

Appendix 1: Progress on Select Committee recommendations

Viewing grammar school as a potential option

Securing a grammar school place

Recommendation 1: As the champion of pupils, parents and families, KCC will work with all primary school Headteachers to identify those most academically able pupils and discuss with parents the opportunity to put their child forward for the Kent Test.

Recommendation 8: KCC to monitor and challenge the proportion of pupils supported by the Pupil Premium (PP) who go on to grammar school.

Recommendation 9: KCC School Improvement Advisers to work with Primary Headteachers to consider how the most academically able pupils supported by the Pupil Premium are being identified and assisted to progress.

Lead Officer:	Anton Francic Head of Standards and School Improvement
Deadline for completion of work:	Recommendations 1 and 9 – actioned September 2016 Recommendation 8 – July 2017
Deadline for assessment of impact:	September 2018

Actions being taken:

These recommendations are being addressed through the visit programme of School Improvement Advisers in primary schools. Advisers are using data to identify more able vulnerable learners, in particular those in receipt of free school meals, with school leaders (including governors) and challenge attainment and rates of progress. They will additionally discuss the numbers of disadvantaged pupils who go on to grammar school. Where appropriate, advisers will recommend Pupil Premium review where performance gaps are not closing rapidly.

In addition a Senior Improvement Adviser for Closing Gaps was appointed in June 2016 to provide a strategic lead across the county in reducing the attainment gap for all vulnerable learners. A priority in this role is to identify and promote effective practice in closing attainment gaps and this includes more able pupils in receipt of Free School Meals. Dissemination of effective practice will be through headteacher briefings, conferences and the creation of a Vulnerable Learners' Strategy website. In addition, an online toolkit aimed at schools and promoting effective approaches for raising the attainment of Pupil Premium pupils is currently being developed and will be launched in Term 3.

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Recommendation 6: Identify a dedicated education professional in the Virtual School Kent to provide support and guidance to foster carers on appropriate secondary school destinations, as well as support through the secondary schools appeal process for children in their care, to be tracked through their Personal Education Plan.

Recommendation 7: Publish information on Pupil Premium spend for children in care on the Virtual School Kent website, including support for pupils from Key Stage 1 through to Key Stage 2, and detail on the type of secondary school destinations for these children.

Lead Officer:	Tony Doran Head of Virtual School Kent (VSK)
Deadline for completion of work:	Recommendation 6 – actioned July 2016 Recommendation 7 – actioned July-October 2016
Deadline for assessment of impact:	September 2018

Action being taken:

A lead member of the VSK team was appointed in July 2016 to lead the actions in this area. The role has a responsibility to liaise with the School Improvement Team and facilitate a training programme for foster carers, liaise with fostering teams to promote this training and raise awareness of the support available from VSK particularly in relation to appeal processes. The role provides a point of contact for foster carers and social workers to provide information related to Grammar school applications and appeals and will establish a register of Children in Care attending Grammar schools to ensure they are receiving appropriate support via their Personal Education Plans.

The role also provides advice and training as necessary for Grammar school staff to ensure Children in Care have any additional support required. In addition, Children in Care currently in Key Stage 2 will be reviewed to identify pupils who have the academic ability to be considered for Grammar school provision.

The post holder will review Pupil Premium information published on the VSK website to ensure that details of all support offered to Children in Care in the primary phase is detailed on the site. They will also ensure that data is published on the site to show how many Kent Children in Care attend grammar schools and the support offered to professionals when a Grammar school destination for a Year 7 pupil is being considered. The role will also ensure that VSK staff members promote applications to grammar schools where this is judged to be the appropriate destination school.

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Recommendation 10: If not already in place, schools should follow best practice and nominate a lead governor for the Pupil Premium and how children in receipt of this are being supported to apply for the school most appropriate for them.

Lead Officer: Anton Francic
Head of Standards and School Improvement

Deadline for completion of work: September 2016 and ongoing

Deadline for assessment of impact: September 2018

Action being taken:

Area Governance Officers check and where necessary challenge schools to ensure that Governing Bodies have a lead governor for Pupil Premium. As well as monitoring the use of Pupil Premium funding in the school, the lead governor's role is to challenge the Governing Body to ensure that all Pupil Premium pupils achieve their full potential, including the most able.

The Governance team provide training for Pupil Premium governors to enable them to understand outcomes data and hold to school leaders to account on the performance of disadvantaged learners. The Governance team is also offering Pupil Premium reviews where schools require further support in identifying where improvements can be made.

This academic year the Area Governance Officers will be monitoring school websites regularly and providing reminders to schools to ensure that all schools publish their Pupil Premium Strategy, in line with legal requirements.

Removing financial barriers to grammar schools

Recommendation 12: KCC to extend the existing entitlement for children on Free School Meals to free school transport to their nearest appropriate school to all children in receipt of Pupil Premium.

Recommendation 13: KCC should raise the low income threshold to £21k to enable pupils from low income families but not entitled to Free School Meals to access free transport to their nearest appropriate secondary school

Recommendation 14: KCC to create a schools focused supplementary transport bursary, that would enable grammar schools and other types of schools where appropriate, to provide bespoke transport solutions especially for children from rural areas without bus services to enable better access to grammar schools

Lead Officer: Scott Bagshaw
Head of Fair Access

Deadline for completion of work: April 2017

Deadline for assessment of impact: From September 2017

Action being taken:

In line with these three recommendations we will review existing transport policies and bring forward proposals for Members to consider a new transport policy which encompasses the recommended changes. In order to implement recommendations 12, 13 and 14 KCC Cabinet is required to determine a new County Transport Policy which will require a formal consultation in advance of any report and recommendations being presented. It is anticipated a new policy for consideration and consultation will be developed by the end of December 2016. Once new transport policy is implemented officers will need to amend existing information for parents and liaise with schools as to the operation of a bursary fund as proposed in recommendation 14.

In respect of recommendation 13 detailed work will have to be undertaken to develop a process for the potential means testing that is required. Proposals to Members on all three recommendations will identify the additional financial and staffing resource that will be required to implement these recommendations for April 2017. To ensure delivery of these recommendations this additional funding will need to be included in the 2017-18 Education and Young People's Services budget.

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Recommendation 3: KCC should target all children eligible for Pupil Premium and children from areas of low registration for the Kent Test, providing detailed information on the Kent Test process and their transport entitlements.

Recommendation 4: All grammar schools should provide more outreach to primary schools including after school classes in English and mathematics, mentoring and preparation for the Kent Test for primary aged pupils in Yrs 4-6 including those most academically able children in receipt of the Pupil Premium.

Recommendation 5: Urge all Primary Headteachers to utilise Headteacher Assessment Panels within the Kent Test process to advocate for those most academically able children supported by the Pupil Premium.

Lead Officer:	Scott Bagshaw Head of Fair Access
Deadline for completion of work:	Recommendation 3 & 4 – Spring 2017 Recommendation 5 – Completed October 2016
Deadline for assessment of impact:	September 2018

Action being taken:

Primary schools have already been encouraged them to use their headteacher assessment panels as per recommendation 5. This was completed prior to the 2016 Headteacher assessment stage of the selection process. The wording for the Information for Primary Schools booklets will be revised to emphasise the need for schools to target their support for the borderline pupil premium children in time for the 2017 selection process.

We will be writing to all grammar schools and primary schools to encourage them to adopt recommendations 3 and 4 with a Social Mobility Pack providing operational guidance to assist schools in implementing the recommendations. This will also include a data pack around pupil premium information and case studies prepared by School Improvement colleagues evidencing the outreach and monitoring already provided by some schools.

Primary schools in areas of low registration for the Kent Test will be sent promotional material to encourage take up of more able children from low income families.

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Recommendation 2: Grammar schools should engage fully with parents and families to address misconceptions and promote the offer grammar schools can make to all students irrespective of background

Recommendation 11: Urge all grammar schools to use multiple uniform providers to minimise costs and subsidise/cover the costs of schools trips and other expenses for pupils from low income families to ensure these are not prohibitive factors to children applying for or securing a grammar school place

Lead Officer: Scott Bagshaw
Head of Fair Access

Deadline for completion of work: Spring 2017

Deadline for assessment of impact: September 2018

Action being taken:

The Social Mobility pack provided to all grammar schools will include guidance on targeted parental engagement in order to promote the grammar school offer to all children. The pack will also provide a list of feeder primary schools to help grammar schools target outreach activity and guidance on how to incorporate clearer information on school websites explaining the support that is available for pupils from lower income families. The pack will also include guidance on the specific support schools can offer on school uniform, school trips and other potentially prohibitive for lower income families.

Increasing fair access to grammar schools

Recommendation 15: To invite grammar schools to fully consider the disadvantaged children eligible for Pupil Premium support face and take action within their oversubscription admissions criteria. Where this fails to happen we will expect KCC to challenge the determined admissions arrangements.

Recommendation 16: Urge all “super selective” grammar schools to allocate a number of places for pupils registered in that academic year for Pupil Premium support and who achieve an appropriate combined test score in the Kent Test. We would also invite these schools to review the impact of “super selection” on social mobility in their areas.

Lead Officer: Scott Bagshaw
Head of Fair Access

Deadline for completion of work: November 2016

Deadline for assessment of impact: September 2018 – September 2019

Action being taken:

We will be writing to all grammar schools specifically in relation to admissions arrangements to promote these two recommendations. For community and Voluntary Controlled grammar schools in Kent we will consult on amending admission over-subscription criteria to include priority for pupil premium children. In addition we will write to all other grammar schools that have their own admissions arrangements to urge consideration of these recommendations.

All super selective grammar schools will be written to separately, with data on the impact of super selection on social mobility in their areas, asking that they introduce changes to their admission arrangements in order to increase the number of places for pupils with pupil premium. The Social Mobility Pack sent to all grammar schools will provide more detailed guidance on ways in which super selective grammars could attract a greater proportion of children from low income families into their grammar school.