

EXECUTIVE DECISION

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

To: **Shellina Prendergast, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills**

Subject: **Proposal to make prescribed changes to Foreland Fields (Foundation) Special School from September 2022**

- **Establish a satellite provision for 6 Year R/Key Stage 1 primary aged pupils at Garlinge Primary School and Nursery.**
- **Establish a satellite provision for 12 Key Stage 4 students and 12 Post -16 students at EKC Group (Broadstairs College).**
- **Increase the designated number from 200 to 230.**

Decision Number: 22/00012

Key decision

- *It affects more than 2 Electoral Divisions*
- *It involves expenditure or savings of more than £1m*

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Past Pathway of report: Children's and Young People Cabinet Committee - 1 March 2022

Future Pathway of report: Cabinet member Decision

Electoral Division:

Ramsgate - Karen Constantine
Ramsgate - Trevor Shonk
Birchington and Rural - Linda Ann Wright
Birchington and Rural - Derek Crow-Brown

Summary: This report sets out the proposal to establish satellite provisions of Foreland Fields Special School at Garlinge Primary school for 6 year R/Key stage 1 pupils and a satellite for Key Stage 4 and Post 16 students at EKC Group for September 2022. Foreland Fields School is unable to expand on its main school site and demand for PSCN Special school places in Thanet district is increasing. The establishment of satellite provisions on mainstream education sites provides additional capacity whilst also enabling the school's expertise to be shared with the host school and provide Foreland Fields students the opportunity to integrate, (where appropriate) with mainstream peers.

Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills is asked to agree the proposed decision to make prescribed changes to Foreland Fields Special School and agree to:

Issue a public notice to:

- (i) Establish a satellite provision for 6 Year R/Key Stage 1 primary aged pupils at Garlinge Primary School and Nursery.
- (ii) Establish a satellite provision for 12 Key Stage 4 students and 12 Post -16 students at EKC Group (Broadstairs College).
- (iii) Increase the designated number from 200 to 230

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

- (i) Establish a satellite provision for 6 Year R/Key Stage 1 primary aged pupils at Garlinge Primary School and Nursery.
- (ii) Establish a satellite provision for 12 Key Stage 4 students and 12 Post -16 students at EKC Group (Broadstairs College).
- (iii) Increase the designated number from 200 to 230

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2022-2026 sets out KCC's commissioning intentions and identified the need for additional Special School capacity. The proposal to expand Foreland fields by establishing satellite provisions to help meet this need is set out within the current Plan.
- 1.2 Foreland Fields (Foundation) Special School is a day provision providing for pupils aged 2 to 19 with Profound, Severe and Complex Needs (PSCN), including Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Foreland Fields moved into their new purpose-built school in February 2017. In addition to the main building, the school already operates a primary satellite class at Garlinge Primary and Nursey School for Key Stage 2 pupils and a Key Stage 3 satellite class with Hartsdown Academy (suspended during the recent building programme but planned to re-open following planning discussions with the Academy). The new satellites will provide additional opportunities and choice for integration for both primary, secondary and post -16 Foreland pupils. Foreland Fields School was judged 'Good' by Ofsted in November 2017.

2. The Proposal

- 2.1 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 (2017 - 2022)'.
- 2.2 Foreland Fields is unable to expand further on its current site and demand for PSCN Special School places in Thanet is increasing. The establishment of satellite provisions on mainstream education sites provides additional capacity whilst also enabling the school's expertise to be shared with the host school and

provide Foreland Fields students the opportunity to integrate (where appropriate) with mainstream peers. Foreland Fields is proposing to establish a satellite provision for reception/Key stage 1 at Garlinge Primary School, expanding the current Key Stage 2 provision and establishing a satellite for Key Stage 4 and post-16 students at EKC Group, Broadstairs College.

- 2.3 There is currently a Key Stage 2 satellite at Garlinge Primary School and it is therefore logical that the proposed Key Stage One class is established at this same school. There is only one college provider in Thanet. EKCG runs a 14-16 school on the Broadstairs College site and therefore this provides the opportunity for the establishment of satellite classes covering both Key Stage 4 and Post 16.
- 2.4 Garlinge Primary School and Nursery will host the satellite provision and expand their current provision for key Stage 2 to include an additional 6 places for Reception and Key Stage 1 pupils. EKC Group at Broadstairs College would host a satellite provision for up to 12 students at Key Stage 4 and 12 students at post-16. The provisions would have their own accommodation within the schools and College and would be staffed by Foreland Field School. The pupils attending the satellites would continue to have access to all the support they require and would be on the roll of Foreland Fields. Their Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) would name Foreland Fields as their school. Significant benefits have been identified as the proposal will develop and strengthen partnership between the provisions and enable staff skills and expertise to be developed through joint training, curriculum development and the sharing of good practice. Pupils will benefit from inclusive school and college opportunities.
- 2.5 Garlinge Primary School and EKC Group have identified areas within their current buildings which would be reconfigured to provide the space for satellite provisions. Pupils and students would have a class base where they will receive some individual and small group teaching, following the Foreland Fields curriculum. The accommodation would also provide a base for Specialist Staff who will support the pupils when they are included in mainstream teaching groups with pupils and students of the same age. The Headteachers of the schools and Heads of Department for the College and Foreland Fields will review who is most appropriate for admission to the satellite classes, subject to parental support.
- 2.6 KCC, Foreland Fields in partnership with Garlinge Primary School and Nursery and EKC Group held a public education consultation from 20 January 2022 to 24 February 2022. Two public drop-in events were also held on the 1 February 2022 to give stakeholders the opportunity to find out more and ask questions regarding the proposal. A verbal update of the consultation responses will be given at Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee.
- 2.7 The Headteacher and Governing body of Foreland Fields School, the Governing Body of Garlinge Primary School and Nursery and the Governing Body of EKC Group are all in support of the proposals.
- 2.8 The Area Education Officer for East Kent fully supports the expansion of Foreland Fields through the establishment of the proposed satellite provisions.

2.9 The Members for Thanet have been consulted.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 Garlinge Primary and Nursery School has identified an area, previously used as offices, which will be reconfigured to provide the space required to create the satellite provision. The area will have to be converted to a classroom and the office space re-provided through a modular building on the site. The capital costs total £59,471

3.2 EKC Group have identified an area within buildings on the Broadstairs College that can be refurbished to meet the needs of the students. The area is situated next to the Supported Learning area for the Broadstairs College. The area for the Key Stage 4 class is also located near to other KS4 pupils attending Broadstairs Junior College. The capital funding for this refit totals £65,000

3.3 The total capital expenditure for this proposal is £124,471 and is funded from the Basic Need Capital budget.

3.4 Revenue funding will also be allocated to enable the school to resource each new learning space. At present this is at a value of £6,000 per classroom.

4. Legal implications

4.1 A service level agreement specifying the responsibilities of each party and any revenue costs to be covered will be put into place between Foreland Fields Special School and both Garlinge Primary School and Nursery and East Kent College Group.

4.2 The provision of sufficient school places is a statutory duty and contributes to the Strategic Business Plan Priorities to ensure that “Children and Young People in Kent get the best start in life

5. Equalities implications

5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been produced and the assessment identified the following positive impacts:

- Pupils with Complex Needs and ASD will be able to attend satellite provisions in mainstream primary and Key stage 4 and post 16 College
- The Key Stage 1 and Reception satellite will provide continuity to the current Key Stage 2 provision of Foreland Fields.
- The Key Stage 4 and Post 16 satellite classes proposed for East Kent College will enable students assessed as suitable to attend these to develop greater independence and the skills to continue their education and training successfully to adulthood.
- There will be an increase in the total number of Specialist places available for Children with Complex needs and ASD.

No adverse impacts were identified during the assessment.

6. Other corporate implications

6.1 None identified.

7. Governance

7.1 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.

8. Conclusions

8.1 The increasing demand for special school places in Thanet district, particularly for pupils with complex learning difficulties including ASD, has led to Foreland Fields taking additional children. Foreland Fields is unable to expand on its main school site in Thanet. To meet the increasing demand the establishment of satellite provisions on mainstream school sites creates the additional required capacity, enables the school's expertise to be shared with the host provisions and also provides Foreland Fields students with the opportunity to integrate, where appropriate, with their mainstream peers.

9. Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills is asked to agree the proposed decision to make prescribed changes to Foreland Fields Special School and agree to:

Issue a public notice to:

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

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10. Background Documents

- 10.1 Consultation documents including EqIA
www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations
- 10.2 Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision
www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision
- 10.3 Setting the Course - Our Interim Strategic Plan
[Setting the Course - Our Interim Strategic Plan - Kent County Council](#)

11. Contact details

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