

<b>ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL</b>	
<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Executive Committee</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> April, 2015</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	Lowering the admission age of Ysgol Goronwy Owen to admit pupils on a part time basis from the September following their 3rd birthday with effect from 31 August 2015.
<b>Portfolio Holder(s):</b>	<b>Councillor Ieuan Williams</b>
<b>Head of Service:</b>	<b>Delyth Molyneux</b>
<b>Report Author:</b> Tel: E-mail:	<b>Gareth Jones</b> <b>01248 752947</b> <b>dgjed@ynysmon.gov.uk</b>
<b>Local Members:</b>	<b>Councillor Derlwyn Hughes</b> <b>Councillor Vaughan Hughes</b> <b>Councillor Ieuan Williams</b>

<b>A –Recommendation/s and reason/s</b>
<p>1. The Council should move to issue a statutory notice to lower the admission age of Ysgol Goronwy Owen to admit pupils on a part time basis from the September following their 3rd birthday with effect from 31 August 2015</p> <p>2. The Council should consider allowing officers to move immediately on the proposal if no objections are received within the 28 day period. This would greatly facilitate arrangements for the local community. This to be followed up with a further report.</p> <p>The Authority has consulted on the proposal and no objections were received. Estyn has provided formal comments following their second inspection visit with the school (17 March, 2015).</p> <p>Report on the consultation attached.</p>

**B – What other options did you consider and why did you reject them and/or opt for this option?**

The only other option would be to not continue with the proposal but there is support from parents, the Benllech Play Group Committee and the school for the proposal.

**C – Why is this a decision for the Executive?**

The decision concerns the change to the statutory age of admission of an individual school and is within the scope of the School Organisation Code (Statutory Code Document 006/2013 Welsh Government).

**CH – Is this decision consistent with policy approved by the full Council?**

Yes. The arrangements within the proposal are in force within 39 primary schools in the Authority.

**D – Is this decision within the budget approved by the Council?**

Yes

<b>DD – Who did you consult?</b>		<b>What did they say?</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Chief Executive / Strategic Leadership Team (SLT)</b> (mandatory)	
<b>2</b>	<b>Finance / Section 151</b> (mandatory)	No comments
<b>3</b>	<b>Legal / Monitoring Officer</b> (mandatory)	
<b>4</b>	<b>Human Resources (HR)</b>	No comments
<b>5</b>	<b>Property</b>	
<b>6</b>	<b>Information Communication Technology (ICT)</b>	
<b>7</b>	<b>Scrutiny</b>	

<b>8</b>	<b>Local Members</b>	
<b>9</b>	<b>Any external bodies / other/s</b>	

<b>E – Risks and any mitigation (if relevant)</b>		
<b>1</b>	<b>Economic</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Anti-poverty</b>	
<b>3</b>	<b>Crime and Disorder</b>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Environmental</b>	
<b>5</b>	<b>Equalities</b>	
<b>6</b>	<b>Outcome Agreements</b>	
<b>7</b>	<b>Other</b>	

<b>F - Appendices:</b>
1. Consultation Report 2. Consultation Document 3. Estyn’s response to the Consultation

<b>FF - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):</b>



CYNGOR SIR  
YNYS MÔN  
ISLE OF ANGLESEY  
COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT ON THE CONSULTATION  
REGARDING PROPOSALS TO LOWER THE  
ADMISSION AGE OF  
YSGOL GORONWY OWEN  
AS FROM  
31 AUGUST 2015

## **A. Background.**

Following a request by the Governing Body of Ysgol Goronwy Owen, the Authority consulted on the proposal to lower the admission age of Ysgol Goronwy Owen to admit pupils on a part time basis from the September following their 3rd birthday with effect from 31 August 2015.

Currently pupils are admitted to Ysgol Goronwy Owen on a full time basis in the September following their 4th birthday while Cylch Meithrin Benllech and Benllech Playgroup are the current providers of early years education in the area from the beginning of term following the 3rd birthday to the September following the 4th birthday.

## **B. The Consultation Process.**

The Authority published a consultation document on the County Council's website and the document was discussed in a public meeting at the school on 13 January 2015. Following this paper copies were sent to a list of consultees according to the list in the consultation document. The consultation period came to an end on 23 February 2015.

## **C. Responses.**

1. There was a total of 13 people, including parents, staff and members of the Benllech Play Group Committee, at the public meeting. The document was carefully discussed and there was an open discussion on the proposal. No objections were raised to the proposal.
2. A written response was received from the Chair of Ysgol Goronwy Owen's Governing Body and he was in favour of the proposal.
3. Verbal confirmation was received from the head teacher at Ysgol Pentraeth that there was no objection to the proposal from the school.
4. At the public meeting Benllech Play Group's Committee were in favour of the proposal but they are concerned about the timing of the decision. Better to decide as soon as possible so that arrangements can be put into place for September 2015 in terms of staffing and finance.
5. Estyn will formally reply following their second inspection visit with the school (17 March, 2015).

## **E. Main issues to be considered.**

1. Estyn's judgement needs to be considered before proceeding with the process. .
2. Consideration needs to be given to ways of putting draft plans into place before the final decision by the Council. This will facilitate arrangements for the school and the cylch with parents knowing the likely situation for September 2015.

## **F. Conclusions.**

1. Following the receiving of a positive opinion from Estyn the Council should move to issue a statutory notice to lower the admission age of Ysgol Goronwy Owen to admit pupils on a part time basis from the September following their 3rd birthday with effect from 31 August 2015
2. The Council should consider allowing officers to move immediately on the proposal if no objections are received within the 28 day period to present objections. This would greatly facilitate arrangements for the local community. This to be followed up with a report to the Council.
3. In the event of receiving an unfavourable opinion from Estyn, officers will re-present a report to the Council.



CYNGOR SIR  
YNYS MÔN  
ISLE OF ANGLESEY  
COUNTY COUNCIL

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT REGARDING  
PROPOSALS TO LOWER THE ADMISSION AGE  
OF YSGOL GORONWY OWEN, BENLLECH  
AS FROM  
31 AUGUST 2015

## **CONSULTATION DOCUMENT REGARDING PROPOSALS TO LOWER THE ADMISSION AGE OF YSGOL GORONWY OWEN, BENLLECH AS FROM 31 AUGUST 2015**

### **Introduction –**

This consultation is on a proposal by the Education Authority , following a request by the Governing Body of Ysgol Goronwy Owen , to lower the admission age of Ysgol Goronwy Owen to admit pupils on a part time basis from the September following their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday with effect from 31 August 2015.

Before moving forward with its proposals, the Authority wishes to seek the views of all those with a likely interest in the proposal so that their views can be taken into account before decisions are made.

This consultation process will consist of

- contacting and providing a copy of this consultation document to all interested parties, including the Authority, who are listed in Appendix 1
- holding a meeting for interested parties on Tuesday, 13 January, 2015 at 5.30 at the school.
- making copies available of this consultation document at the school, at the relevant non-maintained settings and on the Isle of Anglesey website.
- submission of views by interested parties in writing to:

Mr Gareth Jones, Education Officer,  
Lifelong Learning Department  
Ffordd Glanhwfa  
LLANGFNI  
Ynys Môn  
LL77 7EY

or you can e-mail: [dgjed@anglesey.gov.uk](mailto:dgjed@anglesey.gov.uk)

All views must be received by

**no later than midday Monday, 23 February, 2015.**

- holding a meeting with the School Council to discuss their views on the proposal



## Background

If the proposal were to be implemented Ysgol Goronwy Owen may well attract future 3 year old pupils who may have attended other schools with existing 3 year old provision in the immediate area. In the case of Ysgol Goronwy Owen the schools in the immediate area are Ysgol Moelfre, Ysgol Llanbedrgoch and Ysgol Pentraeth.

The relevant details of the schools including Ysgol Goronwy Owen are-

Details	Ysgol	Ysgol	Ysgol	Ysgol
Location	Ysgol Goronwy Owen, Benllech, Ynys Môn LL74 8SG	Ysgol Moelfre, Moelfre, Amlwch, Ynys Môn LL72 8NA	Ysgol Llanbedrgoch, Llanbedrgoch, Llangefni, Ynys Môn LL76 8SX	Ysgol Pentraeth, Pentraeth, Ynys Môn LL75 8UP
Category	Community school for 4-11 year olds	Community school for 3-11 year olds	Community school for 3-11 year olds	Community school for 3-11 year olds
Language	Bilingual	Bilingual	Bilingual	Bilingual
Capacity	153	96	60	135
Admission number for part time pupils	Not relevant	11	6	15
Admission number for full time pupils	21	12	7	17
Number of part time pupils on roll as in January	Not relevant	2014 - 9 2013 - 9 2012 - 8 2011 - 13 2010 - 11	2014 - 2 2013 - 6 2012 - 8 2011 - 7 2010 - 7	2014 - 16 2013 - 14 2012 - 13 2011 - 11 2010 - 11
Number of full time pupils on roll as in January	2014 - 106 2013 - 111 2012 - 121 2011 - 124 2010 - 143	2014 - 63 2013 - 56 2012 - 62 2011 - 50 2010 - 46	2014 - 50 2013 - 52 2012 - 48 2011 - 44 2010 - 41	2014 - 83 2013 - 80 2012 - 79 2011 - 83 2010 - 80
Total pupil number forecasts	2015 - 104 2016 - 101 2017 - 97 2018 - 97	2015 - 75 2016 - 78 2017 - 78 2018 - 75	2015 - 55 2016 - 50 2017 - 49 2018 - 49	2015 - 96 2016 - 101 2017 - 102 2018 - 104

	2019 – 95	2019 – 70	2019 – 42	2019 – 107
Condition of school building as measured by survey in EC Harris, 09/10 on behalf of Welsh Government	<b>B</b> <b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>A</b> <b>Good</b>	<b>B</b> <b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>B</b> <b>Satisfactory</b>

Both the school and the two pre-school settings are required to operate within the Authority's Welsh Language Policy and Welsh Language provision would not be diminished but would be enhanced as the pupils would be taught according to the Welsh Language Policy for schools.

If the proposal were to be implemented the new class established would become a part of the school and the Governing Body would be answerable to the Authority for the standards and provision of the new class and the new class would be subject to all of the school's policies and procedures.

The table below sets out the judgements within the last available Estyn report for the school and the two pre-school settings.

<b><u>Aspect</u></b>	<b>Ysgol Goronwy Owen</b>	<b>Cylch Meithrin Benllech</b>	<b>Benllech Play Group</b>
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Date</b>
	<b>January 2014</b>	<b>January 2014</b>	<b>January 2014</b>
<i><u>Key Question 1: How good are the outcomes?</u></i>	<b>Adequate</b>	Not relevant because of pupil numbers	<b>Good</b>
Standards	<b>Adequate</b>	-	<b>Good</b>
Wellbeing	<b>Adequate</b>	-	<b>Good</b>
<i><u>Key Question 2: How good is provision?</u></i>	<b>Adequate</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Good</b>
Learning Experiences	<b>Adequate</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Good</b>
Teaching	<b>Adequate</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Good</b>
Care, support and guidance	<b>Adequate</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Good</b>

Learning environment	<b>Adequate</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Good</b>
<i><u>Key Question 3:How good are leadership and management?</u></i>	<b>Adequate</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Good</b>
Leadership	<b>Adequate</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Good</b>
Improving Quality:	<b>Adequate</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Good</b>
Partnership working	<b>Adequate</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Good</b>
Resource management	<b>Adequate</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>The school's current performance</b>	<b>Adequate</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>The school's prospects for improvement</b>	<b>Adequate</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Good</b>

### **The proposal –**

The proposal is to lower the admission age of Ysgol Goronwy Owen to admit pupils on a part time basis from the September following their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday with effect from 31 August 2015.

Cylch Meithrin Benllech and Benllech Playgroup are the current providers of early years education in the area from the beginning of term following the 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday to the September following the 4<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Cylch Meithrin Benllech meets in the school for four afternoons a week for those children who are 3 years old, 12.20 to 2.50.

There are currently 2 pupils who had achieved their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday by 1 September 2014, and 5 pupils who had not achieved their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday by 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014, attending Cylch Meithrin Benllech.

Benllech Playgroup meets in a cabin on school grounds for five mornings a week for those children who are 3 years old, 9.00 – 11.30.

There are currently 6 pupils who had achieved their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday by 1 September 2014, and 13 pupils who had not achieved their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday by 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014, attending Benllech Playgroup.

Pupils are admitted to Ysgol Goronwy Owen on a full time basis in the September following their 4<sup>th</sup> birthday. In September 2014 there were 107 pupils on roll who are taught in 5 classes as follows:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Number of Pupils</u>
1	Reception / Year 1	26
2	Year 2	16
3	Year3/4	24
4	Year 4/5	26
5	Year 6	15

If the proposal to admit 3 year olds to the school on a part time basis is implemented the nursery pupils would be admitted in the mornings and taught within a classroom in the school for two hours a day (exact details to be confirmed). Ysgol Goronwy Owen would be the local providers for children from the September following their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

Early Years education up to the September following the 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday would still be provided by the two pre-school settings.

The Cylch Meithrin would accept pupils once they are 2.5 years old.

Benllech Playgroup would accept pupils once they are 2 years old.

In terms of funding the school would receive additional funding through the Authority's formula based on the number of additional part time pupils registered at the school. This would provide for additional staff in terms of teachers and Foundation Phase assistants in accordance to statutory guidelines.

The pre-school settings would continue to receive a contribution towards running costs but at a lower level due to the decrease in pupils who are eligible for the part time statutory education entitlement of 10 hours a week.

Educational standards would not decrease and are expected to rise as the pupils would be taught by a qualified teacher under the direction of the head teacher and answerable to the school's Governing Body.

## **The statutory process**

The consultation process is subject to the requirements of the School Organisation Code, document number 006/2013.

Following the end of this consultation, 23.2.15, the Authority will publish a report on the consultation which will be available on the Isle of Anglesey web site.

Authority officers will then present the report to the Executive Committee in April 2015 along with a recommendation.

If the recommendation is to continue with the proposal and this is accepted by the Executive Committee then a statutory notice will be issued and a 28 day consultation period will begin. A report will be published on the views expressed to the Authority and will be available on the Isle of Anglesey web site.

Authority officers will then present the report to the Executive Committee in July 2015 along with a final recommendation.

## **Response Pro-forma**

A response pro-forma for comments, including an opportunity for consultees to register their wish to be notified of publication of the consultation report, is attached to the consultation document.

**Atodiad 1 / Appendix 1.**

Rhestr o ymgynghoreion i dderbyn copi o'r Ddogfen Ymgynghorol.

List of consultees to receive a copy of the Consultation document

<b>Cyrff / Bodies</b>
Cadeirydd / Chair Ysgol Goronwy Owen
Cadeirydd / Chair Ysgol Llanbedrgoch
Cadeirydd / Chair Ysgol Moelfre
Cadeirydd / Chair Ysgol Pentraeth
Cadeirydd / Chair Ysgol Syr Thomas Jones
Cadeirydd / Chair Cylch Meithrin Benllech
Cadeirydd / Chair Benllech Playgroup
Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau Llywodreth Cymru  Minister for Education and Skills Welsh Government
AS / MP Albert Owen
AC / AM Rhun ap Iorwerth
Prif Arolygydd Estyn Chief Inspector
Aelodau Fforwm Undebau / Union Forum Members.
Cadeirydd Consortiwm Addysg Gogledd Cymru  Chair North Wales Education Consortium
Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive GWE
Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throsedd Gogledd Cymru  North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner

Cyngor Cymuned Llanfair Mathafarn Eithaf Community Council

Mr Griff E Pritchard  
Llys Newydd  
Dwyran  
Llanfairpwll  
Ynys Môn  
LL61 6UU

Cynghorwyr Sir / County Councillors-

Ieuan Williams

Derlwyn Hughes

Vaughan Hughes

Cymdeithas Darparwyr Cyn-ysgol Cymru

Wales Pre-school Providers Association (WPPA)

Mudiad Meithrin (MM)

Partneriaeth Môn a Gwynedd Partnership

## **Introduction**

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer.

This consultation proposal is from the Isle of Anglesey County Council, following a request from the governing body of Ysgol Goronwy Owen. The proposal is to lower the admission age of Ysgol Goronwy Owen to admit pupils on a part time basis from the September following their third birthday, with effect from 31 August 2015.

## **Summary/ Conclusion**

**It is Estyn's opinion that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the standard of education provision in the area.**

## **Description and benefits**

The local authority has not explained clearly enough how the proposal fits into its wider strategic vision for educating three year olds in the local authority.

The proposer acknowledges that if the proposal is implemented, it would impact on the number of pupils attending the pre-school settings in the immediate area. It also acknowledges that the pre-school settings would continue to receive a contribution towards running costs but at a lower level due to the decrease in pupils who are eligible for the part time statutory entitlement of 10 hours a week. The last available Estyn report judged the outcomes and provision for Benllech Playgroup to be 'good' in all areas. Cylch Meithrin Benllech was judged 'good' for provision (with insufficient numbers to report a judgement for pupil outcomes).

The possibility that Ysgol Goronwy Owen might attract future three-year old pupils who could have attended other schools in the area is also recognised in the proposal. However, the implications for the three schools identified, Ysgol Moelfre, Ysgol Llanbedrgoch and Ysgol Pentraeth are unclear. Projected pupil number forecasts are comfortably within capacity for these schools, while Ysgol Goronwy Owen has a projected surplus of more than 50 places for the same timescale.



The proposal appears to have taken sufficient account of the impact on Welsh medium provision within the local authority as currently both the school and the two pre-school settings operate within the local authority's Welsh Language Policy.

### **Educational aspects of the proposal**

The proposal states that if the new class is established, it would be subject to all of the school's policies and procedures. As part of the school, the Governing Body would be answerable to the authority for the standards and provision. The additional funding anticipated through the council's formula based on the number of additional part time pupils registered at the school is expected to provide for additional staff in terms of teachers and Foundation Phase assistants in accordance with statutory guidelines.

The proposal asserts that educational standards are expected to rise as the pupils would be taught by a qualified teacher under the direction of the head teacher and answerable to the school's governing body. In its latest Estyn report, Ysgol Goronwy Owen was judged as 'adequate' in terms of current provision and prospects for improvement. However the school has made sufficient progress to be removed from Estyn monitoring (March 2015). The monitoring visit highlighted the good progress made by the school against the recommendations of the inspection team.