From: Christine McInnes, Corporate Director Children, Young People and Education

Beverly Fordham, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

To: **Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee –** 26 November 2026

Subject: Specialist Resourced Provision – Update Report

Decision no: Update on implementation of 25/00085. New decision 26/00073

Key Decision: The proposals affect more than 2 Electoral Divisions

Classification: *Unrestricted*

Past Pathway of report: Previous report - Children's, Young People & Education Cabinet Committee 18 November 2025

Electoral Division: All

Is the decision eligible for call-in? Yes

Summary:
The aim of this report is to update the Cabinet Committee on the progress implementing the specialist resource provision expansion programme approved under Key Decision 25/00085 and to seek approval to substitute/ amend identified SRP schemes where the originally approved proposals can no longer be implemented. The proposed changes remain within the previously approved £20m capital envelope.

Recommendation(s):

The Children Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to;

Consider and endorse or make recommendations the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills on the proposed decision at set out within the PROD to approve the substitute and amended Specialist Resourced Provision (SRP) schemes identified in this report, replacing those schemes approved under Decision 25/00085 which can no longer be progressed as originally proposed.

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1. Introduction

1.1 At its meeting of 8 November 2025, the Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee endorsed a proposal to significantly increase specialist resource base provision (SRP) in the County.

1.2 The DfE's definition of a SRP is: "*resourced provision are places that are reserved at a mainstream school for pupils with a specific type of SEN, taught for at least half of their time within mainstream classes, but requiring a base and some specialist facilities around the school".*

1.3 The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills subsequently approved £20m to deliver the proposed schemes which together would deliver 889 additional places if all implemented (Decision 25/00085).

1.4 The Cabinet Member's decision has provided the authority to officers to progress the programme at pace, but within a tight framework. To ensure transparency in implementing this decision an Officer Record of Decision has been taken on each project as it has progressed to delivery. This report on progress further adds to the transparency and accountability.

2. Progress to date on creating new SRP places

2.1 For consistency and ease of cross referencing, this report uses the same Table titles as those in the November 2025 paper and the Kent Commissioning Plan 2026-30. These have been updated with a progress column. Tables 8c to 8f show that as at September 2026 six new SRPs have opened, two existing SRPs have been expanded and one informal provision has been formally designated as an SRP. Together these schemes have added 98 places for September 2026 of which at the start of term 99 have been filled.

2.2 It is important that the new SRPs deliver high-quality provision from day one. It is also important that new provision can grow sustainably, ensuring that the whole school culture adapts to having an SRP, and that parental confidence in the provision is strong. We have created a comprehensive support package for schools hosting new SRPs, and a sector network is in place to share practice, challenges and ensure we have a continuous improvement loop in place. Pupil admissions are progressive, to ensure that students are settled before further places are offered. The phasing is set out in Tables 8c to 8f.

2.3 Further provisions will open in September 2027 as noted from Tables 8c to 8f. A number of new secondary school provision will come online in September 2027. This is important as we move through the Phase Transfer process for children with EHCPs and seek to avoid independent school placements being required because maintained provision is not available. This avoids five to eight years of higher independent placement costs. It also opens capacity in older year groups to help avoid pupils moving from mainstream settings straight to independent schools in years 8-11.

2.4 Tables 8c to 8f also identify schemes that we have not been able to progress. There will be a variety of reasons for this, for example the governing body/trust decided not to proceed, the school's Ofsted grading has become an

impediment to change, or the value for money has influenced the decision. The Cabinet Member's decision provides some scope for change. If the planning group has been named there is flexibility as to which school in that group is taken forward. However, where a school has been named, or where no school in a planning group could be proposed, the decision does not allow for a different school or planning group to be substituted. This was deliberate. It ensures that more material changes are reported and approval for these sought. Included in Tables 8c to 8f are proposed substitute schemes, which require approval, to replace those that cannot be progressed. The new proposals are the same in terms of need type and district. If approved, these amended proposals would continue to be delivered within the £20m agreed capital envelope.

2.5 The Tables below use the following definitions for consistency:

- **Delivered:** The SRP is fully operational, with a Lead Teacher in post and pupils on roll in the provision.
- **In Progress:** The school has been confirmed with the SRP expected to open before or for September 2027. Public consultation has been completed, feasibility funding has been approved, and construction works are underway.
- **Finalising with School:** The scheme remains under development. The school has not yet received formal approval from its Governing Body or Trust, and/or public consultation has not been completed. Feasibility design work may still be ongoing and construction has not yet commenced.
- **Withdrawn:** The school has formally notified KCC that it does not wish to proceed with the scheme.
- **Substitute:** The school is a substitute after the original school withdrew from the project.

Figure 8c: Planned New/Expanded SRPs in East Kent

East Provision: SRP	Date of Opening	Progress Status	SEN Type	District	New Places Available Sept 2026	Total Additional Places by Year					Total New Places
						2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	
Lansdowne Primary School	2026/27	Delivered	ASD/SLCN	Swale	11	9	0	0	0	0	20
Richmond Primary	2026/27	Delivered	ASD/SLCN	Swale	12	12	8	8	0	0	40
Newlands Primary*	2027/28	Finalising with school	ASD/SLCN	Thanet	0	10	7	3	0	0	20
Herne Bay Primary Planning Group	2027/28	Finalising with school	ASD/SLCN	Canterbury	0	10	10	0	0	0	20
Faversham Primary PG Bysing Wood	2027/28	In progress	ASD/SLCN	Swale	0	15	5	0	0	0	20
Total planned primary SRP places					**23**	56	30	11	0	0	**120**
Royal Harbour Academy	2026/27	Withdrawn	ASD/SLCN	Thanet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thanet Non-Selective PG	2028/29	Finalising with school	ASD/SLCN	Thanet	0	15	15	20	0	0	50
Canterbury Coastal PG**	2027/28	Finalising with school	ASD/SLCN	Canterbury	0	15	15	10	0	0	40
Isle of Sheppey Non-Selective Secondary	2027/28	Withdrawn	ASD/SLCN	Swale	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Faversham non-selective PG	2027/28	Substitute; finalising with school	ASD/SLCN	Swale	0	10	10	0	0	0	20
Thanet Non-Selective (2) PG	2027/28	Substitute; finalising with school	ASD/SLCN	Thanet	0	10	10	10	0	0	30
Total planned secondary SRP places						50	50	40			**140**
Total planned SRP places					**23**	106	80	51	0	0	**260**

Blue font: Schemes delayed from planned 2025 KCP delivery
*Newlands: potential additional number of places reduced from 40 in consultation with the school
**Canterbury Coastal Planning Group: potential additional number of places reduced from 50 in consultation with the school

Figure 8d: Planned/New Expanded SRPs in North Kent

North Provision: SRP	Date of Opening	Progress Status	SEN Type	District	New Places Available Sept 2026	Total Additional Places by Year					Total New Places
						2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	
Alkerden CoE Academy (Primary)	2027/28	In progress	ASD/SLCN	Dartford	0	4	3	3	5	0	15
Rosherville CoE Primary Academy	2027/28	In progress	ASD/SLCN	Gravesham	0	6	5	4	0	0	15
Edenbridge PG: Edenbridge Primary School	2027/28	In progress	ASD/SLCN	Sevenoaks	0	7	7	6	0	0	20
Sevenoaks Rural North PG: St Edmunds, CEP	2026/27	Delivered	ASD/SLCN	Sevenoaks	7	7	6	0	0	0	20
Swanley PG: St Marys	2027/28	In progress	ASD/SLCN	Sevenoaks	0	6	5	4	0	0	15
Total planned primary SRP places					**7**	30	26	17	5	0	**85**
Alkerden CoE Academy (Secondary)	2027/28	In progress	ASD/SLCN	Dartford	0	6	6	6	7	0	25
Gravesham and Longfield PG:* St George's CoE School	2028 onwards	Withdrawn	ASD/SLCN	Gravesham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sevenoaks and Borough Green PG: Knole Academy	2027/28	In progress	ASD/SLCN	Sevenoaks	0	8	12	10	0	0	30
Dartford and Swanley non-selective PG	2028/29	Substitute: finalising with school	ASD/SLCN	Dartford	0	0	10	10	10	0	30
Total planned secondary SRP places					**0**	14	28	26	17	0	**85**
Total planned SRP places					**7**	44	54	43	22	0	**170**

Blue font: Schemes delayed from planned 2025 KCP delivery.
*St George's SRP considerably delayed as part of the DfE rebuild decision, as site constraints and temporary accommodation arrangements prevent delivery at this stage.

Figure 8e: Planned New/Expanded SRPs in South Kent

South Provision: SRP	Date of Opening	Progress Status	SEN Need Type	District	New Places Available Sept 2026	Total Additional Places by Year					Total New Places
						2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	
Ashford Oaks Community Primary School (expansion)	2026/27	Delivered	ASD	Ashford	10	0	0	0	0	0	10
The Downs CoE Primary School	2026/27	Delivered	ASD/SLCN	Dover	6	4	4	0	0	0	14
Ashford North Planning Group*	2027/28	Finalising with school	ASD/SLCN	Ashford	0	7	7	6	0	0	20
Ashford East Planning Group*	2027/28	Finalising with school	ASD/SLCN	Ashford	0	7	7	6	0	0	20
Tenterden South Planning Group	2027/28	Finalising with school	ASD/SLCN	Ashford	0	6	5	3	0	0	14
Ashford South Planning Group	2027/28	Finalising with school	ASD/SLCN	Ashford	0	6	5	3	0	0	14
Total planned primary places					**16**	30	28	18	0	0	**92**
Homewood School and 6th Form Centre	2026/27	Delivered	ASD/SLCN	Ashford	10	20	20	0	0	0	50
Dover Christchurch Academy (expansion)	2026/27	Delivered	ASD/SLCN	Dover	35	0	0	0	0	0	35
St Edmunds's Catholic School	2026/27	Delivered	ASD/SLCN	Dover	7	5	8	0	0	0	20
The Turner Free School** (formalisation)	2026/27	Delivered	C&L, Speech and Language	Folkestone & Hythe	0	10	10	0	0	0	20
Total planned secondary SRP places					**52**	35	38	0	0	0	**125**
Total planned SRP places					**68**	65	66	18	0	0	**217**

Blue font: Schemes delayed from planned 2025 KCP delivery.
*Ashford North and East Planning Group: increase of places from 14 in consultation with the school
**The Turner Free School: 30 informal places are now formal SRP places; this legally add 30 places to add to the total of new places

Figure 8f: Planned New/Expanded SRPs in West Kent

West Provision: SRP	Date of Opening	Progress Status	SEN Need Type	District	New Places available Sept 2026	Total Additional Places by Year					Total New Places
						2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	
South East Maidstone Town	2027/28	Finalising with School	ASD/SLCN	Maidstone	0	6	5	3	0	0	14
North West Maidstone Town	2027/28	Finalising with School	ASD/SLCN	Maidstone	0	6	5	3	0	0	14
Maidstone Rural	2027/28	Finalising with School	ASD/SLCN	Maidstone	0	6	5	3	0	0	14
Tunbridge Wells Town 1 East Planning Group	2027/28	Finalising with School	ASD/SLCN	Tunbridge Wells	0	6	5	3	0	0	14
Tunbridge Wells Town 2 West Planning Group	2027/28	Finalising with School	ASD/SLCN	Tunbridge Wells	0	6	5	3	0	0	14
Tunbridge Wells Rural	2027/28	Finalising with School	ASD/SLCN	Tunbridge Wells	0	6	5	3	0	0	14
Total planned primary SRP places					**0**	36	30	18	0	0	**84**
St Augustine (expansion)	2027/28	Finalising with School	ASD/SLCN	Maidstone	0	8	12	10	0	0	30
Maidstone Secondary Town	2027/28	Finalising with School	ASD/SLCN	Maidstone	0	8	12	10	0	0	30
Skinners' Kent Academy	2027/28	Finalising with School	ASD/SLCN	Tunbridge Wells	0	8	12	10	0	0	30
Total planned secondary SRP places					**0**	24	36	30	0	0	**90**
Total planned SRP places					**0**	60	66	48	0	0	**174**

Blue font: Schemes delayed from planned 2025 KCP delivery.

2.6 During the course of this year, it became evident that due to the falling roll at Langafel CEP School, the current size of its SRP (40 pupils) was disproportionate and risked destabilising the school. As part of the regular commissioning arrangements an Officer decision (with Cabinet Member support) was made to increase capacity at an alternative setting, Temple Hill PS, to enable provision at Langafel to be scaled back over time, with the aim of reducing to 15 places. Temple Hill is being expanded by 30 places, at a cost of £418,000 (capital and revenue) which is outside of the £20m agreed envelope, but within the schemes of delegation for the relevant officers.

3. Progress on changing SRP designations

3.1 Decision 25/00085 included changing the service delivery for children with Visual Impairment and ceasing to commission SRP provision for this need type. The VI designation at Reculver PS has been removed following the statutory process to broaden their designation for ASD/SCLN. Morehall has commenced the process to remove their VI designation and close the provision. The VI designation at The Archbishop's School is the only remaining provision and discussions are ongoing with the school regarding the closure of the provision and the potential broadening of the school's designation.

3.2 Table 8g of the KCP 2026-30 identified a number of schools where proposals to broaden their designations were expected to come forward. A statutory proposal is being progressed at Hythe Bay CEPS, to move from SLCN to ASD/SLCN, and Reculver CEPS has moved from C&L, VI to ASD/SLCN. Discussions with the other schools in Table 8g continue. It has always been intended that such changes would evolve, rather than be forced.

3.3 Table 8g of the November 2025 paper included Bromstone CPS. This table related to proposed changes of designation. With hindsight this school should have been included in Table 8c. Bromstone does not have a designated SRP. Its provision is "informal" and should be regularised through the appropriate statutory process, as has happened with that at Turner Free School. It was originally commissioned for 14 places but now has 53 children on roll. Its accommodation is not fit for purpose. Feasibility work has identified that to meet the required standards (BB104) the school requires internal space reconfiguration, new classroom extensions and associated external areas to meet the specific requirements of an SRP for pupils with ASD and/or SLCN at an estimated cost of £1.4m. A separate proposal to regularise this position and seek funding for the scheme will come forward in due course.

4. Options considered and dismissed and associated risk.

4.1 The November 2025 paper set out the options considered and dismissed and the risks.

4.2 The option of not replacing schemes that had become undeliverable was dismissed because there is an identified need for additional SRP provision, particularly in the secondary school sector.

5. Financial Implications

Capital

5.1 Decision 25/00085 allocated £20m to deliver the SRP expansion programme, to be funded from the High Needs Capital Grant (a ring-fenced capital grant from the Department of Education). The proposed substitute schemes set out in Tables 8c to 8f above do not change that funding envelop. Projects will be prioritised to ensure costs remain within the overall budget allocated. Additional projects over and above those set out in table 8c to 8f are not part of this key decision and approval will be sought, separately through the appropriate governance route.

Revenue:

5.2 As set out in Decision 25/00085, one-off set up costs will be funded from the growth fund of the Dedicated Schools Grant. The Council commissions schools to provide the support and provision provided in an SRP on a day-to-day basis, normally by paying a pre-agreed rate per place. The Council funds the revenue costs of SRP places from the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant, a specific ring-fenced revenue grant from the DfE.

5.3 The revised list of schemes reduces the total number of potential SRP places from 889 to 821, but this remains subject to ongoing discussions with schools. This is based on the latest forecast requirements.

6. Legal implications

6.1 The legal implications were set out in the papers for Decision 25/00085.

7. Equalities implications

7.1 The EQIA for the SRP expansion programme was considered as part of the process leading to Decision 25/00085. This has been reviewed and remains unchanged. The main programme will expand provision to enable more children and young people to attend specialist provision in their locality, reducing travel distances and improving choice.

8. Data Protection Implications

8.1 A full DPIA was published as part of the process for Decision 25/00085.

9. Other corporate implications

9.1 The existing SRP expansion programme is progressing with support from the Infrastructure Team, the Engagement and Consultation Team and Legal Services.

10. Governance

10.1 The proposed decision seeks approval to substitute or amend specific Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) schemes previously approved under Key Decision 25/00085, where the original proposals can no longer be progressed as intended.

10.2 Key Decision 25/00085 established the governance and delegated authority for implementation of the approved SRP programme, including commissioning, statutory processes, capital expenditure and contractual arrangements. However, those delegations relate to the schemes approved through that decision and identified within Tables 8c to 8f of the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2026-30.

10.3 The proposed substitute/amended schemes therefore require further Member approval. Should the decision be approved, it will be implemented in accordance with the existing delegations established under Key Decision 25/00085 and within the previously approved £20m capital expenditure limit. Any proposals outside the scope of the approved programme will be subject to the appropriate separate decision-making process.

11. Conclusions

11.1 Delivery of the agreed SRP expansion programme continues apace. Adjustments are required to ensure full deliver.

12. Background Documents

- *Report to CYPE Cabinet Committee 8 November 2025*
- *Decision Maker's Report – November 2025*
- *Record of Decision* (Decision:25/00099)
- *Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2026-30*

13. Appendices

13.1 Proposed Record of Decision (Appendix 1)

14. Contact details

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