



monmouthshire
sir fynwy

STATUTORY CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Proposal to extend the age range at Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni from 4-11 years to 3-11 years, to include part time nursery provision

Author: Sue Hall

Date: June 2015



Contents

Introductory Letter	3
The Proposal	4
Background Information	4
Pupil Places	5
Inspection Findings	6
Budget Implications	7
Personnel / Staffing Implications	7
Transport and Environmental Impact	8
Expected Benefits and Disadvantages	8
Conclusion	9
Timetable for Statutory Consultation	10
Response Pro Forma	11
Appendix 1 – Distribution List for Statutory Consultation	13
Appendix 2 – Equality Impact Assessment	14

Please contact/Cysyllter a:
Tel/Ffôn:
E-Mail/Ebost:
Web/Gwefan:

Sue Hall
01633 644461
susanhall@monmouthshire.gov.uk
www.monmouthshire.gov.uk

To: Statutory Consultees and Other Interested Parties

22nd June 2015

Dear Consultee,

RE: PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE AGE RANGE AT YSGOL GYMRAEG Y FENNI FROM 4-11 YRS TO 3-11 YRS, TO INCLUDE PART TIME NURSERY PROVISION

On 20th May 2015, a Single Member Decision was made to commence consultation on the proposal to extend the age range at Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni from 4-11 years to 3-11 years, to include part time nursery provision.

The proposals do not necessitate any building works or refurbishment, therefore the intention is for this change to be implemented in April 2016.

The nursery provision will be located in the demountable building on the school site, which is currently occupied by Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni; the building will be shared by the school and the Cylch Meithrin. The LA Nursery will operate in the afternoon session providing 30 part time places for 3-4 year olds. Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni will continue to operate in the morning session providing 26 part time places for 2-4 year olds, including offering Flying Start childcare places. Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni will remain as an approved provider of early education.

The consultation period must be at least 42 days, with at least 20 of these being school days. Therefore, the consultation period will commence on Monday 22nd June 2015 and will close on Monday 3rd August.

Any comments can be made by completing the response proforma at the back of the consultation document and returned by email to susanhall@monmouthshire.gov.uk or by post to the above address.

Alternatively, you can attend a 'drop-in' session at Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni on Thursday 2nd July, between 6.30 and 8pm.

Yours sincerely,



Sue Hall
Early Years Manager

STATUTORY CONSULTATION REPORT

THE PROPOSAL

Monmouthshire County Council proposes to extend the age range at Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni from 4-11 years to 3-11 years, to include a nursery class providing 30 part time places for 3-4 year olds.

The proposal would not require any building work or even refurbishment, as the intention is to situate the nursery provision in the existing demountable classrooms on the school site, which are currently occupied by Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni. They have been providing early education places on site for many years; hence it is already equipped for the Foundation Phase curriculum and ethos, both indoors and outdoors.

Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni will continue to provide childcare for 2-4 year olds from the same building during the mornings and lunch time. They will remain as an approved provider of early education; therefore there will be a maximum of 56 early education places available on site for children to access from the term following their third birthday until they start in Reception.

The proposed expansion will commence at the earliest opportunity and it is envisaged that the Local Authority nursery class will open in April 2016.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Welsh Government has charged Local Authorities with the responsibility of ensuring that there are sufficient early education places to enable all eligible children aged 3 and 4 to access their entitlement to 10 hours of free part time early education from the term following their third birthday until they commence in Reception in the autumn term following their fourth birthday.

In Monmouthshire, early education is provided through a mixed economy of Local Authority nursery classes, private settings and voluntary settings.

Monmouthshire County Council is committed to increasing the number of pupils choosing to be educated through the medium of Welsh. At present, there are only two settings providing Welsh medium early education places in Monmouthshire; Ysgol Y Ffin in the south of the county and Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni in the north of the county. Ysgol Y Ffin has an age range of 3-11 years, which includes a nursery class providing 30 part time places for 3 and 4 year olds. Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni is a Welsh medium non-maintained setting based in a demountable building on the site of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni. They are registered with the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) for 26 children aged 2-5 years and they currently offer morning and afternoon

sessions. Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni are an approved provider of early education, they also offer Flying Start places and generic childcare.

Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni is a 210 place Welsh medium primary school admitting children from 4-11 years of age. It is situated in Abergavenny and is currently the only school providing Welsh medium primary education in the north of the county. It is also the only Welsh medium primary school in the South East Wales Consortium that does not have a nursery class.

There is currently no Welsh medium full day care provision in Monmouthshire.

PUPIL PLACES

The capacity of Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni is 52 places, 26 in the morning session and 26 in the afternoon session. The number of 3 and 4 year olds accessing their Early Education funding at Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni during the past five years is shown in the following table:

Year	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
2010-11	28	37	42
2011-12	22	37	44
2012-13	33	42	54*
2013-14	30	38	41
2014-15	33	43	51

**In some instances, the number of children accessing funding exceeds the total number of places available; this is due to the fact that not all children take up their full entitlement to five sessions per week and so a place can be shared by more than one child.*

Any surplus places are taken up by 2 year olds.

The transition rate for children attending Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni moving on to Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni was 77% in September 2012 and 2013 and 73% in September 2014. It is anticipated that 88% of pre-school children at Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni will transfer to Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni in September 2015.

Admission numbers at Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni are as follows:

Year	Total Capacity	Number of Pupils on Roll	Number of Pupils in Reception
2010-11	210	148	25
2011-12	210	160	29
2012-13	210	168	27
2013-14	210	187	37
2014-15	210	187	32

The five year forecast of places at Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni, as at January 2015, was as follows:

Year	Total Capacity	Projected Number of Pupils
2015-16	210	193
2016-17	235	200
2017-18	235	205
2018-19	235	209
2019-20	235	215

**These figures do not include pupils in the nursery class.*

The total capacity will increase from 2016-17 onwards as the music room has been refurbished in order to be used as a classroom.

An Education Strategic Review is currently underway in Monmouthshire and a number of options are being considered in order to further increase the capacity for Welsh medium primary education in the north of the county.

INSPECTION FINDINGS

Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni was last inspected by Estyn in May 2010, under the old framework. They were awarded grade 1 for all key questions apart from key question 6, 'How well do leaders and managers evaluate and improve quality and standards?' for which they were awarded grade 2. The inspection report stated: 'The overall quality of the educational provision for children under five years of age is appropriate to their needs and children make good progress towards the Foundation Phase outcomes.'

Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni was awarded 'Y Cylch Rhagorol' in May 2012, which is a quality award recognising excellence in the field of early years and education through the medium of Welsh. The setting had an overall judgement of good in their Estyn inspection in June 2012; however, they were only rated adequate for Teaching and Leadership and were placed under Local Authority monitoring. Estyn felt that sufficient progress was made over the subsequent 12 months in order for them to be removed from Local Authority monitoring in June 2013.

The most recent CSSIW inspection carried out in May 2013 identified a number of good practice issues which should be dealt with in order to improve the service; nevertheless, CSSIW were satisfied with the overall Quality of Life, Quality of Staffing, Quality of Leadership and Management and Quality of Environment at Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni will be funded based on the age weighted pupil unit at a rate of £2,050 per FTA place; therefore, the maximum funding the school will receive for the nursery provision is £30,750. This funding will need to cover the cost of a part time (0.5) teacher and two teaching assistants; however there may be funding available through the Foundation Phase Grant to cover the cost of one teaching assistant.

There is no capital expenditure anticipated as the demountable building is already fit for purpose. The building is in a good state of repair and had a new roof fitted in 2013. The demountable building has been used by Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni for a number of years and abides by CSSIW's National Minimum Standards for providing childcare. It has low level toilets suitable for nursery aged children and separate sinks for hand washing and washing paints, as per Environmental Health requirements. There is an adequate outdoor area which can be easily accessed through one of the classrooms, thus enabling open access as required for Foundation Phase classes.

There will be a cost related to the purchase of suitable resources, however this cost is minimal as the majority of the equipment will be shared with Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni. In return, there will be a reduction in the rent paid by Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni for the use of the demountable building.

The loss of Early Education funding is likely to have financial implications for Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni (during the financial year 2013-14, a total of £46,897.50 was awarded to Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni to cover the cost of Early Education places); however, it is hoped the setting will be able to provide a lunch club to boost their income and assist with sustainability.

PERSONNEL/STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

The minimum staff required for an LA Nursery is a qualified teacher and a level 3 (or higher) teaching assistant. At present, Monmouthshire operates on a ratio of 1:10 in nursery classes so, if admission numbers exceed 20, they would require an additional teaching assistant. As the nursery class will only operate in the afternoons, these staff would all be part time (0.5).

There will obviously be staffing implications for Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni as they currently provide morning and afternoon sessions, which will reduce to morning sessions only if the decision is made to proceed with this proposal; therefore there would be a reduction in staff hours. Nevertheless, the setting intend to increase the length of the morning session and to offer a lunch club, in order to minimise the reduction in staff hours.

TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Pre-school education is non-statutory and there are no catchment areas for LA nurseries. For this reason, Monmouthshire County Council's current policy is not to provide transport to nursery in any circumstances. Therefore, if these proposals were passed, it would not have any impact on transport.

It is anticipated that the majority of children attending the LA Nursery would otherwise have attended Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni; as both of these provisions are on the same site, it is unlikely to have an impact on the environment.

EXPECTED BENEFITS AND DISADVANTAGES

Expected benefits of increasing the age range at Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni to include LA Nursery provision are:

- The opportunity to be taught by fluent Welsh speaking staff from an earlier age will hopefully improve pupils' acquisition of Welsh language skills. This, in turn, should increase the number of pupils achieving a level 6 outcome or above in Language and Literacy at the end of Foundation Phase.
- Smoother transition for children from pre-school to statutory education.
- Offering wrap around childcare for nursery children at Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni would be extremely beneficial to working parents who choose to educate their children through the medium of Welsh, as there is currently no Welsh medium full day care available in Monmouthshire.
- Providing a Local Authority Nursery may attract more people to the school and, hence, increase the number of families choosing to educate their children through the medium of Welsh.

Possible disadvantages of increasing the age range at Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni to include LA Nursery are:

- Admission numbers have been increasing at Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni over recent years and there may soon be the need for an additional class, however there is currently no space available to create another classroom within the school building. If the existing demountable building is used for a Local Authority Nursery, it will not be available to be used as an additional classroom.
- Members of staff at Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni are currently employed for morning and afternoon sessions. Even if Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni offer lunch club in addition to morning sessions, there is likely to be a reduction in hours for some staff.
- If there are no early education places funded at Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni during the autumn term, they will not be supported by the Education Achievement Service (EAS) during this period.

CONCLUSION

Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni is situated in a Flying Start Area, they have a high number of pupils entitled to Free School Meals and they are at risk of underachievement due to social deprivation. The school governing body feel strongly that having an integral LA Nursery will ensure that they are able to raise standards amongst vulnerable pupils and that this will have a positive effect on outcomes at the end of the Foundation Phase and beyond. By immersing children in the Welsh language from 3 years old, it is expected they will start in Reception with a higher baseline level. In turn, this will help to raise the percentage of children who achieve Outcome 6 in Language and Literacy by the end of the Foundation Phase.

Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni would continue as an approved provider of early education, so they would be able to cater for the children that turn 3 during the autumn and spring terms. They would also be able to offer wrap around childcare for children attending the LA Nursery, which would enable working parents to access longer hours of Welsh medium early education and childcare provision than has previously been available.

TIMETABLE FOR STATUTORY CONSULTATION

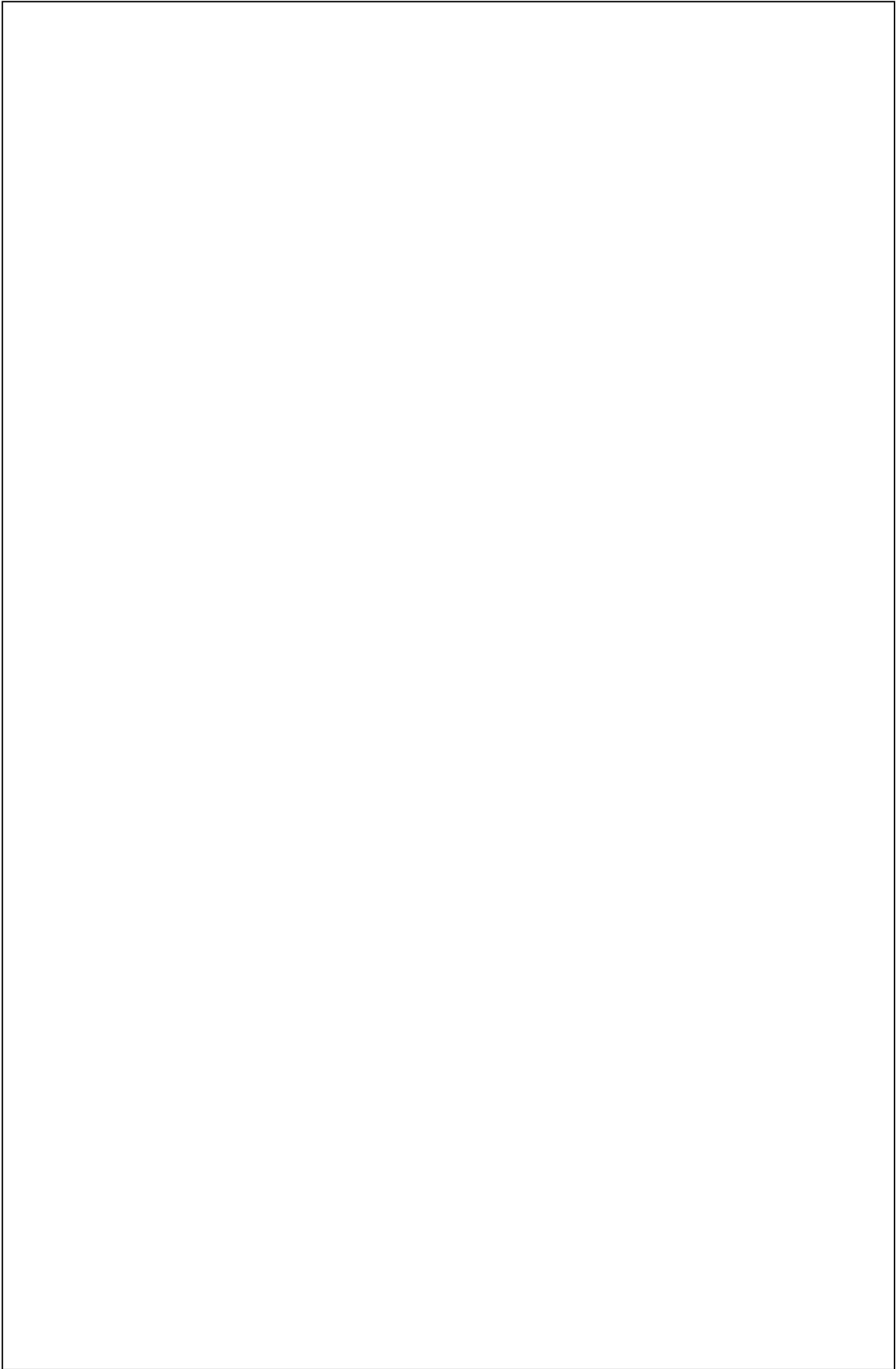
Final Proposals to be written and presented to school and Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni	26 th January 2015
Proposals to be shared with EYDCP	17 th March 2015
Cabinet Report and EQIA to be written	24 th April 2015
Final cabinet report with comments, recommendations and EQIA to be sent to Sarah King	1 st May 2015
Single Member Decision	20 th May 2015
Call in period ends	1 st June 2015
Statutory Consultation Period commences (6 week period, at least 20 days have to be school days)	22 nd June 2015
Open Evening to be held at Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni on Thursday 2 nd July, 6.30 – 8pm	2 nd July 2015
Statutory Consultation Period ends	3 rd August 2015
Report to be written including details of the consultation and outlining specific comments and the answers provided	10 th August 2015
Report to DMT	18 th August 2015
Report to SLT	25 th August 2015
Report to agree to publish statutory notice to be sent to Sarah King	21 st August 2015
Single Member Decision	9 th September 2015
Decision subject to 7 days call in	18 th September 2015
Statutory Notice to be drafted	18 th September 2015
Statutory Notice published (must publish notice within 26 weeks of consultation end and on a school day)	21 st September 2015
28 day objection period ends (must include at least 15 school days)	19 th October 2015
Objection report to be written, if no objections no need to write report	30 th October 2015
Objection report and supporting documentation to be submitted to Sarah King for a final decision by cabinet	6 th November 2015
Final Single Member Decision	25 th November 2015
Nursery Opens	11 th April 2016

RESPONSE PRO FORMA

The proposal being consulted on is to extend the age range at Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni from 4-11 years to 3-11 years, to include part time nursery provision.

We would welcome your views on this proposal and any suggestions or alternatives you would like us to consider.

Please complete and return this form to Early Years Section, Monmouthshire County Council, Innovation House, Wales 1 Business Park, Newport Road, Magor NP26 3DG, or by email to susanhall@monmouthshire.gov.uk



APPENDIX 1

DISTRIBUTION LIST FOR STATUTORY CONSULTATION

- Neighbouring Local Authorities
- Headteacher, teachers and parents of children attending Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni
- Governing body of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni, Deri View Primary School and Cantref Primary School
- Committee of Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni
- Staff and parents of children attending Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni
- Early Education Non-Maintained Providers
- Church in Wales Diocesan and Roman Catholic Diocesan
- Welsh Ministers
- Local AM – Nick Ramsay
- Local MP – David Davies
- Estyn
- Education Achievement Service (EAS)
- Regional Transport Consortium
- Professional Associations and Trade Unions
- Police and Crime Commissioner
- Abergavenny Town Council
- Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership
- Welsh Medium Forum
- Admission Forum

APPENDIX 2

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The “Equality Initial Challenge”

Name: Sue Hall Service area: Early Years Section, CYP Date completed: 21 st April, 2015		Please give a brief description of what you are aiming to do. To increase the age range of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni to 3-11 years, to include a 30 place Local Authority Nursery class.	
Protected characteristic	Potential Negative impact Please give details	Potential Neutral impact Please give details	Potential Positive Impact Please give details
Age	Welsh medium childcare for 2-3 year olds will only be available in the mornings, where it is currently available in the morning and afternoon sessions; nevertheless, the majority of the places in the afternoon session are currently taken up by 3-4 year olds accessing Early Education.		The age range of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni will be extended. Children aged 3 will be able to access LA Nursery provision through the medium of Welsh, as well as Early Education provision in the non-maintained sector.
Disability		Children with a disability are currently able to access Early Education provision at Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni, which occupies the same building as Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni LA Nursery class, so there should be a neutral impact on this group.	
Marriage + Civil Partnership		X	
Pregnancy and maternity		X	

Race		X	
Religion or Belief		X	
Sex (was Gender)		X	
Sexual Orientation		X	
Transgender		X	
Welsh Language	Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni will have to reduce the hours and flexibility of childcare provided, as they will have to share the premises with the LA Nursery, hence it will be unavailable during the afternoon session.		Children will be able to access LA Welsh medium provision from a younger age and will be immersed in the Welsh language, hence improving the possibility of achieving outcomes 5 & 6 by the end of the Foundation Phase. It will also aid transition from pre-school to Reception and hopefully encourage more families to take up Welsh medium education.

Please give details about any potential negative Impacts .	How do you propose to MITIGATE these negative impacts
<p>➤ <i>Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni currently provide a morning and afternoon session in the demountable building on the site of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni, providing 52 childcare and Early Education places. Utilising the demountable building for an LA Nursery in the afternoon session, which can only be accessed by children from the term following their 3rd birthday, will reduce the number and flexibility of places for 2-3 year olds.</i></p>	<p>➤ Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni will give priority to 2-3 year olds who are unable to access the LA Nursery provision; wrap around childcare for children attending the LA Nursery will only be offered if there are surplus places available.</p>

<p>➤ <i>The number of childcare places provided by Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni will be reduced from 52 to 26 (although many of these were previously utilised for Early Education, which will now be provided by Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni) and childcare will only be available in the mornings.</i></p>	<p>➤ The intention is to open a second Cylch Meithrin, possibly in the Raglan area, reducing the pressure on places at Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni.</p> <p>➤ Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni intend to offer a lunch club, hence increasing the length of childcare sessions provided.</p> <p>➤ There will now be the possibility of wrap around childcare for 3-4 year olds, which was not previously available through the medium of Welsh.</p>
--	---

Signed: *S. Hall*

Designation: Early Years Manager

Dated: 21.04.15

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM

What are you impact assessing	Service area
Provision of LA Nursery at Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni	Early Years
Policy author / service lead	Name of assessor and date
Sue Hall	Sue Hall 21.04.15

1. What are you proposing to do?

The proposal is to extend the age range at Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni to 3-11 years to include a 30 place Local Authority Nursery class. This provision will be located in the demountable building on the site of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni, currently occupied by Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni. The building and resources will be shared with Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni, with Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni providing childcare in the morning session followed by lunch club and Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni nursery class operating in the afternoon session.

2. Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics in a **negative way? If **YES** please tick appropriate boxes below.**

Age	X	Race	
Disability		Religion or Belief	
Gender reassignment		Sex	
Marriage or civil partnership		Sexual Orientation	
Pregnancy and maternity		Welsh Language	X

3. Please give details of the negative impact

Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni currently provide a morning and afternoon session in the demountable building on the site of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni, providing 52 childcare and Early Education places. Utilising the demountable building for an LA Nursery in the afternoon session will increase the total number of sessions available to 56, however there will be less flexibility around the childcare available; 2-3 year olds will only be able to access childcare in the mornings and places at the LA Nursery are not able to be shared between several children, as they currently are at Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni.

4. Did you take any actions to mitigate your proposal? Please give details below including any consultation or engagement.

The intention is to develop a second Cylch Meithrin in a nearby area hence reducing the pressure on Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni. Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni intend to prioritise places for 2-3 year olds who are unable to access the LA Nursery provision, they will also extend the length of their morning session to include a lunch club. Consultation has taken place with the Manager and Chairperson of Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni, the Headteacher and governing body of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni and Mudiad Meithrin. The proposals were also discussed and agreed by the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

5. Please list the data that has been used to develop this proposal? eg Household survey data, Welsh Govt data, ONS data, MCC service user data, Staff personnel data etc..

Monitoring of Early Education places
Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA)
Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP)
Estyn reports and Foundation Phase data

Signed: *S. Hall*

Designation: Early Years Manager

Dated: 21.04.15

The “Sustainability Challenge”

Name of the Officer completing “the Sustainability challenge” Sue Hall		Please give a brief description of the aims proposed policy or service reconfiguration To increase the age range of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni to 3-11 years, to include a 30 place Local Authority Nursery class.	
Name of the Division or service area Early Years Section, CYP		Date “Challenge” form completed 21 st April, 2015	
Aspect of sustainability affected	Negative impact Please give details	Neutral impact Please give details	Positive Impact Please give details
PEOPLE			
Ensure that more people have access to healthy food		X	
Improve housing quality and provision		X	
Reduce ill health and improve healthcare provision		X	
Promote independence		X	
Encourage community participation/action and voluntary work		X	
Targets socially excluded		X	
Help reduce crime and fear of crime		X	
Improve access to education and training			Parents will be able to choose to access Welsh medium early education at a Local Authority Nursery or a non-maintained setting.

Have a positive impact on people and places in other countries		X	
PLANET			
Reduce, reuse and recycle waste and water		X	
Reduce carbon dioxide emissions		X	
Prevent or reduce pollution of the air, land and water		X	
Protect or enhance wildlife habitats (e.g. trees, hedgerows, open spaces)		X	
Protect or enhance visual appearance of environment		X	
PROFIT			
Protect local shops and services		X	
Link local production with local consumption		X	
Improve environmental awareness of local businesses		X	
Increase employment for local people	Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni will no longer be able to run an afternoon session, so staff at the setting may have reduced hours of employment.		
Preserve and enhance local identity and culture		X	
Consider ethical purchasing issues, such as Fairtrade,		X	

sustainable timber (FSC logo) etc			
Increase and improve access to leisure, recreation or cultural facilities		X	

What are the potential negative Impacts	Ideas as to how we can look to MITIGATE the negative impacts (include any reasonable adjustments)
➤ <i>Possible reduction in hours of staff at Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni.</i>	➤ Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni intend to extend the hours of their morning session and offer a lunch club, hence minimising the reduction in staff hours. There is also the possibility of staff currently working at Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni being employed part time at the school.

The next steps

- If you have assessed the proposal/s as having a **positive impact please give full details** below

Currently, parents in North Monmouthshire choosing to educate their children through the medium of Welsh, can only access early education at a non-maintained setting and by the summer term there are not always sufficient places for all children to take up their full entitlement of 5 sessions per week. By increasing the age range at Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni to include a Nursery class, the number of early education places available will increase slightly from 52 to 56 places and parents will be able to choose between an LA nursery or a non-maintained setting.

- If you have assessed the proposal/s as having a **Negative Impact** could you please provide us with details of what you propose to do to mitigate the negative impact:

Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni intend to extend the hours of their morning session and offer a lunch club, hence minimising the reduction in staff hours. There is also the possibility of staff currently working at Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni being employed part time at the school.

Signed: *S. Hall*

Dated: 21.04.15