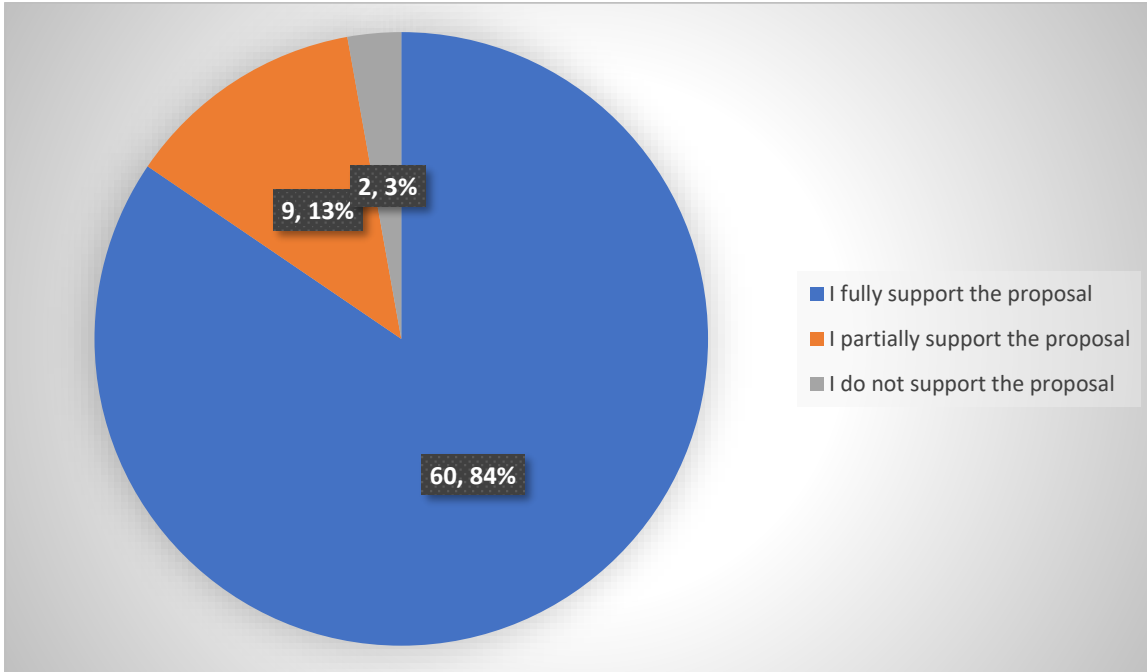


ALN Resource Base Consultation Survey Analysis

The formal consultation concluded on Tuesday 6th June at 5pm. The below analysis provides information on the 71 respondents that completed this questionnaire.

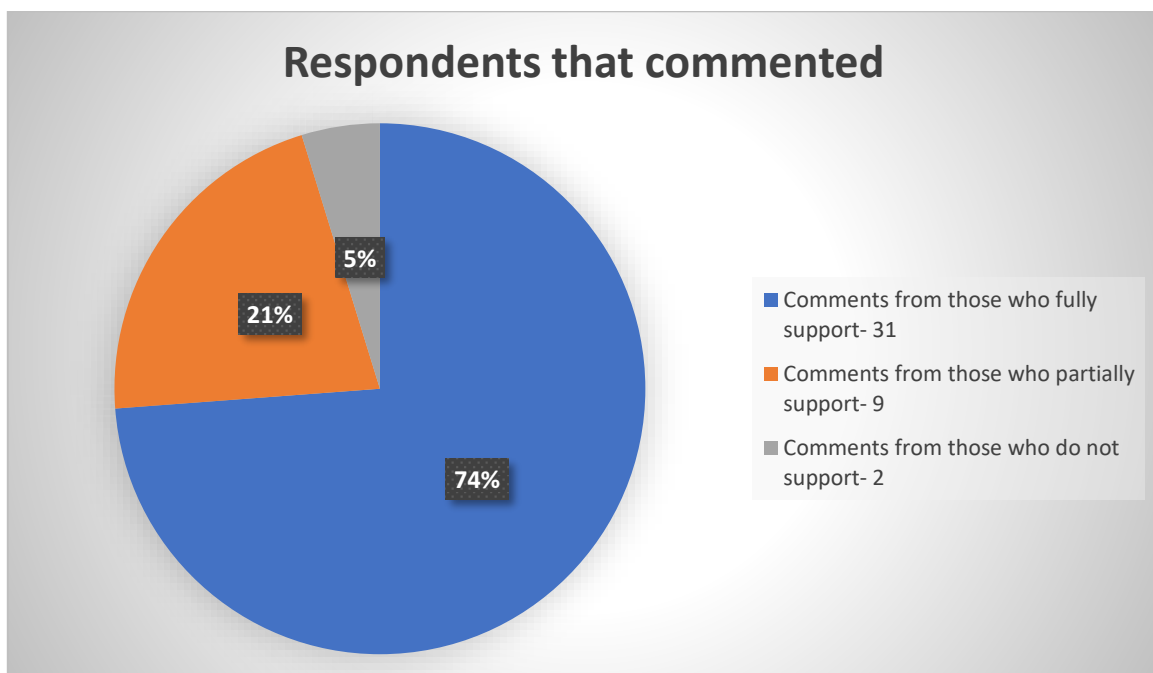
1. The chart below captures the views of individuals who fully support, partially support and do not support the proposal.



It is encouraging to see that the majority of respondents over 84% (60) fully support the proposal, with an additional 13% (9) partially supporting the proposal.

2. When respondents were asked to record comments, out of the 71 above there were only 42 (59%) that commented and 29 (41%) respondents that did not comment. After analysis it is interesting to note that all 29 responded that didn't comment are in full support the proposal.

2.a The chart below shows the percentage of respondents out of the 42 that shared comments on the proposal.



It is important to note that over 74% of comments received from respondents are in full support of the of the proposal.

3. The below comments from recipients have been split into 3 categories, those who fully support the proposal, those who partially support and those who do not support the proposal.

Comments of those respondents who fully support the proposal.

1. There are not enough ALN spaces to cater for every child that needs it and as a result children are not always having their needs met. I fully support the proposal.
2. In the documentation I see no information about resources being taken away or having an adverse effect on any of the schools and with that knowledge support the proposal
3. It is important to have a geographic spread across Blaenau Gwent to enable pupils to attend a facility close to home. All effort should be made to ensure that they can move on to a secondary school that is close to their home and primary school so that their friendship group can stay together. The proposals seem to do this.
4. There is a significant need for ALN provision within the education sector to cater for pupils with ASD/ALN that are not profound enough for specialised provision.
5. I fully support the proposal of this, as there are many children within the mainstream classes who are in desperate need of the additional support that they cannot currently receive due to lack of resources and full resource bases within schools. There are many children in both primary and secondary who would benefit from this within Blaenau Gwent
6. More available places can only be good news for children of Blaenau Gwent. Very encouraging to see another base for secondary children with ALN.
7. My daughter is needing to go to a new primary school for ALN. When my daughter is old enough its only Abertillery comp that will except her for her complex needs. We need more secondary schools for children with complex needs.
8. I support the proposal to increase provision for ALN pupils, however If we have a consultation on these suggested proposals how are works already being carried out on sites. For e.g., a member of staff has been appointed already to run the provision at Tredegar Comprehensive, before the results of consultation are back. What if all these proposals aren't supported?
9. This is a must for everyone, everybody should be given equal opportunities to learn and also be able to this at their local schools.
10. I think this would be an excellent move to give extra help to the children.
11. There are definitely children that need this extra help, there seems to be a lot more children presenting with problems nowadays, I fully support and hope it has the go ahead.
12. The importance of a secondary facility in Tredegar is so important given the primary unit in the town is having outstanding results. This will offer a smoother transition into secondary education for all of their pupils.
13. With so many of the ALN Resource Bases at full capacity, increasing capacity would be highly beneficial. Adding more provision for ASD will ensure more learners will be able to access learning in the correct setting with highly skilled staff and with staff to learner ratios more fitting to their needs.
14. Much needed provision.
15. I believe this is a great proposal for all schools, there should be more done to help those who require ALN. I hope there will be more spaces to be given at ALC secondary campus. From first-hand experience i have seen how the short supply in the system effects the children physically and mentally and for each child to reach their potential they need the right support in the right areas
16. There is not enough provision in Blaenau Gwent to support the children with ASD and ALN. Children are struggling in mainstream as the spaces currently are not available. They have to travel across the borough to access the few spaces that are available. The transition

from primary to secondary spaces needs to be seen less for these children. These spaces are needed now not in 6 years' time.

17. I think this is fantastic for the kids with my child in Brynmawr comprehensive school now and uses ALN a lot making a bigger faculty for kids like him would be great, as a mum of 5 I want my son to stay in a mainstream school to achieve all his goals and hopefully this would help a bit more.
18. Following my experience with my son there is a lack of specialist provisions for children with behavioural issues. Following my own experience, the specialist provisions set in mainstream schools are failing the children drastically. Since moving to the Riverside Centre there has been little or no issues with my son.
19. The proposal also needs to include support for children with behavioural issues and trauma within the mainstream school system in Blaenau Gwent. We are seeing an increase in children with BESD, Trauma and anxiety after Covid. Inclusion is a wonderful thing but when whole classes are being affected for years by the emotional needs of another in the class something needs to be done. As a school we are putting everything at our disposal to support children with ALN but it's not enough. We have children that have experienced trauma and need experienced trained staff. Impossible to find. They need access to a quiet space in a school that is fighting for space. Whole classes are regularly moved outside and learning experiences ruined as it's the only option when a child is so upset, they are throwing furniture around the classroom. We do not have space for a nurture/sensory room, we are using cupboards! Referrals to panel aren't successful because panel cannot offer anything more - they can only say follow the school based idp and review. We do not want to request change of placement for these children, they are part of our school and if we did there are no spaces. We are at breaking point!
20. It is essential for pupils to receive the best education possible, and this means offering a more specialised provisions for learners who are struggling to cope in mainstream school. There are increasing pressures on schools who are trying to support pupils to the best of their abilities however there are barriers to learning for some pupils with ALN and there are no alternative provisions for these pupils. Parents are also having to decide against Welsh medium schooling in order to receive a more suitable education. ALN provision should be available in both Welsh and English, parents shouldn't have to choose to remove their children from Welsh education due to lack of provisions.
21. We also need provision for Welsh Medium Schools.
22. I believe this would be a valuable improvement across the county.
23. There is not enough provision for ALN in the county.
24. I think it is needed in the area as ALN is growing.
25. Improvement is desperately needed with more capacity for the growing number of students with ALN.
26. More provision will help children to attend local schools, and to be in the same schools as their siblings. This will be better for children and parents.
27. More ASD/resource base support is required for the increasing needs evident in mainstream and it is promising to see that phase 1 and phase 2 cover a diverse range of schools across both primary and secondary phases.
28. There is an immediate need for a significant increase in the provision of ALN facilities for Welsh-medium learners within Blaenau Gwent and I think the proposals, whilst welcomed, are coming too late given the current timescales.
29. There is a lack of Welsh-medium provision for ALN learners in the county and the situation is now reaching a point where Bro Helyg is unable to cope with a number of intensive needs children within normal classes that are large in size. Although I have noted that September 2024 is fine, I now feel strongly that it is necessary to open in January or Easter 2024 as there is no place for Welsh-medium children anywhere else in Blaenau Gwent.

30. It's definitely needed to increase capacity in different schools so that children from their local area attend the correct school for them. There is such a big need and lots of. Children with these additional needs.
31. I feel that schools don't have enough resources ie. Funding to fully support all children with additional needs & this is affecting their education & will cost more in the long run as these children will need help for later in life.

Comments of those respondents who partially support the proposal.

32. While I welcome the proposal to create these extra provisions in ASD/ALN places in the schools in the borough it shows how out of touch the council is with the situation of ASD/ALN in the community. In my daughter's class there is 4 children with ASD/ALN either diagnosed or going through assessment at this time. These places will by no means meet the need that there is in our community and the council need to look at providing much more resources for the children in our community. While we welcome the provision and support of Welsh language schools there seems to be too much focus on this than spending on supporting children with ASD/ALN this needs to change or we are going to end up with a generation of children being left in the side-lines without the education support they require to make the best of their lives. This support needs to be led by the Welsh Government and followed up by the councils throughout Wales.

33. I am interested in finding out how schools of religious character, particularly VA schools, fit into the proposals.

34. There needs to be clarification around ASD/ALN - the range of ALN and specific needs is vast and cannot be met in the same base or setting. To focus on ASD, there is also the danger that there will be the assumption that a diagnosis of ASD will automatically necessitate a specialist setting; this is not the case. There is a definite need for an Early Years specialist setting, to determine the needs of pre-statutory age children, prior to determining the correct setting for them as they commence statutory schooling. Post-Covid, across the LA, we have seen an increase in the numbers of CYP experiencing significant issues with SEMH and SEBD so there is possibly also a need for further nurture-specific specialist settings. Great to see the plans for a Welsh medium SNRB. However, until the second Welsh medium school opens and grows, there is the risk that as the number of Welsh-speaking CYP with and ALN requiring ALP at any given time could fluctuate, there could be 'spaces' available whilst there are other CYP awaiting specialist placement. For this reason, it may be prudent (and equitable) to consider making the Base bi-lingual in the first instance.

35. My son attends Ebbw Fawr resource base it is exceptional the lack of ks3 ASD provision is a massive issue I work in a primary school and the number of children with ASD is increasingly continually I think that the existing children should stay put at Ebbw Fawr established as it would be detrimental to their education and a new provision provided wherever possible to meet the needs of the children coming through one that will take the ever increasing demands

36. I think that early years (2 years on) should be a focus and each town in Blaenau Gwent should have an ALN early years provision to help children to be able to help children be able to be in a school environment early intervention is key and more children are diagnosed from 1 year. My son was diagnosed at 18 months. Having an early year's provision will open spaces to pen y cwm as some children will be given the tools to cope with mainstream school and it will allow children who need the placement in a specialist provision to have it. I was also surprised that when Autism Day came not one school in BG that I looked at held anything for it my sons school included so I looked at other school's websites talked to parents and nothing. Building awareness having schools involved and teachers and pupils to understand how complex autism is. They wear odd socks for down syndrome shouldn't something be done for Autism.

37. I support the proposal only if adequate funding is made available to provide extra staff with the relevant qualifications and expertise and also that it is recognised that children with ALN can have very different needs to children with ASD.

38. The proposals for Phase 1 are well thought out and strive to provide an effective means of meeting the immediate needs of the pupils in Blaenau Gwent. However, the proposal around a Faith School based provision in Phase 2 needs further development and consultation not just with the immediate school communities but importantly with the two dioceses - who are the trustees of the schools, and the Governing Bodies - who are the admissions authority.

39. I feel that there is a further need for placement of those children with ASD who do not meet the requirements for Pen y Cwm but are not able either to access the curriculum at KS3 and KS4. You need a provision for these children. I appreciate that Pen y Cwm is full but there are children in KS1 and KS2 who are unable to access the mainstream environment. Could there be extra funding for schools to have another ASD base for these children within their current schools?

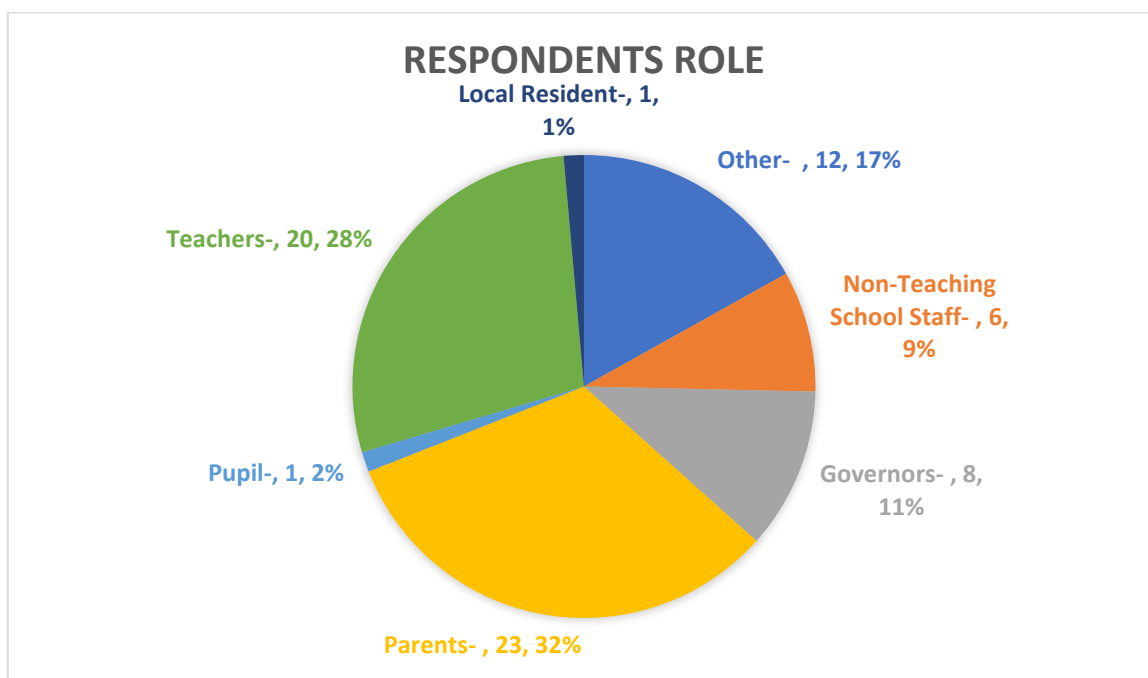
40. Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council supports the proposal in principle, it is thought that the proposals outlined in Phase 2 should include such provisions for such a centre within the Nantyglo and Blaina area (as in Phase 1).

Comments of those respondents who do not support the proposal.

41. We do want extra provision, but the provision proposed in the consultation does not go far enough and still leaves a lot of children falling through the gaps left by a lack of investment in the future of ASD/ALN education needs

42. I do not agree with this proposal, I think it has been developed very quickly without enough discussion with those experienced in meeting the needs of pupils with ALN. I believe we can improve provision for learners by providing more money to schools to help them cater for pupils needs within their local school rather than sending them away to another setting. This particularly applies to primary aged school children who should be learning in their local school and have their needs met there. I believe that by increasing the number of places they will soon be filled, and this does not promote inclusion.

4 The below data chart shows each respondents category such as pupil/parent etc within the community.



The above data shows that there were over 34 that were or are part of the teaching profession, with 23 parents also commenting.

5. There were 12 respondents that recorded 'other' in relation to the above chart, a full breakdown of representation is captured below.

