

To the parents, carers and guardians of pupils attending Ysgol Cynwyd Sant; headteacher, staff and governing body of Ysgol Cynwyd Sant, prescribed consultees

**Uned Cymorth Cyfarwyddiaeth Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd (UCCACD)**  
**Education and Family Support Directorate – Directorate Support Unit (EDSU)**  
Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line: (01656) 643643

Ein cyf / Our ref: Ysgol Cynwyd Sant  
Eich cyf / Your ref: Ysgol Cynwyd Sant

**Dyddiad / Date:** 21 October 2022

Dear consultee

**Proposal to open provision for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) establishing a learning resource centre (LRC) for pupils with moderate learning difficulties (MLD) at Ysgol Cynwyd Sant.**

In line with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018 (the Code), a consultation exercise with prescribed consultees and other interested parties was undertaken from 6 January 2022 and 17 February 2022. The aim of the consultation was to inform consultees about the above proposal and solicit views.

On 14 June 2022, the outcome of the consultation was reported to Cabinet and a Consultation Report was subsequently published on the Council's website. The report provided an overview of feedback received during the consultation period and outlined the local authority's response to the issues raised.

Also on 14 June 2022, having considered the outcome of the consultation process, Cabinet gave approval to publish a statutory notice in respect of the proposal. The statutory notice was published on 30 June 2022 for 28 days and consultees were advised of its availability.

The Code provides that anyone wishing to make objections to a school organisation proposal could do so. To be considered as statutory objections, objections must be made in writing or by email and sent to the proposer before the end of 28 days, beginning with the day on which the notice was published ("the objection period"). The statutory notice closed on 27 July 2022. No objections were received in respect of the proposal.

On 18 October 2022, the outcome of the statutory notice was reported to Cabinet who determined to approve the proposal as published.

Hard copies and alternative formats of the cabinet report are available on request from:

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The proposal will result in a LRC for pupils with MLD opening at Ysgol Cynwyd Sant. The LRC would be for a maximum of 15 pupils. The LRC would be an integrated part of the mainstream school, providing an appropriate environment in which pupils can develop and thrive within their peer group and have normal access to mainstream curriculum, where appropriate. The LRC would provide specialist learning facilities within the school and provide expertise and advice to all staff. The proposal will come into effect in autumn term 2022.

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

- provide an LRC at Ysgol Cynwyd Sant for a maximum of 15 pupils with MLD to open in autumn term 2022;
- ensure a graduated intake in autumn term 2022 and the admissions for the LRC would be decided upon through an admissions' panel;
- support an integrated part of the mainstream school, providing an appropriate environment in which pupils can develop and thrive within their peer group and have normal access to mainstream curriculum, where appropriate; and
- provide specialist learning facilities within the school and provide expertise and advice to all staff.

The reasons for the decision in respect of the factors outlined in the Code are as follows:

### **Quality and standards in education**

Estyn states, 'Based on most recent intelligence, Estyn has no reservations about BCBC establishing a new Welsh-medium learning resource class provision for learners with MLD at Ysgol Cynwyd Sant. Estyn considers that the proposal is likely to, at least, maintain the standard of education provision in the area.'

Estyn inspected Ysgol Cynwyd Sant in 2016 and judged overall that the school's current performance was good and prospects for improvement were excellent. In our 2016 report we noted that nearly all teachers make effective use of a variety of rich teaching methods which ensured that most pupils achieved well and developed their independent learning skills successfully. The quality of teaching was effective across the school, with teachers having a sound understanding of the next steps for improving pupils' skills successfully.

## **Need for places and the impact in accessibility of schools**

Local authorities across the United Kingdom are experiencing a rise in the demand for services for children and young people with additional learning needs (ALN) and the cost to support this is often exceeding budget. Anecdotal evidence from many local authorities suggests that not only are these needs becoming more numerous by volume, but also in their complexity.

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has taken a proactive approach to this by commissioning an additional learning needs strategic planning provision review in 2020.

An Additional Learning Needs Strategic Planning Provision Review Board has been established. One of the areas which has been identified for additional provision is at Key Stage 2 for children with MLD who attend Welsh-medium provision. There is an identified need to open an LRC for children with MLD who attend Welsh-medium.

The projected level of enrolment has no expected level of significant fluctuation that would impact the proposal.

Building works are planned for on an unused building at Ysgol Cynwyd Sant, this would afford the accommodation required for the MLD LRC. This is being funded through the Schools Maintenance capital grant.

Pupils will be provided with free school transport in accordance with BCBC's current Home-to-School/College Transport Policy. Free school transport is currently provided in the county borough for walking distances greater than 1.5 miles by available walking routes for nursery-aged pupils and for walking distances greater than 2 miles by available walking routes for primary pupils. Transport would be provided as in line with transport policy for pupils who attend an LRC.

The local authority is committed to taking forward plans to strategically grow the Welsh language and with effective strategic planning and significant investment, aims to significantly contribute to achieving Welsh Government's 'Cymraeg 2050' vision of one million Welsh speakers across Wales.

The local authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) can be viewed via the following links:

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/cy/fy-nghyngor/cydraddoldeb-ac-ymgysylltu/y-gymraeg/>

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/my-council/equalities-and-engagement/welsh-language>

## **Resourcing of education and other financial implications**

There is no impact upon other schools as this will provide additional resource for pupils with ALN through the medium of Welsh.

As the proposed school would continue to provide education through the medium of Welsh, Welsh would continue to be taught, as presently, through the curriculum. There are many aspects to Ysgol Cynwyd Sant which helps create a positive attitude and increases the ability of learners in using the language. Using the Welsh language across key stages offers learners

the opportunity to become fully bilingual and aligns with the Curriculum for Wales – 2022. It is therefore considered unlikely that this proposal would have a significant impact on the Welsh language provision currently experienced by learners of the school.

The funding for the LRC would be allocated through the mainstream school's delegated budget, via the school's funding formula allocation, and using a combination of a class allocation and the age-weighted pupil unit (AWPU) element.

### **Other general factors**

An Equality Impact Assessment was carried out as part of the consultation stage. The assessment concluded that the proposal is unlikely to impact disproportionately on any protected group. The impact on age is positive, there will be growth for pupils with MLD to access support. Also, the impact on disability is positive, there will be growth for pupils with MLD through the medium of Welsh.

A Community Impact Assessment was carried out as part of the consultation stage and was published as part of the consultation document. It is not considered likely that the proposal will impact disproportionately on any protected characteristics. There will be additional staff required for the MLD LRC, as with the other MLD LRCs a specialist teacher will be employed

A Welsh Impact Assessment was carried out. It concluded that there would be no significant impact on the Welsh language provision currently experienced by learners at the school. It is important to recognise that the increase in places for a MLD LRC at Ysgol Cynwyd Sant is to ensure that those children who have MLD can continue their education through the medium of Welsh. Consequently, negative effects on Welsh-medium education in the area is not anticipated.

Yours sincerely



**Lindsay Iorwerth Harvey (Mr)**  
**Corporate Director – Education and Family Support**  
**Bridgend County Borough Council**