



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

OBJECTION REPORT

PROPOSALS TO REALIGN ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS MAINSTREAM LEARNING SUPPORT CLASS 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 statutory notices published of the proposals, which were published on the 10th of October 2023 for a period of a minimum of 28 days; and
- Include a summary of the key themes to the statutory objections received and the local authority's response to them.

2. The Statutory Notices

The Statutory Notices to progress each individual proposal, which were published on the 10th October 2023, are reproduced below:

Proposal 1: Relocation of the Observation and Assessment Learning Support Class (LSC) at Penrhiwceiber Primary School to Abercynon Community Primary School taking effect from September 2024.

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 2018 that Rhondda Cynon Taf, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to relocate the Observation and Assessment Learning Support Class at Penrhiwceiber Primary School, Church Street, Penrhiwceiber, Mountain Ash, CF45 3YD to Abercynon Community Primary 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

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 1st September 2024.

The current number of pupils at the school is 123, the pupil capacity of the school is 141 and the proposed capacity once the proposal is implemented will be 141.

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 6th November 2023 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Director of Education and Inclusion Services, 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 Services, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Date – 10th October 2023

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 Learning Support Classes (LSC) in Rhondda Cynon Taf is good, there is a need to modernise and develop the type of LSCs to increase opportunities for mainstream inclusion and to further improve results for vulnerable groups of learners.
3. The current location of the LSC is felt to be no longer suitable to meet the needs of the new curriculum within a fully accessible environment.

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 2018 that Rhondda Cynon

Taf, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to establish an Additional Learning Needs (ALN) provision at Abercynon Community Primary School, 26 Ynysmeurig Rd, Abercynon, Mountain Ash CF45 4SY by providing 8 places for Foundation Phase (aged 3 – 7) pupils in an Observation and Assessment Class. 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

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 1st September 2024.

The current number of pupils at the school is 329, the pupil capacity of the school is 325 and the proposed capacity once the proposal is implemented will be 325.

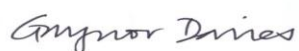
Pupils will be provided with transport in accordance with the Council's Learner Transport Policy.

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by 6th November 2023 any person may object to the proposals.

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

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Signed



Director of Education and Inclusion Services, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Date – 10th October 2023

Explanatory Note

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2. Whilst the quality of Learning Support Classes (LSC) in Rhondda Cynon Taf is good, there is a need to modernise and develop the type of LSCs to increase opportunities for mainstream inclusion and to further improve results for vulnerable groups of learners.

3. The proposed change will provide enhanced provision for Foundation Phase pupils with significant presenting needs.

Proposal 2: Transfer the LSC for pupils in Years 3-6 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 September 2024.

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 2018 that Rhondda Cynon Taf, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to relocate the Learning Support Class (LSC) for pupils Academic Years 3-6 with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Abercynon Community Primary School, 26 Ynysmeurig Rd, Abercynon, Mountain Ash CF45 4SY to Perthcelyn Community Primary School. The schools are 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

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 1st September 2024.

The current number of pupils at the school is 329, the pupil capacity of the school is 325 and the proposed capacity once the proposal is implemented will be 325.


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 6th November 2023 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Director of Education and Inclusion Services, 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.

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Director of Education and Inclusion Services, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Date – 10th October 2023

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 LSCs in Rhondda Cynon Taf is good, there is a need to modernise and develop the type of LSCs to increase opportunities for mainstream inclusion and to further improve results for vulnerable groups of learners.
3. Abercynon Community Primary School will have 2 LSCs which will provide enhanced provision to both Foundation Phase and pre-statutory school aged pupils with significant presenting needs.

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 2018 that Rhondda Cynon Taf, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to establish an Additional Learning Needs (ALN) provision at Perthcelyn Primary School, Glamorgan Street, Perthcelyn, Mountain Ash, CF45 3RJ by providing 10 places for Primary Phase (Academic Years 3-6) pupils with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). 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

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 1st September 2024.

The current number of pupils at the school is 113, the pupil capacity of the school is 160 and the proposed capacity once the proposal is implemented will be 160.

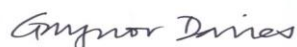
Pupils will be provided with transport in accordance with the Council's Learner Transport Policy.

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by 6th November 2023 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Director of Education and Inclusion Services, 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 Services, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Date – 10th October 2023

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 Learning Support Classes (LSC) in Rhondda Cynon Taf is good, there is a need to modernise and develop the type of LSC's 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 for pupils with ASD.

Proposal 3: Establish one Early Years Assessment and Intervention LSC for pupils under statutory school age with significant presenting needs at Abercynon Community Primary School taking effect from April 2024.

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 2018 that Rhondda Cynon Taf, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to establish an Additional Learning Needs (ALN) provision at Abercynon Community Primary School, 26

Ynysmeurig Rd, Abercynon, Mountain Ash CF45 4SY by providing 8 places for Early Years pupils under statutory school age in an Assessment and Intervention Class. 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

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 1st April 2024.

The current number of pupils at the school is 329, the pupil capacity of the school is 325 and the proposed capacity once the proposal is implemented will be 325.

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 6th November 2023 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Director of Education and Inclusion Services, 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.

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Director of Education and Inclusion Services, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Date – 10th October 2023

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 Learning Support Classes (LSC) in Rhondda Cynon Taf is good, there is a need to modernise and develop the type of LSCs classes to increase opportunities for mainstream inclusion and to further improve results for vulnerable groups of learners.

3. The proposed changes will provide enhanced provision within the Early Years for pre-statutory school aged pupils with significant presenting needs.

Proposal 4: Establish two Welsh medium Primary Phase LSCs at the new Welsh medium primary school in Rhydyfelin (YGG Awel Taf) for pupils with significant ALN taking effect from September 2024.

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 2018 that Rhondda Cynon Taf, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to establish an Additional Learning Needs (ALN) provision at the new Welsh medium Primary School (YGG Awel Taf) being built in Rhydyfelin, Pontypridd by providing 18 places for Primary Phase pupils with significant ALN. The school will be built by September 2024 and will be 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

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 1st September 2024.

At present it is not possible to project pupil numbers and forecast information for the new Welsh medium school. The capacity of the school is 540. Capacity has been built into the new building design to accommodate the proposed Learning Support Classes (LSC).

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 6th November 2023 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Director of Education and Inclusion Services, 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 Services, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Date – 10th October 2023

Explanatory Note

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2. Whilst the quality of LSCs in Rhondda Cynon Taf is good, there is a need to modernise and develop the type of LSCs to increase opportunities for mainstream inclusion and to further improve results for vulnerable groups of learners.
3. There is a need to expand specialist Welsh medium provision in the Local Authority.
4. This will provide a cross phase provision on an accessible single school site.

Proposal 5: Establish one LSC for pupils in years 7-11 with ASD at the new 3-16 school on the Hawthorn Primary/High School site (Ysgol Afon Wen) taking effect from September 2024.

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 2018 that Rhondda Cynon Taf, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to establish an Additional Learning Needs (ALN) provision at the new 3-16 all through school Ysgol Afon Wen School Lane, Hawthorn, Pontypridd, CF37 5AL by providing 14 places for Key Stage 3/4 pupils with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). 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

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 1st September 2024.

At present it is not possible to project pupil numbers and forecast information for the new through school. The capacity of the school is 1260. Capacity has been built into the new building design to accommodate the proposed Learning Support Class (LSC).

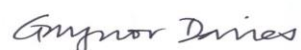
Pupils will be provided with transport in accordance with the Council's Learner Transport Policy.

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by 6th November any person may object to the proposals.

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Director of Education and Inclusion Services, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Date – 10th October 2023

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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 LSCs in Rhondda Cynon Taf is good, there is a need to modernise and develop the type of LSCs 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 3/4 ASD provision in the Local Authority.

3. Details of Objections Received

During the Statutory Notice period, a total of 7 objections were received in relation to **Proposal 2** (Transfer the LSC for pupils in Years 3-6 with ASD at Abercynon Community Primary School to create a through provision in the Primary Phase at

Perthcelyn Primary School taking effect from September 2024) by the closing date of the 6th of November 2023.

There were no objections to Proposals 1,3,4 or 5. The objection key themes are included below along with the Council's responses to the objections.

4. Objection Key Themes and Local Authority Response

The key themes of the objections received, and the Local Authority's responses are detailed in the following table:

Objection Key Theme	LA Response
<p>Community resources / Curriculum offer</p>	<p>Significant emphasis has been raised in relation to the perceived advantages of one community to another. All schools are required within the new Curriculum for Wales to develop their individual curriculum building on the opportunities available in the school's locality. Due to this requirement each curriculum will be unique to each setting but there is an expected consistency in the range of learning opportunities and the specialist provision available in LSCs and beyond.</p>
<p>Disruption of pupils / Transition support</p>	<p>All the required impact assessments have been undertaken, LSC re-alignment will inevitably cause some disruption and uncertainty for parents and pupils for a period of time, although experience from previous LSC realignments has been positive. Access & Inclusion will provide support to eradicate or minimise any potential negative impact. This will involve collaboration between current LSC staff, Access and Inclusion staff, pupils and their families to ensure a person-centred approach is taken to meeting the educational and wellbeing needs of pupils.</p> <p>As the current LSC staff will be moving with the pupils they will work with Access & Inclusion will ensure a robust transition process is put in place. This will ensure there is continuity in staffing and support for pupils to support both their educational provision and wellbeing. The LSC will continue to be monitored collaboratively by school and the LA through its quality assurance protocol.</p>
<p>Parental refusal of relocation</p>	<p>In the event of parental opposition to a relocation of their children's provision to the proposed Perthcelyn LSC, supported mainstream placements in the existing settings can be explored in partnership with the school and Access and Inclusion Service staff.</p>

Consultation process and reporting of comments/submissions	Concerns have been previously raised and addressed regarding the recording of petition signatories, lack of communication and engagement by Access & Inclusion Officers. Stakeholders are assured that the consultation has been undertaken in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018.
Transport	As previously reported, transport will be provided in line with the Learner Travel Policy.