

Risk Assessment

PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH SPECIALIST PROVISION FOR SECONDARY AGE PUPILS WITH AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER

Context

1. This risk assessment has been carried out in line with the Council's Risk Management Policy 2018
2. Implementing the proposal will result in the establishment of a provision recognized by the council as reserved for pupils with ALN and pupils admitted to the provision would be in addition to the admission number of the school. Admission to the provision would be via a special admission panel of the council and all placement decisions will be predicated on the expectation that schools have exhausted their own resources in meeting the needs of these pupils.

The reasons for the proposal

3. It is proposed to establish a specialist provision for secondary age pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Dwr y Felin Comprehensive School.
4. The facility will provide learning support for pupils with ASD for up to 16 pupils who are in receipt of a Statement of SEN.
5. The provision will be managed by the school and be under the school's governance. However it will be a provision recognised by the Council as reserved for pupils with ALN and pupils admitted to the provision would be in addition to the admission number of the school. Admission to the provision would be via a special admission panel of the Council and specific entry and exit criteria would apply.
6. Pupils at the proposed provision will benefit from being taught by specialist staff, experienced in working with pupils with ASD needs. There is also the possibility that mainstream pupils with ASD could also benefit from the expertise available.
7. The provision will alleviate the current pressure to address demand for places for pupils with more complex needs, avoiding potential costly out of county placements and allowing opportunities for children to access learning within their local community.
8. The proposal seeks to complement the specialist provision and support already available within the County Borough.

Risks associated with the proposal

9. The potential risks associated with this report could threaten the Council's

ability to successfully achieve its strategic goals and objectives

10. Potential risk areas in implementing the proposal include:

- educational outcomes for pupils are not improved
- integration at a provision is unsuccessful
- negative response from parents of host schools
- staff with appropriate skills and expertise not available
- increased governance and staff responsibilities
- increased home to school travel time for some pupils leading to poor attendance.
- Welsh language development not supported

11. Failing to implement the proposal will result in a range of teaching/learning and financial benefits not being fully realised, particularly in relation to:

- opportunities for a pupils to access specialist staff and support
- host schools indirectly benefit from specialist staff on site
- mainstream schools benefit from increased support and training in order to improve skills and build capacity

Risk assessment

12. The proposal is supported by the inclusive approach to education at Dwr y Felin Comprehensive School and the goodwill towards hosting an SEN facility. Combined with the specialist skills and expertise of the staff to be appointed to work at the provision and the targeted planned actions, identified risks can be suitably mitigated.

Risk Assessment

No	Risk description	L'hood score	Impact score	Overall Risk	Prox'ty*	Planned action to mitigate	Target Date	Owner	Update	Trend Up Down No change
1	Outcomes for pupils are not improved	1	5	Low risk	4	Implementation of proposal combined with appropriate support and challenge to ensure entitlements are met and provision delivered		SSIP team Support for Inclusion EDS School leadership		
2	Integration at provision is unsuccessful	2	5	Medium risk	2	Provision staffed with experienced and skilful staff able to provide for individual pupil needs, combined with appropriate support from inclusion team		SSIP team School leadership Support for Inclusion		
3	Negative response from parents of host schools	1	4	Low risk	1	Consultation meetings. Effective communication with parents		School leadership SSIP Support for Inclusion		
4	Staff with appropriate skills and expertise not available	2	5	Medium risk	1	Identification, appointment and training of staff		School leadership Support for inclusion ELLLS		
5	Increased home to school travel time for some pupil leading to poor attendance.	2	4	Medium risk	4	Inclusive ethos and practices. Safe travel routes to school supported by school travel plans and the Council's school transport policy. School is relatively centrally located within NPT CBC		School leadership Support for inclusion ELLLS PIAC/LSC staff		

6	Welsh language development not supported	1	3	Low risk	4	Welsh will be taught in line with the national curriculum guidelines for an English-medium school. Suitable support to be made available for Welsh first language pupils.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School leadership - Support for inclusion - ELLLS staff - School staff 		
7	Increased governance and staff responsibilities	1	3	Low risk	4	Although a specialist provision at the school will mean additional responsibilities, the availability of a wider pool of staff expertise will benefit the school (pupils and staff) as a whole with specialist skills and knowledge more readily accessible.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School leadership - Support for inclusion - ELLLS - LSC staff 		