

From: **Shellina Prendergast, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills**
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To: **Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee – 19 July 2022**

Subject: **Review of Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2022-26**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Past Pathway of report: KCP Cabinet Decision - 6 January 2022

Future Pathway of report: KCP Cabinet Decision in January 2023

Electoral Division: All

Summary: This report informs Members of the progress made in implementing the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2022-26 since its adoption by Cabinet in January 2022.

Recommendation(s):

The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to note the progress achieved and to consider the report prior to the next version of the Commissioning Plan published in November 2022.

1. Introduction

1.1 In January 2022 Kent County Council (KCC) published the latest Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2022-26 (KCP). The KCP sets out how the County Council, as the Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision in Kent, will carry out our responsibility for ensuring there are sufficient high quality places, in the right locations for all learners, while at the same time fulfilling our other responsibilities to raise education standards and promote parental preference.

1.2 This report reviews the progress made since the KCP's production. It includes:

- A review of forecasting accuracy;
- The progress in implementing the planned expansions of schools;
- Review of SEN, Early Years and Post 16 provision progress.

2 Forecasting Accuracy

2.1 The KCP sets out forecast roll numbers for the County and in planning groups for both primary and secondary school phases. The overall forecast relating to the 2021-22 School Year were accurate to within plus or minus 1%. This demonstrates a high level of forecasting accuracy and meets the performance target to be accurate to within plus or minus 1% at County level.

2.2 The Years R-6, Year 7 and Years 7-11 were all within 1%, however, the year R roll was over the 1%, at 1.5%. See figures below:

- Year R rolls were over forecast by 1.5%, 264 pupils.

- Years R-6 rolls were under forecast by 0.4%, 511 pupils.
- Year 7 rolls were under forecast by 0.5%, 92 pupils.
- Years 7-11 rolls were under forecast by 0.2%, 145 pupils.

2.3 The primary breakdown by district for the year R forecasts shown in Figure 2.1 indicates that 8 districts were over or under forecast in excess of 1% and 30 places. Figure 2.2 shows that the overall years R-6 primary forecast accuracy improved from 0.5 over to 0.4 under.

Figure 2.1: Comparison of Year R forecast v October 2021 roll

District	Forecast roll 2021/22	Actual roll October 2021/22	Variance in places	Accuracy (%)*
Folkestone & Hythe	1,082	1,113	-31	-2.8
Dover	1,116	1,140	-24	-2.1
Maidstone	1,975	2,011	-36	-1.8
Gravesham	1,371	1,377	-6	-0.4
Thanet	1,467	1,471	-4	-0.3
Tunbridge Wells	1,191	1,189	2	0.2
Ashford	1,588	1,549	-39	2.5
Swale	1,850	1,802	48	2.6
Canterbury	1,410	1,368	42	3.1
Dartford	1,724	1,656	68	4.1
Tonbridge & Malling	1,659	1,587	72	4.5
Sevenoaks	1,378	1,285	93	7.2
Kent	8,203	8,301	-98	1.5

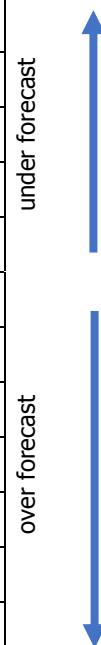


Figure 2.2: Comparison of Year R-6 forecast v October 2021 roll

District	Forecast roll 2021/22	Actual roll October 2021/22	Variance in places	Accuracy (%)*
Maidstone	13,883	14,110	-227	-1.6
Tunbridge Wells	8,598	8,708	-110	-1.3
Canterbury	10,329	10,406	-77	-0.7
Dover	8,355	8,411	-56	-0.7
Folkestone & Hythe	8,079	8,132	-53	-0.6
Gravesham	9,784	9,838	-54	-0.5
Ashford	11,008	11,043	-35	-0.3
Dartford	11,262	11,291	-29	-0.3
Thanet	10,849	10,856	-7	-0.1
Swale	12,995	13,000	-5	0.0
Tonbridge & Malling	11,627	11,577	50	0.4



Sevenoaks	9,489	9,396	93	1.0
Kent	126,257	126,768	-511	-0.4

2.4 For secondary, figure 2.3 shows that 5 districts were over or under forecast in Year 7 by more than 1%. Figure 2.4 indicates the overall years 7-11 forecast accuracy, only Tunbridge Wells district was outside of the 1% target.

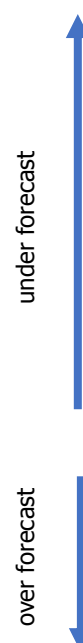
Figure 2.3: Comparison of Year 7 forecast v October 2021 roll

District	Forecast roll 2021/22	Actual roll October 2021/22	Variance in places	Accuracy (%)*
Dartford	1,904	1,979	-75	-3.8
Gravesham	1,543	1,594	-51	-3.2
Maidstone	2,196	2,227	-31	-1.4
Ashford	1,598	1,614	-16	-1.0
Canterbury	1,646	1,659	-13	-0.8
Folkestone & Hythe	1,148	1,154	-6	-0.6
Tonbridge & Malling	1,867	1,863	4	0.2
Dover	1,269	1,264	5	0.4
Thanet	1,450	1,440	10	0.7
Swale	1,856	1,839	17	0.9
Sevenoaks	579	564	15	2.7
Tunbridge Wells	1,631	1,582	49	3.1
Kent	18,687	18,779	-92	-0.5



Figure 2.4: Comparison of Year 7-11 forecast v October 2021 roll

District	Forecast roll 2021/22	Actual roll October 2021/22	Variance in places	Accuracy (%)*
Gravesham	7,321	7,384	-63	-0.9
Thanet	7,183	7,244	-61	-0.8
Maidstone	10,597	10,671	-74	-0.7
Dartford	9,025	9,087	-62	-0.7
Canterbury	7,889	7,936	-47	-0.6
Dover	6,129	6,150	-21	-0.3
Ashford	7,688	7,708	-20	-0.3
Folkestone & Hythe	5,479	5,483	-4	-0.1
Tonbridge & Malling	8,892	8,882	10	0.1
Swale	8,600	8,574	26	0.3
Sevenoaks	2,736	2,720	16	0.6
Tunbridge Wells	8,183	8,027	156	1.9



Kent	89,721	89,866	-145	-0.2
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3 The Progress in Implementing the Planned Expansions of Schools

- 3.1 The County Council commissions both temporary and permanent places where appropriate to ensure there are sufficient places for all children. Schools which are their own admissions authorities may also offer places above their published admissions numbers (PAN), and temporary places available in one year may not be available in subsequent years.
- 3.2 For admission in September 2022, there were 19,703 Year R places available, 85 fewer than the previous year. Within the secondary sector 19,671 Year 7 places were available, 237 fewer than the previous year. Not all the additional places (or reductions in PAN) were commissioned by KCC. The ability for schools to self-determine temporary increases above their PAN without recourse to the Local Authority adds to the complexity of place planning in the medium and longer term.
- 3.3 Figure 3.1 summarises the overall county position, with the new primary and secondary places identified in the 2022-26 Commissioning Plan as needing to be commissioned by September 2022 compared to the places delivered (on target to be in place by September 2022).

Figure 3.1: Comparison of Commissioning intentions and delivered places for September 2022

	Primary		Secondary	
	Permanent Year R	Temporary Year R	Permanent Year 7	Temporary Year 7
Need Identified in KCP	0 FE	30 Places	3 FE	335 Places
Places delivered	0 FE	30 Places	0 FE	378 places
Difference	0 FE	0 Places	- 3 FE	-43 Places

- 3.4 Figures 3.2 to 3.3 set out the detail of any variation between what was planned to be commissioned for September 2022 and what was commissioned.

Figure 3.2: Comparison of Commissioning intentions and delivered places for September 2022

District	Planning Group	By 2022-23	Variation	Reason	Impact
Tonbridge and Malling	East Malling	Up to 30 temporary Year R places	None	N/A	N/A

Figure 3.3: Comparison of Commissioning intentions and delivered places for September 2022

District	Planning Group	By 2022-23	Variation	Reason	Impact
Ashford	Ashford North Non-Selective	Up to 90 Year 7 places	123 places were added	The pressure for Year 7 places was greater than forecast.	Generally positive; more families able to get places in Ashford schools. Nevertheless, 30 Ashford pupils were offered school places in Dover.
Swale	Canterbury and Faversham Selective	Up to 50 Year 7 places	No places commissioned	Additional Grammar places not required for offer day	Sufficient places in the planning area for offer day.
Swale	Faversham Non-Selective	1FE Expansion of Abbey School	30 temporary places offered	Permanent expansion of Abbey School delayed due to redesign work. Planning application to Sept 2023	Sufficient places were available on offer day.
Swale	Sittingbourne Non-selective	Up to 60 Year 7 places	No variation 60 temporary places commissioned.		Sufficient places were available on offer day.
Swale	Sittingbourne and Sheppey selective	2 FE	60 temp places commissioned; to be made permanent in 2023	Build programme delays for 1 FE expansions to Borden and Highsted Grammar Schools	None
Thanet	Thanet Selective	Up to 15 Year 7 places	No places commissioned	Additional Grammar places not required for offer day	Sufficient places in the planning area for offer day.
Sevenoaks	Sevenoaks and Borough Green Non-Selective	Up to 60 Year 7 places	45 temp places offered in 2022/23. On-going progress to make places permanent.	Forecast demonstrated that 45 places was appropriate to meet demand.	None
Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells	West Kent Selective	Up to 60 temporary Year 7 places	No variation 60 temporary places commissioned.	N/A	N/A

4 Progress in Commissioning Provision for SEND Pupils

- 4.1 The KCP identified KCC's intention to commission 778 new places in special schools and Specialist Resourced Provisions (SRPs) across the plan period. In total, 40 of the 778 places identified in the KCP had a planned delivery for September 2022. A number of projects have been brought forward for September 2022 delivery to meet the demand for specialist places, resulting in a total of 106 places being added for September 2022. This includes 24 places that were not identified in the projects named in the KCP.
- 4.2 Of the 40 places that were originally due to be delivered for September 2022, 8 were Special School places, however a total of 84 additional special school places have been commissioned. Of the 40, 32 were planned new SRP places. Only 22 SRP places have been commissioned as we are awaiting the outcome of a review of Kent's Specialist Resource Provisions and their role within the continuum of support for children and young people with Education Health and Care Plans. Figure 4.1 sets out the variations between what we planned to commission, and what we have commissioned for September 2022.

Figures 4.1 Specialist Provision Planned in Special Schools and SRPs Variance Tables

Provision	Planned commissioning delivery date in KCP	Number of places commissioned for 2022-23	Need Type	District	Reason/Impact
Satellite of PSCN School Key stage 1	2022	8	PSCN	Canterbury	On track for September 2022 delivery.
Satellite of PSCN School Key Stage 2	2024	16	PSCN	Canterbury	Brought forward for delivery for Sept 2022 due to demand for places. (Combined Primary provision with above) 24 place satellite of St Nicholas at Pilgrims Way Primary School.
2 x Primary Satellite of Meadowfield	2023	16	PSCN	Swale	1x satellite of Meadowfield at Sunny Bank Primary School brought forward to Sept 2022 due to demand for places at Meadowfield.
Satellite of PSCN School Key Stage 1	2023	6	PSCN	Thanet	Brought forward to Sept 2022 due to demand for places. Satellite of Foreland Fields at Garlinge for 6 KS1
Satellite of PSCN School Key Stage 3/4	2023	12	PSCN	Thanet	Brought forward to Sept 2022 due to demand for places. KS 4 satellite of Foreland Fields for 12 at EKC group Broadstairs Campus
Satellite of PSCN School Post-16 provision	2023	12	PSCN	Thanet	Brought forward to Sept 2022 due to demand for places. Post 16 satellite of Foreland Fields for 12 at EKC group Broadstairs Campus
Total Special School places		70			
Additional commissioned places not identified in the KCP					
Laleham Gap	2022	10	ASD	Thanet	Yr12 & Yr 13 new 6 th form provision for 10 students. Sept 2022
The Goldwyn School, Ashford	2022	4	SEMH	Ashford	4 additional Year 7 places.
Total additional places for September 2022		84			

Provision	Planned commissioning delivery date in KCP	Number of places commissioned for 2022-23	Need Type	District	Reason/Impact
Canterbury Academy	2022	8	HI	Canterbury	On track for Sept 2022
Primary- Herne Bay Infants & Juniors	2022	0	ASD	Canterbury	On hold whilst SRP review is completed. Possibly delayed until Jan 2023 dependant on SRP review outcome.
St. Nicholas CE PS	2022	4	ASD	Folkestone and Hythe	On track to be delivered for 2022
Primary - Copperfield	2022	0	ASD	Gravesham	On hold whilst SRP review is completed. Possibly delayed until 2023 dependant on SRP review outcome.
Primary - Springhead Park	2022	0	SLCN	Gravesham	On hold whilst SRP review is undertaken,
Primary SRP -Isle of Sheppey	2022	0	ASD	Swale	On hold whilst SRP review is undertaken, and no school identified.
Total SRP places		12			
Additional commissioned places not identified in the KCP					
Dover Christ Church Academy- ASPEN 2	2022	10	PSCN	Dover	Additional place created through the addition of two mobile classrooms.
Total additional SRP places for September 2022		22			

5 Progress in implementing Changes to Provision for Early Years

- 5.1 The annual Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) is typically prepared through the Summer Term ahead of September in each year. The CSA enables officers to identify the supply of, and demand for, early years and childcare provision across the County, including where there might be over supply and particularly any deficit in provision. The outcomes of this are reported in the next KCP. We work with providers and potential providers to encourage the establishment of additional provision where it is required.
- 5.2 Between April 2021 and April 2022, the market has remained fairly stable with 38 settings opening and 36 closing. The full effect of Covid is yet to be fully realised on the long-term sustainability of settings. This is due in part to parents changing their working patterns and therefore accessing fewer hours per week than pre-pandemic. However, the biggest problem facing providers nationally is an inability to recruit and retain qualified staff. Longstanding shortages driven by low pay and high expectations compete with other sectors which has been exacerbated by the pandemic and EU Exit. These staff shortages are meaning that settings are having to close rooms, reduce their opening hours or limit the number of children they can take at any one time. At some point in the future this could have a detrimental impact on sufficiency.
- 5.3 Gravesham remains the only District in the County with an overall deficit of places however, we are monitoring place deficits in several planning areas within other districts; each district is made up of approximately eight planning areas. Many of these are in rural areas and are because of large housing developments creating demand for places, particularly baby places. In Gravesham, due to a lack of suitable premises for new providers to set up we are seeing an increase in places being offered by schools but as many of these do not offer two year old places we have a deficit of two year old places in the District. However, conversely, we are not seeing a demand for brokerage in that area.
- 5.4 An ongoing (and indeed national) concern is the demise in the number of childminders. In Kent, between January 2019 and December 2021 there were 162 new childminders and 354 closed childminders – a net loss of 192 childminders. In March 2022 there were 901 childminders on the Ofsted Early Years Register, which has since reduced to 895. A small working group (including representative childminders) is being formed to consider this issue and what response we might make to it in Kent.

6 Progress Post-16

- 6.1 The KCP 2024-26 highlighted that, at the time of publication, the Local Authority was undertaking a system wide review of 16–19 provision. The aim of the review was to develop a rich and deep understanding of the issues in Kent, identifying the impact of national policy and the local gaps to ensure key issues could be raised with the sector.
- 6.2 KCC has now completed the 16-19 review and the report, Pathways for all, was launched on 28th April 2022. It is available here: [16-19 Review](#)
- 6.3 The overall aim of the Review was to improve the options and life chances of Kent's young people by enhancing the education, skills, and training

opportunities available to them. To achieve this, it sought to develop a deeper and shared understanding of the issues facing both young people and providers.

- 6.4 The Review was therefore delivered in collaboration with providers from across the sector, and with the involvement of young people, their parents, and key stakeholders. The key recommendations are:
- Make a concerted effort to improve outcomes from 16+ provision.
 - In parallel, raise young people's aspirations through more effective CEIAG. Once raised, these aspirations need to be actively supported, including by those with an influence over what young people decide to do post-16. By proxy this means ensuring those who influence young people are themselves properly informed.
 - Develop an 'area offer' to support the current network of sixth forms, many of them very small by national standards. This should cover all providers (specifically including GFECs, other organisations providing vocational learning and alternative 16-19 providers) and will require collaboration between all concerned.
 - Improve the provision available below Level 2.
 - Take further steps to support young people's mental health.
 - Improve and enable access to provision.
 - Take the opportunity to learn lessons from the Covid-19 lockdowns, and not simply assume everything should or will return to 'normal'.
 - Create a 16+ Strategic Leadership Board to ensure all involved parties collaborate to deliver these recommendations, and to oversee the sector's future strategic development.

To take things forward we are looking to establish the strategic board as soon as possible as the need for collaboration to address the issues is urgent. A recruitment process for board members and a chair will be run over the summer of 2022 and the first meeting is currently planned for September 2022.

7 Recommendation(s):

- 7.1 The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to note the progress achieved and to consider the report prior to the next version of the Commissioning Plan published in November 2022.

8. Background Documents

- 8.1 Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2022-26
https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/131486/Commissioning-Plan-for-Education-Provision-in-Kent-2022-to-2026.pdf
- 8.2 Early Years and Childcare Strategy 2020-23
<https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/education-skills-and-employment-policies/early-years-and-childcare-strategy-2020-2023>
- 8.3 Kent Strategy for SEND 2021-2024

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs/send-strategy/strategy-for-children-with-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities>

- 8.4 Pathways For All - Review of education and training provision for young people aged 16 to 19 in Kent
https://www.kelsi.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/135246/KCC-16-to-19-Review-Report.pdf

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