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

Kent County Council and the local Health Services have been talking about ways of working together to help Kent children achieve better results from their education. We have written a plan (our strategy) to explain our ideas.

We are inviting children, their schools and their families to read our plan now and tell us what you think about it, before 3 June 2013.

If you belong to a club or a group you might also want to tell us what your club thinks about our plan.

After we have read all of the replies and suggestions, we will put more detail into an action plan with targets and deadlines.

www.kent.gov.uk/SEND
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 to become healthier, to be successful in their learning and to 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 in College and about the best way to help them.

Some of the things young people have already told us:
- We want to be involved in decisions about us
- We need information that is easy to understand
- We would like clinics to be friendly places for young people

And they don’t 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 and that it is easy to find out what help is available as you get older or if the help needs to change.

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

We want to make more help available for young people who have difficulty with speaking, understanding and getting along with others or who have difficulty controlling their emotions and behaviour. We don’t want any young people to be excluded from school.

We want to make it easier to find out about the help we can give you from our website.

We want to share our reports about you with others who can help you so you don’t find you have to answer the same questions about yourself.

We want you to have more choice about how we help you in your school or college. We want to give you choice and control over the money that is available. We want you to be able to choose a direct payment to make your own arrangements for equipment, transport, short breaks when you need them.

We want to have more apprenticeships for those who want to learn while they work.

Some of the changes in Kent are happening because the Government is changing the law in 2014 (the Children and Families Act) to speed up assessments of children who have special educational needs, to give parents more choice about schools and to make sure help is available after you leave school if you want to go to college.

Our plan is to make sure we offer help from birth to age 25 and that it is easy to find out what help is available as you get older or if the help needs to change.

You can give us your views online at www.kent.gov.uk/SEND.
Or by post to SEND Strategy, Room 2.40a, Sessions House, Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ
Or email: SENDstrategy@kent.gov.uk

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

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

Replies must be received by midday on 3 June 2013.