

From: Matt Dunkley, Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education

To: Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education

Subject: Proposed establishment of a Specialist Resource Provision at The Judd School

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: 15 January 2018 - the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2018-22 – Cabinet

22 November 2017 - Tunbridge Wells Secondary Pressures: Proposed expansions of schools in West Kent – Children’s, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee

8 May 2018 – Children’s, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee

Future Pathway of Paper: Leader Decision

Decision Number: 18/00019

Electoral Division: Richard Long TD and Michael Payne – Tonbridge.

Summary:

This report sets out proposal to establish a Specialist Resource Provision at The Judd School.

Recommendation(s):

The Leader and Cabinet Member for Traded Services and Health Reform is asked to agree to:

- (i) Establish a new Specialist Resource Provision for up to 20 students with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) for autistic spectrum disorders (ASD) at The Judd School, Brook Street, Tonbridge TN9 2PN.
- (ii) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with General Counsel to enter into any necessary contracts/agreements on behalf of the County Council.
- (iii) 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.

1. Introduction

1.1 As the strategic commissioner of school provision, the Local Authority (LA) has a duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places for the residents

of Kent as set out in Kent's Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2018-22.

- 1.2 Kent County Council's Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) 2017-2019 identified the need to add additional provision across the county. The SEND Strategy shows the need to create 209 extra places in special schools and 164 in mainstream schools.
- 1.3 Around 3.0% of the total school population for which the Local Authority is responsible have Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), which are legal documents that describe the help given to students who have the greatest difficulty learning. A small number of students with EHCPs 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 students we maintain a range of Specialist Resource Provisions (SRPs) which are based in mainstream schools with places reserved for students with an EHCP.
- 1.4 KCC has recognised that parents of high functioning pupils with autism spectrum conditions are ambitious for their children and would like them to be supported in mainstream schools where they have access to high quality subject specialist teachers and access to specialist teaching facilities. The students attending the SRP will be those who experience difficulty with communicating and interacting with other people, but are suitable for a mainstream grammar school. Parents in West Kent have therefore asked the Council to develop mainstream provision in addition to special schools.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 KCC want to build upon the existing provision of The Judd School by establishing a SRP within the school for students with an EHCP for autistic spectrum disorders (ASD).
- 2.2 The Judd School is being asked to host a new SRP for up to 20 students with ASD, or up to 4 per year group. The Local Authority recognises that the school has already invested in developing its staff expertise in ASD and will continue to do so, to create an ASD friendly environment across the whole school and the proposal builds on this. The school is happy to host the SRP and is confident that its staff have the relevant expertise and skills to meet the needs of these students.
- 2.3 An Equality Impact Assessments have been completed for The Judd's education consultation to comply with the Council's equality duty to have due regard to equality considerations when proposing school expansions and commissioning additional school capacity.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 **Capital** – There is no additional capital expenditure required for this proposal. The accommodation required for the SRP will be provided as part of the approved expansion of the school to 6 forms of entry (Record of Decision 17/00108).

- 3.2 **Revenue** - Each place will typically cost approximately £14,000 in funding per year, which will enable the school to provide the additional support necessary to help these students make good social and academic progress.
- 3.3 **Human** - The schools will appoint additional staff as and when appropriate.

4. Raising Standards

- 4.1 The Judd was rated outstanding by Ofsted in May 2015. In the findings for Quality of Teaching it was noted that ‘the school, with support from the local authority, has worked tirelessly to raise the quality of teaching. As a result, over time, teaching is outstanding and students continue to make excellent progress in English and mathematics, as well as across all of their subjects.
- 4.2 Lessons are typically characterised by high expectations, strong subject knowledge and activities that challenge students to deepen and extend their learning further. Teachers know their students very well and use this knowledge to encourage, support, engage and challenge the learning of individual students in the class.’

5. Policy Framework

- 5.1 These proposals will help to secure our ambition “to ensure that Kent’s young people have access to the education, work and skills opportunities necessary to support Kent business to grow and be increasingly competitive in the national and international economy” as set out in ‘Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council’s Strategic Statement (2015-2020)’
- 5.2 These proposals reflect KCC’s aspirations to provide sufficient school places across the County, as set out in Kent’s Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2018-22.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 An education consultation was completed prior to the Cabinet Committee. Approximately 1200 hard copies of the consultation document were circulated, which included a form for written responses. The consultation document was distributed to parents/carers, school staff and governors, County Councillors, Member of Parliament, the Diocesan Authorities, local libraries, Parish Councils, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council and others. The consultation document was posted on the KCC website and the link to the website widely circulated. An opportunity was also provided to send in written responses via response form, email and online.
- 6.2 A public drop-in event was held on 14 March 2018, 4:30 – 6:30pm. It had been advertised on the KCC and school websites and in the consultation documents.

- 6.3 Following the closure of the consultation period 87 positive responses were received, 6 were negative and 6 were undecided, bringing the total to 99 responses. A summary of all written responses is available in Appendix B. The Leader has been passed a copy of the full set of responses for his consideration.

7. Views

7.1 The View of the Local Members

Richard Long TD KCC Member for Tonbridge has been consulted on and fully supports the proposal for the Judd School.

Michael Payne, KCC Member for Tonbridge has been consulted on the proposal for the Judd School.

7.2 The View of the Headteacher and Chair of Governors

The Governing Body is fully supportive of this proposal which will enable the school to use their knowledge and expertise to the full and accommodate local West Kent students with ASD in a caring, nurturing environment

7.3 The View of the Area Education Officer

The Area Education Officer for West Kent fully supports this proposal and feels that it would provide much needed ASD places in West Kent. There is currently no provision for high functioning students with ASD within West Kent and this results in extended travel to learn times for students, which impacts negatively on their chances of reaching their academic potential.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1 This report sets out the proposal to establish a SRP at The Judd School for up to 20 students with EHCPs for ASD. This provision would build on The Judd's existing expertise for supporting ASD students and offer essential places for high functioning students with ASD in the West Kent area. The proposal has the full backing of the school, the governing body and the vast majority of those who responded to the public consultation.

9. Recommendation(s)

The Leader and Cabinet Member for Traded Services and Health Reform is asked to agree to:

- (iv) Establish a new Specialist Resource Provision for up to 20 students with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) for autistic spectrum disorders (ASD) at The Judd School, Brook Street, Tonbridge TN9 2PN.
- (v) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with General Counsel to enter into any necessary contracts/agreements on behalf of the County Council.

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| (vi) 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. |
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10. Background Documents

- 10.1 Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement 2015-2020 <http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/corporate-policies/increasing-opportunities-improving-outcomes>
- 10.2 Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2018-2022 https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/66990/Kent-Commissioning-Plan-for-Education-Provision-2018-22.pdf
- 10.3 Kent County Council's Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) 2017-2019 https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0012/13323/Strategy-for-children-with-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities.pdf

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