



Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council  
Formal Consultation Document proposal  
to Improve provision and build capacity  
for Additional Learning Needs (ALN)  
Pupils across the County Borough

The Consultation Commences:  
Monday 24th April 2023 and concludes  
at 5pm on Tuesday 6th June 2023

## What is this booklet about?

This booklet has been prepared for parents/carers, school staff, school governors and the wider community of Blaenau Gwent. The booklet provides an overview of the consultation process associated with the Council's formal proposal for a **delivery model to improve provision and build capacity for Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Pupils across the County Borough**. It will be of particular interest to parents/carers whose children are attending a Resource Base.

If you would like this information in any other format, please contact the Education Transformation team either via email or telephone, as follows:

- Email us: [21stcenturyschools@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:21stcenturyschools@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk) or,
- Call us on: (01495) 355470



## Glossary of Terms - Please note the following terms used throughout this document:

<b>Additional Learning Needs (ALN)</b>	A pupil learner has ALN if there is a learning difficulty or disability which calls for additional learning provision (ALP).
<b>Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)</b>	Is a complex developmental <b>condition</b> that involves persistent challenges in social interaction, speech and nonverbal communication and restricted/repetitive behaviours. The effects of ASD and the severity of symptoms are different in each person.
<b>Child Looked After (CLA)</b>	Is a child in the care of a Local Authority either: through a Care Order made by a court, or voluntary agreement with their parent(s) to accommodate them.
<b>Local Authority</b>	An organisation that is officially responsible for all the public services and facilities in a particular area.
<b>Local Development Plan (LDP)</b>	Sets out each <b>local planning</b> authority's proposals for future <b>development</b> and use of land in their area.
<b>Numbers on Roll (NoR)</b>	The number of pupils at a school (not including nursery and Learning Resource Base Pupils).
<b>Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC)</b>	PLASC is an electronic collection of pupil and school level data provided by all maintained sector primary, middle, secondary, nursery and special schools in January each year (more information can be found on the Welsh Government website).
<b>Resource Base (RB)</b>	A small setting in a mainstream school for pupils with ALN whose needs cannot be met in the mainstream alone. Pupils are taught by specialist teachers and learning support assistants. It is anticipated that pupils accessing a resource base will also have opportunities to attend mainstream classes.
<b>Special School</b>	A school for pupils with a complex learning/medical need or disability, whose needs cannot be met in a mainstream school or Resource Base provision. The pupils at a special school will have either a statement of SEN or an IDP.
<b>Statement of Additional Learning Needs</b>	A pupil with a statement of SEN or an IDP who has additional learning needs which calls for additional learning provision. This means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the pupil has significantly greater difficulty learning than most pupils of the same age, or</li> <li>the pupil has a disability that needs different educational facilities from those that the school generally provides for pupils.</li> </ul>
<b>Statutory Notice</b>	A statutory notice is the formal publication of a finalised proposal. This will only be undertaken if a decision is made by the Council's Executive Committee to proceed with a proposal, following consideration of all responses from the consultation process. This is a legal requirement as outlined in the School Organisation Code (2018).
<b>Statutory School Age (SSA)</b>	A child who is over the age of 5 and under the age of 16 that is eligible to attend school.

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## Section 1: Introduction



The Council are committed to providing all children and young people with high quality education and training tailored to meet their needs, which will develop their potential, extend aspiration, promote social inclusion, and contribute to the economic regeneration of the area. A review of existing and future provision for both Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and ALN Resource Base is essential for pupils to enable them to fulfil their potential. Therefore, this proposal is a key priority for the Council.

The Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 (ALNET) Legislation 2018 and the Corresponding ALN Code of Practice 2021 came into force with the focus now changing on how data is recorded in Local Authorities and schools. The focus is now on schools meeting the needs of pupils under universal and targeted provision through quality teaching and learning.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (“the Council”) reviews the capacity of its schools on an annual basis. As such, the Council is responding to the increased demand and growth noted over the course of the last 3 years, in line with pupil placement requests to the ALN panel for both ASD and ALN Resource Base (RB) settings.

The County Borough currently has 2 special schools which are:

- Pen y Cwm Special School which caters for complex needs; and
- The River Centre 3-16 Learning Community for Social and Emotional Behaviour Difficulties (SEBD) consisting of 3 separate sites:
  - Primary Phase (Thomas Richard Centre)
  - Secondary Phase (Pontygof site Ebbw Vale)
  - Stewards House (Ebbw Vale)

There are also seven Learning Resource Bases for Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and ALN in mainstream settings across the County Borough:

- **Primary sector:**
  - Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community – Six Bells Campus
  - Coed y Garn Primary School
  - Glanhwy Primary School
  - Willowtown Primary School
  - Ystruth Primary School
- **Secondary sector:**
  - Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community ALN – Secondary Campus
  - Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community ASD – Secondary Campus\*\*

\*\* Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community Secondary Campus also has a school transitional class which under this proposal will be formally recognised as a Council run resource base.

## Section 2: Consultation Process

Prior to any decision being made on the proposal to **Improve provision and build capacity for Additional Learning Needs Pupils which includes ASD and ALN RB's across the County Borough**, the Council is required to undertake statutory consultation with all interested and affected parties. This is necessary since the proposal will see the establishment and change of ALN provisions in a number of Primary and Secondary school in the County Borough. This section provides an overview of the consultation process.

This consultation, will provide consultees with the opportunity to learn more about, understand and express their views on the Council's proposal, which will inform the final decision as to how the proposal is taken forward. The feedback and comments received during the consultation process will be collated, analysed, and included in a consultation report which will be published. Consultees who wish to register their wish to be notified of the publication of the consultation report should contact the Council using the contact details in this document. The Councils Cabinet will then make the final decision on whether to take forward some or all of the proposals based on the outcome and feedback received during the consultation.

### Who we are Consulting with

This Consultation Document will be distributed, in accordance with the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code Version 2 (November 2018). **Appendix 1** of this this consultation document details the full list of consultees who will be targeted during the statutory consultation period.

### Consultation Overview

The consultation period for this proposal will commence on **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023** and conclude on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023**. Consultees can submit their views on the proposal; however, it should be noted that responses received during this period will not be logged as objections to the proposal. Objections can only be registered following the publication of the Statutory Notice. Should the proposal proceed, and consultees wish to make an objection, they will need to do so in writing during the statutory notice period outlined on **page 20**.

The Council would like you to consider the information set out in this document and provide your views on the proposals.

If you have any questions about the proposals or queries on the information contained within this document or suggestions or alternatives to the proposals, please contact us by using either the email address below, or by calling us on (01495) 355470.

[21stcenturyschools@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:21stcenturyschools@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)



You are also welcome to complete the online survey using the following link: <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/d1daqu>



Written comments on the proposal can be sent to: **Education Transformation Team, Education Department, Floor 8 Anvil Court, Abertillery, NP13 1DB**

All consultation responses should be received by **5pm on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at the latest.**

The Education Transformation team has planned virtual meetings with Trade Union and Scrutiny Committee representatives. All affected School Governing Bodies, Staff, Pupils parents and the wider community will have access to a series of scheduled drop-in sessions throughout the consultation period. At all of the below events in **Table 1**, Council officers will be available to answer any questions that you may have.

**Table 1 -Drop in Sessions**

Location	Date	Time(s)	Session aimed at:
Ebbw Vale Learning Action Centre James St, Ebbw Vale NP23 6JG	2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2023	3pm – 6:30pm	Governing Body, All Staff, Parents and Wider Community
Ty Bedwellty Morgan Street, Tredegar, NP22 3XN	3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2023	3pm – 6:30pm	Governing Body, All Staff, Parents and Wider Community
Abertillery Metropole Cultural & Conference Centre 2 Mitre St, Abertillery NP13 1AE	9 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	3pm – 6:30pm	Governing Body, All Staff, Parents and Wider Community
Brynmawr Rugby Club Catholic Road, Brynmawr NP23 4EF	10 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	3pm – 6:30pm	Governing Body, All Staff, Parents and Wider Community

A frequently asked questions page will be developed and updated throughout the consultation period and can be found on the consultation webpage. Should you feel the need to and/or feel strongly about discussing the proposal in person, please contact us via the 21<sup>st</sup> century schools email address as follows: [21stcenturyschools@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:21stcenturyschools@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk) and a virtual meeting over Microsoft teams can be arranged.

### **Consultation with Children and Young People**

There will be an opportunity for the pupils of any new or existing school where there will be a ASD or ALN RB established, along with other children and young people from the county borough to participate in the consultation process. All information gathered from the consultation process will form part of the consultation report.

## Section 3: The Proposal

### Overview

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council propose to increase the capacity for ALN and ASD Resource Bases across the County Borough in certain Primary and Secondary Schools. This will involve the establishment and change of ALN provisions in a number of Primary and Secondary Schools in the Council Borough. The proposal is to increase ASD and ALN places from 61 to 86 across the Primary Schools and increase the provision at Secondary Schools from 62 to 80 places in Phase 1 (including 15 Welsh-medium places). Further the proposals include the potential to increase places by a further 40 places in Phase 2 (including a Faith Based provision). This will take effect from September 2023 on a phased basis over the next 5 years.

The Council plan to remodel existing learning environments to create classroom spaces and associated facilities to accommodate and provide appropriate resources for the proposed ALN and ASD provisions. In addition, and alongside this, the Council will work with the schools to develop a long-term plan to support sustained growth and development.

Therefore, this proposal will be delivered in 2 phases:

### Phase 1

- To recognise the transition group established in Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community-Secondary Phase as a 6 place RB from September 2023
- To create a 6-8 place ASD Resource Base at Tredegar Comprehensive School from September 2023
- To create a 10 place ASD/ALN Resource Base at Sofrydd Primary School from September 2024/25
- To create a 15 place ASD/ALN Resource Base at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg from September 2024

### Phase 2

The development of a Medium-term plan to secure additional capacity to facilitate sustained growth and development in Primary and Secondary Schools. This will include provision at the below schools between 2025 and 2029:

- To create an ASD/ALN Resource Base at Brynmawr Foundation School for 10 pupils
- To create an ASD/ALN Resource Base at Cwm Primary School for 10 pupils
- To create, if required, an ASD/ALN Resource base at a Faith Based Primary school (such as Roman Catholic/Church in Wales Schools) in Blaenau Gwent (yet to be determined) for 10 pupils
- To create an ASD/ALN Resource Base at Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community - Roseheyworth Road Primary Campus for 10 pupils

The proposal would support the Education Directorate's purpose to deliver:

***'Better Schools, Better Citizens and Better Communities'***

The proposal is in keeping with Blaenau Gwent's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme investment objectives which are:

- **Investment Objective 1:** to raise standards and achievement in line with localised targets at Foundation Phase, KS2, KS3 and KS4; and secure improved transition into post 16 learning
- **Investment Objective 2:** to create a sustainable model for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century school estate in consideration of both capital and revenue investment, along with the condition and suitability of buildings
- **Investment Objective 3:** to establish effective management and provision of school places, by having the right schools of the right size in the right place
- **Investment Objective 4:** to implement the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme (formally the 21st Century Schools programme) in line with local, regional and national school organisation policy; ensuring synergy between progression, development and implementation
- **Investment Objective 5:** meeting the needs of learners who are vulnerable and/or present with ALN

### Rationale and Background Information - Why Change is Necessary



### ALN Policies and Principles

The ALNET Legislation came into force in 2018 and the ALN Code of Practice has been implemented since 2021. The focus has now changed on how data is recorded in Local Authorities and schools. The focus is now on schools meeting the needs of pupils under the universal and targeted provision through quality teaching and learning.

The Council has reviewed all provision for pupils with ALN across the County Borough. This review has better enabled the Local Authority to continue to meet the needs of all pupils. In addition, a working party of key stakeholders with an ALN focus including Headteachers from across Blaenau Gwent is operational. It is the expectation that the working party will also inform future planning for supporting all pupils with an additional learning need, including Welsh medium settings.

### Standards of Provision

Should this proposal proceed, it will improve the suitability of the learning environment for pupils with ALN, it will also provide access to local provision in mainstream settings for ALN pupils. This will help with individual needs of pupils such as health, safety and welfare issues identified in the application for places in Resource Bases.

Places will be available locally for pupils living in Blaenau Gwent; improving learner outcomes and inclusion on a County Borough level. Also the proposal can offer places in Blaenau Gwent for pupils from other Local Authorities, should the need arise and if space is available.

## Need for additional places and the impact on accessibility of schools

The data collated below demonstrates that there is a need for ASD/ALN provision in our mainstream schools to support this proposal. Currently provision is full in our ALN resource bases and there will be no growth to support our learners if this proposal does not proceed. Blaenau Gwent already has cross border regional working arrangements in place for places in ALN provision.

All learning resource bases for both ASD and ALN are based in primary and secondary mainstream settings across the County Borough. These settings cater for 3-16 year olds (no nursery ASD provision). Other than Pen y Cwm Special School, Blaenau Gwent does not have any post 16 settings in its secondary school buildings, any pupil over the age of 16 would transition in to Post 16 opportunities which could include Coleg Gwent, apprenticeships, work-based learning or employment.

The current provisions are shown below in **Figure 1 & 2**, this information is for academic year 2022/23 as at 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

<b>Figure 1 - Current Primary Schools</b>	<b>Type of Provision</b>	<b>Places available</b>	<b>Places taken</b>	<b>Places available</b>
Abertillery Learning Community 3-16 Six Bells Primary Campus	ALN RB	9	7	2
Coed Y Garn Primary School KS2	ALN RB	12	12	0
Glanhowy Primary School	ASD	12	14	-2
Willowtown Primary School	ALN RB	16	15	1
Ystruth Primary School	ASD	12	14	-2
	<b>Total spaces</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>-1</b>

<b>Figure 2 - Current Secondary Schools</b>	<b>Type of Provision</b>	<b>Places available</b>	<b>Places taken</b>	<b>Places available</b>
Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community - Secondary Campus	ALN RB	42	41	1
Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community – Secondary Phase	ASD	18	21	-3
Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community – Secondary Phase	Transition group		6	-6
	<b>Total spaces</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>-8</b>

The tables above show there is limited capacity in the County Borough to accommodate demand in the resource bases. In 2015 the Council undertook an ALN consultation resulting in the re-designation of a primary complex needs resource base to ASD provision and the opening of a new provision at Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community – Secondary Phase. **Appendix 2** (location, pupil numbers and projections) **and Appendix 3** (Schools condition survey and facilities) provides an overview of all the schools within the County Borough directly and indirectly affected. This information provides details of the facilities available in all schools and numbers on roll. There has been significant investment into the school estate from our Sustainable Communities for Learning programme, Welsh Governments Capital Maintenance Grant and the ALN grant to improve provision for our pupils.

The most recent investment has been in:

- Pen y Cwm Special School to improve their specialist rooms and learning environment
- River Centre 3-16 Learning Community - secondary campus refurbishment
- Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg, creation of a sensory room and nurture space

### Learning Resource Bases

Data in **Figure 3** (Primary) and **Figure 4** (Secondary) suggests that from 2017/18 in primary Schools, places have become in demand rising from 48 to 64 places (an increase of 25%), whereas in the secondary sector it has risen by 2 places from 60 to 62 (4%). However, as the primary sector numbers have grown significantly over the last few years there is a pressing need to create additional spaces in both primary and secondary Schools to accommodate demand.

**Figure 3 - last 5 years Primary resource base figures**

	Last 5 years data for Resource Bases				
Primary	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2021/22
Resource Capacity	n/k	61	61	65	65
Places taken	n/k	48	45	65	64
Amount over capacity	n/k	-13	-16	0	-1

**Figure 4 – last 5 years Secondary resource base figures**

	Last 5 years data for Resource Bases				
Secondary	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2021/22
Resource Capacity	n/k	60	60	62	62
Places taken	n/k	60	60	62	62
Amount over capacity	n/k	0	0	0	0

Pupil numbers and demand for places at Resource Bases has significantly increased over the course of the last four years, resulting, on occasions, in oversubscription, along with a waiting list, which as of March 2023 has 6 pupils awaiting placement. Therefore, the Local Authority is seeking to increase the capacity (in terms of the number of places) in Resource Bases as follows:

- Phase 1 – Primary from 61 to 92 places (inclusive of 15 Welsh-medium places) and Secondary from 62 places to 76 places: and,
- Phase 2 - potentially Primary from 92 to 122 places (inclusive of 10 Faith based places) and Secondary from 76 to 86 places

The Local Authority is projecting a continued upward trend in terms of demand/pupil numbers going forward. If projected demand for places in Resource Bases continues it will put pressure on the Local Authority to place pupils Out of County, should we not be able to secure additional places locally. The Council seeks to address the aforementioned issues by increasing the capacity of local Resource Bases in mainstream school and River Centre 3-16 Learning Community secondary campus to facilitate the increased demand for places and secure medium-term growth.

### Covid Pandemic and Post Covid emerging theme

Since the Covid Pandemic in 2020, there has been an impact on everything worldwide. This includes all services provided by the Council. Work practices changed with the introduction of digital engagement with parents, and as a result there has been a rise in numbers of children in their early years who require additional support via the health services (diagnoses) and education

support where they have missed that social interaction with other children. The full extent of development delay as a result of Covid and associated factors is unknown currently but is expected to increase the need of Blaenau Gwent pupils moving forward.

### **Demand for Places**

Within Blaenau Gwent and based on the September 2022 Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) data the number of pupils with Additional Needs (has increased. At present, 14% (1,389) of Statutory School Age pupils (9,389) in the County Borough have an Additional Learning Need/SEN Status. There are currently 250 children with a Statement of SEN or an IDP (Individual Development Plan) in Blaenau Gwent of Statutory School Age.

In an attempt to develop a model with the aim of predicting the number of places required, the Council has used historic data and associated trends and have considered the number of requests which were agreed by the ALN Panel. We have also considered the number of resource base and special school leavers on an annual basis. We were then able to establish the net increase on an annual basis. Based on the current numbers on roll, and the information above, we have predicted forward demand.

Therefore, demand has risen and is likely to continue to do so in line with inward migration, increased survival rates of children with complex needs and finally, placement requests from other Local Authorities with sufficiency issues. The Council is aware that the growth and demand for specialist education placements is on the increase throughout Wales. Neighbouring Authorities have undertaken consultation upon growth of special school capacity and resource bases to facilitate demand, or are considering doing so, due to sufficiency of places. If The Council does not secure sufficient places for its pupils, it is unlikely that neighbouring Local Authorities will have capacity to accommodate them, resulting in potentially very high Out of County placement costs, increased traveling time and decreased accessibility to local education options for the most vulnerable pupils with the highest level of need.

### **Specialist Schools**

It should also be noted that in 2020 the council went out to consult on increasing the capacity for Pen y Cwm Special school to accommodate the demand for special school placements. This was approved in 2021 for September 2021 implementation. Part 1 of the consultation is near completion with the special provision offered being re-established. Part 2 is still in development.

Also, in January 2017 the River Centre 3-16 Learning Community was established. This provision is based over three sites primary (Thomas Richard Centre) Secondary (Pontygof) and Stewards House offering 64 places, 40 of which were turn around and 24 places on full time roll.

### **Early Years and Nursery Provision**

The supporting data below shows that there is demand at this early stage of a child's life. Out of the September 2022 cohort of 129 children in early years setting 49 are transferring to nursery and are known to need support. A further 24 children have been awarded funding with a screened application for additional support. These figures can change weekly as there are 3 intakes throughout the year.

It is anticipated that as a targeted solution needs to be developed to create a solution, for children in Early Years to be supported in the mainstream environment.

### Additional Learning Needs Provision

The proposal to extend the capacity and undertake physical changes to existing buildings whilst also developing a long-term growth and sustainability plan, would create equality of access to a high-quality ALN provision in a 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning environment for pupils.

### Pupil projections based on current numbers:

**Figure 5 - Pupil projections for resource bases at Primary**

Primary	Baseline Data	5 Years Projections				
	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28
Places available	61	61	61	61	61	61
Places taken	62	60	63	64	65	67
Leavers	1	10	12	11	11	11
Joiners next year	13	13	13	13	13	13
Total at start of next year	60	63	64	65	67	69
Amount over capacity - demand	-1	2	3	4	6	8

**Figure 6 - Pupil projections for resource bases at Secondary**

### Pupil projections for resource bases at Secondary

Secondary	Baseline Data	5 Years Projections - based on Year 6 pupils				
	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28
Places available	62	62	62	62	62	62
Places taken	66	77	74	69	60	61
Leavers	6	13	17	20	12	17
Joiners next year	17	10	12	11	13	13
Total at start of next year	77	74	69	60	61	57
Amount over capacity	15	13	9	-3	-2	-6
Ebbw Fawr transition group	6	6	6	6	6	6
Amount over capacity - demand	9	6	1	-8	-7	-11

*Note: This doesn't take into account potential transfers from Out County placements or the Council's Special Schools*

### Welsh Medium provision:

Blaenau Gwent does not currently have a Welsh-medium Primary Resource Base for pupils. This will form part of the proposal. All pupils of secondary school age wanting Welsh-medium education receive their education in Torfaen in Ysgol Gymraeg Gwynllyw 3- 19 Learning Community.

Under this proposal a room has been identified within the school for a Resource Base that could accommodate up to 15 pupils. Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg have stated that there are 8 pupils who have ASD/ADHD traits at the school. As yet, not all of the aforementioned pupils have received a formal diagnosis. All except 2, are in receipt of Educational Psychology engagement with referrals having been made. Nursery provision at the school is offered on a full-time basis. Therefore, the pupils needs tend to be identified relatively early on. Currently, in Key Stage 2, there are several pupils who would benefit from small-class teaching.

It is recognised that the provision of a Resource Base would not only provide tailored support to the pupils who have been identified as needing this consistent level of intervention and support; but would also free up teacher time to focus on pupils requiring additional support e.g. pupils with a Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD). Any Resource Base in Blaenau Gwent English medium settings would take children from across other school settings in Blaenau Gwent. However, in the case of a Welsh-medium Resource Base it will only be for children educated through the medium of Welsh.

Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg also have an immersion class set up to support new entrants into Welsh-medium education, which would support parental choice for those pupils who also want to transition into Welsh education.

### Options Considered

A detailed option appraisal was undertaken to explore ways in which the requirement for additional ALN provision in the form of ASD and ALN Resource Bases could be addressed for both English and Welsh Medium Education along with primary and secondary need. Factors such as location, site and type of provision were considered.

The long list of options detailed within **Table 2**, were later re-evaluated and a short-list drawn up, so that the benefits, risks, timelines, costs etc. could be explored in much greater detail.

The key factors are securing places in the short to medium-term, which can be delivered over the course of the next five years:

**Table 2 – Long List of Options**

Options	Description:	Conclusion:
1	Business as usual- maintain the status quo	This is a standard baseline comparator which must be considered, but not an option, as it does not address the identified need. <b>Discounted</b>
2	Build capacity immediately in many settings all at once in both Primary and Secondary Mainstream settings in the County Borough and the River Centre 3-16 Learning Community -Secondary Phase	Merits further consideration, but financial constraints, would not permit effective and timely implementation. <b>Possible</b>
3	Build Capacity (including Welsh Medium places & Faith Based provision) over the next 5 years to increase both Primary and Secondary Mainstream Settings in County Borough and in the River Centre 3-16 Learning Community Secondary setting	Preferred way forward in, this will address Secondary need and Welsh Medium demand Imminently and plan medium and long-term growth. <b>Possible</b>
4	Send Pupils who require support to Out of County Resource Bases	Not enough capacity exists, and this would not support the vision for education in securing localised, accessible and high-quality provision. Also very costly. <b>Discounted</b>
5	Tackle capacity issues in just secondary school settings	Merits further investigation in line with a detailed exploration availability in secondary school buildings and cost implications associated with the delivery, model and vision for ALN. <b>Possible</b>



<b>6</b>	Tackle capacity issues in just Primary school settings	There is currently immediate demand in the secondary sector for places <b>Discounted</b>
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**Options 1, 4 and 6** have been discounted as they would potentially:

- Not address the immediate and medium-term need
- Result in increased costs for ALN pupils if they had to be educated out of county
- Cause disruption within the existing education system
- Negatively affect provision and access to specialist facilities and services

The short list included:

- **Option 1** (business as usual)- Maintain the status quo
- **Option 2** Build capacity immediately in many settings all at once in both Primary and Secondary Mainstream.
- **Option 3** Build Capacity (including Welsh Medium places and Faith Based places) over the next 5 years to increase settings in both Primary and Secondary Mainstream
- **Option 5** Tackle capacity issues in just secondary school settings

### The Preferred Option

**Option 3** – To build capacity (including Welsh Medium places & Faith Based provision) over the next 5 years and increase provision in both Primary and Secondary settings, is the preferred option as this will address the immediate need at secondary provision and Welsh Medium demand and plans for medium and long-term growth and sustainability. Option 2 & Option 5 were not considered the preferred option due to:

- Financial constraints
- Fail to address long term sustainability issues

### Risks and Mitigation

Blaenau Gwent Council has a proven track record of managing both school build and school organisation projects – including the requirement to increase school capacity. The following risks can be managed and largely mitigated as follows:

**Table 3 – Risks and Mitigation**

Risk	Mitigation
<b>If the proposal is not taken forward, there is both a placement and a financial risk in terms of securing suitable Out of County provision for learners</b>	The Local Authority is working closely with key colleagues to provide a local solution that is cost effective and reduces the number of pupils travelling to and accessing already limited Out of County placements. However, the LA has a proven track record of working to secure appropriate placements for learners throughout the region.
<b>The consultation process does not address stakeholder perspective and understanding of the proposal. Therefore, the proposal is not supported and does not progress.</b>	Blaenau Gwent Council's Education Directorate is experienced in and have recently undertaken consultation upon proposals, whilst being fully compliant with the Welsh Government School Organisation Code (Version 2, 2018).

<b>The proposal to expand existing provision is delivered late</b>	Delivery plans are in place and can be facilitated at pace in line with the outcome of the statutory processes associated within this proposal i.e. consultation and statutory notice.
<b>Insufficient capacity for future demand.</b>	The purpose of this proposal is to build extra capacity to meet a previously unforeseen demand and to allow the Council to monitor and explore long-term options to secure sustainable growth.
<b>The projected capital investment costs exceed the budget.</b>	The sites associated with the proposal are well known to the Blaenau Gwent Project team for Sustainable Communities for Learning, and so the cost estimates are based upon actual knowledge and understanding, with a built-in contingency to address any potential unknowns. Budget monitoring is undertaken regularly to inform future plans. Capital funding via the ALN Grant and Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme will be utilised over a 3–5-year period to deliver the proposal.

### **Benefits of Proposal**

This proposal would ensure equality of opportunity for all pupils - particularly those with the greatest level of need, to be educated locally. The proposal further facilitates inclusion and an inclusive approach within Education, ensuring access to high quality specialist education facilities and support for pupils with ALN within the County Borough. It will also go some way to addressing the barriers parents perceive in accessing specialist education and reducing the Council's carbon footprint associated with travel for education purposes.

Should nothing change, the Council will be unable to meet the needs of all learners particularly those with ASD and ALN within Blaenau Gwent. Therefore, they would need to be placed Out of County at significant cost, with learners having to manage longer school journeys affecting families and socialisation for many pupils.

### **Expected Benefits and Advantages (when compared with the status quo):**

- Pupils will be accessing suitable and appropriate provision within their locality;
- Pupils will be accessing suitable and appropriate provision in terms of protected characteristics e.g. faith or language;
- Creation of a local solution which will address the increased demand for ALN provision;
- Continuity and sustainability in terms of local education for pupils with ALN;
- The structure will build confidence and self-esteem in pupils, parents and staff;
- A local option for pupils transitioning from mainstream school to resources bases;
- Reduce the costs of out of county placements for pupils, whilst securing local investment within the Blaenau Gwent school estate;
- Improve access to and facilities for pupils who meet the criteria for ALN provision across the County Borough;
- Increased capacity and sustainability of placement; and
- Reduced travel time and carbon footprint for pupils

### **Disadvantages:**

- Potential parental concerns in relation to placement in Resource Bases; and
- Pupil numbers in schools identified as potential bases may grow if there is any inward migration into the area.

## **Governance Model**

Of the school identified within the proposal (Including Brynmawr Foundation School), the Governing body will have to agree to host an ASD/ALN base and be responsible for the day to day running of the resource base. The Governing Body or the diocese, as relevant, would need to agree to change the characteristics of the school need to agree to the placement of provision and take on the local authority arrangements via the ALN panel for children and young people to be placed.

## **Learner Travel Arrangements**

The Council's Home to School and Post 16 Transport Policy 2023/24 states that free home to school transport will be provided as follows:

The Council will provide transport assistance for pupils with ALN:

- if existing transport arrangements are deemed unsuitable in line with pupil needs, alternative arrangements will be determined by the Inclusion ALN Panel;
- if it is not appropriate for the pupils to walk to school due to the nature of their additional learning need and/or disability; and/or,
- if it is determined by ALN Panel that there is no appropriate education provision within the County Borough suitable to meet pupil need.

The above arrangements will be subject to review in line with changes to circumstances relating to the pupil(s) transport requirements.

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.

The Council has established a process in order to assess the travel needs of children who may require ALN transport, as follows:

- All requests to ALN Panel for consideration of change of placement will firstly be considered by the Transport team to determine their eligibility for transport on distance grounds
- The Council's ALN Panel will then consider the request for change of placement, and if agreed, determine the appropriate placement and identify if transport is required to access the agreed placement

Where transport has been agreed, the Transport Officer will contact the parent and inform them of the arrangements. In cases where transport requests are refused, parents/carers will receive notification from the ALN team, also indicating their right of appeal.

The current school location and infrastructure accommodates bus and taxi drop off and pick-up at the start and finish of the school day, with sufficient parking for staff and key partners to visit.

## Section 4: Consultation Outcome and Next Steps

**Consultation Report:** Feedback from the consultation will be collated, analysed and presented in a Consultation Report to the Council's Executive Committee in **June 2023**. The report will be available on the Council's website two weeks prior to a decision being made to publish a statutory notice. Hard copies of the consultation report can be obtained on request via the email addresses detailed above on **page 8**.

**Statutory Notice:** Should this proposal (or the proposal with the appropriate modifications) be approved at Cabinet; the Council will then publish a statutory notice in **June 2023**. A copy of the statutory notice will be displayed on the Council's website and at any affected school within the County Borough. Hard copies of the statutory notice will be available on request. The statutory notice period will run for 28 days. During this time, you will be able to make formal objections should you wish to do so, as will be explained in the statutory notice. Any issues raised by interested parties will then be summarised in an objection report and presented to the Cabinet for a final decision to be made.

**Determination of the Proposal:** Blaenau Gwent Council will determine the proposal following the statutory notice period. After considering the responses to the statutory notice. This may lead to the approval, rejection or approval of the proposal with modifications.

**Decision Notification:** Once a decision has been made, an electronic copy of determination will be sent out to all interested parties and published on Blaenau Gwent Council's website within 7 days of the decision.

**Table 4 - The Statutory Process Timeline**

April 2023	May 2023	June 2023	June 2023	July 2023	September 2023
Consultation Period					
		Consultation report to Executive Committee			
			Statutory Notice	Objections Report	
			Decision Notification		
					Implementation September 2023 onwards

## Section 5: Details of Affected Schools



### Schools that are directly affected:

The below schools are directly affected by this proposal:

- St Joseph's R.C. Primary School, Ashvale, Dukestown, Tredegar, NP22 4AQ
- All Saints R.C. Primary School, Heol-yr-Ysgol, Ebbw Vale, NP23 6QP
- St Mary's R.C Primary School, Catholic Road, Brynmawr, NP23 4EF
- Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community, Roseheyworth Road Campus, Roseheyworth Road, Abertillery, NP13 1SR
- Brynmawr Foundation School, Clydach Dingle, Brynmawr, NP23 4XT
- Cwm Primary School, Canning Street, Cwm, Ebbw Vale, NP23 7RD
- Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community, Secondary Phase, Lime Avenue, Ebbw Vale, NP23 6GL
- Sofrydd Primary School, Sofrydd Road, Sofrydd, NP11 5DW
- Tredegar Comprehensive School, Stable Lane, Tredegar, NP22 4BH
- Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg, Rising Sun Industrial Estate, Blaina, NP13 3DQ

### Schools that are in-directly affected:

Schools that already have an ALN Resource Base and/or are connected via an all through school above

- Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community
  - Secondary Campus, Alma Street, Abertillery, NP13 1YL
  - Six Bells Primary Campus, Six Bells Road, Six Bells, NP13 2NJ
- Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community, Primary Phase, Strand Annealing Lane Ebbw Vale NP23 8XF
- Coed y Garn Primary School, Parrot Row, Blaina, NP13 3AH
- Glanhwy Primary School, Coach Bach, Tredegar, NP22 4RW
- Willowtown Primary School, Brynheulog Street, Ebbw Vale, NP23 6NJ
- Ystruth Primary School, East Pentwyn, Blaina, NP13 3XG

The below information contains all schools that feeds into a secondary school under this proposal and has been broken down into areas below:

### Tredegar Area:

- Bryn Bach Primary School, Merthyr Road, Tredegar, NP22 3RX
- Deighton Primary School, Stockton Way, Tredegar, NP22 3ES
- Georgetown Primary School, Oakfield Road, Tredegar, NP22 4LP

### Ebbw Fawr area:

- Beaufort Hill Primary School, Bangor Road, Beaufort, Ebbw Vale, NP23 5QG
- Glymcoed Primary School, Badminton Grove, Ebbw Vale, NP23 5UL
- Rhos y Fedwen Primary School, Honeyfield Road, Rassau, Ebbw Vale, NP23 5TA

### **Ebbw Fach area:**

- St Illtyds Primary School, Llanhilleth, Abertillery, NP13 2JT
- St Mary's C.I.W Primary School, Intermediate Road, Brynmawr, NP23 4SF
- Blaen y Cwm Primary School, Blaenafon Road, Brynmawr, NP23 4BR

### **Surplus Capacity Statement**

Blaenau Gwent schools' capacity for September 2022 shows that there is sufficient space in our mainstream schools to support the development of an ALN resource base in both Primary and Secondary settings.

- In Primary overall there is 13% surplus spaces (places 5813 numbers on roll 5060)
- In Secondary overall there is 12% surplus places (places 3463 number on roll 3033)

Both our primary and secondary surplus places are at the lower percentage of an Amber position as per Welsh Governments data sets (between 10% - 24%).

There will be no direct impact from this proposal for Pen y Cwm Special school.

## **Section 6: Other Considerations**

### **Finance**

#### **Revenue Costs**

In increasing provision in Resource Bases there will be a revenue implication associated with the proposal. All schools are funded in accordance with Blaenau Gwent Council's Fair Funding policy and will receive resources on the same basis as any other school within Blaenau Gwent, based upon pupil numbers and the area of the school building. It is difficult to accurately project the costs associated within the capacity increase, due to the following variables:

- the reduction in funding for mainstream settings as a result of pupil placement,
- the level of cost avoidance as a result of pupil placement within Out of County settings from within Blaenau Gwent; and finally,
- the level of recoupment realised as a result of Out of County placement within existing resource bases.

Blaenau Gwent currently has 11 pupils (2022/23) that are educated outside the Local Authority in Independent Settings and a further 13 CLA pupils that would be placed in the nearest school to the LA in which they reside (foster/residential care) at a cost of circa £600,000. The budget for 2023/24 is expected to be £720,000.

Revenue costs associate with Phase 1 of the project are anticipated to be in the region of £756,973 (breakdown) These figures are based on the 2023/24 price base.

per annum

- 2023/24 £73,184
- 2024/25 £241,003
- 2025/26 £442,786

In years 2023/24 & 2024/25 it is anticipated the increased costs will be financed from ALN Implementation grants and the SEN reserve. From 2025/26, it is anticipated the proposal will begin to impact on the requirement for Out County placements therefore reducing this expenditure and allowing funding to be vired accordingly. However, there may be a requirement for short term cost pressures/invest to save funding to be awarded until the financial impact of reducing out of county placements materialises as pupils leave the system. Any cost pressures/invest to save funding will be proposed as part of the standards budget setting process.

If these pupils are not placed locally in a resource base, then they would need to be placed in Out County placements which could see these annual costs incrementally increase in line with the projected demand by approximately £1.3m by the 2025/26 financial year.

The revenue costs associated with Phase 2 will be considered in full once Phase 1 has been implemented and the impact assessed.

### Transport Costs

Costs associated with home to school transport are increasing. The 2022/23 forecast transport costs associated with:

- Out of County placement are £247,352
- ALN bases attached to Primary school provision £286,008.74
- ALN bases attached to Secondary School Provision £226,652.30

Across all ALN offered provision, the costs associated with an academic year can be as high as £654,508.65, (excluding Pen Y Cwm Special School costs) this is dependent on the number of children requiring transport. These costs are regularly reviewed and subject to change in line with pupil placement. Should the proposal be implemented the Council would see an incremental reduction in the transport costs associated with Out County placements every year.

### Capital Costs

The proposals will involve the remodelling of areas in the schools identified that can accommodate new provision already within the existing footprint of the schools, There are capital financial implications associated with this proposal for the Council, which are circa £570,000 over a 3–5-year period.

- Phase 1 £300,000
- Phase 2 £270,000

This will be met via contributions from within the ALN Grant and an element of Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B Programme over a five-year period. This figure is based on the assumption that the below table is applied over Phase 1 & Phase 2 of the proposal:

**Table 5 – Potential breakdown of capital costs per individual school Resource Base**

Funding Stream	School	Capital Works	Fixtures/ Furnishings and Sensory equipment
<b>Secondary:</b>			
ALN funding	Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community – Secondary Campus	0	0
ALN Funding	Tredegar Comprehensive School	£90,0000	£40,000
ALN Funding	Brynmawr Foundation School	£100,000	£30,000

<b>Primary:</b>			
SCfL	Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg (Welsh-medium)	£100,000	£20,000
ALN Funding	Sofrydd Primary School	£20,000	£20,000
ALN Funding	Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community Roseheyworth Road Primary Campus	£20,000	£20,000
ALN Funding	Cwm Primary School	£90,000	£30,000
ALN Funding	Faith Based Primary School yet to be determined	£20,000	£20,000

### **Capital Costs/Capital Receipts**

Should the proposal be approved, it will address the current shortfall in capacity for the Resource Bases in mainstream education. There will be capital costs associated with the proposal in facilitating the remodelling work within existing school building. However, the proposal will not involve the transfer of buildings or sale of any building. The proposal will be managed within existing building layouts.

### **Admission Arrangements**

Admission to any ALN provision, whether it be a Resource Base in Mainstream Education or at a Specialist schools (Pen y Cwm Special School and The River Centre 3-16 Learning Community) is managed via the ALN Panel within the Inclusion Services Team, which is made up of representatives from schools, the Inclusion Service and wider Education representatives including the Education Psychologists. Referrals to the ALN Panel are made directly to the ALN team.

### **Impact of the Proposal on the Welsh Language**

This proposal will impact positively on the provision of ALN for Welsh-medium pupils in Blaenau Gwent. Currently Blaenau Gwent only has one Welsh-medium primary school with another 210-place school building being ready for occupation in 2024. The Council's Welsh in Education 10-year Strategic Plan 2022-32 (WESP) aims to improve ALN provision for Welsh learners in the County Borough and this proposal will support the Council's directive. The school has identified 8 pupils, that could be supported via this proposal and the space within the school identified can accommodate 15 pupils which would create space for future needs of pupils with ALN.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

An Equality Impact Screening Assessment has been undertaken in order to assess the impact of key proposals and decisions upon protected characteristics. The assessment determined that none of the protected characteristics will be negatively affected, whilst ALN pupils will be positively affected (Please refer to **Webpage via link** <https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/council/consultations/proposal-to-improve-provision-and-build-capacity-for-additional-learning-needs/> for more information).

### **Community and Welsh Language Impact Assessment**

A community impact assessment has been undertaken in order to assess the impact of key proposals and decisions upon stakeholders and the wider community (Please refer to **Appendix 4** for more information).

### **United Nation Convention Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**

The Council in all its corporate responsibilities ensure that they will always engage positively with children and young people. If this proposal is implemented, it will realise benefits for children and



young people in accordance with the seven core aims of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, specifically:

**Core aim 1** – have a flying start in life;

**Core aim 2** – have a comprehensive range of education and learning opportunities;

**Core aim 3** – enjoy the best possible health and are free from abuse, victimisation and exploitation;

**Core aim 4** – have access to play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities;

**Core aim 5** – are listened to, treated with respect, and have their race and cultural identity recognised;

**Core aim 6** – have a safe home and a community which supports physical and emotional wellbeing; and

**Core aim 7** – are not disadvantaged by poverty.

### Engagement of Children and Young People in this Consultation

As part of this consultation process, the Education Transformation team in partnership with schools, will consult with pupils that are affected by the proposal, as well as engaging with both the Blaenau Gwent Youth Forum and Schools Grand Council.

### Housing Developments

Over the course of the last 2 years, 235 houses (132 in 2020/21 and 103 in 2021/22) have been built in Blaenau Gwent. The below table projects the level of growth and is expected to continue. These potential homes either already have planning permission, are seeking legal agreement or are included in the Local Development Plan. This is likely to have an impact upon pupil place planning. The Education Transformation team monitor the impact upon schools.

**Figure 7** Below - illustrates the number of housing developments which are currently in the Local Development Plan (LDP)

	According to the Housing Land Availability Study which looks at a 5-year timescale the following figures are identified for <b>Tredegar Valley</b> .					According to the Housing Land Availability Study which looks at a 5-year timescale the following figures are identified for <b>Ebbw Fawr Valley</b> .					According to the Housing Land Availability Study which looks at a 5 year timescale the following figures are identified for <b>Ebbw Fach Valley</b> .				
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
<b>Housing Associations:</b>	0	0	0	0	0	23	15	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Private Sector Housing:</b>	3	19	19	37	1	3	5	5	5	5	7	7	6	6	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>

The above data tells us that there are over 192 housing developments planned between 2022 – 2026. There is a potential for this to increase demand within both mainstream and special schools going forward with inward migration of families.

### Human Resources

There are HR implications arising from the proposal. The proposal means that as there is an increase in pupil numbers entering ALN Resource Bases, the schools concerned with new provision will require the Governing Bodies of each school affected to plan for the workforce requirements in readiness for the respective extension.

The Council's Organisational Development Division will provide advice, support and guidance to the Governing Bodies for the workforce planning and consequential recruitment processes. Where the Governing Bodies have adopted the Council's School Redeployment and Redundancy Policy, any new vacancies arising as a consequence of an increase in numbers on roll will provide opportunities for school-based staff on the school redeployment register.

### **Partnerships**

The 'Blaenau Gwent We Want' engagement programme is about local people, businesses and organisations having a say on how we can improve Blaenau Gwent for our future generations. In its 1<sup>st</sup> year the group have already engaged with over 1,500 people from throughout Blaenau Gwent to find out what they would like the area to be like in the future. Their feedback has been used to help us put together a number of priorities that we will work on over the next few years to help us create the Blaenau Gwent that we all want.

In its second year the Partnership Strategic Board's progress, they have continued to reflect on how we are doing and what we have been focussing on demonstrating that we are an ambitious and learning board. In this respect we have reviewed our programme of work and taken on a number of exciting new projects including ones to address climate change and food inequality.

Looking to the future we will also be taking stock on the impact COVID-19 has had on our communities and what it means for any changes we might need to make on our well-being plan for the area.

Our Well-Being Plan outlines our objectives for improving well-being in Blaenau Gwent and meeting our duties under the Wellbeing Future Generations Act (2015). The 5 objectives in the plan have been developed to reflect that Blaenau Gwent Wants:

- The best start in life for everyone
- Safe and friendly communities
- To look after and protect the natural environment
- To forge new pathways to prosperity
- To encourage healthy lifestyles

These well-being objectives are ones we consider having real power to bring about change, that are the most urgent and that the evidence tells us need the combined force of the Public Services Board partners to deliver and improve well-being.

## **Section 7: Present Arrangements**



# **Estyn**

## **ESTYN**

Schools are inspected as part of a national programme of school inspection. The purpose of an inspection is to identify good features and shortcomings in schools in order that they may improve the quality of education offered and raise standards achieved by their pupils (Estyn).

**Appendix 5** shows the latest Estyn results for the schools included in this proposal along with **Appendix 6** any recommendations.

In terms of this proposal please see an overall assessment below on the core themes from the Estyn inspection framework

**Quality and Standards in Education:** The quality and standards of schools in Blaenau Gwent are monitored by the Council, in line with the national system of school categorisation and guidance in respect of schools causing concern. Estyn is the Office of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales and is established under the 1992 Education Act. Standards and the quality of provision are also monitored periodically through the Estyn Inspection Framework for the inspection of schools.

Since 2012, the Council has commissioned the Education Achievement Service (EAS) to support school improvement in Blaenau Gwent's schools. The EAS provide school improvement support to the following Councils: Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen. As part of this proposal, the Council will work in partnership with the EAS to secure increased levels of support for the schools.

**Standards:** The proposal will not affect the standards in any of the school buildings proposed for resource bases in the County Borough. The schools will continue to receive the appropriate level of challenge and support in terms of their new ALN provision from the Council's Inclusion team as well as the EAS.

**Wellbeing and Attitudes to Learning:** The provision of additional pupil places in resource bases is expected to enable more children to attend school in their local community. Pupil wellbeing is a priority for the Inclusion team and Council which is monitored and reported via the ALN Panel. The proposal will not impact wellbeing and attitudes towards learning.

**Teaching and Learning Experiences:** The teaching in Resource Bases proposed in this consultation document will follow the national curriculum with English as the language of teaching and learning. It is also prudent to note that under this proposal the Council will be establishing its first Welsh-medium provision for Welsh learners in Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg which has been identified as a gap previously. This proposal will not impact negatively on teaching and learning experiences.

**Care, Support and Guidance:** All schools in Blaenau Gwent have highly effective policies and strategies for promoting care, support and guidance that have a strong emphasis on supporting pupils' behaviour, communication and emotional wellbeing. As a result, nearly all pupils behave well and engage enthusiastically in their learning across the County Borough. The proposal can offer an appropriate range of activities that link well to pupils' interests and abilities. The proposal will promote pupils' social, moral, spiritual and cultural development effectively.

The majority of our schools with existing Resource Based provision work closely with external agencies ensuring effective collaboration planning that will support and advise staff about individual pupils' needs. This is also paramount to the new Resource Bases being established under this proposal.

**Leadership and Management:** The Inclusion Team and headteacher of the proposed Resource Bases will have a clear vision and high expectations for the proposed provision. In current provisions there is clear and effective communication with governors, pupils, parents and staff via the Inclusion Team. The senior leadership teams are and will be effective, understand their roles and responsibilities and undertake their work efficiently.

### Impact of the proposal

Should the proposal be approved, it will continue to provide a high-quality learning environment in support of enhanced outcomes for all ALN pupils that require placement in Resource Bases in mainstream settings. The proposal will ensure that the already excellent standards in our current settings will also be maintained. Much research and ALN reform has demonstrated that pupils achieve better outcomes when they are fully engaged in learning and in an environment that is suitable for their needs.

## Section 8: Overview of the Proposal

**Table 6** below details Phase 1 of the proposal including the category, language, age range and other relevant details in relation to the proposed new ALN provisions:

New proposed Resource Base				
	Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community – Secondary Phase	Tredegar Comprehensive School	Sofrydd Primary School	Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg
<b>Admission number and arrangements</b>	Admissions to Resource Bases are co-ordinated by Blaenau Gwent’s Inclusion team on the basis of need.			
<b>Age range</b>	11-16	11-16	3-11	3-11
<b>Pupil places in Resource Base</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6-8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10-15</b>
<b>Capacity of the school</b>	1191	767	162	215
<b>Location</b>	Lime Avenue, Ebbw Vale NP23 6GL	Stable Lane, Tredegar NP22 4BH	Sofrydd Road, Sofrydd NP11 5DW	Rising Sun Ind Estate, Blaina NP13 3DQ
<b>Category school and language</b>	Community English Medium	Community English Medium	Community English Medium	Community Welsh Medium
<b>Transport arrangements and policy</b>	Transport will be delivered in accordance with the Blaenau Gwent Home to School and Post 16 Transport Policy 2023/24. Please refer to Section ? for more information.			
<b>Cost per Pupil 2021/22</b>	£5,649	£5,591	£5,386	£4,981

<b>Results of Estyn Inspections</b>	Please see results and recommendations in <b>Appendix 6 Page 38-39 &amp; 7 Page 40-41</b>			
<b>Building Condition Categorisation</b>	A	B	C	B
<b>Building Suitability Categorisation</b>	A	A/B	C	B
<b>Schedule of accommodation</b>	Rooms to be determined post consultation and capital investment			

**Table 7** below details Phase 2 of the proposal including the category, language, age range and other relevant details in relation to the proposed new ALN provisions:

<b>New proposed Resource Base</b>				
	Bryn-mawr Foundation School	Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community Roseheyworth Road Primary Campus	Faith Based Primary School location	Cwm Primary School
<b>Admission number and arrangements</b>	Admissions to Resource Bases are co-ordinated by Blaenau Gwent's Inclusion team on the basis of need.			
<b>Age range</b>	11-16	3-11	3-11	3-11
<b>Pupil places in Resource Base</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Capacity of the school</b>	820	980 for whole primary sites	n/k	210
<b>Location</b>	Intermediate Road, Brynmawr NP23 4XT	Roseheyworth Road, Abertillery. NP13 1SR	Yet to be determined	Canning Street Cwm, Ebbw Vale NP23 7RD
<b>Category school and language</b>	Foundation English Medium	Community English Medium	Voluntary Aided English Medium	Community English Medium
<b>Transport arrangements and policy</b>	Transport will be delivered in accordance with the Blaenau Gwent Home to School and Post 16 Transport Policy 2023/24. Please refer to Section 1 for more information.			
<b>Cost per Pupil 2021/22</b>	£5,056	£5,449	n/k	£5,837
<b>Results of Estyn Inspections</b>	Please see results and recommendations in <b>Appendix 6 (page 38-39) &amp; 7 (Page 40-41)</b>			
<b>Building Condition Categorisation</b>	C	B	n/k	C
<b>Building Suitability Categorisation</b>	C	B	n/k	C
<b>Schedule of accommodation</b>	Rooms to be determined post consultation and capital investment			

**School Catchment Area**

The Resource Base catchment area covers all of the County Borough. The placement of pupils in bases will depend on the needs of the pupils. This will not change as part of this proposal.

**Transition Arrangements**

There will be no change for pupils, currently in any of the Resource Bases or Special Schools in the existing county borough bases.

## Section 9: Consultation Pro-forma

### Consultation Questionnaire

Please provide your comments on the proposal in this consultation document to extend the capacity for pupils in Resource Bases by establishing and changing the ALN provision in a number of Primary and Secondary Schools across the County Borough. You may also wish to indicate which of the following reflects your views:

This can be done in 3 ways:

1. Via the link provided electronically via: <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/d1daqu>
2. Via the below proforma and send to: [21stcenturyschools@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:21stcenturyschools@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)

I fully support the proposal	
I partially support the proposal	
I do not support the proposal	

Your comments:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate if you are:**

**Primary:** Teacher/Non-Teaching School Staff / Governor / Parent / Pupil /Local Resident / Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

**Secondary:** Teacher/Non-Teaching School Staff / Governor / Parent / Pupil /Local Resident / Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Send by mail to Joanne Watts Service Manager - Education Transformation and Business Change, Education Department, Floor 8 Anvil Court, Abertillery, NP13 1DB**

**Thank you for your time and contribution to the consultation. Your views, comments and responses will be recorded and reported to the Council's Executive Committee in the Consultation Outcome Report.**

**All comments to be received no later than 5:00pm on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

## Appendix 1 - Distribution List for the Consultation Document

Parents (and where possible prospective parents) carers and guardians, and staff members of schools affected by the proposals	The Welsh Ministers
In the case of proposals affecting secondary provision, parents of pupils attending primary schools from which pupils normally transfer to that secondary school	Constituency and Regional Assembly Members (AMs) and Members of Parliament (MP's) representing the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals
The maintaining or proposed maintaining authority for any school likely to be affected by the proposals	ESTYN
Any other local authority (including those in England where appropriate) likely to be affected – including in the case of dedicated ALN provision, any authority placing or likely to place pupils with ALN in it to distribute to schools in their areas as appropriate	Teaching and staff trade unions (NUT; NASUWT; ATL; UCAC; UNISON; GMB) representing teachers and other staff at any school which is the subject of the proposals
The Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authority for the area in which any school likely to be affected is located	The relevant Regional Education Consortium
Any other appropriate religious body for any school likely to be affected by the proposals	The Police and Crime Commissioner for the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals
The Governing body of any school which is the subject of the proposals	Any community or town council for the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals
The Governing body of other schools which the proposer consider are likely to be affected by the proposal;	In the case of proposals affecting nursery provision, any independent or voluntary providers who may be affected including Mudiad Meithrin. Also all Registered Private/Voluntary Early Years Settings /Providers in Blaenau Gwent;
In the case of proposals affecting nursery provision, the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships where present	In the case of proposals affecting ALN provision, any relevant health or third sector bodies with an interest
In the case of proposals affecting secondary provision, any further education institutions serving the area of the school (Coleg Gwent)	In the case of proposals affecting Welsh Language provision, the Welsh Language Commissioner

In addition to the above, the following are also included in the distribution:

The Headteacher of each school maintained by Blaenau Gwent LEA	Other Directorates of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
All Elected Members of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	Blaenau Gwent Association of School Governors
The Careers Service	Libraries
RhAG (Parents for Welsh Medium Education)	SNAP Cymru



Appendix 2 – Summary of schools locations, Pupil Numbers and Projections

		All Through Schools (3-16)						Primary Schools																Secondary Schools		Special School Provision					
		Abertillery Learning Community				Ebbw Fawr Learning																		River Centre 3-16 Learning							
		Secondary Campus	Roadleyworth Road Primary Campus	St Silas Primary Campus	Tilley Street Primary Campus	Primary Phase	Secondary Phase	All Saints R.C	Beechfort Hill	Blessy Owen	Brynbach	Coed y Gam	Owen	Duignon	Georgetown	Glanhowy	Glyncroed	Rhosy Felwen	St Joseph R.C.	St Mary CIW	St Mary's R.C.	Sedgild	Willowton	Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg	Yerlath	Brynnew Foundation	Tredgar Composite	Primary Setting	Secondary Setting	Stowards House	Pen Y Cwm Sgards I School
School	Location of School	Ebbw Fach	Ebbw Fach	Ebbw Fach	Ebbw Fach	Ebbw Vale	Ebbw Vale	Ebbw Vale	Ebbw Vale	Ebbw Vale	Tredgar	Ebbw Fach	Ebbw Vale	Tredgar	Tredgar	Tredgar	Ebbw Vale	Ebbw Vale	Tredgar	Ebbw Fach	Ebbw Fach	Ebbw Fach	Ebbw Vale	Ebbw Fach	Ebbw Fach	Ebbw Fach	Tredgar	Tredgar	Ebbw Vale	Ebbw Vale	Ebbw Vale
	School Category, Community, Voluntary /Controlled /Voluntary Aided/ Foundation	C	C	C	C	C	C	VIA	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	VIA	C	VIA	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	B	C
	Language English, Welsh-medium	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
Capacity	(Sept 22)	750	980		284	1191	188	210	270	210	210	210	210	420	298	320	177	107	210	210	182	420	215	294	820	787	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	Nursery Capacity (Jan 23)	N/A	45	26	41	58	N/A																		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
School Projections by trend	Numbers on Roll as at Jan (inc of	2019				N/A	N/A	179	214	271	192	197	183	164	378	265	265	122	99	207	174	148	381	208	278	701	684	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2020	654	176			238	940	176	200	251	202	175	180	175	381	251	301	121	93	204	178	142	378	223	282	655	688	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2021	705	795			244	1011	177	205	239	204	180	178	187	386	232	305	126	97	198	175	136	386	220	284	620	745	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2022	690	788			224	1069	176	202	232	200	180	172	195	400	238	293	109	95	208	178	131	398	222	291	559	706	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2023	722	780			233	1103		200	240	208	155	175	201	392	248	313	94				120	415		295	584	729	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2024	737	780			228	1119		201	232	194	156	177	205	384	245	281	101				109	406		300	532	740	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2025	750	789			221	1122		195	244	195	153	172	208	388	245	258	109				100	417		290	535	772	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2026	735	728			231	1073		196	238	192	169	173	208	358	265	230	110				97	406		298	533	781	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2027	712	741			238	1019		198	258	180	166	178	202	342	289	218	129				80	403		288	538	784	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	

Appendix 3 – Schedule of Accommodation Condition Surveys and Facilities overview

		All Through Schools (3-16)				Primary Schools																Secondary		Special School Provision								
		Abertillery Learning Community		Ebbw Fawr Learning Community																				River Centre 3-16 Learning Community								
		Secondary Campus	Roseleyworth Road Campus	Six Belis Campus	Tilley Street Campus	Primary Phase	Secondary Phase	All Saints R.C.	Breadfort Hill	Blauan Y Cwm	Bryn Barah	Coed Y Gwm	Cwm	Dreighton	Georgetown	Glanhwy	Glyncod	Rhos-y-Fedwen	St Illtyd's	St Joseph's R.C.	St Mary's R.C.	St Mary's C.I.W	Sodrydall	Willowdown	Ysgol Gymreig Bruchydyg	Ystruth	Brynawr Foundation	Tredingar Comprehensive	Primary setting	Secondary setting	Steward House	Pen Y Cwm Special School
School	Condition Survey	C	B	A	A	A	C	B	B	B/C	B	C	B	B	C	D* new build open Sept 2024	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B/C	C	B	C	A* just completed remodelling	B	A
Facilities Schedule of Existing Site	Nursery		/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
	Classrooms/ Shared teaching areas	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
	Staffroom	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
	Headteachers office	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
	Reception	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
	Storage	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
	Multi-purpose use/Hall	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
	Kitchen	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
	Cloakroom	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/

## Appendix 4 – ALN Resource Base Community Impact Assessment

Community Impact Assessments are a structured way for the Council to fully understand the implications of our decisions and whether they are detrimental or discriminatory to certain groups or sections of the community. They help us to consider the impact of Council decisions and policies within and between communities more generally. The Community Impact Assessment process will ensure that our decision-making process is robust and impacts on all communities within Blaenau Gwent ensuring that they are fully considered in Council decision making processes. By carrying out impact assessments, the Council is working to promote equality for all our service users, employees and the wider community that we serve.

There are 7 Resource Rases in the County Borough. For ease of information they have been split into the three distinct valleys.

Ebbw Fawr area	Ebbw Fach area	Tredegar area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community – Secondary Campus</li> <li>○ Willowtown Primary School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community – Six Bells Primary Campus and Secondary Campus</li> <li>○ Ystruth Primary School</li> <li>○ Coed y Garn Primary School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Glanhowy Primary School</li> </ul>

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) updated in 2019 analysis and describes the patterns seen in Wales between different deep-rooted deprivation categories.

The Proportion of young children in income deprivation in each local authority, trend overtime from 2012-2013 to 2016-2017 [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019: deprivation analysis relating to young children | GOV.WALES](#) shows that in Blaenau Gwent 2012/13 there was an average of 41 children in comparison to 2016/17 of 37 this is still significantly higher that the Welsh Average of 30 in 2012/13 and 28 in 2016/17. The proportion of young children in income deprivation in Wales decreased year on year from 30% in 2012-13 to 27% in 2015-16, however the deprivation rate has since increased slightly to 28% in 2016-17.

### Proposed Development:

If approved the proposal would secure an additional 43 places for pupils in phase 1 alone requiring a place in a Council run Resource Base. Phase 2 could see another potential 30 places in primary and 10 in secondary settings. The increase would bring significant benefits to current and new pupils requiring placements along with benefits for the wider community and families of pupils having closer provision available to them.

**Proportion of Pupils:**

The Council's proposal seeks to ensure a continued high quality learning environment for pupils that require ALN provision, by extending the capacity of mainstream setting Resource Bases in order to cater for many of the County Borough's pupils who are/or would otherwise be placed Out of County in line with their needs and/or availability and sufficiency of pupil places. The chosen locations have been decided on mainstream school building capacity to locate resource bases across the borough and the need for more ASD resource in the River Centre 3-16 Learning Community Secondary setting.

There are approximately 2 pupils from outside the County Borough being educated at primary and secondary Resource Bases in the County Borough. This represents less than 2.2% of the total allocation of places with the majority of its pupils, residing within Blaenau Gwent. Future availability of places for "out of county" pupils will be subject to demand from within Blaenau Gwent in the first instance.

**Current facilities and/or services offered:**

As part of the consultation document there is a full list of facilities recorded against all school that will be affected by the proposal. In forming Resource Bases there will be an added component for a sensory room as part of each Resource Base developed.

**Travel Time:**

Given the proposal is to remodel rooms on existing mainstream sites there will be no impact on travel distances for existing pupils. As the catchment area for ALN places covers the entire County Borough, the maximum distance likely to be travelled is no more than 8 miles, approximately 20 minutes by car/bus. Distances/travelling times will increase for those pupils with a placement from further afield.

**How would parents' and pupils' engage should the proposal be agreed?**

The Council recognises the importance of an effective and smooth transition process to ensure there is little, if any disruption should the proposal to expand capacity of Resource Bases in its mainstream setting and River Centre 3-16 Learning Community setting be approved. The Inclusion team will form part of the project team to collaboratively contribute to the overall development of new provisions.

Parents/carers and pupils will be provided with relevant information to aid their understanding of the proposal and the most appropriate support they can offer their children during the period of transition. The Inclusion team and school representatives will also work together with other services and where necessary, in identifying families who may need additional support. Parental and community engagement will remain a key priority throughout this process.

**The wider implications the changes would have on public transport provisions:**

The proposal is not expected to have any significant implications for public transport provision in the area given pupils' transport is largely provided by contracted vehicles.

**Wider community safety issues:**

The proposal would have no direct impact on the wider community, places in Resource Bases will be offered to meet pupils needs.

- The existing Resources Bases will remain in their current locations.
- It will benefit families of pupils who require ALN Resource Base places by their child having the education within the County Borough within which they reside.
- No significant safety issues are anticipated.

**What would be the impact on health and well-being?**

With the creation of additional Resource Bases it will positively impact on pupil's health and wellbeing. With smaller numbers in the classrooms the focus is on pupils and their needs, so the proposal will have a very positive impact on the health and wellbeing of those who attend, who will have access to the highest standard in terms of facilities, education and care.

**Transport Impact Assessment:**

The Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 places a duty on the Council to assess the travel needs of pupils under the age of 19. In addition to those pupils who qualify for free transport provision due to meeting the eligibility criteria, the Council is under a legal obligation to assess the travel needs of pupils who walk to school. There will likely be an impact upon transport and travel, however, any implications on transport arrangements will be more positive than if the Council were to use provision from outside of the Borough to meet the pupil's needs.

**Staff Impact Assessment:**

There will be no impact on existing staff albeit the increase in capacity in new Resource Bases may provide new and different opportunity to recruit additional staff. Nevertheless, in addition to their role as statutory consultees, meaningful consultation will take place with any affected staff and recognised trade unions on the possible impact and outcome of the statutory consultation. Discussions will take place through agreed joint consultative processes with recognised trade unions (JCC) and collective consultation.

**Additional Learning Needs Provision:**

This proposal specifically addresses sufficiency issues in relation to the number of places available for pupils with ALN in the Borough and will therefore, have a positive impact.

## Appendix 5 -Estyn Inspection results

School & date last inspection	Key Question 1: How good are outcomes?		Key Question 2: How good is provision?				Key Question 3: How good are leadership and management?			
	Standards	Wellbeing	Learning experiences:	Teaching:	Care, support and guidance:	Learning environment:	Leadership:	Improving quality:	Partnership working:	Resource management:
Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community 2018 inspection	Adequate needs improvement	Adequate needs improvement	Adequate needs improvement	Adequate needs improvement	Adequate needs improvement		Unsatisfactory and needs urgent improvement			
Coed Y Garn Primary School 2022 Report	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Glanhowy Primary School 2018 Report	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good		Good			
Willowtown Primary School 2017 Report	Adequate	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Adequate
Ystruth Primary School 2017 Report	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community 2016 Report	Good	Unsatisfactory	Good	Adequate	Unsatisfactory	Good	Adequate	Adequate	Good	Adequate

Tredegar Comprehensive School 2016 Report	Good	Excellent	Good	Good	Good	Excellent	Good	Good	Excellent	Good
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg 2020 Report	Good	Good	Good	Adequate	Good		Good			
Sofrydd Primary School 2016 Report	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Excellent	Good
River Centre 3-16 Learning Community Secondary Campus 2022 Report										
Brynmawr Foundation School 2019 Report	Unsatisfactory and needs urgent improvement	Unsatisfactory and needs urgent improvement	Unsatisfactory and needs urgent improvement	Unsatisfactory and needs urgent improvement	Adequate and needs improvement		Unsatisfactory and needs urgent improvement			
Cwm Primary School 2020 Report	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good		Good			

### Estyn Reports via links:

<a href="#">Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community - ALC Estyn Report 2018</a>	<a href="#">Tredegar Comprehensive School- Tredegar Comp Estyn Report 2016</a>
<a href="#">Coed y Garn Primary School - Coed -y- Garn Primary Estyn Report 2022</a>	<a href="#">Brynmawr Foundation School - Brynmawr Foundation Estyn Report 2019</a>
<a href="#">Glanhowy Primary School - Glanhowy Estyn Report 2018</a>	<a href="#">Sofrydd Primary School - Sofrydd Estyn Report 2016</a>
<a href="#">Willowtown Primary School- Willowtown Estyn Report 2017</a>	<a href="#">River Centre 3-16 Learning Community - The River Centre Estyn Report 2022</a>
<a href="#">Ystruth Primary School- Ystruth Estyn Report 2017</a>	<a href="#">Cwm Primary School- Cwm Primary Estyn Report 2019</a>
<a href="#">Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community - EFLC Estyn report 2016</a>	<a href="#">Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg - Ysgol Bro Helyg Estyn Report 2020</a>

## Appendix 6 – Estyn Inspection Recommendations

School	Recommendations for Improvement:
Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>R1</b> Improve standards, in particular outcomes at the end of key stage 4.</li> <li>➤ <b>R2</b> Improve standards of behaviour in the secondary phase.</li> <li>➤ <b>R3</b> Improve the quality of teaching.</li> <li>➤ <b>R4</b> Improve planning for progression of skills, including the Welsh language, and the breadth of the secondary phase curriculum.</li> <li>➤ <b>R5</b> improve the quality and impact of leadership at all levels, including in self-evaluation and planning for improvement.</li> <li>➤ <b>R6</b> Provide robust financial management to address the deficit budget.</li> </ul>
Coed Y Garn Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>R1</b> Address the issues related to the school site, identified at the time of the inspection</li> <li>➤ <b>R2</b> Challenge all pupils through consistent and effective teaching</li> <li>➤ <b>R3</b> Ensure that teachers provide opportunities for extended independent writing</li> <li>➤ <b>R4</b> Ensure that teachers' feedback moves individual pupils on to the next stage in their learning effectively</li> </ul>
Glanhowy Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>R1</b> Improve spelling and standards of handwriting.</li> <li>➤ <b>R2</b> Raise standards in use of oral Welsh.</li> <li>➤ <b>R3</b> Ensure that pupils understand more clearly what they should achieve during lessons in key stage 2.</li> <li>➤ <b>R4</b> Ensure assessment is consistent and accurate when judging higher levels of attainment.</li> </ul>
Willowtown Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>R1</b> Improve standards of reading and writing.</li> <li>➤ <b>R2</b> Improve standards in Welsh.</li> <li>➤ <b>R3</b> Provide pupils with opportunities to develop their numeracy skills in subjects across the curriculum.</li> <li>➤ <b>R4</b> Share best practice in teaching and learning across the school more effectively.</li> <li>➤ <b>R5</b> Ensure that there is appropriate and effective use of the pupil deprivation grant.</li> </ul>
Ystruth Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>R1</b> Improve pupils' competence in speaking Welsh.</li> <li>➤ <b>R2</b> Provide further opportunities for pupils to apply their numeracy skills across the curriculum.</li> <li>➤ <b>R3</b> Improve the balance between child-initiated and adult-directed activities in the Foundation Phase</li> <li>➤ <b>R4</b> Improve the clarity of targets within individual education plans to better meet the requirements of pupils with additional learning needs.</li> </ul>
Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>R1</b> Improve the implementation of the school's procedures for safeguarding pupils' wellbeing in the secondary phase, by dealing effectively with any incidence of bullying.</li> <li>➤ <b>R2</b> Improve pupils' independent learning and oracy skills in the secondary phase.</li> <li>➤ <b>R3</b> Improve the quality of teaching, especially in the secondary phase.</li> <li>➤ <b>R4</b> Ensure that self-evaluation and improvement planning draw on the whole range of evidence gathered by the school.</li> <li>➤ <b>R5</b> Reduce the rate of fixed-term exclusions in the secondary phase.</li> <li>➤ <b>R6</b> Ensure that the school meets requirements for the daily act of collective worship in the secondary phase.</li> </ul>



Tredegar Comprehensive School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>R1</b> Improve standards in English at key stage 4.</li> <li>➤ <b>R2</b> Ensure that all self-evaluation activities focus consistently on pupil standards and progress.</li> </ul>
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>R1</b> Ensure that teaching and learning experiences develop the independence of all pupils in the foundation phase consistently.</li> <li>➤ <b>R2</b> Improve provision to develop pupils' ICT skills across the school.</li> <li>➤ <b>R3</b> Strengthen self-evaluation and planning for improvement procedures in order to prioritise and address the most important areas.</li> </ul>
Sofrydd Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>R1</b> Improve pupils' spelling, punctuation, handwriting and the presentation of their work.</li> <li>➤ <b>R2</b> Develop the roles of the school and eco councils by giving members more responsibility.</li> <li>➤ <b>R3</b> Improve opportunities for pupils in the Foundation Phase to choose activities and to develop more independence in their learning.</li> <li>➤ <b>R4</b> Improve opportunities for older pupils to read in Welsh.</li> </ul>
River Centre 3-16 Learning Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>R1</b> Address those issues identified in the health and safety letter.</li> <li>➤ <b>R2</b> Establish a clear purpose and vision for the school and implement a staffing structure that is fit for purpose and adequately reflects roles and responsibilities.</li> <li>➤ <b>R3</b> Ensure that the curriculum is sufficiently engaging, broad and balanced and prepares pupils well for their next stage in life and learning.</li> <li>➤ <b>R4</b> Improve the behaviour of pupils, particularly on the secondary campus.</li> <li>➤ <b>R5</b> Improve the quality of the learning environment and culture, particularly on the secondary campus</li> <li>➤ <b>R6</b> Improve the outcomes for pupils, particularly those on the secondary campus.</li> <li>➤ <b>R7</b> Establish systems, procedures and routines across the school that are clearly understood by staff and relevant partners.</li> </ul>
Brynmawr Foundation School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>R1</b> Improve pupils' standards across the school, including their literacy and numeracy skills.</li> <li>➤ <b>R2</b> Improve pupils' behaviour and their attitudes to learning.</li> <li>➤ <b>R3</b> Improve the effectiveness of teaching to motivate, engage and challenge pupils to make good progress in lessons.</li> <li>➤ <b>R4</b> Strengthen leadership at all levels to improve leaders' ability to identify areas for development and to plan effectively for improvement.</li> </ul>
Cwm Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>R1</b> Ensure that pupils in the foundation phase have meaningful opportunities to develop as independent learners.</li> <li>➤ <b>R2</b> Ensure that teachers match activities to the needs of pupils of all abilities, particularly the least able.</li> <li>➤ <b>R3</b> Improve the quality of presentation, spelling and punctuation in key stage 2.</li> </ul>

