

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

28 NOVEMBER 2017

REPORT OF THE INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

PROVISION FOR PUPILS WITH ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN) - ESTABLISHING A LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE FOR PUPILS WITH AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDERS AT YSGOL GYFUN GYMRAEG LLANGYNWYD

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the outcome of the consultation on the proposals to establish a learning resource centre (LRC) for pupils with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan/other corporate priorities

- 2.1 These proposals are related to the Corporate Plan (2016-2020) and the Education Inclusion Programme and, in particular, to the following corporate priority:

- Supporting a successful economy.

- 2.2 In order to achieve this improvement priority, it is important to work with our partners to support pupils with ALN. The focus needs to be upon raising their skills, ambition and qualifications, and support them to take advantage of opportunities to succeed. This will improve the future prospects for our children and young people. We have already contributed to this priority by improving the provision in mainstream schools for pupils with ALN.

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 Bridgend's Welsh Education Strategic Plan (2017-2020) (WESP) states that:

Bridgend County Borough Council's vision is that our provision of Welsh-medium education and support for the teaching of the Welsh language should:

- 3.2.1 deliver the key principles of equality, choice and opportunity for all;
- 3.2.2 respect, promote and embody the linguistic and cultural diversity of Bridgend and Wales;
- 3.2.3 recognise a common Welsh heritage;
- 3.2.4 reflect the social, economic and cultural needs of Wales in the 21st century;
- 3.2.5 provide opportunity to reflect on and develop personal identity and a sense of place and community;

- 3.2.6 be consistent with the national aspirations set out in the Welsh Government's Welsh-medium Education Strategy; and
- 3.2.7 consider Welsh Government's Welsh Language Strategy (2016) to reach a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

3.3 The focus in Outcome Six of the WESP, namely Welsh-medium provision for learners with ALN, is upon extending capacity to provide appropriate additional learning needs provision through the medium of Welsh during all stages of education.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 In order to progress a proposal to establish the ASD LRC at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd, consultation exercises were carried out between 6 September 2017 and 17 October 2017 with staff, governors, parents and pupils of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd and also the wider community in accordance with the Statutory School Organisation Code.

A copy of the consultation document was also made available during this time on the Council's website:

www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation

4.2 The consultation document invited views and opinions to be submitted in respect of the proposal.

4.3 Under the Statutory Code referred to above, the Council is required to publish a consultation report summarising any issues raised by consultees and the Council's response and setting out Estyn's view of the overall merit of the proposals.

4.4 If approved by Cabinet, the next stage of the process is to publish a statutory notice outlining the proposals which would need to be published for a period of 28 days and any formal written objections would be invited during this time.

4.5 If there are no objections during the Public Notice period, then the proposal can be implemented with Cabinet's approval.

4.6 If there are objections at this Public Notice stage, an objections report will be published summarising the objections and the authority's response to those objections. Cabinet will need to consider the proposal in light of objections. Cabinet could then accept, reject or modify the proposal.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 There is no effect upon the procedure rules. However, the Bridgend Local Management of School Scheme will need to be updated to reflect the financial/governance arrangements.

6. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

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 An initial EIA was undertaken. The full EIA can be found in Appendix (viii). The full EIA holistically evaluates the pupils affected by the introduction of the proposal.
- 6.3 A Community Impact Assessment has been carried out and there is no negative impact on the community.

7. Financial implications

- 7.1 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 the age-weighted pupil unit (AWPU) element, plus a per place factor.
- 7.2 Funding levels would be derived from notional current staffing needs. If pupil numbers remain constant, then the cost of the provision would be largely unchanged. The number of places would be reviewed annually and agreed with the headteacher to enable staffing stability and to assist in school planning.
- 7.3 These proposed funding arrangements are similar to those implemented for secondary schools in 2013-2014, that were part of the annual consultation with governing bodies and the School Budget Forum on changes to the schools' funding formulae. One-off funding for the set-up costs would be £10k and the funding of this is described in paragraph 7.4 below.
- 7.4 As part of the medium-term financial strategy budget-setting process for 2017-2018, a total of £263k was allocated under budget pressures to establish additional LRCs for pupils with ASD in two Welsh-medium schools and two English-medium schools with effect from the academic year 2017-2018. This allocation will be used to fund the LRC at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd if the proposal goes ahead.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 Cabinet is recommended to:
 - note the outcome of the consultation with interested parties as detailed in the attached Consultation Report (refer to Appendix 1);
 - approve the attached Consultation Report for publication; and
 - authorise the publication of a Statutory Public Notice on the proposal.

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Appendices

Appendix 1	Consultation Report
Appendix (i)	Consultation Meeting with School Council
Appendix (ii)	Consultation Meeting with Parents
Appendix (iii)	Consultation Meeting with Staff
Appendix (iv)	Consultation Meeting with School Governors
Appendix (v)	Estyn response
Appendix (vi)	Quality and Standardisation, National Categorisation School Report 2016-2017 –Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd
Appendix (vii)	Quality and Standardisation, National Categorisation School Report 2016-2017 – Maesteg School
Appendix (viii)	Full Equality Impact Assessment

Background documents

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

BCBC's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (2017-2020)