

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,

Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

For publication

Subject: New Delivery Model for Education Health Needs Service

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform I agree to:

- (i) Separate provision for Medical Needs and Mental Health Needs
- (ii) Create one Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) which encompasses The Oakfields Unit and 6 resourced provisions across the County with outreach provision for Mental Health needs
- (iii) Provide a service to mainstream schools for pupils with Medical Needs.

1. Reason(s) for decision:

- 1.1 On 27 September 2014, Education Cabinet Committee received a report informing them that the second phase of the Alternative Provision Health Needs Service review was due to take place. This part of the review considered Kent County Council's PRU and Alternative Provision for pupils with Health Needs.
- 1.2 Currently there are 3 PRUs designed to support young people who because of health issues cannot attend mainstream school for periods of time.
- 1.3 A review process and consultation on the future delivery options for the provision of the Education Health Needs Service was took place between 21st October 2013 and 16th December 2013 and proposed two options for the delivery of the Education Health Needs Service.
- 1.4 The consultation on options for the future delivery of the service was circulated to all schools and relevant parties and eight meetings were held with teachers, parents and health professionals to discuss the options set out in the consultation document. The document was also circulated to Clinical Commissioning Groups and Health Commissioners.
- 1.5 There were 40 written responses to the consultation with seven responses in favour of Option 1, 11 in favour of Option 2, and 17 respondents offered alternative suggestions.
- 1.6 Following consideration of all feedback the following was agreed as the preferred proposal:
 - Separate provision for Medical Needs and Mental Health Needs
 - One County PRU for Mental Health Needs covering specialist education at Oakfields with 6 locality bases and outreach provision.
 - The Medical Needs Service should develop a new County Outreach Service

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 The current budget on the service is approximately £2.4m across both medical and mental health needs. In addition there is around £0.7m spent within the transport and SEN budgets. The proposal for the service will be costed within this funding envelope. Indicative costs of the outline management are in the region of £750k. The budget for Oakfields PRU will be

remodelled. A new formula will be developed for Oakfields and the 6 resource bases to provide a delegated budget for the new county PRU. The budget for the outreach service will be devolved to the localities based on the profile of need and learner numbers and new formula will be developed.

2.2 Physical

The current Health PRUs operate from accommodation at Canterbury High and also KCC lease accommodation at Woodview Leybourne, Oakfields NHS premises and Woodveiw Unit Tunbridge. In addition, there is a small health PRU at Seal.

KCC's Asset Management Plan, approved by Policy & Resources Committee in Autumn 2013, sought to ensure efficient use of Council assets and to reduce the portfolio by 30% with in 3 years.

For emerging options on delivery models any option must reduce the property revenue costs. For outreach options the full property costs of that service must be considered. No allowance has been set aside for any capital investment for any of the options.

2.3 Human

The redistribution of the current budget will be predicated on a teaching staff in each centre, delivering English, Maths, Science and ICT. Any proposal affecting the numbers of staff will required consultation with all staff currently employed, and with professional associations

The delivery model will include costing of a Virtual Learning Environment and a County home tuition service, and joint commissioning packages with the health services.

3. **Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:** **14 March 2014**

At its meeting the Committee all voted in favour and RESOLVED to recommend to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform he take the decision to:

- (i) Separate provision for Medical Needs and Mental Health Needs
- (ii) Create one Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) which encompasses The Oakfields Unit and 6 resourced provisions across the County with outreach provision for Mental Health needs
- (iii) Provide a service to mainstream schools for pupils with Medical Needs.

6. **Any alternatives considered:**

- 6.1 Neither option in the original proposal received overall support and there were requests for further discussion and exploration on possible solutions for delivery. A project group was established, comprising Health Needs PRU Managers and Chairs of Management Committees, mainstream school Headteachers, health professionals and KCC officers. A revised single proposal for delivery has been made by this group. The new proposal, set out below, has been informed by the following: Ofsted briefing on health needs provision in January 2014; DfE Statutory Guidance on supporting pupils with medical conditions at school. – February 2014: consideration of current and past referrals; examples of case papers; review of best practice, nationally; the current profile of learners attending the 3 Health Needs PRUs; comments and suggestions brought forward through the consultation process

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

None

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Signed

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Date