

From: Gaetano Romagnuolo, Research Officer - Overview & Scrutiny  
To: **SEND Sub-Committee – 21 March 2024**  
Subject: SEND Sub-Committee – Annual Update Report  
Classification: **Unrestricted**

---

## 1. Introduction

- a) The Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting on 25 January 2023, approved the establishment of the SEND Sub-Committee.
- b) The SEND Sub-Committee exercises the functions of KCC's Scrutiny Committee in relation to KCC's SEND provision. Its focus was to scrutinise and review matters in relation to SEND provision, recognising that there was existing duplication across multiple committees.
- c) This is the annual update report of the SEND Sub-Committee. It was produced in accordance with its terms of reference, which required the Sub-Committee to report to the main Scrutiny Committee on an annual basis. The report sets out an overview of the Sub-Committee's activities over the past year. It includes some commentary on the issues explored, and highlights some of the key points considered by the Sub-Committee.
- d) The SEND Sub-Committee held seven formal meetings, in which it gathered information and evidence from, and reviewed and scrutinised decisions and actions taken by, KCC's Executive. KCC's Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, and Directors of the Children, Young People and Education Directorate (CYPE), were required to provide information and reports to the Sub-Committee.
- e) Additional evidence was gathered from a number of visits and virtual meetings. These included:
  - **A visit to The Malling School, East Malling.** The Malling School's Specialist Resource Provision is a highly successful specialist mainstream unit. It supports students with speech, language and communication needs, Developmental Language Disorder and Autistic Spectrum Disorder.
  - **A virtual meeting with Hilary Macdonald.** Hilary was the Ofsted HMI Lead Inspector who carried out the SEND revisit in Kent in September 2022.
  - **A visit to the Turner Schools Trust.** This included one-to-one meetings with parents of pupils with SEND.
  - **A visit to the We Are Beams centre.** This involved meeting representatives of **Fathers Club Kent**, a support group for fathers of children with autism.
- f) The SEND Sub-Committee report is in **Appendix 1**.

## 2. Next Steps

- a) Once approved, the report will be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee.

### 3. Recommendation:

To **approve** the Annual Update Report of the SEND Sub-Committee.

## 4. Background Documents

None.

## 5. Contact details

Gaetano Romagnuolo  
Research Officer - Overview and Scrutiny  
Governance, Law and Democracy, Chief Executive's Department  
03000 416624  
[gaetano.romagnuolo@kent.gov.uk](mailto:gaetano.romagnuolo@kent.gov.uk)

Joel Cook  
Democratic Services Manager  
Governance, Law & Democracy, Chief Executive's Department  
03000 419292  
[joel.cook@kent.gov.uk](mailto:joel.cook@kent.gov.uk)