

**Colwyn Bay Area 1 – Nominated Stakeholder Meeting Notes**  
**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

**Present:** Geraint James (GJ) (Statutory Head of Education Services)  
Dilwyn Price (DP) (Head of School Improvement Services)  
Emma Bayliss (EB) (Project Manager)  
Gareth Thomas (GT) (TJB)  
David Batten (DB) (TJB)  
Cynan Jones (CJ) (TJB)

**Observers:** Cllr C. Hughes  
Cllr M. Doyle  
Cllr H. Meredith

**1. Introduction**

DB provided an introduction to the meeting and explained what would be involved including the workshop element.

**2. Presentations**

GJ gave a presentation on the progress of the project so far and the development of the Areas for Review document.

DP then gave a presentation on the specific school data including information on 'fit for purpose', unfilled places and catchment areas. Referred to page 10 of the Areas for Review document and stated that both schools are achieving these benefits. Page 10 is not a criticism of schools and how they are operating now. Understand that 'fit for purpose' is not one size fits all but if a new school was built, this list of attributes is what it would ideally incorporate.

**Question and Answer Session (Q = question, A = Answer, C= Comment)**

Q: What is meant by catchment area?

A: This is a geographical area which is the local area for the school. Children from outside a catchment area for a school in Colwyn Bay would be children living in Llandudno or Abergele for example.

Q: Is 'fit for purpose' what you require and does this mean that a brand new building has to be built? Why can't old buildings be refurbished?

A: Sometimes less cost effective to adapt old buildings than build a completely new building.

Q: How is the budget per pupil calculated?

A: The budget allocated to the school divided by the number of pupils

Q: Will staff lose their jobs if there is an amalgamation?

A: We would look at how this could be rationalised i.e. through retirement but cannot promise that some staff would not lose their jobs.

Q: Is Flying Start making a difference to pupil numbers?

A: This hasn't made a significant difference in Colwyn Bay but has helped to project pupil numbers for the future.

C: Having one amalgamated school does take away parental choice in Colwyn Bay.

A: It doesn't really remove choice as parents can choose other schools in nearby towns or villages. Education does not have the budget for the

future to sustain 62 schools, the budget will decrease due to the decrease in pupil numbers.

C: Would prefer not to have large class sizes – more focused attention in smaller classes. What is the limit for class sizes?

A: Maximum is 30

Q: Are you working towards 30 because this is too big

A: No not working towards this number – hoping to continue with smaller class sizes because need leeway in case of increase in pupil numbers.

C: 30 in a class is acceptable at Glan y Mor and Pendorlan.

C: Think smaller class sizes are important

Q: If building a new school – need to ensure its fit for the future

A: WAG looking at sustainability and ensuring buildings are built to last. Any plans to build a new school must meet WAG regulations in order to receive 21<sup>st</sup> Century funding

C: Children in Colwyn Bay deserve state of the art education

A: Agree with this and will be discussed further during the workshop

GT explained workshop part of the meeting – want to look at what is working well and what could be improved.

### 3. **Workshop Feedback**

#### What's Working Well?

##### Glan y Mor

- Glan y Mor's inspection results
- Our school works well together as a team
- All staff very positive
- Very inclusive – all children included regardless of need
- Happy & caring environment for children
- New build has given more opportunities for children e.g. outdoor classrooms
- Staffing not an issue at foundation phase
- Children are nurtured throughout their time at Glan y Mor

##### Conway Road

- Good leadership
- Standards
- School access
- Class sizes
- Travel plans
- Parental choice
- Working together
- Space – for internal & external development
- Additional facilities – playgroups etc. – caters for children from birth up to 7
- Teacher pupil relationship
- Sense of community
- Happy children/parents/governors/staff
- Children are individuals
- Family feel – look after each other, all know each other
- History

- Governors Estyn Report
- Appropriate size for age (no stairs, 1 building, no long walks)
- Breakfast club, after school clubs
- Community activities
- Staff share & develop their skills
- Good standards, policies & practices

#### Pendorlan

- Standards – teaching, learning, value added
- Communication between schools
- Early years parental links – have school partnerships
- Catchment – Pendorlan covers both

#### What could be improved?

#### Glan y Mor

- More space e.g. area for flying start
- Additional resources to meet the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

#### Conway Road

- Levels (academic) more uniformity of standards
- Continuity and progression (social and academic)
- Map of catchment areas
- Transient pupils can require more SEN provision to the detriment of others?
- Future space
- Future numbers
- Outdoor space

#### Pendorlan

- Buildings – space
- Extra rooms – tuition
- Community rooms (ESW/Police/SS/Music/Extraction/Playgroup)
- Fit for purpose – 8 till late...youth 8pm
- Transition KS2
- With age pop – meals @ lunch
- Transport (initially) to extent of catchment area
- Ability to access other facilities e.g. swimming/tennis outlets, open area for PE, Park
- Electrical sockets to provide Hi Tech IT
- VLE for pupil/parent access

#### General comments

- Good practice at all 3 schools
- Ensuring standards
- School has to belong to the community
- Amalgamation – how?
- One school is not wrong because others are right
- Have a clear decision making process

#### **4. Final Question and Answer Session (Q = question, A = Answer, C= Comment)**

- Q: Huge amount of good practice at all 3 schools – don't want to lose this excellence and sense of community
- A: Want this to continue in the future despite any changes
- Q: Amalgamation of Infant and Junior schools – how would you envisage that happening?
- A: Different options: Use an existing site, create a new site or use federalisation
- Q: Will there be further consultation at this stage of process
- A: Can send e-mail, letter or phone – all information on website
- C: Have 3 very good schools in area – remember educational needs and demands are always changing
- A: Will ensure that this is taken into account

DB thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution to the meeting as a lot of important information was gained.

#### Ideas/Worry Wall

- For schools with falling numbers to advertise and encourage an increase in numbers
- We should work together for our children's future
- Build quality
- Instead of amalgamating small schools chop up the big ones!
- What educational rationale is there for having junior/infant school combined? Is the reason most areas do this budgetary?
- Future projections of needs should be part of the discussions
- What would happen to the land if Conway Road closed down?
- Good practice in all 3 schools. Don't change too much or you may lose good practice
- Small is beautiful