

# **BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **REPORT TO CABINET**

**23 OCTOBER 2018**

### **REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT**

#### **PROVISION FOR PUPILS WITH ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN) - CHANGES TO BETWS PRIMARY SCHOOL**

##### **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 Betws Primary School and other interested parties on the proposal to cease the local authority (LA) nurture provision at Betws Primary School.

##### **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 Welsh Government has approved the introduction of foundation phase provision at The Bridge Alternative Provision (The Bridge).

3.3 Bridgend County Borough Council supports the principles that, when possible, children should be educated in a mainstream school environment and as near to their home as possible.

#### **4. Current situation/proposal**

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

- the LA nurture provision at Betws Primary School would cease from 1 April 2019;
- the pupils who are currently in the LA nurture provision at Betws Primary School would either reintegrate back into their mainstream school or transition to foundation phase at The Bridge;
- there would be a graduated intake for the pupils in foundation phase at The Bridge; and
- the admissions for this provision would be decided upon through the Access to Education Panel.

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. The aim will be to reintegrate them into mainstream school where appropriate.

#### **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 Bridgend County Borough 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.
- 7.2 **Long-term** - affords pupils an opportunity to attend foundation phase provision and an opportunity to reintegrate into their mainstream school as near to their home as possible.
- 7.3 **Prevention** - enables pupils to be educated as part of the graduated response as stipulated in the ALN Code of Practice and ultimately preventing being placed out-of-authority.
- 7.4 **Integration** – the introduction of foundation phase at The Bridge is key in ensuring that pupils are able to access alternative provision at an early stage in order to reintegrate successfully back into their mainstream school where appropriate. There are also efficiencies related to this proposal as the cost of an out-of-authority place far outweighs the cost of establishing foundation phase provision locally in an alternative setting.
- 7.5 **Collaboration** - There is excellent collaboration between The Bridge and mainstream schools. The Bridge and the pupils' mainstream schools work closely to ensure that the individual needs of the pupils are met and progress is monitored.
- 7.6 **Involvement** – A range of key stakeholders are involved in a pupil's placement at The Bridge in order to ensure that individual progress is made.

## **8. Financial implications**

- 8.1 There are projected full-year savings of £51,378 from the closure of the LA nurture provision at Betws Primary School. This will be re-allocated within the primary schools' Individual Schools Budget (ISB).
- 8.2 As a result of the closure, the funding of the senior support officer (SSO) at Betws Primary School Nurture Provision will be used to support the finance required for the introduction of foundation phase at The Bridge.

## **9. Recommendation**

- 9.1 Cabinet is recommended to:
- agree to consult formally on the proposal to cease the nurture provision at Betws Primary School; and to
  - agree for the outcome of the consultation to be reported back to Cabinet in due course.

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### **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 Report - Provision for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) – changes to Betws Primary School