

DIRECTORATE OF LEARNING AND SKILLS
Community Impact Assessment

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.**



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Introduction

The Vale of Glamorgan Council is committed to ensuring that all pupils within the Vale have every opportunity to attain the best possible outcomes. In order to achieve this ambition it is essential that we ensure schools remain sustainable, reflect the needs of our local communities, and are equipped with the best possible learning environments.

The Council is committed to ensuring that consultations are meaningful, relevant and appropriate for the communities that are involved, and the Council has a duty of care to ensure that proposals are clear, transparent, and reflective of those affected. This is a vision that can only be realised by working in partnership with schools, governors, parents and the wider communities we all serve.

The proposal is to transform specialist education by;

- establishing a specialist resource base at Gladstone primary school as a satellite of Ysgol Y Deri (YYD) from September 2021;
- discontinuing Y Daith and establishing a new Centre for Learning and Wellbeing (CL&W) under the management of Ysgol Y Deri (YYD) from September 2021; and
- constructing a new building for the Centre for Learning and Wellbeing (CL&W) pupils on the Court Road Depot site in Barry from January 2023.

This proposal is considered under section 2.3 of the School Organisation Code (2018) and the Education (Pupil Referral Units) (Management Committees etc.) (Wales) Regulations 2014.

National Context

The key statutory guidance for local authorities in developing statutory proposals for changes for school organisation is in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018. When considering proposals the Council must consider the impact on the local community, particularly in rural areas and in areas designated for communities' first programmes or successor programmes.

Local Policy Context

Echoing national policy outlined in the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Council has committed as part of the Corporate Plan 2020-25 to achieving a vision of – **'Working together for a brighter future'**.

The Vale of Glamorgan is committed to achieving the objective of 'supporting learning, employment and sustainable economic growth' raising overall standards of achievement by modernising education in the Vale to ensure children and young people receive a first class education.

We believe that in order to achieve this it is important that we support teaching and learning outcomes by providing modern and fit for purpose buildings that meet the needs of modern day education. Schools need to be able to provide the best possible learning experience to make sure that children and young people have the best opportunities available to them and that they are able to reach their full potential.

Current Challenges

The proposal would address a number of challenges and would:

- Addresses the condition and suitability of existing buildings currently utilised by Y Daith.
- Reduce transport costs as a result of the CLW being located in a more central location within the Vale of Glamorgan.
- Provide innovative and creative learning environments which are adaptable to change and will challenge and support children to reach their full potential.
- Increase the level of community access and interaction through the use of the school's educational facilities whilst meeting the needs of the school.
- Provides suitable accommodation for pupils of all age groups, thereby removing the need to operate a split site provision.
- Makes provision within the Vale for larger numbers of our pupils with complex SEMH needs at both primary and secondary phases of education.
- It is recognised that YYD is the organisation with the experience and skills to implement the trauma informed approach most effectively within and across the LA. As such, YYD coordinating the function of the CL&W and SRB would mean that some of our most vulnerable learners receive the most effective support and nurture provision as key components of their education.
- CL&W and SRB staff would benefit from the most up to date and effective continuing professional development experiences accessed by YYD staff.

- Increased opportunities for continuous professional development with CLW and SRB staff forming part of Ysgol Y Deri.
- Improved resilience as a result of a coordinated approach managed by Ysgol Y Deri.
- At present Y Daith’s staffing structure is small in scale and being part of a larger entity will provide greater resilience in terms of staffing.
- Access to YYD’s wider network of buildings will provide greater scope for provision to be made for those learners who suffer from acute anxiety and mental health issues. At present there is no such provision offered by Y Daith.
- Reduced reliance on costly out of county provision.

Community Profile

There are currently 8 schools in the area surrounding Court Road in Barry:

School name	Type	Language	Age range	Capacity*	Distance from Court Road site (miles)
Jenner Park	Community	English	3 – 11	216	0.1
St Helen’s	Catholic	English	3 – 11	308	0.4
Holton	Community	English	3 – 11	420	0.5
Cadoxton	Community	English	3 – 11	420	0.6
Oak Field	Community	English	3 – 11	420	0.7
Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant	Community	Welsh	3 – 11	420	0.7
Gladstone	Community	English	3 – 11	420	0.8
Ysgol Sant Curig	Community	Welsh	3 – 11	420	1

*statutory school age – i.e. does not include nursery.

Court Road is located within the Buttrills Ward of Barry in Vale of Glamorgan. Before the mid-19th century, Buttrills was a rural area, consisting of several farms. The area was urbanized following the rise of the coal industry. The Buttrills playing fields (known as The Butts) in the upper part of the district are extensive and used for football matches. To the south are Gladstone Park tennis courts, a bowling centre and Barry Memorial Hall.

The Buttrills Ward has a population of 6,357 (Office of National Statistics, 2019). According to the 2019 Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) Buttrills 2 is ranked 186 out of 1909 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in

Wales, placing it amongst the 10% most deprived. It is ranked amongst the 10-20% most deprived in areas of income, employment, health and education. It is ranked amongst the 30-50% most deprived in areas of access to services, community safety and physical environment. It is ranked amongst the 50% least deprived in housing.

Additional Learning Needs

YYD oversees the function of the Engagement Service (formally the Primary Behaviour Team hosted by the Local Authority (LA)), which provides support and guidance to primary schools regarding the strategies and approaches that best meet the requirements of pupils with SEMH needs.

The Loft and the Burrow at Gladstone Primary School provide periods of support within an educational setting for pupils who are affected by past and ongoing trauma. Prior to the development of this provision it would have been difficult to meet the needs of these pupils in the Vale, and many would have required placements in out of county specialist provision.

In order to ensure the ongoing success and future development of this provision it would be beneficial for this highly specialised provision to become a satellite under the umbrella of YYD. This will ensure that staff working in the provision can be part of a wider team of specialists. This will give greater access to professional support, training and development which will benefit staff and children alike.

Y Daith currently provides education to approximately 80 pupils. This number fluctuates throughout the year and includes pupils accessing Education Other Than At School (EOTAS) provision organised by the LA.

This proposal would mean larger numbers of pupils with SEMH-related ALN needs will be able to be educated within the Vale in a specialist environment. This bespoke school system will be better placed to meet their needs than the present provision. Being part of YYD will ensure that those Y Daith learners with complex SEMH needs are supported by a wider network of professionals who are skilled and experienced in meeting the needs of such learners.

Impact Assessment

This section of the Community Impact Assessment assesses the potential impact this proposal could have on the local community. The information analysed in this process represents a snapshot of the current situation. The impact assessment is an evolving document that will continue to be developed throughout the statutory process. Feedback received during the consultation period will be used to further inform the Community Impact Assessment, which will be presented to Cabinet as part of the Consultation Report.

Eight key measures have been identified:

Ref.	Measure
CI1	Children living in the catchment are attending their local school
CI2	Services provided by the school for the local community, including extra-curricular activities
CI3	Community facilities used regularly by the school
CI4	Community facilities provided by and activity undertaken within the school premises
CI5	Impact on local businesses
CI6	Impact on local employment
CI7	Impact on local infrastructure
CI8	Transport arrangements

The eight measures were assessed to identify any negative or positive impacts on the local community, and a score was applied ranging from -3 to +3 based on the balance of the evidence available.

Measure Score	Measure Assessment
-3	Large deterioration
-2	Moderate deterioration
-1	Slight deterioration
0	No overall change
1	Slight Improvement
2	Moderate Improvement
3	Large Improvement

Impacts upon the Local Community

Ref.	Measure	Score	Impact of Proposal
CI1	Children living in the catchment are attending their local school	3	<p>Due to the split site and varied classroom size, it has not been possible to group KS3 and KS4 pupils of Y Daith to provide seamless continuity. The new build would ensure this is possible.</p> <p>Estyn referenced a five day offer not being in place at Y Daith as a shortcoming during the most recent inspection. It is envisaged that the new building will enable a 5-day offer for particularly vulnerable pupils with complex SEMH needs.</p> <p>By proposing to relocate to a more central location in Barry a greater number of pupils would be able to access provision locally at the CL&W. For example, 60% of the existing pupils being transported by minibuses and taxis to the PRU currently reside in Barry.</p> <p>In order to ensure the ongoing success and future development of SEMH provision at Gladstone primary school, it would be beneficial for this highly specialised provision to become a satellite under the umbrella of YYD. This will ensure provision is able to be met within the county.</p> <p>Therefore, this proposal would result in a more efficient supply and demand for ALN school places within the Vale.</p>
CI2	Services provided by the school for the local community,	2	<p>It is proposed that any community services currently provided by Y Daith would continue. However, provision is limited by its current sites and so it is likely the number and types of activities on offer would be expanded in moving to the proposed new site. The proposed new build would also include specialised facilities to establish a more varied curriculum. This again could enhance the services provided by the school for the local community.</p>

	including extra-curricular activities		There would be no loss of community provision at Gladstone primary school as a result of this proposal.
CI3	Community facilities used regularly by the school	1	<p>There are numerous facilities surrounding the Y Daith site in Cowbridge, including churches, gardens and historical buildings, however due to the complex needs of pupils these are not regularly accessed by the school.</p> <p>The other Y Daith site is shared with Amelia Trust Farm. Pupils at Y Daith have participated in the “Grow” project at Amelia Trust Farm, but this participation has decreased over recent years and so the potential impact of this loss of provision is minimal.</p> <p>There is a potential positive impact on accessing community facilities from this proposal as Barry has a wider range of facilities on offer, including more leisure and sporting facilities, it would be up to YYD management to determine how these facilities are accessed. The proposed new build would be next to Jenner Park Stadium which provides excellent sporting facilities that could be utilised by the school. There is also an allotment on the proposed site.</p> <p>There would be no loss of access for Gladstone primary school to community facilities as a result of this proposal.</p>
CI4	Community facilities provided by and activity undertaken within the school premises	1	<p>A key element of the 21st Century Schools Programme is the provision of community facilities. The proposal would include the creation of new state of art facilities which could be hired out by the community; such as sports pitches and meeting rooms.</p> <p>There is a potential for community access to facilities to be increased, such as meeting rooms and specialist areas. This would be up to the school to manage with safeguarding</p>

			requirements.
CI5	Impact on local businesses	-1	<p>There may be a negative impact on Amelia Trust Farm from the proposed move of Y Daith to Barry. This is due to the loss of rental income as the existing buildings are leased by the Council.</p> <p>There may be a positive impact upon businesses in Barry, but this will depend upon the arrangements of pupils leaving the site (e.g. to get food at lunchtime) and relationships built with local businesses in Barry. YYD has previously built relationships with local businesses in Penarth, for example by helping to link students with work experience placements, so it is likely this approach would be extended by the management team in Barry.</p> <p>There would be no impacts upon local businesses as a result of this proposal concerning Gladstone primary school.</p> <p>Therefore, overall, the Council has determined that there would be a slight negative impact on local businesses as a result of the loss of income at Amelia Trust Farm.</p>
CI6	Impact on local employment	1	<p>This proposal may lead to an increase in specialist employment opportunities at the CL&W and SRB.</p> <p>There would be professional development opportunities for staff currently working in the PRU and Gladstone primary school as a result of forming part of Ysgol Y Deri.</p>
CI7	Impact on local infrastructure	1	<p>The route surrounding the Court Road depot is in frequent use, but this is partly due to the traffic related to the depot works. Therefore, this proposal may help traffic management around the site as the number of vehicles travelling in and out would be similar or slightly reduced.</p>

			<p>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. This would also include assessment of safe walking routes. The transport assessment would be used as part of the design process to mitigate against any negative impacts identified.</p> <p>There is scope through the design and build process to improve connecting pathways to enhance the safety and enjoyment of the routes. Designs would be subject to the formal planning process which includes a statutory consultation with local residents.</p> <p>There are no local infrastructure implications concerning Gladstone primary school as a result of this proposal.</p>
CI8	Transport arrangements	2	<p>The Council has a statutory duty to provide free school transport for pupils of statutory school age who reside beyond walking distance to the nearest appropriate school. In accordance with 'The Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008'.</p> <p><i>"This is defined as more than 2 miles to the nearest suitable school for Primary Pupils and more than 3 miles for Secondary School Pupils. Distances are measured by the nearest available walking route."</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>There are no transport arrangement implications concerning Gladstone primary school as a result of this proposal.</p>

Scoring Summary

Ref.	Local Community
CI1	3
CI2	2
CI3	1
CI4	1
CI5	-1
CI6	1
CI7	1
CI8	2
Average Score	1.25

Conclusions

The impact assessment identifies that the proposal would likely have a positive impact on the local community across 7 of the 8 measures assessed. The proposal would likely have a negative impact on the local community across 1 of the 8 measures assessed. Overall, the proposal would likely have a positive impact on the local community.

Whilst it is noted that Amelia Trust Farm would be negatively impacted through the loss of income, the existing buildings are not suitable to best meet the needs of learners.

The proposal would enable the new Centre for Learning & Wellbeing and Specialist Resource Base (Gladstone) to provide innovative and creative learning environments which are adaptable to change and would challenge and support children to reach their full potential. The proposal would increase the level of community access and interaction through the school's educational facilities whilst meeting the complex needs of pupils.

Transport implications would need to be carefully considered during the design of the new school to limit the impact the school would have on the local infrastructure. However, by locating the Centre for Learning and Wellbeing in a central location within the Vale of Glamorgan would result in a significant reduction in school transport.

It is concluded from the Community Impact Assessment that the proposal would better meet the needs of the community to ensure the sustainable balance between supply and demand for school places.