

By:	Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director, Education, Learning and Skills
To:	Education Cabinet Committee – 21 June 2013
Subject	Review of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education 2012-2017
Classification:	Unrestricted

Summary:	This report informs Members of the progress made in implementing the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education 2012-2017 since its adoption by Cabinet in September 2012
Recommendations:	The Education Cabinet Committee is asked to comment and note the report.

1. Introduction

1.1 In September 2012 Kent County Council published the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education 2012-2017 which set out our future plans as strategic commissioner of education provision across all types and phases of education.

1.2 The Plan is due to be updated annually with progress being reviewed six to nine months after publication. The review attached to this report sets out the progress made to date in implementing the Plan adopted by Cabinet in September 2012

1.3 The Review of the Plan, attached as an Appendix, covers the following topics:

- Progress in implementing the expansion of school place numbers;
- Review of forecasting accuracy;
- Progress against Our Targets;
- Progress in implementing Early Years sufficiency of childcare places;
- Progress in implementing the Review of school places for SEN pupils;
- Progress in implementing sufficiency of post-16 provision;
- Review of public consultation processes;

1.4 The Review demonstrates that commissioning and implementing the planned number of new school places overall for September 2013 has been successful and that targets have been largely met. Delivery of a small number of projects has been adjusted in response to changing contexts during the year, such as housing developments commencing earlier than expected.

2. Key Findings

2.1 The Plan is due to be updated annually with progress being monitored six months after publication. This report reviews the progress made during 2012-13 in implementing the planned expansion of school places; in the accuracy of the

forecasting; in meeting the targets shown in the Plan; in the effectiveness of our consultation processes; and in our progress with developing commissioning arrangements for SEN pupils, post-16 students and early-years children.

2.2 We have therefore been successful in implementing the planned number of new school places overall:

- The Plan identified the need, by 2013, for permanent new school places as follows: 22.1 forms of entry in primary schools and 4 forms of entry in secondary schools by 2013. As at March 2013 21.3 forms of entry have been commissioned and/or provided in primary schools, together with 4 forms of entry in a secondary school.
- The Plan also identified the need to provide 362 temporary places for short-term pressures for Reception age pupils. As at March 2013 454 temporary places had been commissioned and/or provided.

2.3 Kent's draft SEND Strategy sets out an overarching aim to improve the educational, health and emotional wellbeing outcomes for all of Kent's children and young people with SEN and those who are disabled. One of the key aims is to develop the range of providers and encourage a mixed economy of high quality and cost effective providers of more specialist provision. We need to improve opportunities for children to attend their local schools, to ensure high quality multi-agency support is available, to improve transition and increase continuity of provisions at transfer ages, and at the heart of the Strategy is the needs of children and their parents, giving them greater choice and control.

2.4 The capital programme for Special schools has already rebuilt or refurbished 14 maintained schools in Kent. Investment continues to bring similar transformation to the remaining 10 schools. This programme will result in an additional 500 Special school places in the County. However, there remains a pressing need to commission further capacity for pupils with ASD, BESN and Speech and Language Needs. The draft SEND Strategy identified the need to add at least 275 additional places, including 175 places in Kent's Special schools. We recognise that a number of our Special schools are under pressure to admit further pupils. In conjunction with Headteachers we have identified a number of schools which will be subject to statutory proposals to increase the designated pupil numbers to either regularise the current position or create additional spaces. We will also undertake consultations on the relocation of some special schools as a consequence of the capital programme mentioned above. A paper on this issue will be brought to the Education Cabinet Committee in June 2013.

2.5 We are aiming to develop at least 100 additional places to meet these needs within Resourced Provision in mainstream schools. We have invited expressions of interest and are in the early stages of pursuing these with the schools involved. We aim to commission from schools rated good or better by Ofsted.

3. Proposed next steps

3.1 The January 2013 pupil headcount data from schools and the pre-school data provided by the Public Health Observatory, are both now available. Housing trajectories and land supply information become available from District Councils generally in April. These form the basis of information which is utilised by the forecasting system. Forecasts will be available during the summer months. These forecasts and the

analysis of them will form the next iteration of the Commissioning Plan, together with the knowledge gained through the analysis contained in this review report. The forward plan for school expansions and building new schools will be updated in the Commissioning Plan to reflect any changes in the need for provision. The new Commissioning Plan for 2013-18 will be presented to Education Cabinet Committee in September 2013, for final approval by Cabinet in October.

3.2 It is proposed that the next iteration of the Plan will broadly follow the format of the current Plan. Consultation will be undertaken on the revised data and forecasts, and the forward plan for school expansions and building new schools.

3.3 The timetable is proposed as follows:

Date	Action
May - September 2013	Draft Plan produced
June - July 2013	Consultation on the revised data and forecasts, and forward plan
27 Sep 2013	Draft Plan considered by Education Cabinet Committee
October 2013	Draft Plan considered by Cabinet

4. Equality Impact Assessment

4.1 An Equality Impact Assessment was completed at the time the Plan was published in September 2013. This will be reviewed annually as the Plan itself is republished.

5. Recommendations

5.1 The Education Cabinet Committee is asked to comment and note the report.

6. Background Documents

Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

[http://www.kent.gov.uk/your_council/priorities, policies and plans/priorities and plans/bold_steps_for_kent.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/your_council/priorities,_policies_and_plans/priorities_and_plans/bold_steps_for_kent.aspx)

Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-2017

[https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/education-and-learning/plans-and-consultations/strategic-plans/Commissioning%20Plan%20for%20Education%20Provision%20Kent%202012-17%20FINAL%20\(Sept-2012\).pdf](https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/education-and-learning/plans-and-consultations/strategic-plans/Commissioning%20Plan%20for%20Education%20Provision%20Kent%202012-17%20FINAL%20(Sept-2012).pdf)

Lead Officer Contact details

Kevin Shovelton

Director of Education, Planning and Access

01622 694174

kevin.shovelton@kent.gov.uk