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To: **Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee – 23 July 2014**

Subject: **Review of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education 2013-2018**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

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

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Summary: This report informs Members of the progress made in implementing the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education 2013-2018 since its adoption by Cabinet in October 2013.

Recommendation: The Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee is asked to consider the report and note the progress achieved and the issues identified for further development.

1. Introduction

1.1 In September 2013 Kent County Council published the latest Kent Commissioning Plan for Education 2013-2018. This sets out our future plans as strategic commissioner of education provision across all types and phases of education. The Plan is updated annually with progress being monitored six to nine months after publication. This report reviews the progress made since September 2013.

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

- Progress in implementing the expansion of school places;
- Review of forecasting accuracy;
- Progress against our targets;
- Progress in implementing the Review of school places for SEN pupils;
- The impact of changes to national School Organisation Regulations.

1.4 In summary, this Review demonstrates that:

- Commissioning and implementing the planned number of new school places overall for September 2014 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 and these are set out in paragraph 2.2 below.

- The re-designation and expansion of Special Schools is on track for September 2014 and 2015, including the relocation and rebuilding of three schools.
- The accuracy of our forecasting methodology has remained close to within 1% of accuracy, although the increase in inward migration into Kent during 2013-14 was greater than in previous years and higher than forecast.
- The increase in the school population has reduced the surplus capacity of school places across the Primary School sector – seven out of the 12 Kent districts are now operating at below 5% surplus capacity. Surplus capacity across the Secondary School sector remains high.

2. Progress in Implementing the Expansion of School Place Numbers

2.1 The Plan identified the need, by September 2014, for 15.3 permanent new forms of entry in Primary schools and 3 forms of entry in Secondary schools. To date, 12.2 forms of entry have been commissioned in Primary schools ready for September 2014 and 2.85 permanent new forms of entry in secondary schools in September 2014. This variation in delivering the planned numbers has been due to specific local circumstances including highways and planning issues, standards and availability of schools to expand.

2.2 An additional 130 temporary school places for Reception aged pupils have been commissioned in the short term to take account of the reduced provision of permanent places. The Plan identified the need to provide 250 temporary places for short-term pressures for Reception age pupils but at March 2014, 380 temporary places had been commissioned. The reasons for this shift from permanent to temporary places are set out below. Much of this variation is the consequence of unresolved highways and planning issues. Significant local variations include:

- **Swale** – The permanent expansion of 0.5FE for Ospringe Church of England Primary School is not going ahead as the impact of the expansion upon the highways could not be mitigated to enable planning consent to be requested. To ensure sufficiency of places, a temporary expansion for one year is being provided at Ospringe for September 2014 and expansion of Bysing Wood Primary School is being considered from September 2015.
- **Thanet** – The expansion of 1FE for Bromstone Primary School is not yet confirmed as mitigation of the impact of the expansion upon the highways to enable planning consent to be requested remains to be resolved at the time of writing.
- **Dartford** – The permanent expansion of 1FE for Knockhall Primary School is currently on hold until September 2015 to allow time for standards at the school to improve. The school is accommodating a temporary expansion for one year from September 2014. However a permanent expansion of 0.66FE at Joydens Wood Infant School is being arranged and two temporary expansions are taking

place - at Holy Trinity CEPS (15 places) and Temple Hill Primary School (30 places). These three expansions were not included in the Commissioning Plan.

- **Shepway** – We had proposed commissioning 30 temporary Reception Year places at a school in East Folkestone but no school was able to accommodate this. The supply of school places in Folkestone is therefore below the preferred threshold of 5% surplus and a new school is being commissioned for a site in East Folkestone, to open in September 2015.
- **Tunbridge Wells** – The Plan expressed our intention to commission 30 additional Reception Year places in Tunbridge Wells by September 2014. However it is now anticipated that a 5% surplus of Primary school places will be maintained across Tunbridge Wells for September 2014. The Wells Free School opened in Tunbridge Wells Town in September 2013, offering 24 additional places annually in Reception Year.

2.3 The Plan identified the need to commission five new Primary schools (academies as required by law) for September 2015. We are also seeking a promoter for a new Primary school in Tunbridge Wells and will shortly be starting the commissioning process for a new Primary school in Ashford, both of which are also planned to open in September 2015. Progress to date is set out in the table below:-

Area	School	Size	Promoter
Tonbridge & Malling	Kings Hill	1 FE	Valley Invicta Academies Trust
	Leybourne Chase	1 FE	Valley Invicta Academies Trust
	Holborough Lakes	1 FE	Valley Invicta Academies Trust
Swale	Thistle Hill	2 FE	Lilac Sky Academy Trust
Shepway	East Folkestone	1 FE	Valley Invicta Academies Trust
Tunbridge Wells	Knights Park	1 FE	To be confirmed
Ashford	Cheeseman's Green	1 FE	To be confirmed

2.4 A detailed summary of the progress made on all the Primary and Secondary school proposals shown in the School Commissioning Plan is given at Appendix 1.

3. Review of Forecasting Accuracy

3.1 The Plan set out forecast roll numbers (by planning areas at Primary school level and by District at Secondary school level) across each District in Kent. The forecasting system enables the production of both school based and residency based forecasts, thereby enabling provision to be made in the right locations. This system is closely aligned to the KCC 'Integrated Infrastructure and Financing Model' (IIFM) which is the corporate forecasting software currently used to forecast infrastructure needs over the long term.

3.2 Forecasting accuracy for Year Reception numbers

Table 1 below sets out the forecast Primary school roll data for January 2014 against the actual roll data as at January 2014 for Reception age pupils in order to review their accuracy. It shows that for Kent overall, the accuracy level is within 1%, however the district variations include under-forecasting particularly across North Kent and in Ashford.

Table 1: Year Reception

Area and District	Forecast Year R roll (2013/14)	Actual Year R roll Jan 2014	Difference (forecast less actual)	Over / under forecast (%)
East Kent	4825	4803	+22	+0.5%
Canterbury	1460	1450	+10	+0.7%
Swale	1742	1755	-13	-0.7%
Thanet	1623	1598	+25	+1.6%
North Kent	3852	3972	-120	-3.0%
Dartford	1304	1356	-52	-3.8%
Gravesham	1293	1318	-25	-1.9%
Sevenoaks	1255	1298	-43	-3.3%
South Kent	3935	3996	-61	-1.5%
Ashford	1518	1587	-69	-4.4%
Dover	1244	1230	+14	+1.2%
Shepway	1173	1179	-6	-0.5%
West Kent	4512	4502	+10	+0.2%
Maidstone	1719	1716	+3	+0.2%
Tonbridge and Malling	1547	1545	+2	+0.1%
Tunbridge Wells	1246	1241	+5	+0.4%
Kent Totals	17125	17273	-148	-0.9%

Canterbury – No significant variance.

Swale – No significant variance.

Thanet – Population volatility is a factor for Thanet forecasts and actual rolls at any one point in time can change within a very short period due to the high number of in-year admissions and families moving in and out of the area.

Dartford – The difference between forecast and actual numbers constitutes more than 2FE. There has been significant inward migration from the London Boroughs, coupled with a changing demographic that releases more family-sized dwellings to the market.

Gravesham - the forecasts for Gravesham were lower than the actual roll in January 2014, by about 1FE. This is largely due to inward migration from the London Boroughs, due to the lower cost of housing.

Sevenoaks – the Year Reception forecast was lower than the 2014 actual rolls. There is no single identifiable reason, although inward migration appears to be the major factor. This is driven largely by the high performance of most of the Primary schools in Sevenoaks. The establishment of additional Secondary places and the proposals for a selective satellite provision are also likely to attract pupils to local schools.

Ashford – The number of Year Reception pupils in Ashford in January 2014 was significantly higher (4.4%) than forecast. This is due to an increase in migration into Ashford, in part linked to the rapid increase in house building during the past 12 months.

Dover – The forecast roll was 1.2% higher than the actual roll at January 2014, which is marginally above the tolerance level of plus or minus 1%.

Shepway – No significant variance.

Maidstone – No significant variance.

Tonbridge & Malling – No significant variance.

Tunbridge Wells – No significant variance.

3.3 Forecasting accuracy of Primary school roll numbers

Table 2 sets out the forecast Primary school roll data for January 2014 against the actual roll data as at January 2014 for all Primary age pupils. Across Kent there were 1.4% more Primary school pupils at January 2014 than forecast, with 8 of the 12 districts seeing rolls in excess of 1% higher than expected. As forecasts roll forward, the increased pupil numbers demonstrate more growth in net inward migration to Kent than anticipated, affecting two thirds of districts. The figures mask pressures around particular Year Groups in some localities. The most affected district was Ashford with 2.4% more pupils than forecast, due to an increase in inward migration. Increased pressure in Herne Bay is largely due to families moving into rented accommodation from areas with more expensive housing, while in Swale migration pressures are particularly visible on the Isle of Sheppey.

Table 2: Primary age pupils

Area and District	Forecast primary roll (2013/14)	Actual primary roll Jan 2014	Difference (forecast less actual)	Over / under forecast (%)
East Kent	31691	32113	-422	-1.3%
Canterbury	9711	9882	-171	-1.7%
Swale	11527	11692	-165	-1.4%
Thanet	10453	10539	-86	-0.8%
North Kent	25845	26255	-410	-1.6%
Dartford	8482	8676	-194	-2.2%
Gravesham	8611	8739	-128	-1.5%
Sevenoaks	8752	8840	-88	-1.0%
South Kent	25782	26105	-323	-1.2%
Ashford	9916	10159	-243	-2.4%
Dover	7990	8051	-61	-0.8%
Shepway	7876	7895	-19	-0.2%
West Kent	29368	29802	-434	-1.5%
Maidstone	11304	11530	-226	-2.0%
Tonbridge and Malling	10073	10207	-134	-1.3%
Tunbridge Wells	7991	8065	-74	-0.9%
Kent Totals	112686	114275	-1589	-1.4%

3.4 Forecasting accuracy for Year 7 pupils

Table 3 sets out the forecast Secondary school roll data for January 2014 against the actual roll data as at January 2014 for Year 7 pupils. There is some under and over-forecasting shown but the numbers of pupils involved are within the capacity levels of local schools. Across Kent there were 2.2% more pupils in Year 7 than forecast. Again, this is generally reflective of an increase in inward migration, with 10 of the 12 districts having roll numbers greater than anticipated. The most extreme change, in Sevenoaks, is due to the opening of The Trinity Free School and thus a change in parental preferences and the provision available.

Table 3

Area and District	Forecast Year 7 roll (2013/14)	Actual Year 7 roll Jan 2014	Difference (forecast less actual)	Over / under forecast (%)
East Kent	4342	4373	-31	-0.7%
Canterbury	1445	1480	-35	-2.4%
Swale	1542	1515	+27	+1.8%
Thanet	1355	1378	-23	-1.6%
North Kent	2812	2968	-156	-5.3%
Dartford	1319	1366	-47	-3.4%
Gravesham	1154	1179	-25	-2.1%
Sevenoaks	339	423	-84	-19.8%
South Kent	3360	3399	-39	-1.1%
Ashford	1259	1312	-53	-4.1%
Dover	1162	1143	+19	+1.6%
Shepway	939	944	-5	-0.6%
West Kent	4515	4623	-108	-2.3%
Maidstone	1788	1799	-11	-0.6%
Tonbridge and Malling	1511	1534	-23	-1.5%
Tunbridge Wells	1216	1290	-74	-5.7%
Kent Totals	15029	15363	-334	-2.2%

Canterbury- The numbers of Year 7 children and overall Secondary pupil numbers are increased by the number of pupils traveling from a number of surrounding districts into Canterbury secondary schools where there has been significant surplus of places.

Swale – Forecasts slightly over estimated the number of Year 7 children.

Thanet – Forecasts have slightly under estimated the number of Year 7 children and overall secondary pupil numbers. This is due to inward migration and the volatility of the population moving into and out of the area.

Dartford – was under forecast by -3.4%. Dartford shares a boundary with the London Borough of Bexley so there is considerable cross border migration. Inward migration by families into Kent is also a significant factor.

Gravesham – was under forecast by about 1FE. Inward migration from the EU and increased small scale housing developments (under 10 units) appear to be the significant factors.

Sevenoaks– The 19.8% variation is due to the changes in secondary schools in Sevenoaks District during 2013, with the opening of Trinity Free School in September 2013 bringing more pupils into the town. About 74% of the children in the southern half of the district travel to schools in Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells districts. In the North, a significant number travel to the Wilmington Grammar Schools in Dartford district.

Ashford – the higher than expected roll number (up 4.1%) is due to an increase in migration to the town.

Dover –Forecasts have over-estimated the number of Year 7 children by 1.6%. However as this equates to 19 children it will not cause a serious shortfall for any of the Dover Secondary schools.

Tunbridge Wells – was under forecast by -5.7% (74 places) and may be due to a lower than previous proportion of pupils going into the independent sector, a greater number coming to the district's Secondary schools from neighbouring districts (eg Tonbridge & Malling), and inward migration.

3.5 Forecasting accuracy of Secondary school roll numbers

Table 4 below sets out the forecast Secondary roll data for January 2014 against the actual roll data as at January 2014 for all Secondary age pupils (Years 7-11) in order to review their accuracy.

Table 4

Area and District	Forecast secondary roll (2013/14)	Actual secondary roll (2013/14)	Difference (forecast less actual)	Over / under forecast (%)
East Kent	22234	22420	-186	-0.8%
Canterbury	7394	7513	-119	-1.6
Swale	7741	7722	+19	+0.3%
Thanet	7099	7185	-86	-1.2%
North Kent	14522	14704	-182	-1.2%
Dartford	6798	6851	-53	-0.8%
Gravesham	5881	5915	-34	-0.6%
Sevenoaks	1843	1938	-95	-4.9%
South Kent	17277	17417	-140	-0.8%
Ashford	6272	6379	-107	-1.7%
Dover	5998	6016	-18	-0.3%
Shepway	5007	5002	-15	-0.3%
West Kent	23350	23681	-331	-1.4%
Maidstone	8971	9100	-129	-1.4%
Tonbridge and Malling	7652	7698	-46	-0.6%
Tunbridge Wells	6727	6883	-156	-2.3%
Kent Totals	77383	78222	-839	-1.1%

East Kent – Canterbury and Thanet had variances greater than minus 1%. This is due in the main to housing developments being re-phased and therefore less pupils coming forward as a result.

North Kent – The forecasting for Dartford and Gravesham are slightly lower than actuals. This is due to migration into the urban centres, driven by lower housing costs than London.

South Kent - 1.7% more pupils have sought places in Ashford secondary schools than forecast. This is due to migration into the town, linked to both new and existing housing.

West Kent - The under-forecasting in Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells is predominantly due to a greater than expected number of Year 7 pupils joining the Secondary schools as a result of inward migration and reduced numbers of pupils accessing the independent sector.

4. Progress against Our Targets

- 4.1 The targets which relate to providing sufficient school places are set out in 'Bold Steps for Education', and are reproduced in table 5 below.
- 4.2 Maintaining sufficient surplus capacity in schools across an area is essential both to meet increased demand and to enable parental preferences to be met. We strive to maintain around 5% surplus, which is judged to be an effective operating capacity.
- 4.3 Table 5 below shows that there is less than 5% surplus capacity in Reception classes in seven of the twelve districts of Kent, despite the significant Primary school expansion programme. At this time last year only three districts were below the 5% surplus level. The increase in migration over the past year accounts largely for the lower levels of surplus capacity. Across all Primary school year groups (Reception to Year 6) there is less than 5% surplus capacity in five of the twelve districts of Kent reflecting the inward migration of families, which increases the school rolls across all year groups. At this time last year all districts operated at above the 5% surplus for overall Year Reception to Year 6 school rolls. This reduced surplus capacity must be addressed by the 'basic need' programme for expanding the number of Primary school places available through the new Commissioning Plan for September 2014-2019.
- 4.4 Across the Secondary school age range there is a high percentage of surplus capacity overall, reflecting a period of reduced demand. However, as the increased numbers of Primary aged pupils transfer to Secondary schools over the next few years demand will rise and surplus capacity will return to an effective operating level.

Table 5

Targets	January 2014		
Maintain at least 5% surplus primary capacity in each District.	District	Year R	Yrs R-6
	Ashford	2.3%	3.6%
	Canterbury	5.2%	6.6%
	Dartford	4.8%	2.9%
	Dover	2.8%	10.9%
	Gravesham	3.9%	2.3%
	Maidstone	7.3%	6.4%
	Sevenoaks	9.3%	7.6%
	Shepway	3.8%	6.6%
	Swale	6.1%	2.9%
	Thanet	1.4%	3.1%
	Tonbridge and Malling	3.9%	6.6%
	Tunbridge Wells	11.7%	8.2%
	Kent	5.2%	5.5%
Maintain at least 5% surplus secondary capacity in each travel to learn area.	Area	Year 7	Yrs 7-11
	Dartford, Gravesham & N. Sevenoaks.	12.7%	9.4%
	S. Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Tunbridge Wells.	12.2%	9.3%
	Maidstone & Malling.	15.6%	12.0%
	Ashford	12.6%	7.5%
	Canterbury	11.4%	12.0%
	Dover	12.7%	10.6%
	Shepway	22.0%	17.0%
	Swale	10.1%	6.8%
	Thanet	11.8%	8.3%
		Kent	13.2%

- 4.5 Table 6 below sets out the percentage of families receiving their first and second preferences for admission into Reception classes in Primary Schools and into Year 7 in Secondary Schools, in relation to the targets set.

Table 6

Targets	April 2014
To ensure that at least 85% of families secure their first preference Primary schools; and 95% secure first or second preference schools.	On offer day for September 2014 entry:- Reception children:- 85.0% secured their first preference 90.7% secured their first or second preference.
To ensure that at least 85% of families secure their first preference Secondary schools; and 95% secure first or second preference schools.	Year 7:- 88.1% secured their first preference 95.1% secured their first or second preference

5. Progress in Implementing Review of School Places for SEN Pupils

- 5.1 In January 2014 we formally launched “Kent’s Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) - Working Together Improving Outcomes”. It set 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 encourage a mixed economy of provision across the maintained special schools and mainstream schools in Kent, as well as the highest quality and cost effective independent and non-maintained Special schools where some children and young people are placed. During 2013/14 we held an event to “meet the market” and introduce a new procurement framework for non-maintained schools to work with us. We recognise the importance of improving 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. We have been working with headteachers to identify where we can improve existing arrangements. At the heart of the Strategy are children and their parents; giving them greater choice and control and we have increased the number of opportunities for parents to influence and shape our services.
- 5.2 Fundamental to meeting children’s needs is ensuring that every school can deliver Kent’s SEN core standards and to this end we have launched a Workforce Development Plan to underpin and develop our capacity to meet a wider range of special educational needs in mainstream schools. The district training offer includes training in autism (ASD), behaviour (BESN) and Speech and Language Needs (S&L). This is supported by the devolution of the Specialist Teaching and Learning Service to 12 lead Special schools, alongside resources to increase the range of expertise available through Outreach from Special Schools.
- 5.3 The capital programme to expand the number of places in Special schools has already rebuilt or refurbished 14 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 need to commission further capacity for pupils with ASD, BESN and S&L. The SEND Strategy identified the need to add at least 275 additional places, including 100 in specialist resource bases in mainstream schools and a further 175 places in Kent’s Special schools. 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 are also undertaking consultations on the relocation of some Special schools as a consequence of the capital programme mentioned above. A paper on the progress of this issue was taken to Education Cabinet Committee in March 2014.

Table 7 - Re-designation of Special school numbers

School	Designated Number	Proposed designated number
Bower Grove	146	183
Broomhill Bank	80	136
Five Acre Wood	210	260
Foreland	160	200
Foxwood	122	148
Goldwyn	60	115
Grange Park	79	97
Highview	160	188
Ifield	174	190
Oakley	188	206
Portal House	60	80
Ridge View	164	174
Rowhill	96	106
St Anthony's	96	112
St Nicholas	144	191
TOTAL	2091	2556

- 5.4 We have plans to develop at least 100 additional places for pupils with ASD, BESN and S&L within Specialist Resource Base Provisions (SRBP) in mainstream schools.
- 5.5 Following discussions with individual schools we are undertaking public consultations in the summer term 2014 to establish SRBPs at the schools shown in tables 8 and 9 below. The planned number in each school relates to September 2016. Negotiation is currently ongoing with two Primary schools in Swale and a Secondary school in Thanet for an additional three ASD SRBPs.
- 5.6 The DfE recently published new regulations governing changes to school organisation, including consultations (see Section 6 below) and we therefore plan to conduct the public consultations on these proposals using a combination of distribution by post and email together with a four week publication period on the School Consultation web page of the KCC website.
- 5.7 We are also proposing to expand the Aspen I Unit in Dover by creating 12 satellite places for children with Specific Learning Difficulties (SLD) in Aylesham Primary School, Dover. The consultation on the proposal started in April 2014.

Table 8 - Primary schools		Number of places		
Area/District	School (where agreed)	ASD	BESN	S&L
East Kent		12	8	0
Swale [Sheppey]	T.b.c.	6		
Swale [Sittingbourne]	T.b.c.	6		
Swale	St Mary's Faversham		8	
North Kent		18	0	0
Dartford	York Road Junior Academy	6		
Dartford	Oakfield Primary	12		
South Kent		0	8	12
Dover	River Primary			12
Dover	Nonington Primary		8	
West Kent		0	0	0
Kent Totals		30	16	12

Table 9 - Secondary schools		Number of places		
District	School (where agreed)	ASD	BESN	S&L
Thanet	T.b.c.	15		
Tonbridge & Malling	Holmesdale School	12		
Tonbridge & Malling	The Malling School	15		
		42	0	0

- 5.8 Table 10 sets out the SRBPs that we are establishing in the proposed new Primary schools currently being developed across Kent.

Table 10

Area/District	School (where agreed)	ASD	BESN	S&L
Swale	Thistle Hill Academy, Sheppey		14	
Shepway	East Folkestone Academy	12		
Tonbridge & Malling	Kings Hill Academy	15		
Tonbridge & Malling	Leybourne Lakes Academy		8	
Tonbridge & Malling	Holborough Lakes Academy		8	
Tunbridge Wells	Knights Park Academy	12		
Total		39	30	0

6. Progress in delivering Free Early Education Entitlement

- 6.1 Free early education became a statutory entitlement for eligible two years olds from 1 September 2013, with the local authority having a duty to secure provision. Around 20% of disadvantaged two years olds were eligible for free early education from September 2013. The programme will be extended from September 2014 to include around 40% of two years olds. KCC was given a target to secure 3,095 Free for Two places by September 2013 with an increase to 6501 places by September 2014 (this being the second largest target nationally).
- 6.2 The target to develop 3095 places was achieved by September 2013 and the progress on the target of developing 6501 places is illustrated in the table below.

Table 11

District	Sum of eligible Children in Ward	Sum of Current Shortfall
Ashford	485	103
Canterbury	552	38
Dartford	463	137
Dover	589	41
Gravesham	586	327
Maidstone	570	184
Sevenoaks	278	31
Shepway	564	133
Swale	792	210
Thanet	960	180
Tunbridge & Malling	329	65
Tunbridge Wells	333	32
Kent	6501	1481

6.3 The Gravesham District presents a particular challenge as there is a significant lack of available premises. Existing early years providers in the District have all been approached to provide additional places and where possible this has been achieved. To meet the targets for this District it is intended to further develop places with eligible childminders registered to offer Free for Two places.

6.4 Free early education for three and four year olds has been a universal offer for some years now, with the number of providers in Kent being registered to offer this being as follows:

Private, voluntary and independent providers	691
Childminders	431
Maintained Nursery Units	68

6.5 The take up of early education is universally very high and at close to 100%. The balance of four year olds are in attendance in school Reception classes.

Table 12

January 2014 Headcount	
Number of 3 year olds who claimed funding	18,351
Number of 4 year olds who claimed funding	6,612
Number of providers that claimed funding	985
Number of providers registered*	1,190

6.6 With effect from April 2014, the Free Early Education Entitlement for three and four year olds has been 'stretched', so that where providers are able to accommodate this, it is available during school holidays in addition to the more traditional offer of term time only.

7. Changes to School Organisation Regulations

7.1 On 28 January 2014 new legislation came into force affecting the way in which proposals regarding school organisation are made. The new regulations are

“School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013” and “School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013”. The regulations have amended the ways in which schools, governing bodies and local authorities can make significant changes, for example to the size and characteristics of schools; the opening of new provision under the academy presumption process and the circumstances in which new maintained schools may be established; and the closure of maintained schools. According to the DfE, “The regulations support the government’s aim of increasing school autonomy and reducing bureaucracy. They allow schools to have more control when making decisions about their size and composition and therefore enable them to be more responsive to the needs of parents and local communities.”

Key changes include:-

- a) Governing bodies can expand their schools or change the age range by up to two years (except for adding or removing a sixth form) without undertaking a formal statutory process.
- b) There are no longer any prescribed “pre-publication” consultation periods for school organisation changes. Local Authorities and governing bodies need to act rationally and take into account all relevant considerations. This gives us greater flexibility in our consultation process.
- c) Where statutory notices need to be published the representation period has reduced to four weeks.

These changes limit the ability of the local authority to fulfil the role of commissioner of school places. The regulations enable a school to expand in response to increasing popularity among parents but in doing so may render other local schools more vulnerable to reducing school roles and potential closure if there is already a surplus of school places in the area.

8. Next Steps

- 8.1 We propose to address the reducing surplus capacity of Primary school places through specific proposals for the expansion of school places in the new Education Commissioning Plan in September 2014.
- 8.2 We propose to monitor the trend of increasing inward migration and develop a profiling analysis of the increasing population to enable appropriate school provision and services to be planned and provided.
- 8.3 We propose to explore innovative solutions to creating a sufficiency of school places, including the creation of all-age schools. This will assist in ensuring we have sufficient Primary school places, whilst utilising surplus Secondary school accommodation at this time.
- 8.4 The closure of Chaucer Technology School, scheduled to take place in September 2015, highlighted how quickly a school can become vulnerable to reduced pupil numbers. A significant drop in pupil numbers, reflecting loss of parental confidence in the school, a serious budget deficit and low forecast pupil numbers combined to make closure unavoidable. One of our new priorities during 2014-15 will be to consider the potential vulnerability of other Secondary schools in the County due to reducing numbers and school budgets, where the places are needed, so that plans can be brought forward to ensure their future viability.

- 8.5 We propose to continue reviewing the separate infant and junior schools in the County. Current KCC policy sets out the need to consider amalgamation or federation of separate Infant and Junior schools where circumstances permit, for example in the event of a change of leadership in one school or where governors wish it. We propose that this policy should remain. We also propose to explore ways to support parents of children in Infant Schools to secure a Year 3 place at a school in areas where Junior schools have changed their status to become all through Primary schools.
- 8.6 The January 2014 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 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.
- 8.7 It is proposed that the next iteration of the Plan for 2014-19 will broadly follow the format of the current Plan. The Draft Plan will be brought to Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee in September 2014 for consideration.
- 8.8 An additional statutory duty is to ensure the availability of childcare provision for school aged children up to 14 universally and up to 18 where a young person has a special educational need and/is in the care of the Local Authority. Out of school childcare provision may be either registered by Ofsted, or in cases where this is not required, available on an unregistered basis by schools and other providers. Unregistered provision makes it difficult to assess supply across the county. In this context, a survey of schools non registered out of school childcare has recently been commissioned and is well underway. The current response rate from schools is 77%. This information, added to that about registered provision, will give us a more comprehensive picture of current supply. This will be available on a countywide, district and area basis and will also be provided to schools collaborations by their bespoke geographical areas. Advice and support will be available to schools and collaborations regarding establishing out of school childcare to fill identified gaps in supply.

9. Recommendation:

The Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee is asked to consider the report and note the progress achieved and the issues identified for further development.

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 Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-2018

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

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Appendix 1

District	Planning Area	Short Term Commissioning intentions set out in September 2013	March 2014 position
Maidstone	Across Maidstone	The Jubilee Free School is expected to provide an additional 2FE from September 2014	The Jubilee Free School is expected to provide 1 FE from September 2014.
Maidstone	Maidstone North	Not shown	Commissioned additional 15 temporary places at North Borough Junior School for September 2014.
Tunbridge Wells	Hawkhurst & Sandhurst	We will commission 30 additional year R places for September 2014	Commissioned 5 temporary places at Sandhurst Primary School
Tunbridge Wells	Hawkhurst & Sandhurst	Not shown	The Wells Free School is offering 24 permanent places per year (0.8FE)
Tunbridge Wells	Tunbridge Wells Urban	Commission an additional 2FE of additional Primary capacity linked to the Knights Park development on a site yet to be determined (subject to the development of core local strategy and housing development) for September 2015.	Site determined and S106 agreed for new primary provision linked to the Knights Park development. Competition to seek proposers underway, announcement expected by Secretary of State May 2014. Academy due to open September 2015.
Tonbridge & Malling	Kings Hill & Mereworth	Commission 30 places for Year R in 2014 at Kings Hill School	Temporary places commissioned for September 2014.
Tonbridge & Malling	Kings Hill & Mereworth	Commission the first FE of a new Primary school in Kings Hill for September 2015.	Commissioning process complete. Proposer identified – Valley Invicta Academies Trust. Academy is due to open September 2015.
Tonbridge & Malling	Larkfield & Leybourne	Undertake community consultation on the provision of additional school places to serve the Leybourne Chase development.	Commissioning process complete. Proposer identified – Valley Invicta Academies Trust. Academy is due to open September 2015.
Tonbridge & Malling	Snodland	Commission a new 1 FE primary school linked to the Holborough Lakes development for September 2015.	Commissioning process complete. Proposer identified – Valley Invicta Academies Trust. Academy is due to open September 2015.
Tonbridge & Malling	Tonbridge North/ South/ Hildenborough	Commission up to 30 additional Year R places for September 2014.	0.5 form of entry commissioned at Slade Primary School. Public Notice expired end February 2014.
Tonbridge & Malling	Tonbridge North/ South / Hildenborough	Commission up to 30 additional Year R places for September 2014.	Commissioned 15 temporary places at St Margaret Clitherow RC Primary School

District	Planning Area	Short Term Commissioning intentions set out in September 2013	March 2014 position
Dartford	Swanscombe & Greenhithe	Consult on expansion of Knockhall PS from 2FE to 3FE for September 2014.	Consultation completed. Permanent expansion on hold following standards issues
Dartford	Dartford West	Not shown	Temporary expansion of Holy Trinity PS from 1.5FE to 2FE.
Dartford	Joydens & Maypole	Not shown	Permanent expansion of Joydens Wood IS from 2.33FE to 3FE.
Dartford	Dartford North	Not shown	Temporary expansion of Temple Hill PS from 2FE to 3FE.
Gravesham	Gravesend North	Consult on expansion of Chantry PS from 1FE to 2FE for September 2014.	Consultation completed. School expanded for 2014
Gravesham	Gravesham East	Expansion of Kings Farm PS from 1.7 FE to 2FE for September 2014.	Permanent expansion providing 8 extra Year R places
Gravesham	Northfleet	Consult on expansion of Lawn PS from 20 PAN to 1FE for September 2014.	Consultation completed for permanent expansion for September 2014
Gravesham	Northfleet	Temporary one year expansion of St Joseph's Catholic PS from 1FE to 2FE for September 2014.	Temporary expansion
Sevenoaks	Sevenoaks Rural South	Expansion of Chiddingstone CE PS from PAN of 25 to 1FE for September 2014.	Permanent expansion providing extra 5 places
Sevenoaks	Swanley	Expansion of St Bartholomew's Catholic PS from 1.5FE to 1.66FE for September 2014.	Permanent expansion providing extra 5 places
Sevenoaks	Sevenoaks	The Sevenoaks Christian Free School will provide 120 Year 7 places from September 2013. Planned total capacity of 600.	Trinity Free School opened in September 2013.
Ashford	Ashford South East	1FE expansion of Furley Park PS is being commissioned for September 2014.	Public Consultation process completed. The School converted to Academy status on 1.11.13. Awaiting decision from SoS regarding changes to the funding agreement.
Ashford	Ashford South East	(2016-17): Subject to commencement of Cheeseman's Green housing development commission the first form of entry of a new 2FE primary school.	We are proposing to start seeking promoters for the new academy/free school in June 2014 with a view to opening the school off site in September 2015 and relocating it to its new building in September 2016.

District	Planning Area	Short Term Commissioning intentions set out in September 2013	March 2014 position
Shepway	Folkestone East	30 Bulge Reception Year places will be needed in 2014/15 (school to be identified).	School not yet identified due to site constraints.
Shepway	Folkestone East	(2015-16): We are commissioning a new 1FE school for September 2015.	Commissioning process complete. Proposer identified – Lilac Sky. Academy is due to open September 2015.
Shepway	Folkestone West	30 Bulge Reception Year places will be commissioned in 2014/15 (school to be identified).	Cheriton PS has been commissioned to admit an additional Year R class for September 2014.
Shepway	Secondary	2FE of capacity has been de-commissioned at Pent Valley School with effect from September 2014.	The school has completed the process.
Dover	Dover Town	We will commission 30 bulge Reception Year places for September 2014. (2015-16): We are proposing a 1FE expansion of White Cliffs Primary College of the Arts for September 2015.	St Martin's PS has been commissioned to admit up to 30 additional Year R pupils for 2014/15 only. Public Consultation process completed. Awaiting decision from SoS regarding changes to the funding agreement.
Dover	Whitfield	Commission 15 bulge Reception Year places for September 2014	White Cliffs Primary College for the Arts will provide for up to 30 additional reception children in September 2014. Feasibility work has been commissioned to look at possible future expansion of a school in or close to Whitfield.
Dover	St Margarets at Cliffe	Work with local schools to ensure all local pupils are placed.	Guston CEPS has changed its admission number from 22 to 30.
Canterbury	Whitstable	Not shown	30 temporary places commissioned at Joy Lane PS for September 2014
Canterbury	Whitstable	(2015) We will commission one form of entry in Whitstable.	Permanent expansion of Joy Lane PS is proposed from September 2015 and the consultation process has started
Swale	Sittingbourne (East, North and South)	Permanent expansion of The Westlands Primary School, Lansdowne Primary School and Lower Halstow School will provide an additional 2.3 forms of entry	The Swale Academy Trust consulted on permanent expansion of The Westlands Primary School from September 2013 and the permanent expansion is underway.

District	Planning Area	Short Term Commissioning intentions set out in September 2013	March 2014 position
			<p>Consultation on permanent expansion of Lansdowne PS has been completed. The school will expand from 1FE to 2FE from September 2014.</p> <p>Consultation on permanent expansion of Lower Halstow PS has been completed. The school will expand to 1FE (adding 10 places per year group) from September 2014.</p>
Swale	Sheerness, Queenborough and Rushenden, Halfway and Minster, Eastchurch and Warden Bay	<p>The forecast Reception Year increase will be managed through temporary arrangements with schools until permanent solutions are agreed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halfway Houses – 30 places • Eastchurch – 30 places <p>Discussions are taking place with Sheppey primary schools to identify further options for temporary expansion.</p>	<p>30 temporary places commissioned at Halfway Houses PS for September 2014. (Planned to become permanent from September 2016 when the school is rebuilt through Priority Schools Building funding.)</p> <p>30 temporary places commissioned at Eastchurch CEPS for September 2014</p>
Swale	Queenborough and Rushenden,	Not shown	30 temporary places commissioned at Queenborough Primary School and Nursery for September 2014
Swale	Sheerness	Not shown	30 temporary places commissioned at Rose Street School for September 2014. Consultation will start on permanent expansion.
Swale	Thistle Hill	Not shown.	The Longer Term Commissioning Position indicated a need to commission additional provision at Thistle Hill. This has been brought forward and the new school will open in September 2015.
Swale	Faversham	Permanent expansion of Bysing Wood Primary School, Ethelbert Road Primary School and Ospringe CE Primary School will provide an additional 1.5 FE.	Ethelbert Road and Bysing Wood will permanently expand from September 2014. Ospringe CEPS expansion will not continue as planning agreement for the additional accommodation has not been obtained.
Swale	(secondary)	An additional 25 Year 7 places have been commissioned on a permanent basis at Fulston Manor School.	Additional 25 places added for September 2014 Year 7 entry.

District	Planning Area	Short Term Commissioning intentions set out in September 2013	March 2014 position
Thanet	Ramsgate	The commissioning of permanent expansion of Newington Community Primary School & Nursery to provide an additional 1 FE.	The consultation on permanent expansion from 2FE to 3FE has been completed and expansion is underway.
Thanet	Broadstairs	The commissioning of permanent expansion of Bromstone Primary School to provide an additional 1 FE.	Consultation on permanent expansion from September 2014 has been completed and expansion is underway.
Thanet	Margate	We will commission an additional one form of entry at Cliftonville Primary School.	Consultation has been completed by the Academy Trust and permanent expansion will be from September 2015.
Thanet	Birchington & Garlinge	We will commission an additional one form of entry at Garlinge Primary School.	Consultation on permanent expansion to 4FE from September 2014 has been completed.