

Eich cyf / Your ref: Gofynner am / Please ask for: **Miss Isabelle Mariani**

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Dyddiad/Date: **10/03/2022** E-bost Uniongyrchol / Direct E-mail: IMariani@sirgar.gov.uk
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Dear Consultee,

**Notification of County Council Decision -
Proposal to reconfigure and remodel Behaviour Support Services at Ysgol Rhydygors to improve
provision for children and young people**

On Wednesday 9th March 2022, Carmarthenshire County Council approved the following proposal:

Discontinue Ysgol Rhydygors Special School as of the 31st August 2022.

All former Ysgol Rhydygors pupils will continue to receive their education on the site of the former Ysgol Rhydygors school. Instead of receiving provision in a special school, pupils will be educated in a Pupil Referral Unit (PRU).

Objections to the proposal- No objections were received.

This proposal was considered in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (2018) of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and noted that no objections had been received in respect of the proposal during the statutory objection period.

In determining the proposal the County Council took into account the following factors as outlined in the School Organisation Code 2018 as follows:

Quality and standards in education

It is the authority's opinion that this proposal will maintain and/or improve the present standards of Education. Providing for learners aligned to other Behavioural Emotional and Social Difficulties (BESD) PRUs in the Local Authority provides:

- Clarity of vision and expectation.
- Collaboration and learning amongst staff and leaders, sharing effective practices and evaluating constructively in a self-improving manner.
- Collegiate governance via a management committee, building expertise in relation to the provision required to meet the needs of pupils with BESD, complex or long-term needs.
- An innovative, needs led curriculum, sharing staffing expertise and resources across the PRUs and maximising the shared opportunities that this will enable.
- Flexibility in relation to the deployment of staffing to meet pupils' needs and to lead strategic areas in a distributed manner.

Gareth Morgans, BAdd/BEed; MGw/MSc

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- Economies of scale, providing shared learning experiences for pupils.
- A larger learning community for pupils to develop their social and learning skills in a safe, inspirational yet empathetic environment.
- Provision for learners within Trauma Informed environments where the curriculum is designed to ensure that pupils' wellbeing, social, vocational and academic needs form the basis of all learning experiences.

Need for places and the impact on accessibility of schools

In approving this proposal, the County Council has considered the sufficiency of places and the likely demand for places in the future, along with the demand for Additional Learning Needs (ALN) provision in the county.

Over the past five years there has been an increased demand from mainstream schools requesting specialist BESD PRU placements. The demand is highest for pupils in Year 9 and Key Stage 4. By creating a PRU on the Rhydygors site there will be greater access for schools in the Carmarthen area and further north and west of the county who may not have been able to access PRUs due to location.

With current numbers the primary provision will be transferred into the primary PRU, Canolfan Bro Tywi, located on the same site as the school. There will be four classes for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 pupils in the new PRU.

Resourcing of education

In reaching this decision a number of factors have been taken into account with the main priority to be able to improve outcomes for learners and provide an equitable service for all learners who may need access to specialist BESD provision.

The Council has considered that the PRU will be funded in accordance with the County's current budget process for the other PRU's taking account of pupil numbers and cost of provision. The existing budget for Rhydygors school within the schools delegated budget will transfer to the centrally managed PRU. Should there be any future savings, these would be re-invested within the education service.

Referral of local authority decisions to the Welsh Ministers

Should any of the following bodies believe that an incorrect decision has been made by the local authority then under section 54 of the 2013 Act they may within 28 days refer the proposal to the Welsh Ministers for consideration:-

- Another local authority affected by the proposals;
- The appropriate religious body;
- The governing body of a voluntary or foundation school;
- A trust holding property on behalf of a voluntary or foundation school;
- A further education institution affected by the proposals.

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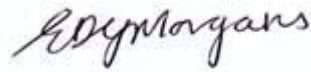
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Please contact Isabelle Mariani of this department if you have any queries.

Yours Sincerely,



Gareth Morgans
Director of Education and Children's Services

Gareth Morgans, BAdd/BEd; MGw/MSc

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