

INTRODUCTION

What is this booklet about?

Cardiff Council wishes to seek the views of our stakeholders on proposed changes to some of our special schools and specialist resource bases. This booklet is aimed at parents/ carers, school staff, governing bodies, health and children's services, and anyone who has an interest in education in Cardiff. The booklet sets out to describe and explain the proposals so that our partners are informed and can tell us what they think.

What is being proposed?

There are eight proposed schemes, listed below. You can read about each scheme in more detail on the page numbers indicated.

The aim of the proposed schemes is to respond to the growing number of children and young people with additional learning needs who need a place in a special school or specialist resource base in order to fulfil their educational potential, by:

- Increasing the number of special school places available in Cardiff;
- Establishing some new specialist resource bases in Cardiff schools;
- Changing the areas of specialism on offer in some of our special schools and specialist resource bases.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Foundation Phase: The Foundation Phase is the statutory curriculum for all 3 to 7 year olds in Wales, in both maintained and non-maintained settings. The Foundation Phase has 7 areas of learning which are delivered through practical activities and active learning experiences both indoors and outdoors.

Key Stages: Following on from Foundation Phase the National Curriculum is divided into three Key Stages that children are taken through during their school life. Targets defined in the National Curriculum are assessed at the end of each Key Stage.

Additional learning needs (ALN): a child or young person is considered to have an additional learning needs (also known as special educational needs) if they have a learning difficulty or a medical condition or a disability, and they need additional support or special arrangements to be made for them to ensure they can access education and achieve their potential.

Statement of special educational needs (SEN): A small number of children and young people with significant additional learning needs (also called special educational needs) have a statement. This is an important document that describes their needs in detail and specifies the provision being made to support them. Every child in a special school or a specialist resource base has a statement.

ALNET or the Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal (Wales) Act: This is a new piece of legislation that will transform the way Education and other services work together to support learners with additional learning needs. Under the Act, the term special educational needs (SEN) will be replaced by additional learning needs (ALN). Statements will be replaced by Individual Development Plans or IDPs. The new arrangements will be rolled out over a three year period, probably beginning in September 2019.

Special school: Special schools provide a highly specialised education for children and young people with the most complex additional needs. Class sizes are small and the curriculum is highly differentiated to pupils' needs. Staff are qualified and experienced to teach children and young people with complex needs. A range of specialist health services work with the special schools. Cardiff maintains 7 special schools, and funds up to 40 places for Cardiff pupils at Ysgol Y Deri which is maintained by The Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Specialist resource base (SRB): A specialist resource base is a small class in a mainstream school, taught by specialist staff. Although the SRBs are hosted by local mainstream schools, they admit pupils from across the authority, not just from their own local area. Pupils in a specialist resource base benefit from being taught in small classes with favourable pupil-staff ratios, but also benefit from being in a mainstream school and being included in many learning opportunities with their mainstream peers. A range of specialist health services support pupils in specialist resource bases. Cardiff funds 21 specialist resource bases, across primary and secondary, in Welsh and English medium schools.

Wellbeing Classes: Cardiff also funds several wellbeing classes which provide short term intensive support for children and young people displaying emotional health and wellbeing needs. The classes are very similar to specialist resource bases, but the pupils do not usually have a statement, the placement is temporary and the goal is to support the pupil to reintegrate successfully to a local school.

Proposed scheme:	Find out more on pages:
<p>Ty Gwyn Special School</p> <p>To meet demand for primary and secondary special school places for learners with complex learning disabilities or Autism Spectrum Conditions it is proposed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to increase the capacity of Ty Gwyn to allow for up to 198 places <p>In order to achieve this it is proposed to adapt part of the Trelai Youth Centre building, to provide three new classrooms for Ty Gwyn School and to connect the school and youth centre buildings.</p>	14-16
<p>The Hollies Special School</p> <p>To meet demand for primary and secondary special school places for learners with autism spectrum conditions it is proposed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> extend the age range of The Hollies School from 4-11 to 4-14 increase the capacity of the school to allow for up to 138 places <p>In order to achieve this it is proposed to provide additional accommodation for the school by refurbishing the school accommodation to be vacated by Ysgol Glan Morfa, Hinton Street, CF24 2EU</p>	17 - 21
<p>Greenhill Special School</p> <p>To meet the need for post-16 places for young people with emotional health and wellbeing needs it is proposed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> extend the age range of Greenhill from 11-16 to 11-19 and increase the capacity of the school to allow for up to 64 places. <p>In order to achieve this it is proposed to adapt the unused caretaker house on the site.</p>	22 - 24
<p>Meadowbank Special School</p> <p>To meet demand for primary special school places for complex learning disabilities, it is proposed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> change the type of special educational need the school provides for <i>from</i>: 'speech language and communication needs', <i>to</i>: 'speech language and communication needs and complex learning disabilities' 	25- 28

<p>Allensbank Primary School</p> <p>To meet the need for early intervention places for speech and language needs, it is proposed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase out the Specialist Resource base at Allensbank School, closing the class in July 2020, or when all current pupils have completed their primary placement, if earlier. • Open an 8-place early intervention class for children with speech and language needs at Allensbank School, admitting the first cohort in September 2019. 	<p>29 - 33</p>
<p>St Mary the Virgin Church in Wales Primary School</p> <p>To meet the demand for primary specialist resource base places for complex learning disabilities, it is proposed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • open a specialist resource base (SRB) at St Mary the Virgin CiW Primary School, for up to 20 places. 	<p>34 - 36</p>
<p>Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch</p> <p>To meet the demand for primary SRB places for complex learning disabilities and autism spectrum conditions in the Welsh medium sector, it is proposed to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • open a specialist resource base at Ysgol Pwll Coch, providing up to 10 places initially, but with scope to extend to 20 places in future, as demand grows. 	<p>37 - 39</p>
<p>Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf</p> <p>To meet the demand for secondary SRB places for complex learning disabilities and autism spectrum conditions in the Welsh medium sector it is proposed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extend the designated number at Ysgol Glantaf specialist resource base to up to 30 places • work with the school to extend and improve the current accommodation for the SRB 	<p>40 - 42</p>

Who will we consult with?

Cardiff Council is seeking views from:

- Children and young people
- Parents/ carers
- School staff
- School Governing Bodies
- Local residents
- Local Members/ Assembly Members/ Regional Assembly Members/ Members of Parliament
- Diocesan Directors of Education
- Trade Unions
- Estyn
- Cardiff and Vale College
- St David's College
- All Cardiff schools
- Cardiff and the Vale University Health Board
- Voluntary Sector organisations
- Neighbouring Authorities
- Welsh Ministers
- Police and Crime Commissioner
- Children's Commissioner
- Future Generations Commissioner

What the consultation process will entail

The feedback from this consultation will be collated and summarised, and a report presented to the Council's Cabinet. This consultation report will be available for all persons to view on the Council website and copies can be obtained on request by using the contact details in this document.

There are a number of further stages that the Council would have to go through before a final decision is made by the Council.

Consultation period

The consultation period for these proposals starts on January 3^{1st} 2018 and ends on March 13th 2018.

Within 13 weeks of 13 March 2018 a consultation report will be published on the Council website. Hard copies of the report will also be available on request. The report will summarise the issues raised by consultees during the consultation period and provide the Council's response to these issues. The report will also contain Estyn's view of the proposals.

The Council's Cabinet will consider the consultation report and decide whether or not to proceed with the proposals.

If the Cabinet decides to continue with the proposals, the Council must publish a statutory notice.

Statutory Notice

The statutory notice would be published on the Council website and posted at or near the main entrance to the school/sites subject to the notice. Copies of the notice would be made available to schools identified in the notice to distribute to pupils, parents, guardians and staff members (the school may also distribute the notice by email). The notice sets out the details of the proposals and invites anyone who wishes to object to do so in writing within the period specified.

Determination of proposals

The Council Cabinet will determine the proposals with the exception of the St Mary the Virgin proposal which would be determined by the School Governing Body. Cabinet may decide to approve, reject or approve the proposals with modifications. In doing so, Cabinet will take into account any statutory objections that it has received.

Decision notification

Following determination of proposals, all interested parties will be informed of the decision which will be published electronically on the Council's website.

How you can find out more and give your views

Copies of the consultation document will be made available to stakeholders and will also be available to view at all Cardiff maintained schools and at Community Hubs and Libraries throughout Cardiff and on the Council website.

Council officers will meet with the governing bodies of each of the schools named in the proposals. On behalf of the Local Authority, the Governing Bodies of the schools directly affected by the proposals will arrange meetings for staff and parents/carers of pupils attending their schools and put the dates on their school websites should any other interested party wish to attend. These dates will also be published on the Council's social media. These will be arranged during the consultation period to discuss how the changes will affect the school. A formal record will be kept of these meetings. Meeting dates and times will be communicated directly by the schools.

Council officers will work with the schools to provide an opportunity for pupils to share their views and experiences.

Public drop-in sessions have been arranged at Community Hubs as listed overleaf. These sessions provide an opportunity for members of the public and any other party interested in the content of the consultation document to ask questions and find out more about what is proposed and how this would change the current pattern of ALN provision in Cardiff. Senior Officers from the Inclusion Team will be present to outline the proposals and listen to any views or concerns you may have. Information provided at these sessions will be consistent with the document, but you can ask questions to

ensure you understand what it means for you and /or your child. Officers can also assist in filling out a response form should you wish to do so at the same time.

Dates of meetings and drop in sessions		
Nature of consultation	Date/ time	Venue
Governing Body, The Hollies School	Wednesday 7 th February, 5pm	The Hollies School
Governing Body, Ty Gwyn School	To be confirmed	Ty Gwyn School
Governing Body, Greenhill School	Thursday 08 th February 3:30pm	Greenhill School
Governing Body, Meadowbank School	Monday 5 th February 6pm	Meadowbank School
Governing Body, Allensbank School	Monday 12 th February 5:30pm	Allensbank Primary School
Governing Body, Ysgol Glantaf	Tuesday 13 th February 6:30pm	Ysgol Glantaf
Governing Body, St Mary the Virgin, Church in Wales School	To be confirmed	St Mary the Virgin Church in Wales Primary School
Governing Body, Ysgol Pwll Coch	Monday 05 th March 4:30pm	Ysgol Pwll Coch
Open drop-in session	Weds 7 th February 10am -12 noon	Llandaff North and Gabalfa Hub
Open drop-in session	Mon 12 th February 12 noon -2pm	STAR Hub
Open drop-in session	Fri 9 th February 10am-12 noon	Fairwater Hub
Open drop-in session	Thurs 15 th February 5pm-7pm	Central Library
Open drop-in session	Mon 19 th February 10am-12 noon	St Mellons Hub
Open drop-in session	Tues 20 th February 3pm-5pm	Penylan Library
Open drop-in session	Tues 27 th February 10am-12noon	Grangetown Hub
Open drop-in session	Mon 05 th March 10am – 12 noon	Ely and Caerau Hub
Open drop-in session	Wed 07 th March 10am – 12 noon	Llanishen Hub
Open drop-in session	Thurs 08 th March 2pm – 4pm	Llanedeyrn Hub at The Powerhouse

Your Views Matter

Your views matter and we want you to tell us what you think about the proposals. At the end of the booklet is a questionnaire: this is your chance to let the Council know what you think about the proposals. You can give a response to all of the questions, or just respond to some of them, as you prefer.

You can send us your views in one of the following ways:

- Complete the form online at www.cardiff.gov.uk/21stcenturySchools
- Email your views to schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk
- Write to us at the following address: Room 422, County Hall, Atlantic Wharf, Cardiff, CF10 4UW.

The Council will consider everyone's views before deciding whether to go ahead with the proposed changes.

The closing date for responses to this proposal is 13th March 2018.

BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED SCHEMES

Cardiff Strategic priorities for improving outcomes for children and young people with additional learning needs

Cardiff Council is committed to inclusion and recognises that increasing specialist places is not the only action needed to meet the needs of a growing ALN population.

It is equally important to ensure mainstream schools continue to develop as inclusive settings able to meet a wide range of complex needs. The Council has therefore adopted three strategic priorities for improving outcomes for children and young people with additional learning needs:

Priority One: To successfully implement the Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal Act

Under this priority the Council will undertake a range of actions to introduce a more unified approach to planning, with the views of children and young people at the heart of planning process. Effective collaboration with health and social services will be vital to achieve this goal.

Priority Two: To strengthen our collective capacity to meet all needs

The Council will work with schools, parents and other partners to further improve the quality of support for additional learning needs in all our schools and education settings. This will include developing opportunities for schools to develop and share best practice; improving the quality of information about additional learning needs support and provision; further improving the effectiveness of resources and support available to mainstream schools.

Priority Three: To ensure sufficient, high quality additional learning provision

This consultation paper is mainly concerned with Priority Three, to develop additional special school and specialist resource base places, but you can read more about all three strategic priorities by following the link:

<http://cardiff.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s19397/Cabinet%2018%20Jan%202018%20SOP%20Add%20Learning%20Needs%20App%201.pdf>

21st Century Schools Programme, 'Band B'

In the medium to long term, Cardiff intends to meet the need for additional specialist places through the capital investment programme '21st Century Schools'.

The '21st Century Schools- Cardiff Council's Band B' priorities identifies four capital schemes to re-shape Cardiff special school provision. The schemes would enable the Council:

- to replace the 'D' rated accommodation at Riverbank, Woodlands, the Court and Greenhill Schools
- to increase capacity to meet future projected need from 2022-27

- address the gaps in provision such as places for girls and for post-16 pupils with emotional health and wellbeing needs
- to enhance opportunities for multi-agency support and provision;
- to enhance the role of special schools as a source of support for families and for mainstream schools.

ALN Provision Development Plan 2018-22

Band B schemes will not be completed until 2021 at the earliest. The Council will therefore need to take steps to extend the number of places to meet more immediate demands over the next three years.

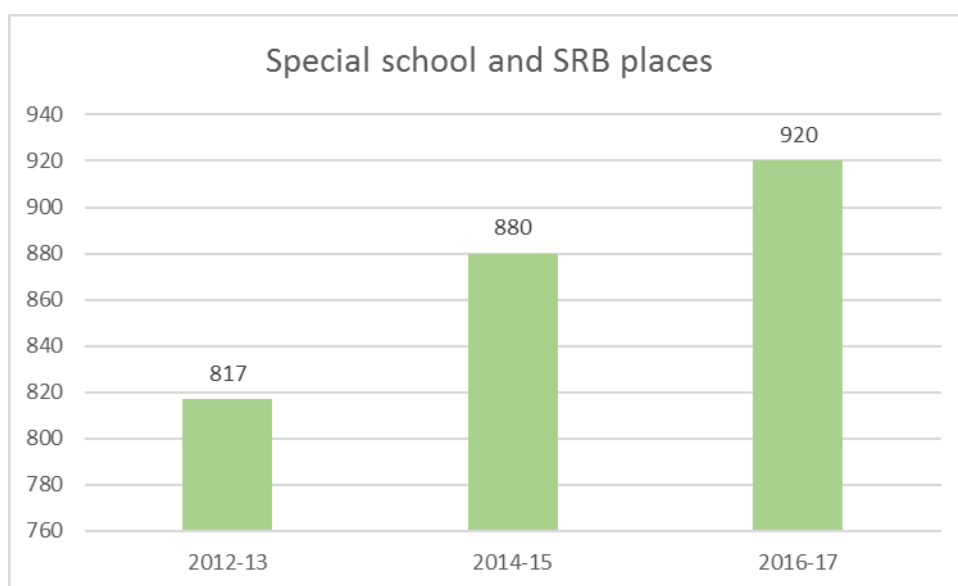
The proposed schemes in this booklet are separate and additional to the Band B schemes. They set out actions the Council is considering in order to meet demand for specialist places 2018-22.

The schemes proposed in this booklet will not fully address sufficiency needs for the period 2018-22. The Council has taken, and will continue to take, a range of steps to increase provision within existing accommodation and designated numbers wherever possible.

It is also anticipated that further schemes will need to be developed and proposed in 2019, to open additional specialist resource bases at both primary and secondary phase.

Increased demand for specialist places

As illustrated in the graph below, the number of funded special school or specialist resource base places in Cardiff schools has increased by 103 places over a five year period.



Despite the growth in places, there is some evidence to suggest this has not been sufficient to meet existing need. For example, the cost of supporting mainstream statements has increased by 63% over the last 5 years, and there has been an

increase in the number of pupils placed in independent schools ('out of county'). This suggests there are pupils in our mainstream schools and in 'out of county' settings who would benefit from access to a Cardiff special school or specialist resource base place.

Over the next 5-10 years, revenue and capital investment will be needed to ensure sufficient and suitable specialist support for the growing population of learners with additional learner needs, and to reduce reliance on the independent sector. Increased demand is anticipated for learners with:

- Emotional health and wellbeing needs
- Complex learning disabilities
- Autism spectrum conditions

Falling demand for speech and language specialist places

In contrast, demand for specialist places designated for specific language impairment has fallen since 2010. Between 2010 and 2015, the collective pupil roll at Meadowbank Special School and Allensbank specialist resource base – both of which are designated for 'specific language impairments- fell from 58 to 34.

In 2015-16 the Council formally proposed closing both settings and re-allocating the resource to other areas of need where demand is growing. However, stakeholders raised a range of objections to this proposal and the Council decided not to proceed, but to engage further with stakeholders and to undertake a review of speech and language support.

A reference group was established to provide a forum for stakeholders, including parents, teaching staff, governors, the voluntary sector and the speech and language therapy service, to contribute to the evaluation of current services.

As a result of this work, the Council is taking a number of actions to further improve support for learners with speech and language needs, and is proposing to change, but not close, Meadowbank School and Allensbank Specialist Resources base, as set out in the proposals.

Actions being taken to improve support for speech and language needs include:

- Further embedding the partnership and collaboration between Education and the NHS Speech and Language Therapy Service
- Building on the success of Speech and Language Links in Foundation Phase (which is now used in 100% of Cardiff primary schools) by rolling out Junior Speech and Language Links to all schools.
- Continuing to roll out training to both primary and secondary schools.
- Introducing WellComm in early years settings, to screen for speech and language needs in nursery-aged pupils, and to provide early support.

Business case for an ALN Development Plan 2018-22

Failure to invest in Cardiff-maintained provision over the next 3-4 years will lead to the Council becoming increasingly reliant on independent special school providers in order to meet the Council's statutory responsibilities.

Over reliance on independent places would have the following implications and risks:

- higher revenue costs to the Council
- inability to offer places according to parental preference

The cost of independent special school places ranges from £39K to £77k per annum, compared to costs for Cardiff special schools of £14k to £25k per annum. It is rarely in a pupil's interest to transfer school mid-phase so once placed there is little prospect of pupils returning to maintained provision should places become available in future years. The costs would therefore continue over 7-8 years for placements beginning in Year 7, and potentially longer for primary placements.

The Council is therefore committed to the goal of developing sufficient high quality places in Cardiff-maintained schools for all pupils with additional learning needs. This represents a more efficient use of public resources than relying on Independent places, and also contributes to continued development of expertise within Cardiff's schools.

The majority of Cardiff parents express a preference for places in Cardiff special schools or specialist resource bases for their child. Offering places in independent schools could have negative reputational implications.

It should be noted that there is no guarantee the independent sector could offer sufficient special school places to meet Cardiff's sufficiency needs, especially for primary aged pupils. Over-reliance on the sector could therefore result in Cardiff being unable to fulfil statutory responsibilities.

THE PROPOSED SCHEMES

Ty Gwyn Special School

About the school

Ty Gwyn is a special school providing special school places for learners aged 3-19 with complex learning disabilities and autism spectrum conditions (ASC). There are 174 pupils currently on roll.

The school is located in Ely/ Caerau and from 8th January 2018 the school has been federated with Riverbank and Woodlands Special Schools, as the Western Learning Campus Federation.

The school was last inspected by ESTYN in 2012. The school's performance and the prospects for improvement were judged to be Excellent.

In 2017 the Welsh Government classified the school's support category as Green (a highly effective school which is well run, has a strong leadership and is clear about its priorities for improvement).

Capacity, condition and suitability of Ty Gwyn School				
Age Range	Language medium/ Category of school	Condition as identified by Century Survey	Category of Schools	Current Published Capacity (age 3-11)
3-19	English Medium Special School		B	150

Recent and projected numbers on roll at TY Gwyn Special School										
School	January 2014 (NOR)	January 2015 (NOR)	January 2016 (NOR)	January 2017 (NOR)	January 2018 (NOR)	2018/19 Projection	2019/2020 Projection	2020/2021 Projection	2021/2022 Projection	2022/2023 Projection
Ty Gywn Special School	137	147	170	172	173	180	186	192	198	198

Proposed changes

To meet demand for primary and secondary special school places for learners with complex learning disabilities or Autism Spectrum Conditions it is proposed to

- to increase the capacity of Ty Gwyn to allow for up to 198 places

In order to achieve this it is proposed to adapt part of the Trelai Youth Centre building to provide three new classrooms for Ty Gwyn School and to connect the school and youth centre buildings via an enclosed corridor or covered walkway.

The scheme would form part of a multiagency project which has been established under the Disability Futures Programme, to redevelop the Trelai Youth Centre building as a multi-agency resource attached to the Western Learning Federation Campus. The project is exploring the potential to develop one side of the building as a hub for regional multi-agency services, and to increase the use of the existing sports and play facilities for children and young people with complex needs, in school hours, for holiday and after school provision.

Rationale for the proposed changes

More places will be needed at the school over the next 3 years, for children with significant additional learning needs.

Since the new Ty Gwyn building opened in 2010, the number admitted to the school each year has exceeded the number of leavers by between 4 and 10 places. There are now 173 pupils on roll. The Council expects that more places will be needed over the next three years, until the last of the smaller cohorts have left the school. From 2021, the cohorts leaving the school will be larger in size, and more consistent with the annual admission number.

Alternative options considered

A review of the current school accommodation established there is insufficient space for three extra classes.

How would the changes affect the school?

The school would be bigger, with more accommodation, and with additional opportunities to develop multi -agency collaboration on the site.

How would the changes affect other schools in Cardiff?

Ty Gwyn School is part of the Western Learning Federation, with Riverbank and Woodlands Special Schools, which are located nearby. They are separate schools but they are led by one governing body, enabling the schools to work in much closer partnership to the benefit of pupils in all three schools. It is anticipated that the multi-agency development of the Trelai Youth Centre would benefit the pupils at all three schools.

21st Century Schools Band B priorities sets out two schemes to build new special schools. If they proceed, the schemes will enable the Council to address the accommodation issues at Riverbank and Woodlands Schools and to increase the number of special school places in Cardiff, but these schemes would not be completed before 2021-22. This proposal is separate to the proposed Band B schemes.

What are the educational benefits of these proposals?

The proposal would offer the following educational benefits:

- sufficient places at Ty Gwyn for children and young people with significant additional learning needs
- enlarging the accommodation for Ty Gwyn School
- additional sports, community and multi-agency facilities in Trelai Youth Centre would benefit the three schools in Western Learning Federation: Ty Gwyn, Woodlands and Riverbank

Potential disadvantages of the proposals

The Council recognises that the proposal has implications for health services provided in partnership with the school. The Council will work with Cardiff and the Vale University Health Board, to continue to ensure children's assessed needs are met, and to further develop collaborative approaches to promote wellbeing and positive outcomes for pupils at the school.

Highways and transport implications

An initial appraisal of highways and transport implications has been completed, however all options will be subject to a full transport assessment. The initial assessment indicates that staff parking adjacent to Trelai Park could be utilised for school staff in order to create a larger drop off/pick up and turning circle on the existing staff carpark for minibuses. Staggered start and finish times for Riverbank, Woodlands and Ty Gwyn would reduce site congestion. Active Travel/Sustainable Travel would be encouraged for all staff and visitors to the school.

Making your views known

Your views matter and we want you to tell us what you think about the proposals. At the end of the booklet is a questionnaire: this is your chance to let the Council know what you think about the proposals. You can give a response to all of the questions, or just respond to some of them, as you prefer.

You can send us your views in one of the following ways:

- Complete the form online at www.cardiff.gov.uk/21stcenturySchools
- Email your views to schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk
- Write to us at the following address: Room 422, County Hall, Atlantic Wharf, Cardiff, CF10 4UW.

The Council will consider everyone's views before deciding whether to go ahead with the proposed changes.

The closing date for responses to this proposal is 13th March 2018.

The Hollies Special School

About the school

The Hollies is a special providing places for learners aged 4-11 with autism spectrum conditions and physical and medical needs. The school is located in Pentwyn.

The school was last inspected in 2013. The school's performance and prospects for improvement were judged to be Good.

In 2017 the Welsh Government classified the school's support category as Yellow (an effective school which is already doing well and knows the areas it needs to improve).

Capacity, condition and suitability of The Hollies School			
Age Range	Language medium/ Category of school	Condition as identified by 21 st Century Schools Survey	Current Published Capacity (age 4-11)
4-11	English medium Special School	C	90

Recent and projected numbers on roll at The Hollies Special School										
School	January 2014 (NOR)	January 2015 (NOR)	January 2016 (NOR)	January 2017 (NOR)	January 2018 (NOR)	2018/19 Projection	2019/2020 Projection	2020/2021 Projection	2021/2022 Projection	2022/2023 Projection
The Hollies Special School	85	89	83	90	90	102	110	118	126	134

Proposed changes

To meet demand for primary and secondary special school places for learners with autism spectrum conditions it is proposed to:

- extend the age range of The Hollies School from 4-11 to 4-14
- increase the capacity of the school to allow for up to 138 places

In order to achieve this, it is proposed to provide additional accommodation for the school by refurbishing the school accommodation to be vacated by Ysgol Glan Morfa, Hinton Street, CF24 2EU

Three options are under consideration, for how the school could operate over two sites:

Option	Pentwyn Site	Hinton Street Site	Benefits	Challenges
Option 1 (preferred)	Extend and adapt accommodation to provide 12 additional places for primary aged pupils and improved facilities for current pupils.	Adapt accommodation to provide up to 36 Key Stage 3 places.	12 additional primary places. 36 additional KS3 places. Improved accommodation on both sites. No change of location for current pupils.	Managing adaptations at Pentwyn site. Capital investment required on both sites. Adapting a primary building for KS3 use.
Option 2	Extend and improve accommodation to provide up to 102 KS2 and KS3 places.	Adapt accommodation to provide up to 36 Foundation Phase places.	12 additional primary places. 36 additional KS3 places. Improved accommodation on both sites. Fewer adaptations required to Hinton Street site.	Managing adaptations at Pentwyn site. Capital investment required on both sites. Some current classes would be required to relocate.
Option 3	No change to current use: 90 places for primary aged pupils.	Adapt accommodation to provide 48 places: 12 upper KS2 and 36 KS3.	12 additional primary places. 36 additional KS3 places. No disruption on current site.	No capital investment in Pentwyn site. Primary provision split over two sites.

Rationale for the proposed changes

The demand for places at the school for children with physical and medical needs has fallen over several years, while the autism section has grown. All pupils at the school are now pupils with autism spectrum conditions (ASC).

Over next few years, additional primary and secondary places for learners with autism spectrum conditions will be needed. Expanding the capacity and extending the age range of the school would provide the extra places needed at both primary and secondary phase.

The Hollies is a good school, highly regarded by parents/ carers. The staff and leadership team has significant experience of providing high quality education for primary-aged children with autism spectrum conditions, which would be a strong foundation on which to develop Key Stage 3 provision for children with ASC.

Ysgol Glan Morfa is due to transfer to new build premises in August 2018 (to accommodate the increased size of the school, from one-form entry to two-form entry). It is proposed that the vacated school accommodation on Hinton Street, Splott be converted to provide additional accommodation for The Hollies School.

The Ysgol Glan Morfa building is in generally good condition but would require refurbishment and adaptation for special school use.

Alternative options considered

A review of the current school accommodation established there is some scope to develop additional classrooms on site, but insufficient space to develop a Key Stage 3 department.

The potential for adapting the upper floor was considered, but the cost of adding a fire escape is likely to be prohibitive and would compromise the ground floor accommodation. Any plan to create additional classrooms by displacing staff accommodation to the upper floor would be logistically complicated and involve building work in several phases over a number of years, with disruption to teaching and learning for existing pupils. In addition, the council do not consider that the site as a whole could provide sufficient outside space, catering and dining, therapeutic play areas, parking/ traffic access for 48 additional pupils, and the associated increase in staffing levels.

An initial appraisal of highways and transport implications was completed, which suggested that there would be significant implications from adding 48 places on the current site.

The option of establishing a new Key Stage 3 special school on the Hinton Street site was considered and dismissed. The Council wishes to work with an experienced and well-established special school with proven expertise in the field of ASC provision, to develop a setting which will initially be very small, but likely to grow rapidly over 3-5 years.

How would the changes affect the school?

The school would be significantly bigger in size and would be operating across more than one site, with implications for the management structure of the school, the curriculum and facilities. If the proposal is taken forward, the local authority would support the Governing Body to determine a management and staffing structure to support the development of the school.

The development of a second site and a Key Stage 3 department, would provide professional development opportunities for existing staff and enable the governing body to appoint new staff, bringing new experience and expertise into the school.

How will the changes affect other schools in Cardiff?

Currently the secondary options for pupils leaving The Hollies in Year 6, include:

- Specialist Resource Bases at Llanishen, Cathays or Cantonian High School;
- The Marion Centre, Bishop of Llandaff School
- Ty Gwyn Special School
- Ysgol y Deri Special School, Vale of Glamorgan

These options would continue to be available to Hollies Year 6 pupils, in addition to the option of continuing at The Hollies for KS3. Pupils who take up a KS3 place at The Hollies would have the opportunity transfer to one of the above listed schools for their Key Stage 4 placement.

The Key Stage 3 places would also be open to other pupils in Cardiff, who may need to transfer to a special school place from specialist resource bases or mainstream provision.

The local authority is anticipating that additional Key Stage 4 and post-16 special school and SRB places will be required within 2-3 years in order to provide for the larger cohorts now transferring from Primary to Secondary places. These places could be provided through the 21st Century Schools Band B schemes, or through the ALN Development Plan 2018-22

What are the educational benefits of these proposals?

The proposal would offer the following educational benefits:

- Increasing the number of primary special school places for pupils with ASC
- Improved accommodation for The Hollies
- A new ASC Key Stage 3 department, developed by a well-established and experienced special school
- An increased range KS3 options for pupils with ASC

Potential disadvantages of the proposals

The Council recognises that the proposal has implications for health services provided in partnership with the school. The Council will work with Cardiff and the Vale University Health Board, to continue to ensure children's assessed needs are met, and to further develop collaborative approaches to promote wellbeing and positive outcomes for pupils at the school.

Highways and transport implications

An initial appraisal of highways and transport implications has been completed, however all options would be subject to a full transport assessment. The initial assessment indicates that additional staff parking, a turning circle for additional traffic would be required in order to reduce congestion and manage any additional traffic

better. Ensuring that start and finish times varied from those of Moorland Primary School, on Singleton Road, would be required to reduce congestion. Active Travel/Sustainable Travel would be encouraged for all staff and visitors to the school.

Making your views known

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The Council will consider everyone's views before deciding whether to go ahead with the proposed changes.

The closing date for responses to this proposal is 13th March 2018.

Greenhill Special School

About the school

Greenhill School is a special school for pupils with emotional health and wellbeing needs aged 11-16. The school is located in Rhiwbina.

One of the prioritised schemes identified in the report '21st Century Schools- Cardiff Council's Band B priorities', is to build a new secondary special school for pupils with emotional health and wellbeing needs. The Band B scheme would enable the Council to replace the current 'D' rated accommodation occupied by Greenhill School.

The proposal set out in this booklet would be independent of the Band B scheme, although it would pave the way to deliver on one of the goals of the Band B scheme- to include provision for post-16 in a future new school.

The School was last inspected by ESTYN in 2013. The school's performance and prospects for improvement were judged to be Good.

In 2017 the Welsh Government has classified the school's support category as Green (a highly effective school which is well run, has a strong leadership and is clear about its priorities for improvement).

Capacity, condition and suitability of Greenhill School			
Age Range	Language medium/ Category of school	Condition Category as identified by 21 st Century Schools Survey	Current Published Capacity (age 4-11)
11-16	English medium Special School	D	56

Recent and projected numbers on roll at Greenhill Special School										
School	January 2014 (NOR)	January 2015 (NOR)	January 2016 (NOR)	January 2017 (NOR)	January 2018 (NOR)	2018/19 Projection	2019/2020 Projection	2020/2021 Projection	2021/2022 Projection	2022/2023 Projection
Greenhill Special School	50	54	47	56	55	64	64	64	64	64

Proposed changes

To meet the need for post-16 places for emotional health and wellbeing needs it is proposed to:

- Extend the age range of Greenhill from 11-16 to 11-19
- Increase the capacity of the school to allow for up to 64 places

In order to achieve this it is proposed to adapt the unused caretaker house on the site. Post-16 pupils would attend some classes on site, but would also be supported to access appropriate educational opportunities off-site, as part of a supported transition to college or employment.

Rationale for the proposed changes

Data for Cardiff shows that many Greenhill pupils struggle to make a successful transition to education, employment or training at the end of Year 11, despite significant support for transition.

2015-17 data shows that 50% or more of Greenhill leavers were not in education employment or training on 31st October.

Cohort	Cohort Size	NEET	%
2015	18	10	56
2016	6	3	50
2017	10	5	50

A post-16 class would provide a 'bridging year' for Greenhill pupils not yet ready for transition to college or employment at the end of Year 11. Pupils would be supported to make a successful transition to college, training or employment by the end of Year 12.

This proposal would require determination by Welsh Ministers to extend the age range of Greenhill School to include post-16 education.

Alternative options considered

The option of waiting for the Band B scheme before making changes to the age range of Greenhill was considered, but this would not meet the needs of pupils leaving the school in the next few years.

How would the changes affect the school?

The school has relevant expertise and experience to support pupils post-16 but there would be a need to develop a suitable post-16 curriculum focussed on supporting successful transition to college or employment by the end of Year 12.

How will the changes affect other schools in Cardiff?

It is not anticipated that there would be any impact on other Cardiff Schools as result of this proposal. The post-16 pupils would be pupils admitted to the school in Keys Stage 3 or 4 however there would not be any capacity to offer places to pupils transferring from other schools.

What are the educational benefits of these proposals?

The proposal would offer the following educational benefits:

- Improved provision for post-16 pupils with emotional health and wellbeing needs
- Professional development opportunities for existing Greenhill staff

Potential disadvantages of the proposals

The Council recognises that the proposal has implications for health services provided in partnership with the school. The Council will work with Cardiff and the Vale University Health Board, to continue to ensure children's assessed needs are met, and to further develop collaborative approaches to promote wellbeing and positive outcomes for pupils at the school.

Highways and transport implications

An initial appraisal of highways and transport implications has been completed, however all options would be subject to a full transport assessment. The initial assessment indicates that the existing arrangements are suitable for the site. Travel Training should be encouraged for all pupils to promote public transport where possible. Active Travel/Sustainable Travel would be encouraged for all staff and visitors to the school.

Making your views known

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The Council will consider everyone's views before deciding whether to go ahead with the proposed changes.

The closing date for responses to this proposal is 13th March 2018.

Meadowbank Special School

About the school

Meadowbank is a special school for up to 40 pupils aged 4-11 with specific language impairments. The school is located in Gabalfa and admits pupils from across the authority. The number on roll at the school has fallen over several years and currently stands at 15.

The School was last inspected in 2013. The school's performance was judged to be Good, and the prospects for improvement were judged to be Adequate. The school was placed in ESTYN monitoring. A follow up visit in 2014 found the school to have made good progress in respect of key actions, and the school was removed from ESTYN monitoring.

In 2017 the Welsh Government classified the school's support category as Green (a highly effective school which is well run, has a strong leadership and is clear about its priorities for improvement).

Capacity, condition and suitability of Meadowbank School			
Age Range	Language medium/ Category of school	Condition Category as identified by 21 st Century Schools Survey	Current Published Capacity (age 4-11)
4-11	English medium Special School	B	40

Recent and projected numbers on roll at Meadowbank Special School										
School	January 2014 (NOR)	January 2015 (NOR)	January 2016 (NOR)	January 2017 (NOR)	January 2018 (NOR)	2018/19 Projection	2019/2020 Projection	2020/2021 Projection	2021/2022 Projection	2022/2023 Projection
Meadowbank Special School	30	29	22	17	15	25	35	40	40	40

Proposed changes

To meet demand for primary special school places for complex learning disabilities, it is proposed to:

- change the type of special educational need the school provides for *from*: 'specific language impairments', *to*: 'speech language and communication needs and complex learning disabilities'

Whilst current accommodation at Meadowbank is in good condition, some adaptations to the building would be needed, including provision of a changing space and improvements to the accessibility of the building.

Rationale for the proposed changes

The diagnosis of 'specific language impairment' is no longer used. It is therefore proposed to replace it in the school's designation with the commonly used term: 'speech language and communication needs'.

Under the current designation, the school admits pupils whose speech and language needs are specific, long term and severe. If the designation were changed as proposed, the school would continue to admit pupils whose speech and language needs are specific, long term and severe, but would also admit pupils with complex learning disabilities.

Changing the designation of the school is in line with one of the recommendations put forward by the speech and language reference group and would ensure:

- continued special school places for learners with the most severe and long term speech language and communication needs;
- additional places for complex learning disabilities;
- continued financial viability of Meadowbank School.

Children with complex learning disabilities frequently have associated speech language and communication difficulties, and would benefit from the specialist knowledge and experience of Meadowbank staff.

Alternative options considered

Changing the designation to include either autism spectrum conditions or emotional health and wellbeing needs was considered. This was ruled out as the accommodation at the school is not considered appropriate for these groups.

The speech and language reference group recommended the Council give consideration to opening 'early intervention' classes. Classes of this type would offer time-limited placements to learners whose speech and language needs are not expected to be long term, but who are not making enough progress with mainstream support alone.

The group suggested an early intervention class could be hosted at either Meadowbank or Allensbank School.

The Council is not proposing to open early intervention classes at Meadowbank School for the following reasons:

- The majority of pupils with speech and language needs make more rapid progress when exposed to frequent, informal opportunities to interact, play and learn with peers who do not have speech or language difficulties. These mainstream opportunities are more easily and naturally available to pupils in a specialist resource base.
- Special schools can strive to offer similar opportunities through reintegration programmes and day placements, but these opportunities entail the extra costs of sending support assistants with the child, and making different travel arrangements on different days.
- Many parents of children with specific speech and language needs prefer their child to remain in mainstream. The local authority believes that early intervention classes should be based in a mainstream school, to take account of parental views, and to better facilitate early reintegration to a local school.

How will the changes affect the school?

The proposed changes would ensure the school roll would rise over the next 3-4 years and that there would be a continued role for the school as part of the range of specialist provision in Cardiff. The Governing Body would need to work with the local authority to develop additional areas of expertise and facilities at the school.

There are other special schools in Cardiff that meet more than one type of additional learning need. The school would determine the best approach to supporting a range of needs. This could involve mixed classes, if the learning needs are similar, or separate classes to meet different needs.

The local authority commissions the school to provide an outreach service to support children with speech language and communication needs in early years settings. It is proposed to maintain this outreach service and, in partnership with the school, to consider scope to further develop their role in building capacity to support speech and language needs.

Training and professional development opportunities would be offered to staff, to further develop their skills and specialist knowledge to support complex learning disabilities.

How will the changes affect other schools in Cardiff?

If taken forward, the changes would reduce pressure on places at Riverbank Special School, and the specialist resource bases at Bryn Hafod, Marlborough, Llanedeyrn and Llanishen Fach Primary Schools. If the proposal is not taken forward these settings will be under pressure to go over number to respond to demand for places.

What are the educational benefits of these proposals?

The proposal would offer the following educational benefits:

- Additional places to meet the growing need for special school places for children with complex learning disabilities
- Continued special school places for children with severe, complex and long term speech language and communication needs
- Professional development opportunities for existing Meadowbank staff
- Opportunities for Meadowbank governing body to appoint new staff, as pupil numbers rise, and bring new expertise into the school

Potential disadvantages of the proposals

The Council recognises that the proposal has implications for health services provided in partnership with the school. The Council will work with Cardiff and the Vale University Health Board, to continue to ensure children's assessed needs are met, and to further develop collaborative approaches to promote wellbeing and positive outcomes for pupils at the school.

Highways and transport implications

An initial appraisal of highways and transport implications has been completed, however all options will be subject to a full transport assessment. The initial assessment indicates that the school has a turning circle which is suitable for the pupils who will be accessing the premises. A variety of highways improvements are already planned as part of the Ysgol Glan Ceubal and Gabalfa Primary new build. Active Travel/Sustainable Travel would be encouraged for all staff and visitors to the school.

Making your views known

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The Council will consider everyone's views before deciding whether to go ahead with the proposed changes.

The closing date for responses to this proposal is 13th March 2018.

Allensbank Primary School

About the school

Allensbank is a community primary school located in Cathays. The school hosts a 16-20 place specialist resource base (SRB) designated for pupils with speech language and communication needs.

A specialist resource base (SRB) is a small class in a mainstream school, taught by specialist staff. Although the SRBs are located in community schools, they admit pupils from across the authority, not just from their own local area. Pupils in a specialist resource base benefit from being taught in small classes with favourable pupil-staff ratios, taught by specialist staff. Pupils also benefit from opportunities to learn and play with their mainstream peers.

The school was last inspected in 2013. The school's performance and prospects for improvement were judged to be Adequate, and the school was considered to need significant improvement. A follow up visit in 2015 found the school to have made progress on the recommended actions, was no longer in need of significant improvement, and was therefore removed from ESTYN monitoring category.

In 2017 the Welsh Government has classified the school's support category as Amber (a School in need of improvement which needs help to identify the steps to improve or to make change happen more quickly).

Capacity, condition and suitability of Allensbank School					
Age Range	Language medium/ Category of school	Condition Category as identified by 21 st Century Schools Survey	Current Published Capacity (age 4-11)	Published Capacity (nursery part-time places)	Specialist resource base, designation
3-11	English medium Community School	C+	300	64	16-20 places for speech language and communication needs

Recent and projected numbers on roll at Allensbank Primary School										
School	January 2014 (NOR)	January 2015 (NOR)	January 2016 (NOR)	January 2017 (NOR)	January 2018 (NOR)	2018/19 Projection	2019/2020 Projection	2020/2021 Projection	2021/2022 Projection	2022/2023 Projection
Allensbank Primary School	242	252	246	233	210	230	217	198	192	192
Allensbank Primary School SRB	14	11	10	8	6	4	12	10	8	8

Proposed changes

To meet the need for early intervention places for speech and language needs it is proposed to:

- Phase out the SRB at Allensbank Primary School, closing the class in July 2020, or when all current pupils have completed their primary placement, if earlier.
- Open an 8-place early intervention class for children with speech and language needs at Allensbank Primary School, admitting the first cohort in September 2019.

Rationale for the proposed changes

Demand for places at the SRB have fallen over several years. There are now 6 pupils, all in Key Stage 2. The reason for this fall is believed to be linked to changes in how the education service and the therapy service work with mainstream schools to identify and meet needs early. Fewer statements are now issued for children with specific speech and language needs, and most are issued relatively late, when children are already in Key Stage 2. Issuing fewer statement is a measure of effective early intervention, but it is also having the unintended effect of delaying access to specialist provision for those children who may need it most.

The proposed solution is to open an early intervention class. Intensive support in a special class is most effective if provided as early as possible. Placements at the early intervention class would therefore be identified by the specialist speech and language panel and would not be dependent on a statement.

The early intervention class would open in September 2019. The criteria for admission, staffing, the curriculum and mode of operation would first be fully considered and agreed in partnership with the governing body and the therapy service, and in consultation with other schools.

Based on preliminary work to define the approach, it is anticipated that the class would admit up to 8 Foundation Phase children who were not making sufficient progress, but

who have good prospects for returning to their local mainstream school. Placements would last 1-3 years, depending on progress. Pupils would be dual registered at their local school, and supported to return at the end of the placement. Pupils would continue to attend their local school for at least one day a week, to maintain links with local friends and to prepare for a successful early reintegration to their local school.

Closure of the SRB would be phased, to allow for current pupils to complete their education in the base. No further pupils with statements would be admitted: pupils with severe and specific needs would either have mainstream statements or have the opportunity to attend Meadowbank Special School.

The Council has reviewed the caseloads for pupils known to the Joint Speech and Language Service in 2017 in order to predict the level of need for an early intervention class. Eight places in an English medium setting would be appropriate to meet current need. This will be monitored, and consideration given to opening a second class in future, as required.

There is insufficient demand for a Welsh medium class at present. This will be monitored, and consideration given to opening a class in future, as required. In the meantime, an intensive support package in mainstream can be developed if there are individual pupils in Welsh schools who are not making sufficient progress with school support.

The Speech and Language Therapy Service has indicated a willingness to work with the local authority on this development, and to provide ongoing support and input in line with children's assessed needs.

Alternative options considered

The speech and language reference group recommended the Council give consideration to opening 'early intervention' classes at either Meadowbank Special or Allensbank Primary School.

The Council decided this sort of provision would be better hosted at a mainstream primary school for the following reasons:

- The majority of pupils with speech and language needs make more rapid progress when exposed to frequent, informal opportunities to interact, play and learn with peers who do not have speech or language difficulties. These mainstream opportunities are more easily and naturally available to pupils in a specialist resource base.
- Special schools can strive to offer similar opportunities through reintegration programmes and day placements, but these opportunities entail the extra costs of sending support assistants with the child, and making different travel arrangements on different days.
- Many parents of children with specific speech and language needs prefer their child to remain in mainstream. The local authority believes that early intervention

classes should be based in a mainstream school, to take account of parental views, and to better facilitate early reintegration to a local school.

How will the changes affect the school?

The school has experience of hosting a specialist resource base for children with specific speech and language needs; hosting an early intervention class would have similar impact on the school. The age range of pupils would no longer be 4-11, but would be 4-7. Pupils would be dual registered, with a plan to return to their own schools. This would require close partnership working with the local school of each child, and support for the reintegration process.

The local authority would work with the Governing Body to support the development of new skills and ways of working, including provision of training and awareness raising.

How will the changes affect other schools in Cardiff?

Other schools would benefit from the opportunity to work in partnership with the early intervention class to support pupils who are not making sufficient progress with support in their own school.

When children transfer to a specialist resource base (SRB) this is usually a permanent move, and the responsibility for the child's learning and wellbeing transfer to the SRB school. The proposal for an early intervention class is different because it would be a time limited placement and the child would be dual registered in their local school and Allensbank. The local school would remain involved, providing opportunities for the child to attend one day per week, maintaining local friendships and be well supported to return to their local school when sufficient progress has been made.

What are the educational benefits of these proposals?

The proposal would offer the following educational benefits:

- Ensure that children with severe speech and language needs, who are not making enough progress through mainstream support alone, can continue to access specialist provision and are supported to achieve their potential
- Ensure that the focus of specialist provision is on early intervention, supporting children while they are in Foundation Phase
- Children in specialist provision will be able to maintain their links with a local school and return there with support, when they have made enough progress
- Allensbank Primary School will have opportunities to further develop the specialist skills and expertise they offer to children with speech and language needs

Highways and transport implications

There would be no new implications for transport and highways.

Making your views known

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The Council will consider everyone's views before deciding whether to go ahead with the proposed changes.

The closing date for responses to this proposal is 13th March 2018.

St Mary the Virgin Church in Wales Primary School

About the school

St Mary the Virgin CiW is a Voluntary Aided school located in Butetown. There is no specialist provision at the school currently.

The school was last inspected in 2012. The school's performance and prospects for improvement were judged to be excellent.

In 2017 the Welsh Government has classified the school's support category as Amber (a School in need of improvement which needs help to identify the steps to improve or to make change happen more quickly).

Capacity, condition and suitability of St Mary the Virgin CiW School				
Age Range	Language medium/ Category of school	Condition Category as identified by 21 st Century Schools Survey	Current Published Capacity (age 4-11)	Published Capacity (nursery part-time places)
3 -11	English Medium Voluntary Aided School	C	*210	52

* A proposal to expand the school to 420 places has been approved for implementation.

Recent and projected numbers on roll at St Mary the Virgin CiW Primary School										
School	January 2014 (NOR)	January 2015 (NOR)	January 2016 (NOR)	January 2017 (NOR)	January 2018 (NOR)	2018/19 Projection	2019/2020 Projection	2020/2021 Projection	2021/2022 Projection	2022/2023 Projection
St Mary the Virgin CiW Primary School	162	172	189	176	186	181	180	176	180	180

Proposed changes

To meet the demand for primary specialist resource base places for complex learning disabilities, it is proposed to:

- open a specialist resource base (SRB) at St Mary the Virgin CiW Primary School, for up to 20 places.

Accommodation for the SRB would be provided as part of the 21st Century Schools Band B scheme to rebuild St Mary the Virgin School. The SRB would not open until the new build accommodation has been provided.

Rationale for the proposed change

In 2015 the council consulted on proposals to build new school accommodation for St Mary the Virgin School. In their formal response the Governing Body requested the local authority to consider opening a specialist resource base at the school. Given the growing demand for SRB places, the local authority agreed in principle to consider this development, subject to a further statutory consultation.

As a voluntary aided school, the determination of the proposal would be made by the governing body of the school.

How will the changes affect the school?

A specialist resource base (SRB) is a small class in a mainstream school, taught by specialist staff. The SRBs admit pupils from across the authority, not just from their own local area. Pupils in a specialist resource base benefit from being taught in small classes with favourable pupil-staff ratios, taught by specialist staff. Pupils also benefit from opportunities to learn and play with their mainstream peers.

Admissions to the SRB would be managed by the local authority, subject to a statement of special educational needs and would be open to pupils from across the authority.

The opportunity to employ specialist staff and to work more closely with specialist services in Cardiff will enhance the school's capacity for inclusion and benefit all pupils in the school.

How will the changes affect other schools in Cardiff?

There are four Cardiff primary schools currently hosting SRBs for complex learning disabilities: Bryn Hafod; Llanedeyrn; Llanishen Fach and Marlborough Primary Schools. All SRBs are open to admission from across the authority, although as far as possible, pupils are offered places in the SRB closest to their home. Provision of an SRB at St Mary the Virgin would increase the number of places available to meet demand, and ensure that pupils living in the south central area of the city travel shorter distances to access specialist provision.

What are the educational benefits of these proposals?

The proposal would offer the following educational benefits:

- additional places to meet the needs of children with significant additional learning needs
- children living in the south central area of Cardiff would be able to attend an SRB closer to where they live
- St Mary the Virgin School would benefit from the additional expertise of staff employed in the SRB

Highways and transport implications

Transport and highways implications will be considered as part of the planning for the new build school.

Making your views known

Your views matter and we want you to tell us what you think about the proposals. At the end of the booklet is a questionnaire: this is your chance to let the Council know what you think about the proposals. You can give a response to all of the questions, or just respond to some of them, as you prefer.

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The Council will consider everyone's views before deciding whether to go ahead with the proposed changes.

The closing date for responses to this proposal is 13th March 2018.

Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch

About the school

Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch is a community primary school located in Canton. There is no specialist provision at the school currently. The school was last inspected in 2011. The school's performance and prospects for improvement were judged to be Good .

In 2017 the Welsh Government has classified the school's support category as Yellow (an effective school which is already doing well and knows the areas it needs to improve).

Capacity, condition and suitability of Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch				
Age Range	Language medium/ Category of school	Condition Category as identified by 21 st Century Schools Survey	Current Published Capacity (age 4-11)	Published Capacity (nursery part-time places)
3 -11	Welsh Medium Community School	A	420	64

Recent and projected numbers on roll at Ysgol Pwll Coch										
School	January 2014 (NOR)	January 2015 (NOR)	January 2016 (NOR)	January 2017 (NOR)	January 2018 (NOR)	2018/19 Projection	2019/2020 Projection	2020/2021 Projection	2021/2022 Projection	2022/2023 Projection
Ysgol Pwll Coch	441	449	441	442	422	430	406	409	405	405

Proposed changes

To meet the demand for primary SRB places for with complex learning disabilities and autism spectrum conditions in the Welsh medium sector, it is proposed to:

- open a specialist resource base at Ysgol Pwll Coch, providing up to 10 places initially, but with scope to extend to 20 places in future, as demand grows.

Accommodation for the SRB would be established within current facilities however some refurbishment would be required.

Rationale for the proposed changes

Demand for Welsh medium education is growing in Cardiff. One impact of this is the increased number of children and young people with additional learning needs in the sector, including a growing number who require specialist provision.

There is a long-established specialist resource base at Ysgol Coed y Gof, offering up to 10 places for all areas of additional learning need. This is not sufficient to meet current and future demand.

The Council has identified between 5 and 10 pupils in Welsh medium schools who might currently benefit from a place in an SRB, and it is anticipated this number will increase over the next 3-5 years.

The school is in the 'transition cluster' for Ysgol Glantaf, which hosts a secondary specialist resource base. The proposal would ensure pupils can maintain friendships when they transfer from the primary SRB to the secondary SRB.

Alternative options considered

The option of opening a second SRB class at Ysgol Coed y Gof was considered, but dismissed due to lack of space in the school.

How will the changes affect the school?

A specialist resource base (SRB) is a small class in a mainstream school, taught by specialist staff. Although the SRBs are located in community schools, they admit pupils from across the authority, not just from their own local area. Pupils in a specialist resource base benefit from being taught in small classes with favorable pupil-staff ratios, taught by specialist staff. Pupils also benefit from opportunities to learn and play with their mainstream peers.

Admissions to the SRB would be managed by the local authority, subject to a statement of special educational needs and would be open to pupils from across the authority.

The opportunity to employ specialist staff and to work more closely with specialist services in Cardiff will enhance the school's capacity for inclusion and benefit all pupils in the school.

How will the changes affect other schools in Cardiff?

Schools in the Welsh medium sector will benefit from the availability of additional expertise and specialist places in the sector.

What are the educational benefits of these proposals?

The proposal would offer the following educational benefits:

- additional SRB places to meet the needs of pupils in the Welsh medium sector
- Ysgol Pwll Coch would benefit from the expertise and experience of the SRB staff

- The Welsh medium sector would benefit from additional specialist staff and provision in the sector

Highways and transport implications

An initial appraisal of highways and transport implications has been completed, however all options would be subject to a full transport assessment. The initial assessment indicates that a staggered start time and finish time for the SRB would need to be implemented to alleviate traffic and to reduce congestion at the beginning and end of the day on Lawrenny Avenue. Active Travel/Sustainable Travel would be encouraged for all staff and visitors to the school.

Making your views known

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The Council will consider everyone's views before deciding whether to go ahead with the proposed changes.

The closing date for responses to this proposal is 13th March 2018.

Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf

About the school

Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf is a community high school located in Llandaff. The school hosts a specialist resource base for complex learning disabilities and autism spectrum conditions. There are currently 14 pupils on roll at the SRB.

The school was last inspected in 2017. The school's performance and prospects for improvement were judged to be Good.

In 2017 the Welsh Government has classified the school's support category as Amber (a school in need of improvement which needs help to identify the steps to improve or to make change happen more quickly).

Capacity, condition and suitability of Ysgol Gymraeg Glantaf			
Age Range	Language medium/ Category of school	Condition Category as identified by 21 st Century Schools Survey	Current Published Capacity
11-19	Welsh Medium Community School	C	1500

Recent and projected numbers on roll at										
School	January 2014 (NOR)	January 2015 (NOR)	January 2016 (NOR)	January 2017 (NOR)	January 2018 (NOR)	2018/19 Projection	2019/2020 Projection	2020/2021 Projection	2021/2022 Projection	2022/2023 Projection
Ysgol Glantaf	1276	1251	1165	1132	1178	1186	1269	1332	1395	1395
Ysgol Glantaf SRB	9	11	11	11	14	19	21	23	25	27

Proposed changes

To meet the demand for secondary SRB places for complex learning disabilities and autism spectrum conditions in the Welsh medium sector it is proposed to:

- extend the designated number at Ysgol Glantaf specialist resource base to up to 30 places

The current SRB accommodation would be extended and improved to facilitate the additional numbers.

Rationale for the proposed changes

Demand for places in the base has been increasing steadily for the last 5 years and there are currently 14 pupils on roll. Projections suggest the number will grow to 30 places over the next 3-5 years.

The local authority will continue to monitor and regularly audit the level of demand in the sector and bring forward further proposals to further extend provision in future as required.

How will the changes affect the school?

A specialist resource base (SRB) is a small class in a mainstream school, taught by specialist staff. Although the SRBs are located in community schools, they admit pupils from across the authority, not just from their own local area. Pupils in a specialist resource base benefit from being taught in small classes with favorable pupil-staff ratios, taught by specialist staff. Pupils also benefit from opportunities to learn and play with their mainstream peers.

Admissions to the SRB are managed by the local authority, subject to a statement of special educational needs. The SRB offers places to pupils from across the city.

How will the changes affect other schools in Cardiff?

Schools in the Welsh medium sector will continue to benefit from the availability of additional expertise and specialist places in the sector.

What are the educational benefits of these proposals?

The proposal would offer the following educational benefits:

- additional SRB places to meet the needs of pupils in the Welsh medium sector
- Ysgol Glantaf would benefit from the opportunity to employ additional specialist staff at the SRB
- The Welsh medium sector would benefit from additional specialist staff and provision in the sector

Highways and transport implications

There would be no new implications for transport and highways.

Making your views known

Your views matter and we want you to tell us what you think about the proposals.

At the end of the booklet is a questionnaire: this is your chance to let the Council know what you think about the proposals. You can give a response to all of the questions, or just respond to some of them, as you prefer.

You can send us your views in one of the following ways:

- Complete the form online at www.cardiff.gov.uk/21stcenturySchools
- Email your views to schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk
- Write to us at the following address: Room 422, County Hall, Atlantic Wharf, Cardiff, CF10 4UW.

The Council will consider everyone's views before deciding whether to go ahead with the proposed changes.

The closing date for responses to this proposal is 13th March 2018.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE EIGHT PROPOSED SCHEMES

Quality and Standards

The Council works closely with the governing bodies of schools to ensure that standards in schools are high, that teaching is good and that leadership and governance is strong.

Standards

The Council has in place policies to support school improvement is working to respond to the key principles of the 'School Effectiveness Framework' to secure better learning outcomes and well-being for all children.

It is not anticipated that there will be any impact on the quality of standards of education or the delivery of the Foundation Phase and each Key Stage of education at any of the schools as a result of the proposed changes.

Provision

The proposals would address ALN sufficiency needs projected in 2018-21, ensuring children and young people can access high quality education in Cardiff special schools or specialist resource bases, in both English and Welsh medium sectors.

Leadership and Governance

The Council would continue to work with the leadership of the schools subject to the proposals to continue to ensure a rigorous whole school approach to improvement planning and secure good relationships with parents and other partners in order to ensure pupils receive a high quality education.

Educational Benefits of the eight proposed schemes

The proposals would offer the following educational benefits:

- Addressing ALN sufficiency needs projected in 2018-21, ensuring children and young people can access high quality education in Cardiff special schools or specialist resource bases, in both English and Welsh medium sectors.
- Development of the Trelai Youth Centre will provide additional sports facilities for use across the Western Learning Campus Federation, access for community use, and opportunities to further develop multi-agency collaboration on site, including provision of outreach services, to the benefit of ALN learners aged 0-25.
- A sustainable future for Meadowbank School, ensuring children with speech and language needs or complex learning disabilities can continue to benefit from the expertise and facilities offered by the school.
- Improved post-16 opportunities for young people with severe emotional health and wellbeing needs.

- Opening a new SRB in the South Central area of Cardiff will improve access to specialist provision for children in the area, and reduce the need for SEN transport.
- Increased capacity for early intervention to support children with speech and language needs.

Potential disadvantages of the proposals

The following potential disadvantages have been identified:

- Extending numbers at Ty Gwyn, Hollies, Meadowbank and Greenhill Special Schools could impact on health provision at these schools however the Council will work with Cardiff and the Vale Health Board, to continue to ensure children's assessed needs are met, and to further develop collaborative approaches to promote wellbeing and positive outcomes for pupils at the schools.

Alternatives considered

The alternative to extending special school and SRB places in Cardiff-maintained schools would be to seek places in the independent sector. The option has been dismissed as the revenue costs of this would be greater than the combined capital and revenue investment required by the proposed schemes.

Impact of proposals on the Welsh Language

- The proposed schemes include extending and improving specialist provision for learners with autism spectrum conditions and complex learning disabilities, at Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch and Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf.
- Additional work is underway to further develop the range of provision, including:
 - A review of the specialist resource base at Ysgol Coed y Gof
 - In 2017-18 the local authority is funding a pilot approach to supporting emotional health and wellbeing needs in the secondary phase.
 - An audit of speech and language needs to inform the development of early intervention for children in the Welsh sector.
- In partnership with Bridgend, RCT, Merthyr and the Vale of Glamorgan local authorities, a regional audit of ALN provision is being carried out, to identify opportunities for regional solutions and sharing of best practice. Across all five authorities, the number of ALN pupils is significantly lower than in English medium. The audit will consider the reasons for this and seek parental and school views. The audit will be completed by March 2018.
- It is anticipated that further schemes to develop provision in Welsh medium will be developed under the ALN Development Plan, and brought forward for Cabinet consideration.

Financial Implications

In the case of the revenue costs, the delegated school budget, and any growth in that budget provided as part of future Council budgets, will need to provide the funding required.

In relation to capital costs, the existing allocations for School Suitability Works, as approved in the Council's Capital Programme for the five year period commencing 2017/18, will need to provide the funding required for works to buildings and other asset expenditure. However, this particular allocation is also used for non-ALN expenditure and, therefore, the scope for this allocation to meet all of the costs arising is potentially limited.

Should the current levels of funding be insufficient to fund the costs of all schemes, and additional funding not be provided as part of future Council budgets, it will be necessary for a re-prioritisation of schemes to be undertaken to ensure that only schemes that are affordable are delivered.

HR Implications

Each individual proposal will broadly be about supporting schools with growth, which will include workforce planning and training. Trade union consultation will be required as part of that process.

Equality Impact Assessment

An initial Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out. The assessment concluded that this proposal would not adversely affect a particular group in society. The assessment will be reviewed following consultation.

Learner travel arrangements

Under these proposals there are no plans to change the Council's policy on the transport of children to and from schools. Any pupils affected by this proposal would be offered the same support with transport as is provided throughout Cardiff and in accordance with the same criteria that apply across Cardiff. The Council's transport policy can be viewed on the Council's website (www.cardiff.gov.uk).

There is a statutory legal obligation on the Council to provide free home to school transport to primary school pupils who live 2 miles or more from the nearest suitable school, as measured by the shortest available walking route.

When deciding which is the nearest suitable school, the local authority must consider any disability a child has and any special educational needs (SEN).

CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

Consultation on improving specialist provision for children and young people with additional learning needs 2018-19

Your views matter, please tell us what you think about the proposal by:

- Completing and returning the accompanying questionnaire to the address given at the bottom of the form.
- Completing the on line response form www.cardiff.gov.uk/21stcenturyschools
- Or if you prefer you can e-mail your views to: schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk

Please note that all comments sent in writing or by e-mail must contain the full name and full postal address of the person making the comments.

The closing date for responses to this consultation is 13 March 2018. Unfortunately no responses received after this date can be considered by the Council.

Consultation responses will **not** be counted as objections to the proposals. Objections could only be registered following publication of a **statutory notice**.

Any responses received can be requested under the Freedom of Information Act and may have to be made public, however any information that would identify an individual such as name and address would be removed.

Please see consultation response form below/over.

1. Which of the following are you responding as?

- Parent
- Teacher – Please specify your school.....
- School Governor - Please specify your school.....
- Other – Please specify.....

2. Do you have a child/children enrolled at the following schools (tick all that apply):

- Allensbank Primary School
- Greenhill School
- The Hollies Special School
- Meadowbank Special School
- St. Mary the Virgin Church in Wales Primary School
- Ty Gwyn Special School
- Ysgol Glantaf
- Ysgol Pwll Coch
- Other please specify.....

3. What year are they in? (tick all that apply)

- | | | |
|-----|-----|-----------|
| • 1 | • 5 | • 9 |
| • 2 | • 6 | • 10 |
| • 3 | • 7 | • 11 |
| • 4 | • 8 | • Post 11 |

4. Overall are you supportive of the plans put forward to improve the provision for Children and Young People with additional learning needs?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

5. Do you support the plan proposed for each of the school sites? (full details of the proposals can be viewed here)

School and proposal in brief	Yes	No	Don't know
Allensbank Primary School - Proposal to phase out the specialist resource base designated for pupils with specific language impairments and open an 8 place early intervention class (1 st cohort Sept 2019)			
Greenhill School - Currently age 11-16, proposal to extend age range to 19 to better aid transition into employment, college or training			
The Hollies Special School - increase in pupil number to 138. Move to a split site approach utilising the vacated Glan Morfa Site and introducing an option for pupils to remain at Hollies age 11-14			
Meadowbank Special School - Proposal to change the designation of the school from specific language difficulties to include complex learning disabilities			
St. Mary the Virgin Church in Wales Primary School - No specialist provision at present. Proposal to open a resource base for up to 20 pupils. (as part of a future new building)			
Ty Gwyn Special School – Proposal to increase the number of places to 198 by installation of 3 new classrooms including the redevelopment of Trelai youth centre.			
Ysgol Glantaf – The school hosts a specialist resource base. Proposal to increase the number of places to 30.			
Ysgol Pwll Coch - No specialist provision at present. Proposal to open a resource base (10 places initially with possibility of growing to 20) pupils in a Welsh medium setting.			

6a. Do you have any specific concerns regarding the proposals?

Yes

No

6b. If yes please provide details and indicate which of the proposals you are referring to:

- Allensbank Primary School
- Greenhill School
- The Hollies Special School
- Meadowbank Special School
- St. Mary the Virgin Church in Wales Primary School
- Ty Gwyn Special School
- Ysgol Glantaf
- Ysgol Pwll Coch
- General

6c. Is there anything that could be done to help alleviate this concern?

7. Any further comments

If you would like to be contacted by a member of the ALN team to discuss this issue in more detail please provide contact details.

Name

Tel.

Email

Please return this form to the School Organisation Planning Team, Room 422, County Hall, CF10 4UW by 13 March 2018

Thank you for your comments

Please tick the box below if you wish to be notified of publication of the consultation report