



STATUTORY CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Increase in Ysgol y Gogarth Pupil Numbers



11.06.19 – 24.07.19

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1. Introduction

Ysgol y Gogarth is the only special school in Conwy. It caters for pupils ranging from 3 to 19 years across a broad spectrum of complex special educational needs including: profound and multiple learning difficulties, autistic spectrum disorders and severe learning disability.

Since the School was opened in 2014 there has been a significant demand for special school places which means that the current stated school capacity of 200 is insufficient to meet demand. The School Organisation Code for Wales requires that when the capacity of a Special School is increased by 10% or more a statutory consultation process must be undertaken. This document outlines the proposed changes and seeks the view of the community, potential users and other important stakeholders.

2. The Consultation

The consultation will be held between **11th June 2019 and 24th July 2019**.

The consultation refers only to the increase in special school pupil numbers of Ysgol y Gogarth. Therefore responses to this consultation should comment only on the proposal as described in section 4.

2.1 Consultees

This Consultation Document will be distributed, in accordance with the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code, to the following consultees during the statutory consultation period:

Requirements of the Organisation Code 011/2018	Distributed to:
Parents (and where possible prospective parents), carers and guardians and staff members of schools affected by the proposals	The Head of Ysgol y Gogarth for further distribution to parents, carers, guardians and members of staff – pennaeth@gogarth.conwy.sch.uk
The maintaining or proposed maintaining authority for any school likely to be affected by the proposals.	Conwy County Borough Council is presenting the proposal
any other local authority (including those in England, where appropriate) likely to be affected - including in the case of dedicated SEN provision any authority placing or likely to place pupils with SEN in it;	Denbighshire Council - modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk Gwynedd Council - ModerneiddioAddysg@gwynedd.llyw.cymru Ynys Mon Council - ysgolionmon@anglesey.gov.uk
The Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authority for the area in which any school likely to be affected is located.	Church in Wales St Asaph Diocesan Authority - rosalindwilliams@cinw.org.uk Bangor Diocesan Authority - anestgrayfrazer@churchinwales.org.uk Roman Catholic Diocese of Wrexham - communications@rcdwxm.org.uk
The governing body of any school which is the subject of the proposals	The Governing Body Ysgol y Gogarth – Lorraine.priestley@gogarth.conwy.sch.uk
The Governing Body of any other schools which the proposer considers are likely to be affected by the proposals.	The Governing Bodies of all schools in Conwy
Welsh Ministers	Schoolsmanagementdivision3@gov.wales
Constituency and Regional Assembly Members (AMs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) representing the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals;	mandy.jones@assembly.wales Regional AM Mark.Isherwood@assembly.wales Regional AM Llyr.Gruffydd@assembly.wales Regional AM Michelle.Brown@assembly.wales Regional AM Janet.Finch-Saunders@Assembly.Wales Constituency AM, Aberconwy Jack.Sargeant@assembly.wales Constituency AM, Alyn and Deeside Sian.Gwenllian@assembly.wales Constituency AM, Arfon

	<p>Ken.Skates@assembly.wales Constituency AM, Clwyd South</p> <p>Darren.Millar@assembly.wales Constituency AM, Clwyd West</p> <p>Hannah.Blythyn@assembly.wales Constituency AM, Delyn</p> <p>Ann.Jones@assembly.wales Constituency AM, Vale of Clwyd</p> <p>Lesley.Griffiths@assembly.wales Constituency AM, Wrexham</p> <p>rhun.apiorwerth@assembly.wales Constituency AM, Ynys Môn</p> <p>guto.bebb.mp@parliament.uk MP, Aberconwy Constituency</p> <p>david.jones.mp@parliament.uk MP, Clwyd West Constituency</p>
Estyn	<p>Meilyr Rowlands – Education and Training in Wales Chief Inspector</p> <p>ymholiadau@estyn.llyw.cymru</p>
Teaching and staff trade unions representing teachers and other staff at any school which is the subject of the proposals.	<p>Unions – National Education union - john.owen@neu.org.uk,</p> <p>NAHT - cymru@naht.org.uk</p> <p>NASUWT - rc-wales-ymru@mail.nasuwat.org.uk</p> <p>UCAC - ucac@ucac.cymru</p> <p>UNISON – branchsecretary@unisonconwy.co.uk</p> <p>GMB – mark.jones@gmb.org.uk</p>
Regional Education Consortium	<p>Arwyn Thomas – Chief Officer GwE</p> <p>arwynthomas@gwegogledd.cymru</p>
Police and Crime Commissioner	<p>Arfon Jones – North Wales Police Commissioner</p> <p>OPCC@nthwales.pnn.police.uk</p>
Any community or town council for the area served by the school which is the subject of this proposal.	<p>Llandudno Town Council -</p> <p>towncouncil@llandudno.gov.uk</p>
Local Communities First Partnership	<p>Marianne Jackson, Head of Community Development Service -</p> <p>marianne.jackson@conwy.gov.uk</p>
Relevant Health Bodies with an interest.	<p>Dr Hamilton Grantham – Consultant Community Paediatrician, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board - Hamilton.Grantham@wales.nhs.uk</p>
Other	<p>All Additional Learning Needs staff</p> <p>All Education staff</p>

The consultation document will be published on the Conwy County Borough Council website at: www.conwy.gov.uk/educationconsultations

2.2 Meetings

During the consultation period, Conwy ALN Officers will hold “drop-in” sessions to discuss the proposals with teaching and support staff, parents and carers, members of the public.

Comments received during this statutory consultation period will be considered by the Cabinet before Conwy County Borough Council decide whether or not to continue with the proposal, and whether a Statutory Notice on the proposal should be published.

2.3 Consultation with children and young people

Arrangements will also be made to obtain the views of the children and young people attending Ysgol y Gogarth. A designated session(s) will be arranged with the children and young people at Ysgol y Gogarth.

2.4 Comments: contact address and deadline

You can respond to this consultation by completing the response form (*Appendix A*) at the end of this document. Please address all responses to:

E-mail: School.Modernisation@conwy.gov.uk

Post: Education Services

PO Box 1

Conwy

LL30 9GN

Note – All responses, whether by post or by e-mail, must arrive at Education Services by no later than **17:00** on **24.07.19**

3. Background To The Proposal (Detailed Description of the *Status Quo*)

This proposal relates to Ysgol y Gogarth, Nant y Gamar Road, Llandudno, Conwy, LL30 1YE.

Ysgol y Gogarth is a Community special school. It caters for pupils (3-19 years) across a broad spectrum of complex special educational needs including: profound and

multiple learning difficulties, autistic spectrum disorders and severe learning disability. It forms the most intensive tier of a well-established continuum of additional learning needs support in Conwy.

3.1 Pupil number forecasts and capacity

The current capacity of the school is 200 pupils. This represents an increase from the original published capacity of 185 when the school was built in 2014. The increase to 200 came about as a result of a Business Case that was made in October 2015 to increase the number of funded pupil places at Ysgol y Gogarth from 185 to 200. This case was made following a recognition of steadily increasing pupil numbers beyond the agreed funded places, and the cost to the authority of having to place children in specialist provision out of county. As this increase in capacity was less than 10% of the original capacity and less than 20 pupils, this did not require a Statutory Consultation to be undertaken.

Despite working closely with Ysgol y Gogarth to support inclusion, the numbers of pupils attending the school have continued to increase. The table below shows the trend in numbers during the past few years.

	Planned (funded) Places	Actual Pupils September PLASC FTE	Actual pupils January PLASC FTE
2013-14	170	178	185
2014-15	185	191	200
2015-16	185	202	208
2016-17	200	208	216
2017-18	200	219.5	217.5
2018-19	230	230	234

This increase has been observed from pre-school, with the number of children with significant difficulties in two or more areas of their development being referred to attend the Conwy Child Development Centre being as in the table overleaf:

	Pupils attending CDC
2009-10	18
2010-11	23
2011-12	30
2012-13	33
2013-14	40
2014-15	38
2015-16	46
2016-17	47
2017-18	43
2018-19	29 (so far)

As the increase in numbers is now greater than 10% of the original capacity and greater than 20 pupils, it is necessary to undertake a Statutory Consultation on the proposed increase in pupils for which the school makes provision.

The increases that have been observed so far have been accommodated by relocating Social Care and Education staff who were based in Ysgol y Gogarth and creating two temporary classrooms within the space they have been utilising.

A permanent extension to Ysgol y Gogarth will be built to accommodate the numbers in future.

3.2 Quality & Standards in Education

Ysgol y Gogarth was most recently inspected by Estyn in October 2017, receiving “Excellent” in all Inspection Areas. The Inspection Report summarises *“Pupils at Ysgol y Gogarth respond very positively to the school’s highly effective strategies to support the development of their communication and independence skills. As a result, nearly all pupils make very strong progress over time in relation to their individual needs and*

abilities. Nearly all pupils are polite, courteous and respectful to each other, to staff and to visitors. The school's curriculum meets the needs of pupils particularly well. The extensive range of learning experiences promotes very effectively the development of pupils' ability and maturity as they progress through the school. Teachers, teaching assistants and specialist staff work together outstandingly well to identify pupils' individual needs and ensure that lessons build systematically on their abilities and interests. The school works very successfully with parents and partners to ensure that it provides stimulating opportunities for pupils to develop skills that prepare them very effectively for future life. The Head Teacher and senior leadership team demonstrate outstanding leadership. They have developed a coherent strategic vision for the school that places the most important needs of pupils at the heart of all aspects of the school's work."

Ysgol Y Gogarth remains one of only 2 schools in Wales to have achieved National Autistic Society accreditation and was the first maintained school in Wales to achieve this award.

The proposal will allow Ysgol y Gogarth to continue to deliver an excellent standard of education and the additional space will allow pupils to be educated in appropriate surroundings of sufficient size for their needs. This will enhance their wellbeing during their time in school.

The additional space will allow teachers to improve the learning experiences of the pupils and

4. What is the Proposal?

That the number of pupils for whom Ysgol y Gogarth can make provision is increased from 200 to 260.

If the proposal were to be agreed, the number of pupils for whom Ysgol y Gogarth can make provision would be increased to 260 when the Consultation has been completed. This is likely to be in the Autumn term of the 2019-20 school year. It is proposed therefore that the published capacity of the school is increased from 1st January, 2020.

Alongside the increase in capacity, proposals are in hand to make additional classroom provision available at the school by means of 4 classroom extension. The Welsh Government have already approved capital finance for such an extension in principle and initial project work has commenced.

4.1 Transport arrangements

Transport arrangements will remain unaltered, with all pupils being transported by taxi to Ysgol y Gogarth. We anticipate that taxi numbers should not increase significantly, as most are multi-seater vehicles and would be able to accommodate the increased pupil numbers.

4.2 Staffing

Additional staffing capacity required to meet the current pupil numbers has been provided through the successful revenue Business Case. Should numbers continue to increase in the future, any additional staffing needs would need to be considered as part of a further Business Case.

4.3 Equality Impact Assessment

A full Equality Impact Assessment, including a Community Impact Assessment will be carried out as part of this statutory consultation period. The full assessment will be included within the consultation report which will follow this consultation period.

4.4 Benefits and disadvantages

There are no perceived disadvantages to increasing the pupil numbers at Ysgol y Gogarth to 260 and providing appropriate accommodation through extension of the existing building.

The Senior Leadership Team of the School and Governing Body are committed to this increase in pupil capacity and believe that with appropriate funding, accommodation and planning there should be no adverse impact on standards, teaching and learning experiences, or care support and guidance, all of which were judged as Excellent in the school's recent Estyn Inspection.

The perceived benefits are that all learners in Conwy identified as requiring specialist provision will have equitable access to the County's own excellent provision.

The Local Authority and parents and pupils of will also benefit as if the capacity of the school cannot be increased, some pupils and their parents would face being placed in schools outside of the Conwy County Borough Council area. This could be disruptive for both the pupil and family but would also be costly for the Council.

In addition, the increase in staffing and accommodation for the school can be utilised to support the school's strategic vision in respect of developing Welsh medium provision within the school, and the Authority's Welsh in Education Strategy which includes the objective to ensure that all ALN provision is equitable and fair for all learners whether their first language is Welsh or English.

There is a risk that the demand for Special School places will continue to grow beyond the new proposed capacity. Should this be the case, there will be a need for further developments to take place in the next few years.

4.5 Impact on SEN

The proposal to increase capacity and extend the building would ensure that all children and young people with severe and complex learning disabilities within Conwy

have equitable access to the same high quality and effective learning environment and provision within Conwy.

The perceived benefits are that all learners in Conwy identified as requiring specialist provision will have equitable access to the County's own excellent provision.

From September 2019, the Authority is working with the School to seek other options for accommodating the additional demand on a temporary basis.

However, the Local Authority is now beginning a period of public consultation on the long term increase of pupil numbers at Ysgol y Gogarth, in accordance with the School Organisation Code, and in order to give pupils, parents/carers and members of the public the opportunity to learn about proposed plans to extend the existing school building to create more permanent and purpose built accommodation for the additional pupil numbers.

4.6 Impact on Welsh Medium Provision

The increase in staffing and accommodation for the school can be utilised to support the school's strategic vision in respect of developing Welsh medium provision within the school, and the Authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan which includes the objective to ensure that all ALN provision is equitable and fair for all learners whether their first language is Welsh or English.

4.7 Finance

In order to attain the proposed increase in capacity of 260, it will be necessary to build a four classroom extension to the current building.

The proposed extension was the subject of a successful Business Case to the Welsh Government which allocated £994,560 to the project. Conwy's share of the project cost is £240,640. The remaining sum will be met by the Welsh Government. The revenue business case that made is possible to employ sufficient staff to educate 230 pupils included provision of £11,000 to be used to repay borrowing over a 40 year period.

5. What alternatives have been considered?

5.1 Alternative 1 - Maintain the number of pupils, for whom Ysgol y Gogarth can make provision, at 200

Maintaining the current situation would mean that learners in Conwy identified as requiring specialist provision would not have equitable access to the County's own excellent provision. In addition to being inequitable, this is likely to result in expensive Out of County placements, meaning that children may have to travel

long distances to receive the educational provision they require, which is not in line with the County's vision for the support of children and young people with additional learning needs.

5.2 Alternative 2 – Increase the number of pupils for whom Ysgol y Gogarth can make provision from 200 to 230

Increasing the number of pupils from 200 to 230 would mean that some learners in Conwy identified as requiring specialist provision would not have equitable access to the County's own excellent provision. In addition to being inequitable, this is likely to result in expensive Out of County placements, meaning that some children may have to travel long distances to receive the educational provision they require, which is not in line with the County's vision for the support of children and young people with additional learning needs.

The actual number of pupils as of January, 2019 was 234 (Full Time Equivalent)

Should any consultees wish to offer any other alternative proposal, they should do so using the form in Appendix A at the end of this document

6. Explanation of the Statutory Process

A period of pre-consultation took place with the Governing Body and Head Teacher of Ysgol y Gogarth prior to submission of a report requesting the permission of Cabinet to consult with key stakeholders in respect of the requested increase in published school capacity.

This report was presented to Cabinet on 14.05.19, who supported the recommendation to hold a statutory consultation period, consulting on the above proposal and ensuring that the interests of all parties are considered and addressed.

This is the consultation document which details the background to the proposal to consider the increase in pupil numbers at Ysgol y Gogarth and extension to the existing school building to accommodate these increased numbers. The document will be published on **11th May 2019**, and responses can be received until **17:00 on 24th July**. **At this stage, these responses will not be counted as objections, but comments.** If anyone wishes to object, they must do so following the publication of the statutory notice (should one be issued). During this consultation, responses may include comments or questions on any aspect of the proposal and suggest alternative options.

Following this statutory consultation period, a report will be submitted to the Cabinet where a decision will be made whether to proceed with the proposed extension to the existing school building. This consultation report will summarise the comments and

questions raised by consultees and will be published on the Council's website. All stakeholders, as listed above, will be informed that the consultation report is available.

If the Cabinet decides to proceed following consideration of the consultation report, the favoured option/proposal will have to be issued in the form of a statutory notice. The notice will be published on a school day and there will be an "objection period" of 28 days from when the proposal is published. Anyone can object to the proposals. The notice will be published on the Conwy Council website and in the main reception at Ysgol y Gogarth. Copies will also be sent to the schools to be distributed to pupils, parents, carers and guardians, staff and governors. Hard copies will also be available on request from Conwy Education Services.

After the objection period closes, the Council will publish a summary of the statutory objections and the Council's response to the objections in an "objection report". As above, all key stakeholders will be informed of the availability of this report and where it can be accessed.

The Council Cabinet will make the final decision about the objection report within 28 days of the end of the objection period. When the Cabinet has made its final decision, the decision will be put in writing along with reasons for the decision. The decision will be posted on the Council's website and all key stakeholders informed.

In some instances, following the Cabinet's final decision, it is possible for the following bodies to refer the proposal to the Welsh Ministers for their consideration:

- Another Local Authority affected by the proposal
- Appropriate religious body for any school affected
- Governing body of a voluntary or foundation school which is the subject of proposals
- Any Trust which holds land on behalf of a voluntary or foundation school which is the subject of proposal

The bodies which refer the proposal need to note the reason why they are of the opinion that the decision reached by the Local Authority is incorrect. The Welsh Ministers will decide whether the proposals affect the bodies and whether they need to consider the proposals.

Appendix A

Consultation

Proposal to increase the capacity of Ysgol y Gogarth from 200 to 260

PLEASE RETURN NO LATER THAN 17:00 on 24th July, 2019

To: Dafydd Ifans, Interim Head of Education Services,
Post: Education Services
PO Box 1
Conwy
LL30 9GN

E-mail: School.Modernisation@conwy.gov.uk

I am:- (Tick appropriate boxes)

The parent of a child currently at the school	<input type="checkbox"/>		
The parent of a child previously at the school	<input type="checkbox"/>	The parent of a child at another school	<input type="checkbox"/>
A member of staff at the school	<input type="checkbox"/>	A member of staff at another school	<input type="checkbox"/>
A governor of the school	<input type="checkbox"/>	A governor of another school	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other interested party	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Name of other school or interested party: _____

Have you read the consultation document? YES / NO (Delete as appropriate)

Did you attend the public event? YES / NO (Delete as appropriate)

Are you in favour of the proposal to increase school capacity to 260?

Yes No

Please add any comments or observations you may have about the proposal: -

Do you wish to receive notification via email link of the Consultation Report once published on Conwy County Borough Council Education Services webpage?

Yes No

If 'Yes' please provide email address: _____

Date of completion of questionnaire: _____

_____ **For office use only** _____

Date of receipt of completed questionnaire: _____

Date entered onto database: _____ Initials: _____

Reference Number: _____