

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,

Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

16/00141

For publication

**Subject: Proposal to make changes to Stone Bay (Community Special) School from September 2017**

Decision:

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

- a) Authorise the Corporate Director - Education and Young People's Services to issue Public Notice to:
- Change the age range of the school from 11-19 years to 8-19 years
  - Increase the designated number of the school from 66 to 80
  - Change the residential placements from fortnightly to weekly boarding, Monday to Thursday, term time only. The maximum number of residential places will be 30.
- b) Allocate £30k from the Education and Young People's Service Capital budget;
- c) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the General Counsel to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council; and
- d) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts. Variations to contract value to be no more than 10% above the capital funding agreed by the Cabinet Member without requiring a new Record Of Decision.

Should objections, not already considered by the Cabinet Member when taking this decision, be received during the public 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:

The 'Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and who are Disabled' (SEND Strategy) "has a priority to create at least 275 additional places for ASD and BESN". In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

- The need for the school to change the age range to provide KS2 classes and meet the local need;
- The need for the school to increase its designated number to provide the additional KS2 classes;
- The need for the school to change its residential offer from fortnightly to weekly boarding for financial reasons;
- The views expressed by those responding to the consultation;
- The views of the local County Councillors, Area Education Officer; Headteacher and Governing

Body of Stone Bay School;

- The Equalities Impact Assessment and comments received regarding this; and
- the views of the Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee which are set out below

### **Implications of the proposal to cease fortnightly boarding**

I have also taken into consideration the discussions with Social Care, Health and Wellbeing. Having met with the Area Education Officer, Director Disabled Children, Head of Public Health Commissioning, Social Care, Health and Wellbeing and Commissioning Manager (Children) Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, to discuss the analysis of the impact of the proposal to cease fortnightly boarding, there has been agreement on how the families affected by the proposal can be supported and the alternative options for provision available. It is the intention that the packages of care for the students impacted by this decision will be amended to facilitate additional support around their current family situation alongside a weekly boarding placement.

For future placements, the intention is to bring forward an adjustment to the current commissioning approach taken to support young people with disability and complex needs and their families. The change will have to be reflected in the revised SEND Strategy and align with the intentions and principles of Transforming Care. The emphasis of the revised approach will be in providing individualised packages of support built around supporting the family unit and the principles for future placements and packages of care will work to keep young people as local as possible and within their family as long as possible, commissioning education, care and health support in an integrated way.

### **Financial Implications**

- a. Capital – A feasibility study has been completed to provide the school with additional classrooms for the new Key Stage 2 provision. This involves some reconfiguration and refurbishment of existing accommodation. The estimated cost of this work is £30k.
- 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. Revenue funding will also be allocated to enable the School to resource the new classroom. At present that is at a value of £6,000 per classroom.
- c. Human – The School is currently going through a staff restructure as the proposals include a reduction in the residential offer. There will be a few redundancies as a result of this restructure. The Local Authority will only fund redundancies where these are necessitated by budget constraints.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

RESOLVED that, subject to the addition of the costs of the accommodation works, now confirmed as £30,000, and to the completion of the impact analysis of the proposed changes to the boarding model, the decision proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform, to:

- a) authorise the Corporate Director of Education and Young People's Services to issue a Public Notice to:
  - i. change the age range of the school from 11-19 years to 8-19 years
  - ii. increase the designated number of the school from 66 to 80; and
  - iii. change the residential placements from fortnightly to weekly boarding, Monday to Thursday, term time only, the maximum number of residential places to be 30;
- b) allocate funding of £30,000 from the Education and Young People's Service Capital budget for the accommodation works;

- c) authorise the Director of Infrastructure, in consultation with General Counsel, to enter into any necessary contracts/agreements on behalf of the County Council; and
- d) authorise the Director of Infrastructure to be the nominated authority representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations, as envisaged under the contracts, variations to contract value to be no more than 10% above the capital funding agreed by the Cabinet Member without requiring a new key decision,

be endorsed.

Any alternatives considered:

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



15<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**Signed**

**Date**