

SCHOOL ORGANISATION PROPOSALS: PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN) - COMPLEX LEARNING NEEDS AND AUTISM SPECTRUM CONDITION PROVISION FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY AGED PUPILS

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members with the opportunity to carry out pre-decision scrutiny of proposals, attached at **Appendix A**, prior to its consideration by Cabinet at its meeting on the 10 March 2022.
2. The purpose of the Cabinet report is to inform Cabinet of the responses received following public consultation on proposals to extend and realign special school and Specialist Resource Bases (SRBs) for pupils across Cardiff with Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Conditions.
3. The proposals considered in this report relate to maintained community provision. The responses received following public consultation on proposed changes to additional learning needs provision at The Marion Centre at The Bishop of Llandaff High School and to the Specialist Resource Base at Whitchurch High School will be considered by the relevant Governing Body.

Background

4. At its meeting on 15 July 2021 the Cabinet authorised officers to consult on proposals for the establishment of Specialist Resource Base provision at Moorland Primary School for learners with complex learning needs from September 2022.

5. At its meeting on 14 October 2021 the Cabinet authorised officers to consult on proposals to:
- establish a 30 place Specialist Resource Base for learners with complex learning needs at Willows High School from September 2023;
 - increase the designated number at the Llanishen High School Specialist Resource Base for learners with Autism Spectrum Condition from 20 to 45 places from September 2022;
 - establish a 30 place Specialist Resource Base at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf alongside the existing 30 place Specialist Resource Base for learners with Autism Spectrum Condition from September 2023;
 - increase the designated number of Ty Gwyn Special School from 198 to 240 from September 2022;
 - increase the designated number of Meadowbank Special School from 40 to 98 from September 2022;
 - increase the designated number of The Hollies Special School from 90 to 119 from September 2022;
 - further increase the designated number of The Hollies Special School from 119 to 150 from September 2023;
 - increase the designated number at the Specialist Resource Base at Llanishen Fach Primary School for learners with complex learning needs from 20 to 30 places from September 2023;
 - increase the designated number at the Specialist Resource Base at Marlborough Primary School for learners with severe and complex learning needs from 20 to 30 from September 2022;
 - increase the designated number at the Specialist Resource Base at Pentrebane Primary School for learners with Autism Spectrum Condition from 20 to 24 spaces from September 2022;
 - increase the designated number at the Specialist Resource Base at Springwood Primary School for learners with Autism Spectrum Condition from 20 to 28 from September 2022.

6. The Cabinet noted the proposal to increase the designated number at The Marion Centre Specialist Resource Base, at The Bishop of Llandaff Church in Wales High School, from 42 to 66 places from September 2022 and instructed officers to provide all reasonable assistance to the Governing Body of the school who would be consulting on the proposal.
7. The Cabinet also noted that the proposal to increase the designated number at Whitchurch High School Specialist Resource Base from 70 to 100 from September 2022 and instructed officers to provide all reasonable assistance to the Governing Body of the school who would be consulting on the proposal.
8. This Scrutiny Committee considered the above proposals on the 13th July 2021 and 13th October 2021, and extracts from the Chair's letters arising from this issue, and corresponding responses from Councillor Merry is attached at **Appendix B**.

Structure of Papers

9. The following issues are highlighted in the Cabinet report, as at **Appendix A**:
 - **Responses received to the consultation on the proposed establishment of Specialist Resource Base provision at Moorland Primary School** (*points 16 - 24 in the Cabinet report, plus Appendices 6-8*)
 - Views Expressed (*points 25 - 26 in the Cabinet report*)
 - Moorland Primary School Pupil representation (*points 27 - 29 in the Cabinet report*)
 - Response to views expressed (*points 30 - 39 in the Cabinet report, plus Appendix 7*)
 - **Responses received to the consultation on the proposed expansion of Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Specialist Resource Base provision for learners aged 11-19** (*points 40 - 49 in the Cabinet report, plus Appendices 6 - 8*)

- Willows High School, including pupil representation and response to views *(points 50 – 64 in the Cabinet report, plus Appendix 7)*
- Llanishen High School, including pupil representation and response to views *(points 65 - 77 in the Cabinet report, plus Appendix 7)*
- Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf, including pupil representation and response to views *(points 78 - 94 in the Cabinet report, plus Appendix 7)*
- **Responses received to the consultation on the expansion of Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition provision for learners in primary and all-through (age 3-19) provision** *(points 95 - 103 in the Cabinet report, plus Appendices 6 - 7)*
- Ty Gwyn Special School, including pupil representation and response to views *(points 104 - 115 in the Cabinet report, plus Appendix 7)*
- Meadowbank Special School, including pupil representation and response to views *(points 116 - 132 in the Cabinet report, plus Appendix 7)*
- The Hollies Special School including pupil representation and response to views *(points 133 – 146 in the Cabinet report, plus Appendix 7)*
- Llanishen Fach Primary School, including pupil representation and response to views *(points 147 - 158 in the Cabinet report, plus Appendix 7)*
- Marlborough Primary School, including pupil representation and response to views *(points 159 - 163 in the Cabinet report, plus Appendix 7)*
- Pentreban Primary School, including pupil representation and response to views *(points 164 – 173 in the Cabinet report, plus Appendix 7)*
- Springwood Primary School, including pupil representation and response to views *(points 174 - 179 in the Cabinet report, plus Appendix 7)*

- **Formal responses received during the consultation regarding Additional Learning Needs Provision** (*points 180 - 194 in the Cabinet report, plus Appendix 7*)
- Health provision (*points 195 - 196 in the Cabinet report*)
- Admissions arrangements (*point 197 in the Cabinet report*)
- Learner Traveller Arrangements (*points 198 - 201 in the Cabinet report*)
- Community Impact (*point 202 in the Cabinet report*)
- Local Member Consultation (*point 203 in the Cabinet report*)
- Scrutiny Consultation (*point 204 in the Cabinet report*)

10. The draft Cabinet report also provides details on the following areas:

- Financial Implications (*points 206 - 211 in the Cabinet report*)
- Legal Implications (*points 212 - 229 in the Cabinet report*)
- HR Implications (*points 230 - 238 in the Cabinet report*)
- Property Implications (*point 239 in the Cabinet report*)
- Traffic and Transport Implications (*points 240 - 253 in the Cabinet report*)
- Impact of the proposals on the Welsh Language (*points 254 - 266 in the Cabinet report*)
- Wellbeing of Future Generations (*points 267 – 269 in the Cabinet report*)
- EIA (*points 270 - 271 in the Cabinet report; plus Appendix 9*)

11. The report is supported by a number of appendices covering:

Appendix 1 – Consultation Documents

Appendix 2 – Summary Documents

Appendix 3 – Notes of meetings with Governing Bodies and School Staff

Appendix 4 – Notes of pupil engagement meetings

Appendix 5 – Notes of public meetings

Appendix 6 – Formal responses received

Appendix 7 – Summary of responses received and appraisal of views

Appendix 8 – Summary analysis of consultation responses

Appendix 9 – Equality Impact Assessment

Issues highlighted in the report to Cabinet

Consultation & Methodology

12. The consultation period for proposals to establish a Specialist Resource Base at Moorland Primary School ran from 11 October 2021 until 17 January 2022.
13. The consultation period for proposals to expand Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Specialist Resource Base provision for learners aged 11-19 ran from 14 December 2021 until 01 February 2022.
14. The consultation period for proposals to expand Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition provision for learners in primary and all-through (age 3-19) provision also ran from 14 December 2021 until 01 February 2022.
15. The consultation process for all proposals involved:
 - Publication of bilingual consultation documents outlining background, rationale and implications to parents, staff and governors of affected schools, Headteachers and Chairs of Governors city-wide, elected Members, local residents and other stakeholders (a copy of the consultation documents can be seen at Appendix 1);
 - publication of bilingual summary documents setting out the main points of the consultation documents (a copy of the summary documents can be seen at Appendix 2);
 - publication of information in community languages upon request;
 - Consultation meetings via Microsoft Teams with governors and staff at Moorland Primary School, Willows High School, Llanishen High School, Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf, Ty Gwyn Special School, Meadowbank Special School, The Hollies Special School, Llanishen Fach Primary School, Pentrebanne Primary School and Springwood Primary School (notes from the meetings can be seen at Appendix 3);

- consultation meetings via Microsoft Teams/in person with pupil representatives at Moorland Primary School, Willows High School, Llanishen High School, Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf, Meadowbank Special School, Llanishen Fach Primary School and Springwood Primary School (notes from these meetings can be seen at Appendix 4);
- The Hollies Special School facilitated consultation with their pupils and provided details of the views gathered (details can be seen at Appendix 4);
- the pupil consultations that took place in person were conducted in line with the relevant Health and Safety guidance;
- Public consultation meetings via Microsoft Teams at which the proposals were explained and questions answered (notes from the meetings can be seen at Appendix 5);
- drop-in sessions were offered via Microsoft Teams where officers were available to answer questions (there were no requests for drop-in sessions);
- letters setting out details of the proposals and where further information could be found were sent to local residents and businesses in the areas surrounding the school sites subject to the proposed changes;
- a communication campaign via social media;
- a consultation response slip for return by post or e-mail, attached to the consultation documents and summary documents;
- an online response from at www.cardiff.gov.uk/ALNSchoolproposals

16. For stakeholders who did not have access to digital platforms the opportunity to discuss the proposed changes via telephone was available.

17. The views expressed at Council organised meetings, drop-in sessions, telephone calls, and on paper or electronically through the appropriate channels, have been recorded.

18. Views were sought from interested stakeholders via an online survey and a hard copy version of the survey within the consultation document.

19. The details presented in this report represent the views expressed during the consultation process. These include the wider stakeholder survey, formal responses, e-mail responses, views expressed at public meetings, drop-in sessions, telephone calls and pupil consultation meetings.

20. The views expressed in the wider stakeholder surveys reflect those raised in the e-mail responses received.

Results

21. An overview of responses is set out below.

Issue	Total number of responses	Extract Summary of Responses
Specialist Resource Base provision at Moorland Primary School	38 3 formal responses	Of the 35 online responses received 74.3% supported the proposal to establish a Specialist Resource Base provision at Moorland Primary School.
Proposed expansion of Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition Specialist Resource Base provision for learners aged 11-19	114 4 formal responses	Of the 101 respondents to the online survey who answered the question, 96% supported the proposed changes.
Willows HS	86	Of the 84 online responses, 86.9% supported the proposal to establish a 30 place Specialist Resource Base at the school for learners with complex learning needs from September 2023
Llanishen HS	84	Of the 83 online responses, 88% supported the proposal to increase the designated number of the Specialist Resource Base at Llanishen High School for learners Autistic Spectrum Condition from 20 to 45 places from September 2022.
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf	98	Of the 97 online responses received, 92.8% supported the proposal to establish a 30-place Specialist Resource Base for learners with Autistic Spectrum Condition alongside the existing 30 place Specialist Resource Base from September 2023
Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition provision for learners in primary and all-through (age 3-19) provision	109 11 formal responses	Of the 91 respondents to the online survey who answered the question, 90.1% supported the proposed changes.

Issue	Total number of responses	Extract Summary of Responses
Ty Gwyn Special school	85	Of the 80 online responses, 88.8% supported the proposal to increase the designated number of Ty Gwyn Special School from 198 to 240 places from September 2022.
Meadowbank Special School	85	Of the 82 online responses, 90.2% supported the proposal to increase the designated number of Meadowbank Special School from 40 to 98 places from September 2022.
The Hollies Special School	80	Of the 80 online responses, 91.1% supported the proposal to increase the designated number of The Hollies Special School from 98 to 150 (with a phased expansion to 119 places from September 2022 and a further expansion to 150 places from September 2023).
Llanishen Fach Primary School	79	Of the 78 online responses, 91% supported the proposal to increase the designated number of the Llanishen Fach Primary School Specialist Resource Base from 20 to 30 places from September 2023.
Marlborough Primary School	78	Of the 77 online responses, 90.9% supported the proposal to increase the designated number of the Marlborough Primary School Specialist Resource Base from 20 to 30 places from September 2022.
Pentrebane Primary School	77	Of the 77 online responses, 89.6% supported the proposal to increase the designated number of the of the Pentrebane Primary School Specialist Resource Base from 20 to 24 places from September 2022.
Springwood Primary School	77	Of the 76 online responses, 90.8% supported the proposal to increase the capacity of the Springwood Primary School Specialist Resource Base from 20 to 28 places from September 2022

Views Expressed

22. Further details of responses in relation to support and concerns for individual projects is set out in Appendix A and Appendix 7. This includes pupil views.

Recommendations set out in the Cabinet Proposals

23. The Cabinet is recommended to

- authorise officers to proceed on proceed to publish proposals in accordance with section 48 of The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 on proposals to:
 - establish a 20 place Specialist Resource Base for primary aged children with Complex Learning Needs at Moorland Primary School from September 2023
 - establish a 30 place Specialist Resource Base for learners with complex learning needs at Willows High School from September 2023
 - increase the designated number at the Llanishen High School Specialist Resource Base for learners with Autism Spectrum Condition from 20 to 45 places from September 2022
 - establish a 30 place Specialist Resource Base at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf alongside the existing 30 place Specialist Resource Base for learners with Autism Spectrum Condition from September 2023
 - increase the designated number of Ty Gwyn Special School from 198 to 240 from September 2022
 - increase the designated number of Meadowbank Special School from 40 to 98 from September 2022
 - increase the designated number of The Hollies Special School from 90 to 119 from September 2022; further increase the designated number of The Hollies Special School from 119 to 150 from September 2023
 - increase the designated number at the Specialist Resource Base at Llanishen Fach Primary School for learners with complex learning needs from 20 to 30 places from September 2023
 - increase the designated number at the Specialist Resource Base at Marlborough Primary School for learners with severe and complex learning needs from 20 to 30 from September 2022

- increase the designated number at the Specialist Resource Base at Pentrebane Primary School for learners with Autism Spectrum Condition from 20 to 24 spaces from September 2022
- increase the designated number at the Specialist Resource Base at Springwood Primary School for learners with Autism Spectrum Condition from 20 to 28 from September 2022
- Note that prior to implementation of the proposals a further report will be provided to Cabinet providing details of any objections received, the proposed responses to those objections and recommendations for implementation or otherwise of the proposals.

Scope of Scrutiny

24. The scope of this scrutiny is for Members to consider and provide comments on the draft report to Cabinet, prior to its consideration of the report on the 10 March 2021.

Way Forward

25. Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education Employment, Skills), Melanie Godfrey (Director of Education and Lifelong learning), Richard Portas (Programme Director for the School Organisation Programme), Jennie Hughes (Senior Achievement Leader Inclusion), and Brett Andrewartha (SOP Programme Planning Manager) will present the report to the Committee and be available to answer any questions Members may have.

26. This report will also enable Members to provide any comments, concerns or recommendations to the Cabinet Member prior to its consideration by Cabinet.

Legal Implications

27. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in

this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

28. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to:

1. Review and assess the information contained in the draft Cabinet Report, attached at **Appendix A**, together with any information provided at the meeting;
2. Provide any recommendations, comments or advice to the Cabinet Member and / or Director of Education and Lifelong Learning prior to the report's consideration by Cabinet.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance and Legal Services

3 March 2022