

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr Bridgend County Borough Council



Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont, CF31 4WB / Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

Mr Andrew Barkley
HM Senior Coroner
South Wales Central Area
Rock Grounds
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Aberdare CF44 7AE

Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive
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Gofynnwch am / Ask for:

Ein cyf / Our ref:
Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad / Date: 19 April 2017

Dear Mr Barkley

Thank you for your letter and Regulation 28 report dated 22 February 2017 following the inquest into the death of Ashley Talbot. This was a tragic accident and the Council would like to express its sincere condolences to Ashley's family.

In accordance with Regulation 28, we have considered the concerns you have raised and will respond as follows:

1. Road layout

Following this incident, the traffic management arrangements at all schools in the Borough were observed by Health and Safety Officers and Road Safety Officers. Both internal and external arrangements at the school were observed and documented. Advice was provided to all headteachers at their forum meetings and a checklist was developed to assist them in monitoring their current arrangements. A programme of works was identified for the physical environment which is currently being implemented. Examples of work undertaken at these locations included extra crossings, the installation of additional barriers and bollards. Works were also carried out at Maesteg Comprehensive School.

The bus bay has been extended and can now accommodate seven buses. If there are changes to the number of buses required, this will be reviewed to ensure the space remains sufficient. The school site is now also subject to a lockdown, with no vehicles being allowed to enter or move around the site until the children have alighted/boarded the buses. Buses are only permitted to arrive/leave under controlled operation. A new drop-off area has been created on the access road (Ffordd Dysgu).

The Corporate Health and Safety Team has promoted near-miss reporting within the current accident procedure across the Council. This was promoted with all headteachers at their forum meetings.

2. Staff supervision

The supervision of the children falls under the responsibility of the school. The Council has monitored all schools' supervision arrangements during their observations by health and safety

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We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Please let us know if your language choice is Welsh

and road safety officers. The traffic management checklist provided to all schools includes a question on staff supervision during the start and end of the school day.


3. Design and construction

The design project board for any new school build is now a multi-discipline team including designers, clients, highways road safety staff and health and safety officers. The project is now planned more strategically and with a holistic view. Early consideration is given to traffic management arrangements both internal and external for any new schools. Advice is sought at an options appraisal stage to ensure any potential highway issues are identified prior to a site being chosen. Infrastructure costs, including works to highways and on-site parking/drop-off arrangements, are now included in the overall costs of the budget. Once a site is identified and design is underway, the project board maintains a link with the on-site management of the build.

I hope the above reassures you that Bridgend County Borough Council has taken appropriate steps to respond to the events at Maesteg Comprehensive School, and has also considered the actions that are needed throughout the Borough. The Council is committed to improving health and safety within the schools and will continue to work with the governing bodies and headteachers to ensure the situation at all schools is monitored and actions taken as necessary.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely



Darren Mepham
Chief Executive