

Pen y Cwm Consultation - Thematic Analysis

The primary themes arising from the analysis of responses including: social media and face to face engagement; written, email and survey correspondence are detailed below. The frequency of reference to each theme (from the most to the least prevalent) is also noted:

Theme	Frequency
<p>Specialist Provision – A high proportion of consultees - particularly staff and Governor’s highlighted the need to maintain existing specialist facilities, whilst also looking to enhance and increase this provision within the school. There were concerns that the proposed increased capacity would be to the detriment of the specialist areas which the school has been recognised and commended for by Estyn and other. This provision is important to maintaining the specialist nature of the school.</p>	17
<p>Increased Demand – Consultees recognised the significant increase in demand for specialist provision over the course of the last 4-5 years in particular. The need to the need to address the increased demand in both the short and long-term was a persistent them within the responses received.</p>	16
<p>Sustainability – This theme relates the need to consider long-term sustainability of provision in responding to the increasing levels of demand. Respondents were concerned about the fragility of the medium-term situation in line with increased placement requests. Consultees where seeking assurance around the Council’s long-term commitment to the proposal.</p>	15
<p>Space – Respondents highlighted their concerns regarding spatial constraints within the existing footprint of the school building, which have been exacerbated in recent years by increasing pupil numbers. There is a dependency between this theme and that of specialist provision, which has been restricted and lost in the past due to the limitations upon the availability of space. These concerns relate to increased provision and its impact upon internal and external facilities, for which demand will increase i.e. the outdoor gym, hydro pool, science and technology and life skills areas.</p>	14
<p>Growth – There was recognition among respondents of growth which had taken place over the last 10 years within the pupil population, along with the need to support continued growth into the future. There was support for growth and development of the school and associated provision.</p>	10
<p>Wellbeing –There were strong views on learner and staff wellbeing being monitored managed and maintained throughout the short to medium-term planning process. This theme also related to supporting the development of local specialist provision for Blaenau Gwent Learners.</p>	5

Out of County – There was recognition of the need to reduce out of county placement made due to availability of provision.	5
Opportunities – Consultees felt that there are opportunities to enhance and further develop provision that should be maximised by both short and long-term aspects of the proposal.	4
Stability – There was a feeling that Pen y Cwm requires a sustainable solution to increase stability for staff and learners alike.	3