

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Richard Long, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

DECISION NO:

20/00047

Unrestricted

Key decision: YES

Subject: Proposal to establish a 16 place Specialist Resourced Provision (SRP) for Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Holy Trinity and St John's CE Primary school in Thanet.

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, I propose to:

- i. Issue a public notice to establish a 16 place Specialist Resourced Provision for Autistic Spectrum Disorder at Holy Trinity and St John's CE Primary School from June 2021 (term 6).

And, subject to no objections being received to the public notice

- ii. Establish a 16 place Specialist Resourced Provision for Autistic Spectrum Disorder at Holy Trinity and St John's CE Primary School.

Reason(s) for decision:

The Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2020-2024 sets out our commissioning intentions to meet the need for specialist provisions across Kent. A mixture of new schools, expansion of existing and the establishment of satellites and SRPs will be commissioned across Kent to meet the need. The new SRP provision at Holy Trinity and St Johns CE Primary School will help to meet the need for additional specialist places.

Around 3% of the total school population for which the Local Authority is responsible for have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). The number of pupils in the Thanet District with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in January 2019 was 1,369. This was an increase of 12.8% from 2018. This was higher than the national increase of 11%. As at January 2019, 4.8% of the pupils aged 5-19 years in Thanet (maintained and independent) were subject to an EHCP. Pupils with an EHCP in Kent are less likely to be educated in a maintained mainstream school than would be expected nationally.

Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) remains the most common primary need type. In Kent 40% of children and young people aged 0-25 years with an EHCP have this identified as their primary need. This is significantly higher than the national figure of 29%.

Currently there are no SRP places for ASD in Primary schools across the Thanet district.

Establishing a 16 place SRP for ASD at Holy Trinity and St John's CE Primary School will help to meet this increasing need. It will ensure that Thanet District will have SRP provisions for ASD and will give choice to parents whose child needs additional support.

Equality Implications

An Equality Impact Assessment has been produced as part of the consultation process and is attached. The assessment identified the following positive impacts:

- Children with ASD in the Thanet district will be able to attend provision local to their homes.
- Children with ASD will be able to attend SRP provision in a mainstream primary school in Thanet.

No adverse impacts were identified during the assessment.

Data Protection implications

An impact assessment identified no adverse implications and KCC did not handle any personal data relating to this decision.

Financial Implications

Capital

The feasibility estimates the costs for this proposal to be £643,953. A building which is currently used for SEN interventions and was once the on-site nursery will be extended and refurbished to include two classrooms, care facilities and small group intervention rooms. The designs are currently being developed in preparation for submission for planning permission in September/October 2020.

Revenue

As per KCC policy a total of £6,000 per newly provided classroom will be provided to the school from the DGS revenue budget.

Each place commissioned by KCC will bring a minimum of £10,000 per year which will enable the school to provide the additional support necessary to help these children make good social and academic progress.

Legal Implications

Kent County Council (KCC) as the Local Authority has a duty to ensure sufficient school places are available. If this decision does not take place there will be a risk that we cannot meet our statutory duties to provide education provision.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The decision will be discussed at the Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee on 22 September.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Options regarding the establishment of SRPs in primary schools in Thanet have been fully investigated with the SEN team. Holy Trinity and St Johns Primary School was identified as one of the best options for the establishment of an SRP for ASD (the other is Garlinge Primary which will be subject to a separate report). The school's governing body are fully in support of the proposals and creating the SRP provision will enable choice for parents in Thanet with a child who would require the additional support an SRP provision offers.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer None

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signed

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date