

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

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To: Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee – 10 July 2018

Subject: Review of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education 2018-22

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary:

This report informs Members of the progress made in implementing the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education 2018-22 since its adoption by Cabinet in January 2018.

Recommendation(s):

The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to **NOTE** the progress achieved and the issues identified for further development and **CONSIDER** the report prior to the next version of the Commissioning Plan in autumn 2018.

1. Introduction

1.1 In January 2018 Kent County Council published the latest Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2018-22. This set out how the County Council, as Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision, will provide sufficient good quality provision across all types and phases of education, in the right locations, to meet the demands of increased pupil numbers and parental preferences. The Plan is updated annually.

1.2 This report reviews the progress made since the Plan's production. It covers:

- 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 SEND pupils;
- Progress and achievements in relation to Early Years provision; and
- Progress and achievements in relation to Post-16 commissioning.

1.3 In summary, this Review demonstrates that:

- For September 2018, KCC has commissioned 9.5FE of the 10 FE new Secondary provision identified in the KCP 2018-22. In addition, 318 of the anticipated 400 temporary Year 7 places have been commissioned, giving a

total of 603 extra Year 7 places. In comparison only 0.1FE of Primary provision was commissioned by KCC and no temporary places have been added in any Primary year group¹. This is 1FE and 30 temporary Year R places lower than set out in the Plan.

- The commitment to rebuild or refurbish our Special schools is almost complete with the last project (the rebuild of Portal House -Dover) in its final phase of construction.
- Our forecasting methodology is accurate to within the +/- 1% target. We over forecast Year R pupils by 0.6% and total Primary rolls by 0.3%. Year 7 pupils were 0.9% under forecast and all Secondary school pupils 0.7% over forecast.
- Surplus capacity in the Primary school sector is at 10.4% in Reception Year and 5.1% across all Primary school year groups. The surplus capacity of Year R places varies across the Districts with 6.7% in Dartford to 13.5% in Sevenoaks. Across Years R-6 surplus capacity varies from 0.6% in Dartford to 8.8% in Sevenoaks. The high Year R surplus capacity was expected and reflects the significant drop in the birth rate seen in 2013. Since that point births have risen, and surplus capacity will reduce.
- Surplus capacity across the Secondary school sector is at 8.0% in Year 7 and at 9.4% across all years. The surplus capacity will reduce as the larger Primary school cohorts move into the Secondary sector. Indeed, 9.5FE of provision has been added in Year 7 for September 2018 to ensure sufficient places. The surplus capacity of Year 7 places varies across travel to learn areas with the range being 3.1% in Folkestone & Hythe to 13.5% in the Ashford travel to learn area. Across Years 7-11 surplus capacity varies from 4.5% across the travel to learn area of Canterbury to 15.7% in Dover.
- 89.5% of parents secured their 1st preference Primary school place for September 2018. This is above the target of 87%. The picture was slightly different for Secondary provision with 79.6% securing their 1st preference against the target of 83%. However, just over 450 more pupils secured their preferred Secondary school than in the previous year.

2. Progress in Expanding the Number of School Places

- 2.1 Changes to the number of school places available happen for a variety of reasons- KCC commissions both temporary and permanent places, schools which are their own admissions authority may offer places above their published admissions number, and temporary places available in one year may not be available in subsequent years. Details below cover KCC commissioned places against commissioning intentions, gross additional places added and net changes.
- 2.2 Gross Change - For admission in September 2018 there are eight Primary schools offering significant numbers of extra places, adding 225 Year R places between them. 27 Secondary schools have made a further 996 Year 7 places available for this September. In some cases, these additional places will be temporary – and also have been offered for September 2017 entry. Not all of these will have been ‘commissioned’ by KCC.
- 2.2 Across all Kent schools, the net change to the number of places being offered for September 2018 entry (compared with September 2017 entry) is an increase of 34 Year R places (17 schools increasing and 13 schools reducing) and an increase of

¹This does not include any places commissioned in previous iterations of the KCP for delivery in 2018-19.

99 Year 7 places (16 schools increasing and 19 schools reducing). This is because some schools which have offered a temporary increase in their intake for one or more previous years, are unable to continue to do so and have reverted to their (lower) determined admission numbers.

- 2.3 Figure 2.1 summarises new places identified in the 2018- 22 Commissioning Plan as needing to be commissioned by September 2018 and compares this to the places delivered by May 2018.

Figure 2.1: Comparison of need identified by September 2018 with places delivered by May 2018

	Primary		Secondary	
	Permanent Year R	Temporary Year R	Permanent Year 7	Temporary Year 7
Need identified in Plan	1.1FE	30	10FE	400
Places delivered	0.1FE	0	9.5FE	318
Difference	-1FE	-30	-0.5FE	-82

- 2.2 Figures 2.2 and 2.3 set out the variations between what we planned to commission and what we have commissioned for September 2018.

Figure 2.2: Variations between the commissioning intentions for Primary school provision and September 2018 delivery

District	Planning Area	To be Commissioned by 2018-19	Variation	Reason	Impact
Gravesham	Northfleet	1FE (of 2FE) in Springhead Park	Deferred by Department for Education (DfE) to 2020 at the earliest.	The DfE project management team was falling behind of the timelines to open for 2018.	Small negative impact- Although the current demand has been accommodated in neighbouring Primary schools, some parents would have had to travel further to access school places. There are 8.8% surplus places for September 2018, but these are all located in one of the 6 schools in the planning area, leaving little choice for parents who apply late or move in.
Maidstone	Maidstone North/ Central and South/ Maidstone West/ Maidstone East	30 temporary Year R places	No additional places commissioned.	Detailed analysis of applications submitted indicated there would be sufficient Year R places for September 2018.	Small negative impact- There were 37 surplus Year R places in Maidstone town as at National Offer Day. This equates to 3% surplus capacity. The places are in 3 of the 23 schools, leaving limited choice for parents who apply late or move in.

Figure 2.3: Variations between the commissioning intentions for Secondary school provision and September 2018 delivery

District	To be Commissioned By 2017-18	Variation	Reason	Impact
Dartford	No commissioning need identified.	48 Year 7 places commissioned for 2018-19: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16 Year 7 places commissioned at 	The actual numbers as indicated by first preferences, were larger than forecast by around 80 pupils.	It is welcome that more families were able to access Secondary provision in Dartford District as a result of the extra places commissioned. However, on National Offer day only 4 places remained across the 10

District	To be Commissioned By 2017-18	Variation	Reason	Impact
		Leigh Academy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 Year 7 places commissioned at Longfield Academy • 20 Year 7 places at Leigh UTC 		schools. If any additional demand materialises we will work with schools to offer additional places, but clearly there is limited parental choice.
Gravesham	4FE in Gravesend/ Northfleet urban	3.5FE achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1FE at Mayfield Grammar School • 1FE at Thamesview School • 1FE at St George's CE School • 0.5FE at St John's Catholic School 	3.5FE has proved sufficient to meet the demand in Gravesend.	Negative impact – Although there were sufficient places to meet the demand in Gravesham only 9 Year 7 places remain, those being in Northfleet School for Girls. If any additional demand materialises there remain opportunities for local increases to PAN, but this may limit parental choice.
Maidstone	60 Year 7 places	30 Year 7 places were commissioned at Maplesden Noakes	Several schools who are their own admissions authority, admitted over PAN, leading to a greater surplus of places than forecast.	No impact as total places offered were greater than the place that were due to be commissioned.
Thanet	Up to 120 Year 7 places	80 Year 7 places commissioned for 2018/19: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 places at Ursuline College • 10 places at Chatham and Clarendon Grammar School • 10 Places at Dane 	80 places met the need in Thanet for Year 7 Secondary places.	Negative impact- Although there were sufficient Secondary places in Thanet for Sept 2018 there were zero surplus places left on National Offer day. If any additional demand materialises we will need to work with schools to offer further places. Parental choice is clearly restricted.

District	To be Commissioned By 2017-18	Variation	Reason	Impact
		Court Grammar School		
Tunbridge Wells	190 Year 7 places	160 Year 7 places were commissioned for 2018-19: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skinners 10 places • TWGSB 60 places • St. Gregory's 60 places • Bennett Memorial 30 places 	Bennett Memorial ultimately determined to offer 30 additional places rather than the 60 planned/requested.	Negative impact as were zero surplus places available in Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge Town at National Offer Day. If any additional demand materialises we will need to work with schools to offer further places. Parental choice has been limited.

3. Increase in the Number of Academy Schools

- 3.1 There has been a small increase in the number of academy schools operating in Kent. Figure 3.1 lists the maintained schools that have converted to become an academy, academies which have transferred to a new sponsor, and new free schools between 01 September 2017 and 30 April 2018.

Figure 3.1: Academies created between September 2017 and April 2018

Area	School	Date	Promoter	Status
Tonbridge & Malling	West Malling CEP School	01 September 2017	The Tenax Schools Trust	Transfer
Dartford	Cherry Orchard Primary Academy	01 September 2017	Leigh Academies Trust	New Academy
Tonbridge & Malling	Bishop Chavasse School	01 September 2017	The Tenax Schools Trust	Free School
Dartford	West Hill Primary Academy	01 September 2017	The Galaxy Trust	Converted
Dartford	Sutton-at-Hone CEP School	01 October 2017	Aletheia Anglican Academies Trust	Converted
Gravesham	Riverview Junior School	01 October 2017	The Pathway Academy Trust	Converted
Maidstone	St Mark's Church of England Primary School, Eccles	01 November 2017	The Pilgrim Multi Academy Trust	Converted
Maidstone	Valley Invicta Primary School at East Borough	01 November 2017	Valley Invicta Academies Trust	Converted
Folkestone & Hythe	Folkestone Academy (The)	01 December 2017	Turner Schools	Transfer
Canterbury	Spires Academy	01 January 2018	Education for the 21 st Century	Transfer
Dover	Vale View Community School	01 January 2018	Whinless Down Academy Trust	Converted

4. Review of Forecasting Accuracy

- 4.1 The Plan sets out forecast roll numbers by planning areas at Primary school level and by District at Secondary school level. In figures 4.1 to 4.4, the forecast 2017-18 rolls in each District are compared to the actual rolls as at October 2017. Our target is to be accurate to within plus or minus 1% at County level. However, we use this benchmark for each District and for each phase.
- 4.2 Figure 4.1 sets out the accuracy of the Year R forecasts. It shows that for Kent overall, forecasts are accurate to within 0.6%. This equates to 112 fewer Year R pupils than forecast across the County. This continues to show the accuracy in our forecasting models. However, there are variations across the Districts with 3 Districts being

accurate within +/-1%, 4 Districts within +/-1 to 2% and 5 Districts under or over forecast by more than +/- 2%.

There were four districts where we over forecast Year R rolls by over 1% and 30 places: Canterbury, Thanet, Swale and Folkestone & Hythe. The over forecasting was mainly due to the increase in the size of the pre-school cohorts from one year to the next which was not as large as forecast. In Dartford, we under forecast the pupils by more than 1% and 30 pupils. This was due to an increase in the number of pupils resident in the District transferring into Year R alongside an increase in housing completions.

Figure 4.1: Comparison of Year R forecast v October 2017 roll

Area and District	Forecast Year R roll (2017/18)	Actual Year R roll Oct 2017	Difference (forecast less actual)	Over / under forecast (%)
East Kent	4916	4791	125	2.6
Canterbury	1440	1409	31	2.2
Swale	1857	1822	35	1.9
Thanet	1619	1560	59	3.8
North Kent	4122	4171	-49	-1.2
Dartford	1459	1495	-36	-2.4
Gravesham	1329	1326	3	0.2
Sevenoaks	1334	1350	-16	-1.2
South Kent	3958	3925	33	0.8
Ashford	1571	1544	27	1.8
Dover	1202	1229	-27	-2.2
Folkestone & Hythe	1184	1152	32	2.8
West Kent	4721	4718	3	0.1
Maidstone	1850	1865	-15	-0.8
Tonbridge and Malling	1681	1654	27	1.6
Tunbridge Wells	1190	1199	-9	-0.8
Kent Totals	17717	17605	112	0.6

4.3 Figure 4.2 sets out the accuracy of the forecasts for Primary age pupils. Across Kent, we over forecast the number of Primary aged pupils on roll by 0.3% which was 418 pupils. This shows a high level of accuracy. Having 11 of the Districts being within the +/-1% target is an improvement on the previous year. The forecast roll for Thanet was outside of the 1% accuracy targets. This was mainly due to the size of cohorts from one year to the next not being as large as forecast.

Figure 4.2: Comparison of Primary (Year R-6) forecast v October 2017 roll

Area and District	Forecast Primary roll (2017-18)	Actual Primary roll Oct 2017	Difference (forecast less actual)	Over / under forecast (%)
East Kent	34834	34523	311	0.9
Canterbury	10433	10359	74	0.7
Swale	12993	12928	65	0.5

Area and District	Forecast Primary roll (2017-18)	Actual Primary roll Oct 2017	Difference (forecast less actual)	Over / under forecast (%)
Thanet	11407	11236	171	1.5
North Kent	29319	29301	18	0.1
Dartford	10132	10207	-75	-0.7
Gravesham	9556	9522	34	0.4
Sevenoaks	9631	9572	59	0.6
South Kent	28075	28027	48	0.2
Ashford	11024	11050	-26	-0.2
Dover	8560	8551	9	0.1
Folkestone & Hythe	8490	8426	64	0.8
West Kent	32989	32947	42	0.1
Maidstone	12970	12963	7	0.1
Tonbridge and Malling	11236	11249	-13	-0.1
Tunbridge Wells Total	8783	8735	48	0.5
Kent	125216	124798	418	0.3

4.4 Figure 4.3 sets out the accuracy of the Year 7 pupil forecasts. Across Kent we under forecast the number of Year 7 pupils by 0.9% which was 147 pupils. There are variations across the Districts - 6 being within the +/-1% target, 2 being between +/-1 to 2% and 4 Districts over +/- 2%. This is similar to the previous year. There are three districts where we under forecast the number of pupils by more than 1% and 30 pupils: Dartford, Tonbridge and Malling and Tunbridge Wells. The under forecasting of Year 7 pupils in Dartford and Tunbridge Wells could be explained by an increase in the number of pupils transferring into mainstream secondary education. Initial analysis has not identified why we under forecast Year 7 rolls in Tonbridge and Malling by 100 places. Further analysis will be undertaken.

Figure 4.3: Comparison of Year 7 forecast v October 2017 roll

Area and District	Forecast Year 7 roll (2017/18)	Actual Year 7 roll Oct 2017	Difference (forecast less actual)	Over / under forecast (%)
Canterbury	1544	1502	42	2.7
Swale	1692	1696	-4	-0.3
Thanet	1496	1487	9	0.6
East Kent	4731	4685	46	1.0
Dartford	1644	1688	-44	-2.7
Gravesham	1397	1395	2	0.1
Sevenoaks	491	491	0	0.1
North Kent	3532	3574	-42	-1.2
Ashford	1319	1332	-13	-1.0
Dover	1169	1191	-22	-1.8
Folkestone & Hythe	1096	1103	-7	-0.7
South Kent	3584	3626	-42	-1.2
Maidstone	2004	1976	28	1.4
Tonbridge and Malling	1606	1706	-100	-6.2
Tunbridge Wells Total	1477	1514	-37	-2.5
West Kent	5087	5196	-109	-2.1

Area and District	Forecast Year 7 roll (2017/18)	Actual Year 7 roll Oct 2017	Difference (forecast less actual)	Over / under forecast (%)
Kent	16934	17081	-147	-0.9

- 4.5 Figure 4.4 below sets out the accuracy of the Year 7-11 pupil forecasts. Across Kent these were 0.7% higher than actual rolls. This shows a good level of accuracy. There are variations across the Districts with 9 being within the +/-1% target and 3 between +/-1 to 2%. This is an improvement on the previous year. The three districts outside the 1% forecasting accuracy were: Thanet, Dartford and Folkestone & Hythe. Over forecasts in Thanet and Folkestone & Hythe were due to the size of cohorts from one year to the next not being as large as forecast. Initial analysis has not identified why we under forecast Year 7-11 rolls in Dartford by 108 places. Further analysis will be undertaken.

Figure 4.4: Comparison of Year 7-11 forecast v October 2017 roll

Area and District	Forecast Secondary roll (2017/18)	Actual Secondary roll Oct 2017	Difference (forecast less actual)	Over / under forecast (%)
Canterbury	7562	7493	69	0.9
Swale	7903	7862	41	0.5
Thanet	7012	6883	129	1.8
East Kent	22477	22238	239	1.1
Dartford	7723	7615	108	1.4
Gravesham	6463	6411	52	0.8
Sevenoaks	2321	2309	12	0.5
North Kent	16508	16335	173	1.0
Ashford	6715	6740	-25	-0.4
Dover	5751	5723	28	0.5
Folkestone & Hythe	5116	5058	58	1.1
South Kent	17581	17521	60	0.3
Maidstone	9550	9475	75	0.8
Tonbridge and Malling	7796	7828	-32	-0.4
Tunbridge Wells Total	7355	7331	24	0.3
West Kent	24701	24634	67	0.3
Kent	81266	80728	538	0.7

5. Progress in Achieving Our Targets

- 5.1 The targets which relate to providing sufficient school places are set out in 'Vision and Priorities for Improvement' and are reproduced in Figure 5.1 below.
- 5.2 Maintaining sufficient surplus capacity in schools across an area is essential both to meet increased demand and to enable parental preferences to be met.
- 5.3 Figure 5.1 shows that surplus capacity in Reception classes across Kent is at 10.4% and for all Primary aged pupils it is 5.1%. Surplus capacity in Year 7 across Kent is at 8.0%. Across Years 7-11 it is at 9.4%. We expect to see increased numbers of Primary

aged pupils transfer to Secondary schools over the next few years, reducing the surplus capacity in the secondary sector.

Figure 5.1: Surplus Capacity in Mainstream Schools as of October 2017

October 2017		
District	% Year R	% Yrs. R-6
Ashford	8.6	4.0
Canterbury	11.9	6.1
Dartford	6.7	0.6
Dover	10.7	7.9
Gravesham	10.2	2.3
Maidstone	9.9	4.3
Sevenoaks	13.5	8.8
Folkestone & Hythe	11.0	5.5
Swale	11.7	4.7
Thanet	13.3	6.4
Tonbridge and Malling	8.2	4.6
Tunbridge Wells	9.5	6.8
Kent	10.4	5.1
Area	% Year 7	% Years 7-11
Dartford, Gravesham & N. Sevenoaks.	6.9	7.8
S. Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Tunbridge Wells.	7.1	9.3
Maidstone & Malling.	12.0	13.4
Ashford	13.5	11.5
Canterbury	7.0	4.5
Dover	13.4	15.7
Folkestone & Hythe	3.1	5.6
Swale	3.9	8.4
Thanet	7.1	9.3
Kent	8.0%	9.4%

- 5.4 We set targets for the percentage of families securing their first preference school for entry in September 2018. For Primary schools the target was 87% and on Offer Day 89.2% of parents secured their first preference. For Secondary schools the target was 83% and 79.6% of parents secured their first preference, although just over 450 more pupils secured their preferred Secondary school.
- 5.5 The target for first and second preferences for both Primary and Secondary schools was 95%, with 95.9% securing their first or second preference in a Primary school and 90.8% of parents securing their first or second preference at a Secondary school.

6. Progress in Commissioning Provision for SEND Pupils

- 6.1 The final phase of the redevelopment of Portal House School is underway with the rebuild of the School's sports hall. This is the final capital project to be completed as part of the commitment to rebuild or refurbish our Special schools.
- 6.2 The KCP identified KCC's intention to commission 864 places in Special Schools and 79 places in Specialist Resourced Provisions (SRPs). This has changed slightly to 849 special school places and 94 SRP places as a planned satellite of a special school in Thanet will be an SRP instead. Figures 6.1 and 6.2 identify the progress in

implementing the commissioning of SEND places for September 2018. In total, 363 of the 849 places to be commissioned have been agreed and we are well to the way to achieving 59 of the 79 places in SRPs. Officers will continue to work with and encourage potential Free school sponsors for a new Behaviour and Learning Special School on the Isle of Sheppey or Special Schools for pupils with Profound, Severe and Complex Needs in the Dover District and within the North Kent Area. We are aware that one of our present Special schools is keen to expand and open a satellite on the Isle of Sheppey, but this would be at a capital cost to KCC whereas, a Free School through the Wave process would be funded by the DfE.

Figure: 6.1 Specialist Provision Planned in Special Schools

Phase/ Provision/ District	Need	Progress
Primary ASD Ashford	12 Primary PSCN places Wyvern (satellite)	Wyvern Special School intend to open a satellite for 12 pupils with ASD at Great Chart Primary School for September 2019. The public consultation is in the summer term 2018.
Primary ASD Swale	A 168 place provision for pupils with Autism Spectrum Disorder or Speech, Language and Communication Needs.	DfE has agreed the opening of the School. The Trust's consultation has ended, and the school is expected to open in September 2019 a year later than initially planned.
Secondary ASD Maidstone	A 144 place provision for pupils aged 11-19 years old (120 KS3-KS4, 24 KS5) Autism Spectrum Disorder or Speech, Language and Communication Needs.	The Bearsted Academy free school has been approved by the DfE, but delivery has been delayed.
KS 2-4 B&L Sheppey	A 120 place provision for pupils 7-16 years with a designation of Behaviour and Learning on the Isle of Sheppey (Swale District). We would envisage that the school would be prepared to work collaboratively with other schools on the Isle of Sheppey and provide support to schools across the Swale District.	No wave application at present. This remains a significant priority due to the high numbers of pupils transported (70+) from the Isle of Sheppey to Bower Grove Special school in Maidstone and the cost of alternative placements for Primary aged pupils who meet the Bower Grove criteria (£358K pa).
KS3-4 PSCN Dover	Up to 168 (120 KS3-KS4, 48 KS5) place provision for pupils aged 11-19 years with a designation of Profound Severe and Complex Needs in Dover District	No wave application at present. This remains a priority as existing specialist provision in Dover has exceeded places available and the nearest Special school provision is in Shepway.
KS3-5 PSCN North Kent	Up to 210 KS3-KS5 place provision for pupils aged 11-19 years with a designation of	No wave application at present. This remains a priority as existing two specialist

Phase/ Provision/ District	Need	Progress
	Profound Severe and Complex Needs in the North of the County.	PSCN provisions in the North of the County are operating at their maximum capacity.

Figure 6.2: Additional Specialist Provision Planned in SRPs in Mainstream Schools

District	Proposed Number of New Commissioned Places	Progress
Dover	15 Secondary ASD places	An expression of interest was placed however, the opening of the SRP is subject to suitable accommodation being in place which is in the hands of the ESFA.
Folkestone & Hythe	24 Secondary ASD places	The Marsh Academy intends to open this provision from September offering 8 places initially and growing to 24. The public consultation has received overwhelming support. A business case has been submitted to the DfE.
Canterbury	20 Secondary ASD places	An expression of interest has been received from a Secondary school in Canterbury for a 2019 opening.
Thanet	15 Secondary B&L places	The places will be a SRP within the New Thanet Free School. The Sponsor of the school has been approved by the DfE.
Tonbridge & Malling	20 ASD Secondary SRP places	The intention is that the Judd School will host the SRP. KCC and the Governing Body of the Judd School have completed the public consultation. Subject to the completion of the statutory consultation and the agreement of the Cabinet Member, the SRP is on track to open in September 2019.

6.2 We continue to monitor the changes to the need types across the County and within each District. Strategic discussions are in progress to decide how best to move forward with commissioning of SEND provision over the next few years.

7. Progress in implementing Changes to Provision for Early Years

7.1 The Early Years and Childcare element of the Commissioning Plan 2018 - 22 noted the duty on all local authorities to improve outcomes for young children, to cut inequalities between them and secure sufficient childcare to allow parents to work; and specifically, to ensure sufficient and flexible provision of:

- 15 hours of Early Education for eligible two-year olds and all three and four-year olds
- 30 Hours of Free Childcare for the three and four-year olds of eligible parents

7.2 Figures 7.1 and 7.2 identify Districts that were reported as having a deficit of 0-4-year-old places or 30-hour places in the KCP 2018-22 and actions taken to address these deficits. A deficit of places is noted when there would be insufficient places should there be 100% take up from families. Generally, across each District there are sufficient Early Years places for families based on current take up rates. However, analysis at a District level may mask a surplus or deficit of places at a planning area level.

Figure 7.1: Update on provision where 0-4 year-old childcare places were in deficit

District	Actions taken/planned to address any deficit
Dover	There continues to be a deficit of places across the District should there be 100% take up. However, based on current take up rates there are sufficient places for families requiring early years provision. Officers continue to monitor the situation and are working with providers to identify if there are any planning areas across the District, such as Dover Town, that are particularly under stress.
Gravesham	The pressure for places in Northfleet new development will be reduced as a Nursery is increasing their PAN. A new provider is planning to open September in Singlewell which will increase provision. Officers are working with potential providers in the Meopham and Vigo planning area. There will continue to be sufficient provision available across the District based on present take up rates.
Sevenoaks	We are not aware of any new providers looking to set up in the Sevenoaks area and there continues to be a deficit of places across the District should there be 100% take up. However, based on current take up rates there are sufficient places for families requiring early years provision. Officers continue to monitor the situation and are working with providers to identify if there are any planning areas across the District that are particularly under stress.
Swale	There are sufficient places based on present take up rates across the District, but some planning areas are under stress. Eastchurch and Warden Bay (Isle of Sheppey) continues to have a deficit of places and no new provision is coming forward. Officers will continue to monitor the situation.
Tonbridge & Malling	Officers are currently working with a potential new provider who is looking to open in the Shipbourne area. There are sufficient places based on present take up rates across the District.
Tunbridge Wells	A new full day care nursery opened in September 17 in the Paddock Wood area. There are sufficient places based on present take up rates across the District.

Figure 7.2: Update on provision where 30-hour old childcare places were in deficit

District	Actions taken/planned to address any deficit
Gravesend	There are sufficient places based on present take up rates across

	the District for 30 hours places. Officers are working with a new provider who is planning to open in September in Singlewell.
Sevenoaks	There was only a small deficit of 30 hours places in the District and there are sufficient places based on present take up rates. Officers will continue to monitor the pressure for places.

8. Post-16 Commissioning

8.1 The Post-16 commissioning element of the Commissioning Plan 2018-22 included four priorities. Actions undertaken to address the priorities are outlined below.

8.2 **Continue to increase the variety of pathways, including academic, vocational and technical, apprenticeships, employment with training or work-based learning across all Districts**

- The Careers Enterprise Company co-funds Enterprise Coordinators. These are trained professionals who work with networks of 20 schools and colleges, the aim being to build careers plans and make connections to local and national employers. Currently 40 schools in Kent are attached to two networks.
- There has been an increase in the numbers of pupils undertaking The International Baccalaureate® (IB) Career-related Programme (CP). This is a unique programme addressing the needs of students engaged in career-related education. The programme leads to further/higher education, apprenticeships or employment. From September 2019, 25 schools will be delivering IBCC compared to only 7 schools five years ago.
- The Kent Choices 4 u (KC4U) Live brings together Careers Information, Advice and Guidance for students of all ages.
- In the last year there has been a reduction in the number of apprenticeship starts since the introduction of the Apprenticeship Levy, but this reduction is lower in Kent. Recently published first quarter data for 17/18 apprenticeship starts shows a 17% decrease across Kent compared to national figures of 26.5% for all ages ranges with 16- 18 years down 14% compared to last year's figures. The Kent Association of Training Organisations (KATO), Kent Further Education Colleges (KFE) and Medway Council, has continued to build effective partnerships to increase the number of apprenticeships for 16-18-year olds.

8.3 **Raising attainment**

Figure 8.1 shows that the Average Points Score (APS) for A level and Academic qualifications fell just below National in summer 2017. Applied General and Tech level qualifications are significantly higher than National. APS for A Level and Academic qualifications were in line with 2016, whereas the APS had increased for Applied General and Tech Level qualifications.

Figure 8.1: Average point score and grade summer 2017

Qualification	Schools	Schools and Colleges	National
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A Level average points score ²	30.9 (C)	30.7(C)	32.1 (C+)
Academic average points score ³	32.1 (C+)	31.9 (C+)	32.4 (C+)
Applied General average points score ⁴	39.3 (Dis+)	36.7 (Dis+)	35.6 (Dis)
Tech Level average points score ⁵	37.4 (Dis+)	31.2 (Dis+)	32.2 (Dis-)

8.2 Reduce achievement gaps

There is a consistent focus on diminishing the gap between different groups of students. The 2017 KS4 results demonstrated that:

- Males in Kent schools achieve less well than females in A levels and Academic qualifications, but the gap did reduce in 2017 by 0.6 points in A Levels and 1.9 points in Academic qualifications.
- In Applied General and Tech level qualifications males achieve at a similar level to females and above National figures.
- Students registered as entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) achieved less well in Kent than National. There was no sign that the gap between FSM and non-FSM pupils was reducing in 2017. The FSM achievement gap is much wider in academic qualifications than technical ones.

Officers have provided continued support for vulnerable learners including those registered as FSM, firstly to make the transition to post 16 delivery, and secondly to stay the course and not drop out at 17. The impact can be seen in the reduction of NEET pupils and increase in participation rates in figures 8.2 and 8.3. Our target is to ensure that 50% of 16 year olds who do not attain a good pass at GCSE in English and Maths will achieve the qualifications by age 19. By working with schools, FE colleges, HE, training providers and employers, developing transition protocols between schools and colleges and providing specialist guidance training for KCC staff working directly with disadvantaged groups, we are on track to achieve this target.

8.3 Deliver programmes which advantage rather than disadvantage young people

There is a need to narrow the gaps in attainment seen at the end of KS4 and to develop the employability skills of young people, particularly Vulnerable Learners, so they can achieve positive destinations at 18. Therefore, the Skills and Employability Team has worked with providers to identify any gaps in provision and to develop innovative approaches to Post-16 Programmes. Examples of these are:

- Level 1 offers for 16-18 year olds, has increased generating 500 new opportunities for learners.

• ² A' levels are subject based qualifications. They are a subset of the Academic category.

• ³ Academic Qualifications includes A/AS level or applied A/AS level. In addition it includes Pre-University, International Baccalaureate, Advanced Extension Award (AEA), Free Standing Mathematics, Extended Project (Diploma) qualifications and Core Maths at level 3.

• ⁴ Applied General qualifications are level 3 (advanced) qualifications that provide broad study of a vocational area. From 2016, only high value level 3 vocational qualifications, which meet pre-defined characteristics, will be recognised in the 16-18 performance tables.

• ⁵ Tech levels are level 3 (advanced) qualifications for students wishing to specialise in a technical occupation or occupational group. They lead to recognised occupations. As with Applied General Qualifications from 2016, only high value level 3 vocational qualifications, which meet pre-defined characteristics, will be recognised in the 16-18 performance tables.

- The Ready to Work offer is used as a September Guarantee for those learners who are at risk of becoming NEET. Ready to Work Kent now has over 180 offers across the 12 Districts which include employability programmes, study programmes, NEET engagement and many more bespoke local offers. We have 81 students who have enrolled on a course.
- We have supported access to Post-16 learning, including apprenticeships through the travelcard scheme. In the past year 7,597 young people used this card to travel to their places of learning. This was a significant increase on the previous year's figure of 4,500.
- 4 applications were made to the ESFA for specialist Post-16 institution status to widen the offer to SEND young people to give them more Post-16 options. All were successful.
- We have held discussions with FE colleges and staff with a responsibility for SEND vulnerable learners to identify how KCC and the Colleges can work together to improve progression pathways for these young people. Following this, and as part of the FE area review, KCC and the colleges of Kent Further Education will be establishing:
 - A new methodology for distributing high needs funding to colleges
 - A protocol for ensuring good placement practice
 - A local planning forum to improve the provision and pathways available for students from special schools and PRU
 - A supported internship forum
- Via Kent Supported Employment we have helped 316 vulnerable learners with physical disabilities, autism and learning difficulties move into a variety of sustainable employment outcomes over the last year including 58% into paid sustainable employment.
- Strategically worked with partners to avoid duplicate provision, that is already available in areas where we have identified a need.
- Education, Employment and training activities for teen parents based in Children's Centres.
- A close partnership working with Virtual Schools Kent and the Care Leaver team to ensure that there are suitable Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children engagement activities available.

The actions outlined have supported the further reduction in NEETs and Unknowns for the general cohort as seen in figure 8.2 and for the most vulnerable groups as seen in Figure 8.3.

Figure 8.2: NEET and Not-Known figures for January 2017 and 2018

January	Cohort size	NEET	Not Known	Participation
2017 (12 &13)	34,145	2.98%	3.18%	90.05%
2018 (12&13)	33,129	2.6%	2.8%	90.92%

Figure 8.3: Numbers of NEET pupils in January 2017 and 2018 by group

Numbers 16-18 year olds by Vulnerable Group	Jan 17 NEET	Jan 18 NEET

Children in Care: KCC responsibility	71	49
Caring for own child	70	75
Asylum Seeker	3	0
Carer not own child	70	15
Substance Misuse	9	3
Care Leaver: KCC responsibility	45	16
Supervised by YOT	35	16
Pregnancy	56	36
Parent not caring for own child	0	2

9. Capital Funding

As Members will be aware from the original report on the 2018-22 commissioning plan we identified a significant shortfall of £101m in respect the capital funding needed to deliver all the places required by September 2020. This figure increases the further ahead you look and is being compounded by additional costs for temporary solutions that are arising from the late delivery of Waves 11 and 12 Free Schools by the ESFA, (notably in Maidstone where three schools will open between 2-3 years later than planned) There has also been an impact from the delay of almost two years in announcing the next Wave 13 Free School round of applications.

The DfE have finally announced that the Wave process will start again with bids for Wave 13 due in September 2018 and decisions expected by Easter 2019. There are much stricter criteria with this new round and in effect it is targeted at certain areas of the country. In Kent the only areas identified are Gravesham, Ashford and Thanet.

As far as this funding shortfall is concerned we continue to identify ways in which we may be able to reduce the shortfall and are working closely with the ESFA to try and resolve the position. A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

10. Changes to School Planning Areas from September 2019

- 10.1 Education planning areas are used by provision planning teams to ensure that there are suitable and sufficient Primary and Secondary school places available to Kent children. Evidence of demand for school places and available capacity is provided by planning area for both the Kent Commissioning Plan and the annual return to the Department for Education (the School Capacity Collection).

To continue to accurately reflect local school communities in Kent and Secondary travel to school patterns, it was decided to review the existing configuration of planning areas. In reviewing and forming new planning areas it was necessary to examine the following:

- Travel to school flows (to an extent this is also a proxy for parental preference)
- Location of significant new housing developments, especially those on the edges of towns (prompting re-definition of existing urban areas)
- Changes to the school estate, particularly new schools opening and schools closing since planning areas were last reviewed in 2012
- Expectation of future changes in supply and demand

This has led to:

- Using Lower Super Output Areas (LOSAs) rather than wards as the building blocks (to match KCC's Strategic population forecasts).
- A reduction in Primary planning areas from 114 to 94.
- Primary planning areas (building blocks) forming District level forecasts.
- Separate non-selective and grammar planning areas. Primary planning areas forming the building blocks, but Secondary planning areas may cross District boundaries.

A proposal to change the planning areas was submitted to the DfE. This was formally accepted in March of this year and is due to take effect in the next iteration of the KCP and in this year's SCAP return to the DfE.

11. Active Travel

11.1 KCC's Active Travel Strategy was released in 2017. The overarching ambition is to:

- Make active travel an attractive and realistic choice for short journeys in Kent

When new schools or expansions of present schools are planned, officers in the Education, Planning and Access team will work with school promoters, present staff and the design teams to identify opportunities to encourage active travel.

The full strategy can be accessed at <http://www.kent.gov.uk/activetravel>

12. Moving forward

12.1 Pressure remains to control the cost of providing the additional capacity and to close the forecast funding gap. Members will need to consider whether temporary expansions may be more cost effective than permanent expansions.

12.2 Developer contributions continue to play a significant role in providing the school places needed to support an expanding population linked to new homes. The constraints of the national planning framework in this respect continue to be voiced to National Government.

12.3 The focus in future years will increasingly be on delivering the additional Secondary school places required as pressure moves into this sector.

12.4 Embed the new planning areas into KCC forecasts.

13. Recommendations:

The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to **NOTE** the progress achieved and the issues identified for further development and **CONSIDER** the report prior to the next version of the Commissioning Plan in autumn 2018.

14. Background Documents

14.1 Vision and Priorities for Improvement:
[Vision and Priorities for Improvement](#)

14.2 Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2018-2022:
[Kent Commissioning Plan 2018-22](#)

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