

DIRECTORATE OF LEARNING AND SKILLS

Consultation Response Report

Consultation on the proposal to transform special education in the Vale 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 and Wellbeing pupils on the Court Road Depot site in Barry from January 2023.**

This document can be made available in Braille.
Information can also be made available in other community languages if needed.
Please contact us on 01446 709828 to arrange this.

Contents	Page
Background	3
Outline of consultation process	3
Consultation responses	5
Conclusion	15
Annex A – A summary of key issues raised by statutory consultees and the response to those issues	17
Annex B – A summary of comments received in favour of the proposal	21
Annex C – Frequently asked questions	23
Annex D – Consultation undertaken with young people	24
Annex E – Response from Estyn	30
Annex F - Minutes of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee	33
Annex G – Response from the governing body of Ysgol Y Deri	35

Background

This report presents the feedback received during the consultation, undertaken from **7 September 2020** to **18 October 2020**, in response to the Council's proposal to

- **establish a Specialist Resource Base (SRB) at Gladstone Primary School as a satellite of Ysgol Y Deri (YYD) from September 2021;**
- **discontinue Y Daith and establish a new Centre for Learning and Wellbeing (CL&W) under the management of YYD from September 2021; and**
- **construct a new building for the CL&W pupils on the Court Road Depot site in Barry from January 2023.**

This report outlines the consultation process, provides an overview of responses to the consultation, and offers further details of the key issues and favourable comments raised by stakeholders.

Outline of the consultation process

The consultation processes followed Welsh Government guidelines, in compliance with the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and in line with the School Organisation Code 2018. The consultation processes gave prescribed consultees the opportunity to learn about the proposal and for the Council's Cabinet to hear the views of all those with an interest so that they can be taken into account before any decisions are made.

Publication of the consultation

Formal consultations were conducted through a consultation document and response form distributed electronically to prescribed consultees and published on the Vale of Glamorgan Council website on the 7 September 2020. Consultees were also provided with an email link to the Vale of Glamorgan Council's website. Hard copies of the consultation document were available upon request.

The publication of a consultation document is central to the consultation process for school reorganisation and is prescribed by Welsh Government in the School Organisation Code 2018. The consultation document outlined the proposal being considered, the rationale for the proposal and the details of the consultation exercise. The consultation document also incorporated an individual response form. Consultees were advised of the availability of an online version to complete.

Consultation stakeholder engagement

Engagement for the consultation on the proposal was undertaken with prescribed consultees as contained within the School Organisation Code 2018.

The following groups were consulted:

Staff (teaching and non-teaching) at YYD, Gladstone primary school and Y Daith	Governing Body of YYD and Gladstone primary school
Parents/Carers and Guardians of children at YYD, Gladstone primary school and Y Daith	Management Committee of Y Daith
Town and Community Councils	Diocesan Directors of Education

Vale of Glamorgan Children and Young People's Programme Board	Vale of Glamorgan Early Years Development Partnership (EYDCP)
Assembly Members (AMs) / Members of Parliament (MP's) / Regional Assembly Members	Local Councillors
Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg (RHAG)	Welsh Language Commissioner
Estyn	Primary and Secondary schools in the Vale of Glamorgan
Welsh Government Ministers	Central South Consortium Joint Education Service
Local Police and Crime Commissioner	Trade Unions
Council's Transportation Department	Directors of Education – All Neighbouring Authorities

Consultees were invited to complete a formal consultation response form which could be completed in hard copy or online via the Council's website at:

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/centreforlearningandwellbeing

Due to the ongoing implications of the Coronavirus parent and community drop in sessions were not held to limit interaction between staff, parents and the wider community. However, open communication channels were maintained throughout the consultation by phone and email. The FAQs were also updated to reflect queries raised throughout the consultation period (Annex C).

A consultation session was undertaken by members of the Council's Youth Service team with several Gladstone primary, YYD and Y Daith pupils to engage the pupils in the consultation process. A report on the outcome of this session can be found at Annex D.

Consultation Questions

Consultees were asked for their opinion on three key questions:

“Do you support the proposal to transform specialist education? (Please indicate your response to each part below)

A) By establishing a new resource base at Gladstone primary school as a satellite of Ysgol Y Deri from September 2021

B) By discontinuing Y Daith and establishing a new Centre for Learning & Wellbeing under the management of Ysgol Y Deri from September 2021

C) By constructing a new building for the Centre for Learning & Wellbeing pupils on the Court Road Depot site in Barry from January 2023.”

Consultees were able to respond to each part with Yes, No or No opinion either way.

Consultees were also offered the opportunity to comment further:

“If you would like to suggest any changes or alternatives to the proposals, please detail these below.”

“Any other comments?”

Consultation responses

The consultation responses received in writing between 7 September 2020 and 18 October 2020 are outlined below.

Summary of responses

44 individual responses were received by the consultation closing date. The breakdown of responses to each part are detailed in the tables and charts below.

It has been noted that not all consultees provided a response to each of the questions and that some forms were not fully completed. In these cases we have accepted the responses to the questions that they have chosen to answer.

Respondents were asked to indicate their role in relation to the proposal, respondents were able to tick more than one option.

Respondents were also asked to indicate the school they are connected to (if any) in relation to the proposal, respondents were able to tick more than one option.

Responses in detail

Annex	Description
Annex A	A summary of key issues raised by statutory consultees and the response to those issues can be found at Annex A.
Annex B	A summary of the comments received in favour of the proposal can be found at Annex B.
Annex C	The frequently asked questions (FAQs) document has been updated to include the key questions raised during the engagement sessions (Annex C).
Annex D	Consultation sessions were undertaken with the representative pupils of Gladstone, YYD and Y Daith to engage the pupils in the consultation process. A report on the outcome of these sessions can be found at Annex D.
Annex E	Estyn formally responded to the consultation. Their response can be found at Annex E.
Annex F	The consultation document was referred to the Learning & Culture Scrutiny Committee on 15 October 2020. The minutes of this meeting can be found at Annex F.
Annex G	A formal response was submitted by the governing body of YYD and can be found at Annex G.

Responses to part A: Establishing a new resource base at Gladstone primary school as a satellite of Ysgol Y Deri from September 2021

As table 1 and chart 1 below show, the majority of responses (68%) were in favour of part A. This part had the highest number of responses with “no opinion either way” (27%).

Table 1 – Breakdown of consultation responses (part A)						
Total (individual) responses (A):	Total support		Total not support		Total no opinion	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
44	30	68%	2	5%	12	27%

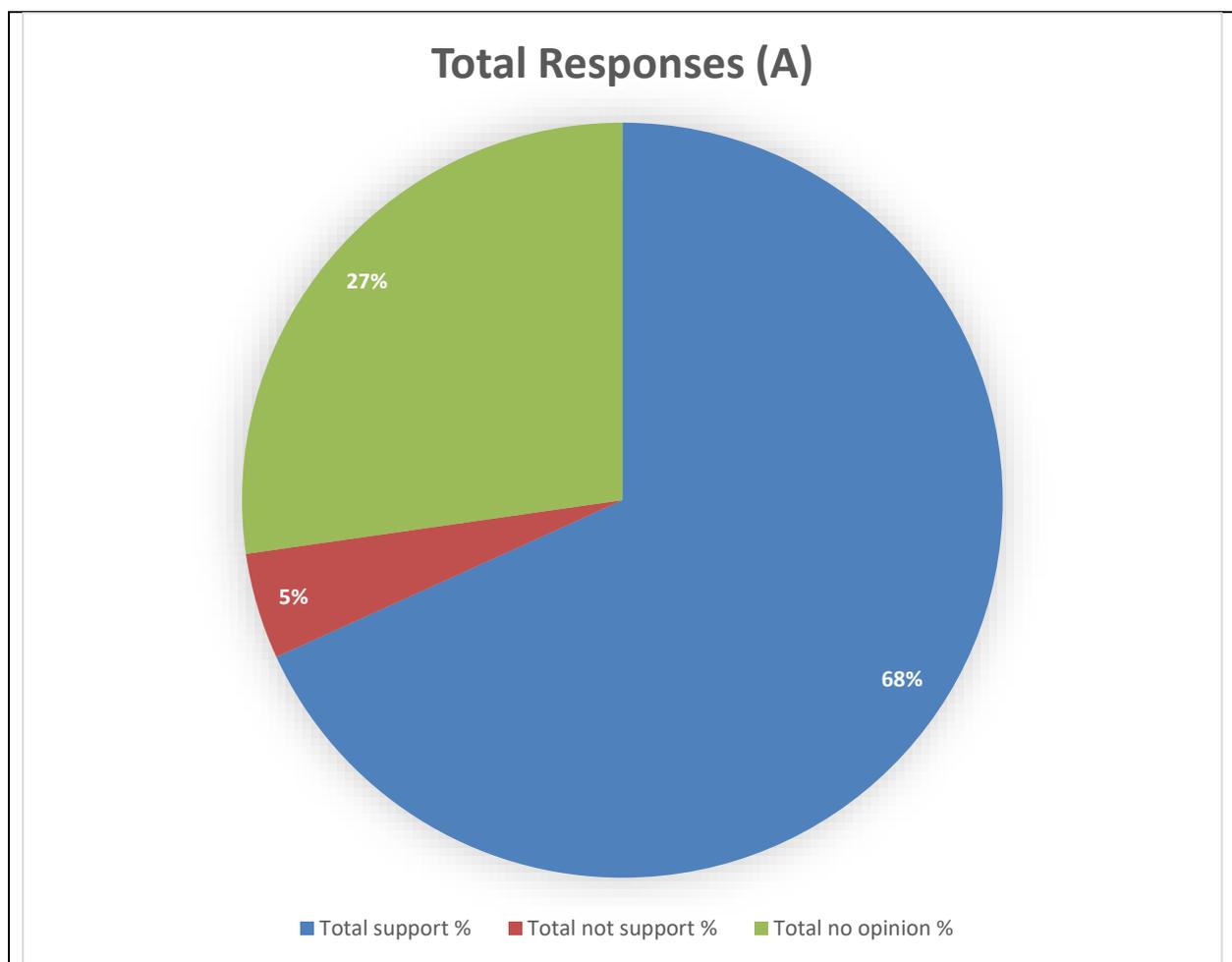


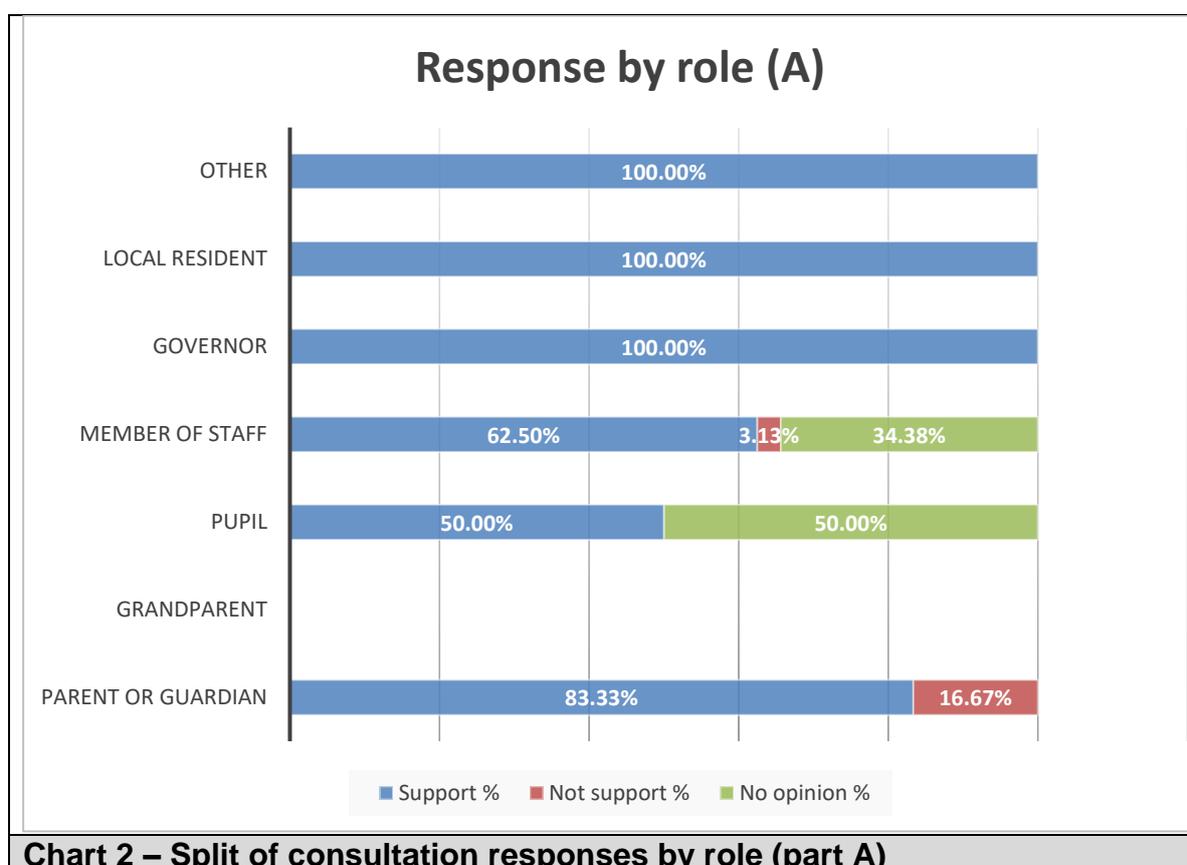
Chart 1 – Split of responses supporting or not supporting part A of the consultation, and those responses with no opinion either way

As table 2 and chart 2 below show, respondent groups were in favour of part A. The largest group of respondents indicated that they were members of staff (32 respondents – 62.50% of which were in favour of part A), followed by parents (6 respondents - 83.33% in favour), and no responses were received from grandparents. Two responses were received from pupils; one in favour (50%) and one with no opinion either way (50%).

It should be noted respondents were able to tick more than one option (e.g. they could be a parent and a member of staff). Respondents who labelled themselves as

“Other” included a careers advisor and a member of the Children and Young People Services.

Response by role (A):	Support	Not support	No opinion	Total
Parent or guardian	5	1	0	6
Grandparent	0	0	0	0
Pupil	1	0	1	2
Member of staff	20	1	11	32
Governor	4	0	0	4
Local Resident	1	0	0	1
Other	2	0	0	2



As table 3 and chart 3 below show, most respondents with a connection to (a) school/s were in favour of part A. The largest group of respondents were connected to YYD (27 respondents); 85% of which were in favour of part A. Responses have been received from all schools directly affected by the proposals. 12 responses were received from Y Daith; four in favour (33%), one against (8%), and seven with no opinion either way (58%). Two responses were received from Gladstone primary; one in favour (50%) and one against (50%).

It should be noted respondents were able to tick more than one option (e.g. they could be connected to Y Daith and Ysgol Y Deri). “Other” schools included St Richard Gwyn, St Cyres and Ysgol Bro Morgannwg.

Table 3 - Breakdown of consultation responses by school (part A)				
Response by school (A):	Support	Not support	No opinion	Total
Gladstone	1	1	0	2
Ysgol Y Deri	23	0	4	27
Y Daith	4	1	7	12
Other Schools	7	0	0	7

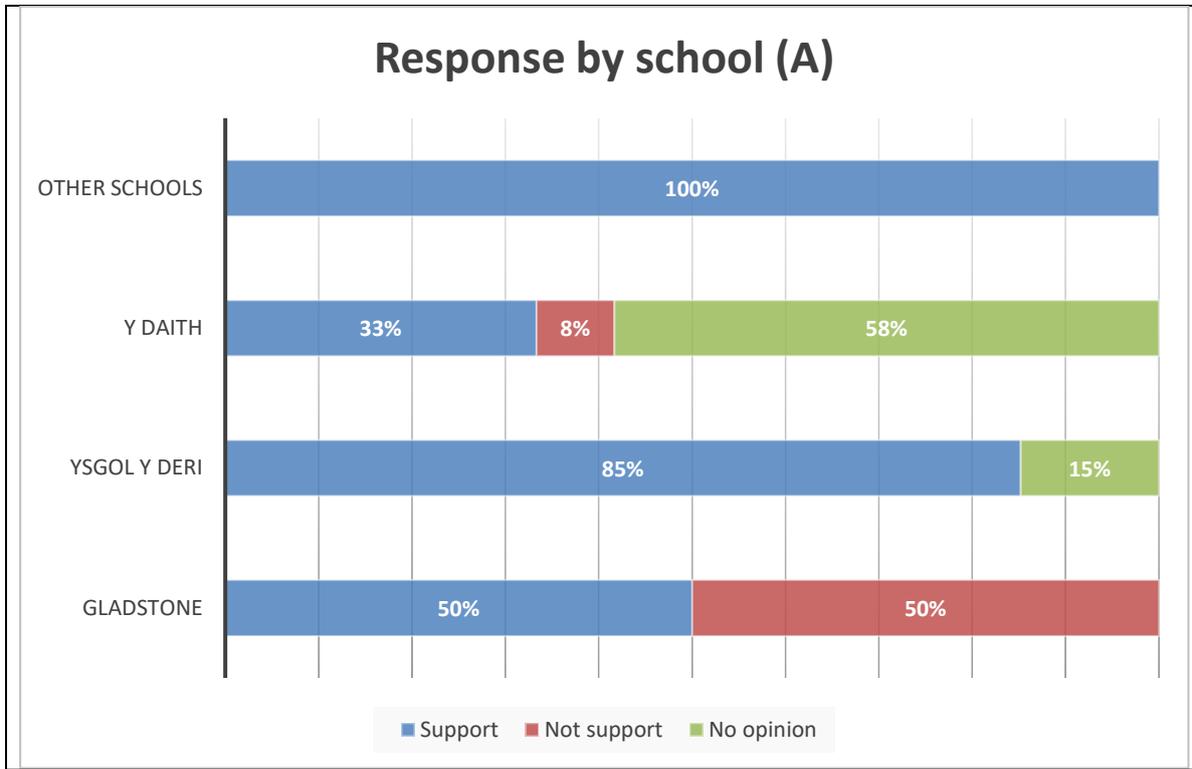


Chart 3 – Split of consultation responses by school (part A)

Responses to part B: Discontinuing Y Daith and establishing a new Centre for Learning & Wellbeing under the management of Ysgol Y Deri from September 2021

As table 4 and chart 4 below show, the majority of responses (74%) were in favour of part B. This part had the highest number of responses not in support (21%).

Table 4 – Breakdown of consultation responses (part B)						
Total (individual) responses (B):	Total support		Total not support		Total no opinion	
No.	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
43	32	74%	9	21%	2	5%

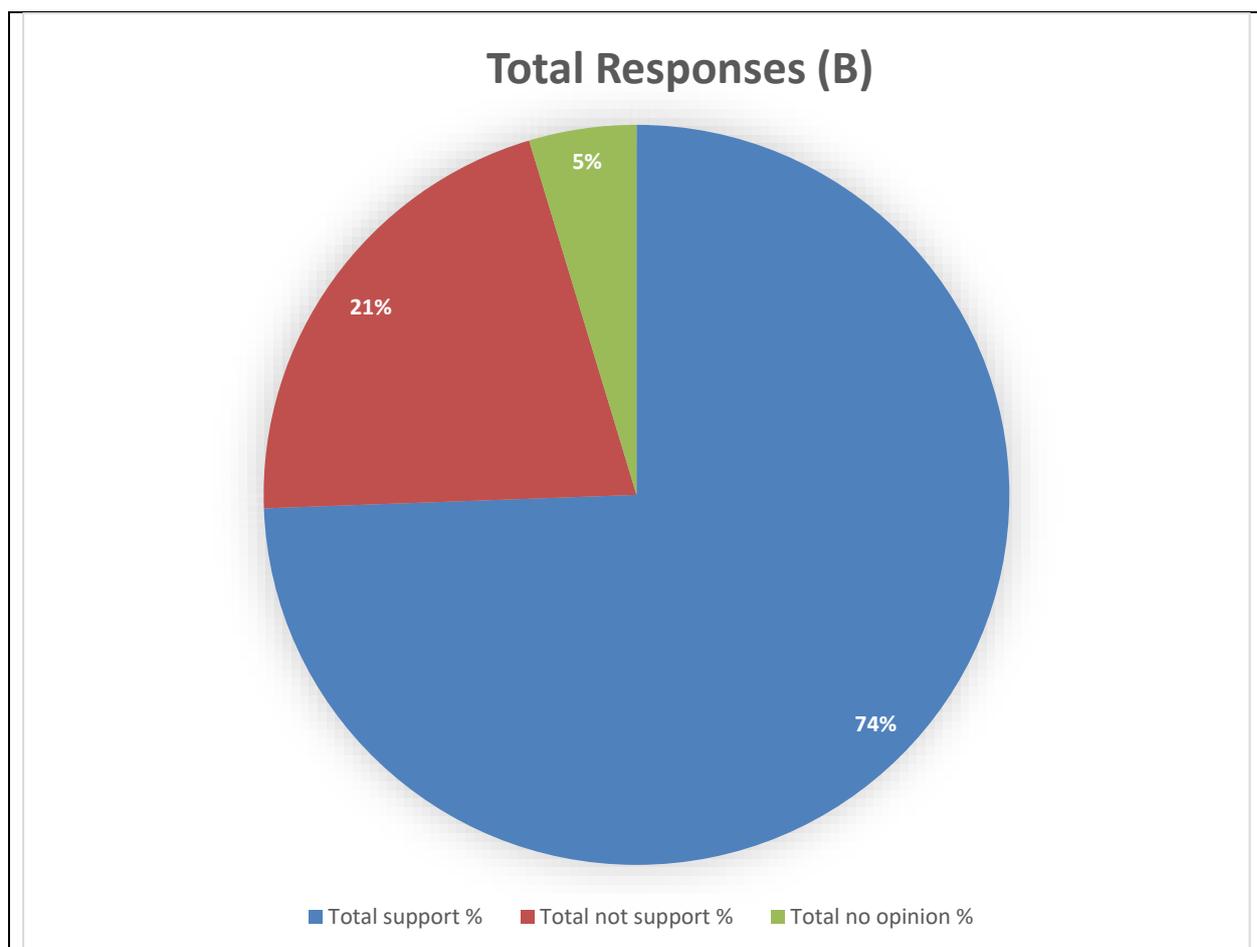


Chart 4 – Split of responses supporting or not supporting part B of the consultation, and those responses with no opinion either way

As table 5 and chart 5 below show, respondent groups were in favour of part B. The largest group of respondents indicated that they were members of staff (31 respondents – 70.97% of which were in favour of part B), followed by parents (6 respondents - 83.33% in favour), and no responses were received from grandparents. Two responses were received from pupils; one in favour (50%) and one against (50%).

As with the previous part, respondents were able to tick more than one option.

Table 5 - Breakdown of consultation responses by role (part B)				
Response by role (B):	Support	Not support	No opinion	Total
Parent or guardian	5	0	1	6
Grandparent	0	0	0	0
Pupil	1	1	0	2
Member of staff	22	8	1	31
Governor	4	0	0	4
Local Resident	1	0	0	1
Other	2	0	0	2

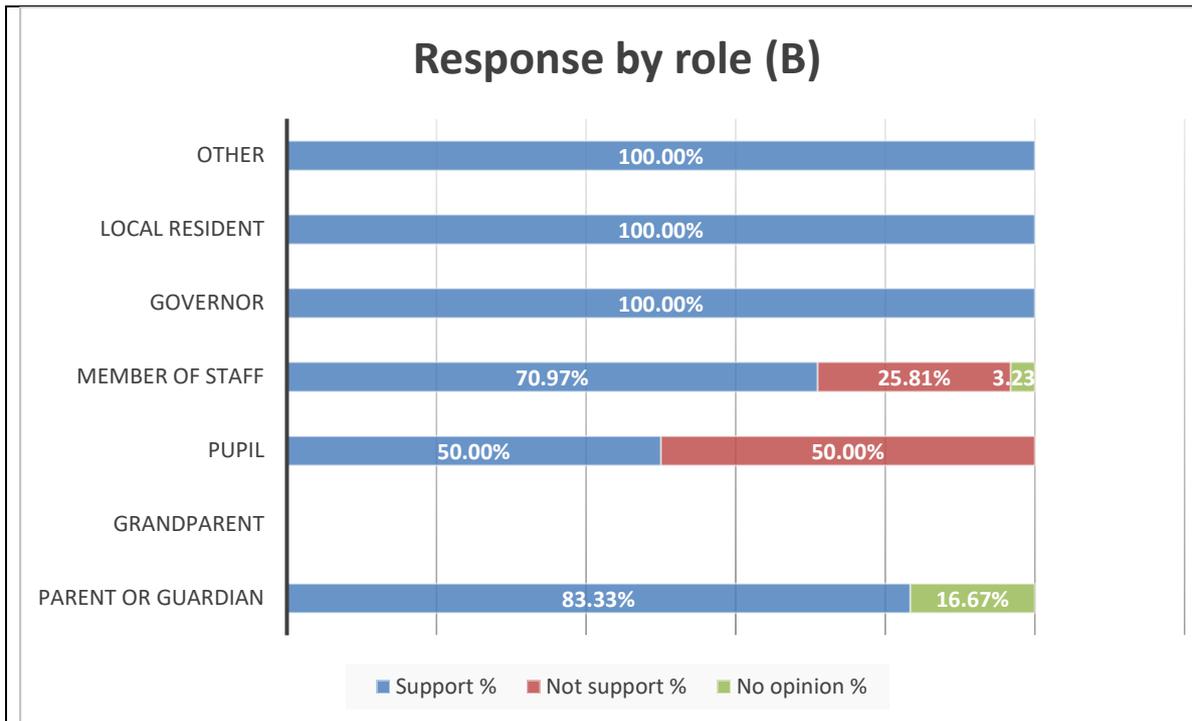


Chart 5 – Split of consultation responses by role (part B)

As table 6 and chart 6 below show, most respondents with a connection to (a) school/s were in favour of part B. The largest group of respondents were connected to YYD (26 respondents); 96% of which were in favour of part B. Responses have been received from all schools directly affected by the proposal. 12 responses were received from Y Daith; four in favour (33%) and eight against (67%). Two responses were received from Gladstone; one in favour (50%) and one with no opinion either way (50%).

As with the previous part, respondents were able to tick more than one option.

Table 6 - Breakdown of consultation responses by school (part B)				
Response by school (B):	Support	Not support	No opinion	Total
Gladstone	1	0	1	2
Ysgol Y Deri	25	0	1	26
Y Daith	4	8	0	12
Other Schools	7	0	0	7

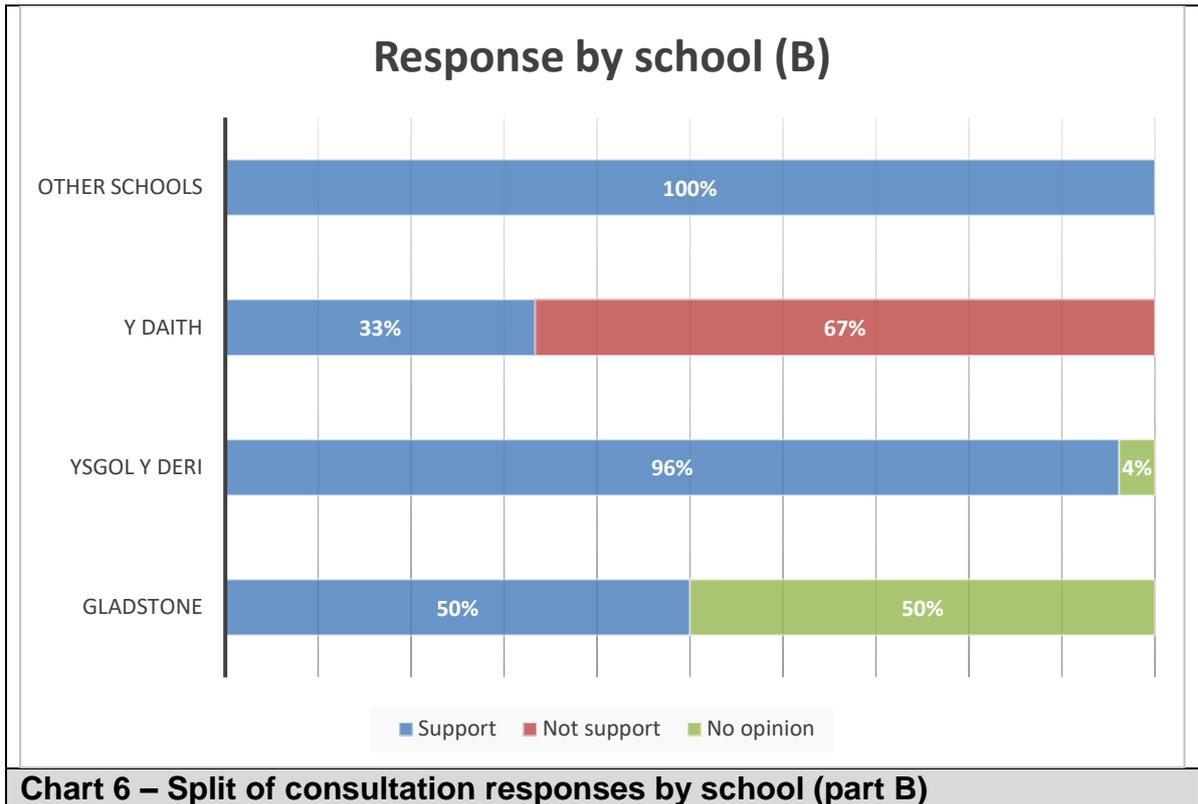


Chart 6 – Split of consultation responses by school (part B)

Responses to part C: Constructing a new building for the Centre for Learning & Wellbeing pupils on the Court Road Depot site in Barry from January 2023.

As table 7 and chart 7 below show, the majority of responses (91%) were in favour of part B. This part had the highest number of responses in support.

Table 7 – Breakdown of consultation responses (part C)						
Total (individual) responses (C):	Total support		Total not support		Total no opinion	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
44	40	91%	2	5%	2	5%

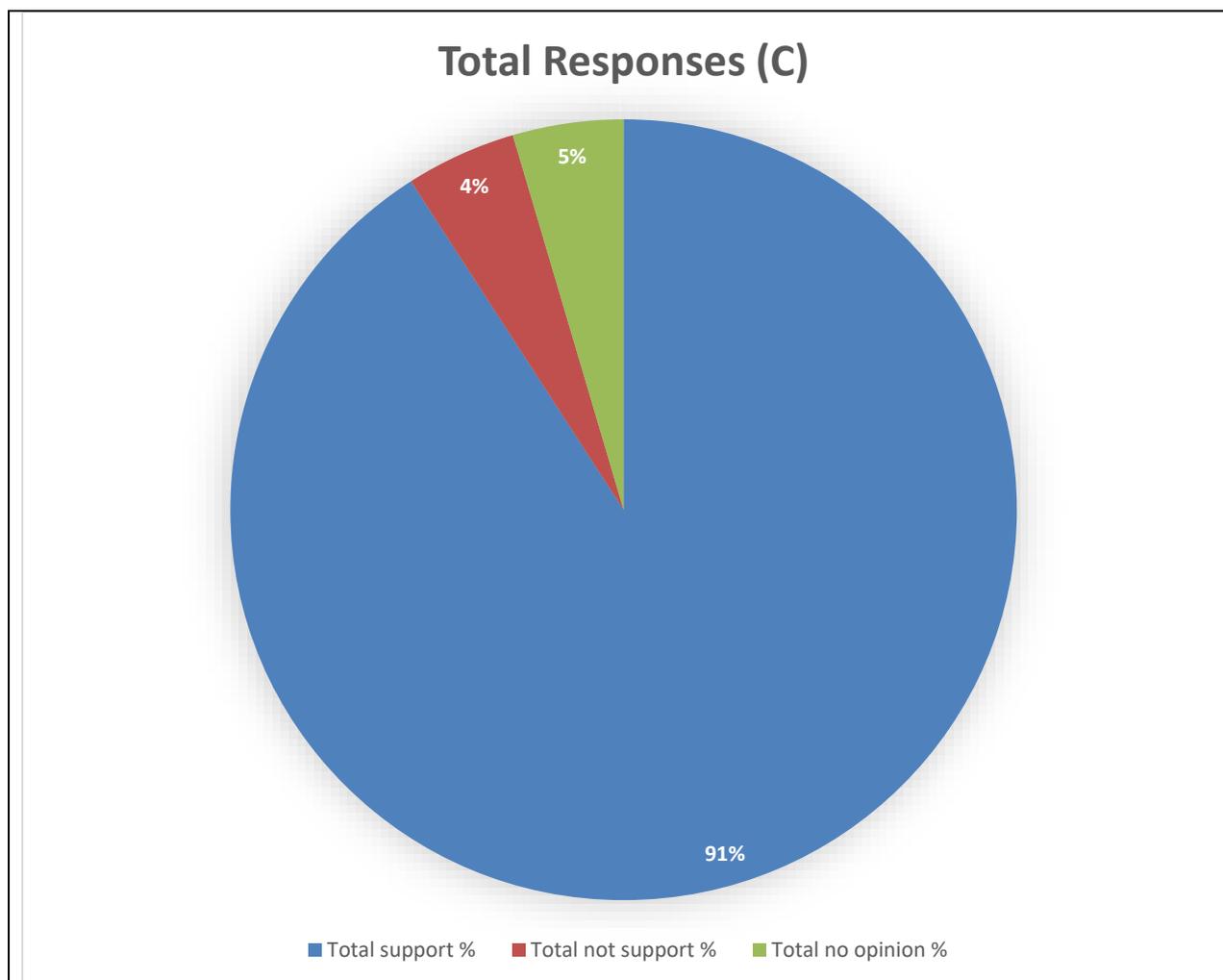


Chart 7 – Split of responses supporting or not supporting part C of the consultation, and those responses with no opinion either way

As table 8 and chart 8 below show, nearly all respondent groups were fully in favour of part C. The largest group of respondents indicated that they were members of staff (32 respondents – 90.63% of which were in favour of part C), followed by parents (6 respondents - 83.33% in favour), and no responses were received from grandparents.

As with the previous part, respondents were able to tick more than one option.

Table 8 - Breakdown of consultation responses by role (part C)				
Response by role (C):	Support	Not support	No opinion	Total
Parent or guardian	5	1	0	6
Grandparent	0	0	0	0
Pupil	2	0	0	2
Member of staff	29	1	2	32
Governor	4	0	0	4
Local Resident	1	0	0	1
Other	2	0	0	2

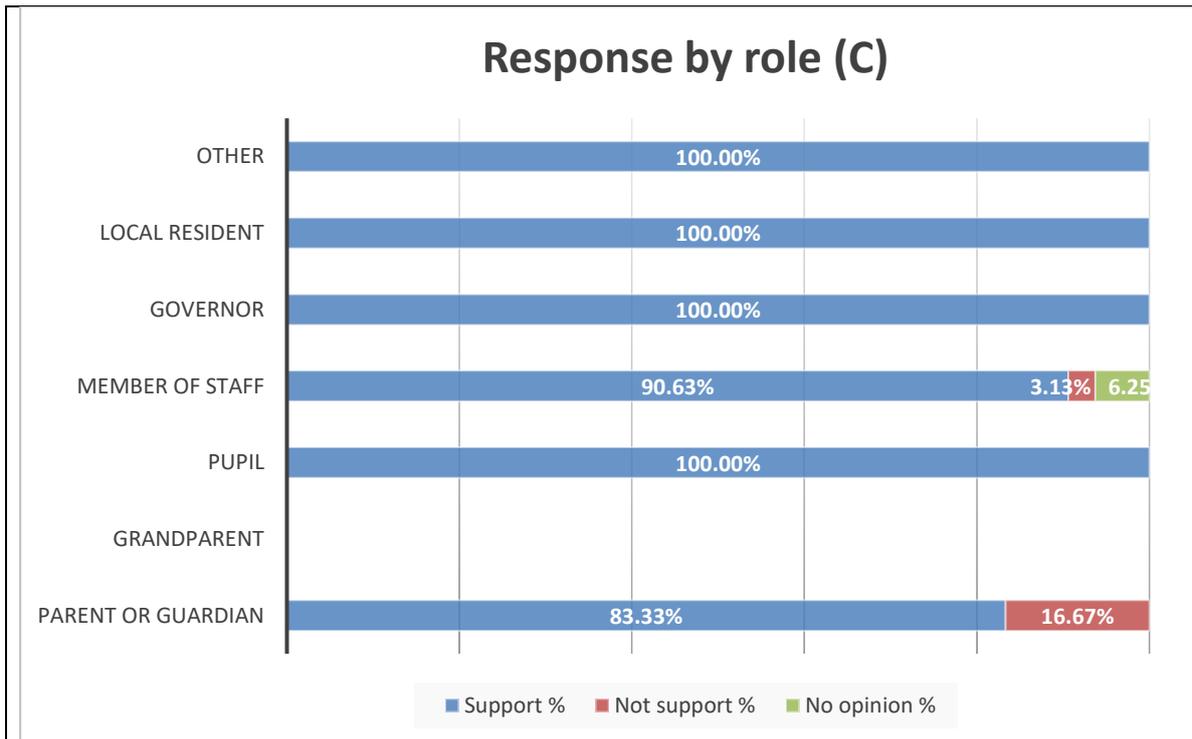


Chart 8 – Split of consultation responses by role (part C)

As table 9 and chart 9 below show, most respondents with a connection to (a) school/s were in favour of part C. The largest group of respondents were connected to YYD (27 respondents); 96% of which were in favour of part C. Responses have been received from all schools directly affected by the proposal. 12 responses were received from Y Daith; 83% of which were in favour. Two responses were received from Gladstone; one in favour (50%) and one against (50%).

As with the previous part, respondents were able to tick more than one option.

Table 9 - Breakdown of consultation responses by school (part C)				
Response by school (C):	Support	Not support	No opinion	Total
Gladstone	1	1	0	2
Ysgol Y Deri	26	0	1	27
Y Daith	10	1	1	12
Other Schools	7	0	0	7

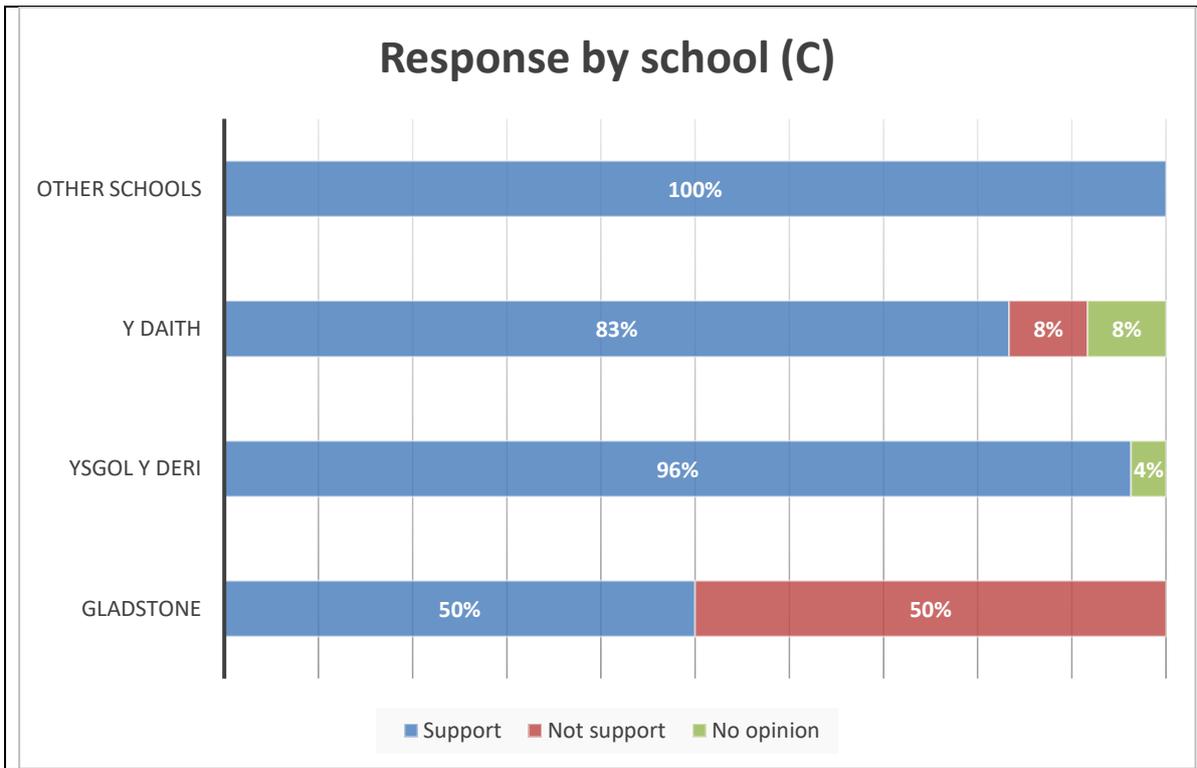


Chart 9 – Split of consultation responses by school (part C)

Conclusion

Following consideration of the responses received throughout the consultation period, the Council has revisited the proposal to determine the likely impact on quality and standards in education, the local community and travel arrangements.

Quality and standards in education

This proposal would likely have a positive impact on the quality and standards in education. As noted by respondents, the existing buildings and sites currently utilised by Y Daith have their limitations. The proposed new Centre for Learning and Wellbeing (CL&W) would provide sufficient space for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 pupils to be taught on a single site. The proposed new building would 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 would be designed to meet the needs of pupils and would 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 CL&W and the Specialist Resource Base (SRB) at Gladstone Primary School being managed by YYD would ensure consistent support for learners with social, emotional and mental health needs across the Vale of Glamorgan.

Community impact

A Community Impact Assessment was undertaken and published alongside the consultation document. The assessment concludes that the proposal would likely have a positive impact on the local community through increased community facilities. No comments were received regarding the Community Impact Assessment during the consultation period.

Travel arrangements

The SRB at Gladstone Primary School has been trialled since September 2019. The capacity and location would not be changed as a result of this proposal which would 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 would 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 would be considerably reduced by the proposal. This was highlighted by pupils in the engagement sessions as a positive of the proposal.

Traffic and transport implications associated with the new building would be considered as part of the Transport Assessment that would be required in order to achieve planning consent for the building works should this proposal be implemented. A full transport assessment would be undertaken as part of the design process for the new school building. This would assess the impact on the local infrastructure and include a swept path analysis to ensure compliance with current legislation on accessibility for all emergency services. The transport

assessment would be used as part of the design process to mitigate against any negative impacts identified.

Pupils queried whether there would be storage for bikes at the CL&W as they would like to cycle to school. If the proposal were to progress, active travel would be an important consideration within the site design to support the realisation of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013. Additional bike and scooter storage would be provided at the new school site to encourage active travel to school where possible.

Annex A - A summary of key issues raised by statutory consultees and the Council's response

The following summarises the key issues raised during the formal consultation period. The issues present an overview of responses and are not intended to be verbatim. All written responses have been made available to Cabinet Members.

Issue 1

Management of specialist resource base at Gladstone primary

A respondent noted that the provision should not be managed by Gladstone Primary School due to the specialist nature of the provision.

Council's response to the concerns raised

The proposal would result in the formal establishment on the specialist resource base at Gladstone Primary School which would be managed by the governing body and leadership of YYD, the Council's special school. Therefore, this proposal would address the concerns of the respondent.

Issue 2

Management of CL&W and utilising existing expertise

Responses stressed the importance of utilising existing expertise; particularly from Y Daith staff who have extensive experience and skills with children with social, emotional and mental health needs. Some respondents expressed a preference for the new CL&W to be run by Y Daith, rather than YYD, as they have the experience with pupils with additional behavioural needs.

Council's response to the concerns raised

The Council fully appreciates the hard work, skills and knowledge of the existing staff at Y Daith and the SRB at Gladstone Primary School. Staff currently employed at Y Daith and the SRB would transfer to YYD following the implementation of this proposal. A large proportion of the existing staff have been trained to support a trauma informed approach which is the Vale of Glamorgan's preferred approach to working with children and young people with social, emotional and mental health difficulties. The main reasons for these provisions being managed by YYD is to ensure consistency of this approach across the Vale, and to increase the support networks and opportunities for professional development that can be accessed within a larger organisation.

The commitment and expertise of Y Daith staff would enable the new CL&W provision to build upon existing successful approaches and ensure continuity for existing pupils.

The Council would work with the management committee of Y Daith and the governing bodies of YYD and Gladstone primary school during the transition period to ensure all staff with relevant expertise are able to input into the new provision and, in the case of the CL&W, are able to influence the design of the new building

to best meet the needs of pupils.

Issue 3

Respondent queried how to ensure children who are in education otherwise than at school (EOTAS) are not missed.

Council's response to the concerns raised

Management of the Council's EOTAS provision would be retained centrally by the Learning and Skills Directorate. The relevant resources to manage this service would also be retained by the Council.

The new CL&W building would also provide additional opportunities to broaden the existing curriculum, particularly in regard to vocational training.

Issue 4

Respondent queried whether capacity at the new Centre for Learning & Wellbeing would be sufficient.

Council's response to the concerns raised

The CL&W building would have capacity to accommodate 60 pupils which is consistent with the existing number on roll at Y Daith. The existing provision does not provide full-time provision for Key Stage 4 pupils and this was noted by Estyn in the most recent inspection. This is due to the site constraints on the existing Cowbridge site. The new building would provide the opportunity for full time Key Stage 4 provision.

The proposed Court Road site would also provide sufficient space for a future expansion if required. This would be factored into the overall site layout.

As part of the Council's Additional Learning Needs (ALN) strategy, additional ALN places are also being proposed through a SRB at Whitmore High School and increasing the capacity of YYD. These proposals are subject to separate consultations.

Issue 5

Respondent queried how children would access the vocational side of the curriculum.

Council's response to the concerns raised

The proposed new CL&W would result in increased curriculum opportunities, particularly in respect to vocational training. The existing Y Daith buildings provide limited scope to deliver vocational training, particularly at the Cowbridge site. The proposed CL&W would retain some of the existing workshops currently at the Court Road site to enhance the curriculum.

Issue 6

Concerns association with Ysgol Y Deri would lead to bullying and loss of Y Daith identity

Some pupils from Y Daith raised concerns about the CL&W forming part of YYD. Some respondents would prefer to keep the name Y Daith, in full or as part of a new name, to help pupils feel a sense of continuity and to be seen as separate from YYD.

Council's response to the concerns raised

The CL&W has been used at the title for the provision as it was considered to best reflect the Council's approach. However, the Council would work with staff and pupils to establish the final name.

The Council considered there to be a number of benefits to this provision forming part of YYD. YYD is considered to be the organisation with the experience and skills to implement the trauma informed approach most effectively to ensure continuity across the Vale of Glamorgan. Consequently, YYD coordinating the function of the CL&W would mean that some of our most vulnerable learners receive the most effective support and provision as key components of their education. Being part of a larger organisation would also result in improved resilience and professional development.

Although it is proposed that the CL&W forms part of YYD, the CL&W would have its own identity and building.

Issue 7

The governing body of YYD noted concerns regarding the amount of staffing and financial resources required to successfully deliver the proposal.

The governing body of YYD had concerns regarding whether the necessary funding had been identified to deliver the required provision and whether there was sufficient staff resource to deliver the proposal.

Council's response to the concerns raised

Should the proposal be approved, the Council would establish a project team to support the project. The project team would include the Head of Standards and Provision, the Head of Additional Learning Needs and Wellbeing, representatives from the Council's 21st Century Schools Team, and representatives from Y Daith and YYD.

The project team would be responsible for developing a comprehensive project plan to deliver the proposal by January 2023, when the new CL&W building would be completed. The project plan would need to consider:

- Developing the provision;
- Developing the staffing structure;
- Identifying the appropriate resources to deliver the provision (staffing and financial); and
- Developing the plans for the new building.

The project would be delivered in two phases. Phase one would focus on the transfer of management to YYD which would be implemented for September 2021. Phase two would focus on the 18-month transition period until the transfer to the new building for January 2023.

The Council would fully support the staff, governing body and management committee to ensure the successful implementation of the proposal. This approach was successfully adopted to deliver mixed-sex secondary education in Barry as part of the Transforming Secondary Education in Barry project.

Transitional costs incurred relating to the planning and implementation of the proposal in September 2021 would initially be met from the School Investment Reserve.

Any additional funding requirements identified would be subject to a cost pressure submitted as part of the budget setting process.

Issue 8

Respondent queried why the current Penarth Learning Community site is not being used for the new CL&W building?

Council's response to the concerns raised

There is insufficient space within the Penarth Learning Community site to expand provision any further to accommodate the proposed CL&W and SRB.

It is proposed a new building would be constructed on the Court Road Depot site in Barry to accommodate the CL&W. This building would be sufficient to accommodate around 60 full time pupils and would be compliant with Building Bulletin standards (the framework for school buildings).

A separate building would also ensure that the CL&W would have its own identity which would be separate from YYD. The proposed location would also significantly reduce journeys to school and would increase the number of pupils being able to walk and cycle to school.

Annex B - A summary of comments received in favour of the proposal.

This section provides the key themes raised during the formal consultation period by those in favour of the proposal. The following presents an overview of responses and are not exhaustive or intended to be verbatim. All written responses have been made available to Cabinet Members.

Comment 1

Support increasing places and types of specialist support available for ALN pupils within the Vale, particularly those with SEMH needs.

Respondents agreed specialist educational provision needs to be increased within the Vale. Responses also noted the benefits of having multiple types of provision available within the Vale and that this would mean more pupils are able to access help who might not meet the criteria for YYD but are still in need of specialist support. This would help prevent students with social, emotional and mental health needs from “falling through the cracks” in the system.

Comment 2

Support continuation of the specialist resource base at Gladstone primary school under the management of Ysgol Y Deri.

Responses noted this would particularly benefit parents with children in both schools as provision would be met under the same management structure, making provision more consistent and enable data sharing between institutions. Respondents agree YYD is the suitable body to oversee ALN provision, having both the expertise and resources to successfully manage specialist education. Respondents highlight the success of the Loft & Burrow at Gladstone primary school to date which has enabled some pupils to return to mainstream education. They note this success is due to the committed staff and leadership at Gladstone and that going forward YYD overseeing this provision will increase its resilience.

Some respondents would like further provision within mainstream schools and suggest YYD could provide training to teachers in other schools to increase their ability to support ALN pupils. It should be noted that the Council is also consulting on a proposal to create a SRB at Whitmore High School to support autistic pupils.

Comment 3

Support Ysgol Y Deri managing provision of the Centre for Learning & Wellbeing.

Respondents agree YYD is the suitable body to oversee this provision, having both the expertise and resources to successfully manage specialist education. Respondents also note the benefit of centralised management of specialist educational provision by YYD as this will enable a consistent and equitable approach. Respondents highlight the commitment and expertise of Y Daith staff will enable the new CL&W provision to build upon existing successful approaches and ensure continuity for existing pupils. Responses support the trauma inform

approach proposed for the CL&W and suggest that this would help to deal with the root causes and not just the outward behaviour of students.

Comment 4

Support a new building for the Centre for Learning & Wellbeing.

Responses noted this would provide a modern learning environment for pupils with suitable facilities catering for their needs. They note being able to host Key Stages 3 and 4 on a single site would be a positive improvement upon current arrangements. Respondents are positive this will enable a greater range of activities to be offered which will support learning outcomes. Responses from pupils were particularly enthusiastic about Key Stages 3 and 4 being able to play sports together which they currently cannot due to the split sites.

The more centralised location of the CL&W (on the court road site in Barry) will reduce travel time, having a positive impact upon children's learning. The new site is also surrounded by numerous public buildings beneficial for learning experiences; including the Family Centre, Jenner Park Stadium, Police Station and YMCA.

Annex C - Frequently asked questions.

This section provides updated frequently asked questions in relation to the proposal.

What is the intended timescale of development?

It is intended that the proposal would be implemented by September 2021.

Construction of the new school on the Court Road Depot site in Barry would commence by December 2021 and be completed by January 2023.

How would potential transport implications be considered as part of this proposal?

The Council's 21st Century Schools Team would be responsible for the build process. A contractor would be appointed and a full transport assessment would be undertaken as part of the design process. Any implications identified would be factored into the design of the new building. The contractor would submit a full planning application for the new building.

Who would manage the construction of the new school building?

The Council's 21st Century Schools Team would be responsible for managing the build process. A contractor would be appointed using the SEWSCAP framework. SEWSCAP is a construction framework used by 16 local authorities and provides pre-qualified and suitably experienced Contractors to deliver the 21st Century Schools Programme, and other public buildings, relating to both new build and refurbishment projects over £1.5 million. A programme of engagement would be devised to ensure all stakeholders are informed of progress and are able to feed into the design process. There would be regular meetings between the Council, contractor and school.

How would we be involved throughout the design process?

A programme of engagement would be devised to ensure all stakeholders are informed of progress and are able to feed into the design process. There would be regular meetings between the Council, contractor and school. Any feedback or thoughts can be sent to the 21st Century Schools Team on:

21stcenturyschools@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Annex D - Consultation undertaken with young people.

Y Daith - 07.10.2020

Year 9

2 YP

1. Do you support the proposal to transform specialist education? (Please indicate your response to each part below)

a) By establishing a new resource base at Gladstone primary school as a satellite of Ysgol Y Deri from September 2021

No thoughts on Gladstone Primary SRB were submitted by the YP.

b) By discontinuing Y Daith and establishing a new Centre for Learning & Wellbeing under the management of Ysgol Y Deri from September 2021

The YP expressed some worries about being associated with Ysgol Y Deri. The YP were concerned about the stigma of being branded a 'special school'. The YP did agree that the staff at YYD have the right training to support YP properly and this could benefit them in Y Daith as some YP need more support than others.

c) By constructing a new building for the Centre for Learning & Wellbeing pupils on the Court Road Depot site in Barry from January 2023.

The YP explained that currently in Amelia Trust Farm they do not have the facilities available to exercise or take part in sport sessions to help "burn off energy". They explained that this is the main issue with their current setting as they "can't go outside". YP and staff also said that they do not have much room in their current building and many of their rooms are currently multi-purpose. This leads to some difficulties when a break-out area is needed or rooms for other purposes.

We explained that the new building in Barry would have an outdoor sports area and more space indoors to incorporate break-out rooms and wellbeing areas. The YP said they would like an indoor sports hall for when the weather is bad, and facilities outdoors to play football, rugby and basketball.

The YP agreed that not having to travel to the farm or Cowbridge every day would be much easier for them. They said they would be able to cycle to school which they would prefer. The YP questioned if there would be safe bike storage available for them to use.

The YP also asked about travel for those who were not cycling distance and asked about taxis and minibuses. Staff queried if Y Daith could have access to their own minibuses to avoid having to hire them. This would make travel for trips easier as well and picking up YP for school. They asked if this would be part of the Vale fuel system.

The YP think being able to help with construction and having the opportunity to help build the school and learn new skills would be great.

The YP also asked if there could be an option for other life skills training and work experience in place such as mechanics/firefighting. The teachers suggested a full-time careers advisor to assist with YP when they leave Y Daith.

2. If you would like to suggest any changes or alternatives to the proposals, please detail these below.

The YP said they did not like the name Centre for Learning and Wellbeing. They said it was too long and they like the name Y Daith. No suggestions for a name were offered by the YP though.

3. Any other comments?

The YP had some concerns about the changes to their day that may come with the new building. The YP said they like their current teachers and their daily routine as they know the teachers and are happy with their school day structure. They also like staying in one classroom with the same teacher for the school day noting it's "good to have one place" to be based for the school day.

Year 7-8

4 YP

1. Do you support the proposal to transform specialist education? (Please indicate your response to each part below)

a) By establishing a new resource base at Gladstone primary school as a satellite of Ysgol Y Deri from September 2021

No thoughts on Gladstone Primary SRB were submitted by the YP.

b) By discontinuing Y Daith and establishing a new Centre for Learning & Wellbeing under the management of Ysgol Y Deri from September 2021

The YP and staff agreed that working with YYD will be helpful. YP said that it is important that the staff have the right training to be able to help all YP no matter what level of support is needed. Staff agreed that YYD support would be great at making sure everyone has the best training.

c) By constructing a new building for the Centre for Learning & Wellbeing pupils on the Court Road Depot site in Barry from January 2023.

The YP are excited about having an outdoor sports area for basketball and football. They suggested it could look like the sports layout of Gladstone Park. The YP have asked if there would be a gym and boxing equipment available.

The YP also suggested having a 'chill room' with games consoles and sofas where they could relax.

Staff suggested that they need a dedicated 'breakout room' for YP to use when they need to calm down or take a break. At the moment their breakout room is multi-purpose due to lack of space and this causes problems. YP also agreed that this is a good idea. Staff asked if there would be dedicated rooms available for the school council to meet and the school nurse.

Currently neither Y Daith site has a dedicated staff area and the farm doesn't have

separate YP and staff toilets. Both staff and YP have said they would like separate toilets.

The YP also suggested a canteen large enough to fit everyone in so they don't have to eat in their classrooms.

The YP were shown what Ysgol Y Deri looks like. They said that it would be great to have a nice new building and up to date facilities.

The YP asked about the option to have bike storage at the new school so they could ride their bikes to school. The YP and staff also mentioned the option of having minibuses available to help with school trips and picking up YP for school who are not cycle distance.

The YP said it is a good idea to have the school in Barry as travel time will be shorter and it saves them having to travel to Cowbridge or the farm every day. YP also added that travelling to Y Daith is an unpleasant experience especially when having to wear masks.

The YP asked if there could be a workshop available for YP to learn woodwork skills and a big kitchen area with opportunities to learn cooking skills. The YP were really excited at the possibility of contributing to the construction of the school and learning new skills.

2. If you would like to suggest any changes or alternatives to the proposals, please detail these below.

The YP said the name Centre for Learning and Wellbeing was too long. They said that CLW sounds better and that people will probably shorten it to that.

3. Any other comments?

The YP said they do a lot of work on mental health in their lessons and these lessons are really important. The YP said that it is important to have these lessons as they can learn strategies to manage stressful situations.

Ysgol Y Deri - 13.10.2020

8 YP - mixed years

1. Do you support the proposal to transform specialist education? (Please indicate your response to each part below)

a) By establishing a new resource base at Gladstone primary school as a satellite of Ysgol Y Deri from September 2021

The YP in YYD agreed that it is a great idea to work with Primary age YP. One YP said *"they can learn life skills for when they are older"*.

b) By discontinuing Y Daith and establishing a new Centre for Learning & Wellbeing under the management of Ysgol Y Deri from September 2021

The YP agreed that all teachers need the same level of training so all YP across the Vale receive the level of support when in school. The YP from YYD agreed that the YYD teachers are great at supporting the YP in YYD and all teachers across the Vale should have the same training opportunities as their teachers and staff.

They suggested some ideas that work in YYD that could possibly help in CL&W such as smaller class sizes with extra staff so the YP have more access to the teachers during lessons and a higher level of support if needed. The YP also agreed that all the teachers need the best training to make sure they are able to offer the support that YP need to learn properly and to help them to understand how to help everyone regardless of how much support they need. All YP we consulted described the relationships they have with their teachers where benefits include YP “feeling powerful to speak to staff and teachers”. They explained that a good teacher/student relationship is vital for learning and wellbeing which results in “everyone feeling valued”.

Another thing the YP suggested was how YYD make the education fit the individual and not the whole class. They said this works very well and helps to make sure all YP’s needs are met and they said *“it helps to make us all feel important”*.

The YP said it is really important for the new school and YYD to be in regular contact to make sure there are good communication links between both schools such as meetings to make sure that the best work is being done for the YP for the “environment to feel safe”.

c) By constructing a new building for the Centre for Learning & Wellbeing pupils on the Court Road Depot site in Barry from January 2023.

All YP we consulted agreed that outdoor space to exercise and do sports activities is essential for wellbeing. YP also suggested that Forest School is a beneficial opportunity to help YP to learn new skills and is a great way to get out of the classroom but still be educational.

The YP explained how important space in the school is. They said that having the option to use break-out rooms is essential for YP to be able to get away from stressful situations and calm down. This also offers YP a private space to talk to teachers if needed. It was also noted that YP access smaller classes where pupils are chosen specifically.

The YP also said it is important to have areas for YP to learn new life skills such as cooking. The YP used the YYD food business as an example, they make food to sell to local builders. The YP have said this opportunity has been great to help them learn new skills such as money management and have real life experiences and work experience.

2. If you would like to suggest any changes or alternatives to the proposals, please detail these below.

No changes to the proposals were submitted by the YP.

3. Any other comments?

The YP explained that in YYD they have a learning coach and councillors that come to the school. They all agreed that seeing the learning coach and councillors is really helpful and offers them the opportunity to get support at all times and provides a space for YP to be “able to express ourselves”. The YP also said they take part in a boot camp session which allows them to do yoga, boxing, running and physical therapy. The YP said this is really helpful for them and they enjoy doing it.

Gladstone Primary - 14.10.2020

Year 6 - 10 YP

1. Do you support the proposal to transform specialist education? (Please indicate your response to each part below)

a) By establishing a new resource base at Gladstone primary school as a satellite of Ysgol Y Deri from September 2021

The YP at Gladstone Primary School overwhelmingly supported establishing a new resource base highlighting the benefits that YP currently experience when they access the ‘Loft’ and the ‘Burrow’. Benefits of the loft included supporting YP who may struggle with learning and require extra support, however it was also noted the benefits of YP also experiencing opportunities to access mainstream learning for short periods before being removed when suitable. Students explained that the ‘Burrow’ caters for infants with additional needs which provides support for YP in infants before moving on to the ‘Loft’ in juniors.

b) By discontinuing Y Daith and establishing a new Centre for Learning & Wellbeing under the management of Ysgol Y Deri from September 2021

The students in Gladstone agreed that a new special education school would greatly benefit YP and there would be a clear path from infants to secondary with YP being supported in the same ways.

c) By constructing a new building for the Centre for Learning & Wellbeing pupils on the Court Road Depot site in Barry from January 2023.

Some students were aware of Ysgol Y Deri and agreed that a new building for CLW similar to this would be beneficial to YP.

2. If you would like to suggest any changes or alternatives to the proposals, please detail these below.

No changes to the proposals were submitted by the YP.

3. Any other comments?

Students provided an insight of how the school currently supports mental health and wellbeing of pupils. Strategies that promote the ‘growth mindset’ were highlighted where students are encouraged that “not that you can’t do it but can do it in the future”.

Students also noted the benefits of ‘The Cwtch’ which is a wellbeing centre in the school where pupils take part in the ‘Circle of Friends’ which is a place where YP

can “make friends, eat biscuits and have fun” which helps promote self-esteem and “talk about how you’re feeling”.

The students also highlighted the benefits of the school’s ‘therapy dog’, access to fidget and having three teachers who YP can speak to about how they’re feeling. There are also strategies in place for YP to fill jars with paper after YP have expressed how they’re feeling which can indicate to teachers if there are any ongoing issues with these being anonymous when suitable.

Annex E – Response from Estyn

Introduction

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty’s Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send documentation to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer.

Summary/Conclusion

The local authority has taken appropriate account of Welsh Government regulations in putting forward its proposal to improve provision for special education in the Vale of Glamorgan to meet projected future demand and best meet the needs of vulnerable learners. The proposal contains a clear, three-point strategy to realise the local authority’s ambitions.

1. Establish a new Centre for Learning and Wellbeing to replace Y Daith, the Council’s pupil referral unit (PRU)
2. Establish specialist resource bases (SRB) in mainstream schools to ensure learners have access mainstream education; and
3. Increase capacity of Ysgol Y Deri (YYD), the Council’s special school, to meet projected demand for special education.

The local authority makes a clear case based on relevant evidence to support each of the three strategic actions within the proposal. For example, plans to replace the current pupil referral unit with a new purpose built facility under the management of YYD should lead to improved facilities, educational experiences and outcomes for learners. The proposal indicates that the trial inclusion of the SRB at Gladstone Primary School has been successful.

It is Estyn’s view that the proposal will at the least maintain, and is likely to improve the present educational provision in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Description and benefits

The proposal shows that the local authority has researched a range of options for improving provision for special education in the Vale of Glamorgan to meet projected future demand and best meet the needs of vulnerable learners. It has provided a clear rationale for each aspect of the three-point strategy within its preferred option. These include:

- A clear overall vision for the development of SEN provision within the authority including a preferred pedagogical approach to meet the needs of learners

- A consistent approach across special education provision in the Vale of Glamorgan.
- The Centre for Learning and Wellbeing (CL&W) and SRB would benefit from the specialist skills, knowledge and facilities at YYD
- Improved learning facilities and environments for learners. These include improved access to outdoor facilities such as a multi-games area
- Improved access to specialist support for staff and learners
- Access to learning experiences in a mainstream school for learners in the SRB
- The CL&W would provide support and provision for learners with needs that are so significant that they presently cannot be met by Y Daith and alternative providers. The Council has no specialist provision for these learners at present so they are often placed out of county (OOC) for educational purposes at significant cost.

However, the proposal also cites that *'it has not been possible to group KS3 and KS4 pupils of Y Daith to provide seamless continuity. The new building (the CL&W) and site would ensure this is possible.'* It is unclear from the proposal whether the authority considers future pupil referral unit provision as offering permanent placement to learners.

The local authority considered and set out the benefits and risks for two alternative options. It has given an appropriate rationale for not pursuing either of these. The local authority has considered transport implications appropriately in relation to the Gladstone Primary School site. The local authority indicates that a full transport assessment would be undertaken as part of the design process for the new school building for the CL&W in Barry should this proposal be accepted. Therefore, the local authority has not undertaken a full transport assessment for all parts of the proposal. In addition, while the proposal identifies potential ways that the local authority might support active travel at the CL&W, it does not provide factual detail surrounding these possible future arrangements.

The local authority identifies that normal admissions arrangements do not apply to the educational settings directly involved in this proposal. The CL&W and SRB will not compete with local schools and this proposal is unlikely to have any impact on admission arrangements or surplus places at other local schools. Although the proposal does not contain specific projections for future numbers of pupils at Ysgol Y Deri, pupil numbers have increased steadily in recent years. This would appear to endorse the local authority's assertion that there is an increase in demand for special needs provision in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The proposal considers the need, at times, for Welsh medium education within SEN settings. It states that Welsh medium provision would be made available at the proposed CL&W and SRB when required. However, it isn't clear in the proposal whether those teaching and learning experiences would be fully equitable with that of the English medium provision.

The local authority sets out arrangements for delegating finance and for the leadership and management of staff clearly within the proposal.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The local authority has considered the impact of the proposals on the quality of the outcomes, provision and leadership and management in detail. It has also considered the outcomes of recent relevant Estyn inspections appropriately.

The local authority has established a clear educational rationale for change. This includes sharing pedagogy that has previously been successful in securing strong progress for learners and improved learning facilities. The proposed arrangements should also ensure improved access to specialist provision for greater numbers of pupils. The proposal contains a strong rationale for the potential impact of the proposal on pupils' wellbeing. However, the proposal does not evaluate pupils' standards and progress in current settings in any depth.

The proposed arrangements are likely to lead to improved professional learning opportunities for staff.

The local authority has not undertaken an equality impact assessment. However, within its proposal, it states that such an assessment will take place as part of the consultation process and that the assessment will be reviewed after the consultation and at key points if the proposal proceeds. It has undertaken an appropriate Community Impact Assessment and concludes that the proposal would be likely to have a positive impact overall.

Annex F - Minutes of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee on the proposal

LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The recording of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee meeting (15th October 2020) is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=klk36by7C0w&feature=youtu.be>

131 PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A NEW CENTRE FOR LEARNING AND WELLBEING AND A SPECIALIST RESOURCE BASE AT GLADSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL WHICH WOULD BE MANAGED BY YSGOL Y DERI FROM SEPTEMBER 2021 (DLS) -

The 21st Century Schools Project Manager presented the report, the purpose of which was to advise Committee of the Council's proposal to transform specialist education in the Vale of Glamorgan, and to receive their feedback to form part of a consultation report which would in turn be considered by Cabinet following the completion of the consultation exercise.

The Officer advised that on 7th September 2020 the Director of Learning and Skills launched the consultation on the proposal to establish a Centre for Learning and Wellbeing and a specialist resource base at Gladstone Primary School which would be managed by Ysgol Y Deri from September 2021. The consultation document, which was contained with its appendices at Appendix A to the report, had been issued to prescribed consultees as outlined in the School Organisation Code 2018, and outlined the Council's 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 and Wellbeing pupils on the Court Road Depot site in Barry from January 2023.

The Officer provided some more detail regarding each element of the proposal, the consultation for which was due to close on 18th October 2020. Consultees had been asked to note whether they were in support, against, or had no opinion in relation to the three different strands of the proposal, and the Officer reported that of the responses which had been received to date, the overwhelming majority had been positive across all three strands with only four key issues identified, which were;

- opposition to losing the skills and expertise of the existing staff at Y Daith;
- ensuring that pupils who are in Education Other Than At School (EOTAS) were included as part of the proposal;
- the capacity of the proposed site may not be sufficient; and
- some pupils had been unsure regarding the proposed name of the school.

The Officer addressed each concern in turn, assuring Members that all staff at Y Daith would transfer to the new Centre for Learning and Wellbeing as of September 2021, that EOTAS provision would remain under the management of the Council and resources retained centrally, that the proposed capacity of 60 pupils was consistent

with the number currently on roll at Y Daith but the site was large and the Centre could be expanded upon if necessary, and that while the proposed Centre would form part of Ysgol y Deri it would have its own building, name and identity.

Discussion ensued, with the consensus amongst Members being that this was an excellent scheme to be endorsed and applauded. The Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration, with permission to speak, added that the development of a Centre for Learning and Wellbeing had been a long-held ambition and highlighted the importance of recognising that not all children fitted the same mould, and as such there was a need to provide more support and expertise in this area.

There being no further comments from Members it was subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T the Committee note the consultation document and the relevant appendices on the proposal to establish a Centre for Learning and Wellbeing and a specialist resource base at Gladstone Primary School which would be managed by Ysgol Y Deri from September 2021.

(2) T H A T the Committee endorse the proposal and their feedback be considered by Cabinet as part of the consultation report which would be developed following the completion of the consultation exercise.

Reasons for Recommendations

(1) To ensure that the Committee is consulted on the proposal.

(2) To ensure feedback received from the Committee is considered by Cabinet as part of the consultation report.

Annex G – Response from the governing body of Ysgol Y Deri

Your Full Name: *B T Exell on behalf of the Governing Body*

Postcode: *CF64 2TP*

Governor* X

Please confirm which school/s you are affiliated with:

Ysgol Y Deri

1. Do you support the proposal to transform specialist education? (Please indicate your response to each part below)

A) By establishing a new resource base at Gladstone primary school as a satellite of Ysgol Y Deri from September 2021

Yes X

No

No opinion either way

Please explain why:

The governors are aware that over the previous year the involvement of YYD has led to a successful provision being established at Gladstone school with identified benefits for both pupils and staff. Incorporating this provision formally into the purview of the leadership and governance of YYD would hopefully bring greater benefits for both establishments.

B) By discontinuing Y Daith and establishing a new Centre for Learning & Wellbeing under the management of Ysgol Y Deri from September 2021

Yes X

No

No opinion either way

Please explain why:

The Governors recognise the strides made through the Vale of Glamorgan social emotional and mental health action plan and within this plan the involvement of the Engagement Service currently within the purview of YYD. It recognises that pupils can be placed at YYD for whom the provision is inappropriate and therefore specialist provision is a necessity, although the school has expertly managed those few pupils with complex needs currently placed.

Yet it is this part of the consultation which created most angst amongst the governing body It envisages that it will be a suitable site for learners with significant behavioural, mental health issues and high levels of anxiety, some of the Authority's most vulnerable learners. The consultation also registers that the new facility would cater for those pupils for which the authority currently has inadequate provision to meet their needs. The curriculum envisaged for these learners requires not only specialist subject skills but also specialist teaching skills.

The incorporation of Y Daith into YYD is limited to a few brief paragraphs. It is of vital importance for this proposal to be a success that there needs to be significant discussions before this is implemented. Yet the proposed time scale within the documentation for the transfer of responsibility also looks very challenging, made

more so by the requirement to manage the consequences of Covid-19. The Governing Body would welcome sight of the critical path which underlies this timetable, and the opportunity to comment on it.

The Governors have already identified a number of significant risks and would need these to be addressed.

C) By constructing a new building for the Centre for Learning & Wellbeing pupils on the Court Road Depot site in Barry from January 2023.

Yes X with caveats set out below.

No

No opinion either way

Please explain why:

For many years the quality of education, resources and facilities at pupil referral units has been the Cinderella of education services throughout the country. The Governing Body welcomes the proposal for a specialist centre adopting a more forward-thinking approach to the education of those pupils for whom this provision is necessary. It also endorses that specialist teaching facilities are necessary for these pupils

2. If you would like to suggest any changes or alternatives to the proposals, please detail these below.

While endorsing the proposals these will not be achieved without appropriate funding. Within the documentation that is a dichotomy, £589K is identified for approximately 10 pupils at the SRB and that of £989K for approximately 90 pupils at the CL&W. No mention of the costs which the Authority currently incurs with out-of-County placements is incorporated within the documentation, although these pupils are expected to be catered for within the new resource. Whilst much has been done there must be recognition of the pressure this would place on senior staff and governors.

Throughout this consultation no consideration is given to the necessity of the additional services required that would be vital to its success. Psychological and therapy provision, and where appropriate nursing, must be incorporated within the parameters of the project. Without this commitment and detail the aspirations for the new provision will not be met. Merely moving the current staff and pupils to a new building will not address the fundamental issues surrounding the current PRU. The Governing Body would neither support nor endorse a proposal that sets up the new provision to fail.

3. Any other comments?

The proposal to transform specialist education with the responsibility coming under the umbrella of its special school is one to be applauded, although there are a number of caveats which have to be acknowledged and worked through.

Governors are proud of YYD, with much credit due to the management and staff of the school, and to the Vale of Glamorgan for developing and supporting the school.

In the sections assessing the proposal and their implications, the focus is on the

proposed CL&W and SRB. The Governing Body sees merit in the proposals to improve provision in these areas. Currently YYD is very large by SEN standards. The Governors recognise that continued expansion of the scale of activity which it manages raises challenges and risks and they would hope that these do not impact adversely on the quality of education currently received by pupils. Similarly, there must be no dilution of the quality of leadership currently enjoyed at YYD. Given the highly complex nature of each offering, an enormous level of responsibility is being placed on the leadership, staff & governing body at YYD to manage under its umbrella. This needs detailed consideration should the proposal be implemented. The Governing Body also expects the Authority to recognise and endorse an early expansion of the leadership team to take these proposals forward. It does not wish to be in the position experienced five years ago where the leadership team were expected to manage three schools and build a fourth.

The Governing Body were deeply concerned that the consultation did not recognise these risks or address how they might be addressed. The disadvantages identified within the consultation only merited a single item recognising that the management of staff and resources maybe disrupted during the implementation. Past experience is that these aspects are seriously disrupting. The only risks identified was that of the number of pupils with SEMH would Increase beyond the capacity of the initial proposed site and that of managing traffic. It is again deeply concerning that no consideration has been given to the necessity of developing appropriate staffing structures and the appropriate streams of funding necessary.

Given the legal responsibilities placed upon a governing body the incorporation of an Engagement Service, Specialist Resource Base and Y Daith, is in addition to its current responsibility for YYD and the foreseeable expansion to develop a specialist primary school alongside transforming YYD into a secondary provision places a significant workload onto the leadership team and the Governing Body for which they must be prepared.

The Governors recognise that the success or failure of this project relies on an appropriate level of funding. If the Vale of Glamorgan is to meet its ambition to ensure all its pupils that all its pupils have every opportunity to attain the best possible outcomes, then it must work alongside Welsh Government not only for Capital Funding but also sufficient Revenue expenditure.

Finally, the Governing Body were not unanimous in supporting this proposal and all expressed deep concerns that the consultation does not sufficiently address the detail of how this plan would be effectively operationalised. Yet it remains the Governing Body's wish to work in partnership with the Authority to transform its specialist educational provision to best meet the needs of its most vulnerable learners.