

Projections and Forecasts

Projection methodology for existing and new schools

Cardiff employs a robust projection methodology for planning school places which takes account of NHS GP registration data and school census data (PLASC) submitted by and verified by all Cardiff schools. As projections can only take account of historic and current information the Council also identifies trends within projections, and analyses school preference data and other contextual information to produce forecasts on a city wide basis and in each locality.

Data analysis allows projections to be prepared based on localised patterns at primary school catchment area level, by secondary school catchment area and on a city-wide basis. Each of these provide differing contextual information to inform the forecasting on the number of places that may be needed to meet the requirements of each area and of Cardiff as a whole. Specialist provision is considered on a city-wide basis.

Forecast methodology for specialist provision

The determination of future Additional Learning Needs (ALN) provision requirements based on historical trends adds additional complexity to population projections. Data analysis must additionally take into account:

- Cohort size: ALN numbers being a small fraction of the total population would have an associated smaller numerical error but a significantly greater percentage error
- Need identification: The identification and categorisation of primary need has been a developing process such that it is challenging to establish a pattern of requirement against a common frame of reference for each need type.
- ALN placement: Pupils with significant additional learning needs can be placed in a wide variety of settings both in and out of county, and in both LA and independent facilities. The Pupil Level Annual School Census which forms the basis of pupil population projections in Cardiff therefore does not clearly capture the full range of ALN needs.
- Effects of covid-19: Historical patterns do not capture the increase in needs that is likely to have been caused by measures to mitigate the effects of the covid-19 pandemic.
- LDP: The population data capture in 2019 (PLASC) would not be able to capture future build rates of housing building on the strategic sites and hence patterns of occupancy
- Children and young people may not need specialist provision throughout their school career- some pupils succeed in mainstream for several years before they need to transfer to a specialist setting; others may make sufficient progress in a specialist setting to be able to return to a local mainstream school. The age at which pupils may need to access specialist provision therefore varies and cannot be precisely predicted.
- As a capital city, hosting the Children's Hospital for Wales and a range of special schools, Cardiff experiences a high number of new arrivals each year who require to go directly into a special school. In 2019-20 the number of new arrivals with this level of need was 18: in special school terms, this was the equivalent of 2-3 new classes that needed to be provided.

Emotional Health & Wellbeing (EHW)

As limited historical data is available, EHW projections have therefore been predicated on an extensive data capture exercise undertaken in 2019 to identify the need type and number of Cardiff resident pupils, and evaluated as a percentage of the verified PLASC 2019 dataset. Demand has then been projected based on an estimated annual growth of ALN pupils of 0.05% of the whole pupil population, from the baseline established in 2019.

It has been estimated that EHW pupils make up around 40% of pupils with complex ALN in Cardiff which corresponds to a projected growth of 0.02% per annum. In order to mitigate the risk of under provision and to allow for flexibility in the system, a further 10% uplift has been applied.

Existing EHW Primary Phase Provision

Table 1 sets out EHW primary provision currently available in Cardiff.

Establishment	Primary EHW Capacity 2021/22
The Court	42
Fitzalan WBC	8
Fairwater WBC	8
Springwood WBC	8
Lakeside WBC	16
Pen y Groes WBC	8
Total capacity	90

Projected EHW Primary Phase Demand

Table 2 below sets out EHW Primary projected future demand based on historical patterns of need growth

Primary places	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Projected demand	107	110	112	116	119
Projected demand (+10%)	118	121	123	128	131
Place Deficit	28	31	33	38	41

The ALN Provision Deficit in Primary- Emotional Health and Wellbeing Needs

In 2021/22 Cardiff maintains 90 primary special school and Wellbeing Class places for children with EHW needs.

Taking account of children out of county, and in mainstream awaiting specialist placement, the demand for places is estimated to be circa 107 in 2021/22, rising to 119 by 2025/26. With a 10% tolerance to allow flexibility, sufficient capacity would be to provide 118 places in 2021/22, and 131 places by 2025/26.

In summary, there is an estimated provision deficit of 28 places in 2021/22, rising to 41 places in 2025/26. The Council's Cabinet has authorised officers to consult on proposals to expand The Court Special School, which would reduce the projected deficit in 2025/26 by 30 places.

This projection does not take account of a possible further increase in needs as an outcome of 'lockdown' measures during the COVID 19 pandemic. It is likely that further additional provision, focussed on early intervention in Wellbeing Classes, will be needed over the next few years to address this issue.

Existing EHW Secondary and Post-16 Provision

Table 3 sets out the Secondary phase EHW provision currently available in categorised by Key Stage.

Establishment	KS3	KS4	Post-16
Greenhill	32	24	8
Carnegie	-	28	-
Bryn y Deryn	-	48	-
ACT special	-	40	-
Total provision	32	140	8

Projected EHW Secondary Phase Demand

Table 4 sets out the EHW Secondary projected future demand based on historical patterns of need growth

Secondary EHW Places	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Projected KS3 demand	122	125	127	129	129
Projected KS3 demand (+10%)	134	138	140	142	142
KS3 Deficit	102	106	108	110	110
Projected KS4 demand	200	210	217	218	219
Projected KS4 demand (+10%)	220	231	239	240	241
KS4 Deficit	80	91	99	100	101
Projected Post-16 demand	25	27	28	31	32
Projected Post-16 demand (+10%)	27	29	31	34	36
Post-16 Deficit	19	21	23	26	28
Total Deficit	201	218	230	236	239

The ALN Provision Deficit in Secondary- KS3/4 Emotional Health and Wellbeing Needs

In 2021/22 there are a total of 172 KS3/4 specialist EHW places in Cardiff maintained schools (including EOTAS commissioned places).

Taking account of pupils out of county, and in mainstream awaiting specialist placement, the total demand for places is estimated to be circa 322 in 2021/22, projected to rise to 348 by 2025/26.

With a 10% tolerance to allow flexibility, sufficient capacity would be to provide 354 places in 2021/22, and 383 places by 2025/26. In summary, there is an estimated provision deficit of 182 places in 2021/22, rising to 211 by 2025/26.

Post 16 Emotional Health and Wellbeing Needs

Until 2018, Cardiff did not maintain any post-16 places for EHW, although pupils funded in the independent sector often remain to Y14. Eight Post-16 places were established at Greenhill following formal consultation in 2018. The number of pupils enrolled has already risen to 15 in 2021-22.

It is difficult to accurately predict demand for this age group, due to the lack of demand patterns to base projections on, but it is known that the majority of special school pupils are not able to sustain a successful transition to an FEI or employment at age 16. The table below is based on the known provision deficit, i.e those pupils who are post 16 in Independent settings.

Ideally, secondary special school provision should include post-16 provision with capacity for the majority of KS4 pupils to stay on until they are 18 or 19 i.e. a special school for 56 KS3/4 learners should include 24 post-16 places.

Complex Learning Needs

In 202/22 Cardiff maintains 445 primary special school and SRB places for children with Complex Learning/ Autism Spectrum Condition. Projects previously agreed by Cabinet, to extend and rebuild Riverbank Special School and to establish an SRB at Ysgol Pwll Coch, will increase the total to 524 places by 2025.

Existing CLN/ASC Primary Phase Provision

Table 5 sets out Primary CLN/ASC provision currently available in Cardiff

Establishment	Current Primary CLN/ASC Capacity
Ty Gwyn	75
Riverbank	70 (112*)
Meadowbank	40
Hollies	90
Bryn Hafod	20
Llanedeyrn	20
Llanishen Fach	20
Marlborough	20
Springwood	20
Pwll Coch	10 (20*)
Pentrebane	20
Allensbank SLCN	8
Total places	413 (465)

* Provision expansion previously agreed by Welsh Government / Cabinet but not yet implemented

Projected CLN/ASC Primary Phase Demand

Future demand projections are based on the 2019 ALN data captured and normalised against the verified PLASC 2019 survey.

Table 6 sets out projected demand for Primary CLN provision

Primary places	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Projected demand	510	515	522	536	547
Projected Demand (+10%)	561	567	574	590	602

The ALN Provision Deficit in Primary- Complex Learning/ Autism

Taking account of children out of county, and in mainstream awaiting specialist placement, the true demand for places is estimated to be circa 510 in 2021/22, rising to 547 by 2025/26. With a 10% tolerance to allow flexibility, sufficient places would be to provide 561 places in 2021/22, and 602 places by 2025/26.

The Welsh Government has approved a proposal to expand Riverbank Special School, and expand the SRB at Ysgol Pwll Coch which would reduce the projected deficit in 2025/26 by a total of 52 places (42 places and 10 places respectively). In summary, there is an estimated provision deficit of 148 places in 2021/22. If there were no further growth beyond current plans in relation to Riverbank and Pwll Coch, a provision deficit of circa 137 places will remain in 2025/26.

The Council's Cabinet has authorised officers to consult on proposals to establish a Specialist Resource Base at Moorland Primary School, which would reduce the projected deficit in 2025/26 by a further 20 places.

NB The projections have been calculated to take account of a falling birth rate in Cardiff over the last 3 years. However, to date, the Inclusion Service has not seen a fall in the incidence of complex needs in the 0-3 age group, referred to Education by Health. 35 extra primary places p.a. were needed in 2020 and 2021. If growth continues at this rate, 140 extra places will be needed over next 4 years.

Existing Complex Learning Needs /Autism Spectrum Condition Secondary Phase Provision

Table 7 sets out Secondary Complex Learning Needs /Autism Spectrum Condition provision currently available in Cardiff and projected future demand.

Secondary places	Secondary Phase CLN/ASC capacity (2021/22)
Ty Gwyn	123
Woodlands	140 (240*)
WHS Learning Base	70
Marion Centre ASC	42
Cathays ASC	16
Cantonian ASC	20
Llanishen ASC	20

Glantaf	30
2020 capacity	461 (561)

* Provision expansion agreed by Welsh Government but not yet implemented

Projected Secondary Phase Complex Learning Needs /Autism Spectrum Condition Demand

Table 8 sets out Secondary CLN/ASC projected future demand.

Secondary places	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Projected demand	580	600	617	623	629
Projected demand (+10%)	638	660	679	685	692

The ALN Provision Deficit in Secondary- Complex Learning Needs /Autism Spectrum Condition

In 2021/22 there are a total of 461 secondary specialist places in Cardiff maintained schools.

Taking account of pupils out of county, the true demand for places is estimated to be circa 580 in 2021/22, rising to 629 by 2025/26. With a 10% tolerance to allow flexibility, sufficient places would be to provide 638 places in 2021/22 and 692 places by 2025/26.

In summary, there is an estimated provision deficit of 177 places in 2021/22, reducing to 131 by 2025/6.

The Welsh Government has approved a proposal to expand Woodlands High School, which would reduce the projected deficit in 2025/26 by 100.

There will be a significant challenge managing the provision deficit in the interim period ahead of the completion of the new Woodlands High School.

As with primary, the projections may underestimate the actual rate of growth. In 2020 and 2021, approximately 35-40 additional places per annum have been needed. If growth continues at this rate, 140 extra places will be needed over next 4 years.