**Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd | Education and Family Support**

Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line: (01656) 815258

Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Michelle Hatcher

Ein cyf / Our ref: MH/apw

Eich cyf / Your ref:

**Dyddiad / Date:** 28 February 2018

Dear Stakeholder/Respondent

On Tuesday 27 February 2018, following the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, Bridgend County Borough Council’s Cabinet determined the proposal to open a Learning Resource Centre (LRC) for 12 pupils with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd.

The Cabinet considered the proposal and the outcome of the statutory notice period in accordance with the School Organisation Code 2013. The Cabinet decided to approve the proposal and as a result the LRC at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd will open from 1 March 2018.

It was noted that no objections were received during the public notice period.

In determining the proposal, Cabinet was satisfied that the proposal will:

* ensure that pupils who have ASD will be educated through the medium of Welsh at the Welsh-medium secondary school in Bridgend;
* allow for continuity of education and provison for these pupils;
* have no negative impact on any minority group; and
* have no negative impact on the community.

The reason for the decision in respect of the factors outlined in the School Organisation Code are as follows:

**Quality and standards of education**

It is Estyn’s opinion that the proposal to establish a LRC at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd is likely to improve the standard of educational provision for those pupils with ASD who wish to continue their education through the medium of Welsh.

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Estyn states that Bridgend County Borough Council has produced a clear rationale for this proposal supported by the Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP) (Bridgend 2017-2020).

Estyn acknowledges that there will only be advantages for the pupils with ASD taught through the medium of Welsh as there is currently no provision locally to meet these pupils’ needs.

Estyn comments that the alternative of the LRC at Maesteg School is not a suitable alternative as the curriculum is delivered through the medium of English and therefore does not meet the language needs of these pupils.

Estyn notes that the Council has considered the current quality of outcomes, provision and leadership and management at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd using the National Categorisation school report 2016-2017 as the source of evidence. The judgements for outcomes and provision Estyn states are in line with the most recent Estyn Inspection (March 2015), while the judgements for leadership are slightly more positive in the categorisation report.

The local authority’s response to the comment regarding leadership is that since the last Estyn Inspection of March 2015, a new headteacher and deputy headteacher have been appointed at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd.

Estyn states that the local authority accurately concludes that this proposal will not impact on the ability of the school to deliver the full curriculum at all key stage.

This decision is subject of the call-in procedures as set out in the Council’s constitution which allows decisions taken by Cabinet but yet to be implemented to be reviewed. Should a call-in decision take place, all stakeholders would be informed.

Yours sincerely



Lindsay Harvey (Mr)

Interim Corporate Director – Education and Family Support