

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

## DECISION TAKEN BY:

Richard Long TD, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

## DECISION NO:

20/00047

## For publication

### Subject Matter / Title of Decision

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, Thanet

### Key decision:

*Key decision criteria. The decision will:*

- a) *result in savings or expenditure which is significant having regard to the budget for the service or function (currently defined by the Council as in excess of £1,000,000); or*
- b) *be significant in terms of its effects on a significant proportion of the community living or working within two or more electoral divisions – which will include those decisions that involve:*
  - *the adoption or significant amendment of major strategies or frameworks;*
  - *significant service developments, significant service reductions, or significant changes in the way that services are delivered, whether County-wide or in a particular locality.*

### Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, I agree 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, Thanet

### Reason(s) for decision:

- 1.1 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 Primary School will help to meet the need for additional specialist places.
- 1.2 Kent County Council's Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) 2017 -2019 identifies the need to add additional provision across the county. It also sets out an intention to provide additional places for pupils with the following need types: Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Speech Language and Communication Needs (ASD), and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH).

## 2. Background

- 2.1 Around 3% of the total school population for which the Local Authority is responsible, 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.
- 2.2 A number of students with an EHCP require higher level of support than can be provided in mainstream schools, but their needs are not so complex that a special school placement is appropriate. For these students we maintain a range of Specialist Resourced Provisions (SRPs) which are based in mainstream schools with places reserved for students with an EHCP. The establishment of SRPs attached to mainstream schools is part of the continuum of provision to enable pupils to be included within mainstream settings.
- 2.3 The proposal is to establish a 16 place SRP for ASD at Holy Trinity and St John's CE Primary School to help meet the need for additional specialist primary school places in Thanet. The school is rated 'Good' by Ofsted. An additional 16 place SRP for ASD has been proposed for Garlinge Primary school in Thanet and will be presented to the committee in a separate report, although the FED was published together with Holy Trinity and St John's proposal originally.
- 2.4 Feasibility studies have been carried out to establish a dedicated space for the provision. The SRP is to be established in a building which was previously the school's nursery and is currently used for SEN interventions. There will be an extension to the building and some internal reconfiguration undertaken to provide the spaces for the SRP whilst maintaining intervention capacity for the school.
- 2.5 The places will be commissioned by KCC and reviewed annually. It is expected that the SRP would open initially with a small number of children increasing incrementally year on year.

### **3. Equalities implications**

- 3.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed 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 mainstream primary schools in Thanet.
  - There will be two SRPs for Primary school aged children with ASD established in the Thanet District.
- 3.2 No adverse impacts were identified during the assessment and to date no comments have been received and no changes are required.

### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 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. £99,736 in developer contributions have been secured for this project.

4.2 Revenue

As per KCC policy a total of £6,000 per newly provided learning space 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 process.

4.3 Human

KCC will work closely with the senior leadership teams of the School to ensure that all appropriate accommodation and facilities are provided to enable them to deliver an effective curriculum. The school will appoint members of staff as appropriate for the SRP provision.

**Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:**

This decision was considered and endorsed by the Children’s, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee at its meeting on 22 September 2020.

The Education consultation was held by the school from 11 March to 6 May 2020. The consultation documents were distributed to parents/carers, school staff and governors, County Councillors, Members of Parliament, the Diocesan Authorities, the relevant Clinical Commissioning Group, local libraries, Thanet District Council, and others. The consultation documents were posted on the KCC website and the link to the website widely circulated.

The consultations closed on 7 May 2020 and a total 5 responses for Holy Trinity and St John’s CE Primary School were received, all were supportive of the proposal.

**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 and Garlinge Primary School were identified as the best options for the establishment of an SRP for ASD based on their track record of inclusion and current expertise. 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



Richard Long

24 September 2020

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signed

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date