

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

23 OCTOBER 2018

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

OPENING OF AN AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD) LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE (LRC) AT YSGOL GYNRADD GYMRAEG CALON Y CYMOEDD

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet's approval to consult formally with the parents, staff and governing body of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Calon y Cymoedd and other interested parties on the proposal to establish a LRC for pupils with ASD at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Calon Y Cymoedd.

2. Connection to corporate improvement objectives/other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate priorities:

- Supporting a successful economy – taking steps to make the county a good place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions of all people in the county.
- Helping people to be more self-reliant – taking early steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services.
- Smarter use of resources – ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's priorities.

3. Background

- 3.1 In December 2011, Cabinet received an update on the review of support and provision for the inclusion of children and young people with ALN.
- 3.2 In conjunction with this proposal, an ASD LRC was opened at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd in March 2018.
- 3.3 The Council supports the principles that, when possible, children should be educated in a mainstream school environment and as near to their home as possible. The proposal to open a further ASD LRC, at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Calon Y Cymoedd would afford those children with ASD who are currently taught through the medium of Welsh to continue their education in their local area.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 A copy of the consultation paper is annexed at Appendix 1. The proposal, if approved would mean that:

- an LRC at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Calon y Cymoedd for a maximum of eight pupils with ASD would be established from the 1 April 2019;
- there would be a graduated intake from 1 April 2019 and the admissions for the LRC would be decided upon through an admissions panel;
- the LRC would be an integrated part of the mainstream school, providing an appropriate environment in which pupils can develop and thrive within their peer group and have normal access to mainstream curriculum, where appropriate; and
- the LRC would provide specialist learning facilities within the school and provide expertise and advice to all staff.

4.2 From the pupils' point of view, they would have access to individual, small-group and whole class experiences, as appropriate. Their progress would be closely monitored and individual plans regularly reviewed.

4.3 Other mainstream pupils at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Calon Y Cymoedd would also benefit from this proposal as it seeks to widen the specialist learning facilities within school and provide expertise and advice to all staff.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 There is no effect upon the policy frameworks or procedure rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 The Council has a duty to consult and fully consider the implications of any proposal on all members of the local community who may be affected unfairly as a result of the proposal being carried out.

6.2 A full equality impact assessment will be undertaken in parallel with the consultation process. The outcomes and actions identified by this assessment will be included in a report to Cabinet on the consultation process.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

7.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment provides a comprehensive summary of the outcomes expected from the implementation of the service.

Long-term	Affords pupils with a diagnosis of ASD a place in a school as near to their home as possible. Provides additional places required to meet the needs of an increase in diagnosis of pupils with ASD.
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Prevention	Provision of locally based LRCs enables pupils to be educated as
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part of the graduated response as stipulated in the ALN Code of Practice and ultimately preventing being placed out-of-authority.

- Integration** The ASD LRC is key in ensuring that pupils with a diagnosis of ASD have access to mainstream education experiences with their peers and also have the opportunity to reintegrate into mainstream where appropriate. The opening of an LRC ensures sustainable education for a pupil with ASD through the medium of Welsh. There are also efficiencies related to this proposal as the cost of an out-of-authority place far outweighs the cost of opening an LRC locally.
- Collaboration** There is excellent collaboration between the local authority with schools that have LRC's. The Inclusion Service provides on-going support, advice and guidance to all schools.
- Involvement** A range of key stakeholders are involved with a pupil placed in an ASD LRC ensuring that the individual needs of the pupil are met.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 The funding for the LRC would be allocated through the mainstream school's delegated budget, via the school's formula allocation, and using a combination of a class allocation and the age-weighted pupil unit (AWPU) element.
- 8.2 Funding levels would be derived from notional current staffing needs and are based on the salary of a teacher and two support staff. One-off funding for the set-up costs would be £10,000.
- 8.2 As part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy budget setting process for 2017-2018, a total of £263,000 was allocated under budget pressures to establish additional LRCs for pupils with ASD in both Welsh-medium and English-medium schools with effect from the academic year 2017-2018. This was further supplemented in the 2018-2019 budget-setting process by an additional £51,000 to meet the full year effect of the previous budget pressure application. These allocations will be used to fund the LRC, including the set up costs, at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Calon y Cymoedd, should the proposal go ahead.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet agrees:
- to consult formally on the proposal to establish an LRC for pupils with ASD at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Calon Y Cymoedd; and
 - for the outcome of the consultation to be reported back to Cabinet.

Lindsay Harvey
Corporate Director, Education and Family Support
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Contact officer: Michelle Hatcher
Group Manager Inclusion and School Improvement

Telephone: (01656) 815258

Email: michelle.hatcher@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal address: Civic Offices
Angel Street
Bridgend
CF31 4WB

Background documents

Education Inclusion Programme: Reviewing and developing support and provision for the inclusion of children and young people with ALN (report to Cabinet, December 2011)

Appendix 1: Consultation document. Proposal to establish provision for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) – Establishing an LRC for pupils with ASD at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Calon Y Cymoedd.