

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

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

Subject: Proposal to change of age range of Stone Bay (Community Special) School from 8-19 years to 5-19 years

Decision Number: 19/00024

Classification: Unrestricted

Key Decision: Yes

Past Pathway of Paper: N/A

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: Ramsgate Division, Karen Constantine and Paul Messenger

Summary:

This report outlines the proposal and time line to change the age-range of Stone Bay (Community Special) School from 8-19 years to 5-19 years.

Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education is asked to:

- (i) issue a public notice to permanently change the age range of the school and subject to no objections being received to the public notice; and
- (ii) Change the age range from 8-19 years to 5-19 years in order to provide KS1 places to help with the demand for specialist places for pupils at KS1

1. Introduction

1.1. KCC needs to increase local specialist provision to avoid too many children and young people having to go to a Special School far from home to have their education, health and care needs met.

1.2. 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" and aims to: -

- Increase the educational, health and emotional wellbeing outcomes for Kent's children and young people with SEN and disabilities.
- Ensure Kent delivers the Statutory changes (required by the Children and Families Act 2014)

- Address gaps in provision for children and young people with SEN and disabilities, improve the quality of provision, develop the broadest range of providers, and encourage a mixed economy of provision.

1.3 The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2019-23 sets out how we will carry out our responsibility for ensuring there are sufficient places of high quality, in the right places, for all learners and this proposal supports that aim.

2. Background

- 2.1. The age-range of Stone Bay (Community Special) School changed from 11-19 years to 8-19 years from September 2017 with the introduction of KS2 classes. The school together with KCC now wish to extend the provision to include all of KS2 (from age 7) and KS1 (from age 5) in order to meet local demand.
- 2.2. Stone Bay (Community Special) School was judged “Good” by Ofsted in January 2018 with “inspirational leadership and are determined to provide the best possible outcomes for pupils.” The Local Authority is confident that the school has the capacity and leadership to establish KS1 provision. This would ensure that sufficient KS1 places are provided in the local area.

3. Proposal

- 3.1. It is proposed to change the age-range of Stone Bay (Community Special) School from 8-19 years to 5-19 years to establish KS1 provision at the School. The Headteacher and Governing Body fully support the proposal and feel very strongly that there is a need for a KS1 class in Stone Bay School as there is no other provision within a reasonable traveling distance that can meet the specific learning needs of children of this age group. Stone Bay is a specialist provision that provides for children who have a diagnosed autistic spectrum disorder, profound, severe and complex needs and additional comorbidities.
- 3.2. The school propose to include the new classes in the current café and music block which will become the Primary building and can accommodate 4 classrooms. There is also a separate outdoor play area alongside access to the main garden. Only KS1 & 2 will be accommodated in this part of the school. The secondary and 6th form students will continue to be accommodated in their current classrooms in the main building and the demountable classrooms. This will provide age appropriate movement through the school. Staff with appropriate qualifications will teach in either the Primary, Secondary or 6th Form Departments.
- 3.3. Below is an estimated timeline for the process:

Public Consultation	04 March to 01 April 2019
Report on the outcome of the consultation for circulation to Cabinet Committee.	04 April 2019
Decision process completed to issue a public notice	30 April 2019
Public Notice Period	02 May to 30 May 2019

Appeal Period ends	03 July 2019
Implementation	September 2019

This timeline would require a decision to be taken outside of Cabinet Committee in order to complete the process and allow the KS 1 provision to be established for September 2019.

4. Consultation

- 4.1. The consultation period is from 4 March to 1 April 2019 and an updated report of the outcomes of the consultation will be circulated to the Cabinet Committee.
- 4.2. The views of the Local Members for Ramsgate Division, Karen Constantine and Paul Messenger, will be sought during the consultation period.

5. Financial Implications

It is expected that the project will require minimal internal works to provide the facilities for younger children and the current estimated cost is £1,750.

6. Equalities Implications

An Equality Impact Assessment is attached and will also be accessible on line via the following link: www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations at the start of the consultation.

7. Recommendations

The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education is asked to:

- (i) issue a public notice to permanently change the age range of the school and subject to no objections being received to the public notice; and
- (ii) change the age range from 8-19 years to 5-19 years in order to provide KS1 places to help with the demand for specialist places for pupils at KS1.

8. Background Documents (plus links to document)

- 8.1. Vision and Priorities for Improvement:
http://www.kelsi.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/68498/Children-Young-Peopleand-Education-Vision-and-Priorities-for-Improvement-2018-2021.pdf
- 8.2. Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2019-23
www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision
- 8.3. SEND Strategy: www.kent.gov.uk/sendstrategy
- 8.4. Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement 2015-2020:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/corporate-policies/increasing-opportunities-improving-outcomes>

9. Contact details

Report Author: Marisa White
Name and Job title: Area Education Officer.
Phone number: 03000 418794
E-mail: Marisa.White@kent.gov.uk

Relevant Director: Keith Abbott
Name and Job title: Director – Education, Planning and Access
Phone number: 03000 417008
E-mail: Keith.Abbott@kent.gov.uk