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 Emotional Health and Wellbeing needs as set out below:

* increase the capacity of The Court Special School from 42 to 72 places. Transfer the school to new build accommodation across two sites at Fairwater Primary School and the current St Mellons, CiW Primary School site in Llanrumney with 36 pupils on each site from September 2025.
* establish a 20-place Specialist Resource Base for emotional health and wellbeing at Cardiff West Community High School from September 2022.
* establish a 20-place Specialist Resource Base for emotional health and wellbeing at Eastern High from September 2023.

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 no objections were received. **The Cabinet approved the proposals as set out above without modification.**

The Cabinet was satisfied that the proposals for **The Court Special School** will:

* Increase the number of special school places for primary aged learners with emotional health and wellbeing needs and contribute towards meeting projected demand;
* New school buildings will address the substandard condition of the existing Court buildings and would reduce the maintenance backlog;
* New build facilities will provide high quality learning environments, which improve learning choices and opportunities for pupils. The Cardiff 2030 vision sets out the

need to provide high quality school places. High quality learning environments have a strong impact on improving pupil outcomes;

* A dual site will offer flexibility for managing pupils, allowing them to be educated ‘closer to home’. The proposals would provide a better distribution of Special provision across the city;
* A dual site will allow for a wider range of resources for the school – they will have more space to develop the curriculum offer, offering a wider range of experiences for pupils;
* The co-location with mainstream Primary Schools will provide reintegration opportunities, and allow for more effective transitions;
* The Court Special School will be fit for purpose 21st Century buildings, which could more easily support a range of evidence-based initiatives – a therapy focus, early intervention opportunities, and support nurture and wellbeing;
* The co-location with mainstream Primary sites will allow staff to share best practice, strengthen relationships with mainstream schools, allow for professional learning opportunities and for multi-agency working;
* The new buildings will be fully accessible and compliant with the Equality Act 2010.

The Cabinet was satisfied that the proposals for **Cardiff West Community High School** and **Eastern High School** will:

* Increase the number of specialist resource places for secondary aged learners with emotional health and wellbeing needs and contribute towards meeting projected demand.
* The opportunity to employ specialist staff and to work more closely with specialist services in Cardiff would enhance the school’s inclusive teaching. This would benefit all pupils in the school.
* The proposal would ensure that pupils living in the West and East of the city travel shorter distances to access specialist provision than to alternative provision.
* The new school buildings are fully accessible and compliant with the Equality Act 2010.

**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**