

APPENDIX 3

Grammar Schools and Social Mobility - Select Committee Recommendation Progress Update

Recommendation	Progress to date	Status
<p>Recommendation 1: As the champion of pupils, parents and families, KCC will work with all primary school Headteachers to identify those most academically able pupils and discuss with parents the opportunity to put their child forward for the Kent Test.</p>	<p>Primary schools are asked at the start of each Admissions round to discuss children’s progress with parents in the context of deciding whether a grammar school is appropriate. A leaflet about the Kent Test is supplied for distribution through schools.</p> <p>A further letter to primary schools with advice about applying for grammar school specifically aimed at the families of able children from deprived backgrounds was drawn up earlier in the year and has recently been distributed.</p>	<p>Done</p> <p>Done</p>
<p>Recommendation 2: Grammar schools should engage fully with parents and families to address misconceptions and promote the offer grammar schools can make to all students irrespective of background</p>	<p>Following the publication of the Select Committee report, this recommendation was highlighted to grammar schools in June 2017 and they were invited to share information about their progress, which was reported to Scrutiny Committee in November 2017. A further letter to grammar schools inviting them to update the Council on progress was drawn up earlier in the year and has recently been distributed.</p>	<p>In progress</p>
<p>Recommendation 3: KCC should target all children eligible for Pupil Premium and children from areas of low registration for the Kent Test, providing detailed information on the Kent Test process and their</p>	<p>The Kent Test Leaflet and the “Instructions” document sent to primary schools were updated following the Select Committee to ensure that the availability of transport assistance for low income families was understood.</p>	<p>Done</p>

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transport entitlements.	Additional targeted leaflets have been supplied to schools for distribution ahead of the opening of test registration.	
<p>Recommendation 4: All grammar schools should provide more outreach to primary schools including after school classes in English and mathematics, mentoring and preparation for the Kent Test for primary aged pupils in Yrs 4-6 including those most academically able children in receipt of the Pupil Premium.</p>	<p>Following the publication of the Select Committee report, this recommendation was highlighted to grammar schools in June 2017 and they were invited to share information about their progress, which was reported to Scrutiny Committee in November 2017.</p> <p>A further letter to grammar schools inviting them to update the Council on progress was drawn up earlier in the year and has recently been distributed.</p>	<p>Done</p> <p>Done</p>
<p>Recommendation 5: Urge all Primary Headteachers to utilise Headteacher Assessment Panels within the Kent Test process to advocate for those most academically able children supported by the Pupil Premium.</p>	<p>Following the publication of the Select Committee report, the wording of the “Instructions” document sent annually to primary schools was strengthened to encourage Heads to respond to this recommendation. In 2016, 2017 and 2018 over 50 FSM pupils were assessed suitable for grammar school by HT Assessment panels.</p>	<p>Done</p>
<p>Recommendation 6: Identify a dedicated education professional in the Virtual School Kent to provide support and guidance to foster carers on appropriate secondary school destinations, as well as support through the secondary schools appeal process for children in their care, to be tracked through their Personal Education Plan (PEP).</p>	<p>A VSK Deputy Head (DH) with responsibility for Early Years and Primary School aged Children in Care (CiC) is in post. This DH manages Fostering Education Liaison Officers whose role is to support foster carers with educational issues. An Education Fostering Champions pilot scheme is in progress in North and West Kent and within this the foster carers receive training on admissions. Professionals, including foster carers supporting individual CiC, will be advised at PEP and other professional meetings on appropriate secondary school choices for consideration. VSK collate information about individual CiC’s academic ability through a variety of sources to ensure that the advice given is based on factual data. VSK directly</p>	<p>Done</p>

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	support individual appeal cases for admission to Grammar Schools with the foster carer and social worker.	
<p>Recommendation 7: Publish information on Pupil Premium spend for children in care on the Virtual School Kent (VSK) website, including support for pupils from Key Stage 1 through to Key Stage 2, and detail on the type of secondary school destinations for these children.</p>	<p>The Annual Report of Pupil Premium + (PP+) spend is communicated to Members and this report is published on VSK's website. PP+ Support Maps for each Locality are also published on the VSK website, together with National guidance and VSK's PP+ Policy. This includes guidance to schools and Early Years settings on distribution of and process for applying for PP+ with relevant timescales.</p> <p>VSK support all CiC by attending PEP meetings, providing individual support to professional networks, school staff, training events for all stakeholders and direct support for CiC and foster carers.</p> <p>The School Admissions code and the Kent Admissions Policy for CIC are on the VSK website.</p> <p>Detail on the type of secondary school destinations is being prepared for the website, but this will include Kent maintained secondary schools, academies, Free Schools and grammar schools.</p>	<p>Done</p> <p>Done</p> <p>Done</p> <p>In progress</p>
<p>Recommendation 8: KCC to monitor and challenge the proportion of pupils supported by the Pupil Premium (PP) who go on to grammar school.</p>	<p>Initially, there were practical obstacles to the reliable reporting of PP / FSM data for pupils taking part in the 11+, but the recent streamlining of database provisions means that monitoring of destination school for FSM eligible pupils is now feasible. From 2016 to 2018 numbers of FSM eligible pupils assessed suitable for grammar school following the Kent Test has risen from 128 to 147.</p>	<p>In progress</p>

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<p>Recommendation 9: KCC School Improvement Advisers to work with Primary Headteachers to consider how the most academically able pupils supported by the Pupil Premium are being identified and assisted to progress.</p>	<p>More able pupil premium pupils, including those eligible for Kent Test, discussed as part of core visits</p>	<p>In rogress</p>
<p>Recommendation 10: If not already in place, schools should follow best practice and nominate a lead governor for the Pupil Premium and how children in receipt of this are being supported to apply for the school most appropriate for them.</p>		<p>In place</p>
<p>Recommendation 11: Urge all grammar schools to use multiple uniform providers to minimise costs and subsidise/cover the costs of schools trips and other expenses for pupils from low income families to ensure these are not prohibitive factors to children applying for or securing a grammar school place</p>	<p>Following the publication of the Select Committee report, this recommendation was highlighted to grammar schools in June 2017 and they were invited to share information about their progress, which was reported to Scrutiny Committee in November 2017. A further letter to grammar schools inviting them to update the Council on progress was drawn up earlier in the year and has recently been distributed.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Recommendation 12: KCC to extend the existing entitlement for children on Free School Meals to free school transport to their nearest appropriate school</p>	<p>The introduction of such a policy change requires a formal process to be followed in order to set this out in the County Home to School Transport Policy. This was prepared ready for formal consultation in June 2018 including the required</p>	<p>Pending</p>

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to all children in receipt of Pupil Premium.	Equalities Impact Assessment which is necessary. This and several other aspects of the Home to School Transport Policy were discussed at Cabinet Members Meeting with Recommendation 13 (below) presenting a particular challenge for officers to deliver. Consequently, it was decided to not proceed with Formal Consultation on proposed changes to the County Policy at that time, but this remains under active review.	
Recommendation 13: KCC should raise the low income threshold to £21k to enable pupils from low income families but not entitled to Free School Meals to access free transport to their nearest appropriate secondary school	With good intention, £100k was set aside to progress this recommendation within the Council's budget. However, the introduction of such a significant policy change (as with Recommendation 12) requires a formal process to be followed in order to set this out in the County Home to School Transport Policy. Unfortunately, the proposed introduction was not without significant financial risk to KCC with challenges around how officers could reasonably and accurately 'means test' families to establish eligibility. Officers raised significant concern in relation to fraudulent applications, and their inability to be confident that public funds were not being misappropriated were this be progressed. Ongoing changes to Universal Credit have complicated matters further and exacerbated the situation. Officers presented these concerns to CMM and a decision was taken not to conduct the Transport Policy Review in June as planned. This remains under active review; however, officers are no nearer to resolving the 'means testing' issue that will present.	Pending
Recommendation 14: KCC to create a schools focused supplementary transport bursary, that would enable grammar schools and other types of schools where appropriate, to provide bespoke	Schools were written to and invited to make bids for financial contributions towards transport operations where they considered there were pupils within their school's catchment areas that might otherwise struggle to access school by public transport. No specific budget has been set aside as it was	Ongoing

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<p>transport solutions especially for children from rural areas without bus services to enable better access to grammar schools.</p>	<p>determined that in the same way that successful Transport Appeals taken to the Transport Regulation Committee are funded from the transport budget, any such provisions would also be funded in the same way. No schools have applied for financial contributions to transport operations and whilst it remains available to them, there appears little appetite amongst schools to operate subsidised bespoke transport operations for their learners.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 15: To invite grammar schools to fully consider the disadvantaged children eligible for Pupil Premium support face and take action within their oversubscription admissions criteria. Where this fails to happen we will expect KCC to challenge the determined admissions arrangements.</p>	<p>At the time of the last report to Scrutiny Committee 17 out of 32 Kent Grammar schools had made provision for Pupil Premium or FSM eligible children within their admission arrangements, and more were consulting on including a criterion supporting the admission of applicants from this group Currently 27 out of 32 have adjusted their admission arrangements. Others have indicated that their record of admitting PP / FSM pupils is already good.</p>	<p>Done</p>
<p>Recommendation 16: Urge all “super selective” grammar schools to allocate a number of places for pupils registered in that academic year for Pupil Premium support and who achieve an appropriate combined test score in the Kent Test. We would also invite these schools to review the impact of “super selection” on social mobility in their areas.</p>	<p>See progress recorded against Recommendation 8.</p> <p>Although they are not directly managed by the Local Authority, the grammar schools which were “super selective” at the time of the Select Committee investigation have taken action to prioritise the admission of applicants eligible for FSM / Pupil Premium. There is now no Kent grammar school which admits purely by reference to ranked aggregate score, most having some regard to the interests of their local community. The most recent census data available for Year 7 admissions across the grammar schools shows an increase in FSM eligible pupils from 141 in 2016 to 217 in 2018.</p>	<p>Done</p>