

SUBJECT:	REPONSES TO THE EXERCISE FOR THE ALN REVIEW AND NEXT STEPS.
MEETING:	CABINET
DATE:	5TH SEPTEMBER 2018

1. PURPOSE:

This report seeks to provide Cabinet with an update on the statutory consultation exercise undertaken in relation to the proposed new delivery model of services for pupils with Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion services across Monmouthshire.

This report also seeks permission from Cabinet to progress to the next steps in the review as set out in the recommendations.

Details behind the recommendations are shown in the main body of the report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

There were a number of areas for consultation provided within the consultation document, (attached in appendix 1), there were nine main areas and these are set out within the document.

- 2.1 The recommendation is to publish the proposal as consulted on and to agree to publish statutory notices as required:

Proposal to change the designation of the Special Needs Resource Base at Deri View Primary School to accommodate children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Speech Language and Communication Difficulties to also include an assessment centre.

Increase the capacity of Overmonnow Special Needs Resource Base from 20 to 24 and change the type of provision offered in order to cater for Complex Needs including: Severe Learning Difficulties, Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Speech Language and Communication Disorder, Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties, Physical and Medical Difficulties.

Proposal to establish inclusion centres in our four secondary schools.

- 2.2 The recommendation is to publish the proposals with the following modification:

Proposal to change the type of provision offered at Monmouth and Caldicot Special Need Resource Base to cater for complex needs including Severe Learning Difficulties, Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Speech language and Communication disorder, Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties and Physical and Medical Difficulties.

The modification is to recommend that Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties be removed from the proposal.

Increase the capacity of Pembroke Special Need Resource Base from 20 to 24 and change the type of provision offered in order to cater for Complex Needs including: Severe Learning Difficulties, Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Speech Language and Communication Disorder, Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties, Physical and Medical Difficulties.

The modification is to recommend that the capacity will remain at 20 places.

- 2.3 The recommendation is to significantly recast the proposal and re-consult.

Proposal to establish a new special school that will deliver the full range of provision on the site of Mounton House.

Proposal to establish a Special Needs Resource Base in the south of the county to accommodate children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Speech Language and Communication difficulties to also include an assessment centre.

The proposal to establish two regional Primary Pupil Referral Units, one in the north and one in the south of the county.

- 2.4 The recommendation is to abandon this proposal and maintain the status quo.

Proposal for the new special school to manage the Special Needs Resource Bases based in our local schools.

The proposal to establish Secondary Pupil referral units, one in the north and one in the south of the county.

- 2.5 To approve the use of £201,000 section 106 money to increase the capacity by 4 places of the Special Need Resource Base at Overmonnow Primary School. This is in line with the section 106 agreement.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 On 7th March 2018 Cabinet gave approval for the local authority to engage in the statutory consultation process which proposed a new model for the delivery of ALN and Inclusion services.

- 3.2 The proposed new delivery model outlined the following:

Establishment of a new special school that will deliver the full range of provision required to meet the needs of children and young people aged 3-19 with ASD, SEBD, PMLD and severe learning difficulties within the County. The existing Mounton House Special School will close as a result of the proposal and form the site of the new special school.

The new special school will offer provision for a wide range of Additional Learning and behavioural needs delivered through multiple satellite settings placed across the County. The proposal will ensure provision is provided locally to children whose needs cannot be met within mainstream settings and require more specialist support. The existing Pupil Referral Service (PRS) will also be enhanced to provide a greater range of outreach support and provision for children and young people at risk of exclusion.

- 3.3 The consultation period commenced on 16th April 2018 for a period of 6 weeks, concluding on 27th May 2018.

- 3.4 During the consultation period, officers engaged in an extensive consultation process with the community and key partners. Consultation sessions with children, staff, governors and parents were undertaken for the 8 schools identified as being directly affected by the proposed new delivery model. A consultation meeting with staff and management committee for the Pupil Referral Service was also undertaken.
- 3.5 The consultation process thus far has identified many positives and on balance shows support for the proposed new delivery model. The general themes around the positive feedback received were:
- The proposals will ensure equity across the county in terms of the provision offered for children with ALN and behavioural difficulties through the delivery of a single management structure
 - The proposals provide greater opportunities for children and young people to be educated within their communities alongside their peers.
 - The proposals enhance the support to schools through the delivery of onsite inclusion centres, which will provide opportunities to support children often at risk of exclusion.
 - The clear approach of early intervention, development of skills and capacity within the school system is welcome and aligns to the National and Regional position.
- 3.6 However, the process has also identified some key themes / areas of concern which in summary include:
- The management arrangements for the proposed new delivery model, which would see the new special school taking responsible for the satellite Special Needs Resource Base (SNRB) centres as opposed to the schools on which they are currently hosted.
 - A concern regarding the lack of equity associated with the proposals and as a result the distances that children and young people may still need to travel even with the provision located within Monmouthshire.
 - The proposed designations for some of the satellite SNRB centres located on school sites and whether the current provision available can meet these needs
 - How the needs of children with moderate learning difficulties would be met outside of an SNRB environment
 - The proposal for a mixed gender, full age range provision for children with ASD and SEBD on the same site raised some concerns both in terms of safety of pupils and general management arrangements.
- 3.7 The recommendation is to publish the proposal as consulted on:

Proposal to change the designation of the Special Needs Resource Base at Deri View Primary School to accommodate children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Speech Language and Communication difficulties to also include an assessment centre.

Change the designation of the primary Special Need Resource Base in Overmonnow to cater for Complex Needs including: Severe Learning Difficulties, Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Speech Language and Communication Disorder, Profound and Multiple

Learning Difficulties, Physical and Medical Difficulties. To also increase the capacity of Overmonnow SNRB from 20 to 24.

Proposal to establish inclusion centres in our four secondary schools.

All of the above received positive feedback as part of the consultation, the majority of consultees agreed with these and points and therefore the recommendation is to proceed with these and to publish statutory notices as required.

The cost of increasing the capacity at Overmonnow Primary school will be met from £201,000 section 106 money. The agreement is that this should be spent on Monmouth town schools.

3.8 The recommendation is to publish the proposals with the following modification:

Proposal to change the type of provision offered at Monmouth and Caldicot Special Need Resource Base to cater for complex needs including Severe Learning Difficulties, Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Speech language and Communication disorder, Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties and Physical and Medical Difficulties.

The modification is to recommend that Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties be removed from the proposal.

During the consultation process consultees raised concerns about the ability of children with Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties to be supported in Monmouth and Caldicot Special Need Resource Bases. While the number of pupils is low, specialist resources will need to be purchased and specialist training required for staff. Currently pupils with these needs are supported in out of county provision and the proposal would be to maintain these placements.

Increase the capacity of Pembroke Special Need Resource Base from 20 to 24 and change the type of provision offered in order to cater for Complex Needs including: Severe Learning Difficulties, Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Speech Language and Communication Disorder, Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties, Physical and Medical Difficulties.

The modification is to recommend that the capacity will remain at 20 places.

During the consultation, consultees raised concerns that there would not be space at Pembroke to increase the capacity to 24. Therefore the capacity will remain at 20 however, the type of need would change and is detailed above.

3.9 The recommendation is to significantly recast the proposal and re-consult.

Proposal to establish a new special school that will deliver the full range of provision on the site of Mounton House.

Further costs have been obtained to refurbish Mounton House Special School these costs are estimated to be circa £6m. Clearly, these costs are prohibitive and therefore more time is required to establish a solution any proposals will be re-consulted on in the autumn term.

Proposal to establish a Special Needs Resource Base in the south of the county to accommodate children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Speech Language and Communication difficulties to also include an assessment centre.

While this proposal is agreed, the location of the service is to be determined. This will be subject to a further consultation in the autumn term.

The proposal to establish two 'regional' Primary Pupil Referral Units, one in the north and one in the south of the county.

While this proposal is agreed, the location of the service is to be determined. This will be subject to a further consultation in the autumn term.

- 3.10 The recommendation is to abandon this proposal and maintain the status quo.

Proposal for the new special school to manage the Special Needs Resource Bases based in our local schools.

The consultation process outlined a number of objections to this proposal, consultees would prefer that the management of the SNRB's remain with the local Headteacher. The recommendation is to abandon the proposal and leave the management with the local school. The Local Authority will develop a strong partnership arrangement to ensure that best practise is shared throughout.

The proposal to establish Secondary Pupil referral units, one in the north and one in the south of the county.

During the consultation period the responses received established that the current provision was sufficient to meet the need.

- 3.11 A copy of the consultation response report is attached in appendix 2.

4. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

There were four options considered, which were detailed in the consultation document considered and agreed by Cabinet on 7th March 2018.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

This is included in appendix 3.

6. REASONS:

The consultation process was designed to allow the authority to test some specific models of provision and to illicit key concerns from stakeholders. To that extent the process was very successful and given the richness of the feedback officers require more time to ensure that all of the potential options are tested and any new permutations developed.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Within the original preferred model, (once fully operational), a full year savings of £500,000 was identified. However, if agreed there will only be partial saving in 2019-20 of £200,000.

The increase in capacity at Overmonnow Primary School by 4 places will be funded via £201,000 section 106 money. This agreement states that this funding must be spent on Monmouth Town Schools.

Given the need to re consult on some of the areas, further resource implications will be outlined in those reports.

A further report to Cabinet in November will ask for further consultation to be agreed on the areas outlined above in 3.10.

The initial resource implications for Mounton House are remodelling costs of £6.1m the breakdown of the costs are shown in appendix 5. As per the recommendation further consideration is needed.

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

This is included in appendix 4.

The summary from this is shown below:

The positive impact is the proposal to identify needs at an earlier age and to educate pupils in their own communities, where possible. This will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of the pupils and their families. The main negative impact is the potential redundancies for staff where they cannot be redeployed,

9. CONSULTEES:

CYP DMT
Cabinet Member for Education
Appendix 1 lists a full list of consultees.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Welsh Government School Organisation code

11. AUTHOR:

Will McLean

12. CONTACT DETAILS:

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Evaluation Criteria – Cabinet, Individual Cabinet Member Decisions & Council

Appendix 3

Title of Report:	CONSULTATION PAPER FOR INCLUSION REVIEW
Date decision was made:	4th July 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
