

.Date/Dyddiad 10 February 2021
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To: Parents, Carers and Guardians of children attending Ysgol Y Deri, Y Daith and Gladstone Primary School; Headteacher, Staff and Governing Body of Ysgol Y Deri, Y Daith and Gladstone Primary School; Prescribed Consultees

Dear Consultee,

Proposal to transform specialist education by:

- **establishing a specialist resource base at Gladstone primary school as a satellite of Ysgol Y Deri from September 2021;**
- **discontinuing Y Daith and establishing a new Centre for Learning and Wellbeing under the management of Ysgol Y Deri from September 2021; and**
- **constructing a new building for the Centre for Learning & Wellbeing pupils on the Court Road Depot site in Barry from January 2023**

The Council consulted with prescribed consultees in accordance with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 on the proposal.

In line with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018, a consultation exercise with prescribed consultees was undertaken between 7 September 2020 and 18 October 2020. The aim of the consultation was to inform prescribed consultees about the proposal. During the consultation exercise, 44 individual responses were received by the consultation closing date of 18 October 2020. Consultees were asked for their opinion on three key questions (table 1).

Table 1 – Breakdown of consultation responses

| “Do you support the proposal to transform specialist education?” | Number of responses | Total support | | Total not support | | Total no opinion | |
|--|---------------------|---------------|-----|-------------------|-----|------------------|-----|
| | | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| A) By establishing a new resource base at Gladstone primary school as a satellite of Ysgol Y Deri from September 2021 | 44 | 30 | 68% | 2 | 5% | 12 | 27% |
| B) By discontinuing Y Daith and establishing a new Centre for Learning & Wellbeing under the management of Ysgol Y Deri from September 2021 | 43 | 32 | 74% | 9 | 21% | 2 | 5% |
| C) By constructing a new building for the Centre for Learning & Wellbeing pupils on the Court Road Depot site in Barry from January 2023 | 44 | 40 | 91% | 2 | 5% | 2 | 5% |

On 16 November 2020, following consideration of the consultation report, Cabinet determined to progress the proposal through the publication of a statutory notice. The statutory notice was published on the Council's website on 25 November 2020 and was issued to prescribed consultees and posted at the main entrances of Gladstone Primary School, Ysgol Y Deri and Y Daith. The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 provides that anyone wishing to make objections to a school organisation proposal has the opportunity to do so. To be considered as statutory objections, objections must be made in writing or by email, and sent to the proposer before the end of 28 days beginning with the day on which the notice was published ("the objection period"). As the statutory notice was published on 25 November 2020, statutory objections had to be received by 22 December 2020. One statutory objection was received during the statutory notice period.

On 8 February 2021, the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Cabinet considered the objection report and all other relevant documentation and determined to approve the proposal. The objection report is available to view and download from the Council's website:

<http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/centreforlearningandwellbeing>

Hard copies of the objection report are available on request by contacting a member of the 21st Century Schools Team on: 21stcenturyschools@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

The proposal will mean discontinuing the Council's current Pupil Referral Unit (PRU), Y Daith, and establishing a new Centre for Learning & Wellbeing under the management of Ysgol Y Deri. It will also establish a new Specialist Resource Base (SRB) at Gladstone primary school which will operate as a satellite of Ysgol Y Deri.

The SRB at Gladstone Primary School has been trialled since September 2019. The base utilises areas within the existing school buildings. It is proposed that this is formally established from September 2021, continuing to use the existing facilities at Gladstone Primary School.

The governing body of Ysgol Y Deri will work alongside the management committee of Y Daith to establish a transition plan which will include development of the staffing structure for the new Centre for Learning & Wellbeing ahead of September 2021.

In addition, a new school building will be constructed on the Court Road Depot site in Barry for January 2023. Pupils and staff of the proposed Centre for Learning & Wellbeing will operate out of the current Y Daith buildings in Cowbridge and at Amelia Trust Farm in the interim.

In determining the proposal, Cabinet were satisfied that the proposal will:

- Address the condition and suitability of existing buildings currently utilised by Y Daith;
- Reduce transport costs as a result of the Centre for Learning & Wellbeing being in a more central location within the Vale of Glamorgan;
- Provide innovative and creative learning environments which are adaptable to change and will challenge and support children to reach their full potential;
- Increase the level of community access and interaction through the use of the school's educational facilities whilst meeting the needs of the school;
- Provide suitable accommodation for pupils of all age groups, thereby removing the need to operate a split site provision;
- Make provision within the Vale for larger numbers of our pupils with complex Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) needs at both primary and secondary phases of education;

- It is recognised that Ysgol Y Deri is the organisation with the experience and skills to implement the trauma informed approach most effectively within and across the Local Authority (LA). As such, Ysgol Y Deri coordinating the function of the Centre for Learning & Wellbeing and SRB will mean that some of our most vulnerable learners receive the most effective support and nurture provision as key components of their education;
- Increase opportunities for continuous professional development with Centre for Learning & Wellbeing and SRB staff forming part of Ysgol Y Deri;
- Improve resilience as a result of a coordinated approach managed by Ysgol Y Deri. At present Y Daith's staffing structure is small in scale and being part of a larger entity will provide greater resilience in terms of staffing;
- Access to Ysgol Y Deri's wider network of buildings will provide greater scope for provision to be made for those learners who suffer from acute anxiety and mental health issues. At present there is no such provision offered by Y Daith; and
- Prevent future reliance on costly out of county provision.

The reasons for the decision in respect of the factors outlined in the School Organisation Code are as follows:

Quality and Standards of Education

This proposal will likely have a positive impact on the quality and standards in education. As noted by respondents, the existing buildings currently utilised by Y Daith have their limitations. The proposed new Centre for Learning & Wellbeing will provide sufficient space for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 pupils to be taught on a single site. The proposed new building will also provide the opportunity to offer full time Key Stage 4 provision which was raised by Estyn during the most recent inspection. The new building and site will be designed to meet the needs of pupils and will provide the opportunity to enhance the curriculum. This was noted as a particular positive by pupils in the engagement sessions; pupils were enthusiastic about improved sporting facilities and adequate "break out" spaces.

The Centre for Learning & Wellbeing and the specialist resource base at Gladstone Primary School being managed by Ysgol Y Deri will ensure consistent support for learners with social, emotional and mental health needs across the Vale of Glamorgan.

Need for places and the impact upon accessibility of schools

This proposal forms part of the Council's strategy to transform special education in the Vale of Glamorgan to meet projected future demand and best meet the needs of our most vulnerable learners. This proposal has been developed to ensure the Council can best meet the needs of learners with social emotional and mental health needs and does not result in increased capacity.

The Centre for Learning & Wellbeing will have responsibility for the portfolio of the Vale of Glamorgan's present secondary sector PRU, Y Daith, which currently provides education to approximately 80 pupils. This number fluctuates throughout the year and includes pupils accessing Education Other Than At School (EOTAS) provision organised by the Local Authority (LA). LA officers will retain responsibility for funding, organising and monitoring all LA brokered EOTAS placements. Learners who are placed with EOTAS providers on a full-time basis will not be on roll at the Centre for Learning & Wellbeing.

It is envisaged that the Centre for Learning & Wellbeing will be able to provide appropriate outreach support, guidance and strategies to mainstream secondary schools in relation to the pupils with SEMH needs, as required.

The SRB at Gladstone Primary will accommodate 10 pupils.

All admission to the Centre for Learning & Wellbeing and the SRB at Gladstone Primary School will be via the Council's SEMH Panel. All admissions must be endorsed by the Lead Officer for Social Inclusion and Wellbeing and/or the Head of Standards and Provision, in consultation with Ysgol Y Deri.

The Centre for Learning & Wellbeing and SRB (at Gladstone primary school) being placed under the umbrella of Ysgol Y Deri's wider network of provisions and service functions will allow for coherence and alignment in terms of the promotion of the trauma informed approach to support all pupils with SEMH needs. It will ensure a core strand related to the trauma informed ethos and approach runs through both the primary and secondary sectors within Vale schools.

It is recognised that Ysgol Y Deri is the organisation with the experience and skills to implement the trauma informed approach most effectively within and across the LA. As such, Ysgol Y Deri coordinating the function of the Centre for Learning & Wellbeing and SRB will mean that some of our most vulnerable learners receive the most effective support and nurture provision as key components of their education. The approach outlined also aligns with the SEMH Action Plan developed by the LA, and as such, is the logical next step in progressing the wider LA approach.

Resourcing of education and other financial implications

A significant capital investment will be made to construct a new Centre for Learning and Wellbeing on the Court Road Site. The Council will be responsible for managing the construction of the new building as part of the 21st Century Schools Programme.

It is estimated that the total capital funding required to build a new school will be £4.4million. The Council is expected to receive £3.3million in Welsh Government funding through the 21st Century Schools Programme, subject to the approval of a business case. The Council's contribution is included as part of the capital programme. There are no capital implications for the establishment of the SRB at Gladstone Primary School as existing school buildings will be utilised.

The revenue budget for the Centre for Learning and Wellbeing and SRB at Gladstone Primary School will be delegated to Ysgol Y Deri. The Ysgol Y Deri Governing Body will be responsible for the delegated budget. EOTAS provision will be managed by the Council and the relevant resources will be retained. The Council will work closely with the governing body to develop the provision and identify funding needs. This will include the identification of any transition funding to support the development of the project.

The governing body of Ysgol Y Deri will be responsible for developing a staffing structure for the Centre for Learning and Wellbeing and the SRB at Gladstone primary school. Any proposed changes to staffing would be subject to full consultation with staff and the relevant trade unions where necessary. Y Daith staff and those in the SRB at Gladstone Primary School will transfer to Ysgol Y Deri from September 2021.

The SRB at Gladstone Primary School has been trialled since September 2019. The capacity and location will not be changed as a result of this proposal which will therefore have no impact on existing travel arrangements.

Y Daith is currently based across two sites with key stage 3 taught at Amelia Trust Farm and key stage 4 taught in Cowbridge. Y Daith is currently served by 2 minibuses and 6 taxis. This proposal will result in an overall reduction in learner travel. This is due to the proposed location being in a more central location within the Vale of Glamorgan. 60% of the existing pupils being transported to

the PRU currently reside in Barry. These journeys will be considerably reduced by the proposal. This was highlighted by pupils in the engagement sessions as a positive of the proposal.

The proposals will ensure that new buildings will meet modern building standards to reduce carbon emissions, meet BREEAM Excellence standards, and achieve the highest rating of A for the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC).

Other general factors

Court Road

In order to accommodate the proposed new Centre for Learning and Wellbeing, the existing services (parks, cleansing and some leisure services) currently operating from the Court Road Depot will need to be relocated. This will involve the relocation of a large amount of equipment and vehicles, as well as staff. A project team has recently been established in Neighbourhood Services to oversee the proposed move. The move is dependent on a satisfactory alternative location being identified and agreed, as well as the necessary funding for the move being made available.

Equality Impact Assessment

The Equality Impact Assessment identifies that there will be a positive impact on persons with the protected characteristics of age, disability and gender reassignment/ identity. The proposal will support the school to ensure that it has the improved facilities to promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those with different protected characteristics.

There has been no perceived negative impact on the protected characteristics identified. Successful implementation of the proposal will enable compliance with the Equality Act (2010), for example by providing a fully accessible building for the Centre for Learning & Wellbeing with gender neutral facilities.

Community Impact Assessment

The Community impact assessment identifies that the proposal will likely have a positive impact on the local community across 7 of the 8 measures assessed. The proposal will likely have a negative impact on the local community across 1 of the 8 measures assessed.

Whilst it is noted that Amelia Trust Farm will be negatively impacted through the loss of income, the existing buildings are not suitable to best meet the needs of learners. The proposal will enable the new Centre for Learning & Wellbeing and SRB (Gladstone primary) to provide innovative and creative learning environments which are adaptable to change and will challenge and support children to reach their full potential. The proposal will increase the level of community access and interaction through the school's educational facilities whilst meeting the complex needs of pupils.

Overall, the proposal will likely have a positive impact on the local community.

Yours faithfully,



Paula Ham, Director of Learning and Skills