

EXECUTIVE DECISION

From: Matt Dunkley CBE, Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education

To: Sue Chandler, Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services

Subject: Proposal to change use of Garlinge Children's Centre building to provide a 16 place Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) as part of Garlinge Primary School and Nursery and that will serve Thanet children with ASD.

Decision Number and Title: 21/00113 - Proposal to change use of Garlinge Children's Centre building to provide a 16 place Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) as part of Garlinge Primary School and Nursery and that will serve Thanet children with ASD.

Key *It involves expenditure of over £1m
Requires a Public Notice.*

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of report: Children's and Young People's Cabinet Committee – 11 January 2022.

Future Pathway of report: Cabinet Member Decision

Electoral Division: Birchington and Rural - Derick Crow-Brown and Linda Wright.

Summary: This report informs the Cabinet Member of the proposal to change the use of Garlinge Children's Centre building to provide a 16 place Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) as part of Garlinge Primary School and Nursery

Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services is asked to take the proposed decision:

- i. to agree to change the use of Garlinge Children Centre building to provide a 16 place Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).
- ii. to agree to provide Children's Centre Services to the community served by Garlinge Children's Centre through Birchington Children's Centre by extending

the opening hours of Birchington Children's Centre from part time to full time. Six Bells Children Centre in Margate is also within proximity of Garlinge.

- iii. to issue a public notice to change the use of Garlinge Children Centre building and to establish a 16 place Specialist Resourced Provision (SRP) for Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Garlinge Primary School & Nursery from September 2022.
- iv. agree to provide £1.15 million from the Children's, Young People and Education Capital Budget for the establishment of the 16 place SRP for ASD at Garlinge Primary School and Nursery.
- v. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure, Strategic and Corporate Services in consultation with the General Counsel and Director of Education to enter into any necessary contracts / agreements on behalf of the County Council.
- vi. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure, Strategic and Corporate Services to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts.

And, subject to no objections being received to the public notice

- i. establish a 16 place Specialist Resourced Provision (SRP) for Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Garlinge Primary School & Nursery from September 2022.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The 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 Specialist Resourced Provisions will be commissioned across Kent to meet the need.
- 1.2 A proportion of pupils with an EHCP require 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 pupils we maintain a range of Specialist Resourced Provisions (SRPs) which are based in mainstream schools with places reserved for pupils with an EHCP. The establishment of SRPs attached to mainstream schools is part of the continuum of provision to enable pupils to be included within mainstream settings.
- 1.3 Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is the most common special education need type in Kent with 42.7% of all EHCPs (0-25) having ASD as their primary need. In Thanet 50% of all EHCPs for Primary aged pupils have ASD named as their primary need in their Education Health and Care Plan. Despite this, Thanet does not have any Specialist Resource Provisions in any of its local schools. The nearest primary schools with specialist resource provisions for ASD for children in Thanet are in Canterbury and Whitstable.
- 1.4 Table below shows the current number of EHCPs in Thanet District for Year R to Year 6 and the provision they attend.

**Thanet District EHCPs for ASD and Provision type
October 2021**

School Year	Mainstream Maintained/Academy/Free	SRP	Special	Independent Special	other	Educated at Home	awaiting Provision	Total
Year R	14	1	16	1	4	0	2	38
Year 1	25	0	32	0	0	0	0	57
Year 2	22	0	17	0	2	0	0	41
Year 3	19	1	25	1	0	0	0	46
Year 4	12	3	19	3	0	1	0	38
Year 5	18	0	32	4	0	0	0	54
Year 6	17	0	30	8	2	1	0	58
Total	127	5	171	17	8	2	2	332
% in each provision Type	38%	2%	52%	5%	2%	1%	1%	

Data from Power BI SEN Synergy Performance Report October 2021.

- 1.5 The proposal is to open two primary Specialist Resource Provisions for Thanet primary age children with Autism Spectrum Disorder to meet the need. One at Holy Trinity and St John's Primary School in Margate and the second at Garlinge Primary School and Nursery in the Children Centre building on the school site.

2. Background

- 2.1 Garlinge Primary School and Nursery was identified by Kent County Council as being successful in supporting pupils with ASD. Garlinge Primary School agreed to consider establishing a new SRP within the school for up to 16 children.
- 2.2 A feasibility study was commissioned to identify a suitable area within the school for the SRP to be established. The Children's Centre on the school site was identified as the preferred option for the location for the SRP. The Children's Centre building will revert back to educational purposes as the building was originally part of Garlinge Infant School. The School will establish the SRP within the Children Centre Building. Consideration has also been given to a different area of the school that currently has some intervention spaces and a sensory room and would require demolition of some temporary buildings. This space is near to the current Key Stage 2 (Junior) satellite class of Foreland Fields School on the Garlinge Primary site. There is a separate proposal to provide a Key Stage 1 (Infant) satellite class of Foreland Fields School. However, if the Specialist Resource Provision is sited in this alternative area, the proposal for the Infant satellite class of Foreland Fields School would be impacted.
- 2.3 A consultation was therefore undertaken on proposals to change the use of Garlinge Children's Centre building to provide a 16 place Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and to provide Children's Centre Services to the community served by Garlinge Children's Centre through Birchington Children's Centre. Early Years, health (health visiting and midwifery) and parenting services delivered from Garlinge

Children's Centre would be transferred to the current part-time Birchington Children's Centre, which is 3.4 miles from Garlinge Children's Centre. It is proposed that Birchington Children's Centre hours would be extended to full-time opening to accommodate the increased delivery of services. Birchington Children's Centre is able to offer comparative services to Garlinge Children's Centre and has a bigger outdoor area which allows more outdoor play opportunity. The network of Thanet Children's Centres work closely together offering outreach support across Thanet. Outreach services including home visiting are an important aspect of Children's Centre services and ensure support is targeted at young children and families who are at risk of poor outcomes. Outreach services will continue to be provided for the Garlinge catchment area based on local community needs. This will include some delivery of services from Garlinge Primary school. The proposed changes will not affect the level of outreach support provided to families living within the catchment area of Garlinge Children's Centre. Another alternative and accessible location to access Children's Centre services is Six Bells Children's Centre, which is 1.7 miles from Garlinge Children's Centre.

3. Outcome of the Consultation

3.1 The consultation took place from 29 September to 25 November 2021. Stakeholder groups were identified and targeted at the start and during the consultation period. The following groups were identified:

- Current service users of all Thanet Children's Centres
- Previous service users of Garlinge Children Centre
- Parents/carers of pupils at Garlinge Primary School
- All primary and secondary schools in Thanet
- Early years providers in the Garlinge area
- KCC Members
- Thanet District Council
- Midwifery and health visiting services
- Clinical Commissioning group
- Children's Centre Staff
- Unions

3.2 The consultation documents were posted on the KCC website, the school's website and Thanet Children's Centres facebook page. A leaflet drop to local people's houses was also organised for 18 streets surrounding Garlinge Children's Centre. Two consultation events were organised at the school where people were able to book a slot on either Tuesday 19 October 4pm to 6pm or Wednesday 3 November 5pm to 7pm. Only one person attended the consultation event on Wednesday 3 November. A press statement was also released at the beginning of the consultation.

3.3 A total of 49 responses were received to the consultation.

There were 35 who strongly agreed and a further 8 who mostly agreed with the change of use of Garlinge Children's Centre building to provide a 16 place Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Whilst 4 mostly disagreed and 2 strongly disagreed.

27 strongly agreed and a further 12 mostly agreed with providing Children's Centre Services to the community served by Garlinge Children's Centre through Birchington Children's Centre. Whilst 1 neither agreed or disagreed, 5 mostly disagreed and 3 strongly disagreed.

The Headteacher and Governing Body are fully supportive of this proposal to establish the SRP.

The Area Education Officer for East Kent fully supports the proposal as it would provide much needed primary 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 reduce increased reliance on the independent sector.

The Local Members for Birchington and Rural have been informed and consulted on the proposed changes to Garlinge Children's Centre and Garlinge Primary School and Nursery.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The feasibility study has costed the project at £1.15m to adapt the current Children's centre. The proposal is for an extension to the Children's Centre allowing two classrooms, care facilities, small group rooms, therapy room, office and a meeting room, plus internal adaptations to the current building. This figure is in line with the DfE's benchmark figures for an expansion per pupil for an SEN capital project.
- 4.2 As per KCC policy, a total of £6,000 per newly provided classroom will be provided to the school from the DSG revenue budget.
- 4.3 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. Each place commissioned by KCC will bring a minimum of £10,000 per year which will enable the school to provide the additional support necessary to help these children make good social and academic process.
- 4.4 KCC will work closely with the senior leadership team of the school to ensure that all appropriate accommodation and facilities are provided to enable them to deliver an effective curriculum.

5. Legal implications

- 5.1 Kent County Council (KCC) as the Local Authority has a duty to ensure sufficient school places are available. If this decision does not take place there will be a risk that we cannot meet our statutory duties to provide sufficient places.

6. Equalities implications

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed as part of the consultation process and is attached.

The assessment identified the following positive impacts:

- Children with ASD in the Thanet district will be able to attend provisions local to their homes.
- Children with ASD will be able to attend specialist provision in mainstream primary schools in Thanet.
- There will be two specialist provisions for primary school aged children with ASD established in the Thanet District enabling choice.

The following negative impacts were identified:

- Children, young people and parents would need to travel further to access Children's Centre services and may experience a longer journey time.

The following mitigation has been identified

- Children and families can access the same services at their closest Children's Centres (Birchington and Six Bells Children's Centres) or any other Children's Centre in Thanet.
- Families targeted with additional or outreach support will continue to receive the same level of service.
- Families will also be able to access virtual Children's Centre services.

It is proposed to mitigate the closure of the Children's centre by continuing to offer targeted outreach to Garlinge service users through home visiting, community venues and utilising space within the school. Whilst Early years, health (health visiting and midwifery) and parenting services delivered from Garlinge Children's Centre would be transferred to the current part-time Birchington Children's Centre which will be extended to full-time opening to accommodate the increased delivery of services.

7. Other corporate implications

- 7.1 Open Access, Early Help and Preventative Services and Education have worked in partnership on this proposal to ensure best use of resources and support for children and families in Thanet.

8. Governance

- 8.1 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. The proposed decision will authorise the Director of Infrastructure, Strategic and Corporate Services in consultation with the General Counsel and Director of Education to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council. It will also authorise the Director of Infrastructure, Strategic and Corporate Services to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts.

9. Conclusions

- 9.1 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. It was identified that Thanet had a gap in provision for children with ASD with no established SRPs for ASD. By establishing the 16 place SRP for ASD within the Garlinge Children Centre a vital provision will be established. Children Centre services will be transferred to Birchington Children Centre allowing this centre to be open fulltime. Families are able to access all children centres in Thanet and targeted outreach provision will be provided to the Garlinge community and at the School. The SRP for ASD at Garlinge Primary School will ensure that children are able to access a SRP provision in Thanet and will enable choice for parents.

10. Recommendation(s):

- 10.1 The Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services is asked to take the proposed decision:
- i. to agree to change the use of Garlinge Children Centre building to provide a 16 place Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).
 - ii. to agree to provide Children's Centre Services to the community served by Garlinge Children's Centre through Birchington Children's Centre by extending the opening hours of Birchington Children's Centre from part time to full time. Six Bells Children Centre in Margate is also within proximity of Garlinge.
 - iii. to issue a public notice to establish a 16 place Specialist Resourced Provision (SRP) for Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Garlinge Primary School & Nursery from September 2022.
 - iv. agree to provide £1.15 million from the Children's, Young People and Education Capital Budget for the establishment of the 16 place SRP for ASD at Garlinge Primary School and Nursery.
 - v. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure, Strategic and Corporate Services in consultation with the General Counsel and Director of Education to enter into any necessary contracts / agreements on behalf of the County Council.
 - vi. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure, Strategic and Corporate Services to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts.

And, subject to no objections being received to the public notice

- i. establish a 16 place Specialist Resourced Provision (SRP) for Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Garlinge Primary School & Nursery from September 2022.

11. Background Documents

- 11.1 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>
- 11.2 Vision and Priorities for Improvement
http://www.kelsi.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/68498/Children-Young-People-and-Education-Vision-and-Priorities-for-Improvement-2018-2021.pdf
- 11.3 Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2021-25
www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision
- 11.4 Kent County Councils' Strategy for Children and Young People with special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
www.kent.gov.uk/sendstrategy
- 11.5 Garlinge Consultation Document and Equalities Impact Assessment
[Proposed change to Garlinge Children's Centre | Let's talk Kent](#)

12. Contact details

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