

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

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

DECISION NO:

18/00015

For publication

Subject: Governing Body Proposal to make prescribed alterations to Laleham Gap (Foundation Special) School

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education, having taken into account the outcome of the of the statutory public notice published by the Governing Body of Laleham Gap School, I agree that the Governing Body should implement their proposal as follows:

- I. To remove the boarding provision at the school no later than July 2020
- II. Change the age range from 4-16 to 4-17 years by introducing a one-year post 16 provision.
- III. Change the designated number of the school from 170-178

Reason(s) for decision:

In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

- The need for additional ASD places to meet increasing demand, as set out in Kent's Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
- The need to increase the number of supported internships and study programmes that include personalised support and high-quality work experience placements post 16 as set out in the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2018-2022.
- That these proposals will have a positive impact in Thanet as Laleham Gap School will be able to support students to independent living, reduce the dropout rate from pupils attending college from Laleham Gap and reduce the number of NEETs.
- The views of the local County Councillor, Area Education Officer; Headteacher and Governing Body of Laleham Gap School;
- The Equalities Impact Assessment and comments received regarding this; and
- the views of the Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee which are set out below

Financial Implications

Capital

There will be limited alterations to the boarding provision in Phoenix building to accommodate independent living. It is envisaged that this can be met within the schools' own resources.

Revenue

The LA will agree the commissioned number of post 16 places with the school, based on actual level of need, up to a maximum of 8, on an annual basis. The commissioning cycle which commences each autumn will confirm the number of known students who will require a place for the following September. Approved changes can be made during the academic year if required and funding will follow.

Human

Boarding Staffing (Phoenix Building) have been fully consulted on this proposal. It has been made clear to boarding staff that the school wants them to play an active part in the development and use of the Phoenix building for future provision years to come. The School wants the Phoenix building to be the base for a post 16 provision, providing person centred curriculum opportunities to better prepare young people for the difficult transition from Laleham Gap School to their next step in life, whether it be in education, training or employment. The boarding staff are highly trained and experienced in providing person centred activities as part of a full curriculum offer. They have all shown dedication to Laleham Gap School and its pupils for many years. They will all have the opportunity for their service to continue at Laleham Gap School.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:
To be added after Committee meeting

Any alternatives considered:
None

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

.....
Signed

.....
Date