

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

To: Richard Long, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

Subject: **Proposal to establish a 16 place Specialist Resourced Provision (SRP) for Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Holy Trinity and St John's CE Primary school, Thanet**

Classification: Unrestricted

Decision Number: 20/00047

Past Pathway of Paper: None

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Divisions: Margate – Barry Lewis

Summary:

This report informs members of the proposal and outcome of the consultation to establish a 16 place Specialist Resourced Provision (SRP) for Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Holy Trinity and St John's CE Primary school, Thanet.

Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills on the proposed decision to:

- i. Issue a public notice to establish a 16 place Specialist Resourced Provision for Autistic Spectrum Disorder at Holy Trinity and St John's CE Primary School from June 2021 (term 6).

And, subject to no objections being received to the public notice:

- ii. Establish a 16 place Specialist Resourced Provision for Autistic Spectrum Disorder at Holy Trinity and St John's CE Primary School, Thanet.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2020-2024 sets out our commissioning intentions to meet the need for specialist provisions across Kent. A mixture of new schools, expansion of existing and the establishment of satellites and SRPs will be commissioned across Kent to meet the need. The new SRP provision at Holy Trinity and St Johns Primary School will help to meet the need for additional specialist places.

1.2 Kent County Council's Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) 2017 -2019 identifies the need to add additional provision across the county. It also sets out an intention to provide additional places for pupils with the following need types: Autistic Spectrum Disorder

(ASD), Speech Language and Communication Needs (ASD), and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH).

2. Background

2.1 Around 3% of the total school population for which the Local Authority is responsible, have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). The number of pupils in the Thanet District with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in January 2019 was 1,369. This was an increase of 12.8% from 2018. This was higher than the national increase of 11%. As at January 2019, 4.8% of the pupils aged 5-19 years in Thanet (maintained and independent) were subject to an EHCP. Pupils with an EHCP in Kent are less likely to be educated in a maintained mainstream school than would be expected nationally.

2.2 A number of students with an EHCP require higher level of support than can be provided in mainstream schools, but their needs are not so complex that a special school placement is appropriate. For these students we maintain a range of Specialist Resourced Provisions (SRPs) which are based in mainstream schools with places reserved for students with an EHCP. The establishment of SRPs attached to mainstream schools is part of the continuum of provision to enable pupils to be included within mainstream settings.

2.3 Table 1.1 shows the number of EHCPs in May 2020 in Thanet District for years Nursery to Year 6 (based on the position as at May 2020)

Age Group	Year	Number of Pupils
Nursery - Year 6	Nursery	27
	Reception	55
	Year 1	69
	Year 2	69
	Year 3	83
	Year 4	90
	Year 5	74
	Year 6	111
Total		578

2.4 Table 1.2 Shows the total number of EHCPs for each need type in Thanet for years Nursery to Year 6 (based on the position as at May 2020)

Age Group	Need Type	Number of Pupils
Nursery - Year 6	ASD	266
	HI	7
	MLD	13
	PD	21
	PMLD	18
	SEMH	96
	SLCN	128
	SLD	20
	SPLD	6
	VI	3
Total		578

2.5 Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) remains the most common primary need type. In Kent 40% of children and young people aged 0-25 years with an EHCP have this

identified as their primary need. This is significantly higher than the national figure of 29%.

2.6 Table 2 shows the current number of SRP places by need type across Thanet district. Currently there are no SRP places for ASD in Thanet primary schools. We are also proposing to establish an SRP at Garlinge Primary School in Thanet and together they will address the need for SRP places for Primary school children in Thanet. The proposed new secondary school for Thanet due to open in September 2023 will include a secondary SRP for students with ASD. This will enable those children who wish to remain within a mainstream school but require a higher level of support to continue their education in a Thanet mainstream school.

	Primary SRP Places by Need Type							
District	ASD	HI	PD	SEMH	SLCN	SLD	VI	Total
Thanet	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	7

3. Proposals

- 3.1 The proposal is to establish a 16 place SRP for ASD at Holy Trinity and St John's CE Primary School to help meet the need for additional specialist primary school places in Thanet. The school is rated 'Good' by Ofsted. An additional 16 place SRP for ASD has been proposed for Garlinge Primary school in Thanet and will be presented to the committee in a separate report, although the FED was published together with Holy Trinity and St John's proposal originally.
- 3.2 Feasibility studies have been carried out to establish a dedicated space for the provision. The SRP is to be established in a building which was previously the school's nursery and is currently used for SEN interventions. There will be an extension to the building and some internal reconfiguration undertaken to provide the spaces for the SRP whilst maintaining intervention capacity for the school.
- 3.3 The places will be commissioned by KCC and reviewed annually. It is expected that the SRP would open initially with a small number of children increasing incrementally year on year.
- 3.4 A public consultation on the proposal to establish the SRP was held between 11 March 2020 and 6 May 2020 and the outcome is reported below.
- 3.5 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed as part of the consultation process and is attached. The assessment identified the following positive impacts:
 - Children with ASD in the Thanet district will be able to attend provision local to their homes.
 - Children with ASD will be able to attend SRP provision in mainstream primary schools in Thanet.
 - There will be two SRPs for Primary school aged children with ASD established in the Thanet District.

No adverse impacts were identified during the assessment and to date no comments have been received and no changes are required.

4. Alternative Proposals

- 4.1 Options regarding the establishment of SRPs in primary schools in Thanet have been fully investigated with the SEN team. Holy Trinity and St Johns Primary School and Garlinge Primary School were identified as the best options for the establishment of an SRP for ASD based on their track record of inclusion and current expertise. The school's governing body are fully in support of the proposals and creating the SRP provision will enable choice for parents in Thanet with a child who would require the additional support an SRP provision offers.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 Capital

The feasibility estimates the costs for this proposal to be £643,953. A building which is currently used for SEN interventions and was once the on-site nursery will be extended and refurbished to include two classrooms, care facilities and small group intervention rooms. The designs are currently being developed in preparation for submission for planning permission in September/October 2020. £99,736 in developer contributions have been secured for this project.

5.2 Revenue

As per KCC policy a total of £6,000 per newly provided learning space will be provided to the school from the DGS revenue budget.

Each place commissioned by KCC will bring a minimum of £10,000 per year which will enable the school to provide the additional support necessary to help these children make good social and academic process.

5.3 Human

KCC will work closely with the senior leadership teams of the School to ensure that all appropriate accommodation and facilities are provided to enable them to deliver an effective curriculum. The school will appoint members of staff as appropriate for the SRP provision.

6. Vision and Priorities for Improvement

- 6.1 This proposal will help to secure our ambition “to ensure that Kent’s young people have access to the education, work and skills opportunities necessary to support Kent business to grow and be increasingly competitive in the national and international economy”
- 6.2 The proposal also supports the ‘Strategy for children and young people with Special Educational Needs 2017-19. The aim of the SEND strategy is to improve the educational, health and emotional wellbeing outcomes for all of Kent's children and young people with special educational needs and those who are disabled.
- 6.3 Kent’s Strategy set out an intention to provide additional places for pupils with the following need types: Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Speech Language and Communication Needs (ASD), and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH).
- 6.4 The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2020-2024 sets out our commissioning intentions to meet the need for specialist provisions across Kent. To

meet the need a mixture of new schools, expansion of existing and the establishment of satellites and SRPs will be commissioned across Kent.

7. Consultation Outcomes

- 7.1 The Education consultation was held by the school from 11 March to 6 May 2020. The consultation documents were distributed to parents/carers, school staff and governors, County Councillors, Members of Parliament, the Diocesan Authorities, the relevant Clinical Commissioning Group, local libraries, Thanet District Council, and others. The consultation documents were posted on the KCC website and the link to the website widely circulated. The consultation documents were also posted on the school's own website. An opportunity was also provided to send in written responses via a response form to the school consultations email address.
- 7.2 A public drop-in information session which had been arranged at the school was cancelled due to the National Covid-19 situation. However, additional emails were sent to all consultees to advise of the cancellation of the event and a reminder to complete and submit a response form.
- 7.3 The consultations closed on 7 May 2020 and a total 5 responses for Holy Trinity and St John's CE Primary School were received, all were supportive of the proposal. A summary of written responses is available in Appendix 1

8. Views

8.1 The views of the Local Members:

Barry Lewis, Local Member for Margate has been informed and consulted on the proposed changes to Holy Trinity and St John's CE Primary School.

8.2 The view of the Headteachers and Governing Bodies:

The Headteacher and Governing Body of Holy Trinity and St John's CE Primary are fully supportive of this proposal to establish an SRP for ASD at their school.

8.3 The view of the KCC Head of SEN Assessment and Placement:

The Head of SEN Assessment and Placement fully supports the proposal and commissioning of the SRP places.

8.4 The view of the KCC Area Education Officer:

The Area Education Officer for East Kent fully supports the proposal and feels that it would provide much needed ASD places in Thanet, where currently there is no Primary Specialist Resource Provision to meet the need. This proposal will therefore provide local additional SEN places for the community and choice for parents.

9. Conclusions

9.1 The increasing demand to provide places for children with an Education, Health and Care plan in Thanet district has led KCC to commission SRP places within mainstream schools. The development of SRPs cater for children who require additional SEN support but do not require a place at a special school. Establishing the 16 place SRP for ASD at Holy Trinity and St John's CE Primary School will help to meet this increasing demand and will give choice to parents whose child needs additional support.

10. Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills on the proposed decision to:

- i. Issue a public notice to establish a 16 place Specialist Resourced Provision for Autistic Spectrum Disorder at Holy Trinity and St John's CE Primary School from June 2021 (term 6).

And, subject to no objections being received to the public notice:

- ii. Establish a 16 place Specialist Resourced Provision for Autistic Spectrum Disorder at Holy Trinity and St John's CE Primary School, Thanet.

11. Background Documents

11.1 Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement 2015-2020.

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/corporate-policies/increasing-opportunities-improving-outcomes>

11.2 Vision and Priorities for Improvement

http://www.kelsi.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/68498/Children-Young-People-and-Education-Vision-and-Priorities-for-Improvement-2018-2021.pdf

11.3 Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2020-24

www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision

11.4 Kent County Councils' Strategy for Children and Young People with special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

www.kent.gov.uk/sendstrategy

11.5 Consultation Document and Equalities Impact Assessment

Holy Trinity and St John's CE Primary School

<https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/HolyTrinityStJohnsCEPS/consultationHome>

12. Contact details

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