To: Parents/Carers/Staff/Governors and Other Interested Parties

Education Consultation
Oakley School, Pembury Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 4NE

Proposal to:

- increase the designated number of places from 218 to 242
- extend the lower age range at Oakley School to age 2 for 1st September 2017 in order to develop an observation and assessment nursery provision

Kent County Council, with the support of the Governing Body of Oakley School, is consulting on a proposal to increase the designated number of places offered at the School and extend the lower age range of Oakley in order to allow the admission of pupils from the age 2 for the 1st September 2017. The consultation will run from 12 September to 10 October 2016.

Oakley School is currently the only district special school which does not deliver nursery provision from age 2. We believe that these proposals provide an excellent opportunity to secure observation and assessment (O&A) nursery provision at Oakley, following the natural conclusion of the contract with Barnardo’s for Ravensdale Nursery.

We hope the following information will explain, in more detail, what we are intending to do.

**Background: current Provision - Barnardo’s Ravensdale Nursery (Tunbridge Wells)**

For a number of years the County Council has had an arrangement with Barnardo’s to provide nursery provision for Tunbridge Wells children with complex special educational needs (SEND). The existing contract (which for education covers outreach and nursery provision) is coming to an end and cannot be extended. Kent County Council must have arrangements in place for 1 September 2017 for the children who will no longer be at Barnardo’s Ravensdale Nursery.

**Why are we proposing to make changes to Oakley School?**

As a designated district special school, Oakley School serves children with complex needs from across Tunbridge Wells with high quality local specialist provision. Oakley was rated ‘Good’ by Ofsted in March 2015 and is a popular and successful school. We feel it is important to ensure the needs of children are met locally and that Oakley School can extend its offer to admit children from age 2 as other district special schools do.
The Proposal

The proposed observation and assessment provision (O&A) would be established for up to 24 children, which would equate to 12 full time equivalent places. Over time it is likely that this would comprise up to 20 children between 3 and 4 years old who claim the free entitlement funding with 4 further children eligible for the two year old funding. It is envisaged that at a practical level this would mean up to 12 children will be attending the O&A nursery at any one time. The additional places will necessitate an increase in the overall designated number of the school, from 218 to 242.

Accommodation

We acknowledge that the current accommodation at Oakley would not readily accommodate an increase in places and we therefore have developed initial plans to create purpose built accommodation at the Oakley School off the Pembury Road, Tunbridge Wells. This would provide as a minimum, a teaching and play space with access to a second space which can be used flexibly for soft play and sensory activities along with toilets complete with changing and showering facilities. It will of course need a secure outdoor learning area.

The plans would require planning approval, which will entail a further consultation period during which interested parties are welcome to express a view.

Who will staff the nursery?

Providing continuity for families who currently access provision at Ravensdale Nursery is of the utmost importance to us. We also recognise the great work, skills and expertise that Barnardo’s staff have provided over recent years and would seek to retain core staff who directly work with the children should the proposal to create a nursery at Oakley School proceed. Oakley School will be consulting with Barnardo’s staff separately in order to review their rights under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (Amendment) regulations 2014 (referred to as TUPE).

Why will the nursery provision be established on Oakley School’s secondary site in Tunbridge Wells? How will this work?

Oakley School operates across three sites, currently arranged as primary aged provision at the Waveney Road site in Tonbridge and secondary and post-16 provision at the Pembury Road site in Tunbridge Wells, with a “satellite provision” supporting and integrating a small number of children with special needs into the mainstream setting of the Skinners’ Kent Primary School.

As over 50% of the pupils currently attending the primary department in Tonbridge live in Tunbridge Wells the school already has plans to alter the current arrangements, which may result in primary aged provision being available at the Oakley Road campus from September 2017.

The need for places is firmly established in Tunbridge Wells and there is a need to ensure high quality provision is maintained to serve the area. The proposal is therefore to establish the O&A provision at the Pembury Road site. We have given careful thought to the location of the nursery on the school site, to ensure that it will be secure and appropriate for the age range and will not impact on the other provision on the school site.
**What funding will Oakley School receive?**

The O&A nursery places will be reflected in an increase in the school’s formula funding, including an adjustment for the increase in floor area.

**The Consultation Process – Indicative Timeline**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>12 September 2016 – 10 October 2016</td>
<td>Public Consultation Period</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 September 2016 (3.30 – 5.00)</td>
<td>A ‘drop-in’ information session will be held at Oakley School, Woodland Lodge, Pembury Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 4NE from 3.30 – 5.00.</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 November 2016</td>
<td>The outcome of the Education Consultation will be reported to the Education and Young People’s Services Cabinet Committee.</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2016</td>
<td>The Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform considers all the comments and decides whether to continue with the proposals.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 2017 – February 2017</td>
<td>If the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform decides to proceed with the proposals a Public Notice will be published in a local newspaper, displayed at the school and available on the school's and KCC's website. During this time comments and objections can be made about the proposal. The Public Notice will run for 4 weeks.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2017</td>
<td>The Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform considers all responses made and decides whether to confirm his decision.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February – March 2017</td>
<td>Statutory Stakeholders have 4 weeks to appeal the decision</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 September 2017</td>
<td>Subject to no objections, the proposals are implemented</td>
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**I have a question – who can I ask?**

- If you have any questions please contact either Oakley School or email: [AEN.resources@kent.gov.uk](mailto:AEN.resources@kent.gov.uk)

- You are welcome to attend the drop-in information sharing session at Oakley School, Woodland Lodge, Pembury Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 4NE from 3.30 – 5.00 on Tuesday 27th September 2016. In attendance will be the Headteacher and governor representatives from Oakley School and officers from Kent County Council. We will be pleased to talk you through the plans and to answer any questions you may have.

You can have your say by:

- Emailing us at [school.consultations@kent.gov.uk](mailto:school.consultations@kent.gov.uk) ; or completing a response form which is available on the website: [www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations](http://www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations)

- Writing to Jared Nehra, Area Education Officer for West Kent, Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XQ. (You can also hand the consultation response form into Oakley School no later than midday on 10 October 2016).

We have updated our Equality Impact Assessment to see if the proposal could affect anyone unfairly. We welcome your views on the assumptions we have made and the conclusions we have drawn. To view the document, go to: [www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations](http://www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations)
What happens next?
The consultation period runs from 12 September 2016 – 10 October 2016. If you are intending to contact us with your views, please do this by midday on 10 October 2016. The outcome of the consultation will be discussed at the Education and Young People’s Services Cabinet Committee in November. We will also pass all your comments to our Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform who will make a decision on whether to proceed with this proposal. If he decides to proceed we will then publish a Public Notice in January 2017, which will run for 4 weeks.

Whether the proposals for expansion go ahead or not will also be dependent on the planning process. The additional accommodation required for the proposals will be subject to separate planning requirements which will include further public consultation.

Thank you for your time in responding to this consultation. Your views are important to us.

Jared Nehra  Julie Ely
Area Education Officer for West Kent  Head of SEN Assessment & Placement
OAKLEY SCHOOL
EDUCATION CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

Please complete this response form by no later than midday on 10 October 2016 and return it by:

- handing your response form into the Oakley School Reception Office
- emailing: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk
- posting the response form to Jared Nehra, KCC Area Education Officer (West Kent), West Kent Area Office, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ.

Do you agree with the proposals to:

- increase the designated number of places from 218 to 242
- extend the lower age range at Oakley School to age 2 for 1st September 2017 in order to develop an observation and assessment nursery provision

(Please tick) ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

Which of the following best describes you?

☐ Parent/Carer / ☐ Member of Staff / ☐ Governor / ☐ Pupil

OR - ☐ Other interested party .................................................. (please state interest).

Name .................................................................

Comments

Please provide your comments overleaf if necessary

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Kent County Council is a data controller under the Data Protection Act 1998 and will comply with the requirements of the Act at all times. KCC will ensure that your personal information is processed fairly and lawfully and in this instance used only for the purpose of validation, which will enable a fair and just consultation.
- KCC has completed an Equality Impact Assessment to see if the proposal could affect anyone unfairly. We welcome your views on the assumptions we have made and the conclusions we have drawn. To view the document, go to www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations
- You can view Kent County Council’s Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2016 to 2020 at: www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision
OAKLEY SCHOOL
EDUCATION CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

Please complete this response form by no later than midday on 10 October 2016

Comments