

2013 REVIEW

Commissioning Plan for Education Provision

KENT

2012 - 2017

1. Introduction

1.1 In September 2012 Kent County Council published the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education 2012-2017 which set out our future plans as strategic commissioner of education provision across all types and phases of education.

1.2 The Plan is due to be updated annually with progress being monitored six months after publication. This report reviews the progress made during 2012-13 in implementing the planned expansion of school places; in the accuracy of the forecasting; in meeting the targets shown in the Plan; in the effectiveness of our consultation processes; and in our progress with developing commissioning arrangements for SEN pupils, post-16 students and early-years children.

2. Progress in implementing the expansion of school place numbers

2.1 We have been successful in implementing the planned number of new school places overall:

- The Plan identified the need, by 2013, for permanent new school places as follows: 22.1 forms of entry in primary schools and 4 forms of entry in secondary schools by 2013. As at March 2013 21.3 forms of entry have been commissioned and/or provided in primary schools, together with 4 forms of entry in a secondary school.
- The Plan also identified the need to provide 362 temporary places for short-term pressures for Reception age pupils. As at March 2013 454 temporary places had been commissioned and/or provided.

2.2 A detailed summary of the progress made on the primary school proposals shown in the School Commissioning Position is given at **Appendix 1**. An analysis of the progress is provided below, by District:

Dartford – The Kent Commissioning Plan identified the need for up to 180 places in Year R for September 2013. This objective has been achieved for September 2013, with six schools receiving member decision to permanently expand. The schools were Maypole, Dartford Bridge, Oakfield, Stone St Mary's, Fleetdown and Manor. 86.8% of primary parents and 80.4% of secondary parents secured their first preference school.

Gravesham – The Plan identified the need for up to 60 places in Year R for September 2013. This objective has been achieved for September 2013, with two schools receiving member decision to permanently expand. The schools were St Botolph's and Whitehill. 84.6% of primary parents and 94.3% of secondary parents secured their first preference school, which represents good performance.

Sevenoaks -The Plan identified the need for up to 85 places in Year R for September 2013. This objective has been achieved for September 2013, with four schools receiving member decision to permanently expand. The schools were Lady Boswell's, St John's, Otford and Sevenoaks 88.9% of primary parents and 84.1% of secondary parents secured their first preference school.

Tunbridge Wells - The Plan identified the need for up to 170 places in Year R and 22 Year 3 places for September 2013. By September 2013 it is anticipated that we will have delivered 166 Year R places and 22 places in Year 3. Seven schools were proposed, Southborough, Langton Green, St Mark's, Pembury, St Matthew's, St

James' CE Infant School and St James Junior School. St Matthew's and Pembury were withdrawn. The eventual variance is expected to be six because the Wells Free School added 24 places and the Schools Adjudicator determined that Bishops Down PS should accept an additional 30 Year R children for 2013. As at 28 May 2013, there were 102 places still available out of a total PAN capacity of 1311; 72 of which were in Tunbridge Wells town. This gives a surplus capacity of 7.8%, which is in line with the local authority policy of maintaining 5% capacity for parental preference. Against the target for preference, 81.5% of primary parents and 91.9% of secondary parents secured their first preference school, which represents good performance.

Ashford – The Plan identified the need for up to 90 places in Year R for September 2013, and the formalisation of Repton Manor Primary School to 2FE. The latter has been achieved for September 2013. In respect of the former, 60 additional places have been created via bulges at Furley Park and Great Chart schools. The level of applications received by 16 January 2013 did not warrant further places being created, and suggests the 2013/14 forecasts for the district will be too high, similarly to those of 2012/13 noted in table 1 below. In the district 93% of primary parents and 94% of secondary parents secured their first preference school, which represents excellent performance.

Shepway – The decision has been to permanently expand Hawkinge Primary School, rather than have a bulge year group. Residency-based forecasts showed there was a clear case for this. Feasibility studies on schools in East Folkestone have shown these cannot be expanded, but work continues to find a solution for September 2014. Increasing capacity in Hawkinge has eased pressures on East Folkestone. 86% of primary parents and 91% of secondary parents secured their first preference school, which represents good performance.

Maidstone – Additional provision was made in Maidstone as set out in the Plan. A further 10 places were provided at Harrietsham CE Primary School due to the high number of children in the village. In reality it means the expansion of this school, which was due from September 2014, has moved forward to 2013. 86% of primary and 90% of secondary parents secured their first preference school, which represents good performance.

Tonbridge & Malling – The permanent expansion of Discovery School and temporary enlargement of Kings Hill primary schools are proceeding as planned. It was not necessary to provide any further places in the district. 86% of primary and 91% of secondary places were offered to first preference applicants, which represents good performance.

Canterbury – The Plan did not identify a need for additional primary or secondary school places but did identify a need to keep primary school places in Herne Bay under review. A Public Notice has been issued around the closure of St. Philip Howard School following a public consultation. A temporary expansion of Joy Lane Primary School in Whitstable by 1 Form of Entry for September 2013 has been agreed due to a number of children in Whitstable who would not have been able to be given the offer of a Whitstable school without this. 87.4% of primary and 88.4% of secondary places were offered to first preference applicants.

Dover – The Plan did not identify any Basic Need requirement for either primary or secondary schools in Dover district. The need to amalgamate Walmer Science College and Castle Community College to ensure one strong, good and viable school for the Walmer and Deal area was identified and has proceeded as planned for

September 2013. 86.4% of primary and 91.6% of secondary places were offered to first preference applicants, which is good performance.

Swale – The commissioning plan identified the need for a further 140 places across Swale. By September 2013 we will have delivered 115 permanent Year R places and another 90 temporary Year R places. Pressure on places was managed through temporary expansions for September 2012, adding 110 Year R places across Swale. Additional permanent capacity is proceeding as planned with an additional temporary expansion of 1 Form of Entry for September 2013 at Eastchurch Primary School due to local population growth arising from inward migration. The commissioning of additional provision for the Thistle Hill housing development has been brought forward in order to have this in place by 2015 or 2016 at the latest. 89.7% of primary and 86.1% of secondary places were offered to first preference applicants.

Thanet – Commissioning Plan identified the need for 60 temporary Year R places and 120 Permanent places. 60 temporary places and 150 permanent places will be delivered by September 2013. Due to increased pressure arising from a high level of inward migration, an additional Form of Entry is being put in place at Bromstone Primary School in Broadstairs and an additional two forms of entry over and above that set out in the Plan will need to be put in place following feasibility work across a number of schools. 81.2% of primary and 85.3% of secondary places were offered to first preference applicants which reflects the pressure on places and the low percentage of surplus capacity in the district

3. Review of forecasting accuracy

3.1 The Plan set out forecast roll numbers (by planning areas at primary level and by District at secondary level) across each District in Kent. These were set against current and proposed capacities and showed current and future surpluses and deficits of places.

3.2 The forecasts in the Commissioning Plan were derived using the 'POP4' forecasting tool. Our developmental work with the University of Leeds has resulted in the 'Edge' forecasting tool being adopted for the next iteration of the Commissioning Plan. This system enables the production of both school based and residency based forecasts, thereby enabling the root cause of pressures to be considered to ensure provision is made in the right location. This system is also more closely aligned to the Authority's 'Integrated Infrastructure and Financing Model' (IIFM) which is the corporate forecasting software currently used to forecast infrastructure needs over the long term.

Forecasting accuracy for Year R numbers

3.3 Table 1 below sets out the forecast primary roll data for September 2012 against the actual roll data as at January 2013 for reception age pupils in order to review their accuracy.

Table 1

Area and District	Forecast Year R (2012/13)	Actual Year R Jan 2013	Divergence from forecast *	Percentage divergence
East Kent				
Canterbury	1363	1421	-58	-4.1%
Dover	1170	1149	21	1.8%
Swale	1731	1741	-10	-0.6%
Thanet	1598	1597	1	0.1%
Mid Kent				
Ashford	1574	1537	37	2.4%
Shepway	1172	1175	-3	-0.3%
Maidstone	1726	1702	24	1.4%
Tonbridge & Malling	1413	1491	-78	-5.2%
West Kent				
Dartford	1302	1300	2	0.2%
Gravesham	1231	1284	-53	-4.1%
Sevenoaks	1314	1336	-22	-1.6%
Tunbridge Wells	1223	1249	-26	-2.1%
Kent Totals	16817	16982	-165	-1.0%

* (A positive number indicates the forecast predicted there would be more pupils than the actual roll; a negative number shows the forecast predicted fewer pupils than the actual roll)

Dartford – No significant variance.

Gravesham - There were more pupils on the actual roll in January 2013 than the forecast had indicated. This is largely due to the forecasts not including new housing as well as a conflicting picture over economic migrants.

Sevenoaks – There were more pupils on the actual roll in January 2013 than the forecast had indicated, and the divergence between the Year R forecast and actual roll was slightly higher than we would wish to see ($\pm 1\%$). There is no obvious cause, although the housing development in Dunton Green has not proceeded as rapidly as expected.

Tunbridge Wells – There were more pupils on the actual roll in January 2013 than the forecast had indicated. There is no identifiable cause

Ashford – There were fewer pupils on the actual roll in January 2013 than the forecast had indicated. This is entirely due to the planned new housing and the resultant pupils not materialising. (The forecasts include migration arising from new housing where the level of new homes being built is consistent from year to year. Where the District Council's housing trajectory shows an increase in expected housing completions further pupil product needs to be accounted for).

Tonbridge & Malling – The forecast's predicted year R roll for Tonbridge & Malling was significantly short of the actual Year R roll (78 pupils), but in line with forecasts for
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total school rolls (see table 2). This indicates that migration into the district is predominantly by families with pre-school aged children, rather than children across the primary age range. This is clearly seen in Kings Hill. This phenomenon will fuel the need for further Year R places in the district and will be taken into account in the new commissioning plan for 2013-18.

Canterbury – The forecast’s predicted year R roll for Canterbury was significantly short of the actual Year R roll (58 pupils) with a smaller variance in total school rolls (see table 2). This has arisen due to an increase in families with young children moving into the area as well as families moving into established social housing previously occupied by older couples, and will be taken into account in the new 2013-2018 Commissioning Plan.

Dover – There were fewer pupils on the actual year R roll in January 2013 than the forecast had indicated, but the forecasts were more accurate when looking at total school rolls. This is mainly due to some housing developments that have been re-phased and are therefore not producing the children originally forecast.

Swale – No significant variance.

Thanet – Forecasts have under estimated the number of overall primary children. Forecasting for Thanet is complex due to the higher and increasing levels of inward migration over recent years and the volatility of population movements. This will be addressed in the new Commissioning Plan 2013-2018.

Shepway – No significant variance.

Maidstone – There were fewer pupils on the actual year R roll in January 2013 than the forecast had indicated, and the divergence between the Year R forecast and actual roll was slightly higher than we would wish to see ($\pm 1\%$). There is no obvious cause.

Forecasting accuracy of primary school roll numbers

3.4 Table 2 below sets out the forecast primary roll data for September 2012 against the actual roll data as at January 2013 for all primary age pupils in order to review their accuracy. The variance between forecast and actuals are within the range of plus or minus 1% which we aspire to, for all Districts except Canterbury and Swale which are slightly higher than expected and Thanet which is much higher than expected. In Thanet this is due to the higher and increasing levels of inward migration and the volatility of population movements. This will be taken into account in the new Commissioning Plan 2013-2018.

Table 2

Area and District	Forecast Roll (2012/13)	Actual Roll Jan 2013	Divergence	Percentage Divergence
East Kent				
Canterbury	9561	9680	-119	-1.2%
Dover	7897	7831	66	0.8%
Swale	11221	11389	-168	-1.5%
Thanet	9964	10263	-299	-2.9%
Mid Kent				
Ashford	9943	9886	57	0.6%

Shepway	7849	7777	72	0.9%
Maidstone	11164	11239	-75	-0.7%
Tonbridge & Malling	9932	9933	-1	-0.0%
West Kent				
Dartford	8336	8254	82	1.0%
Gravesham	8446	8479	-33	-0.4%
Sevenoaks	8545	8628	-83	-1.0%
Tunbridge Wells	7855	7834	21	0.3%
Kent Totals	110713	111193	-480	-0.4%

Forecasting accuracy for Year 7 pupils

3.5 Table 3 below sets out the forecast secondary roll data for September 2012 -13 against the actual roll data as at January 2013 for Year 7 pupils in order to review their accuracy. There is some under and over-forecasting shown but the numbers of pupils involved can be absorbed by local schools due to current levels of surplus capacity.

Table 3

Area and District	Forecast Roll (2012/13)	Actual Roll Jan 2013	Divergence	Percentage divergence
East Kent				
Canterbury	1459	1446	13	0.9%
Dover	1224	1187	37	3.1%
Swale	1465	1504	-39	-2.6%
Thanet	1373	1351	22	1.6%
Mid Kent				
Ashford	1243	1243	0	0.0%
Shepway	947	956	-9	-0.9%
Maidstone	1745	1821	-76	-4.2%
Tonbridge & Malling	1544	1535	9	0.6%
West Kent				
Dartford	1352	1402	-50	-3.6%
Gravesham	1164	1138	26	2.3%
Sevenoaks	389	361	28	7.8%
Tunbridge Wells	1301	1300	1	0.1%
Kent Totals	15206	15244	-38	-0.2%

Dartford – There were more pupils on the actual roll in January 2013 than the forecast had indicated (the divergence between the Year 7 forecast and actual roll was -3.6%). Dartford shares a boundary with London Borough of Bexley so there is considerable cross-border migration.

Sevenoaks– There were fewer pupils on the actual roll in January 2013 than the forecast had indicated; the divergence was 7.8%, but 75% of the children in the southern half of the district travel to schools in Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells districts.

Maidstone – There were more pupils on the actual Year 7 roll in January 2013 than the forecast had indicated; the divergence was -4.2% (76 places). This may be due to a lower than previous proportion of pupils going into the independent sector, a greater number coming to the district's secondary schools from neighbouring districts (i.e. The Malling area of Tonbridge & Malling), and in migration.

Dover – There were fewer year 7 pupils on the actual roll in January 2013 than the forecast had indicated. This is due to numbers of children travelling to schools outside of the district.

Swale – There were slightly more year 7 pupils on the actual roll in January 2013 than the forecast had indicated. The increase in levels of inward migration, particularly from London, accounts for the variance.

Thanet – There were fewer year 7 pupils on the actual roll in January 2013 than the forecast had indicated. This is due to the volatility of the population in and out of the area.

Forecasting accuracy of secondary school roll numbers

3.6 Table 4 below sets out the forecast secondary roll data for September 2012 -13 against the actual roll data as at January 2013 for all secondary age pupils (Years 7-11) in order to review their accuracy.

Table 4

Area and District	Forecast Roll (2012/13)	Actual Roll Jan 2013	Difference	Difference by %
East Kent				
Canterbury	7782	7668	114	1.5%
Dover	6410	6203	207	3.3%
Swale	7814	7883	-69	-0.9%
Thanet	7509	7406	103	1.4%
Mid Kent				
Ashford	6444	6360	84	1.3%
Shepway	5208	5205	3	0.1%
Maidstone	8959	9059	-100	-1.1%
Tonbridge & Malling	7765	7739	26	0.3%
West Kent				
Dartford	6927	6898	29	0.4%
Gravesham	6186	6049	137	2.3%
Sevenoaks	1962	1947	15	0.8%
Tunbridge Wells	6830	6827	3	0.0%
Kent Totals	79796	79236	-560	-0.7%

Ashford – 1.3% fewer pupils have sought places in the district's secondary schools than forecast. This is likely to be due to lower than expected migration into the town linked to new housing.

Maidstone – the actual roll being greater than the forecast is almost entirely due to the greater than expected number of Year 7 pupils joining the secondary schools.

East Kent – Canterbury, Dover and Thanet had variances greater than $\pm 1\%$. In all cases fewer pupils sought places than forecast. This is due in the main to housing developments being re-phased and therefore less pupils coming forward as a result.

West Kent – Only Gravesham district had a divergence between the forecast and roll that was greater than $\pm 1\%$. There is no obvious cause for this.

4. Progress against Our Targets

4.1 The targets which relate directly and indirectly to providing sufficient school places are set out in 'Bold Steps for Education in Kent', and reproduced in table 5 below.

4.2 The increasing number of 'good' and 'outstanding' schools provide more opportunities to meet the commissioning intention, set out in the Kent Commissioning Plan, to expand 'good' or 'outstanding' schools in order to meet the rising demand for more school places.

4.3 Expanding schools to enable more pupils to be admitted in areas where demand is high contributes significantly to the percentage of parents whose preferences for school places are met. The increasingly high percentage of preferences met demonstrates excellent performance.

4.4 Maintaining sufficient surplus capacity in schools across an area is essential for meeting increased demand and for enabling parental preferences to be met. The rapidly rising population, currently in the primary age range, requires the supply of school places to be increased to satisfy increasing demand while maintaining sufficient surplus – judged to be 5% as an operating minimum.

4.5 Lower than 5% surplus capacity exists in Ashford, Dartford, Gravesham, Shepway, Swale, Thanet and Tunbridge Wells across primary schools. The 'Basic Need' programme of expanding and building schools is addressing this demand through creating more school places in every district. The building programme includes completions for occupation in September 2013, 2014 and 2015. The 'refresh' of the Kent Commissioning Plan, to create a new 5 year rolling plan 2013-2018, will take account of the localised need to maintain sufficient surplus capacity of school places. In Swale and Thanet plans are in place to address the current shortfall, including additional expansion beyond that identified in the current Commissioning Plan.

4.6 Across the secondary school age range there is a high percentage of surplus capacity overall reflecting a period of reduced demand. However, as the increased numbers of primary aged pupils transfer to secondary schools over the next few years demand will rise and surplus capacity will return to an effective operating level. District-wide numbers can sometimes mask very localised differences: on the one hand very high surplus capacity is being addressed by removing secondary school places, while on the other hand low surplus is being addressed through temporary expansions for one year. For example, in Dover, the amalgamation of Walmer Science College and Castle Community College will help to reduce surplus capacity down to more manageable levels; Chaucer School in Canterbury has reduced its Published Admissions Number; and places are also being removed from Pent Valley School in Shepway.

Table 5

Targets	July 2012	March 2013 (unless otherwise stated)
To ensure that at least 85% of primary and secondary schools judged as	59.4% of schools were rated good or outstanding:- 56.4% of Primary schools 69.6% of Secondary schools	As at February 2013 65% of all schools are good or outstanding:- 62.5% of Primary schools 72% of Secondary schools

Targets	July 2012			March 2013 (unless otherwise stated)		
good or outstanding. All special schools will be good or outstanding.	75% of Special schools			79.2% of Special schools		
To ensure that at least 85% of families secure their first preference schools; and 95% secure first or second preference schools.	Reception children:- 85% secured their first preference; 92% secured their first or second preference Year 7:- 83% first preferences; 93% first or second preferences			As at offer day 5 April 2013, for September 2013 entry: reception children secured their first preference 91.8% reception children secured their first or second preference 89.0% Year 7 children secured their first preference 96.2% Year 7 children secured their first or second preference		
Maintain at least 5% surplus primary capacity in each District.	District	Year R	Years R-6	District	Year R	Years R-6
	Ashford	2.8%	4.9%	Ashford	3.3%	3.9%
	Canterbury	9.9%	12.5%	Canterbury	6.3%	10.7%
	Dartford	5.1%	6.8%	Dartford	1.5%	4.4%
	Dover	7.4%	15.5%	Dover	9.5%	13.8%
	Gravesham	4.8%	4.7%	Gravesham	4.1%	3.5%
	Maidstone	6.6%	8.9%	Maidstone	5.3%	7.3%
	Sevenoaks	15%	10.5%	Sevenoaks	6.6%	8.4%
	Shepway	6.1%	11.5%	Shepway	4.4%	7.8%
	Swale	2.0%	6.5%	Swale	1.9%	5.0%
	Thanet	2.6%	6.0%	Thanet	1.4%	3.7%
	Ton&Mall	5.3%	9.3%	Ton&Mall	5.0%	8.4%
	T. Wells	8.4%	8.3%	T. Wells	4.4%	7.7%
Maintain at least 5% surplus secondary capacity in each travel to learn area.	District	Year 7	Years 7-11	District	Year 7	Years 7-11
	D'fd, G'hm & N.	9%	5%	D'fd, G'hm & N.	9.3%	6.3%
	Sevenoaks. S.			Sevenoaks. S.		
	Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & T Wells.	13%	7%	Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & T Wells.	5.9%	8.3%
	Maidstone & Malling.	9%	10%	Maidstone & Malling.	10.6%	11.5%
	Ashford	7%	6%	Ashford	8.4%	5.8%
	Canterbury	14%	8%	Canterbury	15.8%	10.7%
	Dover	17%	10%	Dover	14.8%	11.9%
	Shepway	16%	12%	Shepway	21.0%	14.0%
	Swale	4%	3%	Swale	9.2%	4.4%
	Thanet	5%	5%	Thanet	12.5%	6.4%
Reduce by 10% the number of SEN children attending independent and out County provision.	There were 422 children attending independent and out County provision			At January 2013 the number has increased to 545		

5. Progress in implementing sufficiency of early years and childcare places

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5.1 In 2012 there were sufficient childcare places for children aged 3 and 4 years. The Government had set Kent a target of establishing 3600 places for 2 year olds by September 2013 and 7000 places by September 2014.

The introduction of this duty represents a significant challenge for Kent, as set out in the table below.

Table 6 Provision of Early Education places for 2 year olds

LCT Area	Estimated no of 2 year olds in 2013	Estimated no of 2 year olds eligible for "Free for 2" by 2013	Estimated no. of 2 year olds eligible for "Free for 2" by 2013	Total Estimated no of 2 year olds eligible for "Free for 2" by 2013	Estimated no of vacancies for 2 year olds	Shortfall in places
Ashford	1782	236	107	343	76	267
Canterbury	1571	208	94	302	104	198
Dartford	1450	173	87	260	14	246
Dover	1300	236	78	314	88	226
Gravesham	1408	202	84	286	10	276
Maidstone	2028	219	122	341	46	295
Sevenoaks	1579	114	95	209	35	174
Shepway	1290	219	77	296	66	230
Swale	1878	322	113	435	14	421
Thanet	1794	349	108	457	232	225
Tonbridge & Malling	1599	147	96	243	65	178
Tunbridge Wells	1515	128	91	219	30	189
Total	19194	2553	1152	3705	780	2925

(The above figures are estimations. However, a full audit of provision is planned to be carried out)

5.2 The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) provides an overview of provision with total early years and childcare places available in each District across Kent (Table 7). This suggests that there is a significant number of surplus places in every District in Kent. However, this is not always the case. It should be noted that places recorded are those stated in the Ofsted registration and therefore are the maximum number a provision can accommodate. Taking account of the varying child to staff ratios for the different age ranges of children, many providers work to set patterns and therefore it is unlikely that they would operate at maximum occupancy.

Table 7 A breakdown of provision by district is set out below:

District	No. of children aged 3 & 4	No. of EY Education Places
Ashford	3057	3834
Canterbury	3008	4284
Dartford	2527	3886
Dover	2456	3354
Gravesham	2745	3083
Maidstone	3635	5258
Sevenoaks	2917	3957
Shepway	2341	3182

Swale	3400	4408
Thanet	3117	3681
Tonbridge & Malling	3025	4523
Tunbridge Wells	2831	3382
Total	35059	46832

Note: The number of EY Educational Places includes Reception classes in Kent maintained schools and Academies.

5.3 It has been identified both nationally and in Kent that assessing the childcare market and sufficiency of provision is both a complex and constantly moving challenge. Therefore to better inform our planning and provision Kent has carried out a full audit of all pre-school providers which was completed in 2012. The data for this is being analysed and will be utilised to determine where provision needs to be commissioned and will be incorporated in next year's Commissioning Plan.

5.4 A full audit of all group Early Years provision (some 688 settings) was carried out in 2012 by the Early Years Market Development Team in order to identify actual numbers (at the time) of places registered, places offered and vacancy levels. The data collected was then analyzed by the Business Intelligence Manager and this produced ward and district targets to support the development of new places as required. These were then ranked using a "rag rating" (red, amber or green) across each ward, and outcomes shared with both KCC Development Teams and the Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years (PACEY, formerly the National Childminding Association), which delivers the Childminding Contract in Kent.

5.5 From this information the teams have been able to identify barriers and direct support to encourage expansion of current provision and potential new developments. A subsequent audit is being carried out in May 2013 to review progress to date and produce new development targets.

6. Progress in implementing review of school places for SEN pupils

6.1 Kent's draft SEND Strategy sets out an overarching aim to improve the educational, health and emotional wellbeing outcomes for all of Kent's children and young people with SEN and those who are disabled. One of the key aims is to develop the range of providers and encourage a mixed economy of high quality and cost effective providers of more specialist provision. We need to improve opportunities for children to attend their local schools, to ensure high quality multi-agency support is available, to improve transition and increase continuity of provisions at transfer ages, and at the heart of the Strategy is the needs of children and their parents, giving them greater choice and control.

6.2 Fundamental to meeting children's needs is ensuring that **every school can deliver Kent's SEN core standards**. We intend that by 2014 there are staff in all schools with training and expertise in autism (ASD), behaviour (BESN) and speech & language needs. This is being supported by the devolution of the Specialist Teaching & Learning Service to lead Special schools, alongside resources to increase the range of expertise available through Outreach support from Special schools to mainstream schools.

6.3 The capital programme for Special schools has already rebuilt or refurbished 14 maintained schools in Kent. Investment continues to bring similar transformation to the remaining 10 schools. This programme will result in an additional 500 Special school places in the County. However, there remains a pressing need to commission further capacity for pupils with ASD, BESN and Speech and Language Needs. The draft SEND Strategy identified the need to add at least 275 additional places, including

175 places in Kent's Special schools. We recognise that a number of our Special schools are under pressure to admit further pupils. In conjunction with Headteachers we have identified a number of schools which will be subject to statutory proposals to increase the designated pupil numbers to either regularise the current position or create additional spaces. We will also undertake consultations on the relocation of some special schools as a consequence of the capital programme mentioned above. A paper on the SEN strategy consultation response is on the agenda for the Education Cabinet Committee of 21st June 2013.

Re-designation of Special school numbers

School	Designated Number	Proposed designated number
Broomhill Bank	80	136
Bower Grove	120	196
Ifield	174	190
Goldwyn	60	70
Highview	150	171
Rowhill	96	106
Harbour	96	96
Grange Park	79	97
Foxwood	122	134
St Nicholas	144	191
Laleham Gap	152	170

6.4 We are aiming to develop at least 100 additional places to meet these needs within Resourced Provision in mainstream schools. We have invited expressions of interest and are in the early stages of pursuing these with the schools involved. We aim to commission from schools rated good or better by Ofsted.

6.5 We recognise we cannot meet the needs of Kent's pupils solely by developing the state funded sector. We are seeking to develop the range of social care, health and education providers and encourage a mixed economy of provision of high quality, cost effective independent and maintained special schools.

7. Progress in implementing sufficiency of post-16 provision

7.1 Post 16 Commissioning

Our Post 16 planning and commissioning will focus on the implementation of the four key areas of focus set out within Kent's 14 to 24 Learning, Employment and Skills Strategy: to Raise Attainment; to Improve and Extend Vocational Education, Training and Apprenticeships; to Increase Participation and Employment and to Target Support for Vulnerable Young People.

Identification and delivery of the priority actions within these four key areas is based on a range of data and information provided by partners, providers, young people and those who work with them and developed through partnership-based discussions at a district level.

There are several major components that will inform the planning cycle. All require significant dialogue and input from the education, training and work-based training providers across Kent. These components are:

The Commissioning Statement:

This is submitted annually to the Education Funding Agency and outlines the key strategic Post 16 education and training priorities for Kent. The statement is informed by analysis of data provided by Connexions, the EFA and also held by KCC.

The statement recommends needed changes in the balance and mix of provision available to meet the entitlement and needs of all Kent young people, including those most at risk of becoming NEET.

Post 16 Planning Tool:

We are developing an IT based planning and modelling tool, utilising Connexions data on current learner numbers and current patterns of choice (both choice of providers e.g. school sixth form, college, apprenticeships, and choice of course), as well as NEET data. All of these data sources then interface with the KCC Corporate Kent Population Forecasts to provide future numbers- based modelling. This tool needs to be developed further in order to take account of the Strategy four key areas of focus, rather than providing projections that will result in embedding current patterns.

District Data Packs:

The Skills and Employability team are developing data packs for each district. The data packs provide a rich picture of information specific to each district and provide the basis of discussions with all local partners around commissioning priorities and the development of a joined-up Post 16 offer for young people.

8. Review of public consultation processes

8.1 School expansion proposals which are subjected to public consultation will generally have been debated previously with the school Headteacher and Governors.

8.2 Once a decision is made to undertake a public consultation on an expansion proposal, a consultation document is published. This sets out the rationale for the proposal and how to respond and advertises a public meeting. The documents (including posters advertising the public meeting) are circulated in accordance with national guidance and go to:

- Parents/carers of pupils at the school, staff and governors;
- Local MP;
- Local library and district council offices for display;
- Chief Executive and Leader of the District Council;
- Parish/Town Council;
- Early Years providers;
- Childrens Centres on the school site or local to the school;
- Diocesan Authorities;
- Neighbouring Local Authorities;
- NHS – for special school proposals.

A link to the KCC website containing the proposals is sent to:

All schools in the district;
DfE;
EFA (for secondary school proposals);
Unions.

8.3 While these arrangements for consultation exceed the national requirements, (for example, there is no requirement to hold a public meeting), local residents have not generally been included in the education-led consultation process. Local residents are of course consulted at the planning application stage. After the education-led consultation, a 'public notice' is issued in a local newspaper which enables any interested party to submit objections or representations to the Local Authority.

8.4 The process for promoting a new school, in which there is a presumption that an academy or free school will be created, needs to be determined. Logically the Authority would first consult about the need for provision and then issue the public notice inviting promoters to come forward. The Secretary of State for Education determines which promoter is selected to run the school, albeit the Local Authority undertakes an assessment of the bids received and makes a recommendation. It is open to the Local Authority to consult on the bids received and to take account of the views expressed in making its recommendation.

8.5 The Local Authority could explore ways of consulting more widely. For example:

- In areas where there are housing developments likely to produce significant numbers of Primary school children the Local Authority may be in receipt of a developer contribution towards the cost of providing additional school places. Community consultation at an early stage would be helpful in ascertaining whether the parents and residents would prefer a new school or an expansion of an existing school. Similarly, in areas where we know there will be pressure in the medium term it would be helpful to be able to notify local residents of our plans.
- Schools could be asked to host a drop-in session where site plans (when available) could be viewed. Local residents could be given an indicative timeline of the planning application process and a dedicated Property contact who could deal with questions around such issues as parking.

8.6 It is proposed that these changes in consultation arrangements are piloted in consultations during 2013-14 to assess their effectiveness in extending consultation processes to the wider community.

9. Next Steps

9.1 The January 2013 pupil headcount data from schools and the pre-school data provided by the Public Health Observatory, are both now available. Housing trajectories and land supply information become available from District Councils generally in April. These form the basis of information which is utilised by the forecasting system. Forecasts will be available during the summer months. These forecasts and the analysis of them will form the next iteration of the Plan, together with the knowledge gained through the analysis contained in this review report. The forward plan for school expansions and building new schools will be updated in the Commissioning Plan to reflect any changes in the need for provision. The new

Commissioning Plan for 2013-18 will be presented to Education Cabinet Committee in September 2013.

9.2 It is proposed that the next iteration of the Plan will broadly follow the format of the current Plan. Consultation will not be undertaken on the whole document but on the revised data and forecasts, and the forward plan.

9.3 The timetable is proposed as follows:

Date	Action
May - September 2013	Draft Plan produced
July 2013	Consultation on the revised data and forecasts, and forward plan
27 Sep 2013	Draft Plan to Education Cabinet Committee
October 2013	Draft Plan to Cabinet

Appendix 1

District	Planning Area	Short Term Commissioning intentions set out in September 2012	March 2013 position
Canterbury	Canterbury	No change	The need for additional 1FE of provision identified. Consultation not yet started.
Canterbury	Herne Bay	Keep surplus capacity under review	Consultation underway on closure of St Philip Howard RCP
Canterbury	Whitstable	Not shown	30 temporary places commissioned at Joy Lane PS for September 2013
Swale	Sittingbourne	30 temporary places commissioned at Westlands PS for September 2012	The Academy consulted on permanent expansion for September 2013
Swale	Sittingbourne	Additional school places needed will initially be provided by adding places at existing schools	30 temporary places commissioned at Lansdowne PS. Consultation on permanent expansion for September 2014 will begin in April 2013.
Swale	Faversham	1.3 Temporary expansions at Ethelbert Road PS, Ospringe CEPS and Bysing Wood PS	Continue 1.3 temporary expansions for September 2013. Consultation has begun on 1.5 Permanent expansion from September 2014
Swale	Queenborough & Rushenden	Expansion of Queenborough PS to 2FE (10 places)	Permanent increase of PAN to 60
Swale	Halfway & Minster	30 temporary places commissioned at Minster-in-Sheppey PS for 2012 and 2013	No change
Swale	Halfway & Minster	Temporary arrangements until permanent solutions are agreed	30 temporary places commissioned at Halfway Houses PS for September 2013
Swale	Eastchurch	Not shown	30 temporary places commissioned at Eastchurch CEPS for September 2013
Swale	Thistle Hill	Not shown.	The Longer Term Commissioning Position indicated a need to commission additional provision at Thistle Hill. This has been brought forward and will begin in 2013.
Thanet	Ramsgate	30 temporary places commissioned at Newlands PS for September 2012	
Thanet	Ramsgate	30 temporary places commissioned at Callis Grange PS for September 2012	

District	Planning Area	Short Term Commissioning intentions set out in September 2012	March 2013 position
Thanet	Ramsgate	30 permanent Year R places to be provided for September 2013 at a school to be identified.	30 temporary places commissioned at Newington CPS Consultation on permanent expansion for September 2014 will begin in April 2013
Thanet	Broadstairs	Not shown.	30 temporary places commissioned at Bromstone PS Consultation on permanent expansion for September 2014 will begin in April 2013
Thanet	Broadstairs	Not shown	14 Year 3 places commissioned at three junior schools: St Saviour's CEJS – 6; Christ Church CEJS – 4; Upton JS - 4
Thanet	Margate	Permanent expansion of Drapers Mills PS to 3 FE for September 2013	Permanent expansion underway (included in academy conversion)
Thanet	Margate	Permanent expansion of Northdown PS to 2 FE from September 2013	Permanent expansion underway (included in academy conversion)
Thanet	Margate	Consult on expansion of Palm Bay PS to 2 FE from September 2013	Permanent expansion underway - Public Notice expired 8 March
Thanet	Garlinge & Westgate-on-Sea	Permanent expansion of Garlinge PS to 3 FE for September 2013	Permanent expansion underway
Ashford	Godinton	Undertake significant enlargement proposal for Repton Manor School to formalise the second form of entry.	Process complete. Cabinet Member decision made to expand school.
Ashford	Kingsnorth, Ashford South	For September 2013 the following Year R places have been commissioned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 places at Great Chart School • 30 places at Furley Park School • 	Places commissioned in both schools and accommodation available
Ashford	Kingsnorth, Ashford South	A further 30 places (dependent upon housing) will be made available in an existing school.	Numbers lower than forecast. Provision not required.
Shepway	Folkestone East	30 year R places in both 2013 and 2014 to accommodate bulge cohorts (school to be	School not yet identified due to site constraints. Work continuing

District	Planning Area	Short Term Commissioning intentions set out in September 2012	March 2013 position
		identified)	
Shepway	Hawkinge	15 places have been commissioned in Hawkinge School for September 2013. Subject to feasibility, undertake significant enlargement proposal of Hawkinge to 2FE.	Process complete. Cabinet Member decision made to expand school.
Shepway	Hythe	Monitor applications for Sept 2012. It is expected that nearby schools will remain popular with parents and no action will be needed.	No action needed
Shepway	New Romney	Monitor surplus capacity in the area.	Ongoing – No action needed to date
Maidstone	Maidstone North & Bearsted	Further analysis of pressure on places in Maidstone North 2014/15 to determine whether demand is local or in-migration; and travel to school patterns of residents of new housing. Undertake significant enlargement proposal for St John's CEPS by 1FE for 2013.	Process complete and Cabinet Member decision made to expand the school.
Maidstone	Across Maidstone	Review of PANs to determine whether adjustments can be made which would facilitate single year group teaching. Continue to model future needs as the core strategy for Maidstone develops.	Ongoing
Maidstone	Harrietsham	The need for new local provision will be driven by housing.	Consulting on enlargement to 1FE for September 2014. However, due to numbers school is admitting 30 pupils into Year R in September 2013
Tonbridge & Malling	Kings Hill	Undertake statutory consultation on the significant enlargement of Discovery Primary School by 1FE.	Process complete and Cabinet Member decision made to expand the school. Notable level of parental opposition.
Tonbridge & Malling	Kings Hill	Commission 30 places for Year R in 2013 and 2014 at Kings Hill School	Places commissioned. Planning consent granted for accommodation.

District	Planning Area	Short Term Commissioning intentions set out in September 2012	March 2013 position
Tonbridge & Malling	Larkfield & Leybourne	Undertake community consultation on the provision of additional school places to serve the Leybourne Chase development.	Consultation process beginning
Tonbridge & Malling	Snodland	Undertake education assessment as per S106 agreement.	Assessment underway
Dartford	Stone	Consult on expansion of Stone St Mary's CofE (VC) PS from 2FE to 3FE for September 2013.	Consultation completed – Public Notice expired 31 March.
Dartford	Dartford North	Consult on expansion of Bridge PS from 1FE to 2FE for September 2013.	Public Consultation completed. Public Notice published at end of March.
Dartford	Fleetdown	Consult on expansion of Fleetdown PS from 2FE to 3FE for September 2013.	Public Consultation completed. Public Notice published at end of March.
Dartford	Swanscombe	Consult on expansion of Knockhall CPS from 2FE to 3FE for September 2014.	Public Consultation completed. 30 temporary year R places agreed with the school for 2013. Public Notice published at end of March 2013.
Dartford	Swanscombe	Consult on expansion of Manor CPS from 2Fe to 3FE for September 2013.	Public Consultation completed. Public Notice published at end of March.
Dartford	Joydens Wood & Maypole	Consult on expansion of Maypole PS from 1FE to 2FE for September 2013.	Public Consultation completed. Public Notice published at end of March.
Dartford	Dartford West	Consult on expansion of Oakfield PS from 2FE to 3FE for September 2013.	Public Consultation completed. Public Notice published at end of March.
Gravesham	Northfleet	Consult on expansion of St Botolph's CofE (VA) PS from 1FE to 2FE for September 2013.	Consultation completed – Public Notice expired 31 March.
Gravesham	Gravesend East	Consult on expansion of Whitehill PS form 2FE to 3FE for September 2013.	Public Consultation completed. Public Notice published at end of March.
Gravesham	Northfleet	Not shown	10 temporary places commissioned at Lawn PS. Consult on permanent expansion for September 2014
Gravesham	Gravesend East	Not shown	30 temporary places commissioned at Chantry PS. Consult on permanent expansion for September 2014
Sevenoaks	Sevenoaks	Consult on expansion of Lady Boswells CofE (VA) PS from 1FE to 2FE for September 2013.	Consultation completed – Public Notice expired 31 March.
Sevenoaks	Sevenoaks	Consult on expansion of Sevenoaks PS from	Consultation completed – Public Notice expired 31

District	Planning Area	Short Term Commissioning intentions set out in September 2012	March 2013 position
		2FE to 3FE for September 2013.	March.
Sevenoaks	Otford	Consult on expansion of Otford PS to 2FE for September 2013.	Public Consultation completed. Public Notice published at end of March.
Sevenoaks	Sevenoaks	Consult on expansion of St John's CEPS to 1FE for September 2013.	Public Consultation completed. Public Notice published at end of March.
Sevenoaks	Sevenoaks	The Sevenoaks Christian Free School will provide 120 Year 7 places from September 2013. Planned total capacity of 600.	Trinity Free School is due to open in September 2013.
Tunbridge Wells	Tunbridge Wells	Consult on expansion of St James IS from 2.1FE to 3FE for September 2013.	Consultation completed – Public Notice expired 31 March.
Tunbridge Wells	Tunbridge Wells	Consult on expansion of St James Junior (VC) School from 2.1FE to 3FE for September 2013	Consultation completed – Public Notice expired 31 March.
Tunbridge Wells	Broadwater	Consult on expansion of St Mark's CEPS 1 FE to 2FE for September 2013.	Consultation completed – Public Notice expired 31 March.
Tunbridge Wells	Langton Green	Consult on expansion of Langton Green PS from 1FE to 2FE for September 2013.	Public Consultation completed. Public Notice published at end of March.
Tunbridge Wells	Pembury	Consult on expansion of Pembury PS from 2FE to 3FE for September 2013.	Consultation completed. Significant level of opposition to the proposal. Temporary expansion agreed for 2013 for 1 year.
Tunbridge Wells	Southborough	Consult on expansion of Southborough CEPS from 2FE to 3FE for September 2013.	Public Consultation completed. Public Notice published at end of March.
Tunbridge Wells	Tunbridge Wells	Consult on expansion of St Matthew's CEPS from 2FE to 3FE for September 2013.	Proposal withdrawn following Ofsted inspection.