

EQIA Submission – ID Number

Section A

EQIA Title

Proposal to add a 30 Place Specialist Resourced Provision for Pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder at Folkestone Academy

Responsible Officer

Lee Round - CY EPA

Type of Activity

Service Change

No

Service Redesign

No

Project/Programme

No

Commissioning/Procurement

Commissioning/Procurement

Strategy/Policy

No

Details of other Service Activity

No

Accountability and Responsibility

Directorate

Children Young People and Education

Responsible Service

Education Provision Planning and Access

Responsible Head of Service

David Adams - CY EPA

Responsible Director

Christine McInnes - CY EPA

Aims and Objectives

The Turner Schools Trust in conjunction with Kent County Council (KCC) are proposing to open a 30 place Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Folkestone Academy from September 2024.

The intentions are that KCC will commission up to 30 places within the SRP for secondary aged children with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) for ASD at The Folkestone Academy. Initially, the commissioned number of places for 2024/25 will be 6.

In bringing forward this proposal all parties believe that opening an SRP for ASD pupils will:

-Provide a much needed resource that will support the growing number of secondary aged pupils with ASD across Folkestone and Hythe District. More directly, it will support families in Folkestone Town and the surrounding villages by reducing the distances pupils need to travel to access appropriate support;

-Build on the expertise that the Trust has in educating children with special educational needs including ASD;

Have a positive impact on the education and social understanding of other pupils within the school; and

-Support pupils with ASD in the transition from primary to secondary school and then from secondary school into post-16 provision, apprenticeships or supported employment. Folkestone Academy has a strong track record in ensuring successful transition arrangements, both into the school in Year 7 and as pupils move on to post-16, or post-18 provision. There are well-established relationships in place with local primary schools to ensure that pupils feel safe and secure when they start in Year 7. This is further strengthened by transition days, additional small group transition sessions and our summer school. Parents and carers are included in all transition arrangements.

The addition of an ASD provision will release capacity for other need types in our special schools such as The Beacon Folkestone.

Analysis would suggest that the impact of the proposal will have a positive impact. It is recognised that as statistically fewer girls have an ECHP with ASD as their primary need type it could be seen that girls will benefit less than boys from the opening of the SRP. However, through training, SRP staff will develop the whole staff body enabling them to support all young people on role who may have ASD characteristics.

Section B – Evidence

Do you have data related to the protected groups of the people impacted by this activity?

Yes

It is possible to get the data in a timely and cost effective way?

Yes

Is there national evidence/data that you can use?

Yes

Have you consulted with stakeholders?

No

Who have you involved, consulted and engaged with?

Consultation will take place between 27/11/23 and 08/01/24 with the following stakeholders:

- All parents/carers
- All schools in Folkestone and Hythe District
- Local KCC Members
- Folkestone and Hythe Council
- Local MPs
- Dioceses of Canterbury and Southwark
- The Clinical Commissioning Group
- ASD support groups/charities

Has there been a previous Equality Analysis (EQIA) in the last 3 years?

No

Do you have evidence that can help you understand the potential impact of your activity?

Yes

Section C – Impact

Who may be impacted by the activity?

Service Users/clients

Service users/clients

Staff

Staff/Volunteers

Residents/Communities/Citizens

Residents/communities/citizens

Are there any positive impacts for all or any of the protected groups as a result of the activity that you are doing?

Yes
Details of Positive Impacts
<p>Analysis would suggest the following positive impacts:</p> <p>-Currently there is an SRP within a primary school in Folkestone but not a similar pathway in secondary. The SRP at Folkestone academy will address this disparity offering a pathway for young people aged 11-16 who require the additional support that an SRP for ASD can offer.</p> <p>-ASD is a recognised disability. Currently there is an SRP for pupils diagnosed with ASD within a primary school in Folkestone but not a similar pathway in secondary. The SRP at Folkestone academy will address this disparity offering a pathway for young people aged 11-16 diagnosed with ASD who require the additional support that an SRP for ASD can offer.</p> <p>-The creation of specialist places will mean that Carers and Parents of young people aged 11-16 who require the specialist support may be able to access a specialist facility in a more local secondary school reducing travel distances.</p>
Negative impacts and Mitigating Actions
19. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Age
Are there negative impacts for age?
No
Details of negative impacts for Age
Not Applicable
Mitigating Actions for Age
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions – Age
Not Applicable
20. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Disability
Are there negative impacts for Disability?
No
Details of Negative Impacts for Disability
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Disability
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Disability
Not Applicable
21. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Sex
Are there negative impacts for Sex
No
Details of negative impacts for Sex
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Sex
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Sex
Not Applicable
22. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Are there negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender
No
Negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender
Not Applicable

Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Not Applicable
23. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Race
Are there negative impacts for Race
No
Negative impacts for Race
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Race
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Race
Not Applicable
24. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Are there negative impacts for Religion and belief
No
Negative impacts for Religion and belief
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Religion and Belief
Not Applicable
25. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Are there negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
No
Negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
26. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Are there negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
No
Negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
27. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Are there negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
No
Negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
28. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities

Are there negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
No
Negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable