

Decision Notice: Learning Support Class Re-alignment within Rhondda Cynon Taf

The Council's Cabinet, at their meeting held on April 9th 2019 resolved to implement the following proposals:

- Open Key Stage 3/4 LSC provision for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties in Treorchy Comprehensive School with effect from 1st September 2019.
- Open Key Stage 3/4 LSC provision for pupils with Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties in Ysgol Nant Gwyn with effect from 1st September 2019.
- Relocate the Foundation Phase LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties from Caradog Primary School to Cwmbach Primary School, creating a cross phase provision from Foundation Phase to Key Stage 2 with effect from 1st September 2019.
- Relocate the Foundation Phase LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties from Penrhys Primary School to Maerdy Primary School, creating a cross phase provision from Foundation Phase to Key Stage 2 with effect from 1st September 2019.
- Re-designate 1 Foundation Phase LSC for Complex Learning Difficulties in Darran Park Primary School and 1 Foundation Phase Observation and Assessment Class at Llantrisant Primary School to become 2 Early Years Assessment and Intervention LSCs for pupils under statutory school age with significant presenting needs with effect from 1st September 2019.
- Close the Foundation Phase LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties in Heol y Celyn Primary School with effect from 31st August 2019 noting no pupils would be affected by this proposal.
- Close the Foundation Phase LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties in Penrhys Primary School with effect from 31st August 2019 noting no pupils would be affected by this proposal.
- Close the Key Stage 2 LSC for pupils with Social, Emotional, and Behavioural Difficulties in Penywaun Primary School with effect from 31st August 2019 noting no pupils would be affected by this proposal.
- Close the Foundation Phase LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties in Pontygwaith Primary School with effect from 31st August 2019 noting no pupils would be affected by this proposal.
- Close the Key Stage 2 LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties in Heol y Celyn Primary School with effect from 31st August 2019 noting two pupils would be affected by this proposal.

- Agreed amendment of the proposal in relation to the closure of the Key Stage 2 LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties in Caradog Primary School. The LSC will now close on 31st August 2023 and not the 31st August 2019. This will ensure that no pupils would be affected by this proposal. No further pupils will be placed in the provision. However this decision will be kept under review based on demand level until August 2023

The reasons for, and rationale behind the proposals and the reasons for this decision to implement them were fully outlined and explained in the consultation document that was widely circulated in October 2018. Cabinet also fully considered all comments received following the consultation process that ended in December 2018 and objections received following the publication of the statutory notice in March 2019. A summary of the reasons for the decision to implement these proposals is given below:

- Addresses significant surplus capacity in some primary provisions;
- Addresses insufficient provision in the secondary sector;
- Addresses the absence of cross phase specialist provision on some school sites means that some learners experience unnecessary transitions;
- Ensures LSCs benefit from relocation to fully accessible schools that have benefited from the 21st Century School Modernisation and investment;
- Ensures there is sufficient provision to meet the needs of learners in the early years.

The realignment ensures that resources are better utilised and re-directed to enhance existing provision to better meet needs of RCT pupils and addresses identified gaps in provision. This decision ensures an improved continuum of SEN provision within RCT.

The re-alignment of LSCs will ensure that the LA has an enhanced focus on providing more effective mainstream inclusion opportunities for pupils with a wide range of SEN and a more equitable continuum of provision is achieved for pupils with significant SEN.

Further information on the summary is detailed within the consultation document that was circulated widely to all consultees in October 2018. This document is still available on the Council website for any person to view.

The conclusion therefore reached by Cabinet when making their final decision was to approve the proposals as published within the Statutory Notice, with the exception of the closure of Key Stage 2 LSC provision at Caradog Primary School which will now close on 31st August 2023 and not 31st August 2019 as stated in the statutory notice. All works are subject to the satisfactory outcome of the relevant statutory consents.

