

Subject: Proposal to remove the Residential Provision at Broomhill Bank School North (Hextable), Rowhill Road, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7RP

Decision no: 25/00040

Appendix 1

Responses to the Public Consultation 7 March 2025 to 4 April 2025

The consultation was distributed to all current staff, pupils, parents and carers at Broomhill Bank School, all schools in North Kent, Local Members, neighbouring authorities, Diocesan Boards, DfE and other KCC staff and services.

Do you agree with the proposal?	Which of the following best describes you?	Do you have any comments?
No	A member of staff at Broomhill Bank School	Broomhill Bank School residential is a 4 times outstanding provision, which has a proven and sustained track record of securing improved outcomes for young people. Young people who have been supported included those who were prolific non-school attendees who have since moved on to university. Without the dedication of the residential team this would not have happened. Residential is more than just somewhere to stay and attend school, it creates a support system that lasts long beyond the years at Broomhill. A place that will always seek to help when reached out too or just provide a safe space to visit and celebrate achievements. Young people move on having learnt key life skills and experienced care and nurture. Some of these young people and their families will have had significantly worse outcomes and required increased input from social care if it was not for the support of the residential provision. Young people with Autism and their parents have consistently supported and championed the work of this provision. Kent have stated they do not have a way of identifying young people to place, it should not be that due to the lack of procedure by the council that a provision should have to close. There are young people even within the community of Broomhill Bank school that could immensely benefit from residential provision, however Kent are unwilling to support this.
No	Grandparent of child in primary school	

No	A member of staff at Broomhill Bank School	The residential aspect of Broomhill Bank has been an absolute asset for a vast number of students in the past and continues to do so. They play a crucial role in residential students lives, some times where some parents are not able. They assist by taking them to appointments during non school hours, college visits, outside clubs etc. They provide a life that some are not able to access. The loss of this facility will deny some of our future students a school life that they are entitled to. it would be a great loss to close the residential aspect of school.
No	A member of staff at Broomhill Bank School	I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed removal of the residential provision at Broomhill Bank School North. I have had the privilege of working at the school since 1st September 2015, and I can attest to the vital role the residential provision has played in our school community. Over the years, many young people who have attended Broomhill Bank would not have achieved the success they have without the safety, guidance, and stability provided by the residential provision. This facility has not only offered the structure and routines that our students need, but it has also provided them with a much-needed sense of belonging. For many of these students, this has been a new and life-changing experience. Many of them have never known a sense of worth, never had the opportunity to engage in community activities, or never had the chance to sit and eat a meal in a “family” setting. Removing this provision would have a significant and detrimental impact on future students at Broomhill Bank. Over the last three years, we have seen students who would have benefited enormously from the opportunity to become residential students. The impact of this provision on their education is evident. Using CAT scoring, we can clearly see the academic potential of our students. Unfortunately, exposure to life outside of school often impacts their academic abilities. These are the students who don’t meet social services criteria but clearly require additional support, security, and care. The loss of this three-time outstanding provision will undoubtedly harm these young people and ultimately lead to higher costs for the county in the long run. Without the

		skills and support they would gain in the residential setting, these students will likely require adult social care in the future, unable to function in a society they have had little experience with. I strongly urge you to reconsider any decisions to remove this invaluable provision. The benefits it provides to our students are immeasurable and vital for their development, both academically and personally. Removing this provision would not only negatively affect the future of our students but could also place greater financial and societal burdens on the county.
No	A member of staff at Broomhill Bank School	The Residential provision on Broomhill Bank North site has provided an Outstanding service for the Young people that have attended there in recent years. Students have thrived there and have been able to transition into the wider community through the skills that they have learnt at the Residential provision. Removing this would be extremely detrimental to the students, parents, school and Council.
No	A governor at Broomhill Bank School	The provision has been outstanding in its OFSTED for at least the last 4 inspections making it one of the top places for residential students in Kent within an SEN setting. Closing this provision will mean losing the outstanding work of staff to support students in an outstanding way. There is nothing else to replace this in a Kent SEN school, and it seems a great shame to get rid of it after its longstanding success. This is one SEN provision that Kent should be cherishing for years to come based on the above, and should be proudly relishing in its success by means of advertising/promoting and sharing it, not closing it down.
No	A member of staff at Broomhill Bank School	I work in the school as an Outreach Officer supporting students with mental health that can't attend school. I am also a Foster Carer, member of the community of Kent Foster. I have seen how difficult is for kids to live in the wrong environment and the positive impact that has in them when they live in a secure place that allows them to concentrate in their education. Some of our students have very complex needs, and sometimes parents are not able to keep them safe or deal with them. These children have "hidden disabilities" that are not obvious at

		simple sight and people tend to expect normal behavior. There is a study that shows that most Autistic children have PTSD, due to an accumulation of moments in their lives that they were stressed with situations that they don't understand or fit in and they have to mask the real struggle. I am sure if students had physical disabilities and the reasons were obvious why they need to go to a boarding school , we will not be having this questionnaire. We need a place to accommodate students that need to be cared and supported , where they feel safe.
No	A parent of children currently attending Broomhill Bank School	I don't agree to the closure of the residential provision. Broomhill provides amazing support for children and young adults with disabilities. Being a parent of three autistic children, our concerns are teaching our children to be able to cope with every day. The residential provision provides with in a safe environment. There are not enough of these provisions and closing Broomhill Bank will mean you are depriving children of a future of opportunity and independence.
No	A member of staff at Broomhill Bank School	The support this provision offers to enable children to access their education is Outstanding - by judgement and lived experience. Year on year, it has provided stability, warmth, ambition and partnership for the young people who have benefitted from its care and its closure is a robbery to those who would thrive with its support in the future.
No	A member of staff at Broomhill Bank School	The boarding provision at Broomhill Bank school has been rated as outstanding four times in succession, which surely makes it the best KCC maintained residential provision in the County. If the plans to end the residential provision go ahead there will inevitably be a rise in the number of students taking up residential places a much more expensive private provision in the county, meaning less funding available for other students with additional needs. The argument that there is no means to identify potential residential students is flawed, as there has never been such a tool other than the process of annual review of an EHCP. In the past this process which allows a request from parents and professionals for a change of placement from a day to residential placement is

		under the control of the Local Authority. The reasons such a request might be made at Annual review, are many and varied and far more complex than the geographical implication in the consultation document suggests when it references 'Local area' and 'Local day specialist provision'. By potentially closing the Residential provision the Local Authority would be losing an invaluable outstanding resource for the young people of Kent.
No	A member of staff at Broomhill Bank School	Broomhill Bank offers an amazing service to young people who have additional needs. I am a speech and language therapist at the school and have worked with the residential team, witnessing first hand, the amazing work that the team do and realising how the young people benefit from staying in the residential provision. The young people that stay learn vital life skills, gain experiences that they would not otherwise receive and are able to socialise with other young people in a way that is safe and which they most likely would not be able to do outside of this provision. Some students who have stayed on house in the past would not have been able to stay with their own families on a full time basis due to their needs and so I believe that the residential provision at Broomhill Bank will have kept some families together and prevented some young people from having to go into the social care system. The provision is so valuable, it is such a shame to lose it. At the last OFSTED inspection, the residential team received a grading of outstanding. This is because they understand the needs of the young people in their care, and they are able to adapt to the needs that they are faced with. I believe that there is a demand for residential care at Broomhill Bank - especially as the residential provision at nearby Parkwood Hall has also recently been closed down - and for many, residential schools are a safer, cheaper and an all round better option than families simply trying to "manage" their young people's needs and challenges alone, or not managing

		and the young person needing to be looked after by social care.
No	A member of staff at Broomhill Bank School	The residential provision at Broomhill Bank School North has had a profound impact on young peoples' lives by providing a safe and nurturing environment where they can thrive emotionally, mentally, and physically. Providing consistent routines and boundaries helps to create a sense of security, which is vital for emotional and psychological development. This safety allows young people to focus on growth and learning without the anxiety of an unsafe environment. The staff within residential are highly trained in aspects of understanding young peoples' emotional wellbeing and help to guide the young people in learning social skills, appropriate behaviour, and ways to build healthy relationships. Positive adult interaction is critical in helping young people form trust and develop respect for others, which they may not have experienced before. The support and guidance we as a residential provision have been able to provide to multiple families over the years has been immeasurable. The service we provide has given young people and their families opportunities they would not have received anywhere else. Young people's lives have been shaped and saved by the outstanding work we have been able to provide and without this service in place, many more young people will suffer the consequences. Our commitment to residential and its young people has supported non-school attenders to not only reintegrate back into their education but thrive, achieve and leave education with grades and opportunities they would otherwise not have gained. We have also supported young people through extreme trauma inducing events and provided support and care to allow them to build coping strategies, access appropriate services and provided them with a safe environment to feel every feeling unapologetically. Our residential provision has provided young people with the opportunity to interact with others in a group setting. By providing a secure environment our young people have been able to build upon not only their social skills, but to also learn empathy and work through conflict. We as a team have been able to teach our young people

		how to build meaningful friendships and function within a community, which is critical for their social development. Our residential team have supported young people throughout the years to gain access to appropriate medical services and improve and maintain their physical and mental health. We have supported young people into getting essential surgery for stoma removals, sexual health check-ups, extensive dental work following years of neglectful behaviour and access to dermatologists for rare and painful skin conditions due to the parents being unable or unwilling to advocate for their children. Our team have supported multiple young people into gaining access to mental health services to have their voice heard and the help they need. We have attended multiple meetings and advocated for the rights and needs of our young people on the behalf of parents that have been unable. Our work and dedication has helped to heal family relationships and support parents and young people to work together to allow the best possible outcome for everyone. We have supported families in understanding their children on a deeper level, supported them into gaining access to support outside of the family home, and rebuilt futile relationships that otherwise could have ended in destruction. Living in a residential provision with access to education, therapy, and social programs helps children see a brighter future. It instils hope and provides them with the tools to break the cycle of hardship they may have experienced. By giving children opportunities, they might not otherwise have had, residential provisions can change the trajectory of their lives. In conclusion residential services for children create a holistic, supportive environment where children can heal, grow, and develop into well-rounded individuals. By addressing their physical, emotional, social, and educational needs, these services provide a foundation that can positively impact children for the rest of their lives. The work we do within residential is invaluable and the impact the closing of our service will have on social care and the lives of many young people and their families will be everlasting.
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No	A member of staff at Broomhill Bank School	Touching on my experience working within and alongside the residential team I cannot put into words the impeccable difference this service has brought, not only to the young people's development but their lives. Over my years at Broomhill, I have watched countless young peoples' lives be changed and saved by the outstanding work the residential team provide. It is clear to me that should there not have been a system in place with such caring and trained staff, I fear the lives of many young people may have ended too soon due to their high level of need. I have personally supported young people in regaining confidence and feeling able to be fully themselves. The training I received through the residential team has been in depth and crucial for my own personal development. It has allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of how our young people think and feel and has given me the tools to support them to the best of my ability. I have worked hard within and alongside the residential team helping to support young people develop coping strategies and build resilience to not only support their access to their education to gaining further education qualifications and full-time employment. Without the work the residential service provides, the system would have failed these young people, and their lives would have been altered forever. During my time at Broomhill, the residential service unfortunately suffered the loss of a young person in their service. During this time the staff in residential have remained the one safe, consistent place for all young people and staff to feel their grief and feelings without expectations. They provided an environment that kept the young people feeling safe and secure at such concerning and unprecedented times. The residential service has been life saving for young people over the years and I think closing it would be a huge mistake.
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