

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL - RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY

Jenny Whittle, Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services

DECISION NO.

12/01831

If decision is likely to disclose exempt information please specify the relevant paragraph(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

Subject:

Closure of the Appledore Reception Centre for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Young People

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services, I APPROVE:

- (a) the proposal to close the Appledore Reception Centre.

In taking the decision I have taken into account the report presented to me and the views expressed at the Social Care and Public Health Cabinet Committee on 10 May 2012. Members of the Social Care and Public Health Cabinet Committee ENDORSED the decision to close the service, with this being delayed until October 2012.

Any Interest Declared when the Decision was Taken

None

Reason(s) for decision, including alternatives considered and any additional information

Appledore has provided short-term residential care for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and Young People (UASC) who have arrived at Dover and become the responsibility of Kent County Council. It was opened in 2002 but in recent years there has been a decline in the numbers of referrals to the service due alternative services having been developed which better meet the needs of the children and young people, combined with a reduction in numbers arriving in Kent. The alternative services are able to increase their capacity at short notice if there is a sudden increase in numbers arriving.

A formal consultation on closure was undertaken in February 2012. This suggested that there was a risk of an increase in UASC arrivals during the Olympic period and so a recommendation was made to postpone closure until October 2012. No such rise in numbers of arrivals occurred and the service is now no longer needed.

Background Documents:

Report by the Corporate Director, Families and Social Care: Appledore Reception Centre for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Young People.(Decision No 12/01831)


.....
signed

.....15.10.12.....
date

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Decision Referred to Cabinet Scrutiny			
YES		NO	

Cabinet Scrutiny Decision to Refer Back for Reconsideration			
YES		NO	

Reconsideration Record Sheet Issued			
YES		NO	

Reconsideration of Decision Published			