

From: Shellina Prendergast, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
Matt Dunkley CBE, Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education

To: Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee – 11 January 2022

Subject: Information report on Academy Trust consultations and projects in East Kent.

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of report: None

Future Pathway of report: None

Electoral Division: Canterbury Academy – Canterbury City South – Mel Dawkiins
Hartsdown Academy – Birchington and Rural – Linda Ann Wright & Derek Crow-Brown
St Gregory's Primary School – Margate – Barry Lewis.

Summary: This report informs the Cabinet Committee of three proposals under consultation that are being taken forward by Academy Trust Schools in East Kent. These proposals are following the guidance on making changes to an open Academy and will be submitted to the ESFA for approval subject to the outcome of the consultations.

- Establishment of Specialist Resourced Provision (SRP) for Hearing Impairment (HI) at Canterbury Academy.
- Closure of Specialist Resourced Provision (SRP) at Hartsdown Academy for Hearing Impairment (HI) (linked to Canterbury Academy Proposal)
- Change of age range at St Gregory's Roman Catholic Primary School from 3-11 years to 4-11 years by the closure of the school nursery provision.

Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet Committee is asked to note and comment on the proposals to the changes to the academy Trusts and support the Trusts business cases to the ESFA

1. Introduction

1.1 Consultations have been undertaken for the following proposals at Academy Trusts in East Kent.

- Establishment of Specialist Resourced Provision (SRP) for Hearing Impairment (HI) at Canterbury Academy.

- Closure of Specialist Resourced Provision (SRP) at Hartsdown Academy for Hearing Impairment (HI) (linked to Canterbury Academy Proposal)
- Change of age range at St Gregory's Catholic Primary School from 3-11 year to 4-11 years by the closure of the school nursery provision.

1.2 The approval of any changes to an Academy is via a business case submitted to the ESFA, who is the final decision maker on the proposal. This report is to inform the Cabinet Committee of the proposals which are currently being proposed and will be submitted to the ESFA for approval in the Spring. A verbal update of the outcomes of the consultations will be available for the CYPEE CC meeting if required.

2. Background

Proposals for changes to Specialist Resourced Provisions for Hearing Impairment in East Kent.

2.1 A review of SRP provisions for HI in Kent identified a need for the provision in East Kent to be centrally located in order to better cater for students from a number of Districts in East and South Kent. It was therefore proposed that a new provision should be opened, and the current provision transferred from Hartsdown Academy to a new provision at Canterbury Academy. The Hartsdown SRP currently has 1 student attending the SRP for Hearing Impairment, and numbers of students in this SRP have reduced over a number of years. The Hartsdown provision is consulting on closure and in parallel Canterbury Academy is consulting on opening a new provision for 8 students.

2.2 Hearing Impairment as a primary need is a low incidence need and only 1.3% of all EHCPs have a primary need of HI. In January 2021 there were 200 EHCPs in Kent for HI (0–25-year-olds) in Kent. For those students who require additional support to access mainstream school but not a specialist school place, an SRP place is required.

EHCPs by age group and need type January 2021

SEN Need Type	Under 5	Aged 5-10	Aged 11-15	Aged 16-19	Aged 20-25	Total	% of EHCPs
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	257	2045	2309	1285	623	6519	42.7%
Hearing Impairment	9	63	60	41	27	200	1.3%
Moderate Learning Difficulty	14	252	312	215	155	948	6.2%
Multi-Sensory Impairment	0	5	6	3	0	14	0.1%
Physical Disability	40	179	200	130	71	620	4.1%
Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty	28	153	110	71	22	384	2.5%
Severe Learning Difficulty	13	275	298	190	153	929	6.1%
Social, Emotional and Mental Health	9	566	1236	814	274	2899	19.0%
Specific Learning Difficulty	3	50	130	72	28	283	1.9%
Speech, Language and Communication Needs	169	1005	627	386	203	2390	15.6%
Visual Impairment	8	23	26	22	16	95	0.6%
Kent Total	550	4616	5314	3229	1572	15281	

Source: SEN2 Return January 2021

The table below shows the number of primary pupils with HI in East Kent and South Kent as at February 2021.

**Primary Pupils with HI in EK
and SK Feb 2021**

District	Year 0			Year 1			Year 2			Year 3			Year 4			Year 5			Year 6			Total				
	Moderate	Severe	Profound	Moderate	Severe	Profound	Moderate	Severe	Profound	Moderate	Severe	Profound	Moderate	Severe	Profound	Moderate	Severe	Profound	Moderate	Severe	Profound	Moderate	Severe	Profound	Severe & Profound	
Ashford	3				1		1		1			1	1	1						1			6	3	2	5
Dover				1			4			1		1	1						1			8	0	1	1	
Folkestone & Hythe					1		2	1	4			1		2				1				2	4	6	10	
Canterbury	2	1		1		1			1							3	0	0	1			8	2	1	3	
Swale	1						2			2	1		3			2			5			15	1	0	1	
Thanet	1			1			1				2	1	1	1	2	2			2		1	8	3	4	7	
Total	7	1	0	3	2	1	10	2	5	5	3	3	6	4	3	7	0	1	9	1	1	47	13	14	27	

2.3 The consultations for both the establishment of the new SRP provision at Canterbury Academy and the closure of the HI SRP at Hartsdown was held from 24 November 2021 to 6 January 2022. The outcome of the consultation will be reported to the ESFA via a business case in Spring. The ESFA will then make the final decision. A verbal update of the outcomes of the consultations will be available for the CYPEE CC meeting if required. As part of the consultation an EQIA was produced.

Proposal to Change of age range at St Gregory's Catholic Primary School from 3-11 year to 4-11 years by the closure of the school nursery provision.

2.4 St Gregory's Catholic Primary Academy took the difficult decision to consult on the change of age range of the school from 3-11 years to 4-11 years by proposing the closure of the nursery. This was due to persistent low numbers of children attending. Despite the best efforts to promote the Nursery over the last five years, the Academy has seen a steady decline in the number of children attending their nursery. With many private nurseries in the area, as well as the national trend of low birth dates, local data suggests that this will continue to be the case for a number of years to come.

2.5 Data from the vacancy audit carried out in Autumn 21 showed that the 14 other settings in the Margate planning area had over 200 vacant places for three and four year-olds. Nine of these settings are within one mile of the school.

2.6 The consultation was held from 29 November 2021 to 9 January 2022. The outcome of the consultation will be reported to the ESFA via a business case in Spring. The ESFA will make the final decision. An EQIA was produced by the Academy Trust and it identified that sufficient pre-school places are available for families in Margate

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The cost of the adaptation to the school building at Canterbury Academy and establishing the new SRP provision at Canterbury Academy will be funded by the High Needs Capital Grant and totals £300k
- 3.2 Each place at the SRP will be commissioned by KCC and reviewed annually and each place will bring a minimum of £10,000 per year, which will enable the school to provide the additional support necessary to help these students make good social and academic progress.

4. Legal implications

- 4.1 The funding allocation is subject to a contractual agreement between KCC and the Canterbury Academy Trust to open the SRP
- 4.2 Both Canterbury Academy and Hartsdown Academy are required to submit a full business case to the ESFA to establish and close the SRPs.
- 4.3 St Gregory's Primary School are also required to submit a business case to the ESFA to change their age range.

5. Equalities implications

- 5.1 An EQIA was produced for the establishment and closure of both SRPs and St Gregory's Catholic Primary School produced the EQIA for their proposal.

6. Other corporate implications

- 6.1 None identified

7. Governance

- 7.1 For the funding agreement the Officer Scheme of Delegation; under Appendix 2 part 4 of the Council's Constitution provides a clear and appropriate link between this decision and the actions needed to implement it. For information it is envisaged, if the proposal goes ahead, that the Director of Education will sign contracts on behalf of the County Council.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1 The transfer of the SRP for HI from Hartsdown to Canterbury Academy will ensure that there are sufficient places in the right place to support students with a profound or severe hearing impairment to enable them to attend a mainstream school for their education with their peer.
- 8.2 The change of age range and closure of the nursery at St Gregory's Catholic Primary School is due insufficient numbers, making it unsustainable for the school. There are vacancies within the PVI nurseries in the local area and therefore sufficient places to meet the need in the area.

9. Recommendation(s):

9.1 The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to note and to support the following Trust proposals

- Establishment of Specialist Resourced Provision (SRP) for Hearing Impairment (HI) at Canterbury Academy.
- Closure of Specialist Resourced Provision (SRP) at Hartsdown Academy for Hearing Impairment (HI) (linked to Canterbury Academy Proposal)
- Change of age range at St Gregory's Primary School from 3-11year to 4-11years by the closure of the school nursery provision.

10. Background Documents

10.1 Consultation websites

Canterbury academy

[Consultation - Hearing Impairment Special Resource Based Provision - Canterbury Academy Trust](#)

Hartsdown Academy

<https://hartsdown.org/consultation-proposed-changes-to-hartsdown-academy/>

St Gregory's Catholic Primary School.

<https://www.st-gregorys.kent.sch.uk/nursery>(External link).

10.2 Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision

www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision

11. Contact details

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