

RCT Schools Reorganisation PHS Response Summary

It is important to state that any comments about Bryncelynnog CS or Coleg y Cymoedd are only made in reference to information available. It is in no way our intention to criticise the work of other schools/colleges, but rather to question and challenge the LA analysis and interpretation of this information as portrayed in the Council's consultation document and the contextual report to members.

Proposal 1 – To remove the Sixth Form provision from Pontypridd High, Hawthorn High and Cardinal Newman and develop Post-16 'centres of excellence' based at Bryncelynnog Comprehensive School and Coleg y Cymoedd

We do not accept this proposal because:

- Previous attempts at linking our Sixth Form with Bryncelynnog have not materialised because of the distance between the two schools and areas students travel from
- Students have expressed clearly that they will not want to travel to a BCS sixth form
- Standards at GCSE and A Level in Pontypridd High School are at a much higher standard than the consultation document suggests
- The Estyn report of 2017 would suggest that CyC is no better placed than the present Pontypridd Sixth Form partnership to become a Centre of Excellence.
- Present partnership working within the Pontypridd Sixth Form enables a broad subject choice to be offered and class sizes to be higher than the consultation document suggests
- Pontypridd is an important central place in RCT and a university town which should have a Sixth Form provision
- Equity of provision for our students is at the heart of Welsh Government policy for young people in Wales and the lack of a Sixth Form in Pontypridd town does not support this national priority.

Proposal 2 – Create a new 3-16 schools on the site of Pontypridd High.

In principle we accept this proposal because;

- We understand the benefits to both students and staff of access to improved facilities and the progression that can be made through such learning experiences
- Good practise can be gained from 3-16 schools elsewhere in RCT
- If an acceptable Sixth Form option is agreed then the 3-16 proposal could be accepted.

Proposal 3 – Amend the catchment area of Pontypridd High.

We accept this proposal because:

- We have discussed a resolution to the historical problems of our catchment area caused by the relocation of both PHS and HHS for a number of years
- It will help to support better progression and transition into Year 7

We ask that the Local Authority gives further consideration to this aspect of reorganisation by identifying an appropriate and suitable location in Pontypridd for a Pontypridd Sixth Form using 21st Century funding. One which:

- can be led and managed by staff working in our Schools
- is accountable to the LA
- meets the aspirations of all students and makes use of facilities and future investment planned for this important and well serviced central location within RCT