Neath Port Talbot
Castell-nedd Port Talbot
County Borough Council Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol

Education, Leisure & Lifelong Learning Service
Strategic School Improvement Programme

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

PROPOSAL TO REORGANISE ALN PROVISION WITHIN THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.



Large print and alternative format or language versions of this document are available on request

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Introduction

What is this report about?

This document is for parents/carers, school staff, school governors and anyone who has an interest in education in Neath Port Talbot.

It sets out details of the proposed reorganisation of ALN provision within the local authority with the following proposals:

1. Establish a 16 place communication and interaction difficulties Learning Support Centre (LSC) for pupils aged 11-16 in the new build Llangatwg Community Comprehensive School. Main Road, Neath, SA10 8DB with effect from September 2028.
2. Establish a 16 place communication and interaction difficulties Learning Support Centre (LSC) for pupils aged 3-11 in the new build Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Rhosafan, Marine Drive, Port Talbot, SA12 7NN with effect from September 2027.

The background to our proposal

The Council is responsible for promoting high educational standards and for delivering efficient primary and secondary education. Having the right schools in the right place and ensuring that they are fit for the 21st century learner is the challenge facing the Council. Achieving this will involve reviewing the number and type of schools the Council has in its area and assessing whether or not best use is being made of resources and facilities. This will include ensuring suitable provision for those pupils with special educational needs/additional learning needs.

Implementing the Strategic School Improvement Programme (SSIP) involves reviewing existing provision and determining the number and type of schools needed to deliver education effectively and efficiently across the County Borough. It will most likely lead to substantial change involving opening new schools, closing existing schools, merging or amalgamating schools, federating schools and promoting new initiatives that support collaborative working between schools. It will also involve re-organising education provision to ensure pupils gain access to and benefit from the specialist support, skills and expertise available within the County Borough.

The Council has decided to review its provision on the basis of:

- the need for places and the accessibility of schools
- educational standards
- the quality and suitability of school accommodation
- effective financial management

Since the academic year 2023/24, additional planned places have been secured in line with identified need:

- 16 additional planned places for pupils with communication and interaction difficulties/Autism Spectrum Disorder at Blaenhonddan Primary School.
- 12 additional planned places for pupils with cognition and learning needs and 3 additional planned places for pupils with communication and interaction difficulties at Ysgol Hendrefelin Special School.
- 3 additional planned places for pupils with communication and interaction difficulties at Waunceirch Primary School.
- An additional 40 planned places at Ysgol Maes Y Coed Special School for learners with Severe to Profound Multiple Learning Difficulties.
- The language medium of the Learning Support Centre (LSC) within YGG Trebannws has changed to Welsh.
- Approval to establish a 16 place Cognition and Learning LSC for pupils aged 11-16 at Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera Bro Dur with effect from September 2027.

Ensuring suitable provision for pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) will involve reviewing the number and type of schools the Council has in its area and assessing whether or not best use is being made of resources and facilities.

Recent work on reviewing the number and type of planned places and assessment provision across Neath Port Talbot has indicated that at primary level, the greatest area of need and therefore demand on specialist provision for the next 3 years remains in relation to Communication and Interaction difficulties, in addition to Severe and Profound Multiple Learning Difficulties (SLD/ PMLD). At secondary level, the greatest area of need and therefore demand on specialist provision for the next 3 years is also in relation to

Communication and Interaction (ASD) difficulties, in addition to Cognition and Learning difficulties (MLD/ SLD) and Behaviour, Emotional and Social Development (BESD) needs.

It has also become evident that there is an increasing need for Welsh-medium specialist provisions at both primary and secondary level.

The proposal seeks to complement the specialist provision and support already available within the County Borough.

The proposal and schools affected

It is intended to reorganise ALN provision within the local authority in order to alleviate the current pressure on long-term places by implementing the following:

I. **It is proposed to establish a 16 place communication and interaction difficulties Learning Support Centre (LSC) for pupils aged 11-16 in the new build Llangatwg Community Comprehensive School with effect from September 2028.**

   Llangatwg Community Comprehensive School is located on Main Road, Cadoxton, Neath, SA10 8DB. It is an English-medium, mixed comprehensive secondary school for pupils aged 11 to 16 years. A new purpose-built school is currently under construction on the existing site, with Phase 1 due for completion in summer 2028.

   The new build Llangatwg Community Comprehensive School is currently under construction on the existing site, with Phase 1 due for completion in summer 2028. The new school will include a Learning Support Centre comprising two classrooms. In response to the demand for specialist provision places, it is proposed that a Communication and Interaction Difficulties LSC be established on this site to accommodate 16 pupils aged 11-16.

The existing school has capacity for 1,169 full-time pupils aged 11-16. As of PLASC 2026, 779 full-time pupils attend the school. Currently, the school does not have a Learning Support Centre. The new build school will provide capacity for 850 full-time pupils and, subject to approval, a further 16 ALN places within a purpose-built Learning Support Centre.

Full-time pupil numbers at the school are predicted to decrease over the next five years as shown in table 1.

Table 1

	Actual NOR at Jan 2026	Projected NOR at Jan 2027	Projected NOR at Jan 2028	Projected NOR at Jan 2029	Projected NOR at Jan 2030	Projected NOR at Jan 2031
F/T	779	773	744	702	680	600

Historical full-time pupil numbers are shown in table 2.

Table 2

F/T	2021/2022	2022/ 2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
	769	755	787	750	779

Llangatwg Community Comprehensive School was last inspected by Estyn in 2025. A summary of the judgements can be found below:

Overall Performance

Llangatwg Community School is a supportive and inclusive school where pupils generally feel safe, valued and well cared for. Many pupils make at least adequate progress in their learning, with a few making strong progress. Strengths include numeracy provision, reading development, curriculum design, pastoral support, careers education and ALN provision.

Well-being

The school provides a warm and nurturing environment with strong relationships between staff and pupils. Most pupils behave well, feel safe and know where to seek support. Pupil voice is well developed and pupils

have opportunities to influence school life. Behaviour systems are having an increasingly positive impact, providing a strong foundation for the school's continued work to improve attendance and reduce persistent absence.

Care, Support and Guidance

Care, support and guidance are comprehensive and are a significant strength of the school. Effective pastoral systems, safeguarding arrangements, ALN provision and support from external agencies help meet pupils' individual needs. Transition arrangements from primary school are particularly effective, and careers education provides valuable opportunities and guidance for learners. Support for vulnerable pupils and those at risk of exclusion is highly effective.

Leadership and Management

The recently appointed headteacher has established a clear vision and has quickly gained the confidence of the school community. Leaders have successfully improved areas such as safeguarding, staff morale, reading and numeracy provision, transition arrangements and pupil support. However, leadership roles and responsibilities are not always clear, leading to weaknesses in strategic leadership, particularly around attendance and improvement planning. Professional learning opportunities are highly valued and provide a strong foundation for further strengthening the precision and strategic focus of improvement planning.

Overall Concise Summary

Llangatwg Community School is a caring, welcoming and inclusive school with strong pastoral support, effective safeguarding, high-quality ALN and careers provision, and a broad curriculum that meets learners' needs well. Leadership has successfully improved several key aspects of the school's work and established a positive culture. The school is well placed to build on these strengths through continued development of teaching and assessment, attendance, strategic improvement planning, and clarity of accountability within leadership structures.

The full Estyn report can be found here: [Inspection report Llangatwg Community School 2025]

II. **It is proposed to establish a 16 place communication and interaction difficulties Learning Support Centre (LSC) for pupils aged 3-11 in the new build Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Rhosafan with effect from September 2027.**

Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Rhosafan is located on Marine Drive, Sandfields, Port Talbot, SA12 7NN. It is a Welsh-medium primary school for pupils aged 3 to 11 years and plays an important role in supporting and promoting Welsh-medium education within Neath Port Talbot. The school currently serves the Sandfields community and is undergoing a significant redevelopment, with a new purpose-built school under construction.

Currently, the existing school does not have a Learning Support Centre. The new build Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Rhosafan is currently under construction, with Phase 1 due for completion in summer 2027. The new school will include a Learning Support Centre comprising two classrooms. In response to the demand for specialist provision places, it is proposed that a Communication and Interaction Difficulties LSC be established on this site to accommodate 16 pupils aged 3-11.

Full-time pupil numbers (Reception-Year 6) at the school are predicted to increase over the next five years as shown in table 3.

Table 3

	Actual NOR at Jan 2026	Projected NOR at Jan 2027	Projected NOR at Jan 2028	Projected NOR at Jan 2029	Projected NOR at Jan 2030	Projected NOR at Jan 2031
F/T	330	351	345	346	350	375

Historical full-time pupil numbers are shown in table 4.

Table 4

F/T	2021/2022	2022/ 2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
	319	321	317	328	330

Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Rhosafan was last inspected in 2022. A summary of the judgements can be found below:

Overall Performance (Learning and Teaching)

Pupils make strong and consistent progress in literacy, numeracy and digital competence skills. Most develop confidence in Welsh and English, enjoy learning and achieve well across a broad range of stimulating experiences. Teaching is generally effective, with strong staff collaboration and well-planned learning opportunities. However, Estyn identified that expectations are not consistently high enough in all classes and some independent activities do not challenge pupils to achieve their full potential.

Wellbeing

Wellbeing is a significant strength of the school. Pupils feel safe, valued and included within a highly supportive environment. They demonstrate excellent behaviour, respect for others, resilience and positive attitudes to learning. Pupils have a strong voice in school life, understand children's rights well and actively contribute to their school and wider community.

Care, Support and Guidance

The school provides exceptionally strong care and support. Staff know pupils and their families very well and place a high priority on emotional wellbeing. Comprehensive wellbeing programmes, effective ALN provision, inclusive practices and strong safeguarding arrangements ensure that pupils receive appropriate support to overcome barriers to learning and participate fully in school life.

Leadership and Management

Leadership is highly effective and provides a clear strategic direction centred on wellbeing, achievement and community. The headteacher and staff have established a caring and ambitious culture, supported by governors and strong engagement with parents. Self-evaluation and improvement processes are effective, although the report notes that evaluation evidence could be more detailed and quantitative to strengthen future improvement planning. Resources and funding are managed effectively to support pupil outcomes and wellbeing.

Concise Overall Evaluation

Estyn found that Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Rhosafan is a caring, inclusive and well-led school where pupils are happy, safe and make good progress. Particular strengths include pupils' wellbeing, the quality of care and support, staff knowledge of pupils' needs, and strong leadership. Areas for improvement relate to ensuring consistently high expectations and providing greater challenge for all pupils in independent learning activities.

The full report can be read here: Inspection report Ysgol GG Rhos-Afan 2022

Impact of the proposals on teaching and learning, well-being, care, support, guidance, and leadership

Teaching and Learning

The proposals are likely to have a positive impact on teaching and learning by increasing specialist provision for pupils with communication and interaction difficulties and ensuring that provision better reflects identified demand across both primary and secondary sectors. The establishment of Learning Support Centres (LSCs) at Llangatwg Community Comprehensive School and Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Rhosafan would provide pupils with access to specialist teaching, targeted interventions and appropriately skilled staff within mainstream school settings. This should support improved engagement, progress and access to the curriculum for learners with additional learning needs (ALN).

The proposals would also reduce pressure on existing specialist provisions, enabling resources and expertise to be deployed more effectively across the local authority. Failure to implement the proposals would mean opportunities for pupils to access specialist staff and support, early intervention and Welsh-language specialist provision would not be fully realised. Host schools are also expected to benefit from the presence of specialist staff, increasing professional learning opportunities and building capacity across the wider workforce. Under the status quo, existing specialist provisions would remain at or near capacity, increasing the likelihood of pupils being placed in less suitable provision and reducing the authority's ability to meet identified needs effectively.

Well-being, Care, Support and Guidance

The proposals are likely to have a strong positive impact on pupils' wellbeing, care, support and guidance. The additional specialist places would improve access to appropriate support for pupils with communication and interaction difficulties, helping ensure that learners receive provision tailored to their needs in a suitable educational environment. This would alleviate pressure on specialist places and help prevent pupils being placed in less suitable or out-of-county provision.

The Welsh-medium LSC at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Rhosafan would further enhance wellbeing by enabling pupils to access specialist support through the medium of Welsh, supporting continuity in their educational experience and maintaining opportunities to develop Welsh-language skills.

Leadership and Management

The proposals demonstrate strategic leadership and planning in response to identified demand for specialist ALN provision. They align with the Council's Strategic School Improvement Programme and are based on a review of need, educational standards, accommodation suitability and effective use of resources. The proposals also make effective use of purpose-built specialist accommodation already being provided within the new school developments.

The demand for communication and interaction provision remains high despite recent increases in specialist places, indicating that the proposals are evidence-based and designed to address a clear strategic need. The creation of additional specialist provision is also expected to strengthen workforce capacity

through additional employment opportunities and greater access to specialist expertise within mainstream schools.

Leadership risks include securing appropriately skilled staff, managing stakeholder concerns and ensuring successful integration of the new provisions. Nevertheless, the proposals are supported by impact assessments, risk management processes and medium-term strategic planning.

Overall Evaluation

Overall, the proposals are likely to have a positive impact across all three Estyn inspection areas. They would increase access to specialist ALN provision, improve opportunities for pupils to receive support that meets their needs, strengthen Welsh-medium specialist provision and build capacity within mainstream schools. While there are implementation and staffing risks, the proposals represent a proactive and strategic response to increasing demand and are likely to improve outcomes, inclusion and support for learners with communication and interaction difficulties across Neath Port Talbot.

The proposals are also expected to have a positive impact on the delivery of the full curriculum by increasing specialist ALN provision and ensuring that learners with communication and interaction difficulties can access appropriate support within mainstream school settings. This will improve access to learning, specialist interventions and tailored support, helping pupils to engage more effectively with the curriculum.

The proposals will also enhance specialist expertise within the host schools, supporting staff development and strengthening inclusive teaching practices. In addition, the Welsh-medium Learning Support Centre at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Rhosafan will enable learners to access specialist support through the medium of Welsh while continuing to access the full curriculum. Overall, the proposals are expected to improve curriculum access, inclusion and educational outcomes for learners with ALN.

Expected benefits and disadvantages of the proposal

The proposals would provide significant benefits compared with maintaining the status quo. Establishing two new 16-place Communication and Interaction Difficulties Learning Support Centres (LSCs) would increase specialist ALN capacity across the county borough and help meet growing demand for specialist provision. The proposals would enable more learners to access appropriate placements closer to home, reduce pressure on existing specialist settings, and lessen reliance on independent or out-of-county provision. They would also strengthen Welsh-medium ALN provision through the creation of a Welsh-medium LSC at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Rhosafan, ensuring greater equity of access to specialist support through the medium of Welsh. In addition, the proposals would make effective use of purpose-built accommodation within the new school developments and support inclusive education by allowing learners to benefit from specialist support while remaining connected to mainstream school communities.

The proposals may also deliver wider strategic benefits, including increased specialist expertise within schools, additional employment opportunities, and improved outcomes for learners with communication and interaction difficulties. Equality, Welsh language and community impact assessments have not identified any significant adverse impacts, and the additional specialist capacity could reduce the risk of disputes or tribunal appeals arising from difficulties in securing appropriate provision for learners with ALN.

However, the proposals also present some disadvantages when compared with the status quo. The new provisions would create additional annual revenue costs, estimated at approximately £332,272 for the secondary provision and £321,120 for the primary provision when operating at full capacity, with no identified funding currently available within existing budgets. There may also be challenges in recruiting suitably qualified specialist staff.

By contrast, maintaining the status quo would avoid these additional financial and operational pressures. However, it would not address the identified shortage of specialist ALN places, would limit opportunities for Welsh-medium specialist provision, and would fail to maximise the benefits of the specialist facilities being delivered through the new school developments. Overall, while the proposals involve additional costs and implementation risks, they provide a

more sustainable long-term solution to meeting the growing demand for specialist ALN provision and are considered to offer greater overall benefits than retaining the current arrangements.

The LSC provisions will be managed by the schools and be under the school's governance. However it will be a provision recognised by the Council as reserved for pupils with ALN and pupils admitted to the LSC provisions would be in addition to the admission number of the school. Admission to the provisions would be via a special admission panel of the Council and specific entry and exit criteria would apply.

What options have been considered?

The Council has the responsibility for ensuring that it is making the most effective use of resources and facilities in order to deliver the very best educational opportunities for children and young people.

The following options have been considered for each of the changes within this proposal:

I. Proposal to establish a 16 place communication and interaction difficulties Learning Support Centre (LSC) for pupils age 11-16 in the new build Llangatwg Community Comprehensive School with effect from September 2028.

Option 1- **status quo, maintain existing provision in Neath Port Talbot**

If the proposed LSC is not established at Llangatwg Community Comprehensive School, existing specialist provision across the local authority is likely to remain under pressure, with reduced capacity to meet the identified demand for secondary-age pupils with Communication and Interaction Difficulties/ASD. This may result in pupils being placed in less suitable provision, increased reliance on alternative or out-of-county placements, and potential additional pressure on transport and education budgets. It would also represent a missed opportunity to make effective use of the specialist accommodation being delivered as part of the new school build.

This option is not preferred by officers.

Option 2- **Establish a 16 place communication and interaction difficulties Learning Support Centre (LSC) for pupils age 11-16 in the new build Llangatwg Community Comprehensive School with effect from September 2028.**

Establishing a Communication and Interaction Difficulties LSC at Llangatwg Community Comprehensive School would increase the availability of specialist secondary provision within Neath Port Talbot and help meet the identified demand for pupils aged 11–16 with Communication and Interaction Difficulties/ASD. The proposal would support more appropriate local placements, reduce pressure on existing specialist provision, and make effective use of the purpose-built accommodation being delivered as part of the new school build. It would also contribute to the Council's wider Strategic School Improvement Programme by ensuring that pupils with ALN can access suitable specialist support within a mainstream secondary school setting.

This option is preferred by officers.

II. Proposal to establish a 16 place communication and interaction difficulties Learning Support Centre (LSC) for pupils age 3-11 in the new build Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Rhosafan with effect from September 2027.

Option 1- **status quo, maintain existing provision in Neath Port Talbot**

If the proposed LSC is not established at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Rhosafan, existing specialist provision across the local authority is likely to remain under pressure, with reduced capacity to meet the identified demand for primary-age pupils with Communication and Interaction Difficulties. This would also limit the availability of Welsh-medium specialist provision for pupils aged 3–11, potentially resulting in pupils being placed in less suitable English-medium, alternative or out-of-county provision. As a result, pupils may have reduced opportunity to access specialist support through the medium of Welsh, and the

Council would miss an opportunity to make effective use of the specialist accommodation being delivered as part of the new school build.

This option is not preferred by officers.

Option 2- **Establish a 16 place communication and interaction difficulties Learning Support Centre (LSC) for pupils age 3-11 in the new build Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Rhosafan with effect from September 2027.**
Establishing a Communication and Interaction Difficulties LSC at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Rhosafan would increase the availability of Welsh-medium specialist primary provision within Neath Port Talbot and help meet the identified demand for pupils aged 3–11. The proposal would support more appropriate local placements, reduce pressure on existing specialist provision, and ensure that pupils with ALN are able to access specialist support through the medium of Welsh. It would also make effective use of the purpose-built accommodation being delivered as part of the new school build and contribute to the Council's wider Strategic School Improvement Programme by strengthening Welsh-medium ALN provision within a mainstream primary school setting.

This option is preferred by officers.

The quality of the school building and accommodation

Overall the schools are currently graded as follows:

Llangatwg Community Comprehensive School - The existing school is currently assessed as condition grade C; however, the proposed new Learning Support Centre will be accommodated within the new build school, which will be condition grade A.

Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Rhosafan- The existing school is currently assessed as condition grade C-; however, the proposed new Learning Support Centre will be accommodated within the new build school, which will be condition grade A.

There is no transfer or disposal of land or buildings that arise as a result of the proposal and there are no capital receipts or recurrent costs savings directly related to this proposal other than savings from potential home education/out-of-county placement costs.

What is the impact on pupils and parents of the proposal?

The proposed new provisions will increase the opportunity for primary and secondary pupils to access support in a specialist setting. The provisions will enable pupils to acquire the skills and understanding to manage their individual behaviours and learning requirements.

It should also provide greater opportunities for working with and providing support for parents and carers.

The proposed specialist provisions will be accessible to pupils from across the County Borough.

What is the impact on the workforce?

The proposals are expected to have a neutral to positive impact on the workforce. Existing staff employed within the schools would not be adversely affected by the establishment of the new Learning Support Centres. Instead, the additional specialist provision is expected to create new employment opportunities through an increased staffing complement required to support the centres.

The proposals may also provide wider workforce benefits by increasing access to specialist expertise within the host schools. Mainstream schools would benefit from additional specialist support and training, helping to improve staff skills, build capacity and strengthen inclusive practice.

What is the impact on travel arrangements?

Pupils' travel needs will be assessed in line with the Council's Home to School Transport policy. Primary age pupils living 2 miles or more from the provision will be considered for assistance with travel costs.

Under the School Travel Plan requirements, all schools, together with the Council's Road Safety Team, are committed to:

- improving road safety within the local community
- raising awareness about travel issues
- encouraging walking, cycling and public transport for the school journey where applicable
- encouraging independent travel where applicable

All affected schools are well-established schools with established walking routes for children.

Impact on additional learning needs provision

The proposed reorganisation will have a positive impact on additional learning needs provision within the local authority.

The proposal seeks to complement the specialist provision and support already available within the County Borough. The specialist provisions will form part of a continuum of support.

Pupils at the proposed provisions will benefit from being taught by specialist staff, experienced in working with pupils with ALN needs. These facilities will be for pupils in receipt of a statement of SEN/ Local Authority Maintained IDP and who require longer-term provision.

The proposed provisions will alleviate the current pressure to address demand for places for pupils with ALN, avoiding potential costly out of county placements and allowing opportunities for children to access learning within their local community.

What is the impact on Welsh medium education?

All local authorities in Wales now have to produce a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP). This document indicates how the local authority intends to promote the teaching of the Welsh Language, how it intends working towards increasing the number of children taught through the medium of Welsh and how it can assist achieving the Welsh Government's target of having one million people in Wales speaking Welsh by 2050.

The proposals are expected to have a positive impact on Welsh-medium education. The establishment of a new Welsh-medium Communication and Interaction Difficulties Learning Support Centre (LSC) at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Rhosafan will increase the availability of Welsh-medium specialist provision for primary-aged pupils with ALN and enable learners to access specialist support through the medium of Welsh.

The Welsh Language Impact Assessment concludes that the proposals will strengthen the local continuum of Welsh-medium provision, help meet identified demand for Welsh-medium ALN support, and reduce the need for pupils to access English-medium or out-of-county placements. This will support pupils to continue developing their Welsh language skills within an appropriate specialist setting.

Overall, the proposals are likely to have a positive effect on the Welsh language by improving access to Welsh-medium ALN provision, supporting the Council's commitment to promoting Welsh-medium education, and ensuring that Welsh-speaking learners can receive appropriate specialist support without leaving the Welsh-medium sector. No adverse impacts on the Welsh language have been identified.

What is the financial impact?

The following financial impacts have been identified.

I. Proposal to establish a 16 place communication and interaction difficulties Learning Support Centre (LSC) for pupils age 11-16 in the new build Llangatwg Community Comprehensive School with effect from September 2028.

The cost of 16 Band F places when the LSC is at full capacity is approximately **£ 332,272.**
Capital costs have been funded through the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme.

II. Proposal to establish a 16 place communication and interaction difficulties Learning Support Centre (LSC) for pupils age 3-11 in the new build Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Rhosafan with effect from September 2027.

The cost of 16 Band F places when the LSC is at full capacity is approximately **£321,120.**
Capital costs have been funded through the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme.

The Council will need to include these additional costs in its medium term financial planning arrangements as there is no current funding identified. It is also likely that there will be a potential increase in home to school transport costs which again will need to be planned for once the cost can be estimated.

Integrated Impact Assessment and Welsh Language Impact Assessment

An impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The assessment has indicated that there is no adverse effect on any particular group and the process has checks and monitoring in place to ensure that any unmet need is identified, and any potential adverse effect is fully evaluated and impact mitigated.
Implementing the proposals will break down barriers and aid the elimination of discrimination, harassment and victimisation. All proposals are inclusive for

pupils of all backgrounds. The proposals will promote the understanding of the needs of different groups.

The Welsh Language Impact Assessment has identified that the proposals are likely to have a positive impact on the Welsh language, particularly through the establishment of a Welsh-medium Communication and Interaction Difficulties Learning Support Centre at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Rhosafan. This would increase the availability of Welsh-medium specialist provision for primary-age pupils with Additional Learning Needs and support pupils to access appropriate education and specialist support through the medium of Welsh.
The proposals would also support the Council's wider commitment to promoting Welsh-medium education by strengthening the local continuum of Welsh-medium provision and helping to meet identified demand. No adverse impacts on the Welsh language have been identified. The proposals provide an opportunity to improve access to Welsh-medium ALN provision, reduce the need for pupils to access English-medium or out-of-county placements, and ensure that pupils are able to continue developing their Welsh language skills in an appropriate specialist setting.

What are the legal impacts?

This proposal constitutes a regulated alteration requiring the statutory publication of the proposal. The School Standards & Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 (the Act) provides the legislative framework by which the Council may implement a proposal. The Welsh Government's School Organisation Code, March 2026, made under Sections 38 and 39 of the Act, imposes on the Council requirements and guidelines on matters relating to school organisation. The Council's procedures are in line with legislative requirements.

Pupil travel arrangements will be in line with the requirements of the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008; the Learner Travel Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance 2014; and the Council's Home to School Travel Policy, 2027-28.

Revenue funding will be in line with the requirements of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998; the School Funding (Wales) Regulations 2010; and the Council's approved formula for funding schools.

Impact on community usage

The proposal should have no adverse impact on community usage at the schools as there is no closure or reduction in community facilities involved with this proposal. The provisions will be self-contained provisions within the school and therefore will have no impact on the school's operation regarding community usage.

Valleys Communities Impacts

The impact on Neath Port Talbot's valley communities will be the same as all other areas of the County Borough as the provisions admit pupils from across the whole of the county borough.

Risk Management

The council is committed to a proactive approach to risk management and recognises risk management is an essential part of delivering good governance and reduces the uncertainty of achieving the council's vision, purpose and priorities, as set out in the Corporate Strategy.
Potential risk areas in implementing the proposal include:

- educational outcomes for pupils are not improved
- integration at a provision is unsuccessful
- negative response from parents of host schools
- negative response from parents of pupils to be accommodated at the provisions

- discrimination against protected characteristics resulting in a negative impact on one or more protected groups
- staff with appropriate skills and expertise not available

Failing to implement the proposal will result in a range of teaching/learning and financial benefits not being fully realised, particularly in relation to:

- opportunities for a pupils to access specialist staff and support
- early intervention for younger pupils, reducing the risk of more costly support at a later stage
- access to Welsh language support for pupils with ALN
- host school indirectly benefit from specialist staff on site
- mainstream school benefits from increased support and training in order to improve skills and build capacity

There are also a number of risks to the Local Authority should the proposal not be considered. These include financial risks, reputational damage and an increase in appeals to the Education Tribunal to Wales. Of highest priority, however, is that the needs of the most complex and vulnerable learners are not being met.

Should the proposal not be considered, the Council is also at risk of litigation via Parents' right to appeal to the Education Tribunal Wales. The Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 strengthens Children, Young People and Parents' right to Appeal. Where there is disagreement in relation to ALN and securing provision to meet need, including specialist placement, Parents have the right to appeal a Local Authority decision to the Education Tribunal for Wales. The Educational Tribunal for Wales has the powers to direct a Local Authority to secure provision for a child or young person.

Given that the proposal builds on the experience, skills and expertise that currently exist within the Local Authority, the potential effects of identified risks will be mitigated by implementation of the proposal.

Legal process and consultation

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council is the proposer and the Council wishes to hear the views of all interested parties before deciding whether to progress its proposal. All responses to this consultation will be considered when making its decision and a consultation report will be published following the end of the consultation period. The consultation report will summarise the issues raised by consultees and include a response from the Council. The consultation report will also set out Estyn's view on the proposal.

Having considered the views expressed by interested parties, if the Council decides to proceed with its plan it will publish a statutory proposal. Once the statutory proposal is published there will be a 28 day period to respond in writing, known as the 'objection period'. Only objections submitted during this period will be considered. If objections are received an objection report will be published following the end of the objection period. The report will summarise each objection raised and provide the Council's response.

Please note: *only written objections submitted during the statutory notice period will be considered. Any comment submitted as part of the consultation process will need to be re-submitted in writing during the statutory notice period if it is to be considered as an objection.*

Following the conclusion of the objection period the Council is required to determine the proposal and the matter will go before the Cabinet Board for decision. In its decision making the Cabinet Board will give due consideration to any objections raised alongside the case for the proposal. The proposal will be determined in line with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and associated School Organisation Code 2026.

Process timetable

The consultation process must follow the Welsh Government guidelines as set out in the School Organisation Code 2026.

The Cabinet Board agreed to consult on the proposal on October 21st 2026. Formal consultation will take place during the period from 2nd November to 14th December 2026.

Making comment on the proposal

The purpose of this consultation document is to provide information and to invite views on the Council's proposal to reorganise ALN provision within the local authority with the following proposals:

1. Establish a 16 place communication and interaction difficulties Learning Support Centre (LSC) for pupils aged 11-16 in the new build Llangatwg Community Comprehensive School. Main Road, Neath, SA10 8DB with effect from September 2028.
2. Establish a 16 place communication and interaction difficulties Learning Support Centre (LSC) for pupils aged 3-11 in the new build Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Rhosafan, Marine Drive, Port Talbot, SA12 7NN with effect from September 2027.

If you have questions regarding this consultation document then please contact the Council at the address below.

A full list of those being consulted can be seen below:

List of Consultees	
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Rhosafan, Llangatwg Community Comprehensive School: Pupils Parents / carers Staff Governing Body Wider School Community	NAASH (Secondary Schools Forum
	LLAN (Primary Schools Forum)
	Bordering authorities – Swansea/ Bridgend/ Carmarthenshire/ Powys/ RCT
All other NPT schools	Associated Town Councils and Community Councils
NPT Elected Members	WG Schools Management Division
Diocesan Directors of Education - Diocese of Menevia, Swansa - Diocese of Llandaff, Vale of Glamorgan	MP and MS For Neath
Trade Unions	Regional Members of the Senedd
Estyn	ALN Partners- SNAP, Action for Children, Child and Adult Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Consultant Community Paediatrician, The Children's Centre NPT Hospital (Therapeutic Services), National Autistic Society, NPT Special Needs Support Group
Regional Education Consortium (ERW)	Children and Young Person Partnership (inc.Early Years Development and Childcare)
NPTCBC Integrated Transport Unit	Police and Crime Commissioner
Communities First Partnership	NPTC Officers

Formal consultation will take place during the period**: 2nd November to 14th December 2026.**
Comments on the proposal must be submitted in writing by letter, e-mail or on the comment form attached to this document.
The closing date for responses to this consultation is 14th December 2026.
Unfortunately we will not be able consider any consultation responses received after this date.

Responses should be sent to the following address: **Andrew Thomas, Director of Education Leisure and Lifelong Learning, (marked for the attention of the SSIP Team), Civic Centre, Port Talbot SA13 1PJ** or e-mail to: **SSIP@npt.gov.uk**