

From: Richard Long TD, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
Matt Dunkley CBE, Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education

To: Children's and Young People's Cabinet Committee – 9 March 2021

Subject: Proposal to establish a 16 place Specialist Resourced Provision (SRPs) for Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Garlinge Primary School and Nursery in Thanet

Decision Number and Title

20/00017 Proposal to establish a 16 place Specialist Resourced Provision (SRPs) for Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Garlinge Primary School and Nursery in Thanet for September 2021.

Key Yes: *Public Notice required*

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Past Pathway of report: N/A

Future Pathway of report:

Electoral Division: Birchington & Rural – Emma Dawson and Liz Hurst

Summary: This report informs the committee of a decision that will need to be taken by the Member for Education and Skills after the March CYPE committee but before the next CYPE committee date in June. The decision cannot wait until the June committee date because May is the latest point at which the decision can be made and allow sufficient time for the statutory process to be completed for a September 2021 opening. The decision is required as part of the statutory process to publish the public notice enabling the establishment of the 16 place SRP at Garlinge Primary School and Nursery for September 2021.

Recommendation(s):

The Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills on the proposed decision to establish a 16 place SRP for ASD at Garlinge Primary School and Nursery for September 2021.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2021-2025 sets out our commissioning intentions to meet the need for specialist provisions across Kent. A mixture of new schools, expansion of existing and the

establishment of satellites and SRPs will be commissioned across Kent to meet the need. The new SRP provision at Garlinge Primary School will help to meet the need for additional specialist places for ASD in Thanet.

1.2 Kent County Council's Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) 2017 -2019 identifies the need to add additional provision across the county. It also sets out an intention to provide additional places for pupils with the following need types: Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Speech Language and Communication Needs (ASD), and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH).

1.1 This proposal will help to secure our ambition "to ensure that Kent's young people have access to the education, work and skills opportunities necessary to support Kent business to grow and be increasingly competitive in the national and international economy" as set out in 'Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement (2015-2020)'.

2. Body of the report

2.1 The Local Authority is responsible for maintaining Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) for children and young people between the ages of 0-25 years. As of January 2020, this totalled 13,499 children and young people with an EHCP. This is an increase of 1,736 since January 2019, an increase of 14.8% compared to 10% nationally.

2.2 The number of pupils in the Thanet District with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in January 2020 was 16,000. This was an increase of 16% from 2019. 12% of Kent's EHCP cohort live in Thanet district and as of January 2020, 5.5% of the pupils aged 5-19 years resident in Thanet were subject to an EHCP. Pupils with an EHCP in Kent are less likely to be educated in a maintained mainstream school than would be expected nationally. A number of students with an EHCP require a higher level of support than can be provided in mainstream schools, but their needs are not so complex that a special school placement is appropriate. For these students, a range of Specialist Resourced Provisions (SRPs) which are based in mainstream schools with places reserved for students with an EHCP are established. The establishment of SRPs attached to mainstream schools is part of the continuum of provision to enable pupils to be included within mainstream settings.

2.3 Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) remains the most common primary need type in Kent, with 41.2% of children and young people aged 0-25 years having an EHCP with this primary need identified. This is an increase from 40.3% in January 2019. Nationally ASD is also the most common primary need, but Kent's percentage is significantly higher than the national figure of 30%

2.4 We are also establishing an SRP for ASD for 16 pupils at Holy Trinity and St Johns Primary School in Margate. This proposal will complement the provision at Holy Trinity and St. John's Primary School and provide additional capacity and choice for parents in the Thanet district. A 20 place Secondary SRP for ASD is also planned for the new secondary school in Thanet which will work closely with the two primary school SRPs

2.5 Table 1.1 shows the number of EHCPs in Dec 2020 in Thanet District for years Nursery to Year 6 (based on the position as at Dec 2020)

Age Group	Year	Number of Pupils
Nursery - Year 6	Nursery	1
	Reception	57
	Year 1	76
	Year 2	74
	Year 3	74
	Year 4	89
	Year 5	96
Year 6	93	
Total		547

2.6 Table 1.2 Shows the total number of EHCPs for each need type in Thanet for years Nursery to Year 6 (based on the position as at Dec 2020)

Age Group	Need Type	Number of Pupils
Nursery - Year 6	ASD	276
	HI	7
	MLD	12
	PD	20
	PMLD	14
	SEMH	18
	SLCN	71
	SLD	5
	SPLD	121
	VI	3
Total		547

2.7 Table 2 shows the current number of SRP places by need type across Thanet district. Currently we are also proposing to establish a 16 place SRP at Holy Trinity and St Johns CE primary School in Thanet for ASD and together they will address the need for SRP places for Primary school children in Thanet.

District	Primary SRP Places by Need Type							Total
	ASD	HI	PD	SEMH	SLCN	SLD	VI	
Thanet	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	7

2.8 A feasibility study is currently being carried out at Garlinge Primary School to develop the proposals for the establishment of the SRP. The SRP will have 2 classrooms, care facilities and small group rooms.

2.9 The places will be commissioned by KCC and reviewed annually. It is expected that the SRP would open initially with a small number of children increasing incrementally year on year.

2.10 An Education consultation was held from 11 March to 6 May 2020. The consultation documents were distributed to parents/carers, school staff and

governors, County Councillors, Members of Parliament, the Diocesan Authorities, the relevant Clinical Commissioning Group, local libraries, Thanet District Council and others. The consultation documents were posted on the KCC website and the link to the website widely circulated. The consultation documents were also posted on the school's own website. An opportunity was also provided to send in written responses via a response form to the school consultations email address.

- 2.11 A public drop-in information session which had been arranged at the school was cancelled due to the national Covid-19 situation. However, additional emails were sent to all consultees to advise of the cancellation of the event and a reminder to complete and submit a response form.
- 2.12 The consultation closed on 7 May 2020 and in total 3 supportive responses for the proposal were received. A summary of written responses is available in Appendix 1
- 2.13 Options regarding the establishment of SRPs in primary schools in Thanet have been fully investigated with the SEN team. Garlinge Primary School and Holy Trinity and St John's CE Primary School were considered to be the best options for the establishment of SRPs for ASD in Thanet. Establishing the SRP provision will enable choice for parents in Thanet with a child who would require the additional support that an SRP provision offers.
- 2.14 The Headteacher and Governing Body are fully supportive of this proposal to establish the SRP.
- 2.15 The Area Education Officer for East Kent fully supports the proposal as it would provide much needed ASD places in Thanet, where currently there are no Specialist Resource Provisions to meet the evidenced need. This proposal will therefore provide local additional SEN places for the community and choice for parents and reduce increased reliance on the independent sector.
- 2.16 Emma Dawson and Liz Hurst, Local Members for Birchington and Rural have been informed and consulted on the proposed changes to Garlinge Primary School and Nursery.
- 2.17 The Interim Head of SEN Assessment and Placement fully supports the proposal and the commissioning of the SRP places.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The high-level feasibility for the accommodation estimates the costs to be in the region of £778,848. The SRP will have 2 classrooms, care facilities and small group rooms. The CYPE Cabinet Committee report in March and the decision paper in May will confirm the costs as the concept designs are prepared and surveys completed for the planning application. As per KCC policy, a total of £6,000 per new classroom will be provided to the school from the DGS revenue budget.
- 3.2 In line with the agreement of the Cabinet Committee on 7 May 2019, the capital figure here is an estimate for information only. Subject to Members support for

the proposal to progress, these estimates will be refined as detailed work is undertaken and the scheme progresses through the planning process. Following receipt of planning permission, the refined cost estimate will be presented to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills for a key decision to be made allowing a public notice to be issued.

4. Legal implications

- 4.1 No legal implications have been identified currently but any legal implications will be identified prior to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education before he takes his decision.

5. Equalities implications

- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been produced as part of the consultation process for both proposals and is attached. The assessment identified the following positive impacts:
- Children with ASD in the Thanet district will be able to attend provision local to their homes.
 - Children with ASD will be able to attend SRP provision in mainstream primary schools in Thanet.
 - There will be two SRPs for Primary school aged children with ASD established in the Thanet District.

No adverse impacts were identified during the assessment or during the consultation period.

6. Other corporate implications

- 6.1 Planning and Highways will be consulted pre planning and during the planning application.

7. Governance

- 7.1 The Director for Education will have delegated authority to take necessary actions, including but not limited to entering into necessary contracts or taking other legal actions as required to implement the decision as the proposal is below £1m.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1 The increasing demand to provide places for children with an Education, Health and Care plan in Thanet district has led KCC to commission SRP places within mainstream schools. The development of SRPs cater for children who require additional SEN support but do not require a place at a special school. By establishing a 16 place SRPs for ASD at Garlinge Primary School and Nursery will help to meet this increasing need. It will ensure that Thanet District will have SRP provisions for ASD and will give choice to parents whose child requires additional support.

9. Recommendation(s):

The Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills on the proposed decision to establish a 16 place SRP for ASD at Garlinge Primary School and Nursery for September 2021.

10. Background Documents

10.1 It is a Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision
www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision

10.2 Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement 2015-2020.
<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/corporate-policies/increasing-opportunities-improving-outcomes>

10.3 KCC consultation page.
<https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/WhitstableandSeasalterEndowed/consultationHome>

11. Contact details.

Report Author: Marisa White
Name, job title Area Education Officer –
East Kent
Telephone number 03000 418794
Email address marisa.white@kent.gov.uk

Relevant Director: David Adams
Name, job title Interim Director of
Education Planning and Access
Telephone number 03000 414989
Email address david.adams@kent.gov.uk