Kent Health Needs Education Service

Admissions Policy

# Introduction

Kent Local Authority aims to provide continuity of education for pupils who are unable to attend school due to health needs. The Kent Health Needs Education Service provides:

* an education support service to schools for young people with physical medical conditions; and,
* an education outreach service for young people with mental health needs, located in six resourced bases and a specialist residential unit

It aims to:

* provide fair and equitable access to all schools
* streamline the referral process to reduce the waiting time where young people are missing education
* provide support and training for schools in how to support young people with medical and mental health issues
* ensure continuity of education for the young person, whether this is by being supported in the home school or by providing off site provision, 1:1 tuition or virtual learning experiences.

# It is recognised that pupils who continue in education during their illness and recuperation are likely to recover more quickly with the minimum possible adverse effect on their educational and life outcomes.

# Before referral for admission to the service

Kent Health Needs Education Service recognises the diverse need of the community it serves and the ranging medical needs of children that live within the Local Authority. We understand that pupils with health needs that prevent them attending their home school may be considered disabled in terms of the Disability Discrimination Act (examples of this may include those with epilepsy, diabetes, brain injury, or degenerative neuro muscular conditions). Within this understanding the home school has statutory duties under the DDA to make reasonable adjustments for the inclusion of pupils within the Disability Equality Scheme.

Kent Health Needs Education Service can provide the following:

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| **Stage** | **Offer** |
| **1** | Generic school support, training and advice on understanding and dealing with different diagnoses:* planned training schedule available
* additional bespoke at a cost to the school
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| **2** | Advice and guidance on specific individual concerns:* phone consultations on individual cases.
* advice on available services and access to them
* triage, referral support, linked with EYHPs
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| **3** | *Referral to service required from this point*Bespoke programmes of support including:* school visits
* attendance at Multiagency meetings
* cross titration support
* e-earning/school based tuition
* outreach tuition – in school/hospital
* support with risk assessments
* modelling approaches
* part time hub placement with re-integration plan
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| **4** | Bespoke programmes of support including:* full time attendance at hub with re-integration programme
* -Learning/ Home tuition (physical medical e.g. oncology)
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| **5** | Oakfields – residential |

*It should be noted that where resources are stretched, priority will be given to stages 3 and above.*

The services in stage 1 and 2 can be accessed at any time. The earlier the advice is sought and a young person’s needs highlighted, the better. When a school becomes aware that a young person’s medical need is such that their attendance has ceased or reduced significantly, they have a duty to provide work to the pupil at home for 15 school days. At this stage the school can make a referral to the service.

The referral panel meets weekly. It is important that as much information as possible is included in the referral. The panel will discuss each referral and decide on one of the following outcomes:

* support to be provided by Kent Health Needs Education Service (see below)
* further information requested; details of the information required will be sent to you. You may be invited to a subsequent panel meeting to discuss the case.
* advice is given to school, insufficient justification for support at present.

Where the referral is accepted a bespoke support programme will be developed in conjunction with all involved professionals and the young person and their family. This could include any of the interventions from stage 3 or 4. All will include:

* re-integration plan
* agreed review periods
* continuation of core learning

Young people benefit most from being amongst their peers and studying the full curriculum offered by their home school, therefore it is always the intention to remove young people from their home school for as minimal a time as possible and to support with their re-integration.

While supported the young people will be dual rolled subsidiary.

# Pupils with Educational Health Care Plans

Where pupils with EHCPs develop additional health needs, the school will need to call an interim review meeting to agree the referral. A representative from the Kent Health Needs Education Service should be invited to this meeting.

# Admission Criteria for Kent Health Needs Education Service

Kent Health Needs Education Service is an interim service to enable pupils to access their normal school. Placements are based on the specific aim of supporting the pupil returning to school. This is not an exhaustive list as we want to provide an inclusive service that caters to young people’s health needs. If you require further advice or support please contact the **‘Application Support’** on **01732 875694.**

The following are accepted as criteria for admission, although each individual case will be considered carefully:

* medical needs are such that the young person has missed 15 consecutive days of schooling.
* the young person’s health has significantly reduced their ability to access their home school and this is reflected in their attendance record.
* a senior medical professional (such as a consultant, CAMHS practitioner etc) is providing support, diagnosis and/or advice. This applies to pupils whose cases are managed by hospitals within Kent as well as in more specialist hospitals in London and across the country. (note: GP referral is not sufficient)
* a change of medication may mean the young person requires increased medical review, intervention, support or flexibility to allow them to attend education.
* an acute mental health condition is disrupting the young person’s/child’s ability to attend school.
* a young person has been discharged from tier 4 CAMHS services and requires on-going support before re-integration to school.