

Equality Impact Assessment

Directorate/Division: Strategic Commissioning

Name of policy: Kent's Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2021-2024

Responsible Owner/Senior Officer:

Mark Walker	KCC
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Drafting history:

Version	Author	Comments
0.1	Sholeh Soleimanifar, Commissioner Children and Young People with Disabilities/Special Educational Needs	First draft

Pathway of Equality Analysis: None

Summary and recommendations of equality analysis/impact assessment

- **Context**

The purpose of this Equality Impact Assessment is to review the potential impact of extension of the Service Level Agreement for the provision of Specialist Teaching and Learning Service for one year commencing April 2021.

The Specialist Teaching and Learning Service (STLS) is a specialist provision for Children and Young People (CYP) with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). The service is co-ordinated via 12 Special Schools (one per district) and two countywide provisions for Sensory and Physical Disability.

The OfSTED and CQC (Care Quality Commission) inspection of services in early 2019 highlighted that too many children and young people with SEND do not get the support they need in Kent. The Written Statement of Action (WSOA) has identified the areas against which improvements need to be made, and the ambition is to develop this service alongside the delivery of the WSoA in a more joined up and effective inclusive practice for CYP with SEND in mainstream schools and settings in Kent.

An extension of the STLS SLA will allow a phased approach to the redesign of the service, whilst introducing a new set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), developed collaboratively with representative members of the Special Schools, Kent Special Educational Needs Trust (KSENT) , Kent Association of Head Teachers (KAH), Head of SEN and Commissioning, to measure progress against the Children and Young People's Outcomes Framework. This framework has been developed with families and reflects what children and young people and their families have told us is important to them. It will

also ensure future development of STLS will be aligned to the wider planned commissioning activity of inclusive practice, as identified in the WSoA.

Aside from commissioning activity, the extended period will be used to identify opportunities within the wider system, gain a better understanding of roles, responsibilities and interdependencies across the wider health, education and social care systems to achieve better outcomes with the investment and available resources.

This impact assessment will be revisited as part of the redesign and development of the Specialist Teaching and Learning Service, expected to start from April 2022, to ensure any potential impact on the protected characteristics is identified and mitigated. This will be used to support the decision-making process and approval of any future development of the service.

Aims and Objectives

The joint vision of Kent County Council and its schools is to fully harness and develop the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) knowledge, skills and expertise present in all Kent early years settings and mainstream schools in order to create well-coordinated, equitable, and effective provision of additional support for children and young people with SEND:

- to raise standards
- to close attainment gaps and improve pupil progress
- to prevent exclusion
- to build SEND capacity in early years settings and mainstream schools
- to reduce the need for statutory assessments
- to ensure full access to learning for all the children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities in our schools

Summary of equality impact

This Equality Impact Assessment finds that there is a **low** adverse equality impact rating.

The extension of the service is intended to introduce a more rigorous performance monitoring of the service, with an Outcomes Framework and KPIs co-produced by a wide spectrum of stakeholders. This will support the local authority and partners engaged in delivering the service to identify areas of strength and those that need further development, to improve the outcomes and quality of life for children and young people with SEND within the county.

At this stage, no negative/adverse impacts on the protected groups have been identified.

Adverse Equality Impact Rating: Low

Attestation

I have read and paid due regard to the Equality Analysis/Impact Assessment concerning **Kent's Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2021-2024**. I agree with the risk rating and the actions to mitigate any adverse impact(s) that has /have been identified.

On behalf of Kent County Council:

DMT Member

Signed:



Name: Mark Walker

Job title: Director for Special Educational Needs, Disabled Children and Young People

Date: 15 January 2021

Part 1 Screening

Could this policy, procedure, project or service, or any proposed changes to it, affect any Protected Group (listed below) less favourably (negatively) than others in Kent? Could this policy, procedure, project or service promote equal opportunities for this group?

Protected Group	Please provide a brief commentary on your findings. Fuller analysis should be undertaken in Part 2.			
	High negative impact EqIA	Medium negative impact Screen	Low negative impact Evidence	Medium Positive Impact Evidence
Age	No	No	This service is targeted at Children and Young People (CYP) with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The general feedback from schools and settings, families and CYP accessing the provision is positive. Extension of the service will allow the provision to be more closely aligned to the new SEND Strategy (currently in consultation) and the wide spectrum of Inclusion activity in development during 2021/22.	The extended service will benefit from refreshed set of outcomes and KPIs which will better inform effectiveness of the current provision and identify gaps for future development. This is likely to promote equality for CYP with SEND across all protected characteristics and improve their quality of life. Any new service development will be subject to further equality impact assessment.
Disability	No	No		
Sex	No	No		
Gender identity/ Transgender	No	No		
Race	No	No		
Religion and Belief	No	No		
Sexual Orientation	No	No		
Pregnancy and Maternity	N/A	N/A	No impact	No Impact
Marriage/Civil Partnerships	N/A	N/A	No impact	No Impact
Carer's Responsibilities	N/A	N/A	No impact	No Impact

JUDGEMENT

The current judgement to proceed with at present is:

- **Continue the policy** - despite potential for adverse impact or missed opportunity. Set out the justifications: there is no justification for direct discrimination; and indirect discrimination will need to be justified according to the legal requirements.

Internal Action Required

YES/NO