

## APPENDIX I

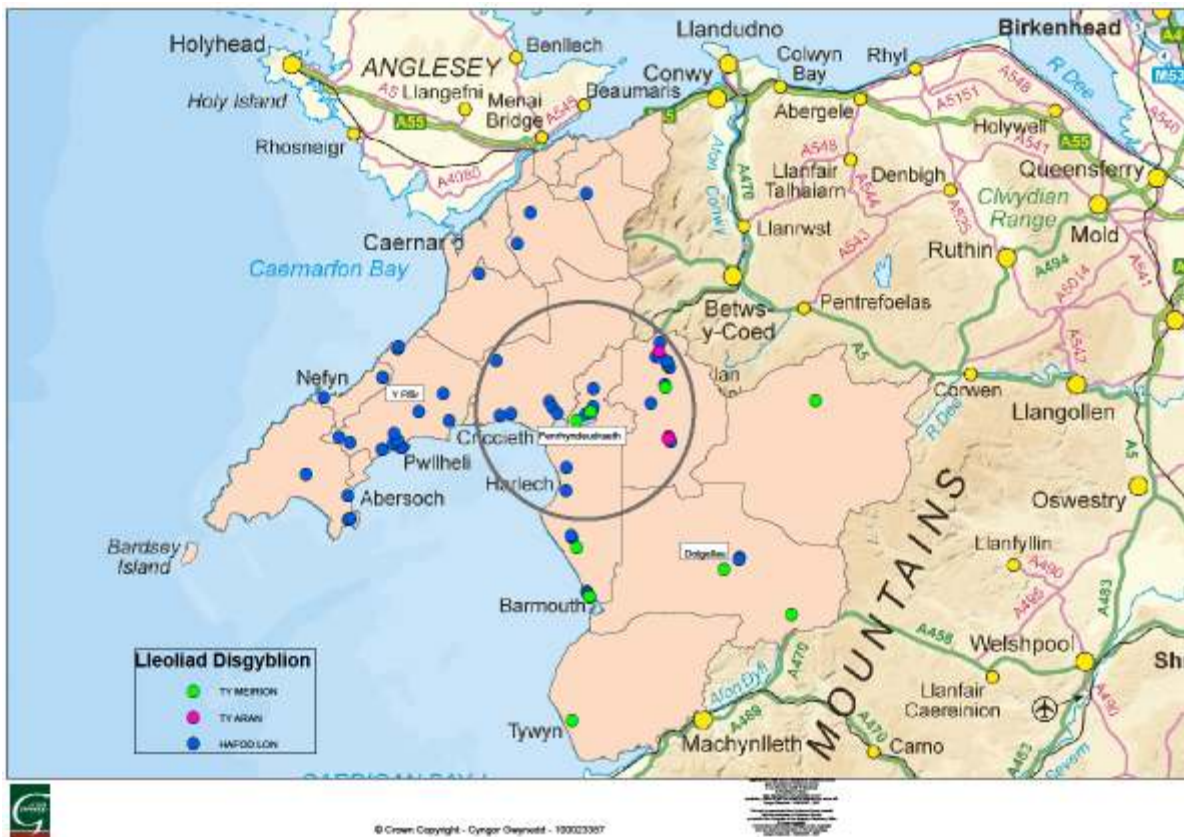
### EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS AND ASSOCIATED BUSINESS NEEDS

- 1.1 There are presently two Special Education Needs Schools in Gwynedd, Ysgol Pendalar in Arfon which serves Bangor, Caernarfon and the surrounding area and Ysgol Hafod Lon in Y Ffor near Pwllheli, which serves the other two regions of Dwyfor and Meirionnydd.
- 1.2 Unfortunately Ysgol Hafod Lon's present location, and distance from the south of Meirionnydd, makes it impractical for many disabled and complex needs SEN pupils to attend the school, as the travelling distances are too great, particularly for pupils that have proprioceptive challenges and complex medical needs. As a result, satellite facilities (Uned Tŷ Aran and Uned Tŷ Meirion) were developed on mainstream school sites in Dolgellau, in the south of Meirionnydd. In addition to this, a number of pupils from the southernmost area of Meirionnydd have had to travel out of county for day placements and a number have required costly residential placements which have historically been far more expensive than local placements and have accounted for between 8-10% of the overall SEN annual budget of £14.5 million.
- 1.3 The present Ysgol Hafod Lon does not have hydrotherapy, sensory or rebound therapy facilities, and in addition it has outgrown its original capacity by nearly 100% in the last few years. As a result another satellite unit (Uned y Traeth) has been added at a mainstream school in Pwllheli to deal with additional pupils who need access to special school curricula. Dependent upon the locally identified needs of any further profoundly disabled pupils who may need more local teaching facilities in the future Uned y Traeth remains a flexible option as a satellite facility in the Dwyfor area.
- 1.4 Uned Tŷ Meirion in particular has earned praise in providing very good quality teaching and learning opportunities for their pupils, yet these satellite units have limited resources and cannot provide the full range of specialist facilities, and neither of the units have access to hydrotherapy, sensory or rebound facilities. It is anticipated that as a result of opening the new school, it will afford new opportunities for Tŷ Meirion pupils to have access to these facilities.
- 1.5 **Location of present provision**
  - 1.5.1 The map below shows the location of Ysgol Hafod Lon, Uned Tŷ Aran and Uned Tŷ Meirion and where the children who attend each provision live (see colour key), as well as the location of the intended new SEN school in Penrhyndeudraeth. We have circled a radius of approximately 10 miles around this new provision and 26 current pupils would live within this distance, and therefore closer than Ysgol Hafod Lon. A

further 12 live to the south of the new provision, and therefore, once more, closer than Ysgol Hafod Lon.

- I.5.2 At the furthest point, there are two pupils that travel from Dolgellau to Ysgol Hafod Lon which is approximately 37 miles each way and takes over an hour to travel (Route Planner 2013). If these pupils were to travel to the new provision then their distance would be 23 miles with a travelling time of 30 minutes. The furthest distance to travel to Penrhyndeudraeth from Dwyfor using the current data is from Botwnnog which is 25 miles.
- I.5.3 A number of children ((3 in 2012/13) attend out-of-county locations in Powys, Ceredigion and Denbighshire because there isn't a local specialist provision for them within a reasonable travelling distance to their homes in the southernmost edge of the county. Reasonable travelling times are always an important factor when making decisions about suitable school placements for pupils with complex and profound medical and physical needs, and this has led to out of county placements for these PMLD pupils.
- I.5.4 18 of the 59 pupils presently attending mainstream schools, that could attend a SEN school, live within the 10 mile radius of Penrhyndeudraeth and a further 20 live to the south of the new provision.

**TABLE I: Location of present SEN provision and pupils homes**



**I.5.5 Business needs**

Develop a new school with a centralised location for children living in both Meirionnydd and Dwyfor areas of Gwynedd.

We aim to open the new school in the Penrhyndeudraeth area of Gwynedd which will mean that SEN children from both Meirionnydd and Dwyfor would have to travel similar distances to receive their education.

## 1.6 Capacity

- 1.6.1 There are currently 54 pupils attending Ysgol Hafod Lon which was originally built to accommodate 28 pupils. The building is small and cramped, has no therapeutic facilities and sits in a small plot of land.
- 1.6.2 Because of this pupils that are eligible for entry into the school cannot presently be registered, resulting in alternative and more costly arrangements having to be made at other locations such as Uned Ty Aran, Uned Ty Meirion and sending children out-of-county for the provision.

**TABLE 2: Number of children attending Ysgol Hafod Lon**

2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
24	29	39	47	49	54

- 1.6.3 Three main factors that have contributed to the marked increase in the need for SEN provision in Meirion Dwyfor:
- Growth in the number of young pupils that have been assessed as requiring entry to a special school.

**TABLE 3: Number of children in Gwynedd assessed as needing SEN education for the first time**

Calendar year	Age			Total
	0-4	5-10	11-15	
2009	16	21	5	42
2010	24	36	15	75
2011	15	21	8	44
2012	30	23	9	62

- The arrival of pupils with profound and multiple learning difficulties into Gwynedd from other local authorities in Wales and beyond.
- The activities associated with the Welsh Government funding 'Unlocking the Potential of Special Schools' in mainstream schools leading to increases in applications for dual placements between mainstream/special schools, and an increase in some parents requesting full time placements at the special school.

- I.6.4 The present SEN school cannot accommodate the steady increase in pupil numbers (from 24 in 2008-9 to the current level of 54) and despite extensive adaptations and building work and a portable classroom added on site at Ysgol Hafod Lon, satellite centres/units in mainstream schools have had to be established to accommodate the needs of pupils who meet the criteria for special school placements.
- I.6.5 The new school will provide placements for all pupils in Meirionnydd and Dwyfor who meet the criteria for special school placements, on a site which will offer all the facilities and therapies expected of a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Special School, and within reasonable travelling distances for all pupils in Meirionnydd and Dwyfor.
- I.6.6 A need has been recognised for a school that has the capacity for 100 children. This has been based on the current number of children who are eligible for SEN school provision and continued increased in the need.

The table below outlines the children who would be eligible to attend the new school in Meirion Dwyfor based on the 2012/13 figures:

**TABLE 4: Children eligible to attend SEN school (2012/13)**

<b>Present provision</b>	<b>number of children</b>
Ysgol Hafod Lon	49
Uned Tŷ Meirion	10
Uned Tŷ Aran	3
Out-of-county day students (that could attend the new SEN school)	5
Out-of-county residential (that could attend the new SEN school)	2
Mainstream Meirion and Dwyfor (that could attend the Centre)	59
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>128</b>

- I.6.7 In keeping with Gwynedd's SEN policy, those pupils with profound and complex needs who can access the mainstream curriculum, and whose parents wish them to integrate into mainstream settings, will be able to access primary and secondary schools that have been appropriately adapted for disabled access.

**I.6.8 Business needs**

Increase SEN school places in Meirion Dwyfor in order to offer provision for up to 100 children, to include those with more complex and profound special educational needs including autism.

## **1.7 Suitability**

- 1.7.1 A review of the space and accommodation standards at the existing special schools that serve the Meirionnydd and Dwyfor regions of Gwynedd was carried out using the most up to date design guidance for special needs accommodation is provided by Building Bulletin 102 (BB 102 which was published by the Department for Education in 2008 in England but is referred to by the Welsh Government 21st Century Schools section as the 'principal guidance document for the design of mainstream and special schools with pupils with SEN and disabilities'.
- 1.7.2 The review of space and accommodation was based on actual visits to the schools and analysis of scaled drawings of the accommodation and sites. The findings for each school are summarised below.
- 1.7.3 Following the review the following points were concluded:
- a) All three schools are significantly under the area guidelines in BBI02. This lack of floor area means that most pupil are taught in class groups with a wide age range and that specialist facilities to support a wider curriculum, sensory and therapy are very limited on all sites and key facilities are not able to be provided.
  - b) Ysgol Hafod Lon could reasonably be expected as a stand-alone special school for 49-50 pupils to be more than 3 times the floor area it is and on a larger site.
  - c) Uned Tŷ Aran and Tŷ Meirion even though sited adjacent mainstream Primary and Secondary schools could each be at least twice the floor area that they currently are and with improved covered and accessible routes to the main buildings.
  - d) The ability to improve the accommodation and external works on all 3 sites is significantly limited by the topography, available area and also the impact of trying to do work on constrained sites whilst schools are in operation.
  - e) It should be noted that plans are afoot to reorganise the Ysgol y Gader catchment area as part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme in Gwynedd and that any redevelopment will consider SEN provision.

### **1.7.8 Business needs**

- a) Develop a school that will meet the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools standard, the highest standard of curriculum, alternative and therapeutic resources that meet the needs of children with more complex and profound special educational needs, including autism.

- b) Develop a school with the required resources such as a hydrotherapy pool, sensory rooms, specialist rebound therapy rooms, therapeutic external learning environments, horticultural and small business facilities to realise the favoured model.

## **1.8 Residential and short breaks provision**

- 1.8.1 Gwynedd is the only county in North Wales that does not have a SEN residential facility resulting in Gwynedd Council relying on sending children to locations that are far from their families and which are costly, currently £519,577 and as much as £1,402,681 in 2011/12.
- 1.8.2 As can be seen from the table below expenditure on children and families' out of county residential placements for profound and complex needs in recent years has generally been high. This number has fluctuated over the years with a high of 9 children needing out-of-county residential care at a cost of £1,402,681 in 2011/12:

**TABLE 5: Gwynedd children accessing out-of-county residential provision**

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Number of children	6	8	6	9	8	4
Cost	£842,794	£1,229,411	£1,261,286	£1,402,681	£993,193	£519,577

- 1.8.3 Some children have to go out-of-county and receive a non-Welsh provision. At the time of producing this report not one of the residential facilities used provided a Welsh language service.
- 1.8.4 The development of a residential/short break unit for 6 children would mean avoiding having to send some children out-of-county and as a result make substantial savings and provide children with Welsh language provision.
- 1.8.5 It is envisaged that the short break provision would provide more children and their families with much needed short term breaks and as a result avoid family breakdown and the resulting need for longer term residential placement for the children which would be expensive. At present 14 children receive short breaks through foster care but there is a further 16 on the waiting list. It is envisaged that the demand for short breaks will grow in future years therefore a short break unit is deemed to be essential.
- 1.8.6 The development of a specialist bilingual and Welsh-medium residential and short break facility for Gwynedd to be located on the new school site, for pupils and their families who will need bilingual short break and residential provision. This will allow some children who attend out-of-county provision to receive their education in Gwynedd. Based on the current situation it is envisaged that 2 of the children receiving out-of-county residential provision at a cost of £432,000 would receive the provision in Gwynedd.

The provision would also present the possibility of offering a limited number of placements to other Local Authorities who need Welsh-medium/bilingual special school and residential facilities for their pupils, thus creating an income towards the running costs of the new centre.

### **1.8.7 Business needs**

Provide a 6 bed residential/short breaks facilities for children and young people with SEN in Gwynedd, and possibly other Local Authorities.

## **1.9 Multi-agency collaboration**

1.9.1 Although some agencies and partners already work very well with Ysgol Pendalar and Ysgol Hafod Lon the structure of this collaborative multi-agency work cannot be formalized or disseminated fully and equitably across the county. The present Ysgol Hafod Lon has an entirely inadequate building which cannot even presently house all of its own pupils on a full-time basis let alone provide space for other agencies to work from. Finding multi-professional practitioner office and working space to offer to Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, SALT teams and Post-graduate research staff and students from Bangor University's prestigious Psychology department, is presently impossible.

1.9.2 Although there is already clear evidence of close collaboration between agencies to develop an integrated Person Centred Plan for many pupils within Special Schools across the county, the 'Strategic Review of Additional learning Needs 2012-13' findings at Phase One identified clear parental and multi-agency will to establish Single Integrated Person Centred Planning as a way forward in Gwynedd. Providing professional working space for key workers to fully engage with parents, specialist teaching staff and support staff on a regular basis, within the new Special School for Merion Dwyfor, will be integral to ensuring a shared vision for key workers and families.

### **1.9.3 Business needs**

Develop a facility that will serve as a central hub to provide professional working space for key workers to fully engage with parents, specialist teaching staff and support staff on a regular basis.

### **1.10 Existing costs**

1.10.1 Based on 2013/14 allocation the present cost of the provision for children who could access the new SEN school is:

**TABLE 6: 2013/14 budget/allocation for SEN provision in Meirion Dwyfor**

	number of children based on	Budget / allocation /cost		Cost per head (average)
<b>Ysgol Hafod Lon</b>	46	Education	£764,122	£16,611

<b>Uned Tŷ Meirion</b>	10	Education	£240,000	£24,000
<b>Uned Tŷ Aran</b>	3	Education	£103,040	£34,347
<b>ABC assessment unit</b>	8	Education	£73,178	£9,147
<b>Out-of-county day students (that could attend the Centre)</b>	5	Education	£130,050	£26,010
<b>Out-of-county residential (that could attend the Centre)</b>	2	Education	£144,000	£72,000
		Social Services	£144,000	£72,000
		Health	£144,000	£72,000
<b>Mainstream Meirion and Dwyfor (that could attend the Centre)</b>	*59	Education	£1,003,000	£17,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	133		£2,745,390	£20,642

\*Based on 2012/13 figures the number of children that have been assessed with SEN but attend mainstream schools in Meirionnydd and Dwyfor is 145 (2012/13), of these, based on their needs, we have identified 59 that could attend the new SEN school depending on their parents' wishes.

Based on the 2013/14 figures (table 6) there are significant differences between the cost per pupil from £16,611 in Ysgol Hafod Lon, £34,347 in Uned Ty Aran to £216,000 for out-of-county residential provision. The average cost per head is £20,642.

The forecasted allocation for the new school for 100 pupils is £1,639,860, which translates to an average cost of £16,399 per pupil.

### 1.10.2 Transport

The cost of transporting children with special education needs to their respective provision as paid by Gwynedd Council. These costs for 2012/13 are noted in the table below:

**TABLE 7: SEN transport costs Meirionnydd and Dwyfor 2012/13**

Location	Number of pupils	Total cost	average cost per pupil
<b>Ysgol Hafod Lon</b>	41	£178,936	£4,364
<b>Uned Tŷ Aran</b>	2	£15,141	£7,571
<b>Uned Tŷ Meirion</b>	11	£66,136	£6,012
<b>Mainstream</b>	11	£64,851	£5,896
<b>Out-of-county</b>	3	£122,655	£40,885



<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>£447,719</b>	<b>£6,584</b>
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Initial calculations suggest that transport costs for the preferred model would be in the region of £424,000 which is lower than the costs for 2012/13 in Table 7.

### **Business needs**

A cost-effective SEN provision for the children of Meirionnydd and Dwyfor that is fit for purpose.