

CABINET

06/12/2021

MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME

PROPOSAL TO RECONFIGURE AND REMODEL BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT SERVICES AT YSGOL RHYDYGORS TO IMPROVE PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Recommendations / key decisions required:

It is recommended that the Cabinet approves:

- The observations received and the Local Authority's responses following the Consultation Period (Consultation Report attached);
- The modifications to the implementation dates of the proposal as noted in the report;
- The publication of a Statutory Notice to implement the proposal.

Reasons:

- To comply with statutory procedures and guidance in relation to school re-organisation.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted: No

Cabinet Decision Required: Yes- 06/12/2021

Council Decision Required: No

Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Glynog Davies (Education & Children)

Directorate:
Education & Children

Name of Head of Service:
Simon Davies

Report Author:
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Designations:

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
CABINET
06/12/2021**

MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME

PROPOSAL TO RECONFIGURE AND REMODEL BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT SERVICES AT YSGOL RHYDYGORS TO IMPROVE PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Background

Following a strategic review of the Local Authority's Behaviour Services, the LA aims to move from a silo focus on behaviour to a more universal approach to include pupil wellbeing and engagement. To achieve this the LA has developed a Four Phase Model of its behaviour services which includes providing behaviour and engagement support on four levels. Support ranges from intervention and support in mainstream schools to specialised respite or residential placements.

This proposal supports the realisation of the Four Phase Model. Currently, the Local Authority have a range of settings in which pupils with SEBD are supported. This includes Ysgol Rhydygors, Carmarthenshire Secondary Teaching and Learning Centre (Pupil Referral Unit for secondary pupils), Canolfan Bro Tywi (Pupil Referral Unit for primary pupils) and Canolfan y Gors (Pupil Referral Unit for secondary pupils with significant anxiety and/or emotional wellbeing and mental health issues requiring the support of CAMHS-Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services).

The vision of the four-phase model includes encouraging each of these settings to work together as one Specialist Behaviour and Wellbeing Support Service Team. One of the principal ways of achieving this is to create consistency in the type of provision offered at each of the settings and to create a system ensuring that links with mainstream schools.

At the current time, once a child is placed in Rhydygors, the historical evidence suggests that the young person remains there until they are 16 with no further mainstream experience.

The new Four Phase Model is developing behaviour support services to allow easier access to early intervention so that schools have direct access to a link Behaviour Support Service team member who will be trained in restorative approaches, trauma informed practices and have continuous professional development to support the needs of their cluster of schools. Members of the Behaviour Support Community team are supported by their line Manager, the Lead Officer for Behaviour Support Services and PRUs and an ECP with senior responsibility for behaviour to address any young people that they feel they need advice, support and guidance with so that any training will be approved to meet the needs of the young learners and the schools they attend.

As the Behaviour Support Community Team and PRUs will come under Phase 3 management there will be consistency in training programmes, ethos development, curriculum offer and the development of trauma informed practitioners in a trauma informed setting and psychological informed environments (PIE).

By having regular and link access to Behaviour Support Community Team staff we will have greater opportunity to work with our learners at an earlier stage for intervention and allow us through multi-agency meetings and possibly TAPPAS (Teams Around Pupils Parents and

Settings), currently a pilot project in the local authority, we will be able to develop creative and innovative support packages at the earliest possible time to keep our learners in mainstream if this is the most appropriate setting.

There are always learners who have complex needs and require robust support packages outside of mainstream provision but our ethos supports inclusivity and developing needs led support and services. Within the Four Phase model when a child is recommended for a place in Phases 3 or 4 there should always be the opportunity for transition back to mainstream, or even access mainstream for subjects that they engage with positively and the learning of others is not negatively impacted, when the young person can regulate emotions and engage in their education in a positive and safe manner. This can be undertaken by continuous monitoring and assessment and with close, transparent and trusting relationships with our mainstream schools.

For the reasons of consistency, access to highly specialist support, access to a broad and balanced curriculum with a range of accreditation options and the offer of individual and bespoke education plans offered in the current PRUs through the 3-Tiered approach, there is a requirement to discontinue Ysgol Rhydygors as a special school and establish it as a Pupil Referral Unit. This proposal will initiate this change.

Whilst it is acknowledged that Ysgol Rhydygors has been providing education for pupils with social, emotional, and behavioural difficulties (SEBD) in the form of a special school for a number of years, it is recognised that an enhancement of the PRU model will more appropriately cater for the needs of society and its young people providing consistent opportunities across the county.

The Proposal

1. In line with the School Organisation Code (2018) the Local Authority proposes to:
Discontinue Ysgol Rhydygors Special School as of the 1st January 2022

All former Ysgol Rhydygors pupils will continue to receive their education on the site of the former Ysgol Rhydygors school. If approved, instead of receiving provision in a special school, pupils will be educated in a Pupil Referral Unit (PRU).

Whilst the proposal should be considered as a whole. This consultation document relates to Point 1 only. Points 2 and 3 noted below will be undertaken via separate procedures.

2. Should the above (Point 1) be approved, the Local Authority will establish a Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) on the site of the former Ysgol Rhydygors school as of the 1st January 2022.
3. Additionally, should Point 1 be approved, the Local Authority will establish a Children's Home/Respite Centre on the site of the former Ysgol Rhydygors school/Residential Unit as of the 1st January 2022.

All former Ysgol Rhydygors pupils who have an element of residential education as part of their SEN Statement will continue to receive this on the site of the former Ysgol Rhydygors school.

Statutory Process

In accordance with Executive Board's (now known as the Cabinet) instructions on the 21 December 2020 a formal consultation exercise was undertaken from 11 January 2021 and was due to end on the 21 February 2021. However, a decision was made by the Executive Board to extend the Consultation Period until the 16 July 2021. The results of the consultation exercise are contained in the attached Consultation Report.

Should the Cabinet grant permission to proceed to Statutory Notice, the intention is to publish in due course.

If approved, following the end of the Statutory Notice period, an objection report which summarises any objections received by stakeholders, will be presented to the Cabinet and ultimately to the County Council for determination.

Modifications

As a result of the extension to the Consultation Period, the implementation dates for the proposal noted above require modification to ensure appropriate time to implement the proposals.

Should the Cabinet decide to proceed with this proposal it is recommended that the Cabinet accepts the modified dates as noted below:

1. In line with the School Organisation Code (2018) the Local Authority proposes to:
Discontinue Ysgol Rhydygors Special School as of the 31st August 2022

All former Ysgol Rhydygors pupils will continue to receive their education on the site of the former Ysgol Rhydygors school. If approved, instead of receiving provision in a special school, pupils will be educated in a Pupil Referral Unit (PRU).

Whilst the proposal should be considered as a whole. This consultation document relates to Point 1 only. Points 2 and 3 noted below will be undertaken via separate procedures.

2. Should the above (Point 1) be approved, the Local Authority will establish a Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) on the site of the former Ysgol Rhydygors school as of the 1st September 2022.
3. Additionally, should Point 1 be approved, the Local Authority will establish a Children's Home/Respite Centre on the site of the former Ysgol Rhydygors school/Residential Unit as of the 1st September 2022.

All former Ysgol Rhydygors pupils who have an element of residential education as part of their SEN Statement will continue to receive this on the site of the former Ysgol Rhydygors school.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Cabinet approves:

- The observations received and the Local Authority's responses following the Consultation Period (Consultation Report attached);
- The modifications to the implementation dates of the proposal as noted in the report;
- The publication of a Statutory Notice to implement the proposal

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES: Consultation Report

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: *S. Lewis*

Head of Access to Education

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	YES	YES	NONE	YES	YES	YES

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Developments are consistent with the Authority's Corporate Strategy and the Modernising Education Strategic Outline Programme.

2. Legal

Appropriate consultation was initiated in accordance with the relevant statutory procedures.

3. Finance

Revenue implications will be catered for within the Local Management of Schools Fair Funding Scheme.

5. Risk Management Issues

If the proposal is not implemented the local authority will continue to provide inconsistent SEBD provision to pupils across the County.

6. Staffing Implications

Staffing implications will be addressed in accordance with the County Council's Policy and Procedures.

7. Physical Assets

The Ysgol Rhydygors site will continue to be used for Education purposes. If approved, it will be the location of the Pupil Referral Unit and Children's Home/Respite Centre.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed:



Head of Access to Education

1. **Scrutiny Committee** – Consulted during the formal Consultation Period.
2. **Local Member(s)** – The local members are aware of the proposal and were consulted during the formal Consultation Period.
3. **Community / Town Council** – Consulted during the formal Consultation Period.
4. **Relevant Partners** – Consulted during the formal Consultation Period.
5. **Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** – Consulted during the formal Consultation Period.

CABINET AWARE/CONSULTED YES	PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S)	N/A
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Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan		https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/strategies-and-plans/welsh-in-education-strategic-plan/
MEP Biennial Review		www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk Executive Board 20 th June 2016
21 st Century Schools Website		www.21stcenturyschools.org
Consultation Document		Ysgol Rhydygors (gov.wales)
Stage 1 (Permission to Consult) – ECS Scrutiny Committee Report		Agenda for Education & Children Scrutiny Committee on Monday, 23rd November, 2020, 10.00 am (gov.wales)
Stage 1 (Permission to Consult) Exec Board		Agenda for Cabinet on Monday, 21st December, 2020, 10.00 am - Carmarthenshire County Council (moderngov.co.uk)