

SUBJECT:	CONSULTATION PAPER FOR INCLUSION REVIEW.
MEETING:	CABINET
DATE:	7TH MARCH 2018
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

1. PURPOSE:

This report proposes to seek approval to consult on the proposed changes for Inclusion across Monmouthshire.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

To approve the consultation document for the proposed Inclusion Provision across Monmouthshire, to allow full consultation with partners on the proposed changes.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 During the Estyn inspection in 2012 it was identified that there were too many statutory statements and that strategic planning was weak. In the following year, a review of the provision at Mounton House identified that the number of Monmouthshire pupils attending the school had fallen however there was an increase in the number of pupils with challenging behaviour attending out of county provision.
- 3.2 In addition to the above, the Strategic Outline Business case for both Caldicot and Monmouth included a 55 place secondary Special Needs Resource Base at each school.
- 3.3 In 2016 the Local Authority took the decision to carry out a wider review of all Inclusion provision. Underpinning this is the Welsh Government review of additional learning needs across Wales resulting in a new ALN and Education Tribunal Wales becoming an Act in 2018.
- 3.4 The main conclusions of this review were:
- The current designations of the Special Needs Resource Bases does not match our identified and projected needs sufficiently well.
 - The number of pupils with challenging behaviour attending Mounton House Schools continues to fall and there is no provision within county for girls or younger pupils.
 - There is limited specialist provision within county for primary pupils who diagnosed with Autistic Spectrum Disorder and other associated needs.
 - At present, we have no specialist secondary provision for pupils diagnosed with Autistic Spectrum Disorder and other associated needs.
 - The number of fixed term and permanent exclusions is increasing.
 - The capacity of the Pupil Referral Service is insufficient to meet demand from schools.

- 3.5 During this process a full needs analysis was undertaken to look at current and future needs of our young people. This has been key to drive the proposed model to ensure that we can cater for the needs of our young people.
- 3.6 The aim of the new model is to secure equality of access to education for children and young people with additional learning needs and enable them to participate in, benefit from and enjoy learning.
- 3.7 The proposal will ensure that our mainstream schools have the skills, capacity and support to meet current and emerging needs and that nearly all children and young people will access appropriate education in their local mainstream school.
- 3.8 To develop processes to enable schools, key partners and wider agencies to work together in the best interest of the child or young person and take all reasonable steps to participate in mainstream education.
- 3.9 The model will reduce the number of children and young people having to access education outside our county.
- 3.10 The full consultation document is detailed in appendix 1.

4. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Option 1- Do nothing

Whilst this was an option maintaining the status quo, it will clearly not meet children and young people's needs in Monmouthshire as indicated by our review of provision. This option will not enable more children and young people to be educated appropriately within their local community and would not enhance the capacity of schools to enable them to provide for a wider range of ALN. The number of out of county placements would continue to increase.

Option 2- Develop separate behaviour and ALN provisions to meet local needs

This option will meet a greater range of children and young people's needs in within the county and in their local community. This option will provided the opportunity to enhance the capacity of schools to enable them to provide for a wider range of ALN and behaviour issues. However, this model may result in a silo approach to meeting and addressing behaviour and ALN needs. As a result, it will be far more difficult to develop a holistic approach to meeting the needs of children and young people and providing suitable support to their families. The cost of this model is greater than other models because there are additional management costs associated with running two provisions.

Option 3- Develop a partnership agreement with an independent provider for them to deliver ALN on behalf of the Local Authority

This option will enable children and young people to access appropriate education within Monmouthshire if a suitable provider accepted the commission. Although this model will provide opportunities to enhance the capacity of schools so that they can meet a wider range of need, it would be at an extra cost to the LA. Additionally, the LA would lose its specialist provision and current outreach support and school-to-school work would be chargeable as all independent provider are trading businesses. Over time, there is a high probability that costs would increase in the future and the provision may develop to meet needs that do not align with those within our county.

Option 4 - Develop a new special school that will deliver the full range of provision required to meet the needs of children and young people within the Local Authority.

This option will meet the needs of the majority of children and young people's within Monmouthshire. This option will enable children and young people to be educated where

appropriate within their local community and will provide the opportunity to enhance the capacity of schools so that they can provide for a wider range of ALN and behaviour needs. The new Special School will provide a cohesive and holistic approach to meeting the needs of the majority of learners irrespective of need, age or gender. The satellite nature of the provision will enable almost all children and young people to access education locally, significantly reducing their travel times. When this model is implemented, the number of pupils needing to be educated in out of county placements will reduce. Consequently, the financial impact on all pupils and on other service areas will reduce significantly.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

This is included appendix 2.

6. REASONS:

Core to this review is to enable Monmouthshire pupils to access education where ever possible in their local communities. The designation of our Special Needs Resource Base and Special School will ensure that they can support current and emerging needs.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Once the model is fully operational, the full year savings will be £500,000, however if agreed there will only be partial saving in 2019-20 of £200,000.

8. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS (INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

This is included in consultation document appendix 1.

9. CONSULTEES:

Headteachers
Children Services
Education Achievement Service
CYP DMT
CYP Wider DMT
SNAP Cymru
CYP Select Committee
SLT
Cabinet Member for Education

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

ALN Act 2018
Analysis of Local need

11. AUTHOR:

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Evaluation Criteria – Cabinet, Individual Cabinet Member Decisions & Council

Appendix 2

Title of Report:	CONSULTATION PAPER FOR INCLUSION REVIEW
Date decision was made:	7 th March 2018
Report Author:	Nikki Wellington

What will happen as a result of this decision being approved by Cabinet or Council?
This will allow the Children and Young People Directorate to consult all partners on the proposed changes to the inclusion provision across Monmouthshire.
36 Month appraisal

What benchmarks and/or criteria will you use to determine whether the decision has been successfully implemented?
Meeting more of the needs of our young people within Monmouthshire. Reduce the number of pupils that need to access education in other authorities.
36 month appraisal

What is the estimate cost of implementing this decision or, if the decision is designed to save money, what is the proposed saving that the decision will achieve?
Once the model is fully operational, the full year savings will be £500,000, however if agreed there will only be partial saving in 2019-20 of £200,000.
36 month appraisal

Any other comments
