

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

**DECISION TAKEN BY:**

**Sue Chandler, Cabinet Member for Integrated  
Children’s Services**

**DECISION NO:**

**21/00113**

Unrestricted

Key decision: YES

**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:**

As Cabinet Member for Integrated Children’s Services and in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills I agree to:

- i. 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. 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. 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. provide £1.15 million from the Children, 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.

**Reason(s) for decision:**

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is the most prevalent special education need type in Kent with 42.7% of all EHCPs (0-25) having ASD recorded 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.

Garlinge Children's Centre was identified as a possible location on the site of Garlinge Primary School for the Specialist Resource Provision; however utilising this building would mean the closure of the Children's Centre as a base for delivering services and would require the transfer of early years, health (health visiting and midwifery) and parenting services currently delivered from Garlinge Children's Centre to the current part-time Birchington Children's Centre. Birchington Children's Centre hours would be extended to full-time opening to accommodate the increased delivery of services. Children's Centre services will also continue to offer targeted outreach to Garlinge service users through home visiting and community venues, including Garlinge Primary School. 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.

The proposal to open the Specialist Resource Provision for primary age children with autism spectrum disorder at Garlinge Primary School and Nursery will support the need for places in Thanet.

### **Equality Implications**

An Equality Impact Assessment has been produced 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 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 in the Thanet District.

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

- The 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.

### **Data Protection implications**

An impact assessment identified no adverse implications and KCC did not handle any personal data relating to this decision.

### **Financial Implications**

#### **Capital**

A feasibility study has been carried out at Garlinge Primary School to develop the proposals to adapt the current Children's centre. The costs for this proposal are £1.15m. The proposal is for an extension to the Children's Centre allowing two classrooms, care facilities, small group rooms and a meeting room and internal adaptations to the current building.

As per KCC policy, a total of £6,000 per newly provided classroom will be provided to the school from the DSG revenue budget.

#### **Revenue**

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 progress.

### **Legal Implications**

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 education provision.

### **Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:**

This decision was considered by Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet committee on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

**Any alternatives considered and rejected:**

Options regarding the establishment of SRPs in primary schools in Thanet have been fully investigated with KCC's SEN team. Garlinge Primary School together with Holy Trinity and St John's CE Primary School were identified as the best options for the establishment of primary SRPs for ASD in Thanet. Consideration has 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 was sited here, the proposal for the Key Stage One satellite class of Foreland Fields School would be affected.

**Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:** None



20/01/22

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**signed**

**date**