

## EQIA Submission – ID Number

### Section A

#### EQIA Title

**Proposal to decommission the Specialist Resourced Provision (SRP) for pupils with speech and language needs (S&LN) at River Primary School Dover**

#### Responsible Officer

Lee Round - CY EDSEN

#### Approved by (Note: approval of this EqIA must be completed within the EqIA App)

David Adams - CY EDSEN

### Type of Activity

#### Service Change

Yes

#### Service Redesign

No

#### Project/Programme

No

#### Commissioning/Procurement

No

#### Strategy/Policy

No

#### Details of other Service Activity

No

### Accountability and Responsibility

#### Direktorate

Children Young People and Education

#### Responsible Service

Education

#### Responsible Head of Service

David Adams - CY EDSEN

#### Responsible Director

Christine McInnes - CY EDSEN

### Aims and Objectives

The proposal is to decommission the Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) for children with S&LN at River Primary School from September 2026.

In recent years, the number of pupils for whom the SRP at River Primary School has been deemed appropriate has fallen significantly. Currently there are only four pupils accessing the SRP and all will move on to secondary school within the next two years.

The reduction of the number of pupils placed in the SRP at River Primary School is due to a number of factors:

1. The introduction of The Balance System across the County, which is upskilling mainstream staff, providing a strategic approach to supporting pupils with speech and language needs. This means that the needs of a greater number of pupils can be met within their local school rather than through an SRP.
2. There are increasing numbers of pupils with additional communication needs in addition to speech and language, in particular, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Therefore, we need to commission SRP places which have the resources and facilities to support pupils who have multiple communication needs, including Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) and ASD.

3. Whilst the number of pupils supported by River's SRP has fallen, the number supported by the SRP at Whitfield Aspen School has grown significantly (by over 100 places since 2015). This is because it has the existing resources and expertise to support pupils with multiple need types including SLCN and ASD.

In September 2026, pupils previously supported by the SRP still at the school would continue to receive the high-quality teaching and learning support they currently receive until they transfer to secondary school

The EQIA would suggest that there could be a low negative impact for age and disability:

**Age:** The proposal affects primary aged children only. Pupils remaining on roll would continue to receive the high quality teaching and learning support they currently receive until they transfer to secondary school.

**Disability:** Speech and language disorders can be classified as a disability. However, the closure of the SRP at River Primary School would be expected to have a minimal impact as speech and language needs are being met in mainstream schools through The Balance System. Additionally, pupils on roll in the SRP would continue to receive the high quality teaching and learning support they currently receive until they transfer to secondary school.

The EQIA would suggest that could be a positive impact for age and disability:

**Age:** The implementation of The Balance System means that the needs of a greater number of pupils are being met within their local schools. The resources freed up by decommissioning this provision could be used to better support pupils who have more complex or different needs.

**Disability:** The resources freed up by this proposal could be utilised to create provision for disabled pupils who have multiple issues (speech language and communication needs and autistic spectrum disorder for instance).

## 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?**

- Parents/carers at River Primary School
- All schools in the Dover district
- Local KCC Members
- Dover District Council
- Local MPs
- The Clinical Commissioning Group

**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**

The implementation of The Balance System means that the needs of a greater number of pupils are being met within their local schools. The resources freed up by decommissioning this provision could be used to better support pupils who have more complex or different needs.

The resources freed up by this proposal could be utilised to create provision for disabled who have multiple issues (speech language and communication needs and autistic spectrum disorder for instance).

**Negative impacts and Mitigating Actions****19. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Age****Are there negative impacts for Age?**

Yes

**Details of negative impacts for Age**

The proposal affects primary aged children only. In September 2026, there will only be two children on roll in the SRP.

**Mitigating Actions for Age**

They would continue to receive the high quality teaching and learning support they currently receive until they transfer to secondary school.

**Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions – Age**

Lee Round

**20. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Disability****Are there negative impacts for Disability?**

Yes

**Details of Negative Impacts for Disability**

Speech and language disorders can be classified as a disability. However, the closure of the SRP at River Primary School would be expected to have a minimal impact as speech and language needs are being met in mainstream schools through The Balance System.

**Mitigating actions for Disability**

The resources freed up by this proposal could be utilised to create provision for disabled pupils who have multiple issues (SLCN and ASD for instance). In September 2026, pupils previously supported by the SRP still at the school would continue to receive the high-quality teaching and learning support they currently receive until they transfer to secondary school

**Responsible Officer for Disability**

Lee Round

**21. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Sex****Are there negative impacts for Sex**

No. Note: If Question 21a is "No", Questions 21b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval

**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. Note: If Question 22a is "No", Questions 22b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval

**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. Note: If Question 23a is "No", Questions 23b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval

**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. Note: If Question 24a is "No", Questions 24b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval

**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. Note: If Question 25a is "No", Questions 25b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval

**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. Note: If Question 26a is "No", Questions 26b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval

**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. Note: If Question 27a is "No", Questions 27b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval

<b>Negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Responsible Officer for Marriage and Civil Partnerships</b>
Not Applicable
<b>28. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities</b>
<b>Are there negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities</b>
No. Note: If Question 28a is "No", Questions 28b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval
<b>Negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Responsible Officer for Carer's responsibilities</b>
Not Applicable