

AGENDA ITEM 4**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL****CABINET****14th MAY 2015****REALIGNMENT OF LEARNING SUPPORT CLASSES FOR PUPILS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS****REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING****Author: Ceri Jones, Acting Head of Access and Inclusion Service Tel: 01443 744356.****1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To advise Members of the outcome of the publication of the statutory notices in respect of the proposals to realign mainstream Learning Support Class (LSC) provision within Rhondda Cynon Taf.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are recommended to:-

- 2.1 Note that no objections to the proposals have been received during the statutory notice period.
- 2.2 To approve implementation of the proposals to realign the following Learning Support Classes:
 - To close Aberdare Park Primary Foundation Phase LSC for Complex Learning Difficulties;
 - To close Capcoch Primary Provision LSC for Speech and Language Difficulties;
 - To close Perthcelyn Primary Key Stage 2 LSC for Complex Learning Difficulties;
 - To open a new learning support class at Pontypridd High School - a Key Stage 3 / 4 LSC for Social Emotional & Behavioural Difficulties.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 On the 12th February 2015 Cabinet approval was given to begin a process of formal consultation on a proposal to realign mainstream LSC provision, to take effect from 31st August 2015.
- 3.2 Rhondda Cynon Taf has excellent Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision attached to mainstream schools which can be accessed without a Statement of SEN. Data analysis tells us that there is an imbalance between primary and

secondary provisions and that the current provisions do not match the level of increasing need in some areas. This includes LSCs for pupils with Autistic Spectrum/Social Communication Difficulties (all age ranges) and Complex Needs (Key Stage 3/4). In addition, there is a clearly identified need to improve provision for children in the early years that require more ongoing observation and assessment to identify accurately primary needs and specialist placement, or to inform more individualised packages of support in mainstream settings.

- 3.3 The number of LSC placements available for pupils to access at the beginning of the realignment was 428. Following the changes there will be 410 placements available which equates to a decrease of 18 placements. The proposals will address the low demand for some provisions and the high demand for others, thus ensuring a better fit between pupil needs and placement.

Following consultation it is recommended that the following changes are made:

Learning Support Class Closures:

Aberdare Park Primary	Foundation Phase LSC for Complex Learning Difficulties
Capcoch Primary	Primary Provision LSC for Speech and Language Difficulties
Perthcelyn Primary	Key Stage 2 LSC for Complex Learning Difficulties

New Learning Support Classes to be established:

Pontypridd High School	Key Stage 3 / 4 LSC for Social Emotional & Behavioural Difficulties
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4 FEEDBACK FROM STATUTORY NOTICES FROM STAKEHOLDERS

- 4.1 Statutory notices were issued regarding the proposed re-alignment on the 2nd March 2015. The notices were also available to view on the Council website. Stakeholders were sent letters advising them of the publication of the statutory notices. Schools were asked to advise parents of the documentation either via the schools website or by distributing a letter.

- 4.2 No responses to the statutory notices have been received.

5 THE STATUTORY PROCESS / NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 The statutory notices indicated the proposed realignment of LSC provision as detailed on 3.3 of this report with effect from 31st August 2015.
- 5.2 As no objections have been received to any of the published statutory notices issued from 2nd – 29th March 2015, permission is now sought to progress to the implementation of the proposals from September 2015.

6. **CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 Members will note that of the 4 schools affected by the proposals no responses have been received raising any concerns regarding the statutory notices.
- 6.2 It is recommended that approval is given to progress the planned re-alignment of the LSCs with effect from 31st August 2015. Please refer to Appendix 1 for a schedule of changes. These changes, if agreed, will ensure that the LA is better equipped to meet the needs of pupils with SEN and will ensure a high quality education for all learners within Rhondda Cynon Taf.

APPENDIX 1**LEARNING SUPPORT CLASS REVIEW IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

Implementation Date	Open	Close
31st August 2015		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdare Park (FP Complex) • Capcoch (S&L)
1st September 2015	Pontypridd High KS3/4 SEBD	
31st August 2016		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perthcelyn (KS2 Complex)

