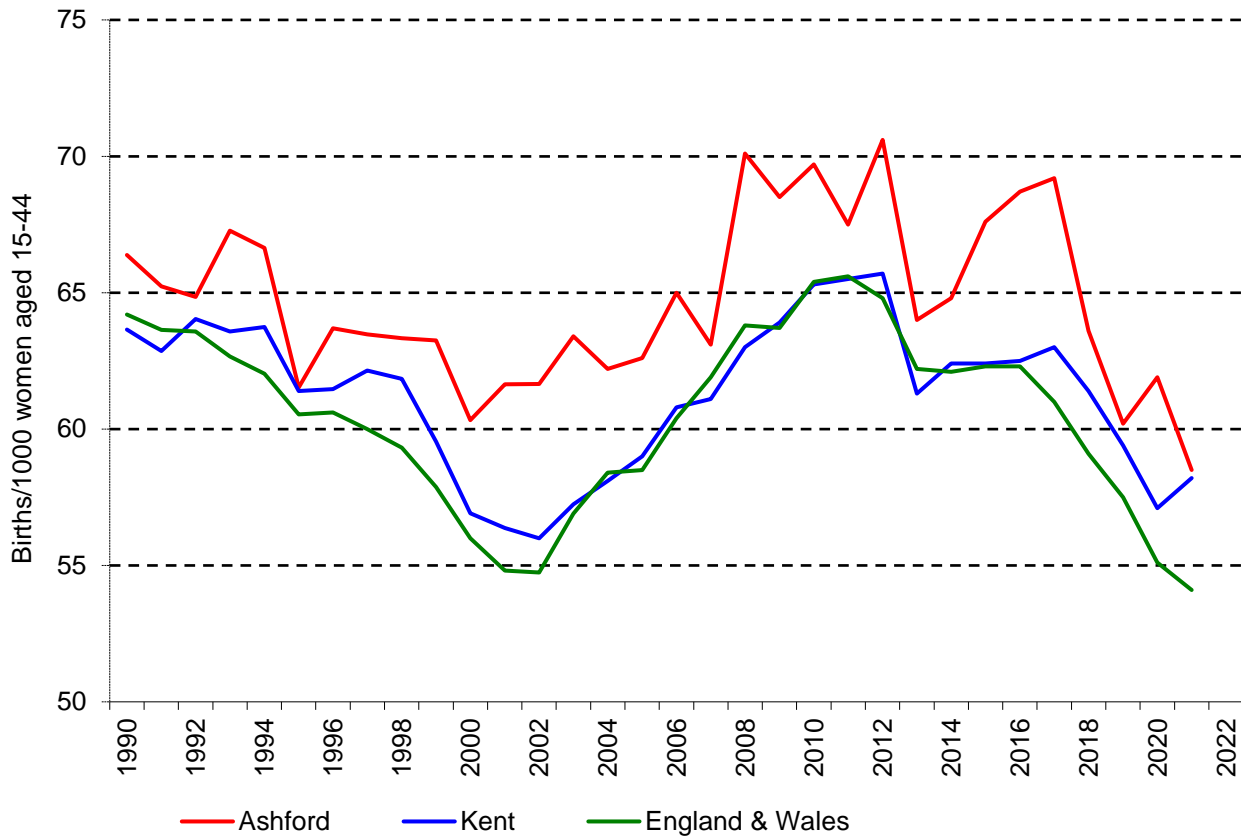
Planning Groups	School	Status
Chilham	St. Mary's CE Primary School (Chilham)	Voluntary Controlled
Charing	Challock Primary School	Foundation
	Charing CE Primary School	Academy
Ashford North	Downs View Infant School	Community
	Goat Lees Primary School	Foundation
	Godinton Primary School	Academy
	Kennington CE Academy	Academy
	Lady Joanna Thornhill Endowed Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Phoenix Community Primary School	Foundation
	Repton Manor Primary School	Foundation
	St. Mary's CE Primary School (Ashford)	Voluntary Aided
St. Teresa's RC Primary School	Academy	

Planning Groups	School	Status
	Victoria Road Primary School	Community
Ashford Rural East	Aldington Primary School	Foundation
	Brabourne CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Brook Community Primary School	Foundation
	Smeeth Community Primary School	Foundation
Ashford East	East Stour Primary School	Academy
	Finberry Primary School	Academy
	Furley Park Primary Academy	Academy
	Kingsnorth CE Primary School	Academy
	Mersham Primary School	Foundation
	Willesborough Infant School	Community
	Willesborough Junior School	Foundation
Ashford South	Ashford Oaks Primary School	Community
	Beaver Green Primary School	Academy
	Chilmington Green Primary School	Free
	Great Chart Primary School	Community
	John Wallis CE Academy	Academy
	John Wesley CE and Methodist Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	St. Simon of England RC Primary School	Academy
Ashford Rural West	Bethersden School	Community
	Egerton CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Pluckley CE Primary School	Academy
	Smarden Primary School	Academy
Hamstreet and Woodchurch	Hamstreet Primary Academy	Academy
	Woodchurch CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Tenterden North	High Halden CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	John Mayne CE Primary School	Academy
	St. Michael's CE Primary School	Academy
Tenterden South	Rolvenden Primary School	Academy
	Tenterden CE Junior School	Academy
	Tenterden Infant School	Academy
	Wittersham CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided

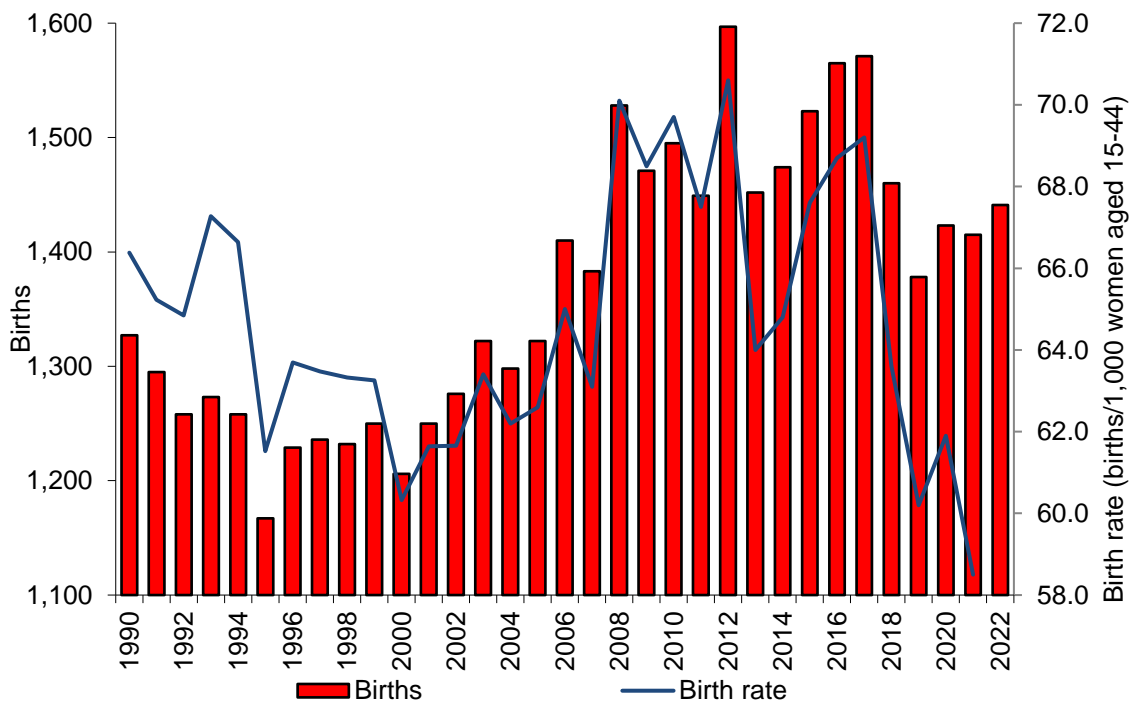
Birth rate and births analysis

the charts below set out the birth rates for the Borough and the number of recorded births.

Ashford, Kent and England & Wales birth rates 1990-2022



Ashford births and birth rate 1990-2022



Ashford Forecasts

Primary - Year R surplus/deficit capacity if no further action is taken

Planning Group name	2022-23 capacity	2022-23 (A)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2032-33 capacity
Chilham	15	4	2	5	6	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	15
Challock and Charing	50	3	3	4	-3	-3	-3	-3	-4	-4	-4	-4	50
Ashford North	450	2	79	59	50	82	81	77	73	70	67	64	450
Ashford Rural East	80	21	13	16	13	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	80
Ashford East	420	66	91	45	89	58	57	55	52	50	47	45	420
Ashford South	390	32	90	93	92	108	111	112	112	113	114	115	390
Ashford Rural West	80	-3	4	2	-6	-8	-7	-6	-5	-5	-4	-2	80
Hamstreet and Woodchurch	71	8	5	4	7	3	3	1	0	0	-1	-1	71
Tenterden North	65	6	3	3	4	2	2	2	2	3	3	4	65
Tenterden South	94	11	8	-2	7	13	14	14	15	16	16	17	94
Ashford	1,715	150	297	229	259	267	270	264	258	254	250	249	1,715

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Secondary - Forecast Year 7 surplus/deficit capacity if no further action is taken

Planning Group name	2022-23 capacity	2022-23 (A)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2032-33 capacity
Ashford North Non-Selective	870	0	-32	-40	70	17	20	10	25	144	108	130	938
Tenterden and Cranbrook Non-Selective	390	46	-16	13	-1	-22	-31	-30	-39	-37	-52	-42	360
Ashford Selective	420	26	-3	3	5	-12	-16	-20	-19	14	-4	4	420

Primary Borough Commentary

There are forecast to be surplus Year R places across the Plan period. Two planning groups are forecast to have a deficit of Year R places: Challock and Charing, and Ashford Rural West.

Ashford North Planning Group

Forecasts suggest a significant surplus from 2023/24 until the end of the decade. The increasing need for primary school places in the planning group over the last few years has been driven by ongoing developments in and around central Ashford which have been completed.

In the longer term, planned new developments north of the M20 between Kennington, Willesborough and Eureka Park will increase demand. To address the need for primary school places to support new housing in and around the planning group, the Local Plan makes provision for a new 2FE primary school to be incorporated into the 'Conningbrook Park' development. This development has only just started with the primary school land unlikely to be secured until 2027 at the earliest. It is therefore unlikely that the school will be required until the latter part of the decade.

Ashford East Planning Group

Although forecasts suggest a significant level of surplus places across the Plan period (11% surplus capacity across Year R 2032-33). The level of surplus places may well reduce as existing, permitted and allocated sites come forward. This included: Finberry, Waterbrook, New Town Works, Park Farm, Court Lodge and Willesborough Lees.

The Local Plan makes provision for a new 2FE primary school to be incorporated into the 'Court Lodge' development area, to meet the longer-term primary education needs driven by that development. The masterplan for the development is still in progress, so we would not expect the new primary school to be available until the latter part of this decade.

Charing and Challock Planning Group

Forecasts suggest a small deficit of primary school places throughout the Plan period. This is primarily due to Charing Church of England Primary School taking over their published admissions numbers in some year groups. Additionally, the forecasts consider the impact of consented development in the planning group.

As development has not moved forward as expected, the expansion of the school is not required until the latter half of the decade. In the interim, it is expected that local families will be able to secure places in schools within the planning area and those applying from further afield will secure place closer to their homes.

Should things change and additional places be required earlier than expected, plans are in place to add two new classrooms, enabling the expansion of Charing CE Primary School by 0.3FE.

Ashford Rural West Planning Group

Forecasts suggest a small deficit of places in this planning group from the 2025/26 academic year. This is due to an academy offering over their Published Admissions Number for several years. Should the Academy choose not to offer over their published Admissions Number in the future, it is expected that local families will be able to secure places in schools within the planning area and those applying from further afield will secure places closer to their homes.

Tenterden North Planning Group

Forecasts suggest that there will be less than 2% surplus Year R capacity in the academic year 2026/27. However, it is expected that local families will be able to secure places in schools within the planning area and those applying from further afield will secure places closer to their homes.

Hamstreet and Woodchurch Planning Group

Development within the planning group may lead to the need for additional primary school provision. As such, contributions have been sought to enable Hamstreet Primary Academy to expand by 0.5FE when required. Forecasts suggest that there will be a small deficit of places at the end of the Plan period.

Tenterden South Planning Group

Forecasts suggest that there will be a small deficit of places in the 2024-25 academic year (-2 places). It is expected that local families will be able to secure places in schools within the planning area and those applying from further afield will secure places closer to their homes.

Secondary Borough Commentary

There are three planning groups which are within Ashford Borough, or which cross the Borough boundary (See appendix 13.2 for the non-selective and selective planning group maps). Two planning groups are non-selective (Ashford North, Tenterden and Cranbrook), one selective. The commentary below outlines the forecast position for each of the planning groups.

Ashford North Non-Selective Planning Group

There are four existing schools in the Ashford North non-selective planning group: John Wallis Church of England Academy, The North School, The Towers School and Sixth Form Centre and Wye School. In addition, Chilmington Green Secondary School will open off-site in September 2023 offering 120 Year R places.

The opening of Chilmington Green Secondary School alongside the additional places offered in existing secondary schools ensured sufficient Year 7 places across the Borough for September 2023.

Once Chilmington Green locates onto the permanent site, 180 places will be offered. This will ensure sufficient secondary school places across the planning group through the Plan period.

Tenterden and Cranbrook Non-Selective Planning Group

The deficit of places forecast in the Tenterden and Cranbrook planning group is a legacy of the closure of High Weald Academy and rising secondary school rolls.

The forecast -16 places deficit for September 2023 was managed through the opening of Chilmington Green Secondary School (Ashford North) alongside the additional places offered in existing secondary schools in the Borough. The new school will change future pupil travel patterns; therefore, we anticipate that the forecast deficit in this planning area across the Plan period will not be seen.

Ashford Selective Planning Group

There are two selective schools in the Borough: Highworth Grammar School and The Norton Knatchbull Grammar School. Forecasts suggest that there will be a small deficit of places throughout the Plan period, but we anticipate that this could be managed within the existing schools.

Planned Commissioning – Ashford

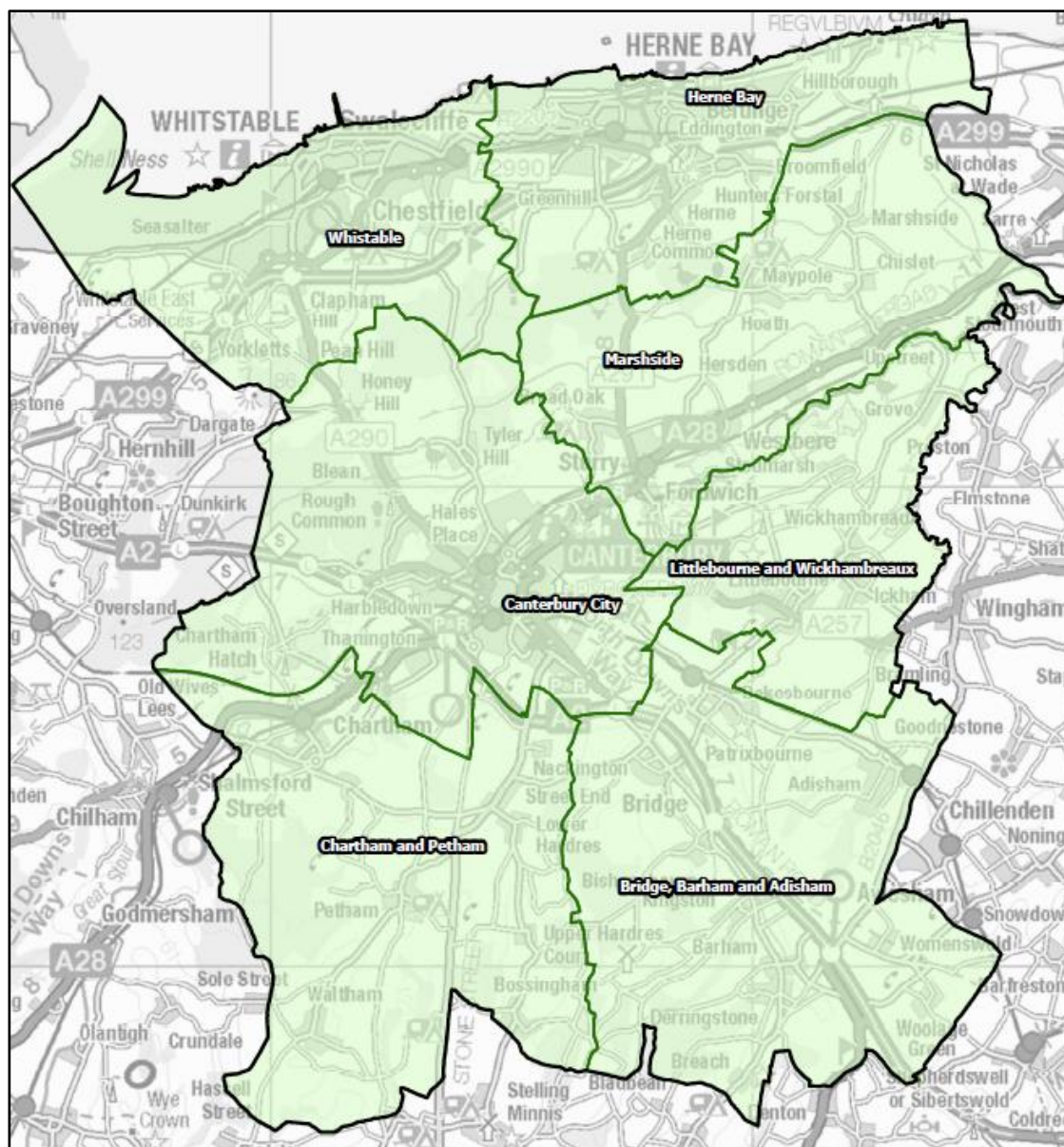
Planning Group	By 2024-25	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	By 2027-28	Between 2028-31	Post 2031
Ashford East					2FE of new provision at Court Lodge	
Ashford North					2FE New provision at Conningbrook Park	
Charing					0.3FE Charing CEPS	
Hamstreet and Woodchurch					0.5FE Hamstreet Primary Academy	
Ashford South						2FE of new provision at Chilmington Green
Ashford North Non-Selective		Additional 2FE (60 places) Chilmington Green				2FE Expansion of Chilmington Green

8.2. Canterbury

District commentary

- The Canterbury district birth rate differs to Kent and the national picture as it is significantly lower, reflecting the large student population. The birth rate has had a downward trend since the 1990s. However, following a sharp fall in 2020, Canterbury's birth rate and the number of births rose notably in 2021 to around the rate evident in 2017.
- We forecast surplus primary school places across the District throughout the forecast period, however there are specific planning groups that show pressure. Within the secondary sector, we forecast pressures on capacity for non-selective planning groups but surplus capacity until 2027/28 for selective places.
- Canterbury City Council's current Local Plan, adopted on 13 July 2017, proposed a total of just over 16,000 new homes during the Plan period up to 2031. This equates to an average of 925 dwellings per annum. During the 2011/12 to 2020/21 a total of 4298 houses were completed (NET) with an average of 430 per year.
- Canterbury City Council is in the process of re-drafting their Local Plan following the previous public consultation in October 2022. This will set out the blueprint for the district until 2040. The council is preparing to undertake another Regulation 18 consultation at the beginning of 2024 before the Local Plan moves to Regulation 19 stage and the plan is examined by an inspector and a final decision is made.

Map of the Canterbury Primary Planning Groups



Canterbury Primary Schools by Planning Group

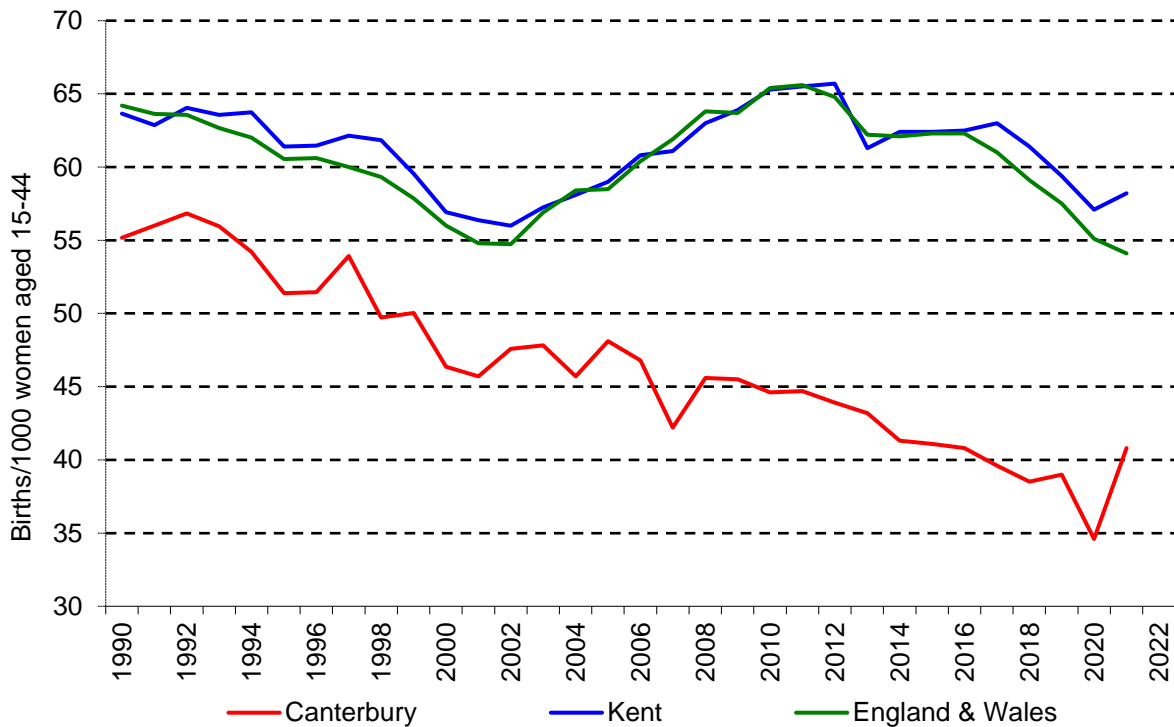
Planning Group	School	Status
Canterbury City	Blean Primary School	Community
	Canterbury Primary School	Academy
	Parkside Community Primary School	Foundation
	Pilgrims' Way Primary School	Academy
	St. John's CE Primary School (Canterbury)	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Peter's Methodist Primary School (Canterbury)	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Stephen's Infant School	Academy
	St. Stephen's Junior School	Academy
	St. Thomas' RC Primary School (Canterbury)	Voluntary Aided
	Wincheap Foundation Primary School	Foundation
Marshside	Chislet CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Water Meadows Primary School	Academy
	Hoath Primary School	Community
	Sturry CE Primary School	Academy
Bridge, Barham and Adisham	Adisham CE Primary School	Academy

Planning Group	School	Status
	Barham CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Bridge and Patricbourne CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Littlebourne and Wickhambreaux	Littlebourne CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Wickhambreaux CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Chartham and Petham	Chartham Primary School	Academy
	Petham Primary School	Academy
Whitstable	Joy Lane Primary School	Foundation
	St. Alphege CE Infant School	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Mary's RC Primary School (Whitstable)	Academy
	Swalecliffe Community Primary School	Foundation
	Westmeads Community Infant School	Community
	Whitstable and Seasalter Endowed CE Junior School	Voluntary Aided
	Whitstable Junior School	Foundation
Herne Bay	Briary Primary School	Academy
	Hampton Primary School	Academy
	Herne Bay Infant School	Community
	Herne Bay Junior School	Foundation
	Herne CE Infant School	Voluntary Controlled
	Herne CE Junior School	Voluntary Aided
	Reculver CE Primary School	Academy

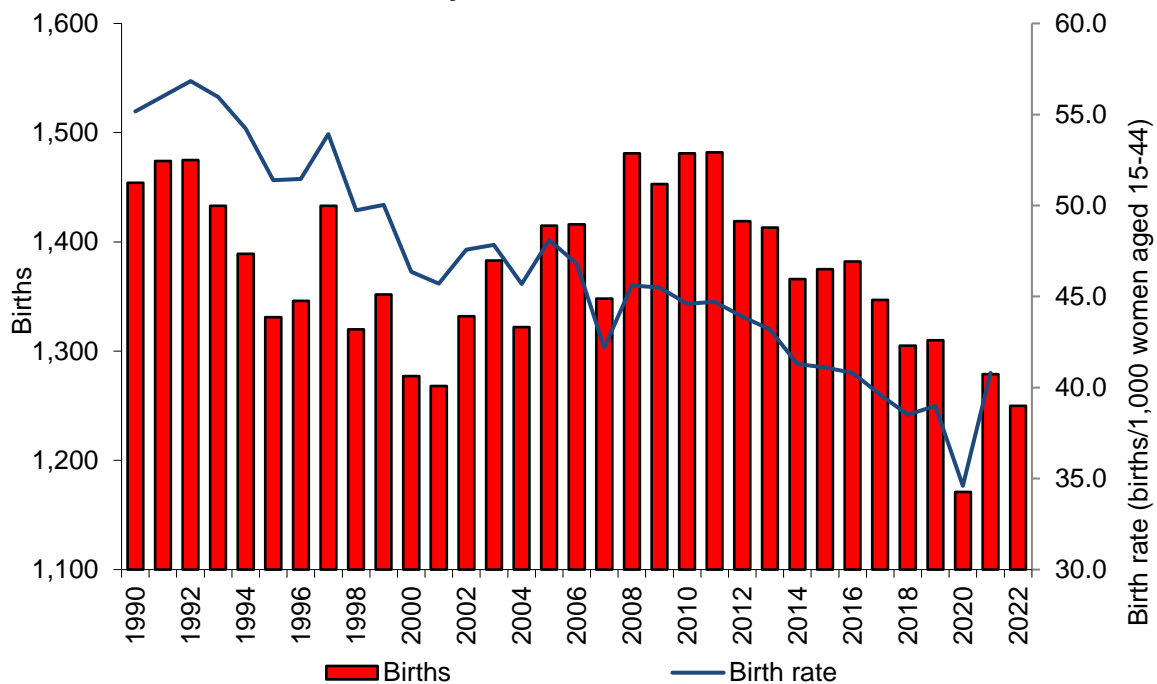
Birth Rate and Birth Analysis

The charts below set out the birth rates for the district and the number of recorded births.

Canterbury, Kent and England & Wales birth rates 1990-2022



Canterbury births and birth rate 1990-2022



Canterbury Forecasts

Primary - Year R Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2022-23 capacity	2022-23 (A)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2032-33 capacity
Canterbury City	465	31	27	31	14	18	25	33	44	58	75	94	465
Marshside	119	8	-1	9	8	-7	-13	-18	-22	-22	-23	-24	119
Bridge, Barham and Adisham	105	8	0	-6	-13	-11	-13	-15	-17	-20	-22	-25	105
Littlebourne and Wickhambreaux	30	0	-5	-8	-8	-6	-6	-7	-7	-8	-8	-9	30
Chartham and Petham	75	13	9	21	21	14	15	16	17	17	17	16	75
Whitstable	360	50	85	122	108	131	133	137	139	140	140	138	360
Herne Bay	390	16	6	49	57	67	65	65	65	63	60	56	390
Canterbury	1,544	126	120	219	187	206	205	211	219	229	238	248	1,544

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Secondary - Year 7 Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2022-23 capacity	2022-23 (A)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2032-33 capacity
Canterbury City Non-Selective	710	57	26	19	15	-14	-50	-41	-55	-70	-54	-78	680
Canterbury Coastal Non-Selective	618	-11	-58	-2	16	-1	-14	21	-6	2	75	74	618
Canterbury and Faversham Selective	615	-29	14	19	33	16	-24	-2	-11	-27	18	-3	645

Primary District Commentary

Forecasts indicate that across Canterbury district there will be surplus capacity for Year R places. The surplus for Year R fluctuates throughout the forecast period from 187 (6.2FE) surplus for 2025/26 to 248 (8.2FE) for 2032/33 with significant variations across the different Planning Groups.

The lower rate of housebuilding combined with the decline in birth rate has resulted in surplus primary places, particularly in Herne Bay and Whitstable. Pressures in Marshside, Bridge, Barham and Adisham and Littlebourne and Wickhambreaux are offset by surplus capacity in Canterbury City and will help to realign historical travel patterns of pupils travelling out of Canterbury to attend a village school.

Canterbury City Planning Group

Forecasts indicate a surplus of places in the planning group of between 0.5FE for Year R in 2025/26 increasing to 3FE in 2032/33. However, new housing which is currently being built out on the Howe Barracks site in Canterbury (Howe Green) will increase demand in the medium term. To ensure sufficient local places are available, Pilgrims Way School will be expanded by 0.5FE to meet this localised need. The first phase (1FE) of a new 2FE primary school in Thanington will also be established to serve the new housing development of 750 homes. This phased approach will prevent overcapacity in the planning area and help to realign historical travel patterns.

Marshside Planning Group

Forecasts indicate a pressure from 2026/27 of 7 places increasing to over -0.5FE pressure for the plan period. Initially the pressure will be met through surplus capacity in neighbouring planning areas. Later in the forecast period, dependant on the order in which developments are built, we will expand Water Meadows Primary Academy by a form of entry or establish the first phase of a new 2FE primary school in Sturry/Broad Oak to serve the housing development in this planning group.

Littlebourne and Wickhambreaux Planning Group and Bridge, Barham and Adisham

Forecasts indicate that there will be a pressure for Year R places within the planning groups. This is due to the significant number of families who traditionally travel into the planning groups for places. Later in the forecast period, dependant on new housing being bought forward a 1FE expansion of Littlebourne Primary School will be commissioned.

Whitstable Planning Group

Forecasts indicate between 3.5FE and 4.5FE surplus Year R places across the Plan period. Discussions will take place with schools on managing this surplus to ensure all schools remain viable.

Herne Bay Planning Group

Forecasts indicate between 1.5FE and 2FE surplus capacity for Year R places across the Plan period. If new housing developments are delivered in line with the Local Plan, additional capacity will need to be provided later in the plan period. Dependent on the order in which developments are built out, this could be delivered through a 1FE expansion of Briary Primary School or the phased establishment of a new 2FE primary school on the Hillborough development.

Secondary District Commentary

There are three planning groups within Canterbury district, or which cross the Borough boundary (See appendix 13.2 for the non-selective and selective planning group maps). Two planning groups are non-selective (Canterbury City and Canterbury Coastal), one selective. The commentary below outlines the forecast position for each of the planning groups.

Canterbury City Non-Selective Planning Group

There are four schools in the Canterbury City non-selective planning group: Archbishop's School, Barton Manor, Canterbury Academy, and St Anselm's Catholic School.

Forecasts indicate a pressure of -0.5FE from 2026/27 which increases to -2.6FE later in the Plan period. The historical trend of students travelling from the coastal to Canterbury City places pressures on the City Schools and an expansion of Herne Bay High school will help to realign students to the coastal schools near to where they live.

Canterbury Coastal Non-Selective Planning Group

There are three schools in the Canterbury Coastal non-selective planning group: The Whitstable School, Herne Bay High School and Spires Academy.

Year 7 forecasts indicate a fluctuating deficit and surplus places in the planning group. A deficit of 14 places (0.46FE) in 2023/24 to a surplus of 74 (2.5FE) places by 2031/32. The historical trend of students travelling from the coast to Canterbury City is starting to change as the popularity of all coastal schools continues to rise. Feasibilities have been undertaken to explore the future expansion of Herne Bay High by 1.5FE later in the forecast period to support the predicted growth in demand as a result of new housing developments in Herne Bay and reversing the historical trend of students travelling into Canterbury City Schools.

Canterbury and Faversham Selective Planning Group

There are four schools in the Canterbury and Faversham selective planning group: Barton Court Grammar School, Simon Langton Girl's Grammar School, Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys and Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School.

Forecasts indicate a surplus of places in the planning group until 2027 of between 0.5FE and 1FE. From 2027/28 there is a pressure forecast in the planning group of between -0.6FE and 1FE for Year 7 places across the Plan period. Feasibilities will be undertaken at Simon Langton Girls School to expand the school by 1FE.

Planned Commissioning - Canterbury

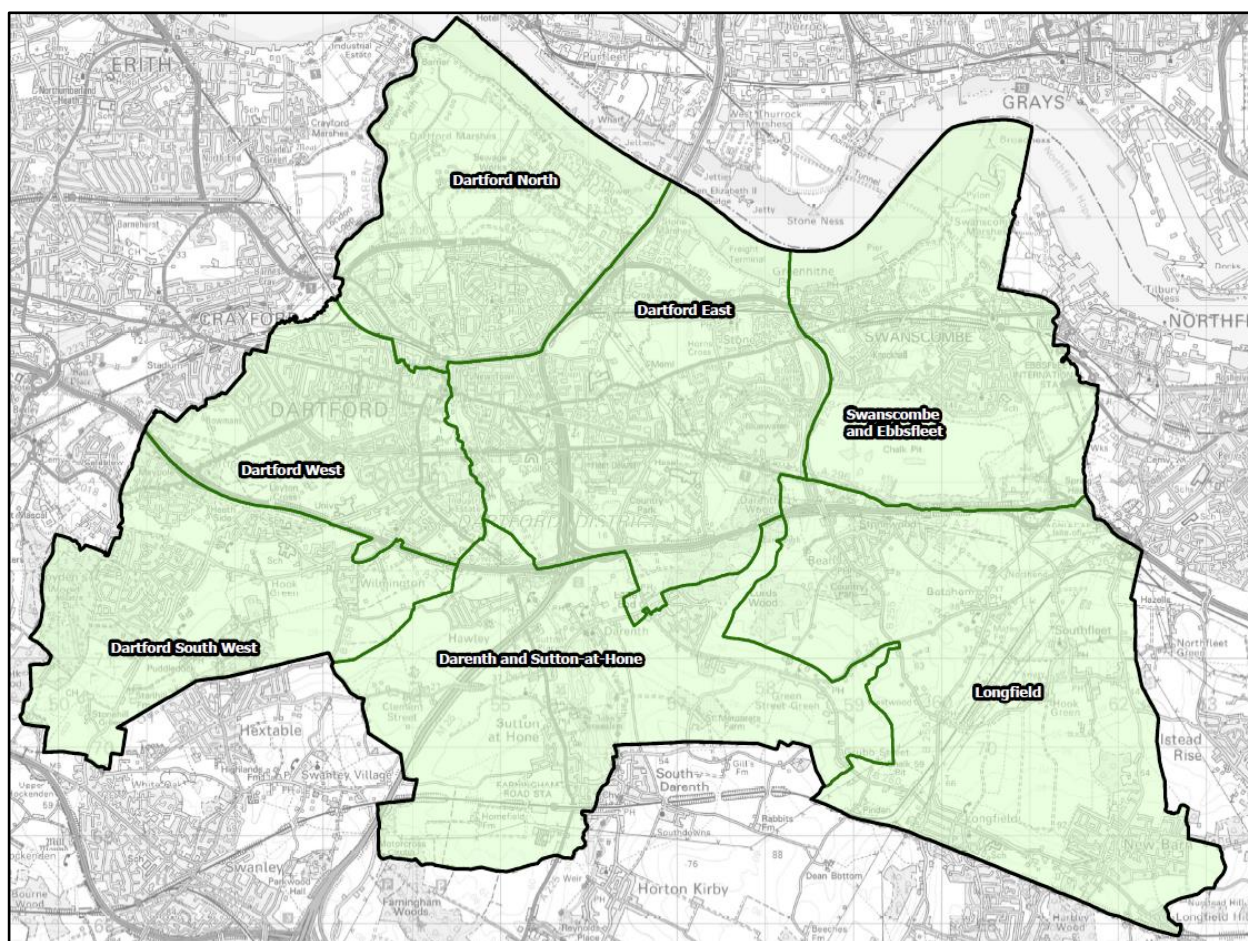
Planning Group	By 2024-25	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	By 2027-28	Between 2028-31	Post 2031
Canterbury City	0.5FE expansion of Pilgrims Way		1FE of new Primary School in Thanington			
Marshside					1FE expansion of Water Meadows or 1 st 1FE of new provision in Sturry/ Broad Oak	
Herne Bay					1FE new provision in Herne Bay or 1FE expansion of Briary PS	
Canterbury Coastal Non-Selective			1.5FE expansion of Herne Bay High School			
Canterbury and Faversham Selective				1FE expansion of Simon Langton Girls School		
Special School			New 120 place Special School on the coast			
Specialist Resourced Provisions						

8.3. Dartford

Borough Summary

- The Dartford birth rate has reduced slightly in 2022, however, the number of births remain significantly higher than the Kent and National averages.
- Primary forecasts indicate surpluses of around 4-5 FE in the first half of the Plan period. The surplus drops from 2027-28 and reduces steadily to about 2.5FE over the remainder of the Plan period.
- Forecasts indicate that there is a deficit of secondary places across all four planning groups that cover the Dartford area for most of the Plan period.
- The first year of the Plan period in the Dartford and Swanley Non-Selective planning group, shows a small surplus. This becomes a deficit from September 2025, peaking at 3FE in 2028. The Gravesham and Longfield Non-Selective planning group shows a more significant deficit from the outset and for the whole of the Plan period, rising to nearly 5FE for September 2028.
- Selective demand in the North West Kent Selective Planning Group is under pressure throughout the whole Plan period, peaking at just below 2FE. The Gravesham and Longfield Planning Group forecasts suggest an even greater deficit, peaking at close to 3FE for September 2028. Any options for creating additional selective capacity will be extremely challenging and KCC may be only able to ensure that the Local Authority statutory duty to provide sufficient places, of any type, is met.
- Dartford Borough Council (DBC) and the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation (EDC) have estimated that between 2011 to 2026, approximately 17,300 new homes would be built. More recently, the EDC has said that 15,000 new homes will be built in their area of responsibility alone. Not all of this new housing has been consented and so it will not appear in the forecasts. KCC is working in collaboration with DBC and EDC to ensure that sufficient places are available to accommodate the children from the new housing, even if it does not feature in the forecasts.
- Redevelopment in other parts of Dartford will add more housing. A new Local Plan is being consulted on and it indicates a target of 790 new dwellings, per annum, for the duration of the plan period.
- Prior to the Covid pandemic, a significant factor to primary and secondary demand in Dartford Borough was the migration from urban centres in Greater London to locations such as Dartford Borough. Migration reduced significantly during the pandemic, but it is not unreasonable to suggest that post Covid, migration will pick up, possibly to pre-Covid levels.

Map of the Dartford Primary Planning Groups



Dartford Primary Schools by Planning Group

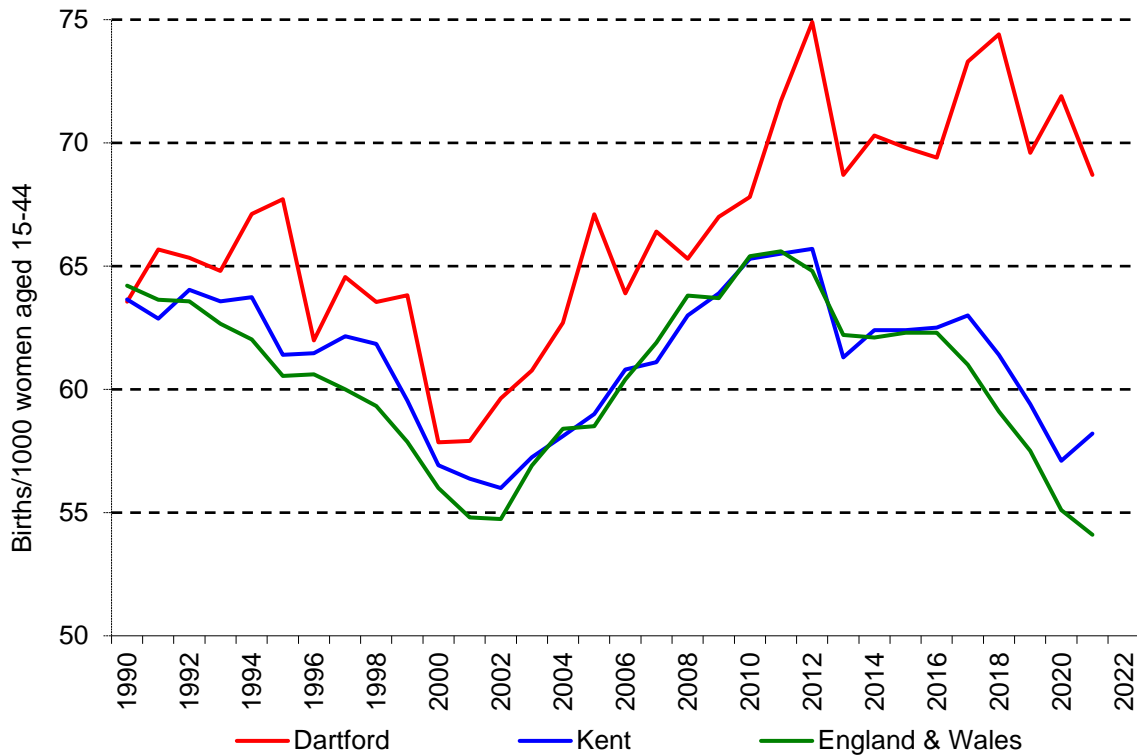
	School	Status
Dartford North	Dartford Bridge Community Primary School	Academy
	Holy Trinity CE Primary School (Dartford)	Voluntary Aided
	River Mill Primary School	Free
	St. Anselm's RC Primary School	Academy
	Temple Hill Primary Academy	Academy
Dartford West	Oakfield Primary Academy	Academy
	Our Lady's RC Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Wentworth Primary School	Academy
	West Hill Primary Academy	Academy
	Westgate Primary School	Academy
Dartford East	Brent Primary School	Academy
	Dartford Primary Academy	Academy
	Fleetdown Primary School	Academy
	Gateway Primary Academy	Academy
	Stone St. Mary's CE Primary School	Academy
Dartford South West	Joyden's Wood Infant School	Academy
	Joyden's Wood Junior School	Academy
	Maypole Primary School	Community
	Wilmington Primary School	Academy
Darenth and Sutton-at-Hone	Greenlands Primary School	Academy
	Sutton-at-Hone CE Primary School	Academy

	School	Status
Swanscombe and Ebbsfleet	Cherry Orchard Academy	Academy
	Craylands School	Community
	Ebbsfleet Green Primary School	Free
	Knockhall Primary School	Academy
	Manor Community Primary School	Academy
Longfield	Bean Primary School	Community
	Langafel CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Sedley's CE Primary School	Academy

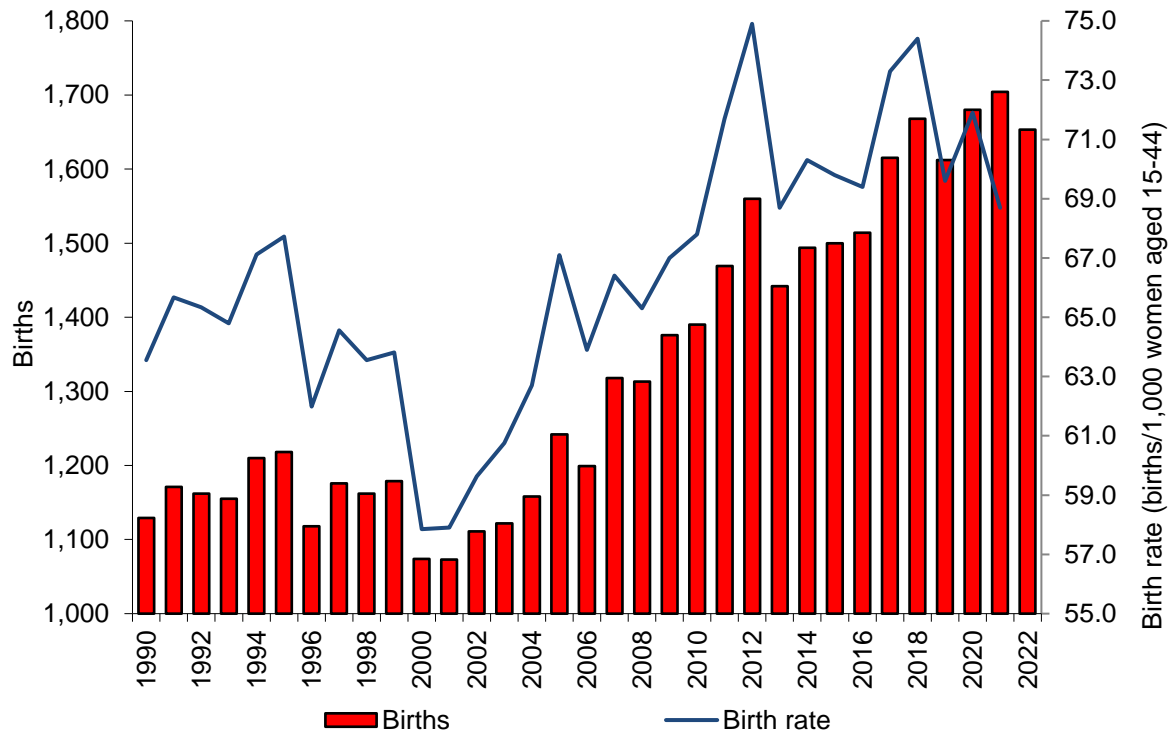
Birth Rate Analysis

The charts below set out the birth rates for the Borough and the number of recorded births.

Dartford, Kent and England & Wales birth rates 1990-2022



Dartford births and birth rate 1990-2022



Dartford Forecasts

Primary - Year R Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2022-23 capacity	2022-23 (A)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2032-33 capacity
Dartford North	330	31	-16	38	19	19	8	0	-9	-19	-29	-37	330
Dartford West	312	0	25	28	44	26	29	32	34	37	39	41	315
Dartford East	390	0	18	7	24	10	10	12	12	12	11	11	390
Dartford South West	180	27	9	19	12	22	24	27	29	31	33	36	180
Darenth and Sutton-at-Hone	90	16	22	22	18	22	23	24	25	26	27	29	90
Swanscombe and Ebbsfleet	360	51	50	30	0	-8	-13	-15	-20	-24	-28	-31	360
Longfield	90	12	18	10	13	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	90
Dartford	1,752	137	126	154	130	110	101	103	95	89	82	78	1,755

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Secondary - Year 7 Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2022-23 capacity	2022-23 (A)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2032-33 capacity
Dartford and Swanley Non-Selective	1,260	11	16	36	-2	-15	-34	-100	-45	-65	-25	-52	1,260
Gravesham and Longfield Non-Selective	1,340	38	-96	-27	-82	-119	-136	-143	-96	-62	-79	-89	1,340
Gravesham and Longfield Selective	420	-18	-66	-39	-62	-72	-79	-82	-70	-60	-67	-71	420
North West Kent Selective	720	-3	-19	-8	-22	-33	-36	-57	-37	-40	-15	-20	720

Primary District commentary

Forecasts for the Borough as a whole, indicate about 5FE surplus for the first three years of the Plan period for year R. This surplus starts to reduce below 4FE from 2026 and continues over succeeding years. Forecasted demand comes from the Dartford North planning group and the Swanscombe and Ebbsfleet planning group.

In addition to the forecast need identified above, plans for further housing across the district will increase the need for school places. Over and above the current planned housing numbers, Dartford Borough Council are currently consulting on their revised local plan which could include up to an additional 7000 units. Housing growth could be exacerbated further by an expansion of the Elizabeth Line from Abbey Wood to Ebbsfleet, which has been proposed by London Local Authorities.

Dartford North Planning Group

New housing on the Dartford Northern Gateway has driven the demand for places in recent years. Forecasts indicate that for the next five years, the number of places in the planning group will be sufficient to accommodate the demand. It has therefore been decided to put any proposal to expand Dartford Bridge Community Primary School on hold until 2028, at the earliest, where the demand indicates a small deficit. If future projections indicate otherwise, then a proposal could be advanced if necessary.

Swanscombe and Ebbsfleet Planning Group

This planning area is significantly impacted by the Ebbsfleet Garden City development area. A new primary school was established on the Ebbsfleet Green development in 2020-21 which opened with 1FE. The increased demand for year R places due to the pace of housebuilding has necessitated that it be expanded to its capacity of 2FE ahead of the projected timeline.

As the Garden City development progresses, a further new 2FE primary provision will be provided at the Alkerden all-through school for September 2026.

In the longer term, should housing be delivered at current rates, two further new primary schools (Ashmere and Ebbsfleet Central) will be required, in addition to the establishment of the primary provision at Alkerden. This will provide a total of 6FE of new primary provision across the Plan period.

Secondary District Commentary

There are two non-selective and two selective planning groups that cover Dartford Borough or which cross the district boundary. See appendix 13.2 for the secondary planning group maps.

Dartford and Swanley Non-Selective Planning Group

There are seven schools in the Dartford and Swanley non-selective planning group: Dartford Science and Technology College, Ebbsfleet Academy, Inspiration Academy, Leigh Academy, Orchards Academy, Stone Lodge School and Wilmington Academy. All the schools are in Dartford Borough, except for Orchards Academy which is in Sevenoaks District.

Demand is manageable without any intervention for the next two years, but provision falls into deficit from 2025, but only marginally. This demand increases to more than 1FE from 2027, and then there is a significant increase from 2028.

To manage this demand, KCC will be proposing to commission 2FE of permanent provision at the Leigh Academy for 2025.

A new 8FE all-ability secondary school, within the Ebbsfleet Garden City development (on the Alkerden campus), is due to open in September 2025, initially offering 4FE of non-selective provision in year 7. This will be provided with temporary accommodation, but it is anticipated that the school will move to the permanent school site a year later. This school was commissioned to provide places for the increased student population, primarily from the new housing, and includes the provision required for housing that has not been consented and therefore is not included in the forecasts.

This school will expand to its maximum capacity of 8FE, the timing of which will be subject to the demand from new housing, but will likely be from 2027.

Gravesham and Longfield Non-Selective Planning Group

There are seven schools in the Gravesham and Longfield non-selective planning group: Longfield Academy, Meopham School, Northfleet Technology College, Northfleet School for Girls, Thamesview School, Saint George's CE School and Saint John's Catholic Comprehensive School.

The planning group is in deficit for the duration of the Plan period. The deficit is 1FE for September 2024, but that deficit increases to 3FE for 2025, and continues to increase to 4FE for 2026, 4.5FE for 2027 and 5FE for 2028. After 2028, the deficit is forecast to decline, but remain at approximately 3FE for the remainder of the Plan period.

For 2024, KCC will commission a second permanent 1FE at Thamesview School, taking the school to 7FE. An additional 2FE will be required in the planning group for 2025, and it is anticipated these will be 1FE at St George's CE School and 1FE at Northfleet Technology College.

In 2026, another 1FE of provision will be required, followed by a further 1FE in 2027. The deficit in 2028 will need to be handled by a bulge year, because that forecast deficit reduces by 2FE for the following year.

Longer term, KCC may need to consider new provision depending on the publication of the Gravesham Local Plan. KCC will monitor the forecasts as the new Gravesham Local Plan becomes clear.

North West Kent Selective Planning Group

There are four schools in the North West Kent selective planning group: Wilmington Grammar School for Girls, Wilmington Grammar School for Boys, Dartford Grammar School and Dartford Grammar School for Girls.

Forecasted demand for selective places in the North West Kent Selective Planning Group indicates that the planning group will now be in deficit for the duration of the Plan period.

For 2024, the deficit is forecast to be under 0.5FE, and will likely be manageable within existing provision. The deficit remains below 1FE until 2026, after which the deficit increases to more than 2FE. The deficit continues at around 2FE, before falling to 1 – 1.5FE for the remainder of the plan period.

Gravesham and Longfield Selective Planning Group

There are two schools in the Gravesham and Longfield selective planning group: Gravesend Grammar School and the Mayfield Grammar School.

The planning group is in deficit for the whole of the planning period. For September 2024, the deficit is 1.5FE. This deficit increases to 2 – 2.5FE deficit for the entirety of the Plan period.

Following expansions to Mayfield Grammar School and the ongoing expansion of Gravesend Grammar School, both Gravesham Grammar Schools are at their capacity and cannot be expanded further. Therefore, this demand, will need to be managed across Borough boundaries or by expansion to existing schools onto other sites, thus creating new Grammar satellites.

Such further expansions will be extremely challenging and KCC will seek to ensure that there is sufficient provision, even if that provision is non-selective. No new grammar schools can be built according to current government legislation.

Given the pressures being anticipated across both Selective Planning Groups, KCC will seek to commission 6FE additional Grammar places for 2026. This could be facilitated through the creation of satellites. However, options to do this are extremely limited and would be logistically challenging and expensive.

Special Educational Needs

Demand for special school places, for all categories remains high. KCC needed to commission a new 250 place special school for Profound Severe and Complex Needs for 2025. A site for a new school was identified in North Sevenoaks and a bid was subsequently submitted for a new Special Free School through KCC's Safety Valve submission. The bid was successful, and it is anticipated the new school will be opened by 2026.

Given the nature of Special Schools and the distances that students travel to receive an appropriate education, the provision will be designed to cater for students in the whole North Kent area.

The new all through school at Alkerden will provide 15 primary Specialist Resource Provision places and 25 secondary places.

Planned Commissioning - Dartford

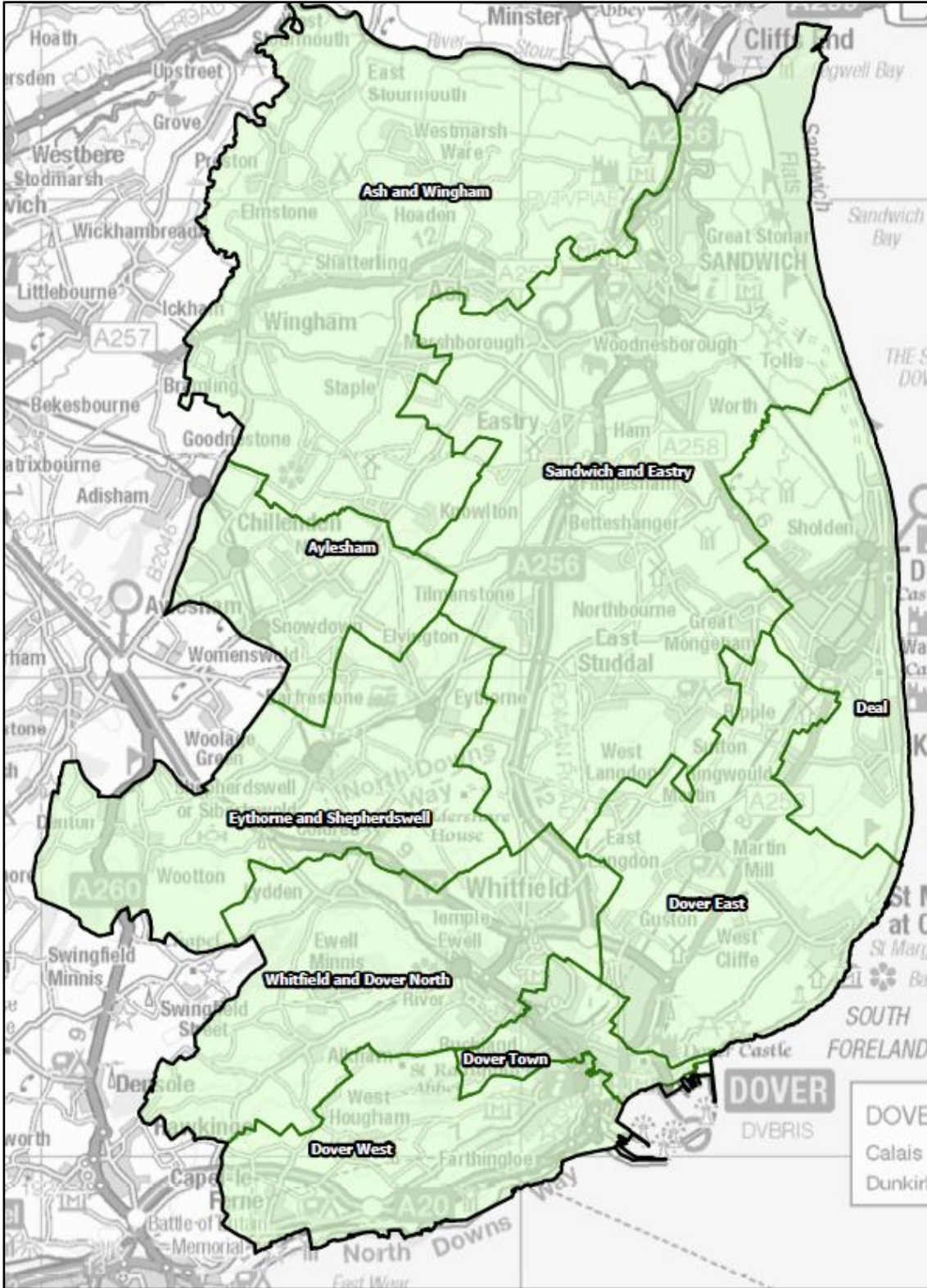
Planning Group	By 2024-25	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	By 2027-28	Between 2028-31	Post 2031
Dartford North						
Swanscombe and Ebbsfleet			1 FE new provision at Alkerden	1FE provision at Ebbsfleet Central 1FE expansion at Alkerden	1FE provision at Ebbsfleet Central 2FE provision at Ashmere	
Dartford and Swanley Non-Selective Planning Group		4FE new provision at Alkerden 2FE permanent expansion at Leigh Academy		2FE expansion at Alkerden	2FE expansion at Alkerden	
Gravesham and Longfield Non-Selective	1 FE permanent expansion Thamesview School	1FE permanent expansion at St George's CE School 1FE at Northfleet Technology College	1FE Permanent expansion	1FE Permanent expansion	30 places as a bulge year	
North West Kent Selective			6FE selective provision			
Specialist Resourced Provisions			15 place primary SRP at Alkerden 25 place secondary SRP at Alkerden			
Special School			1 x New 250 place special school for PSCN covering all of North Kent (repeated from the Sevenoaks) section			

8.4. Dover

District commentary

- The birth rate in Dover District (2021) continued to fall and is 3 points below the County average. The number of recorded births (2022) has risen by 49 from the previous year.
- We forecast sufficient primary school places across the District throughout the Plan period, although there will be some localised pressures associated with house building which may need to be addressed.
- Across the District there will be sufficient secondary school places throughout the Plan period. House building will mean provision will need to increase in some locations in the medium to long term.
- Dover District Council's new Local Plan for the period 2020-2040 has been submitted for examination. We have worked with Dover District Council Officers to consider the impact on the need for additional school places, particularly in the longer term, and have responded to the Plan accordingly.

Map of the Dover primary planning groups



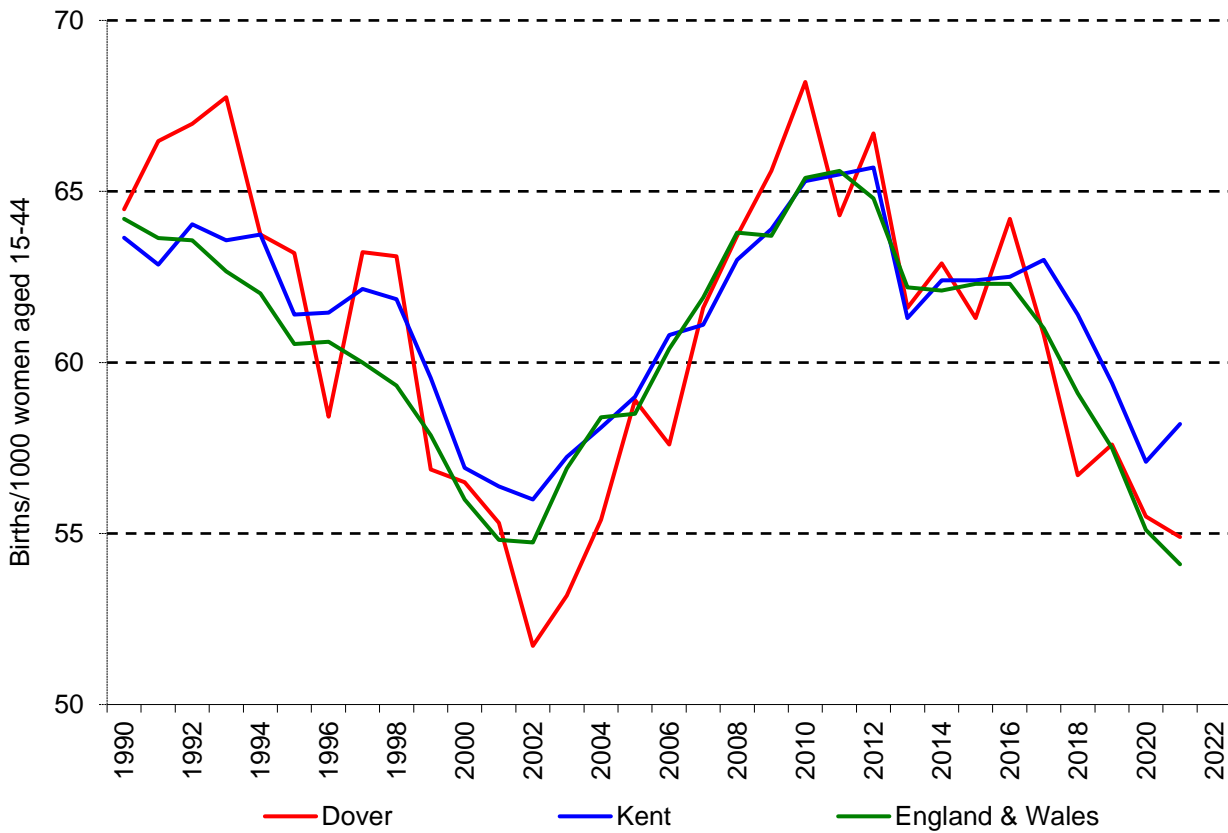
Dover primary schools by planning group

Planning Group	School	Status
Dover Town	Barton Junior School	Academy
	Charlton CE Primary School	Academy
	Green Park Community Primary School	Community
	Shatterlocks Infant School	Academy
	St. Mary's CE Primary School (Dover)	Voluntary Aided
	St. Richard's RC Primary School	Academy
	White Cliffs Primary College for the Arts	Academy
Whitfield and Dover North	Lydden Primary School	Community
	River Primary School	Community
	Temple Ewell CE Primary School	Academy
	Whitfield Aspen School	Community
Dover West	Aycliffe Community Primary School	Community
	Capel-le-Ferne Primary School	Community
	Priory Fields School	Academy
	St. Martin's School (Dover)	Academy
	Vale View Primary School	Academy
Dover East	Guston CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Langdon Primary School	Community
	St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe Primary School	Community
Deal	Deal Parochial CE Primary School	Academy
	Downs CE Primary School	Academy
	Hornbeam Primary School	Academy
	Kingsdown and Ringwould CE Primary School	Academy
	Sandown School	Academy
	Sholden CE Primary School	Academy
	St. Mary's RC Primary School (Deal)	Academy
	Warden House Primary School	Academy
Sandwich and Eastry	Eastry CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Northbourne CE Primary School	Academy
	Sandwich Infant School	Academy
	Sandwich Junior School	Community
	Worth Primary School	Academy
Ash and Wingham	Ash Cartwright and Kelsey CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Goodnestone CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Preston Primary School	Community
	Wingham Primary School	Community
Aylesham	Aylesham Primary School	Community
	Nonington CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Joseph's RC Primary School (Aylesham)	Academy
Eythorne and Shepherdswell	Eythorne Elvington Community Primary School	Community
	Sibertswold CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled

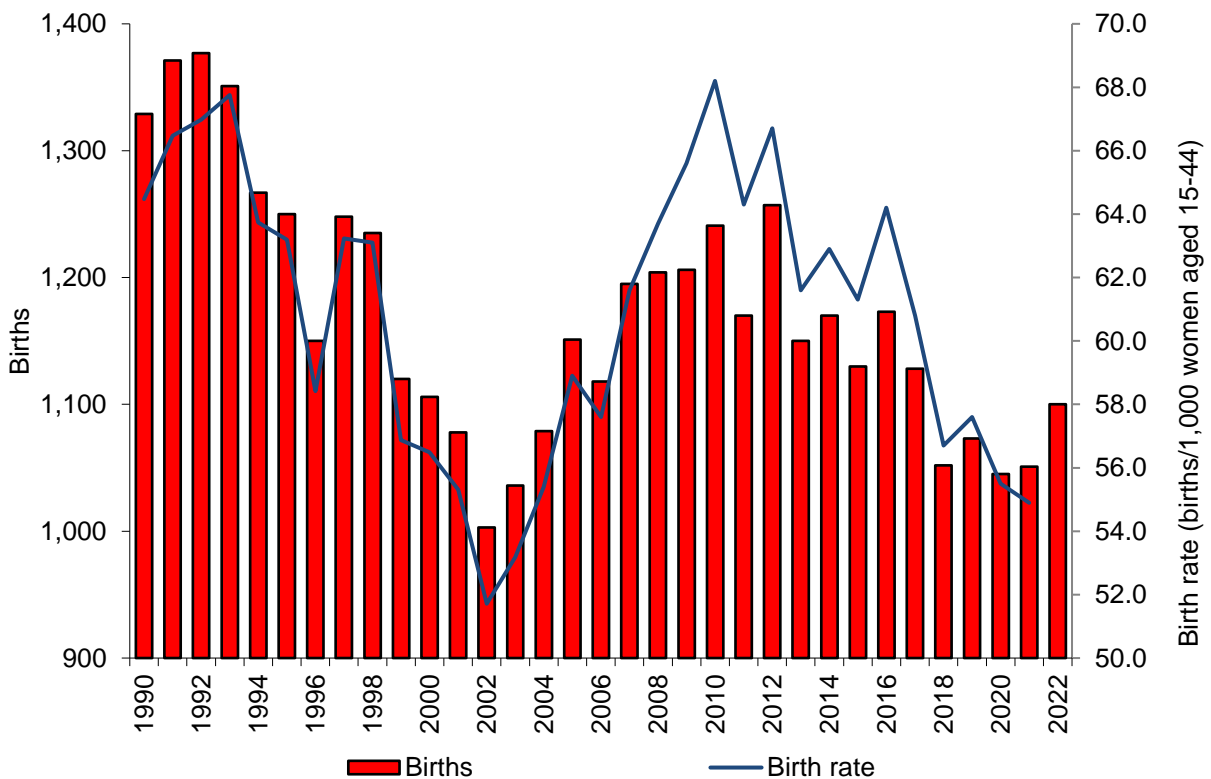
Birth rate and birth analysis

The charts below set out the birth rates for the District and the number of recorded births.

Dover, Kent and England & Wales birth rates 1990-2022



Dover births and birth rate 1990-2022



Dover District Forecast

Primary - Year R surplus/deficit capacity if no further action is taken

Planning Group name	2022-23 capacity	2022-23 (A)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2032-33 capacity
Dover Town	270	62	73	50	50	50	50	50	51	51	52	53	240
Whitfield and Dover North	170	13	-4	14	16	-1	-1	-2	-3	-3	-3	-3	170
Dover West	170	45	43	40	57	49	49	48	48	47	47	46	170
Dover East	67	7	24	14	4	14	13	13	13	13	13	13	67
Deal	315	30	71	54	62	74	75	77	80	82	85	88	315
Sandwich and Eastry	116	25	13	17	15	7	7	7	7	8	10	11	116
Ash and Wingham	90	29	17	11	11	15	14	13	12	11	11	10	90
Aylesham	102	24	19	1	-12	-21	-29	-37	-44	-50	-57	-63	102
Eythorne and Shepherdswell	50	8	7	16	11	11	10	10	10	10	9	9	50
Dover	1,350	243	264	216	213	196	187	179	174	170	168	165	1,320

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Secondary - Year 7 surplus/deficit capacity if no further action is taken

Planning Group name	2022-23 capacity	2022-23 (A)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2032-33 capacity
Dover Non-Selective	500	76	26	-5	-3	-18	-21	-8	20	27	41	45	420
Deal and Sandwich Non-Selective	435	19	5	-2	16	21	12	11	16	40	27	31	435
Dover District Selective	440	35	5	5	20	6	8	1	24	41	47	49	440

Primary District Commentary

Across the District we forecast significant surplus Year R throughout the Plan period. Two planning groups are showing a deficit of places: Whitfield and Dover North, and Aylesham.

Aylesham Planning Group

In the previous Commissioning Plan, we noted that there had been a significant change in the forecasts from previous years. The change in forecasts was due to an increase in young families moving into Aylesham, with 30 more children in each pre-school age group that year compared with the previous year and a change to source of pre-school aged population data. When this growth rate was factored into the forecasts (and assuming it continued into the short to medium term) it resulted in an expected high forecast demand for primary school places over the coming years.

The effect of the influx of young children in 2021 on future forecasts is moderating down. Last year the forecasts suggested a deficit of -90 places by the end of the planned period, this year's forecasts have reduced this to -63 places. We would expect this to reduce further in next year's forecasts.

Developer contributions are secured to support the expansion of the schools in the planning group as and when required. We will continue monitor pupil numbers closely and to work with the schools in the planning group to ensure that sufficient primary school provision is available as required.

Whitfield and Dover North Planning Group

Much of this planning group comprises the area designated as the Whitfield Urban Expansion (WUE). The WUE has outline planning consent for 5,750 new homes to be delivered over the next 20 years. To provide sufficient primary school places the equivalent of three 2FE primary schools are included within the Master Plan. The first, the expansion of Whitfield Aspen Primary School on to a satellite site, opened for pupils in September 2021 offering an additional 1FE of provision. Planning permission is secured to add an additional block of classrooms, expanding the school to the full 4FE across the two sites. As planning permission is secured, we can react quickly to add this provision when required.

We forecast a small deficit of places later in the Plan period. This is being driven by pupil flow into the planning group. We will monitor pupil numbers closely to ensure the expansion of Whitfield Aspen by 1FE is delivered when required to meet local demand.

Dover East Planning Group

Surplus places are forecast throughout the Plan period. If additional school places are required to support the planned development at Connaught Barracks, this will be via the expansion of Guston Church of England Primary School.

Sandwich and Eastry Planning Group

Consented and proposed developments in Sandwich and the neighbouring villages of Eastry and Ash together account for potentially over 1,000 new homes. Should housing come forward as identified in the Local Plan, up to 1FE of provision in Sandwich may be required.

Secondary District Commentary

There are three secondary planning groups within Dover District (See appendix 13.2 for the non-selective and selective planning group maps). Two planning groups are non-selective (Dover, Deal and Sandwich) and one selective. The commentary below outlines the forecast position for each of the planning groups.

Dover Non-Selective Planning Group

There are three schools in the Dover non-selective planning group: Astor College of the Arts, Dover Christ Church Academy and St. Edmunds RC School. The Whitfield Urban Expansion may, over time, increase the pressure on local secondary schools. Should additional places be required, it is expected this will be via the expansion of Dover Christ Church Academy as the local school.

The small deficit of year 7 places forecast between 2024-25 and 2028-29 will be managed within existing capacity across the district.

Deal and Sandwich Non-Selective Planning Group

There are two Schools in the Deal and Sandwich non-selective planning group: Goodwin Academy and Sandwich Technology School. Forecasts suggest a small deficit of Year 7 places in the 2024-25 academic year which can be met within existing schools. Consented and proposed developments in Sandwich and the neighbouring villages of Eastry and Ash together account for potentially over 1,000 new homes. If additional non-selective secondary school provision is required, this could be via the expansion of Sandwich Technology School, but to do this additional land would be required.

Dover Selective Planning Group

Selective provision is provided by three schools: Dover Boys Grammar, Dover Girls Grammar and Sir Roger Manwood's Grammar. There is forecast to be sufficient places in this sector throughout the forecast period, although any significant increase in house building will change this situation.

Planned Commissioning - Dover

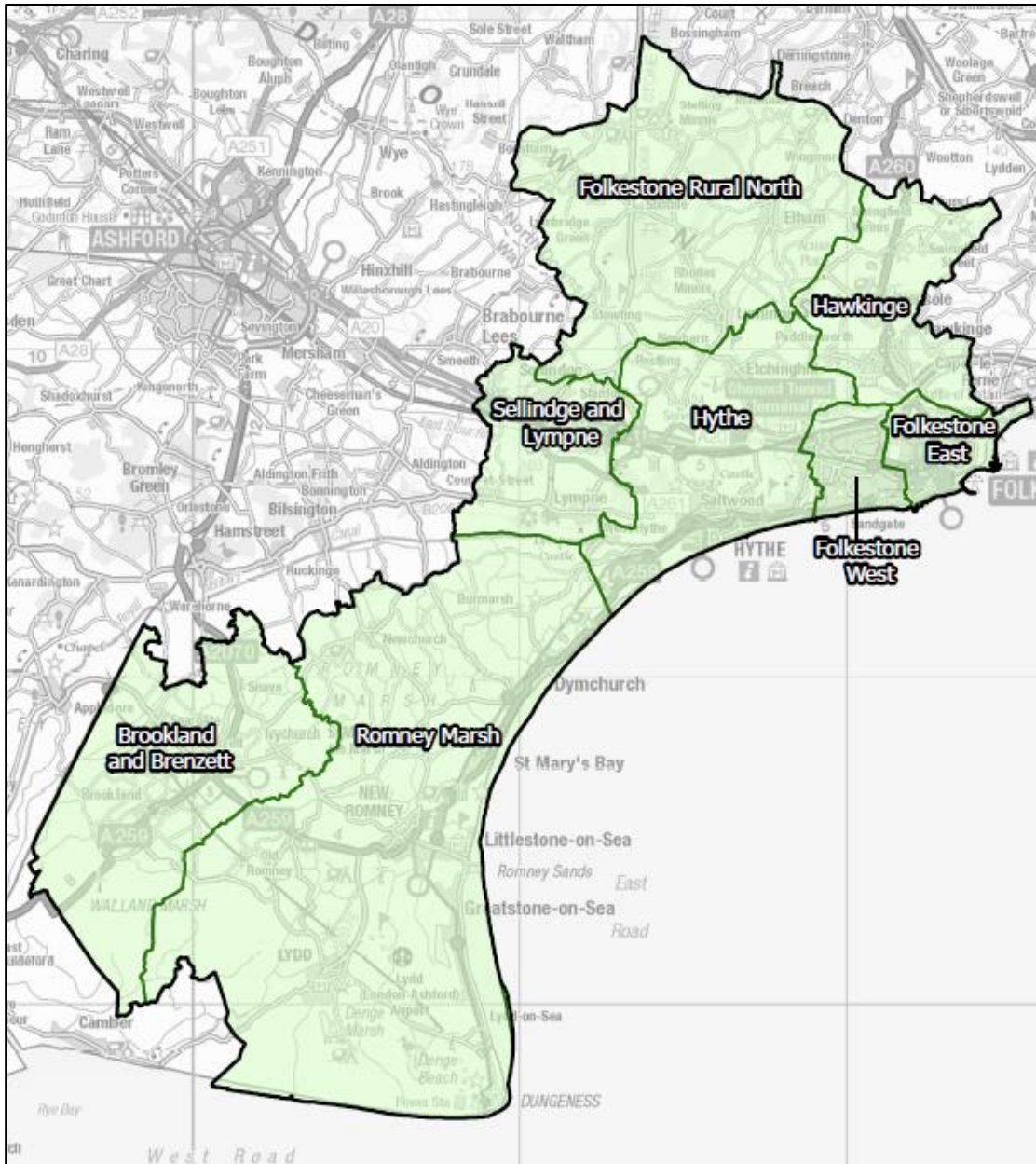
Planning Group	By 2024-25	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	By 2027-28	Between 2028-31	Post 2031
Whitfield and North Dover			Expansion of Whitfield Aspen Satellite by 1FE		New 2FE primary school in Whitfield	
Dover East					0.3FE expansion of Guston CE Primary School	
Aylesham				Up to 1FE additional provision in Aylesham		
Sandwich and Eastry					1FE Sandwich planning group	
Dover Non-selective					2FE at Dover Christ Church academy	
Specialist Resourced Provision	30 place Secondary SRP PSCN expansion					

8.5. Folkestone and Hythe

District commentary

- The birth rate in Folkestone and Hythe (2021) increased 2 points from the previous year. The number of recorded births (2022) has fallen by 25 births from the previous year and is 277 births below the 2012 peak.
- Forecast indicate that around 20% of primary school places will be surplus across the District throughout the Plan period.
- Within the secondary sector, we forecast a small deficit of non-selective secondary school places in both Folkestone and Hythe and Romney Marsh at different points. We will be able to manage this within existing schools.
- The adopted Core Strategy (2022) sets out a long-term vision for the District from 2019/20 to 2036/37. The indicative housing trajectory in the Core Strategy suggest that 13,407 new dwellings could be delivered in the period 2019/20 to 2036/37, with Otterpool Park accounting for 5,593 of these dwellings. This would be an average of 745 per annum. During the period 2011/12 to 2020/21 an average of 341 homes were completed per annum (Kent Analytics Statistical Bulletin May 2023).
- Plans for the Garden Village at Otterpool Park continue to progress. The level of development would require significant educational infrastructure across not only primary and secondary phases, but also early years and special education needs provision. We continue to work with the District Council and the promoter of the site to identify how and when new provision will be required.

Map of the Folkestone and Hythe primary planning groups



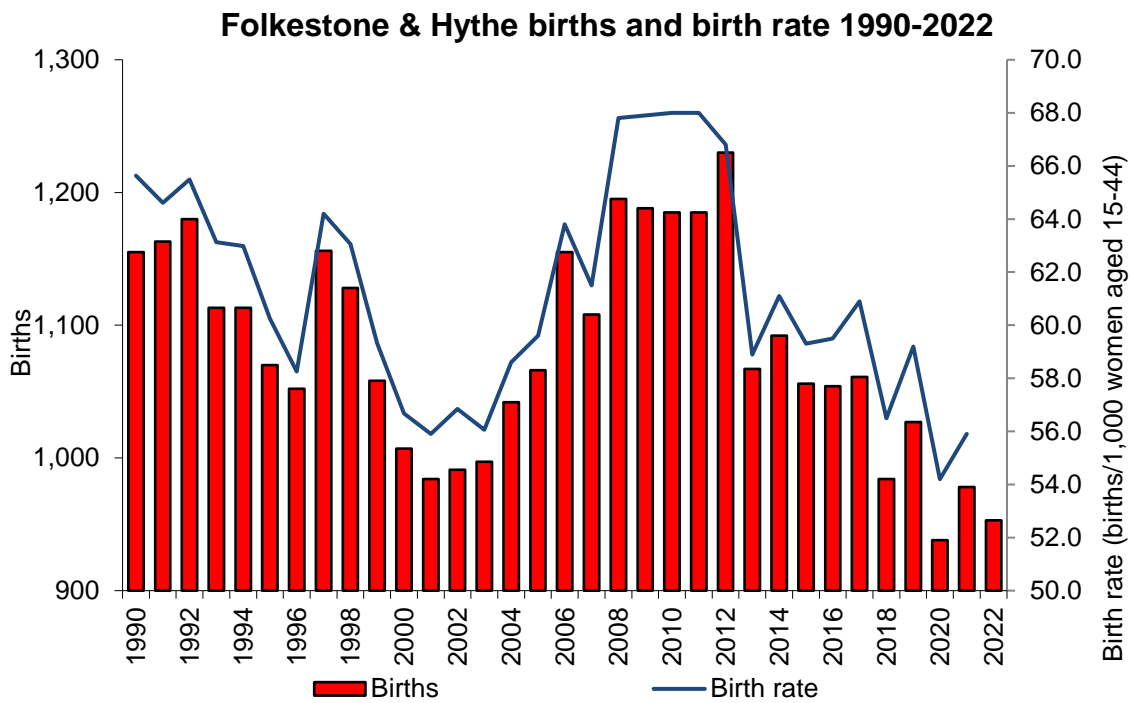
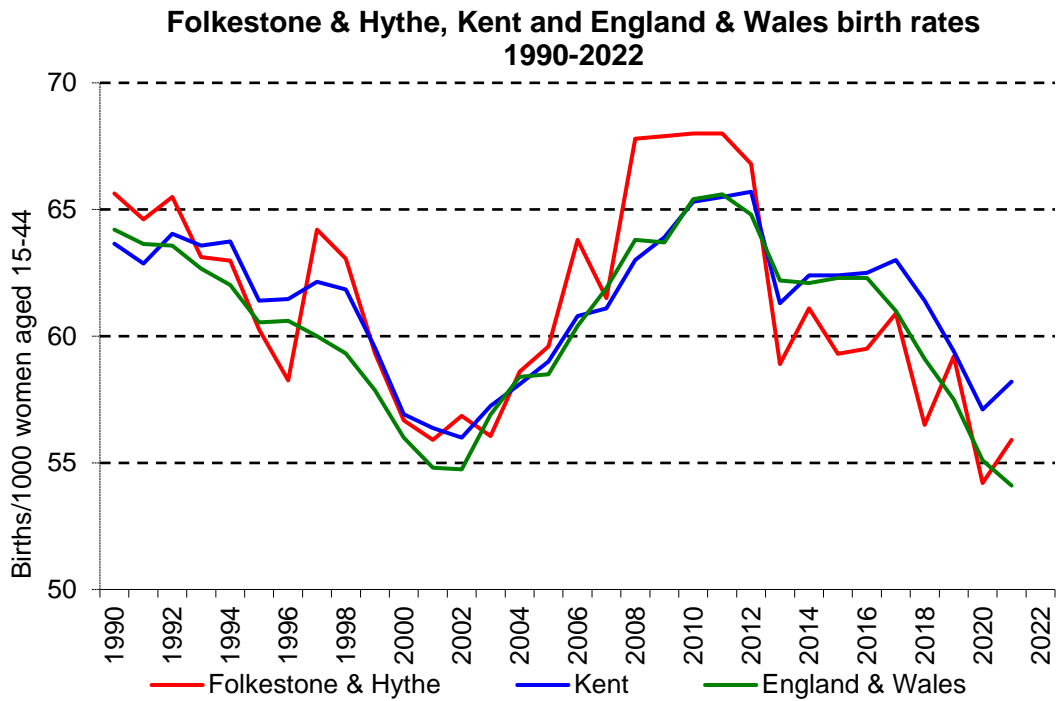
Folkestone and Hythe primary schools by planning group

Planning Groups	School	Status
Folkestone East	Castle Hill Community Primary School	Community
	Christ Church CE Academy	Academy
	Folkestone Primary Academy	Academy
	Martello Primary School	Academy
	Mundella Primary School	Academy
	St. Eanswythe's CE Primary School	Academy
	St. Mary's CE Primary Academy (Folkestone)	Academy
	St. Peter's CE Primary School (Folkestone)	Voluntary Controlled
Folkestone West	Stella Maris RC Primary School	Academy
	All Souls' CE Primary School	Academy
	Cheriton Primary School	Foundation
	Harcourt Primary School	Foundation
	Morehall Primary School	Academy
	Sandgate Primary School	Community

Planning Groups	School	Status
	St. Martin's CE Primary School (Folkestone)	Voluntary Controlled
Hawkinge	Churchill School (Hawkinge)	Foundation
	Hawkinge Primary School	Foundation
	Selsted CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Folkestone Rural North	Bodsham CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Elham CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Lyminge CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Stelling Minnis CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Stowting CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Hythe	Hythe Bay CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Palmarsh Primary School	Community
	Saltwood CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Seabrook CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Augustine's RC Primary School (Hythe)	Academy
Sellindge and Lympe	Lympe CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Sellindge Primary School	Community
Romney Marsh	Dymchurch Primary School	Academy
	Greatstone Primary School	Foundation
	Lydd Primary School	Academy
	St. Nicholas CE Primary Academy	Academy
Brookland and Brenzett	Brenzett CE Primary School	Academy
	Brookland CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled

Birth rate and birth analysis

The charts below set out the birth rates for the District and the number of recorded births.



Folkestone and Hythe Analysis

Primary - Year R surplus/deficit capacity if no further action is taken

Planning Group name	2022-23 capacity	2022-23 (A)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2032-33 capacity
Folkestone East	373	69	59	87	84	93	95	97	98	100	101	101	373
Folkestone West	285	62	27	33	42	33	31	29	28	26	24	23	255
Hawkinge	135	22	35	41	30	34	34	35	34	34	34	34	135
Folkestone Rural North	93	13	20	19	19	8	9	9	10	11	11	12	93
Hythe	140	9	-3	30	24	9	4	1	1	0	1	1	140
Sellindge and Lympne	60	11	2	4	-1	-9	-9	-10	-10	-10	-10	-9	60
Romney Marsh	187	41	59	62	68	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	187
Brookland and Brenzett	35	10	11	9	9	10	11	11	11	11	12	12	35
Folkestone & Hythe	1,308	237	210	284	275	265	261	259	261	261	263	264	1,278

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Secondary - Year 7 Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2022-23 capacity	2022-23 (A)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2032-33 capacity
Folkestone and Hythe Non-Selective	625	21	-15	-14	34	43	14	36	79	56	122	115	625
Romney Marsh Non-Selective	180	-15	-19	-22	-15	3	1	-20	-6	7	13	18	180
Folkestone & Hythe District Selective	330	-26	33	34	31	30	33	30	31	30	34	31	330

Primary District Commentary

Folkestone and Hythe District Analysis - Primary

We forecast a significant surplus of Year R places with around 20% capacity across the Plan period. Some planning groups forecast to see over one quarter of their Year R capacity vacant in the coming years.

As schools are primarily funded on the number of pupils on roll, low Year R numbers will impact on future budgets with some schools choosing to reduce their published admissions numbers. If required, we will work with schools both maintained by KCC and those led by academy trusts to reduce published admission numbers in areas of significant surplus places.

Folkestone West and Folkestone East Planning Groups

The Folkestone East and West planning groups cover the Town. Forecasts suggest that there will be significant surplus places across both planning groups throughout the Plan period. There is land and developer contributions for a new 2FE primary school at Shornclyffe Heights (Folkestone West). However, given the forecast level of surplus places, it is unlikely this will come forward in this decade.

Sellindge and Lypne Planning Group

Current forecasts are showing a small deficit of Year R places from 2025-26 onwards. This is later than was forecast in the previous Plan. Developer contributed land and funding will enable Sellindge Primary School to accommodate the additional pupils when required.

Romney Marsh Planning Group

Forecasts suggest a significant surplus of Year R places throughout the Plan period with up to 48% surplus Year R places by the end of the Plan period. The District's Core Strategy provides for just under 600 new homes in the Romney Marsh planning group. In the short to medium term, we will work with schools in the planning group to manage the high levels of surplus primary school places forecast.

Hythe Planning Group

At the end of the Plan period, we are forecasting less than 2% surplus places. It is expected that there would be sufficient places for residents in the planning group with those further afield gaining places near to their homes.

Secondary District Commentary

Folkestone and Hythe Non-Selective Planning Group

There are three schools in the Folkestone and Hythe non-selective planning group: Brockhill Park Performing Arts College, Folkestone Academy and The Turner Free School.

Forecasts suggest there will be a small deficit of non-selective Year 7 early in the Plan period. We will work with existing academy trusts to increase provision if required.

Romney Marsh Non-Selective Planning Group

There is one non-selective school in the planning group: The Marsh Academy.

Forecasts suggest there could be a small deficit of Year 7 places in some years across the Plan period. The Academy Admissions Policy identifies a 'priority zone' which prioritises the admission of pupils who reside in towns and villages surrounding Romney Marsh.

Therefore, we anticipate there will be sufficient places for local pupils to be admitted whilst those travelling from further afield will be eased back into more local schools.

Folkestone and Hythe Selective Planning Group

There are two selective schools in the District: Folkestone Girls Grammar and Harvey Grammar.

Forecasts suggest there will be sufficient Year 7 places available throughout the Plan period.

Planned Commissioning – Folkestone and Hythe

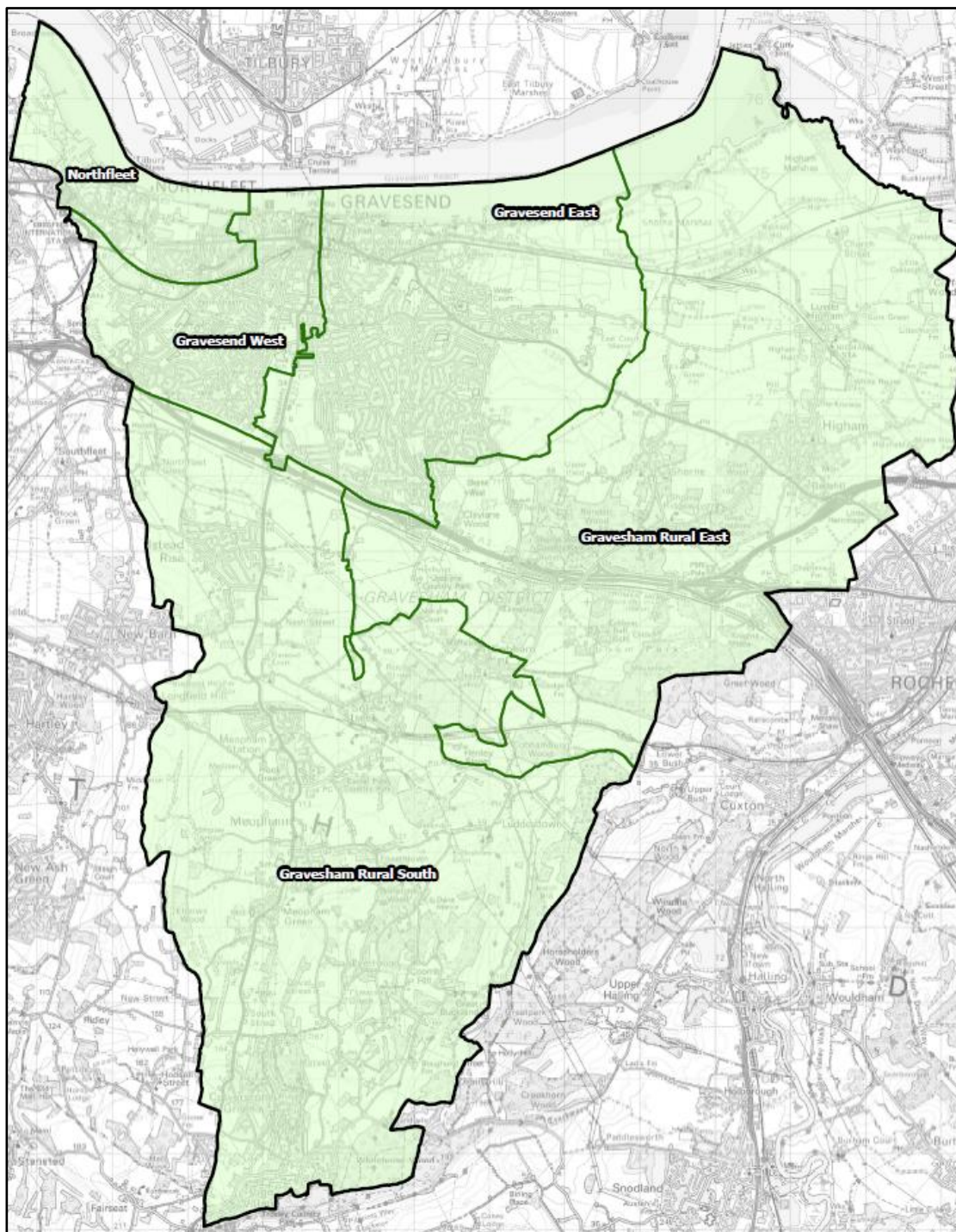
Planning Group	By 2024-25	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	By 2027-28	Between 2028-31	Post 2031
Folkestone West Primary						2FE new provision in Shorncliffe
Specialist Resourced Provision	30 place Secondary ASD SRP					

8.6. Gravesham

Borough Summary

- The Gravesham birth rate and number of births have fallen sharply since 2019, but remain above the county and national figures.
- Forecasts indicate that there are sufficient Year R places across the Primary planning groups. Small pockets of deficits are forecast, but will be covered by adjacent planning groups.
- Demand for non-selective Secondary provision in Gravesham continues to increase, necessitating additional capacity. Selective secondary school rolls are also forecast to increase, but any options for creating additional selective capacity will be extremely challenging and KCC may be only able to ensure that the Local Authority statutory duty to provide sufficient places, of any type, is met.
- The current Gravesham Borough Council (GBC) Local Plan, adopted September 2014, states an intention to build 6,170 dwellings between 2011 to 2028. About 20% of the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation area is sited in Gravesham. During the 5-year period 2013-18 a total of 1,023 houses were completed with an average of 205 per annum.
- A new Local Plan is expected to be published within 18 months and KCC will work with GBC to ensure that sufficient school places are available.
- Prior to the Covid pandemic, a significant factor to primary and secondary demand in Gravesham Borough, was the migration from urban centres in Greater London to locations such as Gravesham Borough. Migration reduced significantly during the pandemic, but it is not unreasonable to suggest that post Covid, migration will pick up, possibly to pre-Covid levels.

Gravesham Primary Schools by Planning Group

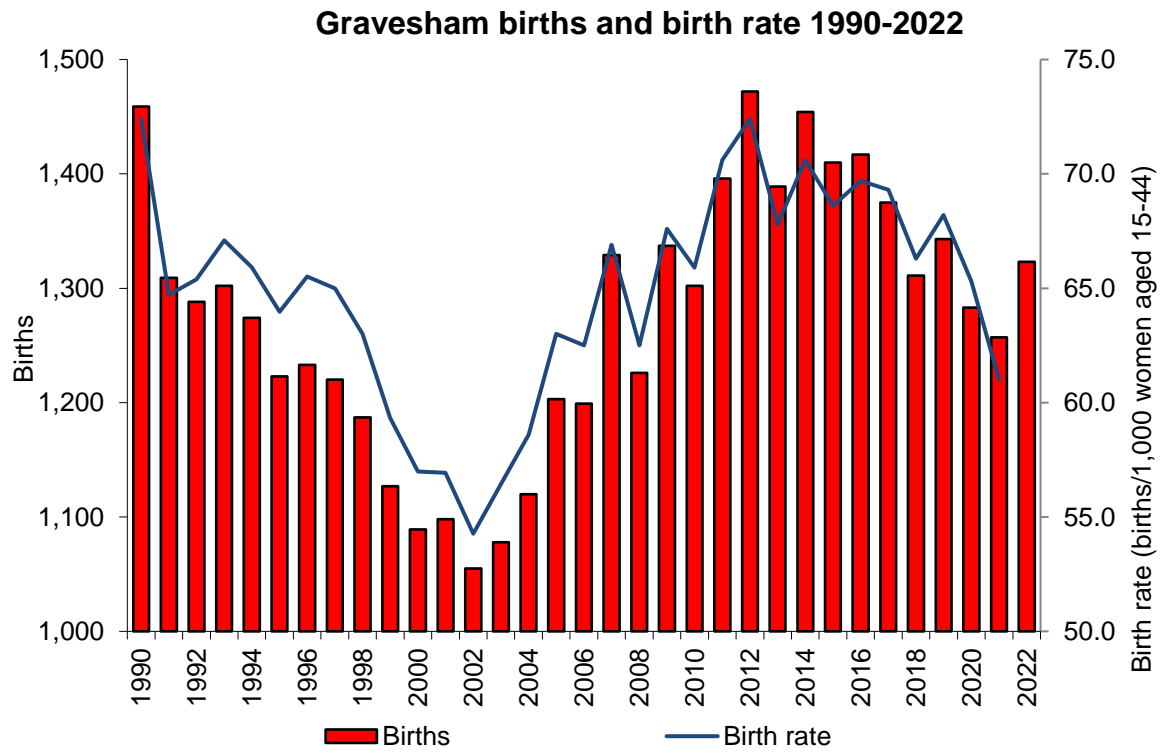
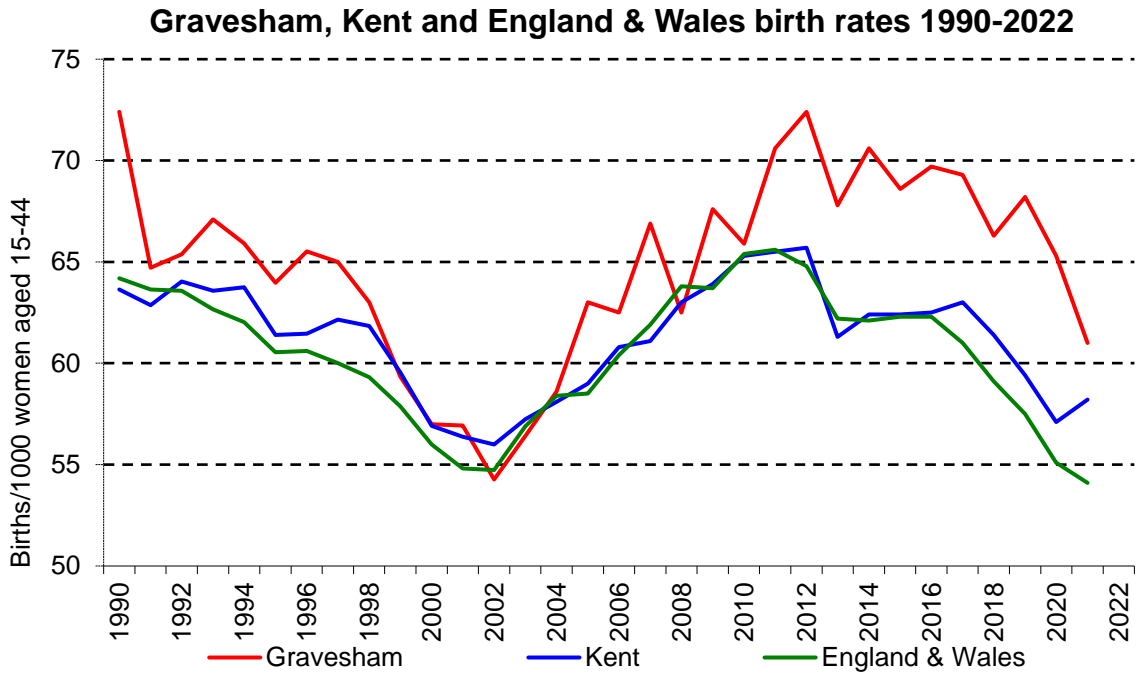


Planning Group	School	Status
Gravesend East	Chantry Community Academy	Academy
	Holy Trinity CE Primary School (Gravesend)	Academy
	Kings Farm Primary School	Community
	Riverview Infant School	Academy
	Riverview Junior School	Academy
	Singlewell Primary School	Community
	St. John's RC Primary School (Gravesend)	Academy
	Tymberwood Academy	Academy
	Westcourt Primary School	Academy

Planning Group	School	Status
	Whitehill Primary School	Academy
Gravesend West	Cecil Road Primary School	Community
	Copperfield Academy	Academy
	Painters Ash Primary School	Community
	Saint George's CE Primary School (Gravesend)	Academy
	Shears Green Infant School	Academy
	Shears Green Junior School	Community
	Springhead Park Primary School	Free
	Wrotham Road Primary School	Academy
Northfleet	Lawn Primary School	Community
	Rosherville CE Primary Academy	Academy
	St. Botolph's CE Primary School (Gravesend)	Academy
	St. Joseph's RC Primary School (Northfleet)	Academy
Gravesham Rural East	Higham Primary School	Community
	Shorne CE Primary School	Academy
Gravesham Rural South	Cobham Primary School	Community
	Culverstone Green Primary School	Academy
	Istead Rise Primary School	Academy
	Meopham Community Academy	Academy
	Vigo Village School	Community

Birth Rate and Birth Analysis

The charts below set out the birth rates for the Borough and the number of recorded births.



Gravesham Forecasts

Primary - Year R Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2022-23 capacity	2022-23 (A)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2032-33 capacity
Gravesend East	682	133	103	81	105	99	106	109	112	114	116	117	652
Gravesend West	444	15	82	85	72	77	80	83	85	87	89	90	474
Northfleet	140	8	7	1	7	-5	-4	-3	-3	-2	-2	-1	140
Gravesham Rural East	60	0	-12	-4	-8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60
Gravesham Rural South	180	15	25	2	5	1	4	5	7	9	11	14	180
Gravesham	1,506	171	206	165	181	172	185	194	202	209	214	219	1,506

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Secondary - Year 7 Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2022-23 capacity	2022-23 (A)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2032-33 capacity
Gravesham and Longfield Non-Selective	1,340	38	-96	-27	-82	-119	-136	-143	-96	-62	-79	-89	1,340
Gravesham and Longfield Selective	420	-18	-66	-39	-62	-72	-79	-82	-70	-60	-67	-71	420

Primary District commentary

Recent forecasts have indicated a stabilisation of demand that leaves a surplus of Year R capacity across the Borough for the duration of the Plan period. However locally, Gravesham Rural East and Northfleet planning groups indicate small deficits from September 2023.

Gravesham is expected to publish a new local plan within the next two years. In addition to that, new housing development on the Northfleet Embankment and Gravesend Canal Basin will see demand for Primary School places increase. To support the growth in the Northfleet Embankment area, KCC will be commissioning additional provision by relocating and enlarging Rosherville Church of England Academy onto a new site.

New housing in the Coldharbour area will generate some additional need for Year R places. This will be accommodated within the recently opened second FE of primary provision at Saint George's CE School.

Northfleet Planning Group

The planning group indicates a small deficit every year. This will largely be managed by using capacity in adjacent planning groups that show a surplus, such as Gravesend West.

In addition, new housing at the Harbour Village and Cable Wharf developments will require new provision. Rosherville Church of England Academy has a PAN of 20. This will be increased initially to 1FE and then to 2 FE as required, and a new school will be built a short distance away from the existing school, on the site of the old Rosherville Gardens.

Gravesham Rural East Planning Group

The planning group indicates either no surplus or a small deficit every year. Expansion of schools in the planning group is not considered viable, because it would create surpluses that could affect other schools' abilities to manage their budgets. The deficits will largely be managed by using capacity in adjacent planning groups that show a surplus, such as Gravesend East.

Secondary District Commentary

There is one selective and one non-selective planning group that cover the Gravesham area. See appendix 13.2 for the secondary planning group maps.

Gravesham and Longfield Non-Selective Planning Group

There are seven schools in the Gravesham and Longfield non-selective planning group: Longfield Academy, Meopham School, Northfleet Technology College, Northfleet School for Girls, Thamesview School, Saint George's CE School and Saint John's Catholic Comprehensive School.

The planning group is in deficit for the duration of the Plan period. The deficit is 1FE for September 2024, but that deficit increases to 3FE for 2025, and continues to increase to 4FE for 2026, 4.5FE for 2027 and 5FE for 2028. After 2028, the deficit is forecast to decline, but remain at approximately 3FE for the remainder of the Plan period.

For 2024, KCC will commission a second permanent 1FE at Thamesview School, taking the school to 7FE. An additional 2FE will be required in the planning group for 2025, and it is anticipated these will be 1FE at St George's CE School and 1FE at Northfleet Technology College.

In 2026, another 1FE of provision will be required, followed by a further 1FE in 2027. The deficit in 2028 will need to be handled by a bulge year, because that forecast deficit reduces by 2FE for the following year.

Longer term, KCC may need to consider new provision depending on the publication of the Gravesham Local Plan. KCC will monitor the forecasts as the new Gravesham Local Plan becomes clear.

Gravesham and Longfield Selective Planning Group

There are two schools in the Gravesham and Longfield selective planning group: Gravesend Grammar School and the Mayfield Grammar School.

The planning group is in deficit for the whole of the planning period. For September 2024, the deficit is 1.5FE. This deficit increases to 2 – 2.5FE deficit for the entirety of the Plan period.

Following expansions to Mayfield Grammar School and the ongoing expansion of Gravesend Grammar School, both Gravesham Grammar Schools are at their capacity and cannot be expanded further. Therefore, this demand, will need to be managed across Borough boundaries or by expansion to existing schools onto other sites, thus creating new Grammar satellites.

Such further expansions will be extremely challenging and KCC will seek to ensure that there is sufficient provision, even if that provision is non-selective. No new grammar schools can be built according to current government legislation.

As previously explained in the Dartford section of this Commissioning Plan, due to the pressures being anticipated across both the Gravesham and Longfield and North West Kent Selective Planning Groups, KCC will seek to commission 6FE additional Grammar places for 2026. This could be facilitated through the creation of satellites. However, options to do this are extremely limited and would be logistically challenging and expensive.

Special Educational Needs

Demand for special school places, for all categories remains high. KCC needed to commission a new 250 place special school for Profound Severe and Complex Needs for 2025. A site for a new school was identified in North Sevenoaks and a bid was subsequently submitted for a new Special Free School through KCC’s Safety Valve submission. The bid was successful, and it is anticipated the new school will be opened by 2026 at the latest.

Given the nature of Special Schools and the distances that students travel to receive an appropriate education, the provision is being designed to cater for students in the whole North Kent area.

Planned Commissioning – Gravesham

Planning Group	By 2024-25	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	By 2027-28	Between 2028-31	Post 2031
Northfleet		0.3FE (10 additional permanent places) at Rosherville CE Academy			1FE at Rosherville CE Academy	

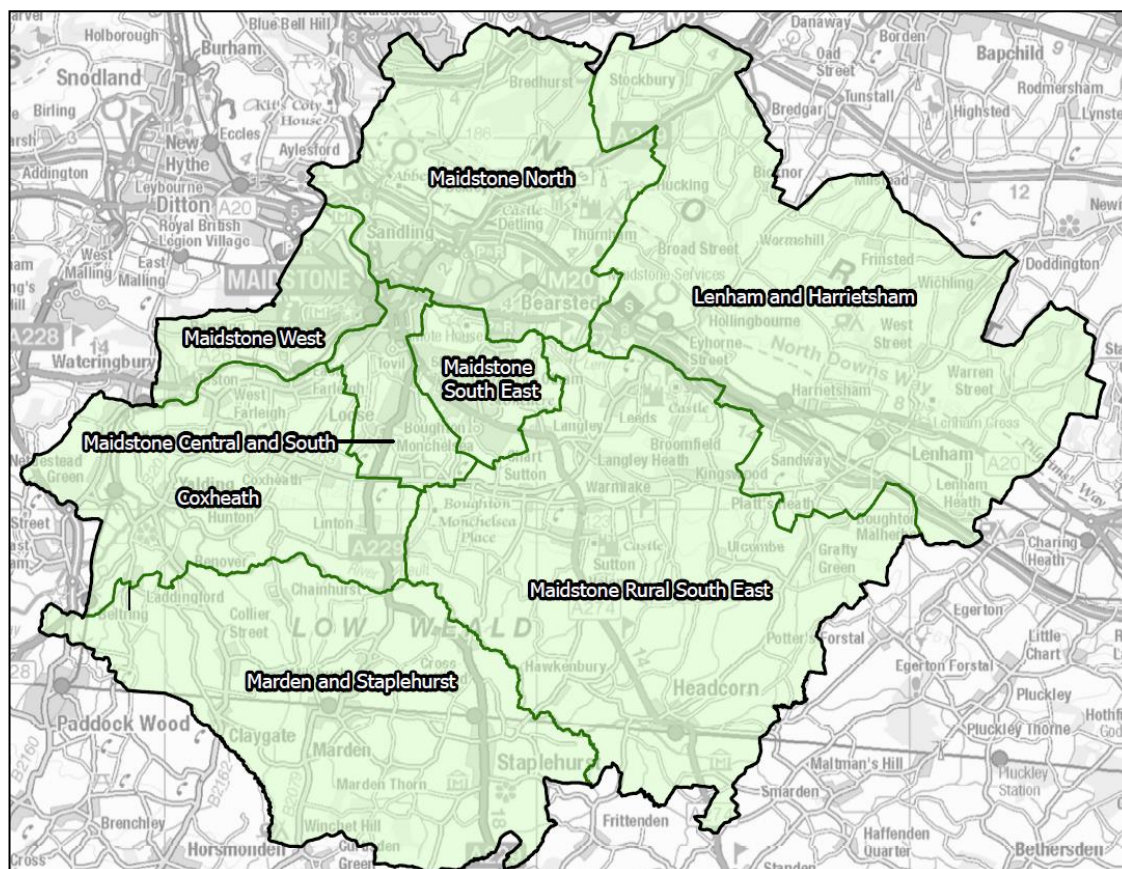
Planning Group	By 2024-25	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	By 2027-28	Between 2028-31	Post 2031
Gravesham and Longfield Non-Selective	1 FE permanent expansion Thamesview School	1FE permanent expansion at St George's CE School 1FE at Northfleet Technology College	1FE Permanent expansion	1FE Permanent expansion	30 places as a bulge year	
Special Education Needs			1 x New 250 place special school for PSCN covering all of North Kent (repeated from the Sevenoaks section)			

8.7. Maidstone

Borough commentary

- The birth rate in Maidstone dropped sharply in 2019 and 2020, in line with the County and National trend. However, the birth rates and the number of births increased significantly in 2021 before dropping back marginally in 2022.
- We forecast sufficient primary school places across the Borough throughout the Plan period. However, there is pressure for places forecast within some planning groups. Within the secondary sector, we forecast a pressure for places in both the non-selective and selective sectors.
- Maidstone Borough Council's Local Plan was formally adopted in October 2017, setting out the scale and location of proposed development up to 2031. The Borough is planning for around 17,500 dwellings or just under 900 per annum. During the 5 year period 2015-16 to 2019-20 a total of 6,084 houses were completed which is an average of 1,216 per year and is above the 900 average required. However, it is worth noting that the average housing delivery was significantly below the required level during the initial years of the Plan period. The Borough undertook a review of its Local Plan that was submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination on Thursday 31 March 2022; the review identifies further locations for additional housing growth that is not included within the forecasts presented.

Map of the Maidstone Primary Planning Groups



Maidstone Primary Schools by Planning Group

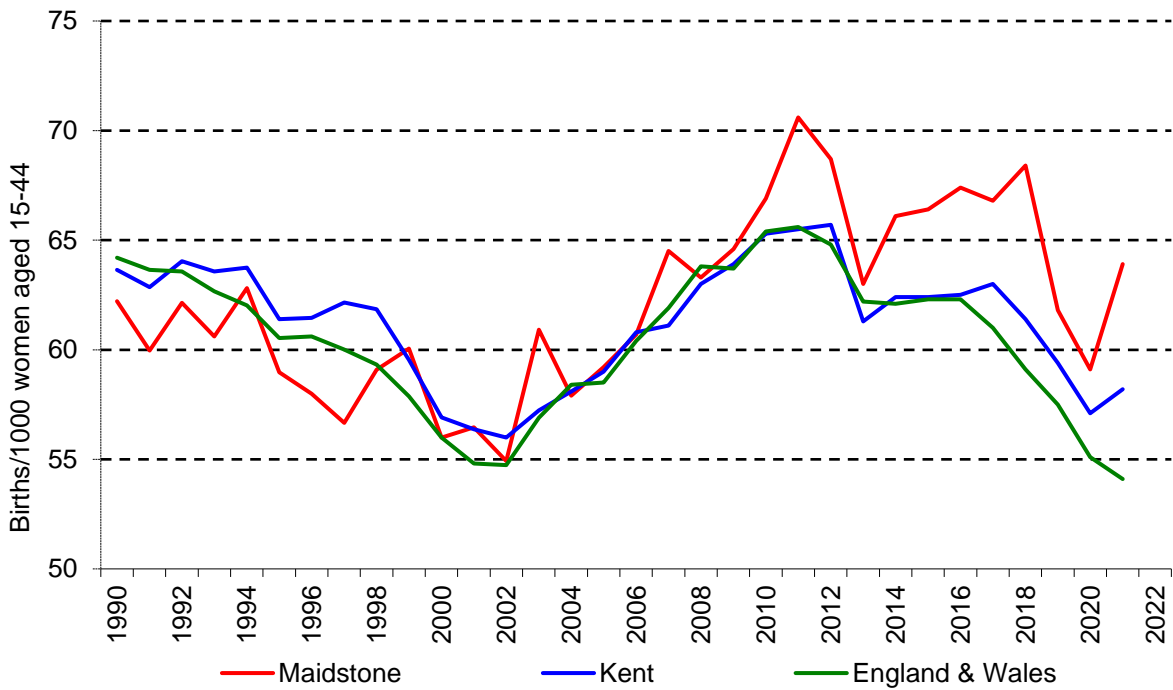
Planning Groups	School	Status
Maidstone Central and South	Archbishop Courtenay CE Primary School	Academy
	Boughton Monchelsea Primary School	Community
	Loose Primary School	Community
	South Borough Primary School	Academy
	Tiger Primary School	Free
Maidstone North	Bearsted Primary Academy	Free
	Bredhurst CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Madginford Primary School	Community
	North Borough Junior School	Community
	Roseacre Junior School	Foundation
	Sandling Primary School	Community
	St. John's CE Primary School (Maidstone)	Academy
	St. Paul's Infant School	Community
	Thurnham CE Infant School	Voluntary Controlled
Valley Invicta Primary School at East Borough	Academy	
Maidstone West	Allington Primary School	Academy
	Barming Primary School	Academy
	Brunswick House Primary School	Community
	Jubilee Primary School	Free
	Palace Wood Primary School	Community
	St. Francis' RC School	Voluntary Aided
	St. Michael's CE Infant School	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Michael's CE Junior School	Voluntary Controlled

Planning Groups	School	Status
	West Borough Primary School	Community
Maidstone South East	Greenfields Community Primary School	Community
	Holy Family RC Primary School	Academy
	Langley Park Primary Academy	Academy
	Molehill Primary Academy	Academy
	Oaks Primary Academy	Academy
	Park Way Primary School	Community
	Senacre Wood Primary School	Community
	Tree Tops Primary Academy	Academy
Lenham and Harrietsham	Harrietsham CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Hollingbourne Primary School	Community
	Lenham Primary School	Community
	Platts Heath Primary School	Community
Coxheath	Coxheath Primary School	Community
	East Farleigh Primary School	Community
	Hunton CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Yalding St. Peter and St. Paul CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Marden and Staplehurst	Laddingford St. Mary's CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Marden Primary Academy	Academy
	St. Margaret's Collier Street CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Staplehurst School	Community
Maidstone Rural South East	Headcorn Primary School	Community
	Kingswood Primary School	Community
	Leeds and Broomfield CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Sutton Valence Primary School	Community
	Ulcombe CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled

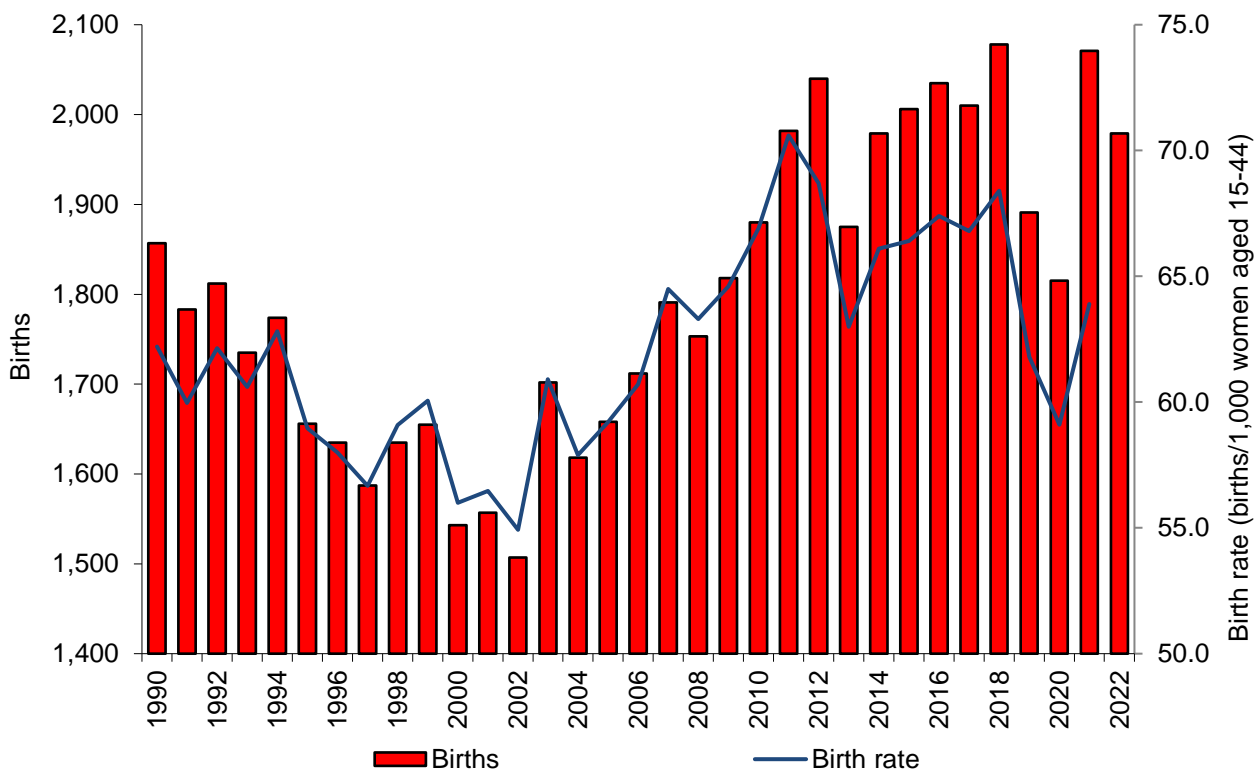
Birth Rate and Births Analysis

The charts below set out the birth rates for the Borough and the number of recorded births.

Maidstone, Kent and England & Wales birth rates 1990-2022



Maidstone births and birth rate 1990-2022



Maidstone Forecasts

Primary - Year R Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2022-23 capacity	2022-23 (A)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2032-33 capacity
Maidstone Central and South	285	-1	10	17	32	21	21	21	20	18	17	16	285
Maidstone North	525	5	34	26	62	55	61	67	70	75	79	84	525
Maidstone West	460	7	20	58	66	32	32	33	32	32	31	31	460
Maidstone South East	327	9	17	19	50	26	24	23	20	17	14	12	327
Lenham and Harrietsham	118	22	16	26	9	8	6	6	4	3	2	1	118
Coxheath	129	-1	-8	-22	-34	-28	-29	-30	-32	-33	-34	-35	129
Marden and Staplehurst	145	1	8	12	-30	-23	-27	-30	-34	-38	-40	-43	165
Maidstone Rural South East	140	11	14	-7	5	-9	-10	-11	-12	-13	-13	-13	140
Maidstone	2,129	53	111	130	161	83	78	78	67	60	56	53	2,149

Secondary - Year 7 Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2022-23 capacity	2022-23 (A)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2032-33 capacity
Maidstone Non-Selective	1,560	-20	-148	-129	-160	-195	-241	-288	-320	-257	-238	-199	1,530
Maidstone and Malling Selective	785	9	13	18	12	5	-22	-33	-44	-27	-30	-9	815

Primary District commentary

Overall, forecasts indicate that there will be sufficient places for Year R across the Plan period for the Maidstone district. However, there is pressure for places within the rural planning groups.

We also anticipate additional pressure from permitted developments across the town centre area of Maidstone. There are numerous projects scheduled and on-going to convert retail and office spaces into new residential dwellings under permitted development. This will potentially increase the demand for primary places across the Maidstone town centre area in excess of that indicated in the forecasts and has placed in-year pressure on schools as school-aged children move to the town.

Maidstone West Planning Group

In the longer term, housing developments on the Maidstone side of Hermitage Lane will necessitate up to 2FE of additional provision. Land has been secured that would enable a 2FE primary school to be established on a site to the East of Hermitage Lane, known as Chapel Field. However, based on the current rate of housing growth, it is currently not expected to be required within the Plan period, this will continue to be reviewed as houses are occupied. The location on the boundary between Maidstone and Tonbridge and Malling means that it is important to consider demand arising from housing growth local to the site in both Maidstone North and East Malling when anticipating the timing of the school's establishment.

Lenham and Harrietsham Planning Group

The forecast for the planning group indicates that a surplus of 26 places in 2024-25 drops sharply in 2025-26 to just 9 places and this small surplus continues to diminish gradually throughout the Plan period. We will monitor the situation carefully to assess whether additional provision is needed and, subject to a review of future forecast demand, will commission an expansion of an existing school in 2026-27. This demand will be dependent on the pace and school of housing development.

Marden and Staplehurst Planning Group

The planning group forecast to have a small surplus until 2025-26 when it moves to a 30 place deficit. The deficit drops below 30 places in 2026-27 and 2027-28, but then reverts to 30 in 2028-29 and is forecast to slowly increase for the remainder of the Plan period. We have commissioned 20 additional places at Marden Primary Academy from September 2024 and will commission up to 30 additional places within the existing schools in the planning group.

Coxheath Planning Group

There is a deficit of around 1 FE forecast throughout the Plan period. We will seek to offer up to 30 additional temporary places in the initial year of the Plan period to ensure sufficient places for the short-term, before commissioning a 1FE permanent expansion of an existing school in 2025-26.

Maidstone Rural South East Planning Group

The planning group is forecast to have a deficit of places for the Plan period apart from in 2025-26 when a small surplus is anticipated. The deficit increases slowly from 9 places in 2026-27 but is below half a form of entry by the end of the Plan period. We will monitor the situation carefully to assess whether additional provision is needed, however, we anticipate that there will be sufficient places in neighbouring planning groups to meet the demand.

Secondary District Commentary

There are two planning groups which are within Maidstone Borough, one non-selective and one selective (See appendix 12.2 for the non-selective and selective planning group maps). The commentary below outlines the forecast position for each of the planning groups.

Maidstone Non-Selective Planning Group

There are eight schools in the Maidstone non-selective planning group: Cornwallis Academy, The Lenham School, Maplesden Noakes School, New Line Learning Academy, School of Science and Technology, St. Augustine Academy, St. Simon Stock Catholic School and Valley Park School.

The planning group is in deficit throughout the Plan period. There is an initial fluctuation between a 148 place deficit in 2023-24, that drops to 129 in 2024-25 and then the deficit gradually increases to a high of 320 places (greater than 10 FE) in 2029-30. After 2029-30, the longer-term forecast suggests that the deficit will decrease towards the end of the Plan period to 199 places in 2032-33.

In recent years, schools within this planning group have admitted over PAN, creating additional capacity. We anticipate this pattern to continue and will accommodate some of the forecast deficit. However, up to 90 temporary places via bulge provision within the existing Secondary schools will be needed to meet the demand for places during the initial years.

In the medium term, it will be necessary to commission up to 3 FE of permanent provision from 2025-26 in existing Secondary schools to meet the ongoing demand within the planning group. In the longer term we anticipate the need for the establishment of a new secondary school from 2027 and will seek to work with partners, including the DfE, to identify an appropriate location within the Borough over the coming year.

Maidstone and Malling Selective Planning Group

There are four schools in the Maidstone selective planning group: Invicta Grammar School, Maidstone Grammar School, Maidstone Grammar School for Girls and Oakwood Park Grammar School.

The forecast for the planning group indicates that there will be sufficient places through to 2026-27. However, from 2027-28 there is a fluctuating deficit of around a 1 FE forecast through to almost the end of Plan period. Therefore, in the longer term, it may be necessary to expand an existing school by 1 FE. This will be dependent on the pace and school of housing development.

Planned Commissioning – Maidstone

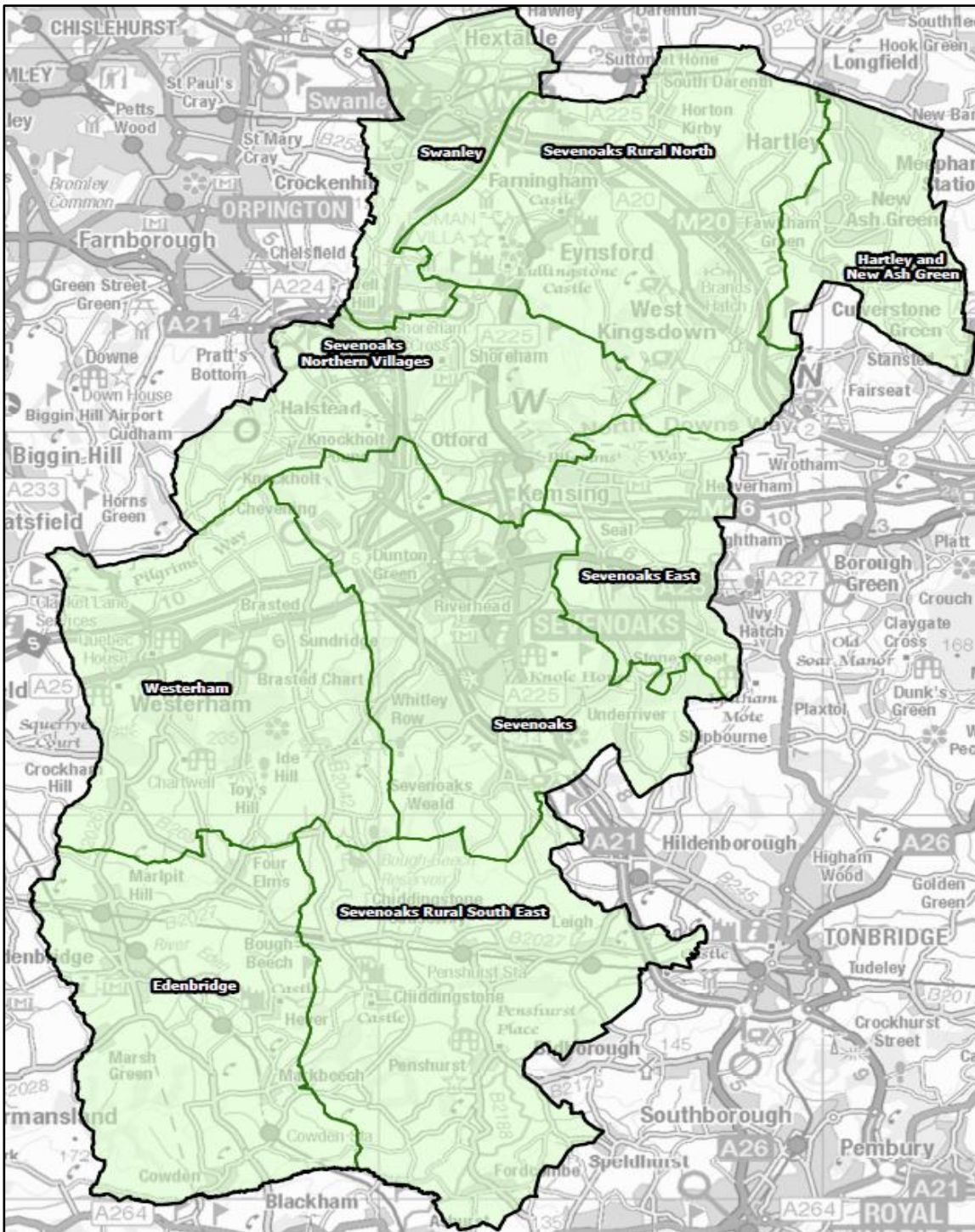
Planning Group	By 2024-25	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	By 2027-28	Between 2028-31	Post 2031
Maidstone West				New 2FE School on East of Hermitage Lane		
Lenham and Harrietsham Planning Group			1 FE permanent expansion of existing school			
Marden and Staplehurst	20 Places at Marden Primary Academy	Up to 30 permanent Places				
Coxheath	Up to 30 temporary places	1FE permanent expansion of existing school				
Maidstone Non-Selective Planning Group	Up to 90 temporary Year 7 places in existing schools	Up to 3 FE expansion within existing schools		Establishment of new 6FE secondary school		
Maidstone and Malling Selective Planning Group				1 FE permanent expansion of existing school		

8.8. Sevenoaks

District Summary

- The birth rate in Sevenoaks declined from 2018 to 2020, albeit the rate was above the County and National averages. In 2021 the rate rose considerably and returned near to the 2018 rate. The number of births has followed a similar pattern with a drop from 2018, before a recovery in 2021, but then falling back in 2022.
- There are significant surplus Year R places in the district across the Plan period. KCC will seek to establish local admission arrangements to enable schools to manage numbers, where surpluses may appear excessive. However, KCC is cognisant of the imminent publication of the Sevenoaks Local Plan (see below).
- The Sevenoaks and Borough Green Non-Selective Planning Group is forecast to have a surplus of Year 7 secondary places throughout much of the Plan period.
- The first year of the Plan period in the Dartford and Swanley Non-Selective planning group, shows a small surplus. This becomes a deficit from September 2025, peaking at 3FE in 2028. There is a forecast deficit of places for the West Kent Selective planning group during the Plan period.
- Sevenoaks District Council is expected to publish a new Local Plan over the next 18 months that will indicate building a significant number of new dwellings in the years up to 2035. A consultation on the Infrastructure Delivery Plan is underway, to identify the essential community infrastructure that will be required, this plan suggests that about 10,000 new homes will be provided by the Local Plan.
- Prior to the publication of the new plan, new housing development sites are being identified with Fort Halstead, Four Elms Road and Sevenoaks Quarry being progressed before the new plan is published. Both Fort Halstead and Sevenoaks Quarry sites have the potential for a new Primary School if the demand for new provision materialises..

Map of the Sevenoaks Primary Planning Groups



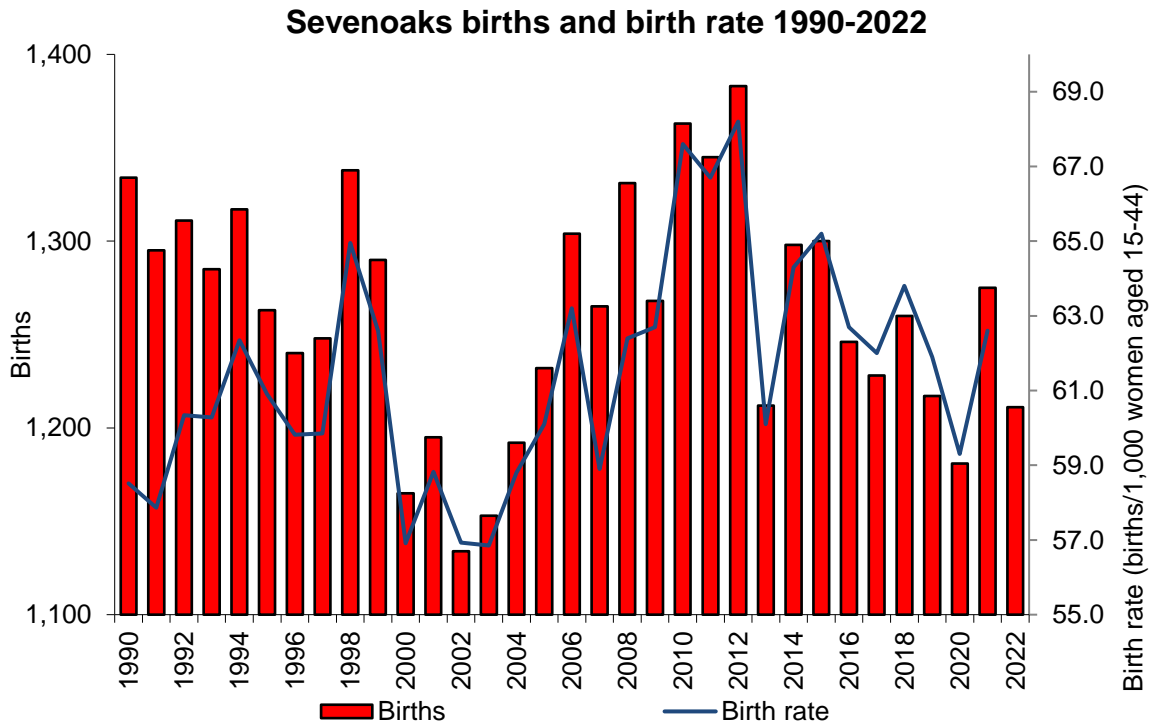
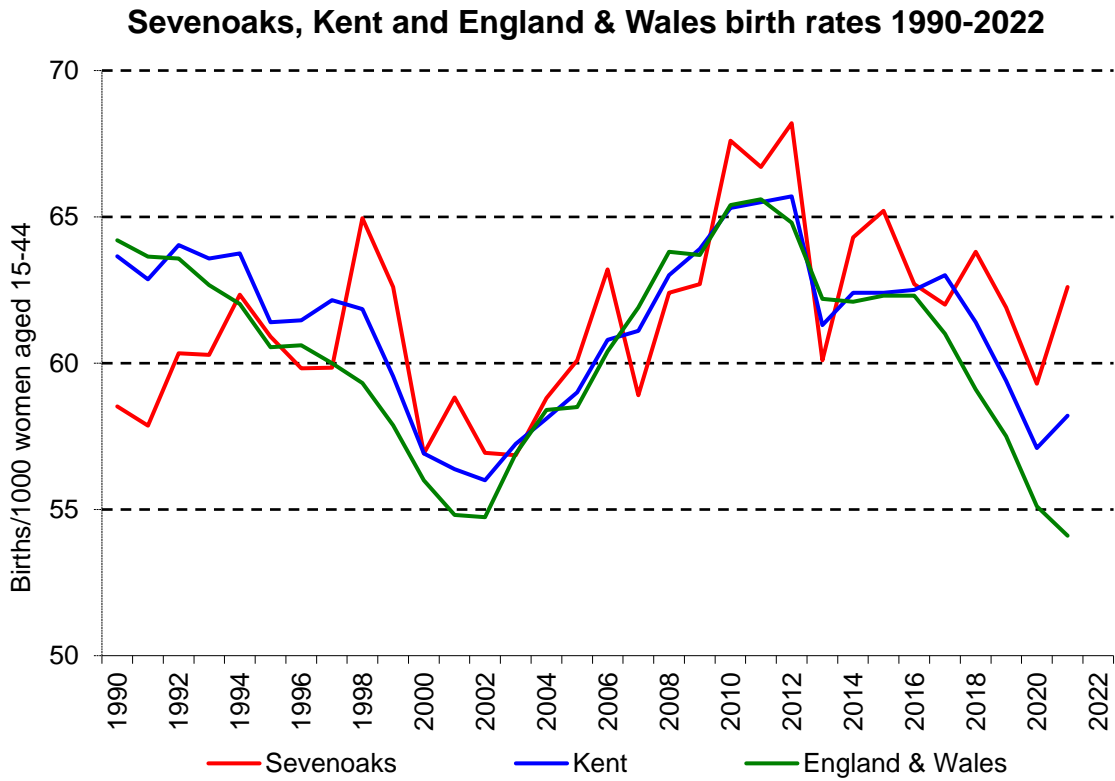
Sevenoaks Primary Schools by Planning Group

Planning group	School	Status
Swanley	Crockenhill Primary School	Community
	Downsview Community Primary School	Community
	Hextable Primary School	Community
	High Firs Primary School	Community
	Horizon Primary Academy	Academy
	St. Bartholomew's RC Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	St. Mary's CE Primary School (Swanley)	Voluntary Aided
	St. Paul's CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled

Planning group	School	Status
Sevenoaks Rural North	Anthony Roper Primary School	Foundation
	Fawkham CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Horton Kirby CE Primary School	Academy
	St. Edmund's Church of England Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Hartley and New Ash Green	Hartley Primary Academy	Academy
	New Ash Green Primary School	Community
	Our Lady of Hartley RC Primary School	Academy
Sevenoaks Northern Villages	Halstead Community Primary School	Academy
	Otford Primary School	Community
	Shoreham Village School	Community
	St. Katharine's Knockholt CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
Sevenoaks East	Kemsing Primary School	Community
	Seal CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Lawrence CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Sevenoaks	Amherst School	Academy
	Chevening St. Botolph's CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Dunton Green Primary School	Community
	Lady Boswell's CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Riverhead Infant School	Community
	Sevenoaks Primary School	Community
	St. John's CE Primary School (Sevenoaks)	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Thomas' RC Primary School (Sevenoaks)	Academy
Weald Community Primary School	Community	
Westerham	Churchill CE Primary School (Westerham)	Voluntary Controlled
	Crockham Hill CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Ide Hill CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Sundridge and Brasted CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Edenbridge	Edenbridge Primary School	Academy
	Four Elms Primary School	Community
	Hever CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
Sevenoaks Rural South East	Chiddingstone CE School	Academy
	Fordcombe CE Primary School	Academy
	Leigh Primary School	Community
	Penshurst CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided

Birth Rate and Births Analysis

The charts below set out the birth rates for the district and the number of recorded births.



Sevenoaks Forecasts

Primary - Year R Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2022-23 capacity	2022-23 (A)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2032-33 capacity
Swanley	305	25	16	35	13	2	0	-2	-3	-3	-3	-3	300
Sevenoaks Rural North	135	20	19	16	0	0	2	4	6	9	11	14	120
Hartley and New Ash Green	150	2	24	24	10	29	33	36	39	43	47	50	150
Sevenoaks Northern Villages	130	56	46	51	45	50	50	49	49	49	50	51	130
Sevenoaks East	102	15	19	23	9	20	20	19	19	19	20	20	102
Sevenoaks	390	58	44	106	92	83	79	74	70	66	61	57	390
Westerham	117	35	33	6	14	18	18	18	17	17	16	16	87
Edenbridge	105	7	5	21	7	5	5	4	3	2	2	1	105
Sevenoaks Rural South East	83	14	5	5	13	8	8	8	8	8	9	9	83
Sevenoaks	1,517	232	210	288	201	216	213	209	208	210	212	215	1,467

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Secondary - Year 7 Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2022-23 capacity	2022-23 (A)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2032-33 capacity
Dartford and Swanley Non-Selective	1,260	11	16	36	-2	-15	-34	-100	-45	-65	-25	-52	1,260
Sevenoaks and Borough Green Non-Selective	585	-20	6	-22	40	8	23	31	38	46	79	38	630
West Kent Selective	1,265	-26	-48	-22	-7	-53	-40	-29	-6	5	70	51	1,235

Primary District commentary

The Year R forecast indicates that no additional new Primary capacity is needed. If the levels of surplus forecast persist it could lead to individual schools facing viability issues, if their intakes are significantly reduced for a prolonged period. KCC is working with schools across the district to monitor the situation and to take mitigating action where necessary.

However, forecasts do not take into account any further new housing development that Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) may approve, prior to the publication of its new Local Plan, and any new housing that may be included in the new Sevenoaks District Local Plan. Two consented sites in Fort Halstead and Sevenoaks Quarry will create demand for Primary places. KCC is in discussion with Sevenoaks District Council on how best to accommodate this. A third significant housing development site on the Four Elms Road in Edenbridge is also expected to be delivered before the plan is published. This will add to the demand for primary provision, but it is likely that it can be managed locally. KCC will be assessing the impact of this development against existing capacity.

Where there is the potential for demand to exceed capacity, for example, in Edenbridge, such demand currently looks as if it can be accommodated in adjacent planning groups. This situation will be monitored and may be re-assessed following publication of the Local Plan. Until KCC has assessed the new Local Plan, it would be unwise to propose significant reduction of capacity in existing primary schools.

Swanley Planning Group

There will be a small deficit in Year R places from 2028, but this will be managed through local arrangements within existing schools should this become necessary.

Secondary District Commentary

There are two non-selective and one selective Secondary planning groups that are fully or partially within Sevenoaks District. See appendix 13.2 for the secondary planning group maps.

Sevenoaks has traditionally had a shortfall in capacity for both selective and non-selective, with a number of students who are resident in Sevenoaks, travelling out of the district to attend selective or faith education. However, in 2021 the completion of the new satellite of Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys provided both boys and girls (via the existing Weald of Kent Grammar School satellite) grammar places on the Sevenoaks Campus.

Dartford and Swanley Non-Selective Planning Group

There are seven schools in the Dartford and Swanley non-selective planning group: Dartford Science and Technology College, Ebbsfleet Academy, Inspiration Academy, Leigh Academy, Orchards Academy, Stone Lodge School and Wilmington Academy. All the schools are in Dartford Borough, except for Orchards Academy which is in Sevenoaks District.

Demand is manageable without any intervention for the next two years, but provision falls into deficit from 2025, but only marginally. This demand increases to more than 1FE from 2027, and then there is a significant increase from 2028.

To manage this demand, KCC will be proposing to commission 2FE of permanent provision at the Leigh Academy for 2025.

A new 8FE all-ability secondary school, within the Ebbsfleet Garden City development (on the Alkerden campus), is due to open in September 2025, initially offering 4FE of non-selective provision in Year 7. This will be provided with temporary accommodation, but it is anticipated that the school will move to the permanent school site a year later. This school was

commissioned to provide places for the increased student population, primarily from the new housing, and includes the provision required for housing that has not been consented and therefore is not included in the forecasts.

This school will expand to its maximum capacity of 8FE, the timing of which will be subject to the demand from new housing, but will likely be from 2027.

Sevenoaks and Borough Green Non-Selective Planning Group

There are three schools in the Sevenoaks and Borough Green non-selective planning group: Knole Academy, Wrotham School and Trinity School.

The forecast indicates fluctuating demand for Year 7 places throughout the Plan period. There is a deficit of 22 places forecast in 2024-25 and small surpluses through the remainder of the Plan period. We will also work with existing schools to offer bulge provision of up to 30 places to meet the deficit in 2024-25.

A key factor in this planning group is the Sevenoaks Local Plan, which has been explained above. Should the Sevenoaks Local Plan be agreed in the near future, additional housing will see the secondary need increase. Feasibility studies are being undertaken on several sites, to ensure the Council can react if this happens.

No decisions can be made until the Local Plan is published, but it is possible that the solution lies in Edenbridge where there is a site that could be available for a new secondary school. The commissioning of a new school in Edenbridge depends on viability of a new school. Currently, there is insufficient demand in Edenbridge and its environs to support a new secondary school. If sufficient new housing was outlined in the new Local Plan, KCC will again consider whether a new school in Edenbridge is viable.

West Kent Selective Planning Group

There are six schools in the planning group: Judd School, Tonbridge Grammar School, Weald of Kent Grammar School, Skinners' School, Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School and Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys.

The forecast indicates that there will be fluctuating deficits through to 2030-31 when there is a forecast surplus. We anticipate that these forecast deficits will be met through commissioned bulge provision in existing schools where necessary or own admission authorities offering over their PAN. We will keep the need for additional permanent capacity under review.

Special Educational Needs

Demand for special school places, for all categories remains high. KCC needed to commission a new 250 place special school for Profound Severe and Complex Needs for 2025. The old Birchwood Primary School site on Russell Way in Swanley was identified as suitable, and a bid was subsequently submitted for a new Special School through KCC's Safety Valve submission. The bid for DfE funding was successful, and it is anticipated the new school will be opened by September 2026. A provider will be chosen by the DfE through open competition during this year. Given the nature of Special Schools and the distances that students travel to receive an appropriate education, the provision will be designed to cater for students in the whole North Kent area.

There are currently no primary Specialist Resourced Provisions (SRP) in Sevenoaks District. KCC is currently conducting a review of SRP provision across Kent. Should needs be identified, KCC will ensure new provision is commissioned, where possible, throughout the Plan period.

Planned Commissioning – Sevenoaks

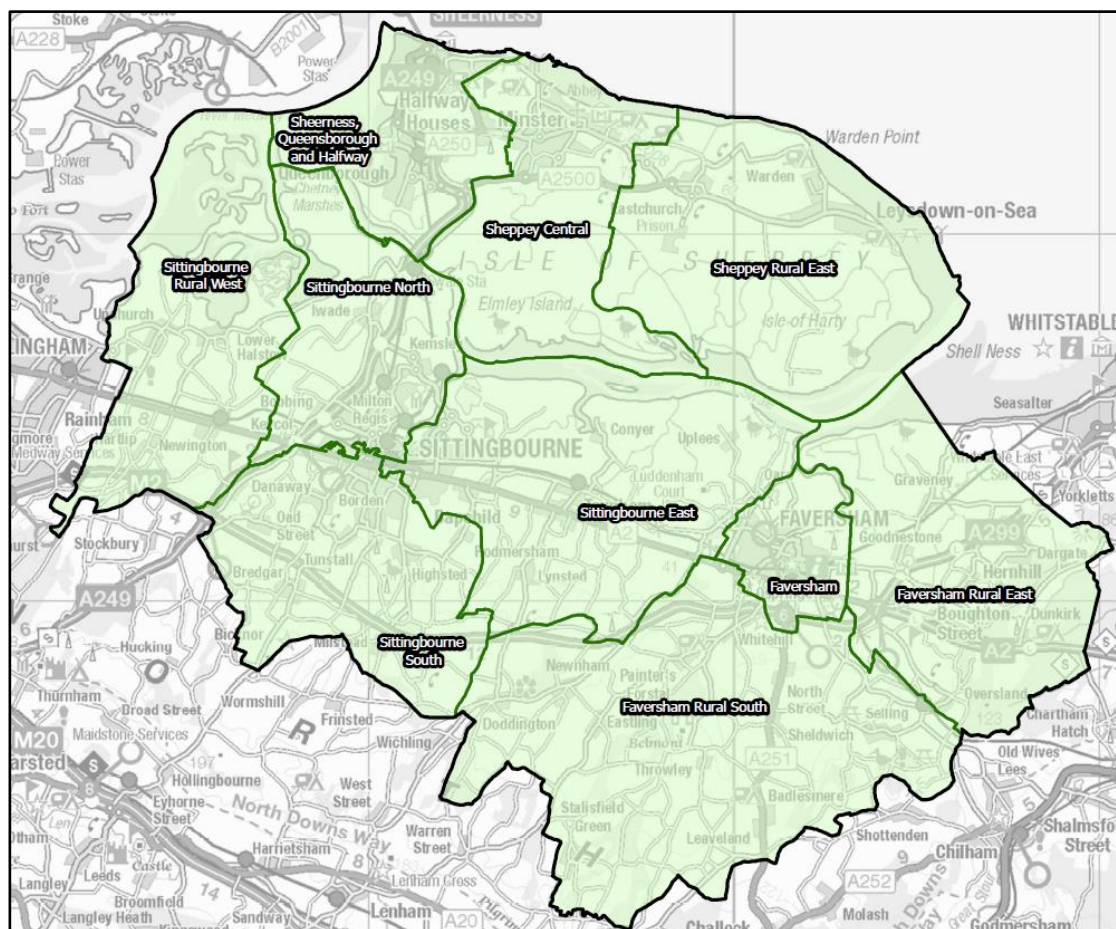
Planning Group	By 2024-25	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	By 2027-28	Between 2028-31	Post 2031
Dartford and Swanley Non-Selective Planning Group		4FE new provision at Alkerden 2FE permanent expansion at Leigh Academy		2FE expansion at Alkerden	2FE expansion at Alkerden	
Sevenoaks and Borough Green Non-Selective Planning Group	Up to 30 temporary Year 7 places					
West Kent Selective			Up to 60 temporary places	Up to 30 temporary places		
Special Schools			1 x New 250 place special school for Profound Severe and Complex Needs covering all of North Kent			

8.9. Swale

District commentary

- The birth rate for Swale remains slightly above the County average and follows a similar pattern with a sharply declining rate from 2016 to 2020, before recovering moderately in 2021. The number of births recorded follows a similar pattern.
- We forecast surplus primary places across the District throughout the Plan period with up to 302 places (10FE) for Year R in 2025/26, however there are variances across the planning groups.
- Within the secondary sector, we forecast a pressure in the Sittingbourne non-selective planning group of up to -160 places (5.3FE) in 2027/28 whilst for the Isle of Sheppey we forecast a surplus of places across the plan period with up to 136 (4.5FE) in 2031/32
- Swale Borough Council's Local Plan, adopted in July 2017, proposes a total of 13,192 new homes over the Plan period to 2031 with approximately 776 dwellings per year. During the 2011/12 to 2020/21 a total of 5,753 houses were completed (NET) with an average of 575 dwellings per year.
- Swale Borough Council is in the process of reviewing the current Swale Local Plan. The Local Plan Review will set out the planning framework for the borough for the period to 2038.

Map of the Swale Primary Planning Groups



Swale Primary Schools by Planning Group

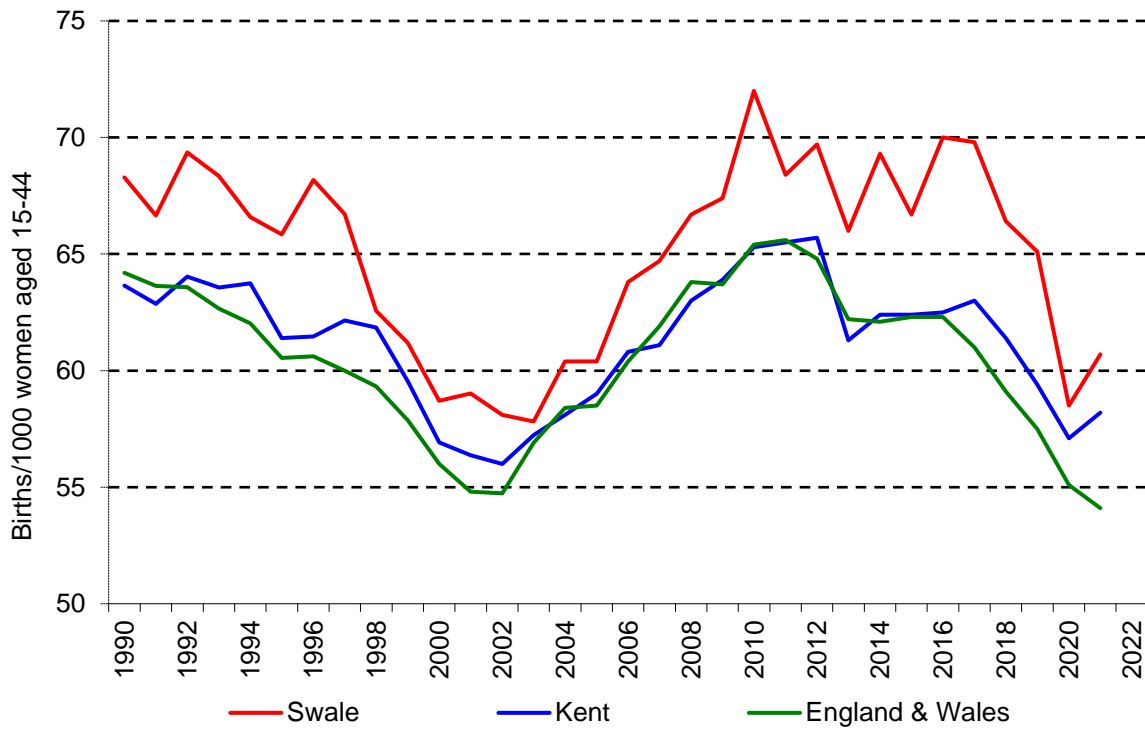
Planning groups	School	Status
Faversham	Bysing Wood Primary School	Academy
	Davington Primary School	Community
	Ethelbert Road Primary School	Community
	Luddenham School	Academy
	Ospringe CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Mary of Charity CE Primary School	Academy
Faversham Rural East	Boughton-under-Blean and Dunkirk Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Graveney Primary School	Academy
	Hernhill CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Faversham Rural South	Eastling Primary School	Community
	Selling CE Primary School	Academy
	Sheldwich Primary School	Academy
Sittingbourne East	Bapchild and Tonge CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Canterbury Road Primary School	Community
	Lansdowne Primary School	Academy
	Lynsted and Norton Primary School	Academy
	South Avenue Primary School	Academy
	Sunny Bank Primary School	Academy
Sittingbourne South	Teynham Parochial CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Borden CE Primary School	Academy
	Bredgar CE Primary School	Academy
	Milstead and Frinsted CE Primary School	Academy

Planning groups	School	Status
	Minterne Community Junior School	Academy
	Oaks Community Infant School	Academy
	Rodmersham Primary School	Community
	St. Peter's RC Primary School (Sittingbourne)	Academy
	Tunstall CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Westlands Primary School	Academy
Sittingbourne North	Bobbing Village School	Academy
	Grove Park Primary School	Academy
	Iwade School	Academy
	Kemsley Primary Academy	Academy
	Milton Court Primary Academy	Academy
	Regis Manor Primary School	Academy
Sittingbourne Rural West	Hartlip Endowed CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Holywell Primary School	Academy
	Lower Halstow Primary School	Community
	Newington CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Sheerness, Queenborough and Halfway	Halfway Houses Primary School	Academy
	Queenborough School	Academy
	Richmond Academy	Academy
	Rose Street Primary School	Community
	St. Edward's RC Primary School	Academy
	West Minster Primary School	Community
Sheppey central	Minster in Sheppey Primary School	Academy
	St. George's CE Primary School (Minster)	Academy
	Thistle Hill Academy	Academy
Sheppey Rural East	Eastchurch CE Primary School	Academy
	St Clements CE Primary School	Academy

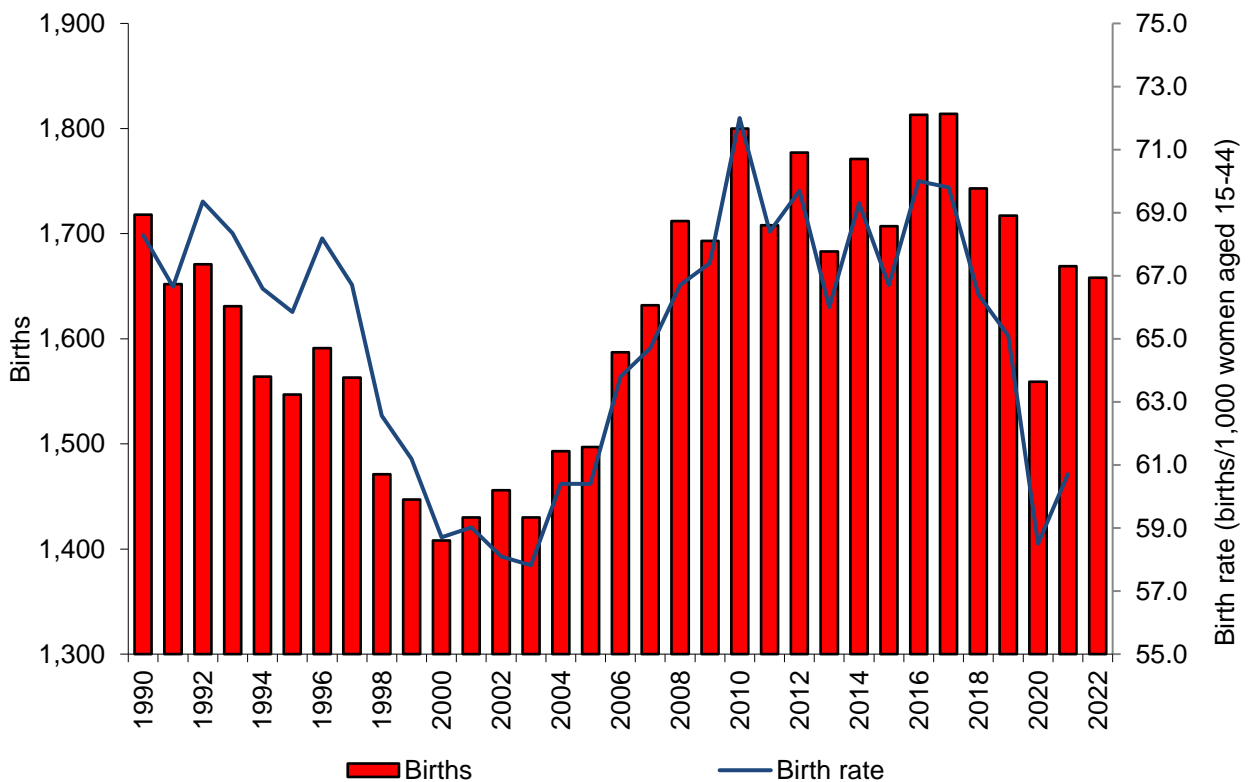
Birth Rate and Births Analysis

The charts below set out the birth rates for the Borough and the number of recorded births.

Swale, Kent and England & Wales birth rates 1990-2022



Swale births and birth rate 1990-2022



Swale Forecasts

Primary - Year R Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2022-23 capacity	2022-23 (A)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2032-33 capacity
Faversham	240	38	4	36	13	12	15	18	19	20	22	23	240
Faversham Rural East	75	5	8	10	15	12	12	13	13	14	15	16	75
Faversham Rural South	75	14	11	-1	1	1	2	2	2	3	4	4	60
Sittingbourne East	275	65	16	62	54	55	55	54	53	52	50	49	270
Sittingbourne South	300	-2	-9	25	16	3	3	2	0	-1	-2	-3	300
Sittingbourne North	330	15	14	34	36	35	33	30	26	22	18	14	330
Sittingbourne Rural West	105	8	5	-5	-5	-1	-1	-2	-2	-3	-2	-2	105
Sheerness, Queenborough and Halfway	390	78	63	54	89	101	102	102	102	102	103	103	360
Sheppey Central	210	15	28	61	70	50	51	51	51	51	51	51	210
Sheppey Rural East	60	12	16	18	14	9	9	8	8	7	7	6	60
Swale	2,060	248	156	293	302	278	281	278	272	268	265	260	2,010

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Secondary - Year 7 Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2022-23 capacity	2022-23 (A)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2032-33 capacity
Faversham Non-Selective	210	34	7	1	12	13	-27	-13	-10	-42	-12	-28	210
Isle of Sheppey Non-Selective	390	130	89	78	105	108	112	105	107	110	136	155	390
Sittingbourne Non-Selective	810	-26	-123	-93	-118	-75	-160	-121	-94	-136	-44	-40	765
Canterbury and Faversham Selective	615	-29	14	19	33	16	-24	-2	-11	-27	18	-3	645
Sittingbourne and Sheppey Selective	300	30	-24	8	7	21	-4	13	12	4	36	39	300

Primary District Commentary

Forecasts indicate that across Swale district there will be surplus capacity for Year R throughout the plan period. Year R surplus capacity peaks at 302 places 15% (10FE) in 2025-26 for the district, however there are differences across the primary planning groups with place pressures in Sittingbourne Rural West and surplus capacity in Sheerness, Queenborough and Halfway of 3FE from 2025.

Faversham Planning Groups

Across the 3 Faversham planning groups a surplus of places is forecast. Forecasts indicate up to 1.5FE of surplus capacity from 2024-25 continuing throughout the plan period. There are several housing developments and strategic sites in Faversham. Dependent on the rate of build-out and occupation of these sites, it is likely that there will be a need for additional capacity to the east of Faversham as current spare capacity is to the west of the town. Feasibilities have been undertaken for the future expansion of St Mary's of Charity by 1FE to meet this need when required.

Sittingbourne East Planning Group

Forecasts indicate a surplus of up to 2FE Year R places in Sittingbourne East Planning Group throughout the plan period. It is anticipated that new housing developments in the planning area will increase the pressure on places. It is proposed to expand Sunny Bank Primary School by 0.5FE to meet this need when it arises. A 1FE expansion of Teynham Primary School, combined with a rebuild of the school, is planned to meet the demand that will arise linked to the housing developments in and around Teynham.

Sittingbourne South Planning Group

Forecasts indicate a 0.8FE surplus of Year R places in Sittingbourne South Planning Group in 2024/25. It then shows a growing pressure on places across the Plan period with a deficit of places from 2030/2031 onwards. In the short-term, surplus capacity in neighbouring planning groups will support the need for places. It is anticipated that in the medium to long term, as new housing developments are built and occupied in the planning area, a new 2FE primary school will be required to serve the need from the Wises Lane development.

Sittingbourne North Planning Group

Forecasts indicate a surplus of between 1FE in 2024/25 reducing through the plan period to 0.5FE. A new 2FE primary provision as part of an all-through school is to be established later in the Plan period on the Quinton Road development to provide primary places for this development of 1,400 new homes.

Sittingbourne Rural West Planning Group

Forecasts show a deficit of places of up to 0.2FE across the forecast period from 2024/2025. It is anticipated that surplus capacity in adjacent primary planning areas will provide sufficient places across the plan period.

Sheerness, Queenborough and Halfway, Sheppey Central and Sheppey Rural East Planning Groups

Forecasts indicate a surplus of places of between 4.4FE and 5.3FE across these three planning groups throughout the plan period. Discussions will take place with the schools on managing this surplus to ensure all schools remain viable.

Secondary District Commentary

There are five planning groups within Swale district, or which cross the district boundary (See appendix 13.2 for the non-selective and selective planning group maps). Three of which are

non-selective (Faversham, Isle of Sheppey and Sittingbourne) and two selective (Sittingbourne and Sheppey, and Canterbury and Faversham). The commentary below outlines the forecast position for each of the planning groups.

Faversham Non-Selective Planning Group

The Abbey School is the only non-selective school in Faversham.

Forecasts indicate from 2027/28 a pressure on places of up to 1FE continuing throughout the plan period. All the housing developments for Faversham identified in the current Local Plan are being built-out and a 1FE permanent expansion of The Abbey School will be required with a further 1FE of capacity potentially required to meet the need later in the forecast period as housing occupations increase.

Isle of Sheppey Non-Selective Planning Group

The Oasis Isle of Sheppey Academy is the only non-selective school in the Isle of Sheppey planning group. It is a large wide-ability school operating on two sites.

Proposals to replace the current school with two smaller non-selective secondary schools, one at 6FE on the Minster site and the other at 5FE on the Sheerness site (a reduction in 2FE of capacity overall), to be run by two Trusts (Leigh Academy Trust and East Kent College Schools Trust respectively) are under consultation. Should the proposal be agreed, the new schools would open from September 2024.

Forecasts for Year 7 show a continuing surplus of places over the Plan period of between 2.6FE to 5FE against the current capacity of 13FE. This surplus will help to address the deficit in the Sittingbourne non-selective planning area. The forecast surplus places are a direct result of the increasing number of pupils travelling off the Isle of Sheppey for their education into Sittingbourne schools. This results in additional pressure on places in the Sittingbourne non-selective planning group schools. We will continue to work with Oasis Academy Trust, DfE, Regional Director, Swale Borough Council, the incoming Trusts and other local parties to address this issue. The current proposals are part of plans to address the situation and to help reverse the level of travel off the Island to secondary schools in Sittingbourne.

Sittingbourne Non-Selective Planning Group

There are three schools in the Sittingbourne non-selective planning group: Fulston Manor School, The Westlands School and The Sittingbourne School.

Forecasts indicate that for Year 7 there is a fluctuating deficit of places over the Plan period. In 2024 forecasts shows a deficit of -93 (3FE) places rising to a peak of -160 (5.3FE) in 2027/8. The pressure showing in Sittingbourne is exacerbated by large numbers of pupils travelling off the Isle of Sheppey for their secondary education. Surplus capacity in Secondary provision on the Island will help to offset some of the deficit in Sittingbourne.

Discussion on the transfer of the North Sittingbourne Quinton Road site for a new 6FE secondary School are continuing. It is likely any transfer will not take place until 2025 at the earliest.

Sittingbourne and Sheppey Selective Planning Group

There are two Schools in the planning group, Borden Grammar School (Boys) and Highsted Grammar School (Girls).

Forecasts indicate slight surplus capacity across the plan period with a deficit in 2027/8 of -4 places. Both schools have an expansion project to increase their PANs by 1FE which is now reflected in the forecast and will provide sufficient capacity to meet local demand.

Canterbury and Faversham Selective Planning Group

There are four schools in the Canterbury and Faversham selective planning group: Barton Court Grammar School, Simon Langton Girl's Grammar School, Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys and Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School.

Forecasts indicate a surplus of places in the planning group until 2027 of between 0.5FE and 1FE. From 2027/28 there is a pressure forecast in the planning group of between -0.6FE and 1FE for Year 7 places across the Plan period. A feasibility will be undertaken at Simon Langton Girls School to expand the school by 1FE.

Planned Commissioning – Swale

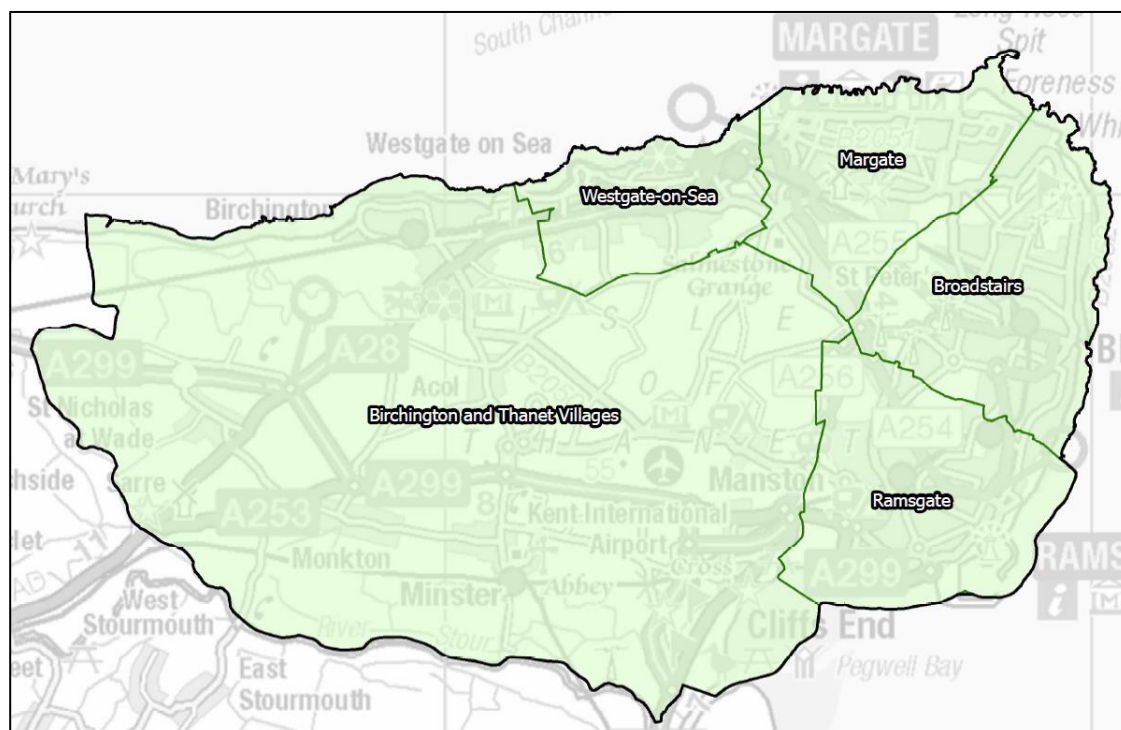
Planning Group	By 2024-25	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	By 2027-28	Between 2028-31	Post 2031
Faversham					1FE expansion of St Mary's of Charity	
Sittingbourne East		1FE expansion of Teynham PS			0.5FE expansion of Sunny Bank PS	
Sittingbourne South					2FE new Primary School at Wises Lane	
Sittingbourne North					2FE new provision on Quinton Road	
Faversham Non-Selective				1FE expansion of Abbey School.	2 nd 1FE expansion of Abbey School	
Sittingbourne Non-selective				6FE new provision on Quinton Road		
Canterbury and Faversham Selective				1FE expansion of Simon Langton Girls School		
Special Schools	120 place Special Secondary School for SEMH with ASD		40 place expansion of Special school for SEMH with ASD to include Primary provision or a primary satellite			
Satellites	20 place secondary satellite of Meadowfield at Fulston Manor 60 place satellite for ASD on the Isle of Sheppey					

8.10. Thanet

District commentary

- The birth rate in Thanet has fallen steadily since 2017. It continued to decrease in 2021 and the rate has now dipped below the County average, although it is still greater than the national average (57.1% versus 54.1%). The number of births have similarly decreased since 2017 to a low of 1,360 births in 2022.
- We forecast surplus Primary school places across the district throughout the Plan period with a peak of 335 places (11.1FE) in 2028/2029. Within the Secondary sector, Thanet Non-Selective planning group shows a pressure of between 10 places (0.33FE) to 34 places (1.13) from 2024 to 2029 when a surplus is forecast. There is a surplus of capacity of selective places throughout the Plan period for the Thanet Selective group.
- Thanet District Council's Local Plan to 2031, adopted on the 9 July 2020, includes the provision of 17,140 additional dwellings in the period up to 2031. During the 2011/12 to 2020/21 a total of 3,444 houses were completed (NET) with an average of 344 per year. The Council is carrying out a partial update of the Thanet Local Plan which would extend the plan period to 2040. The council plans to consult on the draft plan in September 2023.

Map of the Thanet Primary Planning Groups



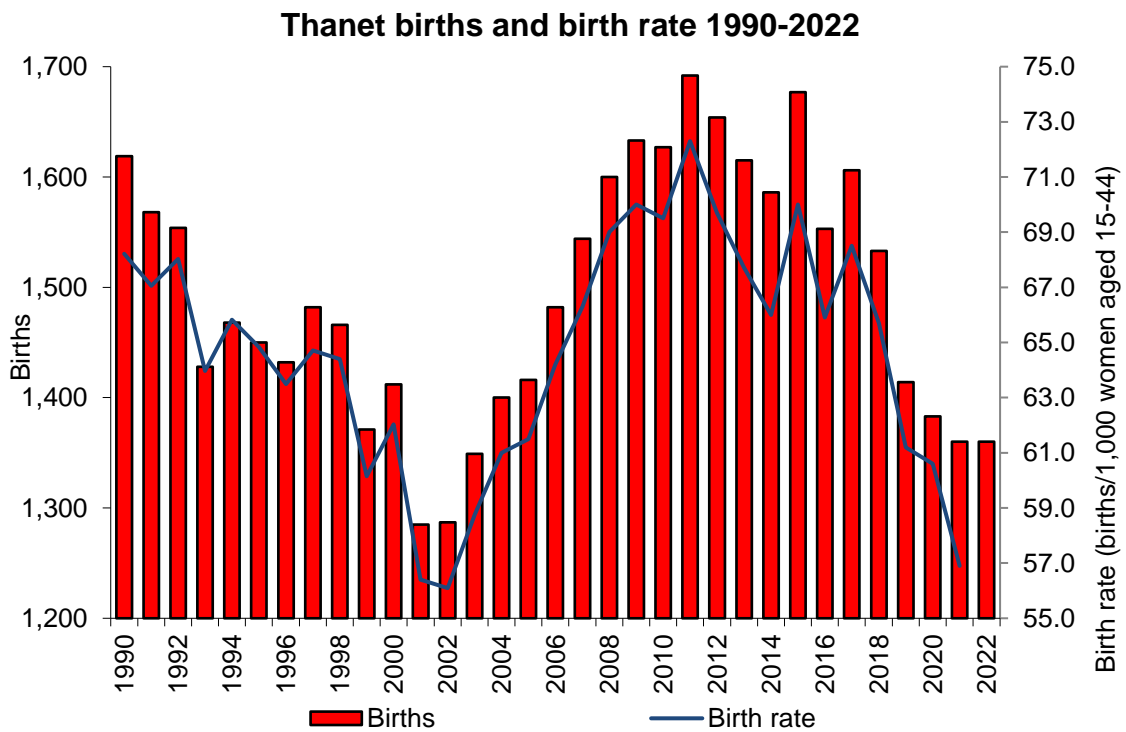
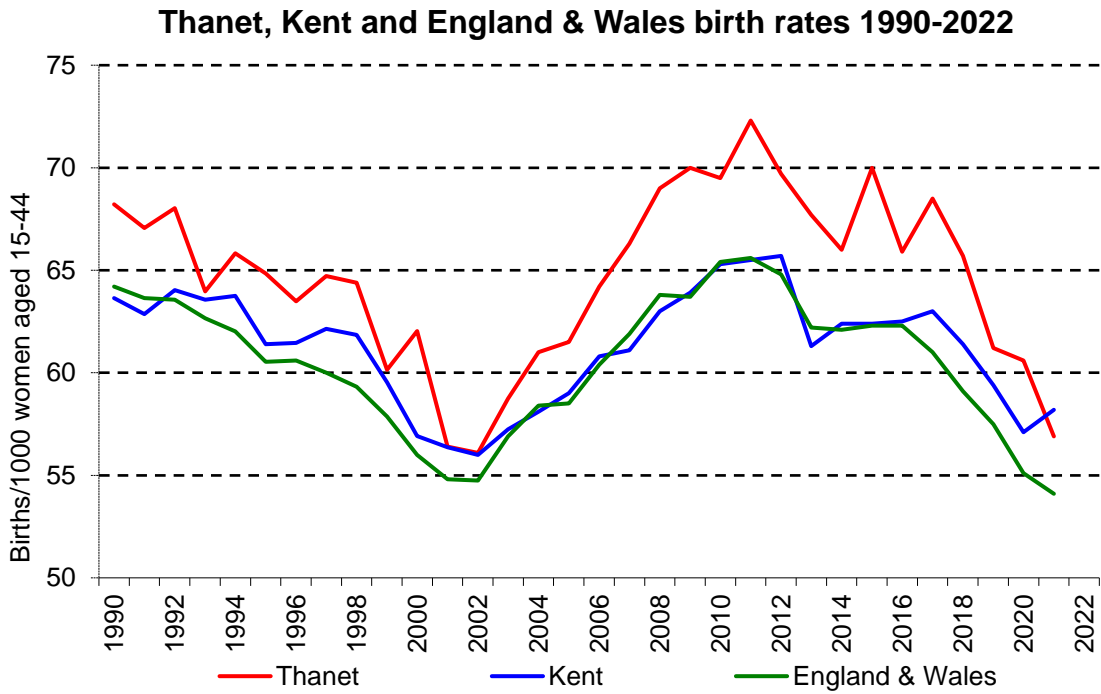
Thanet Primary Schools by Planning Group

Planning Group	School	Status
Margate	Cliftonville Primary School	Academy
	Drapers Mills Primary Academy	Academy
	Holy Trinity and St. John's CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Northdown Primary School	Academy
	Palm Bay Primary School	Academy
	Salmestone Primary School	Academy
	St. Gregory's RC Primary School	Academy
Westgate-on-Sea	Garlinge Primary School	Community
	St. Crispin's Community Infant School	Community
	St. Saviour's CE Junior School	Voluntary Controlled
Ramsgate	Chilton Primary School	Academy
	Christ Church CE Junior School	Academy
	Dame Janet Primary Academy	Academy
	Ellington Infant School	Community
	Newington Community Primary School (Ramsgate)	Community
	Newlands Primary School	Academy
	Priory Infant School	Community
	Ramsgate Arts Primary School	Free
	Ramsgate Holy Trinity CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	St. Ethelbert's RC Primary School	Voluntary Aided
St. Laurence-in-Thanet CE Junior Academy	Academy	
Broadstairs	Bromstone Primary School	Foundation
	Callis Grange Infant School	Community
	St. George's CE Primary School (Broadstairs)	Foundation
	St. Joseph's RC Primary School (Broadstairs)	Academy
	St. Mildred's Infant School	Community

Planning Group	School	Status
	St. Peter-in-Thamet CE Junior School	Voluntary Aided
	Upton Junior School	Academy
Birchington and Thanet Villages	Birchington CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Minster CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Monkton CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Nicholas at Wade CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled

Birth Rate and Births Analysis

The charts below set out the birth rates for the district and the number of recorded births.



Thanet Forecasts

Primary - Year R Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2022-23 capacity	2022-23 (A)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2032-33 capacity
Margate	435	52	93	96	113	119	120	123	123	123	124	124	435
Westgate-on-Sea	210	32	50	52	52	57	57	59	58	59	59	59	210
Ramsgate	540	74	63	62	129	98	104	111	115	119	122	124	495
Broadstairs	330	13	33	36	37	61	62	63	62	62	62	62	330
Birchington and Thanet Villages	165	7	22	14	2	-9	-15	-21	-26	-28	-31	-35	165
Thanet	1,680	178	261	260	332	326	327	335	332	336	335	334	1,635

Secondary - Year 7 Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2022-23 capacity	2022-23 (A)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2032-33 capacity
Thanet Non Selective	1,159	2	-21	-22	-30	-23	-34	-10	-19	86	89	139	1,099
Thanet Selective	345	-7	-2	8	6	8	4	15	9	20	24	35	345

Primary District Commentary

Forecasts indicate that Thanet district has surplus capacity for Year R places across the Plan period. Surplus capacity ranges between 8.6FE to a peak of 11.1FE in the forecast period.

There are significant differences within the individual planning groups, with Margate and Ramsgate showing high levels of surplus capacity, Westgate-on-sea and Broadstairs also showing spare capacity whilst Birchington and Thanet Villages planning group has a deficit of places.

Margate Planning Group

Forecasts indicate surplus Year R places across the Plan period between 3.2FE and 4.1FE. Discussions will take place with the schools on options to manage this surplus to ensure all schools remain viable. This could be through further reduction in Published Admission Numbers.

Ramsgate Planning Group

Forecasts indicate surplus Year R places across the Plan period with between 2FE and 4.3FE. Discussions will take place with the schools on options to manage this surplus to ensure all schools remain viable. This could be through reduction in Published Admission Numbers.

Planned developments within Birchington and Thanet Villages planning group will help to reduce the current surplus as a number of the villages border the Ramsgate planning group. A new 2FE primary school to serve the Manston Green Development will be required in the long term, if all housing proceeds as set out in the Local Plan.

Birchington and Thanet Villages Planning Group

Forecasts indicate a pressure on Year R places in this planning group from 2026-27 that rises gradually to 1FE by the end of the forecast period. Initially, the surplus of places in the adjacent planning groups will support this pressure. Any future pupil pressures arising from the developments closer to the borders of the Margate and Ramsgate planning groups could initially be accommodated in Margate and Ramsgate schools due to the surplus capacity available. Birchington Primary School can also revert to a 3FE PAN to support the initial pressure from new housing in Birchington. New primary school provision to serve any new housing developments may be required later in the Plan period in Birchington and/or Westgate-on-Sea if all housing comes forward as set out in the Local Plan.

Secondary District Commentary

There are two planning groups which are within Thanet district, one non-selective and one selective (See appendix 13.2 for the non-selective and selective planning group maps). The commentary below outlines the forecast position for each of the planning groups.

Thanet Non-Selective Planning Group

There are six schools in the Thanet non-selective planning group: Charles Dickens School, Hartsdown Academy, King Ethelbert School, Royal Harbour Academy, St George's CE Foundation School and Ursuline College.

Forecasts indicate a deficit of places of -22 (0.7FE) in 2024/25 rising to a high of -34 (1.1FE) in 2027/28. After this, the forecast fluctuates between a slight deficit to a surplus of places from 2030/31.

Discussions will be held with the Thanet non-selective schools on managing the need for places in the short term till 2027/2028 via bulge classes.

Thanet Selective Planning Group

There are two schools in the Thanet selective planning group: Chatham and Clarendon Grammar School and Dane Court Grammar School.

Forecasts indicate a slight fluctuation of surplus places throughout the plan period.

Planned Commissioning – Thanet

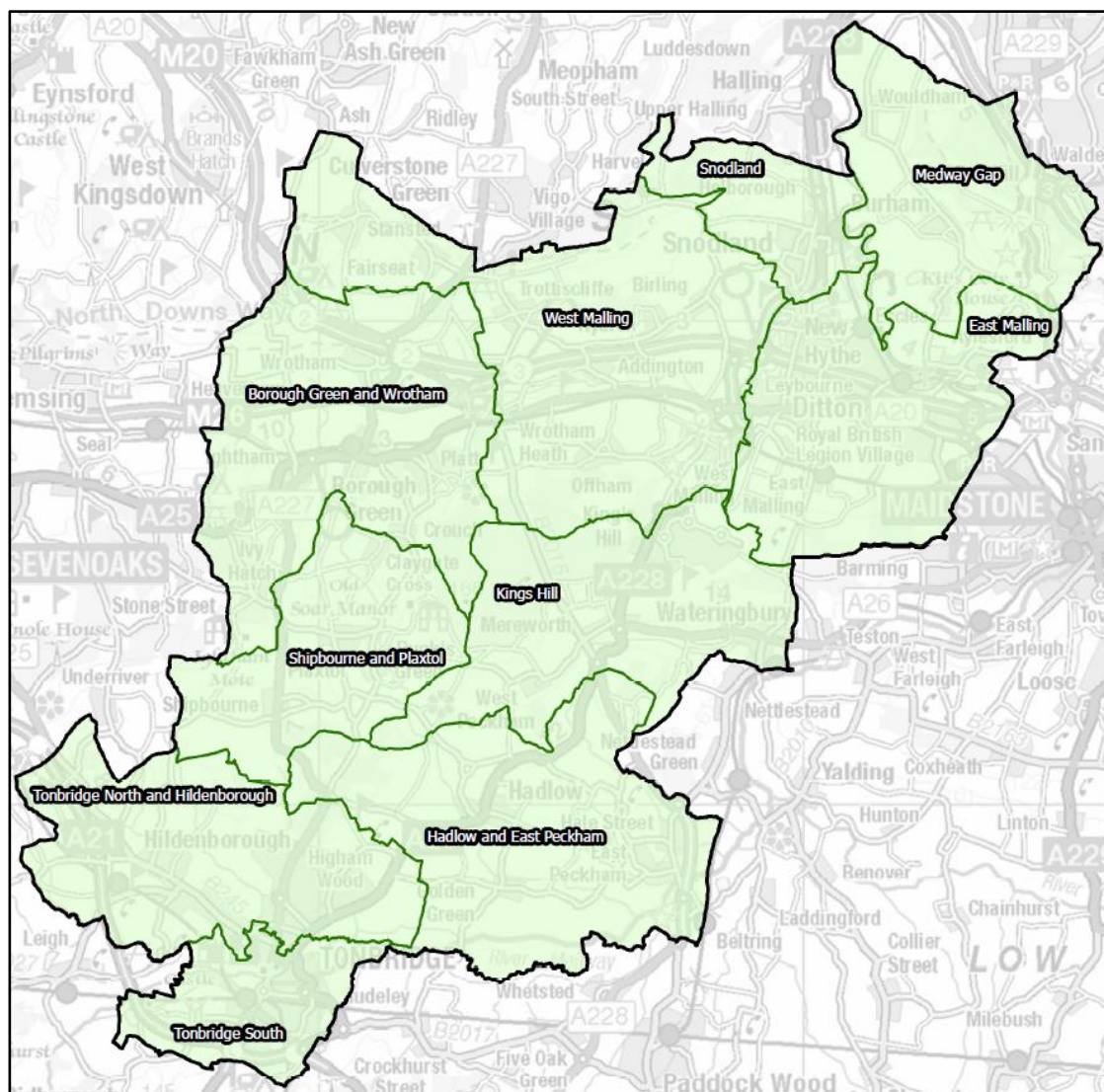
Planning Group	By 2024-25	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	By 2027-28	Between 2028-31	Post 2031
Ramsgate					2FE new primary at Manston Green	
Birchington and Thanet Villages					1FE Expansion at Birchington	2FE new primary in Birchington and/or Westgate on Sea
Thanet Non-Selective	Up to 30 places	Up to 30 places	Up to 30 places	Up to 30 places		
Specialist Resourced Provision		30 place Secondary SRP for ASD				

8.11. Tonbridge and Malling

Borough commentary

- The birth rate for Tonbridge and Malling is slightly above the County average but has followed a similar pattern, dropping significantly from 2018 to 2020, before increasing slightly in 2021. The number of births also increased in 2021, before falling back in 2022.
- We forecast sufficient primary school places across the Borough to meet demand across the Plan period. However, there is local place pressures within some planning groups which will need to be addressed. Within the secondary sector, we anticipate sufficient places during the Plan period for the Malling Non-Selective planning group and the Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells Non-Selective, but a deficit of places in 2024-25 in the Sevenoaks and Borough Green Non-Selective selective group and the group will require additional provision. The West Kent Selective planning group as has small deficit forecast for the majority of the forecast period.
- On 13 July 2021, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council withdrew their proposed Local Plan from public examination. The Borough Council expects to submit a revised plan to the Secretary of State in April 2025. The forecasts within the Kent Commissioning Plan incorporate consented housing proposals and remaining sites to be built out from the current Core Strategy. Any housing proposals from emerging Local Plans are not incorporated within the forecasts.

Map of the Tonbridge and Malling Primary Planning Groups



Tonbridge and Malling Primary Schools by Planning Group

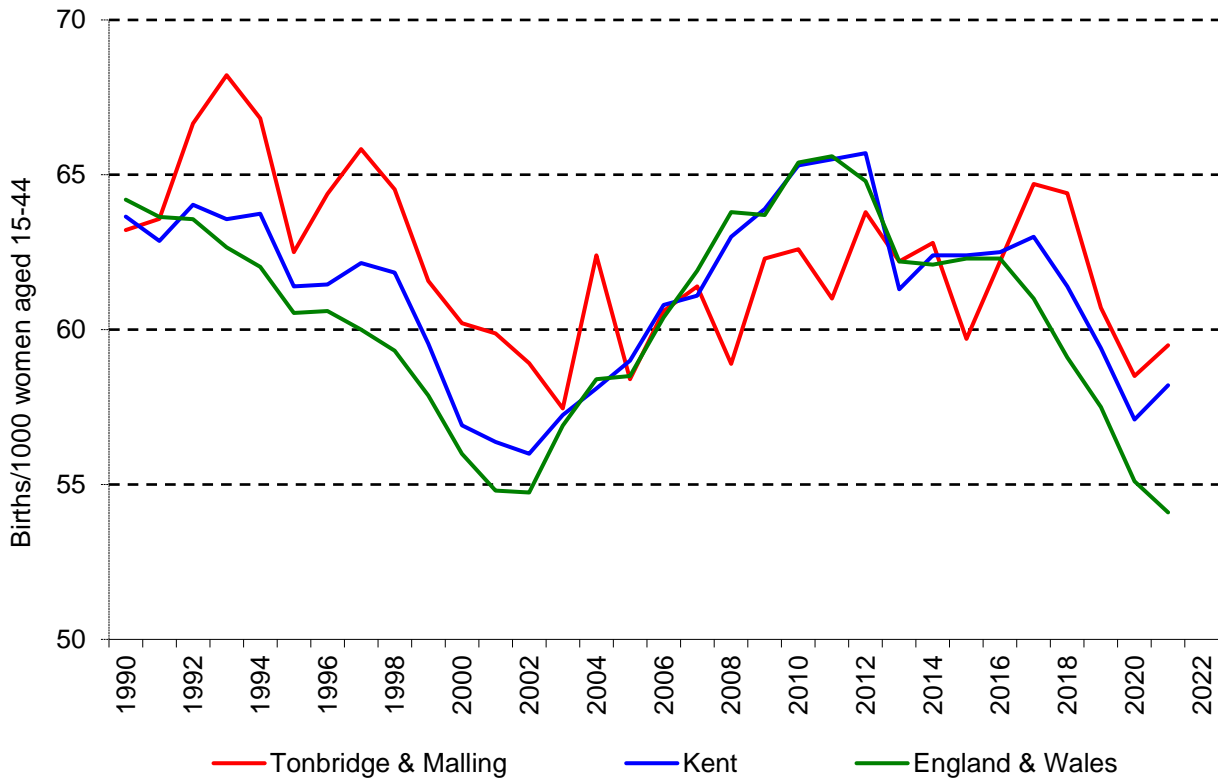
Planning Groups	School	Status
Tonbridge South	Bishop Chavasse CE Primary School	Free
	Royal Rise Primary School	Academy
	Slade Primary School	Community
	Sussex Road Community Primary School	Community
Tonbridge North and Hildenborough	Cage Green Primary School	Academy
	Hildenborough CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Long Mead Community Primary School	Community
	St. Margaret Clitherow RC Primary School	Academy
	Stocks Green Primary School	Community
Hadlow and East Peckham	East Peckham Primary School	Community
	Hadlow Primary School	Community
Shipbourne and Plaxtol	Plaxtol Primary School	Community
	Shipbourne School	Community
Kings Hill	Discovery School	Community
	Kings Hill School	Community
	Mereworth Community Primary School	Community
	Valley Invicta Primary School at Kings Hill	Academy

Planning Groups	School	Status
	Wateringbury CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
Borough Green and Wrotham	Borough Green Primary School	Foundation
	Ightham Primary School	Community
	Platt CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	St. George's CE Primary School (Wrotham)	Voluntary Controlled
West Malling	More Park RC Primary School	Academy
	Offham Primary School	Community
	Ryarsh Primary School	Community
	Trottscliffe CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Valley Invicta Primary School at Leybourne Chase	Academy
	West Malling CE Primary School	Academy
East Malling	Brookfield Infant School	Community
	Brookfield Junior School	Community
	Ditton CE Junior School	Voluntary Aided
	Ditton Infant School	Foundation
	Leybourne St. Peter and St. Paul CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Lunsford Primary School	Community
	St. James the Great Academy	Academy
	St. Peter's CE Primary School (Aylesford)	Voluntary Controlled
	Valley Invicta Primary School at Aylesford	Academy
Snodland	Snodland CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	St. Katherine's School (Snodland)	Academy
	Valley Invicta Primary School at Holborough Lakes	Academy
Medway Gap	Burham CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Mark's CE Primary School (Eccles)	Academy
	Tunbury Primary School	Community
	Wouldham All Saint's CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled

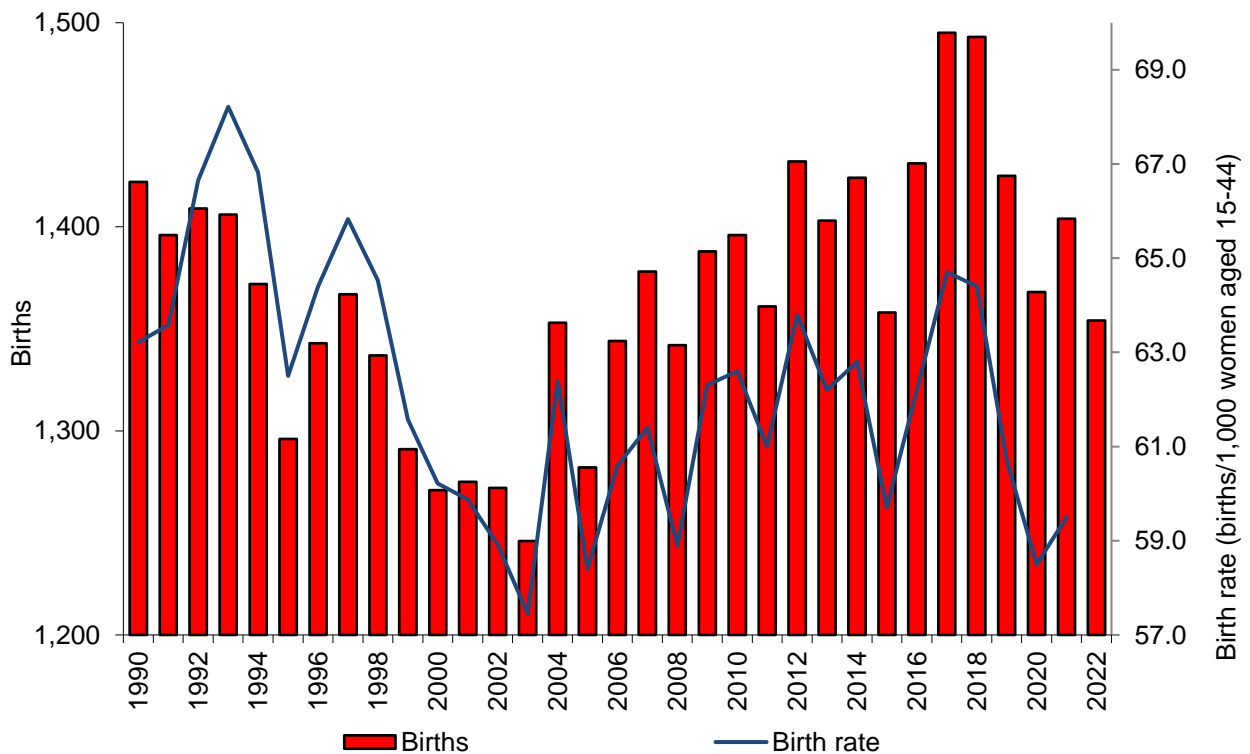
Birth Rate and Births Analysis

The charts below set out the birth rates for the Borough and the number of recorded births.

Tonbridge & Malling, Kent and England & Wales birth rates 1990-2022



Tonbridge & Malling births and birth rate 1990-2022



Tonbridge and Malling Analysis – Primary

Primary - Year R Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2022-23 capacity	2022-23 (A)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2032-33 capacity
Tonbridge South	210	6	27	48	38	44	44	45	46	46	48	49	210
Tonbridge North and Hildenborough	270	35	50	63	73	81	82	84	84	85	86	88	270
Hadlow and East Peckham	60	0	12	16	9	19	20	20	20	21	21	22	60
Shipbourne and Plaxtol	23	1	1	6	-1	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	23
Kings Hill	240	21	39	38	25	47	47	48	47	47	46	46	240
Borough Green and Wrotham	135	21	18	29	11	24	23	22	20	20	19	19	135
West Malling	162	0	3	-5	-2	-12	-17	-22	-27	-33	-38	-42	162
East Malling	294	15	36	13	32	40	40	40	40	40	41	42	294
Stodland	180	38	22	-8	10	8	7	7	6	6	5	5	150
Medway Gap	198	38	11	-3	-4	-26	-30	-33	-36	-39	-41	-42	198
Tonbridge & Malling	1,772	175	220	197	190	227	220	215	204	196	192	191	1,742

Secondary - Year 7 Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2022-23 capacity	2022-23 (A)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2032-33 capacity
Malling Non-Selective	543	65	66	54	80	86	50	69	77	70	54	79	543
Sevenoaks and Borough Green Non-Selective	585	-20	6	-22	40	8	23	31	38	46	79	38	630
Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells Non-Selective	1,584	58	16	96	88	25	53	34	20	71	105	81	1,584
West Kent Selective	1,265	-26	-48	-22	-7	-53	-40	-29	-6	5	70	51	1,235

Primary District Commentary

For primary education, the overall forecasts indicate sufficient places to meet demand across the Plan period. However, there are local place pressures within some of the individual planning groups.

Shipbourne and Plaxtol Planning Group

There is forecast to be a very small surplus throughout the Plan period apart from in 2025-26 when there will be a 1 place deficit. We will monitor the situation but would anticipate that there are sufficient places in the neighbouring planning groups to accommodate a single place deficit.

West Malling Planning Group

Forecasts for West Malling show deficits throughout the Plan period. The deficits are very small in the initial years and then from 2026-27 moves to an 11 place deficit that increases slowly to above 1 FE by the end of the Plan period. We anticipate that the deficits can be accommodated in the adjacent Kings Hill planning group for the short to medium term but will monitor the need for additional accommodation in the longer term.

Snodland Planning Group

The Planning group will have a small surplus of places apart from 2024-25 when it is forecast to have a deficit of 8 places. It is anticipated that the deficit year can be accommodated in neighbouring planning groups.

Medway Gap Planning Group

The planning group is forecast to have a deficit throughout the Plan period. There will be small deficits in 2024-25 and 2025-26, but this increases to 26 places in 2026-27 and continues to increase slowly through the Plan period. We will work with local schools to establish bulge provision before seeking a more permanent solution via the expansion of an existing school. The demand for school places within this group can be impacted by children resident in Medway, we will work with Medway Council when determining the most appropriate commissioning strategy for ensuring all children have a school place.

Secondary District Commentary

There are four planning groups which are within Tonbridge and Malling Borough or which cross the Borough boundary (See appendix 12.2 for the non-selective and selective planning group maps). Three of which are non-selective. The commentary below outlines the forecast position for each of the planning groups.

Malling Non-Selective Planning Group

There are three schools in the planning group: Aylesford School, Holmesdale School and Malling School. Forecasts indicate that there will be sufficient Year 7 places across the Plan period.

Sevenoaks and Borough Green Non-Selective Planning Group

There are three schools in the Sevenoaks and Borough Green non-selective planning group: Knowle Academy, Wrotham School and Trinity School.

The forecast indicates fluctuating demand for Year 7 places throughout the Plan period. There is a deficit of 22 places forecast in 2024-25 and small surpluses through the remainder of the Plan period. We will also work with existing schools to offer bulge provision of up to 30 places to meet the deficit in 2024-25.

Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells Non-Selective Planning Group

There are eight schools in the planning group: Hadlow Rural Community School, Hayesbrook School, Hillview School for Girls, Hugh Christie Technology College, Bennett Memorial Diocesan School, Mascalls Academy, Skinners' Kent Academy and St. Gregory's Catholic School.

Forecasts indicate that there will be sufficient Year 7 places across the Plan period. It should be noted that these forecasts do not incorporate the impact of housing growth associated with unconsented or unallocated development outside of an adopted Local Plan, therefore future strategic housing growth may have a significant impact over and above the forecast need.

West Kent Selective Planning Group

There are six schools in the planning group: Judd School, Tonbridge Grammar School, Weald of Kent Grammar School, Skinners' School, Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School and Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys.

The forecast indicates that there will be fluctuating deficits through to 2030-31 when there is a forecast surplus. We anticipate that these forecast deficits will be met through commissioned bulge provision in existing schools where necessary or own admission authorities offering over their PAN. We will keep the need for additional permanent capacity under review.

Planned Commissioning – Tonbridge and Malling

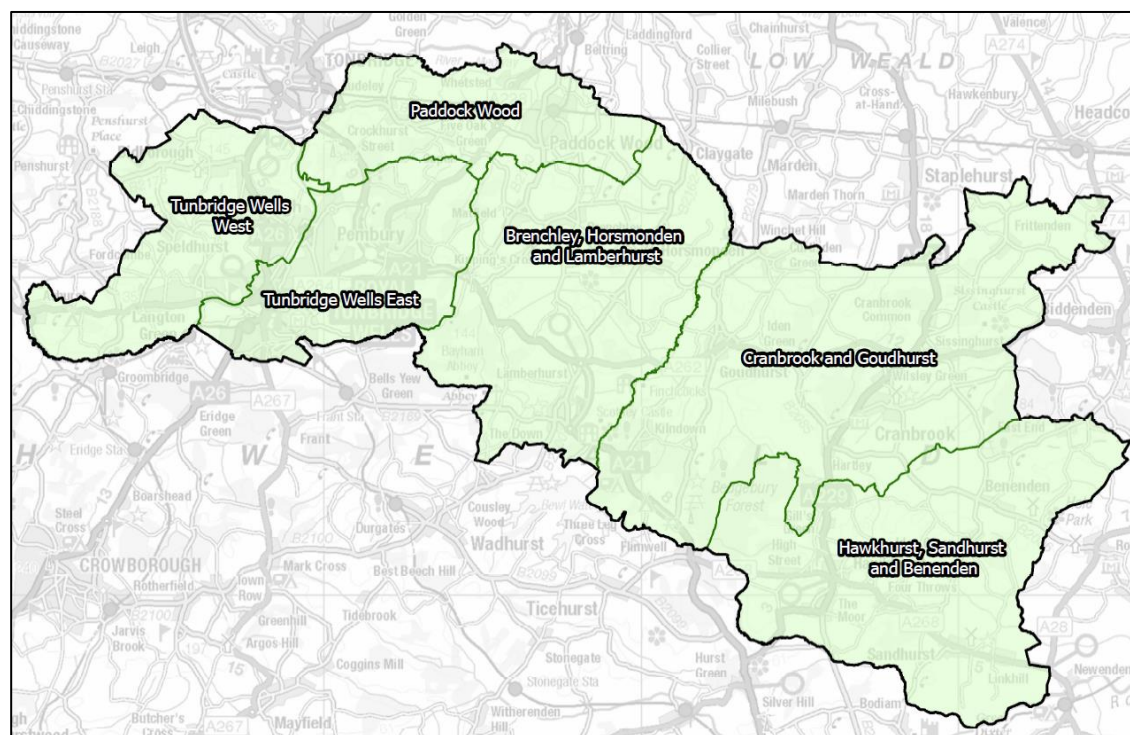
Planning Group	By 2024-25	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	By 2027-28	Between 2028-31	Post 2031
Medway Gap				1FE Expansion of Existing School		
Sevenoaks and Borough Green Non-Selective Planning Group	Up to 30 temporary Year 7 places					
Special School		50 place secondary PSCN special school satellite.				

8.12. Tunbridge Wells

Borough Commentary

- The birth rate for Tunbridge Wells has declined in recent years but increased significantly in 2021 and was on par with the County average in that year. The number of recorded births had fallen incrementally for the previous 4 years, but similarly increased in 2021, before falling back again in 2022.
- We forecast sufficient primary school places across the Borough throughout the Plan period albeit there is local place pressure within the Cranbrook and Goudhurst, the Brenchley, Horsmonden and Lamberhurst and the Paddock Wood planning groups. Within the secondary sector, we anticipate there will be sufficient places during the Plan period within the Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells Non-Selective and the Cranbrook Selective groups. The forecast indicates a deficit of places for the Tenterden and Cranbrook Non-Selective and the West Kent Selective planning groups.
- Consultation took place on Issues and Options for the new Local Plan in 2017 and on a Draft Local Plan in autumn 2019, a final proposed Local Plan is now undergoing independent examination. The assessed housing need for the Borough is 678 dwellings per annum, equivalent to some 12,200 additional homes over the plan period to 2038. We will continue working with the Borough Council to ensure sufficient education provision is provided for future housing growth. During the 5 year period 2015-16 to 2019-20 a total of 2473 houses were completed with an average of 494.6 per year, which is below the required average.

Map of the Tunbridge Wells Primary Planning Groups



Tunbridge Wells Primary Schools by Planning Group

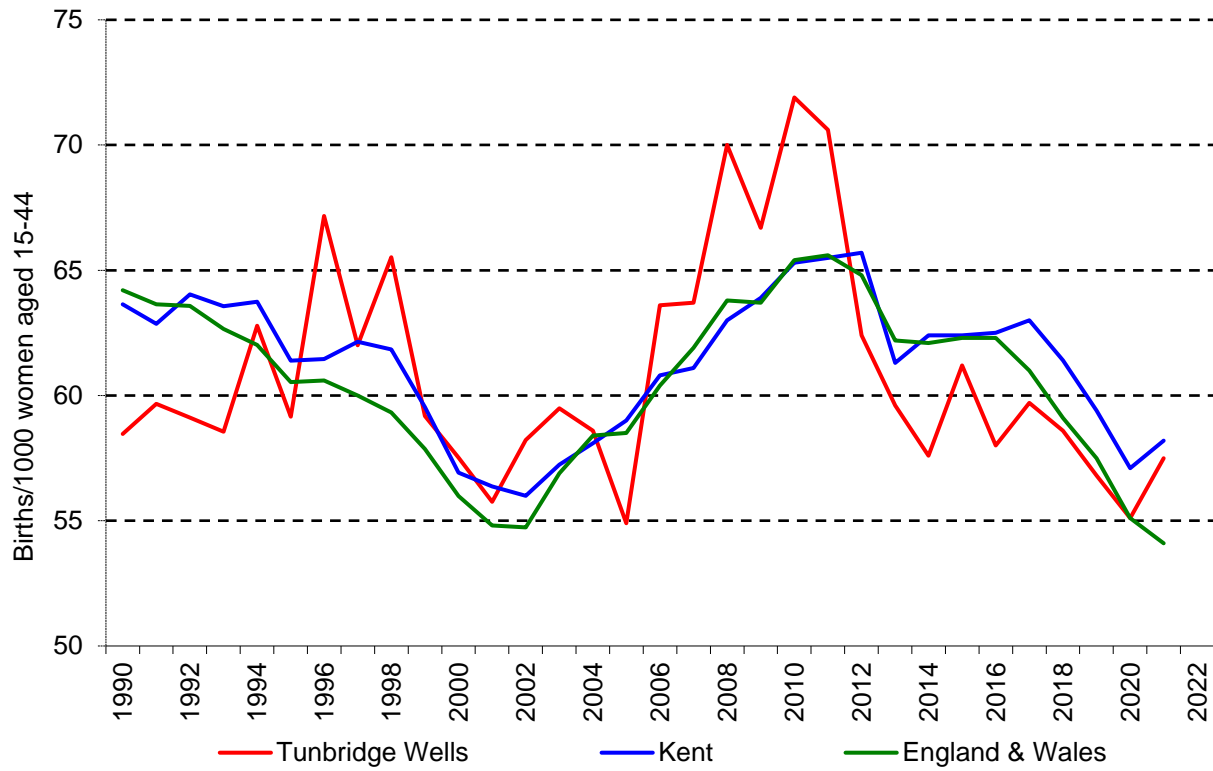
Planning Groups	School	Status
Tunbridge Wells East	Broadwater Down Primary School	Community
	Claremont Primary School	Community
	Pembury School	Community
	Skinners' Kent Primary School	Academy
	St. Barnabas CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	St. James' CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	St. Mark's CE Primary School (Tunbridge Wells)	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Peter's CE Primary School (Tunbridge Wells)	Voluntary Controlled
	Temple Grove Academy	Academy
	Wells Free School	Free
Tunbridge Wells West	Bidborough CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Bishops Down Primary School	Community
	Langton Green Primary School	Community
	Rusthall St. Paul's CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Southborough CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Speldhurst CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	St. Augustine's RC Primary School (Tunbridge Wells)	Academy
	St. John's CE Primary School (Tunbridge Wells)	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Matthew's High Brooms CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Paddock Wood	Capel Primary School	Community
	Paddock Wood Primary School	Academy
Brenchley, Horsmonden and Lamberhurst	Brenchley and Matfield CE Primary School	Academy
	Horsmonden Primary School	Academy
	Lamberhurst St. Mary's CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Cranbrook and Goudhurst	Colliers Green CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Cranbrook CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled

Planning Groups	School	Status
	Frittenden CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Goudhurst and Kilndown CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Sissinghurst CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
Hawkhurst, Sandhurst and Benenden	Benenden CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Hawkhurst CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Sandhurst Primary School	Community

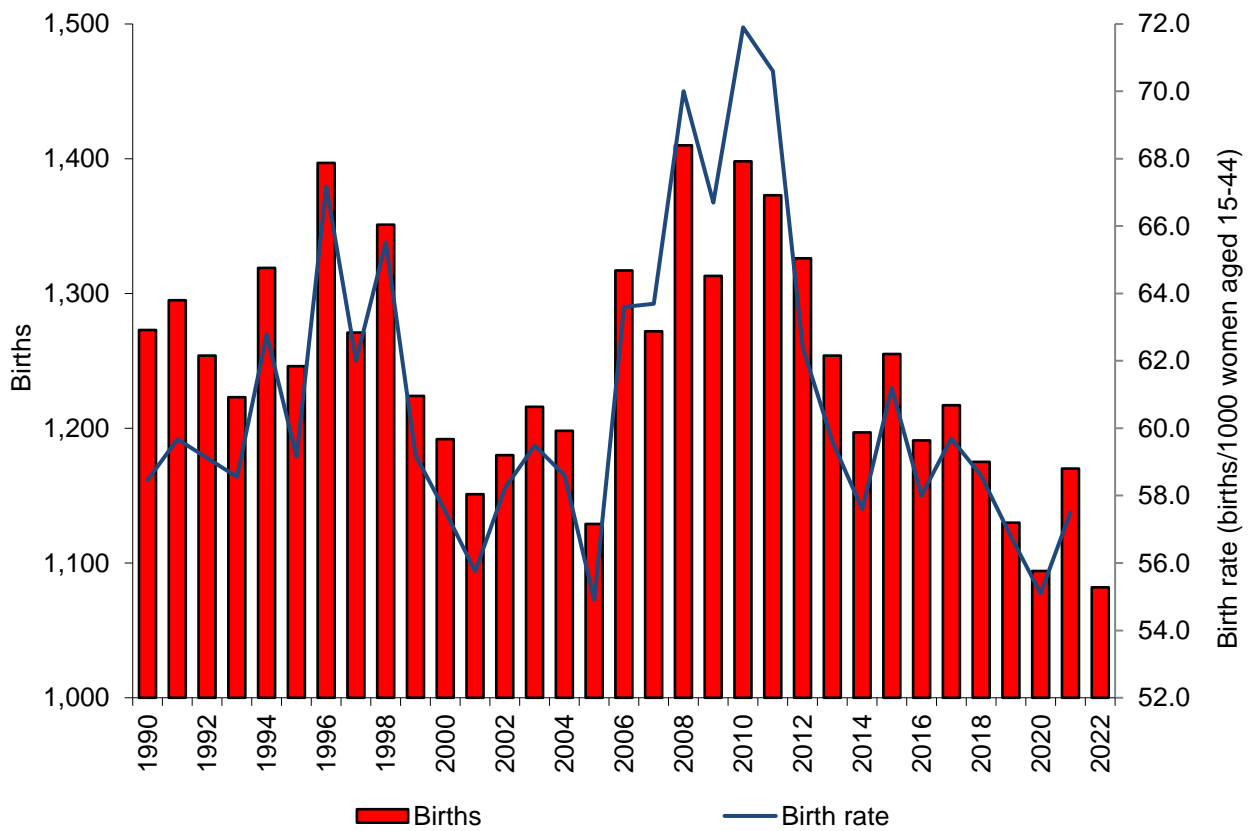
Birth Rate Analysis

The charts below set out the birth rates for the Borough and the number of recorded births.

Tunbridge Wells, Kent and England & Wales birth rates 1990-2022



Tunbridge Wells births and birth rate 1990-2022



Tunbridge Wells Forecasts

Primary - Year R Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2022-23 capacity	2022-23 (A)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2032-33 capacity
Tunbridge Wells East	450	60	70	95	94	118	119	120	120	120	119	118	450
Tunbridge Wells West	435	33	17	13	45	68	71	73	74	74	76	78	435
Paddock Wood	120	1	1	-20	-17	-15	-16	-16	-17	-18	-18	-19	120
Brenchley, Horsmonden and Lamberhurst	90	0	5	8	1	-5	-5	-4	-3	-3	-2	-1	90
Cranbrook and Goudhurst	111	-3	-2	2	-12	-14	-14	-14	-14	-14	-13	-12	116
Hawkhurst, Sandhurst and Benenden	90	21	8	6	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	13	90
Tunbridge Wells	1,296	112	99	105	116	158	161	166	168	170	173	177	1,301

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Secondary - Year 7 Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2022-23 capacity	2022-23 (A)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2032-33 (F)	2032-33 capacity
Tenterden and Cranbrook Non-Selective	390	46	-16	13	-1	-22	-31	-30	-39	-37	-52	-42	360
Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells Non-Selective	1,584	58	16	96	88	25	53	34	20	71	105	81	1,584
Cranbrook Selective	60	0	22	25	31	26	18	19	18	16	17	10	90
West Kent Selective	1,265	-26	-48	-22	-7	-53	-40	-29	-6	5	70	51	1,235

Primary District Commentary

For primary education the overall forecasts indicate sufficient places to meet demand across the Plan period for Year R and all primary years. There is local place pressure within the Paddock Wood, the Brenchley, Horsmonden and Lamberhurst and the Cranbrook and Goudhurst planning groups

The Year R surplus in Tunbridge Wells town (Tunbridge Wells East and West planning groups) is forecast to be approaching 20% on average; depending on the distribution of this surplus between schools it may necessitate adjustment to the PANs of individual schools in order to ensure class sizes remain financially viable.

Paddock Wood Planning Group

There are forecast deficits of over 0.5 FE (15 places) throughout the Plan period. We will monitor the situation but anticipate that the deficits will be accommodated in the neighbouring planning groups or within one of the small schools within the planning group offering over PAN. We will review the need and viability of a new primary school being established within the town by 2026/7.

Brenchley, Horsmonden and Lamberhurst Planning Group

The planning group is forecast to have a 5 place deficit in 2026-27 that diminishes gradually throughout the forecast period. We will monitor the situation but anticipate that the deficits will be accommodated in the neighbouring planning groups or within one of the small schools within the planning group offering over PAN.

Cranbrook and Goudhurst Planning Group

The forecast indicates that there will be deficits of between 12 and 14 places throughout the Plan period. We will seek to provide sufficient capacity within the planning group through additional temporary provision in those schools with a PAN of less than 1FE from 2024-25 and will seek to permanently expand one school within the group by 1FE from September 2026.

Secondary District Commentary

There are four planning groups which are within Tunbridge Wells Borough or which cross the Borough boundary, two non-selective and two selective (See appendix 12.2 for the non-selective and selective planning group maps). The commentary below outlines the forecast position for each of the planning groups.

Tenterden and Cranbrook Non-Selective Planning Group

Following a substantive decision by the Secretary of State for Education to close High Weald Academy on 31 August 2022, this is a single school planning group containing Homewood School and Sixth Form Centre.

The Closure of High Weald Academy and the decision by the Tenterden Schools Trust to reduce the published admissions number of Homewood School from 390 to 360 places has led to pressure across much of the forecast period. There is an initial surplus forecast for 2024-25 and a deficit of only 1 place in the 2025-26. However, in 2026-27 the deficit is 22 and this increases through the Plan period to a high of 52 in 2031-32.

We anticipate that the additional places added at existing Ashford Schools and the opening of Chilmington Green Secondary School, plus places in the Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells non selective planning area will provide sufficient capacity to accommodate the pupils. It should also be noted that, following High Weald Academy's closure, travel to school patterns in the area may change over the coming years and will be monitored in future iterations of the Plan.

Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells Non-Selective Planning Group

There are eight schools in the planning group: Hadlow Rural Community School, Hayesbrook School, Hillview School for Girls, Hugh Christie Technology College, Bennett Memorial Diocesan School, Mascalls Academy, Skinners' Kent Academy and St. Gregory's Catholic School.

Forecasts indicate that there will be sufficient Year 7 places across the Plan period. It should be noted that these forecasts do not incorporate the impact of housing growth associated with unconsented or unallocated development outside of an adopted Local Plan, therefore future strategic housing growth may have a significant impact over and above the forecast need.

Cranbrook Selective Planning Group

There is only one school in the Cranbrook selective planning group: Cranbrook School. We forecast sufficient Year 7 and Years 7-11 places throughout the Plan period.

West Kent Selective Planning Group

There are six schools in the planning group: Judd School, Tonbridge Grammar School, Weald of Kent Grammar School, Skinners' School, Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School and Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys.

The forecast indicates that there will be fluctuating deficits through to 2030-31 when there is a forecast surplus. We anticipate that these forecast deficits will be met through commissioned bulge provision in existing schools where necessary or own admission authorities offering over their PAN. We will keep the need for additional permanent capacity under review.

Planned Commissioning – Tunbridge Wells

Planning Group	By 2024-25	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	By 2027-28	Between 2028-31	Post 2031
Cranbrook and Goudhurst Planning Group			1 FE permanent expansion of existing school			
Paddock Wood			1FE Through Establishment of New Primary School (subject to review)			
West Kent Selective			Up to 60 temporary places	Up to 30 temporary places		
Special Schools			50 place secondary PSCN special school satellite.			

9. Commissioning Special Educational Needs

9.1. Duties to Provide for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

The Children and Families Act 2014 sets out the responsibility to improve services, life chances and choices for vulnerable children and to support families. The Act extends the SEND system from birth to 25, where appropriate, giving children, young people and their parents/carers greater control and choice in decisions and ensuring needs are properly met.

The Equality Act 2010 and Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014 interact in several important ways. They share a common focus on removing barriers to learning. In the Children and Families Act 2014 duties for planning, commissioning, and reviewing provision, the Local Offer and the duties requiring different agencies to work together apply to all children and young people with Special Education Needs (SEN) or disabilities. The Code of Practice 2015 which applies to England, explains the duties of local authorities, health bodies, schools and colleges to provide for those with special educational needs under part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014.

9.2. Kent Overview

Kent's ambitions for children and young people with SEN is articulated through its SEND strategy 2021-2024² which has been jointly developed by KCC and the NHS in conjunction with children, young people, parents and carers, Kent PACT (Kent Parents and Carers Together) and other key stakeholders.

Kent has a significantly large number of pupils with an Education Health & Care Plan (EHCP). We remain an outlier nationally with a rate of growth in EHCPs well above national averages per 10,000 children. The number of EHCPs in January 2023 was 18,930.

- Kent has proportionately:
- fewer children identified as requiring SEN support in mainstream schools when compared to the national average.
- fewer children with EHCPs educated in our mainstream schools compared to national and statistical neighbour averages.
- more children placed in either maintained special or independent special schools or Specialist Resource Provisions than national and statistical neighbour averages.

Kent is now part of the DfE Safety Valve programme. The programme aims to support Local Authorities to reform their High Needs systems and SEND services for children and young people while ensuring services are sustainable.

Whilst we acknowledge that Special Schools play an important role in the continuum of education provision in Kent, we also need to focus on developing the role of mainstream schools, including SRPs, to successfully support more complex children and young people with SEND.

KCC has developed its first Kent Sufficiency Plan for children and young people with SEND. This first plan is limited in scope due to the need to await the outcomes of the reviews of Special Schools, Specialist Resource Provisions and Early Years Provision, all of which will contribute to a revised SEND Strategy, setting out the direction for the next five years. The outcomes from these reviews and further work to inform KCC's approach to supporting children and young people with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs, aligned with our

²https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0012/13323/Strategy-for-children-with-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities.pdf

approach to Alternative Provision across all twelve of Kent’s districts, will inform the revision of the Sufficiency Plan later in 2024.

The Sufficiency Plan will sit under the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent to inform strategic educational place planning. The purpose of the Sufficiency Plan is to inform and support the Local Authority in its development of strategic place planning for SEND educational provision in the medium to long term. There are 4 key aims for the Sufficiency Plan.

- Inform medium to longer term commissioning/decommissioning of places for children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan
- Inform capital investment planning and future bids to DfE Wave programmes.
- Inform high level discussions with providers around required changes to current provision.
- Support the delivery of the Safety Valve programme, bringing Kent in-line with other local authorities’ patterns of provision.

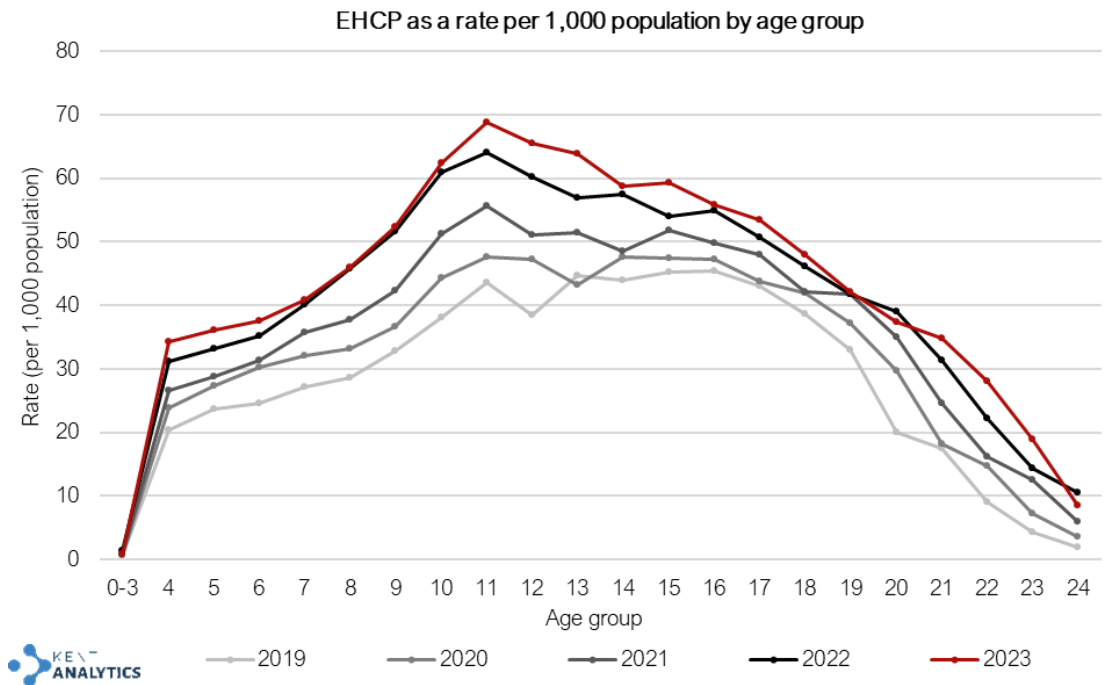
9.3. Education Health and Care Plans

The LA is responsible for issuing and maintaining Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) for children and young people between the ages of 0-25 years. As of January 2023, this totalled 18,930 children and young people with an EHCP in Kent. This is an increase of 1,197 (6.8%) since January 2022. In England, the number of children and young people with EHC plans increased to 517,000, in January 2023, up by 9% from 2022. The number of EHCPs have increased each year since 2010³

9.4. Age Groups

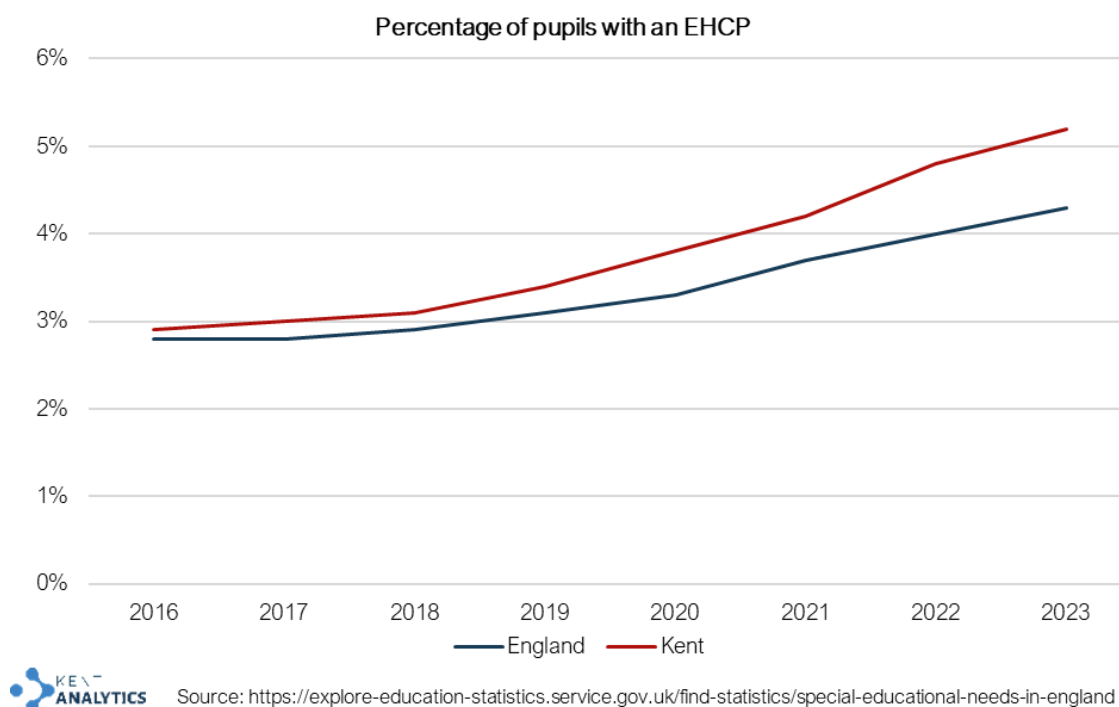
Figure 9a shows the rate of children and young people with an EHCP per 1,000 population for the past 6 years. It shows that the proportion of the population aged 4 to 25 years with and EHCP continues to increase year on year.

Figure 9a: Children and Young People with EHCPs rate with per 1,000 population 2018-2023



³ [Education, health and care plans, Reporting year 2023 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)

Figure 9b: Percentage of pupils with an EHCP Kent compared with England 2016 -2023



9.5. School Aged Pupils

Figure 9b shows the percentage of pupils in schools in Kent and England that have an EHCP. Kent has 5.2% of pupils compared to 4.3% for England. Whilst the rate of growth has increased nationally, Kent's increase started much earlier (2015) and has continued to increase at a greater rate.

9.6. SEN Need Types

Figure 9c shows that Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) remains the most common primary need type with 42.3% of children and young people with an EHCP (0-25 years) having ASD identified as their primary need. This is a decrease from 42.4% in January 2022. The second highest is SEMH at 20.4%, an increase from 20.2% in January 2022, followed by 17.2% of children and young people with Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) identified as their EHCP primary need.

Figure 9c: EHCPs by age group and need type January 2023

SEN Need Type 2023	Under 5	Aged 5-10	Aged 11-15	Aged 16-19	Aged 20-25	Total	%
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	149	2335	2921	1705	893	8,003	42.3%
Hearing Impairment	4	68	56	48	31	207	1.1%
Moderate Learning Difficulty	18	274	429	241	176	1,138	6.0%
Multi-Sensory Impairment	3	4	11	4	1	23	0.1%
Physical Disability	26	204	197	149	94	670	3.5%
Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty	12	142	126	65	43	388	2.0%
Severe Learning Difficulty	28	213	305	209	167	922	4.9%
Social, Emotional and Mental Health	10	637	1592	1111	507	3,857	20.4%
Specific Learning Difficulty	1	43	168	86	58	356	1.9%
Speech, Language and Communication Needs	181	1414	965	409	296	3,265	17.2%
Visual Impairment	6	30	31	20	14	101	0.5%
Kent Total	438	5,364	6,801	4,047	2,280	18,930	

Source SEN2 Return January 2023

9.7. Provision

Figure 9d shows the number of EHCPs by establishment type (0-25 year olds); In Kent 34% (33.5% in 2022) are educated in mainstream schools (including SRPs), whilst the England figure is 41%. In Kent, 40% of children and young people with EHCPs are educated in a special school (including independent schools) compared to 33.1% nationally.

To ensure the LA is able to provide sustainable high quality provision, the system needs to be realigned and the proportion of children and young people catered for within each provision type brought in line with national figures, so that specialist places are only for those children and young people with the most complex needs. A significant change programme is ongoing to improve mainstream school SEND inclusion capacity so staff are skilled, confident and able to educate and support more children with EHCPs. This realignment will be supported by the inclusive practices within Kent's Countywide Approach to Inclusive Education and will ensure a greater proportion of Kent's children and young people will be supported and achieve their full potential in mainstream schools close to their homes.

Kent has 24 special schools. These include 21 Local Authority maintained special schools, 1 special academy and 2 Free Schools. In 2023, 88% of Kent's special schools were graded as good or outstanding by Ofsted. There are 18 special schools that are all-through schools (primary and secondary aged). There are 15 special schools offering post-16 placements. For the academic year 2023/24 Kent has commissioned 5,968 places in Kent special schools, an increase of 473. Of the 5,968 places, 806 are places for post-16 pupils. The current total designated number across Kent special schools as of September 2022 was 5,483.

Kent also has 73 Specialist Resource Provisions attached to mainstream schools. Each provision has a designation for SEN and eight schools have more than one SRP or an SRP with multiple designations. A total of 1,430 SRP places, including 20 places for post-16 pupils, have been commissioned for September 2023, an increase of 55 places from September 2022.

Where we are unable to provide a specialist school placement in a Kent maintained special school or SRP, placements are commissioned in the independent and non-maintained sector. As of January 2023, 1,589 Kent, resident pupils had places funded in an independent non-maintained school, a decrease of 92 places from January 2022 and representing 8.4% of all EHCPs; 714 of these independent placements were for a primary diagnosis of ASD and 559 for SEMH. To meet the need for specialist places across Kent, including meeting the needs in areas of population growth, a mixture of new special schools, expansions of existing schools and the establishment of satellites and SRPs will be commissioned across Kent. This plan will only reflect a proportion of our commissioning intentions at this stage as the full plan will need to be informed by the review of our continuum of SEND provision, reporting in the first half of 2024.

Figure 9d: EHCPs by establishment type January 2023 (0-25 year olds)

Type of Establishment	Number	Kent %	England %
Mainstream school including SRPs	6,439	34%	41%
Special school inc. independent.	7,577	40%	33.1%
Non-maintained early years	63	0.3%	0.6%
Further education	3,488	18.4%	14.7%
NEET	176	0.9%	2.3%
Educated elsewhere	718	3.8%	3.8%
Alternative provision/Pupil referral unit	4	0	0.7%
Other	460	2.4%	0.9%
Total	18,207		

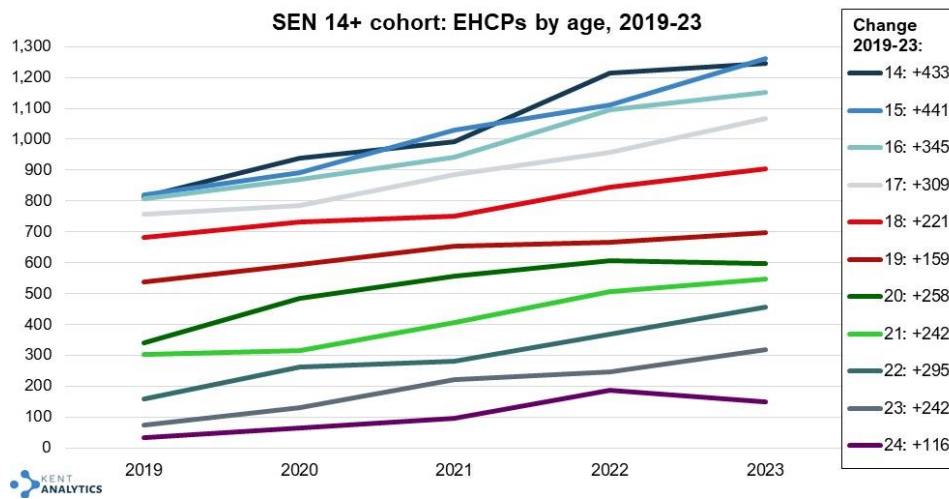
Source: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/education-health-and-care-plans>

9.8. Post 16 SEN provision

Most young people with SEND will complete their education alongside their peers by 18. However, some young people will require longer to complete and consolidate their education and training and the length of time will vary for each young person.

The Children and Families Act 2014 extended the special educational needs system to young people up to the age of 25. Consequently, since 2015 KCC has seen a large growth in the number of EHCPs for young people up to the age of 25. Figure 9e shows the growth by age from 2019 to 2023. There were 3,664 young people aged 18-24 with an EHCP in the 2022/23 academic year. This is an increase of 7.0% from 3,424 from in the previous academic year. The total number of EHCPs across all age groups increased by 6.8% for the same period.

Figure 9e: Growth in EHCP numbers by age 2019-2023

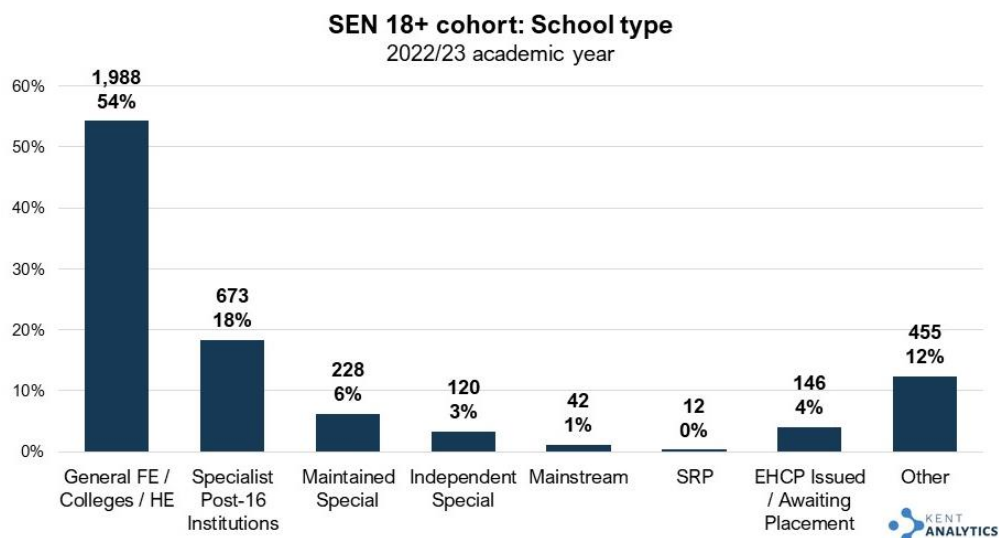


There has been an overall growth in EHCPs of 71% or 1,527 young people between 2019 and 2023, with SEMH remaining the SEND category with the largest growth for Post 16 at 144%. This is followed by Specific Learning Difficulties, which has increased by 127%, Speech, Language and Communication Needs and ASD, up 75%. Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty is up 63%.

We know the number of young people wanting to remain in education is growing. However, planning post 16 SEND provision is complex. KCC continues its work to establish a robust evidence base to resolve any gaps in provision. Remaining at their secondary school for 6th Form is one of the choices that young people with SEND can make; 17 of Kent's maintained special schools have 6th form provisions.

Figure 9f shows where 18 to 25 year olds with an EHCP continued their education in the 2022-23 academic year. The largest proportion attended General Further Education (FE), college or Higher Education (HE), with smaller proportions at Specialist Post-16 Institutions (SPI), Maintained Special Schools/Academies or a Non-maintained/Independent Special School (NMISS).

Figure 9f: Where 18-25-year-olds with an ECHP were educated in the 2022/23



FE, college or HE remains the most common type of provision attended across all the age groups. In 2022/23, the proportion of young people attending these ranged from 38.2% among 18 year olds to 73.0% among those aged 24 years old. FE colleges provide a range of courses for post 16 to 25 SEND learners and are the most popular form of education for this group. However, due to a range of issues, FE colleges are not suitable in the first instance for many SEND learners and a proportion of learners drop out of college in the first semester.

SPIs provide an alternative to FE colleges offering more bespoke learning environments often for learners with additional or more complex needs. In recent years, we have seen an increase in the number of 18–25-year-olds attending an SPI, rising from 567 (17% of the total cohort) in 2022 to 673 (18% of the total cohort) in 2023. Of the SPIs in 2022, the majority have a contractual relationship with KCC. Growth in SPI provision to this point continues to be largely organic and provider led. To ensure we have full County coverage, we wish to work in partnership with prospective providers as there is the need for more targeted SPI provision in the County.

We continue to work with FE Colleges to ensure that we have good geographical coverage of the right courses at the right levels and that there are clear pathways and partnerships with alternate types of providers such as SPIs to meet the needs of learners with more complex needs or requiring a more bespoke package.

We expect that the number of EHCPs for young people over the age of 18 will continue to grow as the population bulge continues to work its way through secondary school and into Post 16, and without careful planning, demand could outstrip supply. In order to ensure sufficient quality Post 16 SEND provision, we will continue to build on our present work to develop a Post 16 to 19 SEND Strategy. We want to explore new ways of working, including potential collaborations between partner agencies and organisations, which are service intelligence and data-driven; so, we get the right provision in the right area to meet need.

9.9. Forecasts and Future Demands

The number of new EHCPs forecast is population driven. It is produced by calculating the rates of new 0–25 year-olds with an EHCP by key population age groups, based on the 2021 EHCP figures. These rates are applied to the Kent population forecast figures to estimate the number of new EHCPs for the next eight years and is adjusted to bring forecasts in line with targets agreed as part of the Safety Valve programme. Figure 9g shows the forecast for EHCPs (0-25 years)

Figure 9g EHCPs Forecast (0-25 year olds)

Age Group	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Early Years	42	70	46	38	38	39	39	39	40	40
Years R-6	5,124	6,020	6,200	6,231	6,160	6,010	5,878	5,718	5,541	5,382
Years 7-11	5,314	6,164	6,801	7,414	7,971	8,312	8,506	8,600	8,693	8,742
Years 12-13	1,825	2,055	2,219	2,446	2,625	2,863	3,192	3,454	3,605	3,657
Years 14+	2,976	3,424	3,664	3,720	3,373	3,156	2,975	3,062	3,253	3,478
Total	15,281	17,733	18,930	19,850	20,167	20,380	20,591	20,874	21,131	21,299
%Change		16.0%	6.8%	4.9%	1.6%	1.1%	1.0%	1.4%	1.2%	0.8%

The forecasts in need groups are profiled on the proportion within each group based on the new EHCPs recorded between 2020 and 2022. Figure 9h shows the EHCP forecast for each need group.

Figure 9h EHCP forecast by need type.

SEN Need type	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
ASD	6,519	7,511	8,007	8,300	8,325	8,315	8,311	8,334	8,351	8,337
SEMH	2,897	3,580	3,860	4,133	4,215	4,241	4,264	4,309	4,351	4,372
SLCN	2,390	2,904	3,259	3,544	3,764	3,964	4,169	4,384	4,579	4,752
MLD/SPLD	1,231	1,424	1,491	1,564	1,586	1,610	1,631	1,661	1,690	1,706
SLD/PMLD	1,313	1,312	1,311	1,284	1,240	1,202	1,155	1,122	1,087	1,052
Other	931	1,002	1,002	1,025	1,037	1,046	1,060	1,063	1,073	1,081
Total	15,281	17,733	18,930	19,850	20,167	20,378	20,590	20,873	21,131	21,300

9.10. Future Commissioning of Provision

Evidence for our commissioning intentions is set out within KCC's SEND Sufficiency. The Plan will inform changes and additional provision required from September 2024 and throughout the rest of the Plan period. Commissioning intentions for this Plan will be limited to new SEN schools and satellites where there is already a case based on population growth and current patterns of travel to special schools outside of the areas where children live.

Additional SRP's that have been committed to or form part of a new academy's funding agreement will also be included, as will the establishment of Kent's first (and first nationally) Primary Cullum Centre, delivered in partnership with the National Autistic Society, the Cullum Foundation and Canterbury Academy as this will form part of developing Kent's future approach to supporting children and young people with autism in mainstream education. We will also look to address evidenced gaps in SRP provision in secondary schools, particularly as the school age population growth is currently moving through the secondary and Post 16 age groups.

A total of 710 new special school places are forecast to be commissioned and 139 SRP places, some of which are already within the commissioning process. Additional SRP places may be commissioned following the completion of the SRP review which will identify need type and geographical gaps based on the role of SRPs within the provision of locality services for children and young people with SEND. Figure 9i and 9j identifies the number, need type and district of these places.

Figure 9i: Agreed and planned additional specialist provision across Kent Specialist Schools

Provision	Proposed opening date	Need Type	District	Potential Number of places	Total Planned Places added by year				
					2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	Between 2028-31
Special School (all through) - Whitstable	2026	PSCN/ ASD/ SEMH	Canterbury	120	0	0	48	28	44
Special School (All through) - Swanley	2026	PSCN	Sevenoaks	250	0	0	114	66	70
Isle of Sheppey (Secondary)	2024	SEMH with ASD	Swale	120	40	40	40	0	0
Expansion of Special school for SEMH with ASD to include Primary provision or a primary satellite.	2026	SEMH with ASD	Swale	40	0	0	10	10	20
1 x secondary Satellite of PSCN School	2024	PSCN	Swale	20	10	10	0	0	0
Special School Satellite – Isle of Sheppey	2024	ASD	Swale	60	12	12	12	12	12
Satellite of a PSCN School	2025	PSCN	Tonbridge and Malling	50	0	50	0	0	0
Satellite of a PSCN School	2026	PSCN	Tunbridge Wells	50	0	0	50	0	0
Total Special School places				710	62	112	274	116	146

Figure 9j: Agreed and planned additional Specialist Resource Provisions

Provision	Proposed opening date	Need Type	District	Potential Number of places	Total Planned Places added by year				
					2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	Between 2028-31
Cullum Centre	2024	ASD	Canterbury	9	3	6	0	0	0
Alkerden (Primary)	2026	ASD	Dartford	15	0	0	4	4	7
Alkerden (Secondary)	2026	ASD	Dartford	25	0	0	5	5	15
Expansion of Aspen SRP at Christchurch Academy	2024	PSCN	Dover	30	6	6	6	6	6
Folkestone Academy	2024	ASD	Folkestone & Hythe	30	6	6	6	6	6
Secondary SRP	2025	ASD	Thanet	30	0	5	5	5	15
Total SRP places				139	15	23	26	26	49

10. Commissioning Early Years Education and Childcare

10.1. Legislative Context and Free Entitlements

Early Education and Childcare is legislatively governed by the Childcare Acts of 2006 and 2016. These place a duty on all local authorities to improve outcomes for young children, to cut inequalities between them, to secure sufficient childcare, with adequate flexibility to allow parents to work via the following:

- 15 hours of early education for eligible two-year olds (the Two Year Old Entitlement, in Kent known as Free for Two)
- The Universal Entitlement of 15 hours for all three and four-year olds
- 30 Hours of Free Childcare (the Extended Entitlement) for the three and four-year olds of eligible parents.

In Spring 2023 the Chancellor announced government plans to extend 30 hours of childcare for parents working at least 16 hours a week at National Minimum Wage.

This will be phased in over the next couple of years as follows:

- From April 2024 – 15 hours per week for working parents of two-year olds
- From September 2024 – 15 hours per week for working parents of all children aged 9 months and above
- From September 2025 – 30 hours per week for working parents of all children aged 9 months and above

In addition, the Government announced that there will be £289m funding to support local authorities to work with schools and other providers to increase the supply of wraparound childcare, so that all parents of school-aged children can access childcare from 8am to 6pm if they need it.

10.2. Early Education and Childcare Provision in Kent

All free entitlement places can either be provided by Ofsted registered provision, schools where registration with Ofsted is not required or by schools registered with the DfE and inspected by the Independent Schools Inspectorate. In each case, the full Early Years Foundation Stage must be delivered. Places can be delivered over 38 weeks a year or, in line with provider ability and choice, stretched over up to 52 weeks.

Early Education and Childcare in Kent is available through a large, diverse and constantly shifting market of maintained, academies, private, voluntary and independent providers and childminders, all of which operate as individual businesses and are therefore subject to market forces. Currently in Kent the market operates as follows:

- Private providers, **411** offering **30,382** childcare places for 0-4 year olds
- Voluntary providers, **176** offering **7,853** childcare places for 0-4 year olds
- Independent schools, **40** offering **1,837** childcare places for 0-4 year olds
- Childminders, **860** offering **4,300** childcare places for 0-4 year olds
- Maintained provision, **29** maintained nursery classes and one maintained nursery school offering a total of **1,413** childcare places for 0-4 year olds
- Academies, **63** academies offering a total of **2,741** childcare places for 0-4 year olds
- FE colleges, **4** providers offering a total of **527** childcare places for 0-4 year olds
- Standalone Out of School Care: In total there are **129** stand-alone providers. Of those **49** offer breakfast clubs, **80** offer after school clubs and **76** run holiday playschemes.

The LA (in Kent as commissioned through The Education People) is required to work with providers in making available a sufficient range of flexible provision, in the right geographical areas, at the right times and offering the right sessions to fit with both standard and atypical working patterns.

10.3. Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

The annual Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) shows the supply of, and demand for, early years and childcare provision across the County, including where there might be over supply and particularly a deficit in provision. The Education People’s Early Years and Childcare Service works with providers and potential providers to encourage the establishment of additional provision where it is required.

The CSA for the 2023/2024 academic year is based on the supply and demand for childcare in the Summer Term 2023 when demand for the take up and supply of childcare is greatest.

10.4. Sufficiency of Childcare Places for Children Aged 0-4 Years Old

Traditionally, the assessment of sufficiency is calculated by comparing the total available childcare supply of places with the forecast number of eligible children in each age group living within in each planning group and district.

Figure 10a: 0-4 Year Old Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (Summer Term 2023/2024 Academic Year)

District	0-4 Year Old Population	0-4 Year Olds Requiring a Childcare Place	0-4 Year Old Childcare Places	Surplus/ Deficit of Places
Ashford	6,875	3,966	3,790	-176
Canterbury	6,274	3,592	3,646	54
Dartford	7,637	3,981	5,190	1,209
Dover	5,165	2,909	2,752	-157
Folkestone & Hythe	4,630	2,596	3,146	550
Gravesham	6,188	3,252	3,121	-131
Maidstone	9,690	5,656	5,848	192
Sevenoaks	6,060	3,337	3,633	296
Swale	8,006	4,588	5,054	466
Thanet	6,486	3,619	4,116	497
Tonbridge & Malling	6,757	3,983	4,093	110
Tunbridge Wells	5,508	3,321	4,634	1,313
Total	79,276	44,800	49,023	4,223

In relation to the new entitlements, the DfE has provided KCC with early analysis of the demand for early years places and the number of schools recorded as currently supplying wraparound childcare on schools’ sites. The early years data is based on GP registration information and is intended as a starting point to help KCC understand the local eligible population. Figure 10b below models the anticipated increased demand for two year old places from April 2024.

Figure 10b: Forecast Model of Demand for Two Year Old Places

District	2 Year Old Population	2 Year Olds Requiring Childcare (Modelled)	2 Year Old Childcare Places Available (Modelled)	Surplus/Deficit of 2 Year Old Childcare Places (Modelled)
Ashford	1,504	975	969	-6
Canterbury	1,343	876	913	37
Dartford	1,644	1,056	1,194	138
Dover	1,115	700	609	-91
Folkestone & Hythe	985	622	773	151
Gravesham	1,334	841	690	-151
Maidstone	2,071	1,374	1,339	-35
Sevenoaks	1,291	887	895	8
Swale	1,683	1,058	1,132	74
Thanet	1,399	850	879	29
Tonbridge & Malling	1,471	1,007	1,045	38
Tunbridge Wells	1,202	831	1,206	375
Total	17,042	11,077	11,644	567

10.5. Sufficiency Estimates by Planning Area

Sufficiency rates have been calculated using primary planning areas. Where some primary planning areas indicate a deficit of 0-4 childcare places, consideration must be given to the fact that neighbouring planning areas may have a surplus of places and children may be travelling to access settings in adjacent areas based on parental preferences or travel to work patterns. Equally, where planning areas have more provision than children, children will be drawn from other areas to access these settings.

The percentage of funded three and four year olds accessing a setting within the planning area in which they live can be used to interpret the deficit in each planning area along with qualitative analysis to understand whether the variation in local take up rates is driven by a preference for particular providers, commuting patterns or a lack of places in the local area.

10.6. Future Planning

Supporting the sufficiency, sustainability and quality of early years and childcare provision remains crucial in the aim to ensure a long term, sufficient supply of places.

The supply of Free Entitlement places for two, three and four year olds will be kept under review as planned new housing developments are built and potentially increase the demand for places. Where housing developments are proposed in school planning areas where there is an indicative deficit of places or where the size of a development means that it will require new provision; KCC will engage in discussions with developers to either seek funding to provide nursery provision which may include securing community rental or leasehold accommodation availability for private, voluntary or independent sector providers of 0-4 year old childcare.

When a new school is delivered according to the ESFA Baseline Design, a nursery space is now included in the design. As new schools are planned, KCC will work with the sponsor to identify early years provision and the most appropriate way to deliver this.

11. Post-16 Education and Training in Kent

The KCC review of 16-19 education, Pathways for All is now in its implementation phase. A strategic board, consisting of representatives from parts of the sector, has been appointed and groups have been established to drive forward the recommendations. The groups' have identified the following priorities to address the recommendations:

- Improve outcomes through establishing a comprehensive benchmarking programme.
- Raise young people's aspirations through promoting a life skills [and] a model CEIAG curriculum.
- Implement an "Area Offer" of 16+ provision
- Enhance provision below Level 2
- Improve early support for students with mental health challenges
- Improve access to post-16 provision by prioritising travel support to those who most need it
- Learn from Lockdown

The groups are at different stages and new strands of work are likely to be adopted as the Kent context changes. The main overarching focus for the medium term is to develop the board into the forum that promotes collaboration and becomes the strategic leadership for the county. This is in line with government policy of developing a provider-led system. There is a recognition that there are gaps opening for lower achieving and vulnerable learners across the county and that the sector will need to come together to meet this need.

The low-level offer for learners outside of school and colleges is in a concerning situation. Overall numbers of places have risen very slightly (1,101 in 21/22 1,106 in 22/23), but this was due to European funding (ESF) that ended in March 2023 and some short-term funding from KCC's Reconnect programme. The ESF funded provision supported over 500 young people over the life of the programme. The number of providers offering this provision has fallen from 24 to 20. We are also aware of some provisions that will not be running from September 2023 due to tutor shortages or training providers becoming insolvent. This represents an immediate loss of 186 places in addition to the loss of short term KCC and Government funding. In total, it is likely that the county will lose over 500 places for vulnerable learners, which is effectively a market failure.

The Shared Prosperity Fund could fill some of this, but the government initially stated that this could not be used for skills work until 2024. This restriction was removed earlier this year, but by that time, the district councils had already allocated their funding. We have been working with the funding team at the DFE (previously the ESFA) and have had a "Gaps Case" accepted. So far, despite the acceptance of our case, response from the DFE has been slow.

National post-16 qualification reform is ongoing. The roll out of T- levels continues with all colleges and a small number of schools offering them from September 2023. The defunding of BTECs that overlap with A levels and T-levels will commence in 2024. The deadline for exam boards to submit their applications to offer the new additional academic qualifications (AAQs) has just passed and we await the results. There has been a lot of criticism of the reform process, most notably from the Parliamentary Education Select Committee. While positive about the qualifications themselves, they have expressed concerns regarding sourcing the compulsory placements that form a key part of the qualification and that T-levels suit urban areas more than rural ones. They are also concerned that the defunding of BTECs will leave many students without a viable post-16 offer. One positive for Kent is that there is a commitment to retaining the International Baccalaureate diploma and careers programme. Level 2 qualifications are also undergoing reform, but we do not know the full details of this yet.

12. Appendices

12.1. Forecasting Methodology Summary

To inform the process of forecasting Primary school pupil numbers, KCC receives information from the Kent Primary Care Agency to track the number of births and location of Pre-school age children. The Pre-school age population is forecast into Primary school rolls according to trend-based intake patterns by ward area. Secondary school forecasts are calculated by projecting forward the Year 6 cohort, also according to trend-based intake patterns. If the size of the Year 6 cohort is forecast to rise, the projected Year 7 cohort size at Secondary schools will also be forecast to rise.

It is recognised that past trends are not always an indication of the future. However, for the Secondary phase, travel to school patterns are firmly established, parental preference is arguably more constant than in the Primary phase and large numbers of pupils are drawn from a wide area. Consequently, forecasts have been found to be accurate.

Pupil forecasts are compared with school capacities to give the projected surplus or deficit of places in each area. It is important to note that where a deficit is identified within the next few years work will already be underway to address the situation.

The forecasting process is trend-based, which means that relative popularity, intake patterns, and inward migration factors from the previous five years are assumed to continue throughout the forecasting period. Migration factors will reflect the trend-based level of house building in an area over the previous five years, but also the general level of in and out migration, including movements into and out of existing housing. An area that has a large positive migration factor may be due to recent large-scale housebuilding, and an area with a large negative migration factor may reflect a net out-migration of families. These migration factors are calculated at Pre-school level by ward area and also at school level for transition between year groups, as the forecasts are progressed.

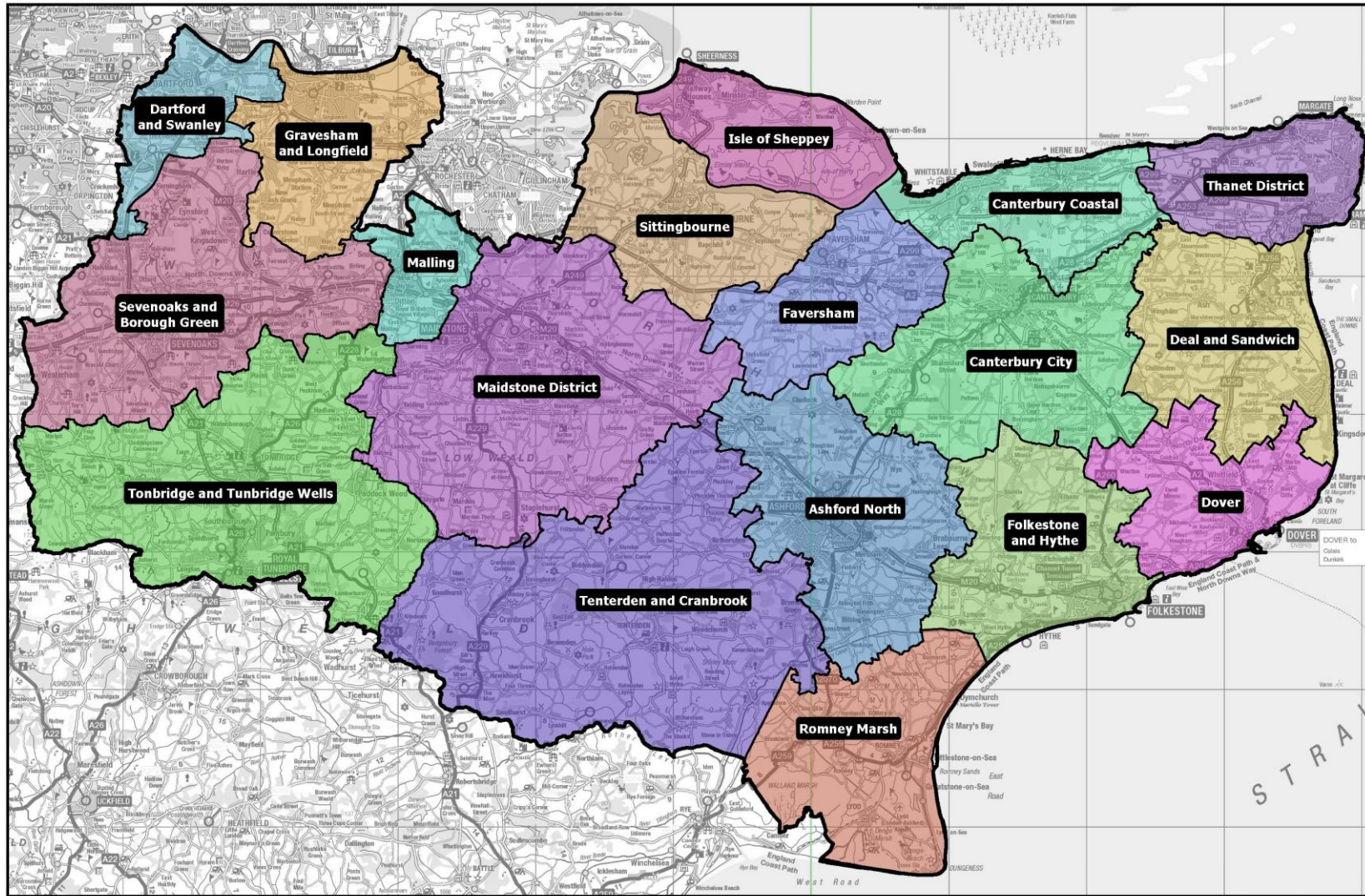
Information about expected levels of new housing, through the yearly Housing Information Audits (HIA) and Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategies is the most accurate reflection of short, medium and long term building projects at the local level. Where a large development is expected, compared with little or no previous house building in the area, a manual adjustment to the forecasts may be required to reflect the likely growth in pupil numbers more accurately.

Pupil product rates (the expected number of pupils from new housebuilding) are informed by the MORI New Build Survey 2005. KCC has developed a system that combines these new-build pupil product rates (PPRs) with the stock housing PPR of the local area to model the impact of new housing developments together with changing local demographics over time. This information is shared with district authorities to inform longer term requirements for education infrastructure and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) discussions at an early stage.

Forecasting future demand for school places can never be completely precise given the broad assumptions which have to be made about movements in and out of any given locality, the pace of individual housing developments, patterns of occupation and not least parental preferences for places at individual schools. This will be a function of geography, school reputation, past and present achievement levels and the availability of alternative provision.

12.2. Secondary Planning Group Maps

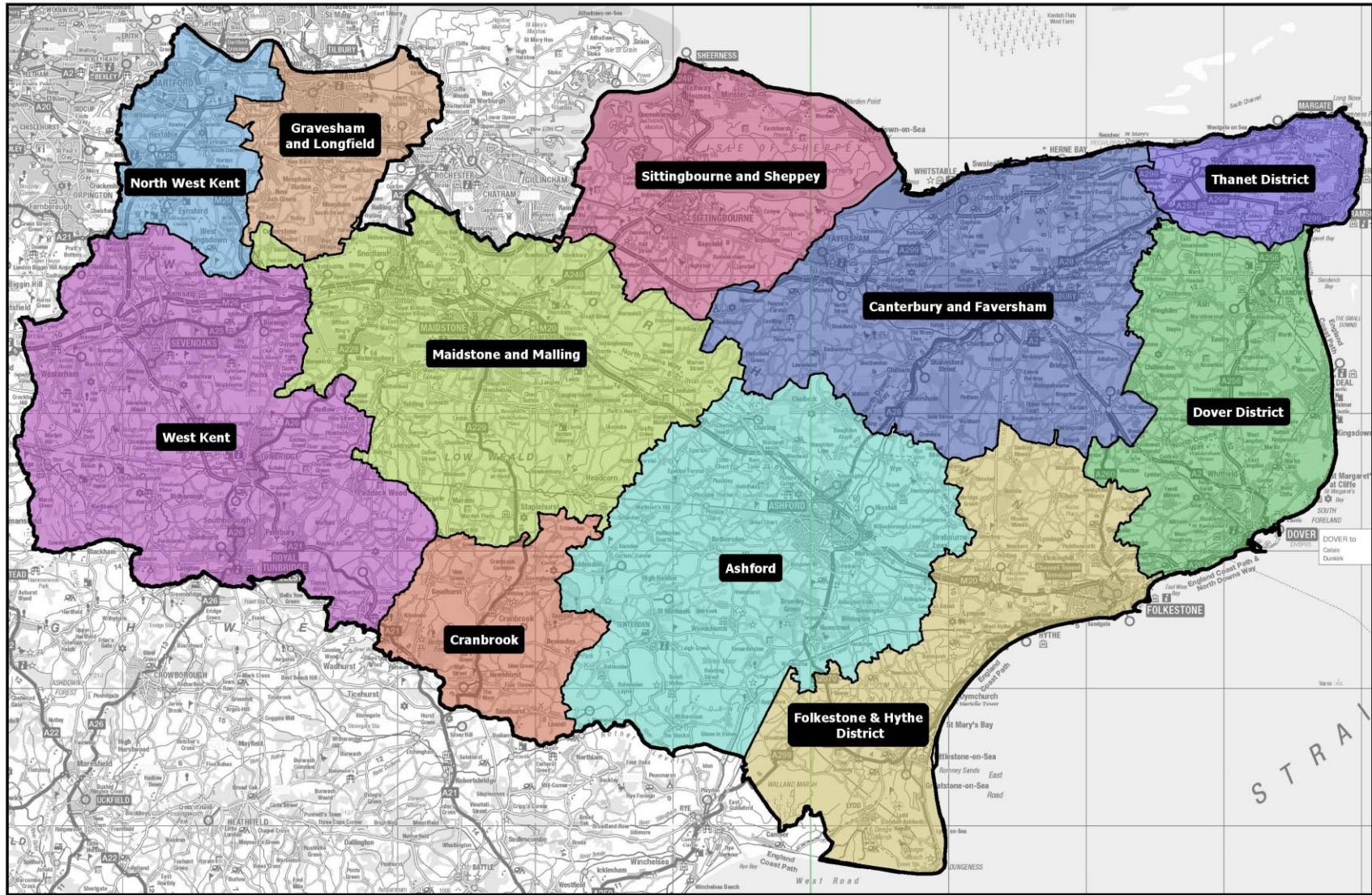
Kent Secondary Non Selective Planning Groups



Management Information, KCC, 11/08/2022

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Kent Secondary Selective Planning Groups



Management Information, KCC, 11/08/2022

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**Commissioning Plan for
Education Provision in Kent 2024 – 2028**

EQIA Submission – ID Number

Section A

EQIA Title

Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2024-28

Responsible Officer

Paul Wilson - CY EPA

Type of Activity

Service Change

No

Service Redesign

No

Project/Programme

No

Commissioning/Procurement

No

Strategy/Policy

Strategy/Policy

Details of other Service Activity

No

Accountability and Responsibility

Directorate

Children Young People and Education

Responsible Service

Education Planning and Access

Responsible Head of Service

Nicholas Abrahams - CY EPA

Responsible Director

Christine McInnes - CY EPA

Aims and Objectives

The aim of the Plan is to:

- Provide an overarching framework for determining when and where education may be needed in the future. It sets out the forecast number of children and young people in Kent and breaks this down to smaller geographical areas (districts and planning groups) to show where there may be a need for more or fewer places.
- Set out the principles which will be used to consider and evaluate individual proposals which might come forward (be commissioned) to address any identified shortage or surplus of places in a locality.

Summary of the outcome of the analysis:

No change is required. The evidence suggests that there is no potential for discrimination and all appropriate measures have been taken to advance equality and foster good relations between the protected groups.

Section B – Evidence

Do you have data related to the protected groups of the people impacted by this activity?

Yes

It is possible to get the data in a timely and cost effective way?

Yes

Is there national evidence/data that you can use?
Yes
Have you consulted with stakeholders?
Yes
Who have you involved, consulted and engaged with?
<p>The equality impact assessment for the Commissioning Plan is carried out at two levels; First, in respect of the Commissioning Plan itself, to assess whether the commissioning principles and guidelines may have an impact (either positive or negative) on any protected groups and if so what action, if any, should be taken to amend the Plan or to mitigate the negative impacts. The second, a more detailed analysis of the impacts on any protected group arising from individual education consultation proposals is conducted contemporaneously through the Plan period.</p> <p>This assessment deals solely with the first of these two levels, with consultation completed with high level stakeholders consulted to ensure the Plan is drafted collaboratively. This process incorporates meetings with District and Borough Council Leaders and CEOs/Planning Officers, along with School Governor and Headteacher briefings for each district. This consultative activity will be completed prior to the adoption of the Plan by KCC Cabinet committee in January 2024.</p>
Has there been a previous Equality Analysis (EQIA) in the last 3 years?
Yes
Do you have evidence that can help you understand the potential impact of your activity?
Yes
Section C – Impact
Who may be impacted by the activity?
Service Users/clients Service users/clients
Staff No
Residents/Communities/Citizens No
Are there any positive impacts for all or any of the protected groups as a result of the activity that you are doing?
Yes
Details of Positive Impacts
The overarching nature of the Commissioning Plan means that this equalities impact assessment is at a strategic level, rather specifically covering the various local commissioning schemes. In broad terms, the Plan focuses on the positive impacts for all children and young people, particularly the most vulnerable pupils and those with SEND. It provides a vehicle through which individuals and groups can make their voices heard regarding both current education provision and future proposals. An equality impact assessment will be completed as part of each individual consultation process that follows on from the Commissioning Plan. This assessment indicates that the plan will have either neutral or positive impacts on pupils within the protected groups.
Negative impacts and Mitigating Actions
19.Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Age
Are there negative impacts for age?
No
Details of negative impacts for Age
Not Applicable
Mitigating Actions for Age
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions – Age

Not Applicable
20. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Disability
Are there negative impacts for Disability?
No
Details of Negative Impacts for Disability
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Disability
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Disability
Not Applicable
21. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Sex
Are there negative impacts for Sex
No
Details of negative impacts for Sex
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Sex
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Sex
Not Applicable
22. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Are there negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender
No
Negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Not Applicable
23. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Race
Are there negative impacts for Race
No
Negative impacts for Race
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Race
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Race
Not Applicable
24. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Are there negative impacts for Religion and belief
No
Negative impacts for Religion and belief
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Religion and Belief
Not Applicable
25. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Are there negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
No
Negative impacts for Sexual Orientation

Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
26. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Are there negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
No
Negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
27. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Are there negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
No
Negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
28. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Are there negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
No
Negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable

DECISION REPORT

From: Rory Love, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
Sarah Hammond, Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education

To: Cabinet 25 January 2024

Subject: Kent Special Education Needs Sufficiency Plan 2024-2028

Decision no: 23/00107

Key Decision: It involves expenditure or savings of maximum £1m – including if over several phases

New Strategy or Policy outside of the Policy Framework

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of report: CYPE Cabinet Committee 21 November 2023

Future Pathway of report: Cabinet Decision

Electoral Division: All

Is the decision eligible for call-in? Yes

Summary: This report provides the Cabinet with the Special Education Needs Sufficiency Plan 2024-2028 for approval.

Recommendation(s):

Cabinet is asked to agree the Special Educational Needs Sufficiency Plan 2024- 2028.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Kent County Council (KCC), as the Local Authority (LA), has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places are available. The County Council's Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent (KCP) is a five-year rolling plan which is updated annually. It sets out KCC's future plans as Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision across all types and phases of education in Kent.
- 1.2 This is the first time that KCC has produced a Sufficiency Plan for Special Education Needs (SEN) Provision. Most Local Authorities now produce an analysis and plan that sits under their SEND Strategy and feeds into their Education Commissioning Plan and capital strategy for education provision.
- 1.3 Kent's Commissioning Plan for Education Provision has included a section on Special Education Needs Provision; however, this has always been a high-level summary based on limited analysis and forecasting.
- 1.4 As part of the new requirements for SCAP23 (School Capacity Survey) the DfE has requested that Local Authorities provide data on the capacity of their special

schools, SEN units and resourced provisions as well as forecasts for the number of Kent resident children with an EHCP county-wide. This is the first time that capacity of specialist schools and provisions has had to be included.

- 1.5 From 2023 to 2025 the Department for Education is running a Net Capacity programme to provide accurate and up-to-date information on pupil capacity for every government-funded secondary school and special school in England. This is the first time special schools will have been included in the programme and have an agreed net capacity. The capacity included in KCC's first SEND Sufficiency Plan is based on a combination of reports commissioned by KCC and current roll numbers in schools. We know that a number of Kent special schools will have pupil numbers considerably over what is likely to be their net capacity.
- 1.6 The purpose of this SEND Sufficiency Plan is to inform and support KCC in its development of strategic place planning for SEND educational provision in the medium to long term. The SEND Sufficiency Plan will sit under the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent to inform strategic educational place planning. There are 4 key aims for the Kent SEND Sufficiency Plan:
 - Inform medium to longer term commissioning/decommissioning of places for children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan.
 - Inform capital investment planning and future bids to DfE Wave programmes.
 - Inform high level discussions with providers around required changes to current provision to meet future needs.
 - Support the delivery of the Safety Valve programme, to bring Kent in line with other local authorities' patterns of provision.

2. Key Considerations

- 2.1 The SEND Sufficiency Plan will help to support Framing Kent's Future – Our Council Strategy (2022-2026) Priority 1 - Levelling up. 'To maintain KCC's strategic role in supporting schools in Kent to deliver accessible, high quality education provision for all families.'
- 2.2 The SEND Sufficiency Plan also helps to meet the targets set out within KCC's Safety Valve Programme, providing detailed analysis and additional maintained special school capacity that will support a reduction in placements within the higher-cost independent and non-maintained special school sector.
- 2.3 The SEND Sufficiency Plan also supports KCC's SEND Strategy 2021-2024. The aim of the SEND strategy is to improve the educational, health and emotional wellbeing outcomes for all of Kent's children and young people with special educational needs and those who are disabled.

3. Background

- 3.1 To meet the individual needs of children with SEND, a range of education provision is available in Kent, within both mainstream and special schools. Kent has 24 Special schools, including two new schools opened in recent years, and will have a 25th special school for secondary age young people with SEMH opening on the Isle of Sheppey in September 2024.

- 3.2 Kent has 74 Specialist Resource Provisions (SRPs) provided by 65 mainstream primary and secondary schools with some limited post-16 places. SRPs are places that are reserved at a mainstream school for pupils with specific types of Special Educational Needs (SEN), who are included within the mainstream school and activities, but require a base and/or some specialist facilities around the school. These SRPs were commissioned in 2023/24 for 740 primary places and 690 secondary places across different designations.
- 3.3 Kent is the largest local authority by population with 246,585 pupils. It has a statistically significant number of pupils with an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP). The number of EHCPs in January 2023 was 18,930. The percentage of Kent school age children (5 to 19 years) with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) was 3.8% in January 2020 and had increased to 5.2% by January 2023. In England in 2023 the percentage of pupils with an EHCP was 4.3%. EHCPs in Kent have risen above national levels consistently since their introduction in 2014.
- 3.4 In 2022, 41.1% of pupils with an EHCP attended a special school compared to 34.8% nationally. For those with an EHCP in Kent, primary aged children are more likely to attend mainstream provision than secondary. There are high numbers of children and young people attending non-maintained and independent educational provisions, adding financial pressure and unsustainable costs.
- 3.5 In order to reduce the high numbers of children attending non-maintained and independent provision and meet the growing population, as well as manage the population bulge as it now moves through secondary education and onto post-16, we will need to:
- a) commission additional maintained special school places, whilst ensuring that these places go to those children and young people with the most complex needs,
 - b) increase the number of secondary school SRPs particularly to address obvious geographical gaps, and to ensure pathways from mainstream primary into mainstream secondary for children who require the additional support that an SRP can provide, and
 - c) work with all post-16 providers to ensure that young people with EHCPs have pathways into post-16 education, work and independence.
- 3.6 Commissioning recommendations for this first SEND Sufficiency Plan are limited by the need for the Special School, Specialist Resource Provision and Early Years reviews to complete. The outcomes and recommendations from these reviews will be key to informing future commissioning decisions. Commissioning recommendations from the SEND Sufficiency Plan will be reflected in Kent's Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2024 to 2028 and are set out in the tables below.
- 3.7 For post-16, actions are underway to meet demand regarding place planning, with engagement from all FE groups as part of multiple projects around access for students to mainstream settings. The phases of implementation of the SEND Sufficiency Plan will be influenced by the medium and longer-term commissioning decisions that result from the data presented.

3.8 Agreed and planned additional specialist provision across Kent Specialist Schools

Provision	Proposed opening date	Need Type	District	Potential Number of places	Total Planned Places added by year				
					2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	Between 2028-31
Special School (all through) - Whitstable	2026	PSCN/ ASD/ SEMH	Canterbury	120	0	0	48	28	44
Special School (All through) - Swanley	2026	PSCN	Sevenoaks	250	0	0	114	66	70
Isle of Sheppey (Secondary)	2024	SEMH with ASD	Swale	120	40	40	40	0	0
Expansion of Special school for SEMH with ASD to include Primary provision or a primary satellite.	2026	SEMH with ASD	Swale	40	0	0	10	10	20
1 x secondary Satellite of PSCN School	2024	PSCN	Swale	20	10	10	0	0	0
Special School Satellite – Isle of Sheppey	2024	ASD	Swale	60	12	12	12	12	12
Satellite of a PSCN School	2025	PSCN	Tonbridge and Malling	50	0	50	0	0	0
Satellite of a PSCN School	2026	PSCN	Tunbridge Wells	50	0	0	50	0	0
Total Special School places				710	62	112	274	116	146

3.9 Agreed and planned additional Specialist Resource Provisions

Provision	Proposed opening date	Need Type	District	Potential Number of places	Total Planned Places added by year				
					2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	Between 2028-31
Cullum Centre	2024	ASD	Canterbury	9	3	6	0	0	0
Alkerden (Primary)	2026	ASD	Dartford	15	0	0	4	4	7
Alkerden (Secondary)	2026	ASD	Dartford	25	0	0	5	5	15
Expansion of Aspen SRP at Christchurch Academy	2024	PSCN	Dover	30	6	6	6	6	6
Folkestone Academy	2024	ASD	Folkestone & Hythe	30	6	6	6	6	6
Secondary SRP	2025	ASD	Thanet	30	0	5	5	5	15
Total SRP places				139	15	23	26	26	49

3.10 The SEND Sufficiency Plan makes a series of pre-16 and post-16 recommendations around system improvements to make future iterations more robust. The recommendations include actions to consult on further investment for secondary SRPs and a review of current recording practices of post-16 placements. The recommendations will support the delivery of high quality education provision for children and young people with an EHCP.

3.11 A stakeholder consultation took place from Friday 6th October to Tuesday 14 November 2023 and was distributed to all schools, FE Colleges, Specialist Post-16 Institutions (SPIs) contacts, Kent PACT, Directorate and Divisional senior managers, Health contacts, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, CYPE Cabinet Committee, SIAB and SEND Scrutiny committee members. A detailed summary of responses is available in Appendix 1.

3.12 The following table gives an evaluation of the consultation outcomes and the key sentiments from the respondents. A total of 49 replies were received and mostly mainstream schools were represented (86%).

Question	Responses
The aims of the SEND Sufficiency Plan are clear	54% of stakeholders agreed or strongly agreed. 38% disagreed or strongly disagreed.
Please add your comments on whether you think that the SEND Sufficiency Plan does start to meet those aims.	9 responses requested further detail as to how schools would manage the challenges, 6 responses mentioned funding cuts or increased expenses, 7 responses mentioned themes around EHCPs or children with SEN, including huge numbers of EHCPs, whether mainstream schools could cater for complex needs and why families felt that an EHCP was the only option,

The SEND Sufficiency Plan shows how the population of CYP with an EHCP is forecast to change in the future. Will this impact on your own planning for the future?	81% of stakeholders agreed or strongly agreed. 2% disagree or strongly disagree
Please add your comments on how you think the change in pupil population profile will impact on your own planning for the future.	The response comments did not specifically address the changes outlined in the EHCP Forecast 2023, of give details of the solutions from their provisions. Some responses were requests for additional funding or specialist provision from the local authority to meet the needs of pupils with more complex needs.
Kent needs to address the geographical gaps in pathways for CYP who can access their education in a mainstream school with the support of an SRP.	91% of stakeholders agreed or strongly agreed. 2% disagreed or strongly disagreed.
Please add any comments you have relating to specific geographical gaps from your perspective.	12 responses did not answer the question to name specific geographical gaps. 8 responses mentioned a specific district or area of Kent.
Addressing the gaps in secondary phase and post-16 SRPs is a priority.	65% of stakeholders agreed or strongly agreed. 0% disagree or strongly disagree
Do you have any comments relating to the Pre-16 and General Recommendations detailed in section 5.	Some responses did not comment on the 10 recommendations. 3 responses mentioned future planning. 4 respondents appeared to mis-read pre-16 as post-16.
Do you have any comments relating to the Post-16 Recommendations to improve SEND Sufficiency, detailed in section 5.	6 respondents advised they did not wish to make further comments, with a few giving reasoning that they were from the primary sector. There were requests for information to support forward planning.
Do you have any comments relating to the Commissioning Recommendations: Planned Additional Specialist Provision Across Kent Special Schools, detailed in section 5.	No responses were specific to the information included in the table in section 5. 3 responses mentioned location, 2 responses commented on the pressure for more provision.
Do you have any comments relating to Commissioning Recommendations: Planned Additional Specialist Resource Provisions, detailed in section.	1 comment noting a gap. 4 responses with unrelated themes.
Do you have any comments relating to Further Education Commissioning 2023-24 detailed in section 5.	As with previous post-16 aimed questions, some respondents noted they did not wish to contribute to this question. The following views included the need for additional provision in areas of highest need, concerns around the insufficiency of FE course offers and

	the needs of EHCP learners and the inconsistent but good transition practice.
Do you have any comments relating to the Summary of Commissioning Recommendations for Post-16, detailed in section 5.	Several responses noted in-depth logistical challenges not specifically related to post-16 commissioning. Some responses raised the need for closer links to support transition and to ensure proportional provision.
Do you have any additional comments relating to the Next Steps of the SEND Sufficiency Plan, detailed in section 7.	The comments did not specifically respond to the Next Steps. 3 responses mentioned time scales.
Additional comments	Comments were across a wide range. 3 responses mentioned funding.

4. Options considered and dismissed, and associated risk

- 4.1 The analysis set out within the SEND Sufficiency Plan based on forecasts linked to population data and aligned with the Safety Valve targets is designed to inform commissioning options for the future.
- 4.2 The risks associated with the forecasting and the commissioning are linked to other areas of action that lie outside the Sufficiency Plan remit, for example work to reduce the rate of growth in Education Health and Care Plans.
- 4.3 The commissioning options set out within this SEND Sufficiency Plan are included in the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education 2024 – 2028 (KCP) and are subject to scrutiny and decision-making as part of the approval process for the KCP.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 Following consultation and approval, the SEND Sufficiency Plan will feed into capital plans through KCC's Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2024 – 2028 as all commissioning intentions set out within the Sufficiency Plan are reflected with the current draft Commissioning Plan.
- 5.2 The forecasts and commissioning intentions support the delivery of KCC's Safety Valve Agreement with the Department for Education <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/service-specific-policies/education-policies/send-strategies-and-policies/safety-valve-agreement>
- 5.3 Each individual project will be subject to consultation and Cabinet Member decision.

6. Legal implications

- 6.1 The County Council has a statutory duty under section 14 of the Education Act 1996, to ensure there is a sufficiency of school places available to meet the needs of all children and young people living within our authority. This includes the need to secure provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities

(SEND). In addition, section 315 of the Education Act 1996 requires that arrangements for children with SEND be kept under review.

- 6.2 The provision of sufficient school places is a statutory duty and contributes to the Strategic Business Plan Priorities to ensure that “Children and Young People in Kent get the best start in life”.

7. Equalities implications

- 7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been produced for this Sufficiency Plan and the assessment did not identify any negative impact. It considered whether the principles, analysis and commissioning intentions contained within the SEND Sufficiency Plan may impact (either positive or negative) on any protected groups and if so what action, if any, should be taken to mitigate the negative impacts.
- 7.2 Separate more detailed equalities impact assessments will be completed as individual project consultations come forward to consider the impacts on any protected group arising from that individual education proposal.

8. Data Protection Implications

- 8.1 *None identified.*

9. Other corporate implications

- 9.1 *None identified.*

10. How the proposed decision supports Framing Kent’s Future 2022-2026

- 10.1 The SEND Sufficiency Plan will help to support Framing Kent’s Future – Our Council Strategy (2022-2026) Priority 1 - Levelling up. ‘To maintain KCC’s strategic role in supporting schools in Kent to deliver accessible, high quality education provision for all families.’

11. How the proposed decision supports Securing Kent’s Future

- 11.1 The proposal will support Supporting Kent’s Future Objective 2 – it seeks to plan future provision to better meet the needs of children and young people closer to their homes, in high quality state funded provision, thereby delivering better service more efficiently.

12. Governance

- 12.1 Once a key decision is made, Kent County Council’s Constitution (Section 10, Executive Scheme of Officer Delegation), provides a clear and appropriate link between this decision and the actions required to implement it.

13. Conclusions

- 13.1 This SEND Sufficiency Plan is a first step towards establishment of an annual cycle of forecasting for SEND provision linked to the delivery of Kent Safety Valve

Agreement with the DfE whilst feeding into the Commissioning Plan for Education provision in Kent.

13.2 The SEND Sufficiency Plan will provide analysis and an evidence base to inform longer-term capital planning for SEND provision.

14. Recommendation(s):

Cabinet is asked to agree the Special Educational Needs Sufficiency Plan 2024- 2028.

15. Background Document

15.1 Kent Strategy for SEND 2021-2024 <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs/send-strategy/strategy-for-children-with-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities>

15.2 Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision
www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision

15.3 Framing Kent’s Future Our Councils Strategy 2022-2026
[Framing Kent’s Future - Kent County Council](#)

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Cabinet

DECISION NO:

23/00107

For publication [Do not include information which is exempt from publication under schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972]

Key decision: YES

The decision will:

- a) *result in savings or expenditure which is significant having regard to the budget for the service or function (currently defined by the Council as in excess of £1,000,000); or*
- b) *be significant in terms of its effects on a significant proportion of the community living or working within two or more electoral divisions – which will include those decisions that involve:*
 - *the adoption or significant amendment of major strategies or frameworks.*
 - *significant service developments, significant service reductions, or significant changes in the way that services are delivered, whether county-wide or in a particular locality.*

Subject Matter / Title of Decision

Kent Special Education Needs Sufficiency Plan 2024-2028

Decision:

Cabinet is asked to agree the Special Educational Needs Sufficiency Plan 2024-2028.

Reason(s) for decision:

Kent County Council (KCC), as the Local Authority (LA), has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places are available. KCC's Commissioning Plan for Education Provision has included a section on Special Education Needs Provision; however, this has always been a high-level summary based on limited analysis and forecasting. This is the first time that KCC has produced a Sufficiency Plan for Special Education Needs (SEN) Provision.

Kent is the largest local authority by population with 246,585 pupils. It has a statistically significant number of pupils with an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP). The number of EHCPs in January 2023 was 18,930. In 2023, the percentage of Kent school age children (5 to 19 years) with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) was 5.2% compared to England with 4.3%. In 2022, 41.1% of pupils in Kent with an EHCP attended a special school compared to 34.8% of pupils nationally.

To meet the individual needs of children with SEND, a range of education provision is available in Kent, within both mainstream and special schools. The purpose of this SEND Sufficiency Plan is to inform and support KCC in its development of strategic place planning for SEND educational provision in the medium to long term. The SEND Sufficiency Plan will sit under the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent to inform strategic educational place planning. There are 4 key aims for the Kent SEND Sufficiency Plan:

- Inform medium to longer term commissioning/decommissioning of places for children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan.

- Inform capital investment planning and future bids to DfE Wave programmes.
- Inform high level discussions with providers around required changes to current provision to meet future needs.
- Support the delivery of the Safety Valve programme, to bring Kent in line with other local authorities' patterns of provision.

Following consultation on the plan, it needs formal adoption by the County Council to enable its implementation. The consultation feedback, whilst limited, indicated the Plan was a step forward and something which can be built upon.

Commissioning recommendations for this first Plan are limited by the need for the Special School, Specialist Resource Provision and Early Years reviews to complete. The outcomes and recommendations from these reviews will be key to informing future commissioning decisions and the next iteration of the Plan. The initial commissioning recommendations from the Plan are reflected in Kent's Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2024 to 2028.

For post-16, actions are underway to meet demand regarding place planning, with engagement from all FE groups as part of multiple projects around access for students to mainstream settings. The phases of implementation of the SEND Sufficiency Plan will be influenced by the medium and longer-term commissioning decisions that result from the data presented.

How the proposed decision supports Framing Kent's Future 2022-2026

The SEND Sufficiency Plan will help to support Framing Kent's Future – Our Council Strategy (2022-2026) Priority 1 - Levelling up. 'To maintain KCC's strategic role in supporting schools in Kent to deliver accessible, high quality education provision for all families.'

How the proposed decision supports Securing Kent's Future

The proposal will support Supporting Kent's Future Objective 2 – it seeks to plan future provision to better meet the needs of children and young people closer to their homes, in high quality state funded provision, thereby delivering better service more efficiently.

Financial Implications

Following consultation and approval, the SEND Sufficiency Plan will feed into capital plans through KCC's Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2024 – 2028 as all commissioning intentions set out within the Sufficiency Plan are reflected within this.

The forecasts and commissioning intentions support the delivery of KCC's Safety Valve Agreement with the Department for Education <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/service-specific-policies/education-policies/send-strategies-and-policies/safety-valve-agreement>

Legal implications

The County Council has a statutory duty under section 14 of the Education Act 1996, to ensure there is a sufficiency of school places available to meet the needs of all children and young people living within our authority. This includes the need to secure provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). In addition, section 315 of the Education Act 1996 requires that arrangements for children with SEND be kept under review.

Equalities implications

An Equality Impact Assessment has been produced for this Sufficiency Plan and the assessment did not identify any negative impact.

Separate more detailed equalities impact assessments will be completed as individual project consultations come forward to consider the impacts on any protected group arising from that individual education proposal.

Other Alternatives Considered and risks if decision isn't taken.

The analysis set out within the SEND Sufficiency Plan based on forecasts linked to population data and aligned with the Safety Valve targets is designed to inform commissioning options for the future. The risks associated with the forecasting and the commissioning are linked to other areas of action that lie outside the Sufficiency Plan remit, for example work to reduce the rate of growth in Education Health and Care Plans.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The Children's and Young People Cabinet Committee consider the decision on 21 November 2023 and endorsed the recommendation for Cabinet to approve the Plan.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

- 1.1 The option of not having a SEND Sufficiency Plan has been the Authority's previous position. Its SEND commissioning has lacked the rigour and consistency seen in the mainstream space, via the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent. This first SEND Sufficiency Plan is a first step towards establishment of an annual cycle of forecasting for SEND provision linked to the delivery of Kent Safety Valve Agreement with the DfE and feeding into the Commissioning Plan for Education provision in Kent.
- 1.2 The Plan will provide analysis and an evidence base to inform longer-term capital planning for SEND provision.

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

.....
signed

.....
date

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SEND SUFFICIENCY PLAN

October 2023

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DRAFT

1: Introduction

Kent's Strategy for Children and Young People with SEND 2021-2024 sets out an ambition to ensure that "Children and young people experience a high quality, inclusive education within the most appropriate setting to meet their needs"; and that we "ensure children and young people with SEND are included in their local community."¹ The SEND Code of Practice sets out that for most children with SEND, there is a presumption that their education will be within a mainstream setting and KCC's ambition is that most children and young people with an EHCP will also be able to access appropriate provision within or within a reasonable distance of their local community.²

The County Council has a statutory duty under section 14 of the Education Act 1996, to ensure there is a sufficiency of school places available to meet the needs of all children and young people living within our authority. This includes the need to secure provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). In addition, section 315 of the Education Act 1996 requires that arrangements for children with SEND be kept under review. 'Special educational needs' is a legal definition and refers to children with learning problems or disabilities that make it harder for them to learn than most children of the same age. Those with more complex needs will have an integrated assessment and, where appropriate, a single Education, Health and Care plan for their support.³

In March 2022, the government published its SEND review: right support, right place, right time. "The SEND Review sets out government's proposals for a system that offers children and young people the opportunity to thrive, with access to the right support, in the right place, and at the right time, so they can fulfil their potential and lead happy, healthy and productive adult lives."⁴

To meet the needs of children with SEND, a range of education provision is available in Kent, within both mainstream and special schools, to provide the best education to support individual pupil needs. Kent has 24 Special schools, including two new schools opened in recent years, and will have a 25th Special school for secondary age young people with SEMH opening on the Isle of Sheppey in September 2024. Some Kent mainstream schools have dedicated SEN Specialist Resource Provisions (SRPs) which are specially designed to support pupils with specific special educational needs alongside a mainstream education. Pupils attending a school with named Specialist Resource Provision will have access to specialist timetabled lessons as well as attending mainstream lessons with peers, where appropriate. At the same time, research is constantly being undertaken into ways to support children

¹ https://www.kent.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0012/13323/Strategy-for-children-with-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities.pdf

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>

³ [SEND Code of Practice January 2015.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#) page 11

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-and-ap-green-paper-responding-to-the-consultation/summary-of-the-send-review-right-support-right-place-right-time>

with various needs to remain within mainstream settings, alongside their peers, in their local communities. As mainstream schools develop their expertise on special needs education, they are more able to provide for increased numbers of children with an Education Health and Care Plan. In order to support the consistency of approach to inclusion for children and young people with SEN across Kent's mainstream schools, KCC has implemented a detailed programme of training for schools, to include whole school nurture and an Inclusion Leadership Development programme. Further information on Kent's approach to supporting children and young people within mainstream settings can be seen within KCC's "Countywide Approach to Inclusive Education (2023- 2028)" which sets out standards and expectations for inclusive education in Kent.⁵ These were agreed following extensive and detailed collaboration with schools, settings, parent/carers, young people, and other key stakeholders. The CATIE was informed by the SEND Code of Practice, the Kent Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities 2021-24 and research published in the Local Government Association report 'Developing and sustaining an effective local SEND system.'

Kent is the largest local authority by population with 246,585 pupils⁶. It has a statistically significant number of pupils with an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP). The number of EHCPs in January 2023 was 18,930. The percentage of Kent school age children (5 to 19 years) with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) was between 2.9% and 3.1% of the cohort between 2015 to 2017. This had increased to 3.8% by January 2020 and to 5.2% of the school age population by January 2023.⁷ In England in 2023 the percentage of pupils with an EHCP was 4.3%. This includes all state-funded nursery, primary, secondary and special schools, non-maintained special schools, pupil referral units and independent schools.⁸

The increase in Kent, both in percentage and numbers (as the school population has grown overall), has led to an increased reliance on independent providers. Kent has greater proportions of children supported in either special or independent schools than national averages. In response to this level of demand and range of presenting needs, a range of long and short-term solutions have been implemented across KCC's maintained specialist sector providers as well as in many mainstream schools. Examples of the impact of this rapid growth can be seen in both the range of pupils' identified EHCP primary need in many individual special schools who have had to adapt quickly to meet the needs of their current pupil cohorts, in the growth of satellite classes and in the number of schools that have had to give up specialist curriculum accommodation or important social spaces to create more classroom capacity. The demand for specialist places has been significant. We have continued

⁵ <https://www.kelsi.org.uk/special-education-needs/inclusion/countywide-approach-to-inclusive-education>

⁶ [Facts-and-Figures-2022.pdf \(kelsi.org.uk\)](#)

⁷ [Create your own tables, Table Tool – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](#)

⁸ <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/special-educational-needs-in-england>

to invest in provision; however, this has still been insufficient to meet demand resulting in an even greater use of independent sector providers. 1,800 additional special school places have been created (43% increase) over 5 years. In addition, the number of Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) places has increased by almost 500 places (70% increase) over the same 5-year period. Kent has 74 SRPs, an increase of 12 since 2016.

Our increased reliance on independent sector providers, rate of increase in growth of EHCPs – outstripping the rate of growth in all other local authorities - and higher percentages of children and young people being educated in specialist education provision rather than in mainstream, has led to financial pressures and the inclusion of Kent in the Department for Education's Safety Valve programme.⁹ By entering into the Safety Valve agreement with the DfE, we will be putting in place a range of measures to make sure appropriate provision is available. This will include ensuring there is sufficient and consistent capacity across the county to support children with severe and complex needs in their local area wherever possible and implementing new models for reintegration of children and young people into mainstream schools.

Currently, the three largest primary need groups for EHCPs are: Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) and Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs (SEMH). Most schools report that children's needs are becoming more complex. This supports the trend seen nationally that special schools are needing to provide places for more complex children. High levels of complex need more often require more physical space for equipment, or breakout areas and quiet rooms, smaller class sizes and staff with additional specialist expertise and experience.

In parallel with the development of this first SEND Sufficiency Plan, we are undertaking several reviews that will inform policy direction and future revisions of this plan:

- Special School Review
- Specialist Resource Provision Review
- Early Years Review
- High Needs Funding Review

We are also working with schools and key stakeholders in localities to develop new approaches to locality services around SEN and have undertaken a deep dive into provision for children and young people with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs to inform new approaches. We will look to build on this through the Special School review and a future review of Alternative Provision in Kent, linked to supporting children and young people with SEMH needs.

⁹ [Dedicated schools grant: very high deficit intervention - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/dedicated-schools-grant-very-high-deficit-intervention)

In 2021 an in-depth review was undertaken into provision for Kent's 16- to 19-year-olds – Pathways for All.¹⁰ The next steps from this review will also form the basis for future provision planning for young people with SEND, working collaboratively across all sectors to improve pathways into employment and independent adult lives. Additional interdependencies support the development of the post-16 offer across the county. The Pathways for All – 16-19 review focusses on the improvement of the entire post-16 offer and landscape across Kent, with multiple recommendation implementation group outcome aims assisting towards the broadening of the SEND offer. The review produced multiple recommendations, including the development of the offer below level 2, and the need to develop a comprehensive offer on a local level, implemented via collaboration. All 8 of the recommendations aim to improve the accessibility and understanding of post-16 across the County, improving inclusion and outcomes. The impact of this work will further support the sufficiency plan recommendations, underpinning it with additional collaborative work to ensure the breadth of offer and access to appropriate educational provision improves Kent-wide.

Aims of the SEND Sufficiency Plan

The purpose of this SEND Sufficiency Plan is to inform and support the local authority in its development of strategic place planning for SEND educational provision in the medium to long term. The SEND Sufficiency Plan will sit under the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent to inform strategic educational place planning. There are 4 key aims for the Kent SEND Sufficiency Plan.

1. Inform medium to longer term commissioning/decommissioning of places for children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan
2. Inform capital investment planning and future bids to DfE Wave programmes.
3. Inform high level discussions with providers around required changes to current provision to meet future needs.
4. Support the delivery of the Safety Valve programme, to bring Kent in line with other local authorities' patterns of provision.

Development of the SEND Sufficiency Plan

To create the SEND Sufficiency Plan, we looked at capacity and designated numbers in Kent provisions, pupil travel patterns, destination and progression data around outcomes and transition, alongside forecast pupil data to identify gaps in both the capacity, type and geographical location of specialist provision.

Multiple data sources were available to inform the gap analysis. This included Special School and Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) capacity, commissioned

¹⁰ <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/college-sixth-form-employment-and-training/kent-16-to-19-review-pathways-for-all>

places, school census information ¹¹, live SEND data through Power BI, progression and destination reporting tables, the SEN2 return, the 2023 update to EHCP forecasts, stakeholder views and information from interdependent projects.

The data modelling, gap analysis and initial conclusions will inform the sufficiency planning assumptions around which structured consultation with all stakeholders, including parents, carers and young people will take place during the autumn of 2023. Feedback from the consultations will inform any revision to the commissioning proposals in this and future iterations of the SEND Sufficiency Plan.

Consultation Timetable

Date	Action
October – November 2023	Plan for consultation alongside Kent Commissioning Plan
22 nd November 2023	SEND Sufficiency Plan goes to CYPE Cabinet Committee
1 st December 2023	Cabinet Member for Education takes decision
25 th January 2024	SEND Sufficiency Plan goes to Cabinet alongside Kent Commissioning Plan

2: The Current Picture

There are two ways to analyse EHCP data. It may be more appropriate in some instances to look at the entire cohort which includes children and young people aged 0-25 years. Alternatively, in some instances it is more appropriate to look at cohorts of pupils attending educational settings (including schools and post-16 providers.) This cohort includes children and young people across the primary, secondary, and post-16 educational phases.

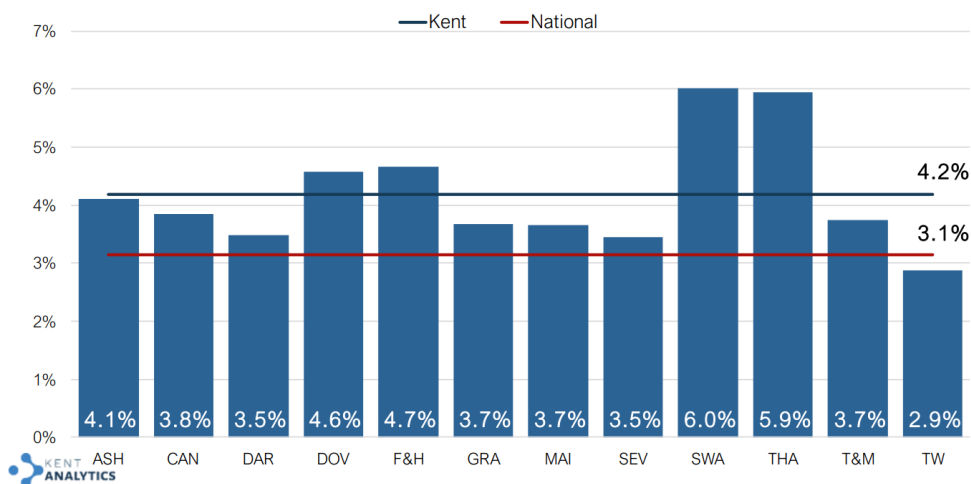
Nationally, the percentage of children and young people with an educational health care plan (EHCP) has continued to increase, “a trend of increases since 2016.”¹² “In 2023 the national rate of the 0- to 25-year-old population with an EHCP was 3.1%, compared to 4.2% in Kent,¹³ totalling 18,930 children and young people.

¹¹ Information from SCAP23 reported that data from the school census for SRPs was found to be unreliable. Roll data was only available for 49/65 SRPs due to incomplete school census returns, and in several cases the data that was reported was obviously incorrect.

¹² <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/special-educational-needs-in-england>

¹³ EHCP Numbers – Kent at National Average 2023, Kent Analytics

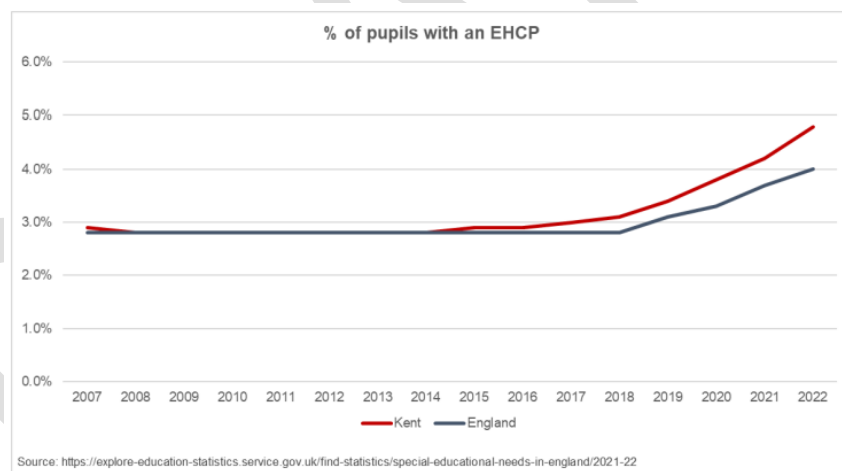
Percentage of 0 to 25 Population with an EHCP (2023)¹⁴



Please note, these figures may be different to other published figures due to the method of analysis.

The districts of Swale, Thanet, Dover and Folkestone and Hythe all reported a rate higher than the Kent average, and all Kent districts were above national average apart from Tunbridge Wells.

Percentage of Pupils with an EHCP in Kent and England 2007-2022¹⁵



The national “proportion of pupils with an EHCP increased to 4.3% in 2023,” from 4% in 2022.¹⁶ The graph above shows that EHCPs in Kent have risen above national levels consistently since their introduction in 2014.

¹⁴ EHCP Numbers – Kent at National Average 2023, Kent Analytics

¹⁵ Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2023 to 2027, page 128

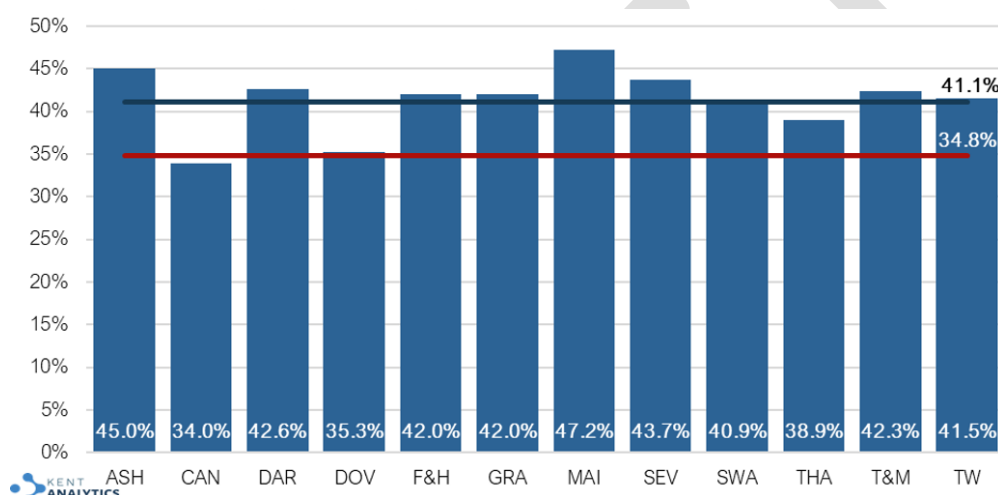
¹⁶ SEND analysis of data sources June 2023, page 10

Attendance at Educational Provision by Education Phase

Placement	2023 Total	Early years	Primary	Secondary	Post16
Mainstream Schools	4,963	2	2,827	1,928	206
Specialist Resource Provision (SRP)	1,286	-	620	602	64
Maintained Special Schools	5,972	-	2,336	2,860	776
Independent Schools	1,767	-	307	1,133	327
Post-16 / Full Time Education	3,614	-	-	8	3,606
Other	1,263	3	87	269	904

Number calculated from EHCP 2023 Forecast

Percentage of EHCP Pupils in a Special School in 2022¹⁷



Please note, these figures may be different to other published figures due to the method of analysis.

In 2022, 41.1% of pupils with an EHCP attended a special school compared to 34.8% nationally. The forecast rise in EHCP numbers over the coming years will create additional pressure on the current capacity of Kent's special schools, if this trend continues.

For those with an EHCP in Kent, primary aged children are more likely to attend mainstream provision than secondary. There are high numbers of children and young people attending non-maintained and independent educational provisions, adding financial pressure and unsustainable costs.

Nationally, "the percentage of pupils with an EHC plan attending independent schools has increased significantly in recent years."¹⁸ Kent reflects this trend, with an increasing reliance on the independent sector when in-county provision and resources cannot meet need or offer capacity.

¹⁷ Kent Analytics, 2022

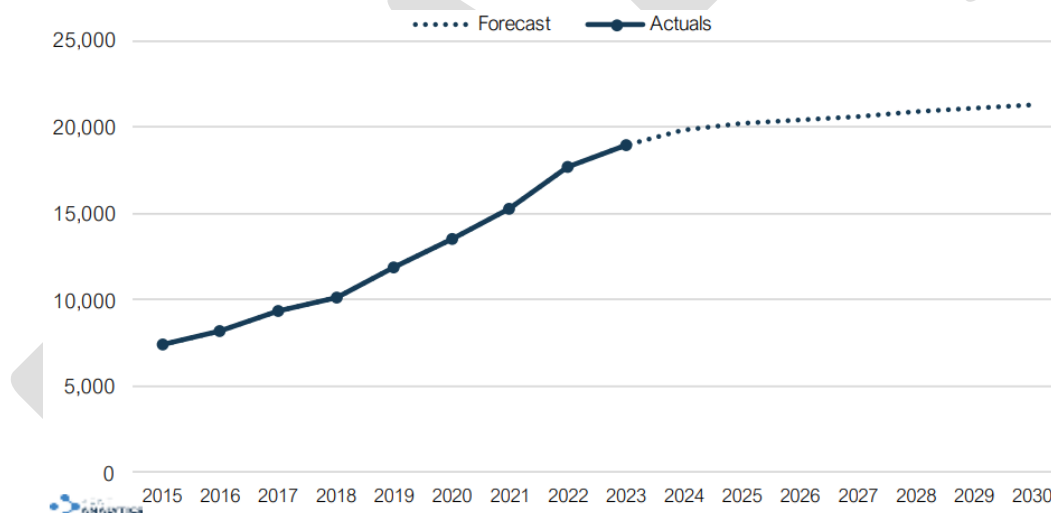
¹⁸ Special educational needs and disability: an analysis and summary of data sources, Department for Education, page 13

3. Future Demand

Kent Analytics has produced a tool to forecast the number of children and young people in Kent with EHCPs. Our forecast of new EHCPs is population driven and produced by calculating the rates of 0- 25-year-olds with an EHCP by key population age groups. These rates are applied to the Kent population forecast figures to estimate the number of new children and young people with an EHCP for the next eight years. The SEN need type proportions of the EHCP population forecast have been based on EHCPs recorded between 2020 to 2022, whilst the placement forecast is calculated using needs-based transition rates of each age group. Safety Valve requirements are then applied to forecasts in order to inform future capacity requirements in line with policy direction. Last year's forecast for January 2023 was - 1.3% different from the actual reported number of EHCPs for the same period.

Our forecasts, based on current trends, indicate that the number of children and young people aged 0-25, with an EHCP and funded by the local authority will rise from 18,930 (January 2023) to 20,874 (January 2028.) unless the mitigating action currently being implemented addresses this rate of growth.

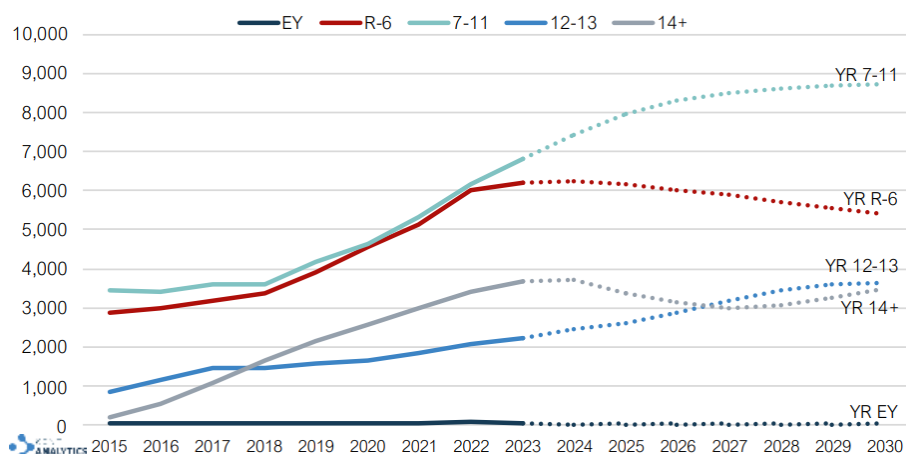
Forecast of Children and Young People with an EHCP¹⁹



Year Group	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
EY	42	70	46	38	38	39	39	39	40	40
R-6	5,124	6,020	6,200	6,231	6,160	6,010	5,878	5,718	5,541	5,382
7-11	5,314	6,164	6,801	7,414	7,971	8,312	8,506	8,600	8,693	8,742
12-13	1,825	2,055	2,219	2,446	2,625	2,863	3,192	3,454	3,605	3,657
14+	2,976	3,424	3,664	3,720	3,373	3,156	2,975	3,062	3,253	3,478
Total	15,281	17,733	18,930	19,850	20,167	20,380	20,591	20,874	21,131	21,299
%Change		16.0%	6.8%	4.9%	1.6%	1.1%	1.0%	1.4%	1.2%	0.8%

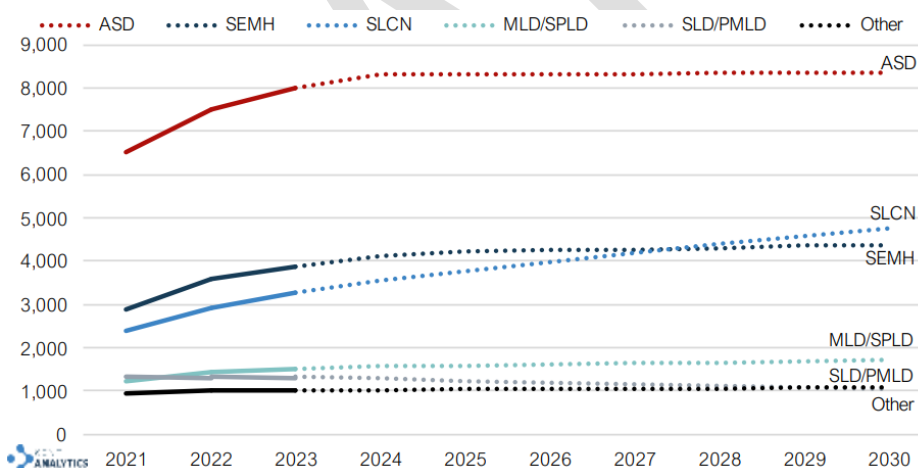
¹⁹ KCC EHCP Forecast 2023, July 2023, Kent Analytics, page 6

Forecast of Children and Young People with an EHCP Across Educational Phases²⁰



The graph above shows the EHCP forecast across year groups (phases). The data indicates population numbers in secondary (Year 7-11) and post-16 (Year 12-13) are due to rise, due to population fluctuations. Forecasts indicate that primary (Year R-6) and post-18 (Year 14+) populations are due to decrease.

Children and Young People with an EHCP by Need Type²¹



Need	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
ASD	6,519	7,511	8,007	8,300	8,325	8,315	8,311	8,334	8,351	8,337
SEMH	2,897	3,580	3,860	4,133	4,215	4,241	4,264	4,309	4,351	4,372
SLCN	2,390	2,904	3,259	3,544	3,764	3,964	4,169	4,384	4,579	4,752
MLD/SPLD	1,231	1,424	1,491	1,564	1,586	1,610	1,631	1,661	1,690	1,706
SLD/PMLD	1,313	1,312	1,311	1,284	1,240	1,202	1,155	1,122	1,087	1,052
Other	931	1,002	1,002	1,025	1,037	1,046	1,060	1,063	1,073	1,081
Total	15,281	17,733	18,930	19,850	20,167	20,378	20,590	20,873	21,131	21,300

²⁰ KCC EHCP Forecast 2023, July 2023, Kent Analytics, page 7

²¹ KCC EHCP Forecast 2023, July 2023, Kent Analytics, page 8

²² The reduction shown is due to a forecasting technicality. We do not expect the % of children and young people with PMLC/SLD to change.

Nationally, “the most common type of need among pupils with an EHC plan is autistic spectrum disorder (ASD).”²³ The need types indicating an increase in forecast numbers in Kent are autistic spectrum disorder (ASD), speech, language and communication needs (SLCN), and social, emotional and mental health (SEMH).

EHCP Pupils in Mainstream Schools²⁴

Year Group	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
EY	4	6	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
R-6	2,085	2,682	2,827	2,833	2,837	2,869	2,910	2,894	2,862	2,835
7-11	1,215	1,605	1,928	2,153	2,407	2,624	2,737	2,783	2,836	2,851
12-13	127	157	164	259	209	234	275	317	335	341
14+	11	41	42	50	88	78	72	82	95	109
Total	3,442	4,491	4,963	5,298	5,546	5,808	5,998	6,079	6,132	6,140
%Change		30.5%	10.5%	6.8%	4.7%	4.7%	3.3%	1.4%	0.9%	0.1%

As the child population bulge moves through secondary and post-16 cohorts, the number of children attending a mainstream school or entering further education is set to rise. In 2023, 32.8% of the EHCP cohort were attending mainstream schools (6.8% accessing SRP support.) KCC aims for the percentage of children and young people educated in our mainstream schools (including SRPs) to increase to 36.6% by 2028. Within mainstream schools, more pupils are forecast to have a need type of ASD, SLCN and SEMH than other SEN needs. This pattern is forecast to continue over time.

EHCP Pupils in a Mainstream School with an SRP Named²⁵

Year Group	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
R-6	584	637	620	630	622	604	586	570	566	556
7-11	560	600	602	665	727	803	870	933	967	990
12-13	522	59	52	57	65	66	71	80	90	98
14+	2	7	12	8	12	12	12	13	15	18
Total	1,198	1,303	1,286	1,360	1,426	1,484	1,539	1,596	1,637	1,662
%Change		8.8%	-1.3%	5.7%	4.9%	4.1%	3.7%	3.7%	2.6%	1.5%

The forecast indicates a decreasing pressure on specialist resource provision in the primary phase as the primary age population decreases, alongside a gradually increasing demand in the secondary and post-16 age groups, reflecting population changes. This indicates a need to increase mainstream sixth form offers to EHCP students, ensuring early identification of students for whom this opportunity could be extended. In 2023, 6.8% of the EHCP cohort accessed SRP support. This is forecast to rise to 7.6% by 2028. Of the current EHCP cohort who access SRP support, 52.7% have a primary need of ASD. The next highest SEN need type is SLCN, currently at 28.2%.

²³ <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/special-educational-needs-in-england/2022-23>

²⁴ KCC EHCP Forecast 2023, July 2023, Kent Analytics, page 9

²⁵ KCC EHCP Forecast 2023, July 2023, Kent Analytics, page 11

Pupils in Maintained Special Schools²⁶

Year Group	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
EY	3	7	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
R-6	2,023	2,236	2,336	2,361	2,316	2,222	2,114	2,014	1,882	1,763
7-11	2,419	2,635	2,860	3,097	3,337	3,624	3,864	4,032	4,132	4,205
12-13	483	521	548	513	508	564	663	687	723	775
14+	171	208	228	221	164	148	128	152	160	156
Total	5,099	5,607	5,972	6,196	6,328	6,562	6,773	6,889	6,900	6,902
%Change		10.0%	6.5%	3.7%	2.1%	3.7%	3.2%	1.7%	0.2%	0.0%

Kent educates 39.7% of its children and young people with an EHCP in special schools (including maintained, academy and independent special schools), compared to 34.8% nationally.

Pressure for places in maintained special schools is forecast to decrease slightly in the primary and post-18 populations, in contrast to the secondary and post-16 cohorts both of which increase significantly over time. The forecast rate of increase in demand for maintained special schools is indicated to reduce to 1.7% by 2028. This is in line with KCC's aim to educate 33% of the children and young people with an EHCP in maintained special schools by 2028. The expansion over recent years of several of Kent's special schools, to include a reduction in age range to meet demand, has resulted in fewer places being available for Year 6 to Year 7 transfer for pupils coming from primary special schools or from mainstream primary schools. This pressure is "hidden" from a data perspective but is a serious and continuing gap that needs to be addressed.

Need Type of Pupils in Maintained Special Schools²⁷

Need	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
ASD	2,627	2,936	3,125	3,165	3,166	3,176	3,206	3,201	3,161	3,118
SEMH	624	655	708	761	786	893	963	992	973	972
SLCN	515	647	750	890	1,010	1,128	1,247	1,344	1,436	1,502
MLD/SPLD	280	300	303	317	325	352	374	391	395	398
SLD/PMLD	845	847	853	818	793	757	719	686	652	622
Other	208	222	233	244	247	256	263	274	283	290
Total	5,099	5,607	5,972	6,196	6,328	6,562	6,773	6,889	6,900	6,902

In 2023, 52.3% of special school pupils had a need type of ASD. This is forecast to decrease to 46.4% by 2028. Forecasts indicate the need type of SLCN in maintained special schools will increase significantly over the next five years, rising from 12.6% in 2023 to 19.5% in 2028. This rate of increase is not seen in other SEN need types and will require further investigation to establish whether this pattern is likely to continue.

²⁶ KCC EHCP Forecast 2023, July 2023, Kent Analytics, page 12

²⁷ KCC EHCP Forecast 2023, July 2023, Kent Analytics, page 12

EHCP Pupils in Independent Schools by Year Group²⁸

Year Group	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
EY	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
R-6	298	325	307	291	269	204	160	135	126	125
7-11	850	1,060	1,133	1,214	1,212	976	751	579	488	428
12-13	167	187	207	206	223	196	171	180	169	130
14+	81	108	120	109	74	60	56	51	53	57
Total	1,396	1,681	1,767	1,821	1,780	1,437	1,138	946	837	740
%Change		20.4%	5.1%	3.1%	-2.3%	-19.2%	-20.8%	-16.9%	-11.5%	-11.6%

The independent sector plays an important role in Kent's education provision. However, Kent has an overreliance on the independent sector to place children who have not been accommodated in the Kent system. As part of the Safety Valve Programme, Kent's aim is to reduce the percentage of children and young people with EHCPs placed in the independent sector, particularly at points of phase transition. It is therefore critical to ensure we will have a sufficiency of Year 7 places in our maintained special schools for those children requiring a special school place, as well as sufficient Specialist Resource Provision to support mainstream secondary school support to pupils with an EHCP.

Forecasts, in line with Safety Valve, indicate a direction of travel where independent placements will significantly reduce for the secondary phase (year 7-11) from 2025. This is in conjunction with smaller reductions across other age groups. In 2023, 9.3% of the EHCP cohort attended an independent provision. The forecast indicates this will need to reduce to 4.5% by 2028.

The tables below set out the forecast changes in provision numbers in line with Kent's Safety Valve Programme for Kent's post-16 cohort. The recommendations to underpin this changing approach are included in the SEND Sufficiency Plan.

EHCP Forecast for Year 12 and 13 Aged Young People

Yr12-13	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Mainstream	127	157	164	259	209	234	275	317	335	341
SRP	52	59	52	57	65	66	71	80	90	98
P16/FT Edu*	835	926	945	1,147	1,389	1,575	1,777	1,952	2,045	2,070
Maintained Special	483	521	548	513	508	564	663	687	723	775
Independent	167	187	207	206	223	196	171	180	169	130
Other**	163	205	303	265	230	228	235	238	243	242
Total	1,825	2,055	2,219	2,446	2,625	2,863	3,192	3,454	3,605	3,657

Number calculated from EHCP 2023 Forecast

*Includes General FE and tertiary colleges, higher education, other further education, sixth form colleges and SPIs

**Includes awaiting provision, educated at home, other-arranged by LA, other-arranged by parent and other/educated elsewhere.

The greatest increases in provision for those in years 12 and 13 need to be encouraged in mainstream settings. The number of places offered through FE,

²⁸ KCC EHCP Forecast 2023, July 2023, Kent Analytics, page 13

mainstream schools, and mainstream with SRP support needs to, on average, double by 2030. Careful consideration needs to be given to the numbers of year 12 and 13 young people in the 'other' category, as this includes those who are awaiting placement. Close monitoring of those who are NEET or awaiting provision needs to continue and be reviewed on a regular basis as it is for statutory school aged students via the placement process, alongside a reduction in bespoke provision.

EHCP Forecast for Year 14+ Aged Young People

Yr14+	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Mainstream	11	41	42	50	88	78	72	82	95	109
SRP*	2	7	12	8	12	12	12	13	15	18
P16/FT Edu**	2,092	2,527	2,661	2,881	2,673	2,540	2,417	2,484	2,645	2,847
Maintained Special	171	208	228	221	164	148	128	152	160	156
Independent	81	108	120	109	74	60	56	51	53	57
Other***	607	533	601	450	362	319	291	280	285	291
Total	2,976	3,424	3,664	3,720	3,373	3,156	2,975	3,062	3,253	3,478

Number calculated from EHCP 2023 Forecast

*Yr14+ SRP includes those recorded at units attached to mainstream. Confirmation that this is a data error has been received.

**Includes General FE and tertiary colleges, higher education, other further education, sixth form colleges and SPIs

***Includes awaiting provision, educated at home, other-arranged by LA, other-arranged by parent and other/educated elsewhere.

The year 14+ forecast shows rising numbers of young people with an EHCP in mainstream school sixth forms, which will present a challenge given the majority of these offer a fixed two-year programme of study. However, these numbers may represent exceptions made for students requiring an additional flexible year to complete level 3 study. Data errors on Synergy have resulted in some instances of year 14+ young people being registered at SRPs, showing a need for improved record keeping. Forecasts, to fall in line with Safety Valve Agreements, indicate placements within independent settings should reduce by approximately 50% over the next 7 years, alongside a gradual reduction in placing in maintained special schools in the older age groups. Post-16 and full-time education institutions should aim to reduce the number of year 14+ age learners over the coming years and encourage positive progression to independence or alternative adult support. Much like the post-16 cohort, careful consideration should be given to year 14+ young people in the 'other' category, with a reduction of EHCPs in this category and a focus on progression to independence and appropriate ceasing of EHCPs.

4. Kent Provision

Specialist Resource Provision

“Resourced provisions are places that are reserved at a mainstream school for pupils with a specific type of Special Educational Needs (SEN), who are included within the mainstream school and activities, but require a base and/or some specialist facilities around the school.

Resourced provisions:

- are designated specifically for making this kind of SEN provision
- are treated as specialist provision for funding purposes
- cater for a specific area or areas of SEN (for example specific learning difficulties)
- are for pupils with an EHC Plan
- should support pupils with SEN support and EHC Plans through delivering in-reach and/or outreach activities.”²⁹

In Kent there are 74 SRPs provided by 65 schools covering the primary and secondary phases with some limited post-16 places.

Total Places for Kent SRPs (2023-24 Commissioning)

Total SRPs	Primary SRP schools	Primary places	Secondary SRP schools	Secondary places	Notes
North	9	120	6	116	Includes 1 secondary multiple SRP
East	11	195	8	282	Includes 1 primary multiple SRP Includes 5 secondary multiple SRP (with 1 school providing 3 SRPs)
South	11	281	4	97	Whitfield and Aspen School offers 165 primary places.
West	10	144	6	195	Includes 1 primary multiple SRP The Malling School offers 120 secondary places, including 20 post-16 places.
Total	41	740	24	690	1,430 places (commissioned)

The table above indicates the number of SRP schools across the Kent areas by primary or secondary phase. It also shows the number of commissioned places for 2023 – 24. There are more primary than secondary school SRPs, but generally the secondary school SRPs provide more pupil places. There are only 20 post-16 SRP places, and these are commissioned for The Malling School SRP. The overall numbers can mask some gaps in provision at secondary for designations.

There are several SRP schools that offer a multiple SRP and are commissioned for more than one SEN need type. The schools are shown in the table below.

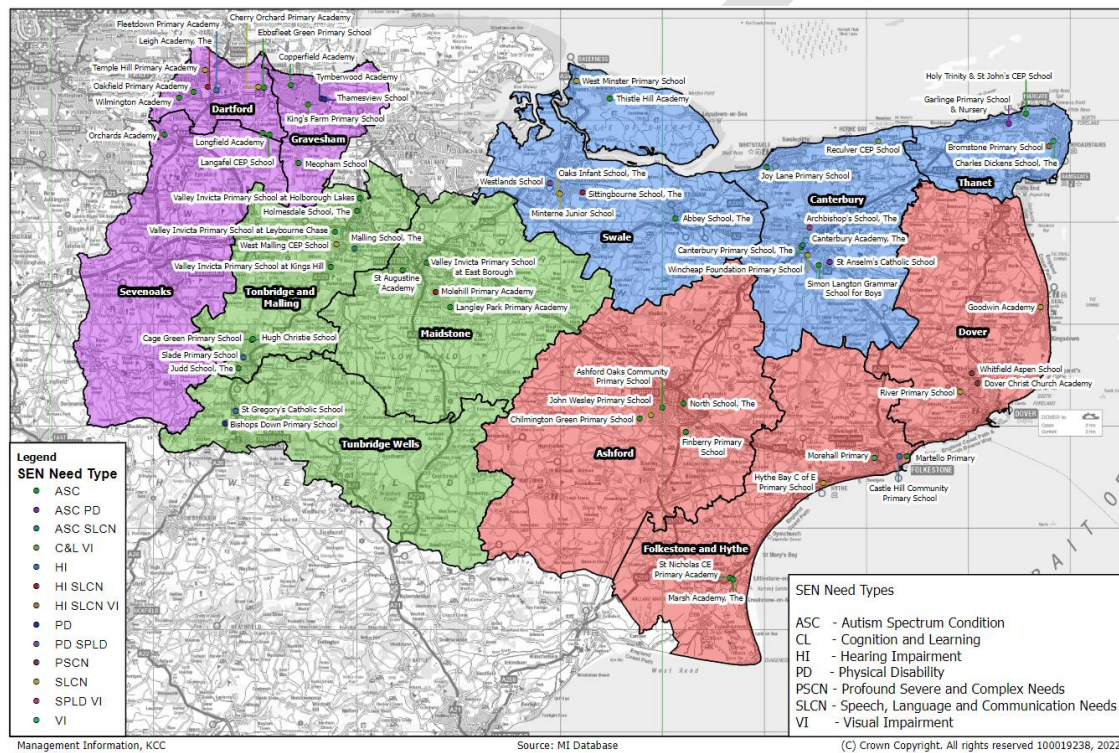
School	District	Phase	Designation
Canterbury Academy	Canterbury	Secondary	ASD, HI and SLCN
Garlinge Primary	Thanet	Primary	ASD and PD
Leigh Academy	Dartford	Secondary	SLCN and HI
Molehill Copse Primary	Maidstone	Primary	SLCN and HI
Sittingbourne Academy	Swale	Secondary	SLCN and HI
St Anselm’s Catholic School	Canterbury	Secondary	ASD and PD
The Archbishops School	Canterbury	Secondary	SPLD and VI
Westlands Academy	Swale	Secondary	SPLD and PD

²⁹ 2023 KCC SRP SLA

Two schools are commissioned as having one SRP with a dual designation. Reculver School in Canterbury district has a designation of C&L VI and is commissioned for 15 places. The Malling School in Tonbridge and Malling district has a designation of ASD and SLCN and is commissioned for 120 places, including 20 post-16 places.

Bromstone Primary School in Thanet district is not designated as an SRP but has a special arrangement with KCC offering 20 places for children with an EHCP for SLCN or VI.

Kent Schools with Specialist Resource Provision by SEN Need Type³⁰



The map above shows the location of the SRPs. Each SRP has a designation for SEN, as shown. There are currently no primary or secondary SRPs for SEMH.

Commissioning for ASD SRPs

In Kent, and following the national trend, ASD is the largest pupil cohort at 42.3% of EHCPs. The local authority commissions 36 SRPs for pupils with ASD as their primary need on their EHCP. Four schools offer ASD provision with another designation (Garlinge Primary, Canterbury Academy, St Anselm’s Catholic School and The Malling School.)

³⁰ Management Information KCC, 2022

The secondary SRP for ASD at Canterbury Academy is a designated Cullum Centre. A Cullum Centre is a Specialist Resource Provision that is established in collaboration with the National Autistic Society (NAS), Cullum Family Trust and Kent County Council. There is a current proposal to expand this provision to include primary provision. We are in discussion with NAS and the Cullum Family Trust regarding plans to invest in a small number of Cullum Centres across Kent subject to evidence of need and a business case undertaken as part of the overall SRP Review.

Kent has more primary ASD SRPs commissioned (21) than secondary ASD SRPs (15). However, secondary school SRPs are often commissioned for more pupil places.

District Commissioning for ASD SRPs

	DAR	GRA	SEV	CAN	SWA	THA	ASH	DOV	F&H	MAI	T&M	TW	Total
Number of Primary ASD SRPs	3	2		2	1	1 1*	3		2	2	4		21
Commissioned primary places 2023/24	53	20		47	8	24	25		29	30	68		304
Number of Secondary ASD SRPs	2	1	1	1 2*	1		1		1	1	4		15
Commissioned secondary places, 2023/24	64	15	10	67	44		25		20	14	52		311**

*Multiple SRP

**The Malling School (T&M Secondary) is included as an ASD provision in the table above. It is commissioned for ASD and SLCN pupil places as one total by KCC. The number of commissioned places is not included in the table above, but in the SLCN commissioning figures.

The district breakdown shows further detail with 3 districts without a primary phase SRP for ASD (Sevenoaks, Dover and Tunbridge Wells). There are 3 districts without a secondary phase SRP for ASD (Thanet, Dover and Tunbridge Wells).

However, Dover provides places in Kent's largest primary SRP at Whitfield Aspen School. It has a designation of PSCN although pupils with a primary need of ASD are on roll. Secondary transfer for pupils is available to the SRP at Aspen 2 at Christchurch. Currently it cannot meet all the demand from children attending Whitfield Aspen primary school receiving SRP support requiring a secondary mainstream place with support from the SRP.

SRPs and Grammar Schools

	DAR	GRA	SEV	CAN	SWA	THA	ASH	DOV	F&H	MAI	T&M	TW	Total
Number of SRP grammar schools				1							1		2
Commissioned places				35							22		57

Two grammar schools provide an SRP, designated for ASD (high functioning). There are 32 grammar schools in Kent, and 10 districts do not offer an SRP at a grammar school. Currently there is no ASD SRP grammar school offering places for girls.

The SRP review will be considering commissioning decisions identified by the gap analysis reflected in the SEND Sufficiency Plan.

District Commissioning for SRP for SLCN

	DAR	GRA	SEV	CAN	SWA	THA	ASH	DOV	F&H	MAI	T&M	TW	Total
Number of Primary SLCN SRPs	2			1	3	1	1	1	1	1*	1		11 1*
Commissioned primary places 2023/24	26			20	55	20	10	12	22	6	20		165
Number of Secondary SLCN SRPs	1*			1*	1*			1			1		2 3*
Commissioned secondary places, 2023/24	14			20	60			14			120**		228

*Multiple SRP

**The Malling School (T&M Secondary) is included as an SLCN provision in the table above. It is commissioned for ASD and SLCN pupil places as one total by KCC. The number of commissioned places is included in the table above.

Bromstone Primary School (Thanet) is not an SRP. It is an ESTA with commissioned places and has been part of the SRP panel process since September 2022.

The table above shows there are 17 SLCN SRPs for primary and secondary pupils. A total of 393 primary and secondary places were commissioned.

There are 3 districts with no primary or secondary SRP (Gravesend, Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells). There is also no secondary SRP in Thanet, Ashford, Folkestone & Hythe and Maidstone. In the district of Tonbridge & Malling, there is a large secondary SRP, The Malling School.

SRPs for SEN HI Across Districts

	DAR	GRA	SEV	CAN	SWA	THA	ASH	DOV	F&H	MAI	T&M	TW	Total
Number of Primary SRP schools for HI	1								1	1*	1		3 1*
Commissioned places 2023/24	13								14	4	9		40
Number of secondary SRP schools for HI	1*			1*	1*							1	1 3*
Commissioned places 2023/24	4			4	15							9	32

*Multiple SRP

SRPs for SEN VI Across Districts

	DAR	GRA	SEV	CAN	SWA	THA	ASH	DOV	F&H	MAI	T&M	TW	Total
Number of Primary SRP schools for VI				1*					1				1
Commissioned places 2023/24				**					4				4
Number of secondary SRP schools for VI				1*		1							1 1*
Commissioned places 2023/24				3		5							8

*Multiple SRP

** SRP is commissioned for C&L VI by KCC for 15 places in total and not specifically VI

SRPs for SEN PD Across Districts

	DAR	GRA	SEV	CAN	SWA	THA	ASH	DOV	F&H	MAI	T&M	TW	Total
Number of Primary SRP schools for PD		1				1*						1	2 1*
Commissioned places 2023/24		8				6						7	21
Number of secondary SRP schools for PD		1		1*	1*								1 2*
Commissioned places 2023/24		9		12	15								36

*Multiple SRP

Most children and young people with physical disability, hearing or visual impairment attend mainstream schools. A small number have needs that require access to the specialist expertise and equipment that can be accessed through a specialist resource provision attached to a mainstream school. More detailed analysis will have to be undertaken to inform future commissioning requirements for SRPs for PD, VI and HI which can then be reflected in a future SEND Sufficiency Plan.

Summary

Overall, investment in the expansion of secondary SRPs will specifically support CATIE priority 4 "ensuring smooth transition between education phases "as currently we have a significant gap in the pathways for pupils requiring access to SRP support when they transition from primary to secondary education. The expansion of secondary SRPs will also increase the capacity of mainstream secondary schools to meet the needs of the increased numbers of children and young people with an EHCP that will need to be educated in Kent mainstream schools.

District (Area)	Headlines	Action
Sevenoaks (North)	22.9% of secondary age SRP pupils living in S/oaks attend the 1 secondary SRP. The majority travel to Tonbridge & Malling (40%) and Dartford (22.9%). No primary SRP.	Commissioning to be identified on completion of SRP review.
Dartford (North)	Most SRP pupils at both primary and secondary attend an SRP in Dartford.	Intention to commission a primary SRP and secondary SRP linked to new schools serving new housing at Alkerden Primary and Secondary (2025)
Gravesham (North)	At primary 40% of pupils who live in Gravesham attend an SRP in the district, dropping to 32.6% at secondary. The majority of secondary SRP pupils attend an SRP in Dartford (52.2%), 13% attend an SRP in Tonbridge and Malling and 2.2% attend an SRP in Swale.	Any additional commissioning to be identified on completion of SRP review
Canterbury (East)	Mixed range of designations across primary and secondary SRPs which means for some needs there are no clear pathways. For primary the majority of pupils attend a school with an SRP in Canterbury (92.8%). This drops to 67.9% for secondary, who also attend SRPs in Swale (24.5%), Dover (3.8%) & Tonbridge and Malling (3.8%)	Intention to commission a Cullum Centre through expansion of a current primary SRP for ASD in Canterbury Academy Primary school. Any additional commissioning to be identified on completion of SRP review
Swale (East)	78.8% of primary SRP pupils who live in Swale also attend an SRP in the district. For secondary age pupils, 90.6% live in the district and attend a school in Swale. At the secondary phase there are SRP pupils travelling from every district (except Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells) to Swale. A significant proportion of SRP pupils travelling to Swale come from Canterbury (24.5%) and Thanet (15%)	Any additional commissioning or adjustments to SRP provision to be identified on completion of SRP review
Thanet (East)	Much broader range of SRP designations across primary SRPs (ASD, PD, HI, VI &	Intention to commission a

	<p>SLCN). Secondary SRP designations are more limited and specialised (VI). There are no clear pathways from primary to secondary, especially in relation to ASD. The majority of secondary SRP pupils travel to schools in Canterbury (35%) and Swale (15%).</p>	<p>secondary SRP for Thanet. Any additional commissioning or adjustments to current SRP provision to be identified on completion of SRP review</p>
Folkestone & Hythe (South)	<p>6 SRP holding schools, 5 primary and 1 secondary (Marsh Academy) with an ASD designation. 34.3% of secondary SRP pupils attend the 1 SRP in Folkestone & Hythe, others travel to SRPs in Canterbury (28.6%), Dover (20%) and Ashford (11.4%). A small proportion travel to Swale (2.9%) and Tonbridge & Malling (2.9%)</p>	<p>Intention to commission a secondary SRP for ASD. Any additional commissioning to be identified on completion of SRP review</p>
Dover (South)	<p>Proportion of primary SRP pupils who live in Dover and attend a Dover school is high (89.7%) but drops to 66.2% for secondary. Where a secondary age SRP pupil does not attend a Dover school, they are more likely to attend one in Canterbury (26.5%) and Thanet (1.9%)</p>	<p>Intention to expand the secondary SRP at Christchurch Academy (Aspen 2). Any additional commissioning to be identified on completion of SRP review.</p>
Ashford (South)	<p>There are pathways from primary to secondary SRPs although these are limited as there is only one secondary SRP in the district, designated for ASC. The primary schools have designations of ASC or SLCN. The majority of primary aged SRP pupils who live in Ashford also attend a school in Ashford (80.6%), this proportion reduces for secondary aged SRP pupils with only 51.4% both living and attending school in Ashford. Secondary aged SRP pupils who live in Ashford are more likely to travel to districts in other areas (East Kent: Swale 8.6% & Canterbury 17.1%; West Kent: Tonbridge & Malling 11.4% & Maidstone 2.9%) than districts also within South Kent (Folkestone & Hythe 8.6%).</p>	<p>Any additional commissioning to be identified on completion of SRP review</p>

Maidstone (West)	<p>There are limited pathways as there is only one secondary SRP (designated as ASC) compared to 3 primary SRP with designations of ASC, HI and SLCN. The proportions of both primary SRP pupils (59.1%) and secondary SRP pupils (20.8%) who both live and attend a school in Maidstone is low.</p> <p>In both cases pupils are travelling to schools typically within other districts within West Kent (Tonbridge & Malling 34.1% primary SRP pupils and 72.9% secondary SRP pupils; Tunbridge Wells secondary pupils only 2.1%), so the area can be seen to be meeting needs. Where pupils do not attend a school in another West Kent district they are travelling to Swale in East Kent (4.5% primary age; 2.1% secondary), Dartford (primary only 2.35%) and Ashford (secondary only 2.1%).</p>	Any additional commissioning to be identified on completion of SRP review
Tonbridge & Malling (West)	<p>10 SRPs in the district, 6 primary and 4 secondaries with clear pathways across phases, excluding HI (but there is a HI SRP in the neighbouring district of Tunbridge Wells).</p> <p>92.8% of primary age SRP pupils both live and attend school in Tonbridge and Malling, this is maintained for secondary SRP pupils with 90.6% both living and attending school in the district.</p> <p>Travel pattern data indicates that, like Swale, this district may be compensating for gaps in other districts as secondary aged SRP pupils are travelling from all districts across Kent, excluding two (Dover and Thanet).</p>	Any additional commissioning to be identified on completion of SRP review
Tunbridge Wells (West)	<p>Unclear pathways between 1 primary SRP with a specialist designation (PD) and 1 secondary SRP with a different specialist designation (HI). No provision for the most prevalent needs across the county such as ASC and SLCN.</p> <p>Only 48.4% of primary aged SRP pupils both live and attend a school in Tunbridge Wells with the remaining SRP pupils travelling to SRPs in other districts within West Kent (Tonbridge & Malling 45.2% &</p>	Any additional commissioning to be identified on completion of SRP review

	<p>Maidstone 6.55).</p> <p>The proportion of secondary aged SRP pupils who both live and attend a school in Tunbridge Wells decreases, compared to primary SRP pupils, to 26.7%, the second lowest proportion of all districts in Kent.</p> <p>The remaining 73.3% of secondary aged SRP pupils who live in Tunbridge Wells are travelling to the neighbouring district of Tonbridge & Malling to be educated.</p>	
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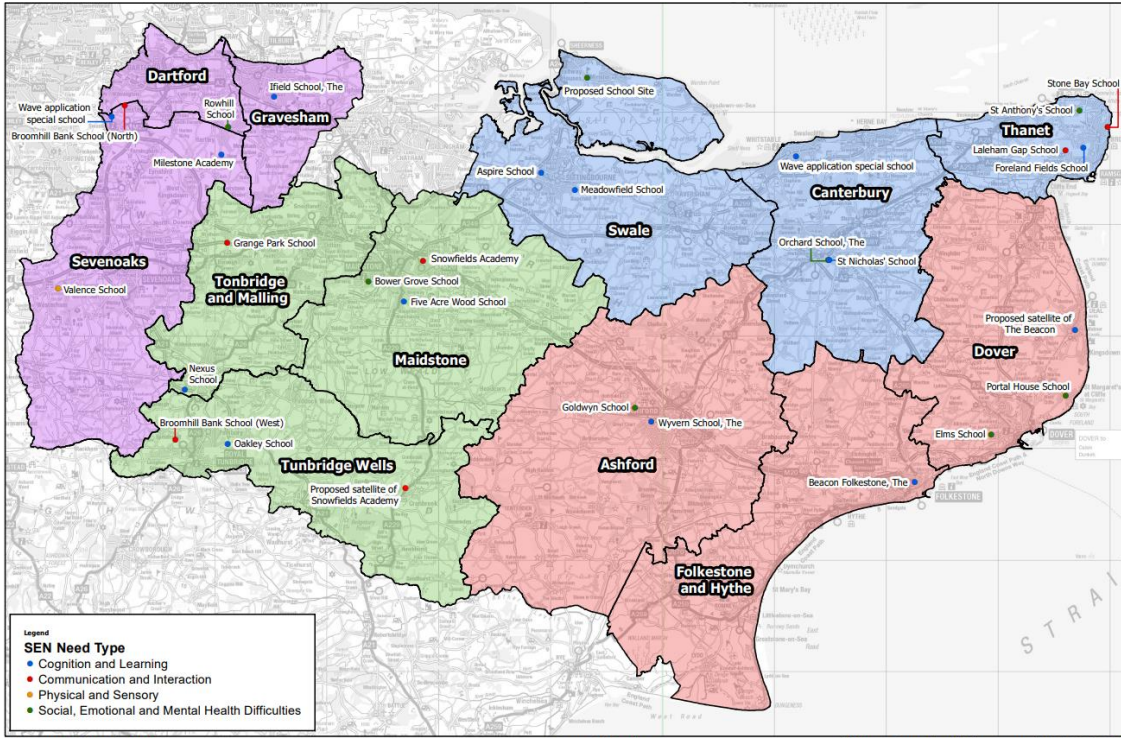
Kent Special Schools

Kent has a total of 24 special schools. These include 21 maintained special schools, 1 special academy and 2 academy free schools. In 2023, 88% of Kent's special schools were graded as good or outstanding by Ofsted. There are 18 special schools that are all-through schools (primary and secondary). There are 17 special schools that offer post-16 placements for pupils.

Kent Special Schools by SEN Need Type

Kent special schools use the four areas of need from the EHCP categories for their designations. These include Communication and Interaction, Social Emotional and Mental Health, and Physical and Sensory. The SEN area of need for Cognition and Learning is identified as the category of Profound Severe and Complex Need, (PSCN)³¹. This special school designation is unique to Kent and broadly covers the sub-group of cognition and learning (C&L) SEN needs.

³¹ KsENT Special Schools Admissions Guidance



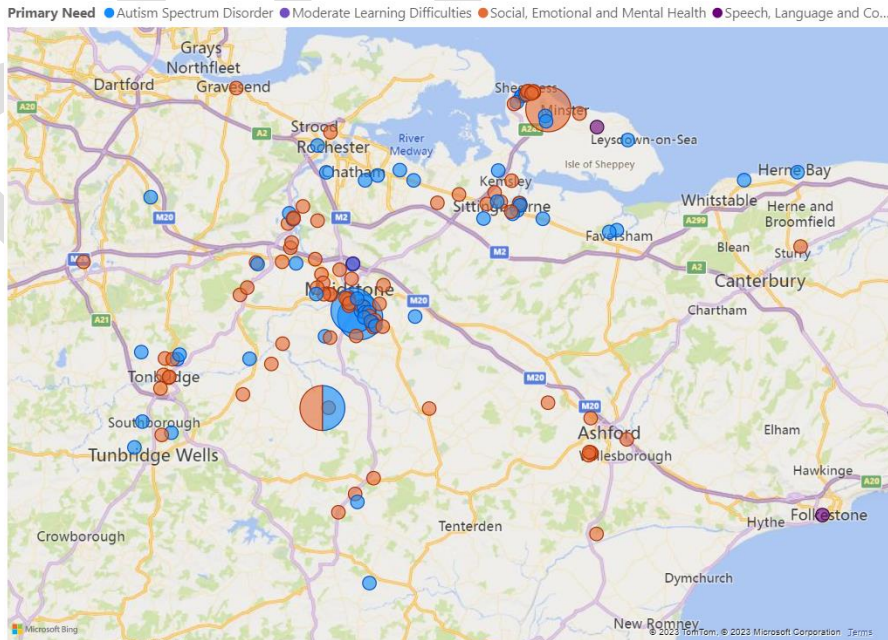
Management Information, KCC
23/06/2022

Source: MI Database

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*Note: On the map above, the PSCN category is replaced by Cognition and Learning, reflecting the sub-category used by the DfE.

The location of the special schools combined with the size of the county and their designations means that many pupils have long and costly daily return journeys to attend their school.



Home location of pupils attending Bower Grove, Maidstone (PowerBI 2023)

The scale and range of this issue is illustrated by the map above which shows the home locations for 142 secondary aged pupils that travel to a special school in the Maidstone district, Bower Grove. The school is designated for SEMH, with an age

range of 4-16 years. The map indicates that there is a range of primary SEN need on the EHCP for pupils on roll. The SEN need types include ASD, MLD, SEMH, SLCN. Return daily journeys will impact on the time of the pupils and their opportunities to be part of their local community. It also will incur significant and long-term financial costs for the local authority.

Travel Patterns for Special Schools³²

Pupil District	School District											
	Ashford	Canterbury	Dartford	Dover	Folkestone & Hythe	Gravesham	Maidstone	Sevenoaks	Swale	Thanet	Tonbridge and Malling	Tunbridge Wells
Ashford	70.4%	5.2%	0.0%	8.1%	3.8%	0.0%	7.4%	1.1%	0.0%	1.1%	1.1%	1.8%
Canterbury	4.9%	59.2%	0.2%	12.6%	1.6%	0.0%	1.2%	0.2%	1.6%	17.0%	1.4%	0.0%
Dartford	0.6%	0.0%	15.2%	0.0%	0.0%	11.4%	5.0%	50.3%	0.0%	0.9%	6.1%	10.5%
Dover	4.9%	10.4%	0.0%	43.1%	26.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	15.0%	0.3%	0.0%
Folkestone & Hythe	17.0%	3.6%	0.0%	19.8%	55.0%	0.0%	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%	2.3%	0.5%	0.5%
Gravesham	0.6%	0.0%	14.3%	0.0%	0.0%	51.3%	3.6%	17.3%	0.6%	0.3%	7.2%	4.8%
Maidstone	3.2%	0.3%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	82.2%	2.2%	1.2%	0.3%	4.0%	5.1%
Sevenoaks	0.4%	0.0%	7.9%	0.0%	0.0%	4.3%	4.0%	39.2%	0.7%	0.4%	18.3%	24.8%
Swale	2.8%	9.0%	0.4%	1.2%	0.1%	0.7%	19.4%	0.1%	60.3%	3.5%	1.6%	0.9%
Thanet	1.5%	3.5%	0.0%	11.1%	0.7%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	82.6%	0.0%	0.0%
Tonbridge & Malling	1.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.7%	34.1%	6.8%	0.2%	1.4%	33.3%	19.6%
Tunbridge Wells	2.4%	0.0%	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	16.1%	3.6%	0.0%	0.4%	12.4%	63.1%

All data comes from the January 2022 SEN2 list and relates to children attending KCC Special Schools

The table above shows the percentage of children who attend a school by district matched with their home district. For example, 82.6% of special school pupils that live in Thanet attend a special school in their home district.

SCAP23 – Special School Capacity Survey

The DfE collects information about the capacity of schools each academic year. This is referred to as SCAP. In 2023, for the first time, information was collected on special schools. Some schools are based across more than one site and/or provide satellite provisions. The tables below show the information submitted, organised by school designations using the DfE sub-type categories.

For the purposes of SCAP23, capacity for special schools has been measured as the higher of commissioned places or number on roll (as of January 2023). For secondary special schools with sixth forms, the sixth form capacity is the higher of total commissioned places or total number on roll subtracted by the higher of pre-16 commissioned places or pre-16 number on roll i.e., sixth form capacity is a balancing item that may not necessarily equal post-16 commissioned places. This approach masks the situation in some Kent special schools where the numbers on roll exceed the recommended capacity of the school. From 2023 to 2025 the Department for Education's (DfE's) NCA programme will ensure accurate and up-to-date information on pupil capacity is available for every government-funded secondary school and special school in England. This will provide a complete record of pupil capacity in special schools for the first time and will be reflected in future SCAP returns and sufficiency assessments.

³² Travel Patterns of EHCP Pupils at KCC Special Schools – April 2023, Kent Analytics

The designated number reflects the number of pupils that a school is statutorily expected to have on roll.

Communication and Interaction (also designated for ASD)

School name	District	Age range	Designated number 2022/23	SCAP23 Primary (R-6)	SCAP23 Secondary (7-11)	SCAP23 Sixth form	SCAP23 total capacity
Aspire*	Swale	5-11	168	152			152
Broomhill Bank	Tunbridge Wells	11-19	318		254	97	351
Grange Park	Tonbridge and Malling	11-19	150	12	94	69	175
Laleham Gap	Thanet	4-18	188	58	149	12	219
Snowfields Academy	Maidstone	11-18	280		175		175
Stone Bay	Thanet	5-19	90	70	24	9	103

*This school had a DfE Categorisation of Cognition and Learning in error. This has been corrected by MI for future data collection.

The EHCP forecasts for Kent, which replicate data for national trends, show that ASD is the most prevalent SEN need type. School census data indicates that pupils with an EHCP with a primary need of ASD are found on roll across many of Kent's special schools. The six schools above are recognised by the local authority as offering specialist provision for children and young people with ASD. This is reflected in the admissions criteria of the schools.

These special schools include one primary phase school, three secondary phase schools and two schools that are all-through. Five schools provide post-16 places. These provisions are spread across districts, with two schools in Thanet. There are seven districts without this type of special school, Dartford, Gravesham, Sevenoaks, Canterbury, Ashford, Dover, Folkestone & Hythe.

Social, Emotional and Mental Health

School name	District	Age range	Designated number 2022/23	SCAP23 Primary (R-6)	SCAP23 Secondary (7-11)	SCAP23 Sixth form	SCAP23 total capacity
Bower Grove School	Maidstone	4-16	208	89	149		238
Elms School	Dover	5-16	96	55	103		158
Goldwyn School	Ashford	10-18	195		175	28	203
Portal House School	Dover	11-16	80		80		80
Rowhill School	Dartford	4-16	106	45	104		149
St Anthony's School	Thanet	5-16	112	34	76		110
The Orchard School	Canterbury	5-16	96	32	73		105

There are seven schools designated for the SEN need type of SEMH. There are no primary only phase schools, two secondary phase schools and five schools that are all-through. There is one school that offers post-16 places. The SEMH schools are spread across districts, with two schools situated in Dover and six districts, Folkestone & Hythe, Tonbridge & Malling, Tunbridge Wells, Swale³³, Gravesham and Sevenoaks without this category of special school.

Cognition and Learning (also known as PSCN)

School name	District	Age range	Designated number 2022/23	SCAP23 Primary (R-6)	SCAP23 Secondary (7-11)	SCAP23 Sixth form	SCAP23 total capacity
Five Acre Wood School	Maidstone	2-19	580	431	261	80	772
Foreland Fields School	Thanet	2-19	230	133	89	29	251
Meadowfield School	Swale	4-19	366	206	137	47	390
Milestone Academy*	Sevenoaks	2-19	237	167	159	44	370
Nexus School	Tonbridge and Malling	2-19	228	143	103	30	276
Oakley School	Tunbridge Wells	2-18	252	92	94	31	217
St Nicholas' School	Canterbury	3-19	310	159	160	34	353
The Beacon School	Folkestone and Hythe	3-19	650	174	169	65	408
The Ifield School	Gravesham	4-19	190	125	101	39	265
Wyvern School	Ashford	3-19	270	179	124	46	349

*Milestone Academy had a DfE categorisation of SEMH in error, this has been corrected by MI for future data collection

There are ten schools designated for the SEN need type of C&L or PSCN. There are no primary only or secondary only phase schools and the ten schools are all-through and also offer post-16 places. The C&L or PSCN provisions are spread across ten different districts. There are two districts, Dartford and Dover, without this designation of special school, however The Beacon School does have a satellite school in Walmer that is opening on a phased basis in the district of Dover.

Physical and Sensory

School name	District	Age range	Designated numbers 2022/23	SCAP23 Primary (R-6)	SCAP23 Secondary (7-11)	SCAP23 Sixth form	SCAP23 total capacity
Valence School	Sevenoaks	4-19	80	38	47	34	119

There is one only school designated for Physical and Sensory to serve Kent.

³³ Swale will have an SEMH school from September 2024 based on the Isle of Sheppey

Special School Satellites

Ten special schools have satellites which are classes hosted in mainstream schools and run by staff employed by the special school. These provisions offer an opportunity for pupils to learn alongside their mainstream peers, with support from specialist teaching staff as appropriate. The satellite pupils remain on roll of the special school and are included in the designated number of the special school. Across the ten schools, there are 68 satellite classes, across 25 sites. In addition, Snowfields School has a satellite school in Cranbrook, and The Beacon School has a satellite school in Walmer. All schools that have satellite classes are PSCN designation except for Bower Grove School.

School name	District	Designation	Age range	Satellite site and district
Bower Grove School	Maidstone	SEMH	5-16	1 class on 1 site Westborough Primary, Maidstone
Five Acre Wood School	Maidstone	C&L PSCN	2-19	19 classes on 3 sites Holmesdale School, Tonbridge & Malling St Katherine's School, Tonbridge & Malling Palace Wood School, Maidstone
Foreland Fields School	Thanet	C&L PSCN	2-19	4 classes on 3 sites Garlinge Primary, Thanet Hartsdown Academy, Thanet East Kent College, Thanet
Meadowfield School	Swale	C&L PSCN	4-19	2 classes on 1 site ³⁴ Sunnybank Primary, Swale
Milestone Academy	Sevenoaks	C&L PSCN	2-19	10 classes on 4 sites Cherry Orchard Academy, Dartford Dartford Primary Academy, Dartford Leigh Academy, Medway Wilmington Academy 6 th form, Dartford
Nexus School	Tonbridge and Malling	C&L PSCN	2-19	3 classes on 1 site Wouldham, Tonbridge & Malling
Oakley School	Tunbridge Wells	C&L PSCN	2-18	1 class on 1 site Oakley School, Tonbridge & Malling
St Nicholas' School	Canterbury	C&L PSCN	3-19	18 classes on 7 sites Parkside, Canterbury St John's, Canterbury Chartham, Canterbury Canterbury Primary, Canterbury Canterbury Academy, Canterbury Spires, Canterbury Canterbury College, Canterbury
The Beacon School	Folkestone and Hythe	C&L PSCN	3-19	7 classes on 2 sites Castle Hill, Folkestone & Hythe Walmer (satellite school), Dover
Wyvern School	Ashford	C&L PSCN	3-19	3 classes on 2 sites Towers School, Ashford Great Chart, Ashford

³⁴ Proposed second site (Meadowfield) in discussion for 2 classes at Fulston Manor School, due to open September 2024.

In some cases, the number of satellites classes reflects the localised capacity pressures on these schools for places and the lack of ability for the schools to be expanded on their current sites. However, the benefit of satellite classes is that it provides a model of special school education that enables greater social and some educational integration with mainstream pupils where appropriate.

Independent Non-Maintained Provision

Where the Local Authority is unable to provide a specialist school placement in a Kent maintained special school or a mainstream school with an SRP, placements are commissioned in the independent and non-maintained sector.

District	NMISS schools total	ASD places	SEMH places	Speech, language and communication needs places	Total*
Ashford	6	127	111	25	263
Canterbury	1	2	6	0	8
Dover	5	138	80	15	236
Folkestone & Hythe	1	7	13	0	20
Gravesend	1	37	2	0	39
Maidstone	1	1	0	0	1
Sevenoaks	3	44	44	6	94
Swale	2	14	54	3	71
Thanet	9	72	97	20	189
Tonbridge & Malling	1	13	0	0	13
Tunbridge Wells	1	18	33	1	55
NMISS not Kent area	51	174	107	42	374
Total		647	547	112	1363

From school census data (Jan 2023)

*Includes pupils in NMISS in the district with other SEN needs

In the table above the data shows the number of independent schools by district and the pupils, that Kent has a responsibility for, who attend these schools by need type. It indicates that ASD is the largest SEN cohort, closely followed by SEMH. The district shown is for the school location and pupils may travel across districts to attend the school from their home location. Dartford is the only district without NMISS provision. There are an additional 51 NMISS that are not located in the Kent area.

Kent Resident Pupils Attendance at Independent Special Schools and Independent Schools

	ASD	SEMH	SLCN	Total district attendance*
Dartford	33	13	7	58
Gravesham	32	11	6	50
Sevenoaks	50	22	12	95
Canterbury	60	49	24	139
Thanet	74	78	32	211
Swale	63	88	25	189
Ashford	49	39	9	116
Dover	81	47	4	144
Folkestone & Hythe	42	31	3	83
Maidstone	28	31	10	82
Tonbridge & Malling	34	17	2	56
Tunbridge Wells	25	15	2	57
Total	571	441	136	1280

Live data from PowerBI (06/09/2023)

*Total includes other SEN need types

The table above shows the number of pupils (YR to Y11) attending NMISS with an EHCP that Kent has a responsibility for. The district indicates the pupil's home location and shows that the districts with the highest numbers of pupils attending an independent, non-maintained provision are Thanet, Swale, Dover and Canterbury. It shows that ASD is the largest SEN cohort, closely followed by SEMH.

Summary

In order to address the number of special school places for PSCN and ASD that will be required based on the forecast numbers that include the planned reductions in placements in the independent, non-maintained sector:

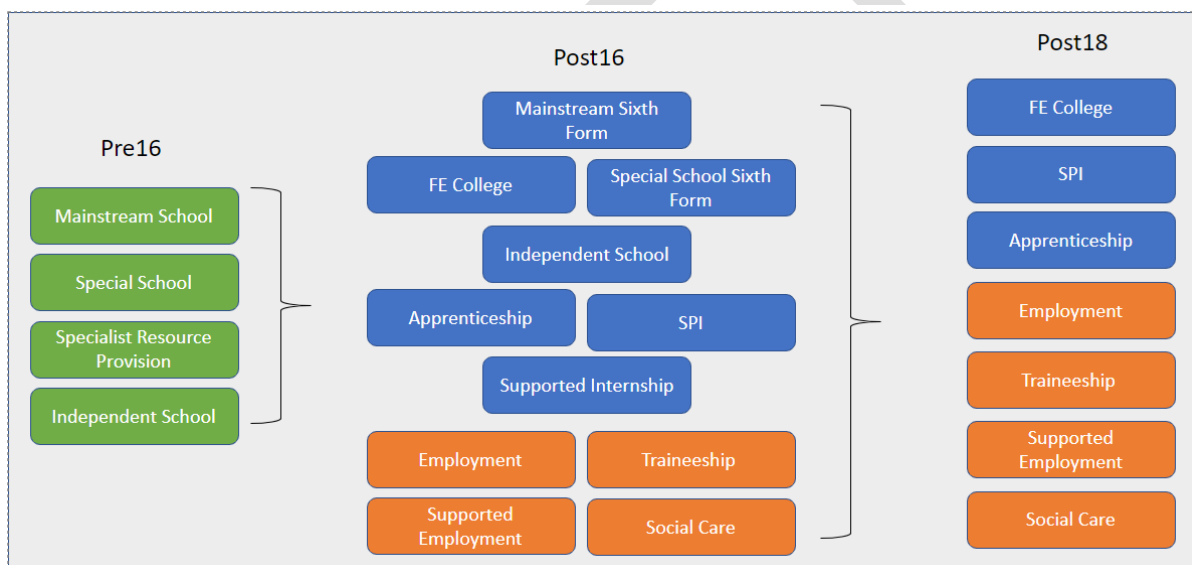
- A satellite school of The Beacon is opening in Walmer (Dover district). The school has a designation of PCSN but will include pupils with ASD. The SRPs at Whitfield Aspen and Dover Christchurch will then be more able to take higher numbers of pupils with ASD as pupils with more complex needs are able to attend The Beacon (Walmer).
- A new special free school (120 place) has been agreed by the DfE to serve the Canterbury district coastal area. This school will have a designation of PSCN and ASD. The new school will enable children to access a maintained special school provision closer to home and reduce pressure on schools in Thanet and Swale.
- A new special free school (250 place) has also been agreed for North Kent. To support the evidence-base for the need, particularly for a PSCN/ASD school, the two PSCN schools currently serving the area are significantly over capacity. Those schools are Milestone Academy in New Ash Green and Ifield School in Gravesend.
- A secondary satellite of Meadowfield school is planned at Fulston Manor to provide pathways for the children attending the satellite classes at Sunny Bank primary school and to help with the pressure for places at Meadowfield.

- Further satellites are planned for Swale (Isle of Sheppey), Tonbridge and Malling and Tunbridge Wells

For SEMH, a new special free school is opening on the Isle of Sheppey from September 2024 for secondary pupils, with the intention to commission 40 primary places at key stage two from September 2026, either through expansion of the new school or through a satellite provision to be based on the site of a local primary school.

Any additional required commissioning of SEMH special schools or special school places will be informed by the Special School Review recommendations expected in 2024.

Post-16 Pathways Available for Children and Young People in Kent



Kent provides a wide range of provision for young people post-16. Kent has a large number of secondary school sixth forms across the grammar and comprehensive sectors, multiple FE college groups, a number of SPIs (Specialist Post-16 Institutions) and a Supported Employment and NEET service, delivered by The Education People. The image above shows the continuum of provision currently available to the Kent post-16 cohort.

The post-16 landscape is ever changing. There is a constantly changing picture for young people moving through the system to meet the needs of upcoming cohorts, subject demands and in response to government funding. Those with an EHCP are required to make decisions around their post-16 pathway much earlier than those in mainstream education, and there is no guarantee that courses or provisions will be available at the point of transition. This can increase local authority workload when changes occur. It is important that EHCP students are provided with impartial and timely progression information, empowering them to make informed decisions. Post-16 institutions should have information provided to them on future cohorts, including their needs and interests, as early as possible in order to plan future provision.

Mainstream Sixth Form

Progression to mainstream sixth form is low within the EHCP cohort. Kent's 92 mainstream sixth forms currently support a small number of higher attaining SEND young people, through a predominantly level 3 offer across the board. Although mainstream sixth form coverage across Kent is uniformly distributed, the entry requirements are often not accessible for many of the EHCP cohort. Information from the mainstream application system shows that there is minimal availability of lower-level courses.³⁵

Specialist Resource Provision

SRP provision for post-16 students remains low in Kent. For 2022/23 there were 20 commissioned places at The Malling School, however 51 SRP places were provided across 6 districts (a snapshot taken from February 2022.) No places were provided in Dartford, Gravesham, Sevenoaks, Thanet, Folkestone and Hythe or Maidstone. There are a growing number of young people attending both special and mainstream independent school for post-16, who may benefit from this additional support within a local mainstream school. Data also suggests that progression into mainstream provisions from SRPs is significantly higher than other specialist settings.

Progression of Specialist Resource Provision Cohorts³⁶

2019 School type	2021 School type	Count	% share of 2019 school type	% share of total cohort (N=828)
SRP	General FE / Colleges / HE	42	58%	5%
	SRP	16	22%	2%
	Specialist Post-16 Institutions	5	7%	1%
	No Current Placement	3	4%	<0.5%
	Left	2	3%	<0.5%
	Mainstream	2	3%	<0.5%
	Independent Special	1	1%	<0.5%
	Other	1	1%	<0.5%
	Maintained Special	1	1%	<0.5%
Total		73	100%	9%

Further Education Colleges

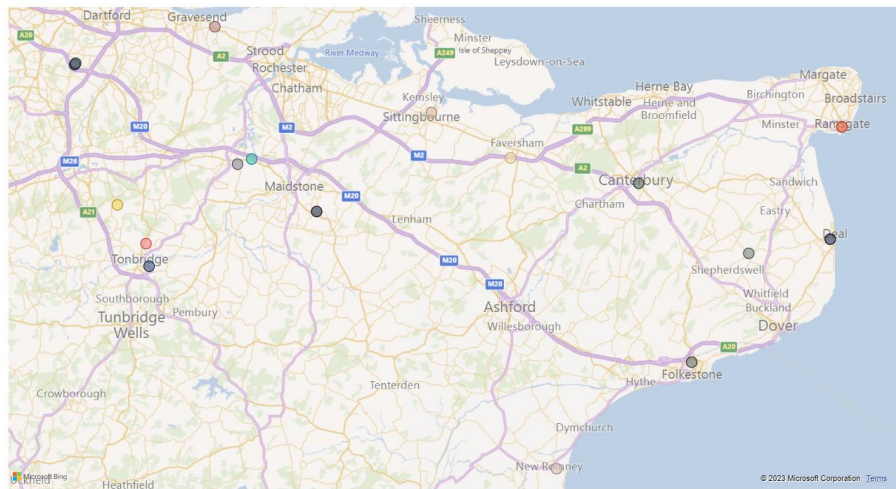
Kent has 3 FE college groups based in the county, with 11 Kent campuses and one in Medway. There are currently no FE college sites in Tunbridge Wells or Sevenoaks. EHCP learners who are able to access mainstream courses can access a wide variety of vocational areas across Kent. There are fewer options for those not working at level 1. There is currently no forecasting or expected cohort characteristics shared with the FE colleges in Kent. Conversations have begun between KCC and the Kent FE groups from the Pathways for All and SEND FE

³⁵ KentChoices <https://www.kentprospectus.co.uk/>

³⁶ SEN post-18 Placements Strategy Report September 2021 (2021 school type for the SEN 2019 Year 11 cohort in SRP in 2019.

conference strategic working groups, to assess the current offer and collaborate to find ways to best support their local communities.

Specialist Post-16 Institutions

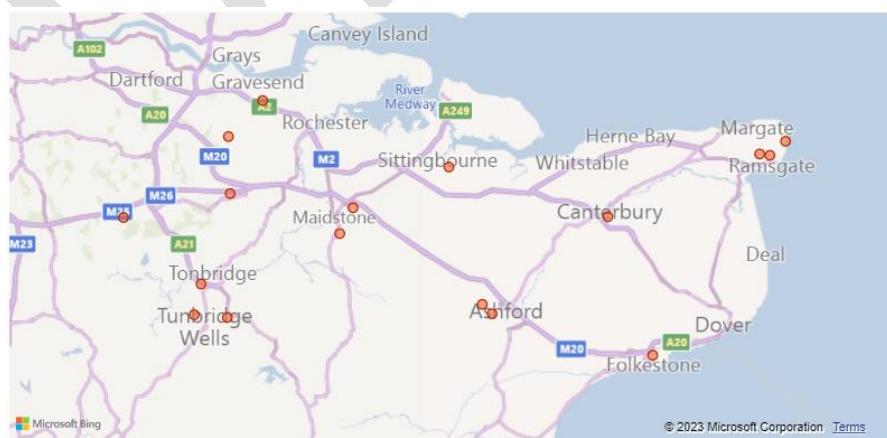


Geographical location of Specialist Post-16 Institutions (PowerBI 2023). Note that some SPIs are not represented on Local Authority systems.

There are 16 Specialist Post-16 Institutions (SPIs) spread across Kent, with 4 catering for 19+ and the remainder offering provision from 16 onwards. There are varied offers across Kent locations, ranging from employability and vocational courses to specific vocational areas such as music, sport, animal care or horticulture. Due to their location and often specialist subject focuses, many students are travelling long distances with accompanying travel times to access these provisions.

There is a lack of consistency in how SPIs and their learners are recorded on local authority databases, making it challenging to achieve robust reporting. A lack of forecasting information provided to establishments, alongside a challenging landscape for independent providers, makes planning and resourcing a key challenge for SPIs. KCC arranges placements directly with SPIs.

Special School Sixth Forms



Geographical location of Special School Sixth Forms with a sixth form offer (PowerBI 2023)

There are 17 special schools in Kent offering post-16 provision. In 2023, 776 EHCP post-16 pupils were being educated in Kent's maintained special school sixth forms.

The offer varies across the county, with some special schools encouraging an internal progression, and others progressing pupils externally where possible. Some Kent special school sixth forms deliver alongside partner FE institutions to deliver a wider curriculum offer.

Data from 2019 shows that the likelihood of remaining in a special school post-16 is high. Retention of the cohort may be due to a lack of appropriate local provision that meets need, alongside a concern from families that the mainstream offer is not suitable.

Progression of Maintained Special School Cohort³⁷

2019 School type	2021 School type	Count	% share of 2019 school type	% share of total cohort (N=828)
Maintained Special	Maintained Special	187	55%	23%
	General FE / Colleges / HE	77	23%	9%
	Specialist Post-16 Institutions	35	10%	4%
	Left	14	4%	2%
	No Current Placement	10	3%	1%
	Other	10	3%	1%
	Mainstream	4	1%	<0.5%
	SRP	1	<0.50%	<0.5%
Total		338	100%	41%

Independent Provisions

Independent school placements are made by the local authority in circumstances where county provision is not suitable or available and can also be expressed as a parental preference. In 2023, there were 327 post-16 independent school placements. The increase in secondary independent placements is a concern as if these placements are retained post-16, additional financial pressure could result, especially as there will be population growth in this age-range. The need types for independent placements are predominantly ASD and SEMH.

³⁷ SEN post-18 Placements Strategy Report September 2021 (2021 school type for the SEN 2019 Year 11 cohort in Maintained Special in 2019)

Post-16 Independent Placement Need Type Breakdown (NMISS and ISP, 2022-23)

Need Type	NMISS*	ISP**	Total
ASD	100	40	140
SEMH	64	6	70
SLCN	26	7	33
PD	6	10	16
SLD	6	6	12
SPLD	5	2	7
HI	4	3	7
MLD	4	2	6
VI	0	5	5
PMLD	2	1	3
Not recorded	1	2	3

Data from Finance for Post-16 Pupils 21-22 and 22-23, this data may differ from the forecast figures

* Non-maintained independent special school

** Independent Specialist Provider

In 2022-23, post-16 students attended 58 NMISS and independent schools and 23 ISPs. Looking at post-16 independent provision, the ASD cohort is the largest, followed by SEMH, which would indicate that to reduce the spend in independent provision there needs to be strategic planning for these two SEN need types.

Apprenticeships

The local authority promotes apprenticeships to both young people and employers through its trading company, The Education People. This route may become increasingly challenging for learners with an EHCP, as we see the movement of apprenticeships towards higher levels, with low numbers of level 2 apprenticeship standards available. There is also a low uptake of special schools around free advice and information about apprenticeships.³⁸

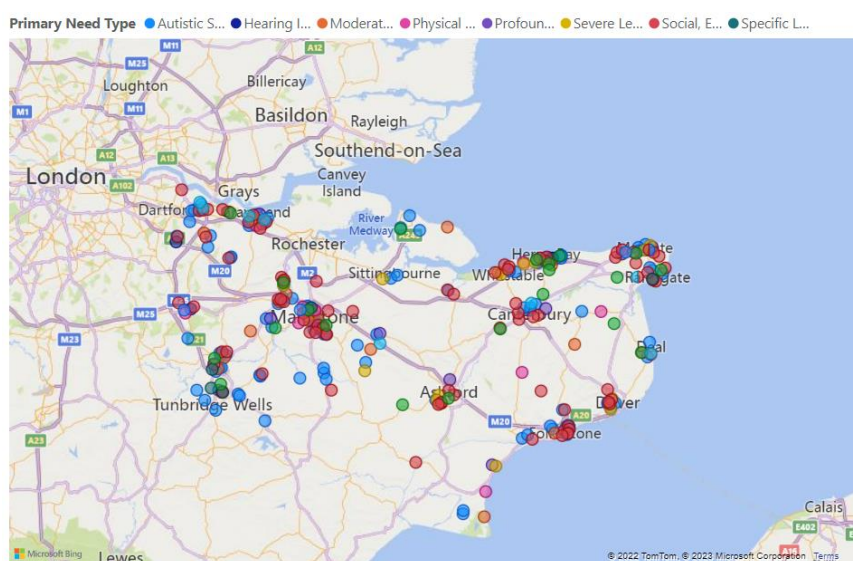
Supported Internships

“A supported internship is a bespoke study programme to support SEND students aged 16 to 24 with an education and health care (EHC) plan to gain the right skills needed in the modern workplace.”³⁹ There are several routes via various Kent providers which are displayed on the kent.gov.uk website. Numbers from Synergy indicate a very small number of young people have taken this route. Recent employer-based challenges, such as covid19, mean some placements may be hesitant to offer opportunities to young people due to business pressures, which may have a knock-on effect on employment routes.

³⁸ Data provided by The Education People and CXK ASK Programme.

³⁹ <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs/support-for-young-people/employment-for-send-young-people/supported-internships>

NEETs/Those Awaiting Placement



Home location of pupils recorded as NEET of Awaiting Placement (PowerBI 2023)

The map above shows the countywide home locations of all post-16 young people with an EHCP in Kent who are not engaging in an education placement (those not in education, employment or training and awaiting placement.) There are clusters in multiple coastal locations, as well as across west and north Kent, despite the availability of provision in these areas. The Local Authority has a duty to track and support young people (under their duty to support participation, Raising the Participation Age) from school leaving age until their 18th birthday, and a further duty to support those with an Education Health and Care Plan until the age of 25.⁴⁰

A full area and district breakdown of area and district providers from special school sixth forms, FE college campuses and specialist post-16 institutions is available in appendix 1.

Attainment of post-16 learners in Kent

Kent's Accelerated Progress Plan aims to "provide a focused update from an education perspective against the following areas of weakness" including tackling the "poor standards achieved, and progress made, by children and young people with SEND."⁴¹

The attainment of a young person with an EHCP directly impacts their transition options post-16, with the majority of Kent's offer requiring some level of prior qualification. Of the 22 special schools where attainment data was available from 2022⁴², the following outcomes can be seen:

⁴⁰ <https://www.kelsi.org.uk/school-management/data-and-reporting/management-information/coreplus-team-tracking-young-people#:~:text=KCC%20has%20a%20statutory%20duty,report%20monthly%20to%20the%20DFE.>

⁴¹ Kent Area Accelerated Progress Plan

⁴² Key Stage 4 attainment data, 2022

- 7 special schools had over 50% of year 11 pupils achieving one or more pass (grade 1 to 9) for GCSE.
- 8 special schools (designated cognition and learning) did not enter any students for GCSE qualifications (a cohort of 143), with a further special school entering fewer than 5 pupils.
- 11 special schools have 100% of pupils with low prior attainment.
- Percentage of disadvantaged pupils in special schools ranges from 25% to 87%, against a local authority average of 22%, and a national maintained school average of 26%.⁴³

These factors make it increasingly challenging for young people with SEND to access post-16 mainstream education in Kent. Forward planning must ensure that there are adequate spaces for young people not able to access a level 1 or higher qualification in a mainstream setting.

Post-16 attainment is challenging to measure as the local authority does not collect outcomes for post-16 study for the SEND or mainstream cohorts. This increases the difficulty for providers in ensuring they offer appropriate provision that meets the needs of upcoming cohorts and means the measuring of progression is limited.

5. Recommendations to improve future SEND sufficiency planning

Pre-16 and General Recommendations

Recommendation	Actions
Future commissioning of SEND provision: SRP Review recommendations.	The SRP Review, alongside locality planning to be consulted on and subsequently built into future planning, for example for further investment in secondary SRPs.
	The SRP Review to confirm the role and extent of Cullum Centres to support pupils with an EHCP with primary need of ASD as part of Kent's continuum of provision for SRPs.
	The SRP Review to explore the meeting of needs and gaps in provision availability for Hearing Impairment (HI), Visual Impairment (VI) and Physical Disability (PD). To report and inform changes required.

⁴³ Attainment KS4 2022 DfE published performance tables

Future commissioning of SEND provision. Special School Review recommendations.	Current forecasts indicate an additional 253 special school places will be required by 2027 based on current capacities (i.e. not addressing the schools currently over capacity).
	Further work is required to agree the designations, geographical areas and options for delivery of this additional capacity.
Explore the requirements of residential provision for children and young people with an EHCP.	As a subsequent phase of the Special School Review, consider Kent's options for meeting the requirements for residential provision. The outcome to inform future sufficiency planning for residential capacity.
Explore the potential for site expansion of special schools.	Secure agreement and funding to carry out feasibilities on any special schools identified as having sufficient site capacity for potential future expansion. Based on current capacity information held this will inform future options.
Develop mainstream school accommodation for pupils with EHCPs.	Develop criteria for investment in mainstream schools for adjustments to accommodation to meet needs of an increased percentage of children with EHCPs e.g. ASD friendly environments, quiet/calming spaces and/or rooms for therapeutic support.
	Criteria and advice to be developed and used to inform capital investment.
Review the Accessibility Strategy for Kent.	Accessibility Strategy to inform utilisation of the School Access Initiative budget and to support improved access and inclusion for children with SEN.
	Ensure map of accessible schools is available for families to inform decisions on preferences. Geographical spread /access to be ensured.
	Schools to be encouraged to publish accessibility plans on their websites.

Review the provision of Alternative Provision (AP)	Building on the deep-dive report into SEMH, undertake a review of AP to include hospital school/health needs alongside the provision and support available for children and young people with an EHCP with a primary need of SEMH.
	This will inform the continuum of provision for children and young people with SEMH and the capacity requirements to be included in future sufficiency planning.
Parental and young person engagement and consultation	Work with SEN and Communications teams to build in the approach taken for consulting on future sufficiency proposals.
	Incorporate these into engagement activity for parents and young people (including support groups) that will inform future sufficiency planning.
Improve data quality to support SEN planning	Continue to address the data quality and checking of data across key data sets used to inform SEN planning. Census data is particularly unreliable.
	Continue to improve the district data to inform more detailed planning.
Investigate options for capturing “live” roll and placement data for special schools to inform placements.	Develop a business case for system to support “live” placement and roll information that can inform place planning.
	To also identify hidden “pinch-points” for capacity purposes e.g., to predict lack of Year 7 places for specific geographical areas or to meet certain need types.

Post-16 Recommendations to Improve SEND Sufficiency

Recommendation	Actions
Encouraging pathways to independence	Implement conversations around progression and independence earlier in the EHCP process to reduce anxiety, lack of information, and concerns around plan ceasing.
Forecasting the post-16 cohort	Provide forecasts on a yearly basis 3 years in advance for all post-16 (by district or catchment area) settings across the landscape to ensure appropriate planning time. This should include historical and expected attainment data to allow for appropriate course level planning.
	Provide detailed information on upcoming cohorts from Kent Special Schools to local post-16 and FE partners, including information on need types and therapies, and use local forums to build effective local partnership working.
	Review the local post-16 offer available to EHCP learners with a comparison the local need types and cohort sizes on a yearly basis through continued sufficiency research.
Further exploration of incidences of independent placement	Explore the pathways of those in independent settings, and the offer that was required to support them. Set out accountability standards for post-16 providers to ensure appropriate provision is being offered across the county.
Review and improve the data collected around post-16 EHCP learners	Implement an agreed capacity or expected cohort numbers for all post-16 provisions, reviewed every year to compare against attendance data, for accountability and monitoring. Work collaboratively to ensure providers understand their requirements regarding data collection.
	Design a training plan for education providers around the use/completion of data and the ways to improve data accuracy. Include the impact of incorrect completion in this CPD.
	Increase the quality of annual reviews and EHCPs for post-16 SEND learners, ensuring all plans effectively reflect the information required by post-16 providers

	at key transition stages.
	Review current data recording practices of post-16 placements. Amend current recording to campus specific records, amending 'other' provisions to more specific destinations. Implement system changes and CPD to support consistency.
	Develop a moderation system to ensure forecasting and provision is synergising and improve data accuracy across FE and SPIs.
	Implement systems to track aspiration and intended pathways from Year 9 to ensure local providers are aware of upcoming cohorts and preferred vocational areas.
Review the progression information provided to young people (including via careers education, information, advice and guidance, annual reviews and EHCPs) for Post-16 EHCP learners.	Review the knowledge of post-16 in teaching and support staff in specialist settings.
	Implement conversations around progression and independence earlier in the EHCP process to reduce anxiety, lack of information, and concerns around plan ceasing.

Commissioning Recommendations

Commissioning recommendations for this first plan are limited by the need for the Special School, SRP and Early Years reviews to complete. The outcomes and recommendations from these reviews will be key to informing future commissioning decisions. Commissioning recommendations from the SEND Sufficiency Plan will be reflected in Kent's Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2024 to 2028 but are set out in tables below.

For Post 16, actions are underway to meet demand regarding place planning, with engagement from all FE groups as part of multiple projects around access for students to mainstream settings. The phases of implementation of the SEND Sufficiency Plan will be influenced by the medium and longer-term commissioning decisions that result from the data presented.

Planned Additional Specialist Provision Across Kent Specialist Schools

Provision	Proposed opening date	Need Type	District	Potential Number of places	Total Planned Places added by year				
					2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	Between 2028-31
Special School (all through) - Whitstable	2026	PSCN/ ASD/ SEMH	Canterbury	120	0	0	48	28	44
Special School (All through) - Swanley	2026	PSCN	Sevenoaks	250	0	0	114	66	70
Isle of Sheppey (Secondary)	2024	SEMH with ASD	Swale	120	40	40	40		
Expansion of Special school for SEMH with ASD to include Primary provision or a primary satellite.	2026	SEMH with ASD	Swale	40	0	0	10	10	20
1 x secondary Satellite of PSCN School	2024	PSCN	Swale	20	10	10			
Special School Satellite – Isle of Sheppey	2025	ASD	Swale	60	12	12	12	12	12
Satellite of a PSCN School	2025	PSCN	Tonbridge and Malling	50	0	50	0	0	
Satellite of a PSCN School	2025	PSCN	Tunbridge Wells	50	0	50	0	0	
Total Special School places				710	62	162	224	116	146

Planned Additional Specialist Resource Provisions

Provision	Proposed opening date	Need Type	District	Potential Number of places	Total Planned Places added by year				
					2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	Between 2028-31
Cullum Centre	2024	ASD	Canterbury	9	3	6			
Alkerden (Primary)	2025	ASD	Dartford	15	4	4	4	3	
Alkerden (Secondary)	2025	ASD	Dartford	25	5	5	5	5	5
Expansion of Aspen SRP at Christchurch Academy	2025	PSCN	Dover	30	6	6	6	6	6
Folkestone Academy	2025	ASD	Folkestone & Hythe	30	6	6	6	6	6
Secondary SRP	2025	ASD	Thanet	25		5	5	5	10
Total SRP places				134	24	32	26	25	27

Further Education Commissioning (2023-24)

FE College	Commissioned Numbers (2023-24)
North Kent College Group	220 places (160 Kent and 60 OLA)
EKC Group	628 places (544 Kent and 84 OLA)
MidKent College	90 places (90 Kent)

Data provided by KCC finance, 2023

Summary of Commissioning Recommendations for Post-16

Theme	Recommendation
Specialist Resource Provisions	Increase the commissioning of post-16 SRP places, encouraging a minimum in each district to reflect local need. Explore the incentives for increasing post-16 SRP capacity and relay this to the wider mainstream sixth form landscape.
Mainstream Sixth Forms	Work with mainstream sixth forms to increase the offer at for EHCP learners.
Further Education Colleges ⁴⁴	Continue the exploration of expansion of courses in FE colleges below level 2, reflecting local need on a district basis, considering those districts without an FE campus. Work to commission additional places for those with ASC and SEMH.
	Continue the KCC and FE collaborative process to ensure young people are encouraged towards mainstream settings, sharing positive outcomes.
Careers Information, Advice and Guidance ⁴⁵	Commission a review of careers advice in all specialist settings in Kent, including access to qualified careers advisors in special schools and access to independent advice in post-16 settings.
	Design a consistent training programme for post-16 provider professionals around need types, best practice, positive progression outcomes and resources for SEND learners. Initial market researching around CPD requirements would need to be undertaken.
	Implement exposure and experiences of mainstream FE to those cohorts not majority progressing to mainstream destinations, with a focus on special schools and families accessing independent provision around key phase transfers.

⁴⁴ This recommendation is also being progressed through the Pathways for All Recommendation 4.4

⁴⁵ This recommendation is also being progressed through the Pathways for All Recommendation 4.2

	Implement early exposure to mainstream destinations to all with an EHCP earlier than the stated Year 10 annual review, by building relationships between special schools and FE colleges, by utilising engaging resources.
	Implement a central resource of information with engaging and accessible resources around provision, offer, capacity and support services available from all post-16 provision in Kent. Encourage providers to keep this updated, reflecting positive outcomes they have supported. Distribute and advertise this to the public and implement this into professional advice to families.
Capacity in post-16 providers	Implement capacity information collection across the board for post-16 providers to support sufficiency planning in the future.
	Set sufficiency and destination percentage targets for post-16 in the county, bringing Kent more in line with national figures.

6. Funding

The pressure on the County's Capital Budget continues, particularly as demand for specialist and secondary school places grows. The cost of delivering school places is currently met from the Basic Need Grant from the Government, prudential borrowing by the County Council, Section 106 property developer contributions and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Government funding for 'Basic Need' is allocated on a formula based upon information provided by local authorities concerning forecast numbers of pupils and school capacity.

2023 is the first year that local authorities have had to submit capacity information regarding state maintained special school capacity for their area. The Department for Education's (DfE) Free Schools Programme is another way to deliver some of the school provision Kent needs. Kent submitted a bid to the DfE Wave 2 (Special School and Alternative Provision) in October 2018 and secured a new secondary SEMH school for the Isle of Sheppey, which is due to open in September 2024. As part of KCC's Safety Valve Programme agreement with the DfE, KCC was invited to submit bids for new special schools to help to address the excessive costs of placing children in independent special schools. Kent has had approval (subject to certain conditions) for two new special schools for children and young people with Profound, Severe and Complex Needs, one to serve north Kent and one to serve the coastal communities of Whitstable, Herne Bay and surrounding villages.

KCC also secures developer contributions to the capital programme but has only recently been able to request contributions for specialist provision. The budget gap between what is needed for KCC to meet its statutory duties as school place commissioner and what is available is significant. The local authority currently receives no Basic Need funding for post-16. As secondary student numbers increase, where additional post-16 provision is required, it would be the responsibility of the Education Skills and Funding Agency to ensure this is provided. Independent post-16 training providers cannot draw down capital funding. This hinders the development of their offer across the county as premises costs are high. All avenues are being explored to reduce the risks, but inevitably difficult decisions will have to be made to prioritise KCC's investment of the capital budget.

The cost of construction has risen since 2020 and this is likely to continue during the plan period. We will continue to manage and mitigate this as far as we are able to, however, pressure from inflation may become a constraint to our commissioning strategy. It is expected that investment in our special school and specialist support provision will have to be profiled over a ten-year period.

7. Next Steps

Following consultation and approval, the SEND Sufficiency Plan 2023 will feed into capital plans through Kent's Commissioning Plan for Education Provision.

Moving forward, the SEND Sufficiency Plan will be reviewed annually, considering interdependent project outcomes.

The next SEND Sufficiency Plan (2024) will:

- be informed by the outcomes of the Special School Review, the SRP Review and the Early Years Review, after their publication.
- include a review of residential provision, including Kent's approach and need for this type of provision.
- include recommendations on improved support for children and young people with an EHCP for SEMH who are educated in mainstream schools. The review will consider links between Alternative Provision, special schools for pupils with SEMH and nurture provision within mainstream settings.
- include a review of requirements for children and young people with SEN needs for HI, VI and PD for SRPs and link to the development of an Accessibility Plan, revised and updated for Kent.
- require further in-depth work surrounding the post-16 FE sector, and how the local authority can better inform the qualification level, course range and number of places required across the county.

8. Glossary

SEND Need Types

ASD/ ASC	Autistic spectrum disorder/condition
HI	Hearing impairment
MLD	Moderate learning difficulties
PD	Physical disability
PMLD	Profound and multiple learning difficulties
PSCN	Profound, severe and complex needs
SEMH	Social, emotional and mental health
SLD	Severe learning difficulties
SpLD	Specific learning difficulties
SLCN	Speech, language and communication needs
VI	Visual impairment

Broad categories of SEND⁴⁶

Communication and Interaction (C&I)

- Children and young people with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) have difficulty in communicating with others. This may be because they have difficulty saying what they want to, understanding what is being said to them or they do not understand or use social rules of communication. The profile for every child with SLCN is different and their needs may change over time. They may have difficulty with one, some or all of the different aspects of speech, language or social communication at different times of their lives.
- Children and young people with ASD, including Asperger's Syndrome and Autism, are likely to have particular difficulties with social interaction. They may also experience difficulties with language, communication and imagination, which can impact on how they relate to others.

Cognition and Learning (C&L)

- Support for learning difficulties may be required when children and young people learn at a slower pace than their peers, even with appropriate differentiation. Learning difficulties cover a wide range of needs, including moderate learning difficulties (MLD), severe learning difficulties (SLD), where children are likely to need support in all areas of the curriculum and associated difficulties with mobility and communication, through to profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD), where 98 children are likely to have severe and complex learning difficulties as well as a physical disability or sensory impairment.
- Specific learning difficulties (SpLD), affect one or more specific aspects of learning. This encompasses a range of conditions such as dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia.

⁴⁶ [SEND Code of Practice January 2015.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH)

- Children and young people may experience a wide range of social and emotional difficulties which manifest themselves in many ways. These may include becoming withdrawn or isolated, as well as displaying challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour. These behaviours may reflect underlying mental health difficulties such as anxiety or depression, self-harming, substance misuse, eating disorders or physical symptoms that are medically unexplained. Other children and young people may have disorders such as attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder or attachment disorder.
- Schools and colleges should have clear processes to support children and young people, including how they will manage the effect of any disruptive behaviour so it does not adversely affect other pupils.

Sensory and/or Physical Needs (S&P)

- Some children and young people require special educational provision because they have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of the educational facilities generally provided. These difficulties can be age related and may fluctuate over time. Many children and young people with vision impairment (VI), hearing impairment (HI) or a multi-sensory impairment (MSI) will require specialist support and/or equipment to access their learning, or habilitation support. Children and young people with an MSI have a combination of vision and hearing difficulties. Information on how to provide services for deafblind children and young people is available through the Social Care for Deafblind Children and Adults guidance published by the Department of Health (see the References Section under Chapter 6 for a link).
6.35 Some children and young people with a physical disability (PD) require additional ongoing support and equipment to access all the opportunities available to their peers.

Other Terms

Academy	“Academies receive funding directly from the government and are run by an academy trust. They have more control over how they do things than community schools. Academies do not charge fees.” (Types of schools: Academies, gov.uk)
AP	Alternative Provision – “Schools and pupil referral units can use a range of alternative provision to try to prevent students from being excluded or to re-engage students in their education.” (Alternative provision: education outside school, gov.uk)
Commissioned Number	Planned education places at an institution.
Designated Number	The maximum number of pupils the special school is set up to provide for.
DfE	Department for Education
EHCP	Education, Health, and Care Plan
Entry level qualifications	Qualifications available below level 1 in three stages, entry 1, 2 and 3 (with 3 being the most difficult.)

ESFA	Education and Skills Funding Agency
FE	Further Education
GIAS	Get Information about Schools (GIAS) a register of schools and colleges in England, with information reported by the school.
Independent School	“Private schools (also known as ‘independent schools’) charge fees to attend instead of being funded by the government. Pupils do not have to follow the national curriculum.” (Types of school: Private school, gov.uk)
Independent Special School	An independent school providing education for those with an Education, Health and Care Plan.
Level 1	Equivalent to GCSE grades 3, 2, 1. Also available as a level 1 diploma, certificate, functional skills and other qualification types.
Level 2	Equivalent to GCSE grades GCSE grades 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4. Intermediate apprenticeship. Also available as a level 2 diploma, certificate, functional skills and other qualification types.
Level 3	Equivalent to A level. Advanced apprenticeships. Also available as AS levels, and level 3 diploma, certificate, award and other qualification types.
Mainstream School	A school that does not specifically cater for pupils with SEND needs.
Maintained schools	Schools that are maintained by the local authority.
NEET	Not in education, employment or training.
Net Capacity	The capacity of the educational building.
Non-maintained School	Non-maintained schools are not controlled by the local authority.
Non-maintained special school	Non-maintained special schools are not controlled by the local authority and cater for students with an EHCP.
PACT	Parents and Carers Together – Kent PACT is a “forum for parents and carers of children and young people who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) within Kent local authority.” (kentpactnew2022.co.uk)
Phase Transition	Where children and young people move between key phases of education. E.g., early years to primary, primary to secondary, or secondary to post-16.
Post-16	The years following statutory school age.
PRU	Pupil Referral Unit – “Pupil referral units (PRUs) teach children who aren’t able to attend school and may not otherwise receive suitable education. This could be because they have a short- or long-term illness, have been excluded or are a new starter waiting for a mainstream school place.” (Pupil referral units: converting to alternative provision academies, gov.uk.)
Satellite Classes	Classes that take place on behalf of a school on another campus.
SCAP	School Capacity Survey – collects information on educational provision capacity for the current academic year.

SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
SENDIAS	The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Services
SEND learners	For the purpose of this report, SEND learners is a phrase used to describe those with an active education, health and care plan.
SEN Support	SEN Support can be offered to children and young people with an identified barrier to learning without the need for an EHCP.
SEN2	A data report provided by Management Information looking at a snapshot of data.
Special School	“A special school provides education and support to children and young people with an education, health and care (EHC) plan who have complex special educational needs and require their SEN provision to be delivered in a specialist setting.” (kent.gov.uk)
SPI	Specialist Post-16 Institution
SRP	Specialist Resource Provision – “A specialist resource provision (SRP) provides support for those, who without specialist input, are unlikely to make progress in their learning and will struggle to take part in mainstream school life.” (kent.gov.uk)
Synergy	Operational database used by KCC SEND team.

9. Appendices

Appendix 1: Area and District Breakdown of Post-16 Provision from Special Schools, FE Colleges and Specialist Post-16 Institutions

Area	District	Local Offer
North	Dartford	North Kent College (Dartford campus) Reynolds Training Academy (SPI)
	Gravesham	North Kent College (Gravesend campus) Link 19 (SPI) Ifield School
	Sevenoaks	SupaJam (SPI) White Rocks Farm (SPI) Catch22 (SPI) Milestone Academy Valence School
East	Canterbury	East Kent College (Canterbury campus) SupaJam (SPI) St Nicholas School
	Thanet	East Kent College (Broadstairs campus) Liberty Training (SPI) SportsConnect (SPI) Foreland Fields School Laleham Gap School

		Stone Bay School
	Swale	East Kent College (Sheppey campus) BEMIX (SPI) Brogdale CIC (SPI) Kite College (SPI) Meadowfield School
South	Ashford	East Kent College (Ashford campus) Goldwyn School Wyvern School
	Dover	East Kent College (Dover campus) Woodpecker Court (SPI) Catch22 (SPI)
	Folkestone & Hythe	East Kent College (Folkestone campus) Romney Resource Centre (SPI) Beacon Plus (SPI) The Beacon Folkestone
West	Maidstone	MidKent College (Maidstone campus) Catch22 (SPI) Five Acre Wood School Snowfields Academy
	Tonbridge & Malling	North Kent College (Tonbridge campus) North Kent College (Hadlow campus) SportsConnect (SPI) Grow19 (SPI) The Oaks Specialist College (SPI) West Kent YMCA Horizon (SPI) Oakley School Grange Park School Oakley School
	Tunbridge Wells	Broomhill Bank School Nexus School

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1. Summary

This report sets out and evaluates the responses received from the consultation on the first Kent SEND Sufficiency Plan 2023. It sets the context within which more detailed and future planning can be developed. The analysis in the plan takes account of and builds in the DfE Safety Valve targets. It will be updated annually and sit within the Kent Commissioning Plan, which is a five year rolling program that is updated annually.

In summary, 49 responses were received to the consultation. Mostly mainstream schools were represented 42 (86%). Most (55%) of stakeholders agreed or strongly agreed that the aims of the Sufficiency Plan are clear. The responses covered a wide range of topics that indicated a belief that Kent's population profile is different to its statistical neighbours.

It was noted by respondents that a lot of the information in the plan is high level and there were some requests for further detail and timescales. It was stated in the SEND Sufficiency Plan that it is waiting for the outcomes of several SEND reviews to support the development of further detail, which will feed into the next SEND Sufficiency Plan. Some respondents did not acknowledge the financial realities of the LA within the Safety Valve agreement. Some respondents did not acknowledge the changes for pupil profiles from the EHCP forecast. Many responses answered the questions with generic themes within the concept of SEND and sufficiency planning.

2. Introduction

The stakeholder consultation was undertaken to gain the views of the recommendations of the first KCC SEND Sufficiency Plan. This is the first time that KCC has produced a Sufficiency Plan for Special Education Needs (SEN) Provision. Most local authorities now produce an analysis and plan that sits under their SEND Strategy and feeds into their Education Commissioning Plan and capital strategy for education provision. Kent's Commissioning Plan for Education Provision has included a section on Special Education Needs Provision; however, this has always been a high-level summary based on limited analysis and forecasting.

The County Council has a statutory duty under section 14 of the Education Act 1996, to ensure there is a sufficiency of school places available to meet the needs of all children and young people living within our authority. This includes the need to secure provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). In addition, section 315 of the Education Act 1996 requires that arrangements for children with SEND be kept under review. The provision of sufficient school places is a statutory duty and contributes to the Strategic Business Plan Priorities to ensure that "Children and Young People in Kent get the best start in life".

Commissioning recommendations for this first plan are limited by the need for the Special School, Specialist Resource Provision and Early Years reviews to complete. The outcomes and recommendations from these reviews will be key to informing future commissioning decisions. For post-16, actions are underway to meet demand regarding place planning, with engagement from all FE groups as part of multiple projects around access for students to mainstream settings. The phases of implementation of the SEND Sufficiency Plan will be influenced by the medium and longer-term commissioning decisions that result from the data presented.

The local authority (KCC) is responsible for maintaining Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) for children and young people between the ages of 0-25 years who have special education needs. As of January 2023, this totalled 18,930. This is an increase of 1,197 EHCPs since January 2022. The national “proportion of pupils with an EHCP increased to 4.3% in 2023” from 4% in 2022. In Kent 5.2% of pupils had an EHCP in 2023 which increased from 5% in 2022.

Consultation process

The consultation took place from Friday 6th October to Tuesday 14 November 2023. The stakeholder groups were identified and targeted at the start of and during the consultation period. The following groups were identified:

- All schools
- FE Colleges
- Specialist Post-16 Institutions (SPIs)
- Kent PACT
- Directorate and Divisional Senior Managers
- Health Contacts
- Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
- CYPE Cabinet Committee
- SIAB and SEND Scrutiny Committee Members

The consultation documents were sent out via email with a link and QR code to access the SEND Sufficiency Plan 2023 and the related survey.

3. Respondents

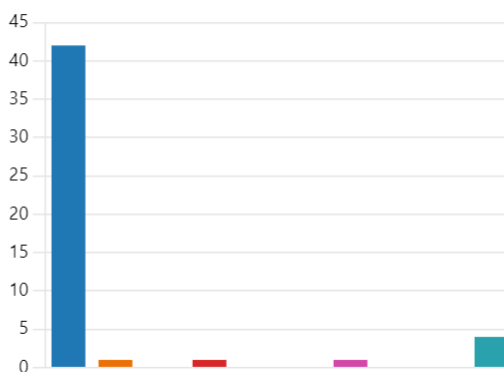
A total of 49 responses were received via MS Forms. No responses were received via post or email. The following table shows the capacity in which the stakeholders were completing the questionnaire.

Kent Sufficiency Plan 2023

Appendix 1: Stakeholder consultation report

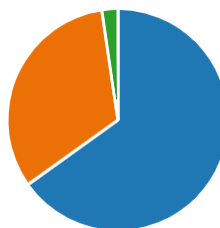


● Mainstream school	42
● Special School	1
● FE College	0
● Specialist Post-16 Institution	1
● Training Provider	0
● Careers Professional	0
● Kent County Council	1
● Nursery/Early Years Providers	0
● Health	0
● Other	4



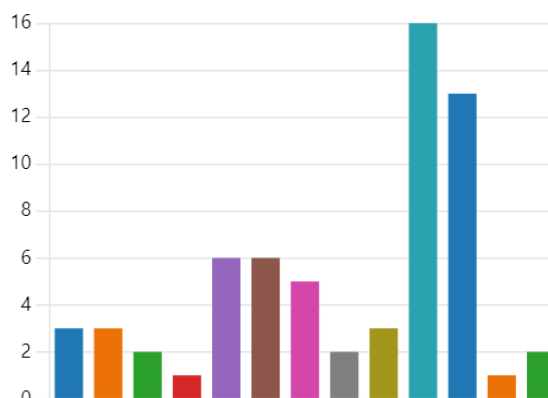
The majority of respondents were from the primary phase.

● Primary	28
● Secondary	14
● All-through	1



All districts of Kent were represented with most responses from the district of Maidstone.

● Dartford	3
● Gravesham	3
● Sevenoaks	2
● Canterbury	1
● Thanet	6
● Swale	6
● Ashford	5
● Dover	2
● Folkestone & Hythe	3
● Maidstone	16
● Tonbridge & Malling	13
● Tunbridge Wells	1
● Countywide	2



4. Consultation responses

The analysis of each survey question can be found below with the question asked.

Question 4: The aims of the Sufficiency Plan are clear

26 (54%) of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the aims of the Sufficiency Plan are clear. 18 respondents (38%) disagreed.

● Strongly agree	3
● Agree	24
● Neither agree nor disagree	4
● Disagree	18
● Strongly disagree	0



Question 5: Please add your comments on whether you think that the SEND Sufficiency Plan does start to meet those aims.

There were 40 comments, however 15 of these were a copy and paste response.

9 responses requested further detail to answer how schools would manage the challenges: “aims are very wordy, not enough info about how they will be achieved in practice.” 6 responses mentioned funding cuts or increased expenses, for example, “without the funding to ensure mainstream schools are able to support SEND pupils effectively the plan will fail.” 7 responses mentioned EHCPs/children with SEN, “still huge issues with number of EHCPs and specialist placements” and “parents that shout the loudest seem to get independent or special school places.” 2 responses mentioned SRPs, “there is a clear need to ensure the correct children receive education in specialist settings and by reducing the those numbers through SRPs in secondary is a good idea.”

The copy and paste response also requested further detail, “the Aims are much too broad . . . need for much more clarity on what is meant by commission/decommission places. The aims need to be focussed on what is best for our children – not based on funding issues... there is a need to consider Kent’s particular demographic – particularly in relation to providing placements for out of county pupils and refugees/asylum seekers.”

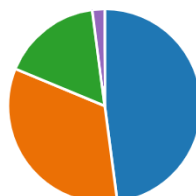
Question 6: The SEND Sufficiency Plan shows how the population of CYP with an EHCP is forecast to change in the future. Will this impact on your own planning for the future?

39 (81%) of stakeholders agreed or strongly agreed that the forecast showing how the changes of the population of CYP with an EHCP will impact on their own planning for the future.

6. The SEND Sufficiency Plan shows how the population of children and young people with an EHCP is forecast to change in the future. Will this impact on your own planning for the future?

[More Details](#)

● Strongly agree	23
● Agree	16
● Neither agree nor disagree	8
● Disagree	0
● Strongly disagree	1



Question 7: Please add your comments on how you think the change in pupil population profile will impact on your own planning for the future.

There were 42 comments, however 15 of these were a copy and paste response.

The information from the EHCP forecast 2023, gave specific detail on how the pupil population profile was forecast to change over time, and noted that there was a bulge in secondary aged pupils that was scheduled to feed through.

The response comments did not specifically address these changes or give detail of the solutions from their provisions. Some were requests for additional funding or specialist provision from the local authority to meet the needs of pupils with more complex needs.

5 responses mentioned CYP with EHCPs/additional needs and that the population change has brought increased pressure, for example, “an increasing number of children post-covid with extremely challenging behaviour” and “we are receiving more and more requests for places with children with an EHCP.” 7 responses mentioned staff training either in what they offered or requests for this, for example, “we invest heavily on effective CPD” and “support and training continues to be needed to meet complex needs”. 6 response mentioned increases for school spending for SEND support, for example, “aware of this, but unless funding changes we cannot meet this need”

Copy and paste summary – “a lot of work needs to be done in secondary schools and also to change the perceptions of parents about availability /appropriate provision. . . predictable needs will need funding to be able to develop the different provisions needed to meet the increasingly complex predicable needs.

Question 8: Kent needs to address the geographical gaps in pathways for CYP who can access their education in a mainstream school with the support of an SRP

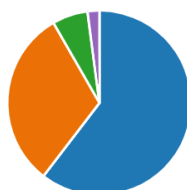
44 (91%) of stakeholders agreed or strongly agreed that Kent needs to address the geographical gaps in pathways for CYP who may need the support of an SRP.

8. Kent needs to address the geographical gaps in pathways for children and young people who can access their education in a mainstream school with the support of an SRP.

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

Strongly agree	29
Agree	15
Neither agree nor disagree	3
Disagree	0
Strongly disagree	1



Question 9: Please add any comments you have relating to specific geographical gaps from your perspective.

There were 37 comments, however 15 of these were a copy and paste response.

12 responses did not answer the question naming specific geographical gaps, for example “What do you mean by this? The gaps are clearly linked to poverty so there is need for more provision in these areas” and “there is huge pressure to have children with complex needs in mainstream schools where the HTs are stating this is unsafe and parents who apply for EHCPs (without school backing) are much more likely to get their child into independent special schools – this really needs addressing”

8 responses mentioned a specific district/Kent that had gaps

- Clear gaps in Kent - around Gravesham and coastal areas.
- Number of places in West Kent could be stronger
- There are huge gaps in Thanet for SRPs and the need is increasing!
- Within the border area of Sevenoaks, the provision is very limited
- I have tried to work with Mike Rainer from TEP to look at how we can fill gaps, for instance in Maidstone
- There needs to be more options for SRB in Thanet
- Areas with the highest need (Thanet, Swale, Dover) have the smallest amount of provision for SLCN
- In Maidstone as there is not enough special provision for pupils who need it

Copy and paste response summary; did not answer the question relating to specific geographical gaps but generalised comments relating to transport, “the cost of transportation and the impact on pupil regulation needs to be considered with those extended travel distances. . . The new special school in the North of Kent has been located where there is already a lot of specialist provision in

this area. Concerns about whether provision will need to be reduced in existing areas to redistribute the resources. . .”

Question 10: Addressing the gaps in secondary phase and post-16 SRPs is a priority

31 (65%) of stakeholders agreed or strongly agreed that addressing the gaps in secondary phase and post-16 SRPs is a priority

10. Addressing the gaps in secondary phase and post-16 SRPs is a priority.

[More Details](#)

Strongly agree	20
Agree	11
Neither agree nor disagree	17
Disagree	0
Strongly disagree	0



Question 11: Do you have any comments relating to the Pre-16 and General Recommendations, detailed in section 5?

There were 28 comments, however 15 of these were a copy and paste response. The 10 Pre-16 recommendations were for future commissioning of SEND provision from SRP and Special School Reviews, the requirements of residential provision for CYP with an EHCP, the potential for site expansion of special schools, to develop mainstream accommodation for pupils with an EHCP, review the Accessibility Strategy for Kent, review of Alternative Provision, parental and young person consultation, improve data quality to support SEN planning and investigate options for capturing live roll and placement data for special schools to inform placements. These recommendations covered 20 actions.

Some responses did not comment on the recommendations, for example, “there are still many children both in this sector and the Early Years that don’t have school places” and “I think we should look to stepping down support whenever possible to ensure that we cease plans as YP approach adulthood wherever possible”.

3 responses mentioned future planning, for example, “It will be helpful to have information 3 years in advance to support our planning” and “very interested in how the plan looks to develop mainstream learning environments” and “. . .provisions are clear on effective pathways, but parents find this area trickier to navigate”. Within those responses two mentioned requests for increased funding to deliver this.

4 respondents appeared to mis-read pre-16 as post-16.

Copy and paste summary, “secondary grammar provision is needed for pupils who are academically able but who have complex ASD/anxiety needs. . . as the LA are currently reducing the number of EHCPs linked to academic ability/functioning, therefore how will we get secondary aged students with an EHCP needing a grammar school SRP? . . . there is a need for more clarity about the differences between SRPs and satellite provisions.”

Question 12: Do you have any comments relating to the Post-16 Recommendations to Improve SEND Sufficiency, detailed in section 5?

There were 25 comments, however 15 of these were a copy and paste responses. 6 respondents advised they did not wish to contribute further comments, with a few giving reasoning that they were from the primary sector.

Forward planning was a theme within the respondents’ answers for this question. There was reference to the need to utilise data for the planning of post-16 places. Themes from individual responses include:

- Appropriate distribution of high needs funding throughout sixth forms to meet need.
- Number of specialist places are geographically inconsistent.
- Questions around how the relationship, transition and pathways between specialist and mainstream placements could be strengthened.

Question 13: Do you have any comments relating to Commissioning Recommendations: Planned Additional Specialist Provision Across Kent Special Schools, detailed in section 5?

There were 36 comments, however 15 of these were a copy and paste response. The information in the table covered 8 provisions (new satellite or special school) with the proposed opening date, need type, district and potential number of places of 2024 to 2031.

No responses were specific to the information included in table in section 5.

3 responses mentioned location; “ensure there is more consistent coverage across the county” and “I am confused as to why more of the additional provision is not located in areas of highest need.” And “filling gaps so children can be educated closer to home should be closely mapped to need forecasting by area.”

2 responses commented on the pressure for more provision, for example, “Will the additional specialist provision take into account the 140 ish children with an EHCP who are currently without

a school placement?” and “need to be more specialist schools but these should be specifically for those pupils with a high level of need”.

2 responses mentioned satellites as a solution, to learn from expertise or more financially viable

1 long response (658 words) – “. . . we are aware that the object is that all students can attend a local special school . . . shortfall in provision . . . culture throughout Kent and the UK that if your child has any additional needs, a mainstream school will not be able to provide the right support . . .”

Copy and paste response, “ensuring consistent approaches is essential. There is a huge need for clear thresholds to ensure a fair approach as to which students are placed where.”

Question 14: Do you have any comments relating to Commissioning Recommendations: Planned Additional Specialist Resource Provisions, detailed in section 5?

There were 29 comments, however 15 of these were a copy and paste response. The information in the table covered 6 new SRP provisions with the proposed opening date, need type, district and potential number of places of 2024 to 2031.

1 comment noting a gap, “SLCN is the fastest need type projected and yet no additional SLCN SRP capacity is planned”

4 responses with unrelated themes, for example, “more is required particularly in Thanet. We (Hartsdown) would like to be considered for an SRP” and “There needs to be some joined up thinking with health in terms of diagnosis too.” And “More mainstream schools would be willing to support pupils with EHCP will significant needs if they had the same level of resources or support that specialist resource provisions have.” And “sufficient equality of access for each cluster should be the aim”

1 long response, (451 words), “Whilst I agree that SRPs should be expanded where possible to enable more pupils to access mainstream settings, the sufficiency plan seems to be skipping over some significant barriers to this being a success in primary schools. Lack of diagnosis . . . The increase in EHCPs that are being rejected by Kent, forcing parents or carers to take the LA to tribunal . . . Poorly written EHCPs which increasingly do not accurately reflect the special educational needs of pupils. . . The barriers Kent put in place for schools including going to LIFT and expectations that the plan, do, review cycle has been completed X number of times just serves to lengthen that process and stops a pupil from accessing the right level of support early on in their school journey. As professionals, we should be trusted when making the call that an EHCNA is needed rather than being expected to jump through hoops which are actual local policy and not expected under SEN law.”

Appendix 1: Stakeholder consultation report

Copy and paste response “Ensure this is linked to the geographical map to address scarcity . . . confusion in the data as Whitfield and Aspen is currently functioning as a district special school but is reflected in SRP numbers.”

Question 15: Do you have any comments relating to Further Education Commissioning 2023-24, detailed in section 5?

There were 25 comments, however 15 of these were a copy and paste response. As with previous post-16 aimed questions, some respondents noted they did not wish to contribute to this question.

There were few responses related to this question, with most responses from duplicate submissions. The following views were put forward:

- The need for additional provision in areas of highest need.
- Concerns around the insufficiency of FE course offer and its relation to the needs of EHCP learners.
- The inconsistent but good practice of transition of FE with special schools and SPIs, and the need to review and replicate this across Kent.

In addition to the consultation form, FE sector representatives were consulted during joint KCC/KFE meetings. Feedback from this discussion indicates the following:

- FE settings are seeing an increase in students claiming high needs funding, and a culture of expectation of FE to support EHCP learners.
- There is a lack of clarity around expectation of the numbers of learners expected to be supported in FE moving forward.
- Discussion is needed around how mainstream settings can be improved for the high needs and EHCP cohorts.
- Forecasting of support needs, geography and numbers are a priority.
- Qualification reform is a key challenge facing all sectors currently.
- Concern around a lack of policy, particularly around CEIAG, and a need to continue work around the information provided to young people around options.

Question 16: Do you have any comments relating to the Summary of Commissioning Recommendations for Post-16, detailed in section 5?

There were 25 comments, however 15 of these were a copy and paste response, which make up the majority of detailed responses. There were several responses that noted in-depth logistical challenges not specifically related to post-16 commissioning. Those who completed a response raised the following points regarding the commissioning recommendations:

- The need for closer links between stakeholders to support transition and provision development.
- Ensuring proportional provision.

Question 17: Do you have any additional comments relating to the Next Steps of the SEND Sufficiency Plan, detailed in section 7.

There were 29 comments, however 15 of these were a copy and paste response. The next steps section included consultation and approval so that the SEND Sufficiency Plan could feed into the capital plans. It included 5 actions to be included in the next Sufficiency Plan.

The comments did not specifically respond to the Next Steps and included responses about “crisis in CAMHS”, and “nurture provision. . . not always available in secondary school” and “transition support must be planned”. 3 responses mentioned time scales.

Copy and paste response summary, “Focus on reduction of NEETs as a priority. No information about the plan for removing High Needs Funding. . . not enough detail about the actual actions. . . feels like the reviews are all being undertaken in isolation and that there is no one clear, joined up plan for exactly what the overall strategic plan for SEND in Kent is. . . need to consider the longer term costs and implications in terms of costly specialist CAMHS/social care.. . “

Question 18: Additional Comments.

There were 30 comments, however 15 of these were a copy and paste response.

“a very thorough document which has accurately identified the issues and potential solutions.”

3 responses mentioned funding, for example “there needs to be funding into working to persuade parents of how and why mainstream works” and “Mainstream school are happy to support the high level of needs of pupils with EHCPs but they need the funding support to do this” and “Please consider the impact of the HNF changes on the capacity of small mainstream primary schools to support children with more complex SEN” and “the funding moving from central to the locality have been modelled in other authorities although these are not detailed in the report.”

1 response about the law, “There needs to be a change in the SEN and disability statute law, regulations and guidance alongside the changes LAs are proposing to make. . . “

1 response about STLS, “How will STLS capacity be increased to meet the need in mainstream of larger numbers of pupils requiring significant adaptations. . . “

Copy and paste responses summary, “Need for consistency in approach. . . question the depth of SRP review. . . next steps do not align with the aims. . . no detail about success criteria and how impact will be measured . . .parents are finding the communication and information confusing. . .”

5. Equality analysis

An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been completed for the Kent SEND Sufficiency Plan 2023. The screening found no evidence that the Sufficiency Plan will impact negatively on pupils from protected groups or lead to them being treated less favourably.

6. Conclusion and next steps

Following consultation and approval, the SEND Sufficiency Plan 2023 will feed into capital plans through KCC’s Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2024 – 2028 as all commissioning intentions set out within the Sufficiency Plan are reflected with the current draft Commissioning Plan.

Cabinet Committee consultation is on 25 January 2024. The views of local members on individual educational provision consultations in their divisions will be sought as they come forward. Parental consultation planned for the new year 2024 and will sit alongside the localities work so that it can be set in context.

EQIA Submission – ID Number

Section A

EQIA Title

Kent SEND Sufficiency Plan 2023

Responsible Officer

Nicola Phillips - CY EPA

Type of Activity

Service Change

No

Service Redesign

No

Project/Programme

No

Commissioning/Procurement

No

Strategy/Policy

Strategy/Policy

Details of other Service Activity

No

Accountability and Responsibility

Directorate

Children Young People and Education

Responsible Service

Education Planning and Access

Responsible Head of Service

Marisa White - CY EPA

Responsible Director

Christine McInnes - CY EPA

Aims and Objectives

The aim of the Sufficiency Plan is to support the local authority in its development of strategic place planning for SEND educational provision in the medium to long-term. The sufficiency plan will sit under the commissioning plan for education provision in Kent, to form strategic education place planning. There are 4 key aims for the Kent SEND Sufficiency Plan.

- Inform medium to longer term commissioning/decommissioning of places for children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan.
- Inform capital investment planning and future bids to DFE wave programmes.
- Inform high level discussions with providers around required changes to current provision.
- Support the delivery of the safety valve programme bringing Kent in-line with other local authorities' patterns of provision.

Section B – Evidence

Do you have data related to the protected groups of the people impacted by this activity?

Yes

It is possible to get the data in a timely and cost effective way?

Yes

Is there national evidence/data that you can use?

Yes

Have you consulted with stakeholders?

Yes
Who have you involved, consulted and engaged with?
The consultation is planned for October and the start of November. Kent schools, education provisions and health will be consulted with during this time. This consultation activity will be completed prior to the adoption of the plan by KCC Cabinet Committee in January 2024. Consultation in October/November 2023 will be with: - special schools (primary and secondary phase) - mainstream schools (primary and secondary phase) - post-16 FE institutions - SPIs - KCC staff (internal democratic procedures) - Health
Has there been a previous Equality Analysis (EQIA) in the last 3 years?
No
Do you have evidence that can help you understand the potential impact of your activity?
Yes
Section C – Impact
Who may be impacted by the activity?
Service Users/clients Service users/clients
Staff No
Residents/Communities/Citizens No
Are there any positive impacts for all or any of the protected groups as a result of the activity that you are doing?
Yes
Details of Positive Impacts
Ensuring appropriate provision and sufficient places for EHCP learners in Kent
Negative impacts and Mitigating Actions
19.Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Age
Are there negative impacts for age?
No
Details of negative impacts for Age
Not Applicable
Mitigating Actions for Age
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions – Age
Not Applicable
20. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Disability
Are there negative impacts for Disability?
No
Details of Negative Impacts for Disability
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Disability
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Disability
Not Applicable
21. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Sex

Are there negative impacts for Sex
No
Details of negative impacts for Sex
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Sex
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Sex
Not Applicable
22. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Are there negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender
No
Negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Not Applicable
23. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Race
Are there negative impacts for Race
No
Negative impacts for Race
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Race
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Race
Not Applicable
24. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Are there negative impacts for Religion and belief
No
Negative impacts for Religion and belief
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Religion and Belief
Not Applicable
25. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Are there negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
No
Negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
26. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Are there negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
No
Negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity

Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
27. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Are there negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
No
Negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
28. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Are there negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
No
Negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable

From: Roger Gough, Leader of the Council
To: Cabinet, 25th January
Subject: Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024 – 2029

Decision Number: 23/00097

Key Decision: *Involves the adoption of major new strategies or frameworks which are not included on the Policy Framework.*

It has a significant effect on a significant proportion of the community living or working within two or more electoral divisions.

Classification: Unrestricted

Electoral Divisions: All

Summary:

The Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy is a partnership document overseen by the Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group. The strategy includes both statutory requirements for tier one local authorities to support people accessing safe accommodation services and commitments across the partnership to support people impacted by domestic abuse across Kent and Medway.

An eleven-week consultation was completed on the draft strategy, which generated 244 responses. Responses have been analysed and the draft strategy updated accordingly. A consultation report, **Appendix A**, and a 'You Said, We Did' document has been completed (the 'You Said, We Did' is attached to the consultation report). **Appendix B** the Summary Strategy and **Appendix C**, the full Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy are attached to this paper. **Appendix D**, the Equality Impact Assessment is also included within the paperwork.

The Leader is being asked to adopt the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2024 – 2029 on behalf of Kent County Council. The strategy was brought to Policy and Resources Committee on the 17th of January where Members were asked to discuss the strategy, note changes, and support this key decision. The Proposed Record of Decision is available in **Appendix F**. The Cabinet are asked to note the decision to adopt the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2024 – 2029.

1. Background

1.1 In April 2021, the Domestic Abuse Act was passed in law. The Domestic Abuse Act created a statutory requirement for tier one local authorities with cooperation from tier two authorities to:

- assess need for accommodation-based support,
- prepare a strategy to provide such support to victims,
- give effect to the strategy,
- monitor the strategy and
- report back annually to central government¹.

1.2 Kent had an active strategy when the Act was passed, managed and overseen by the Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group. This Group has representation from Kent County Council, Medway Council, Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, the National Probation Service, the NHS, the Department of Work and Pensions, and district, borough, and city councils.

1.3 When the Domestic Abuse Act gained royal assent, tier one duties for both Kent and Medway were integrated into the existing 2020 strategy, recognising that safe accommodation is part of a wider partnership response to domestic abuse.

1.4 The strategy finished in 2023 and a 'progress made' report was published on the consultation web page and shows work to meet the strategy commitments. Opportunities for improvement identified within the 'progress made' report have been built in to the 2024 – 2029 strategy supporting continuous improvement. This report is available in **Appendix E**.

2. The 2024 – 2029 strategy

2.1 The Summary Strategy and full Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024 – 2029 are attached as **Appendix B** and **Appendix C**.

2.2 This strategy was drafted in partnership with Medway Council, with support from a project group (ICB safeguarding, Police and Crime Commissioners Office, Kent Police and Probation) and in coordination with the partners of the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Executive Group.

2.3 The strategy continues to develop a whole partner response to improving the experiences of those impacted by abuse. Once finalised a delivery plan will be established and monitored to support meeting commitments. Activity indicators are also included as part of the strategy which will form a

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-support-within-safe-accommodation/delivery-of-support-to-victims-of-domestic-abuse-in-domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-services>

dashboard to support the work of the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Executive Group moving forward.

2.4 The identification of priorities and themes in the strategy has been sought from a wide range of stakeholders as detailed within the consultation report (**Appendix A**). Lived experience narratives have supported the development of identified themes, including learnings from interviews with adults and with children and young people.

3. Consultation process

- 3.1 The public consultation launched on 24 July and ran until Monday 9 October 2023. Significant informal consultation happened before and during this period with a number of meetings attended by the strategy team (a full list is available within the consultation report). Reach from meetings attended is approximated at around 900 people (although with some possible duplication).
- 3.2 The formal consultation generated 244 responses, with 1,035 participants interacting with the page (such as downloading a document), and 2,424 visits to the consultation page (again this would include duplicate visits).
- 3.3 Of those who responded to the consultation and gave information, 33% disclosed being directly affected by domestic abuse, and a further 13% had a friend or family member impacted by abuse. Only 15% of people who responded to the consultation said they had not been impacted by domestic abuse.
- 3.4 The consultation responses have supported a number of changes made to the document highlighting key opportunities for improvement. Findings are summarised below.
 - On the section focusing on **the Domestic Abuse Act** 73% of respondents strongly or tended to agree that the strategy gives you the information you need about the Act. Respondents highlighted a need to clarify information on children as victims of abuse between their caregivers and including information on adolescent to parent violence. Respondents emphasized that the strategy could strengthen messaging on the impact of domestic abuse on those with protected characteristics including disability, gender (both men and women), sexuality and age.
 - Information on the Domestic Abuse Act definition of children as victims of domestic abuse has been made clearer within the final document, with links to other relevant legislation included. To combat the gendered perception respondents had of the strategy, and to emphasise the cross-cutting nature of abuse, a new infographic section with inclusive imagery has been included.
 - **Early Intervention and Prevention** - 86% of respondents strongly or tended to agree with the commitments listed. 'Increasing awareness of Clare's Law'

had the highest number of people strongly agree and therefore was not amended after the consultation. 'Increasing understanding of abuse' had the lowest number of people strongly agree within this section (although all were rated highly).

- Changes made to this section of the strategy include an addition on better understanding the increasing use of technology and abuse, additional commitments on supporting professional awareness of those with no recourse to public funds and commitments on supporting professionals to appropriately respond to disclosure (including understanding signposting and referral options).
- **Immediate need** - 86% of respondents strongly or tended to agree with the commitments listed. 'Supporting children and young people during immediate need' had the highest number of respondents strongly agree, and 'experiences of justice' and 'highlighting civil options' had the lowest number of people strongly agree within this section. The commitments with lower levels of support in these sections were impacted by respondent's negative experiences and underlined the need to improve our partnership response in these areas.
 - In response, wording on civil options has been strengthened with an embedded link which includes further information on civil orders. Additional commitments have been added to 'experiences of justice'.
 - Following feedback, we have also added a section on counter allegations.
 - Additionally, a section has been added to 'being responsive to individual need' which asks those working across services to challenge assumptions or stereotypes of abuse.
 - An addition on homeowners and access to support has also been added following feedback.
 - A section on pets and the importance of safe accommodation options which can accommodate animals has been added.
 - Inclusion of flexibility of services to meet the needs of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities when seeking safety has been highlighted.
- **Recovery** - 84% of respondents strongly or tended to agree with the commitments listed. 'Recognising the mental health impact of abuse' had the highest number of respondents strongly agree and 'prioritising family bonds' had the lowest number of people strongly agree within this section.
 - Concern was expressed around re-traumatisation caused through family courts and management of child contact. The 'prioritising family bonds' section of the strategy was redrafted.
 - Additionally, the subheading 'recognising the mental health impact of abuse' has changed to 'the impact of abuse on mental health' as suggested by a respondent.

- 'Recognising the experts' section of the strategy has been redrafted to make it clearer that the experts are those who have been impacted by abuse, and also to acknowledge the key role of the voluntary sector within this space.

3.5 Many positive responses on the strategy were received. These are further detailed within the consultation report.

4. Financial implications

4.1 The impact of domestic abuse has financial costs to many services within the public sector including Police, Probation, Health and Social Care. The strategy aims to support partnership working to improve collaboration and enhance service design to maximise outcomes from available funds from across the partnership to improve the experiences of those accessing services.

4.2 Tier 1 and tier 2 authorities receive funding from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to discharge statutory duties within the Domestic Abuse Act around safe accommodation, strategy development, partnership working and assessing need. The funding received to date by Kent County Council is detailed in the table below. Within KCC this funding is used to support safe accommodation provision including refuge, and security measures which allow people to remain in their own homes, enhance service delivery, therapeutic support for adults and children, and to support staff costs both across commissioning, strategy development and partnership working.

<u>Year</u>	<u>2021/2022</u>	<u>2022/2023</u>	<u>2023/2024</u>	<u>2024/2025</u>
	<u>£3,103,909</u>	<u>£3,112,501</u>	<u>£3,174,764</u>	<u>£3,234,633</u>

4.3 Provision of support for people who remain in the community and functions supporting the review and management of domestic homicide reviews are financed through partnership arrangements. In relation to community-based support this includes non-statutory allocations.

4.4 The strategy seeks to bring together the aims of each partner organisation and acknowledges that it is ambitious. It also notes that funding routes for both KCC and partners may change within the lifetime of the strategy.

4.5 The Kent and Medway Executive Group, of which KCC is a key partner, can review and revise the strategy if needed. This includes through a review period built into the strategy after three years, in 2027, when the Executive will consider whether this strategy is still representative of the challenges faced and ambitions of the members of the Executive Group given resources available.

5. Equality implications:

5.1 Protected characteristics and the intersectionality of these directly impacts risk of domestic abuse and the types of abuse which an individual may experience. The Equality Impact Assessment, available in **Appendix D**, shows a positive impact from the strategy due to commitments which recognise this. The strategy seeks to ensure that services meet needs across protected characteristics.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1 The Strategy was presented at the Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group on the 13 December 2023 to enable partners to take it through their internal governance processes and gain approval prior to publication.
- 6.2 The Leader is being asked to adopt the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2024 – 2029 on behalf of Kent County Council. The strategy was brought to Policy and Resources Committee on the 17th of January where Members were asked to discuss the strategy, note changes, and support this key decision. The Proposed Record of Decision is available in **Appendix F**. The Cabinet are asked to note the decision to adopt the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2024 – 2029.
- 6.3 Following final approval by all key partners of the Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group, the strategy will be published on the KCC and partner websites.
- 6.4 The Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group will be responsible for creating a delivery plan to support the commitments within the strategy and to monitor outcomes. Progress will be reported to Kent County Council’s Policy and Resource Cabinet Committee on a yearly basis.

List of Appendices:

- Appendix A – Consultation Report
- Appendix B – Full Strategy
- Appendix C – Summary Strategy
- Appendix D – Equality Impact Assessment
- Appendix E – 2020 – 2023 Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy Progress Made Report
- Appendix F – Proposed Record of Decision

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The Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024 - 2029

Consultation report

November 2023



Executive Summary

In March 2020, the first Kent and Medway domestic abuse strategy was finalised. This was refreshed in 2021 when the Domestic Abuse Act gained royal assent and created statutory responsibilities for tier one authorities to support people impacted by domestic abuse within safe accommodation.

The strategy is due to end in 2023 and a new Kent and Medway domestic abuse strategy 2024 – 2029 has been developed to continue to provide the strategic direction of the domestic abuse work across the Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Partnership Group. This document details the consultation process and findings for the Kent and Medway domestic abuse strategy 2024 – 2029.

The Kent and Medway domestic abuse strategy 2024 - 2029 is a partnership strategy supported by Kent County Council, Medway Council, Kent Fire and Rescue, Kent Police, the Integrated Care Board (safeguarding), the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, Probation, the Department of Work and Pensions (Kent) and all Kent District, Borough and City Councils.

The draft strategy has been formally developed by collecting information through in-depth interviews on lived experience of domestic abuse across both Kent and Medway, and through seeking the views of the voluntary sector and frontline practitioners through workshops and discussions. Additionally, the 2020 – 2023 strategy was reviewed and a 'Progress Made' report created which identified areas for future development. Findings were integrated into the 2024 – 2029 strategy.

A consultation on the draft strategy began on the 24 July 2023 and ended on the 9 October 2023, running for 11 weeks. A total of 244 responses were received, 4 of these were via email.

149 people responded as an individual, 43 as a professional working with people impacted by domestic abuse and 36 on behalf of an organisation. Of those who responded to the consultation and completed this question 33% of people disclosed being directly affected by domestic abuse, and a further 13% had a friend or family member impacted by abuse. Only 15% of people who responded said they had not been impacted by domestic abuse.

Findings

Upon closure of the consultation a comprehensive review of the feedback took place by a team of both KCC and Medway officers.

On the section focusing on the **Domestic Abuse Act** 73% of respondents strongly or tended to agree that the strategy gives you the information you need about the Act.

Respondents highlighted a need to expand information on children including adolescent to parent violence. In response this section of the document has been revised.

Respondents highlighted that the strategy could strengthen messaging on the impact of domestic abuse on those with protected characteristics including disability, gender (both men and women), sexuality and age. This has been made clearer within the final document through the use of infographics.

Early Intervention and Prevention - 86% of respondents strongly or tended to agree with the commitments listed. 'Increasing awareness of Clare's Law' had the highest number of people strongly agree, and 'increasing understanding of abuse' had the lowest number of people strongly agree within this section (although all were rated highly).

Changes made to this section of the strategy include an addition on better understanding the increasing use of technology and abuse, additional commitments on supporting professional awareness of those with no recourse to public funds and commitments on supporting professionals to appropriately respond to disclosure (including understanding signposting and referral options).

Immediate need - 86% of respondents strongly or tended to agree with the commitments listed. 'Supporting children and young people during immediate need' had the highest number of respondents 'strongly agree', and 'experiences of justice' and 'highlighting civil options' had the lowest number of people 'strongly agree' within this section.

In response wording on civil options has been strengthened with a link which includes further information on civil orders embedded. A number of additional commitments have been added to 'experiences of justice'. Following feedback, we have also added information on counter allegations.

Additionally, a section has been added to 'being responsive to individual need' which asks those working across services to challenge assumptions or stereotypes of abuse.

An addition on homeowners and access to support has also been added due to feedback, as well as a section on pets and the importance of safe accommodation options which can take animals.

Inclusion of flexibility of services to meet the needs of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities when seeking safety has been highlighted.

Recovery - 84% of respondents strongly or tended to agree with the commitments listed. 'Recognising the mental health impact of abuse' had the highest number of respondents 'strongly agree' and 'prioritising family bonds' had the lowest number of people 'strongly agree' within this section.

Concern was expressed around re-traumatisation caused through family courts and management of child contact. The 'prioritising family bonds' section of the strategy was redrafted.

Additionally, the subheading 'recognising the mental health impact of abuse' has changed to 'the impact of abuse on mental health' as suggested by a respondent. 'Recognising the experts' section of the strategy has been redrafted to make it clearer that the experts are those who have been impacted by abuse, and also to acknowledge the key role of the voluntary sector within this space.

The equality analysis highlighted a need to include information on access to services for those living in rural areas and to include a commitment on supporting professionals to challenge behaviours which may be linked to an interpretation of cultural identities based on subordination and unequal power. Both areas have been included within the post consultation version of the strategy.

The equality analysis also highlighted under-reporting of abuse by older adults, those with a disability and the higher likelihood of experiencing abuse as a gay, lesbian or bisexual person. Throughout the strategy there are commitments focussed on raising awareness, increasing service uptake, supporting collaboration to develop needs led work and working with the specialist 'by and for' market to combat this.

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1. Background

In April 2021, the Domestic Abuse Act was passed in law. The Domestic Abuse Act creates a statutory requirement for tier one local authorities to prepare a strategy to provide support in safe accommodation to victims of domestic abuse, give effect to the strategy, monitor the strategy and report back annually to central government¹.

In 2021 there was an existing partnership Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy brought together by the Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group. This group includes representation from Kent County Council (KCC), Medway Council, Probation, Police, the Integrated Care Board (ICB) (safeguarding), the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), Kent Fire and Rescue, DWP and District, Borough and City Councils.

Tier one duties linked to safe accommodation were integrated into the existing 2020 strategy, recognising that safe accommodation is part of a wider partnership response to domestic abuse. The current strategy finishes in 2023 and a 'progress made' report was published on the consultation web page which shows previous work to meet the strategy commitments. Opportunities for improvement identified within the 'progress made' report are built in to the 2024 – 2029 strategy.

In early 2023 a team across Kent County Council and Medway Council started work on the 2024 - 2029 Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse strategy, working with a small project group which included representation from the ICB, Police, Probation and OPCC. The team also worked closely with the Domestic Abuse Coordinators group which includes representation from all District, Borough and City Councils in Kent.

The development of the 2024-2029 strategy has been based on research, workshops and in-depth interviews completed with those who have experienced abuse and practitioners who support them. As detailed within this report, the learnings have been used to develop strategy.

2. Strategy purpose

The Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group oversees the development of the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy, and seeks a partnership response to *'reduc[ing] the prevalence of domestic and sexual abuse, and ensur[ing] that where domestic abuse takes place, all those affected get the right support, quickly, and those who show abusive behaviours are held to account'*.

The partnership recognises that multiple organisations are involved in a person's journey when they are impacted by abuse and through working across the

¹'Delivery of support for victims of domestic abuse' Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. (accessed Nov 23) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-support-within-safe-accommodation/delivery-of-support-to-victims-of-domestic-abuse-in-domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-services>

partnership, responses can be strengthened. The purpose of the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse strategy is to work collaboratively to improve responses to domestic abuse by working and monitoring process against joint commitments for change. The strategy also details tier one statutory obligations within the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

Once the strategy is finalised a delivery plan will be established and monitored to support meeting commitments by the Kent and Medway Executive Group. Activity indicators are also included as part of the strategy which will form a dashboard to support monitoring.

Statutory requirements for tier one organisations are overseen by Local Partnership Boards (one within Kent and one within Medway) as stipulated within the statutory guidance and through internal meetings.

3. Informal consultation process

To support the voice of lived experience, research was commissioned which included 10 in-depth interviews and workshop sessions with those impacted by abuse. Previous research on the experiences of men impacted by abuse, and research on the experiences of children and young people were also used in the development of themes.

Learnings from this research created the structure of the strategy with quotes of experience being used to support identification of opportunities for change.

A 'Progress Made' report was completed in April 2023. This was key to show the impact of strategic and partnership working on the delivery of change to date, but also to support the identification of areas where we could work better. The 'Progress Made' report highlights opportunities for improvement and these were reviewed by the partnership project group (ICB safeguarding, Police, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Probation, Medway Council and Kent County Council) before being integrated into the 2024 – 2029 strategy.

The project team then worked with the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Coordinators Group (with representation across each District) to explore opportunities within early intervention, immediate need and recovery.

The Coordinators Group then supported the facilitation of a workshop with a wide range of frontline staff and voluntary sector organisations with approximately 80 people in attendance, where options for working together and change were brainstormed. Learnings supported the development of draft commitments.

- Ensure commissioned services have a robust Domestic Abuse policy
- Sharing information of the services available in a better way
- Consistency in information
- Empathic services
- A collaborative, comprehensive training package
- Shared language
- High quality, accessible and appropriate training on trauma, sexual abuse, domestic abuse and online safety for staff in universal services
- Training people on support programmes like Freedom
- Utilise social prescribing
- Multiagency training, mandatory training for domestic abuse and sexual abuse, public awareness raising - comms

One to one sessions were held with each partner to discuss the development of the draft strategy. The project team presented at a number of meetings which included the Local Partnership Board, the Domestic Abuse Chairs Forum (Chairs of each local forum), the Voluntary Sector subgroup, the Kent Community Safety Partnership and Kent Housing Group.

From this information an Executive Summary, full strategy document, and both a British Sign Language and Easy Read versions of the strategy were produced and uploaded for consultation.

A consultation stage Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) was carried out to assess the impact the strategy could have on those with protected characteristics. The EqIA was available as one of the consultation documents and the questionnaire invited consultees to comment on the assessment that had been carried out.

4. Formal consultation process

A 11-week public consultation period took place between the 24th July to the 9th October 2023. This extended period was chosen partly recognising the impact of summer, but also to support gaining as many responses as possible.

To raise awareness the project team:

- emailed stakeholder organisations and partners,
- invited 7,548 people registered with 'Let's Talk Kent' under the filtered topics public health and wellbeing, community safety and children and families to participate in the consultation.
- delivered a workshop for 13 attendees with lived experience across Kent and Medway and collated their feedback.
- organic and paid for media posts from KCC corporate, and Medway Council accounts across Twitter (now X), Facebook, Instagram and Linked In

- social media posts shared by partners.
- electronic flyers and posters sent to all Youth Centres, Libraries and Children’s Centres.
- emailed known interfaith groups and faith organisations.
- emailed contacts on ‘voluntary community and social enterprise organisations’ in Kent and Medway.
- emailed the Kent Association of Local Councils
- postings in newsletters and Teams channels (x17, listed **Appendix A**)
- internal communication channels (Kent and Medway)
- attended voluntary and community sector meetings
- attended community events including;
 - Tovil Community Event
 - DAWN Maidstone
 - Adult Social Care Summit
 - AgeUK, Thanet
 - Rise4Disability
- media releases and website publications (detailed in **Appendix A**).

Meetings attended during this period are listed in **Appendix A** with reach of approximately 900 people². Feedback was recorded using a template and analysed during the consultation process.

5. Findings

Findings were analysed by Kent County Council and Medway Council officers, and core areas discussed with a cross partnership project group. A ‘You Said, We Did’ document has been developed which highlights the main changes made to the strategy in **Appendix B**.

5.1 Who responded?

The formal consultation generated 244 responses (4 of these were via email).

1,035 participants interacted with the page (such as downloading a document), and there were 2,424 visits to the consultation page³.

Participation in the consultation was self-selecting and is not an indicative sample of the whole Kent and Medway population.

Of those who responded to the consultation and gave information 33% disclosed being directly affected by domestic abuse, and a further 13% had a friend or family

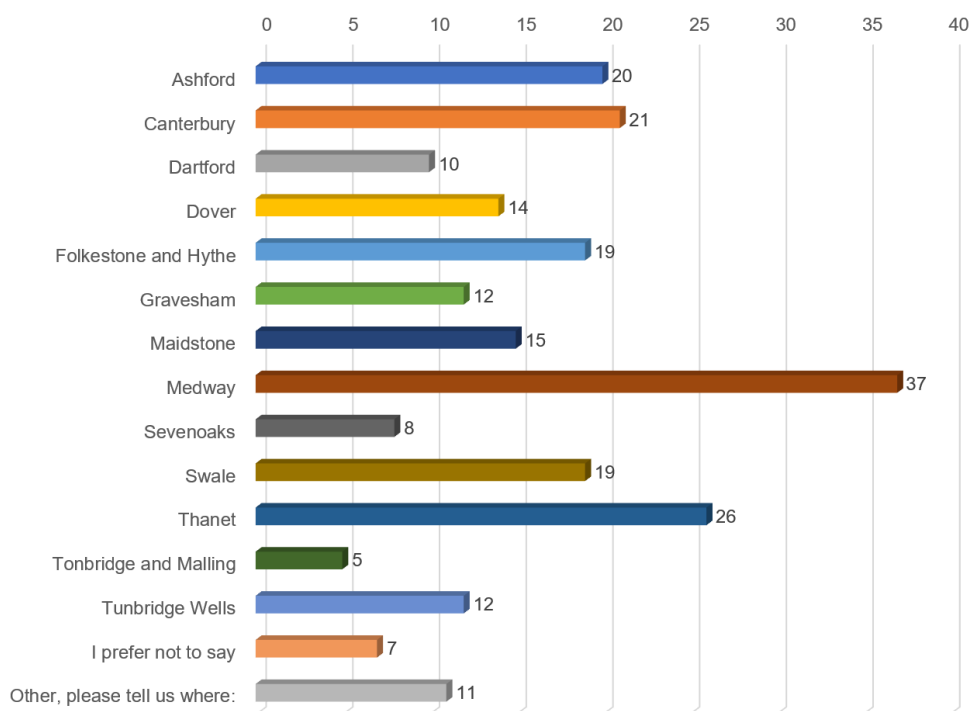
² There may be duplication within this number with some individuals being at the same meetings.

³ This figure will include repeat visits/ downloads

member impacted by abuse. Only 15% of people who responded said they had not been impacted by domestic abuse.

Because of the sensitive nature of this topic area postcode data was not recorded within this consultation, however for those who gave additional information the following was collected:

Figure 3: shows district coverage where this information was given:



While the majority of people found out about the consultation via 'Let's Talk' (114), a number also learned of the consultation via social media (42).

Around half of respondents chose not to give additional information about themselves. The information below is for those who did.

- 17 men, 87 women and 1 person who preferred to use their own term responded to the consultation.
- 45 people belonged to a particular religion or belief, with 37 being Christian, 2 being Hindu and 1 being Muslim.
- 10 people described themselves as having a physical impairment, 4 as having a sensory impairment, 12 as having a longstanding illness or health condition, 10 as having a mental health condition, 1 as having a learning disability and 4 as 'other'.
- 24 people described themselves as a carer.

- 90 people described themselves as White English, 1 person as White Scottish, 1 person as White Welsh, 1 as White Gypsy/Roma, 2 as Asian or Asian British Indian, 1 as Mixed White & Black Caribbean and 1 as Mixed White & Asian.

Figure 4 A spread of ages who responded to the consultation

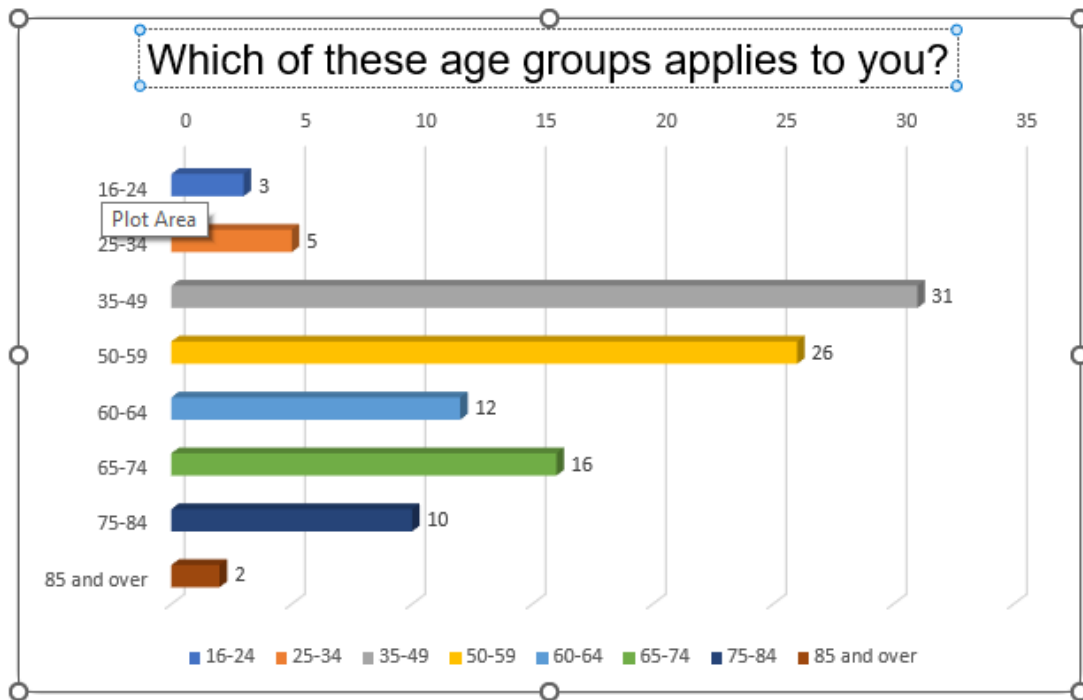


Figure 5: Organisational responses gained:

Kent Fire and Rescue	Dartford Council	Oasis Domestic Abuse Service	Switch Youth Services	Tunbridge Wells Soroptimists
Kent County Council (early help and integrated commissioning)	Lydd Parish Council	SATEDA	Medway Family solutions	New Road Primary School
Tonbridge and Malling Community	Gravesham Borough Council	Mankind Initiative	Inspire Academy	Peninsula East Primary

Safety Partnership				
Kent and Medway ICB Safeguarding Team	Swale borough Council	Protection Against Stalking	Virtual Schools Kent	Wainscott Primary School
Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust	Ashford Community Safety Partnership	Clarion Housing Group	Luton Primary	Millmead Children's Centre
Sevenoaks District Council	Rising Sun	Moat Homes limited	St James Academy	Super Stars Preschool
NHS Kent and Medway ICB		Dad's Unlimited	Greenacre Academy	

5.2 Information on the Domestic Abuse Act

The strategy provides an explanation of parts of the Domestic Abuse Act. It also provides statistics on domestic abuse nationally, and safe accommodation statistics given from Kent and Medway.

The following question was asked: *'to what extent to you agree or disagree that the strategy gives you the information you need about the Domestic Abuse Act?'*

Strongly agree	55 respondents
Tend to agree	119 respondents
Neither agree or disagree	40 respondents
Tend to disagree	13 respondents
Strongly disagree	8 respondents
Don't know	3 respondents

Comments included:

'More recognition of adult child/parent abuse'

'What the domestic abuse act doesn't cover / commonly confused situations such as child abuse'

'Where statistics are given, they should be the same for Kent and Medway, so we can compare services across the authorities'

Respondents highlighted a need to expand information on children and the Domestic Abuse Act. In response this section of the document has been revised.

Respondents highlighted that the strategy could strengthen messaging on the impact of domestic abuse on those with protected characteristics including disability, gender (both men and women), sexuality and age. Although some information was included within the consultation document on these characteristics this has been made clearer within the final document through the use of infographics.

5.3 Findings across key themes:

The consultation lists a number of commitments from the partnership across the areas of early intervention and prevention, immediate need and recovery. As detailed above these draft commitments were based on discussions on opportunities within the 'Progress Made' report, learnings from lived experience and workshops, and learnings from the informal consultation process.

5.3.1 Early Intervention and Prevention

The following subheadings sit under this area:

- **Increasing understandings of abuse.** Commitments under this section include to work collaboratively to promote consistent messaging and to increase awareness and make sure communication is accessible.
- **Professional training.** Commitments under professional training includes supporting professionals across services to be domestic abuse informed and taking opportunities to identify risk and using trauma informed responses.
- **Preventing escalation of abusive behaviours.** This includes supporting awareness of adverse childhood experiences, working alongside communities to promote positive behaviours and challenge harmful gendered stereotyping and work on bystander and upstander interventions.
- **Clare's Law** includes reviewing the process around Clare's law to try to increase accessibility and awareness.

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree or disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Increasing understandings of abuse	140	65	15	10	6	0
Professional Training	146	59	17	7	6	0
Preventing escalation of abusive behaviours	152	47	23	6	7	0
Increasing awareness of Clare's Law	159	44	23	5	3	1

86% of respondents strongly or tended to agree with the commitments listed.

'Increasing awareness of Clare's Law' had the highest number of people strongly agree, and 'increasing understanding of abuse' had the lowest number of people strongly agree within this section, however all scored highly.

Comments in this section included:

'...there may be benefit to adding a commitment to facilitating safe disclosure as there can be challenges for staff to support with this, especially for colleagues at work, where confidential spaces are limited.'

'A strategy to help people be more aware of what coercive behaviour [is] would be very beneficial. It would be very helpful and future-thinking to include a project to raise awareness of this in secondary schools at sixth form level as this is often where coercive behaviours first start to develop and it would be pro-actively supporting future generations of adults.'

With the increasing use of technology, addressing online harassment, cyberstalking, and other forms of digital abuse is becoming more important. Integrating strategies to tackle these issues can be valuable.

'Increasing awareness amongst professionals advising victims (and making victims themselves aware) of what level of support is available to individuals with no access to public funds.'

Changes made to this section of the strategy have been based on this feedback. This includes:

- developing a new section on better understanding the increasing use of technology and abuse,
- additional commitments on supporting professional awareness of those with no recourse to public funds,
- commitments on supporting professionals to appropriately ‘ask the question’ and respond to disclosure,
- working with schools will be integrated into the delivery plan as this is developed. More changes are detailed in the ‘**You Said, We Did**’ document (**Appendix B**).

5.3.2 Immediate Need

The following subheadings sit under Immediate Need:

- **Being responsive to individual need** focuses on meeting the needs of our diverse population which may include working with specialist services.
- **Reducing risk** focuses on the management of risk and seeking to reduce this.
- **Strengthening services** explores the importance of using available resources across the partnership wisely, working collaboratively and taking advantage of available opportunities.
- **Highlighting civil options** includes increasing awareness and understanding of civil options.
- **Experiences of justice** explores commitments which support people through their justice process.
- **Supporting children and young people during immediate need** recognises that children and young people who have experienced abuse may have specific support needs.
- **Access to housing** recognises the importance of a safe space to be in immediate need and seeks to work collaboratively to strengthen responses.

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree or disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Individual need	151	59	12	10	4	0
Reducing risk	146	63	11	6	8	0
Strengthening services	156	54	15	2	6	0

Highlighting civil options	122	73	25	7	7	1
Experiences of justice	118	66	30	8	6	5
Supporting children	162	40	16	7	8	2
Access to housing	149	48	17	8	9	3

86% of respondents strongly or tended to agree with the commitments listed. 'Supporting children and young people during immediate need' had the highest number of respondents 'strongly agree', and 'experiences of justice' and 'highlighting civil options' had the lowest number of people 'strongly agree' within this section.

'I would like to see mention of how authoritative abuse would be dealt with if the abuser is a "professional" within the services that are meant to help.'

'Realise pets are support animals for many survivors and will not leave their home if they cannot take them with them. Therefore, it may be useful to have some temporary accommodation that accept pets.'

'A trained effective response team. Client are re traumatised by being referred on and on to many organisations. They give up.'

'Autistic children need to have their specific needs understood. I couldn't take mine from their home and routine with no warning to a place they don't know. They wouldn't have coped at all.'

'Support with paying for accommodation where the person has a mortgage. When you are being financially controlled the fact you have a mortgage means nothing. You can't force them to sell the house to get your name off the mortgage whilst you are living with and being abused by them.'

The project team have made the following changes to this section:

- a number of respondents highlighted the specific experiences of men and domestic abuse. Within 'being responsive to individual need' we have added a section on challenging our assumptions or stereotypes of who might be a 'victim', and who may be a 'perpetrator'.
- a section on homeowners and access to support has been added.
- a section on recognising the importance of pets to those that need to flee has been added.
- an additional commitment has been included for those impacted by No Resource to Public Funds.

- recognising the risk caused by the emotional and psychological impact of abuse and the associated coping mechanisms that people may use has been added.
- information on strengthening referral pathways has been added.
- a requirement for flexible services which can support children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities has been highlighted.

5.3.3 Recovery

The following headings sit under the 'Recovery' section of the strategy.

- **Recognising the mental health impact of abuse**, being responsive to the trauma of domestic abuse and understanding the possible mental health impacts.
- **Processing experience and promoting connection**, this section focuses on rebuilding self-confidence after abuse.
- **Prioritising family bonds**, acknowledges the impact on the whole family of domestic abuse, and explores whole family approaches to support.
- **Reaching economic independence** highlights the financial and economic impact of abuse and the importance of regaining financial security.
- **Recognising the experts** discusses the importance of always listening to those with lived experience within work on domestic abuse.

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree or disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Mental health impact of abuse	171	41	12	5	6	1
Processing experience	132	73	16	6	5	3
Prioritising family bonds	107	68	37	11	8	1
Reaching economic independence	133	66	21	8	6	0
Recognising the experts	122	67	29	4	11	1

84% of respondents strongly or tended to agree with the commitments listed. 'Recognising the mental health impact of abuse' had the highest number of respondents 'strongly agree' and 'prioritising family bonds' had the lowest number of people 'strongly agree' within this section.

Concern was also expressed around re-traumatisation caused through family courts and child contact. Meetings were held with Integrated Childrens Services (KCC) and with The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass) to support the redrafting of this section.

'More focus on post-separation abuse from a co-parent when there are children involved. Using emotional abuse or coercive control against the mother by not looking after the children properly when in the co-parent's care.'

'In the Prioritising family bonds section, it is important to restate the issue of "restricting access to children" being an abusive behaviour and how much this is perpetrated.'

'In terms of recognising the experts, the experts need to be able to empathise and understand not just pay lip service. And with regards strengthening family ties they need checking first as not all family is sympathetic.'

'In addition to economic impact of those living with serious illness'

'Recognising the mental health impact of abuse - feel this is worded round the wrong way - should it not be the impact of abuse on mental health?'

In response the project team has made the following changes to the 'Recovery' section of the document:

- the subheading 'recognising the mental health impact of abuse' has changed to 'the impact of abuse on mental health'.
- recognition of the link between mental health needs, problematic substance use and domestic abuse as linked to multiple episodes of trauma has been included.
- The 'prioritising family bonds' section has been rewritten to aid clarity.
- the 'recognising the experts' section of the strategy has been redrafted to make it clearer that the experts are those who have been impacted by abuse, and also to acknowledge the key role of the voluntary sector within this space.

Changes are highlighted in **Appendix B: You Said, We Did**.

5.3.4 Equality analysis:

Respondents were asked if they feel there is anything which should be considered relating to equality and diversity.

Comments included the following:

'Rural communities struggle to access services- transportation issues also housing in rural areas and accessing ongoing support'

'Under religion, I noted the emphasis on honour-based violence. But there was not recognition of the issue of so-called 'male headship' in some Christian churches, which provides leverage and cover for domestic abuse, and the use of doctrine to prevent people from reporting abuse, leaving relationships or processing experiences as abuse.'

'Learn about different types of abuse in the community [as] it's there it's hidden.'

In response to feedback the project team have:

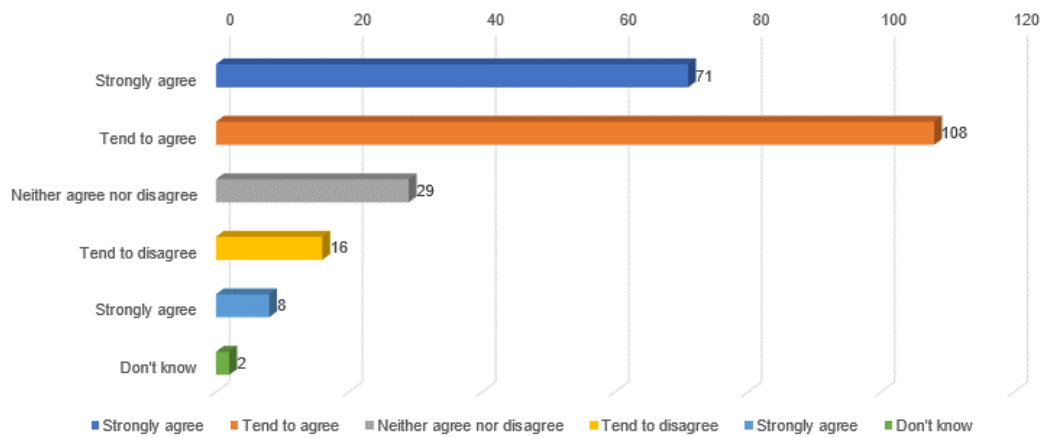
- added a section on those living in rural areas in the Immediate Need section of the strategy.
- included an additional section within professional development (early intervention and prevention) which includes training to challenge behaviours which may be linked to an interpretation of cultural identities based on subordination and unequal power. This will further be developed as the Executive Group moves to create the delivery plan.

The equality analysis also highlighted under-reporting of abuse by older adults, those with a disability and the higher likelihood of experiencing abuse as a gay, lesbian or bisexual person. Throughout the strategy there are commitments focussed on raising awareness, increasing service uptake, supporting collaboration to develop needs led work and working with the specialist 'by and for' market to combat this.

5.3.5 Anything else

Respondents were asked *how much do you agree or disagree the commitments in the strategy could achieve this aim?*

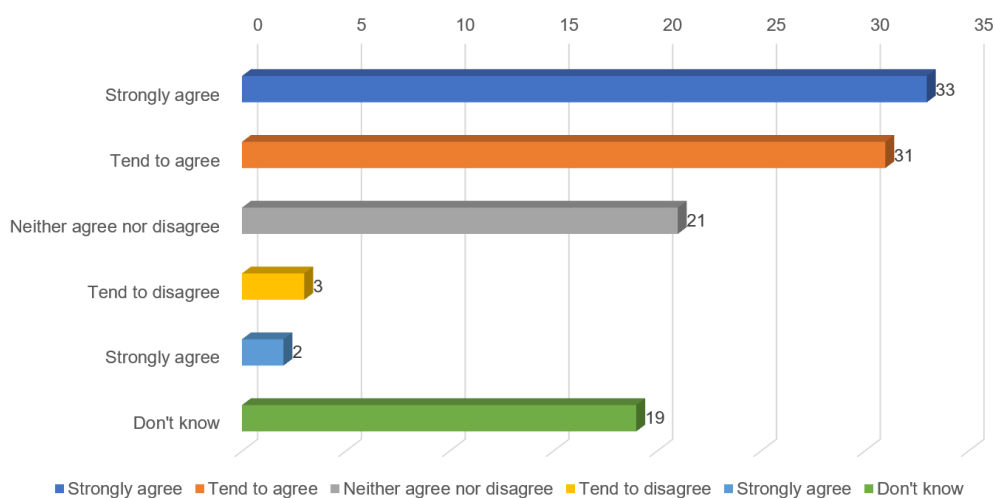
Figure 6: how much do you agree or disagree the commitments in the strategy could achieve this aim?



179 respondents either strongly agreed or tended to agree that the commitments within the strategy could achieve the aim. 24 respondents either tended to disagree or strongly disagreed.

To the question 'If you are responding as an organisation, please tell us how much you agree or disagree that your organisation will be able to support the commitments made in this strategy' the following responses were gained.

Figure 7: If you are responding as an organisation, please tell us how much you agree or disagree that your organisation will be able to support the commitments made in this strategy?



64 respondents either strongly agreed or tended to agree and 5 respondents either tended to disagree or strongly disagreed with 19 not knowing.

The aim of the strategy is consistent with the 2020 – 2023 strategy and with the Terms of Reference of the Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group. These findings will be used by the group to explore the development of the aim in the future.

There were a number of really positive comments on the strategy. Some are included below.

‘Really encouraging and positive that the Strategy makes commitments to address what have been identified as gaps in provision e.g. strengthening services around recovery, more support to safely keep victims in their own homes and piloting making refuge accommodation available to male victims. Thank you - we will look forward to working with you to deliver the Strategy in our area.’

‘The strategy is excellent, and reassurance that it is a promise, and not something organisations will pay lip-service to, [it] will help survivors have trust that they can seek support and will be seen and heard’.

‘The Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy is comprehensive and has a thoughtful approach to addressing the complex issue of domestic abuse. The strategy effectively highlights a broad spectrum of essential areas, demonstrating a strong commitment to providing support and resources for survivors and their families.’

‘The inclusion of early intervention and prevention measures, such as raising awareness of domestic abuse and its various forms, is an excellent step toward fostering a safer environment and promoting healthy relationships. Additionally, the strategy’s emphasis on professional training is crucial in ensuring that those in positions of influence are equipped to identify and respond to domestic abuse effectively.’

‘I particularly appreciate the strategy’s dedication to recognising the diverse needs of survivors and its commitment to providing equitable and accessible support services. The focus on addressing barriers such as mental health support requirements and financial independence underscores the strategy’s understanding of the multi-faceted challenges survivors often face.’

‘The strategy’s commitment to collaboration among partners is a key strength. The call for continued liaison and collaboration is essential for maximising the impact of the strategy. By working together, partners can avoid duplication of efforts, streamline resources, and ensure a more cohesive and holistic approach to support services. This collaborative approach is crucial in reaching as many individuals as

possible and preventing any unnecessary burden on both survivors and service providers.’

6. Next Steps

Once approved the Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group will be responsible for creating a delivery plan to support the commitments within the strategy and to monitor outcomes. These will be reported to Kent County Council’s Policy and Resource Cabinet Committee on a yearly basis.

Report Author

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Links to documents:

Consultation documents: Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy

<https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/domestic-abuse-strategy-2024-2029>

Appendix A: Engagement during informal and formal consultation

Meetings attended:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suicide Prevention meeting (adults) • The Domestic Abuse Voluntary Sector subgroup • Kent Community Safety Partnership • Kent Community Safety Information Session

- Medway Safeguarding Board
- Medway Community Safety Executive Group
- Blue Light Project
- Medway Voluntary Action Forum
- Children and Adults Directorate Management Team
- Medway Homelessness Forum
- Kent Housing Options Group
- The Domestic Abuse Forum Chairs
- Tunbridge Wells Members Briefing
- KCC All Party Members Briefing
- Single Parent Staff Group (KCC)
- Rainbow Staff Group (KCC)
- Soroptimist (Folkestone and Hythe, Maidstone and Medway)
- Health Visting Services (across Kent)
- Domestic Abuse Forums (across Kent and Medway)
- Joint Kent Chiefs
- Children's Suicide Prevention Meeting
- Sevenoaks District Community Safety Partnership
- Kent and Medway Women's Forum
- SPACE Matters
- Reducing Abusive Behaviour Working Group

Newsletters

- People's Panel
- Adult Social Care – For You, Newsletter
- Kent and Medway Better Health and Suicide Prevention newsletter,
- Learning Disability Partnership Board,
- Keeping Safe group,
- Your Voice Network
- Let's Talk Kent,
- Armed Forces Leads and Unit Welfare Officers
- Disability Assist October Newsletter
- Kelsi e-bulletin September and October
- Kent Association of Head Teachers
- Dad's Unlimited newsletter
- Aspire, MS Teams Channel and August Communications Round up
- Staff Ethnic Diversity Forum – Allies, MS Teams Channel
- Carers East Kent
- East Kent Partnership Bulletin
- DA Practice Newsletter September for ICS staff
- A Better Medway

Awareness raising workshops:

- Informal consultation workshop (April 23) – approximately 80 attendees from the public and voluntary sector
- Formal consultation (September 23) approximately 40 attendees from the public and voluntary sector including:
 - Kent Police, Tunbridge and Malling Borough Council, Dover District Council, Folkestone and Hythe District Council, Sevenoaks Council, Gravesham Borough Council, Medway Council, Ashford Borough Council, Thanet District Council, MHS Homes, Department of Work and Pensions, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, Forward Trust, Dads Unlimited, Angel Lane, Home Start, Protection Against stalking, New Leaf Support Domestic Abuse Service, Safe Arms.
 - Medway Survivor Feedback Workshop with 13 people with lived experience, from across Medway and Kent.

Presence at community events:

- Tovil Community Event
- DAWN event Maidstone
- Adult Social Care Summit
- Age UK, Thanet
- Rise4Disability

Media releases and website publications:

- North Kent Mind – news release
- Kent and Surrey bylines
- Dunkirk Parish Council
- Faversham Town Council
- Chartham Parish Council
- Neighbourhood Alert
- The Isle of Thanet News
- Kelsi
- Lydd Town Council
- Newington Parish Council
- Ryarsh Parish Council
- Medway and Maidstone Soroptimists
- Horsmonden Parish Council
- Ditton Parish Council
- Stronger Kent Communities (shared via Linked In)
- Health Watch Kent

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrotham Parish Council
Other actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emailed posters sent to all libraries and children centres • Emailed interfaith groups and known faith groups • Knet • Emailed contacts on 'Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise Organisations in Kent' • Emailed 'Let's Talk' consultation list • Emailed KALC (Kent Association of Local Councils)

Appendix B – You Said, We Did.

You said, we did

The below table summarises some of the themes from the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy consultation and how changes have been made in response.

You told us:	Changes we've made:
Background information and the Domestic Abuse Act	
We could make stronger links within the strategy to issues such as stalking and homelessness.	<p>We have included information on interlinking strategies and boards which support this join up.</p> <p>We recognise that stalking and homelessness interlink with domestic abuse and have strengthened the references within the strategy.</p>
We could include more detailed information on the definition of domestic abuse, including the impact	We have revised this section of the strategy and included further information on children.

on children and adolescent to parent abuse.	A hyper link to the Domestic Abuse Act is also included.
You highlighted increased risk across different protected characteristic groups.	We have included an infographic section which gives information around risk.
We could include more data on domestic abuse in Kent and Medway.	We agree, and this has been added.
To include commitments on how we will support those with No Resource to Public Funds	This is now included within the 'immediate need' section of the strategy.
Early Intervention and Prevention	
We need to strengthen work with schools, making sure they have the information that they need to support education and early intervention.	<p>The Partnership will commit to inviting schools to events to increase information sharing across Kent and Medway as part of the delivery plan.</p> <p>We will seek opportunity to work with schools to support healthy relationship, upstander and bystander education.</p> <p>We will support training on trauma informed responses where children disclose abuse and seek support.</p>
You asked if professional training could include increasing knowledge regarding immigration status, honour-based violence, forced marriage and challenges faced by the LGBT+ community	A commitment has been added to reflect this.
Professional development must include training on how to challenge behaviours which may be linked to an interpretation of cultural identities	We agree. Our staff need to be equipped, confident and able to explore and challenge behaviour which may be linked to interpretations of aspects of culture

based on subordination and unequal power.	which put people at risk of harm, abuse or death.
We need to have strong and transparent management of accusations of abuse against our own staff.	We agree and have added a commitment within experiences of justice.
You highlighted the importance of active listening and non-judgemental responses.	We have added a commitment supporting this to 'professional training'.
You highlighted the importance of staff understanding how to manage and respond to disclosures.	We agree, and this has been added to 'professional training'
You have highlighted the increasing risk of technology, and how this can be used in abuse.	We agree. We have included a section on better understanding changing technology and how this is used in domestic abuse within 'strengthening services'.
Immediate Need	
We need to recognise that abuse of pets can be used by the person perpetrating abuse, and that many people will not flee if their pet is not safe.	This is an important point. We have added a section on pets.
We should commit to better referrals and stronger communication between agencies to reduce a person having to re tell their experience multiple times.	We agree and have added this to 'immediate need'.
We should include more information on available legal protections.	These protections may change over the lifetime of the strategy so we have included

	<p>a link to the Crown Prosecution Service website which will include the latest information.</p>
<p>The strategy should include strengthening management of counter allegations.</p>	<p>We will include a commitment to better understand counter allegations within the 'Experiences of Justice' section.</p> <p>We will reference typologies of abuse and the importance of professional training on these typologies.</p>
<p>The strategy currently does not address gendered experiences of abuse.</p>	<p>The draft has sought to be inclusive of all experiences of abuse.</p> <p>We recognise that women suffer higher risk of serious violence and death, and also that more women than men are impacted by domestic abuse.</p> <p>We also recognise that men and those who have transitioned gender or are non-binary may experience further barriers to reporting or accessing services.</p> <p>We have added information on challenging stereotypes and bias, supporting evidence-based understandings of the perpetration and impact of abuse.</p>
<p>We should recognise the impact that moving to safe accommodation has on children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities</p>	<p>We have added a commitment to support children with Special Educational Needs having their needs considered when moving into safe accommodation.</p>
<p>You highlighted that it can be difficult to access safe accommodation support if you are seen to hold assets (such as a mortgage).</p>	<p>We agree and have added this to the strategy and will continue to look at this area within the delivery plan.</p>

<p>We should include the way that children can be used within abuse, including within the court process.</p> <p>Children may copy abusive behaviours which can create a form of secondary abuse.</p>	<p>We have included this within the 'Immediate Need' section of the strategy.</p>
<p>You highlighted that both Kent and Medway have rural communities, and this can increase barriers to access.</p>	<p>We agree and have included this within 'immediate need'.</p>
<p>Recovery</p>	
<p>You highlighted that we should recognise that drugs and alcohol use may be linked to ways of coping with experience.</p>	<p>We agree and have included this within the 'recognising the mental health impacts of abuse'.</p>
<p>Some were concerned that the wording around 'prioritising family bonds' could lead to these bonds being prioritised over safety.</p>	<p>This section has been re drafted to aid clarity.</p>
<p>You fed back on counter allegations and the impact of these on emotional and physical safety, particularly where post-separation abuse impacts recovery.</p>	<p>As well as adding a new paragraph and additional commitments under Immediate Need we have included promoting professional training on the use of counter allegations, family court and safe child contact arrangements to the 'prioritising family bonds' section of the strategy.</p>
<p>You highlighted that 'recognising the experts' must be people who have experienced domestic abuse rather than professionals. Also, we should clearly acknowledge the role of the voluntary sector within this work.</p>	<p>We have made this clearer in the strategy.</p> <p>We agree that this work is dependent on the vital contribution of the voluntary sector and have added this to the strategy.</p>
<p>How we will measure success</p>	

We should have more details on the individual projects which will meet the commitments.

This information will be within the delivery plan which will support the strategy and will be monitored by the Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group.

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Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024 – 2029

Accessing support

This is a strategy document about how we want to develop and improve our services over the next 5 years.

In Kent and Medway you can access domestic abuse services by contacting Victim Support for assessment and referral to your local service by calling **0808 168 9111** or using the **Live Chat** facility.

Alternatively, you can contact the freephone 24 hour National Domestic Violence Helpline run in partnership between Women’s Aid and Refuge on 0808 2000 247 or the Men’s’ Advice Line on 0808 801 0327. If you are concerned about your use of abusive behaviour the Respect helpline is available on 0808 8024040.

If you are in immediate danger please do not be afraid to call 999, otherwise you can contact Kent Police on the non-emergency telephone number 101 or visit your local police station to speak with an officer in confidence.

If you can’t speak out loud, you can press 55 so that the operator knows you need help. You can also video call 999 to communicate in BSL for free by visiting the 999 BSL website or downloading the app.

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An executive summary of this strategy has been produced. The executive summary is available in Easy Read and in British Sign Language.

In partnership with and supported by



Foreword

Signed



Roger Gough
Leader, Kent County Council



Vince Maple
Leader, Medway Council



Simon Wilson
Assistant Chief Constable (Crime), Kent Police

Domestic abuse is prolific and wide reaching. In 2022 2.4 million adults experienced abuse¹. The impact of abuse can result in a range of negative and harmful effects on health, wellbeing and outcomes in life. Domestic abuse impacts upon future generations and their ability, capacity and attitude towards relationships, parenting, self-esteem and mental health. Abuse does not sit in isolation but may be linked to other life experiences which may include financial and economic exclusion, mental health support needs, substance dependencies or homelessness.

The Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group are proud to be prioritising and continuing to build on the achievements of our domestic and sexual abuse multiagency partnership. This strategy, our second Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy (2024- 2029) has been developed using narratives of lived experience.

These narratives are powerful and illustrate the often-complex journey a person moves through that may include identifying abuse, immediate need and recovery. This journey can look different for everyone and is not linear.

Domestic abuse can be hidden, leaving lasting physical, mental, social, and economic damage. Within this strategy we aim to challenge negative societal attitudes and stigma linked to discussing abuse, encouraging conversation and education. We need to ensure the immediate needs of people are met, by establishing support services to help intervene when a person is ready to disclose abuse, support

children impacted by abuse and aid the development of programmes which challenge perpetration and abusive behaviours. We must also work to ensure that services can be shaped and developed to respond to a longer-term journey of recovery, recognising that this recovery involves broader structures which aid the re-establishment of stability. Many different services, both statutory and voluntary work to support families and individuals affected by domestic abuse across Kent and Medway. These services often work together to make sure that provision is coordinated, identifying potential areas for improvement in the services that are being delivered. This strategy seeks to support this coordination working to ensure that people feel safe, secure and supported during their journey.

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to those who have provided examples of lived experiences of abuse and engaged with our research programmes both in Medway and in Kent, thank you to the children and young people who have given their ideas for development of services and thank you to the professionals who have given their time to feed into the development of this strategy. Without your valuable insight this strategy could not be formed.

1. Office of National Statistics, Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview: November 2023
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/domesticabuseinenglandandwalesoverview/november2022>

Introduction

This is a document produced by the Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group which includes partners across Kent County Council, Medway Council, Kent Fire and Rescue Services, Kent Police, the National Probation Service, the NHS, the Department of Work and Pensions, the Police and Crime Commissioner and all Kent District, Borough and City Councils (referred to in this document as the Partnership).

This strategy works to achieve the joint collective aim to: ‘reduce the prevalence of domestic abuse, and ensure that where domestic abuse takes place, all those affected get the right support, quickly’.

This strategy identifies joint commitments across the Partnership for those impacted by domestic abuse, and is inclusive of those who are or have been abused, those who perpetrate through abuse, and children who witness abuse, using the voice of people who have experienced abuse to identify areas of priority across the Partnership’s collective service provision.

This strategy also supports Kent County Council and Medway Council’s statutory duty to fulfil their responsibility to have a strategy which details aims and priorities for adults and children who have experienced domestic abuse in safe accommodation services.



Governance

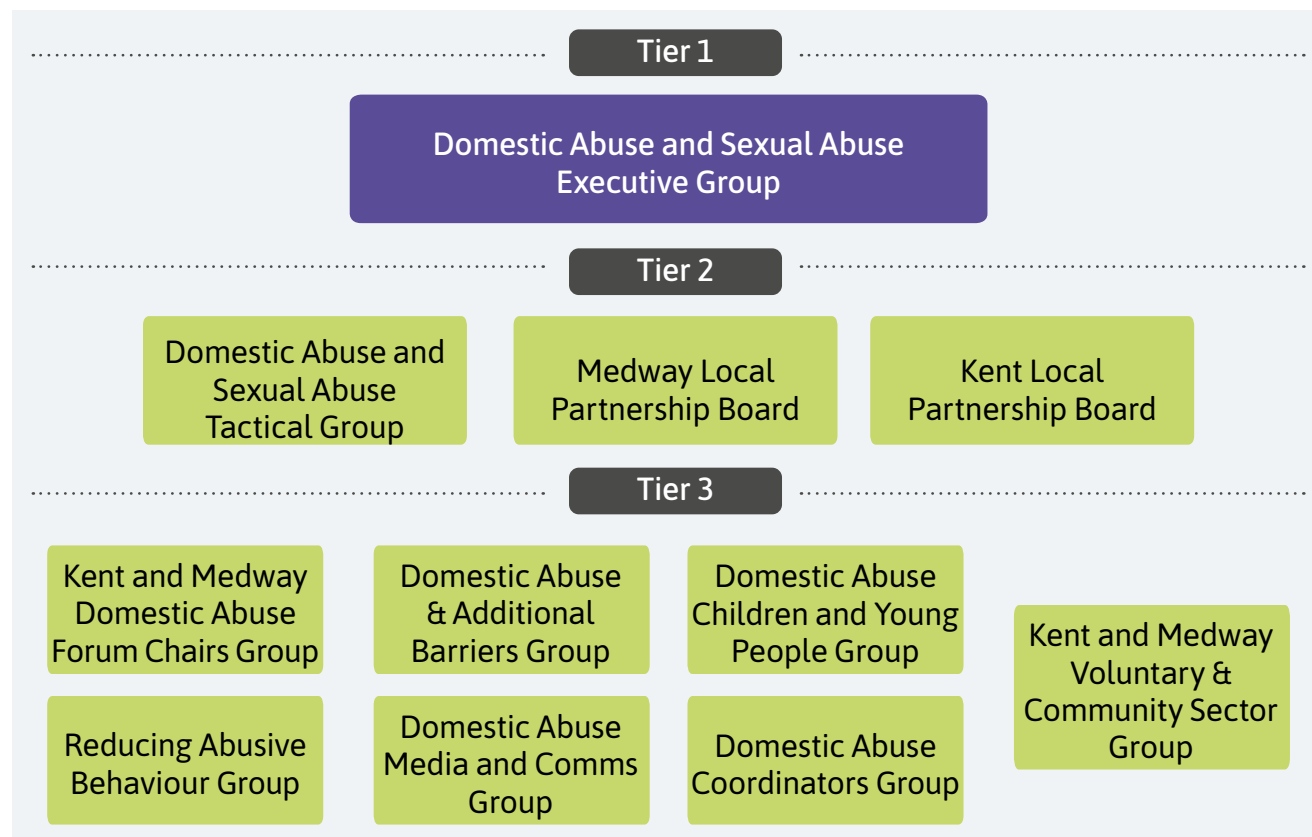
The Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group, and the associated governance structure supporting this work, brings together experts in the field of domestic abuse, who work in partnership to strengthen responses across Kent and Medway.

The Executive Group is supported by a number of meetings including the statutory Local Partnership Boards within Kent and Medway which ensure delivery of legal duties linked to the 2021 Domestic

Abuse Act. This strategy includes areas which relate to these legal duties which are highlighted using this logo:



The Partnership will work collaboratively to meet the commitments within the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy which sets out the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse and Sexual Abuse Executive Group's joint vision, priorities, and commitments.



The Domestic Abuse Act 2021

The Domestic Abuse Act received Royal Assent at the end of April 2021. The Act works to increase awareness of domestic abuse, to improve the effectiveness of the criminal justice system and to strengthen support for people who have experienced abuse.²

The Act also creates a statutory definition of domestic abuse for the first time. Behaviour is classed as domestic abuse when:

‘two people are personally connected to each other, over the age of 16 and where the behaviour between each other is abusive.’³

This definition may relate to both a single incident or a course or pattern of behaviours. It includes those who are in, or have been in intimate relationships or behaviour between family members regardless of gender or sexuality.

Domestic abuse impacts children. Children who see, hear or experience the effects of domestic abuse and are related to either of the parties are considered victims of domestic abuse independently of the adult who experiences the abuse.

Children suffer both direct and indirect harm from domestic abuse and while the strategy uses the definition from the Domestic Abuse Act, definitions in other legislation related to child abuse and neglect may also be relevant.

Adolescent to parent violence is classified as domestic abuse when both parties are over the age of 16. While it is recognised that adolescent to parent violence can

equally involve children under 16, interventions may be different from responses to adults perpetrating abusive behaviours.

Additionally, ‘honour-based’ abuse is an umbrella term which may involve physical abuse including forced physical traumas such as breast flattening or female genital mutilation, psychological pressure or forced marriage. This is often perpetrated by a person’s family and members of a community with the aim of protecting or defending honour. This is a violation of human rights and a form of domestic abuse.⁴ Harmful behaviours due to ‘honour-based’ abuse can present in different ways and are sometimes used as leverage and cover for domestic abuse.



2. Domestic Abuse Act 2021 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/17/contents/enacted>

3. Reference as above

4. The Crown Prosecution Service, November 2023

[So-Called Honour-Based Abuse | The Crown Prosecution Service \(cps.gov.uk\)](#)


The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 continued

Statement on sexual abuse

While this strategy seeks to coordinate aims and delivery on domestic abuse it will incorporate sexual abuse when this aligns with the domestic abuse definition. The Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Partnership recognise that sexual abuse and violence happens outside of this definition.

The Partnership seeks to support coordinated working on sexual abuse which is not included within this strategy. The Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group will create a working group made up of key partners to establish the actions required across the Partnership to strengthen and embed responses to sexual abuse and violence across Kent & Medway. This working group will collaborate with existing partnership activities and statutory responsibilities, such as the safeguarding boards and responses to the Serious Violence Duty, to ensure approaches are aligned.

SAFE ACCOMMODATION



Kent County Council and Medway Council have a responsibility by law to assess the need for, and provide support for those in safe accommodation for all those impacted by abuse and their children, both for those who live within area, and those who come from outside the area.

The definition of safe accommodation includes:

1. refuge;
2. specialist accommodation (including dedicated specialist support for people with protected characteristics such as a disability);
3. dispersed accommodation which includes self-contained accommodation;
4. move on, or second stage accommodation, a place to move to when intensive support is no longer needed but a level of support is still beneficial;
5. sanctuary schemes where physical security measures have been put in place into a person's home.

No recourse to public funds

"While I appreciate the help I received, I also feel I was grossly misguided. And I think my situation is very niche and they weren't quite sure how to guide me... In cases like mine, where there's the element of, you know the immigration aspect and financial abuse to the extent I've experienced..."

People experiencing abuse who may have limited access to public funding due to their immigration status may be highly vulnerable, their status may be an additional way for a person using abusive behaviour to control them.

Dependent on a person's situation there may be opportunities to support them under various legislation which might include the Care Act (2014), the Childrens Act (Section 17, 1989) and the Human Rights Act (1998). This strategy includes a commitment to increase professional awareness, which is further detailed in the 'Immediate Need' section of this strategy.

Domestic Abuse facts and figures



Statistics on domestic abuse are helpful in identifying trends, but any use of statistics needs to be carefully considered because domestic abuse is often hidden and under reported.

Nationally



An estimated 2.4 million adults aged 16 and over have experienced domestic abuse within the last year. This is a prevalence rate of around 5 in 100 adult.⁵



Women are around twice as likely to experience abuse than men, equating to an estimated 1.7 million women and 699,000 men.⁶



Between April 2018 and March 2021 269 women and 104 men were victims of a domestic homicide.⁷



Over 10% of adults with a disability experienced domestic abuse in the last year, compared to 4% of adults without a disability.⁸



People from minoritized ethnicities are less likely to disclose abuse and may suffer 1.5 times longer before seeking help.⁹



Bisexual adults were more likely to have experienced domestic abuse in the last year (15.2%) than gay or lesbian (8.4%), or heterosexual adults (5.2%).¹⁰



Research has suggested that up to 80% of trans people have experienced emotionally, sexually, or physically abusive behaviour from a partner or ex-partner.¹¹

5. "Office of national Statistics, Domestic Abuse prevalence and trends, England and Wales: November 2023"
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/domesticabuseinenglandandwalesoverview/november2023>

6. Reference as above

7. Reference as above

8. Reference as above

9. "Nomis, Official census and labour market statistics, November 2023"
<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/datasets/apsnew>

10. "HM Government, Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan, November 2023"
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/624422988fa8f527785ed11c/E02735263_Tackling_Domestic_Abuse_CP_639_Elay_002_.pdf

11. "LGBT Youth Scotland, Transgender People's Experiences of Domestic Abuse, November 2023"
<https://www.scottishtrans.org/our-work/census2022/>

Domestic Abuse facts and figures continued



There were 2,887 offences related to honour-based abuse were recorded in England and Wales in the year ending March 2021.¹²



Around 1 in 5 children have been exposed to domestic abuse in their household.¹⁷

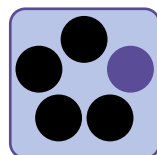


Over 22,000 domestic abuse referrals were made through the Kent domestic abuse helplines in 2022.²¹



In 2022 the Forced Marriage Unit dealt with a total of 302 cases.¹³

Kent & Medway



1 in 5 recorded crimes (22%) in Kent and Medway are related to domestic abuse.¹⁸



Over 4000 people accessed community services such as MARAC, community and specialist IDVAs or outreach support in Kent & Medway in 2022-23.²²



One in four (23%) victims of recorded domestic homicides are over the age of 60. They were almost equally likely to be killed by a partner or spouse (46%) as they were by their (adult) children or grandchildren (44%).¹⁴



Over 63,000 adults in Kent & Medway were projected to have experienced domestic abuse in 2021-22.¹⁹



Over 24,000 children in Kent & Medway live in a household where an adult was experiencing domestic abuse.²⁰

Both Kent and Medway produce strategic needs assessments for domestic abuse which use data from services to identify trends in service provision and highlight any gaps in support and provision, or areas which we need to strengthen.



32% of homeless women said domestic abuse contributed to their homelessness.¹⁵



Nearly 4 times as many women in the lowest income bracket had experienced domestic abuse in the last 12 months (17.0%), compared with those in the highest household income bracket (4.3%).¹⁶

12. "Home Office, Statistics on so called 'honour-based' abuse offences, England and Wales, 2021 to 2022, November 2023" <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statistics-on-so-called-honour-based-abuse-offences-england-and-wales-2021-to-2022/statistics-on-so-called-honour-based-abuse-offences-england-and-wales-2021-to-2022>
 13. "Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Forced Marriage Unit statistics 2022, November 2023" [Forced Marriage Unit statistics 2022](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/forced-marriage-unit-statistics-2022)
 14. "Age UK, Parliamentary Briefing, No Age Limit: Domestic Abuse, November 2023" <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/globalassets/age-uk/documents/reports-and-publications/reports-and-briefings/parliamentary-briefing---domestic-abuse---jan-2020.pdf>
 15. "Safelives, Homelessness and domestic abuse, November 2023" <https://safelives.org.uk/spotlight-5-homelessness-and-domestic-abuse>

16. "Office of National Statistics, November 2023" (Office for National Statistics) (2017) Domestic abuse in England and Wales: year ending March 2017. London: ONS.
 17. "NSPCC, Child abuse and neglect in the UK today, November 2023" [Child abuse and neglect in the UK today | NSPCC Learning](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/learning-and-research/child-abuse-and-neglect-in-the-uk-today/)
 18. Domestic Abuse Statistics Data Tool, Home Office, November 2022
 19. From Kent & Medway's service reports 2022-23: Internal data
 20. "Children's Commissioner, Children in families at risk, 2018" <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/vulnerable-children/children-in-families-at-risk-local-area-maps/>
 21. From Kent & Medway's service reports 2022-23: Internal data
 22. Reference as above

Domestic Abuse facts and figures continued

SAFE ACCOMMODATION



Data from our refuges and other safe accommodation

(2022/2023 commissioned services data)

Kent

- 208 people accessed Kent County Council commissioned refuge.
- 51.9% of people in Kent refuges had accompanying children.
- 6.3% of people in refuge identified as lesbian, gay, or pansexual.
- Of those in refuge, 8.2% had a physical or sensory disability and 1.9% had a learning disability.
- 42.3% of those in refuge identified as needing mental health support (as a secondary need).
- 63.9% of individuals in refuge identified as “White – British” and 31.7% identified as other ethnic minority groups.
- 52.4% of people in refuge came from outside Kent.

Medway

- 59 people accessed safe accommodation services in Medway.
- 47 children were supported whilst in safe accommodation.
- 15 adults and children accessed counselling and play therapy in refuge.
- 21% of people accessing refuge accommodation in Medway identified as black or from a minority ethnic group.
- 13% of people were between 16 – 25 years old.
- 51 % of people reported as having a mental health need.
- 16% of people had a disability in refuge.
- Over a year 113 people have benefited from Sanctuary Scheme adaptations to enable them to remain safely in their homes.



Domestic Abuse facts and figures continued

Gaps identified from the 2021 needs assessment which focused on safe accommodation are highlighted within the table below, as is information on how we will, or have met these gaps.

SAFE ACCOMMODATION



Identified gaps in provision

Kent

Gap identified

Support services for children and young people in safe accommodation.

How we will meet or have met the gap

Within Kent the safe accommodation support service for children is commissioned. This service supports access to group, one-to-one and peer support, and has extended the length of provision available for therapeutic support for children and young people.

Access to services for people with multiple barriers such as dependency and mental health support requirements.

Training is being developed for those working with people with mental health support needs on domestic abuse, and for those working in domestic abuse on mental health. Additional training has also been rolled out on intersectionality between dependencies (including alcohol and drug dependencies) and domestic abuse.

Specialist Independent Domestic Violence Advisors have been commissioned. These roles provide a dedicated, intensive, specialist resource delivering a joined-up, multi-agency support package, liaising with key organisations such as mental health services, substance misuse treatment services and criminal justice agencies to deliver consistency and positive outcomes for vulnerable clients.

Enhanced therapeutic support is also available which provides enhanced and responsive therapeutic support and additional provision for those with co-occurring conditions (16 years+) to improve access to refuges.

Further work is ongoing to develop projects in this area.

Domestic Abuse facts and figures continued

SAFE ACCOMMODATION



Kent

Access to secure secondary accommodation options when moving out of refuge or other safe accommodation.

Tenancy Support Officers have been introduced to increase support and advocacy for those moving from safe accommodation.

Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance Accreditation will support strong and consistent housing responses across area, and is being sought by all tier 2 authorities, supported by Kent County Council (KCC).

Provision in Sanctuary schemes vary across the county, meaning some people may get more robust support in one scheme compared to another.

Kent County Council will commission a Sanctuary service which will extend the availability of services within Kent .

Safe Access for Eligible Residents (SAFER) is a scheme which has been developed by Kent County Council with engagement from all partner agencies and people with lived experience of domestic abuse.

The scheme will extend the availability of Sanctuary services within Kent and access to support for those residing in properties where Sanctuary has been applied.

Access to refuge accommodation for men

A pilot which will support men in safe accommodation has been commissioned.



Domestic Abuse facts and figures continued

SAFE ACCOMMODATION



Medway

Gap identified

How we will meet or have met the gap

Access to services for people with multiple barriers such as dependency and mental health support requirements.

Medway Council will continue to commission an Access Independent Domestic Violence Adviser to offer specialist support for those with barriers to access such as complex mental health needs or substance and/or alcohol dependency. This is also an outreach post to work with those who are rough sleeping with the aim of supporting people into safe accommodation.

Access to secure secondary accommodation options when moving out of refuge or other safe accommodation.

Medway Council have introduced a specialist Domestic Abuse Housing Options Officer, who are also a trained Independent Domestic Violence Advisor to support access to secondary accommodation.

Support in temporary accommodation.

The dispersed accommodation contract was reviewed early in 2023 to include households placed in temporary accommodation due to domestic abuse, providing they are placed in suitable 'safe and relevant' accommodation as outlined in Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. An additional Independent Domestic Violence Advisor has been brought in to support people facing multiple barriers to access, who have needed Sanctuary measures installed in their property

Mental Health support within safe accommodation.

The mental health needs of children and adults are supported through an in-house counselling service, for people in both refuge and dispersed safe accommodation.

Access to refuge accommodation for men and other people impacted by abuse who cannot access refuge e.g. larger families, those with pets or other needs.

Medway Council has commissioned a dispersed accommodation scheme for those people where refuge is not suitable/accessible or those who want to remain in Medway and close to their school, work or support networks. This scheme started in December 2021.

Funding

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 has created specific funding to support those impacted by domestic abuse who access safe accommodation. The funding allocated to date is detailed in Appendix A. At the time this strategy was published the funding allocation was not known past 2024/2025. Funding available will continue to be used to meet gaps identified through the needs assessments which are refreshed or renewed yearly.

Whilst statutory funding is specific to the support of those who reside in safe accommodation, we know that most people experiencing domestic abuse will choose to access support in the community, wanting to increase their safety whilst maintaining their networks and homes.

Within this strategy we have used the information available including published research, quantitative information and talking to people about their experiences, to identify where the Partnership can make a difference, but we do recognise that this strategy is aspirational and that not all elements are funded through statutory monies.

Funding for some areas of this strategy is dependent on continued local and national funding and options for collaborative bids. The Partnership will seek opportunities to access monies to support commitments and work with local providers to strengthen local bids from Kent and Medway.



Kent and Medway strategic priorities

This section of the strategy outlines commitments from the Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group (the Partnership).

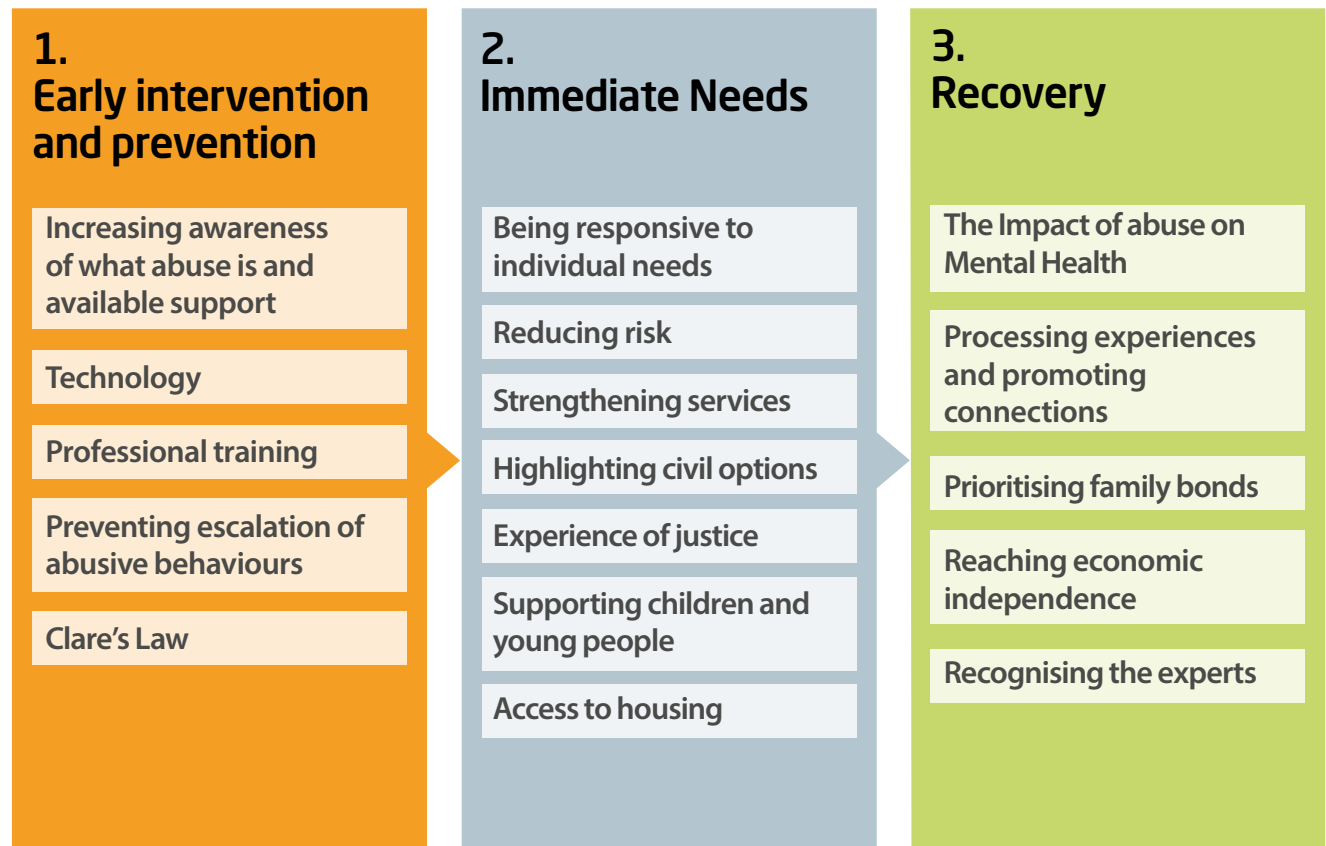
It starts with a focus on early intervention and prevention which aims to challenge negative societal attitudes and stigma linked to discussing abuse, increasing awareness, reducing the escalation of abusive behaviours and encouraging conversation and education.

The strategy then moves to focus on support when

a person is in crisis or in immediate need exploring the provision and support that adults, children and families need at this time.

Lastly the strategy explores recovery, and how services can be shaped and developed to respond to a longer-term journey and progression to healing, recognising that this involves broader structures which aid the re-establishment of stability.

The headings under each priority have been informed by research and from interviews on experience.



1. Early intervention and prevention

"For me it's like everyone just needs educating. What is domestic abuse? So, at school you go all the way through every organisation. You know, every judge, solicitor, whoever is involved in anything to do with domestic abuse should be trained... People would think differently. I think, you know, courts would be different, the legal system will be different and other people's perceptions. Even if it's taught at school, young girls, boys, how they grow up and their perception of what abuse is [is] really important."

"I feel like something needs to be taught in schools. That's just my opinion. Because what I kind of uncovered with my counselling is that me personally, a lot of my issues stem from childhood trauma, and then you end up finding yourself in a relationship at a young age with a trauma bond... If I had been taught better about relationships and what gaslighting is and what manipulating someone looks like I would [have been] a lot more educated like now."

"Communication with different generations is key – different forms for different ages e.g. TV (awareness) for older people, social media and TikTok for younger generations - targeted messages for different generations"

"More awareness needed for everyone -e.g., the lady at the GP that takes your blood and notices a bruise on your arm"

What do we mean by early intervention and prevention?

This theme aims to increase the focus on early intervention and prevention, to stop domestic abuse occurring, to help people identify domestic abuse as early as possible and get support in place to stop the impacts from escalating.

Early intervention can take different forms. We know that anyone can be impacted by abuse at any age, and identifying opportunities to reduce the long-term impacts needs to happen across life stages.

Early intervention means increasing awareness and providing education, so that people are aware of what domestic abuse is, while giving people the skills they need to identify healthy relationships.

If a person has identified that they are experiencing abuse, they need to know what support is available, so they can get the right support at the right time to prevent further escalation.

Education also helps people to identify when their behaviours may be abusive. Earlier identification of harmful behaviours can support access to interventions which can prevent escalation of this behaviour.

Clare's Law can also support opportunities to identify risk earlier and is included within this section.

Early intervention and prevention *continued*

Increase awareness of what abuse is and available support

"I think even that domestic abuse helpline needs to be even more sign posted because I didn't even know about it. And they helped me to where I am now".

"Having and knowing where to go when you are in that real lonely state is one of the most important things, if you have got nobody else".

"[people experiencing abuse] have just got to feel that they can go somewhere. Because when you do reach out, you've reached that point where you really need help and you don't want people just to leave you hanging."

Knowing where and how to access support is crucial, when a person is ready to reach out for help, they must know where to turn. Effective communications can support increased awareness and can also be used to promote understanding of domestic abuse and that it can affect anyone irrespective of age, gender, ethnicity, disability or orientation.

Understanding what a healthy relationship is and what it looks like can support identification of relationships which are abusive.

To increase awareness of service provision and of what domestic abuse is, the Partnership will:

- work collaboratively to promote consistent messaging on access, ensuring that messaging and imagery is inclusive and diverse;
- use available communication channels to increase awareness of what abuse is and that it can impact anyone, ensuring communication is accessible;
- work to 'reach out' to groups currently not accessing services; this includes making communications accessible and translating information where appropriate;
- include communications on 'honour based' abuse including forced marriage, and work with communities to better understand how best to increase awareness of support;
- increase awareness of the different types of abuse including coercive behavior, economic abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, harassment and stalking and online or digital abuse;
- continue to improve information, promotion and uptake of available resources for more consistent domestic abuse curriculum content as part of healthy relationship and sex education, helping to identify abuse in early intimate relationships.

Technology

The use of technology to perpetrate domestic abuse has risen with the increase in use of smart phones, tablets and internet connected home devices. Those using abusive behaviours use these tools to further harm people who are experiencing the abuse by monitoring, stalking, harassment and impersonation.

More understanding of rapidly changing technologies and how this is used to perpetrate domestic abuse is needed to prevent escalation and reduce the risk.

The Partnership will:

- increase the awareness of technologies used to perpetrate abuse so it can be more easily recognised and prevented.

Early intervention and prevention *continued*

Professional training

“Domestic abuse training needs to be there for every professional and it should be a statutory thing that every professional needs to have, like health and safety. Because if people knew how to recognise the signs of it, I think people could help others to pick it up and to recognise it themselves, or at least be able to offer them a service that’s available in your area if you want to access it.”

- support professionals across our services to be domestic abuse informed, taking opportunities to identify risk and using trauma informed approaches in response;
- continue to develop our understanding of trauma and ensure our staff have access to training and development opportunities to explore and develop in this area;
- train professionals to help people feel safe when disclosing abuse;
- ensure training is available for staff on areas such as options for support and the additional barriers experienced for those with no recourse to public funds, who are LGBT+ or are experiencing ‘honour based’ abuse, forced marriage, financial and economic, sexual or coercive abuse;
- equip staff to be able to explore and challenge behaviour which may be linked to interpretations of aspects of culture which put people at risk of harm, abuse or death.

The principles of trauma informed practice are safety, trust, choice, collaboration, empowerment and cultural consideration, empathically exploring the question of ‘what’s happened to you’. A ‘healing centered’ approach progresses this compassionate enquiry, and helps identify the strengths of those exposed to trauma, empowering them to heal and re-establish their own well-being, as opposed to being defined by being the victim survivor of traumatic events.

As employers we have a duty to our employees. This includes where they are impacted by abuse.

The Partnership Will:

- support policies and procedures that allow people to access specialist support and to make adaptations that enable them to stay safe at work;
- support behavior change and create accountability for those using abusive behaviour by taking a robust approach to any allegations of abusive behaviour made against our staff. We will instigate a formal management investigation in line with our policies and procedures and will support the complainant to understand available options for support.

Across the Partnership we have the opportunity to promote stronger understandings of abuse throughout our staff groups.

Staff should feel confident and empowered to respond to disclosures within complex contexts that they may find themselves within. People who disclose should feel safe and listened to. It is important that staff are trained as part of their induction and that training is reviewed and updated regularly.

We need to ensure that professionals working across our services have the training to develop the skills they need to identify and respond to domestic abuse as early as possible.

To support our staff to identify domestic abuse, and have trauma informed, healing centred, strong responses the Partnership will:

Early intervention and prevention continued

Preventing escalation of abusive behaviours

People who perpetrate through abusive behaviours cause significant harm to others. To stop abuse from occurring, recurring, or escalating we need to address those causing it. People perpetrating abusive behaviours may themselves have experienced or witnessed abuse and they can be at increased risk of suicide.²³ We need interventions in place to support the person while challenging and disrupting this behaviour.

Education is important in helping people to define abuse and to challenge behaviours and attitudes linked to this. We are working closely with the Violence Reduction Unit and Prevent team who support narrative on positive, strength-based identities where abusive and dangerous behaviours are challenged.

To reduce the escalation of abusive behaviours the Partnership will:

- support awareness of adverse childhood experiences (ACE) and trauma informed practice;
- work across communities to promote positive behaviours and challenge harmful gendered stereotyping;
- support work on bystander and upstander interventions;
- work with the Prevent team to better understand links between extremism, incels and domestic abuse;

- work to increase the recognition of, and response to, those perpetrating abusive behaviours across Partnership services in order to support the person, promote accountability and disrupt abusive behaviour.

Clare’s Law

“You know, there’s Clare’s Law, but Clare’s law is not well known. If you haven’t been through domestic abuse, you don’t know what Clare’s law is...”

If effectively used Clare’s Law can help to identify risk of abuse.

To increase the take up and use of Clare’s Law to prevent harm the Partnership will:

- review processes around Clare’s Law to try to make this as accessible as possible and increase use;
- increase awareness of the scheme through local social marketing so that people can make informed decisions about their safety.

Clare’s Law also known as the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) gives people the ‘right to ask’ if their current or ex-partner has any previous history of violence or abuse. It is called Clare’s Law after Clare Wood who was killed in 2009 by an ex-partner who unknown to her had been violent to previous partners.

Under the ‘right to ask’ the person impacted by abuse, family members and close friends can ask for this information which is released to the person at risk. The request is considered by a panel of Police, Probation, and other services. Information is only then passed on to the person at risk if it is deemed lawful, proportionate and necessary.

Under Clare’s Law people also have the ‘right to know’ where services proactively release information if they believe someone is at risk.

23. “National Suicide Prevention Alliance, Highlighting the link between domestic abuse and suicide, November 2023” <https://nspa.org.uk/resource/link-domestic-abuse-and-suicide/>

2. Immediate Needs

What do we mean by immediate needs?

"I was in such a bad place and didn't know where to go, who to talk to. It was hard to talk because of the kids around. It was hard to actually pick up the phone and physically try and call someone and talk to them. You know, some sort of service. So in the end, one evening I was just at a point where I really just wanted to end my life again and I found the Victim Support online and it had the online chat, so I started talking to somebody from there. That helped."

"It is the real loneliness. That is what for me probably was the hardest part in the beginning. . . I do believe for me the loneliness every time he would go was what made me take him back. I had nobody. I mean, normally you would have friends you can pick up the phone and call. I didn't have that. I had no friends anymore, not one."

"The IDVA service was amazing – I was so lonely; I didn't know how to do anything- didn't know how to use the TV because I wasn't allowed to before. If someone was able to check in with a phone call more frequently it would have been very helpful, every day or every few days after referral."

By immediate needs we mean the services, interventions and support that people need whilst

domestic abuse is occurring and in the immediate aftermath. These services may help with managing risk and increasing safety, but people may also need support with practical issues such as access to housing and school places.

All experiences of abuse are individual, and our services need to be flexible and responsive to meet these needs. Feedback from workshops and the voluntary sector highlighted the importance of high quality, joined up support, non-judgemental responses where people feel heard, and services which are both open to all and tailored to individual need.

Within this section we also look at housing and safe accommodation services with commitments to support improved responses.

Being responsive to individual need

"I had police officers turn up to ask me how I was. One of them sat down with me, gave me probably about sort of eight or nine different brochures. And it was like, you know, phone these people talk to these people. And but you don't wanna be here when she comes back. . . I think they handed me some [pamphlets] and they were just like, you know, these people won't be able to help you because these only deal with women. But if you give them a phone call and say, you know can you give me numbers? They would probably have other numbers you can call for help."

Immediate Needs continued

“If you’ve got money, whether it’s joint money or not, there’s not much help for you. People perceive that you can go and get a good solicitor, or you can leave him. Pack your bags and just leave and get in the car and go. And also, if you’ve got a home, you’re not getting housing, they aren’t gonna give you a home because you’ve got a home. ... I think there’s a lot of women probably like me who can never get out.”

“Even in diversity, there’s still diversity that needs to happen, but here no one looks like me, so I think there’s also that loneliness here where I want to go to staff, but you can’t quite understand all the things that I may need because you don’t know what it’s like to be me. Constantly having to explain yourself and who you are is exhausting.”

The Partnership must ensure that services can meet the needs of our diverse population; recognising that people’s journeys, trauma, support needs, and recovery are different. Characteristics such as our ethnicity, gender, sexuality, disabilities, and age can affect the risk of experiencing domestic abuse, the abusive tactics used and sometimes, the support we need.

Information collected nationally, and locally from those with lived experience of domestic abuse, has highlighted a need for specialist services that are tailored to diverse characteristics.

Some individuals and communities may face multiple and intersecting barriers to support. This can in turn result in the over or under representation of people facing these inequalities within our support services.

People facing multiple barriers may have overlapping need, which may be underpinned by a history of abuse. There may be high rates of mental health need, and problematic substance use (which can be a form of coping mechanism), contact with the criminal justice system and issues around housing or homelessness. People who have barriers to access may have experienced multiple episodes of trauma and/or adverse childhood experiences, which increases their likelihood of further trauma such as domestic abuse.

To respond to need we should ensure that services are equipped to support people experiencing multiple barriers effectively.

All people who experience domestic abuse are impacted differently by their unique experiences. These experiences can be shaped by our characteristics, including our gender and gender identity.

The strategy recognises that domestic abuse can manifest differently across relationships but that our biases can shape how we perceive a situation. Professionals must always challenge bias or assumptions which may stereotype a ‘victim’ or a ‘perpetrator’, including in relation to gender. Understandings of abuse must be evidenced based.

All people will have reasons for not reporting abuse, and therefore barriers to access, but the strategy recognises that our characteristics can influence these barriers.

These may include:

- challenge in recognising or identifying the behaviour as abusive, and that you are experiencing abuse;
- feelings of embarrassment or shame;
- being afraid of the repercussions of reporting including in relation to child access.

SAFE ACCOMMODATION



“Sanctuary are super quick, they are amazing, it (the adaptations) was done within a few days and I felt my house was as secure as MI5 after”

“It doesn’t matter if I have a big house, I can’t be in it with someone who is violent”

Commitments

To support those who flee abuse and seek support in safe accommodation the Partnership will:

- have the right safe accommodation options, and specialist support, that meets the needs of anyone experiencing abuse whether they are male, female, nonbinary or trans, non-disabled or disabled, whether they are experiencing abuse from a partner or family member and whatever their sexual orientation or ethnicity;
- strengthen options for people facing multiple barriers when trying to access safe accommodation, which may include dependencies or mental health support needs;

- ensure safe accommodation options for all family types, including those with older male children and larger families are available;
- increase awareness of options for support where people may own assets;
- explore opportunities to provide short-term accommodation for people at risk of facing multiple barriers, such as homelessness and domestic abuse;
- recognise the importance of pets for those who are needing to flee. We will work to raise awareness of the housing options and support services, which aim to prevent families fleeing abuse from having to give up their pets;
- recognise that some individuals experiencing abuse will be homeowners and seen to have assets, for some this may limit their accommodation options. We will work to raise awareness of the available support routes for these residents across Kent and Medway.

Homeowners

We recognise that some individuals experiencing abuse will be homeowners and for some this may limit their accommodation options. Shared home ownership can also facilitate post separation economic abuse. We will work to raise awareness of the available support routes for these residents, across Kent and Medway.

To ensure that services are able to respond and meet the needs of our diverse population the Partnership will:

- increase service uptake for under-represented groups by seeking to address barriers to access and improve accessibility of services;
- reduce barriers to access for those living in rural communities;
- strengthen links with community groups, faith groups and leaders to expand on opportunities for partnership work;
- further collaborate to develop needs led work and support the specialist ‘by and for’ market (services that are run by the community that they are designed for);
- explore ways to promote learning and development on issues around intersectionality, including mental capacity, coercive controlling behaviour and financial and economic abuse;
- work to increase access for those experiencing multiple barriers by using a multi-agency approach to support the work of our commissioned domestic abuse services, including the introduction of multi-agency meetings and panels to achieve the best possible outcomes.
- increase professional awareness of possible options to support those with No Recourse to Public Funds including charity options.

Immediate Needs continued

Reducing risk

"I called the police and that was the first time I called the police on him for domestic violence, and this was probably like the 15th 16th thing that's happened between us."

Domestic abuse takes multiple forms with risk impacted by a number of factors; this includes the abusive persons history, recent separation from the person perpetrating abuse, whether the person experiencing abuse is pregnant or has a young child and, the barriers they experience in working with services amongst other factors. In keeping people safe risk must be managed and where possible reduced.

To support strong management of risk the Partnership will:

- establish the multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) hub and case management system to strengthen our response to the highest risk domestic abuse cases;
- work with the Community Safety Partnership and Safeguarding Boards to ensure that learnings from Domestic Homicide Reviews, Safeguarding Adult Reviews and Children's Safeguarding Practice reviews are supported;

- work to increase participation with, and referrals to multi-agency tasking and coordination (MATAAC) groups, which are in place for those at high risk of repeating abusive behaviours;
- where a person is perpetrating abusive behaviour, work together to ensure timely information sharing about abusive incidents that allows for risk management and coordinated actions that promote accountability and disrupt behaviours;
- support processes in place to notify both the person who has experienced the abuse and professionals to ensure that the appropriate measures are in place prior to prison release dates;
- strengthen the Offender Focused Approach in investigation of crimes linked to Violence Against Women and Girls;
- increase availability and access to programmes aiming to support people perpetrating abusive behaviour to make sustainable change in their relationships;
- increase the awareness of harassment and stalking including the signs, the risk and how it can escalate, ensuring services work collaboratively to respond.
- explore approaches to increase professionals' access to specialist domestic abuse advice to aid risk management and safeguarding practice.

- recognise risks caused by the emotional and Psychological impact of abuse and associated coping mechanisms, promoting healing centered working across the Partnership.

Strengthening services

It is important that we use all resources wisely to ensure the strongest support available for those impacted by domestic abuse. This means working collaboratively to utilise opportunities and commission where gaps in existing services are identified.

The definition of domestic abuse is inclusive of sexual abuse where this forms part of the domestic abuse experienced. It is important that services align so that people receive the expert care and support needed.

To utilise opportunities to strengthen provision, the Partnership will:

- work towards creating a central resource which lists commissioned services to support collaborative commissioning and increase awareness of provision including with front line professionals;

Immediate Needs continued

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- work across our services to identify opportunities to extend collaborative commissioning, starting by identifying priority themes;
- provide a quick and effective response to people seeking domestic abuse support through streamlined referral pathways and clear information and guidance for professionals;
- continue to work to identify funding and bidding opportunities, supporting our providers to collaborate to bring together strong bids;
- work to identify lobbying opportunities to enable the Partnership to support services which help people in the community or in other accommodation options including temporary accommodation;
- make sure that referral and signposting is clear for people impacted by abuse and the professionals working to support them, including creating accessible journey maps across different services to aid understanding of possible processes and interactions;
- work to ensure that domestic abuse services are aligned to deliver expert care to those that need it.

Highlighting civil options

Reporting incidents of abuse to the police, and navigating the criminal justice system, may not always be the first or preferred route for a person experiencing abuse. This may be for reasons such as fear of reprisal or previous negative experiences of the justice system.

There are various civil options available to people experiencing abuse, such as non-molestation orders and occupation orders which can help to protect adults and their children, and disrupt the behaviour of the individuals perpetrating the abuse.

Some civil orders, such as Stalking Protection Orders can be obtained by Police and used as a preventative tool within policing. For information on all of the civil orders available please see the Crown Prosecution website <https://www.cps.gov.uk>

To increase uptake of available civil options the Partnership will:

- grow awareness of the civil options that are available to people experiencing domestic abuse;
- ensure a victim centred approach when handling breaches of civil orders;
- where possible, work to strengthen the conditions and wording of orders obtained by Police;

- ensure that professionals are aware of civil orders and how to signpost people experiencing abuse to support services which can help them to obtain the relevant orders.

Experiences of justice

For those experiencing domestic abuse the decision to report offences to the police or to seek help from services is not taken lightly and can be daunting. People experiencing abuse want to be listened to, taken seriously, for the person offending to be held accountable, and to be able to make their own choices about what happens next.

To strengthen experiences of justice the Partnership will:

- increase professional training on gathering evidence of coercive and controlling behaviour to support conviction rates;
- advocate for greater specialist domestic abuse support for those who are going through the criminal justice system;
- hold those using abusive behaviours to account through the criminal justice system, this includes exploring and offering help to change behaviours through effective interventions.

Immediate Needs continued

People who use abusive behavior can attempt to use services that this partnership provides as a tactic to perpetuate and further the abuse. This can include allegations of abuse against the person they are abusing, making false allegations around parenting and children, reporting that the person experiencing abuse has unmanaged mental health issues the malicious use of police call outs and of the courts.

To support the person experiencing abuse the Partnership will:

- promote training, policies and practice guides that are inclusive of identifying coercive behavior, recognising the typologies of abuse and responding safely to counter allegations;
- utilise relevant legislation to maintain a focus on what is right for the child, prioritising their physical and emotional safety and ensure proceedings are cognisant of the impact on the non-abusive party;
- explore how those impacted by abuse can best be supported in during the family court and fact finding processes;
- promote clear guidance on the availability and use of legal aid;
- support families together where it is safe to do so and it is their choice.

Supporting children and young people during immediate need

“I think, just like, someone to talk to about it, like, yeah, I think someone to just talk to in general because like, sometimes you don’t want to talk about it to your parents, you don’t want to talk about it to your friends... a professional or someone, someone who you feel like you can trust” (child age 14).

“like as a family you can cause you, you kind of forget things when you’re by yourself... So like you [talking about mum] will remember things that I might not remember that are important” (child age 14)

“They did a lot of activities for the kids. And for us, because they took us all to the zoo one day in the summertime, which is really, really nice because I don’t think any of us have really gotten out like that.”

“My child had already taken so much time off school, just like every other kid [because of the pandemic]. But then to add another six months to that and then not have provisions in place for catch ups and stuff... They are doing OK, but they could do with extra support. That is one thing that I would have said and I did ask about, but, I was told that it could be looked into, but I just don’t think it ever happened. Is that if the child’s gonna be out of school longer than a month, if they could somehow implement a tutor to come into refuge, to teach them that would be amazing.”

Children who experience abuse between their caregivers are victims of abuse in their own right, and as such it is important that services are available, and that the Partnership develops its response to children who experience abuse. This includes making sure that where abuse is occurring and a child or young person has been present during an incident, the right people are made aware.

Young people can also experience or use abusive behaviours within their own relationships. Making sure that there is appropriate support and information available for young people is imperative.

Immediate Needs continued

SAFE ACCOMMODATION



Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities may find it more difficult to move to safe accommodation, which is often away from their usual place of residence, routine and home comforts. The move helps ensure safety but can present additional challenges for the child and so it is important that these challenges are recognised when a move to safe accommodation is needed.

Commitments

Tier 1 authorities have a statutory duty to ensure that children have access to support who are in safe accommodation. To improve access to services for children in safe accommodation, the Partnership will:

- offer support for children in safe accommodation, both for children from Kent and Medway who stay in area, and those who are living in safe accommodation in Kent and Medway from other local authority areas;
- ensure that all children and young people in safe accommodation have access to support that is age appropriate and meets their needs, which may include access to ongoing education, counselling, play therapy, advocacy services and other opportunities;

- minimise time out of education for children and young people fleeing with an adult experiencing abuse;
- work with partners to support children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities having their needs considered when moving into safe accommodation.

It is important to recognise that many children and young people stay within their communities, and, in the case where families have separated, may be navigating relationships between parents. Children and young people as witnesses to abuse are likely to experience trauma responses and should be supported. Children and young people’s voices are crucial in developing strong responses. The Partnership will:

- ensure that children’s voices and experiences are represented through formal governance and in designing and reviewing services;
- recognise the importance of schools in supporting children and young people and work collaboratively, sharing information where appropriate to improve outcomes;
- develop comprehensive whole family support, recognising the importance of recovery for wider family networks and blended family groups;
- continue to improve the process for sharing Domestic Abuse Notifications to ensure that it is equitable across the education and healthcare systems.

SAFE ACCOMMODATION



Access to housing

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 introduced changes which impact housing authorities. The Act now extends priority need status to all those who are eligible for assistance and homeless as a result of domestic abuse. This will mean that housing authorities no longer need to consider if a person is vulnerable as a result of their abuse in order for them to access accommodation secured by the local authority.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 places requirements on housing authorities in relation to security of tenure when rehousing people fleeing domestic abuse who were an existing lifetime social tenant.

The Act emphasises that support is available to all those fleeing abuse, including those who cross local authority borders, and that housing and support needs for adults and children fleeing abuse should be met irrespectively of whether they have stayed close to home or moved to another authority.

Immediate Needs continued

"I wasn't able to get housing and I think housing is massive. It's such a massive, massive part of leaving because when you've got two children in an abusive situation like that, you do everything to protect them..."

"That's the issue with the whole refuge situation, it's too long. I know there's a housing crisis and these things, but, like I was saying to you earlier about the emotions, you then start falling back into depression because you're still [in refuge]."

District, Borough and City Councils across Kent and Medway have a protocol in place to support reciprocal moves across borough boundaries. This scheme sets out a commitment to cooperate in a transparent and equitable way to assist applicants to move in exceptional circumstances; and local housing authorities to manage the process of accepting and referring applicants. This can prove to be particularly effective for applicants needing to move out of their current area to a safer one as a result of domestic abuse.

A second scheme has recently been introduced, associated with the Kent Housing Group. This scheme enables individuals and families who are at risk of domestic abuse and who have a social tenancy, to move to a safe area whilst retaining their tenancy. This is a collaboration between social housing providers and landlords to make better use of their housing stock and protect residents who are at risk of domestic abuse.



If a person is forced to leave their home to find safety, access to a safe place for themselves and their children (if they have them) is paramount. If a person is forced to leave without their children, it is important that their accommodation is safe and is a place that their children can visit.

Once a person is ready, it is also important that they have support to gain secondary or move on accommodation so they can leave safe accommodation at a time which is right for them.

Kent County Council, Medway Council, Borough, District and City councils are working across Kent and Medway to ensure availability of safe accommodation options and to improve access to safe and stable accommodation for people experiencing abuse.

Immediate Needs continued

To strengthen our housing response, the Partnership will:

- work across our services to understand need and demand for housing for those fleeing domestic abuse;
- explore projects which strengthen the housing response including options for specialised referral and support routes;
- further explore why people are having to be housed in temporary accommodation or may be choosing to move into temporary accommodation rather than safe accommodation options;
- work with the Kent Housing Group as they explore action across temporary accommodation to support availability and quality;
- recognise the importance of social and family networks and how this impacts accommodation choices;
- continue to support those leaving refuge or dispersed accommodation and temporary accommodation to find more permanent, settled accommodation;
- extend training to staff on domestic abuse and homelessness legislation, working to reduce the amount of people impacted by domestic abuse identified as intentionally homeless;
- advance the safety planning knowledge and trauma informed processes within housing settings including through the Domestic Abuse Housing Accreditation
- ensure a consistent Sanctuary approach across Kent and Medway to enable those who wish to remain in their homes to do so, with the addition of security measures.



3. Recovery

What do we mean by recovery?

Domestic abuse and the associated trauma can have a significant impact on the people affected. There can be damaging long and short-term physical, mental, emotional, and psychological health impacts on adults and children. These repercussions remain long after the immediate safety needs have been met.

In this section we will be looking at what the Kent & Medway Partnership will do to support people to recover from these experiences.

Whether the abuse is from a family member or a romantic partner the tactics of abuse may be used to isolate a person from friends and family, to erode self-esteem, distort sense of reality, take away financial autonomy and ability to make decisions. The process of recovery is personal and is not linear.

Each person who is impacted by abuse will have a different vision for what this looks like and how they would like to be supported to achieve this.

The Partnership want Kent & Medway to be a place where people have the opportunity to thrive, to recover from the harm, heal and build resilience.

Having a robust approach to supporting people to heal from the trauma of abuse is also part of our commitment to the prevention of further abuse.

The impact of abuse on mental health

As a response to the trauma of domestic abuse, many of those affected have mental health support needs, we also know that people using abusive behaviour are more likely to target those who may be more vulnerable due to their mental health needs. Mental ill-health is frequently used against people experiencing abuse, who report barriers to support.

Barriers range from shame and stigma to complicated service landscapes, rigid referral criteria, long waiting lists and a lack of appropriate services. For groups facing additional forms of discrimination and inequality, these impacts can be compounded. Between 60 and 70% of women seeking mental health support have experienced domestic abuse. Despite this, feedback around the mental health response has highlighted a lack of pathways that are tailored to the needs of those recovering from abuse.²⁴

“I still have night terrors. I feel like I’m right back there. I feel like he’s in the room.”

Research shows that trauma caused by domestic abuse can increase rates of mental health support needs, those with existing mental health support needs may also be more vulnerable to domestic abuse.

Domestic abuse can also be linked to problematic substance use (which can be a form of coping mechanism), contact with the criminal justice system and issues around housing homelessness.

24. APPG 2022 Report: The Road to Recovery: Meeting the Mental Health Needs of Domestic Abuse Survivors - Women’s Aid, November 2023 (womensaid.org.uk)

Recovery continued

People who have barriers to access may have experienced multiple episodes of trauma, and or adverse childhood experiences, which increases their likelihood of further trauma such as domestic abuse.

"It gave me a safe space every week. But again, you know, you're talking about 8 years' worth of abuse. It's never gonna come out and be healed in 12 weeks."

"Having counselling support for me and play therapy for the children, without the worry of a waiting list in the community has been the best thing for us."

"I'm currently trying to find some counselling for myself but that's quite a battle at the moment. I need specific trauma counselling and that's quite hard to access without having to pay for it. [...] There's a real gap in service provision with regards to trauma counselling for those that aren't able to pay for it privately."

"I've got anxiety and PTSD and it's really affecting my eating. I've been trying to get more therapy but I've been told I'm not eligible as I don't meet the criteria for support."

"You might have ended your support and feel like you are much better [but] something can still trigger you and put you back there, then there is no support."

Domestic abuse services often operate based on the level of risk caused by the person perpetrating abusive behaviour, but a persons need for services which support recovery, may not correspond to a risk-based model. This also fails to recognise the long-term impact of abuse, which lasts beyond the period of crisis.

In recognising the intersectionality between domestic abuse and mental health support needs the Partnership will:

- promote better understanding of domestic abuse and trauma-informed practice within mental healthcare settings;
- develop mental health support that is responsive to the needs of people who have been impacted by abuse;
- continue to strengthen understandings of suicide and domestic abuse;
- promote service delivery models that look at the needs of a person as well as the risk posed to them by the person perpetrating abuse;
- support opportunities to encourage a goal-based outcome to manage the end of support;
- explore opportunities to provide clear pathways for people who would like support around abusive experiences that are no longer current or posing active risk.

"I think with domestic abuse, it takes a very, very long time to process what's happened... It's something that's a long-term recovery I suppose... I think a lot of things are triggering me and that's bringing back a lot of emotions about what has happened and the way that I feel about myself and I feel like I need the support more now."

Processing experiences and promoting connection

Domestic abuse erodes self-esteem and creates feelings of shame, guilt, and loneliness. Supporting people to understand the abusive tactics that have been used in their relationships and processing the effect that this has had is an important step in recovery, for both adults and children.

*"It's like the calm after the storm, where I've now gone, oh s**t – actually you're not OK. You are harbouring some real trauma that you've never said out loud, that you haven't had time or space to."*

"I think for me [a group programme] would be really good to do because I don't think I totally accept or understand the level of abuse that I went through, because for me it was just a general normal day-to-day thing... I think it would really help me to have a better understanding of the abuse that I actually went through and the trauma that that caused and help me come to terms with that."

Recovery continued

“My eldest is doing the Freedom programme at school. The school are phenomenal... They do play therapy and games... They’re teaching them what a positive relationship looks like.”

“I’ve been getting some invites for peer support groups, if I can juggle my working week around I’d quite like to go to those, just to sit with other people.”

About Group Working:

Psycho-educational groups provide a space for domestic abuse education, processing, and recovery. They provide a supportive setting for people to talk about their experiences whilst learning about the tactics used by people using abusive behaviour. This can increase safety, understanding of trauma responses, awareness of warning signs as well as lessening isolation and establishing social bonds.

Groups offer a safe and confidential place for people who would not normally have an outlet, validating each other in an empowering way.

“Doing the phoenix programme has been amazing [...] I looked forward to it because it was communication with other people.”

“I’m living somewhere where I don’t know anyone. I don’t have any family. You know, I generally don’t have any support, so I’m with the children 24/7, which isn’t a bad thing, but it’s intense... I’m definitely lonely. And then I don’t help myself because I’m so scared of meeting anyone or it happening to me again.”

To promote connection the Partnership will:

- work to ensure there is an equitable and accessible group work service across Kent & Medway for adults and children, promoting joined up delivery;
- seek to deliver groups collaboratively in a wide range of settings to encourage participation;
- support initiatives that help people build confidence and grow their positive social support networks;
- continue to explore programme’s that allow people to remain safely in their own community networks.

Prioritising family bonds

Parenting and family relationships can be deeply affected by the experience of abuse. Abusive tactics are used to isolate and undermine relationships and can also impact on the space and energy to parent in the way you want to. Domestic abuse can both directly and indirectly disrupt the relationship between a parent and their child and between family members.

Supporting all members of the family to process their experiences and rebuild strong healthy bonds is a crucial part of recovery. The non-abusive parent’s needs must be seen alongside their children’s needs.

Children who have experienced abuse can mimic disruptive behaviours, undermining the non-abusive parents’ ability to cope. We also know that the largest predictor of future victimization and perpetration is experiencing or witnessing abuse in the past.²⁵ The intergenerational transmission of risk can be mitigated by supporting parents and children to recover together. Giving parents and children coordinated support and new strategies after abuse is important in creating strong recovery journeys, which are themselves a form of prevention.

The majority of children who have experienced abuse will continue to have contact with the abusive party. In some situations, it may also be appropriate to work with the person using abusive behavior to facilitate healthier parenting and safer co-parenting.

25. JDiBrief – Analysis, Repeat Victimization: Summary (1of5) Author: Chainey, S, UCL Jill Dando Institute. Accessed: 30th May 2023. https://www.ucl.ac.uk/jill-dando-institute/sites/jill-dando-institute/files/repeat_victimisation_1-5_all.pdf

The tactics of abuse and steps to increase safety, such as moving away, increase isolation and loneliness. Feeling connected to other people is crucial for mental wellbeing and self-esteem.

Recovery continued

We must work as a partnership to prioritise children’s emotional and physical safety, as well as the safety of the non-abusive parent.

“In the end, because of his loss of control over me, he then ramped up his control of our daughter.”

“[My son] spent a long time not being able to get over the fact that we weren’t together. But [the abuser] didn’t live here. The school spent a long time talking to him about why, because when [the abuser] lived here, he wasn’t happy... We got to the bottom of it and he said it wasn’t because he wanted mummy and daddy back together but because when mummy and daddy were together it was the last time he consistently saw daddy. It took a good six months to get it out of him. To understand. He would shut down every time we asked why.”

“Everything just got the better of me and I could feel myself losing myself. I wanted to get some help to just try and help me get some strategies in place for my parenting with my children because I felt like I was losing them a little bit as well.”

Recognising the impact of abuse on wider family bonds, the Partnership will:

- promote integrated support for the child/ren and the non-abusive parent, investigating options for whole family support, addressing needs of the individual and of the unit;
- explore providing services that support parenting after experiencing abuse;
- provide services that aim to increase the safety of children by supporting the abusive person as an individual and as a parent, increasing their insight into the impact of their behaviours, whilst holding them accountable for the abuse;
- promoting professional training on the use of counter allegations, misuse of family court and safe child contact arrangements.

Reaching economic independence

Financial and economic abuse is a pattern of coercing and controlling behaviour that dominates a partner or family member’s ability to acquire, use and maintain financial resources.

For many people affected by domestic abuse the impact of abuse can drastically alter their financial situation which may include losing homes or tenancies, property loss or damage. The effects of economic abuse may include unemployment, diminished employment prospects, debt, or coerced debt. This can lead to long-term consequences and can severely limit long-term economic stability and financial independence.

“When you leave refuge the support workers apply for grants for you to try and get furniture and appliances and stuff like that for when you move.”

“It all came down to the fact that we had assets. Whichever avenue I took there were assets, and you could sell your house to release the asset but of course you can’t sell the house it’s not yours to sell it’s in joint names and so it’s a continuous dead end.”

“When people talk about control and coercion, I don’t think there is a way that you can actually articulate how horrific it is when you’re in it.”

“He cancelled all my banking credit cards and transferred all of the money from our accounts so that I couldn’t access any of it.”

The impact of abuse often undermines practical stability and safety, including financial and economic control. The Partnership will:

- work to increase the recognition of financial and economic abuse as a factor in domestic abuse with professionals, who are working with older people or people who have care needs;

Recovery continued

- work to establish clear support for people who have experienced economic abuse and who have left, or are contemplating leaving an abusive relationship or situation;
- provide education and awareness to help people recognise the features of economic abuse and awareness of mechanisms to reduce vulnerability;
- promote access to financial advocacy for people who have experienced abuse;
- utilise the Employer Champion Scheme to involve employers to make sure the workplace is a safe space for people who have experienced abuse;
- increase awareness of specialist support offered by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) to those who have experienced abuse, including specific domestic abuse support offered for housing benefit, Job Seekers and Employment Support and Universal Credit.

We want to say thank you to those who have helped. Without your valuable insight this strategy could not have been formed.

The Partnership also acknowledges the commitment and contribution of voluntary sector provision within this space. Without the dedication of many within the sector services would not function. Many within these services have personally experienced abuse.

Rebuilding identity and empowerment are important factors in recovering from the experiences of abuse. Allowing space for people to grow and to input into the systems and services that they have been a part of should be prioritised.

Offering opportunities to contribute to peer support services, giving access to training and employment is empowering, builds confidence and supports recovery. It is also beneficial for the services and structures around individuals who can benefit from their expertise.

The Partnership recognises the invaluable knowledge of those with lived experience. The Partnership will:

- recognise the importance of peer-support programmes and interventions that work with the local community and informal networks;
- continue to be led by experts by experience in our services and governance structures, promoting greater service user involvement in service design, delivery and policy making.



Recognising the experts

The experts in domestic abuse are those people who are living or have lived through abusive experiences. The Partnership will continue to be led by the voices of those who have experienced abuse.

This strategy and the commitments in it have been grounded in the experiences of people affected by abuse. By sharing their experiences with the research programmes in both Kent and Medway, giving their ideas and their time, they have shaped the strategy.

How we will measure success

This is a five-year strategy which embodies our approach to tackling domestic abuse and our work to ‘reduce the prevalence of domestic abuse, and ensure that where domestic abuse takes place, all those affected get the right support, quickly’.

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In 2027 a review of the strategy will take place to ensure that this approach is still appropriate and that we are achieving our ambitions. The Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group will oversee a delivery plan managed by the governance structure with regular updates on progress being made to the Partnership.

In addition to monitoring delivery of our plan we will use a number of activity indicators to monitor areas of activity within this strategy. Quantitative measurements in this complex area must always be applied with caution but paired with qualitative learnings can help us identify progress.



How we will measure success continued

Activity indicators

Early Intervention and Prevention

- Reach of domestic abuse awareness campaign and website traffic.
- Number of applications for Clare’s Law – ‘right to ask’.
- Number of disclosures made via Clare’s Law – ‘right to ask’.
- Number of disclosures made under the ‘right to know’ – Clare’s Law.
- Average length of time that a disclosure takes through Clare’s Law.

Immediate Needs

- The average time it takes to wait for children to gain a school place after moving to safe accommodation.
- Enforcement of non-molestation breaches.
- Number of notifications made to schools through Operation Encompass.
- Number of domestic abuse notifications made by Kent Police to services.
- Number of people who have been referred to safe accommodation.
- Number of people who have settled accommodation destinations from refuge.
- Number of people refused safe accommodation.
- Prosecution rates for coercive and controlling behaviour.
- Conviction rates for coercive and controlling behaviour.
- Number of people who are presenting themselves as homeless due to domestic abuse.

- Number of people owed a duty presenting themselves as homeless due to domestic abuse.
- Number of people who have been referred to and accessed sanctuary support schemes.
- Number of people presenting as homeless due to domestic abuse identified as intentionally homeless.
- Number of people accessing safe accommodation who have multiple barriers such as dependencies or mental health support needs.
- Number of people being offered housing through the Kent and Medway housing reciprocal agreement.
- Number of referrals being made to the multi-agency tasking and coordination meeting.
- Number of standard, medium and high-risk cases supported through the partnership commissioned services.
- Number of adults and children accessing commissioned community support.

Recovery

- Number of children and young people who access therapeutic support in safe accommodation.
- Number of people referred and accessing group work (both adults and children).
- Number of people being referred to commissioned perpetrator programmes.
- Number of people accessing and completing commissioned perpetrator programmes.

Appendices

Appendix A: Funding from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

Kent

2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
£3,103,909	£3,112,501	£3,174,764	£3,234,633

Medway

2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
£592,126	£593,765	£605,643	£617,069

Tier two authorities have been allocated smaller amounts ranging between around £35,000 - £38,000 annually.

Appendices continued

Appendix B: Overview of Legislation

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 works within a wider legislative context. Other key legislation includes:

<i>Upcoming:</i> Online Safety Bill	This legislation is likely to introduce a new set of laws to protect children and adults online and make social media companies more responsible for their users' safety on their platforms.
<i>Upcoming:</i> The Victims and Prisoners Bill	This Bill aims to establish measures to 'better serve victims and the public through improving victims' experience of the Criminal Justice System. ²⁶ The Bill will include statutory guidance and minimum expectations in relation to the role of the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA), will require commissioners to consider child victims in the delivery of IDVA services and will introduce a statutory duty on Police and Crime Commissioners, health and local authorities around the joint commissioning of domestic abuse support services.
The Police, Crime and Sentencing Courts Act 2022 (including the Serious Violence Duty)	The Police, Crime and Sentencing Courts Act 2022 ²⁷ received Royal Assent in April 2022. Part 2 of the Act creates a requirement for specified authorities to collaborate and plan to reduce or prevent serious violence. Specified authorities are required to work together and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence, including identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in an area, the causes of that violence (so far as it is possible to do so), and to prepare and implement a shared strategy. In Kent and Medway the definition of 'serious violence' includes domestic and sexual abuse and the Partnership will be working closely with the Serious Violence Prevention Partnership Strategic Board to support this work.
The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017	In 2017 a new law called the Homelessness Reduction Act ²⁸ was passed by Parliament. The introduction of the Act supports people who are homeless, to have access to accommodation. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 changed homelessness legislation to give priority need to people who have experienced domestic abuse. The changes to the legislation mean that, people made homeless due to domestic abuse are given priority need for homelessness assistance.

26. Gov.uk 'Victims and Prisoners Bill' (Mar 2023), Updated: Apr 2023
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/victims-and-prisoners-bill>

27. Gov.uk 'Serious violence duty: Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022' (November 2023), Updated: June 2023 Serious Violence Duty - GOV.UK (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/serious-violence-duty>)

28. GOV.UK 'Homelessness Reduction Act: policy factsheets' (Nov 2016), Updated: Feb 2018
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/homelessness-reduction-bill-policy-factsheets>

Appendices continued

Appendix B: Overview of Legislation

Modern Slavery Act 2015 ²⁹	The Modern Slavery Act 2015 consolidates previous offences relating to trafficking and slavery placing specific requirements on employers and businesses. Modern slavery is often hidden from view and may involve or take place alongside a wide range of abuses and other offences such as grievous bodily harm, assault, rape, or child sexual abuse.
The Serious Crime Act 2015 ³⁰	This Act introduced the offence of coercive or controlling behaviour against an intimate partner or family member and holds a maximum penalty of five years.
The Care Act 2014 ³¹	This legislation introduced the general duty on local authorities to promote an individual's 'wellbeing', which includes considering a person's domestic, family and personal relationships. The Care Act includes Section 42 which states that if an adult with care and support needs (such as a disability) is suspected to be at risk of any form of abuse or neglect, the local authority must make enquiries and take steps to protect them. This includes working with other agencies such as health and the Police and providing independent advocacy when it is needed.
The Protection of Freedom's Act 2012 ³²	This legislation makes stalking and harassment an offence.
The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 ³³	This legislation extends provisions to combat domestic violence and creates a new offence of 'causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable adult.
The Children Act 1989 and the Adoption and Children Act 2002 ³⁴	This legislation places a duty on local authorities to provide services to Children in Need and to investigate the circumstances of a child where they are informed that a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm. Section 120 of the Adoption and Children Act extends the legal definition of harming children to include harm suffered by seeing or hearing ill treatment of others, including in the home.

29. Gov.uk 'Modern Slavery Act 2015' (November 2023) <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/30/contents/enacted>

30. Gov.uk 'The Serious Crime Act 2015' (November 2023) <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/9/contents/enacted>

31. Gov.uk 'The Care Act 2014' (November 2023) <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents/enacted>

32. Gov.uk 'The Protection of Freedom's Act 2012' (November 2023) <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2012/9/contents/enacted>

33. Gov.uk 'The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004' (November 2023) <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/28/contents>

34. Gov.uk 'The Children Act 1989 and the Adoption and Children Act 2002' (November 2023) <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/contents>

Appendices continued

Appendix C: Linked Boards

The Partnership has cross representation or updates the following groups:

- Kent Community Safety Board
 - Kent Housing Group
 - Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board
 - Kent Criminal Justice Board
 - Medway Community Safety Partnership
 - The Suicide Prevention Board
 - Serious Violence Reduction Partnership Board
 - Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board
 - Kent Safeguarding Children Multi - Agency Partnership Board
 - Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership
 - The Integrated Care Partnership
 - The Domestic Homicide Steering Group
-



Appendices continued

Appendix D: Linked Strategies

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Community Safety Agreement
 The Kent Community Safety Agreement sets out how partners will work together to address key community safety priorities for Kent, one of which is supporting vulnerable people.



Medway Adult Social Care Strategy
 The strategy sets out Medway's strategic priorities for action, identifies the improved outcomes for adult social care service users, and looks at how success will be measured.



Kent and Medway Interim Integrated Care Strategy
 The Kent and Medway Integrated Care strategy sets out the shared purpose and common aspiration of partners to work in increasingly joined up ways.



Making Kent Safer
 The making Kent Safer plan sets out the priorities and actions of the police and crime commissioner.



Kent and Medway Housing Strategy
 Sets out the strategic direction for housing across Kent and Medway based on the collective ambitions and aims of local authorities and their housing association partners.



Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Neglect Strategy
 Sets out the strategic objectives and targets of Kent's approach to tackling neglect. The strategy also identifies key risk and contributing factors that can have an impact on neglect.



Medway Community Safety Partnership Plan
 The Medway Community Safety Partnership Plan (CSP) brings together a variety of statutory, non-statutory and voluntary organisations with a shared commitment to reduce crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in Medway.

Appendices continued

Appendix D: Linked Strategies

Page 502



Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board – Strategic plan

The Kent Community Safety Agreement sets out how partners will work together to address key community safety priorities for Kent, one of which is supporting vulnerable people.



Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board

To safeguard adults who are at risk of sexual exploitation, modern slavery, and human trafficking. The protocol provides guidance to professionals and volunteers from all agencies involved in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all trafficked and exploited adults.



Violence Against Women and Girls Enquiry

The Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy was set up to create a legacy of partnership working designed to make Kent safer for Women and Girls where ever they are.



Serious Violence Duty – Strategy (upcoming)

Kent and Medway has one of 18 Violence Reduction Units (VRU's) formed in 2019 under the Home Office Serious Violence Project's Programme, to drive a whole system, preventative approach to tackling the causes of serious youth violence. The VRU is in the process of developing a strategy based on a strategic needs assessment.

**Kent Drug and Alcohol Strategy
2023-2028**

Better Prevention, Treatment & Recovery and Community Safety.
Kent's 'From Harm to Hope'

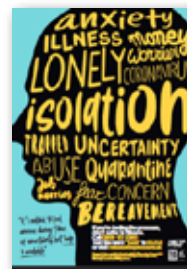
Kent Drug and Alcohol Strategy

The Kent Drug and Alcohol Strategy is in draft format, aiming to be published in 2023. The new strategy aims to prioritise partnership and tackle the consequences of drug and alcohol harm. The Kent strategy will seek to implement a range of harm reduction strategies and ensure there are quality services for very high-risk families, vulnerable people and communities.



Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment Refresh 2022

Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 requires local authorities to assess the need for support for victims of domestic abuse and their children who may need access to safe accommodation. The key objectives of the Domestic Abuse 2022 needs assessment refresh were to update key metrics around the profile of domestic abuse in Kent and to develop an understanding of domestic abuse in relation to children and young people.



Suicide Prevention Strategy

This document aims to help readers understand the national picture and local prevalence of domestic abuse and identify current service provision within Medway.

Appendices continued

Appendix E

Within the strategy we have used language that reflects fairly the language people who have experienced abuse want us to use. The following outlines the meaning behind the language we have used:

Those who have experienced abusive behaviour - individuals who have experienced abuse may not identify as being either a 'victim' or a 'survivor' and we want to be respectful of this. We have therefore focused on the shared experience of abuse.

Those who perpetrate through abuse - we recognise that those who use abusive behaviours may have themselves experienced or witnessed abuse, and we seek to challenge and change these behaviours through prevention and early intervention, immediate need and recovery.

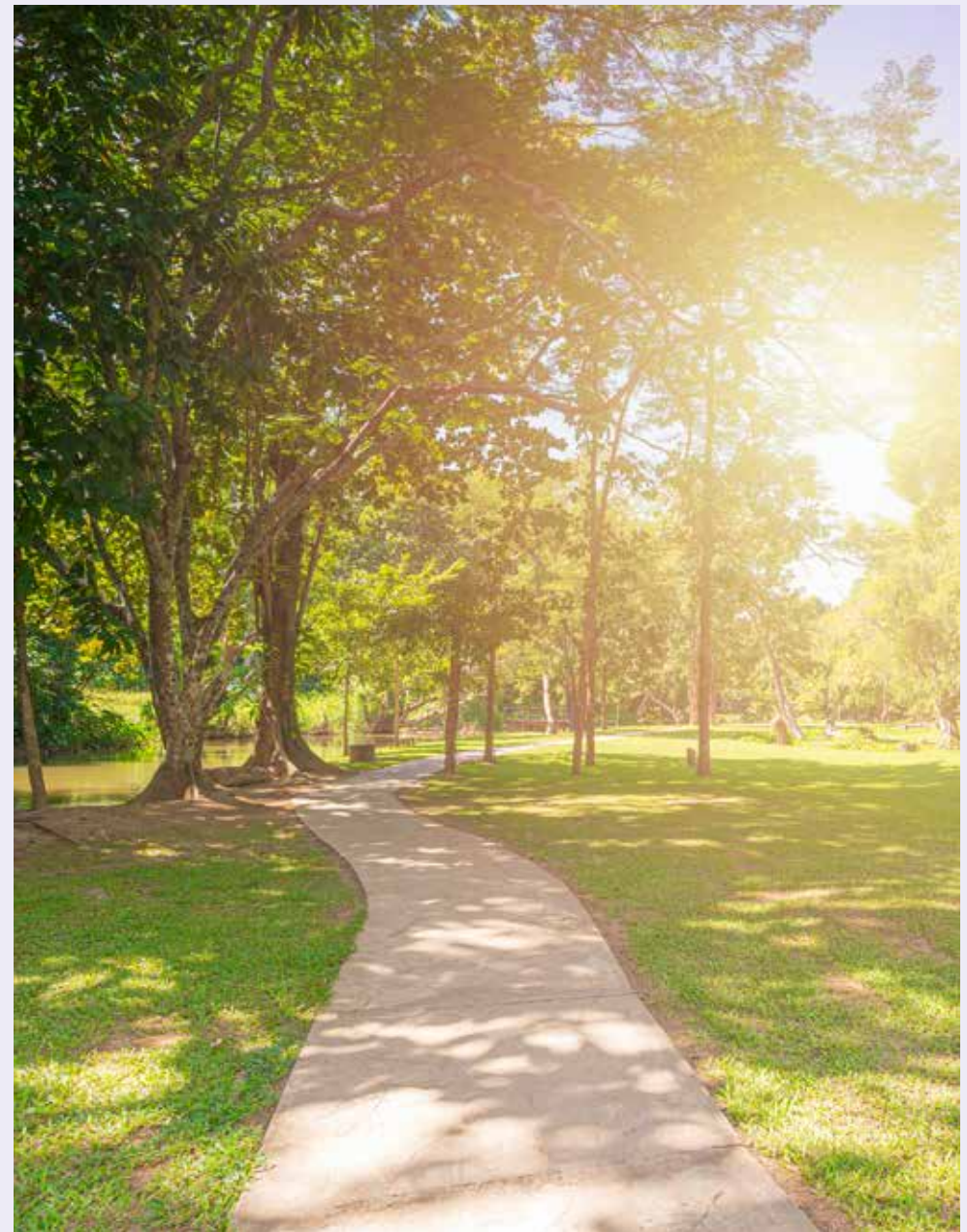
The first step in being able to challenge someone's behaviour is for them to self-identify as using abusive behaviours.

Children who experience abuse - the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 recognises children as victims of domestic abuse if they 'see, hear or otherwise experience the effects of abuse'.

However, this definition also links to that of child abuse (which includes intentional harm, abuse and neglect).

Although these forms of abuse are linked, the strategy is focused on the impact of domestic abuse, we have used the term 'children who experience abuse between their caregivers'.

'By and for' services - these are services that are run by the community that they are designed for.



Further information

For further information about any aspect of this strategy please contact:

Kent County Council


Strategy, Policy and Relationships

PSRPolicy@kent.gov.uk

An executive summary of this strategy has been produced. The executive summary is available in Easy Read and in British Sign Language.

Alternative formats

If you require any of the material in an alternative format or language please email alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk or call **03000 421553** (text relay service number: **18001 03000 421553**). This number goes to an answering machine, which is monitored during office hours.

A large, leafy tree stands on the left side of a vast, green field. The field is filled with small white flowers. In the background, a line of trees stretches across the horizon under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The sun is shining from the top left, creating a lens flare effect.

Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024 - 2029: Summary

Accessing support

This is a strategy document about how we want to develop and improve our services over the next 5 years.

You can access domestic abuse services by contacting Victim Support for assessment and referral to your local service by calling **0808 168 9111** or using the **Live Chat** facility. Alternatively, you can contact the freephone 24 hour National Domestic Violence Helpline run in partnership between Women’s Aid and Refuge on **0808 2000 247** or the Men’s’ Advice Line on **0808 801 0327**. If you are concerned about your use of abusive behaviour the Respect helpline is available on **0808 8024040**.

If you are in immediate danger please do not be afraid to call 999, otherwise you can contact Kent Police on the non-emergency telephone number 101 or visit your local police station to speak with an officer in confidence.

If you can’t speak out loud, you can press 55 so that the operator knows you need help. You can also video call 999 to communicate in BSL for free by visiting the 999 BSL website or downloading the app.

This is a document produced by the Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group. The Executive group includes partners across Kent County Council, Medway Council, Kent Fire and Rescue Services, Kent Police, the National Probation Service, the NHS, the

Introduction

Department of Work and Pensions, the Police and Crime Commissioner and all Kent District, Borough and City Councils (referred to in this document as the Partnership).

This strategy works to achieve the Executives' joint collective aim to: **'reduce the prevalence of domestic abuse and ensure that where domestic abuse takes place, all those affected get the right support, quickly'**.

This is a summary of the full Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy. The full strategy includes further information on all areas within this summary.

The Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy identifies joint commitments across the Partnership for those impacted by domestic abuse and is inclusive of those who are or have been abused, those who perpetrate through abusive behaviour, and children who experience abuse between their caregivers, using the voice of people who have experienced abuse to identify areas of priority across the Partnership's collective service provision.

This strategy also supports Kent County Council and Medway Council's statutory duty to fulfil their responsibility to have a strategy which details aims and priorities for adults and children who have experienced domestic abuse in safe accommodation services.

This strategy and the commitments in it have been grounded in the experiences of people affected by abuse. By sharing their experiences with the research programmes in both Kent and Medway people with lived experience have supported the development of themes and priorities which are the focus of this strategy. We want to say thank you to those who have helped. Without your valuable insight this strategy could not be formed.



Domestic Abuse

The Domestic Abuse Act received Royal Assent at the end of April 2021, creating a statutory definition of domestic abuse for the first time.¹ Behaviour is classed as domestic abuse when:

“two people are personally connected to each other, over the age of 16 and where the behaviour between each other is abusive”.

Behaviour is abusive if it consists of the following:

- physical or sexual behaviour;
- violent or threatening behaviour;
- controlling or coercive behaviour;
- financial or economic abuse;
- psychological or emotional control and abuse.

The definition includes children who experience abuse between their caregivers. Children are recognised as victims of abuse independently of the adult who experiences the abuse.

‘Honour-based’ abuse may include physical abuse, forced physical traumas such as breast flattening or female genital mutilation, psychological pressure or forced marriage. This is a violation of human rights and is a form of domestic abuse.

This strategy also seeks to coordinate aims and delivery on domestic abuse where this includes sexual abuse and to support coordinated working on sexual abuse and violence across Kent & Medway.

Kent County Council and Medway Council have a responsibility through the Domestic Abuse Act to assess the need for, and provide support for, those in safe accommodation for all those impacted by abuse and their children.

No recourse to public funds

“While I appreciate the help I received, I also feel I was grossly misguided. And I think my situation is very niche and they weren’t quite sure how to guide me... In cases like mine, where there’s the element of, you know the immigration aspect and financial abuse to the extent I’ve experienced...”

People experiencing abuse who may have limited access to public funding due to their immigration status may be highly vulnerable, their status may be an additional way for a person using abusive behaviour to control them.

Dependent on a person’s situation there may be opportunities to support them under various legislation which might include the Care Act (2014) and the Childrens Act (Section 17, 1989) and the Human Rights Act (1998).

The Partnership will work where possible to support those impacted by abuse where limits to public funds may be in place, supporting staff training on available routes to support.

¹. Domestic Abuse Act 2021
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/17/contents/enacted>

Domestic abuse
continued

Key Statistics

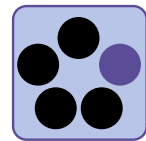
National statistics



An estimated 2.4 million adults aged 16 and over have experienced domestic abuse within the last year. This is a prevalence rate of around 5 in 100 adult.²



Between April 2018 and March 2021 there 269 women and 104 men were victims of a domestic homicide.³



Around 1 in 5 children have been exposed to domestic abuse in their household.⁴

Kent and Medway



1 in 5 recorded crimes (22%) in Kent and Medway are related to domestic abuse.⁵



Over 63,000 adults in Kent and Medway were projected to have experienced domestic abuse in 2021-2022.⁶



Over 24,000 children in Kent & Medway live in a household where an adult was experiencing domestic.⁷

Safe Accommodation – data from our refuges
Kent (2022/2023)

1. 208 people accessed Kent County Council commissioned refuge.
2. 51.9% of people in Kent refuges had accompanying children.
3. 6.3% of people in refuge identified as lesbian, gay, or pansexual.
4. Of those in refuge, 8.2% had a physical or sensory disability and 1.9% had a learning disability.
5. 42.3% of those in refuge identified as needing mental health support (as a secondary need).
6. 63.9% of individuals in refuge identified as “White – British” and 31.7% identified as other ethnic minority groups.
7. 52.4% of people in refuge came from outside Kent

Medway (2022/2023)

1. 59 people accessed safe accommodation services in Medway.
2. 47 children were supported whilst in safe accommodation.
3. 15 adults and children accessed counselling and play therapy in refuge.
4. 21% of people accessing refuge accommodation in Medway identified as black or from a minority ethnic group.
5. 13% of people were between 16 – 25 years old.
6. 51 % of people reported as having a mental health need.
7. 16% of people had a disability in refuge.
8. Over a year 113 people have benefited from Sanctuary Scheme adaptations to enable them to remain safely in their homes.

2. “Office of national Statistics, Domestic Abuse prevalence and trends, England and Wales: November 2023”
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/domesticabuseprevalenceandtrendsenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2022>

3. ‘Office of National Statistics: November 2023’
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/domesticabusevictimcharacteristicsenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2022#domestic-homicide>

4. ‘NSPCC, Child abuse and neglect in the UK today, November 2023’
[Child abuse and neglect in the UK today | NSPCC Learning](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/learning-and-research/child-abuse-and-neglect-in-the-uk-today/)

5. Domestic Abuse Statistics Data Tool, Home Office, November 2022

6. “Childrens Commissioner, Local vulnerability profiles, November 2023”
<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/vulnerable-children/local-vulnerability-profiles/>

7. From Kent & Medway’s service reports 2022-23: Internal data

Domestic abuse
continued

The commitments of the Partnership are split across three key areas which have been informed by what people with lived experience have told us. These sections are early intervention and prevention, immediate need and recovery.

1. Early intervention and prevention

Increasing awareness of what abuse is and available support

Technology

Professional training

Preventing escalation of abusive behaviours

Clare's Law

2. Immediate Needs

Being responsive to individual needs

Reducing risk

Strengthening services

Highlighting civil options

Experience of justice

Supporting children and young people

Access to housing

3. Recovery

The Impact of abuse on Mental Health

Processing experiences and promoting connections

Prioritising family bonds

Reaching economic independence

Recognising the experts

1. Early intervention and prevention

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This theme aims to increase the focus on early intervention and prevention, to stop domestic abuse occurring, to identify domestic abuse as early as possible and get support in place to stop the impacts from escalating.

“For me it’s like everyone just needs educating. What is domestic abuse? So, at school you go all the way through every organisation. You know, every judge, solicitor, whoever is involved in anything to do with domestic abuse should be trained. . . People would think differently. I think, courts would be different, the legal system will be different and other people’s perceptions. Even if it’s taught at school, young girls, boys, how they grow up and their perception of what abuse is [is] really important.”

“Domestic abuse training needs to be there for every professional and it should be a statutory thing that every professional needs to have, like health and safety. Because if people knew how to recognise the signs of it, I think people could help others to pick it up and to recognise it themselves, or at least be able to offer them a service that’s available in your area if you want to access it.”

Across the Partnership we will increase our capacity to respond to domestic abuse earlier and to prevent abuse from taking place.

Our commitments are summarised here, there is more detail in the full strategy.

1. Increasing awareness of what abuse is and available support

Understanding what a healthy relationship looks like, and what the tactics of abuse include, can support people to recognise what abuse is and the support options available. When a person is ready to reach out for help, they should be able to identify where to turn to for help quickly.

The Partnership will:

- work collaboratively to provide consistent messaging around domestic abuse, increasing awareness that domestic abuse includes coercive, financial or economic, emotional, physical, honour-based and sexual abuse and can impact anyone;
- increase awareness of the services available and that they are inclusive;

“Communication with different generations is key – different forms for different ages e.g. TV (awareness) for older people, social media and TikTok for younger generations - targeted messages for different generations”

“I feel like something needs to be taught in schools. That’s just my opinion. Because what I kind of uncovered with my counselling is that me personally, a lot of my issues stem from childhood trauma, and then you end up finding yourself in a relationship at a young age with a trauma bond. . . If I had been taught better about relationships and what gaslighting is and what manipulating someone looks like I would [have been] a lot more educated like now.”

1. Early intervention and prevention
continued

- provide educational resources and proactively reach out to groups currently not accessing services;
- increase awareness of technologies used to perpetrate abuse so it can be more easily recognised and prevented.

2. Professional training

We need to ensure that professionals working across our services have access to training and development opportunities that give them the skills they need to identify and respond to domestic abuse. Staff should feel confident and empowered to respond to disclosures.

The Partnership will:

- support professionals across our services to understand and identify the many forms of domestic abuse, and to feel confident in assessing risk and taking a trauma informed, healing centred response;
- ensure training is available for staff on areas such as options for support, the additional barriers experienced by different people and how to explore and challenge behaviour linked to interpretations of culture which put people at risk of harm, abuse or death;
- to support staff across our organisations to remain safe at work whilst taking a robust approach to any allegations of abusive behaviour made against our staff.

3. Preventing the escalation of abusive behaviours

People who perpetrate through abusive behaviours cause significant harm to others. They may themselves

have experienced or witnessed abuse and they can be at increased risk of suicide.

We need interventions in place to support the person while disrupting abusive behaviour.

Interventions should be in place to support people identify their harmful behaviour and make changes, whilst services work together to manage risk and prevent further harm.

The Partnership will:

- work with communities to promote positive behaviours and challenge harmful gendered stereotyping;
- support work on bystander interventions and seek opportunities to develop service provision for those showing signs of developing abusive behaviours working with the Violence Reduction Unit, and the Prevent team where appropriate.

4. Clare’s Law

Clare’s Law gives people the ‘right to ask’ if their current or ex-partner has previous history of domestic abuse, and the right for public sector Partners to proactively release information if someone is believed to be at significant risk.

By giving people the right information, we can support them to make informed choices about their safety;

The Partnership will:

- increase awareness of Clare’s Law, making this as accessible as possible so that people are able to make choices that increase their safety.

2. Immediate Needs

By immediate need we mean the services, interventions and support that people need whilst domestic abuse is occurring and in the immediate aftermath. These services may help with managing risk and increasing safety, but people may also need support with practical issues such as access to housing and school places.

"I was in such a bad place and didn't know where to go, who to talk to. It was hard to talk because of the kids around. It was hard to actually pick up the phone and physically try and call someone and talk to them. You know, some sort of service. So in the end, one evening I was just at a point where I really just wanted to end my life again and I found the Victim Support online and it had the online chat, so I started talking to somebody from there. That helped."

"It is the real loneliness. That is what for me probably was the hardest part in the beginning... I do believe for me the loneliness every time he would go was what made me take him back. I had nobody. I mean, normally you would have friends you can pick up the phone and call. I didn't have that. I had no friends anymore, not one."

"Even in diversity, there's still diversity that needs to happen, but here no one looks like me, so I think there's also that loneliness here where I want to go to staff, but you can't quite understand all the things that I may need because you don't know what it's like to be me. Constantly having to explain yourself and who you are is exhausting."

"My child had already taken so much time off school, just like every other kid [because of the pandemic]. But then to add another six months to that and then not have provisions in place for catch ups and stuff... They are doing OK, but they could do with extra support. That is one thing that I would have said and I did ask about, but, I was told that it could be looked into, but I just don't think it ever happened. Is that if the child's gonna be out of school longer than a month, if they could somehow implement a tutor to come into refuge, to teach them that would be amazing."

2. Immediate Needs

continued

“The IDVA service was amazing – I was so lonely; I didn’t know how to do anything- didn’t know how to use the TV because I wasn’t allowed to before. If someone was able to check in with a phone call more frequently would have been very helpful, every day or every few days after referral.”

1. Being responsive to individual needs

The Partnership must ensure that services can meet the needs of our diverse population, recognising that people’s experiences of abuse, their journeys, trauma, support needs, and recovery are different.

Some individuals and communities may face multiple and intersecting barriers to support, and our services need to have the knowledge and skills, as well as an understanding of experience to proactively engage and respond.

The Partnership will:

- recognise that people’s journeys, trauma and support needs are different and our individual characteristics affect the risk of experiencing domestic abuse, the abusive tactics used and sometimes, the support we need;

- provide safe accommodation and specialist support that meets the needs of anyone experiencing abuse, strengthening our responses to people facing multiple barriers and increasing service uptake for under-represented groups;
- strengthen links with community groups, faith groups and leaders to expand opportunities for collaborative working, develop needs led work across the specialist ‘by and for’ market and work to improve the response to those with multiple barriers to access.

2. Reducing risk

Domestic abuse takes multiple forms with risk impacted by a number of factors; this includes the abusive persons history and intent, whether there has been recent separation, whether they are pregnant or have a young child, the barriers they experience when working with services and other factors. In keeping people safe, risk must be managed and where possible reduced.

The Partnership will:

- strengthen the processes that enable us to jointly respond to the highest risk domestic abuse cases to increase safety and hold people perpetrating abusive behaviour to account;

2. Immediate Needs

continued

- recognise risks caused by the emotional and psychological impact of abuse and associated coping mechanisms;
- act on learnings when domestic abuse has been fatal or there have been failures in safeguarding adults and children.

3. Strengthening services

The Partnership will work collaboratively to utilise opportunities and commission where gaps in existing services are identified to ensure the strongest support is available for those impacted by domestic abuse.

The Partnership will:

- centralise and share information on commissioned services to increase awareness of available interventions and work to streamline referral pathways and identify opportunities to extend collaborative commissioning working with the marketplace.

4. Highlighting civil options

There are civil options available to people experiencing abuse, such as non-molestation orders, stalking protection orders, and occupation orders which can help to protect a person and their children, and disrupt the behaviour of the person perpetrating through abusive behaviours. For more information on all of the civil orders available please see the Crown Prosecution website.⁸

The Partnership will:

- grow awareness of civil options, ensure a victim centred approach and ensure that professionals are able to signpost to relevant services;
- work to strengthen the conditions and wording of orders and support the investigation of breaches of protective orders.

5. Experience of justice

For those experiencing domestic abuse the decision to report offences to the police or to seek help from services is not taken lightly and can be daunting.

The Partnership will:

- increase professional training on gathering evidence of coercive and controlling behaviour and advocate for greater specialist domestic abuse support for those who are going through the criminal justice system;
- promote training, policies and practice guides that are inclusive of identifying coercive behavior, recognising the typologies of abuse and responding safely to counter allegations.

8. <https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/domestic-abuse>

2. Immediate Needs

continued

6. Supporting children and young people

Children who experience abuse between their caregivers are victims of abuse in their own right. As a Partnership, we will develop our response to children who have experienced abuse, including making sure services are available to support them.

The Partnership will:

- consistently fund support for children in safe accommodation, ensuring they have access to services that are age appropriate, and meets their needs. We will develop projects to minimise time outside of education;
- seek to support the family as a whole, ensuring information is shared appropriately where a child or young person experiences abuse between their caregivers, recognising the importance of children's lived experiences in designing services and influencing governance.

7. Access to housing

Domestic abuse may impact a persons ability to remain in their own home safely. As a Partnership we are committed to improving access to safe and stable accommodation for people experiencing abuse.

The Partnership will:

- explore projects which strengthen the housing response to those who are unsafe at home, including safety planning knowledge, trauma informed processes and options for specialised referral and support routes;
- recognise the importance of social and family networks and support people to find more permanent, settled accommodation;
- have the right safe accommodation and specialist support to meet the needs of those experiencing abuse and strengthen options for people facing multiple barriers when trying to access safe accommodation;
- offer age-appropriate support that meets the diverse needs of children in safe accommodation, minimise time out of education and support children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities having their needs considered when moving into safe accommodation.

3. Recovery

Domestic abuse and the associated trauma can have a significant impact on the people affected. There can be damaging long and short-term physical, mental, emotional, and psychological health impacts on adults and children. The process of recovery is personal and is not linear.

The Partnership want Kent & Medway to be a place where people have the opportunity to thrive, to recover from harm to support healing and resilience.

"I think for me [a group programme] would be really good to do because I don't think I totally accept or understand the level of abuse that I went through, because for me it was just a general normal day-to-day thing... I think it would really help me to have a better understanding of the abuse that I actually went through and the trauma that that caused and help me come to terms with that."

"I think with domestic abuse, it takes a very, very long time to process what's happened... It's something that's a long-term recovery I suppose. I think a lot of things are triggering me and that's bringing back a lot of emotions about what has happened and the way that I feel about myself and I feel like I need the support more now."

"You might have ended your support and feel like you are much better something can still trigger you and put you back there, then there is no support."

*"It's like the calm after the storm, where I've now gone, oh s**t - actually you're not OK. You are harbouring some real trauma that you've never said out loud, that you haven't had time or space to."*

1. The impact of abuse on mental health

Domestic abuse and the associated trauma can have a significant impact on the people affected. There can be damaging long and short-term physical, mental, emotional, and psychological health impacts on adults and children. Many of those affected have mental health support needs.

To ensure that people get the support they need, the Partnership will:

- promote better understanding of domestic abuse within mental health settings and support access to mental health services that are trauma informed and responsive to the needs of people who have been impacted by abuse.

3. Recovery continued

2. Processing experiences and promoting connections

Domestic abuse erodes self-esteem and creates feelings of shame, guilt, and loneliness. Supporting people to understand the abusive tactics that have been used in their relationships and process the effect that this has had is an important step in recovery, for both adults and children.

The Partnership will:

- work to ensure there is equitable and accessible access to group work programmes for adults and children in a wide range of settings to encourage participation;
- support initiatives to build confidence and grow social support networks.

3. Prioritising family bonds

Parenting and family relationships can be deeply affected by the experience of abuse. Abusive tactics are used to isolate and undermine relationships and can also impact on the space and energy to parent. The intergenerational transmission of risk can be mitigated by supporting parents and children to recover together. Giving parents and children coordinated support and new strategies after abuse is important in creating strong recovery journeys, which are themselves a form of prevention.

The Partnership will:

- promote integrated support for the child/ren and the non-abusive parent, investigating options for a whole family approach to support, exploring services which aid parenting after experiencing abuse;
- provide services that aim to increase the safety of children by working with the abusive parent to increase their insight into the impact of their behaviours, whilst holding them accountable for the abuse.

4. Reaching economic independence

Financial and economic abuse is a pattern of coercing and controlling behaviour that dominates a partner or family member's ability to acquire, use and maintain financial resources.

For many people affected by domestic abuse the impact of abuse can drastically alter their financial situation which may include losing homes or tenancies, property loss or damage. The effects of financial and economic abuse may include unemployment, diminished employment prospects, debt, or coerced debt. This can lead to long-term consequences and can severely limit long-term economic stability and financial and economic independence.

3. Recovery
continued

The Partnership will:

- raise awareness of financial and economic abuse and the impacts and consequences of this, both within our staff and within our communities;
- work to establish clear routes of support for people who experience financial and economic abuse.

5. Recognising the experts

The experts in domestic abuse are those people who are living or have lived through abusive experiences. The Partnership will continue to be led by the voices of those who have experienced abuse. The Partnership

also acknowledges the commitment and essential contribution of voluntary sector provision within this space.

The Partnership will:

- recognise the importance of peer-support programmes and interventions that work with the local community and informal networks;
- continue to be led by experts by experience in our services and governance structures, promoting greater service user involvement in service design, delivery and policy making.



Safe Accommodation

Here we outline the identified gaps in provision and how we will, or have met these gaps.

Kent

Gap identified	How we will meet or have met the gap
Support services for children and young people in safe accommodation.	We have commissioned support for children in safe accommodation which includes access to group support, one to one and peer support.
Access to services for people with multiple barriers such as dependency and mental health support requirements.	Specialist independent domestic abuse advisors will continue to support access. Additional training with domestic abuse, mental health and drug and alcohol services will be developed. Enhanced therapeutic support for those 16 and over has been commissioned to improve access to refuge.
Access to secure secondary accommodation options when moving out of safe accommodation.	Tenancy Support Officers have been introduced to increase support and advocacy for those moving from safe accommodation. Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance Accreditation is being sought by all tier 2 authorities, supported by KCC.
Sanctuary options (where a person is offered support and security to enable them to stay in their home).	We have commissioned a Sanctuary service which will extend the availability of services within Kent.
Access to refuge accommodation for men.	A pilot which will support men in safe accommodation has been commissioned.

Safe Accommodation
continued

Medway

Gap identified	How we will meet or have met the gap
Access to services for people with multiple barriers such as dependency and mental health support requirements.	We will continue to commission an Access Independent Domestic Violence Adviser to offer specialist support for those with barriers to access.
Access to secure secondary accommodation options when moving out of safe accommodation.	Medway have introduced a specialist Domestic Abuse Housing Options Officer, who is also a trained Independent Domestic Violence Advisor to support access to secondary accommodation.
Support in temporary accommodation.	An additional Independent Domestic Violence Advisor has been brought in to support people facing multiple barriers to access, where Sanctuary measures are installed in their property.
Mental Health support within safe accommodation.	The mental health needs of children and adults are supported through an in-house counselling service and play therapy, for people in both refuge and dispersed safe.
Access to refuge accommodation for men and others who cannot access refuge.	Medway has commissioned a dispersed accommodation scheme for those people where refuge is not suitable/accessible.

How we will measure success

The Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group will oversee a delivery plan with regular updates on progress being made across our governance structures.

In addition to monitoring delivery of our plan we will use a small number of focussed activity indicators to monitor our progress and to identify where we may need to make changes.

More details of how we will measure our performance are available in the full strategy.

In partnership with and supported by



Further information

For further information about any aspect of this executive summary please contact:

Kent County Council

Strategy, Policy and Relationships

PSRPolicy@kent.gov.uk

Alternative formats

If you require any of the consultation material in an alternative format or language please email alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk or call **03000 421553** (text relay service number: **18001 03000 421553**). This number goes to an answering machine, which is monitored during office hours.

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EQIA Submission Draft Working Template

If required, this template is for use prior to completing your EQIA Submission in the EQIA App. You can use it to understand what information is needed beforehand to complete an EQIA submission online, and also as a way to collaborate with others who may be involved with the EQIA. Note: You can upload this into the App when complete if it contains more detailed information than the App asks for and you wish to retain this detail.

Section A

1. Name of Activity (EQIA Title):

Kent & Medway Partnership Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024-2029

2. Directorate

Strategic and Corporate Services

3. Responsible Service/Division

Strategy, Policy, Relationships and Corporate Assurance (SPRCA)

Accountability and Responsibility

4. Officer completing EQIA

Note: This should be the name of the officer who will be submitting the EQIA onto the App.

Iona Hunter-Whitehouse, Senior Project Development Officer for Domestic Abuse

5. Head of Service

Note: This should be the Head of Service who will be approving your submitted EQIA.

Akua Agyepong – Assistant Director, Adults Services

6. Director of Service

Note: This should be the name of your responsible director.

David Whittle, Director of Strategy Policy, Relationships & Corporate Assurance

The type of Activity you are undertaking

7. What type of activity are you undertaking?

Service Change – *operational changes in the way we deliver the service to people.* Answer Yes/No

No

Service Redesign – *restructure, new operating model or changes to ways of working.* Answer Yes/No

No

Project/Programme – *includes limited delivery of change activity, including partnership projects, external funding projects and capital projects.* Answer Yes/No

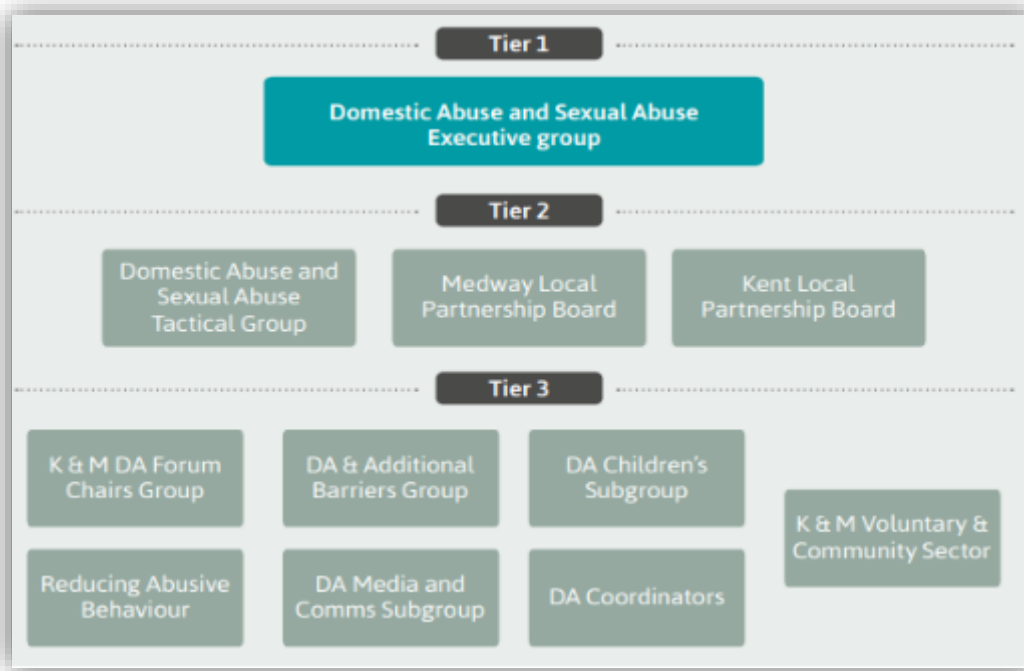
No

Commissioning/Procurement – *means commissioning activity which requires commercial judgement.*

Answer Yes/No

No

Strategy /Policy – includes review, refresh or creating a new document. Answer Yes/No
Yes
Other – Please add details of any other activity type here.
No
8. Aims and Objectives and Equality Recommendations – Note: You will be asked to give a brief description of the aims and objectives of your activity in this section of the App, along with the Equality recommendations. You may use this section to also add any context you feel may be required.
<p>Kent and Medway’s Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy 2024-2029 has been developed using learnings from the previous 2020-2023 strategy, multiagency engagement and feedback from people who have experienced abuse. The objective of this activity was to develop a collaborative domestic abuse strategy that encompasses the vision of partners across Kent and Medway and holds the feedback that we have received from people who have experienced abuse central to its aims.</p> <p>The strategy has been developed with a multi-agency approach, bringing together a range of statutory agencies including Kent County Council, Medway Council, Kent Police, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, NHS ICB, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, the National Probation Service, DWP, and Kent’s district and borough councils.</p> <p>The strategy provides a joint statement across the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse and Sexual Abuse Executive.</p> <p>Domestic abuse works across the following structure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group. This group leads and sets the partnership’s Domestic Abuse Strategy, it’s priorities and oversees action to ensure their delivery. 2. The Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Tactical board delivers the joint action plans generated from the strategy and report back to the Executive Group. 3. The Kent Local Partnership Board is the only statutory body and works to ensure that Kent meets its requirements in relation to the Domestic Abuse Act. 4. Medway has a parallel Local Partnership Board which oversees the statutory requirements for Medway. <p>Supporting this are a number of groups including the Voluntary Sector Subgroup and local domestic abuse forums.</p>



The aims set out in the newly developed strategy will be managed by the Executive Group and taken forward through the Tier 2 and 3 structure.

This multiagency structure has been set out because we know that domestic abuse is a prolific and cross cutting issue. Approximately 10% of the calls (34,000) received by Kent Police relate to domestic abuse. Domestic abuse related crimes make up 21% of the total recorded crime in Kent, and around half of all non-crimes.¹

Nationally nearly half a million people experiencing domestic abuse seek assistance from medical professionals every year and the number of households in Kent owed prevention or relief duty due to domestic abuse has steadily increased since the pandemic and the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act. The people affected need to find the right response, whichever agency they approach for help.

The strategy sets out Kent and Medway's joint vision, priorities and commitments to reduce the levels of domestic abuse, and ensure that where domestic abuse does take place, all those affected get the right support, quickly. The strategy supports agencies and partnerships to design and deliver the most appropriate responses to anyone affected by domestic abuse in Kent and Medway.

Summary of Key Findings: This equality impact assessment suggests that the strategy will have a positive impact on those with protected characteristics by highlighting different experiences of abuse and seeking an active outcome from partners to improve delivery of service to everyone.

Section B – Evidence

Note: For questions 9, 10 & 11 at least one of these must be a 'Yes'. You can continue working on the EQIA in the App, but you will not be able to submit it for approval without this information.

9. Do you have data related to the protected groups of the people impacted by this activity? Answer: Yes/No

Yes

¹ https://www.kpho.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/147134/Domestic-Abuse-Needs-Assessment-refresh-2022.pdf

<p>10. Is it possible to get the data in a timely and cost effective way? Answer: Yes/No</p> <p>Yes</p>
<p>11. Is there national evidence/data that you can use? Answer: Yes/No</p> <p>Yes</p>
<p>12. Have you consulted with Stakeholders? <i>Answer: Yes/No</i> <i>Stakeholders are those who have a stake or interest in your project which could be residents, service users, staff, members, statutory and other organisations, VCSE partners etc.</i></p> <p>Yes</p>
<p>13. Who have you involved, consulted and engaged with? <i>Please give details in the box provided. This may be details of those you have already involved, consulted and engaged with or who you intend to do so with in the future. If the answer to question 12 is 'No', please explain why.</i></p> <p>The development of the strategy has included engagement with a range of professionals involved in providing services to people who may be experiencing abuse. This has taking place via workshops, one to one meetings with partners and through feedback sought throughout the Domestic and Sexual Abuse governance structure. This includes but is not limited to the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Tactical Group, the District DA Coordinators, the nine Domestic Abuse Forums, the Domestic Abuse Forum Chairs Group and Voluntary Sector Groups.</p> <p>Through this the following partners and teams have consulted at a number of levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC Adult Safeguarding • KCC Children’s Safeguarding • KCC Early Help • Medway Council • Kent Police • The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner • NHS ICB Safeguarding • Kent Fire and Rescue Service • the National Probation Service • Kent’s district and borough councils • The voluntary and community sector <p>We also want to ensure that people who have experienced abuse are able to input into the strategy in a meaningful way. Eleven in depth interviews with people who have experienced abuse took place via the Kent Domestic Abuse Research programme, with a further 43 responding to a survey to identify what worked well, and what didn’t, in their journeys and to identify their priority areas. These experiences have formed the basis of the strategy.</p> <p>An 11-week public consultation allowed for broad input and feedback on the draft strategy. Throughout this process the strategy team attended meetings and engaged community groups and forums. This included attending community groups such as Age UK, the Soroptimists, Tovil Community Event, DAWN event Maidstone and Rise4Disability. The team also attended meetings to gather feedback, this included Kent Suicide Prevention Network, Kent Community Safety Information Session, Medway Safeguarding Board, Kent Housing Options Group, Tunbridge Wells Members Briefing, KCC All Party Members Briefing, Single Parent Staff Group, Rainbow Staff Group, Health Visting Services (across Kent), Joint Kent Chiefs, Kent and Medway Women’s Forum & SPACE Matters. This was further supported by newsletters promoting engagement with the formal consultation, a section was included in the Adult Social Care – For You,</p>

Newsletter, the Kent and Medway Better Health and Suicide Prevention newsletter, an email to the Learning Disability Partnership Board, the Armed Forces Leads and Unit Welfare Officers, the Disability Assist October Newsletter the Kelsi e-bulletin for September and October, the Kent Association of Head Teachers newsletter, the Dad's Unlimited newsletter, Carers East Kent newsletter and East Kent Partnership Bulletin. The formal consultation was also featured on a number Parish Council websites, in a North Kent Mind news release, on the Kent and Surrey bylines, Stronger Kent Communities and Health Watch Kent website.

A video to support engagement with the consultation was shared widely, social media posts were shared via the Kent & Medway Media and Communications group and social channels to ensure the broadest possible response base.

Significant effort was made to reach out in a number of ways to a broad range of Kent and Medway residents from across protected characteristic groups. The consultation was sent to religious groups, organisations that work with children, to carers and those with care needs, to parenting groups, to diversity forums, disability action groups, to those supporting older people and older people themselves and to experts by experience, domestic abuse services and people who have experienced abuse themselves.

14. Has there been a previous equality analysis (EQIA) in the last 3 years? Answer: Yes/No

Yes

15. Do you have evidence/data that can help you understand the potential impact of your activity? Answer: Yes/No

Yes

Uploading Evidence/Data/related information into the App

Note: At this point, you will be asked to upload the evidence/ data and related information that you feel should sit alongside the EQIA that can help understand the potential impact of your activity. Please ensure that you have this information to upload as the Equality analysis cannot be sent for approval without this.

Upload supplementary information document

Section C – Impact

16. Who may be impacted by the activity? Select all that apply.

Service users/clients - Answer: Yes/No

Yes

Residents/Communities/Citizens - Answer: Yes/No

Yes

Staff/Volunteers - Answer: Yes/No

Yes

17. Are there any positive impacts for all or any of the protected groups as a result of the activity that you are doing? Answer: Yes/No

Yes

18. Please give details of Positive Impacts

Age

Domestic abuse can affect anybody, but we know that the impact is different for different groups. Age affects the way domestic abuse is experienced and responded to. Children have now been recognised in law as victims of the abuse between care givers. At the other end of the spectrum, we know that older people are

disproportionately represented in Domestic Homicides and underrepresented in our commissioned services.

Please see supplementary information for further information.

The strategy:

Whilst developing the strategy, consideration was given to how people affected by abuse of all ages can be better supported in Kent and Medway.

The strategy recognises children who see, hear, or experience the effects of domestic abuse as victims in their own right, as stated in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The strategy has placed an emphasis on children's voices and experiences, recognising the importance of schools in supporting children and young people has commitments around comprehensive whole family support, in continuing to improve the process for sharing Domestic Abuse Notifications.

This strategy will not explore abuse directed to people under 16 years as, under the governmental definition of abuse, this would be determined as child abuse under the Children and Young Persons Act 1933. The strategy does aim to address concerns about the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people and how this impacts their own intimate relationships and family bonds.

It also considers domestic abuse experienced by older people, and how the underreporting of abuse from this group should be addressed. Early Intervention and Prevention recognises that anyone can be impacted by abuse at any age, and identifying opportunities to reduce the long-term impacts needs to happen across life stages. The Strategy also recognises that personal characteristics such as age can affect the risk of experiencing domestic abuse, the abusive tactics used and sometimes, the support we need. Commitments include increasing service uptake for under-represented groups and supporting collaboration to develop needs led work and support the specialist 'by and for' market. It also recognises that rural communities, where the average age is higher, need to be considered in service design and promotion.

Disability

Data collected by SafeLives suggests that people with a disability are more likely to experience domestic abuse than those who do not have a disability, experience it for longer before seeking help and are more likely to still be experiencing abuse at the end of service.

Please see supplementary information for further information.

The strategy:

The strategy recognises the role of disability in people's experiences of abuse and its intersectionality with other protected characteristics.

The strategy seeks to address barriers to pursuing and accessing support as well as seeking to understand why outcomes for people with a disability fall below those of non disabled clients. The strategy seeks to promote collaboration between expert domestic abuse services and expert disability services, developing a particular focus on advancing a 'by and for' market in Kent & Medway.

During the strategy consultation consideration was given to how to make the strategy document as accessible as possible, producing BSL and Easy Read versions and eliciting feedback from disability forums, groups and organisations.

Sex

For the year ending March 2022, the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimated that 1.7 million

women and 699,000 men aged 16 years and over experienced domestic abuse in the last year. This is a prevalence rate of approximately 7 in 100 women and 3 in 100 men.² However, we know that the majority of those experiencing high risk abuse are women. In the year ending March 2022, the victim was female in 74.1% of domestic abuse-related crimes. Between the year ending March 2019 and the year ending March 2021, 72.1% of victims of domestic homicide were female compared with 12.3% of victims of non-domestic homicide.

Please see supplementary information for further information.

The strategy:

The strategy is gender informed, acknowledging that the majority of high harm abuse is perpetrated by men and experienced by women. However, the strategy also recognises that the numbers of men reporting domestic abuse are increasing, and that there are additional barriers to men reporting domestic abuse based on social expectations. Men's services were consulted with during the consultation to ensure their voices and experiences can help shape the strategy. The needs of both men and women should be catered to by a Domestic Abuse Strategy for Kent & Medway.

We also know that the harm caused by a perpetrator of abuse is felt widely in family networks, not just by the primary victim and children. The strategy supports the development of services which work to understand the needs of the whole family. The strategy will prioritise building services that are accessible and responsive to the broad range of need experienced for people of any gender.

Gender identity/Transgender

Although data is reasonably limited on the level of domestic abuse experienced by transgender people, it is known that transgender people experience additional barriers to reporting abuse and accessing services. It is essential that service provision recognises the needs of transgender people.

Please see supplementary information for further information.

The strategy:

The Strategy recognises that personal characteristics such as gender and gender identity can affect the risk of experiencing domestic abuse, the abusive tactics used and sometimes, the support we need. Transgender people experience additional barriers to reporting abuse, and therefore have particular support needs. Commitments include promoting access for groups underrepresented in services and working to promote collaboration and development of specialist services.

Race

The Office of National Statistics has found that there is no significant difference in the prevalence of domestic abuse across different ethnic groups.³ However, statistical analysis (shown in attached evidence) suggests there may be significant under reporting of DA from those in minoritized communities.

² Domestic abuse victim characteristics, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

³

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/domesticabusevictimcharacteristicsenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2022#ethnicity>

The largest ethnic group in Kent is White. 93.7% of all residents are of white ethnic origin, and 6.6% are from another ethnic group. The largest single minoritized community in Kent is Indian representing 1.2% of the total population.⁴

Very little information is available about gypsy and traveller communities and domestic abuse, however there is a need to work with this community to increase awareness of the services and support available to those experiencing domestic abuse.

Please see supplementary information for further information.

The strategy:

When creating the strategy, consideration was given to ensuring services are culturally sensitive and actively promote themselves to all groups. This includes working with services for people affected by abuse from a wide range of communities and organisations to ensure the strategy will have a positive impact on victims and survivors from minority groups.

The strategy recognises that our characteristics can influence the barriers we face in reporting abuse. The strategy promotes work to address the under reporting of domestic abuse within minoritized communities and will seek to develop opportunities to promote service provision by 'By & For' services that have culturally specific knowledge and can build trust within minoritized communities.

The strategy also includes developing domestic abuse knowledge within community networks, building confidence in talking about and addressing abuse. This work should ensure community networks from across the protected characteristics are proactively engaged in projects.

Religion, Belief & Culture

62.5% of Kent residents describe themselves as Christian, whilst the largest non-Christian religious group is Muslim (1%).⁵ We know that people's religion, culture and beliefs can be used by the abusive person to exert power and control. This can include honour based abuse and forced marriage as well as impacting on the tactics used within abusive relationships.

There are no Kent and Medway specific statistics available on forced marriage or honour based abuse (HBA). However, DHR lessons identified have highlighted the importance of understanding how abuse is impacted by culture to better equip staff to question and sensitively explore aspects of people's culture to ensure people experience consistently robust safeguarding.

Please see supplementary information for further information.

The strategy:

The strategy aims to strengthen links with community groups, faith groups and leaders to expand on opportunities for partnership work, recognises that our characteristics impact the barriers we face in reaching out for help and aims to promote specialist collaboration and 'by and for' services.

It also recognises Honour Based Abuse as an intersecting issue between culture and religion and that

⁴ <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-and-data/facts-and-figures-about-Kent/summary-of-kent-facts-and-figures#tab-2>

⁴ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/domesticabusevictimcharacteristicsenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2020#ethnicity>

⁵ <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-and-data/facts-and-figures-about-Kent/summary-of-kent-facts-and-figures#tab-2>

increasing understanding of its root in each case can lead to better outcomes for individuals. The strategy draws attention to honour-based abuse (HBA) including forced marriage as part of domestic abuse as well as promoting culturally aware responses from across the partnership.

There is also commitment to ensure training is available for staff on areas such as options for support for those with no recourse to public funds & honour based abuse.

The strategy identifies the need to reach out to groups not currently accessing services, work with communities to better understand how best to increase awareness of support and work with local communities and with our partners to continue to challenge these behaviours.

Sexual Orientation

Statistics suggest that people in same sex relationships are more likely than those in heterosexual relationships to experience domestic abuse (please see attached additional information). Prevalence of Domestic Abuse by Orientation shows lowest prevalence for people identifying as heterosexual (5.2%) and higher prevalence for gay and lesbian people (8.4%) and higher still for those identifying as bisexual (15.2%).⁶

Gay, lesbian and bisexual people may experience additional barriers to reporting abuse, for example through fear of 'outing', fear of stigma from service providers or uncertainty around what provision is available. They may also have to challenge the view of domestic abuse as occurring only within heterosexual contexts. These contribute to the significant underreporting of abuse within LGBTQ relationships.

Please see supplementary information for further information.

The strategy:

The strategy acknowledges the need to ensure that support is available for everyone experiencing abuse, and that support services can be tailored to the needs of people in the context of their protected characteristics, including sexual orientation. It recognises that characteristics such as our sexuality can affect the risk of experiencing domestic abuse, the abusive tactics used and sometimes, the support we need. There are commitments around having the right safe accommodation options available, whatever the person's sexual orientation and that we will support collaboration to ensure that the right expertise is available for anyone experiencing abuse.

Pregnancy & Maternity

Although there appears to be a lack of recent figures on domestic abuse, pregnancy and maternity, it has been established that pregnancy can be a trigger for domestic abuse to commence or escalate and also a time when survivors may be at elevated risk.

Please see supplementary information for further information.

The strategy:

The NHS, and public health (health visiting service) are part of the Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual

6

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/624422988fa8f527785ed11c/E02735263_Tackling_Domestic_Abuse_CP_639_Elay_002_.pdf

Abuse Executive Group and therefore part of the upcoming strategy's governance processes. The strategy considers how services that come into contact with pregnant people can improve their training and responses to domestic abuse. It also commits to continuing to improve the process for sharing Domestic Abuse Notifications (an alert sent from the police to another agency to alert them that a child or pregnant person was present at an incident) to ensure that it is equitable across the education and healthcare systems.

Negative Impacts and Mitigating Actions

The questions in this section help to think through positive and negative impacts for people affected by your activity. Please use the Evidence you have referred to in Section B and explain the data as part of your answer.

19. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Age

a) Are there negative impacts for Age? Answer: Yes/No
(If yes, please also complete sections b, c, and d).

No

b) Details of Negative Impacts for Age

c) Mitigating Actions for Age

d) Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions - Age

20. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Disability

a) Are there negative impacts for Disability? Answer: Yes/No
(If yes, please also complete sections b, c, and d).

No

b) Details of Negative Impacts for Disability

c) Mitigating Actions for Disability

d) Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions - Disability

21. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Sex
a) Are there negative impacts for Sex? <i>Answer: Yes/No</i> <i>(If yes, please also complete sections b, c, and d).</i>
No
b) Details of Negative Impacts for Sex
c) Mitigating Actions for Sex
d) Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions - Sex
22. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
a) Are there negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender? <i>Answer: Yes/No</i> <i>(If yes, please also complete sections b, c, and d).</i>
No
b) Details of Negative Impacts for Gender identity/transgender
c) Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
d) Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions - Gender identity/transgender
23. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Race
a) Are there negative impacts for Race? <i>Answer: Yes/No</i> <i>(If yes, please also complete sections b, c, and d).</i>
No
b) Details of Negative Impacts for Race
c) Mitigating Actions for Race

d) Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions – Race
24. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
a) Are there negative impacts for Religion and Belief? <i>Answer: Yes/No (If yes, please also complete sections b, c,and d).</i>
No
b) Details of Negative Impacts for Religion and belief
c) Mitigating Actions for Religion and belief
d) Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions - Religion and belief
25. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
a) Are there negative impacts for sexual orientation. <i>Answer: Yes/No (If yes, please also complete sections b, c,and d).</i>
No
b) Details of Negative Impacts for Sexual Orientation
c) Mitigating Actions for Sexual Orientation
d) Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions - Sexual Orientation
26. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
a) Are there negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity? <i>Answer: Yes/No (If yes, please also complete sections b, c,and d).</i>
No
b) Details of Negative Impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity

c) Mitigating Actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
d) Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions - Pregnancy and Maternity
27. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for marriage and civil partnerships
a) Are there negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships? <i>Answer: Yes/No</i> <i>(If yes, please also complete sections b, c, and d).</i>
No
b) Details of Negative Impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
c) Mitigating Actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
d) Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions - Marriage and Civil Partnerships
28. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
a) Are there negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities? <i>Answer: Yes/No</i> <i>(If yes, please also complete sections b, c, and d).</i>
No
b) Details of Negative Impacts for Carer's Responsibilities
c) Mitigating Actions for Carer's responsibilities
d) Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions - Carer's Responsibilities

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Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy 2020 - 2023: Progress made



Accessing support

This is an evaluation document supporting the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy.

If you need support **now** this can be accessed by telephoning Victim Support on **0808 168 9276**, or visiting **www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk**

If you are in immediate danger please do not be afraid to call 999, otherwise you can contact Kent Police on the non-emergency telephone number 101 or visit your local police station to speak with an officer in confidence.

Alternatively, you can contact the freephone 24 hour National Domestic Violence Helpline run in partnership between Women's Aid and Refuge on **0808 2000 247** or the Men's Advice Line on **0808 801 0327**.

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This report is necessarily an overview given the large amount of progress which has been achieved across the partnership. Many commitments from the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy are listed, but due to duplication and to support conciseness not all commitments and completed work is included.

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In partnership with and supported by





Foreword

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Our Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy (2020 – 2023) has coordinated our partnership vision. This vision has enabled us to bring together our approach and the delivery of services, ensuring that we are working to the same collective aim and commitments.

Domestic abuse is wide reaching and prolific, it is destructive and abhorrent and every minute, of every day it effects those that are subject of it. To ensure that people receive the best response we must continue to work together, both as a collective partnership and as individual organisations, to strengthen the delivery of services; working towards our aim; to reduce the prevalence of domestic abuse, hold to account those that commit such crimes, and ensure that where domestic abuse takes place, all those affected get the right support quickly.

We have measured our progress against the Kent and Medway domestic abuse delivery plan which has pushed forward projects that are linked to the commitments made within the strategy. We have achieved a lot over the last three years and in this progress report we celebrate some of the work which has been delivered through our partnership and look to the future to continue to work collaboratively to strengthen our response to those impacted by domestic abuse.

Thus, as we look to the development of the 2024 – 2029 strategy we need to not only assess the progress we have made, observing our achievements but also acknowledge areas where we need to retain our focus, continuing to identify opportunities for improvement. This progress report works to identify these areas.

Our progress has been supported through collaborative working across the public sector, this work would not have been possible without the invaluable support and aid of the voluntary sector organisations which work within this space. We are also extremely grateful for those people impacted by abuse who have and continue to give their feedback on experiences, and these experiences shape our strategies and commissioning decisions. Your insight and contribution is invaluable to the development of our work.

Simon Wilson, Assistant Chief Constable, Kent Police

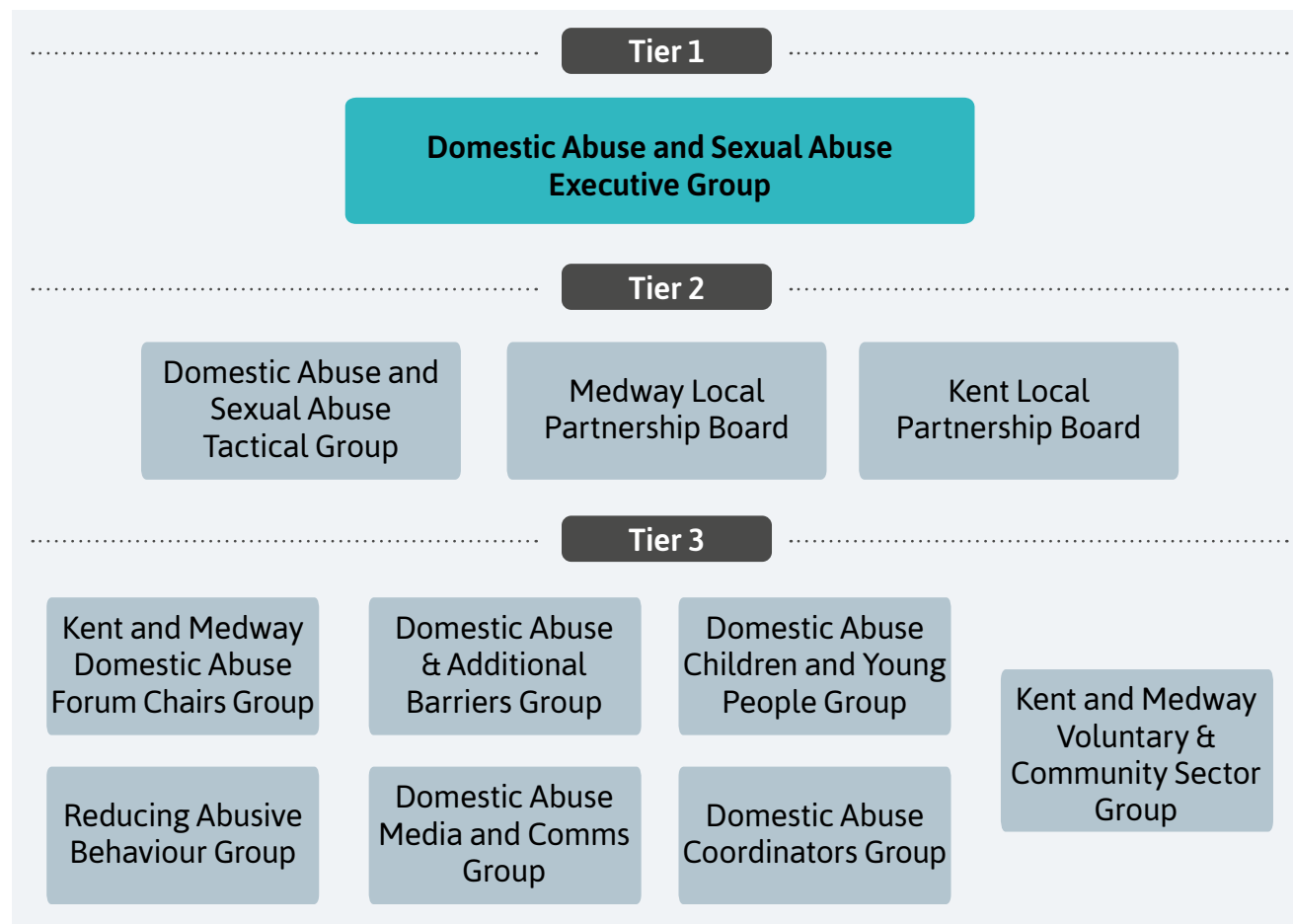


Our governance

The Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group is the overarching partnership group which works to ensure progress against the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse strategy.

Group which has a focus on community-based support, and the statutory Local Partnership Boards across Kent and Medway which oversee work linked to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

There are a number of subgroups which support the delivery of the strategy, including the Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Tactical





Our priorities

The Kent and Medway domestic abuse delivery plan is a project-based plan. Projects sit under 5 priorities.

As we move to the 2024 – 2029 strategy we will maintain a project-based monitoring process but will also work to include quantitative key performance indicators into our measurements of achievement.





Priority 1 Drive change together

The priority of driving change together recognises the adverse impact of domestic abuse on society, and that working together across agencies will support greater progress and stronger outcomes.

Commitments identified within the 2020 – 2023 strategy include:

- working to challenge societal attitudes that allow domestic abuse to occur, so it is unacceptable in any form, and increase awareness of how to better prevent and respond to domestic abuse,
- working to collectively bring together comparable, accurate and consistent data on areas such as commissioning, provision and gap analysis,
- ensuring strong participation in safeguarding review processes for both adults and children, making sure that key learning is proactively shared with the wider workforce.

Increasing awareness

The ‘Domestic Abuse Aware’ campaign is entering its third year.

This campaign is commissioned via the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Services (KIDAS) and supported by a group that includes representatives from across the partnership.

The creation of coordinated, impactful social media content works to amplify messages whilst content calendars and toolkits have steadily increased the campaigns reach.

One of the focuses of this work is to ensure that the campaign is inclusive, promoting the understanding that domestic abuse happens to everyone irrespective of age, gender, orientation, ethnicity or disability. Images and content themes have been chosen to increase representation and the campaign has built relationships with community groups to increase the audiences.

By proactively delivering public facing campaigns this work has raised awareness of abuse in all its forms, promoted domestic abuse as everybody’s business and educated people on how to get support from local and national services.

1. Drive change together continued

The Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS) was commissioned by Kent County Council to create an events programme that would provide free information, advice and resources to educate people across all areas of the community about the impact of domestic abuse.

The Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service created a free virtual conference with sessions for all knowledge and expertise levels.

The conference was designed to promote understanding of the barriers to reporting, and how best to reach and engage minoritised groups. Workshops included how domestic abuse affects older adults, responding to forced marriage, LGBTQ+ perspectives on domestic abuse support, domestic abuse and learning disabilities among many other topics.

There was a total of 10,301 registrations across the 16 events with over 1000 people watching the post event recordings. This conference content is still available for people to learn from and listed within useful links at the end of this document.

Standardised training modules have been developed by the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS) and Medway Domestic Abuse Services (MDAS) and are available to all. This includes information on safe enquiry and sign posting, impacts on adults and children and safety planning.

Championing the Needs of People Affected by Abuse

The Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Champions project is being developed by the Domestic Abuse Forum Chairs and is delivered through the nine local forums across Kent & Medway.

There are two project streams under the Champions umbrella – Professional Champions & Employer Champions.

These schemes promote a joined-up approach to providing the best support to those impacted by domestic abuse by increasing the knowledge and competency of key people throughout formal and informal networks.



Working together to support White Ribbon accreditation

Kent County Council, Medway Council, Gravesham Borough Council, Tonbridge and Malling District Council, Dartford Borough Council, Sevenoaks Borough Council, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Kent Police and Kent Fire and Rescue Service have worked to gain White Ribbon accreditation.

While we know that anyone can be impacted by domestic abuse, we also know that women have a higher risk of being impacted by violent and sexual behaviour. By supporting the White Ribbon campaign, we are standing against violence and supporting dialogue around harmful behaviours.

Each organisation who has committed to becoming White Ribbon accredited has signed up to a three-year action plan, which demonstrates how core criteria are met across the organisations in relation to violence against women and girls (VAWG). The action plan offers achievable goals for the organisation to bring about genuine change.



Using an evidenced based approach to support our work

Since 2020, Kent County Council (KCC) in collaboration with partners have published an annual domestic abuse needs assessment.

1. Drive change together continued

The partnership is committed to revising the needs assessments yearly (with a full local needs assessment being completed every three years). The needs assessment supports us to ensure that we are making the most of data collected across the partnership, bringing this together and strengthening information year on year. It supports the identification of gaps in provision, helping us to understand where we need to focus work.

The partnership has completed additional qualitative work including specific projects looking at the experiences of male survivors, work with professionals to better understand barriers of access to refuge, and work with children, young people, parents and professionals to understand how services should be shaped and improved. This work has supported the development of commissioned services.

In line with KCC, Medway aims to update its needs assessment annually with a full review every three years. Medway uses data collated from providers to identify gaps in provision. It also relies on the work from its Survivor Voice Group, a subgroup and project collating ongoing quantitative and qualitative feedback from those with lived experience and partner agencies who provide front line support to those who have experienced abuse. Medway uses focus groups with young people, and input from stakeholders to feed into the needs assessment and shape commissioning decisions.

Community Safety Partnership Team and Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)

Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) are published on both the Kent and Medway council websites. The publication process is vital in ensuring the dissemination of the lessons identified and as part of this process, the Kent Community Safety team also inform a wide variety of professionals and groups.

In addition, the Kent Community Safety team produces a short briefing document for completed DHRs which provides a short narrative, themed lessons to be learned and reflective questions to support the reader in applying the lessons to their own practice. These documents have been very well received, enabling partners who utilise them to cascade a consistent and succinct message to the professionals in their agencies.

The Kent Community Safety Team also hold 'Lessons to be Learnt' seminars with Independent Chairs, agency representatives, expert and bereaved family speakers. Six DHRs were published in 21/22 and a further two in 22/23. In 2022, five themed webinars were delivered to present these recent publications. 615 frontline professionals from multi-agency partners attended across the events. All webinars were recorded, edited and made available on the Safer Communities Portal.

The Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board developed a joint learning document with the Kent Community Safety Team on successfully engaging with service users, which was published to the KMSAB website and shared widely to partners.

Opportunities for improvement

As we look to the development of future priorities, we would like to continue to develop work on;

- continuing to strengthen collaborative commissioning, using data available to identify gaps and need,
- continuing to strengthen available information to front line services, so that referral options are clear to those working with people impacted by abuse,
- continue to strengthen the support we offer to our collective workforce, aiming to ensure that any person within the workforce who is experiencing domestic abuse is supported well,
- to continue to work with businesses to ensure that they have access to information on how to support staff members who may disclose abuse.

2

Prevention
and early
intervention

Priority 2 Prevention and early intervention

This priority aims to increase the focus on early intervention and prevention, this is not only about stopping domestic abuse but also preventing escalation of abuse.

Commitments identified within the 2020 – 2023 strategy include:

- working to identify and support families at risk of domestic abuse,
- challenging gender inequality, sexual stereotyping and domestic abuse normalisation where it exists,
- working with partners to promote safety where children are displaying harmful behaviours,
- expanding Operation Encompass,
- the early identification of abuse of adults at risk.

Working to reduce risk

In KCC the Domestic Abuse Development Programme was designed in response to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, to ensure an appropriate staff response to domestic abuse across Integrated Children's Services.

Kent's multi-agency domestic abuse forums developed a set of practice principles for staff working with people impacted by domestic abuse, aiming to align with the Kent Practice Framework.

This training was rolled out between September 2022 and January 2023 and supports staff to address domestic abuse complexities which they deal with every day. Four sessions have been completed with 40 practitioners from across Integrated Children's Services attending each session, there are plans to formally evaluate this programme.

KIDAS work with Integrated Children's Services in providing joint supervisions for complex cases which involve domestic abuse. Staff within Early Help and social work teams can access specialised domestic abuse expertise through KIDAS to support understandings of trauma and best responses.

Healthy relationship education in schools

The Police and Crime Commissioner has commissioned a new early intervention programme which is available to schools and youth settings in Kent and Medway designed to examine healthy relationships, online harms as well as cyber safety and cyber bullying.

This programme will offer an interactive media workshop to discuss healthy relationships and online safety. The multi-media experience uses compelling video, creative thinking, data analysis and mind-mapping to explain and explore healthy relationships and online safety. Young people are encouraged to create their own scripts, produce podcasts, dance, rap, poems, or videos on these topics. Time is given for reflection and to actively demonstrate understanding and empathy.

Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust have created resources available to schools to enable the inclusion of domestic abuse and healthy relationships within the curriculum. The Kent school health team deliver free training opportunities and resources to support schools in this process.

2. Prevention and early intervention continued

Brighter Worlds Animation and package

The Brighter Worlds project was developed by the Local Children’s Partnership Group in West Kent as a direct response to the increasing number of schools and partners highlighting concerns around the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) on children and young people pre and post pandemic.

Each animation involves an ‘alien spacecraft’ looking into a child’s world through a range of different scenarios and then encouraging the children watching to review and analyse the presented scenes. Animation can be a strong preventative resource that can support the sustainability of ACEs and trauma awareness amongst primary school age children.

KCC and partners are seeking opportunities to expand access to this animation across Kent.

Medway Personal Social Health Education (PSHE) Network

Medway has created a networking forum for PSHE leads or equivalent, and teachers to obtain information, share good practice and resources and make links with other schools and organisations.

There are resources available to Medway schools accessed via Google drive and the PSHE Association. These include primary and secondary work packages and lesson packs on abusive relationships and managing family conflict. Medway provide training to teachers to support the delivery of high-quality relationship and sex education.

Currently Kent is looking at joining this network as a collaboration and to support even stronger partnership working.

Bystander Training and Prevent

Violence which happens in a public place can significantly overlap with violence and abuse that happens or occurs in the home or as part of a relationship.

A key part of the work to tackle violence, including domestic abuse, is active bystander training. The active bystander approach equips professionals with the knowledge and skills to discuss with young people about the importance of intervention whenever they see something which they feel is

unacceptable. This may be when a friend is carrying a knife, or when they witness misogynistic or homophobic behaviour.

The Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) have trained 20 trainers and run workshops for approximately 250 professionals to learn about the approach and how it can be incorporated into their practice. Further training sessions are being planned for 2023 – 24, and work is underway with Kent County Council’s marketing team to create resources to support the development of the approach across the County.

Over the last 3 years the Kent and Medway Prevent team who deal with individuals vulnerable to radicalisation have seen a presence of domestic abuse in referrals coming through to the Channel panel (a multi-agency panel that assesses the risk of radicalisation).

The Prevent Team have noticed an overrepresentation of males between ages of 16+ as having a presence of domestic abuse as a factor in their referrals. This includes an individual who has either experienced domestic abuse, shown abusive behaviours, or witnessed domestic abuse. Funding has been provided by the Home Office to commission a project exploring the link between domestic abuse and extremism, and the team are starting to assess the results. These results will be shared widely with organisations.



2. Prevention and early intervention continued

Over the last two years the Prevent Education Officers (PEO) and Prevent Coordinator include Incels and extreme misogyny in their training. The PEOs have seen an increase in schools requesting materials during this time to assist them in challenging students' curiosity into misogynistic narratives. This is addressed by a whole school approach to healthy relationships through the PHSE curriculum, and relevant resources are shared with the schools. Misogynist comments and aggressive behaviours towards female staff and peers should be addressed robustly, as part of a school's wider approach to sex and relationships. Following the tragic Plymouth shootings, training in relation to Incels has been delivered by the Prevent Coordinator to domestic abuse charities and partner organisations across Kent and Medway.

Adolescent to parent violence

The Police and Crime Commissioner commissions support for adolescents who are displaying violent or abusive behaviour or conflict towards their parents. This service provides a restorative led intervention to reduce family conflict and abuse within homes, aiming to help families communicate more effectively and agree how to better manage conflict.

Working to expand Operation Encompass

Kent Police continues to be a proud participant of Operation Encompass supporting children when they are experiencing domestic abuse.

When Covid-19 and lockdown took hold back in Spring 2020, Kent Police made a renewed commitment to continue to share notifications with schools. Since then, Police have strived to improve and develop this early information sharing with schools further. One way this has been achieved is through the development of the 'Operation Encompass PLUS' notification and where appropriate information on non-domestic abuse safeguarding concerns are shared with schools. In addition, the Health Visitor service now receive Domestic Abuse Notifications.

Kent Police have launched a new child AWARE risk assessment in January 2023. These risk assessments are now completed by Officers and staff who deal with safeguarding concerns for children including at domestic abuse incidents. Use of the *AWARE* mnemonic; *Appearance, Words, Activity, Relationships and Dynamics and Environment* now helps to accurately identify and prioritise risk.

Identification of the abuse of adults

While domestic abuse can affect anyone, data collection shows that older people may be underrepresented in service use. We also know that those who are older are more likely to be impacted by a disability.

Media content has been developed and scheduled with domestic abuse partners, to raise awareness with professionals and the public on the abuse of

adults including those with learning disabilities, older people and intergenerational abuse. Awareness of this has been raised through the 16 days campaign and National Safeguarding Week.

Kent Safeguarding teams support early identification of abuse of adults including those with learning disabilities and abuse affecting older people. The 'Safeguarding Adults at Risk – Financial Abuse Toolkit' now makes appropriate links to domestic abuse and identifying coercive and controlling behaviour. The toolkit was reviewed to ensure it makes links to the definition of domestic abuse and how to offer support where domestic abuse is suspected. It also highlights referral pathways to domestic abuse agencies.

Domestic abuse is considered as a factor within the Kent Adult Carers strategy. Ensuring that the links and distinction between carer burn out and coercive controlling behaviour are made with clear risk information and referral pathways available to staff.

The Police and Crime Commissioner has commissioned specialist Independent Domestic Violence Advisor support for older people impacted by domestic abuse. The commissioned service provides tailored support from the point of crisis and beyond recovery.

2. Prevention and early intervention continued

The Hospital Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (HIDVAs)

Hospital Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (HIDVAs) have been in place at Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley, Medway Maritime Hospital and East Kent Hospital Foundation NHS Trust acute sites since 2018.

HIDVAs are based at the hospital sites and raise awareness of domestic abuse, providing specialist support to staff and patients around disclosures of domestic abuse. The hospital IDVA services have found that health-based support will often identify survivors who are otherwise missed by services such as the older population and men, offering people the chance to engage and receive specialist support. The Integrated Care Board have achieved further funding to provide this service across Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust acute sites.

To recognise the significant impact of domestic abuse on a person's mental health, Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust (KMPT) have appointed a Health IDVA. The HIDVA works with KMPT healthcare staff and patients to improve the identification of domestic violence and abuse, and make sure people are referred to the right support. This has been supported by funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Opportunities for improvement

There are a number of areas of work linked to prevention and early intervention which we would like to continue to focus on as we move into the development of the next iteration of the strategy. This includes:

- continuing to work to improve content and the promotion of uptake of more consistent domestic abuse curriculum content as part of relationship and sex education,
- ensure that all relevant people especially schools are aware of resources available,
- work to closely align Operation Encompass with the midwifery service,
- explore ways to promote learning and development on issues of complexity - particularly intersections between mental capacity, coercive control behaviour and vulnerability,
- and continuing the work on understanding trauma reactions and how these impact practice and practical ways to apply learning.



3

Provision of services

Priority 3 Provision of community and safe accommodation services

This priority recognises people’s experiences of domestic abuse as individual and that people will need different types of support and solutions based on their experiences. Support must be holistic, trauma informed and with an awareness that healing can be complex and take time.

Commitments identified within the 2020 – 2023 strategy include:

- working together to ensure staff understand the landscape of provision, using and referring to services effectively,
- ensuring we use an evidence-based approach to commission services,
- building on trauma informed approaches to support individuals and families.

Referral pathways

Domestic abuse is prolific and impacts many of the services delivered by partner organisations. Because domestic abuse is linked to many other areas of business, commissioning happens across different partnerships and agencies.

The Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS) and the Medway Domestic Abuse Service (MDAS) has greatly increased coordinated delivery.

Comprehensive Domestic Abuse Services

Kent

The Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS) was commissioned in April 2017. This contract is supported by Kent County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Thanet District Council, Dover District Council, Swale Borough Council, Canterbury City Council, Maidstone Borough Council, Folkestone and Hythe District Council, Ashford Borough Council and Kent Fire and Rescue Service.

This service covers both safe accommodation and community-based support. The service includes;

- a single county wide point of access, creating dedicated referral, triage and response pathway for people affected by domestic abuse,
- creating clear pathways of support which can be stepped up and down,
- specialist support delivered across a variety of accommodation settings and in the community,
- qualified Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA).

- training provided to professionals, those impacted by abuse, and communities around domestic abuse to educate and raise awareness.

Medway

In 2019 budgets were pooled from Housing, Children’s Services, Public Health and Medway NHS Clinical Commissioning Group to commission an integrated domestic abuse service in Medway (MDAS).

The contract offered support for medium and high-risk victims and survivors in Medway for the first time (previously only high-risk clients had access to support).

MDAS works with children and adults who have experienced abuse, offering educational services including workshops to young people and professionals, support services for those experiencing abuse and project and programme work.

3. Provision of services continued

The partnership structure has greatly supported information sharing between commissioners. Monthly meetings are being held between the Police and Crime Commissioner’s Office, Kent County Council and Medway Council to share commissioned service information. The Domestic Abuse Coordinator and Domestic Abuse Forum Chairs meetings offer opportunities to share information across local and countywide spaces.

Childrens Commissioning within KCC have brought together and are maintaining a directory of services offered to young people impacted by abuse. This is being made available to Early Help and social workers.

Evidence led commissioning

Our approach to strategy, commissioning and service provision is evidence led and based on findings from our needs assessments.

The Kent Domestic Abuse Research programme collates and triangulates research to provide evidence to decision-makers across the full range of organisations represented by the cross-agency domestic abuse partnership. This includes literature reviews, qualitative and quantitative projects and bringing together data and other information across the partnership.

Two learning events have been hosted by the partnership to support shared learning and development.

The first event focused on understanding the narratives and experiences of children and young people impacted by domestic abuse, and the second focused on life threatening illness and domestic abuse.

Both events have been attended by organisations across the partnership, supporting organisational learning and the sharing of experience across sectors.

Medway Public Health conducted focus groups on healthy relationships and support needs with primary, secondary and college students.

The feedback has been included in the Medway Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment and will inform commissioning decisions. Medway’s Survivor Voice Group has collated feedback directly from the voluntary sector via the One Stop Shop, Refuges and Advisory Groups, which are fed into the Local Partnership Board, and needs assessment.

Building on trauma informed approaches to support individuals and families

Trauma informed practice supports practitioners to respond effectively to the different ways trauma

can impact a person. The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Ambassador programme (Kent) launched in May 2022. Ambassadors support practitioners by working with them to build knowledge, to help develop initiatives to reduce the impact of ACEs and seek to support a trauma informed approach to care. As of March 2023, over 300 people had completed the programme of training.

The Police and Crime Commissioner has commissioned services to upskill professionals to deliver the Healing Together programme which is a trauma informed programme for children aged 6-16 years old who are impacted by domestic abuse. The majority of professionals trained have been from educational establishments.

The Police and Crime Commissioner has also funded a Young Women’s Trauma Informed Mentor, and Children & Young People Trauma Informed Worker. One-to-one psychoeducational mentoring and emotional support is available for young women and girls aged 16-24 years who have experienced, are at risk of, or are currently experiencing domestic abuse within their intimate relationships.

The Police and Crime Commissioner has also commissioned trauma focussed therapeutic services for children impacted by physical and emotional abuse, sexual abuse or domestic abuse.

3. Provision of services continued

Farm based activities provide children and their family members with a quiet and peaceful setting to visit during their recovery.

Medway refuges, have trauma informed counselling for adults and play therapy sessions for children and young people. Due to feedback from the Survivor Voice Group work, additional provision has been commissioned to expand this service, and it has now been commissioned to provide support to clients within the dispersed accommodation scheme in Medway.

Provision of services, safe accommodation

In response to the Domestic Abuse Act, the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Executive Group added an addition to the original strategy, this was published in January 2022. The addition focussed on safe accommodation services.

Housing options, flexibility and access

Journey mapping

In wanting to take a trauma-aware approach to the housing journey for those impacted by domestic abuse, Maidstone Borough Council overhauled the previous housing operational mechanism.

Maidstone Borough Council were aware that the housing process for people who have experienced domestic abuse could be difficult to navigate and

wanted to improve the language and system being used to support equity, empathy, and to be trauma informed.

The system itself changed to include safe enquiry as the first priority. Maidstone Borough Council also eliminated several steps when someone discloses abuse before they receive an assessment. This change sought to reduce the need for a survivor to re-tell their circumstances and to reduce the risk of re-traumatisation. Maidstone Borough Council created a visual flowchart to share with both those who have experienced abuse and professionals to support understanding of processes.

Maidstone Borough Council have committed to work with Kent Police in sourcing temporary accommodation for those using abusive behaviours who have been issued a Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO) to reduce rates of further domestic abuse and prevent them returning to the property.

Tenancy Support

Tenancy support Officers have been recruited as part of the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Services (KIDAS) contract. These posts support those in safe accommodation to find permanent housing, and also support clients to maintain their tenancies if this is their chosen outcome. The officers act as a broker with other agencies such as landlords in both the private and public sector.



3. Provision of services continued

Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance Accreditation

The Domestic Abuse Coordinators group includes representation from all District, Borough and City Councils, Kent County Council and Medway Council. This group is working to create a local network of support to strengthen housing responses through collectively working towards Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) Accreditation.

Working collaboratively across areas this work will be pioneering as the group works together to share progress, resources and best practice to strengthen responses.



Swale Borough Council support DAHA and are working to improve the housing response to domestic abuse. They have signed up for membership and finished their self-assessment and will now be looking at changes to be made to improve services.

Training has been revised and Swale Borough Council will be rolling out refreshers on trauma informed practice, non-judgemental language and risk assessment. The training incorporates input

from 'by and for' services available locally to deliver inputs to staff.

Staying Close By:

Safe Access for Eligible Residents (SAFER), KCC

SAFER is a scheme which has been developed by Kent County Council (KCC) with engagement from all partner agencies and those with lived experience of domestic abuse. The contract is due to be procured and in place by 1st October 2023.

The scheme looks to extend the availability of sanctuary services within Kent (additional security within a home) and the availability of support for those residing in properties where sanctuary has been applied.

A countywide single point of access will receive the referral and notify the organisation/s responsible for delivering the property security element who will conduct a property assessment and install the

required security measures. A support package for the adult survivor will also be offered. Support for children residing in the home will be offered through the Safe Accommodation Support Service (SASS).

Safe Accommodation Support Service (SASS), KCC

A support service has been designed and procured for children living in safe accommodation. This service has been developed through survivor engagement and co-production.

The service supports access to group, one-to-one and peer support, and (based on feedback) has extended the length of provision available for therapeutic support for young people.

Feedback recommended training and development of the wider workforce in relation to supporting children and young people and this has been incorporated in SASS which will support the development of knowledge and skills of our inhouse Integrated Childrens Service.

Safe in Medway

Medway has the dispersed accommodation offer which is known as Safe in Medway (SiM). Within this project is the family practitioner who provides support for young people and families, with accessing schools and general well-being. Medway also commissions counselling and play therapy to children within their refuge accommodation. This offer has recently been extended to include SiM.



3. Provision of services continued

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Kent Fire and Rescue Service supporting more people affected by abuse:

Kent Fire and Rescue Service have been developing their policies to ensure people experiencing abuse are consistently supported to stay safe, this includes staff experiencing domestic abuse, ensuring that where threats of arson are made against a person impacted by abuse everyone in the house is supported including children.

There has also been an increase in the Out of Hours Team to ensure that all safeguarding concerns can be acted on, no matter what time they come in, ensuring that people impacted by domestic abuse can get the right safety support 24/7. These changes are backed by an increased level of training across teams.

Homelessness and recognising multiple need

The Blue Light Project

In Medway, there is the Blue Light Project, which is formed of professionals such as mental health services, probation, rough-sleepers initiative, substance misuse services and the core domestic abuse support provider. The project aims to discuss cases where the clients are facing multiple-disadvantage and can struggle to have meaningful engagement with services, many of whom are street homeless.

The reciprocal agreement

Kent and Medway Councils, District, City and Borough Councils, Kent Housing Group and the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA), have established a Kent and Medway wide domestic abuse reciprocal scheme.

The managed reciprocal scheme will enable individuals and families at risk of domestic abuse and who have a social tenancy, to move to a safe area whilst retaining their tenancy, aiming to make it faster and easier for people to find properties while retaining the benefits of their current tenancy.

The scheme is a formal collaboration between social housing landlords. Benefits include supporting increased housing options for people experiencing abuse, providing a supportive framework to both people impacted by abuse and social landlords, and making the best use of housing stock across Kent and Medway.

Access of services to all

Our protected characteristics such as our ethnicity, gender, sexuality and age can impact our risk of domestic abuse. Our demography may also influence the forms that abuse might take. 'By and for' services can offer specialist support, holding understanding of experience, and of power dynamics within and outside the domestic space and how this may impact abuse.

The Police and Crime Commissioner has commissioned a dedicated male Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service and a support service providing British Sign Language for Deaf people impacted by domestic abuse and sexual violence. There is also a child and young persons' advocate providing support for 8 -18-year-olds county-wide.

Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS) have worked with the KCC Sensory Services team to help improve access for Deaf people experiencing abuse. The working group has implemented access to a video relay service, for all the teams to enable effective communication with Deaf people who use British Sign Language (BSL) as their first or preferred method of communication and voice-over relay.

Posters, websites and social media comms have been created to highlight and reflect the use of SignLive to spread the word so that Deaf people can access services and support.

The Police and Crime Commissioner has also commissioned a mentoring support service for men affected by emotional, financial and domestic abuse. This service includes some support for children and young people.

Kent County Council is currently developing a training offer to domestic and sexual abuse service providers, in supporting people who face additional barriers and vulnerabilities. This training will support knowledge and skills to aid those supporting people who may have mental health support needs or be impacted by substance dependencies.

Medway 'We Hear You' (W.H.Y) is a project which has been set up by those with lived experience of substance misuse. The service also includes those with lived experience of various types of trauma including domestic abuse, and is working to represent the voice of service users and bridge gaps between support services. Medway Council is linking in with the project to ensure that the work being carried out by W.H.Y is forming part of the Survivor Feedback Group and feeding into the domestic abuse Local Partnership Board.

Kent and Medway Councils are currently scoping work to expand support of 'by and for' service provision.



Opportunities for improvement

There are a number of areas of work linked to the provision of services which we would like to continue to focus on as we move into the development of the next iteration of the strategy. This includes:

- further collaborative, needs led, work by commissioners across the market of by and for services,
- building additional support mechanisms for those with barriers to access such as drug or alcohol dependencies or mental health support needs, and those who may be unable to access refuge due to high level needs.

4

Minimising harm

Priority 4 Minimising harm

This priority is about supporting positive outcomes and promoting equality of access for anyone who experiences domestic abuse.

This outcome recognises the longer-term impact of domestic abuse and the importance of working collaboratively to support people in their recovery.

Commitments identified within the 2020 – 2023 strategy include:

- recognising that domestic abuse may impact children, young people and the whole family in the longer term,
- understanding that for many children and young people the experience of managing parental conflict can be traumatic and difficult,
- working to increase understanding of abuse that happens in family relationships so that victims & survivors of adult family violence and 'honour' based violence are identified and supported,
- local Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) will be used effectively to reduce repeat victimisation.

Understanding longer term impacts

Research was commissioned by KCC to better understand the impact of abuse on children, young people and the whole family, and to understand what children and young people view as good interventions.

Themes that came out strongly included:

- the importance of having someone trusted to talk to,
- young people wanted to make sure that the non-abusive parent had access to support, they also talked about having support together as a family,
- the importance of having friends or peers who may have had similar experiences and therefore a better understanding your experience,
- the importance of schools in supporting an understanding of healthy relationships.

For young people experiencing abuse the Young Person's Independent Domestic Violence Advisor service helps people aged between 16 and 25. This service aims to support young people to stay safe and process experiences as well as helping with practical aspects such as employment and housing.

The Police and Crime Commissioner has commissioned online therapeutic counselling support for children, young people and where appropriate their parents and families. Case studies have shown that clients with complex needs feel overwhelmed and emotional at the start of their

counselling journey, but at the end are better able to cope with life and show improvements in their mental health.

'Honour-based' violence

Kent and Medway was the 9th highest Police Force Area for residents contacting Karma Nirvana, the specialist 'honour-based' abuse organisation helpline in 2020/21.

For the day of memory for those lost to 'honour-based' abuse, a campaign led by Karma Nirvana, created social media posts for partners to share to help spread awareness.

The Know, See, Speak Out Domestic Abuse awareness campaign created social media posts for partners to share. There was also a new page created for the Kent & Medway Domestic Abuse website to help people to identify 'honour-based' abuse and reach out for help.

Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS) providers have commissioned training for staff from Southall Black Sisters to further develop their awareness, knowledge and support to those impacted by this form of abuse.

The Kent Community Safety Team also held lessons learnt seminars after Domestic Homicide Reviews, with Independent Chairs, agency representatives, expert and bereaved family speakers.

4. Minimising harm continued

The final webinar of 2022 was themed around cultural competency and focussed on the DHRs of Simran and Tamana, both of which highlighted learning in relation to ‘honour-based’ violence. All webinars were recorded, edited and made available on the Safer Communities Portal.

No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)

Kent Council Council (KCC) have been leading on work to better understand options for support for those experiencing domestic abuse who have No Recourse to Public Funds. Working across the partnership, we have pulled together information around experience and how professionals may be able to support this group.

This included talking to our frontline professionals, exploring internal and external training offers, discourse across our voluntary sector partners, working with other local authorities through our regional group and seeking ways to develop the work.

We have presented this work in various partnership forums, with plans to support a cross partnership workshop and training development.

Local Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC)

MARAC is a safeguarding forum to discuss how to help people experiencing domestic abuse at high

risk of murder or serious harm. A series of reviews had shown that the MARAC system in Kent & Medway needed additional resource to help professionals effectively support those who need it most.

Steering and working groups brought together professionals from across the county, with a breadth of safeguarding expertise, to address the issues and enable in-depth risk management.

The MARAC review has resulted in a new hub model which is partnership funded, doubling the coordinating staff available to fulfil this crucial function, with new technology creating more efficient information sharing and action planning.

Due to launch this year (2023) the new model should deliver innovative ways to reduce the risk posed by people using abuse to gain power and control.

Highlighting the link between domestic abuse and suicide

Following discussions with the KCC Community Safety team, the Kent and Medway Suicide Prevention Programme worked with Kent Police to show that 30% of all suicides in Kent and Medway between 2019 & 2021 were impacted by domestic abuse. This work has been nationally recognised and continues to shape national discussions.

The work of the Kent and Medway Suicide Prevention programme has supported:

- inclusion of domestic abuse as a priority within our local Suicide Prevention Strategy,
- funded local partner pilots into trauma impact workshops for people who have experienced domestic abuse where the abuse has stopped,
- investment in qualitative research with those who have been impacted by domestic abuse, who have previously attempted suicide or have self-harmed,
- funding for six community level projects with a specific focus on reducing the risk of domestic abuse related suicides,
- targeted local mental health campaigns.

The Kent & Medway Suicide Prevention Team have also commissioned domestic abuse & suicide prevention training.

This was developed in October 2022, test run and is now being rolled out for free across all Kent & Medway partnerships. The aim of this training is to highlight risk and protective factors related to suicide and domestic abuse, navigate emotionally sensitive conversations and to assess and de-escalate risk.

The Police and Crime Commissioner have commissioned a specialist 1:1 advocacy service and peer support for families who have been bereaved by suicide or unexplained death following domestic abuse.

4. Minimising harm continued

Opportunities for improvement

There are a number of areas of work linked to minimising harm which we would like to continue to focus on as we move into the development of the next iteration of the strategy. This includes to:

- promote access to mental health support that is trauma informed,
- recognising the importance of strengthening the relationship between the non-abusive parent/caregiver and child by giving them spaces to discuss their experiences and tools to grow together,
- acknowledging the non-linear process of recovery, enabling, where possible support to be accessed longer term and for historic cases of abuse.





Priority 5 Justice, recovery and ongoing protection

This priority focuses on reducing the impact of domestic abuse on the family and reducing the likelihood of future incidents, whether through pursuing those showing abusive behaviours through the criminal justice system, via civil outcomes, through working with families to change behaviour or through rehabilitation.

Our commitments included:

- working with partners to support assessment of the criminal justice response to current, new and emerging issues in relation to the protection of people who have experienced abuse,
- all agencies working together to ensure that there is a robust approach to those showing abusive behaviours,
- accessible information about protection orders, disclosure schemes and what people who have experienced abuse can expect from the criminal justice system.

Kent Police Domestic Abuse Hub

The Domestic Abuse Hub was launched in May 2022, and provides innovative support for those being impacted by abuse via technology. This enables people to immediately speak with an officer via video, allowing for fast-time crime recording, statement taking and capture of evidence including the scene of the incident and any visible injuries.

The Hub will contact people reporting standard risk domestic abuse where it is recent and the person using abusive behaviour is not at the scene using rapid video response. This is recorded and can then be used as the first account, to formulate a statement to save the person retelling their story and to evidence fear and emotional impact where it would be appropriate to consider an evidence led prosecution.

By having instant contact with the person experiencing abuse an officer can also implement immediate safeguarding and referrals to partner agencies to provide protection to people, where needed.

The Police and Crime Commissioner led a detailed analysis of Kent Police offender data to build a perpetrator profile in Kent. This found that 10% of offenders are responsible for 63% of harm.

The Multi Agency Tasking and Coordination Panels (MATACs) are a multiagency panel managing the highest harm repeat perpetrators of domestic abuse. The Panel brings together agencies to produce an action plan bespoke to each offender.

These include education, prevention, diversion, disruption and enforcement tactics. Perpetrators are contacted and told that they are a priority offender, to explain the seriousness of their offending and determine whether they will engage in the MATAC process. The approach is designed to get to the root of the problem - to challenge offender behaviour and either influence behavioural change or engage in disruption and enforcement.

This system has resulted in a 65% average reduction in all offending after MATAC intervention and a 63% reduction in domestic abuse offending.

Preventing unwanted contact from prisoners

To stop unwanted contact while a person is in prison and protect those being impacted by abuse, a new Victims' Helpline has been set up to prevent unwanted contact.

5. Justice, recovery and ongoing protection continued

This Justice Department project is especially important if the person impacted by abuse is subject to controlling, coercive behaviour, exploitation, harassment or intimidation. Preventing contact is critical in stopping further harm, maintaining confidence and supporting prosecutions.

A robust approach to those showing abusive behaviours

In 2021 the Home Office made funding available to Police and Crime Commissioners to support the delivery of domestic abuse perpetrator focussed programmes. A pilot programme was successfully secured for the delivery of both domestic and stalking perpetrator programmes in Kent & Medway, alongside support for those impacted by abuse and their children. Programmes are delivered in both one to one and group settings.

The programme focuses on building an individuals' skills to cope with challenging situations, overwhelming feelings, and difficult emotions. The work is strengths based, drawing on the perpetrators (non-abusive) strengths to develop changes, whilst robustly holding them to account for their abusive behaviour. A dedicated Victims Link Worker works in conjunction with Kent Police, and existing victim support services.

Local access to programmes to reduce abusive behaviours

Domestic Abuse Forums and Community Safety Partnerships have ensured that residents of Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Malling, Swale, Medway, Folkestone & Hythe and Ashford are able to access a 27-week programme designed to help those who acknowledge that their behaviour to their partner has been, or is still, abusive. The programme seeks to support respectful relationships between partners or ex-partners and any children who may be witnessing abuse.

Domestic abuse training for family lawyers

Invicta Law and Kent County Council (KCC) were successful in their bid to host a Safe Lives pilot training programme for those working in Family Law. This specialist training spanned the whole family justice system, delivering a cultural-change training programme to create systemic transformations within the family justice system and strengthen practitioner capacity to respond well to domestic abuse.

Three training sessions were delivered to staff across a number of organisations. There was significant appetite for further training, information and networking with local services.



5. Justice, recovery and ongoing protection continued

In response Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS), Medway Domestic Abuse Service (MDAS) & Invicta Law have been collaborating to design a further session to explore the use of court as a tactic of abuse, avoiding victim blaming language, using safety planning and the orders available to protect those affected by abuse.

In addition, it has been identified that those who are affected by domestic abuse are often facing court without legal representation or with no eligibility for legal aid. A legal support project has been developed by KCC and KIDAS to provide legal support and advice to assist people impacted by abuse through court processes.

The Police and Crime Commissioner has commissioned a legal advice service for those impacted by domestic abuse. This service supports documentation for special measures in court, non-molestation orders and child related orders. The providers have their own legal team consisting of experienced, qualified, and fully regulated barristers and solicitors.

Integrating Research into Practice

To support social work staff confidence and knowledge around domestic abuse in family court, a workshop was run on the ways the court needs to protect the safety and wellbeing of both children affected by abuse and their non-abusive parents, as well as how The Children and Family

Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass) and social workers have an important role to play in assisting the court to do so.

This formed part of Integrated Children’s Services 2021’s Communities of Practice spotlight on domestic abuse. This included workshops on local services, typologies of abuse, domestic abuse and suicide, assessment tools as well as providing a reflective space for staff.

Coming together to tackle abusive behaviour The Reducing Abusive Behaviour Group helps to coordinate the approaches to tackling abusive behaviour across Kent and Medway and to promote a greater focus on holding the individual causing harm to account and changing their behaviour.

As part of this work the group has explored ways to increase the confidence of organisations to respond to people using abusive behaviour. Tools being developed to achieve this include template policies, designed to be used and adapted to help a range of organisations to respond appropriately to clients and staff members who may be causing harm through their behaviour.

To ensure clear information is available to help people navigate the criminal justice process the Police and Crime Commissioner has created an easy-to-use Victim Voice guide to support confidence in reporting crimes.

This process aims to enable the individual to access the information and support they need and are legally entitled to. The guide takes people through each stage of the criminal justice system - from how to report a crime, the protective orders available to what happens if the case goes to court.

Opportunities for Improvement

There are a number of areas of work linked to justice, recovery and ongoing protection which we would like to continue to focus on as we move into the development of the next iteration of the strategy. This includes:

- pressure on court systems has led to long lags in between charge and prosecution, strategies should seek to increase the capacity within the system and keep people informed of progress against their case,
- currently only a small proportion of those using abusive behaviour are accessing support services or being heard at Multi Agency Tasking and Coordination Panels (MATAC),
- Domestic Abuse Protection Notices and Orders will come into force, strategies should encourage uptake.

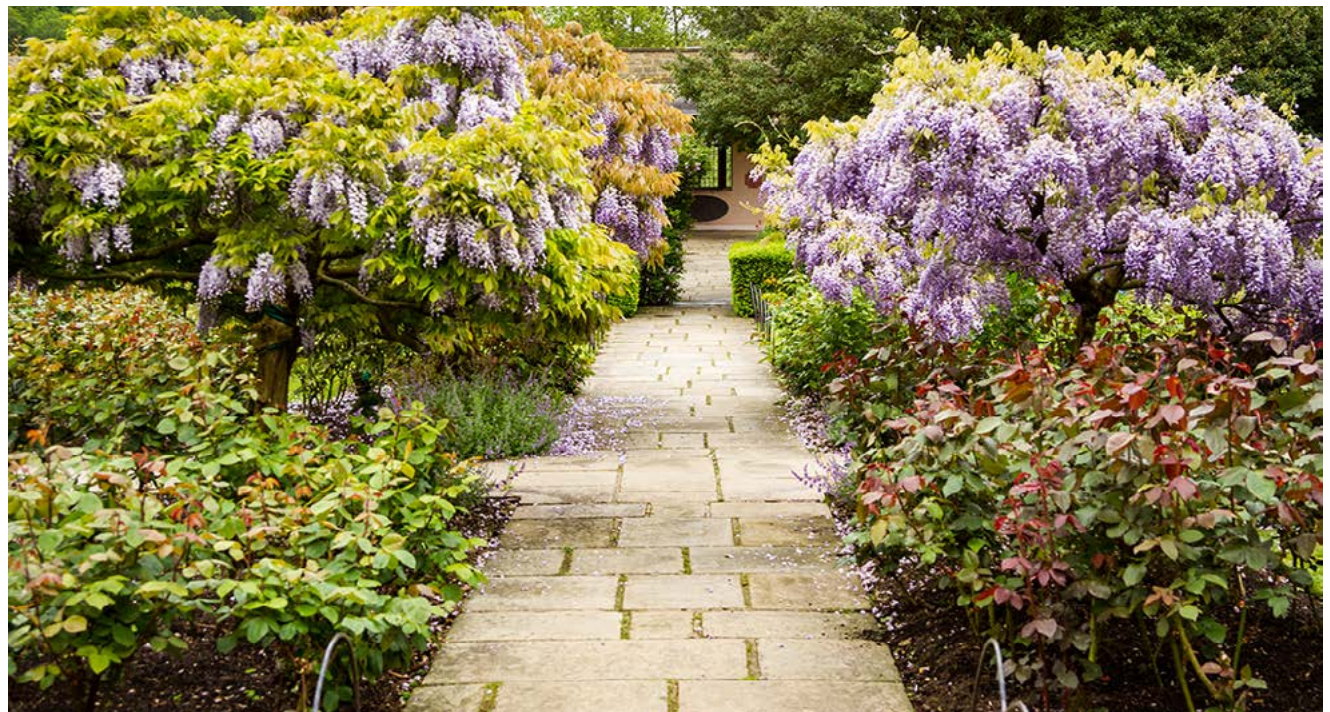
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Conclusion

Across the partnership significant work has taken place over the three-year life of the strategy. Many areas of work have been significantly pushed forward, with collaborative working supporting stronger project development, better links between services and ultimately a stronger response.

The strategy and many of the commitments set within it were rightly challenging goals. We must be visionary and continue to push boundaries to support change.

This document explores the progress which we have made, but has also identified opportunities for improvement, and, as we develop our new strategy we will seek to integrate these learnings, working to understand how we can do better, seeking to continue to push work forward which will lead to meeting our aim; *to reduce the prevalence of domestic abuse, and ensure that where domestic abuse takes place, all those affected get the right support, quickly.*



Useful links

Domestic Abuse: It's Everybody's Business (2020)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AiiBcbpVr7s&list=PLphMV3M-GI_R8xpBrrS-OmwlszEyGNWcU

Domestic Abuse Support Services in Kent and Medway

<https://local.kent.gov.uk/kb5/kent/directory/service.page?id=Kf8cT9ubi50>

Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment (2020)

Domestic abuse – Kent Public Health Observatory (kpho.org.uk)

The Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy (2020) - Domestic-abuse-strategy-2020-2023.pdf

(kent.gov.uk)

Office of Police Crime Commissioner Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy (2021) Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy 2021 to 2024: call for evidence – GOV.UK

(www.gov.uk)

Office of Police Crime Commissioner, Violence Against Women and Girls Report (2021) – vawg-paper_september-2021.pdf

(kent-pcc.gov.uk)

Office of Police and Crime Commissioner, The Victim Voice guide is available here

<https://www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/what-we-do/projects-and-campaigns/victim-voice/>

Kent Community Safety Agreement (2022)

[Kent Community Safety Agreement April 2022](http://KentCommunitySafetyAgreementApril2022)

Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust, Relationship and sex education | Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust

(kentcht.nhs.uk)

Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Website

<https://www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk>

Kent Adult Carers Strategy (2022) Appendix B – Adult Carers Strategy Engagement and Consultation Outcome Report March 2022.pdf

(kent.gov.uk)

Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board Kent & Medway SAB website

(kmsab.org.uk)

Kent Safeguarding Children Multiagency Partnership Home – Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership

(kscmp.org.uk)

Kent Practice Framework kcc-practice-framework.pdf

(proceduresonline.com)

Medway safeguarding Children Partnership Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership

(medwayscp.org.uk)

Safeguarding Adults at Risk: Financial abuse tool kit Financial-abuse-toolkit.pdf

(kent.gov.uk)

Further information

For further information about any aspect of this progress report please contact:

Kent County Council

Strategy, Policy and Relationships

PSRPolicy@kent.gov.uk

Alternative formats

If you require this strategy in an alternative format or language please email alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough, Leader of the Council

DECISION NO:

23/00097

For publication**Key decision: Yes**

Key decision criteria: The decision covers more than two electoral divisions and involved the adoption of a new strategy.

Title of Decision: Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024 – 2029**Decision:**

The Leader of the Council is asked to:

- adopt the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2024 – 2029 on behalf of Kent County Council.
- delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Adult Social Care and Health in consultation with the Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education, to refresh and/or make revisions with the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Executive Group as appropriate during the lifetime of the strategy.
- delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Adult Social Care and Health in consultation with the Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education to take relevant actions, including but not limited to finalising the terms of, and entering into required contract or other legal agreements, as necessary to implement the decision.

Reason(s) for decision:

The Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group, and the associated governance structure, is a partnership which includes Kent County Council, Medway Council, Kent Police, the Police and Crime Commissioners Office, Probation, Kent District, City and Borough Councils, the Department of Work and Pensions, the NHS and Kent Fire and Rescue Service.

The current Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy was developed in 2020 and refreshed in 2021. This strategy was revised to include new statutory tier one duties linked to safe accommodation, recognising that safe accommodation is part of a wider response to domestic abuse. The current strategy finishes in 2023 and a 'progress made' report is published on the consultation web page, showing work completed to meet the strategy commitments and highlighting opportunity areas which are incorporated within the 2024-2029 strategy.

In developing the 2024-2029 Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy, Kent County Council and Medway Council have worked with the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Executive Group to create a document which supports a coordinated partnership response across services. The Executive Group seek to utilise available funding from across partners to improve outcomes, working towards the strategies aim: 'to *reduce the*

prevalence of domestic abuse and ensure that where domestic abuse takes place, all those affected get the right support, quickly.'

Financial Implications: The impact of domestic abuse has financial costs to many services within the public sector including Police, Probation, Health and Social Care. The strategy aims to support partnership working to improve collaboration and enhance service design to maximise outcomes from available funds from across the partnership to improve the experiences of those accessing services.

Tier 1 and tier 2 authorities receive funding from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to discharge specific statutory duties within the Domestic Abuse Act.

Within KCC this funding is used to support safe accommodation provision, enhance service delivery and to support staff costs both across commissioning and the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Partnership. Partners gain funding from multiple routes including the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office.

Changes in financial allocation including through revision in political priorities could impact delivery against the strategy.

Provision of support for people who remain in the community and functions supporting the review and management of domestic homicide reviews is financed through partnership arrangements. In relation to community-based support this includes non-statutory allocations.

The strategy acknowledges that it is aspirational and that funding routes for both KCC and partners may change within the lifetime of the strategy.

The Kent and Medway Executive Group, of which KCC is a key partner, can review and revise the strategy if needed. This includes through a review period built into the strategy after three years, in 2027, when the Executive will consider whether this strategy is still representative of the challenges faced and ambitions of the members of the Executive Group given resources available.

Legal Implications: The Local Authority has a statutory obligation to meet the duties set out in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, including to:

- assess need for accommodation-based support¹,
- prepare a strategy to provide such support,
- give effect to the strategy,
- monitor the strategy, and
- report back annually to central government

The strategy must clearly set out the overall and holistic purpose, aims, priorities and approach to deliver a rounded offer of support to those impacted by domestic abuse. This includes detailing the purpose, plans and approaches working across tier one and two local authorities with partners, including other services within the authority, specialist domestic abuse providers, PCCs, housing and health bodies (not limited to) through a Local Partnership Board.

The Local Partnership Board was established in Kent in May 2021, and is part of the Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group governance structure. Kent County Council and Medway Council's statutory requirements to create a strategy on domestic abuse safe accommodation services is integrated within the full partnership strategy to support coordinated responses across services.

Additional relevant legislation includes:

- The Children Act (1989) which recognises harm caused to children by domestic violence including '*impairment suffered from seeing or hearing the ill treatment of another*' (Adoption and Children Act, 2002).

¹ 'Domestic Abuse' Kent Public Health Observatory <https://www.kpho.org.uk/joint-strategic-needs-assessment/health-intelligence/population-groups/domestic-abuse#tab1> Page 568

- The Human Rights Act (1998) including Article 2, Right to Life, and Article 3, Freedom from Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment.
- The Care Act (2014), including Section 42 which states that if an adult with care and support needs is suspected to be at risk of any form of abuse or neglect, the local authority must make enquiries and take steps to protect them.

The strategy summarises additional relevant legislation within Appendix B.

Implementing the Kent & Medway Partnership Domestic Abuse Strategy will support meeting Domestic Abuse Act duties across 2024-29 and support the council in meeting its statutory duty to provide support for all survivors residing in what is defined as safe accommodation.

Specific legal implications for operational or funding allocation activity will be considered through the delegated decision-making as normal.

Equality implications: Protected characteristics and the intersectionality of these directly impacts risk of domestic abuse and the types of abuse which an individual may experience. The Equality Impact Assessment shows a positive impact from the strategy due to commitments which recognise this. The strategy seeks to ensure that services meet needs across protected characteristics.

The strategy recognises that people experiencing abuse who may have limited access to public funding due to their immigration status may be highly vulnerable (no recourse to public funds) and seeks to support collaborative and innovative working to support those impacted by this status.

Data Protection implications:

The development of the strategy does not require a Data Protection Impact Assessment to be completed.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy was publicly consulted on between the 24th July and 9th October and the consultation report is included with the paperwork.

The proposed decision will be discussed at the Policy & Resources Cabinet Committee on the 17th of January.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Consideration was given to the following:

The option of not renewing a domestic abuse strategy was discarded as the council has a statutory duty to have a strategy covering safe accommodation for those experiencing domestic abuse.

The option of having a single agency strategy was considered. However, this would not bring with it the benefits around building a coordinated partnership response to domestic abuse across service provision.

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

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signed

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date

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