

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL - RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY

Mike Whiting
Cabinet Member for Education Learning and Skills

DECISION NO.

12/01937

Unrestricted/Exempt (delete as required) - If exempt please specify the relevant paragraph(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972)

Subject: Specialist Teaching Service Devolution

Decision: The Cabinet Member Education Learning and Skills agrees-

- (i) The attached model for the delivery of the devolved service is set out in Appendix 1
- (ii) The implementation of the proposed staffing structure as outlined in the prospectus attached as appendix 2;

Any Interest Declared when the Decision was Taken-

None

Reason(s) for decision, including response to any Cabinet Committee recommendations, and any alternatives considered

On 17 October 2011, Cabinet took the decision to devolve the Specialist Teaching Service (STS) resource to Kent schools, deploying the staff to lead Special Schools with the intention to continue to deliver this key service to mainstream schools to support the progress of pupils with special educational needs. The decision was conditional on a workable model being developed and agreed by schools.

Since then, a STS Devolution Working Group (STS DWG), (comprised of the Kent Association of Special Schools Executive, representatives from Primary and Secondary Headteachers, Early Years provider representatives and the Corporate Director, ELS and other officers) has worked to produce the attached model, with a view to delivery commencing in September 2012

The proposals for the new model of delivery were consulted on during the period 24 April to 24 May in the following ways:

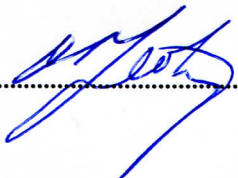
- With early years providers through direct email and also through a series of twelve, district based Early Years SENCO meetings, attended by a total of 230 people;
- With schools through the School E-Bulletin and also through one face to face meeting chaired by the Corporate Director, attended by 50 school representatives;
- With schools based SENCOs through area based briefing sessions;
- Informal and formal 30 day consultation through the usual processes with the STS staff themselves, including two whole service meetings, 12 district based meetings and offers of 1:1 meetings, taken up by 32 members of staff.
- Through the relevant unions, who were present at the two STS whole staff meetings

In reaching this decision I have also taken into account the comments and views expressed at the Education Cabinet Committee, at its meeting on 10 July 2012.

Background Documents:

Specialist Teaching Service Devolution report presented to Education Committee Report – 10th July 2012

signed



Date

18 July 2012