**Service Welsh / Service Name English**

Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line: (01656) 815258

Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Michelle Hatcher

Ein cyf / Our ref: MH/apw

Eich cyf / Your ref:

**Dyddiad / Date:** 21 June 2018

Dear Stakeholder/Respondent

On Tuesday 19 June 2018, following the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, Bridgend County Borough Council’s Cabinet determined the proposal to open a Learning Resource Centre (LRC) for 8 pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Pencoed Primary School.

The Cabinet considered the proposal and the outcome of the statutory notice period in accordance with the School Organisation Code 2013. The Cabinet decided to approve the proposal and as a result the LRC at Pencoed Primary School will open from 1 September 2018.

It was noted that no objections were received during the public notice period.

In determining the proposal, Cabinet was satisfied that the proposal will:

* ensure that pupils who have ASD will be educated within a mainstream school and as near to their home as possible;
* allow for continuity of education and provison for these pupils;
* have no negative impact on any minority group; and
* have no negative impact on the community.

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The reason for the decision in respect of the factors outlined in the School Organisation Code are as follows:

**Quality and standards of education**

It is Estyn’s opinion that the proposal to establish a LRC at Pencoed Primary School is likely to improve the standard of educational provision for those pupils with ASD living in the east locality of Bridgend County Borough.

Estyn states that Bridgend County Borough Council has presented a clear rationale for the proposed opening of a LRC at Pencoed Primary School.

Estyn acknowledges that the LRC will increase expertise amongst the staff at Pencoed Primary School, to accommodate the needs of the pupils who are known to demonstrate ASD traits in the absence of a formal diagnosis.

Estyn comments that there are no perceived risks associated with this proposal and that there will only be advantages compared to the status quo.

It is Estyn’s opinion that the Council’s evaluation of educational aspects of the proposal is in line with the most recent Estyn inspection (January 2011). Estyn notes that it is therefore unlikely that the proposal will have a negative impact on vulnerable groups, including children with special educational needs.

Estyn acknowledges that the local authority identifies that leaders at Pencoed Primary School demonstrate a very strong capacity to plan and implement change and sustain improvement successfully in nearly all aspects.

This decision is subject of the call-in procedures as set out in the Council’s constitution which allows decisions taken by Cabinet but yet to be implemented to be reviewed. Should a call-in decision take place, all stakeholders would be informed.

Yours sincerely



Lindsay Harvey (Mr)

Interim Corporate Director – Education and Family Support