

## DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

*Our Vision.....Carmarthenshire is a community where children are safe and nurtured and learners of all ages are supported to achieve their full educational potential*

**Consultation on the proposal to change the age range of Ysgol Betws from 4–11 to 3–11.**

## CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

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Director of Education & Children's Services

7<sup>th</sup> December 2015



**Safeguarding Children and  
Improving Education Standards for All**

**School Modernisation Section**

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**Status of Document : final**

If you require this information in large print, Braille or on audiotape please contact the Department for Education & Children 01267 246474.

## Foreword

As part of its statutory obligation to keep the number and type of school places under review, the County Council has adopted a wide-ranging programme designed to improve school buildings and enhance opportunities for learning. The strategy reflects the vision and policies established by the County Council which embraces the requirement to deliver services, to clear standards – covering both cost and quality – by the most economic and effective means. In our drive to continually improve on the services made available to all learners, we must maximise the finite resources available to the Council, and continue to work in partnership with all those who have a contribution to make to the process of learning and the well being of both children and their families. Schools of the future will need to serve as a focus for a wide range of services dedicated to serving the needs of the community through a joined up approach.

Carmarthenshire is blessed with many very able teachers but the continuing changes to the curriculum places a heavy demand on their skills to meet the wide ranging demands of all children. Although the processes of learning, and skills of teaching, are extremely important, deep subject knowledge on the part of the teacher is essential if learners with their various gifts in different areas are to discover and develop their talents to the full.

Schools designed to meet current demands are expected to provide a broad and balanced curriculum through high quality and inspirational teaching. In the planning of new provision it will be important to ensure that our schools are properly equipped to enhance opportunities for social inclusion, sustainable development, equal opportunities and bilingualism. In practical terms we need to ensure that provision reflects the changing patterns of population, with schools based in the right location with accommodation and facilities fit to serve the needs of all learners in the twenty first century.

Consultation will follow the guidelines established by the Welsh Government and will involve identified interested parties. The information set out in this document is intended to clarify the proposals for your school and support the consultation process.



**Robert A Sully**  
**Director of Education & Children's Services**

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## 1. Introduction

Carmarthenshire County Council has a legal responsibility to review the number and type of schools it has in the area and whether or not it is making the best use of the resources and facilities to deliver the opportunities that children deserve.

As part of this process the Council has published its vision on how it sees the future for all of the primary schools in the County and this includes consulting on the future shape of education in Ysgol Betws. The proposals for change included in this document are in line with that long-term objective.

This document seeks to stimulate the process of consultation by explaining the Authority's preferred option for the future provision of primary education for the pupils of Ysgol Betws. The document offers an opportunity for consultees to put forward any comments, observations or alternative proposals they wish to be considered.

Consultation on this proposal will follow the guidelines established by the Welsh Government and will involve identified interested parties.

The main purpose of this document is to provide information and to gather the views of identified interested parties. You may wish to make use of the attached response Pro-forma included in **Appendix E** on page 29 of this document or by E-mail to: [DECMEP@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:DECMEP@carmarthenshire.gov.uk) for any response.

### 1.1 The Consultation Process

The consultation process will be outlined in detail in section 6 of this consultation document. The consultation on this proposal will follow guidelines as established by the Welsh Government.

### 1.2 Who else will be consulted?

This document has been sent to the following interested parties:

Staff (Teaching and Ancillary) Ysgol Betws	Governors and Parents, Ysgol Betws
Carmarthenshire Children's Partnership Child Care/Early Years** Communities First Partnership	Community Councillors Ammanford Town Council
Local County Councillors	Welsh Language Commissioner
Assembly Member (AM) Regional Assembly Member	National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)
National Union of Teachers (NUT)	Association Of Teachers & Lecturers (ATL)
Undeb Cenedlaethol Athrawon Cymru (UCAC)	The Professional Association of Teachers (PAT)
National Association Of Head Teachers (NAHT)	GMB Union
UNISON	*Neighbouring Primary and Secondary schools in Carmarthenshire

Transport and General Workers' Union (T&G)	LA Special Educational Needs Division
Director of Education – All Neighbouring Authorities	ERW – Education through Regional Working
Local Service Board	Regional Transport Consortium
Local Police and Crime Commissioner	Welsh Ministers
Estyn	Diocesan Director of Education
Flying Start	

\*Consultation document sent to Headteacher and Chair of Governors (Ysgol Y Bedol, Ysgol Parcyrhun, Tycroes, Ysgol Bro Banw, Ysgol Gymraeg Rhydaman, Secondary Schools Ysgol Dyffryn Aman, Ysgol Maes Y Gwendraeth)

\*\* Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin and any private nursery provisions will be informed through the Child Care / Early Years provision section of the Education and Children's Services Department.

### 1.3 The Consultation Period

There will be a period from 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015 to 29<sup>th</sup> January 2016 when you can express your views.

You can express your views by writing a letter or alternatively completing the attached response form in **Appendix E** which should be received by the Department for Education and Children's Services, Building 2, St. David's Park, Jobs Well Road, Carmarthen, SA31 3HB, or by E-mail to: [DECMEP@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:DECMEP@carmarthenshire.gov.uk) no later than noon on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

## 2. Background

Carmarthenshire County Council is committed to providing each child with the best possible start in life and meeting the aspirations of Welsh Government as set out in their strategic documents e.g. *Building a Brighter Future: The Early Years and Childcare Plan*, *Qualified for life: An education improvement plan*.

The provision of high quality early years education is key to realising this ambition.

In Ysgol Betws the Welsh Government's Flying Start Programme is delivering quality childcare for children aged 2-3 years of age.

Currently the age range of this school is 4-11. This leads to a gap in the provision of education within the school between the age of 3 and 4. It is the County Council's view that seamless transition of pupils through the Flying Start programme into school at 3 years of age is the preferred means of providing early years education.

The Flying Start programme, **Appendix C**, is a Welsh Government initiative, providing families with children aged 0-3 years who live in specific geographic areas of Carmarthenshire with a range of support services.

The provision of good quality childcare for children from 2-3 years of age is integral to the service. Flying Start provision focuses on children living in disadvantaged communities and aims to improve their outcomes in preparation for school and lifelong learning.

Flying Start currently commissions childcare which is based in a number of Carmarthenshire's Primary Schools. This includes Ysgol Betws.

The age range of Ysgol Betws, is currently 4-11. This has presented the County Council with a challenge whereby children can benefit from interventions through the Betws Flying Start programme until they are three years of age but there is a challenge in respect of appropriate education provision for nearly a year until admitted to school. One of the advantages of the Flying Start programme being located on a school site is to facilitate effective transition and entry into school. Therefore, to ensure continuity of progression for these learners into primary school, the County Council proposes to provide early years education provision at this school. The children would then benefit from interventions through the Flying Start programme until they access education in a maintained early years class in the school. The Headteacher and Governing Body of the school have been consulted on the new arrangements and are fully supportive.

Under the 2013 School Organisation Statutory Code a regulated alteration such as a change in the age range of a school by a year or more requires a proposal to be published to formalise arrangements. The County Council is therefore required to complete a statutory consultation process which, if approved, will commence in the Autumn Term 2015.

## Current position within Carmarthenshire

Designated early years provision is offered in **33 schools** across the County Council.

Ysgol	Age Range
Bigyn	3-11 years
Bro Brynach	3-11 years
Bryn	3-11 years
Bryn Teg	3-11 years
Brynaman	3-11 years
Brynsierfel	3-11 years
Burry Port	3-11 years
Bynea	3-11 years
Copperworks	3-7 years
Cross Hands	3-11 years
Dafen	3-11 years
Dewi Sant	3-11 years
Furnace	3-11 years
Griffith Jones	3-11 years
Gwenllian	3-11 years
Halfway	3-11 years
Johnstown	3-11 years
Llangain	3-11 years
Llangynnwr	3-11 years
Maes y Morfa	3-11 years
Model	3-11 years
Myrddin	3-11 years
Nantgaredig	3-11 years

Pen-y-Gaer	3-11 years
Richmond Park	3-11 years
St Mary's , Llanelli	3-11 years
St Mary's Carmarthen	3-11 years
Stebonheath	3-11 years
Teilo Sant	3-11 years
Trimsaran	3-11 years
Ysgol y Bedol	3-11 years
Y Castell	3-11 years
Y Dderwen	3-11 years

Ysgol Feithrin Rhydaman provides for Bro Banw and Ysgol Gymraeg Rhydaman.

- There are **67 schools** in Carmarthenshire that do not have designated early years provision.
- Early Years Foundation Phase Learning Provision in Carmarthenshire is being offered in **47 non-maintained settings**.

This document sets out the proposal to formally change the age range of Ysgol Betws from 4-11 to 3-11 as soon as possible, to enable the incorporation of nursery provision.

The County Council has a legal duty to look at the number and type of schools it has in Carmarthenshire and is required to make sure that they are located in the right place, have the right facilities for the future and have the right resources to deliver education and learning for pupils. We think that both our pupils and staff deserve nothing less.

Changes in the curriculum and the way in which children will be taught in the future also means that we also have to look at whether or not, it is possible to review the age range of its schools to meet the future needs of the pupils.

### **3. What are we trying to achieve ?**

We are trying to ensure seamless transition through the Flying Start Programme at 2-3 years into school provision on a part time basis at 3 years of age. At the present time, Ysgol Betws does not have designated nursery provision.

Nursery provision for the community is currently provided by Cylch Meithrin and private nursery providers. Although the provision is of high quality, the introduction of the foundation phase of education has led to the need to provide a more integrated approach for the education of young children.

The provision for children at a 3-11 Primary school will allow young children in the area to smoothly progress from Flying Start provision into nursery provision and on to the foundation phase. The County Council's present challenge to bridge the "gap" whereby children currently benefit from interventions through the Flying Start programme until they are three years of age but have no provision for nearly a year until admitted to school would be addressed.

The benefits of this transition would ensure continuity of progression whilst providing a seamless progression from nursery, through into primary and from primary through into secondary education. It is known that children benefit educationally from the elimination of stages of transfer.

Ysgol Betws school falls in a Flying Start area which offers free care provision for children between the ages of two and three prior to them accessing the part time learning provision that the County Council is required to provide for all children from the beginning of the term following their third birthday.

## Conclusion

In order to support the seamless transition of pupils through the Flying Start programme to school admission, it is considered essential that the County Council moves to extend the age range of Ysgol Betws from 4-11 to 3-11 as soon as possible through the instigation of formal statutory procedures.

## Proposal

**“To change the age range at Ysgol Betws from 4-11 to 3-11 as soon as possible”**

### **4. General School Information – (neighbouring schools)**

#### **4.1 School / Nursery Providers which may be affected by this proposal**

The catchment area of Ysgol Betws is surrounded by the following Community Primary schools:

Ysgol Y Bedol, Carmarthenshire  
 Ysgol Parcyrhun, Carmarthenshire  
 Tycroes C. P School, Carmarthenshire  
 Ysgol Bro Banw, Carmarthenshire  
 Ysgol Gymraeg Rhydaman, Carmarthenshire

Name of School	Type of School	Language Category	Admission Number	Capacity (as at Sept 2015-16)	Jan 2015 PLASC Number Total (FTE)	Age Range
Betws	Community Primary	TR	14	118	83	4 - 11
Y Bedol	Community Primary	WM	53	396 (inc Nursery)	357 (inc Nursery)	3 - 11
Parcyrhun	Community Primary	DR	27	221	186	4 - 11
Tycroes	Community Primary	EM	26	206	204	4 - 11
Bro Banw	Community Primary	DS	70	460	404	4 - 11
Gymraeg Rhydaman	Community Primary	WM	30	232	262	4 - 11

## 4.2 Pupil Numbers in Full Time Education (FTE) (inc Nursery) (Neighbouring schools)

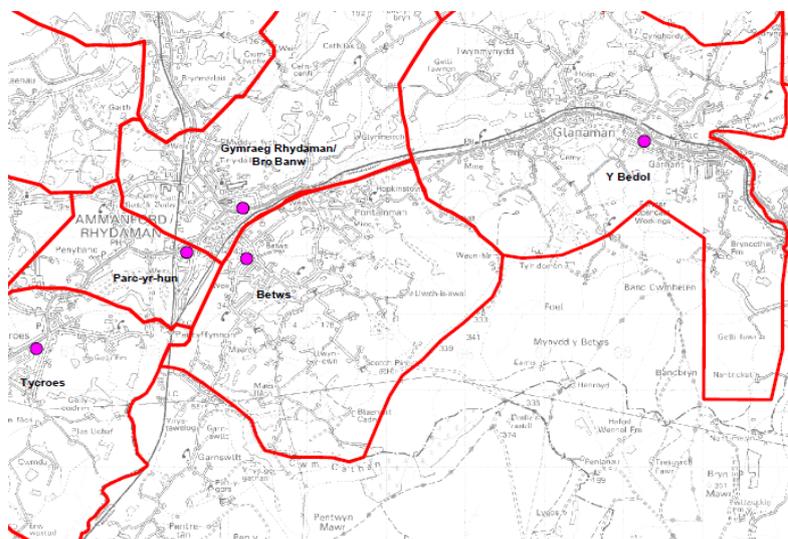
The table and graph below shows pupil numbers in full time education (PLASC 2015) for Ysgol Betws, Ysgol Y Bedol, Ysgol Parcyrhun, Tycroes C.P. School, Ysgol Bro Banw, Ysgol Gymraeg Rhydaman for January 2015 and the projected numbers for the next five years.

School	Total Pupils FTE 2015 (Inc Nursery)	Total Pupils FTE 2016 (Inc Nursery)	Total Pupils FTE 2017 (Inc Nursery)	Total Pupils FTE 2018 (Inc Nursery)	Total Pupils FTE 2019 (Inc Nursery)	Total Pupils FTE 2020 (Inc Nursery)
Betws	83	90	95	93	92	93
Y Bedol	357	353	357	355	352	352
Parcyrhun	186	186	181	184	178	177
Tycroes	204	197	192	195	193	196
Bro Banw	404	384	384	381	374	377
Gymraeg Rhydaman	262	266	271	268	268	263

## 4.3 Nursery providers - (within a 1 mile radius of Ysgol Betws)

Primary Type	Provider Name	Flying Start	Private / Local Authority/ Voluntary	Registered Capacity	Registered with CSSIW (April 15)
Cylch Meithrin	Cylch Y Felin	Yes	Local Authority	14	14
Cylch Meithrin	Cylch Meithrin Betws	Yes	Voluntary	24	24 (6 are FS)

The following diagram outlines the surrounding catchment areas of schools



## 5. Ysgol Betws.

### 5.1 Pupil Projections

The following table shows the actual pupil total and pupil projections for Ysgol Betws for the next five years.

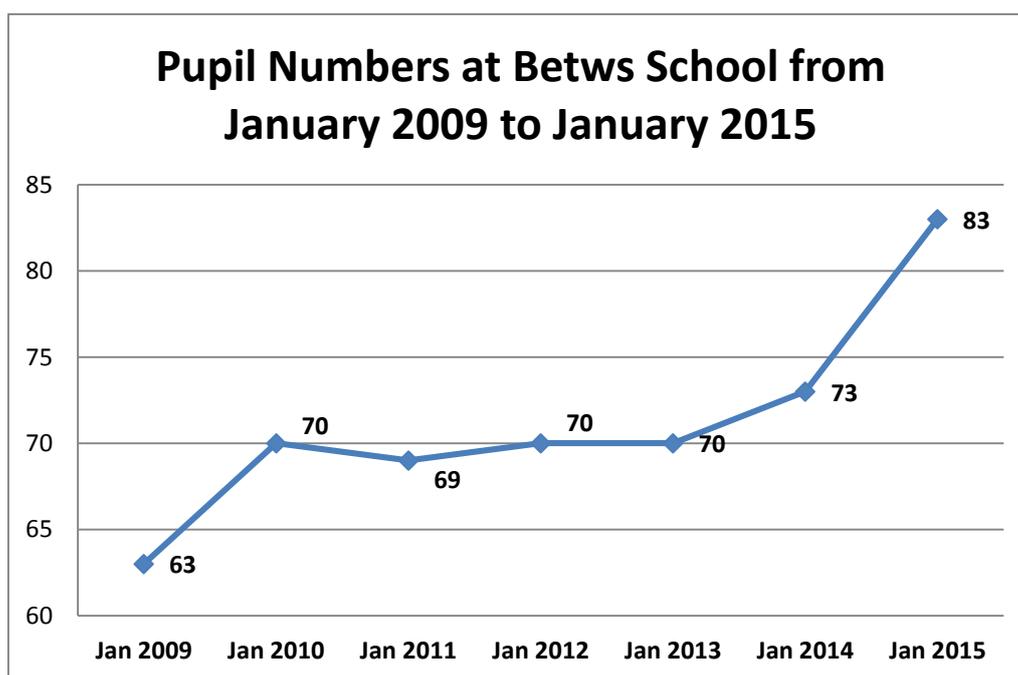
	Actual	Projected Pupil Total (FTE)				
	Jan 2015	Jan 2016	Jan 2017	Jan 2018	Jan 2019	Jan 2020
<b>Betws</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>93</b>

### 5.2 Pupil Numbers

#### 5.2.1 Current Trends

The following table and graph shows pupil numbers for January 2015 and the previous six years. It can be seen from this information that there has been an increase trend in pupil numbers.

Betws	2yrs (FT)	3yrs (PT)	3yrs (FT)	4yrs (PT)	4yrs (FT)	5yrs	6yrs	7yrs	8yrs	9yrs	10yrs	11yrs	Total (PUP)	Total (FTE)
Jan-15	1	3	8	0	16	11	10	12	13	6	5	0	85	83
Jan-14	0	0	8	0	11	11	13	14	7	4	5	0	73	73
Jan-13	0	0	6	0	11	16	12	8	4	4	9	0	70	70
Jan-12			9	0	15	14	6	5	3	10	8	0	70	70
Jan-11	0	0	7	0	13	6	7	4	11	7	14	0	69	69
Jan-10	0	0	9	0	9	7	7	11	7	12	8	0	70	70
Jan-09	0	0	5	0	5	7	10	11	11	5	9	0	63	63



### 5.3 Pupil Capacity Information

The methodology for the calculation of school capacities was changed in 2006 following the implementation of new Welsh Assembly guidelines “Measuring the Capacity of Schools in Wales” (MCSW) which was implemented by the County Council in 2008. Prior to 2008, the More Open Enrolment methodology was used. Spare places numbers for Ysgol Betws are shown in the following table.

	Actual Pupil Total (FTE*) Jan 2015	Ysgol Betws (Projections – Pupil Total (FTE*))					
	Jan 2015	Jan 2016	Jan 2017	Jan 2018	Jan 2019	Jan 2020	
<b>Total projected numbers</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>93</b>	
<b>Capacity</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>114</b>	
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>21</b>	

Ysgol Betws has capacity for 16 FTE Nursery pupils and projected nursery pupils at the school. The table above provides an analysis of the implications of accommodating nursery pupils at the school.

### 5.4 Quality and Standard of education

The most recent Estyn inspection for Ysgol Gynradd Betws took place in July 2013.

Ysgol Gynradd Betws is situated in the village of Betws on the outskirts of south-west Ammanford in Carmarthenshire. Currently there are 83 pupils on roll from reception age to Year 6; most of them come from the local area and a small percentage come from Ammanford and the surrounding rural area.

The school has been designated a ‘transitional school’ by the County Council. This means that the main medium of teaching in the Foundation Phase is Welsh, while, in key stage 2, teaching is through the medium of Welsh and English.

The area is described as underprivileged and socially deprived. Forty-three per cent of pupils are registered as being entitled to free school meals. This is much higher than the average for the County Council and for Wales. English is the home language of over 97% of pupils. Nearly all pupils come from a White British ethnic background.

Forty-nine per cent of pupils have been identified as having additional learning needs, which is much higher than the national average. A very few pupils have a statement of special educational needs.

During each inspection, inspectors aim to answer three key questions:

**Key Question 1: How good are the outcomes?**

**Key Question 2: How good is provision?**

**Key Question 3: How good are leadership and management?**

Inspectors also provide an overall judgement on the school's current performance and on its prospects for improvement.

In these evaluations, inspectors use a four-point scale:

<b>Judgement</b>	<b>What the judgement means</b>
<b>Excellent</b>	Many strengths, including significant examples of sector-leading practice
<b>Good</b>	Many strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement
<b>Adequate</b>	Strengths outweigh areas for improvement
<b>Unsatisfactory</b>	Important areas for improvement outweigh

### **Summary**

The School's current performance	Adequate
The Schools prospects for improvement	Good

### **Main Findings**

Key Question 1.	How good are outcomes ?	Adequate
Key Question 2.	How good is provision ?	Good
Key Question 3.	How good are leadership and management ?	Good

The most likely impact of the proposal to integrate a nursery in Ysgol Betws on the quality of the Estyn report would improve the learning environment and experience and would provide a more coherent foundation Phase for the young learners. This would be by the elimination of a stage of transition between nursery and reception, and the continuity of staffing and data transfer for individual pupils especially in teaching, care and support for pupils aged 3 – 11 years and provide the learning opportunities in a single through primary school that are available in other neighbouring schools in Carmarthenshire.

These factors would have a positive effect on the learning experience for the children.

## **5.5 School Standards**

### **National School Categorisation System**

The Minister for Education and Skills announced the introduction of the national School Categorisation System in September 2014. The system is not purely data-driven but also takes into account the quality of leadership and teaching and learning in our schools. The system will not take the place of Estyn reports, Estyn will continue to inspect schools and provide an external check on the national school categorisation system when inspecting.

The new system evaluates and assesses schools and places them in a support category using the following information:

- A range of performance measures provided by the Welsh Government.
- Robust self-evaluation by the school on its capacity to improve in relation to leadership and teaching and learning.
- Assessment of the school's self evaluation by challenge advisers in the regional consortia, agreed with the local authority.

The new categorisation system will give a clear and fair picture of a school's progress. There is a three step process in generating a category for a school, firstly after the performance data and self-evaluation have been analysed a draft support category is generated for each school. This category is discussed with the school by regional consortia and then agreed with the local authority.

The table below summarises the data for Ysgol Betws;

#### **National School Categorisation System – Data 2014**

<b>School</b>	<b>Standards Group</b>	<b>Improvement Capacity</b>	<b>Support Category</b>
Betws	2	B	Yellow

As can be seen from the table above Ysgol Betws has been categorised in the Yellow category reported as an effective school which is doing well and knows the areas it needs to improve.

### **5.6 Pupil Costs**

Based on 2015/16 data the budget cost per pupil is £3,873 at Ysgol Betws which is higher than the county average of £3,739.

### **5.7 Financial Implications - Revenue**

Ysgol Betws is funded in accordance with the County Council's Fair Funding policy and will receive resources on the same basis as any other school within the County Council, based on the new school's pupil numbers and facilities.

### **5.8 Admission Arrangements**

The County Council is the Admissions Authority for Ysgol Betws. The current admission number (AN) is 16.

If you have any queries in relation to admission to the school the contact details for Carmarthenshire LA are as follows:

The School Governance and Admissions Unit,  
Carmarthenshire Local Authority,  
Department for Education and Children,  
Block 2,  
Main Building,  
St. David's Park,  
Carmarthen. SA31 3HB

Tel No: 01267 246449  
Fax : 01267 246746  
E-mail : [rjonesevans@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:rjonesevans@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

## **5.9 Building Facilities**

**The condition survey undertaken in 2001** reported that Ysgol Betws is located on the main road through the village on a flat site extending to the rear and bounded by the brook. The original school is an early Victorian traditional style building which has been substantially modernised and extended in recent years. The main school, constructed in dressed stone with a slate roof, was re-modelled and extended to the rear approximately 10 years ago. The rear portion was constructed in decorative rendered masonry walls of traditional construction under a slated roof. Upgrading of the front Victorian section was undertaken at the same time.

Access for wheelchair disabled and the partially sighted is now a feature of this modernised school, including the provision of a disabled toilet facility.

As part of the **National 21<sup>st</sup> Century School Programme of all schools in Wales** on behalf of the County Council Ysgol Betws scored the following ratings:

Overall Condition:    B       Reasonable

Suitability:            B       Reasonable

## **5.10 Transport**

Transport arrangements will be made in accordance with the County Council's home to school transport policy. There will be no change on travelling times for pupils living within the catchment area.

## **5.11 School Catchment Area**

Ysgol Betws will remain located on the current school site therefore the designated catchment area will be based on that of the existing Ysgol Betws.

## **5.12 Secondary School Transfers**

There will be no changes to the current transfer arrangements for pupils in respect of Secondary education.

## **5.13 Special Needs**

There will be no change to the current provision offered for pupils with special education needs at the School.

## **6. The Statutory Process**

### **6.1 Consultation Period**

The consultation period for this proposal starts on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015 and ends on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2016. During this period you can ask questions and express your views by writing a letter or completing the attached response form in **Appendix E**. Letters and response forms should be sent to:

Department for Education and Children's Services,  
Building 2, St. David's Park, Jobs Well Road, Carmarthen, SA313HB, or by  
E-mail to: [DECMEP@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:DECMEP@carmarthenshire.gov.uk) no later than noon on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

Consultees can submit their views in favour of or against a proposal. Responses received during the consultation period will not be treated as statutory objections. If consultees wish to object, they will need to do so in writing during the statutory objection period outlined below.

### **6.2 Considering Your Views**

Within 13 weeks of 29<sup>th</sup> January 2016 a consultation report will be published on Carmarthenshire County Council's website. Hard copies of the report will also be available on request. The report will summarise the issues raised by consultees and provide Carmarthenshire County Council's response to these issues. The report will also contain Estyn's view of the proposal.

The County Council of Carmarthenshire County Council will consider the consultation report and decide whether or not to proceed with the proposal.

If the County Council of Carmarthenshire County Council decides to continue with the proposal Carmarthenshire County Council must publish a statutory notice.

### **6.3 Statutory Notice**

The statutory notice will be published on Carmarthenshire County Council's web site and posted in the named and neighbouring schools and within the locality. Copies of the notice will be made available to the school to distribute to pupils, parents, carers and guardians, and staff members (the school may also distribute the notice by email).

The notice will set out the details of the proposal and invite anyone who wishes to object to do so in writing within a period of 28 days.

## 6.4 Determination of Proposal

The County Council of Carmarthenshire County Council will determine the proposal. The County Council may decide to approve, reject or approve the proposal with modifications. In doing so, the Executive Board will take into account any statutory objections that it received.

## 6.5 Decision notification

Following determination of proposals all interested parties will be informed and advised of the availability of the decision which will be published electronically on Carmarthenshire County Council's website.

## 6.6 The Statutory Process Time-Table

The statutory process and timetable will be as follows:-

December 2015	Issue of this consultation document to identified and other interested parties.
January 2016	Closing date for views on the proposal to be received by the Department for Education & Children.
March 2016	<p>Within 13 weeks of 29<sup>th</sup> January 2016 a Consultation Report will be taken to the County Council and published on Carmarthenshire County Council's website. Decision to proceed to publish statutory notice. OR alternatively proposal ends. If the decision is made to proceed then a statutory notice will be published. The notice will outline details of the proposal and be published on the Council's web site and be displayed near the entrance of the school and schools which are subject to the proposals. Copies of the notice will be made available to the school to distribute to parents, guardians and staff members.</p> <p>Following publication there will be a 28 day period during which time formal written objections will be invited.</p> <p>The statutory notice will give details on how you may record your objections to the proposal.</p>
April 2016	<p>End of formal 28 day notice period for objections. County Council will determine the proposal. The County Council may decide to approve, reject or approve the proposal with modifications, in doing so the County Council will take into account any statutory objections that it received.</p> <p>Deadline to notify parents of intention to implement proposal.</p>
September 2016	Following determination of proposals all interested parties will be informed and advised of the availability of the decision which will be published electronically on Carmarthenshire County Council's website.

## **7. Appendix A – Community Impact Assessment**

### **Community Impact Assessment**

#### **Ysgol Betws - General Information**

Ysgol Betws is situated in the village of Betws on the outskirts of south-west Ammanford in Carmarthenshire. Currently there are 83 pupils on roll from reception age to Year 6; most of them come from the local area and a small percentage come from Ammanford and the surrounding rural area.

The school has been designated a 'transitional school' by the County Council. This means that the main medium of teaching in the Foundation Phase is Welsh, while, in key stage 2, teaching is through the medium of Welsh and English.

The area is described as underprivileged and socially deprived. Forty-three per cent of pupils are registered as being entitled to free school meals. This is much higher than the average for the County Council and for Wales. English is the home language of over 97% of pupils. Nearly all pupils come from a White British ethnic background.

Forty-nine per cent of pupils have been identified as having additional learning needs, which is much higher than the national average. A very few pupils have a statement of special educational needs.

The school provides education for pupils between 4 – 11 but has provision to accommodate a nursery class for 3 – 11.

#### **Catchment Area Analysis**

##### **Local / Catchment Area School**

Carmarthenshire County Council recognises that there is an important relationship between a school and its community. The County Council has therefore identified a designated geographical area which the school serves and is referred to as the school's catchment area. Details of a school catchment area's are available at the school's and on the County Council's website or are available from the relevant Admissions Authority.

Whilst living in a school's catchment area does not guarantee admission to the school it is an important factor as it will give the application a higher priority than those from individuals who live outside the catchment area. Residency within the defined catchment area of a school is also important as it is one of the key criteria in assessing eligibility for assistance with home to school transport.

Prior to making an application for admission to a school the County Council strongly recommends that you contact, discuss and if possible visit your local school so that you are aware of the facilities and opportunities they are able to offer.

Most parents send their child to their local school but parents have a right to state a preference for other schools.

## **Children attending the school from inside catchment**

Based on January 2015 pupil address data, the geographical data in relation to the pupil distribution for Ysgol Betws catchment area indicated that of the 83 pupils on roll (FTE), 85 (Total Head Count) 60 pupils lived within the catchment area.

## **Children attending the school from outside catchment**

Based on January 2015 pupil address data, the geographical data in relation to the pupil distribution for Ysgol Betws catchment area indicated that of the 83 pupils on roll (FTE), 85 (Total Head Count) 25 pupils lived outside the catchment area.

## **Children within the catchment area attending other schools**

Based on January 2015 pupil address data, the geographical data in relation to the pupil distribution for Ysgol Betws catchment area indicated that, of the 83 pupils on roll (FTE), 85 (Total Head Count) 217 pupils within the catchment area of the school attended other schools.

## **Ysgol Betws School Facilities / Activities**

Ysgol Betws offers pupils a breakfast club during term time between 8am and 8:45am. The school also offers after school clubs to pupils wishing to participate in various activities between Monday and Friday between 3:00pm and 5:30pm.

After school clubs which delivers and various activities (depending on the time of year) extend pupils learning experiences enabling them to participate in a range of outdoor activities and develop self-confidence and independence.

## **Community use of Ysgol Betws school building**

The community of Ysgol Betws do not currently use the school building facilities.

## **Church in Wales Provision**

Should parents wish to send their children to a school offering the church in Wales character their nearest school would be Llanddarog Voluntary Controlled school, Carmarthen subject to parental preference.

## **8. Appendix B – Equality Impact Assessment**

### **Carmarthenshire County Council Assessing Impact**

#### **The Equality Act 2010**

The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) brings together and replaces the previous anti-discrimination laws with a single Act. It simplifies and strengthens the law, removes inconsistencies and makes it easier for people to understand and comply with it. The majority of the Act came into force on 1 October 2010.

The Act includes a new public sector equality duty (the 'general duty'), replacing the separate duties on race, disability and gender equality. This came into force on 5 April 2011.

#### **What is the general duty?**

The aim of the general duty is to ensure that public authorities and those carrying out a public function consider how they can positively contribute to a fairer society through advancing equality and good relations in their day-to-day activities. The duty ensures that equality considerations are built into the design of policies and the delivery of services and that they are kept under review. This will achieve better outcomes for all.

The duties are legal obligations. Failure to meet the duties may result in authorities being exposed to legal challenge.

Under equality legislation, public authorities have legal duties to pay 'due regard' to the need to eliminate discrimination and promote equality with regard to race, disability and gender, including gender reassignment, as well as to promote good race relations. The Equality Act 2010 introduces a new public sector duty which extends this coverage to age, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, and religion or belief. The law requires that this duty to pay 'due regard' be demonstrated in the decision making process. It is also important to note that public authorities subject to the equality duties are also likely to be subject to the obligations under the Human Rights Act and it is therefore wise also to consider the potential impact that decisions could have on human rights as part of the same process.

#### **Carmarthenshire's approach to Equality Impact**

In order to ensure that the council is considering the potential equality impact of its proposed policies and practices, and in order to evidence that we have done so, every proposal will be required to be supported by the attached Impact Assessment. Where this assessment identifies a significant impact then more detail may be required.

#### **Reporting on assessments**

Where it is clear from the assessment that the likely impact on the authority's ability to meet the general duty is substantial, then it must publish a report.

**Carmarthenshire County Council  
Assessing Impact**

<b>Contact Name</b>	<b>Lowri Morgan</b>	<b>Title Miss</b>		<b>School Development Project Support Officer</b>				
<b>Service area</b>	<b>School Modernisation</b>	<b>Department</b>		<b>Education &amp; Children</b>				
<b>Name of the activity / proposal</b>								
<b>To legally change the age range of Ysgol Betws from 4-11 to 3-11 as soon as possible.</b>								
<b>Description of proposal</b>	<b>Policy</b>	<b>Procedure</b>	<b>Decision</b>		<b>Function</b>			
<b>Please detail the proposal and its main objectives</b>	<b>It is the County Council's proposal to legally change the age range of Ysgol Betws from 4-11 to 3-11 as soon as possible to enable the incorporation of nursery provision.</b>							
	Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Sex	Sexual Orientation	Race – including ethnic, or national origin, colour or nationality	Religion or belief – including lack of belief	Welsh language
<b>Is the activity/proposal relevant to the public specific duties relating to each equality strand? (Tick as appropriate)</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>Should the activity / proposal eliminate discrimination and eliminate harassment in relation to:</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>Should the activity / proposal promote equality of opportunity in relation to:</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>

**Potential impact**

**What do we know about the potential POSITIVE IMPACT of the activity / proposal on the following protected characteristics?** (Also, please consider the potential impact on the Welsh language)  
Briefly describe the nature of the impact.

Age	Yes
Disability	No impact anticipated
Gender reassignment	No impact anticipated
Sex	No impact anticipated
Sexual Orientation	No impact anticipated
Race	No impact anticipated
Religion or belief	No impact anticipated
Welsh language	No impact anticipated

**Could the activity or proposal have an ADVERSE / NEGATIVE impact on the following groups?**  
**(Please provide further information)**

Age	No
Disability	No
Gender reassignment	No
Sex	No
Sexual Orientation	No
Race	No
Religion or belief	No
Welsh language	No

**What improvements could be made to ensure that these impacts are addressed?**

**Consultation**

**Have you consulted with any of the protected groups or their representative bodies? If so please give details. What was the outcome?**

Description of consultation	There has been informal and formal consultation on the proposals.
Outcome of consultation	

**Information and Monitoring**

**What other information (e.g. reports, surveys, user monitoring or information from other sources) do you have to inform your decision?**

None

<b><u>Mitigation</u></b>	
<b>If adverse impact has been identified, what can be done to mitigate that impact?</b>	
Please detail steps to be taken to mitigate any adverse impact	N/A
Describe any actions taken to maximise the opportunity to maximise equality, i.e. changes to the activity / proposal, regulation, guidance, communication, monitoring or review	N/A
Have there been any changes to the activity / proposal as a result of conducting this EqIA?	N/A
<b>The duty specifically requires the Authority to have due regard to the results of the Equality Impact Assessments. Having considered the potential or actual impact on protected groups what is the next step for this activity / proposal?</b>	
No major change (your assessment demonstrates that the policy is robust. The evidence shows no potential for discrimination)	*
Adjust the policy (you will take steps to remove barriers, to better advance equality or foster good relations)	
Continue the policy (you will adopt or continue, despite potential for adverse impact. You must note justification in this case)	
Stop and remove the policy (if there are adverse effects that are not justified and cannot be mitigated, you should consider stopping the policy altogether)	
<b><u>Context</u></b>	
<b>Is this proposal part of a wider plan which would place it in context?</b>	
Details of context of the proposal	<a href="#">21st Century Schools Programme</a> <a href="#">Modernising Education Programme</a>
<b><u>Monitoring</u></b>	
<b>Please outline your plans to monitor the ongoing impact on the affected group(s)?</b>	
<a href="#">No affected groups identified</a>	
<b><u>Other information</u></b>	
<b>Is there anything else which ought to be recorded? N/A</b>	

<b>Date of completion</b>	<b>As soon as possible</b>
<b>Review date</b>	<b>N/A</b>

Thank you for completing this assessment.

For further information regarding Assessing Impact, please contact  
Corporate Policy Team  
Chief Executive's Department  
01267 22(4914) / (4676)  
[equalities@cararthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@cararthenshire.gov.uk)

**Please send a copy of the assessment to the above e-mail address upon completion.**

## 9. Appendix C – Flying Start

### Flying Start

Flying Start service is a Welsh Government funded programme, which provides intensive support services to 0-3 year old children and their families who live in disadvantage areas within Carmarthenshire.



It is a targeted programme now available in 12 geographical areas in the County. These are Betws in the Ammandford area, Bigyn, Felinfoel, Morfa, Lakefield/Copperworks, Dafen Llwynhendy and Bynea in the Llanelli area, Carway, Pwll West/Maengwnne, Trimsaran and Richmond Park and Carmarthen Town North in the Carmarthen area. (*Strict postcode eligibility does apply*)

Four further areas have been approved by the Welsh Government namely; Pantyffynnon (Ammanford), Garnant, Glanamau and Burry Port Central and Pembrey.

Children aged 2-3 years, living in Flying Start areas are entitled to free part time childcare for 12.5 hours per week, which is equivalent to two and a half hours per day, Monday to Friday for 42 weeks of the year. This programme has expanded significantly in recent years.

The focus of the service is on the **child** and in particular to ensure that all children develop their language, social skills, emotionally, physically in order to be ready to begin school. Through early identification of needs Flying Start aims to put support services in place to address those needs within the family. This is achieved through **four** main service areas.

### 1. Health Visiting & Midwifery Service

Providing an intensive Health Visiting service; with 8 newly established Health Visitor posts and a reduced caseload, Health Visitors have the capacity to visit families more frequently and provide one to one support in the home. From the time a new born baby is born, each Flying Start family is supported to develop and bond with their baby, supporting mum in particular with her emotional and mental health, provide weekly clinics promoting the uptake of immunisations, giving general baby health advice, on weaning, creating routines and sleep patterns. Baby Massage courses can also be offered, informing parents about baby bonding and creating attachment which can help alleviate and soothe a baby during illness, or teething and general growth. The Health Visiting Service continues up to the age of 4 years old, when the child's health care is handed over to the school nurse on entry to school.

**Specialist Midwifery service** – for those more vulnerable families who need additional support with identified intense needs, a midwife service is available ante-natally offering advice on staying well during pregnancy. This service is on a referral basis only from your Community Midwife.

**Speech and Language Therapy service** – this service is available for families and

their children on a one to one basis in their homes, where children have been identified as having developmental or language delays. Flying Start Support Officers deliver a six week home speech & language programme and encourage parents to continue the language work on a continual basis after the sessions are complete.

Please telephone 01554 742468 to see if you are eligible for any of these free services.

## 2. Free Childcare for 2-3 Year Old Children

Children living in Flying Start areas are entitled to free part-time childcare for twelve and a half hours per week, which equates to two and a half hours per day, Monday to Friday, for 42 weeks of the year. Flying Start have purchased childcare places from the following providers:

- Cylch Y Felin, Betws in Betws Community Primary School
- St Paul's Family Centre in Bigyn
- Myrtle House Day Nursery in Bigyn
- Cylch Meithrin Carway in Carway Primary School
- Cylch Meithrin Felinfoel, in the Community Education Centre, Felinfoel
- Jellitotz Playgroup at Pen-y-Morfa Community Hall, Morfa
- Teddybears Nursery at the Dewi Sant Centre, Llanelli
- The Children's Centre, Llwynhendy
- Ty Ni Family Centre, Carmarthen Town
- Ty Hapus Family Centre, Park Hall Estate, Carmarthen
- Argel Family Centre, Johnstown

The Flying Start Early Years Teacher works with each childcare setting in order to develop suitable curriculum plans and activities which stimulate two year olds' development. The emphasis is on setting standards which produce 'quality' childcare provision across all 11 childcare settings.

Please telephone 01554 742468 to see if you are eligible for any of these free services and to check for availability of vacant childcare places.

## 3. Parenting Programmes

Parents living in Flying Start areas are supported further by having the opportunity to attend a range of parenting programmes, which aim to give them the skills to parent effectively. Some courses are especially for new parents with new born babies to encourage baby bonding and attachment. As children grow further programmes are available which build parent's confidence to handle their children's behaviour, promote positive parenting, creating positive approaches to building healthy relationships with their children. Courses range from:

- **'How to get to know your Baby'** (Webster Stratton) programme – for new parents with new born babies and children up to 12 months old
- **Neo-Natal Assessment Screening** – this is an assessment carried out with parent and child which encourages baby bonding and attachment
- **'Baby Massage'** – for new born babies and up to 12 months old
- **'Incredible Years'** (Webster Stratton) programme – for toddlers 2-3 year olds
- **'Handling Children's Behaviour'** – for toddlers 2-3 year olds.

Please telephone 01554 742468 to see if you are eligible for any of these free services.

#### **4. Basic Skills programmes**

Language and Play (LAP) courses are available to families living in Flying Start areas, which encourage parents how to interact and play with their children in a positive way to promote and stimulate their child's language development, including increasing their range of words and vocabulary. This is a very popular course with parents as it stimulates a 'feel good factor' which promotes a strong healthy relationship with parent and child. Parents will talk, play and create craft activities with their children, use available resources, sing songs and nursery rhymes, all in the effort for the child to 'learn through play'. The Numbers and Play (NAP) courses are equally as popular and very similar, using words associated with figures, numbers, and shapes to promote language development.

Story sessions at local libraries and on the Story Bus are also available and organised periodically throughout the year and are promoted locally.

## 10. Appendix D – Area Profile

### Betws - Area Profile for Postcode: SA18 2HE: (Betws LSOA Code: W10000627)

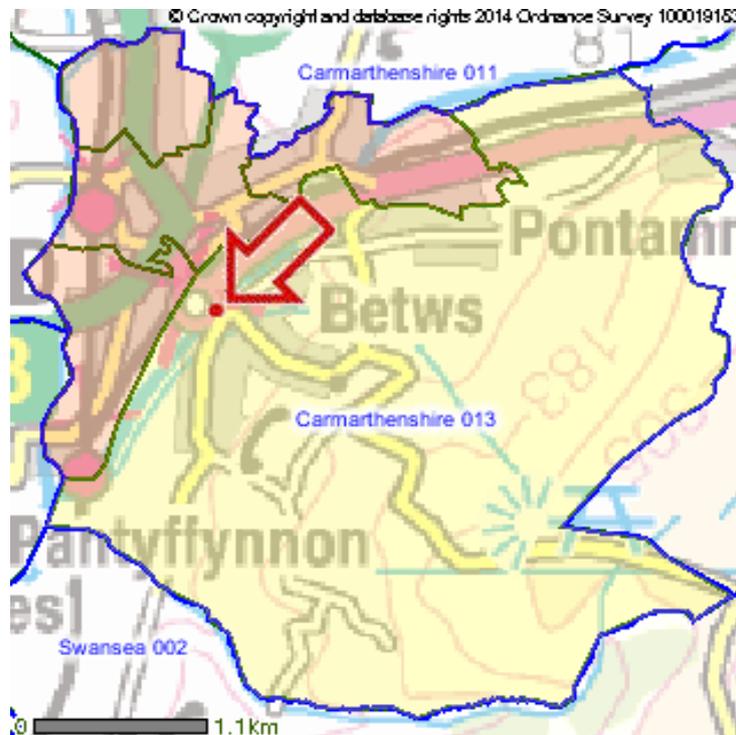
WIMD 2014 is based on fine-grained geography of lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). The WIMD 2014 is compiled from eight domains, Income, Employment, Health, Education, Housing, Access to Services, Physical Environment and Community Safety and is published at Lower Super Output Area of which there are 112 in Carmarthenshire.

Under WIMD, where Rank 1 is the most deprived, **Betws** ranks 49 out of the 112 LSOAs in Carmarthenshire and ranks 842 in Wales from 1909 LSOAs.

The highest level of deprivation attributed to **Betws** is the Access to services domain, being ranked 37<sup>th</sup> in Carmarthenshire and 305<sup>th</sup> in Wales for this domain.

LSOA	Overall Index		Income		Employment		Health		Education		Housing		Access to Services		Physical Environment		Community Safety	
Betws	49	842	47	913	55	923	44	761	42	862	77	1309	37	305	40	700	51	1247

Source: Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2014 (released November 2014), Welsh Assembly Government.  
 Note: LSOAs ranked 1-112 (Carmarthenshire), 1-1909 (Wales).



## Area Profile for Postcode: SA18 2HE: (Betws LSOA Code: W1000627)

Population:	2,175
Welsh Language:	<p>People with knowledge of Welsh: 69.5%</p> <p>Can speak Welsh: 53.4%</p> <p>Can speak, Read and Write Welsh: 38.8%</p> <p>Can speak Welsh (Age 3-15):11.0%</p> <p>No skills in Welsh:30.6%</p>
Number of Children & Young People:	<p>20.0% (Aged 0-15)</p> <p>9.6% (Aged 16-24)</p>
Population Mitigation:	<b>Overall population churn in area: rate per 1,000 Data no longer available</b>
Ethnicity:	<p>White (British): 97.8%</p> <p>White (Irish): 0.2%</p> <p>White (Other): 1.0%</p> <p>Mixed (White/Black Caribbean): 0.2%</p> <p>Asian British (Indian) 0.0%</p> <p>Asian British (Other Asian): 0.1%</p> <p>Other Ethnic Group: 0.7%</p>
Religion:	<p>Christian: 59.2%</p> <p>Buddhist: 0.1%</p> <p>Hindu: 0.0%</p> <p>Jewish: 0.0%</p> <p>Muslim: 0.2%</p> <p>Sikh: 0.0%</p> <p>Other Religion: 0.3%</p> <p>No Religion: 32.9%</p> <p>Religion Not Stated: 7.2%</p>
Deprivation Ranking:	<p>Total number of Households: 896</p> <p>Total households not deprived in any dimensions: 375</p> <p>No of households Deprived of between 1-4 dimensions: 521</p>

## 11. Appendix E – Response Pro-forma

Please provide us with your comments on the proposals regarding future provision for primary pupils residing in the Ysgol Y Betws catchment areas.

Your comments:

Do you have any other issues that you wish to bring to our attention?

Please tick box if you wish to be notified of the publication of a consultation report.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Position /  
Category of  
Respondent  
(E.g. parent) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please note that unless you indicate otherwise your comments will be open to the public as part of the formal records of the consultation.**

Please detach this form and return to: Department for Education and Children's Services, Building 2, St David's Park, Jobs Well Road, Carmarthen. SA31 3HB or E-mail to [DECMEP@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:DECMEP@carmarthenshire.gov.uk) no later than 29<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

