



To: Headteachers of all Schools in Lead School Pilot Project areas.

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Our ref: SCSG/SEN.R/CF/ad
Date: 10 June 2010

Dear Colleague

Placement of Children with Statements in SEN Units in Lead School Pilot Project Areas

It has become clear that there is some misunderstanding around the Local Authority's policy relating to the continued placement of children with Statements of SEN at schools with SEN Units during the Lead School Pilot Project. It has also become clear that some parents may have been unintentionally misled into thinking that SEN Units in Lead School Pilot Project areas were closing.

I would like to apologise for any misunderstanding and to state categorically that no SEN Units have been closed and nor has there been a Member and/or officer policy to close SEN Units. During the course of the Lead School Pilot Project children with Statements of SEN have continued to be placed at SEN Units in the Pilot areas with a considerable number of planned new placements in both primary and secondary phase SEN Units from September 2010.

I would reiterate that there has been no change of policy with regard to naming schools with SEN Units on Statements of SEN where the Local Authority, as admissions authority, takes a decision that a SEN Unit is an appropriate provision.

During the course of the Lead School Pilot Project no child with a statement of SEN, who would previously have been placed in a SEN Unit, for whom as a result of the pilot an alternative locality provision was identified, has received inappropriate provision. We are not aware of any parents appealing to SEN and Disability Tribunal in respect of inappropriate provision. Furthermore we have undertaken to look again at any cases brought to our attention by parents who feel that as a result of misunderstanding they have been influenced to accept provision with which they are unhappy.

Rosalind Turner
Managing Director

CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION

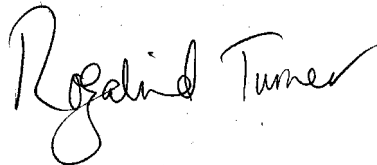


INVESTORS
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The Lead School Pilot Project is funded through schools' delegated budget for the financial year 2010/11 and is being evaluated. The Members are minded to end the Pilot on 31 March 2011. The evaluation of practice developed will inform the overarching review of Kent's SEN Strategy & Policy that is currently being undertaken.

I sincerely hope that this addresses any and all misunderstanding related to the issue of the continuance of SEN Units. Should you have any further questions please do contact Marlene Morrissey, County SEN Manager, e-mail marlene.morrissey@kent.gov.uk tel: 01622 696668 or Colin Feltham, Head of SEN & Resources, e-mail colin.feltham@kent.gov.uk tel: 01622 605729.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rosalind Turner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Rosalind Turner
Managing Director
Children, Families and Education