

Equality Impact Assessment
Corporate Assessment Template

Policy/Strategy/Project/Procedure/Service/Function Title: School Organisation Planning: Provision for children and young people with Additional Learning Needs (ALN)
New/Existing/Updating/Amending: Post statutory notice

Who is responsible for developing and implementing the Policy/Strategy/Project/Procedure/Service/Function?	
Name: Richard Portas	Job Title: Programme Director
Service Team: Schools Programme	Service Area: Education
Assessment Date: August 2022	

1. What are the objectives of the Policy/Strategy/Project/ Procedure/ Service/Function?

<p>1. To inform the Cabinet of any objections received to the published statutory notices to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the designated number of Meadowbank Special School from 40 to 98 from September 2022. • Increase the designated number of the Specialist Resource Base for children with severe and complex learning needs at Marlborough Primary School from 20 to 30 places from September 2022. • Increase the designated number of the Specialist Resource Base for children with Autism Spectrum Condition at Springwood Primary School from 20 to 28 places from September 2022. <p>2. To enable the Cabinet to consider the proposal by the Governing Body of the Bishop of Llandaff Church in Wales (CiW) High School to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the designated number at The Marion Centre Specialist Resource Base from 42 to 66 places from September 2022.

2. Please provide background information on the Policy/Strategy/Project/Procedure/Service/Function and any research done [e.g. service users data against demographic statistics, similar EIAs done etc.]

At its meeting on 10 March 2022 the Cabinet in accordance with the terms of the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act, approved a

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recommendation for the publication of statutory notices relating to Meadowbank Special School, Marlborough Primary School and Springwood Primary School as set out in section 1.

The statutory notices were published on 08 June 2022 for a period of 28 days to allow for objections. The statutory notice period expired on 05 July 2022.

The notices were published on the Council's website, and hard copies were posted at the relevant school sites.

Copies of the notices were distributed via e-mail to organisations and consultees required under the School Organisation Code 2018.

Residents and businesses in the areas local to each school were notified of publication of the statutory notices by letter.

There were no objections to the proposed changes.

At its meeting on 14 June 2022, The Bishop of Llandaff CiW High School Governing Body agreed the publication of a statutory notice as set out in Section 1.

The statutory notice was published on 30 June 2022 for a period of 28 days to allow for objections. The statutory notice period expired on 27 July 2022. A copy of the notice can be seen at Appendix 6.

The notice was published on The Bishop of Llandaff CiW High School website, on the Council's website, and hard copies were posted at the relevant school sites.

Copies of the notice were distributed via e-mail to organisations and consultees required under the School Organisation Code 2018.

Residents and businesses in the local areas to each school were notified of publication of the statutory notices by letter.

The Governing Body received one objection by the statutory notice closing date.

An objection report setting out details of the objection and the Governing Body's response was published by The Bishop of Llandaff CiW High School Governing Body on 23 August 2022. A copy of the Objection Report can be seen at Appendix 7.

3 Assess Impact on the Protected Characteristics

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3.1 Age

Will this Policy/Strategy/Project/Procedure/Service/Function have a **differential impact [positive/negative/]** on younger/older people?

	Yes	No	N/A
Up to 18 years	X		
18 - 65 years			X
Over 65 years			X

Please give details/consequences of the differential impact, and provide supporting evidence, if any.

The impact will be positive as the proposals will support the sufficiency of places in suitable specialist learning environments.

This provision is age dependent and therefore not accessible to pupils outside of this age range, or adults, either locally or in the wider community.

The Council would manage admissions to special school and specialist resource base provision in accordance with the ALN Code.

What action(s) can you take to address the differential impact?

If the proposals were to proceed, an equality impact assessment would be carried out to identify the accessibility of any new accommodation. The equality impact assessment would take into account policies such as the Equality Act 2010, TAN 12: Design 2014 as well as building regulations such as, BS8300, Part M and relevant Building Bulletins.

The Council's procedure for managing staffing changes arising from the proposal would be used in implementing any changes as a result of this proposal. This would ensure that good practice is followed, including the application of the Council's policies on equal opportunities.

3.2 Disability

Will this Policy/Strategy/Project/Procedure/Service/Function have a **differential impact [positive/negative]** on disabled people?

	Yes	No	N/A
Hearing Impairment			
Physical Impairment			
Visual Impairment			
Learning Disability	X		
Long-Standing Illness or Health Condition			

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Mental Health			
Substance Misuse			
Other			

Please give details/consequences of the differential impact, and provide supporting evidence, if any.

The impact will be positive as the proposals will support the sufficiency of places in suitable specialist learning environments.

The Council would manage admissions to special school and specialist resource base provision in accordance with the ALN Code.

What action(s) can you take to address the differential impact?

If the proposals were to proceed, an equality impact assessment would be carried out to identify the accessibility of any new accommodation new school building. The equality impact assessment would take into account policies such as the Equality Act 2010, TAN 12: Design 2014 as well as building regulations such as, BS8300, Part M and relevant Building Bulletins.

The Council's procedure for managing staffing changes arising from the proposal would be used in implementing any changes as a result of this proposal. This would ensure that good practice is followed, including the application of the Council's policies on equal opportunities.

3.3 Gender Reassignment

Will this Policy/Strategy/Project/Procedure/Service/Function have a **differential impact [positive/negative]** on transgender people?

	Yes	No	N/A
Transgender People (People who are proposing to undergo, are undergoing, or have undergone a process [or part of a process] to reassign their sex by changing physiological or other attributes of sex)		X	

Please give details/consequences of the differential impact, and provide supporting evidence, if any.

The proposed changes would not have a differential impact as the schools and specialist resources bases will continue to apply the Council's / School policies on equal opportunities.

The Council would manage admissions to special school and specialist resource base provision in accordance with the ALN Code.

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What action(s) can you take to address the differential impact?

The Council's procedure for managing staffing changes arising from reorganisation would be used in implementing any changes as a result of this proposal. This would ensure that good practice is followed, including the application of the Council's policies on equal opportunities.

3.4. Marriage and Civil Partnership

Will this Policy/Strategy/Project/Procedure/Service/Function have a **differential impact [positive/negative]** on marriage and civil partnership?

	Yes	No	N/A
Marriage			X
Civil Partnership			X

Please give details/consequences of the differential impact, and provide supporting evidence, if any.

The proposed changes would not have a differential impact as the schools and specialist resource bases will continue to apply the Council's / School policies on equal opportunities.

What action(s) can you take to address the differential impact?

The Council's procedure for managing staffing changes arising from reorganisation would be used in implementing any changes as a result of this proposal. This would ensure that good practice is followed, including the application of the Council's policies on equal opportunities.

3.5 Pregnancy and Maternity

Will this Policy/Strategy/Project/Procedure/Service/Function have a **differential impact [positive/negative]** on pregnancy and maternity?

	Yes	No	N/A
Pregnancy			X
Maternity			X

Please give details/consequences of the differential impact, and provide supporting evidence, if any.

The proposed changes would not have a differential impact as the schools and specialists resource bases will continue to apply the Council's / School policies on equal opportunities.

What action(s) can you take to address the differential impact?

The Council's procedure for managing staffing changes arising from

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reorganisation would be used in implementing any changes as a result of this proposal. This would ensure that good practice is followed, including the application of the Council's policies on equal opportunities.

3.6 Race

Will this Policy/Strategy/Project//Procedure/Service/Function have a **differential impact [positive/negative]** on the following groups?

	Yes	No	N/A
White			X
Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups			X
Asian / Asian British			X
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British			X
Other Ethnic Groups			X

Please give details/consequences of the differential impact, and provide supporting evidence, if any.

The proposed changes would not have a differential impact as the schools and specialist resource bases will continue to apply the Council's / School policies on equal opportunities.

The Council would manage admissions to special school and specialist resource base provision in accordance with the ALN Code.

What action(s) can you take to address the differential impact?

The Council's procedure for managing staffing changes arising from reorganisation would be used in implementing any changes as a result of this proposal. This would ensure that good practice is followed, including the application of the Council's policies on equal opportunities.

3.7 Religion, Belief or Non-Belief

Will this Policy/Strategy/Project/Procedure/Service/Function have a **differential impact [positive/negative]** on people with different religions, beliefs or non-beliefs?

	Yes	No	N/A
Buddhist			X
Christian			X
Hindu			X
Humanist			X
Jewish			X
Muslim			X
Sikh			X

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Other			X
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Please give details/consequences of the differential impact, and provide supporting evidence, if any.

The proposed changes would not have a differential impact as the schools and specialist resource bases will continue to apply the Council's / School policies on equal opportunities.

The Council would manage admissions to special school and specialist resource base provision in accordance with the ALN Code.

What action(s) can you take to address the differential impact?

The senior staff in a school would be best placed to manage diversity in terms of belief. (e.g. provision of a space for prayer).

3.8 Sex

Will this Policy/Strategy/Project/Procedure/Service/Function have a **differential impact [positive/negative]** on men and/or women?

	Yes	No	N/A
Men		X	
Women		X	

Please give details/consequences of the differential impact, and provide supporting evidence, if any.

The proposed changes would not have a differential impact as the schools and special resources bases will continue to apply the Council's / School policies on equal opportunities.

The Council would manage admissions to special school and specialist resource base provision in accordance with the ALN Code.

What action(s) can you take to address the differential impact?

Maintained school provision admits pupils of both sexes and this would continue to be the case.

The Council's procedure for managing staffing changes arising from reorganisation would be used in implementing any changes as a result of this proposal. This would ensure that good practice is followed, including the application of the Council's policies on equal opportunities.

3.9 Sexual Orientation

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Will this Policy/Strategy/Project/Procedure/Service/Function have a **differential impact [positive/negative]** on the following groups?

	Yes	No	N/A
Bisexual		X	
Gay Men		X	
Gay Women/Lesbians		X	
Heterosexual/Straight		X	

Please give details/consequences of the differential impact, and provide supporting evidence, if any.

The proposed changes would not have a differential impact as the schools and special resource bases will continue to apply the Council's / School policies on equal opportunities.

The Council would manage admissions to special school and specialist resource base provision in accordance with the ALN Code.

What action(s) can you take to address the differential impact?

Evidence collated by the Stonewall lobby group alleges that Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual people are likely to be discriminated against in workplace recruitment.

The Council's procedure for managing staffing changes arising from reorganisation would be used in implementing any changes as a result of this proposal. This would ensure that good practice is followed, including the application of the Council's policies on equal opportunities.

3.10 Socio-economic Duty

Will this Policy/Strategy/Project/Procedure/Service/Function have a **differential impact [positive/negative]** on the Socio-economic Duty?

	Yes	No	N/A

Please give details/consequences of the differential impact, and provide supporting evidence, if any.

The proposed changes are expected to have a positive impact on the Socio-economic Duty. The Council's has made a clear commitment to continuing the investment in, and improvement of, Cardiff schools to make sure every child has the best possible start in life (www.cardiffcommitment.co.uk).

The delivery of additional ALN places will ensure that there are appropriate, high quality school places for young people, which meet the needs of Cardiff's

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growing and changing population.

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.

The Council does not expect the proposal to have any negative impact on the quality of standards of education for pupils, at these schools.

Some of the funding that a school receives is based on the number of pupils in the school who receive Free School Meals. All schools in Cardiff would receive funding for these pupils. There is no information available that suggests that the proposals would have a negative effect on pupils who receive Free School Meals.

What action(s) can you take to address the differential impact?

N/A

3.11 Welsh Language

Will this Policy/ Strategy/Project/Procedure/Service/Function have a **differential impact (positive/negative)** on the Welsh Language?

	Yes	No	N/A

Please give details/ consequences of the differential impact, and provide supporting evidence, if any.

The Council is committed to developing a Bilingual Cardiff.

Cardiff's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2022-2031 sets out a series of ambitious commitments to build on the progress achieved to date. These will ensure that every child in the city can receive an education in the language of Welsh, the number receiving their education in Welsh-medium schools will increase, and through the significant use of Welsh in English medium education all will have the opportunity to become confident in speaking Welsh.

The level of special educational needs/ additional learning needs in the Welsh-medium sector has historically been lower than in the English medium sector. This has however been changing over the last 4-5 years, with schools reporting an increased incidence of additional learning needs, in all areas of need.

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A review of additional learning needs in the Welsh-medium sector was undertaken with Welsh medium schools in 2016 to inform the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP). Schools reported a small but significant number of examples of pupils with additional learning needs leaving the Welsh-medium sector in order to access Specialist Resource Bases or special schools.

There was also some anecdotal evidence to suggest that some families who would otherwise choose Welsh-medium education opt instead for English medium if their child has additional learning needs, through concern that their child may need to transfer to the specialist sector at a later date.

Through the WESP, Cardiff has invested in specialist provision in the sector, including some capacity to respond to growing demand and to generate more confidence in the availability of specialist provision in the sector.

A new primary base was established at Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch, within the catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf, where the secondary base is established. The two bases cater for learners with severe learning difficulties, providing a specialist curriculum and supporting a range of secondary needs including physical and medical needs, speech and language difficulties and autism.

As the Welsh sector continues to grow it will be important to develop additional provision in anticipation of the need, to ensure Welsh-medium education is a genuine choice for learners with complex additional learning needs.

Following engagement sessions with members of Cardiff's Welsh Education Forum in summer 2021, the Council formally consulted on its draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2022-2032 between 15 October 2021 and 13 December 2021.

Links to the plan (including the full draft WESP, the easy read summary version and the Trajectory for Growth) and survey webpage were circulated to statutory stakeholders including Cardiff schools and Cardiff's Welsh Education Forum member organisations.

The draft WESP sets out the strategy for the development of Welsh-medium additional learning needs provision and proposals would be brought forward as part of the implementation of the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan following agreement of the strategy by the Welsh Government and formal adoption by the Council later in 2022.

The Cabinet approved Cardiff's WESP 2022-2031 at its meeting of 24 February 2022, for submission to the Welsh Government Ministers.

The ongoing development of additional learning needs provision including new

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and existing provision will be kept under review to ensure proposals are brought forward in a strategic and holistic way that takes into account the needs of all of our learners and reflects the additionality required to ensure parity in the Welsh-medium sector as new places are delivered throughout the proposed WESP.

What action(s) can you take to address the differential impact?

Demand for WM ALN places will be kept under review and proposals brought forward in line with the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan

4. Consultation and Engagement

What arrangements have been made to consult/engage with the various Equalities Groups?

The Council's Accessibility Officer would be given the opportunity to comment on the schemes.

5. Summary of Actions [Listed in the Sections above]

Groups	Actions
Age	See Generic Over Arching below
Disability	
Gender Reassignment	
Marriage & Civil Partnership	
Pregnancy & Maternity	
Race	
Religion/Belief	
Sex	
Sexual Orientation	
Socio-economic Duty	
Welsh Language	
Generic Over-Arching [applicable to all the above groups]	<p>If the proposals were to proceed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • compliance with the Council's policies on equal opportunities would need to be ensured. • an equality impact assessment would be carried out to identify the accessibility of any new school building. The equality impact assessment would take into account policies such as the Equality Act 2010, TAN 12: Design 2014 as well as building regulations such as, BS8300, Part M and relevant

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	<p>Building Bulletins.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demand for WM ALN places will be kept under review and proposals brought forward in line with the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan
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6. Further Action

Any recommendations for action that you plan to take as a result of this Equality Impact Assessment (listed in Summary of Actions) should be included as part of your Service Area's Business Plan to be monitored on a regular basis.

7. Authorisation

The Template should be completed by the Lead Officer of the identified Policy/Strategy/Project/Function and approved by the appropriate Manager in each Service Area.

Completed By : Ceri Tanti	Date: August 2022
Designation: School Organisation Project Officer	
Approved By:	
Designation:	
Service Area: Education	

- 7.1 On completion of this Assessment, please ensure that the Form is posted on your Directorate's Page on CIS - *Council Wide/Management Systems/Equality Impact Assessments* - so that there is a record of all assessments undertaken in the Council.

For further information or assistance, please contact the Citizen Focus Team on 029 2087 2536 / 3262 or email equalityteam@cardiff.gov.uk