

EDUCATION DIRECTORATE BLAENAU GWENT

Consultation events: ALN Resource Base Provision

JCC Meeting via Teams Wednesday 26th April 2023 12:00pm via Microsoft Teams

	Question	Answer
1	Will you need to recruit staff for these positions and what are the implications on Staffing costs?	Staff will be recruited by the school, in the short-term an ALN grant is in place to pay staffing costs, however in the long-term it is envisaged that this cost will be offset with the reduction of Out of County (OOC) placements.
2	This consultation seems to come out of nowhere and the focus seems to be reduction of OOC places. Surely there are more ways to do this via support for schools	<p>All the LA's resource bases are full to capacity, to insure we meet the needs of pupils now we have to implement phase 1 accommodating secondary ASD in Tredegar and recognizing the Transition group already established in Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community – Secondary Phase and provide parity for learners in Welsh-medium school to access resource base.</p> <p>As well as this consultation there is a mapping exercise being undertaken with schools to review what provision they have (such as nurture spaces/sensory rooms) so that we can support all schools.</p>
3	How young are you suggesting starting the provision at?	There is specialist support for Foundation Phase currently in Special Schools, we are targeting the Key Stage 2 upwards as that is where the demand is in phase 1.
4	Fully support the plans and roll out of this consultation but can you tell us why these schools have been taken for consideration?	The feasibility started with what schools had capacity to host a provision, where the demand was, the gaps in provision and the demographics. The longer term aim is that local provision will be developed which will contribute to reducing the carbon footprint further.
5	Will there be any specific professional development for staff who would consider become a resource base teacher?	The Inclusion team will work with schools, ALNCoS and teachers to provide support and professional development for staff creating good practice.

People and Education Scrutiny group – Friday 28th April 2023 12pm via Microsoft Teams

	<u>Question</u>	<u>Answer</u>
1	Just an observation, this development is really timely, increasing the support for vulnerable learners. Looking at the consultation there is a fair geographical spread with inclusive practice for faith provision.	This is very assuring response that we are doing the right thing for our learners.
2	Echo the comments above however there are a few things in the consultation document I didn't understand. Such as phase 1 number of places? Why not create more? And why do you say in one part of the document that there are 60 places and in another part of the consultation document you refer to 66 places.	The numbers included in phase 1 places are based on available space in the school, and what the school stated would be suitable. There are 60 places available in our resource bases and these are all taken, the 66 places includes the 6 places in the Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community Secondary Phase transition group which will also be recognised under this proposal.
3	Does this mean that some of the Out of County places will be supported locally?	There is an immediate demand for secondary provision. The rational is that we want BG learners educated in BG. It will also depend on the needs of individuals as some OOC provision is a specialized area of expertise.
4	The provision is much needed and will be good for learning and parents to accommodate children with ALN into their local school community. It will also make for a smoother transition into college. This has been needed for years and I am pleased that it will now happen.	Again this is very pleasing to hear, there has been a lot of preparation and feasibility work being carried out prior to consultation to ensure we have the right approach Phase 1 is where the need is and Phase 2 can shape the future of ALN.

Youth forum Meeting via Teams Tuesday 11th May 6:00pm via Microsoft Teams (cancelled rescheduled for Monday the 5th June 2023

No questions