



## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **CABINET**

**9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019**

#### **REVIEW OF LEARNING SUPPORT CLASS PROVISION WITHIN RHONDDA CYNON TAF**

#### **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND INCLUSION IN DISCUSSION WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR THE EDUCATION (COUNCILLOR MRS J ROSSER)**

**Author:** Ceri Jones – Head of Inclusion Services

#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the outcome of the publication of the Statutory Notices in respect of the proposal to realign Learning Support Class (LSC) provision within Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT).

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Consider the information contained within the report and the Objection Report in Appendix A, which includes details of objections received during the Statutory Notice period, and the comments given in response to the objections.
- 2.2 Agree to implement the proposals as published in the Statutory Notices which will:
- 2.2.1 Open Key Stage 3/4 LSC provision for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties in Treorchy Comprehensive School with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019.
  - 2.2.2 Open Key Stage 3/4 LSC provision for pupils with Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties in Ysgol Nant Gwyn with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019.
  - 2.2.3 Relocate the Foundation Phase LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties from Caradog Primary School to Cwmbach Primary School, creating a cross phase provision from Foundation Phase to Key Stage 2 with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019.

- 2.2.4 Relocate the Foundation Phase LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties from Penrhys Primary School to Maerdy Primary School, creating a cross phase provision from Foundation Phase to Key Stage 2 with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019.
- 2.2.5 Re-designate 1 Foundation Phase LSC for Complex Learning Difficulties in Darran Park Primary School and 1 Foundation Phase Observation and Assessment Class at Llantrisant Primary School to become 2 Early Years Assessment and Intervention LSCs for pupils under statutory school age with significant presenting needs with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019.
- 2.2.6 Close the Foundation Phase LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties in Heol y Celyn Primary School with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019 noting no pupils would be affected by this proposal.
- 2.2.7 Close the Foundation Phase LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties in Penrhys Primary School with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019 noting no pupils would be affected by this proposal.
- 2.2.8 Close the Key Stage 2 LSC for pupils with Social, Emotional, and Behavioural Difficulties in Penywaun Primary School with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019 noting no pupils would be affected by this proposal.
- 2.2.9 Close the Foundation Phase LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties in Pontygwaith Primary School with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019 noting no pupils would be affected by this proposal.
- 2.2.10 Close the Key Stage 2 LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties in Heol y Celyn Primary School with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019 noting two pupils would be affected by this proposal.
- 2.2.11 Agree to an amendment of the proposal in relation to the closure of the Key Stage 2 LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties in Caradog Primary School. It is proposed the LSC will now close on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 and not the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019. This will ensure that no pupils would be affected by this proposal. No further pupils will be placed in the provision.
- 2.3 Subject to 2.1 and 2.2 above agree to the publication of the relevant Decision Notices in respect of any proposals taken forward as required by the School Organisation Code.

### **3. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To progress the proposal in accordance with the process outlined in the Welsh Government legislative guidance (The School Organisation Code) so that an improved continuum of SEN provision can be achieved in RCT.

## **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Members will recall that, at the meeting of Cabinet held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019, approval was given to issue Statutory Notices in relation to the realignment of mainstream Learning Support Class Provision within RCT.
- 4.2 The LSC proposals seek to address key issues that have been identified:
- significant surplus capacity in some primary provisions;
  - insufficient provision in the secondary sector;
  - the absence of cross phase specialist provision on some school sites means that some learners experience unnecessary transitions;
  - some LSCs would benefit from relocation to fully accessible schools that have benefited from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century School Modernisation and investment;
  - ensuring there is sufficient provision to meet the needs of learners in the early years.

The realignment ensures these issues are addressed particularly that of surplus places currently available in LSC provision, ensuring resources are better utilised and re-directed to enhance existing provision to better meet needs of RCT pupils and to address identified gaps in provision.

## **5. STATUTORY NOTICES**

- 5.1 Statutory Notices were issued on the 13<sup>th</sup> February until 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019 relating to the following proposals:-
- 5.1.1 Open Key Stage 3/4 LSC provision for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties in Treorchy Comprehensive School with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019.
- 5.1.2 Open Key Stage 3/4 LSC provision for pupils with Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties in Ysgol Nant Gwyn with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019.
- 5.1.3 Relocate the Foundation Phase LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties from Caradog Primary School to Cwmbach Primary School, creating a cross phase provision from Foundation Phase to Key Stage 2 with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019.
- 5.1.4 Relocate the Foundation Phase LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties from Penrhys Primary School to Maerdy Primary School, creating a cross phase provision from Foundation Phase to Key Stage 2 with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019.
- 5.1.5 Re-designate 1 Foundation Phase LSC for Complex Learning Difficulties in Darran Park Primary School and 1 Foundation Phase Observation and Assessment Class at Llantrisant Primary School to become 2 Early Years Assessment and Intervention LSCs for pupils under statutory

school age with significant presenting needs with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019.

- 5.1.6 Close the Foundation Phase LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties in Heol y Celyn Primary School with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019.
  - 5.1.7 Close the Foundation Phase LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties in Penrhys Primary School with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019.
  - 5.1.8 Close the Key Stage 2 LSC for pupils with Social, Emotional, and Behavioural Difficulties in Penywaun Primary School with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019.
  - 5.1.9 Close the Foundation Phase LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties in Pontygwaith Primary School with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019.
  - 5.1.10 Close the Key Stage 2 LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties in Heol y Celyn Primary School with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019.
  - 5.1.11 Close the Key Stage 2 LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties in Caradog Primary School with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019.
- 5.2 In respect of the proposals outlined in paragraph 5.1.6 - 5.1.9 no pupils would be affected by the proposals and in respect of the proposal at paragraph 5.1.10 two pupils would be affected. Parents will be consulted regarding educational provision. These two pupils will be offered either a bespoke package of support to remain within mainstream provision at Heol y Celyn Primary School or placement in the LSC at Gwaunmeisgyn Primary School. In respect of 5.1.4 as agreed by Cabinet on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019, the one remaining pupil currently accessing the Foundation Phase LSC at Penrhys Primary School will be offered a bespoke package of support to remain within mainstream provision in Penrhys Primary School.
- 5.3 Following completion of the Statutory Notice period an objection report has been produced which includes officer observations and comments in respect of the objections received. This report is attached as Appendix A to the report.

## **6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 As detailed in previous reports, Welsh Language and Community Impact Assessments were not required for these proposals. An Equality Impact Assessment was published on the Council's website together with the consultation document at the appropriate time.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 If the proposal to realign LSC provision within RCT is authorised to proceed, resources will be re-directed to address the identified gaps in existing provision. In closing some provisions redundancy costs may arise. However, the Council seeks to minimise these costs by redeploying displaced members of staff wherever possible. It is therefore not possible at this point in the process to identify any possible redundancy costs.
- 7.2 The enhanced provision in key settings will be central to supporting the needs of some learners on dual placements who may require more enhanced support to meet their needs when in mainstream and support to manage very challenging behaviour within LSC provision for learners with severe SEBD.
- 7.3 The funding will also be used to develop outreach opportunities from our special schools so as to enhance the capacity of mainstream and LSCs to effectively meet the additional learning needs of learners in the early years.

## **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 Section 316A of the Education Act 1996 specifies that children with SEN should normally be educated in mainstream schools so long as this is compatible with them receiving the special educational provision that their learning difficulty calls for; the efficient education of other children, and the efficient use of resources.
- 8.2 Section 315 of the Education Act 1996 also requires the LA to ensure that SEN provision is kept under review. Sections 1:20 and 1:21 of the SEN Code of Practice for Wales (2002) also requires LAs to evaluate the effectiveness of school funding arrangements in supporting and raising the achievement of children with SEN.

## **9. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT**

- 9.1 The proposals will ensure that two of the Council's three key priorities will be met. These include:
- Economy: Building a strong economy
  - People: Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone.
- 9.2 The proposals will ensure that some of the Council's most vulnerable pupils will have the best chance of achieving positive outcomes. The redirection of valuable resources from SEN settings which have surplus places will enhance opportunities for providing successful inclusion in local community schools. The proposals will ensure more efficient and effective use of Council resources which promotes the development of social inclusion and positive outcomes for learners. This will also have a beneficial impact on transport costs and on carbon emissions.

- 9.3 Organising services so that they are focussed on early intervention and prevention is a key statutory requirement of the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act and a key element of the Council's Corporate Plan. These proposals will ensure there is renewed capacity for early intervention and prevention thus minimising the need for statutory processes and intervention.

## **10. CONCLUSION**

- 10.1 Following consideration of the objections received during the Statutory Notices period an amendment to one of the original proposals is suggested. Due to the number of pupils that potentially would be accessing Key Stage 2 (KS2) LSC provision it is proposed to continue with the relocation of the Foundation Phase LSC to Cwmbach Primary School with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019, but not to close the KS2 provision in Caradog Primary School at this time. This would provide continuity in learning for eight KS2 learners in this school who have already experienced a number of school changes, as they progress through the last phase of their primary education.
- 10.2 Members are now asked to consider the contents of the Objection Report, at Appendix A to the report, and agree to its immediate publication and consider whether or not to implement the proposed changes to LSC provision within RCT with the exception of the closure and relocation of the KS2 provision at Caradog Primary School which is proposed to remain open until August 2023. This would allow existing year 2 learners to transfer to the KS2 provision in Caradog Primary School should they wish to, as transition will have already commenced in this setting. The residual four learners in Caradog Primary Foundation Phase LSC provision will be provided the opportunity to either remain in the mainstream provision of Caradog Primary School or transition to the newly established Foundation Phase LSC in Cwmbach Primary School. All learners live closer to Cwmbach Primary School and all will continue to be eligible for home to school transport.
- 10.3 If the proposals are agreed as outlined in the report, the Council must publish a Decision Notice that formally outlines the reasons for the implementation of these proposals.

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OBJECTION REPORT**

**PROPOSAL: THE REALIGNMENT OF MAINSTREAM LEARNING SUPPORT CLASS (LSC)  
PROVISION WITHIN RHONDDA CYNON TAF**

**1. Purpose of the Objection Report**

This report is prepared in accordance with the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code, statutory document 011/2018. Its purpose is to:

- Inform the outcome of the publication of the twelve statutory notices published for these proposals, which were published on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019 for a period of 28 days;
- Include a summary of the statutory objections received and the local authority's response to them.

**2. The Statutory Notices**

The twelve Statutory Notices to progress this proposal, which were published on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019 are reproduced below:

**Notice 1 - Learning Support Class (LSC) at Caradog Primary School**

**Statutory Notice**

**Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council**

Notice is given in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Rhondda Cynon Taf, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to discontinue the SEN provisions at Caradog Primary School, Clifton Street, Aberdare, CF44 7PB, so that there are no Learning Support Classes for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties at the school. The school is currently maintained by Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Rhondda Cynon Taf undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposer's responses and the views of Estyn is available on [www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations](http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations)

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019.

The current number of pupils at the school is 193, the pupil capacity of the school is 194 and the proposed capacity once the proposal is implemented will be 194.

Should local children require a Complex Learning Difficulties Class the nearest is at Cwmbach Primary School. Alternatively, a supported mainstream placement could be explored if this was in accordance with the child's needs and parental wishes.

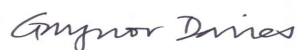
Pupils will be provided with transport in accordance with the Council's Learner Transport Policy.

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Access and Inclusion Service, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ.

Rhondda Cynon Taf will publish a summary of any such objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with their observations thereon, within the period of 28 days after the end of the objection period.

Signed



Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Date – 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019

### **Explanatory Note**

1. Improving the quality of education and raising standards is one of the Council's main priorities. It is considered that improving standards and educational outcomes for some of our most vulnerable learners will improve their life chances, access to the world of work and other education pathways. Ensuring that our support classes are well matched to the needs of learners is important in helping them to make progress.
2. Whilst the quality of LSC classes in Rhondda Cynon Taf is good, there is a need to modernise and develop the type of LSC classes to increase opportunities for mainstream inclusion and to further improve results for vulnerable groups of learners.
3. Caradog Primary School currently has 2 LSC's designated to support 8-10 Foundation Phase pupils and 10 Key Stage 2 pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties.
4. Cwmbach Primary School will host a cross provision for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties.
5. For those pupils affected by this proposal suitable arrangements will be put in place in consultation with all involved to ensure appropriate provision is made.

### **Notice 2 - LSC at Cwmbach Primary School**

#### **Statutory Notice**

#### **Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council**

Notice is given in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Rhondda Cynon Taf, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to establish SEN provision at Cwmbach Primary School, Llangorse Road, Cwmbach, Aberdare CF44 0HS by providing 8 places for Foundation Phase (aged 3 – 7) pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties. The school is currently maintained by Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Rhondda Cynon Taf undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposer's responses and the views of Estyn is available on [www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations](http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations)

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019.

The current number of pupils at the school is 255, the pupil capacity of the school is 272 and the proposed capacity once the proposal is implemented will be 272.



Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Access and Inclusion Service, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ.

Rhondda Cynon Taf will publish a summary of any such objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with their observations thereon, within the period of 28 days after the end of the objection period.

Signed



Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Date – 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019

### **Explanatory Note**

1. Improving the quality of education and raising standards is one of the Council's main priorities. It is considered that improving standards and educational outcomes for some of our most vulnerable learners will improve their life chances, access to the world of work and other education pathways. Ensuring that our support classes are well matched to the needs of learners is important in helping them to make progress.
2. Whilst the quality of LSC classes in Rhondda Cynon Taf is good, there is a need to modernise and develop the type of LSC classes to increase opportunities for mainstream inclusion and to further improve results for vulnerable groups of learners.
3. This will provide a cross phase provision on an accessible single school site.

### **Notice 3 - LSC at Darran Park Primary School**

#### **Statutory Notice**

#### **Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council**

Notice is given in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Rhondda Cynon Taf, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to establish SEN provision at Darran Park, Brook Street Ferndale CF43 4LE by providing 8 Early Years Assessment and Intervention places for pupils (aged 3-5) with Special Educational Needs. The school is currently maintained by Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Rhondda Cynon Taf undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposers responses and the views of Estyn is available on [www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations](http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations)

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019.

The current number of pupils at the school is 313, the pupil capacity of the school is 359 and the proposed capacity once the proposal is implemented will be 359.

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Access and Inclusion Service, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ.

Rhondda Cynon Taf will publish a summary of any such objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with their observations thereon, within the period of 28 days after the end of the objection period.

Signed



Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Date – 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019

### **Explanatory Note**

1. Improving the quality of education and raising standards is one of the Council's main priorities. It is considered that improving standards and educational outcomes for some of our most vulnerable learners will improve their life chances, access to the world of work and other education pathways. Ensuring that our support classes are well matched to the needs of learners is important in helping them to make progress.
2. Whilst the quality of LSC classes in Rhondda Cynon Taf is good, there is a need to modernise and develop the type of LSC classes to increase opportunities for mainstream inclusion and to further improve results for vulnerable groups of learners.
3. The proposal to enhance current Early Years LSC provision will enable children of non-statutory school age to receive early assessment and intervention within a mainstream LSC context and timely access to specialist support to inform reintegration placements or more long term specialist placements.

### **Notice 4 - LSC at Heol Y Celyn Primary School**

#### **Statutory Notice**

#### **Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council**

Notice is given in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Rhondda Cynon Taf, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to discontinue the SEN provisions at Heol y Celyn Primary School, Holly Street, Rhydyfelin, Pontypridd, CF37 5DB, so that there are no Learning Support Classes for pupils with Complex Learning Needs at the school. The school is currently maintained by Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Rhondda Cynon Taf undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposers' responses and the views of Estyn is available on [www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations](http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations)

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019.

The current number of pupils at the school is 320, the pupil capacity of the school is 388 and the proposed capacity once the proposal is implemented will be 388.

Should local children require a Complex Learning Difficulties Class the nearest is at Gwaunmeisgyn Primary School. Alternatively, a supported mainstream placement could be explored if this was in accordance with the child's needs and parental wishes.

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Access and Inclusion Service, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ.

Rhondda Cynon Taf will publish a summary of any such objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with their observations thereon, within the period of 28 days after the end of the objection period.

Signed



Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Date – 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019

### **Explanatory Note**

1. Improving the quality of education and raising standards is one of the Council's main priorities. It is considered that improving standards and educational outcomes for some of our most vulnerable learners will improve their life chances, access to the world of work and other education pathways. Ensuring that our support classes are well matched to the needs of learners is important in helping them to make progress.
2. Whilst the quality of LSC classes in Rhondda Cynon Taf is good, there is a need to modernise and develop the type of LSC classes to increase opportunities for mainstream inclusion and to further improve results for vulnerable groups of learners.
3. Heol y Celyn Primary currently has a Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 Learning Support Class for Complex Learning Difficulties.
4. There are currently no pupils attending the Foundation Phase LSC provision.
5. Two pupils are potentially affected by the KS2 proposals. For those pupils affected by this proposal suitable arrangements will be put in place in consultation with all involved to ensure appropriate provision is made.

### **Notice 5 - LSC at Llantrisant Primary School**

#### **Statutory Notice**

#### **Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council**

Notice is given in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Rhondda Cynon Taf, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to establish SEN provision at Llantrisant Primary School, Coed Yr Esgob, Llantrisant, CF72 8EL

by providing 8 Early Years Assessment and Intervention places for pupils (aged 3-5) with Special Educational Needs. The school is currently maintained by Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Rhondda Cynon Taf undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposers responses and the views of Estyn is available on [www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations](http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations)

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019.

The current number of pupils at the school is 96, the pupil capacity of the school is 155 and the proposed capacity once the proposal is implemented will be 155.

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Access and Inclusion Service, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ.

Rhondda Cynon Taf will publish a summary of any such objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with their observations thereon, within the period of 28 days after the end of the objection period.

Signed



Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Date – 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019

### **Explanatory Note**

1. Improving the quality of education and raising standards is one of the Council's main priorities. It is considered that improving standards and educational outcomes for some of our most vulnerable learners will improve their life chances, access to the world of work and other education pathways. Ensuring that our support classes are well matched to the needs of learners is important in helping them to make progress.
2. Whilst the quality of LSC classes in Rhondda Cynon Taf is good, there is a need to modernise and develop the type of LSC classes to increase opportunities for mainstream inclusion and to further improve results for vulnerable groups of learners.
3. The proposal to enhance current Early Years LSC provision will enable children of non-statutory school age to receive early assessment and intervention within a mainstream LSC context and timely access to specialist support to inform reintegration placements or more long term specialist placements.

### **Notice 6 - LSC at Maerdy Community Primary School**

#### **Statutory Notice**

#### **Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council**

Notice is given in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Rhondda Cynon Taf, having consulted such persons as required,

proposes to establish SEN provision at Maerdy Primary School, Graigwen, Maerdy, CF43 4TW, by providing 8 places for Foundation Phase (aged 3 - 7) pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties. The school is currently maintained by Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Rhondda Cynon Taf undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposers responses and the views of Estyn is available on [www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations](http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations)

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019.


The current number of pupils at the school is 237, the pupil capacity of the school is 260 and the proposed capacity once the proposal is implemented will be 260.

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Access and Inclusion Service, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ.

Rhondda Cynon Taf will publish a summary of any such objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with their observations thereon, within the period of 28 days after the end of the objection period.

Signed



Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Date – 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019

### **Explanatory Note**

1. Improving the quality of education and raising standards is one of the Council's main priorities. It is considered that improving standards and educational outcomes for some of our most vulnerable learners will improve their life chances, access to the world of work and other education pathways. Ensuring that our support classes are well matched to the needs of learners is important in helping them to make progress.
2. Whilst the quality of LSC classes in Rhondda Cynon Taf is good, there is a need to modernise and develop the type of LSC classes to increase opportunities for mainstream inclusion and to further improve results for vulnerable groups of learners.
3. This will provide a cross phase provision on an accessible single school site

### **Notice 7- LSC at Penrhys Primary School**

#### **Statutory Notice**

#### **Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council**

Notice is given in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Rhondda Cynon Taf, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to discontinue the Foundation Phase SEN provisions at Penrhys Primary School, Penrhys,

Tylorstown, Ferndale, CF43 3PL, so that there remain two Learning Support Classes for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties at the School. The school is currently maintained by Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Rhondda Cynon Taf undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposers responses and the views of Estyn is available on [www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations](http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations)

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019.

The current number of pupils at the school is 94, the pupil capacity of the school is 130 and the proposed capacity once the proposal is implemented will be 130.

Should local children require a Foundation Phase Complex Learning Difficulties Class the nearest is at Maerdy Community Primary School. Alternatively, a supported mainstream placement could be explored if this was in accordance with the child's needs and parental wishes.

Pupils will be provided with transport in accordance with the Council's Learner Transport Policy.

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Access and Inclusion Service, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ.

Rhondda Cynon Taf will publish a summary of any such objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with their observations thereon, within the period of 28 days after the end of the objection period.

Signed



Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Date – 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019

### **Explanatory Note**

1. Improving the quality of education and raising standards is one of the Council's main priorities. It is considered that improving standards and educational outcomes for some of our most vulnerable learners will improve their life chances, access to the world of work and other education pathways. Ensuring that our support classes are well matched to the needs of learners is important in helping them to make progress.
2. Whilst the quality of LSC classes in Rhondda Cynon Taf is good, there is a need to modernise and develop the type of LSC classes to increase opportunities for mainstream inclusion and to further improve results for vulnerable groups of learners.
3. Penrhys Primary currently has a 2 Foundation Phase and 2 Key Stage 2 Learning Support Classes for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties.
4. There is currently 1 pupil attending the 2 Foundation Phase LSC's provision.
5. For those pupils affected by this proposal suitable arrangements will be put in place in consultation with all involved to ensure appropriate provision is made.

## Notice 8 - LSC at Penywaun Primary School

### Statutory Notice

#### Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Notice is given in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Rhondda Cynon Taf, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to discontinue the SEN provision at Penywaun Primary School, Coed Glas, Penywaun, Aberdare, CF44 9DR, so that there are no Learner Support Classes for pupils with Social, Emotional Behavioural Difficulties at the school. The school is currently maintained by Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Rhondda Cynon Taf undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposers responses and the views of Estyn is available on [www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations](http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations)

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019.

The current number of pupils at the school is 169, the pupil capacity of the school is 253 and the proposed capacity once the proposal is implemented will be 253.

Should local children require a Complex Learning Difficulties Class the nearest is at Glenboi Primary School. Alternatively, a supported mainstream placement could be explored if this was in accordance with the child's needs and parental wishes.

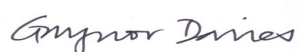
Pupils will be provided with transport in accordance with the Council's Learner Transport Policy.

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Access and Inclusion Service, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ.

Rhondda Cynon Taf will publish a summary of any such objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with their observations thereon, within the period of 28 days after the end of the objection period.

Signed



Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Date – 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019

#### Explanatory Note

1. Improving the quality of education and raising standards is one of the Council's main priorities. It is considered that improving standards and educational outcomes for some of our most vulnerable learners will improve their life chances, access to the world of work and other education pathways. Ensuring that our support classes are well matched to the needs of learners is important in helping them to make progress.

2. Whilst the quality of LSC classes in Rhondda Cynon Taf is good, there is a need to modernise and develop the type of LSC classes to increase opportunities for mainstream inclusion and to further improve results for vulnerable groups of learners.
3. Penywaun Primary currently has a Key Stage 2 Learning Support Class for Social, Emotional Behavioural Difficulties.
4. The class for pupils with SEBD has not been operational since 2017. No Learners will be affected by this proposal.
5. The Key Stage 2 Learning Support Class for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder remains unaltered.

## **Notice 9 - LSC at Pontygwaith Primary School**

### **Statutory Notice**

#### **Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council**

Notice is given in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Rhondda Cynon Taf, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to discontinue the SEN provision at Pontygwaith Primary School, Graig Street, Pontygwaith, Ferndale, CF43 3LY, so that there are no Learning Support Classes for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties at the school. The school is currently maintained by Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Rhondda Cynon Taf undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposers responses and the views of Estyn is available on [www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations](http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations).

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019.

The current number of pupils at the school is 167, the pupil capacity of the school is 182 and the proposed capacity once the proposal is implemented will be 182.

Should local children require a Complex Learning Difficulties Class the nearest is at Maerdy Primary School. Alternatively, a supported mainstream placement could be explored if this was in accordance with the child's needs and parental wishes.

Pupils will be provided with transport in accordance with the Council's Learner Transport Policy.

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Access and Inclusion Service, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ.

Rhondda Cynon Taf will publish a summary of any such objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with their observations thereon, within the period of 28 days after the end of the objection period.

Signed

*Gwynor Davies*

Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Date – 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019



## **Explanatory Note**

1. Improving the quality of education and raising standards is one of the Council's main priorities. It is considered that improving standards and educational outcomes for some of our most vulnerable learners will improve their life chances, access to the world of work and other education pathways. Ensuring that our support classes are well matched to the needs of learners is important in helping them to make progress.
2. Whilst the quality of LSC classes in Rhondda Cynon Taf is good, there is a need to modernise and develop the type of LSC classes to increase opportunities for mainstream inclusion and to further improve results for vulnerable groups of learners.
3. Pontygwaith Primary School currently has a Foundation Phase Learning Support Class for Complex Learning Difficulties.
4. The class has not been operational since September 2017 due to diminishing numbers, no pupils will be affected by this proposal as there are no learners currently in the provision.

## **Notice 10 - LSC at Porth Community School**

### **Statutory Notice**

#### **Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council**

Notice is given in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Rhondda Cynon Taf, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to establish SEN provision at Porth Community School, Cemetery Road, Porth, CF39 0BS, by providing 10 places for Key Stage 2 (aged 7 - 11) pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. The school is currently maintained by Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Rhondda Cynon Taf undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposers responses and the views of Estyn is available on [www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations](http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations)

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019.

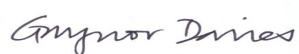
The current number of pupils at the school is 901, the pupil capacity of the school is 1129 and the proposed capacity once the proposal is implemented will be 1129.

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Access and Inclusion Service, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ.

Rhondda Cynon Taf will publish a summary of any such objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with their observations thereon, within the period of 28 days after the end of the objection period.

Signed



Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Date – 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019

## **Explanatory Note**

1. Improving the quality of education and raising standards is one of the Council's main priorities. It is considered that improving standards and educational outcomes for some of our most vulnerable learners will improve their life chances, access to the world of work and other education pathways. Ensuring that our support classes are well matched to the needs of learners is important in helping them to make progress.
2. Whilst the quality of LSC classes in Rhondda Cynon Taf is good, there is a need to modernise and develop the type of LSC classes to increase opportunities for mainstream inclusion and to further improve results for vulnerable groups of learners.
3. There is a need to expand Key Stage 2 Autistic Spectrum Disorder provision in the Local Authority. This proposal will provide a cross phase provision on an accessible single school site

## **Notice 11- LSC at Treorchy Comprehensive School**

### **Statutory Notice**

#### **Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council**

Notice is given in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Rhondda Cynon Taf, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to establish SEN provision at Treorchy Comprehensive School, Pengelli, Treorchy, CF42 6UL, by providing 14 places for Key Stage 3/4 (aged 11 – 16) pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties. The school is currently maintained by Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Rhondda Cynon Taf undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposers responses and the views of Estyn is available on [www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations](http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations)

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019.


The current number of pupils at the school is 1643, the pupil capacity of the school is 1687 and the proposed capacity once the proposal is implemented will be 1687.

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Access and Inclusion Service, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ.

Rhondda Cynon Taf will publish a summary of any such objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with their observations thereon, within the period of 28 days after the end of the objection period.

Signed



Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Date – 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019

## Explanatory Note

1. Improving the quality of education and raising standards is one of the Council's main priorities. It is considered that improving standards and educational outcomes for some of our most vulnerable learners will improve their life chances, access to the world of work and other education pathways. Ensuring that our support classes are well matched to the needs of learners is important in helping them to make progress.
2. Whilst the quality of LSC classes in Rhondda Cynon Taf is good, there is a need to modernise and develop the type of LSC classes to increase opportunities for mainstream inclusion and to further improve results for vulnerable groups of learners.
3. There is a need to expand KS 3/4 Complex Learning Difficulties provision in the Local Authority.

## Notice 12- LSC at Ysgol Nant Gwyn

### Statutory Notice

#### Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Notice is given in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Rhondda Cynon Taf, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to establish SEN provision at Ysgol Nant Gwyn, Llewellyn Street, Penygraig, CF40 1HQ, by providing 12 places for Key Stage 3/4 (aged 11 – 16) pupils with Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties at. The school is currently maintained by Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Rhondda Cynon Taf undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposers responses and the views of Estyn is available on [www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations](http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations)

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019.

The current number of pupils at the school is 997, the pupil capacity of the school is 1200 and the proposed capacity once the proposal is implemented will be 1200.

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Access and Inclusion Service, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ.

Rhondda Cynon Taf will publish a summary of any such objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with their observations thereon, within the period of 28 days after the end of the objection period.

Signed



Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Date – 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019

## Explanatory Note

1. Improving the quality of education and raising standards is one of the Council's main priorities. It is considered that improving standards and educational outcomes for some of our most vulnerable learners will improve their life chances, access to the world of work and other education pathways. Ensuring that our support classes are well matched to the needs of learners is important in helping them to make progress.
2. Whilst the quality of LSC classes in Rhondda Cynon Taf is good, there is a need to modernise and develop the type of LSC classes to increase opportunities for mainstream inclusion and to further improve results for vulnerable groups of learners.
3. There is a need to expand KS 3/4 provision for Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties and Complex Learning Difficulties in the Local Authority.

### 3 Details of Objections Received

A total of 16 objections were received by the published closing date, namely 5pm on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019. They consisted of letters and emails relating to the following notices:

| Notice | School                        | Objections | Objections received from   |
|--------|-------------------------------|------------|--|
| 1      | Caradog Primary School        | 14*        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parents of pupils currently attending Caradog Primary School (12)</li><li>• RCT National Education Union (1)</li><li>• Green Meadows Riding Centre (1)</li></ul> |
| 2      | Cwmbach Primary School        | 0          |  |
| 3      | Darran Park School            | 0          |  |
| 4      | Heol Y Celyn Primary School   | 1          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• RCT National Education Union</li></ul>   |
| 5      | Llantrisant primary School    | 0          |  |
| 6      | Maerdy Community School       | 0          |  |
| 7      | Penrhys Primary School        | 1          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• RCT National Education Union</li></ul>   |
| 8      | Penywaun Primary School       | 0          |  |
| 9      | Pontygwaith Primary School    | 0          |  |
| 10     | Porth Community School        | 0          |  |
| 11     | Treorchy Comprehensive School | 0          |  |
| 12     | Ysgol Nant Gwyn               | 0          |  |

\*It is noted that several copies of the same objection correspondence was sent to numerous councillors and senior LA officers, however they have been recorded as only one objection in line with School Organisation Code requirements.

Cabinet members will have to opportunity to read and digest all of the objections received during the Objection Period prior to the meeting of Cabinet on April 9<sup>th</sup> 2019. All objections will be conscientiously considered alongside the arguments in respect of the proposals and the factors as set out in the Code.

Additionally a petition was received on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019 consisting 1886 signatories from concerned residents of Caradog Primary School, of which 1294 were formal signatories and 592 were submitted via an on-line petition. The petition sought support to oppose the proposed relocation of the

Foundation Phase LSC at Caradog Primary to Cwmbach Primary School and the closure of the Key Stage 2 LSC at Caradog Primary School.

#### 4 The Objections and our Responses

| Issue raised   | LA Responses  |
|--|---|
| Impact upon pupils   | The change in provision has some implications for a relatively small number of pupils who currently attend LSCs. To minimise any potential negative impact upon individual pupils, parents will be provided with the opportunity to discuss whether they wish for their child to attend the nearest comparable specialist provision or to remain in their current mainstream schools with a bespoke package of support.   |
| Transition of current LSC pupils to new LSC settings   | The proposals will minimise unnecessary transition for pupils with significant needs, provide continuity in their educational placements and ensure that a higher number of specialist LSC provisions provide equity for pupils in LSCs so that they remain in one setting until transition to secondary provision in line with their mainstream peers. Robust transition plans will be put in place for any pupils directly affected by the proposals, which will be planned collaboratively with parents and staff and involve additional support from specialist members of staff from Access and Inclusion.   |
| Loss of LSC provision from within current school setting and loss of teaching staff  | The LA recognises how much the LSCs and their pupils are valued by their host school settings proposed for change and how much they have added to the inclusive ethos of the schools. However the proposals aims to enhance LSC provision within the LA as outlined in the rationale for change. It is pleasing to note the positive comments on the quality of provision. The Council has well established Human Resource policies and procedures that give reassurance to staff and employers about the management of organisational change.  |
| <p>Concerns regarding the quality and suitability of relocated LSC provision where LSC provision has currently been considered to be effective</p> <p>Suitability of class - negative aspects of Cwmbach Primary School, class size, equipment, rooms, toilets</p> | <p>The LA has no evidence to suggest that the mainstream schools to which the LSCs are proposed to relocate will not be able to provide high quality, inclusive educational and extracurricular opportunities to the pupils in the LSCs. The schools currently successfully host LSCs and the proposed relocations would merely enhance their LSC provision. The proposed mainstream schools which will host the relocated provisions have strong leadership teams whose performance will be scrutinised and challenged in accordance with established quality assurance processes within RCT and the wider Central South Consortium. Access and Inclusion also has well established Quality Assurance processes for monitoring and challenging the performance of all of its individual LSCs and this process would continue following the proposed relocations of provisions.</p> <p>Cwmbach Primary is a 21<sup>st</sup> Century School that has benefited from significant investment. It is fully compliant with the Equality Act, but any further modifications required to meet individual pupil need will be undertaken as required. The school already has LSC provision and is well equipped to meet learner's needs.</p> |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| LSCs currently hosted by smaller mainstream school settings are deemed to provide better provision | The LA has a number of LSCs that have been successfully based in large school settings over many years where high quality provision is made for pupils in the LSC. This includes small group inclusion opportunities, both educational and social, and where all of the benefits of having a LSC are equally evident, valued and effective in both large and small school environments. The size of the school has not been a key factor in determining whether a LSC for pupils with Complex Difficulties is successful or effective. There is no evidence to suggest that pupils in the LSCs find larger school settings overwhelming or that there is a detrimental impact upon the educational progress or wellbeing of the pupils. |
| Failed links to re-alignment documentation   | No concerns regarding the links were raised during the consultation period. A significant number of parents and other stakeholders were able to access and respond to the consultation process via the on-line link which suggest that links were accessible.   |
| Concerns regarding correspondence to parents   | This was investigated and it is acknowledged that the original correspondence from the LA was not distributed to all parents as requested by the LA on the 19 <sup>th</sup> October 2018. However, the Headteacher did send a subsequent letter to all parents on the 9 <sup>th</sup> November 2018 providing details of the proposed re-alignment and links to the documentation. This notification provided parents with the required 42 days consultation period as detailed in the School Organisation Code.  |
| Key Stage 2 class capacity at Cwmbach Primary School   | The LA acknowledges that there has been an unexpected increase in relation to demand for the KS2 provision. In light of this a further review of projected numbers has been undertaken.   |
| Acknowledge Cwmbach as a Modern 21 <sup>st</sup> Century School                                    | It is pleasing to note that whilst objections were submitted regarding the proposed changes, stakeholders acknowledged the excellent facilities available in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century modernised provision at Cwmbach Primary School.   |

## 5 Late Correspondence

Following the publication of the Consultation Feedback Report and prior to the publication of Statutory Notices 8 letters/emails were received raising concerns over the proposal to close the Key Stage 2 LSC in Caradog Primary School. Additionally 20 consultation proformas were also received reporting that they disagreed with the proposal. However no further areas of concerns were highlighted in these submissions other than those reported above.

## 6 Conclusion

The objections received from stakeholders has been used to inform the final report presented to Cabinet April 2019.