

**From:** Roger Gough, Cabinet Member Children, Young People and Education

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**To:** Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee –  
28<sup>th</sup> June 2019

**Subject:** **Review of the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2019-23**

**Classification:** **Unrestricted**

**Summary:** This report informs Members of the progress made in implementing the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2019-23 since its adoption by Cabinet in February 2019.

**Recommendation(s):**

The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to note the progress achieved and to consider the report prior to the next version of the Commissioning Plan in autumn 2019.

## **1. Introduction**

1.1 In February 2019 Kent County Council published the latest Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2019-23 (KCP). This set out how the County Council, as Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision, will provide sufficient good quality provision across all types and phases of education, in the right locations, to meet the demands of increased pupil numbers and parental preferences. The KCP is updated annually.

1.2 This report reviews the progress made since the KCP's production. It covers:

- A review of forecasting accuracy, including the impact of the change in forecasting methodology to include the planned housing and revised planning groups;
- The progress in implementing the expansion of school places in mainstream and special schools;
- An update of SEN, Early Years and Post 16 provision; and
- The progress against our targets as set out in Vision and Priorities for Improvement 2019-21.

1.3 In summary, this Review demonstrates that:

- For September 2019, we have commissioned all planned permanent places in both primary (3FE) and secondary (8FE) phases. However, fewer temporary places have been commissioned – 10 of 30 planned for Year R and 365 of 540 planned for Year 7. In addition, 353 specialist places have been commissioned in special schools or specialist resource provisions in mainstream schools.
- We under forecast Year R pupils by -1.7% with total primary rolls being over forecast by 0.9%. Year 7 and Year 7-11 pupils were over forecast by 1.0% and 2.5% respectively. The detailed forecasting accuracy is set out in section 5.
- As of October 2018, surplus capacity has increased from 10.4% to 11.3% in Year R and 5.8% across all primary school year groups. This was expected and reflects the fact that birth numbers in 2014 were approximately 900 fewer than the 2012 peak (30FE).
- Surplus capacity across the secondary school sector has reduced due to larger Year 6 rolls entering secondary provision. Presently, surplus capacity is at 6.1% in Year 7 and at 8.9% across all years.
- As of National Offer Day 2019 89% of parents secured their 1<sup>st</sup> preference primary school place for September 2019, which is slightly below the target of 91%. At secondary level, with 79% securing their 1<sup>st</sup> preference against the target of 77%, just over 300 more pupils secured their 1<sup>st</sup> preference secondary school than in the previous year.

## 2. Progress in Expanding the Number of School Places

2.1 Changes to the number of school places available happen for a variety of reasons. KCC commissions both temporary and permanent places, schools which are their own admissions authorities may offer places above their published admissions numbers (PAN), and temporary places available in one year may not be available in subsequent years. The details below outline the gross additional places added and net changes to the number of places being offered.

2.2 Gross Change- For admission in September 2019 17 primary schools offered a total of 183 Year R places above their PAN. Within the secondary sector 34 secondary schools offered a total of 1,011 Year 7 places above their PAN. Of the places added, only 10 Year R and 657 Year 7 places were commissioned by the Local Authority, the rest being self-determined by the schools. The ability for schools to self-determine temporary increases above their published admission numbers without recourse to the Local Authority adds to the complexity of place planning in the medium and longer term.

2.3 Across all Kent schools, the net change to the number of places being offered for September 2019 entry (compared with September 2018 entry) is an increase of 105 Year R places (16 schools increasing and 9 schools reducing) and an increase of 404 Year 7 places (18 schools increasing and 6 schools reducing). This is because some schools which have offered a temporary increase in their intake for one or more years previously, are unable to continue to do so and have reverted to their (lower) determined admission numbers.

- 2.4 Figure 2.1 summarises new places identified in the 2019-23 Commissioning Plan as needing to be commissioned by September 2019 and compares this to the places delivered<sup>1</sup>.

**Figure 2.1: Comparison of need identified by September 2019 with places delivered by May 2019**

	Primary		Secondary	
	Permanent Year R	Temporary Year R	Permanent Year 7	Temporary Year 7
Need identified in Plan	3FE	40 places	8FE	540 places
Places delivered	3FE	10 places	8FE	365 places
<b>Difference</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-175</b>

- 2.5 Figures 2.2 and 2.3 set out any variations between what we planned to commission and what we have commissioned for September 2019.

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<sup>1</sup> Delivered in this context includes all places that will be available from September 2019.

**Figure 2.2: Variations between the commissioning intentions for primary school provision by September 2019 and delivery**

District	Planning Group	To be Commissioned by 2019-20	Variation	Reason	Impact
Maidstone	Maidstone North	30 Year R places	Places not commissioned	<p>One academy in the adjoining Maidstone West planning group offered an additional 30 places.</p> <p>This has eased the pressures in and around the Town in the same way that the additional places in Maidstone North was intended to.</p>	No impact as there are sufficient places to support the demand.

**Figure 2.3: Variations between the commissioning intentions for secondary school provision by September 2019 and delivery**

District	Planning Group	To be Commissioned by 2019-20	Variation	Reason	Impact
Ashford	Ashford North Non-Selective	Up to 60 Year 7 places	In total 120 places were commissioned	871 year 7 places were needed to get through National Offer Day. This was 2FE higher than forecast and therefore a further 60 places were required.	Positive impact as the addition of extra capacity has ensured there was sufficient year 7 places for all pupils. Adding the extra places increased the chance of families getting a higher preference school.
Canterbury	Canterbury City Non-Selective	Up to 30 Year 7 places	Places not commissioned	Applications for Year 7 places in the planning group were lower than forecast.	No impact as there are sufficient places to support the demand.
	Canterbury and Faversham	Up to 30 Year 7 places	Places not commissioned	Applications for Year 7 places in the planning	No impact as there are sufficient places to support the demand.

District	Planning Group	To be Commissioned by 2019-20	Variation	Reason	Impact
	Selective			group were lower than forecast. This in addition to one school offering over PAN ensured sufficient places.	
Swale	Sittingbourne/ Sheppey Selective	Up to 45 Year 7 places	Places not commissioned	Applications for Year 7 places in the planning group were lower than forecast. This in addition to one academy offering over PAN ensured sufficient provision.	No impact as there are sufficient places to support the demand.
Thanet	Thanet Non-Selective	Up to 60 Year 7 places	50 places commissioned at Royal Harbour Academy	Applications for Year 7 places in the planning group were lower than forecast therefore only 50 additional Year 7 places were needed.	No impact as there are sufficient places to support the demand.
	Thanet Selective	Up to 60 Year 7 places	Places not commissioned	Applications for Year 7 places in the planning group were lower than forecast due to pupils applying out of district.	No impact as there are sufficient places to support the demand.
Maidstone	Maidstone Non-Selective	Up to 90 temporary Year 7 places	30 temporary Year 7 places commissioned	Two academies offered over PAN adding an addition 40 places between them. Therefore, only 30 places were commissioned.	No impact as there are sufficient places to support the demand.
Tunbridge Wells	Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells	60 Year 7 places	60 places commissioned at	A further 60 Year 7 places were needed to	Positive impact as the addition of extra capacity has ensured sufficient

District	Planning Group	To be Commissioned by 2019-20	Variation	Reason	Impact
	non-selective		Skinners Kent Academy.	ensure sufficient places for National Offer Day.	year 7 places for all pupils. Adding the extra places increased the chance of families getting a higher preference school.

### 3. Increase in the Number of Academy Schools

3.1 There has been a small increase in the number of academy schools operating in Kent. Figure 3.1 lists the maintained schools that have converted to become an academy, academies which have transferred to a new sponsor, and new free schools between 01 September 2018 and 01 April 2019.

**Figure 3.1: Academies created between September 2017 and April 2018**

District	School	Date	Promoter	Status
Maidstone	Coxheath Primary School	01 September 2018	Coppice Primary Partnership	Converted
Maidstone	Loose Primary School	01 September 2018	Coppice Primary Partnership	Converted
Gravesham	Meopham Community Academy	01 September 2018	The Pathway Academy Trust	Transfer
Gravesham	Rosherville Church of England Academy	01 September 2018	Aletheia Anglican Academies Trust	Transfer
Dover	The Goodwin Academy	01 September 2018	The Thinking Schools Trust	Transfer
Canterbury	The Community College Whitstable	01 September 2018	Swale Academies Trust	Converted
Ashford	Chilmington Green Primary School	01 September 2018	The Stour Academy Trust	Free School
Folkestone and Hythe	Turner Free School	01 September 2018	Turner Schools	Free School
Sevenoaks	Fordcombe CE Primary School	01 October 2018	The Tenax Schools Trust	Converted
Dartford	Greenlands Primary School	01 February 2019	Cygnus Academies Trust	Converted
Dover	Hornbeam Primary School	01 April 2019	Deal Education Alliance for Learning Trust	Converted
Dover	Northbourne CE Primary School	01 April 2019	Deal Education Alliance for Learning Trust	Converted
Dover	The Downs CE Primary School	01 April 2019	Deal Education Alliance for Learning Trust	Converted
Dover	Deal Parochial CE Primary School	01 April 2019	Deal Education Alliance for Learning Trust	Converted
Dover	Sandown School	01 April 2019	Deal Education Alliance for Learning Trust	Converted

District	School	Date	Promoter	Status
Dover	Sholden CE Primary School	01 April 2019	Deal Education Alliance for Learning Trust	Converted
Folkestone and Hythe	All Souls' CEP School	01 April 2019	Aquila	Converted

#### 4. The Impact of Changes to Planning Groups and the Forecasting Methodology

4.1 In the KCP 2019-23 we reported on the changes to both primary and secondary planning groups and to our forecasting methodology whereby the additional pupil places required to support planned housing development were factored in. This followed lengthy discussions with the DFE in the Summer of 2018 and the recommendations made to us to include housing in our forecast in the future. This suggested that at a maximum we could expect to see increases in primary school rolls of up to 11,500 extra pupils and secondary rolls of up to 20,000 extra pupils by the end of 2022-23. It is too early to analyse in detail the implication of these changes. For example, we do not yet have housing delivery data for 2018-19 to see what impact this might have had on the forecast numbers for September 2018.

Over time we will be able to identify whether the changes have:

- Increased/decreased the forecasting accuracy at a planning group level.
- Improved the visibility of where we should expand.
- Secured the developer contributions needed to ensure sufficient provision.

#### 5. Forecasting Accuracy

5.1 The KCP sets out forecast roll numbers by planning groups at both primary and secondary school levels. As reported, this year, for the first time, the forecast pupil product from planned housing was included. As would be expected, this has increased the forecast places needed significantly in the longer term.


5.2 Figures 4.1 to 4.4 set out the forecast primary and secondary rolls for 2018-19 and compare these to the actual rolls as at October 2018. Our target is to be accurate to within plus or minus 1% at County level, which we managed over the last three years. We also use this as a benchmark for each district and for each phase.

Figure 4.1 sets out the accuracy of the Year R forecasts. It shows that for Kent overall, we under forecast the actual roll by -1.7% (231 pupils). This is outside the 1% target we set ourselves. There were variations across the County with 5 districts under forecast and one over forecast by more than +/-1%. When considered against our previous methodology (i.e. without pupil product from planned housing) the Year R rolls were even further under forecast Countywide (-4.2%, 474 pupils).



**Figure 4.1: Comparison of Year R forecast v October 2018 roll**


District	Forecast Year R roll (2018/19)	Actual Year R roll Oct 2018	Difference (forecast less actual)	% variance (%)
Dartford	1463	1567	-104	-6.6
Maidstone	1836	1916	-80	-4.2
Gravesham	1331	1387	-56	-4.1
Ashford	1430	1479	-49	-3.3
Tunbridge Wells	1133	1163	-30	-2.5
Swale	1810	1816	-6	-0.4
Dover	1165	1168	-3	-0.3
Sevenoaks	1285	1287	-2	-0.1
Canterbury	1403	1403	0	0
Thanet	1557	1550	7	0.5
Tonbridge and Malling	1598	1589	9	0.6
Folkestone & Hythe	1161	1146	15	1.3
<b>Kent Totals</b>	<b>17173</b>	<b>17471</b>	<b>-298</b>	<b>-1.7</b>


  
 Under forecast
   
  
 Over forecast

5.3 Figure 4.2 sets out the accuracy of the Year R-6 forecasts. It shows that for Kent overall, we over forecast the actual roll by 0.9% (1,107 pupils). There were variations across the County with 4 districts over forecast by more than 1%. When considered against our previous methodology the Year R-6 forecast rolls were very accurate (under forecast by -0.1% or 127 pupils).

**Figure 4.2: Comparison of Primary (Year R-6) forecast v October 2018 roll**

District	Forecast primary roll (2018/19)	Actual primary roll Oct 2018	Difference (forecast less actual)	Over / under forecast (%)
Gravesham	9,638	9,633	5	0.1
Ashford	11,148	11,098	50	0.5
Canterbury	10,452	10,399	53	0.5
Maidstone	13,335	13,264	71	0.5
Tunbridge Wells	8,729	8,683	46	0.5
Dartford	10,619	10,540	79	0.7
Dover	8,636	8,567	69	0.8
Swale	13,149	13,025	124	1
Tonbridge and Malling	11,589	11,456	133	1.2
Folkestone & Hythe	8,582	8,461	121	1.4
Sevenoaks	9,668	9,509	159	1.7
Thanet	11,394	11,197	197	1.8
<b>Kent Totals</b>	<b>126,939</b>	<b>125,832</b>	<b>1107</b>	<b>0.9</b>


  
 Increasingly over forecast

5.4 Figure 4.3 sets out the accuracy of the Year 7 forecasts. It shows that for Kent overall, we over forecast the actual roll by 1.0% (174 pupils). There were variations across the County with 8 districts over or under forecast by more than +/-1%. When considered against our previous methodology the Year 7 forecast rolls were very accurate (-0.4%, 79 pupils).

**Figure 4.3: Comparison of Year 7 forecast v October 2018 roll**

District	Forecast Year 7 roll (2018/19)	Actual Year 7 roll Oct 2018	Difference (forecast less actual)	Over / under forecast (%)	
Ashford	1,449	1,478	-29	-2	Under forecast
Dover	1,255	1,279	-24	-1.9	
Maidstone	2,089	2,094	-5	-0.2	
Gravesham	1,470	1,471	-1	-0.1	
Tonbridge & Malling	1,785	1,782	3	0.2	
Dartford	1,749	1,731	18	1	
Sevenoaks	529	522	7	1.3	Over forecast
Thanet	1,513	1,490	23	1.5	
Canterbury	1,543	1,510	33	2.2	
Folkestone & Hythe	1,120	1,096	24	2.2	
Swale	1,740	1,698	42	2.5	
Tunbridge Wells	1,668	1,585	83	5.2	
<b>Kent</b>	<b>17,910</b>	<b>17,736</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>1.0</b>	

5.5 Figure 4.4 sets out the accuracy of the Year 7-11 forecasts. It shows that for Kent overall, we over forecast the actual role by 1.7% (1,400 pupils). There were variations across the County with 9 districts over forecast by +1%. When considered against our previous methodology the Year 7-11 forecast rolls were very accurate (+0.2%, 141 pupils).

**Figure 4.4: Comparison of Year 7-11 forecast v October 2018 roll**

District	Forecast Secondary roll (2018/19)	Actual Secondary roll Oct 2018	Difference (forecast less actual)	Over / under forecast (%)
Dover	5874	5,847	27	0.5
Ashford	6924	6,885	39	0.6
Gravesham	6739	6,676	63	0.9
Canterbury	7589	7,496	93	1.2
Tonbridge and Malling	8219	8,121	98	1.2
Maidstone	9920	9,741	179	1.8
Tunbridge Wells Total	7742	7,608	134	1.8
Dartford	8163	8,005	158	2
Sevenoaks	2445	2,397	48	2
Swale	8177	7,993	184	2.3
Folkestone & Hythe	5318	5,160	158	3.1
Thanet	7122	6,904	218	3.2
<b>Kent</b>	<b>84233</b>	<b>82,833</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>1.7</b>

Increasingly over forecast

## 6. Progress in Achieving Our Targets

- 6.1 The targets which relate to providing sufficient school places are set out in 'Vision and Priorities for Improvement.'
- 6.2 Our target is to maintain 5% surplus places in both primary and secondary schools. Maintaining sufficient surplus capacity in schools across a planning group is essential both to meet increased demand, and to enable parental preferences to be met. However, as the majority of school funding is pupil led, too great a surplus of places can cause viability issues for schools.
- 6.3 Figure 5.1 shows that surplus capacity in Reception classes across Kent is at 11.3% and for all primary aged pupils it is 5.8%. We would expect the number of surplus places to fall if housing comes forward as planned. Surplus primary school capacity across a district may mask pressures within specific planning groups. Where pupil numbers do not increase, and surplus capacity remains high, we will work with headteachers of both maintained schools and academies to look at ways to reduce surplus capacity. This could be through the reduction in pupil admission numbers and/or the removal/re-designation of temporary classrooms.
- 6.4 Surplus capacity in Year 7 across Kent is at 6.1%. Across Years 7-11 it is at 8.9%. We expect to see increased numbers of primary aged pupils transfer to secondary schools over the next few years, reducing the surplus capacity in the secondary sector with places needing to be commissioned.

**Figure 5.1: Surplus capacity in mainstream schools as of October 2018**

<b>October 2018</b>		
<b>District</b>	<b>% Year R</b>	<b>% Years R-6</b>
Ashford	10.9	5.1
Canterbury	13.3	6.5
Dartford	4.0	0.8
Dover	13.9	8.2
Gravesham	14.3	6.4
Maidstone	5.1	2.6
Sevenoaks	6.0	3.9
Folkestone & Hythe	17.4	10.4
Swale	13.0	6.0
Thanet	13.9	8.5
Tonbridge and Malling	11.9	4.8
Tunbridge Wells	12.9	7.5
<b>Kent</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>5.8</b>
<b>District</b>	<b>% Year 7</b>	<b>% Years 7-11</b>
Ashford	7.5	10.7
Canterbury	7.4	5.8
Dartford	3.2	6.9
Dover	8.0	14.9
Gravesham	3.4	5.5
Maidstone	0.8	5.3
Sevenoaks	5.7	9.3
Folkestone & Hythe	3.3	6.5
Swale	6.7	8.1
Thanet	5.3	8.1
Tonbridge and Malling	10.9	14.2
Tunbridge Wells	7.0	8.4
<b>Kent</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>8.9</b>

- 6.4 We set targets for the percentage of families securing their first preference school for entry in September 2019. For primary schools the target was 91% and on Offer Day 89.4% of parents secured their first preference. For secondary schools the target was 77% and 79.0% of parents secured their first preference, with just over 300 more pupils securing their preferred secondary school than the previous year.
- 6.5 The target for first and second preferences for both primary and secondary schools was 95% and 87% respectively, with 95.5% securing their first or second preference in a primary school and 90.2% of parents securing their first or second preference at a secondary school.

## **7. Progress in Commissioning Provision for SEND Pupils**

- 7.1 The KCP identified KCC's intention to commission 347 new places in special schools and Specialist Resourced Provisions (SRPs) for September 2019. In total, 271 of the 347 places identified in the KCP will be in place, with a further 82 places being commissioned that were not identified in the KCP. This will bring the total to 353 new places for September 2019. Figure 6.1 sets out the variations between what we planned to commission, and what we have commissioned for September 2019.

**Figure: 6.1 Specialist Provision Planned in Special Schools**

<b>District</b>	<b>To be Commissioned by 2019-20</b>	<b>Variation</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Impact</b>
Dover	Increase of the designated number of the SRP at Whitfield Aspen Primary School from 96 to 112 places.	This was not included in the KCP.	As on January 2019 there were 109 pupils were on roll. We need to undertake a statutory process to regularise the designated number.	Positive impact as there will be an increased number of primary aged PSCN places in Dover District.
Thanet	Change of age range at Stone Bay Special School from 8-19 years to 5-19 years to include an 8 place KS1 class.	This was not included in the KCP.	There is an increasing need for specialist ASD places in the District.	Positive impact as there will be an increased number of primary aged ASD places in Thanet District.
Tonbridge and Malling	Increase the designated number at Grange Park School from 100 to 150 places.  Change the age range from 11-19 years to 8-19 years.  Establish a 36 place KS2 satellite.	This was not included in the KCP.	Grange Park is full to its designated number of 100 places. Therefore, in order to enable the School to meet the demand for local places, we need to increase the School's designated number of places.	Positive impact as this will increase specialist provision for pupils with Autism at a time when there is a pressure for such places.
Maidstone	15 place primary SRP.	This will open at East Borough Primary School in September 2019, a year earlier than identified in the KCP.	The space needed is available earlier than anticipated.	Positive impact as the 15 primary ASD places will be available a year earlier than anticipated.
Tonbridge and Malling	60 place special school secondary satellite in Aylesford.	Not on track.	No final decision has yet been made as to which special school will open the satellite.	Impact to be clarified.

## 7.2 **Isle of Sheppey Special Free School**

The DfE have approved KCC's application for a new Behaviour and Learning Special School on the Isle of Sheppey. Officers will continue to work with and encourage potential sponsors for the school.

## 7.3 **Special School Capacities**

Due to increasing rolls, consultation is required relating to increasing the designated number of a number of our special schools. This need occurs when the number of pupils on roll is 10% or 20 pupils more (whichever is lesser) than the designated number. During the process of realigning the designated numbers, we will take the opportunity to work alongside our special school Headteachers to review floor plans and accommodation schedules of our special schools. This will help us to plan SEN commissioning moving forward.

## 7.4 **Special Provision Capital Fund**

In 2017 Central Government announced an initiative to provide capital funding to local authorities to support the provision of SEND places - the Special Provision Capital Fund<sup>2</sup>. Kent was allocated £6.6m over three financial years 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21. In 2019, Government announced further funding, with Kent receiving an extra £4.4m taking the total received to £11m.

7.5 We propose allocating the funding to increase ASD provision across the County. A consultation on our proposal was held between 01 May 2019 and 05 June 2019. The consultation outcome will be reported to CYPE Cabinet Committee Members in a separate paper at this committee meeting.

## 8. **Progress in implementing Changes to Provision for Early Years**

8.1 The annual Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) was undertaken with providers in April/May 2019. The CSA will enable officers to identify where we have a deficit of provision, the outcomes of which will be reported in the in next KCP. We will work with providers and potential providers to encourage the establishment of additional provision where it is required.

8.2 In the KCP 2019-23 we reported that the DfE had made £30m available for maintained school nursery provision through the Capital Funding for Nursery Provision programme. The aim of the funding is to create new high quality school-based nursery places targeted at closing the gap for disadvantaged children. We supported four schools in submitting bids. As of the writing of the report we were still awaiting the DfE to announce the successful bids.

## 9. **Post-16 Commissioning**

9.1 The Commissioning Plan 2019-23 set out our duties to:

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<sup>2</sup> The criteria for spending is laid out in the 'Special Provision Capital Fund Guidance first published in August 2017 and updated in January 2019. The guidance can be found here:  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/773706/SPCF\\_Guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/773706/SPCF_Guidance.pdf)

- Secure sufficient suitable education and training provision for young people aged 16-19 years (and those aged 20-24 years with an Education, Health and Care Plan).
- Ensure support is available to all young people from the age of 13 years that will encourage, enable or assist them to participate in education or training (tracking young people's participation successfully is a key element of this duty).
- Have processes in place to deliver the 'September Guarantee' of an education or training place for all 16 and 17 year olds.

Some of the actions undertaken to address our duties, and the outcomes of the work are outlined below.

- Mapping of post 16 courses against industry sectors is informing the development of appropriate provision and transition planning.
- The Careers Enterprise Company (CEC) is a national organisation whose role is to link schools and colleges to employers and to help them deliver world class careers support for all young people. The CEC employs coordinators to help link schools and colleges to employers and to increase employer engagement with young people and with the support of The Education People (TEP) the number of coordinators working across Kent and Medway has increased from 2 to 6.
- 54 schools are linked with industry specialists, an increase from the 40 in 2018, with the target that all secondary schools in Kent will have a linked advisor by the end of academic year 2019/20.
- The Employer Guilds are reviewing their priorities, one of which is the development of work placement, pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship opportunities, to ensure a variety of 'routes to employment'.
- TEP's strategy and new staffing structure provides consistent and comprehensive support to the Guilds to ensure strong employer links with schools, colleges and other education and skills providers.
- The number of apprenticeship starts August 2018 to January 2019 for 16 -24 year olds has remained the same as 2017/18. The number of apprenticeship starts aged 25+ has increased by 27% from 2017/18.
- The Apprentice Kent website now enables employers to post both apprenticeship and work placement vacancies. The site has received 2300 registrations within the last 9 months. In the last six weeks we have seen over 250 young people register on the website looking for an apprenticeship.
- The TEP apprenticeship team are part of a trailblazer group developing a level 6 Physical Education Physical Activity and Youth Sport Specialist apprenticeship.
- There is a minimum core offer of 4 hours Apprenticeship/Participation support available for all schools.
- A district level pilot activity in Swale, which focuses on bringing partners together across the district to improve the availability and take up of apprenticeships is being undertaken.

## 9.2 **Sixth form capacity**

The KCP identified a potential deficit of 6<sup>th</sup> form places in a small number of selective and non-selective planning groups. In the short term schools are able to manage the shortfall of places. Our Basic Need allocation is based on statutory school year group numbers and does not include funding for sixth form places. However, the latest DfE guidance around developer contributions outlines the expectation that local authorities will request contributions towards sixth form

provision. We are reviewing our process to identify how best to manage this. We have also written to the ESfA requesting discussion on how we can join up secondary school expansions for Years 7-11 with any proposals the ESfA might bring forward for the expansion of the school's sixth form.

### 9.3 Changes to the Post 16 Curriculum

#### T Levels

T Levels are new courses coming in September 2020, which will follow GCSEs and will be equivalent to 3 A Levels. These 2-year courses have been developed in collaboration with employers and businesses so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for work.

T Levels will offer students a mixture of classroom learning and 'on-the-job' experience during an industry placement of at least 315 hours (approximately 45 days). They will provide the knowledge and experience needed to open the door into skilled employment, further study or a higher apprenticeship.

#### **DfE review of post-16 qualifications at level 3 and below.**

The DfE are currently consulting on post-16 qualifications at level 3 and below in England. T levels, A levels and GCSEs are not included in the consultation and will remain in place; for all other qualifications the consultation asks for views on the high-level principles and outlines proposals for the removal of funding approval for unreformed qualifications. The proposals include:

- To withdraw approval for funding from 1 August 2020 for new starts on qualifications that the DfE deems meet its criteria for 'pre-existing qualifications'. Students already enrolled/registered on these courses will be funded through to completion.
- To withdraw approval for funding new starts on qualifications with no take-up from August 2021.
- To withdraw approval for funding for new starts on qualifications with low take-up (under 100 enrolments) from August 2021.
- From September 2023 onward, to remove approval funding from applied general and vocational qualifications, where they overlap with A levels or T levels and do not meet defined characteristics that will be consulted on as part of the second consultation.
- To review current post-16 entry level, level 1, level 2 and other level 3 qualifications (e.g. those for adults). The DfE will agree the principles on which of these will be made eligible for funding in the future, based on the results of the consultation.

The DfE aims to consult on its proposals for changes to funding for post-16 level 2 and below qualifications in late 2019.

The potential changes following this consultation will have a significant impact on sixth forms provided by Kent non-selective schools who provide more flexible post 16 offers for those pupils not suited to a wholly level 3 academic programme. The T levels require a high proportion of industry specialist input and work placements which schools will find challenging to deliver. If other vocational options are not available, the delivery of these is likely to become the domain of the Colleges.



Without funding for the courses used by schools to provide more creative and flexible post 16 options, especially for some of our most vulnerable learners, this provision is at risk and this has been emphasised in our consultation response.

The International Baccalaureate (IB) at Post 16 is delivered by 27 secondary schools in Kent, making it the largest concentration of IB World Schools in the world. Several of these schools also deliver the IB Middle Years Programme. The review could potentially remove funding for this offer.

## 10. Capital Funding

Following the detailed discussion with the DFE, RSC and ESFA last summer, we currently have a capital programme that balances and to date projections are that we can deliver the required places within budget. However, the impact of the national delays in Basic Need allocation does cause some uncertainty for the future.

Part of the agreement reached last year was to change our forecasting methodology (See panel 4.1) and the new forecasting methodology was used in the School Capacity (SCAP) returns. The SCAP is used to calculate the Basic Need funding allocated to each local authority. As would be expected, the increase in forecast pupil numbers has impacted on the allocation of Basic Need funding. Colleagues in the DfE are working with Officers to clarify the exact impact of this.

## 11. Recommendations:

The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to note the progress achieved and to consider the report prior to the next version of the Commissioning Plan in autumn 2019.

## 12. Background Documents

12.1 Vision and Priorities for Improvement:

[https://www.kelsi.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/29074/EYPS-Vision-and-Priorities-for-Improvement.pdf](https://www.kelsi.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/29074/EYPS-Vision-and-Priorities-for-Improvement.pdf)

12.2 Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2019-2023:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/education-skills-and-employment-policies/education-provision-plan>

12.3 Working Together, Improving Outcomes: Kent's Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2017-2019

[https://www.kent.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0012/13323/Strategy-for-children-with-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities.pdf](https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0012/13323/Strategy-for-children-with-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities.pdf)

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