

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

Executive

DECISION TAKEN BY:

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

DECISION NO:

OD-26-00023

For publication

Subject matter: Dover Christ Church Academy- Expansion of Aspen 2 SRP

Cabinet Member decision to which this action relates:

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

Decision:

I

- (a) APPROVE up to £377,000 capital funding expansion of the SRP at Dover Christ Church Academy;
- (b) APPROVE capital funding of up to £7,500 for IT
- (c) Approve revenue funding of up to £18,000, and
- (d) AGREE to enter in to a funding agreement with the Turner Schools Trust 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:

- Confirm the policy position, that Secondary SRP places are commissioned for Years 7-11 only, with exceptions being considered on a case by case basis.
- 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 expansion of the SRP at Dover Christ Church Academy 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 expand the SRP in December 2025. There were no responses to the consultation.

The Trust Board has confirmed it wishes to proceed, has applied to the SoS for the change of designated number which the DfE has approved.

The provision will provide much needed place for pupils with PSCN in Dover.

Financial Implications:

Capital:

Capital funding of £20m has been approved for the SRP Expansion Programme. £377,000 of this funding will be required to provide the following:

- Improve physical access,
- Partitioning of existing areas to create multi-functional intervention/calm spaces,
- Refurbish an accessible changing space to install an adaptable changing bed,
- Convert the second accessible changing space into a therapy room,
- Convert mainstream classrooms to provide for increased numbers that will meet the needs of PMLD pupils,
- Creation of a life skills room/work experience café
- Convert of a gym into a multi-purpose space suitable for PSCN pupils.
- IT investment

Infrastructure arranged a Quantity Surveyor (QS) review of the tender. The QS's view is that the costs are reasonable and aligned with market expectations.

Capital funding for IT of up to £7,500 will be required.

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.

As revenue funding has been provided for 7 classes previously, funding for 3 would be required a up to £18,000 (£6,000 per class).

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 would suggest a high positive impact for secondary aged pupils and/or those with a disability accessing the facility. No negative impacts to protected groups were noted.

Comments received from any Members or Officers consulted:

Local members were consulted. No comments were received.

Pursuant to the scheme of delegation, the Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education has formally delegated authority to David Adams (Interim Deputy Director – Effectiveness, Sufficiency and Skills) to take officer decisions within the scope of their role and responsibilities

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

No alternative was considered. The provision was initially designated for 40 pupils. To support the increasing requirement for specialist PSCN places, the number of places commissioned has increased. Currently there are 73 pupils on roll in the SRP. The additional accommodation funded by this proposal will right size the SRP providing the school the additional space required to support pupils.

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

None.



Interim Deputy Director for Education: Effectiveness, Sufficiency and Skills

08/06/2026

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signed

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date