

From: Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Education,
Learning and Skills

To: Education Cabinet Committee – 4 December 2013

Subject: Decision Number: 13/00092 - Proposed transfer of the
Bower Grove secondary satellite provision and change of
designated number of Bower Grove School.

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: Education Cabinet Committee – 27 September 2013

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: Maidstone Central division, Dan Daley/Rob Bird

Summary: This report sets out the results of the public consultation.

Recommendation(s):

The Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on the decision to issue a public notice to (i) transfer the Bower Grove secondary satellite to St Augustine Academy, subject to the agreement of the Secretary of State for Education; and (ii) change the designated number of Bower Grove School to 183 (if the proposal to transfer the secondary satellite to St Augustine Academy is agreed) or 195 (if the transfer is not agreed).

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Bower Grove School is a special school designated for pupils with Behaviour and Learning Needs. It has two satellite provisions; a primary one based in Westborough Primary School and a secondary unit based on the site of St Augustine Academy, formerly the Astor of Hever Community School. The pupils attending the satellite provisions have a statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN), are diagnosed with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and are on roll at Bower Grove School.
- 1.2 St Augustine Academy and its sponsor, The Woodard Academies Trust, have inclusive philosophies. The Academy initially proposed that the Bower Grove satellite, which is on the same site, should transfer to St Augustine Academy to become resourced SEN provision run by the Academy. The pupils, staff and building would transfer to St Augustine Academy. An ongoing relationship would be maintained between St Augustine Academy and Bower Grove School to support the staff and pupils in the resources provision. The Governing Bodies of Bower Grove School, St Augustine Academy and the Woodard Academies Trust support the proposal.
- 1.3 The intended date for transfer is September 2014. If the proposal is agreed it will reduce the current (and proposed) designated number of Bower Grove

School by 12 places. From this date the Academy would be commissioned by the local authority, via a Service Level Agreement, to provide a specialist resourced provision for up to 12 pupils with ASD.

- 1.4 Bower Grove School is currently designated to admit 146 children in both the main building and the satellite provisions. Since 2009 the school has had around 200 children on roll and the school's designated number needs to be changed formally to better reflect current admissions patterns and school capacity. Therefore it is proposed to change the designated number to 183 (if the proposal to transfer the secondary satellite to St Augustine Academy is agreed) or 195 (if the transfer is not agreed).
- 1.5 The proposed transfer of the satellite provision to St Augustine Academy will require the submission of a business case to the Secretary of State for Education for agreement. This decision will therefore be conditional upon agreement of the Secretary of State for Education.

2. Financial Implications

2.1 *Transfer of the Bower Grove secondary satellite provision from Bower Grove School to St Augustine Academy.*

a. Capital: The existing satellite building will be leased to St Augustine Academy by KCC. The lease will be linked to the Service Level Agreement for the provision of a specialist resourced provision.

b. Revenue: St Augustine Academy will receive £228,000 (notional budget) for operating a 12 place specialist resourced based provision for pupils with ASD, in line with the Service Level Agreement.

c. Human: It is intended that staff who work in the satellite provision will transfer from Local Authority employment to the Woodard Academies Trust. The terms and conditions of staff will be protected via TUPE (Transfer of Undertakings Protection of Employment regulations).

2.2 *Change in designated number of Bower Grove School*

a. Capital: The change has no capital costs. The school already accommodates the number of pupils proposed.

b. Revenue: There are no revenue implications. The school currently receives funding for pupils on roll. This funding comes from within existing budgets

c. Human: The school is already staffed to support the proposed designated number.

3. Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

3.1 This proposal will help to:

- secure our ambitions to “ensure our priorities and services meet the needs of all Kent residents” and that “schools will always be at the heart of the local communities irrespective of their legal status, who runs them or who funds them” as set out in ‘Bold Steps for Kent’, and
- “develop the broadest range of providers to increase parental choice and offer provision which offers a flexible match to the needs of our children and young people” as set out in our ‘SEN and Disability Strategy’.

3.2 The ‘Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision’ referred to the need to review the future capacity of specialist SEN provision within special schools and within the mainstream sector.

4. Consultation Outcomes

4.1 A total of 18 written responses were received with 7 respondents supporting the proposal and 11 objecting to the proposal.

4.2 A summary of the comments received during the consultation period is provided at Appendix 1.

4.3 A summary of the views and comments given at the public consultation meeting is attached at Appendix 2.

5. Views

5.1 *The view of the Local Members*

Mr Rob Bird, the local member for Maidstone Central, has been consulted and attended the public meeting. He supports the proposal subject to confirmation that the staff being transferred to St Augustine Academy are happy with the proposed arrangements.

5.2 *The view of the Governing Body*

The governing bodies of Bower Grove is very supportive of the proposal.

5.3 *The view of the Headteacher of Bower Grove School, Mr Trevor Phipps.*

This proposal is a positive progression for the total integration for the students at the satellite centre. Bower Grove will continue to support the staff; offer any training including induction programmes or specialist training that the satellite staff may require. The school does not envisage that there will be any difference in the pupil’s education on a daily basis; pupils will still have the same opportunities. Bower Grove is hopeful that St Augustine’s fully inclusive policy will grow and that we will be able to continue to support St Augustine Academy as successfully as they have done to date.

5.4 *The view of the Advisory Council of St Augustine Academy*

The Advisory Council of St Augustine Academy and the Trustees of the Woodard Academies Trust are supportive of the proposal.

5.5 *The view of the Principal of St Augustine's Academy, Mr Jason Feldwick.*
The aim of St Augustine Academy is to offer an inclusive, holistic education, which stimulates, challenges and develops all students. We welcome and support the incorporation of the Bower Grove satellite unit into our Academy. The centre will continue to be used as a base for 12 students with ASD. Students will continue to enter the Academy for the majority of their lessons. The specialist staff at the centre and the school will continue to work together to ensure the progression and well-being of all students in their care. We will continue to work with Mr Phipps the Head teacher of Bower Grove and with the specialist teaching service to ensure that all students receive appropriate support. We will continue to guide students onto a career path to fulfil their aspirations.

5.5 *The view of the Area Education Officer*

The Area Education Officer for West Kent is in support of the two aspects to the proposal; to transfer the secondary satellite, which operates at St Augustine Academy, from Bower Grove to the Academy in order to create a new mainstream provision; and to change Bower Grove's designated number to better reflect the school's capacity and admission patterns.

6. Proposal

6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed as part of the consultation. Changes were made to the Equality Impact Assessment following comments received during the consultation period.

6.2 The conclusion following the public consultation is that the presumptions made in the initial assessment still remain and that it is not necessary to initiate a further Equality Impact Assessment.

7. Delegation to Officers

7.1 The Officer Scheme of Delegation (under Appendix 2 part 4 of the Council's Constitution) provides a clear and appropriate link between this decision and the actions needed to implement it. For information it is envisaged, following consultation and if the proposal goes ahead, that the Director of Property & Infrastructure Support will sign the Lease on behalf of the County Council and the Head of Special Educational Needs will sign the Service Level Agreement.

8. Conclusions

8.1 Bower Grove's secondary satellite provision sits within the curtilage of St Augustine Academy. The Academy is happy and willing to take over the running of the satellite provision, indeed it was originally the idea of the Academy to do so. The Headteacher of Bower Grove and the Principal of St Augustine Academy have worked together to develop arrangements for future joint working and support for pupils with ASD. We are confident that this matter will proceed with little or no disruption to current pupils and their families.

- 8.2 The proposed change of designated number of Bower Grove School reflects both the number on roll at the school over the last five years and the likely demand for places going forward.

9. Recommendation(s)

Recommendation(s): The Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on the decision to (i) issue a public notice to transfer of the Bower Grove secondary satellite provision, subject to the agreement of the Secretary of State for Education; and (ii) change of designated number of Bower Grove School to 183 (if the proposal to transfer the secondary satellite to St Augustine Academy is agreed) or 195 (if the transfer is not agreed).

10. Background Documents

10.1 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

10.2 Kent Children and Young People's Joint Commissioning Board Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (post consultation version June 2013):

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s40881/Item%20B2b%20SEND%20Strategy%20Appendix.pdf>

10.3 Draft Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-2018

<https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/education-and-learning/plans-and-consultations/strategic-plans/Kent%20Education%20Commissioning%20Plan%202013%20-2018%20-160913%20%20Draft.pdf>

10.4 Consultation Document and Equalities Impact Assessment

http://www.kent.gov.uk/education_and_learning/plans_and_consultations/school_consultations.aspx

11. Contact details

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Proposed transfer of the Bower Grove secondary satellite provision and change of designated number of Bower Grove School

Summary of written responses

Printed Consultation Documents distributed: 1270

Consultation responses received: 18

	In Favour	Undecided	Opposed	Totals
Governors				
Staff				
Parents	5		10	15
Other	2		1	3
Totals	7		11	18

Comments in favour of the proposal:

- Integration will prove beneficial to both sets of students.
- Similar system is working well.
- Rationalises the position as agreed by the professionals involved.

Comments against the proposal:

- Concerns about children spending more time in a mainstream setting and not getting the support when needed.
- Fear that the expert tuition, advice and guidance from the highly motivated and capable Bower Grove teachers would not necessarily continue in the future if total provision was controlled by an Academy.
- Concerns that the driver for the proposal to transfer the Satellite Unit to the Academy is that the successes of Satellite pupils are currently accredited to Bower School and not St Augustine Academy. This should not be a driver for a change of management of the Unit.
- Concerns regarding the potential impact for pupils that a change in leadership would bring. For example, the transfer of a provision judged by Ofsted as 'good' to a school judged by Ofsted as requires improvement.
- Integrating the Bower Grove pupils will affect the accreditation and academic standard of the pupils attending the Academy resulting in a lowering of standards.
- Diluting the teaching and support for the specialist school will not be of benefit to the children in both schools and will be used to dilute the provision for SEN in St. Augustine's and Bower Grove where staff will be reduced and the provision will suffer. This is yet another cut in education and provision of SEN and secondary (not Grammar) schools.
- Concerns about previous track record of the Academy particularly in terms of running a unit specialising in ASD.

- Concerns about the number of pupils that will be on the roll or will have access to the Satellite if the proposals are implemented. Changes in the need and admission criteria for the Satellite.
- The comment by Jason Feldwick that 'there would be no more than 12 people in the satellite at any one time' will mean that children who currently have satellite named on their statement will lose out. There will be lots of children on a rota basis meaning that the care and good results that the satellite is getting will be put under pressure. How is time out/quiet time going to work and access to services such as doctors, therapists?
- Poor communication between the Academy and the Satellite will be exacerbated. There needs to be an improvement and closer working with parents of the satellite such as a parent Forum. This will assist with issues such as students from the Satellite being able to access the Academy's focus days.
- Concerns about training for Academy staff not having been completed before the proposal is considered and future access to speech and language therapists.
- The loss of the effectiveness of the provision especially if the current satellite staff are expected to manage pupils with other needs. The loss of a 'safe haven' that the base currently gives to the pupils of Bower Grove.
- Aggrieved that the work that was put into choosing the right place will be lost as a result of logistics and bureaucratic paperwork.
- Comment that Bower Grove to be left alone.

Proposal to transfer the satellite provision from Bower Grove School to St. Augustine Academy Public Consultation Meeting 1st October 2013

Panel	Leyland Ridings (Chair)	MEM, Chairman of the ECC and Standards Committee
	Jared Nehra	Area Education Officer (West Kent)
	Michelle Hamilton	Area Schools Organisation Officer (West Kent)
	Deborah Ledniczky	Public Meeting Recorder
	Mr Trevor Phipps	Head Teacher of Bower Grove
	Mr Jason Feldwick	Principal of St. Augustine Academy

Introduction

Cllr Ridings welcomed parents, staff and members of the public to the meeting and introduced the supporting officers and principal speakers. Cllr Ridings explained that the meeting will be recorded and a transcript of the meeting will be presented to the KCC Education Cabinet Committee for consideration.

Purpose of the Meeting

- To explain the proposal to transfer the Bower Grove satellite provision to St. Augustine Academy and also to re-designate the number of pupils admitted to Bower Grove School.
- To give members of the public an opportunity to ask questions and comment
- To listen to views and opinions

Proposal

A short presentation outlining the background to the transfer of the satellite was given by Jared Nehra.

In October 2004 Bower Grove's satellite provision was set up in the grounds of The Astor of Hever Community School, providing up to 12 places for secondary aged pupils in the Maidstone district with statement of Special Educational Need and a diagnosis of an Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

In September 2011 The Astor of Hever Community School became St Augustine Academy, sponsored by Woodard Academies Trust.

It is proposed to transfer the satellite provision of Bower Grove School to St Augustine Academy, creating a new mainstream resource based provision with effect from 1 September 2014.

Bower Grove School is designated to admit 146 children from both the main building and the two satellite provisions. Since 2009 the school has had around 200 children on roll with the number now standing at 216.

Kent County Council and the Governing Body need to formally change the school's designated number to better reflect current admission patterns and school capacity. The change will not affect any pupil currently on roll. The County Council and Governing Body do not wish to see the roll of the school rise any further although it is recognised that there may be individual cases which mean the

County Council asks the school to admit beyond the designated number. However, this should no longer be a regular practice.

No final decisions will be made until the consultation process is over, so please complete a response form and return it to us by 21st October 2013.

Statement from the Headteacher of Bower Grove, Mr Trevor Phipps

Mr Phipps spoke about the positive 20 year relationship that has existed between Bower Grove and the Astor of Hever Community School (now the St. Augustine Academy) that had led to the decision in 2004 to base a satellite provision on the site. He went on to speak about the success that the pupils have gained with the support of the specialist staff within the base in accessing the mainstream classes and integrating with the main school. He explained that the proposal to transfer the satellite from Bower Grove to the St. Augustine's Academy came about as a result of wanting to offer the pupils full inclusion and that the proposal was discussed fully with the two governing bodies and the then head teacher Mr Midwinter, now Jason Feldwick. Mr Phipps gave his reassurance that nothing would change for the pupils and that he saw this proposal as a positive progression for total integration for the students at the centre. He said Bower Grove would continue to support the staff, offer any training, any induction/programmes that the staff may need and does not envisage that there will be any difference in the pupil's education on a daily basis; they will still have the same opportunities. He has discussed the implications for the staff with them and they are fully aware of how the transfer of contract to St Augustine's will work. He went on to say that the governing body, two of whom are present tonight, are very supportive of the proposal. Bower Grove had been very reassured by the action by the Woodard Trust and the governing body at St Augustine's that they will fully embrace not only the pupils coming via Bower Grove but also those pupils within the Maidstone district. He said that he hoped that their fully inclusive policy will grow and that Bower Grove are able to support that as successfully as they have done to date and the success of the pupils continues. He told the room that there was data available to show how successful the young people have been if anyone would like to view it.

Statement from the principal of Bower Grove St. Augustine's Academy, Mr Jason Feldwick

Mr Feldwick explained that the Woodard Trust has always stood for inclusion and that this will continue to be the case. He stated that there would be no change in the way that the students are integrated and that they will still be able to access the base if needed. He spoke about the students at the academy who have similar needs, students with ASD and statements of SEN, being able to have access to the satellite provision if needed, the success of those students who have used the provision as a home base, the safe haven that the base offers and the benefit to students in having the two provisions next door to each other. He stated that he believes that the satellite is the future especially for ASD students and those with similar needs as it gives them a safe base and safe haven but also access to a mainstream setting. As a school and as an Academy they are for the proposal because not only is it naturally set up but they have seen how successful the set up with Bower Grove has been for the students over the years.

Question	Response
<p>Michelle Tatton – Parent</p> <p>(i) Asked for clarification about the number of pupils that the Satellite will cater for because both the consultation document and the presentation refer to “at least 12” and further on it says “up to 12”</p> <p>(ii) Is the Trust saying that this base/building will remain as the provision and that the children are not going to be whisked off to another part of the academy and that this centre will stay here as the base for the pupils?</p>	<p>Jason Feldwick, Principal of St. Augustine’s Academy</p> <p>“At least 12”- at the moment although we have Bower Grove students based in the centre we do have a relationship whereby we do use this centre for children with similar needs and this will continue dependent on how many students are at the centre at that time. The centre caters for about 12 students. We very rarely have 12 students working in the centre at any one time but the centre would be for the 12 students on the roll here although they are mainly in the main stream setting and we would work with the staff here to make sure that the number remains around that at any one time. We can also make sure that the timetabling ensures that the students are not losing out on that support.</p> <p>Yes, this base will remain the same. It has been hugely successful and we would be foolish as a trust and a school to change that. The whole point for this centre is to provide a safe base/haven that I have to say MT’s son uses very well and I would not want to change that. In our new build we are going to have a fantastic inclusion area but we are not moving this base into that because it would change the feeling of what this base is all about.</p>
<p>Annette Scott - Governor, Bower Grove</p> <p>Is it possible to have some clarification about the admission criteria?</p>	<p>Jason Feldwick, Principal of St. Augustine’s Academy</p> <p>One of the criteria will be a statement and with ASD and that will not change. We would need to work with Trevor about the numbers and the need in the Maidstone area. It will be students who we think can access a mainstream setting. It will not be for students who, when their needs are assessed, we think requires a special school setting at the moment but are not actually going to be able to access the mainstream setting. We will still be working very closely in partnership with Trevor and the parents to make sure that the assessment is appropriate because that is one of the reasons why these students succeed and being able to access the mainstream setting is really important.</p>
<p>Annette Scott – Governor, Bower Grove</p> <p>Will that then be a formalised arrangement because what you are talking about is a</p>	<p>Jason Feldwick, Principal of St. Augustine’s Academy</p> <p>There will be an admission process that I think</p>

<p>situation that you are committed to at the moment but should you or Trevor leave would that admissions process remain the same?</p>	<p>will need to be ironed out through the LEA so I don't know if the LEA wish to comment, but from our point of view and that of the Trust, the Satellite service is still a main stream services for students with statement of need with ASD and that will not change. In terms of the Trusts view e.g. we also have 12 additional people coming in to the school with a statement at the moment so we have to look at the need of all those students, and in a way we are using this particular setting as a case study because we can see that it works so well that we are thinking of setting up a similar one in another part of the school to help similar type of students but not ASD. We will keep to the criteria for ourselves so we can say to parents that they have to access it through that statement process.</p>
<p>Annette Scott – Governor, Bower Grove It is probably then about knowing what the LEA criteria is going to be for long term future here</p>	<p>Jared Nehra - WK AEO As an Academy school there is certainly the ability for the trust/governing body or the operators of the school to set their own criteria but the SEN team within KCC will work closely with the school to ensure that the needs of the pupils are met.</p> <p>Mr Trevor Phipps - Head Teacher, Bower Grove School Acknowledged that Jared had not been involved in all the discussions until now. It was agreed by the LA and the two governing bodies that the admission criteria would not change. There is a very clear admission criteria we keep to when we are looking at Secondary transfer or for those pupils who have been admitted to the Satellite area, that can be pupils who may access the centre full time or part time or who in the early stages may need to spend a considerable amount of time in the satellite and it has been agreed that this needs to be taken into account. It was also agreed that they did not necessarily need to be average or above average ability and that we will still be looking at the range of children that are admitted and coming through the Satellite. The admission criteria that applies today is still going to be exactly the same and is going to be embraced fully by the Academy and Woodard Trust.</p>
<p>Michelle Tatton - Parent On same point, on the web-site KCC Equality Assessment P 3, beneficiaries, it says "that the children who will benefit will be the</p>	<p>Trevor Phipps – Head Teacher, Bower Grove School That is what we agreed, ASD.</p>

<p>children with speech and language needs and/or Autistic Spectrum Disorders” so that is not quite the same as saying it is specifically ASD.</p> <p>So is it not Speech and Language and/or is it just ASD</p>	<p>Jared Nehra – AEO WK</p> <p>That is correct; in which case it is a mistype on the document. I will have it amended and I apologise for the error.</p>
<p>Michelle Tatton - Parent</p> <p>One of the key benefits of the centre is that times when it is not school lesson i.e. break time or lunch time and as Mr Feldwick was saying, the safe haven that this centre provides, is there not a risk that during those times that there will be far too many children to use this provision at those times? We know that the students are in mainstream classes a lot of the time and that is the idea but this provision is also needed for those times when they need to be away from large groups of children.</p>	<p>Jason Feldwick, Principal of St. Augustine’s Academy</p> <p>I can reassure you that I totally understand the needs of the students based here. In September we will use our qualified staff to guide us as to how the lunch times are going so we would not overload the centre. We do have a couple of students with ASD from St Augustine’s that currently use the centre although one of them does not use it at lunch time. We will use the centre for students that we get on a regular basis with a statement of ASD who have not gone through Bower Grove, but we would not overload the centre because it would lose that impact and safe haven; not just for the Bower Grove students now but also the St. Augustine students and students in the future who will use the centre. The situation will be reviewed on a daily basis and if needed, we will work with the parents, specialised staff and change it for the better and continue to work with Trevor.</p>
<p>Rob Bird - Councillor for Maidstone Central</p> <p>We had assurance from Trevor Phipps a couple of weeks ago that the staff are very happy about this proposal. Clearly this will be a tricky process so that terms and conditions will remain the same. As we have some staff here I think it would be helpful if they would be prepared to confirm that they believe this is a good move for students and for them as the teachers, as we know that this centre stands and falls by one resource and one resource only and that’s the staff.</p> <p>Mr Bird offered his apologies to Sarah Jefferies for any embarrassment that he may have caused her and her colleague.</p>	<p>Sarah Jefferies - Lead Teacher of Bower Grove Satellite</p> <p>While I accept the transfer has been put forward as a very positive process I do not feel that it is appropriate for me to be put on the spot in this public arena and asked my opinion. I can certainly pass the microphone to my colleague, but I have a feeling that my colleague, who is sitting next to me and is one of my TA’s, will also feel that it is inappropriate for us to give our opinion at this stage.</p> <p>Jared Nehra - AEO WK</p> <p>There will be a separate consultation on the TUPE process and staff may feel that this is the most appropriate time for them to raise their views.</p> <p>Cllr Ridings – MEM, Chairman of the ECC and Standards Committee</p> <p>Those comments will come forward to the Education Cabinet Committee as well so we</p>

	will have a balanced view.
<p>Jenny Emes - Parent It is very positive to hear about all the work that has been undertaken with the statemented pupils but I have not heard anything about the non statemented pupils in the school here and how their interests relate to work undertaken</p>	<p>Jason Feldwick, Principal of St. Augustine's Academy First of all nothing will change for the non statemented children, statemented children or any other type of student we teach because all the students based here who go into mainstream setting are extremely supported by the staff at the Satellite and by the teachers in our school. Usually students benefit because with a child with ASD or statement there is an additional member of staff in the room, so you have two members of staff instead of one or three instead of one and students eventually gain that extra support because although the teacher is supporting the child with ASD, they will naturally support that table or another table if they see that they need help, so actually, in the long term, it's possibly a benefit for those students because not only do they work with students with ASD but they also get to work with a range of different people which is beneficial for when they leave school. So I assure you there will be no detrimental effect for the non statemented students.</p>
<p>Tasha Wells – parent of child at West Borough I have a daughter in West Borough Satellite due to come up in September. I find it safe knowing that my child is involved with Bower Grove and West Borough knowing that if there should be a lapse in anything I have always got Bower Grove as a safe haven. What will she have when she comes, if she is transferred over?</p>	<p>Trevor Phipps – Head Teacher, Bower Grove School Your concern and anxiety is that everything that is going successfully is not successful. The relationship we would have would be to offer support and if we felt that the support needed to be greater than that i.e. part time for example, then Bower Grove would offer that support and we would work with the Academy.</p>
<p>Natasha Wells – Prospective Parent Why is it only Bower Grove Satellite and not West Borough?</p>	<p>Trevor Phipps – Head Teacher, Bower Grove School The amount of integration that was taking place at Bower Grove was far greater. The majority of the pupils here, almost 75%, are accessing mainstream time. West Borough is slightly different; the children have more complex needs and need to use the classroom base and are not accessing the mainstream classes quite as much. It's a very different structure at West Borough and there is more of a flow between the pupils back to Bower Grove or coming back to Bower Grove</p>

	<p>in those early primary years. It is very clear when they get to secondary what their future is going to look like and therefore those pupils who are referred through to the Satellite, I have to say, are most of the time here and stay here. There will always be an opportunity to fall back so it has not gone forward as a proposal for West Borough because of the different nature of the children. As they are progressing through those KS2 years some students that we think are going to make the progress, unfortunately other things happen, and that tends to happen more at primary than secondary where it is a much clearer picture.</p>
<p>County Councillor Leyland Ridings to Trevor Phipps We were talking earlier and one of the things you were saying was how much support will come from Bower Grove for the staff here so that children remain properly catered for.</p>	<p>Trevor Phipps – Head Teacher, Bower Grove School We will support with any inset, ASD training we can give, induction and basic training into ASD. One of the things we are looking at in conjunction with the specialist teaching services at the moment is another stage in the ASD training and that will also be available to St Augustine but we think that will be needed for mainstream staff as well in exactly the same way as the mainstream schools getting far more baseline ASD training on inclusion. One thing that we are looking at with specialist teaching service is not a certificate level but a more in-depth ASD course that we can give to all colleagues in mainstream schools. We can do inset, come in on inset days, we also have toing and froing, they can come in an observe us working at Bower Grove with ASD children; that freedom will still exist because of the existing relationship.</p> <p>Leyland Ridings added that the links with remain the same, not severed but improved.</p>
<p>Michelle Tatton - Parent It was raised at the meeting at the of end of term, in relation to Speech and Language therapist (SALT), how her son has needed to see the SALT based at Bower Grove and that was arranged very quickly. A phone call was made and we were able to take him along, but how easy is it going to be, even though you are still talking of ties with Academy, to arrange that? Will it not be a case that the Academy needs to pay you first before we can access the service and therefore not as simple perhaps?</p>	<p>Trevor Phipps – Head Teacher, Bower Grove School Yes and it is the same for occupational therapy (OT) service.</p> <p>There are some pupils on the ASD continuum who do require SALT and OT for example. The satellite has been able to access the Bower Grove SALTs and also have access to OT. Having said that, the OT we have accessed has had to be on a commissioned basis, in exactly the same way as you would have had to access that service, because we have had to buy in that service. With the</p>

	<p>budget the unit inherits they will be able to do exactly the same. Not many of the pupils that have come through have required SALT although have used the service occasionally so I have no reason to say that we would not be able to continue. SALT is very skilled and very able in advising on terms of ASD continuum but I don't see any problem. Trevor joked that the SALT will charge double; for the record.</p>
<p>Michelle Tatton - Parent Looking at the impact assessment again is says on P 5, "no adverse impacts have been identified at this stage" and obviously I appreciate the experience that Mr Phipps has got but has there been any independent assessment of what the effects might be and anything in particular? Talking about training, and that sounds great that that training will be provided, and I assume that some training has been provided already, are we not jumping the gun a bit if the training still needs to be provided? Are we not getting things back to front in thinking about transferring the satellite to a school that still needs training? Also, one another point, and I don't like to be critical, Focus days within the academy. I'm sure Mr Feldwick can come back on this. There are Focus days that my son has certainly found difficult to access and I haven't seen attempts by the academy to make that possible for him to access those days. Children with ASD typically need a lot of structure and when that goes out of the window when there is a Focus day the time table disappears and then that day becomes impossible and I wondered what plans the academy has to look at that and build on that. How much training do you still need to take on this role?</p>	<p>Jason Feldwick, Principal of St. Augustine's Academy Firstly, we have been doing this role and nothing changes. We do have support by the specialist people sitting here and training by those people as well as our independent training programme that we use for a range of things, not only ASD, to teach students of a range of ability. We have a large training programme and do more than other main stream settings; 10 days whereas most main stream schools will have 5. That is not to dismiss specialist training for ASD. We seem to be getting, for whatever reason, 10-12 other students with statements of other needs and what we will do is look at that and provide the training for those individual staff terms of PSE and Focus days if they are bought to our attention and possible communication. If the school has not been aware that something had not been working for a student, or if someone had bought something to our attention that was causing an issue for a student and we hadn't acted then I would be very upset about: that not having being communicated, a time table hasn't been done in advance, we have not sat down with MT's son's support worker and thought what will this day be like for this student, the Satellite haven't thought, on the calendar we have this day what are we going to do for AT to make sure the support is there, so that pre planning possible. There will be blips in a main stream setting where maybe we need to think extra about ASD students when maybe we haven't thought enough about it and we will learn from that. Sometimes we may make a couple of mistakes but people will learn from that. Parents will work with the specialist people here and I will work with my staff and most genuinely include all students, not just children with ASD, and that includes MT's son and other students using this unit. One other thing</p>

	I would need to say about the Focus days is that they will be getting reduced because we are introducing PSE as a normal lesson. YR7 students are doing a Penn Resilience lesson to try and build their resilience. It's an intensive programme from Pennsylvania to support all students not only those with ASD and from that every five years there will be less and less Focus days because we are including it in normal lessons. This will help the students with ASD in the structure in a normal lesson and a normal day; this is something that is already starting to happen.
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There were general comments about the process of the proposal. Jared Nehra read out the timescales for the consultation process as detailed on the presentation and reiterated that no final decision will be made until the consultation process has concluded. He asked that people do complete a response form and return it before the closing date for public comment which is the 21st October 2013.

The meeting was informed that following the consultation the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform will decide whether to continue with the proposal. If so, KCC will publish a Public Notice which will run for 6 weeks. The Cabinet Member then considers all the responses made and decides whether to proceed with the proposal to transfer the Satellite from Bower Grove School to St. Augustine Academy.

Cllr Ridings thanked everyone for coming along and for their views and questions. The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Approximately 12 people attended the meeting.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

13/00092

For publication

Subject: Proposal to transfer the Bower Grove secondary satellite provision and change the designated number of Bower Grove School

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform I agree to:

- (i) Issue a public notice to transfer the Bower Grove secondary satellite provision and change the designated number of Bower Grove School to 183 (if the proposal to transfer the secondary satellite to St Augustine Academy is agreed) or 195 (if the transfer is not agreed).
- (ii) And, subject to no objections being received to the public notice, transfer Bower Grove secondary satellite provision and change the designated number of Bower Grove School, subject to the agreement of the Secretary of State for Education.

Should objections, not already considered by the Cabinet Member when taking this decision, be received during the notice period a separate decision will be required in order to continue the proposal.

Reason(s) for decision:

This proposal will help to secure our ambition, “to ensure every child can go to a good school where they make good progress and to support vulnerable pupils, including pupils with special educational needs and disabilities, so that they achieve well and make good progress”.

The Special Educational Needs section of the Kent Commissioning Plan 2013-2018 relating to the future provision for children with special educational needs will be updated in line with the development of the Kent’s Strategy for SEN and Disability. Kent’s Strategy for SEN and Disability’s overarching aim is to improve the health, well being, attainment and progress, and quality of provision, for children and young people with SEN. An important aspect of this is to review the future capacity of specialist SEN provision within special schools and within the mainstream sector.

In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

- the views expressed by those attending the public consultation meeting on 1 October 2013, and those put in writing in response to the consultation;
- the views of the District and Parish Councils, the local County Councillor; Governing Body of the school, the Staff and Pupils;
- the Equalities Impact Assessment and comments received regarding this; and
- the views of the Education Cabinet Committee which are set out below

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

27 September 2012

The Committee endorsed the Kent Commissioning Plan that identified the need to review the future capacity of specialist SEN provision within special schools and within the mainstream sector and recommended to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform that a consultation commenced.

4 December 2013

To be added after Committee meeting

Any alternatives considered:

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-17 explored all options and the expansion of this school was deemed the suitable option.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

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Signed

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date