

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

To: Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education, Health and Reform – 25 June 2014

Subject: Proposal to create a Specialist Resourced Provision for 12 pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs for Autism (ASD) at Holmesdale Technology College.

Classification: Unrestricted
Past Pathway of Paper: Education Cabinet Committee – 4 December 2013;

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: Malling North: Sarah Hohler

Summary: This report sets out the results of the public consultation on the proposal to create a Specialist Resourced Provision at Holmesdale Technology College, Malling Road, Snodland, Kent ME6 5HS for 12 pupils with a statement of Special Educational Needs for Autism (ASD)

Recommendation(s): The Cabinet Member for Education, Health and Reform is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to:

- (i) Issue a public notice to create a new Specialist Resourced Based Provision (SRP) within the school for 12 children with a statement of Special Educational Needs for Autism (ASD) for September 2014

And, subject to no objections being received to the public notice

- (ii) Implement the proposal for September 2014.

1. Introduction

1.1 Kent County Council's strategy for children and young people with special educational needs and who are disabled (SEND) identified the need to add capacity across the county. The SEND Strategy shows how we will be creating 209 extra places in special schools and 164 in mainstream schools.

1.2 A small number of children with Statements of Special Educational Needs (a legal document that describes the help given to pupils who have the greatest difficulty learning) require higher levels of support than can be provided in their local mainstream schools, but their needs are not so complex that special school placements are appropriate. For these children we maintain a range of Specialist Resourced Provisions (SRP) which are based in mainstream schools with places reserved for pupils with statements of SEN.

- 1.3 KCC would like to build upon the inclusive education offered at Holmesdale Technology School by creating a new Specialist Resourced Provision (SRP) within the school for 12 children with a statement of Special Educational Needs for Autism (ASD) for September 2014. It is intended that the SRP will be in place for September 2014. Initially the class will open with four children and it is expected to be another two years before all 12 places are full.
- 1.4 On 4 December 2013 Education Cabinet Committee recommended to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform that the actions to implement key proposals set out in the SEND Strategy proceed.
- 1.4 This report sets out the results of the public consultation, which took place between 19 May 2014 and 23 June 2014. A drop-in information session for parents was held on 2 June 2014.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 This is a proposal to make a prescribed alternation to Holmesdale Technology College by creating a specialist resourced provision for pupils with a statement of Special Education Needs for Autism (ASD) for September 2014.
 - a. It is proposed that Holmesdale Technology College will reconfigure the existing teaching rooms to make provision for specialist teaching spaces. Therefore, there are no capital costs associated with this proposal. However, should this position change the Cabinet Member for Education Health and Reform will be required to take a further decision to allocate the funds.
 - b. Revenue - The schools delegated budget will be allocated for an agreed number of commissioned places in accordance with the Place Plus High Needs funding methodology.
 - c. Human – Holmesdale Technology College will appoint additional teachers, as the school size increases and the need arises.

3. Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

- 3.1 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’.
- 3.2 The ‘Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision, 2013-18’ has identified the need to add 275 additional SEN places in Kent for pupils with Autism and Behavioural Needs. The SEND Strategy shows how we will be creating 164 in mainstream schools.

4. Consultation Outcomes

- 4.1 Approximately 1,500 hard copies of the public consultation document were circulated, which included a form for written responses. The consultation document was distributed to parents/carers, staff and governors of both schools, County Councillors, Member of Parliament, the Diocesan Authorities, local library, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, and others, in accordance with the agreed County policy. The document was posted on the KCC website and the link to the website widely circulated. An opportunity to send in written responses using the response form, email and online was provided.
- 4.2 Following the closure of the consultation period a further 3 positive responses were received bringing the total to 29 responses. 26 respondents supported the proposal; 1 objected to the proposal and 2 respondents were undecided.
- 4.3 Following the closure of the consultation on 23 June 2014 the summary of written comments received has been updated and is provided at Appendix 1.

5. Views

- 5.1 The view of the Local Member:
Mrs Hohler, Local Member for Malling North supports this proposal for the benefit of the pupils who will be admitted.
- 5.2. The view of the Headteacher and Governing Body:
The Governing Body has been consulted and is fully supportive of this proposal which will enable the school to use their knowledge and expertise to the full and accommodate local Tonbridge and Malling children with ASD in a caring, nurturing environment.
- 5.3. The view of the Area Education Officer:
The Area Education Officer for West Kent fully supports this proposal and, having considered other commissioning options, is of the belief that this is the most cost-effective and sustainable solution. Holmesdale Technology College is an inclusive school, which is judged as 'Good' by Ofsted.

6. Proposal

- 6.1 There will be no impact on the value of KCC's property portfolio.
- 6.2 The proposed alteration to Holmesdale Technology College is subject to KCC statutory decision making process and planning.
- 6.3 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.

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 proposal will create an additional 12 places to the capacity per year for pupils with ASD, in line with priorities 3, 4 and 9 of 'Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework' and the 'Commissioning Plan for Education – Kent' (2013 – 2018).

9. Recommendation(s)

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

- (i) Issue a public notice to create a new Specialist Resourced Provision (SRP) within Holmesdale Technology College for 12 children with a statement of Special Educational Needs for Autism (ASD) for September 2014

And, subject to no objections being received to the public notice

- (ii) Implement the proposal

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
- 10.2.1 Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-2018
www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/education-skills-and-employment-policies/education-provision
- 10.3 Consultation Document and Equalities Impact Assessment
www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations
- 10.4 Strategy for Children & Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/childrens-social-care-and-families-policies>

11. Contact details

Report Author

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Relevant Director:

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- Director of Education Planning and Access
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**Proposal to create a new Specialist Resourced Provision (SRP) within
Holmesdale Technology College, Malling Road, Snodland, Kent ME6 5AD for
12 children with a statement of Special Educational Needs for Autism (ASD)**

Summary of written responses

Consultation documents (hard copies) distributed: 1500
Responses received as at 16.06.14) 26

Total responses received following closure of the consultation period (23.06.14) **29**

	Support	Against	Undecided	Total
Parents/Carers	12	1	1	
Governors	1			
Members of Staff	9		1	
Member of Staff at another school	2			
Blank	2			
Total	26	1	2	29

In support of the proposal

Parents/Carers

Agree

- Very supportive of keeping children with ASD in mainstream schooling.
- A great idea, more provision for children with ASD is desperately needed. It will also help children in mainstream school understand autism and how it affects people.
- Really hope the Unit goes ahead.
- Could do with extra help particularly in Maths.
- Strongly believe that being taught in a mainstream school has helped my child. There is a need for such provisions to accommodate families who wish their child to be educated in a mainstream environment but away from the social pressures of the main school.
- This proposal is welcomed and I hope that more such centres become available in the future.

Governors

Agree

- Thinks it's a fab idea

Member of staff at another school

Agree

- Although a Medway school, the majority of pupils transfer to Holmesdale Technology College. Very pleased that there may be an option for statemented ASD pupils (with Kent addresses) to transfer to a local setting.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL –RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,

Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

For publication

Subject: Proposal to make a prescribed alteration to Holmesdale Technology College

Decision:

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

- (i) Issue a public notice to make a prescribed alteration to Holmesdale Technology College, Malling Road, Snodland, Kent ME6 5HS to create a new Specialist Resourced Provision (SRP) within the school for 12 children with a statement of Special Educational Needs for Autism (ASD) for September 2014.

And, subject to no objections being received to the public notice

- (ii) Determine the proposal

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 in order to allow for proper consideration of the points raised.

Reason(s) for decision:

In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

- the views expressed by 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:

14 October 2013

The Committee endorsed the Kent Commissioning Plan, which identified a need for additional places and recommended to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform that a consultation takes place on the proposal to additional capacity for

4 December 2013

Education Cabinet Committee were asked to endorse the actions to implement key proposals set out in the SEND Strategy.

Any alternatives considered:

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18 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