

5.2 EDUCATION

Kent and Medway's education offer is diverse, with provision that includes nurseries, pre-schools, community schools, academies, free schools, colleges, foundation schools and voluntary-aided schools.

The GIF education section focuses on the following areas:

- Early years
- Primary education
- Secondary education and Special Educational Needs (SEN)
- Further education.

The GIF draws upon information from the following sources:

- KCC's Kent Commissioning Plan (KCP) 2017-21
- Medway's School Organisation Plan 2011-16 (new plan due 2018)
- KCC's GIF Single Forecasting System
- Kent and Medway Area Review (Further Education)
- KCC Business Intelligence.

STRATEGIC HEADLINES

- The Government's extension to 30 hours of free early education, for 3 and 4 year olds, is forecast to exhaust current childcare surpluses in the next two years.
- Kent and Medway's target to maintain a 5% surplus in primary and secondary schools has been broadly achieved in 2016/17.
- The baby boom of the last decade is starting to come through into secondary schools, causing significant growth pressures.
- Issues with Government intervention in supply of essential school places whilst not having any school place planning responsibility.
- There remain significant challenges in receiving sufficient Government funding to deliver school places.

Summary of total costs/funding for all education projects (2017-2031)

Total Cost = £1,183,517,000
Total Funding = £643,804,000
Secured Funding = £239,473,000
Expected Funding = £404,331,000
Funding Gap = £539,713,000

EARLY YEARS

CURRENT SITUATION

Early Years and Childcare provision in Kent and Medway is mainly delivered by the private, voluntary and independent sectors who liaise closely with KCC and Medway Council.

Free Early Education is available for all children aged three or four years. It constitutes 30 hours per week accessible over a minimum of 38 weeks a year and is free to the parent at the point of delivery.

HEADLINES

- Take-up of 'Free for 2' places continues to rise, and all districts, except Gravesham, have a surplus of childcare places.
- Research carried out by KCC's Business Intelligence predicts that the current surplus of free early year education places for three or four year olds will be exhausted by the end of 2018.
- The take-up of available places and vacancies is a constantly changing picture, affected by both parental demand and open-market conditions.

Long-term GIF forecasts¹ predict that early years growth will be approximately 8.2% across Kent and Medway from 2016 to 2031. This is broken down further in Figure 5.2.

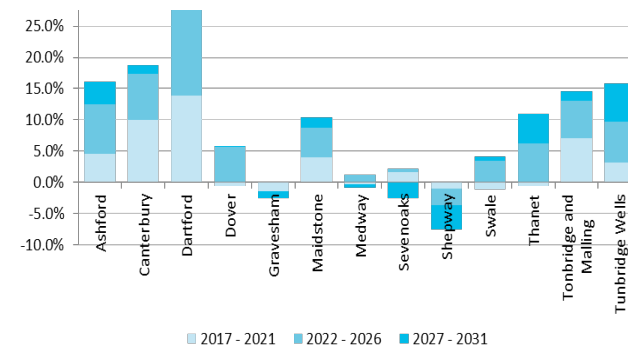


Figure 5.2: GIF forecast early years growth (0-4 year olds) - 2016 to 2031

The supply of free childcare places will be kept under review as new housing developments are built and the demand for places increases. Local authorities will be looking to develop contributions to mitigate the impact of new developments where there are local deficits in childcare places. This is to provide nursery accommodation and an agreement to secure community rental or leasehold accommodation availability for childcare providers for children aged 0-4.

Summary of total costs/funding for early years projects (2017-2031)

Total Cost = £61,056,000
Total Funding = £80,000
Secured Funding = £0
Expected Funding = £80,000
Funding Gap = £60,976,000

¹ These forecasts include children aged 0-4 that are predicted to take up a space in an early years facility.

PRIMARY EDUCATION

CURRENT SITUATION

Since 2010, KCC has added 11,200 primary school places or the equivalent of 53 new 1FE schools, which has been sufficient to meet demand. However, future growth forecasts show that pupil numbers will continue to rise throughout the GIF period. In Medway, pupil numbers have increased and are at their highest since 2002. At present, there is enough capacity built into the system through the capital programme until 2018. Since 2013, Medway has provided 2,515 places.

HEADLINES

- KCC's target of maintaining at least a 5% surplus was broadly achieved (although the overall figure for 2016/17 was 4.6%).
- In 2015/16 there was a net surplus of 6,300 places in Kent (+5% of capacity).

Long-term GIF forecasts² suggest that the number of primary school-age children (4-10 year olds) will rise by 10.5% across Kent and Medway, from 160,000 in 2016 to 177,000 by 2031, with growth most significant in Dartford (39.2%) and Ashford (16.1%). This growth is presented in Figure 5.3.

FUTURE REQUIREMENTS

The Kent Commissioning Plan identifies the following needs in order to maintain sufficient capacity in primary schools - see table. This extra capacity will be a mix of expansion of existing schools, and the commissioning of new schools. Medway's current capital project will provide sufficient capacity to meet demand over the next 5 years.



Figure 5.3: Forecast primary age pupil growth (4 to 10 year olds) relative to 2016

YEAR	REQUIREMENT ³
2017/18	9.5FE permanent 150 Year R places 30 Year 2 & 3 places
2018/19	12FE permanent 30 Year R places
2019/20	13FE permanent
2020/21 – 2022/23	49FE permanent

Summary of total costs/funding for primary education projects (2017-2031)

Total Cost = £393,439,000

Total Funding = £247,502,000

Secured Funding = £173,032,000

Expected Funding = £74,470,000

Funding Gap = £145,937,000

SECONDARY EDUCATION AND SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN)

CURRENT SITUATION

The baby boom that has occurred during the last decade is starting to come through into secondary schools, which is expected to cause significant growth challenges.

The Kent Commissioning Plan forecasts show that the number of secondary age pupils (years 7-11) in Kent schools is expected to rise significantly, from 78,000 in 2015-16 to 93,700 in 2022-23. Medway secondary school pupil numbers are also expected to rise from 18,661 (2015-16) to 21,635 (2023-24).

As of January 2016, there were 7,043 Kent pupils with special educational needs (SEN), i.e. those with a Statement or Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). There has been a 6% increase in the number of pupils with Statements during the last year. As pupil numbers rise, the need for specialist provision will rise proportionally.

HEADLINES

- Additional new school places for September 2016 were delivered, with the majority within the secondary education sector for the first time in many years.
- The programme to refurbish or rebuild all special schools has continued and is nearing completion.
- KCC secondary schools operated a net surplus of 8,767 places in 2015/16. However, forecasts show that this will become a net deficit of 5,451 places by 2022/23.
- Pupils with an EHCP are moving through to secondary and there are pupils for whom local provision cannot be found, which is resulting in these pupils travelling greater distances daily.



Figure 5.4: Forecast secondary age pupil growth (11 to 15 year olds) relative to 2016

- Forecasts indicate that there will be significant pressure for secondary provision within special schools from 2018-19 onwards.
- Capacity for non-selective education in Medway exists until 2020, and capacity for selective education exists until 2019.

by 2031. This growth is forecast to be exceptionally high in Dartford (53.7%) and generally higher in the north and west of the County.

Long-term GIF forecasts⁴ that show secondary school age (11 to 15 year olds) numbers will increase significantly, up 22.6% across Kent and Medway from 105,000 in 2016 to 128,000

⁴ GIF forecasts include ALL children aged 11 to 15 rather than just those that access a state-controlled school; ⁵ Excludes Medway

FUTURE REQUIREMENTS

Medway has identified £50m of secondary education expansions required by 2021. Also, the area will need 6 FE schools by 2020 and 10 FE schools by 2022.

The Kent Commissioning Plan identifies the following needs in order to maintain sufficient capacity in secondary schools:

YEAR	REQUIREMENT ⁵
2017/18	10FE permanent
2018/19	26FE permanent
2019/20	17FE permanent 60 Year R places
2020/21 – 2022/23	26FE permanent 210 Year 7 places

Summary of total costs/funding for secondary and special education projects (2017-2031)

Total Cost = £644,622,000

Total Funding = £356,422,000

Secured Funding = £66,441,000

Expected Funding = £289,981,000

Funding Gap = £288,200,000

FURTHER EDUCATION

CURRENT SITUATION

A key priority for Kent and Medway is to ensure every young person up to age 19 is engaged in purposeful and effective learning and training.

Kent facilitates this through apprenticeship schemes, vocational training, school sixth forms and further education colleges.

The Kent and Medway Area Review for Further Education shows that whilst the quality of provision is good, there are a number of areas which have been identified for improvement, including:

- Ensuring the mix and balance of provision, including apprenticeships and adult re-training, meets the future skills needs and priority sectors for the area;
- Providing more opportunities for higher and degree-level apprenticeships to meet the current and future needs of employers and to resolve issues of skills gaps and the increasing demand for high-level skills;
- Ensuring pupils at age 16 and their parents are fully informed about the full range of options available to them post 16;
- Ensuring the financial viability of FE provision and the local offer in the Kent and Medway area.

HEADLINES

With the significant increase in the numbers of primary school-aged pupils in recent years, the roll numbers in school sixth forms are also likely to increase. However, there appears to be sufficient sixth form capacity for the medium term across each district to both accommodate future pupil increases and increased participation.

Since 2009, the number of under-19 apprenticeship starts has increased from 1,800 in 2009 to 2,560 in 2014/15. By the third quarter of 2015/16 there were 2,480 starts and it is expected that the total will be the highest ever by the end of 2015/16.

GIF forecasts estimate that the Further Education cohort (16-18 year olds) will grow by 13.4% from 2016 to 2031 but not all of this growth will need to be accommodated by the Further Education estate within Kent and Medway.

FUTURE REQUIREMENTS

The Kent and Medway Area Review provides a range of recommendations for improving the Further Education offer in Kent and Medway, including:

- Canterbury College and East Kent College to merge by the end of 2017;
- KCC and Medway Council to lead collaborative initiatives to improve the effectiveness of transition arrangements between schools and colleges;
- KCC and Medway Council to establish a strategic planning forum for Kent and Medway to meet the SEN and high needs demand;
- Kent Further Education (KFE) to establish a strategic forum to deliver the recommendations from the area review and have oversight of skills provision in the area;
- A number of expansions are planned, including the Hadlow College Campus in Ashford and a new Arts Centre at the Dartford Campus of North Kent College.

Summary of total costs/funding for further education projects (2017-2031)

Total Cost = £84,400,000

Total Funding = £39,800,000

Secured Funding = £0

Expected Funding = £39,800,000

Funding Gap = £44,600,000

SKILLS CAPITAL FUNDING

Skills capital funding has been launched to Further Education Colleges and providers to support skills and training across the South East, with a particular focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in the growth sectors. In supporting employment more widely, the South East Local Enterprise Partnership also wishes to see increases in those skilled for - and progressing in - sectors where there is growing employment demand, such as health and social care and other sectors named in the SELEP's Strategic Plan.