

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

Executive

DECISION TAKEN BY:

David Adams, Interim Deputy Director – Effectiveness, Sufficiency and Skills

DECISION NO:

OD-26-00016

For publication

Subject matter: Opening of a new 40 Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) for Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) & Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) at Richmond Primary School (Isle of Sheppey)

Cabinet Member decision to which this action relates:

25/00085 [Decision - 25/00085 - Specialist Resource Provision Review and Commissioning Intentions](#)

Decision:

I

- (a) AGREE to enter into the relevant SRP contract with the Stour Academy Trust of Richmond Primary School to commission places at the SRP;
- (b) Approve £160,000 capital funding and up to £24,000 revenue funding for the establishment and start-up of the SRP at Richmond Primary School;
- (c) AGREE to enter into a funding agreement with the Stour Academy Trust (subject to the DfE approving the addition of the SEND designation) to enable the Trust to self-manage the delivery of the associated capital project.

Reason(s) for decision:

A review of KCC's current specialist resource provisions (SRPs) was undertaken in 2025. The priority was to increase capacity and improve local access, particularly by expanding secondary provision by September 2026.

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent (KCP) identified a series of proposals to increase SRP places, and to broaden the designation to improve local access and reduce travel for children.

The Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee considered a report on the topic on 18th November 2025 with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills approving the key decision 25/00085. Relevant to this decision, the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, agreed to:

- APPROVE the allocation of £20m of the High Needs Capital Grant to enable the delivery of an increase in commissioned SRP places, in line with the proposals set out in Tables 8c to 8f of the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2026-30.
- DELEGATE authority to the Corporate Director Children, Young People and Education to enter in to all and any necessary negotiations, consultations and contracts to commission the increase in SRP places set out in Tables 8c to 8f of the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2026-30, to change the designations of existing SRPs as set out in Table 8g of the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2026-30, and to decommission SRP provisions to implement the decisions set out at I. and II. above,

- DELEGATE authority to the Corporate Director Children, Young People and Education, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills to issue public notices and approve proposals on behalf of the Local Authority.
- Delegate authority to the Corporate Director Children, Young People and Education to approve capital expenditure on individual SRP proposals contained in Tables 8c to 8f of the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2026-30 provided that the total capital expenditure remains within the agreed £20m, and in cases involving capital expenditure above £1m, such approval to be made in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills.
- DELEGATE authority to the Director for Education and Special Educational Needs to enter into contracts and service level agreements (SLAs) with mainstream primary and secondary schools that provide either new or existing Specialist Resource Provisions (SRPs), on behalf of Kent County Council under the current contract/SLA in place agreed under key decision 23/00128.

The establishment of an SRP at Richmond Primary School is contained in the list of proposals in the KCP and is therefore covered by the Cabinet Member's decision. This decision enacts that of the Cabinet Member and is in line with the authority delegated to me by the Corporate Director Children, Young People and Education.

Consultation process and outcome

The trust has consulted on their proposal to open an SRP at Richmond Primary School for 40 pupils for ASD & SLCN for September 2026. The consultation took place from 7 January to 28 January 2026. Responses to the consultation were in support.

The Trust Board has confirmed it wishes to proceed and has the approval of the SoS for the opening of the SRP in September 2026.

The provision will provide much needed place for pupils with ASD & SLCN on the Isle of Sheppey and Swale District.

Financial Implications:

Capital:

Capital funding of £20m has been approved for the SRP Expansion Programme. £160,000 of this funding will be required to provide the following:

Work	Cost
Flooring to Office and the large room being split into 2	£ 7,000.00
Replacing glass and door works.	£ 22,000.00
Split the large room into 2	£ 7,000.00
Fobs on all internal and external doors	£ 40,000.00
Fence line installed and pathway to separate field	£ 35,000.00
Painting of block	£ 12,000.00
Pad bottom half of the sensory rooms	£ 10,000.00
Outdoor provision - Decking, gazebo for outdoor classrooms	£ 20,000.00
CCTV	£ 7,000.00
Total	£ 160,000.00

In addition, capital funding of up to £10,000 will be required for ICT infrastructure (£2,500 per class).

Revenue:

Commissioned and occupied places in an SRP are funded via the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant, based on a rate per place.

For new SRPs, to reflect possible diseconomies when first opening a new SRP, start-up funding will be provided in line with the prevailing Growth Fund Policy approved by the Schools Funding Forum and funded from the Schools Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant.

Up to £24,000 (£6,000 for each SRP class) to provide for all furniture and SEN resources needed as a consequence of opening the SRP.

Any further growth or change in commissioned numbers will expect to be managed by the school.

The Dedicated Schools Grant is a ring-fenced grant provided annually by the Department of Education. The revenue cost of this proposal is expected to be fully met by this grant and will not be a cost to the General Fund.

Legal implications:

Under the Children and Families Act 2014 KCC has a duty 'to support the child and his or her parent, or the young person, in order to facilitate the development of the child or young person and to help him or her achieve the best possible educational and other outcomes'. By ensuring we have appropriate provision as locally as possible, we are delivering on our obligation in accordance with this legislation.

KCC has duties, pursuant to the Education Act 1996, for ensuring sufficient school places are available including SEND provision.

Equality Implications:

An equalities impact assessment screening was completed to inform the Cabinet Member's decision (25/00085).

A separate equalities impact assessment has been completed for this proposal. This suggested a positive impact for those who are primary aged and/or who may have a disability who access the provision at Richmond Primary School. It will enable primary school pupils requiring support of an SRP to attend a suitable provision nearer to their home.

No negative impact on protected groups was noted.

Comments received from any Members or Officers consulted:

Kevin McKenna MP for Sittingbourne & Sheppey is supportive of the proposal.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Any conflict of interest declared by any executive member consulted by the decision maker and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

None



David Adams

Interim Deputy Director for Education: Effectiveness, Sufficiency and Skills

5th May 2026

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signed

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date

