David Adams
Interim Deputy Director – Effectiveness, Sufficiency and Skills
Kent County Council
Kroner House
Eurogate Business Park
Ashford
Kent
TN24 8XU

11 November 2026

Dear David Adams,

Re: Strategic Investment Proposal for Maintained Special Schools

We are writing on behalf of the Kent Special Educational Needs Trust (KsENT) to express our support for your proposal for strategic investment across all maintained special schools in Kent.

We warmly welcome this significant piece of work and recognise it as the first time in recent history that the infrastructure needs of all maintained special schools have been considered collectively and strategically in line with the future SEND sufficiency needs of children and young people progressing through the education system. This represents an important opportunity to ensure that our specialist provisions are fit for purpose and capable of meeting increasing and evolving demand across the county.

As school leaders, we particularly value the recent collaborative and transparent approach that has been taken throughout this process. The opportunity for open dialogue between the Local Authority and maintained special schools has allowed for a shared understanding of priorities and challenges, helping to ensure that finite resources can be targeted where they will have the greatest impact on outcomes for the most vulnerable children and young people in Kent.

We also commend this work as the first substantial strategic initiative led by a Local Authority officer that has the potential to make a meaningful contribution towards addressing the escalating expenditure on Non-Maintained Independent Special Schools. By investing in and strengthening maintained specialist provision, Kent has an opportunity to build sustainable local capacity, improve outcomes for children closer to their communities, and deliver better value for public funds over the longer term.

Importantly, we believe the success of this programme will rely on continued partnership working. Ongoing engagement with maintained special schools will be essential to ensure investment decisions remain informed by operational realities, emerging needs, and the experiences of children, young people, and their families. We welcome the commitment shown to date and look forward to maintaining this constructive dialogue as proposals develop.

As KsENT, we support this proposal being presented to Cabinet and recognise the strategic importance of securing investment in Kent's maintained special school estate. We remain committed to working collaboratively with the Local Authority and KsENT schools to ensure that future developments deliver meaningful and lasting improvements for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities across the county.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment in bringing forward this important and much-needed programme of work.

Yours sincerely,





Maddie Arnold-Jones, Co-Chair
Kent Special Educational Needs Trust

Kerry Greene, Co-Chair

Kent Special Education Needs Trust (KsENT)
Email: Admin@ksent.org
Ksent is a private limited company registered in England and Wales with company registration number 9351769.