

**BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**21 MAY 2019**

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

**PROVISION FOR PUPILS WITH ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN) – ESTABLISHING A LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE (LRC) FOR PUPILS WITH AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDERS (ASD) AT YSGOL GYNRADD GYMRAEG CALON Y CYMOEDD (FORMALLY KNOWN AS YSGOL GYNRADD GYMRAEG CWM GARW).**

**OUTCOME OF THE PUBLIC NOTICE**

**1. Purpose of report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the outcome of the public notice on the proposal to establish a LRC for pupils with ASD at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Calon Y Cymoedd (formally known as Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwm Garw).

**2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/other corporate priorities**

1.2 The report links to the following improvement priorities in the Corporate Plan:

- **Supporting a successful economy** - we will take 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** – we will take 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**

1.3 In December 2011, Cabinet received an update on the review of support and provision for the inclusion of children and young people with additional learning needs (ALN). The review identified a need for Welsh-medium support.

1.4 In conjunction with this proposal, an ASD LRC was opened at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd in March 2018.

- 1.5 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 The statutory public notice was issued on 15 March 2019 and the closing date for objections was 11 April 2019. The public notice sets out the details of a proposal to allow the public to provide any comments or objections they may have. The statutory notice is open for a period of 28 days. Any objections made within this period must be submitted in writing to the Council. The Council must then publish an objections report summarising the statutory objections together with the Council's response to those objections.
- 4.2 There were no objections received during the statutory notice period. Cabinet is, therefore, now able to determine the implementation of the proposal.

#### **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 (EIA)**

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken. The assessment has concluded that there is no negative impact on the duties of the Council towards protected groups.

#### **7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment**

- 7.1. A Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 assessment has been completed. A summary of the implications from the assessment relating to the five ways of working is as follows:

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.
Prevention	Provision of locally based LRCs 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.
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 £10k.

8.3 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 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 £51k 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. Cabinet is recommended to:

- note that no objections were received during the public notice period; and, as a consequence,
- approve the implementation of the proposal.

**Lindsay Harvey**

**Corporate Director (Education and Family Support)**

**Contact Officer:** Michelle Hatcher (Group Manager, School Improvement and Inclusion)

**Telephone:** (01656) 815258

**E-mail:** michelle.hatcher@bridgend.gov.uk

**Postal Address** Education and Family Support Directorate  
Bridgend County Borough Council  
Civic Offices  
Angel Street  
Bridgend  
CF31 4WB