

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

Executive

DECISION TAKEN BY:

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

DECISION NO:

OD-26-00031

For publication

Subject matter:

Opening a 20 place Specialist Resource Provision for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder and/or speech, language and communication needs at St. Edmund's Church of England Primary School, Fawkham Road, West Kingsdown, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 6JP from September 2026.

Cabinet Member decision to which this action relates:

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

Decision:

I:

- (a) APPROVE the establishment of a 20-place specialist resource provision (SRP) for ASD and/or SLCN at St. Edmund's Church of England Primary School, Fawkham Road, West Kingsdown, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 6JP;
- (b) AGREE to enter into the relevant SRP contract with the Governing Body of St. Edmund's Church of England Primary School (Sevenoaks) to commission places at the SRP;
- (c) APPROVE £332,090.63 capital funding and £12,000 revenue funding for the establishment and start-up of the SRP at St. Edmund's Church of England Primary School (Sevenoaks); and
- (d) CONFIRM that the Director of Infrastructure will deliver all property and capital works required for the SRP and is authorised, in accordance with the Director's existing constitutional responsibilities under the Council's Property Management Protocol, to negotiate, enter into, manage and vary any property-specific or capital works contracts necessary to deliver the required accommodation; and
- (e) CONFIRM that the Director of Infrastructure may act as Authority Representative only for property and capital works contracts, and not for SRP commissioning or operational agreements.

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 18 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 and
- 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 St. Edmund's Church of England Primary School (Sevenoaks) 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

For a maintained school:

The LA consulted on the proposal for St. Edmund's Church of England Primary School to open a 20 place SRP for pupils with ASD and/or SLCN from September 2026. There were 8 responses to the consultation received. 7 of which were supportive of the opening of a 20 place SRP for pupils with ASD and/or SLCN from September 2026 (3 parents/carers of a pupil, 2 members of staff, 1 local SEN professional and 1 other). The other response was not supportive of the opening of a 20 place SRP for pupils with ASD and/or SLCN from September 2026 (1 parent/carer of a pupil).

A Public Notice was issued on 14 May 2026. No responses were received during the Public Notice or following appeal period.

The Governing Body has confirmed it wishes the LA to proceed with the proposal.

The provision will provide much needed places for pupils with ASD and/or SLCN in the West Kingsdown area and northern parts of the wider Sevenoaks District.

Financial Implications:

Capital:

Capital funding of £20m has been approved for the SRP Expansion Programme. £327,090.63 of this funding will be required to provide the following:

- Reconfiguration and refurbishment of existing school spaces to create a dedicated SRP unit;
- Creation of low-arousal, specialist classrooms suitable for ASD/SLCN pupils;
- Construction of breakout and sensory regulation rooms;
- Development of therapy and intervention spaces for specialist support services;
- Installation of hygiene and changing facilities to support pupils with additional needs;
- Provision of secure, enclosed outdoor areas with direct access from the SRP;
- Implementation of enhanced security measures (e.g. controlled access, anti-absconding design);
- Internal alterations to provide clear zoning and safe circulation routes;
- Improvements to supervision lines and visibility within teaching and circulation spaces and;
- Adaptations to ensure compliance with safeguarding and SEND design requirements.

In addition, capital funding of £5,000 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 £12,000 (£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 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).

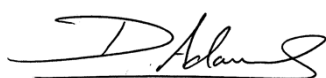
A separate equalities impact assessment has been completed for this proposal. This suggested a high positive impact for those who are primary school aged and/or who may have a disability who access the provision, as the provision at St. Edmund's Church of England Primary School (Sevenoaks) will enable primary school aged pupils requiring the support of an SRP, to attend a suitable provision nearer to their homes.

No negative impact on protected groups was noted.

Comments received from any Members or Officers consulted:

The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills was consulted on this decision before it was made, and was in full agreement with it.

This decision enacts that of the Cabinet Member and is in line with the authority delegated to me (David Adams, Interim Deputy Director for Education, Effectiveness, Sufficiency and Skills) by the Corporate Director Children, Young People and Education.

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:**

David Adams

Interim Deputy Director for Education: Effectiveness, Sufficiency and Skills

7TH JULY 2026

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signed

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date