

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

To: Roger Gough Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

Subject: Proposal to expand Goldwyn School

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: Education Cabinet Committee – 27 September and 4 December 2014

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: Downs West, Ashford and Folkestone Park

Summary: This report sets out the results of the public consultation on the proposal to expand Goldwyn School for September 2014 by creating a satellite of the school in Folkestone.

Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform is asked to:

Expand Goldwyn School by 55 places utilising accommodation currently occupied by the Brook PRU in Folkestone with effect from 1 September 2014.

1. Introduction

1.1 Kent's Strategy for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) aims to address, amongst other things, gaps in provision. Therefore, the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent (2013-18) sets out the intention to commission 121 additional places for pupils with BESN.

2. Proposal

2.1 It is proposed to expand Goldwyn School by 55 places, taking the number of places from 60 to 115. The additional places will be provided in a satellite provision based in premises currently occupied by the Brook PRU in Folkestone.

2.2 This proposal is linked to a proposal to redesignate Furness School, Swanley from a school for 60 BESD pupils to one for 60 ASD pupils. Furness has 35 pupils on roll; only 7 of whom have BESN as their primary need. Redesignating Furness will provide additional ASD places in an area where demand is high. Expanding Goldwyn School will effectively replace the unfilled BESN places lost at Furness, but in an area where BESN places are needed.

2.3 On 14 March 2014 Education Cabinet Committee recommended to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform that a consultation take place on the proposal to expand Goldwyn School.

2.4 This report sets out the results of the public consultation, which took place between 23 April and 20 May 2014. A public meeting was held on 6 May 2014.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 a. Capital – There are no capital costs involved with this proposal, beyond some basic refurbishment of the Brook premises.
- b. Revenue - The school will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget. Special schools are funded using the DfE Place Plus funding methodology for High Needs Pupils. For September 2014 the Local Authority has agreed to purchase a total of 120 places at Goldwyn School (75 places at the Ashford site and 45 places at Goldwyn Brook).
- c. Human – Staff currently employed at the Brook PRU will transfer to Goldwyn School and there will therefore be no redundancies.

4. Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

- 4.1 These proposals will help to secure our ambition “to ensure every child will go to a good school where they make good progress and can have fair access to school places” as set out in ‘Bold Steps for Kent’.
- 4.2 The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2013-18 has identified the need for 121 additional places for pupils with BESN.

5. Consultation Outcomes

- 5.1 A total of five written responses were received, all of whom supported the proposal.
- 5.2 A summary of the comments received is provided at Appendix 1.
- 5.3 A summary of the views and comments given at the public consultation meeting is attached at Appendix 2.
- 5.4 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed as part of the consultation. To date no comments have been received and no changes are required to the Equality Impact Assessment.

6. Views

- 6.1 The view of the Local Members:
Mr Simkins is in approval of the proposed expansion.

Mr McKenna is in full support of the proposal and thinks it is a very good idea.
- 6.2 The view of the Headteacher and Governing Body:
The Headteacher and Governing Body of Goldwyn School are in full support of the proposal.
- 6.3. The view of the Area Education Officer:
Goldwyn is a popular school and the Ashford campus cannot accommodate more pupils than are currently on roll. Additional BESN places are needed in South Kent and the option to provide these additional places in Folkestone is very much appreciated. I am confident that the Senior Leadership Teams at both Goldwyn and Goldwyn Brook will work well together to provide the best possible learning environment for the students who will attend Goldwyn Brook in the future.

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, if the proposal goes ahead, that the Director of Property & Infrastructure Support will sign contracts on behalf of the County Council.

8. Conclusions

8.1 This expansion will provide 55 additional BESN places in South Kent and is linked to the proposal to redesignate Furness School, Swanley from BESN to ASD which will provide additional ASD places in North Kent. Both proposals will need to be considered together.

9. Recommendation(s)

Recommendation(s): The Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform is asked to:

Expand Goldwyn School by 55 places utilising accommodation currently occupied by the Brook PRU in Folkestone with effect from 1 September 2014.

10. Background Documents

10.1 Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/corporate-policies/bold-steps-for-kent>

10.2 Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2013-18

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s43253/ItemD3KentEducationCommissioningPlan20132018final.pdf>

10.3 Education Cabinet Committee report – 14 March 2014 – Re-designation of Special Schools across Kent.

10.4 Consultation Document and Equalities Impact Assessment.

11. Contact details

Report Author:

- David Adams
- Area Education Officer – South Kent
- 01233 898559
- david.adams@kent.gov.uk

Relevant Director:

- Kevin Shovelton
- Director of Education Planning and Access
- 01622 694174
- Kevin.shovelton@kent.gov.uk

Proposal to expand Goldwyn School

Summary of Written Responses

Printed Consultation Documents distributed: 300
 Consultation responses received: 5

A summary of the responses received showed:

	In Favour	Opposed	Undecided	Totals
Governors				
Staff	1			1
Parents	3			3
Pupils				
Resident	1			1
Totals	5			5

Comments in favour of the proposal:

We agree with the proposal on the understanding that the satellite school remains in Folkestone and does not relocate to Ashford at a later date.

Concerns raised:

No concerns were raised.

Public Consultation Meeting

Proposal to provide 55 additional places for pupils with BESN at Goldwyn School by creating a satellite of the school in Folkestone

Tuesday 6 May 2014

Panel: Chair – Leyland Ridings (KCC Member)

In Attendance:	David Adams	DA	Area Education Officer – South Kent
	Bob Law	BL	Headteacher – Goldwyn School
	Charlotte Rosslyn	CR	Vice Principal – Goldwyn School
	Julie Ely	JE	Head of SEN
	Diana Robinson	DR	Interim Principal Adviser – Special and PRU

Purpose of the Meeting – Leyland Ridings welcomed everyone to the meeting and handed over to David Adams who gave an in depth explanation of the proposal.

Question	Response
<i>Bob Law</i>	On behalf of the parents explained that he had sent a letter to all Goldwyn parents re-assuring them that the proposal would not have a detrimental effect/change on their children. Parents had felt re-assured by this and were therefore not at the meeting tonight. From Brook point of view there are no affected parents at this stage.
<i>Richard Davies</i>	Parents had also received a letter of explanation with the proposal. Some parents may respond to the consultation.
<i>Nicola Clark (Governor at Goldwyn)</i> Will the children at The Brook stay at the Brook? What is the anticipated plan for those without statements?	Bob Law responded – two students with statements have been identified and both will stay at The Brook. More generally, 6 – 12 more pupils are being considered over the next month and they may have the opportunity to join Goldwyn Brook.
<i>Charlotte Rosslyn (Vice Principal Goldwyn)</i> Furness will have a primary need of ASD from September. Will there be students with a primary need of ASD and BESD as a secondary need going to Furness in September? Where will the BESD children in West Kent attend?	David Adams responded – There will be a cohort of Y10 BESD youngsters who will continue to work their way through the school. We have given a commitment to stability for these youngsters. The primary need of BESD is mainly focussed in East Kent. You would expect to see those with a primary need of BESD coming to East Kent. Julie Ely responded – Kent’s SEN strategy is about early intervention and we are developing new primary provision for behavioural difficulties so that we are intervening early before problems become so deep rooted. If this new provision is effective it may be that secondary provision will not be necessary in the future.

David Adams reminded everyone how they could respond to the consultation and that any comments should be received by 20 May 2014.
30 people attended the meeting.