

Community Impact Assessment

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

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

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

The proposals include:

- To establish one Early Years Intervention LSC for pupils under statutory school age with significant presenting needs at Cwmaman Primary School. The proposal will take effect from September 2025.
- To establish one Early Years Intervention LSC for pupils under statutory school age with significant presenting needs at Penyreglyn Primary School. The proposal will take effect from September 2025.
- To establish one LSC for pupils in Years 7-11 with Complex Learning Needs at Mountain Ash Comprehensive School taking effect from September 2025.
- To relocate the LSC for pupils Years 3-6 with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Penywaun Primary School to Hirwaun Primary School taking effect from September 2025.
- To establish one LSC for pupils in Reception – Year 2 with Autistic Spectrum Disorder at Hirwaun Primary School to create a through provision in the Primary Phase taking effect from September 2025.

The proposals are to be consulted on between 30th September 2024 and 15th November 2024. A detailed Consultation Document has been circulated to all prescribed stakeholders and the Community Impact Assessment is an appendix of this main document. Copies will be forwarded to the Welsh Government in compliance with consultation and publication guidelines.

Proposal:

- 1. To establish one Early Years Intervention LSC for pupils under statutory school age with significant presenting needs at Cwmaman Primary School. The proposal will take effect from September 2025.**

RCT is proposing to enhance the Early Years Intervention provision within the County Borough by creating an additional LSC to support pre-statutory school

age pupils with significant presenting needs. The class will support 8 pre-statutory school aged pupils.

- 2. To establish one Early Years Intervention LSC for pupils under statutory school age with significant presenting needs at Penyrenglyn Primary School. The proposal will take effect from September 2025.**

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

- 3. To establish one LSC for pupils in Years 7-11 with Complex Learning Needs at Mountain Ash Comprehensive School taking effect from September 2025.**

To address the current capacity issues, it is proposed RCT opens an additional LSC for pupils in Years 7-11 with CLD at Mountain Ash Comprehensive School. This is to ensure the LA meets the demands for specialist CLD provision in its secondary phase. The class will support 14 pupils Yr 7-11.

- 4. To relocate the LSC for pupils Years 3-6 with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Penywaun Primary School to Hirwaun Primary School taking effect from September 2025.**

RCT is proposing to relocate its ASD class from Penywaun to Hirwaun. This will minimise unnecessary transition for pupils with ASD, provide continuity in their educational placements and ensure that a higher number of specialist LSC provisions provide equity for pupils in LSCs so that they remain in one setting until transition to secondary provision in line with their mainstream peers. The provision will continue to accommodate 10 pupils Yrs 3-6.

- 5. To create one LSC for pupils in Reception – Year 2 with Autistic Spectrum Disorder at Hirwaun Primary School to create a through provision in the Primary Phase taking effect from September 2025**

The proposal to create a Reception – Year 2 ASD provision in Hirwaun will enhance the ASD provision within the County Borough by creating an additional LSC to meet the demand for specialist ASD provision. Linking with proposal 4 above the proposed class relocation, this proposed new provision will increase capacity whilst also reducing transition. The provision will accommodate 8 pupils Reception – Yr2.

All placements within the LSC will be agreed in the Access and Inclusion ALN panels.

Community Impact

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

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

Impact on Health and Wellbeing

It is anticipated that the proposals will have a significantly positive impact on the health and wellbeing of pupils targeted by the proposals. The relocation of classes will allow pupils to access buildings that have benefited from the modernisation programme and the creation of additional Early Years, CLD and ASD provisions will meet the rising demand for specialist provision in these specific areas of need in RCT.

Current 'Out of hours' Usage

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

Transport and Travel Implications

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