

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
14 July 2015 at 7.30 pm

At the above stated meeting the attached documents were tabled for the following items:

6. **Kent County Council - Primary Education and Apprenticeships** (Pages 1 - 22)

Margaret Crabtree, Deputy Cabinet Member for Education and Health
Reform of Kent County Council to answer questions

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Part 1: Apprenticeships

Presented by

Margaret Crabtree, Deputy Cabinet Member for
Education

14th July 2015

How to recruit an apprentice

An employer can start the process of recruiting an apprentice by contacting any of the following organisations;

- The National Apprenticeship Service
- The Skills & Employability Service at KCC
- KAFEC (Kent Association of Further Education Colleges)
- KATO (Kent Association of Training Organisations)

Apprenticeships in Kent

- Kent Employment Programme (KEP) offers a grant of £1000 to employers who recruit 16-24 years old who are NEET (Not in education employment or training) or claiming out of work benefits
- The programme placed 930 young people into apprenticeships between 2012 and 2015



Funding

- Training for 16-18 year olds is fully funded by government
- Training for 19-24 year olds is part funded (50%) by government and partly by employers
- National Apprenticeship service grant available of £1500

KCC Apprenticeships

- Kent County has a target to employ 140 apprentices this year with 800 to have been employed by 2018
- We offer a variety of roles; business & admin, customer service, ICT, libraries and archives, early years, teaching assistants, accountancy and project management
- KCC pays above the apprenticeship minimum wage, from October 2015 this will be £140 and can be raised based on performance.



How do they work?

- Full time employment (at least 30 hours per week)
- Paid at least £2.73 per hour (£3.30 from October 2015)
- Apprentices work towards an NVQ, technical certificate and functional skills (maths & English)
- FE Colleges and work based training providers work deliver apprenticeships and work in partnership with KCC to promote them across the county

Levels

Intermediate Apprenticeship

- Level 2
- 12 – 18 months
- Equivalent 5 GCSEs A* - C

Advanced Apprenticeship

- Level 3
- 18 – 48 months
- Equivalent 2 A levels

Higher Apprenticeship

- Level 4,5, 6 & 7
- 24 months +
- Equivalent HE qualifications

Case Study

Linda Larter at Sevenoaks Town Council has successfully recruited a number of apprentices in the last few years. They currently employ an apprentice on a level 3 accountancy apprenticeship, this could lead onto high level qualifications without the need to go to university.

This shows the worth of an apprenticeship and that they should be seen as a viable and equal alternative to a degree.

Apprenticeship Data

- In the year 2013/14 520 people started an apprenticeship in Sevenoaks district
- In the first 2 quarters of 2014/15 320 people started an apprenticeship in Sevenoaks, this shows an increase on last year so far.
- 1 apprentice currently employed by Sevenoaks District Council

The National Picture

- As part of the governments Enterprise Bill, a proposal to mandate public bodies such as schools, prisons, hospitals and councils will be introduced in the autumn. This is the start of plans to create 3 million more apprenticeships during this government.
- The bill will also give apprenticeships the same legal protection as degrees to clamp down on their misuse by employers.

Part 2: Commissioning School Places

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Agenda Item 6



Commissioning of Primary School Places

- Demand for school places is prompted by changing demographics predicated on inward migration and a steady increase in birth rates in the District.
- Planned housing development in the area is restricted to one or two sites. However the impact is significant, due to their being few options remaining for expanding existing schools.
- There are currently 42 Primary Schools in the Sevenoaks District and a total of 1421 places available in Reception Year in 2015-16.

Recent Primary Commissioning Activity

Review of 2012 -13

- The 2012 KCP identified the need for up to 100 additional places in Year R for September 2013 - Achieved by permanently expanding Sevenoaks Primary School, Otford Primary School, Lady Boswell's Church of England (VA) Primary School and St John's Church of England Primary School.

Review of 2013-14

- For 2013 actual numbers exceeded our forecasts slightly. Seal CE Primary School agreed to accept an extra form of entry (30 Year R places).

Main Areas of Primary Pressure

- Sevenoaks Town - Forecast deficit for 2015 due to inward migration and developments. Very few options for further expansion.
- Swanley/Hextable – Pressure increasing slowly to due small local developments and inward migration.
- Westerham/Edenbridge – Due to inward migration and medium scale development.

Primary Factors

- Discussions ongoing with various schools for 2016 and beyond.
- Three main developments impacting on future years (Dunton Green, Edenbridge, Fort Halstead).
- Other minor developments still impacting on rural areas.
- Sevenoaks town remains the area of greatest demand, but rural pressures are being identified.

Primary Place Commissioning Activity for September 2015

- Seal CE Primary School has taken a temporary increase to 2FE.
- Hextable Primary School has taken a temporary increase to 3FE.
- Weald Primary School have taken a small increase from September 2015.
- Edenbridge Primary School is willing to go over PAN, if required.

Primary Place Commissioning Activity for September 2016

- Seal CE Primary School will undertake a consultation to enlarge permanently to 2FE.
- Hextable Primary School will undertake a consultation to enlarge permanently to 3FE.
- Edenbridge Primary School will undertake a consultation to enlarge permanently to 3FE.
- Dunton Green Primary School will undertake a consultation to enlarge permanently to 2FE.
- Weald Primary School will undertake a consultation to enlarge permanently to 1FE.
- Other smaller enlargements are under consideration.

Commissioning of Secondary School Places

- Following closure of Oasis Academy Hextable, there are only three Secondary Schools in Sevenoaks from September 2016.
 - Knole Academy
 - Orchard Academy
 - Trinity Free School
- Still awaiting the decision from SoS re: the proposed Grammar Annex.

Closure of Oasis Hextable Academy

- KCC vigorously opposed the closure of Oasis Hextable Academy, but the SoS decision was to close the school.
- The closure of Oasis Hextable Academy will increase pressure in the North of the District.
- This is exacerbated by a forecasted pressure on secondary places in Dartford, although several schools in Dartford are increasing their capacity accordingly.
- KCC is retaining the Hextable site as a possible solution to secondary capacity issues in the area.

Sevenoaks Grammar Annex

- KCC maintains their policy of pursuing a grammar school provision in Sevenoaks.
- At least 1100 children leave Sevenoaks district to attend grammar schools in Tonbridge or Tunbridge Wells.
- Local pressure in Tonbridge & Tunbridge Wells means that fewer grammar places will be available to Sevenoaks students.
- Even following the establishment of the Trinity Free School, local demand in Sevenoaks means that a grammar provision would be necessary to fulfil the statutory duty to provide school places.
- The application from Weald of Kent Grammar School to establish a grammar annexe in Sevenoaks, was passed to the SoS for a decision in November 2014.
- Should the Weald of Kent Grammar School application be successful, we anticipate similar applications from boys grammar schools.



Trinity Free School

- The Trinity Free School is in its final year in Ryedale Court. A new 4FE school is being built on the Wilderness site.
- The build is underway with an expected completion date of September 2016.
- It is anticipated that sufficient modular classrooms and facilities will be completed ready for the new school to move into for September 2015.

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