

## STATUTORY NOTICE

**Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Education Directorate, Floor 8 Anvil Court, Abertillery, Blaenau Gwent, NP13 1DB.**

Notice is given in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to alter Pen y Cwm Special School, Strand Annealing Lane, Ebbw Vale, Blaenau Gwent NP23 6AN for boys and girls aged 3-19 so as to extend the capacity of the school. The school is currently and will continue to be maintained by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. The school will have no denominating religious character.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposer's responses and Estyn's full response is available on:-

<https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/council/consultations/proposal-to-extend-the-capacity-at-pen-y-cwm-special-school/>

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 1st September 2021. Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council propose to extend the capacity at Pen y Cwm Special School from 120 to 175 places, with effect from September 2021. In order to facilitate the extended capacity, the Council will remodel the existing learning environment to create additional classroom spaces and associated facilities i.e. toilets. In addition, and alongside this, the Council will work with the school to develop a long-term plan to support sustained growth and development.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council will be the admission authority via the Council's Additional Learning Needs (ALN) panel. The new school's pupil capacity will be 175 pupils of statutory school age (4-16). The school also has a Post 16 provision up to the age of 19 years old.

Pupils will be provided with transport in accordance with the Council's Home to School transport policy. The Council has established a process in order to assess the travel needs of children who may require ALN transport. Pupils requiring Additional Learning Needs (ALN) transport who live:

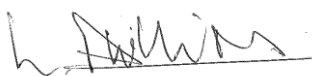
- over 1.5 miles (for those under 8 years of age); and/or,
- over 2 miles (for those aged between 8-16 years of age)

from their nearest suitable ALN provision, will automatically qualify for free home to school transport. \*Please note in instances where the school is a parental choice and not the provision determined by the ALN Panel, no transport will be provided.

Within a period of 28 days of the date on which the proposal was published, that is to say by 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021 any person may object to the proposals.

- Objections by e-mail should be sent to [21stcenturyschools@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:21stcenturyschools@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk).
- Objections in writing should be sent to Lynn Phillips, Corporate Director of Education, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Floor 8 Anvil Court, Abertillery, Blaenau Gwent, NP13 1DB.

Signed



**Corporate Director of Education  
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.  
25<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

Pen y Cwm is a Special School catering for learners across the 3-19 age range, with a wide range of disabilities and difficulties ranging from Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) to Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD), Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Visually Impaired (VI), Hearing Impaired (HI) pupils. The school provides accessible accommodation and facilities for those who have a physical disability alongside their learning difficulty.

The school population has grown by approximately 36% since relocating November 2012. As a result, there is now very limited if any flexible space, and each of the specialist areas (including the specialist rooms for Secondary age teaching and learning) have been reconfigured to facilitate general teaching spaces for additional pupils. Therefore, each of the phases (Foundation Phase/Primary/Secondary/Post 16) are now compromised in terms of flexibility and space.

The consultation period for this proposal commenced on **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021** and concluded on **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2021**.

Therefore, this proposal will be delivered in 2 parts:

- Part 1, to increase the capacity of Pen y Cwm Special School from 120 to 175 places in preparation for 2021/22 academic year, which would involve physical works to the existing building including:
  - Re-location of the Post 16 base (including 3 classrooms, a common room, life skills room, toilets and hygiene facilities)
  - Re-location of the current administrative area and office space (including a staff room, PPA room, conference facility and a small meeting room)
  - Creation of 2 additional primary classrooms
  - Creation of 1 additional secondary classroom and associated facilities
  - Re-location of the soft-play area to the ground floor
  - Re-development of the Science and Technology room
- Part 2, the development of a long-term plan to secure additional capacity to facilitate sustained growth and development.

The consultation report is available on Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council's website.

Further information on this proposal can be found here:

<https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/council/consultations/proposal-to-extend-the-capacity-at-pen-y-cwm-special-school/>

**END OF NOTICE**