Kent’s Plan to help children and young people who find learning difficult or who are disabled
Hello

Kent County Council and the local health services have been talking about ways of working together to help children and young people who find learning difficult or who are disabled.

Some of this information is difficult to understand. You might need someone to help explain it to you.

We have written a plan to tell you our ideas.

We would like you, your school and family to read our plan.

We would like you to tell us what you think.

If you belong to a club or a group we would also like to know what you think about our plan.

After we have heard from everyone we will look at our plan again.

We will then make put this information into the plan and tell you how we will go about it.
Our plan

We want to make sure that children and young people who find learning difficult and those who are disabled, get the help that they need.

We want them to be healthier and successful in their learning so they can make good choices for their future.

We believe that young people have important things to say about what will help them to do better at school or college.

Young people have told us that they want:

- to be involved in decisions about them
- information that is easy to understand
- clinics to be friendly places for young people.

And they do not want to:

- tell their story over and over again
- wait a long time for wheelchairs or equipment.
Our plan is to make sure we offer help from birth to age 25.

This help will be easy to find and available as you get older or if your needs change.

We want to make sure all young people can go to a good local school or college and get good results.

We want to make sure there is more help for young people who have difficulty:

- speaking
- understanding
- getting along with others
- controlling their behaviour.

We do not want young people to be excluded from school.
We want to make information easier to find on our website.

We want to share our reports about you with others who can help you.

This will help so you do not have to fill in the same questions again.

We want you to have more choice about how we help you, about the nearest school or college.

We want to give you choice and control over the money that is available to you.

We want you to be able to choose a direct payment.

A direct payment is a government scheme which helps you arrange:

- your own equipment eg a wheelchair
- transport eg to school or college
- a short break (sometimes called respite).
We want to have more apprenticeships for those who want to learn while they work.

An apprenticeship is where you learn practical skills in a job as well as gaining a qualification.

**Why the changes?**

Some of these changes are happening because the Government is changing the law in 2014.

This is called the Children and Families Act.

It will:

- make it quicker to help children who have special educational needs
- give parents more choice about schools
- make sure help is available if you want to go to college.
Tell us what you think

We would like to hear what you think about our plan.

You can tell us in the following ways.

**Internet**
www.kent.gov.uk/SEND

**By post**
Kent County Council
SEND Strategy
Room 2.40a
Sessions House
County Hall
Maidstone
ME14 1XQ

**Email**
SENDstrategy@kent.gov.uk

You can read the whole Strategy document or an Executive Summary plan at www.kent.gov.uk/SEND

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Replies must be received by midday on 3 June 2013

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If you need information in a different format, contact us by email: SENDstrategy@kent.gov.uk