In this talk we will give sufficient conditions for the local solvability of a class of degenerate second order linear partial differential operators with smooth coefficients. The class under consideration, inspired by some generalizations of the Kannai operator, is characterized by the presence of a complex subprincipal symbol. By giving suitable conditions on the subprincipal part and using the technique of a priori estimates, we will show that the operators in the class are at least $L^2$ to $L^2$ locally solvable.