

From: Matt Dunkley, CBE, Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education

To: Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education

Subject: Proposal to establish a new 14 place Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) at John Wesley Church of England Methodist Primary School for children with Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) from September 2019

Decision Number: 18/00057

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: None

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: Ashford South (Dara Farrell)

Summary: This report sets out the results of the public consultation on the proposal to establish a new 14 place Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) at John Wesley Church of England Methodist Primary School for children with Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) from September 2019.

Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education is asked to issue Public Notice to establish a new 14 place Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) at John Wesley Church of England Methodist Primary School for children with Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) from September 2019.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Kent County Council (KCC) as the Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision in the County is responsible for ensuring there are sufficient high-quality school places for all learners, including pupils with Special Educational Needs. Over the 5 years 2013/14 to 2017/8 the number of Education, Health & Care Plans (EHCPs) issued for pupils with SLCN as their primary need increased from 1,002 to 1,584, this is a 58% increase over the 5-year period.
- 1.2 SLCN is second only to ASD as the most prevalent need type for which an EHCP is issued. As total school rolls continue to rise across the County we expect to see further increases in the numbers of pupils in need of specialist support and it is the responsibility of the Local Authority to commission these places.
- 1.3 The nearest provisions for children with SLCN outside of the District are in Canterbury or Hythe.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 KCC, with the support of the Governing Body of John Wesley Church of England Methodist Primary School (John Wesley CEMPS) are proposing to establish a new 14 place Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) for children with Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) from September 2019. Children attending the

SRP will have a primary diagnosis of Developmental Language Disorder (formally known as a Specific Language Impairment) which requires intensive speech and language therapy delivered a therapist and specialist teaching.

- 2.2 KCC believes that the staff at John Wesley CEMPS have a high degree of skill and experience at supporting children with speech and language issues. We believe they are well placed to develop further from this starting point and therefore the School can provide the specialist places needed for pupils with SLCN delivered by a specialist, particularly those with a Developmental Language Disorder in this part of the County.
- 2.3 We envisage the SRP opening with 4-6 pupils. It will grow to capacity over a number of years.
- 2.4 This report sets out the results of the public consultation, which took place between 10 September 2018 and 19 October 2018. A public meeting was held on 25 September 2018.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1
 - a. Capital –No addition capital funding is needed as the school has capacity to host the SRP in present accommodation.
 - b. Revenue - The School will receive increased funding through the delegated budget. This amounts to £10,000 per commissioned place, plus ‘top up’ funding in line with KCC policy. This varies according to need type.
 - c. Human – The School will appoint additional staff as required, as the SRP size increases and the need arises.

4. Vision and Priorities for Improvement

- 4.1 This proposal will help to secure our ambition that “Every child and young person should be able to go to a good or outstanding Early Years setting and school, have access to the best teaching, and benefit from schools and other providers working in partnership with each other to share the best practice as they continue to improve” as set out in Vision and Priorities for Improvement 2018-2021.

5. Consultation Outcomes

- 5.1 A total of 23 written responses were received. A summary of the comments received is provided at Appendix 1. 22 respondents were in agreement with the proposal, seeing this as a positive addition.
- 5.2 A summary of the public consultation meeting is attached at Appendix 2. No members of the public attended, although school staff and colleagues from the Specialist Teaching Service and Speech and Language Therapy Service attended.
- 5.3 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed as part of the consultation. To date no comments have been received and no changes are required to the Equality Impact Assessment.

6. Views

- 6.1 The view of the Local Member:
Cllr Dara Farrell is supportive of the proposal.
- 6.2 The view of the Headteacher and Governing Body:

Mrs C Clark- Acting Headteacher / Mrs C Rae- Chair of Governors

As a school we fully support the proposal put to us by KCC.

Our intake already includes a number of children with SLCN. Therefore, we already have a good degree of skill and experience when supporting these children.

From this high starting point the staff want to develop their skills in order to further support children with SLCN.

Speech, language and communication are the building blocks of all learning and life skills whatever your ability. The training that we have started, which will continue through this academic year, will enable staff to further support all children. Understanding the process of how children develop their language skills will enable us to extend vocabulary use and pin point specific areas where all children can improve. We will be able to support parents by sharing ideas as to how they can support their children. This will further develop our home and school relationship.

Establishing a SRP for SLCN at John Wesley will further enrich what we already offer our school community.

6.3. The view of the Area Education Officer, David Adams:

The staff at John Wesley CEMPS have fully embraced the proposal. They have undertaken training that will help them to support the learning and development of children with speech and language issues whether or not the establishment of an SRP is approved. I believe the School is well placed to address the need for specialist places for pupils with SLCN in this part of the County.

6.4 The view of the Interim Head of SEN, Louise Langley:

The addition of John Wesley's SLCN SRP will be a great asset to the Ashford district offer of SEN support. With intensive early intervention in primary school, children with SLCN can achieve better outcomes and narrow the attainment gap with their peers. The expertise of the staff within the SRP will also add to the universal speech and language provision of the school which means all pupils will benefit from a language enriched environment.

7. Delegation to Officers

7.1 The Officer Scheme of Delegation; under Appendix 2 part 4 of the Council's Constitution, provides a clear and appropriate link between this decision and the actions needed to implement it.

8. Conclusions

8.1 The need to increase provision for pupils with SLCN is clear. The addition of a Specialist Resource Provision at John Wesley CEM Primary for pupils with such a need will increase the number of specialist place for pupils with SLCN in the District. Enabling more pupils to receive the specialist support needed in their home locality.

9. Recommendation(s)

<p>The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education is asked to issue Public Notice to establish a new 14 place Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) at John Wesley Church of England Methodist Primary School for children with Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) from September 2019.</p>

10. Background Documents

10.1 Vision and Priorities for Improvement

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/education-skills-and-employment-policies/vision-and-priorities-for-improvement>

10.2 Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2018-22

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/education-provision/education-provision-plan>

11. Contact details

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