20 July 2022

Dear Stakeholder

I am writing to update you on proposals to extend and realign special school provision and Specialist Resource Bases (SRBs) for pupils across Cardiff with Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Conditions published by the Council as set out below:

* establish a 20 place Specialist Resource Base for primary aged children with Complex Learning Needs at Moorland Primary School from September 2023
* establish a 30 place Specialist Resource Base for learners with complex learning needs at Willows High School from September 2023
* increase the designated number at the Llanishen High School Specialist Resource Base for learners with Autism Spectrum Condition from 20 to 45 places from September 2022
* establish a 30 place Specialist Resource Base at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf alongside the existing 30 place Specialist Resource Base for learners with Autism Spectrum Condition from September 2023
* increase the designated number of Ty Gwyn Special School from 198 to 240 from September 2022
* increase the designated number of The Hollies Special School from 90 to 119 from September 2022; further increase the designated number of The Hollies Special School from 119 to 150 from September 2023
* increase the designated number at the Specialist Resource Base at Llanishen Fach Primary School for learners with complex learning needs from 20 to 30 places from September 2023
* increase the designated number at the Specialist Resource Base at Pentrebane Primary School for learners with Autism Spectrum Condition from 20 to 24 spaces from September 2022.

At its meeting on 14 July 2022 the Council Cabinet considered the proposals, the statutory objections submitted and the local authority response thereon.

It was noted that there were two objections, both relating to the proposal for Ty Gwyn Special School. The concerns raised are summarised in the objection report together with the response form the local authority. It was considered that responses made by the local authority answered the issues raised.

The objection report is available to view on the Council website:

[Agenda for Cabinet on Thursday, 14th July, 2022, 2.00 pm : Cardiff Council (moderngov.co.uk)](https://cardiff.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=151&MId=7829&Ver=4&LLL=0)

**The Cabinet approved the proposals as set out above without modification.**

The Cabinet was satisfied that the proposals will:

* Provide appropriate high quality school places for young people with complex learning needs and autism.
* Increase the number of specialist resource places for primary, secondary and post-16 aged learners with complex learning needs and autism. This would help to ensure there are sufficient places to meet increased demand arising out of a growing pupil population and a growing incidence and identification of Complex Learning Needs and Autism in Cardiff.
* Ensure that some pupils living in Cardiff would travel shorter distances to access specialist provision than to alternative provision which may otherwise be provided outside of Cardiff
* Reduce the need to fund places at special schools in in other Council areas or in independent schools as there will be additional suitable spaces within Cardiff Schools.
* Provide the opportunity to employ additional specialist staff and to work more closely with specialist services in Cardiff which would enhance the mainstream schools’ capacity for inclusion and benefit all pupils in the schools.

The proposed changes for Llanishen High School, Ty Gwyn Special School, The Hollies Special School and Pentrebane Primary School will take effect from September 2022.

The proposed changes for Moorland Primary School, Willows High School, Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf, Llanishen Fach Primary School and the further increase in places for The Hollies Special School will take effect from September 2023.

**Referral of Local Authority Decision to the Welsh Ministers**

Under section 54 of the 2013 Act where proposals have been approved by a local authority the following bodies may before the end of 28 days beginning with the day of the decision, refer the proposal to the Welsh Ministers for consideration;

*i. Another local authority affected by the proposals;*

*ii. The appropriate religious body for any school affected;*

*iii. The Governing Body of a voluntary or foundation school subject to the proposals;*

*iv. A trust holding property on behalf of a voluntary or foundation school subject to the proposals; and*

*v. A further education institution affected by the proposals*

The decision is subject to the call-in procedures as set out in the Council’s constitution which allows decisions taken by Cabinet to be reviewed. Should a call in of the decision take place, all stakeholders would be informed.

If you have any queries or require additional information, please contact the School Organisation Planning Team on 029 2087 2720 or via email to

schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk

Regards



Richard Portas

**Programme Director**

**School Organisation**