

21st Century Schools Community Engagement Report

CENTRE FOR VULNERABLE LEARNERS (PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT), PONTLLANFRAITH
Consultation Summary

Proposal :

- **The establishment of a Centre for Vulnerable Learners (Pupil Referral Unit) on the former Pontllanfraith Comprehensive site**



This Community Engagement Report is published to support open and transparent decision making and provide a summary of the findings from the Consultation period: 20th October 2021 – 1st December 2021

Information can also be made available in other formats, languages and in hard copy on request. Please contact us on 01443 864817 to arrange this.





Richard Edmunds

Corporate Director for
Education and Corporate
Services

FOREWORD

“Working together to deliver the best outcomes for all our children”

Caerphilly County Borough Council has embarked upon an exciting but challenging journey of improvement and change. We have bold ambitions to provide every learner with the best life chances and we are committed to doing this through the provision of high quality teaching, learning and leadership across our school settings as part of our ‘Shared Ambitions’ Strategy.

We have focused on improving young people’s outcomes and this is still a priority area moving forward incorporating a holistic view of education. The Council has adopted ‘Improving education opportunities for all’ as the first of its Wellbeing Objectives and has committed to an ambitious 21st Century Schools investment programme.

In collaboration with Welsh Government, the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band B Programme is supporting investment in education within the County Borough. Our aspiration is the improvement of the condition of school buildings and maximising community usage.

Our current proposals support our commitment to increase school effectiveness and to narrow inequalities in achievement across groups; to understand the needs of more vulnerable children; promote the Welsh Language, and support those unable to access traditional learning pathways to ensure that all will benefit from the richness of learning and cultural opportunities. These principles help steer our decision making and prioritise projects.

As part of this proposal a consultation exercise has been carried out.

This Community Engagement Report has been produced to summarise the emerging themes raised by consultees during the consultation period including Estyn’s feedback. It aims to provide a balanced, transparent document to support Cabinet in deciding whether to progress with the proposal, make changes or not to progress.

I hope you find this document informative as a reflection of the activities undertaken to date and an insight into the journey we are on, shaping delivery and placing learning provision at the heart of our communities.

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INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the Community Engagement Report

The consultation period represented an opportunity for people to learn about the proposal, ask questions and make comments. Any negative responses made during the consultation period were not counted as objections to the proposal but as adverse comments.

Objections to a proposal can only be registered after the publication of a statutory notice.

This Community Engagement Report outlines the processes followed and comments received during the consultation period, ultimately, providing Cabinet with the necessary information to take one of the following decisions:

- Proceed with the proposal
- Make changes to the proposal
- Not to proceed with the proposal

This document is publicly available via the Council’s website with hardcopies made available on request.

What is the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme?

The 21st Century Schools and Colleges programme is a major, long-term, strategic capital investment programme. It is jointly funded by the Welsh Government and local authorities and aims to create a generation of 21st century schools in Wales.

The first part of the programme (Band A) ran from 2014 to March 2019.

Caerphilly has benefited greatly from investments in the initial “Band A” 21st Century Schools programme with approximately £56.5 million invested in schools for both educational and community use.

Table 1: Band A funding in Caerphilly was used to deliver		
	Project Name	Band A Investment
 Image of Islwyn High School	✓ Islwyn High School	£22.6m
	✓ Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Rhymni, Y Gwyndy Campus	£19.2m
	✓ Idris Davies School 3-18	£8m
	✓ Newbridge School extension	£2.6m
	✓ Blackwood Comprehensive improvements	£2m
	✓ Blackwood Comprehensive 3G pitch	£865k
	✓ Trinity Fields School improvements	£1.3m

Educational transformation remains a vital outcome of our investment in Band B of the Programme. The second part of this funding (Band B) started in April 2019, with the priority areas being:

- Reduce the number of poor condition schools
- Ensure that we have the right size schools in the right location
- Provide enough places to deliver Welsh and English medium education
- Ensure the effective and efficient use of the educational estate

Further information is available on the [21st Century Schools webpages](#)



STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS

School Organisation Code 2018

The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 requires that the Welsh Ministers issue a School Organisation Code. The Code imposes requirements in accordance with which relevant bodies including local authorities must act when bringing forward proposals in respect of maintained schools as defined at Section 98 of the 2013 Act. That is a school in Wales, which is a community, foundation or voluntary school, a community special school or a maintained nursery school.

Unlike other 21st Century Schools proposals which have been undertaken to date, this legislation does not apply to pupil referral units and as such the consultation process prescribed by the School Organisation Code 2018 does not apply in this instance

For the purposes of progressing this proposal and to enable transparent, balanced and open decision making, a consultation process was undertaken to reflect the principles of the Council's Consultation and Engagement Framework 2020-2025. Utilising the "Spectrum of Engagement" approach, an appropriate level of engagement in informing and consulting stakeholders was undertaken between the 20th October 2021 and the 1st December 2021, mirroring the equivalent 42 day processes outlined in Section 3 of the School Organisation Code 2018.

As such, there is no requirement to produce a Consultation Report as prescribed by the Code. This Community Engagement Report is designed to be a summary document only.

Local and National Strategies



"Priorities for the coming year are to renew and reform, putting learners' progression and wellbeing at the heart of everything we do."

*Jeremy Miles MS
Minister for Education and Welsh Language*

There are a number of local and national strategies that drive Educational reform and underline the rationale for the proposals being considered as part of the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band B programme in Caerphilly.

- [Welsh Language Act 1993 / Welsh Language \(Wales\) measure 2011](#)
- [Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal \(Wales\) Act 2017](#)
- [The Childcare Act 2006 \(Local Authority Assessment\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2016](#)
- [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#)
- [Welsh Government - Education in Wales: Our National Mission](#)
- [Welsh Government - Cymraeg 2050: Welsh Language Strategy Action Plan 2019- 2021](#)
- [Welsh Government - 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme](#)
- [Caerphilly - 'Shared Ambitions' Education Attainment Strategy 2019 - 2022](#)
- [Caerphilly - #Team Caerphilly: Better Together Transformation Strategy](#)
- [Caerphilly - Welsh Education Strategic Plan](#)
- [Caerphilly - Welsh Language Strategy 2017-2022](#)
- [Caerphilly - Corporate Plan \(including Wellbeing Objectives 2018-2023\)](#)
- [Caerphilly – Education Other Than At School \(EOTAS\) Strategy 2020](#)
- [Caerphilly - Strategic Equality Plan 2020-2024](#)
- [Caerphilly - Communication and Engagement Strategy 2019-2022](#)

As Wales embarks on a renewed vision of success for all learners, we can reflect on our rich heritage and proud history for promoting access to education in Caerphilly. Our transformational reforms are taking place within a challenging environment. This includes the uncertainties associated with Brexit, the technological transformation and the divergence in the qualification systems across the home nations. These are all challenges and opportunities for the Council.



PROPOSAL

What are we proposing to do?

We are proposing to:

- **Create a Pupil Referral Unit for vulnerable pupils on the former Pontllanfraith Comprehensive site (NP12 2DA) with an anticipated completion date of September 2023.**
- The proposed centre of excellence will support vulnerable learners from across Caerphilly at Key Stage 3/4, sitting at the center of the Council's Education Other Than At School (EOTAS) Strategy and the [Cwmpawd hub and spoke model](#)
- The new facility will accommodate between 80 - 120 pupils and be equipped with high quality learning opportunities, indoor and outdoor sporting provision as well as access to first class support and will enable community use of the facilities outside of school hours

What is driving this proposal?

Schools in Wales need to be in good condition and suitable for the delivery of education. In some cases, schools can be modernised, repaired, refurbished, extended, or partially rebuilt to meet the standards needed for contemporary teaching and learning. However, some existing schools are no longer in the right place and in such cases we might propose new schools or changes to existing schools.

Caerphilly County Borough Council aspires to continue to raise school standards and improve the quality of the learning environment to create fit-for-purpose 21st century schools and give every child in Caerphilly the best possible start in life.

Options Appraisal

There are common challenges faced by all Local Authorities when adopting new proposals. The vast majority of Council policies are delivered through projects and programmes of various forms. It is therefore vital that projects are delivered successfully in order to realise their intended benefits for citizens.

An options appraisal provides the opportunity to help councils make an informed and evidence based decision on how to deliver services. It does this by considering the relative advantages and disadvantages of a number of different delivery model options (including the current way in which the service is delivered).

The methodology helps decision makers to consider the:

- Desirability - the degree to which each option meets the strategic objectives and priorities of stakeholders
- Viability - the degree to which each option is financially viable and sustainable
- Feasibility - the degree to which each option can be implemented

As part of outlining the current proposal, an options appraisal was undertaken.

The options appraisal stage allowed for a number of different delivery model options to be explored and evaluated against a set of agreed criteria, leading to the selection of the preferred option.

The following options were considered and scored: -

Table 2: Options Appraisal Longlist	
Option 1*	Do Nothing : No additional EOTAS provision.
Option 2	Do Minimum: Bring existing grammar school (former Pontllanfraith Comp site) building back into use with new heating system and internal decoration
Option 3	Do Intermediate: Full Remodeling of Grammar School and car parking
Option 4	Do Major: Full Remodeling of Grammar School including sports facilities on the lower level, car parking and community facilities
Option 5	Do Maximum Brand New building on Pontllanfraith site including sporting and community facilities

*Please note, Option 1 is considered the status quo option and is always included in the shortlist as a benchmark for value for money.

Each option was evaluated against the investment objectives outlined in the Consultation Document and the extent to which it met the Critical Success Factors. This stage was an important part of the process, to raise important questions at an early stage and assist in developing proposals.

This resulted in options either being discounted, carried forward for further consideration in the short list with an eventual option identified as a preferred way forward. It is the option identified as the preferred way forward upon which the consultation exercise was based as all other options have been discounted at this point.

The process utilised was outlined in detail in the Consultation Document and resulted in

Option 4 being identified as the preferred option, namely, a **Full Remodeling of Grammar School including sports facilities on the lower level, car parking and community facilities**

Benefits and Disbenefits

There are common challenges faced by all Local Authorities when adopting new proposals. The vast majority of Council policies are delivered through projects and programmes of various forms. It is therefore vital that projects are delivered successfully in order to realise their intended benefits for citizens.

Evidence shows that the best way to ensure successful delivery is by setting up projects correctly in the first place. The most common causes of failure, among others are a lack of clear objectives, insufficient resources and over-ambitious cost and schedule that impact on the level and amount of benefit that can be realised and can be avoided if tackled in a project's early stages.

As part of the development of the proposal, a number of benefits and disbenefits were identified as outlined in the Consultation Document. The consultation process was an opportunity to consult with relevant stakeholders to understand what they see as positive outcomes and what negative consequences may be delivered.

The Council recognises that people have different needs, requirements and goals and we will work actively against all forms of discrimination by promoting good relations and mutual respect within and between our communities. An Integrated Impact Assessment was carried out to initiate discussion and invite comments as to whether the principles for the proposal are supported.

All comments have been recorded and Cabinet members will be provided with copies of all the responses received within the consultation period and in their original format as part of the decision making process.



THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

Consultation Process

The Council recognises that people have different needs, requirements and goals and we will work actively against all forms of discrimination by promoting good relations and mutual respect within and between our communities.

Through [TeamCaerphilly - Better Together](#), the Council is committed to ensuring high quality, citizen focused services for the communities that comprise our county borough. In future-proofing public services, we recognise the need to ensure effective engagement which is central to our decision making - [Read more about our approach to Consultation and Engagement here](#)

The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 requires that the Welsh Ministers issue a School Organisation Code. The Code imposes requirements in accordance with which relevant bodies including local authorities must act when bringing forward proposals in respect of maintained schools as defined at Section 98 of the 2013 Act. That is a school in Wales, which is a community, foundation or voluntary school, a community special school or a maintained nursery school.

Pupil Referral Units are exempt from the code. However, for the purposes of progressing this proposal and to enable transparent, balanced and open decision making, a consultation process was undertaken, reflecting the principles of the Council's Consultation and Engagement Framework 2020-2025. Utilising the "Spectrum of Engagement" approach, an appropriate level of engagement in informing and consulting stakeholders will be undertaken, mirroring the equivalent processes outlined in Section 3 of the School Organisation Code 2018 only.

Implications of COVID19

Due to the implications of COVID-19 place and after taking advice from Welsh Government, this consultation process refrained from undertaking any face-to-face consultation sessions to support social distancing and maintain safe working practices for all. However, a number of alternative methods were utilised for engagement including use of social media, face-time technology and the creation of a 'Frequently Asked Questions' Document.

Stakeholder Engagement

We advised the following of our proposals by letter or email:

Table 3: Consultee List	
Pupils and Pupil Councils*	Welsh Ministers
Parents, prospective parents, guardians and carers*	Assembly Members and Members of Parliament representing the area served *
Headteacher, Staff and Governing bodies*	Local CCBC Members
Directors of Education for Neighbouring Authorities	Local Town and Community Councils
Teaching and Support Staff Associations	Estyn
Parent Network	Welsh Education Forum
Diocesan Directors / Boards of Education	South East Wales Consortium (EAS)
Gwent and South Wales Police and Crime Commissioners	South East Wales Transport Alliance (SEWTA)
Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership	Mudiad Meithrin, Menter Iaith and voluntary nursery providers

**of schools directly or likely to be affected by the proposal only*

The Council's Social media channels were also utilised. Messages relating to the consultation were released in phases throughout the consultation period to maintain public awareness and provide as far a 'social media reach' as possible.

Social media reach is a media analytics metric that refers to the number of users who have come across a particular content on a social platform such as Facebook, YouTube or Twitter.

Consultation Information

As part of this proposal, the following documentation was produced:

- Consultation Notification Letter
- Consultation Document
- Consultation Response Form (Online)
- Consultation Response Form (Printable PDF)
- Integrated Impact Assessment

All documentation was published in Welsh and English, complying with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards. Information was also available in other languages and formats on request, however, no such requests were received as part of this process.

Hardcopies of the documentation were issued to the schools directly affected by the proposal including the child friendly summary for discussion with the pupils.

Response Methods

As outlined in the Consultation Document, anyone wishing to comment in relation to the proposal could do so in writing by:

- Completing the online response form on the Council's website
- Completing a response pro forma and posting it to the 21st Century School Team at Caerphilly
- Emailing comments to the 21st Century Schools Team at Caerphilly

Whilst the nature of the provision proposed means that Pupils receiving EOTAS provision are currently not on this site, working with professionals in the field, pupils across a number of EOTAS establishments in the Borough were also give the opportunity to engage in the process through focused 'Pupil Voice' sessions.

This consultation was undertaken to capture the views of consultees in relation to the proposal. These views have been incorporated into this document, which will be published and considered by Cabinet when determining whether to proceed to the Planning Application stage.

A separate Planning Application Process will be undertaken in respect of this proposal. The separate statutory processes were outlined in the consultation document and any adverse comments received as part of this process have been recorded as such.

CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Consultation Responses

Overall a total of 20 responses were received during the consultation process.

Please note: The figure above and the data reported on for Questions 1 to 7 do not include the responses received by Estyn or captured as part of any pupil engagement sessions. These are outlined in more detail later in this document.

Of the prescribed methods for providing a response during the consultation period:

- 17 responses received via Online Survey
- 3 responses received via email
- 0 responses received via post
- Pupil Voice Sessions at multiple EOTAS settings

0 responses (0%) were returned in the medium of Welsh.

The 21st Century Schools Team received no requests for the documentation to be provided in any other format or language.

QUESTION 1

The consultees were asked to identify a category that best described them in relation to the proposal for the school affected. The options provided were selected to identified key demographic groups for reporting purposes to Cabinet. These included, Pupil, Parent, Staff Member, School Governor, Elected Member, Local Resident, Group and Other.

Of those who responded, the following categories were selected:



15% Parents	45% Local Resident	40% Other
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For those selecting 'other', the opportunity was given to elaborate further as they felt appropriate, of the 8 respondents who selected this option, responses included a "resident of Glanynant", a "parent of a child that would have benefitted from this", and a "Teacher at a Behaviour Unit".

QUESTION 2

As part of the consultation process, consultees were asked to provide basic contact information, including their name, address and email. This psychographic data was collected in order to help paint a picture of the consultee and enable the 21st Century Schools team to understand trends in response data and response groupings that would assist in compiling this Community Engagement Report.

As information can be collected for many purposes, the Caerphilly County Borough Council's privacy notice for consultations/surveys was referenced, which outlined the purpose and legal basis for collecting the information, data usage and data retention periods.

Cabinet will be provided with a separate digest of all the consultation comments received.

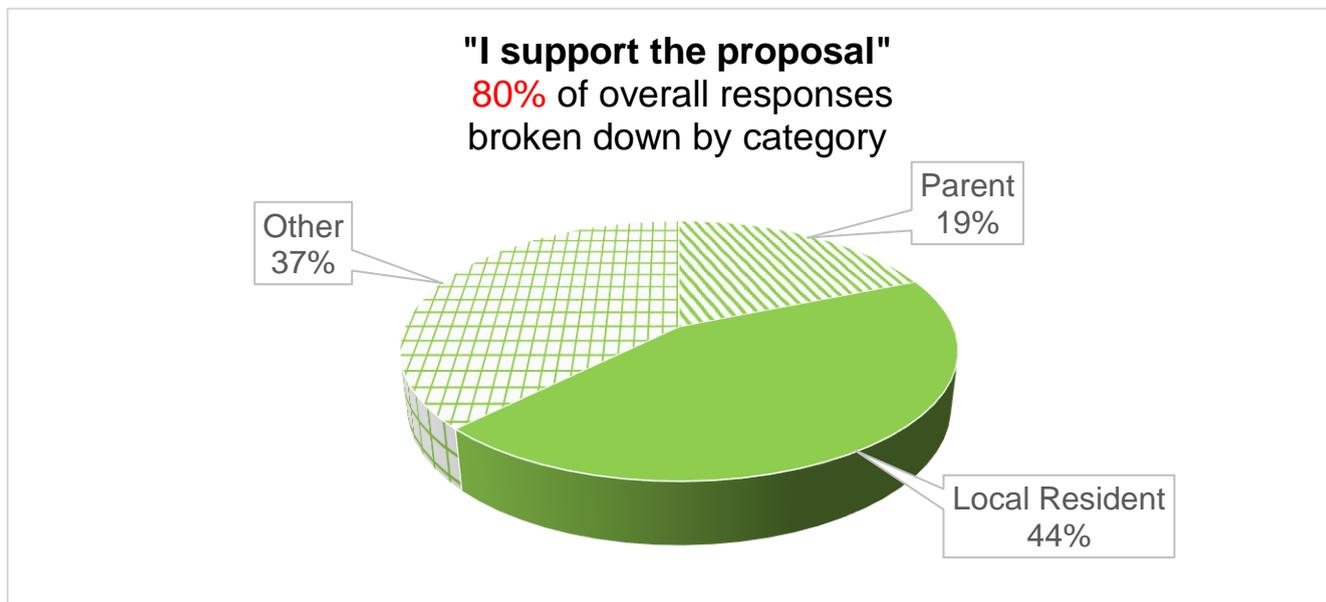
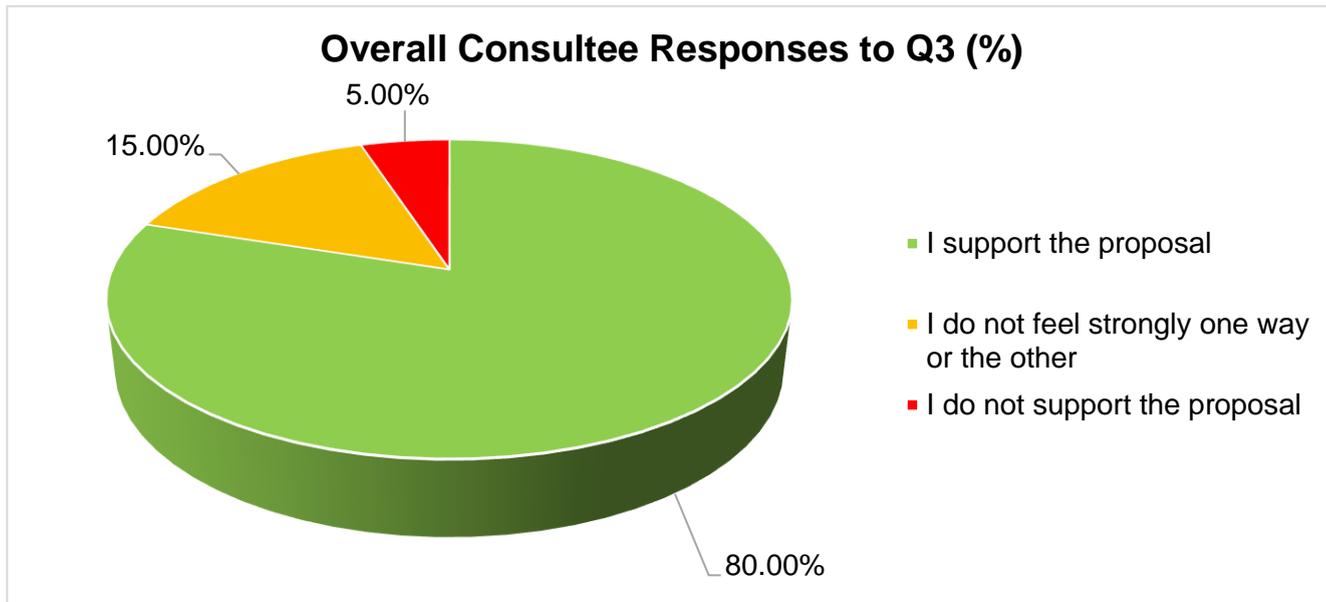
QUESTION 3

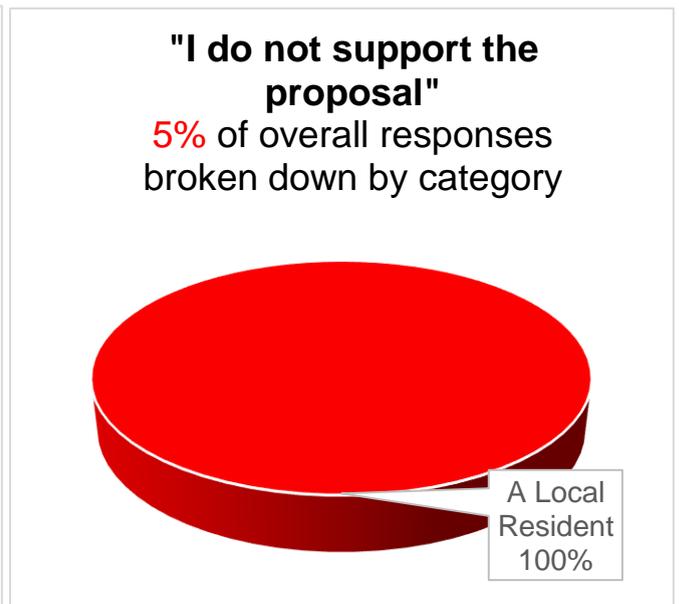
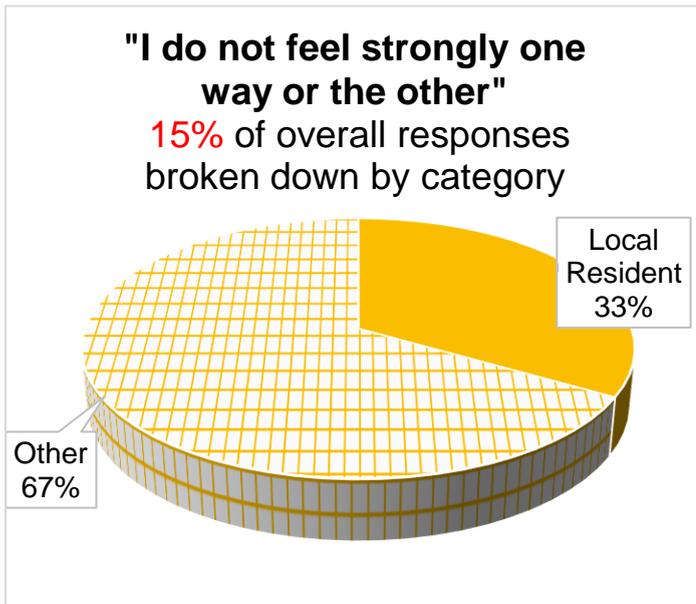
Consultees were asked to indicate which of the following statements most accurately reflected their views about the proposal. Consultees were reminded to read the consultation documentation prior to providing any responses during this consultation exercise and that unfavourable comments made during the consultation period will not be treated as objections at this stage.

The options available were:

- I do not feel strongly one way or the other
- I support the proposal
- I do not support the proposal

Of the responses returned, 16 support the proposal, 1 did not support it, 3 didn't feel strongly either way or failed to select an option. That equates to 80% in support, 5% opposed with the remaining 15% either providing a neutral response or no comment.





It is prudent to bring to the attention of readers that the commentary provided as part of Question 4 may offer additional insight into the views of the consultees and that the response provided to Question 3 should not be considered in isolation.

QUESTION 4

This was a free text box, enabling consultees to provide additional comments on the proposal. All comments received have been read and analysed.

General themes that emerged from the consultation:

- Advantages of specialist support in the Borough
- Impact on pupils and mainstream provision
- How this proposal interlinks with the existing Pupil Referral Unit at Glanynant
- Traffic Management
- Construction process and potential impact

These themes are outlined in more detail in the section on 'Consultation Clarification'.

QUESTION 5

Consultees were given the option to request notification as to the publication of this Community Engagement Report. Contact information has been collected to this end and the preferred method for communication will be notification via email if this information has been made available by the respondent.



17 out of the 20 respondents have requested notification (15 via email, 2 via post). These individuals have been added to the notification list and will be contacted concurrently with

stakeholders when this document is made publicly available through the Council's website. Hardcopies of the documentation will be made available on request.

QUESTION 6

In line with the Caerphilly County Borough Council's Strategic Equality Plan 2016-2020 and the Consultation and Monitoring Guidance 2016 document, a reduced version of the Equalities and Monitoring questionnaire was included as part of the consultation response to support effective planning and to ensure that a representative sample was achieved to identify any equality issues.

The option to include information relating to the consultees Gender, Age, Disability Status, Welsh Language Skills and any influencing factors relating to their response were included but not mandatory.

From the responses received, of those that completed the Equalities monitoring section:

Are you ...			
Male	6	Other	0
Female	14	Prefer not to say	0

Age			
Under 16	0	40-65	12
16-25	0	Over 65	2
26-39	3	Prefer not to say	3

Disability			
I am not Disabled	13	Learning Difficulties	0
Physical / Mobility Impaired	0	Visually Impaired	0
Hearing Impaired	0	Speech Impaired	0
Prefer not to say	7		
Other	0		

Welsh Language Skills				
	A Little	Moderately	Quite Well	Fluently
Speak	2	2	1	0
Understand	2	1	0	0
Read	1	2	0	0
Write	1	0	1	0
No Welsh Language Skills	10	Prefer not to say	5	

QUESTION 7

In relation to equalities implications that respondents highlighted, responses indicated that their decision was influenced as per the list outlined in the consultation response form. 2 respondents indicated that this question was relevant to them completing this consultation process both linked to responsibility for dependencies with additional needs.

Education Scrutiny Response

The Council's Education Scrutiny Committee is a consultee for any policy or service developments in relation to Education within the Borough.

A digital meeting via Microsoft teams took place on Tuesday 2nd November 2021 at 5.30pm.

As part of this meeting, the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band B Programme and consultation in respect of the proposal to establish a Centre for Vulnerable Pupils (Pupil Referral Unit) on the former Pontllanfraith Comprehensive site was discussed. All consultation documentation was made available to members as part of the agenda reports pack and officers linked to the proposal were available to take questions.

It was agreed that a vote in respect of the proposal would be taken and be officially recorded for inclusion in this Community Engagement Report. The Committee members voted 13 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions in relation to the proposal.



Education Scrutiny Committee - 2 November 2021

A recording of the session is available on YouTube:

[Education Scrutiny Committee Meeting](#)

The agenda item linked to this proposal starts 53 minutes and 45 seconds in to the recording.

The [Notice of the Decisions](#) document is also available to view on the Council's website.

Estyn's Response

Estyn were contacted and advised of the publication of the Consultation Document and the commencement of the consultation period.

The following response was provided.

"Thank you for sharing this consultation with us, but unfortunately as the current legislations and consultation process prescribed by the School Organisation Code 2018 does not apply to PRU's, it is not appropriate for us to respond to this particular consultation."



LEARNER VOICE

School Council / Pupil Engagement

A child friendly consultation summary and video was produced to support the consultation process with vulnerable children already receiving EOTAS provision to present information in a manner relevant to their likely understanding, allowing them to participate in the consultation process and reach an informed opinion. In addition to this documentation, the 21st Century

Schools Team worked closely with professionals in the field to support alternative engagement mechanisms to engage with a wider spectrum of children and young people who wished to submit a consultation response in their preferred format and language.

There had already been a degree of consultation with vulnerable learners whilst developing ideas around this provision. The key messages which came out of this process included:

- ❖ 96% of pupils stated that this type of provision allows them to make progress
- ❖ 88% of pupils indicated that a new PRU will provide them with the correct range of learning experiences to develop necessary skills and learn
- ❖ 66% of the pupils feel that they do not currently have enough opportunities for exercise. The development of sports facilities is integrated within this proposal.

Through further engagement with pupils during the consultation period that are currently receiving EOTAS provision across a number of settings in the Borough, the pupils engaged in the process supported the proposal and offered a number of ideas about what they would like to see inside the school, within the grounds, what could be included to support the Decarbonisation agenda and facilities that could be included for the wider community. Some of these ideas are summarised below:





NEXT STEPS

Consultation Clarification

When analysing the consultation response comments received as part of the consultation period, a number of emerging themes became evident.

The following table provides a summary of the response themes received during the consultation period.

Table 4: Summary of Response Themes		
Theme	Overview	Number of Mentions
Advantages of specialist support in the Borough	Meets demand for increasing support for pupils in the borough	1
	Less reliance on outsourcing and satellite provision	2
	Additional resources will provide more accessible support and guidance for families	1
Impact on pupils and mainstream provision	Reduced pressure on Mainstream provision who are not equipped to support children with EOTAS needs.	3
	Children will have greater access to a dedicated centre supporting and nurturing their development and wellbeing	4
How this proposal interlinks with the existing Pupil Referral Unit at Glanynant	Why is money being invested into Glanynant? / Why isn't Glanynant incorporated into this proposal?	2
	Why is the proposal not including primary school aged children?	2
Traffic, parking and drop off arrangements	Parking concerns at the proposed Pontllanfraith site	1
	Increased traffic flow at proposed site	1
Construction process and potential impact	Impact on neighbouring residential properties	1
	Support for re-utilisation of an existing old-school building	1

To assist Cabinet in the decision making process, the following information is provided by means of response for clarification with supporting reasons.

Table 5: Council Response - Theme Clarification
Theme: Advantages of specialist support in the Borough
Council's Response
The Council appreciates the level of support shown from consultees in relation to this proposal and as outlined in the Consultation Document, regards this development as an integral part of the Cwmpawd Hub and Spoke model of provision.
Theme: Impact on pupils and mainstream provision
Council's Response
The Council acknowledges that on occasion, pupils require additional support at different stages in their academic life which cannot be accommodated in mainstream provision. This proposal has been developed to meet demand for places and provide bespoke support and education to meet the needs of those pupils and where possible, to reintegrate pupils back into mainstream education.
Theme: How this proposal interlinks with the existing Pupil Referral Unit at Glanynant
Council's Response
As outlined in the Consultation Document, the proposed Pupil Referral Unit at Pontllanfraith will form the central component of the Council's EOTAS provision and become a centre of excellence.
The existing Pupil Referral Unit at Glanynant is currently receiving investment to meet current need and subject to this proposal being approved, will be further reconfigured to offer provision for Key Stages 2, and the proposed Pupil Referral Unit at Pontllanfraith catering for Key Stages 3 and 4.
Both facilities will operate under the same umbrella, thereby ensuring sufficient capacity and resources to support pupils through the most appropriate pathways and interventions as required.
Theme: Traffic Management
Council's Response
This proposal will be subject to a full planning application process and a wide range of consultees will be invited to comment, including the Highways Department.
As part of any development, the Council is committed to providing safe, efficient and effective traffic management. As a highway authority, we have a duty to manage the road network to ensure, as far as possible, the safe and convenient movement of traffic, which includes pedestrians and other vulnerable road users. The planning and design of the facility will establish safer routes with designated pick up and drop off points, including car parking which should alleviate congestion.
Theme: Construction process and potential impact
Council's Response
The development on site will be undertaken in such a way as to minimise impact to any neighbouring residential properties.
The proposal will be subject to a full planning application process led by our experienced Building Consultancy Team and subject to building regulation requirements relating to a number of factors such as dust, noise etc.

Reasonable Alternatives Identified

Following the consultation period, and through consideration of the responses received as part of this process, a further assessment for the proposal has been undertaken prior to making a recommendation to take account of any further information that has come forward through the consultation or otherwise.

No reasonable alternatives have been highlighted as a result of the Consultation Process.

Recommendation

In reviewing the proposal to take account of further information that has come forward through the consultation and in consideration of the likely impact on quality and standards in education, the community and travelling arrangements, it is the recommendation of this report that the proposal is progressed as outlined in the Consultation Document, namely:

- **Create a Pupil Referral Unit for vulnerable pupils on the former Pontllanfraith Comprehensive site**

Cabinet Members are asked to:

- a) Consider the information contained in the Community Engagement Report.
- b) Approve the recommendation to proceed to Planning Application Stage
- c) Approve the recommendation to proceed to Full Business Case in relation to the proposal

Decision Making

Should Cabinet decide to proceed with the proposal, this will be logged as the final determination in the educational process prior to the proposal progressing through a full planning application process.

Approval to proceed will trigger the start of the Planning Application Process and provide permission to submit a Full Business Case to Welsh Government.

It should be reiterated that as the School Organisation Code 2018 does not apply to this proposal, there is no requirement to undertake a 28 day Statutory Notice/Objection Period as outlined in Section 4.1 of the Code in this instance.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Annex 1 :

[Consultation Notification Letter](#)

[Consultation Document](#)

[Consultation Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Original Integrated Impact Assessment](#)