

APPENDIX 9

Pen y Cwm Consultation Thematic Analysis

The primary emergent themes arising from the analysis of written responses including – emails and surveys, along with the frequency of each of the aforementioned themes is detailed below (from the most to the least prevalent issues noted) 31 themes in total:

Theme	Frequency
Top 6 Themes	
No more space in existing school building with loss and or lack of specialist areas, classroom areas and other areas such as office space, DT area, Immersion, Thrive, PPA, shared resources, library, common room, meeting spaces, break out areas, overcrowded corridors, Hoists in areas, therapy areas removal of doors and broken facilities that have not be repaired or relaced	50
Proposal will be a positive impact on learners which will make provision purposeful. Pupils in mainstream resources bases cannot be supported without expanding the capacity for Pen y Cwm, the proposal will be very well received providing more support for Pen y Cwm learners with more space, facilities and a thrive area. And the wider ALN provision	37
Learners needs are not being met , currently difficult to deliver ALP's, SALT. Eps, pupils are waiting for the toilet and shower facility. Missing intervention areas, calming spaces and in vision house nurses drop in.	34
The need for a new building/school/extension to address the schools needs and loss of facilities. Planning this should take into account the structure of PYC sufficiency for existing learners and new learners, replacing areas lost to meet the needs to expand and future proof the schools this includes physical space for learners to play, larger post 16 provision. Consideration should give to Nursery site and Council staff being proactive in their plans	27
Staff are stretched to capacity , putting additional pressure on staff, with a negative impact on wellbeing. Staff uncertainty around building capacity, splitting classes etc	27
Are the consultation plans big enough? Something needs to be undertaken for this September 2026 not only within Vision House but Pen y Cwm as well. The school is already at 193 capacity and with the 10% of 205 learners it could mean that there will be 225 learners. They need future plans for land and sports facilities, long term solutions as it cannot wait until the demand is saturated in 2030/31.	21
Themes continued	
Shared Access to facilities in current location , having 2 schools on the same site with shared facilities does not work, there is conflicting timetabling for areas of the building such as the hall, MUGA etc. the school is constantly busy and, on some instance, this also includes the Leisure Centre and 5G classroom as they are County wide.	19
Pen y Cwm are successful in learners' achievements; specialist rooms are required to make this proposal work. Learners at both Pen Y Cwm and Vision House are Thriving. How does the sustainability of specialist provision remain top priority	14

<p>What is going to happen September 2026 for Post 16 at Vision House, this is a crucial provision for learners however, there is no room for additional learners come this September 2026, it doesn't have a lift and there is no room for Nurses to visit learners.</p> <p>What are the Council going to do with the increase of learners entering Post 16 in September 2026 as 3 are leaving and 17 are due to move up to post 16.</p>	14
<p>What will the new long-term plan be? It needs plans, support from the school, space and deliverability</p>	13
<p>Health and Safety concerns, along with Accidents and Incidents, it was noted that there are concerns around overcrowding for pupils, accessibility for all pupils and the number of safe spaces for pupils. One respondent would like to see how many incidents have taken place since September 2025, and another stated has there been a rise in number of incidents.</p>	11
<p>Pupil Wellbeing, it has been noted that there is a negative impact on wellbeing. Which needs to be addressed via this proposal, such as rehabilitation, therapy, toilet ratio and opportunities for training with parents.</p>	10
<p>Financial constraints, there are areas within the budget for both revenue and Capital considerations, with more staff and pupils there will be more revenue costs, also there is concern that £3 -15m will not be enough to do everything</p>	10
<p>Waiting List, the length of time waiting for an admission to Pen y Cwm is too long; by having more places it will address the capacity and reduce waiting times.</p>	9
<p>Mainstream ALN, more planning around Resource bases and mainstreams schools require development as they are needed, it would support learners going into Pen y Cwm and staying in mainstream education settings.</p>	9
<p>Retention of Staff, consultees commented about losing staff and recruitment difficulties. More staff need to be recruited with experience so that the school needs are met as a matter of urgency.</p>	7
<p>Changes in Behaviours of Pupils, staff have commented that the children attending Pen y Cwm are developing negative behaviours in school and on the buses, issues regulating their emotions and the environment is too busy.</p>	7
<p>Part 1 of the proposal, seems like there is no quick fix, there are timeslot clashes in school currently, as well as the leisure Centre</p>	6
<p>Vision House, respondents commented that even though Vision House is a temporary solution, some would like it to remain even if additional space can be found in new building.</p>	6
<p>Buildings need to be fit for purpose, currently there are concerns that both Pen y Cwm main school and Vision House is not fit for purpose, i.e. lifts, toilet, glass pains, area accessibility</p>	6
<p>Curriculum, concerns around the Curriculum tailored for special schools is not being met.</p>	4
<p>Inaccuracies in the document, comments that the data presented was inaccurate</p>	4

Parking Arrangements , referring to insufficient existing parking arrangements and the increase in cars/buses/taxis bring pupils to school. This needs to be managed carefully due learners need	4
What is the plan for Vision House and can it be made Accessible for long term?	4
Estyn Recommendations , that no primary class is no bigger than 8 pupils in special schools, in some instances there 9 or 10 pupils	2
Family , the learning environments can cause stress on families as their children are not receiving the additional layers of support nor can parents be provided training on how to manage behaviours at the school. There is also the travel time to and from school for parents/learners	4
Out of County , without this proposal there could be more expense for the Council in providing pupils education Out of County.	1
Health Board engagement , wider consideration in planning this requires more involvement with Health board and services	1
Safeguarding , concerns around safeguarding of pupils in the current buildings. i.e. shared facilities	1
Age 19-25 , why doesn't the Special school cater for this age group.	1
Storage in current buildings , due to adaptations there has been a lot of storage areas lost for the school.	1