



Department
for Education

Area Reviews

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Area Review Lead - Kent

Area Reviews - Purpose

- An offer that meets local learner and employer need and provides access to high quality and relevant education and training for all
- The right balance of provision, including greater specialisation and higher level technical skills.
- Supporting economic development
- Create sustainable institutions

Context

- Declining financial health since 2010 – more colleges in difficulty, big cost variations
- Challenges for next 5 years: devolution; apprenticeships; funding reform; competition; demographic decline
- A refocus of the GFE sector on technical education and training to meet local and national economic needs, with a need for higher-level skills, greater specialisation, and increased local coordination
- Over time, provision should become focused on the 15 new technical education routes, as detailed in the *Post-16 Skills Plan*
- Whilst spending review better than expected for post-16, status quo is not an option – need for fundamental reform

Prioritisation of Area Reviews

Triggers:

- Falling demographics/oversupply
- Declining financial picture
- Quality
- Colleges in intervention
- Requests from LEAs, LAs, Colleges
- Devolution bids

The Programme

- Approximately 37 area reviews to be completed by March 2017
- With full implementation by 2020
- Covering all areas of the country
- Incorporating GFEs and sixth form colleges
- Taking account of school sixth forms and other provision
- And including other providers where they seek to opt in and steering group agrees

Defining the Area

Determine what makes sense based on:

- LEP area boundaries
- Local authority boundaries
- College travel to learn patterns
- Inter-college working

Timing:

- 40 area reviews
- 5 Waves – September 2015 – March 2017

The Process

Analysis throughout, which will consider the local area's current and future education and economic needs, and the current education and training provision and performance:

- Supply and demand and travel to learn analysis
- Economic data, demographics, deprivation etc.
- College visits
- Curriculum review
- Estates review
- Review potential for savings (including back office services / rationalisation of curriculum or estates)
- Assess financial sustainability of options

The Process

- Series of steering group meetings
- Engagement with stakeholders, partners, unions, students
- Development and evaluation of options for provision and institutional change where needed
- Evidence-based report with recommendations
- Institutions take decisions on changes, and announcements are made.
- After the area review, institutions will be expected to consult on proposed changes before taking forward implementation
- EFA & SFA will support implementation.

Stakeholder Engagement

Views welcome on

- strengths of post 16 provision in the area and how these can be build upon
- weaknesses of post 16 provision in the area and how these can be addressed
- progression routes (academic and professional) and how these can be improved
- Breadth and quality of provision
- Collaboration
- Specialisation
- Involvement and responsiveness
- Meeting needs and skills development
- Barriers/access to education
- Sustainability

Outcomes

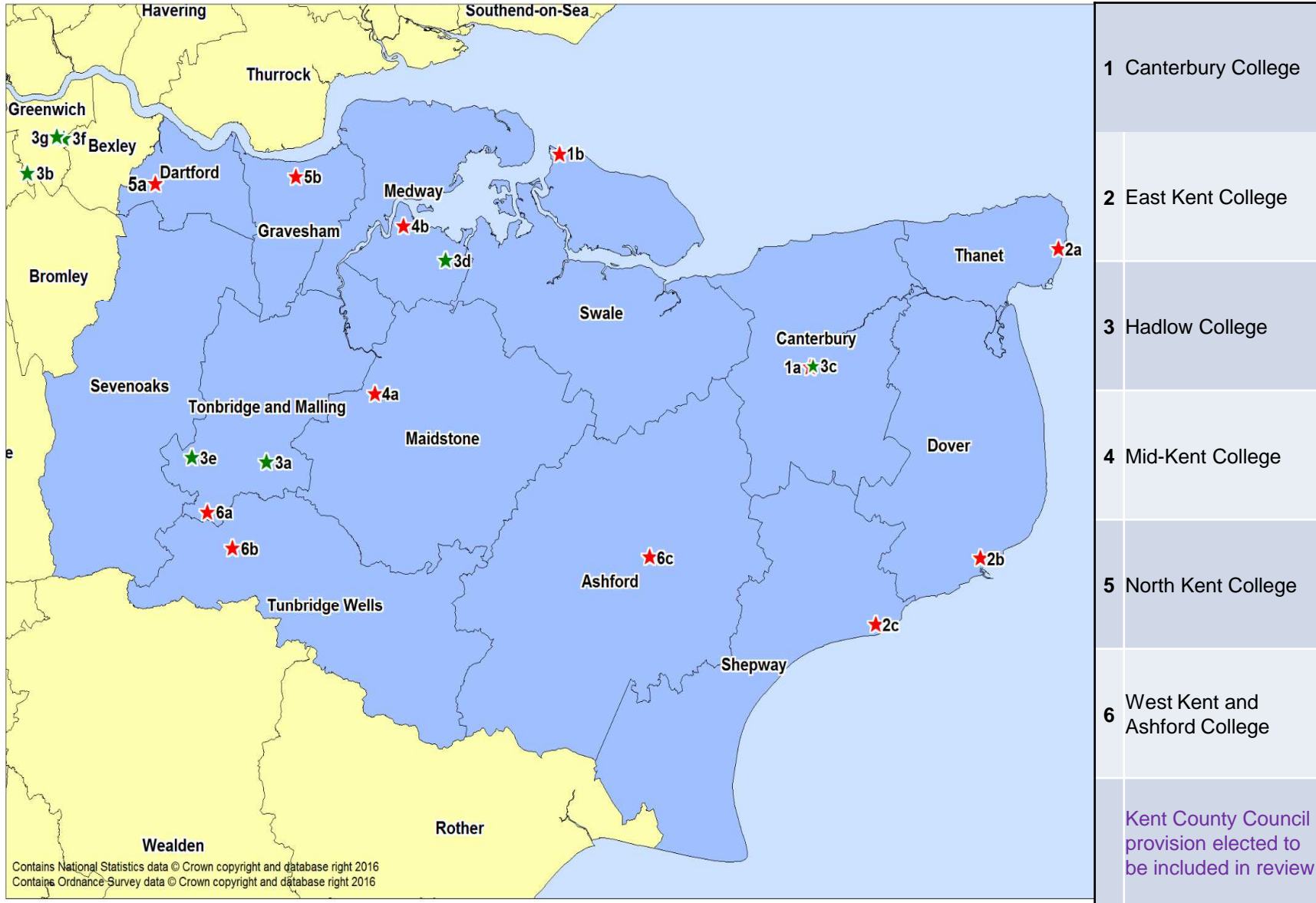
- There are no preconceptions as to preferred solutions
- The recommendations must work for the area and be able to be implemented within a reasonable timeframe
- The outcomes must be affordable and lead to a sustainable sector

Stages in process

- Colleges submit information
- Site visits by advisers
- SG1 Dec 2016
- Jan – DFEC & Lead meet with colleges
- 3 Feb SG3
- 9 Mar SG4
- 30 March SG5

Providers in Scope

Overview – Providers In Scope



For details on the data definitions, please see the appendix.

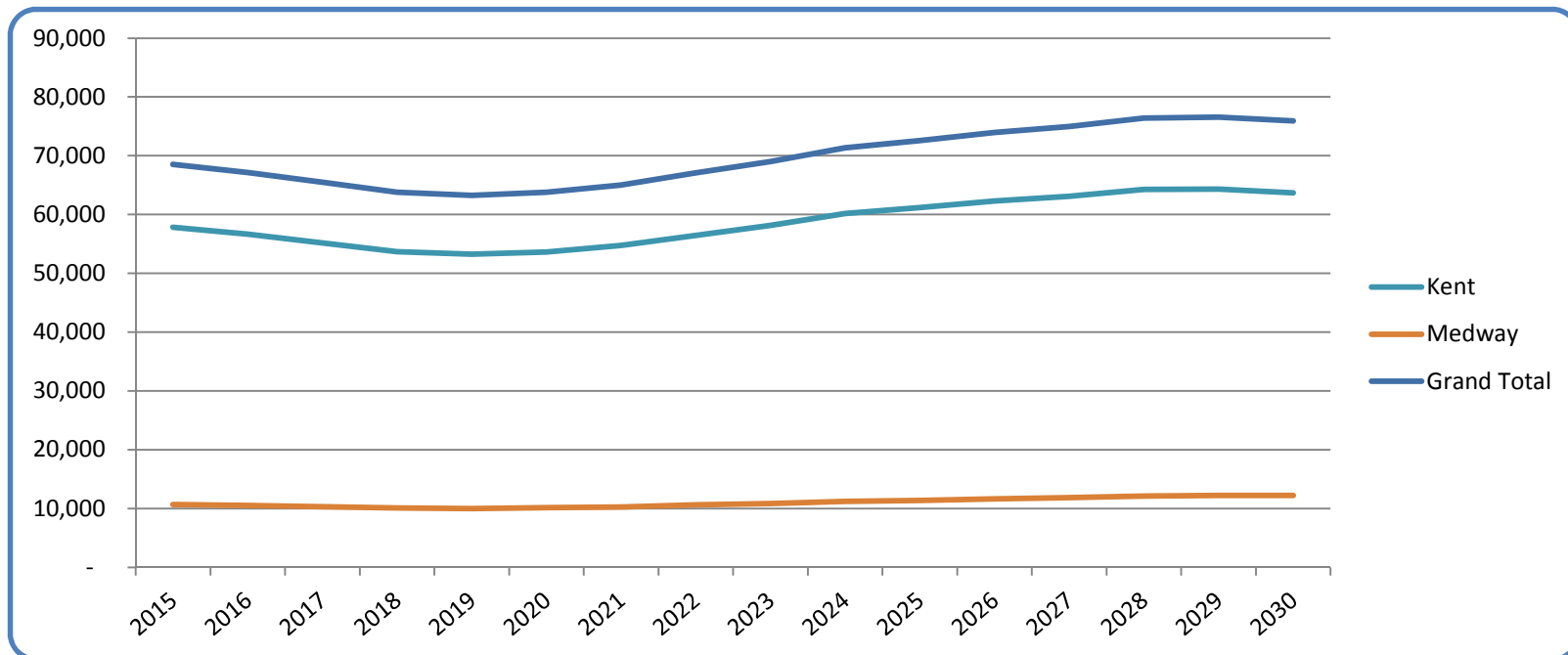
Post-16 Schools Provision

Local Authority	No. of School Sixth Forms	No. of Students 2015/16
Kent County Council	110	20,788
Medway Council	21	3,776
Total	131	24,564

- Plus private & charitable providers

Local Context: Young Residents

- 16-18 population falling by 7% from 2015 to 2020 then - increasing by 22% between 2019 and 2030



Future Skills Needs: Sector Headlines

Highest Vacancies (Job title)

Sales Executive,
Registered Nurse
Teacher's Assistant,
Quantity Surveyor,
Assistant Manager,
Primary School Teacher,
Business Development Executive, Auxiliary
Nurse,
Account Manager
Receptionist,

Specialised Skills in Demand:

Customer Service,
Microsoft Excel,
Teaching,
Sales,
Business Management,
Microsoft Office,
Contract Management,
Repair,
Project Management,
Product Sales,

Changes needed:

- increase in advanced and higher-level skills inc apprenticeships
- CIAG increased awareness & understanding of growth sectors
- innovative approaches to delivery
- sector specialisms
- collaborative approach to identify appropriate pathway

Further Information

Area Review Guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/post-16-education-and-training-institutions-area-based-reviews>

Responses to - Area Review Mailbox -
area.reviews@education.gsi.gov.uk

Please mark '***Kent Area Review***'

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