

# Consultation on proposed change to Garlinge Children's Centre

## Consultation Document

Consultation runs from  
29 September to 25 November 2021

[kent.gov.uk/garlingeconsultation](https://kent.gov.uk/garlingeconsultation)

**Alternative formats:** If you require any of the consultation material in an alternative format or language, please email: [alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk](mailto:alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk) or call: 03000 42 15 53 (text relay service number: 18001 03000 42 15 53). This number goes to an answering machine, which is monitored during office hours.

### **What we are consulting on:**

- The change of use of Garlinge Children’s Centre building to provide a 16 place Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) as part of Garlinge Primary School and Nursery and that will serve Thanet children with ASD.
- Providing Children’s Centre Services to the community served by Garlinge Children’s Centre through Birchington Children’s Centre.

### **Why are we proposing this change?**

The Local Authority (KCC) is responsible for maintaining Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) for children and young people between the ages of 0-25 years who have special education needs. As of January 2021, this totalled 15,281 children and young people with an EHCP. This is an increase of 1,782 since January 2020, an increase of 13.2% compared to 10% increase nationally.

The number of pupils in the Thanet District with an EHCP in January 2021 was 1,798. An increase of 12.3% from 2020.

11.77% of Kent’s children and young people with an EHCP live in Thanet. Some children with an EHCP require a higher level of support than a mainstream school can provide, but their needs are not so complex that a special school is appropriate for them. For these children, a Specialist Resourced Provision (SRP) based in a mainstream school and that has places reserved for them is the best way to ensure that they receive the education they require. As a Local Authority there is an imperative for KCC to increase the proportion of children with an EHCP who can remain in and achieve well in a mainstream school by providing Specialist Resource Provisions to support them.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is the most common special education need type in Kent with 42.7% of all EHCPs (0-25) having ASD as their primary need. In Thanet 50% of all EHCPs for Primary aged pupils have ASD named as their primary need in their Education Health and Care Plan. Despite this, Thanet does not have any Specialist Resource Provisions in any of its local schools. The nearest primary schools with specialist resource provisions for ASD for children in Thanet are in Canterbury and Whitstable.

We are therefore proposing to open two primary Specialist Resource Provisions for Thanet primary age children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. One in Holy Trinity and

St John's Primary School in Margate and another in Garlinge Primary School and Nursery.

### **More information about mainstream schools with Specialist Resource Provision**

Over 70 of our local authority and academy Primary and Secondary mainstream schools in Kent have additional specialist resource provision (SRP) to provide support for children and young people who, without specialist input, are unlikely to make progress in their learning and will struggle to take part in mainstream school life.

Many children and young people with additional learning needs can make better, more sustained progress when they attend mainstream school. A small number of children with Education, Health and Care Plans, require higher levels of support than can usually be provided by a mainstream school, but with a high level of specialist support could be successfully included and make good progress alongside their peers. For these pupils KCC maintain a range of Specialist Resource Provisions (SRP) which are located within mainstream schools.

To be considered for SRP the child or young person must first have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

We have SRPs for the following special educational need (SEN) types:

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Speech, Language and communication needs (SLCN)
- Hearing Impairment (HI)
- Visual Impairment (VI)
- Physical Disability (PD)
- Cognition and Learning (C&L)
- Specific Learning Difficulties such as Dyslexia (SPLD)
- Profound Severe and Complex Needs (PSCN)

Every Specialist Resource Provision is led by a Lead Teacher who is a specialist in the SEN need type of the SRP. This means that they have or are studying a degree level qualification. SRP support staff will also have enhanced and specialist levels of training. The SRP includes additional support staff who are teaching assistants with additional knowledge and skills in the need type of the SRP who will support pupils both in the SRP base and when the pupils are working in mainstream.

All SRPs have a base such as a classroom for pupils where they can receive specialist teaching for some subjects or receive SEN interventions (small group teaching). Some children may also receive speech and language therapy or occupational therapy individually or small group interventions.

When children and young people are going through the Education and Health Care assessment there will be evidence that, without a high level of specialist support, they would find it difficult or not be able to participate in activities, including learning, alongside their peers in a mainstream school.

In time and with support, it is expected that children and young people will be able to attend most of their mainstream lessons and take part successfully in activities in the school.

### **Where would the Specialist Resource Provision be?**

We are proposing to change the use of the current part-time Children's Centre on the site of Garlinge Primary School to be used for the Specialist Resource Centre. The building is proposed to be extended to provide: classrooms, a care suite, intervention space and office space. This would, however, mean that the building could no longer be used for the direct delivery of Children's Centre services.

### **Future provision of Children's Centre services**

It is proposed that the Early years, health (health visiting and midwifery) and parenting services delivered from Garlinge Children's Centre would be transferred to the current part-time Birchington Children's Centre, which is 3.4 miles from Garlinge Children's Centre. Birchington Children's Centre hours would be extended to full-time opening to accommodate the increased delivery of services. Although Birchington Children's Centre building was closed during the pandemic, we are looking to start providing services from it in the near future.

Birchington Children's Centre is able to offer comparative services to Garlinge Children's Centre and has a bigger outdoor area which allows more outdoor play opportunity.

The network of Thanet Children's Centres work closely together offering outreach support across Thanet.

Outreach services including home visiting are an important aspect of Children's Centre services and ensure support is targeted at young children and families who are at risk of poor outcomes.

Further outreach services will be developed for the Garlinge catchment area based on local community needs. This will include some delivery of services from Garlinge Primary school.

The proposed changes will not affect the level of outreach support provided to families living within the catchment area of Garlinge Children's Centre.

Another alternative and accessible location to access the services delivered at Garlinge is Six Bells Children's Centre, which is 1.7 miles from Garlinge Children's Centre.

### **What other options have been considered for the location of the Specialist Resource provision?**

We have considered an area of the school that currently has some intervention spaces and a sensory room and would require demolition of some temporary buildings. This space is near to the current Key Stage 2 (Junior) satellite class of Foreland Fields School on the Garlinge Primary site. There is a separate proposal to provide a Key Stage 1 (Infant) satellite class of Foreland Fields School so that children from the Special School who benefit from being included in some classes with primary mainstream children can be offered this opportunity in both the Infant and Junior years. However, if the Specialist Resource Provision is sited here, the proposal for the Infant satellite class of Foreland Fields School could not be brought forward.

### **About the consultation and how to take part**

This consultation is seeking views on the proposal to change the use of Garlinge Children's Centre to that of a Specialist Resource Centre for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and provide Children's Centre services to the local community through Birchington Children's Centre. There is a statutory requirement to consult before making significant changes to a Children's Centre.

Here's how you can give your views:

- Visit [www.kent.gov.uk/garlingeconsultation](http://www.kent.gov.uk/garlingeconsultation) to fill in the online questionnaire. The consultation document, equality impact assessment and a Word version of the questionnaire are also available on this webpage
- Pick up a paper questionnaire from Garlinge Primary School reception
- Attend one of our Question and Answer sessions which will be held at Garlinge Primary School:
  - Tuesday 19 October 4pm to 6pm
  - Wednesday 3 November 5pm to 7pm

Please contact Sally Heyes at [sally.heyesh@kent.gov.uk](mailto:sally.heyesh@kent.gov.uk) or call on 03000 412559 in advance to book a slot at one of these sessions.

The consultation closes on 25 November 2021 so please ensure your response is with us by this date.

### **Any questions?**

You can contact us by emailing [EKAreaEducation@kent.gov.uk](mailto:EKAreaEducation@kent.gov.uk) or by phoning 03000 418794 with any queries you may have.

### **Equalities**

An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been conducted to ensure no one is unfairly affected on the basis of their protected characteristics throughout the process. Our consultation stage Equality Impact Assessment can be viewed online at [www.kent.gov.uk/garlingeconsultation](http://www.kent.gov.uk/garlingeconsultation) or is available on request. We would welcome any feedback within the consultation questionnaire. We will review the EqIA after the consultation, taking into account any feedback received.

## Timescale

Activity	Date
Public consultation period	29 September to 25 November 2021
Question and Answer sessions held at Garlinge Primary School (places to be booked in advance)	Tuesday 19 October 4-6pm and Wednesday 3 November 5-7pm
Report to Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee on the proposal and the outcome of the consultation	14 January 2022
Cabinet Member considers the report and makes a decision on whether or not to proceed with the proposals	After 17 January 2022

If a decision is made to proceed with the proposals, a Public Notice would be issued in Spring 2022. If the proposal goes ahead, we would look to implement the change for September 2022.