

Cornwallis Special School statement

25 October 2018

MCG rebuts councillors' claims on new special school

Medway Commercial Group (MCG) welcomes the news that Medway Council has approved plans to build an independent ASD special educational needs school on the Cornwallis site in Gillingham.

The new school will provide much needed support and facilities for up to 210 students with complex needs, including disabilities and challenging behaviour.

Currently, no such provision is in place within Medway; students who require specialist support are often placed in schools outside the area, which can prove to be expensive, and often means that they are away from their peers and families for prolonged periods.

MCG will program manage and co-ordinate the activities of the various experts and contractors required to deliver the Cornwallis Special School. MCG will work closely with Medway Council and its supply chain during the next few months to progress the planning application for the school, prior to the actual build and with partners through to commissioning the facility.

The initial plans include the provision of a 'Learning Village' for the most vulnerable children and families in Medway, which will help to meet the increasing demand for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) provision in a cost effective way.

MCG will also secure funding to meet the initial demand to provide educational places for SEND students in September 2020. Facilities will also be built for residential and respite provision for young people.

In addition, the Cornwallis SEND School will create extensive employment opportunities for the Medway area and provide opportunities for the local community to use the facilities.

MCG's senior management team have been involved in over £220m worth of regeneration, refurbishment, construction and facilities management work in Kent since 2007, including the Stanhope Regeneration program in Ashford.

The company and its partners, have an exemplary record in delivering large-scale projects such as this, on time and within budget. MCG is adept at forming successful partnerships with a wide range of organisations. And is in the process of embedding a world-class team in place to ensure that every aspect of the Cornwallis Special School project is planned, implemented and delivered to the highest possible standards. Each partner has vast experience in the SEND sector.

MCG's focus is on providing positive, high-calibre, bespoke services for the people of Medway. Recent media reports have contained a number of inaccuracies about MCG, some of which have been peddled by those who seem more intent on scoring political points than checking the facts and developing constructive solutions to the problem at hand.