

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Sue Chandler, Cabinet member for Integrated Children's Services

DECISION NO:

To be allocated by Democratic Services

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) 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

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy 2021 - 2024

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Integrated children's Services, I agree to:

- i) the adoption of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy 2021 – 2024
- ii) delegate decisions relating to commissioning of county wide solutions (under the value of £1m) to deliver against the strategy and its associated activities (including the support the delivery the County Inclusion agenda through the High Needs funding block) to the Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education.

Reason(s) for decision:

- 1.1 The new SEND strategy has been developed, building on the previous strategy which was developed in 2017. The strategy has been developed alongside the delivery of the Written Statement of Action and forms part of Kent's response to the inspection.
- 1.2 The SEND strategy 2021 - 2024 was drafted in 2020 and was developed by a working group including representatives from KCC, Health, Healthwatch and Kent PACT (Parents and Carers Together). The draft strategy was reviewed by the SEND Improvement Board before being released for public consultation in December 2020.
- 1.3 A public consultation took place from 3rd December 2020 and was closed on 4th February 2020.
- 1.3 Consultation feedback showed wide support for the SEND strategy, with over 90% of respondents agreeing with the vision, 90% of respondents agreeing with the priorities and over 84% of respondents agreeing with the outcomes.

2. Commissioned activity to support the SEND strategy

2.1 To support the SEND strategy, a range of commissioning activity will be required to implement across Kent. These include: - home tuition, - Kickstart proposal, Parenting/ family support programmes, therapies.

2.2 The SEND Improvement Programme is working with Children’s commissioning to ensure KCC and schools get best value for money when commissioning across the programme. Where commissions reach the KCC key decision governance threshold of £1m they will follow the KCC key decision process. However, due to the volume of activity and the pace of rollout, this paper seeks to recommend that all commissions below the £1m threshold can be approved by the Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education.

3. Equalities Assessment

3.1 The SEND strategy has an equalities impact assessment, and this was published alongside the strategy.

3.2 A detailed equalities analysis across the SEND service will be developed over the next 3 months.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 The SEND strategy has no further cost implications outside of the 2020 – 2023 Medium Term Financial Plan which is monitored monthly. The SEND strategy reinforced the focus of the existing SEND Improvement Programme.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

This decision will be considered at the meeting of the Children’s, Young People and education cabinet committee on 9th March 2021.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

All alternatives were considered following the consultation process.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

None

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signed

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date