

Community Impact Assessment

This Community Impact Assessment is prepared in accordance with the School Organisation Code – 2018 (011/2018). It is to be read alongside the Consultation Document, the Welsh Language Impact Assessment and the Equality Impact Assessment as the information in all documents is related and the themes within them are cross-cutting.

Section 2.3 of the School Organisation Code – 2018 refers to regulated alterations to a school which includes:

- The introduction or removal of SEN/ALN provision or any change in the type of such provision. This is where the provision is in a mainstream school but the pupils who are admitted are in addition to admission number of the school. The provision **must** also be recognised by the local authority as reserved for pupils with SEN/ALN;

The proposals include:

- To relocate the Observation and Assessment LSC at Penrhiwceiber Primary School to Abercynon Community Primary School taking effect from April 2024.
- To transfer the LSC for Years 3-6 pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Abercynon Community Primary School to create a through provision in the Primary Phase at Perthcelyn Primary School taking effect from April 2024.
- To establish one Early Years Assessment and Intervention LSC for pupils under statutory school age with significant presenting needs Abercynon Primary School. The proposal will take effect from April 2024.
- To establish two Primary Phase Welsh medium LSCs at the new Welsh medium primary school in Rhydyfelin for pupils with significant ALN. The proposal will take effect from September 2024.
- To establish one LSC for pupils Years 7-11 with ASD at the new 3-16 school on the Hawthorn Primary/High School site taking effect from September 2024.

The proposals are to be consulted on between 5th June and 14th July 2023. A detailed Consultation Document has been circulated to all prescribed stakeholders and the Community Impact Assessment is an appendix of this main document. Copies will be forwarded to the Welsh Government in compliance with consultation and publication guidelines.

Proposal:

- 1. To relocate the Observation and Assessment LSC at Penrhiwceiber Primary School to Abercynon Community Primary School taking effect from April 2024.**

RCT is proposing to relocate its Observation and Assessment class from Penrhiwceiber to Abercynon. This proposal will ensure greater compliance with the Equality Act 2010 and relocation to significantly improved premises which

have benefited from 21st Century Schools Modernisation and Investment Programme. The provision will continue to accommodate 8 pupils aged 3-7 years old and placements within the LSC will be agreed in the Access and Inclusion ALN panels.

- 2. To transfer the LSC for pupils in Years 3-6 with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Abercynon Community Primary School to create a through provision at the Primary Phase at Perthcelyn Primary School taking effect from April 2024.**

The proposal to relocate the class at Abercynon to Perthcelyn will minimise unnecessary transition for pupils with ASD, 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. The provision will continue to accommodate 10 pupils and placements within the LSC will be agreed in the Access and Inclusion ALN panels.

- 3. To establish one Early Years Assessment and Intervention LSC for pupils under statutory school age with significant presenting needs at Abercynon Primary School. The proposal will take effect from April 2024.**

RCT is proposing to enhance the Early Years Assessment and Intervention provision within the County Borough by creating an additional LSC to support pre-statutory school age pupils with significant presenting needs. The class will support 8 pre-statutory school aged pupils.

- 4. To establish two Primary Phase Welsh medium LSCs at the new Welsh medium primary school in Rhydyfelin for pupils with significant ALN. The proposal will take effect from September 2024.**

The proposal is to enhance the Welsh medium Additional Learning Needs provision within the County Borough by creating LSC provision for pupils in Reception Years 6 currently at the school, therefore creating specialist Welsh medium provision for pupils with significant ALN from Reception – Year 11. The classes will support 8 pupils within reception to Year 2 and 10 pupils in Years 3-6.

- 5. To establish one LSC for pupils in academic Years 7-11 with ASD at the new 3-16 school on the Hawthorn Primary/High School site taking effect from September 2024.**

To address the current capacity issues, it is proposed RCT opens an additional LSC for pupils in Years 7-11 with ASD at the new 3-16 school on the Hawthorn Primary/High School site. This is to ensure the LA meets the demands for specialist ASD provision in its secondary phase.

Community Impact

The reasons for consideration of these proposals are fully outlined in the consultation document that will be widely distributed; this document clearly outlines the background to the proposals and why it has been necessary to bring it forward at this point in time.

The creation of the new provisions is seen as positive. The proposals will not have any significant impact on the local communities as more local pupils will be able to access specialist provision within their local community. The LSCs will make effective use of any surplus space within the school and develop a resource that will be of benefit to vulnerable pupils and their parents/carers. The proposed establishment of the LSCs will enhance the overall ability of the host schools to meet a diverse range of needs as there will be further specialist ALN expertise within the school.

Impact on Health and Wellbeing

It is anticipated that the proposals will have a significantly positive impact on the health and wellbeing of pupils with significant ALN attending Welsh medium provision as it will enhance the current inclusive model provided by the specialist Welsh medium Peripatetic Team and address the current gap in full time specialist Welsh medium ALN provision. The relocation of classes will allow pupils to access buildings that have benefited from the modernisation programme and the creation of additional Early Years and ASD provision will meet the rising demand for specialist provision in these specific areas of need in RCT.

Current 'Out of hours' Usage

Any services currently provided by the schools to parents, pupils and the communities will remain unaltered for example; breakfast and afterschool clubs.

Transport and Travel Implications

Transportation would be provided in line with the Council's Learner Travel Policy. If placed within the LSC pupils may be required to travel out of catchment.