

Public Document Pack



The following report is an information item for the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee.

1. Play Sufficiency Information Report.



ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – FOR INFORMATION

SUBJECT: PLAY SUFFICIENCY INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT BY: INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update members on the Welsh Government statutory duty requiring Local Authorities to secure sufficient play opportunities for children through a Play sufficiency assessment every three years.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report provides an overview of the play sufficiency duty and updates members of the sufficiency of play opportunities and the priorities identified in the attached assessment submitted to Welsh Government in March 2019.
- 2.2 The second part of the new legislation came into effect in July 2014 with the publication of “Wales, a Play Friendly Country”. This new duty required Local Authorities to secure sufficient play opportunities, so far as reasonably practicable.
- 2.3 There are many examples of how improved play opportunities have resulted from excellent partnership work, however, the biggest challenge remains the heavy reliance on external sources of funding to deliver many aspects of play provision.
- 2.4 While a Play Sufficiency assessment is statutory, Caerphilly does not have a designated Play officer to support this Statutory function.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members are asked to note contents of the report and the statutory duty requiring Local Authorities to secure sufficient play opportunities for children, as far as reasonably practicable.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To increase awareness in the Scrutiny Committee of the Play Sufficiency Duty.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 In 2012 Welsh Government produced “Creating a Play Friendly Wales”, the statutory guidance to Local Authorities on assessing sufficient play opportunities. The play sufficiency assessments were produced through a multi partnership approach and were submitted to

Welsh Government for approval.

- 5.2 The second part of the legislation came into effect in July 2014 with the publication of “Wales: A Play Friendly Country”, which is statutory guidance to local authorities on securing sufficient play opportunities for children in their areas. The duty also required Local Authorities to publish and keep up-to-date information about play opportunities for children.
- 5.3 There are no precedents for this work as Wales is the first Country in the world to establish such a duty within its legislative framework. While this approach is to be applauded and there is positive partner engagement, the duty needs to be delivered within existing or indeed reduced resources. However, the duty does include the caveat that opportunities should be secured “so far as reasonably practicable” and that sufficiency should be “determined locally”.
- 5.4 Representations from all relevant stakeholder groups, both from within Caerphilly County Borough Council and partner organisations play an active role in a working group that developed the initial sufficiency assessment and are now contributing towards the delivery of the priorities within the attached action plan.
- 5.5 The accountability of delivering the actions in the plan are not the responsibility of any one department and are very reliant on effective partnership working. Many aspects are also reliant on external sources of grant funding (If secured) that are short term in nature and may impact on the sustainability of some of the actions. Caerphilly does not have a Play Development Officer who can support any of this work.
- 5.6 As part of the duty it is a requirement to submit a full Play sufficiency assessment every three years (2019 Attached) and review, update and submit Action plans annually to Welsh Government for assessment. The Attached Sufficiency has been submitted and the Authority is awaiting feedback from Welsh Government.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 The Play Sufficiency Assessment has been developed with the assumption that Public Austerity will continue over the medium term.

7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

- 7.1 Play is an important method in achieving many other strategies relating to children’s education, development and well-being. Play opportunities can contribute to mitigating the negative effects of poverty on children’s lives. Play contributes to the Child Poverty Strategy, Communities First, Families First, 21st Century Schools, Corporate Plan, Sport and Active recreation strategy, Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 and many more plans and strategies.
- 7.2 Caerphilly’s Attainment Strategy: To raise standards and ensure our learners are healthy, confident, proud and ambitious and can access high quality educational opportunities, settings and experience.
- 7.3 Caerphilly’s Wellbeing Objectives 2018 to 2023. This proposal will assist the Authority in meeting these objectives in particular the following:
Well-being Objective 1 – Improve Education opportunities for all.
Well-being Objective 2 – Enabling Employment.
Well-being Objective 3 – Provide assistance or support to help improve people’s health and well being.

Well-being Objective 5 – Supports a Healthy Lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 8.1 Contributes to the Council's Well-being Objectives as set out in Links to relevant Council policies above. It is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act in that:
- **Long Term** - Continue to support the Play Sufficiency assessment over the long term, through internal officer support from a wide range of services.
 - **Prevention** – The promotion of well-being now prevents need in the future. The Play sufficiency assessment will support the provision of play through many experiences. The Authority will continue to support people who take responsibility for their own health and well-being.
 - **Integration** – The Sufficiency is cross cutting and a multi -agency approach to play and aligns with the Welsh Government “Prosperity For All”.
 - **Collaboration** – To work collaboratively with all stakeholders to continue to improve the opportunities for Play in the wider Community.
 - **Involvement** – Through collaborative working the Council will ensure that the needs of its learners and the wider community are met.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment screening has been completed in accordance with the Council's Strategic Equality Plan and supplementary guidance. No potential for unlawful discrimination and/or low level or minor negative impact has been identified, therefore a full Equalities Impact Assessment has not been carried out.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Some of the actions in the plan are dependent on successfully securing external sources of funding; the remainder of the actions will need to be delivered through existing Authority resources, improved co-ordination and partnership working.

11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this report.

12. CONSULTATIONS

- 12.1 The report was distributed as detailed below. All comments received have been reflected in this version of the report. This report reflects the views of the listed consultees and the working group.

13. STATUTORY POWER

13.1 Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010.

Author: Jared Lougher, Sport and Leisure Development Manager, loughj@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Mark S Williams, Interim Corporate Director – Communities
Rob Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services
Lisa James, Senior Planner
Gareth Davies, Area Parks Officer
Elizabeth Gibby, Senior Assistant Engineer
Sarah Mutch, Early Years Manager
Fiona Santos, Childcare Co-ordinator
Tina McMahon, Community Regeneration Manager
Ruth Lee, Family Information Services
Paul O'Neil, Senior Youth Service Manager
Sean Spooner, Sport and Leisure Area Team Leader

Appendices:

Appendix 1 2019 Play Sufficiency Assessment

Play Sufficiency Assessment Form



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Name of Local Authority: Caerphilly County Borough Council

Name of responsible officer: Jared Lougher

Job title: Sports and Leisure Development Manager

Date of completion: March 2019

Please note that the Play Sufficiency Assessment must be received by the Welsh Government by 31st March 2019



Conducting the Assessment – Play Sufficiency Assessment

As well as establishing a baseline of provision, the Play Sufficiency Assessment will enable the following:

- Identification of gaps in information, provision, service delivery and policy implementation
- Support the establishment of evidence to give an indication of distance travelled in relation to play sufficiency
- Highlight potential ways of addressing issues relating to partnership working
- The input and involvement of all partners increasing levels of knowledge and understanding
- A monitoring system which will involve and improve communication between professionals
- The identification of good practice examples
- Increased levels of partnerships in assessing sufficient play opportunities
- The identification of actions for the Securing Play Sufficiency Action Plan which accompanies the Play Sufficiency Assessment

A template has been produced to support a corporate appraisal of the matters that need to be taken into account as set out in the Statutory Guidance. The indicators listed within each matter are provided as sample indicators which should be amended to meet local issues as appropriate.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment must demonstrate that the Local Authority has taken into account and assessed the matters set out in The Play Sufficiency Assessment (Wales) Regulations 2012 and Statutory Guidance.

As well as providing baseline information, the Assessment can include examples of current practice that the Local Authority wishes to highlight.

Local Authorities might consider structuring the Play Sufficiency Assessment in the following way and as a minimum address all the identified sections.

Principle Statement

***“We recognise that every child has the right to play and access quality play opportunities. We also acknowledge that play is a fundamental part of childhood and benefits children’s health, social and emotional well-being. We will continue to develop opportunities that support children’s play and work towards creating an environment that values it”
(Caerphilly County Borough Council and Partners).***

Context

Partners involved in the process

In order to ensure that all relevant stakeholders both from within the local authority and within partner organisations could input appropriately into the Play Sufficiency Assessment, a working group was established comprising representatives from key departments within the Local Authority (Sport and Leisure, Parks and Outdoor Facilities, Countryside, Strategic Planning, Highways, Community Regeneration, Early Years and Childcare, Youth Service) as well as partner organisations.

The working group has served to provide information where available for each of the matters identified within the Play Sufficiency toolkit and identified additional points of contact where the information required did not fall within the expertise of the group.

Methodology

The Assessment considers nine 'matters that need to be taken into account' and the methodology employed to assess these matters is identified within this section. However, it should be noted that much of the evidence relates to projects or strategies that are cross cutting and have therefore been considered under more than one 'matter'.

To assess the space available for children to play (Matter C) a paper was written and endorsed by the working group setting out the proposed assessment process for the quantity, accessibility and baseline quality of open spaces and designated play spaces in 2012. This methodology was re-utilised in 2016, and again in 2019.

An Open Space Assessment was carried out which mapped all open spaces in accordance with the typologies of Open Space in Technical Advice Note (TAN) 16: Sport, Recreation and Open Space. In order to ensure that a true position of the amount of open space available in each community was considered, all open spaces were assessed, regardless of size, and a typology and sub-category applied to each space (e.g. amenity green space – informal recreation space). Each space was also assessed in broad terms to determine whether it could be accessed, its condition, its visual amenity value, its recreational amenity value and whether it was a 'useable' open space. Those open spaces that have 'recreational value', are in good condition and are considered 'useable' have broadly been classified as 'quality' open spaces and this has provided a baseline. However, it should be noted that due to the number of spaces (in excess of 8000 different pieces of land), it was not feasible to undertake a detailed assessment of the play value of each open space.

In order to analyse whether there is sufficient quantity of open space in each area, a ward-based analysis of the total amount of 'useable' open space against the Fields In Trust (FIT) benchmark standards for 'children's play space' was completed. The analysis was undertaken using 2011 census populations for each ward.

The findings indicated that a few wards had insufficient children's play space when assessed against the FIT standard of 0.8 Ha of children's play space per 1000 population. However, it is recognised that some open space provision crosses ward boundaries and therefore, where net shortfalls of open space have been identified in a particular ward, consideration has also been given to the availability of open space close to ward boundaries, particularly in settlements that comprise more than one ward. An assessment has also been carried out of how the total amount of designated play spaces (e.g. playgrounds, MUGAs, skate parks, youth shelters etc.) compares to the FIT standard of 0.25 Ha of designated play space per 1000 population, and also against local standards for the number of children aged 0-14 served by a playground and by any designated facility. It should be noted that recreational sports fields have not been included within these calculations as these are covered by separate FIT standards for outdoor sports provision.

This assessment has found apparent shortfalls against local standards in quantitative terms within particular wards, although this again must be considered against the local context.

Accessibility to open spaces and designated facilities was assessed for 5 different age groups (0-3, 4-7, 8-12, 13-15 and 16-17). A mapping exercise was carried out to identify each type of open space that children of each specific age group are likely to use and then identify the maximum walking distance straight line buffers identified within the FIT guidelines. Areas with limited open space for younger age groups in particular have been identified.

The local authority now has a working database that records and shows spatially every open space (including designated play spaces and outdoor sports facilities) identified through the Open Space Assessment, as well as the location of all supervised play provision. This database should be kept up to date and assists in gathering evidence for future Play Sufficiency Assessments, as well as for other policy requirements such as the LDP and future leisure strategies.

Analysis of current provision indicates that there is a good distribution of supervised play across the County Borough and there are a number of free to attend or low cost groups in some areas. In addition, there is provision in some areas for different needs such as disability and Welsh Medium although shortfalls have been identified in some areas.

It is clear that CCBC and its play partners seek to provide a provision that offers a rich environment given the number of different play opportunities on offer, and many of the provisions available are CIW accredited. CCBC also has its own Quality Standard through which play schemes will aspire to be accredited towards.

Linked to this, detailed consideration has been given to the existing play workforce and the training opportunities available to both the play workforce themselves and for other interested parties (Matter G).

The data collected for Matters A, C and D, as well as the findings of the consultation carried out with children and young people and with adults both as part of this process and prior to this, have helped informed an assessment as to what particular provision is available for those with specific needs e.g. disabilities, Welsh language, ethnic groups, children in rural areas etc. to help ascertain whether play opportunities are appropriate (Matter B).

Consideration has also been given to the Council's approach to road safety as well as access, both in physical terms and through access to information (Matter F).

The importance of engaging various community groups in initiatives to enhance play is highlighted under Matter H and a number of good practice examples of where the local authority is succeeding in achieving this have been cited.

An assessment has also been carried out in respect of the numerous policy areas that play opportunities would be influenced by and the extent to which play is included within these policy agendas (Matter I).

Consultation and the Future

In taking forward the Play Sufficiency Assessment, a consultation draft of the toolkit was circulated to all working group members for comment to agree the identified actions for the action plan and to discuss who would be responsible for progressing the work.

The Assessment and Action Plan will be then reported to the Local Authority's Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee as an information only report.

In order to progress the identified actions for the action plan, it is proposed that relevant stakeholders will continue to meet 4 times a year to discuss how actions will be progressed. The Stakeholder Group has found the update meetings useful, and these have helped target areas where additional cross-department work is needed.

Partnership working

As stated within the previous section, a working group comprising a cross section of departments of the Council as well as wider representatives including Groundwork Wales were involved in undertaking the Assessment and the development of the action plan. However loss of funding for various posts such as the Play Development Post at GAVO has impacted on the working group and our ability to deliver in CCBC.

The WHQS Environmental Improvement Programme continues to undertake extensive consultation with communities in the Caerphilly Homes housing areas.

It should be noted that Town and Community Councils, third sector organisations, the private sector and community groups were also all consulted through the Local Development Plan process, where much of the open space evidence base is drawn.

Consultation and participation

CCBC has undertaken a number of consultations with residents of the county borough. Recently-

- The National School Sport survey (2018) where over 11,333 children and young people aged 7-16 completed the National survey.
- The Sport and Active recreation strategy (SARS) public consultation in 2018 with 711 respondents and 20 written responses.
- The WHQS Environment improvement programme undertakes extensive consultation with Caerphilly Homes residents.

The above consultations assist CCBC to inform future plans.

Maximising resources

It should be recognised that CCBC does not have a designated play sufficiency officer due to lack of funding, and play opportunities are dependent on funding being available. Any current and new play opportunities will therefore be dependent on new funding sources being created and maintained. The priority at this time will therefore be aimed at supporting and promoting the existing play opportunities, to ensure that a good quality of play is provided.

The main funding to deliver play has altered considerably since the introduction of Play Sufficiency Assessments. Funding for play was drawn from the following resources:

- Tiny Talkers – play and language development – funded primarily by Flying Start, working with children aged 0 – 3. Families First funding compliments this with an additional 6

- groups for children with identified speech and language development needs.
- Play in registered childcare facilities is still supported via the Early Years team through the Out of School grant which will become the Children and Play grant from April 2019. Families First also funds placements for children with developmental delays and additional needs who would benefit from being placed in group childcare provision.
 - Adventure Play - One team was funded by Communities First for one year, covering 4 community areas. This funding ceased at the end of March 2016
 - More Than Play works with children with developmental delays. The project supports families in order to maximise the learning and development of their child in the home, through packages of play development.
 - GAVO play development officer funding ended March 2018 - I cannot comment on this because it is not my area
 - Families First fund Families Learning Together, in which there is Language & Play provision. The project supports families to develop their numeracy, literacy and also promotes early language through play.

As indicated above, the future of funding and the provision of Play across the County Borough are uncertain.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment and local Well-being Plans

The Caerphilly Public Service Board (PSB) comprises the leader and Chief Executive of Caerphilly CBC, alongside representatives from the Aneurin Bevan Health Board. Within the PSB Well-being Plan there are four high level well-being objectives:-

- Positive Change – a shared commitment to improving the way we work together
- Positive Start – Giving our future generations the best start in life
- Positive People – Empowering and enabling all our residents to achieve their own potential
- Positive Places – Enabling our communities to be resilient and sustainable

'The Caerphilly we Want' Delivery Plan 2018-2023 outlines the steps that will be undertaken to deliver the Well-being Plan and includes objectives and action areas which promote children's play.

Monitoring Play Sufficiency

The lead Director for CCBC is Mark S Williams, Interim Corporate Director of Communities and the Play sufficiency lead is Jared Lougher, Sport and Leisure Development Officer, Sport and Leisure services. The Play Sufficiency Working Group, as mentioned earlier, is a working group comprising a cross section of departments of the Council as well as representatives from partner organisations. The group meets 4 times a year and discuss future priorities for the Action Plan.

The Play Sufficiency Working Group will continue to meet, and will continue to prioritise actions and discuss the ways in which the future provision of Play is delivered

Criteria

This section contains the “matters that need to be taken into account” as set out under section 10 of the Statutory Guidance.

The Criteria column: sets out the data that needs to be available and the extent to which Local Authorities meet the stated criteria.

The RAG status column: provides a drop down box, whereby the Local Authority can show its assessment of whether that criterion is fully met; partially met; or not met. These have been given Red, Amber Green markers, which appear as words in the drop down boxes. *(In the “RAG status column”, Double click on the word STATUS – this will bring up drop-down form fields options, use the arrow down key until the status required RED, AMBER or GREEN- is at the top then press ok)*

Red, Amber Green (RAG) status is a tool to communicate status quickly and effectively.

RAG status

Criteria fully met.	Fully met
Criteria partially met.	Partially met
Criteria not met.	Not met

The 2019 column enables the local authority to indicate the direction of travel with the insertion of arrows.

The Evidence to support strengths column: should be used to provide the reason for the chosen criteria status and how the evidence is held.

The Shortfall column: should be used to explain the areas in which the Local Authority does not fully meet the criteria.

The Identified Action for Action Plan column: should be used to show the Local Authority action planning priorities for that Matter.

The Comments section: asks some specific questions for each matter that should enable you to give a clear overview of how the Local Authority complies with the intention and implementation of this matter as set out fully in the Statutory Guidance. It also provides the opportunity to identify challenges and how they might be overcome.

Matter A: Population

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should provide an overview of population and demographic data used locally to plan for play provision. Information should also be included regarding:

- Ages of children
- First language Welsh speaking children
- Cultural factors (such as other language)
- Gypsy Traveller children
- Disabled children

What has changed in terms of population and demographic trends since Play Sufficiency Assessment 2016?

The 2011 census is still the most appropriate data source for many of the criteria identified, and this includes both ward and LSOA information.

How has/will the Local Authority use its population data to plan for sufficient play opportunities locally?

Population data has been used for analysis against the benchmark standards for children's play space (see Matter C), which is based on the amount of open space per 1000 population. The release of the 2011 census overall population figures for the local authority raised concerns about the accuracy of the 2010 population and household projections (2008 based) as the Census identified a population approximately 5,000 higher than the projections had anticipated, so any 5 year projections need to be tentatively assessed.

The population increase, as well as projected household increase will be considered as part of any new or replacement LDP and this will take the projected population increase into account in terms of accessibility and projected impact the increased population will have on current fixed play facilities across the County Borough.

Have there been challenges?

How can these be overcome?

Comments

RAG Status for Matter A

Criteria partially met.

Matter B: Providing for Diverse Needs

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should present data about how the Local Authority and partners aim to offer play opportunities that are inclusive and encourage all children to play and meet together.

RAG Status:

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
13	The play requirements of children living in isolated rural areas are understood and provided for			<p>The National Statistics Rural and Urban Classification of output areas identifies that 22% of the County Borough lives in a 'rural' area, defined as a settlement of less than 10,000 people. A total of 14 wards are designated as 'rural' within the Rural Development Plan and for the purposes of this Assessment, this definition will be used to define the number of children living in 'rural' areas. It should be noted, however, that whilst there are rural settlements across the County Borough, few would be considered to be geographically isolated as they have good public transport links, facilities and links to adjoining larger settlements.</p> <p>As part of the Open Space Audit the useable open spaces available for children to play have been mapped for the whole County Borough and therefore there is an understanding of the physical provision at a local level for those children living in more rural areas.</p>	<p>Whilst there is an understanding of the provision that is available in each area, it would be beneficial to undertake a survey within specific 'rural' settlements to determine the barriers that these particular children are facing. However funding would be needed to carry this out.</p>	<p>Undertake targeted consultation with children and their parents in isolated areas to establish need.</p> <p>Assess the impact of the Rural Development Plan (RDP) schemes. Secure funding to carry these</p>

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The play requirements of Welsh language speaking children are understood and provided for			<p>The Council's Family Information Service (FIS) database identifies the availability of CIW regulated Welsh Medium play provision. This has been mapped and assessed against Welsh speaking population figures. The FIS has a Welsh speaking member of staff.</p> <p>The Early Years Service Area has procured Menter Iaith to support the development of language rich environments across the sector and to effectively coordinate workforce development with regard to Welsh Language Development, including a Welsh Language quality assurance scheme called the Road to Bilingualism which supports both English and Welsh medium settings.</p> <p>All specifications for Families First, Childcare and Flying Start must meet the needs of families including Welsh speaking.</p> <p>Urdd and Menter Iaith provide social opportunities to use Welsh language and both work with local Welsh medium schools to enhance provision.</p> <p>The local Welsh Education forum acts as a partnership incorporating all services across Welsh medium provision and across sectors including education, play, parenting, youth and childcare. This acts as a vehicle to raise and monitor sufficiency issues as well as the need to stimulate demand.</p> <p>Staff throughout the sector have received training to improve their Welsh language skills. In addition the Level 2 Playwork award has been delivered targeting Menter Iaith staff to ensure sufficient Welsh language speaking play workers had access to training.</p> <p>The Authority's Youth Service operates a dedicated Welsh language youth club which is also attended by those of play age.</p>		out.
	The play requirements of			Caerphilly has very low numbers of children from different cultural backgrounds. The FIS data has indicated that there is no specific provision for particular cultural groups. However, the LA and its play providers aim to		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	children from different cultural background are understood and provided for			<p>promote inclusive play and therefore if there are specific cultural issues that are identified, play staff will ensure that these needs are provided for.</p> <p>A number of <u>equalities awareness courses</u> are organised to raise awareness of specific issues amongst Council employees and partner groups including play workers. Whilst these courses are not specific to play provision they help raise awareness of the issues that may be experienced by specific groups in participating.</p>		
Page 15	The play requirements and support needs of disabled children are understood and provided for.			<p>The Local Authority's equalities ethos is based upon the social model of disability which puts the individual first and views that they are only disabled by the ways in which society does not make provision for their particular impairments. Local Authority contracts require suppliers to deliver inclusive provision to meet the needs of all individuals accessing it. This is further covered through equality impact assessments.</p> <p>Children with disabilities are encouraged to participate in play activities and settings are encouraged to support the individual needs of the child. As every child experiences disability differently, it is difficult to fully assess every need through the Play Sufficiency Assessment.</p> <p>There is a large toy library supported through Early Years for settings and families to loan suitable equipment for children and young people with ALN / emerging needs.</p> <p>The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment also details wards that have childcare, including playgroups, where staff have specific training or experience in particular disabilities. This information is updated and readily available through the FIS website, Facebook, phone and email. These have been mapped spatially.</p> <p>The Early Years team has delivered a comprehensive package of training regarding the SEN code of practice / ALN reform, as well as all the paperwork and processes needed to ensure children and young people are fully supported. This is now being developed regionally.</p>	<p>There is good specialist provision available although a limited number of places for children and young people with complex needs to access play opportunities</p>	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 16	<p>Play projects and providers have access to a range of resources which support inclusion</p> <p>There is a well known and agreed mechanism which is used to identify the need for separate provision for disabled children</p>			<p>Families First and Childcare and Play grants fund the Supported and Assisted Places scheme which enables children and young people with disabilities and emerging needs to access mainstream universal childcare provision with additional support in the setting if needed.</p> <p>Trinity Fields has established a quality childcare holiday provision for children with the most complex needs which has been recognised for excellent practice with Care Inspectorate Wales.</p> <p>Energlyn Children Centre also continues to deliver holiday childcare and activity clubs for children with disabilities to access play provision.</p> <p>Sport Caerphilly continues to run bespoke Disability holiday camps in conjunction with Caerphilly Adventures as well as inclusive holiday provisions, using various sports as a tool of engagement.</p> <p>St James Integrated Children's Centre toy library, houses a range of equipment for play projects and providers alongside other toy and library schemes for children with ALN / emerging needs. In addition there is a range of support through a variety of officer roles across the borough to ensure inclusive provision can be delivered.</p> <p>Integrated Service for Children with Additional Needs (ISCAN) is a multi-agency service where professionals from health, education, children's services and voluntary agencies work together to provide a service for children and families with additional needs. ISCAN will look at the range of services needed by each family. This has been so successful that the model has been developed across Gwent in two further hubs.</p> <p>ISCAN Board acts as a hub of strategic professionals to discuss needs for services and develop suitable infrastructure across agencies to deliver the provision.</p> <p>Early Years' team has collaborated across Gwent to develop a Gwent</p>		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				training suite of modules for practitioners to ensure readiness for the new ALN Act. There is a comprehensive training and support package for childcare setting staff to be able to identify emerging needs and put in suitable interventions to support children and young people in their setting.		
	Access audits for all play provision as described in the guidance are undertaken			Caerphilly FIS holds information on services available. Access audits have been completed on all council owned public buildings and they now all meet the 'foundation standard'.		
	Designated play space is provided and well maintained on gypsy traveller sites			The majority of the fixed play sites have a 1.2 width tarmac path entrance with self closing gates which comply with the playground safety standard BS/EN1176. There are no Local Authority or private Gypsy and Traveller sites within the County Borough. However, a planning application for a caravan site for two gypsy families is pending consideration. The site of this proposal is adjacent to an existing playground. If a requirement is identified in the future and a suitable site is delivered by the local authority, it is anticipated that it will be delivered in accordance with the Welsh Government's Gypsy Traveller Site Design Guidance, which recognises the need for an area for children and young people to play and gather, especially if there is not suitable provision within walking distance on a safe route.		
	The requirements of young carers are understood and provided for			Caerphilly FIS holds information on services available. Families First funds a joint contract with Children Services to deliver young carer provision and advocacy for young carers across the borough.		
	The requirements of lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) children are			There are no comprehensive records of how many children are lesbian, gay or bisexual in each ward of the County Borough, particularly as many young people may be reluctant to identify themselves within this group. However, the LA and its play providers aim to promote inclusive play and	There is a lack of specific training to meet this need available for the sector.	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	understood and provided for			<p>therefore if there are specific issues that are identified, play staff will ensure that these needs are provided for.</p> <p>A number of <u>equalities awareness courses</u> are organised to raise awareness of specific issues amongst Council employees and partner groups including play workers. Whilst these courses are not specific to play provision they help raise awareness of the issues that may be experienced by specific groups in participating.</p> <p>The Authority's Youth Service operates the county borough's LGBT group for young people and provides a dedicated meeting place.</p>		

Providing for Diverse Needs

How has data been used (or how will the data be used) to address the barriers that children with diverse needs face in accessing inclusive and accessible opportunities for playing?

Have there been challenges?

How can these be overcome?

Comments:

The Local Authority's approach to play is still to promote inclusivity for all and therefore those with a specific need by virtue of a disability, culture, language, sexual orientation or any other reason will be supported to participate within existing play settings as much as possible, rather than being segregated through different provision.

With regards to Welsh language, an assessment of provision across the County Borough clearly indicates that there is only a limited supervised provision in certain areas for certain age groups, and much of this provision is linked to Welsh Medium schools (breakfast and after school clubs). However, it has been the case, particularly in the north of the County Borough, that there Welsh Medium childcare provision has been found to be unsustainable and therefore it is important that any future Welsh medium play provision is based on demand. The Local Authority will therefore continue to work with Welsh language groups such as Menter Iaith and Mudiad Meithrin to determine through further consultation with children and parents whether there would be a demand for increased facilities and to encourage the provision of these facilities where

appropriate.

The County Borough has few areas that would be described as 'isolated rural areas,' but there are wards that have been classified as 'rural'. The provision of open space, designated play areas and supervised provision is understood and barriers to play have been identified by children in these areas through the survey. However, to aid a full understanding there would be benefits in undertaking further survey work with children in specific communities.

The number of non-English/Welsh speaking families is one of the lowest in Wales (379 households or 0.5% of the population) and figures for BME groups are very small and therefore the demand for groups or facilities to meet a specific ethnic group is low. However, as part of the inclusive play agenda opportunities to encourage all groups in society to participate in play provision is essential and the LA will continue to look to support increased awareness of particular cultural issues through training of play providers where appropriate.

Matter C: Space available for children to play: Open Spaces and Outdoor unstaffed designated play spaces

The Local Authority should recognise that all open spaces within their area are potentially important areas where children can play or pass through to reach other play areas or places where they go.

RAG Status

Criteria fully met.
Criteria partially met.
Criteria not met.

Open Spaces

Table Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority has undertaken an Open Space Assessment (OSA) that maps areas that are used, or might be used for playing as listed in the Statutory Guidance			<p>An Open Space Assessment has been undertaken as part of the Local Development Plan (LDP) process. As part of this assessment, all spaces have been categorised in accordance with the typologies and sub-typologies set out with TAN 16. In accordance with the statutory guidance, where large sites (such as public parks and gardens) comprise more than one function these have been subdivided as appropriate to ensure that the local authority has an accurate position of the land use of every parcel of open space.</p> <p>The Council now has a corporate database, which records all areas of open space and their typologies and links this spatially to a map so that the amount of open space within different typologies in specific areas can be easily calculated and this information will be regularly updated to ensure it remains as accurate as possible. This data is regularly updated as a result of planning applications.</p> <p>With regards to residential streets, a road hierarchy is set out within the LDP</p>	<p>The OSA has not specifically considered brownfield sites as a separate typology as this was not a requirement of TAN 16 (see general comments below).</p> <p>The database is not regularly</p>	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>comprising the strategic highway network, county routes, distributor roads and access roads. Access roads are the estate roads and other roads where pedestrian activity will be commonplace, on which traffic will not automatically have priority, and therefore on which major constraints on traffic movement are likely to be desirable. Mapping of all 'access roads' in the County Borough has been carried out.</p>	<p>updated or maintained.</p>	
	<p>The Local Authority has undertaken an Accessible Greenspace Study that maps areas that are used for playing</p>			<p>As part of the evidence base for the LDP, a Natural Greenspace Assessment was produced in accordance with the standards set out in the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) document <i>Providing Accessible Natural Greenspace in Towns and Cities</i>. The Assessment was conducted on behalf of five Heads of the Valleys local authorities and it was therefore possible to assess the accessibility to green space for areas along most of Caerphilly County Borough's boundaries. This allowed spaces used by residents but located outside the administrative area to be taken into account. Using a network analysis method, it was determined at a local authority level that 99% of the population lived within 10km of 500 ha green space, 100% lived within 5km of 100 ha space, 98% lived within 2km of 20 ha green space and 51% lived within 400m of any green space. However, it should be noted that only sites of 0.1 ha or over were assessed. Analysis has also been undertaken at a ward level where areas with low provision of greenspaces have been identified.</p> <p>A summary of the findings of the Natural Greenspace Assessment is found within the LDP Leisure Background paper http://apps.caerphilly.gov.uk/LDP/Examination/PDF/SB41.pdf</p> <p>In addition to the Natural Greenspace Assessment, which focuses on the particular typology of 'natural greenspaces,' the Local Authority has undertaken further analysis of the accessibility of those areas of open space classified as 'useable' in the Open Space Assessment to children and young people of different age groups based on the FIT Benchmark Standards for Children's Playing Space Accessibility.</p> <p>The age of children will determine the distance that they are likely to travel to access play spaces and therefore local standards have been identified for the</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>maximum walking distance for 0-3, 4-7, 8-12 and 13 and over, and the typology of open space that these age groups are likely to use. Maximum walking distance straight line buffers of each typology of useable open space have been mapped for each age group in order to identify areas where there is no accessible open space provision. As would be expected, younger children have lower maximum walking distance standards and also are likely to use fewer typologies of open space and therefore there are areas that have poor coverage of open space. These have been mapped to identify their location. Coverage is generally good for those 13 or over as they are able to travel further distances to a range of useable open spaces and therefore there are only a few small areas do not meet the defined standards.</p> <p>As children will not only travel to use more formal play facilities (designated play areas), but will also use more informal facilities, it is considered appropriate to include other types of open space within the accessibility assessment. The youngest children (0-3) will only use 'doorstep' facilities, parks and play areas. Children 4-7 may start using other provision for children and young people, but are unlikely to be allowed to play in areas classed as natural and semi-natural greenspace and green corridors. Over the age of 8, children are likely to utilise more types of space, but the distance they will travel will increase as they get older.</p> <p>One of the criteria of the Open Space Assessment was to consider whether the space was accessible to the public or not and all 8000 parcels of open space have been assessed to determine whether they were publicly accessible, access was limited (e.g. school grounds) or the open space was private.</p> <p>Access audits have been undertaken for each of the Council's Country Parks and a number of improvements to access to these areas have been implemented.</p> <p>Furthermore, an access audit of the Heads of the Valleys area has been carried out utilising Heads of the Valleys programme funding which considered significant access improvements to open access land with the ten electoral wards which fall within this area. Several projects aimed at improving access have been implemented in response to this. A similar access audit has also been carried out</p>		
	<p>The Local Authority undertakes access audits at all open spaces and implements proposals to improve access and safety</p>				<p>Develop an agreed access audit template.</p> <p>Train internal staff on how to undertake assessments.</p> <p>Undertake access audits for designated play spaces</p>	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>for access to open access land in the Lower Sirhowy Valley. The Council's Commons strategy also includes measures to improve access to common land within the County Borough.</p> <p>Five of the councils main parks have received 'Green Flag' awards where 'equal access for the community' is a criterion and access audits have been carried out to inform this. The Green Flag Community Award has also been awarded to three quality green spaces managed by voluntary and community groups across the County Borough.</p>	<p>including fixed provision in the first instance.</p> <p>Where the need for improvements are identified look for funding opportunities to facilitate these improvements.</p>	
Page 23	<p>The Local Authority has developed its own Open Space Standards in accordance with the advice and requirements of Planning Policy Wales</p>			<p>The Council has developed Open Space Standards in accordance with Planning Policy Wales and PPW. These standards are based on FIT Standards and are summarised within the Council's adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance on the Protection of Open Space (LDP8). https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/Planning/LDP8-protection-of-open-space.aspx</p>		
	<p>The Local Authority undertakes and actions play value assessments in public open space</p>			<p>The Council undertakes a risk assessment on a quarterly basis of all playgrounds, which considers play equipment, the site itself, perimeter fencing, surfaces and other facilities. The issues identified through the risk assessment process are addressed based on the risk factor and level of urgency identified.</p> <p>Other open space within the Council's ownership is subject to a regular maintenance programme it is free from hazards and the Council respond to any safety issues reported to them by residents as appropriate.</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>One hazard identified as a major concern in play spaces is dog mess. As a means of encouraging safe play free from dog fouling, the Council has a Dog Exclusion Order, which restricts any dog from entering any enclosed children's play areas or MUGA within the County Borough. The Dog Exclusion Order will go some way to addressing this.</p>		
	<p>Brownfield sites owned by the Local Authority are assessed for the potential for the site to be reclaimed to provide for children's play</p>				<p>Brownfield sites owned by the Council are not assessed for their potential to be reclaimed to provide children's play. It should be noted, however, that many of these sites are allocated within the LDP for alternative uses such as housing and employment. It will only be viable to reclaim certain sites if the after-use would generate a high land value such as housing. Funding is unlikely to be available to</p>	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
					reclaim sites for children's play facilities	

Outdoor Unstaffed Designated Play Spaces

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 25	The Local Authority has undertaken an Accessible Greenspace Study that maps areas that are used for playing	New question		All designated play spaces will be listed on the Caerphilly green spaces website which will shortly be operational following the recently integrated parks and countryside service.	Information on the website will need to be updated regularly.	Ensure the website is regularly updated. Link to proposals for access audits for open space above.
	The Local Authority keeps an up to date record of all designated play space as described in the Statutory Guidance			All designated play spaces will be listed on the Caerphilly green spaces website which will shortly be operational following the recently integrated parks and countryside service as well as on the Council's own databases and GIS.	Information on the website will need to be updated regularly.	Undertake joint play access audit/place space and play value assessments.
	The Local Authority			All fixed play facilities have been accessed as part of a playground	Whilst a baseline	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	<p>assesses play spaces for play value and potential to increase in play use as set out in the Statutory Guidance</p>			<p>assessment conducted in 2014 as part of the Review of Existing Leisure facilities. This included assessing the condition of the fixed play, as well as the number of equipment available.</p> <p>In addition, a Playground Assessment was carried out in 2008 which considered a number of criteria including safety, age and condition of equipment, DDA compliance and location. This assessment has identified playgrounds that were a priority for improvements. This information requires updating as some playgrounds have now been removed as they have reached the end of their life and new playgrounds have been provided to respond to local need, or in light of Section 106 agreements.</p> <p>Risk assessments carried out on a quarterly basis also identify areas where improvements to the condition of facilities are required.</p> <p>The local authority have assessed all playing pitches and identified where there are current condition issues such as drainage problems, which, if resolved, would increase the play potential of these areas.</p> <p>This evidence, along with the data in the Open Space Assessment, which looks at the usability, condition and recreational amenity of all open spaces including unstaffed designated play spaces, provides a baseline of the current standard of open space and areas for improvement to increase usage of equipment and sites. It should also be noted that as equipment is updated, only those that are targeted for inclusive play are chosen.</p> <p>Caerphilly CBC has been awarded 5 awards from the prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) as part of their Play Quality Awards scheme for five of its key playgrounds due to their high quality of accessibility for disabled people, demonstrating that some play spaces have been assessed</p>	<p>position is identified on the quality of play spaces based on their condition, further assessment will be required on the 'play value' element of quality and it will be beneficial to undertake this as part of a comprehensive review of designated play spaces.</p>	
	<p>The Local Authority undertakes access audits at all designated play spaces and</p>					

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	implements proposals to improve access and safety			<p>Improvements to safety are identified as part of the quarterly risk assessments undertaken by the council.</p> <p>Design and access statements are required to be submitted for all new planning applications for residential developments where a new play space may be required. Where new play areas are proposed as part of new housing developments, consideration is given through the planning process to the location of the play area within a development to ensure that it adheres to the principles of good design in accordance with Technical Advice Note (TAN) 12: design including ensuring ease of access for all, ensuring attractive safe public spaces and security through natural surveillance.</p>		
Page 27	The Local Authority has developed and agreed a new fixed play provision standard			<p>The Play Sufficiency working group has endorsed the use of the FIT standard for total children play when assessing provision (0.8 Ha per 1000 population) and each ward has been assessed to determine how much children's play space is available per ward. The definitions of what will be included and excluded from the calculation have been agreed by the working group to reflect local circumstances.</p> <p>In addition to the FIT standards, as designated play spaces vary in size and therefore one LEAP may be equivalent to five LAPs in size, it is important that consideration is given to the number of playgrounds and other designated play space serving each ward. A calculation for the number of children aged 0-14 that each playground serves and the number served by all designated facilities (playgrounds, MUGAs, wheeled play areas and youth shelters). In respect of playgrounds, the Council's draft Playground strategy considered that a notional standard of 1 playground per 500 pupils should be applied and this has been taken forward within the Play Sufficiency Assessment as an additional consideration when assessing fixed play provision, alongside the FIT Standard. Facilities at the edge of ward boundaries may serve more than one ward so consideration has also been given to this.</p>	<p>Although there is a baseline level of information regarding the usage of facilities based on the condition survey, play space assessments as per the statutory guidance have not been carried out.</p> <p>Link to proposals for access audits for open space above.</p> <p>Undertake joint play access audit/place space</p>	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>It should be noted that although the statutory guidance identifies recreation sports fields as a designated play space, these have not be assessed as part of designated provision as there are separate FIT standards for outdoor sports provision.</p> <p>The Council undertakes a risk assessment on a quarterly basis of all playgrounds, which considers play equipment, the site itself, perimeter fencing, surfaces and other facilities and identified improvements to conditions. This provides evidence of usage of facilities by the condition, but is not a full play assessment.</p>	<p>and play value assessments.</p>	
	<p>The Local Authority undertakes and actions play space assessments in designated play spaces</p>			<p>Where new play areas are proposed as part of new housing developments, consideration is given through the planning process to the location of the play area within a development to ensure that it adheres to the principles of good design in accordance with Technical Advice Note (TAN) 12: Design including ensuring ease of access for all, ensuring attractive, safe public spaces and security through national surveillance.</p>	<p>Although there is a baseline level of information regarding the usage of facilities based on the condition survey, play space assessments as per the statutory guidance have not been carried out.</p> <p>Link to proposals for access audits for open space above.</p> <p>Undertake joint play access audit/place space and play value assessments.</p>	
	<p>The Local Authority has introduced smoke-free playgrounds</p>			<p>The Authority's Youth Service has introduced county-wide smoke-free signage for play areas and schools https://your.caerphilly.gov.uk/healthchallenge/smoking/local-activities</p> <p>The Local Authority has undertaken a scheme whereby all playgrounds are now smoke-free. This is clearly indicated by a sign on the gates of all</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority has removed 'no ball games' signs to encourage more children playing in the community			<p>playgrounds and was implemented as a request of the Junior Forum (part of CCBC Youth Service).</p> <p>Work towards removing 'no ball games' signs was a key task identified within the CYP Play Strategy. There has been success in achieving this as the majority of areas have had their 'no ball games' signs removed.</p> <p>The Council has also prepared a Parks byelaw that will ensure that all areas of public open space can be used by all, and that no signage detailing specific types of play or no-play are allowed. http://your.caerphilly.gov.uk/parklife/sites/your.caerphilly.gov.uk.parklife/files/ByeLaws.pdf</p> <p>The Authority's Youth Service has been proactive in the replacement of such signage with that that says 'please play here'.</p> <p>The Junior Forum has been instrumental in the erection of play signs, within a number of communities working with various partnerships. The signs were funded by Caerphilly Children and Young People's Partnership and contributed to achieving the outcomes of the CYP Play Strategy.</p> <p>The Authority's Youth Service has been proactive in the replacement of such signage with that that says 'please play here'.</p> <p>The importance of playing fields for children's play is recognised by the local authority. The commitment to retaining playing fields where appropriate is demonstrated by Policy CW8 of the LDP on the Protection of Community and Leisure Facilities. This policy states that proposals that would result in the loss of a community and/or leisure facility (which would include playing fields) will not be permitted except where a comparable facility can be provided or where it can be demonstrated that the facility is surplus to requirements.</p>	<p>In some instances, such as within housing estates, residents have requested or petitioned for these signs to be put back.</p>	
	The Local Authority has erected signs, such as Play Priority Signs to encourage more children playing in the community				Residents have removed signs in some areas	This area of No ball games signs will be explored through the council youth services initiative of 'please play here' signs.
	The Local Authority includes a recognition of the importance of playing fields to children's play when any disposal decisions					

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	are made					
	The Local Authority includes children and their families in any consultations regarding decisions to dispose of playing fields			<p>If a playing field is to be disposed of for an alternative use requiring planning permission, the regulatory planning application consultation process would apply. This involves the placement of site notices in the area, notification to neighbours and any town or community councils where there is coverage to encourage the community, including families and children, to make their views known.</p> <p>Any consultation on future disposal of a playing fields will also be done in accordance with any regulations introduced as a result of the Playing Fields (Community Involvement in Disposal Decisions) (Wales) Measure 2010.</p> <p>Discussions are undertaken with stakeholders when new schemes are proposed to ensure accessible play space is provided.</p>		
Page 30	The Local Authority refers to guidance around creating accessible play space when refurbishing or developing new playgrounds	NEW				

Open Spaces

How has the Local Authority ensured collaboration between Open Space Assessments / Green Infrastructure Strategies and Play Sufficiency Assessments to improve spaces for play?

The LA has a very strong evidence base on the open spaces available to serve the community. A comprehensive Open Space Assessment has been carried out in

accordance with the typologies of Open Space set out within TAN 16 and a process is in place to ensure the data remains regularly updated. This data has been used, in accordance with local standards for open space provision, to identify which areas may have an insufficient overall amount of open space that is useable for play when assessed against these local standards. The results of this assessment have indicated that there are a small number of wards that are slightly below these standards. However, where there are apparent deficiencies purely in quantitative terms, consideration has also been given to other factors, including play space provision in adjoining wards.

The Council has also considered the accessibility of open spaces to children of different age groups and can identify areas where the nearest useable open space suitable for that age group is further than minimum standards for distance. This mapping exercise identifies those areas where accessibility to useable open space is poor and options to improve access to open space in these areas should be explored.

Have there been challenges?

How can these be overcome?

Comments:

It is noted that the statutory guidance includes three additional typologies of Open Space to be assessed over and above those stated in TAN 16 – school grounds, residential streets and brownfield sites. School grounds and school playing fields were already included within the TAN 16 typologies under 'amenity greenspace' and 'outdoor sports facilities' respectively so have been addressed within the Open Space Assessment. However, this assessment does not look specifically at brownfield sites or residential streets.

Outdoor unstaffed designated play spaces

How has the local authority considered all issues of accessibility in play space development?

The LA maintains a strong dataset regarding the location and condition of its designated play spaces, particularly in respect of playgrounds, which undergo quarterly risk assessments, and it is known which areas would benefit from improvements to condition to improve play.

Have there been challenges?

How can these be overcome?

Comments

An assessment has been carried out against local standards to determine areas with insufficient provision of fixed facilities. This assessment, which takes into account the population figures, the number of facilities and total area as well as provision in adjoining areas, identifies that there are several wards that have lower levels of provision than the standard. Whilst a baseline assessment on the quality of designated play areas has been undertaken based on the condition of facilities, a full play value assessment of all designated spaces has not been carried out.

Matter D: Supervised provision

The Local Authority should aim to offer a range of supervised play provision.

RAG Status

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

Playwork provision

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority keeps an up to date record of all supervised play provision as described in the Statutory Guidance			CCBC's Family Information Service (FIS) maintains a directory of all supervised play provision in the County Borough. This information is regularly updated and available on the FIS website . All supervised play provisions that operate for children under the age of 12, for more than 2 hours		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				in one day or for more than 6 days in a year must be formally registered with the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) and the LA also keeps a record of these.		
	The Local Authority offers play provision which offers a rich play environment as described in the Statutory Guidance			CCBC and its partners seek to provide a play provision that offers a rich play environment, where children are able to make a wide range of choices. As a significant number of provisions available in the County Borough are Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) accredited, it can be assumed that there is a baseline of quality in provision. In addition, many childcare play providers have also obtained the Caerphilly Quality Standard, which is used countywide as a stepping-stone to providers achieving a national Quality Assurance Scheme, where the play environment is a factor. Training is currently delivered to support play workers to deliver quality holiday play schemes and remain compliant with regulations. We intend to extend the training to people in the communities to support the development of playful communities.	As not all schemes need to be CIW accredited and/or do not participate in the Caerphilly Quality Standard, establishing a baseline for quality is therefore difficult.	
	The Local Authority ensures that partners are supported to offer rich play environments as described in the Statutory Guidance			As above, childcare settings are encouraged to achieve the Caerphilly Quality Standards, ITERS / ECERS. In addition partners such as GAVO work towards their own high standards for providing a rich play environment. In addition, 0 -25 projects funded under Families First are required to use the Council's Self Evaluation Review Assessment (SERA) process for 0-25s with wider services encouraged to also take up the award scheme.	There are no statutory obligations to adhere to quality assurance schemes unless registered by CIW or contracted to the Local Authority who may make it a requirement of contract.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	Staffed play provision that the Local Authority provides meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards			<p>All supervised play provisions for children under the age of 12 years that operate for more than 2 hours in one day or for more than 6 days in a year must be formally registered with the CIW and have staff trained in play work subject to age range they cater for. These settings are assessed by the CIW on a regular basis to determine compliance with the National Minimum Standards (NMS).</p> <p>CCBC childcare and early years support all CIW registered play settings via Development Officers who visit settings. Settings are also encouraged to engage in the Caerphilly Quality Standard which exceeds the standards expected by NMS and if contracted there are additional standards to meet.</p> <p>School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP) is also delivered in school holidays in schools in areas of disadvantage to support children's play, activity and nutritional needs. It is delivered under one of the exceptions under the regulations but meets quality standards.</p> <p>The LA does not directly fund staffed play provision with the exception of Holiday provision under the Childcare Offer. All provision delivering the Childcare Offer meets the NMS, as well as the toolkits.</p> <p>The LA does not directly fund staffed play provision with the exception of Holiday provision under the Childcare Offer. All provision delivering the Childcare Offer meets the NMS, as well as the toolkits.</p>		
	Staffed play provision that the Local Authority funds meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards					
	Staffed play provision that the Local Authority's partners provide meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards					

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	Staffed play provision across the Local Authority works to a recognised quality assurance programme			<p>All registered settings are encouraged to undertake the local authorities own free Quality Assurance scheme – the Caerphilly Quality Standard. All settings are also encouraged to undertake a nationally recognised QA scheme such as the national umbrella organisation sector quality assurance scheme.</p> <p>In addition there is the SERA quality assurance mark required of all Families First projects.</p>		
Page 35	The Local Authority prioritises quality issues when engaging with/ commissioning the private sector to deliver recreational activities for children.			<p>Quality is a primary consideration when commissioning and engaging with the private sector, although this is balanced with other considerations such as cost, relevant experience, efficiency and reliability. The weighing to be applied to a consideration of quality criteria against other evaluation criteria is to be determined in respect of individual tenders and how quality should be measured will be set out within the tender documents. The procedure is set out within Council's Procurement Guide. All Early Years provision is procured through an appropriate tender process.</p>		
	The Local Authority provides council premises and space free of charge to organisations which provide free (at the point of access) play provision for children			<p>All of the Council's community buildings are leased or licensed to their respective voluntary management committees. These management committees (as charities) are empowered to set hire fee levels as they see fit for the various categories of hire. This can include free use, but this is not generally advocated because of the precedent it creates.</p> <p>There are normally three or four levels of hire fee, covering charitable, normal and commercial</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>usage. It is therefore normal that only other charities are granted free use, and even then, usually by the reimbursement of the hire fee as a 'donation'.</p> <p>Many playgroups are operated as businesses and are therefore required to pay the highest commercial hire rate. It is necessary for these organisations to pay a reasonable hire fee to ensure that there is not a situation where a charity (the voluntary management committee) is not subsidising a business. All income generated from community buildings is retained by the management committees to further their charitable objectives. The use of such funds is controlled by Charity Law and not the local authority.</p> <p>The LA does make spaces available free of charge for certain events such as previously the Family Play Project Play Day. GAVO have also been able to use local free space for open access play sessions after discussions with the Parks department.</p> <p>Schools open up free of charge for the SHEP. SHEP is also delivered in school holidays in schools in areas of disadvantage to support children's play, activity and nutritional needs. It is delivered under one of the exceptions under the regulations but meets quality standards.</p>		

Structured recreational activities for children

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	Local authority sport, physical activity, and active recreation plans are contributing to increasing free play and recreational activities			<p>The Local Authority has recently adopted its own Sport and Active Recreation strategy. This strategy is a 10 year holistic strategy for Sport and Active recreation in CCBC.</p> <p>'Positive Futures' is being run by Sport Caerphilly, which provides inclusive Play and Sports for all particularly in areas where there are high levels of Anti Social behaviour. This is supplemented by work ongoing on 'Active Gwent'.</p> <p>The latest Local Plan for Sport (LPS) review has indicated that there have been increased levels of participation in recreational physical activity within sports development. We now also report on the number of children and young people that are 'Hooked on Sport' (HoS). The term HoS refers to children who participate in sport or physical activity more than 3 times a week. This statistic has slightly decreased from 47% to 44% however we have noticed an increase in popularity of recreational less formal activities such as children playing on trampolines in their back garden or playing in skateparks.</p> <p>All the Council's Comprehensive and High Schools are participating in the 5x60 programme to encourage participation in extra curricular activities. 5x60 provides schools with the opportunity to listen to the needs of young people by providing opportunities that they would like to participate in and be fully inclusive for all young people. Overall, there has been a year on year increase for participation and over half of all children have taken part in 5 x 60 activities at least once.</p> <p>There has also been an increase in opportunities for children aged 3-11 years due to the physical literacy programme. This provides tots sessions such as football, netball, rugby and cricket. Linked to this Sport</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>Caerphilly are piloting a Health and well-being ambassador programme which gives year 6 pupils the qualification to lead physical literacy play sessions during play times in schools and offers upskilling opportunities for primary school teachers.</p> <p>A free swimming initiative on a Friday at all leisure centres is currently running and participation rates have increased year on year. The Council have also offered free swimming during public swimming times for children participating in swimming lessons and to meet demand additional free swim structured sessions have been put on over the school holidays to meet demand. Canoeing sessions for year 9 children, which are a hard year group to capture have been offered.</p> <p>The Sports Development Strategy outlines a vision for CCBC, which includes the promotion of Skills for Life priority areas. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing the number of pupils accessing the extra curricular sporting opportunities; - Increase the number of females that participate in sport; - Improve leadership through developing a leadership continuum; - provide an extensive inclusive competitive structure of activities available to all pupils regardless of ability; - Provide an extensive competitive structure of activities available to all; - Provide young people with high quality physical education opportunities in primary and secondary school; and - Provide all young people with the opportunities to access sport in school environments inclusively. <p>There has been a steady increase in the number of people participating in the Council's sports provision over the past few years. The supervised provision analysis has also included information on structured recreational activities on a ward basis and it has been identified where free opportunities exist. Information on recreational activities for children including those with disabilities is contained on the Sport Caerphilly website, Facebook page and Twitter.</p>		
Page 38	The sports agenda contributes to the provision of sufficient recreational activities for children					

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The cultural and arts agenda, is contributing to the provision of sufficient recreational activities for children			<p>The Council runs a number of arts and cultural development groups through which different opportunities for recreational activities occur.</p> <p>The <u>Caerphilly County Youth Theatre</u> runs two groups in English and Welsh to help young adults, aged 15-19 develop skills in drama techniques.</p> <p>We run a yearly variety of projects aimed at supporting young people in partnership with Literature Wales. Our focus has been on intergenerational work between nursery aged children and residential homes and also writing comic books with excluded pupils at the Innovate project as a way of boosting confidence and literacy skills.</p> <p>We support the Night Out scheme in partnership with The Arts Council that shows many children's and family shows in communities with no access to the performing arts. In addition we run the young promoters scheme which involves pupils taking the role of the promoter and learning new skills around putting on a show.</p> <p>Our work with young people is often accredited through 'Arts Award' which has been used heavily in schools, our Youth theatre and Night Out young promoters scheme. This is an informal accreditation with varying levels depending on age and ability for young people.</p> <p>Inside Out Cymru has been running for a number of years, providing arts activities to adults (post 16 years) within Caerphilly county borough who have been identified as being at risk of developing a mental health problem or who are suffering from mental health issues. https://inside-out-cymru.org/</p> <p>We are moving towards developing work in arts and well-being to encourage participants in their personal development mentally, socially and creatively. We also aim to raise awareness of mental health issues and help to remove the stigma and discrimination attached to society's</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>perceptions of mental health.</p> <p>In addition, the Council has helped support the redevelopment of Blackwood Miners Institute, which is recognised as a Regional Performing Arts Centre by the Arts Council for Wales. The venue is at the forefront of developing family friendly shows for families that don't normally engage with the arts works closely with the Parent Network in creating new ways for hard to reach families to come and see shows.</p>		
	The Local Authority Youth Service provides opportunities for leisure and association			<p>Youth Service self and peer assessments indicate a broad selection of settings and activities available, in the context of an overall youth work curriculum.</p> <p>This is in addition to the CCBC <u>Leisure</u> and <u>Tourism</u> website that links through to various activities that are available.</p> <p>Caerphilly FIS holds information on services available.</p> <p>Leisure and association-related activities form a significant part of the Youth Service's curriculum.</p>		

Supervised play provision

The local authority keeps an up to date record of all supervised play provisions that occur within the County Borough. The majority of these are published on the Council's various websites. However, this data does not include information on the capacity or general size of groups, nor if there is a waiting list. This is an area that needs to be developed further.

Analysis of current provision indicates that there is a good distribution of supervised play across the County Borough and there are a number of free to attend or low cost groups in some areas. In addition, there is provision in some areas for different needs such as disability and Welsh Medium although shortfalls have been identified in some areas.

It is clear that CCBC and its play partners seek to provide a provision that offers a rich environment given the number of different play opportunities on offer, and many of the

provisions available are CIW accredited. CCBC also has its own Quality Standard through which play schemes will aspire to be accredited towards.

The analysis of supervised play provision indicates that there is a wide and rich variety of play opportunities available for children of all ages to participate in within their individual wards; however it is difficult to ascertain the quality to which these schemes are run.

However, whilst there is a relatively good provision of activities available for younger children wishing to play through a Welsh Medium setting, there is only one youth group in the County Borough that provides this service.

The sports development strategy, arts and cultural development groups, the leisure and tourism teams all help to highlight the variety of play provisions on offer around the borough.

SHEP is delivered in schools free of charge to families in disadvantaged areas during the school holidays to support play, sports and nutrition.

Where the Local Authority has assessed settings as part of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessments (CSAs), how have these settings been assessed in respect of the quality of play opportunities they provide and offer?

Under the CSA there is no requirement to assess the quality of all provision available. However, the local authority supports improving quality across the sector through officer support and Toolkits as well as self-assessment tools. All settings registered with CIW for out of school childcare must meet NMS and have play work trained staff.

How has provision that is not part of the CSA been assessed in respect of the quality of play opportunities they provide and offer?

N/A

Have there been challenges?

Capacity would be a challenge

How can these be overcome?

Additional targeted funding would be needed

Comments:

Matter E: Charges for play provision

The Local Authority should consider which play opportunities involve a charge and the extent to which the Local Authority takes these charges into account in assessing for sufficient play opportunities for children living in low income families as set out in the Statutory Guidance.

RAG status

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 43	The Local Authority keeps records of the number of children living in low income families			<p>Education has a data set for children eligible for Free School Meals which would give an indication of children living in low income families.</p> <p>Welsh Government has produced a map indicating those LSOA that are the most deprived in Wales. https://stats.wales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Community-Safety-and-Social-Inclusion/Welsh-Index-of-Multiple-Deprivation/wimd-maps</p>		
	The Local Authority keeps records of the number of children living in areas of deprivation			<p>In addition to e-FSM data, Flying Start uses income benefit data to understand the demographics of each LSOA.</p> <p>Welsh Government has produced a map indicating those LSOA's that are the most deprived in Wales. https://stats.wales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Community-Safety-and-Social-Inclusion/Welsh-Index-of-Multiple-Deprivation/wimd-maps</p>		
	The Local Authority keeps records of the			<p>Whilst Caerphilly is not a rural authority, fourteen wards have been identified as 'rural' as part of the</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	number of children living in rural areas			rural development plan. The number of children aged 0-19 (based on 5 year age band data currently available from the 2011 Census) has been calculated for each of the fourteen wards to determine the number of children living in 'rural' areas.		
	The Local Authority keeps records of the number of disabled children and those with particular needs.			Education has a data set for children with additional learning needs and identified as particularly vulnerable. In addition all children registered into the Flying Start programme and any project areas in Early Years as well as children referred through ISCAN for Education Psychology observation, are captured in the same database which enables a better picture for children aged 0-3 of emerging needs.	Not all pupils with particular needs will attend their catchment school, particularly if another school would be better suited to cater for their disability. This data cannot therefore be used to comprehensively identify the number of children with particular needs in each ward.	
	The Local Authority records the availability of no cost provision			FIS publicises all known provision complete with any costs or no cost provision. SHEP identifies individual children for schools delivering the scheme.	Some voluntary led free groups do not take up the opportunity to be included on the FIS system and therefore not all provision may be publicised.	
	The Local Authority records the provision of no cost / low cost premises used for play provision			The LA keeps a record of new developments that have been provided via core Early Years grants, Childcare grants, and Flying Start grants, both revenue and capital. More information on this can be found in the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2017 and subsequent refresh / assessments.		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority records the provisions where grants or subsidies are available for play providers			The LA keeps a record of new developments that have been provided via core Early Years grants, Childcare grants, and Flying Start grants, both revenue and capital. More information on this can be found in the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2017 and subsequent refresh / assessments.		
	The Local Authority provides subsidised transport for children travelling to play opportunities			The Youth Service has provided significant grant funding to a partner agency over the past decade for the purpose of supporting play providers. The Authority uses Road Safety Grant to deliver cycling training to children this provides enhanced skills and enables them to cycle for leisure and to access local facilities.		

Charge for play provision

How is the Local Authority ensuring that children have access to no or low-cost provision?

SHEP provides free access to holiday play, nutrition and sports activities on local school sites reducing need for transport and being more community based.

Childcare Offer provides funding for families of 3-4 year olds in part time Foundation Phase to access free holiday childcare provision and after school term time childcare provision which are staffed regulated play opportunities.

FIS provides information on all activities across the borough.

Have there been challenges?

How can these be overcome?

Comments:

There is a good provision of free and low cost provisions for children within most wards in the County Borough. Children and young people benefit from Families First funding and the majority of wards have a provision of free play sessions for young children to attend. Older children benefit from Youth Service run youth clubs as well as some voluntary sector run clubs. Youth Service Projects funded by Families First, Legacy and Safer Communities Funding also enable free youth activities to be delivered on an outreach basis to young people in their communities. This means that those areas where there are more low-income families are able to receive free play provisions. However, the location of these provisions may mean that young children have to use public transport to gain access to free provisions. Currently, public transport costs are around half price for a child, however this is not a subsidised fare but that set by the various transport operators. Availability of further subsidised travel may lead to an increase in the uptake of play events.

Matter F: Access to space/provision

The Local Authority should consider all the factors that contribute to children's access to play or moving around their community.

RAG Status

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 47	The Local Authority keeps an up to date record of the number of 20 mph zones/school safety zones in residential areas			The Council has implemented 20mph zones and limits around the majority of primary schools where it is practicable to reduce the speed limit. Accurate records of 20mph speed limits and zones are maintained.		
	The Local Authority has an identified mechanism for assessing the impact of speed reduction and other road safety measures on the opportunity for children to play outside in their communities			The Council has adopted a Speed Management Strategy, which focuses on encouraging appropriate vehicle speeds. The strategy provides a transparent approach to speed management that investigates and responds in an appropriate manner to all identified speed related complaints and requests for traffic calming. It also complements the council's integrated approach to road safety policies, practices and awareness and educational campaigns. The Speed Management Strategy applies to all roads within communities throughout the County Borough it does not specifically target aiding and promoting play on our streets. It does however focus on the management of vehicle speeds and aims to		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 48	<p>The Local Authority has a plan(s) to reduce the negative effect of busy roads and junctions through the introduction of speed reduction measures and provision of safe crossing points/routes for pedestrians and cyclists</p> <p>The Local Authority has a plan(s) to improve walking and cycle access to parks, outdoor play facilities and local leisure centres from residential areas</p>			<p>ensure that all road users can safely access the highway network. Speed data is collected as part of the VAS project and includes scheme monitoring as required by Welsh Government Grant funding rules.</p> <p>This is contained in the Speed Management Strategy. In addition, the Council has installed traffic calming measures and zones outside the majority of its schools to ensure the safety of children. The Highway Authority also studies the occurrence of personal injury collisions on the Highway Network and will implement measures to address problems where this can be of benefit. The Approved Active Travel Integrated Network Map for the Authority also includes planned improvements for walking and cycling on the highway network within communities for the next 15 years. The Active Travel (2013) Wales Act creates a duty on Local Authorities to consult on and review and resubmit their improvement plan on a regular basis.</p>		
				<p>The LDP contains policies to facilitate improvements to the cycle route network in the county borough. In addition, in line with national planning guidance, all new development is required to make adequate provision to ensure that walking and cycling are modes of transport which have been actively encouraged for short trips to and within the development and to nearby services and facilities through the provision of appropriate infrastructure.</p> <p>The Welsh government passed primary legislation "The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013" in November 2013. The legislation's aim is to develop Active Travel Maps and to make continual improvements for walking and cycling in defined settlements in Local Authority Areas. This initiative will assist in developing networks of cycling and walking routes to the standard to promote walking and cycling for utility (everyday) journeys. A well-</p>		

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				developed Sustainable transport network will promote access to play and safer streets.		
	There is potential for the Local Authority to take further action to reduce traffic speed and improve road safety to promote play opportunities			<p>The Council has adopted a <u>Speed Management Strategy</u> which responds to concerns about vehicle speeds. The authority also seeks to implement 20mph limits and zones around schools in order to improve the safety of the school journey. Communities will benefit from reduced traffic speed in the 20mph zones, although play areas are not specifically identified.</p> <p>The council's traffic calming policy is embedded in the Speed Management Strategy and considers in the first stage the suitability of a road for traffic calming. The appraisal of a site also takes into consideration of the historic personal injury road traffic data and vulnerable road user casualties.</p> <p>The Road Safety Team facilitates cycle training in a number of schools across the borough which is funded from Road Safety Grant. Children training on the scheme participate in the National Standards cycle training course.</p>		
	The Local Authority uses road safety grants and/or other funding to support delivery of cycling training for children to national standards			<p>There are a number of schemes in operation in the County Borough which are funded by Welsh Government grants such as <u>Kerbcraft</u> which is an innovative scheme that aims to provide children with road safety skills. The scheme has been running since 2003 and teaches children aged 5 to 7 how to be safe pedestrians by giving them practical roadside training.</p>		
	The Local Authority uses road safety grants and/or other funding to provide pedestrian safety training for children			<p><u>Temporary Road closures</u> are used for special events. 'Play activities' would need to form part of a larger organized 'special event' in order for us to grant a road closure under Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1994.</p>	Special events procedures for closure of the highway are not	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	of arranging temporary road closures, to support more children to play outside their homes			<p>Information can be found through the Council's website and is readily accessible to all who require this information. The Council also has an Event Safety Advisory Group that can assist.</p>	<p>currently used for play activities on individual streets. However play activities can form part of a larger event involving a closure of a street.</p> <p>The council website has been updated and contains information on how to plan an event on the highway and apply for a road closure.</p> <p>https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Things-to-Do/Events/Planning-an-event</p>	
	The Local Authority refers to <i>Manual for Streets</i> when considering new developments and changes to the highway network/urban realm			<p>Highways Engineers and Planning Officers administer, where appropriate, the design principles contained within <i>Manual for Streets</i> when considering new development.</p> <p>Consultants/developers are encouraged to utilise the information held within <i>Manual for Streets</i>, and for this information to be made available within Transport Statements in planning applications on schemes where a need for consideration is identified.</p>		

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority works to nationally recognised good practice guidelines when developing walking and cycling facilities			All schemes for improved walking and cycling routes are considered and are implemented according to nationally adopted standards. The Council uses national standards/guidance to develop schemes such as <u>Welsh Government Design Guidance for Active Travel</u> and the <u>Design Manual for Roads and Bridges</u> .		
	The Local Authority uses child pedestrian road accident casualty data to inform the location and design of interventions which help children get around independently in their communities			The Local Authority Road Safety Team is proactive in training children with the appropriate skills that enable them to enjoy a level of independent mobility. Road Traffic personal injury data is considered in developing all road safety schemes and interventions. Safety scheme funding is prioritised to address treatable patterns of pedestrian/vulnerable road user injuries.		
	The Local Authority considers children's needs to access play opportunities when making decisions about public transport planning and expenditure			The majority of the local bus network is provided on a commercial basis and the Council has no direct control over the planning and extent of this. Resources are therefore targeted at serving areas that generate the highest passenger demand. Access specifically to play opportunities will not be the primary objective. However, a community served by a well serviced bus network will provide opportunities to travel to amenity areas. The Council provides revenue support for services that are not commercially viable, but these tend to be during evenings and Sundays, or during the daytime to areas where a commercial service is not sustainable. In addition, the Council has developed		

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>a flexible transport service that serves the needs of areas more isolated from the main public transport networks, but with limited financial resources available, there is limited scope to meet these criteria.</p> <p>As transport to play facilities is unlikely to generate demand that is sufficient to sustain a bespoke service, when planning play facilities, it would be appropriate to consider public transport provision and locate them in areas that are accessible by existing bus (or train) networks from the outset.</p> <p>The Local Authority recognises the issues faced by some disabled transport users as it funds a Community Transport service, which is provided for members of the community that do not have access to public transport or do not have access to their own car, as well as those who are unable to use public transport. The service also provides transport opportunities for those living in a community not frequently served by public transport.</p> <p>Bus and rail infrastructure is improved to meet disability regulations where this is practicable and new walking and cycling infrastructure is designed to meet the DDA required standard.</p>		
	The requirements of disabled children are understood and provided for within traffic and transport initiatives	Moved from Matter B				

Information, publicity and events:
For children and families to take part in play opportunities, recreational activities and events it is necessary for them to know what is available in their area.

The Local Authority has a clearly identified section on its website which gives information about play opportunities as described				The Council has a number of website links that deal with Play opportunities within the Borough. These are: Parklife website – http://your.caerphilly.gov.uk/parklife/welcome-parklife which includes playgrounds, kickwalls, MUGA's.	
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	<p>in the Statutory Guidance (play areas, play provision, clubs and their accessibility)</p>	<p>skate parks and Youth Shelters. Family Information Service - http://www.caerphilly.org.uk/earlyyears/publicenquiry/ which deals with childcare, childminding, parent and toddler groups, after school clubs etc. <u>Leisure Centres</u> (through Sport Caerphilly) also provide sports provision during the school holidays. Family Information Service - http://www.caerphilly.org.uk/earlyyears/publicenquiry/ which deals with childcare, childminding, parent and toddler groups, after school clubs, activities etc.</p>		
	<p>The Local Authority provides information on access to play opportunities and contact for support if required</p>	<p>The Council has a number of website links that deal with Play opportunities within the Borough. These are: Parklife website – http://your.caerphilly.gov.uk/parklife/welcome-parklife which includes playgrounds, kickwalls, MUGA's, skate parks and Youth Shelters. Family Information Service - http://www.caerphilly.org.uk/earlyyears/publicenquiry/ which deals with childcare, childminding, parent and toddler groups, after school clubs etc. <u>Leisure Centres</u> (through Sports Caerphilly) also provide sports and play provisions during the school holidays. There are links from the CCBC website to partner organisations including Menter Iaith http://www.mentercaerphilly.cymru Contact details are provided on each of these websites to allow the public to access support where necessary.</p>		

				<p>Information and support is also available from FIS outreach workers and from the Family Engagement Project Integration into Universal Provision Project, which also supports families to access universal provision and to engage in community based activities including local youth projects, play schemes, parent forums etc.</p>		
<p>The Local Authority supports and publicises events which encourage play opportunities and events for children and families</p>	<p>Family Information Service - http://www.caerphilly.org.uk/earlyyears/publicenquiry/ which deals with childcare, childminding, parent and toddler groups, after school clubs, activities etc.</p> <p>The Council has a number of websites that publicise play opportunities and events for children and families. These are:</p> <p>Caerphilly website – www.caerphilly.gov.uk has a 'Latest news' section, as well as a 'What's on' section. These include events and activities that families and children are able to attend.</p> <p>Family Information Service - http://www.caerphilly.org.uk/earlyyears/publicenquiry/ which deals with childcare, childminding, parent and toddler groups, after school clubs etc.</p> <p>Groundwork Wales also assist in the provision of events.</p>			<p>The Council regularly publishes community activities and events on its 'news' section on the website, many of which are related to play. In addition, the Council's Twitter and Facebook pages are regularly updated with additional information. In addition, there are Facebook pages for FIS, Flying Start, and Families First.</p> <p>Many events are also photographed and put on the Council's Flickr account.</p>		
<p>The Local Authority publicises information which contributes to positive community attitudes to play</p>						

	<p>The Local Authority publicises information and support for parents to help them encourage their children to play</p>			<p>The Early Years and FIS websites both provide support information for parents on encouraging play. Downloadable resources for parents on language and Play are available for Babies, Toddlers and Older Children.</p> <p>In addition Welsh Government website provides information to families on the Flying Start and 'Parenting. Give it Time' pages. All of this is regularly updated and publicised on local Facebook pages.</p> <p>There are a number of signs across the County Borough identifying spaces as play area (see Matter C)</p> <p>The Council has a byelaw that ensures all areas of public open space can be used by all, and that no signage detailing specific types of play or no-play will be allowed.</p>		
	<p>The Local Authority widely uses on-site signposting to safeguard and promote play</p>			<p>The Authority's Youth Service has actively promoted the use of public areas for the purposes of play.</p> <p>The Council regularly publishes information on community activities and events on its 'news' section on the website, which portray play in a positive manner.</p> <p>Many events are also photographed and put on the Council's Flickr account.</p>		
	<p>The Local Authority engages with the media to encourage the positive portrayal of children playing in the local area</p>					

Access to space/provision

How has the Local Authority ensured collaboration to ensure children can move around their communities to increase access to opportunities for playing?

The Council encourages walking and cycling schemes within its Healthy Schools and the Active Travel Plan. In addition, schools also help to educate young children in using the streets safely, and grants are available to help fund this.

When designing new road schemes and residential layouts, the council endorses the use of Manual for Streets 2 to ensure that the streets are made as safe as possible. To further this, the Council has adopted a number of 20mph limit zones around schools, and has invested in making road crossing and junction improvements to ensure that all road users can use the streets safely. As part of its Speed Management Strategy, the Council set out a strategy through which people can nominate roads that should have speed reduction measures put in place.

To ensure that collaborative working is taking place, the regional transport plan also helps inform LDPs. Within CCBC, the adopted LDP helps inform upcoming proposals and looks to improve key transport routes, for all types of vehicles and pedestrians. The LDP also seeks to further imbed cycle routes as part of the greater transport network. The addition of more frequent train services will help increase access to play provisions in Caerphilly.

Information leaflets are produced by the Countryside team that help highlight interesting walking routes that residents can undertake. Whilst these are not solely for access to play provisions, they are a valuable resource that can be a tool to help access play facilities in the country parks.

Have there been challenges?

How can these be overcome?

Comments

In terms of permitting temporary road closures for parents to allow their children to play on the roads, there is an online 'Special Events on the Highway' form that can be found on CCBC's website. Whilst anyone can apply for this, there has been little to no uptake of this scheme for play purposes – potentially as the website has been targeted to deal with large scale street parties.

Information, publicity, events

How has the Local Authority positively used information to support access to play provision?

Have there been challenges?

How can these be overcome?

Comments:

Information about play facilities and groups is readily available on websites of the council and its play partners. The websites have all been designed for ease of use, and to allow children and parents to see what provisions are available to them.

All materials produced by the Council and its play partners are aimed at their target audience, and are available upon request in a variety of different mediums.

Matter G: Securing and developing the play workforce

The Local Authority should provide information on the organisational structure of the policy area which manages the play agenda and the play workforce.

RAG status

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
10	Note – These criteria are specifically about Playwork: Playwork is a highly skilled profession that enriches and enhances play. It takes place where adults support children's play but it is not driven by prescribed education or care outcomes. This includes both open access and out of school childcare settings The Local Authority keeps up to date information regarding the playwork workforce across the Local Authority (this should include the number of playworkers, playwork			A childcare and play workforce audit is carried out and includes data on the number of childcare workers with play work qualifications, qualification levels and training needs and opportunities. There is new development around the training of people in the community to expand the play work workforce to create playful communities. Volunteers are encouraged to register on the GAVO volunteering bureau, which would hold details of training and qualifications.	Some play workers may not be included within the workforce audit if they are not part of childcare settings. There is also a high turnover of staff which creates challenges in a snap shot audit as well as not all schemes being registered / regulated.	Look to incorporate a specific section on Play Accreditations within the Workforce Development Audit. Explore with Family Information Service if we can identify play settings that are not regulated

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	management structure, qualification levels, training opportunities and volunteers)					childcare.
	The Local Authority supports all of the workforce to achieve the qualification level required by the Welsh Government's National Minimum Standards			<p>Training, funding, and signposting is available to anyone living or currently working in a registered setting within Caerphilly County Borough to undertake a nationally recognised qualification in accordance with the Qualification framework and the NMS via Caerphilly Childcare, Early years and Play Workforce Development. This is dependent on funding.</p> <p>The promotion of Play and Playwork Careers is included in Caerphilly Childcare, Early Years, and Play workforce development. It is included in all literature, and on the early years website; http://www.childcareincaerphilly.org.uk/cpd/default.asp?sid</p> <p>Play and playwork is included in all career events / roadshows. These are delivered to members of the public, Comprehensive schools, groups engaged with Projects e.g. through JCP.</p> <p>Training, funding, and signposting is available to anyone living or currently working in a registered setting within Caerphilly County Borough to undertake a nationally recognised qualification in accordance with the Qualification framework and the NMS via Caerphilly Childcare, Early years and Play Workforce Development. This is dependent on funding.</p> <p>The promotion of Play and Playwork Careers is included in Caerphilly Childcare, Early Years, and Play workforce development. It is included in all literature, and on the early years website; http://www.childcareincaerphilly.org.uk/cpd/default.asp?sid</p>		
	The Local Authority supports the workforce to achieve the accepted qualification levels set out by SkillsActive					

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				Play and playwork is included in all career events / roadshows. These are delivered to members of the public, Comprehensive schools, groups engaged with Projects e.g. through JCP		
	The Local Authority has a staff development budget ring fenced for play, including playwork			Play and playwork is included in the Childcare, Early Years and Play Workforce Development. For the past three years money has been ring fenced for Play in the 'Out of School Grant' and as a result we have funded the MAHPS qualification, 2 X Level 2 award in playwork principles (L2APP) qualification and 2 x Level 3 Transition to playwork qualifications.		
	There is a comprehensive range of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities available for playworkers in the area			Using Early Years Workforce Development funding and ring fenced Out of School Grant funding; there are a variety of opportunities for staff in the Childcare, Early Years and Play sector on a yearly basis. Since April 2016, Playworkers have had access to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 34 courses to enhance their CPD (play type courses) • 35 courses around Additional Learning Needs • 26 courses around Safeguarding 		
	Training is available for volunteers and parents to develop their knowledge on skills in playwork			Parent Network has worked with funders and Adult Learners Wales as well as other funding bodies to begin to deliver play work training for volunteers in the communities to develop playful communities.	This has been challenging since the reduction of funding into the GAVO play officer role	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority includes playwork within its Workforce Development strategies			Playwork is incorporated into Caerphilly Childcare, Early Years and Play Workforce Development for Childcare purposes as evidenced above.		
	The Local Authority supports partners to deliver appropriate training to community groups, parents and volunteers			<p>The Parent Network has worked with funders and Adult Learners Wales as well as other funding bodies to begin to deliver play work training for volunteers in the communities to develop playful communities.</p> <p>Caerphilly Childcare, Early Years and Play Workforce Development has funded organisations to deliver nationally recognised qualification courses (which are offered to people working in the sector, and also for people who want to work in the sector, which usually involves the individual undertaking a voluntary placement).</p>	This has been challenging since the reduction of funding into the GAVO play officer role	
<p>Note – these criteria are about the Play workforce: This encompasses anyone employed whose role has an impact on children playing – those who may either directly facilitate their play, design for playing, or those with the power to give permission for children to play, or not.</p>						
	The Local Authority has undertaken a comprehensive training needs analysis for the play workforce as defined in the toolkit glossary and above			<p>Partner organisations, such as CWLWM and specifically CPCKC have undertaken workforce audits which include training needs for the play workforce in Caerphilly county borough over the last 3 years. These have been used to plan training and qualifications for the sector. However Caerphilly Childcare, Early Years and Play workforce development are currently undertaking a comprehensive training needs analysis.</p> <p>Caerphilly Childcare, Early Years and Play Workforce Development has carried out specific Play Audits in previous years, as well as including play work in the latest Early years, Childcare and Play Workforce Audit.</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>Most recent Early years, Childcare and Play Workforce Audit completed March 2019.</p> <p>These audits are available on the Early Years website. http://your.caerphilly.gov.uk/earlyyears/</p>		
	<p>The Local Authority takes action to expand the variety of learning and development opportunities that are offered to staff</p>			<p>Learning and development is identified through the training needs analysis carried out by Caerphilly Childcare, Early Years and Play workforce development. New courses are sourced to keep learning interesting and to keep up with current practice.</p>		
	<p>There is a comprehensive range of CPD opportunities for a range of professionals who work with children</p>			<p>Learning and development is identified through the training needs analysis carried out by Caerphilly Childcare, Early Years and Play workforce development. New courses are sourced to keep learning interesting and to keep up with current practice. Some of this is developed through the requirements within Flying Start and then rolled out across the whole sector.</p>		
	<p>Training awareness sessions are available for professionals and</p>			<p>This is currently an area of development under the Children First initiative</p> <p>The Interact event and Parent Planet event are both useful in dissemination of information for frontline practitioners.</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	decision makers whose work impacts on children's opportunities to play					

Securing and developing the play workforce

How has the Local Authority met the requirement to undertake or secure the managerial and delivery functions necessary to achieve sufficient play opportunities?

Play and playwork is integrated into the work carried out by CCBC's Early years. To ensure we support the workforce in achieving nationally recognised qualifications and accessing CPD opportunities, we capture information through our FIS and through our Early Years Workforce Development Training Website around the size and structure of the workforce. We have a team of Childcare Officers who support out of school club settings who can advise on what is available, and support the setting to ensure they are meeting the National Minimum Standards.

How has the Local Authority ensured it understands and provides for the workforce development needs of the play workforce (as defined in Wales: A Play Friendly Country and above)?

We carry out or access through partner organisations (CWLWM) workforce audits to gauge the levels of qualifications the workforce possess, and use this information to plan what training and qualifications are needed. We ring fence a budget through the Childcare and Play grant and also promote funded playwork qualifications and training.

How has the Local Authority ensured it understands and provides the playwork workforce (as defined in Wales: A Play Friendly Country and above)?

We have a team of Childcare Officers who support out of school club settings who can advise on what qualifications and training is available locally, and also support the

setting to ensure they are meeting the National Minimum Standards and the accepted qualification levels as set out by Skills Active.

Have there been challenges?

How can these be overcome?

Comments

The promotion of Play and Playwork careers is adequately addressed and included within Caerphilly Childcare, Early Years and Play workforce development. Within the Childcare Sufficiency Assessments, the ability and needs of the workforce need are examined – Appendix 5 of the Childcare Sufficiency assessment details in depth the various skills, opportunities, threats and issues that face the workforce.

Matter H: Community engagement and participation.

The Local Authority should consult widely with children, their families and other stakeholders on their views on play provision. It should also promote wide community engagement in providing play friendly communities.

RAG Status

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
P age 65	The Local Authority promotes initiatives to engage relevant groups in enhancing play opportunities for children in its area.			<p>The Local Authority works across departments and with partner organisations to develop opportunities for children and their play opportunities.</p> <p>An example is the School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP) which worked across schools and LA teams to deliver healthy meals, nutrition sessions, and physical activity through play as well as free play sessions including string assault courses and fire pits. The subsequent promotion has increased significantly the number of schools who want to be involved in Summer holidays 2019.</p> <p>The Youth Service sponsors the employment of a dedicated officer within a partner agency to promote related initiatives.</p> <p>The WHQS Environmental Improvement</p>	<p>This GAVO funded officer was made redundant March 2018, post not filled due to funding cuts</p>	<p>Planned for first 4 weeks of summer holiday in 2019.</p> <p>A draft environmental</p>

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>programme continues to undertake extensive consultation with communities in the Caerphilly Homes housing areas to identify potential environmental improvement projects for funding consideration. This will include engaging with local people, consulting with community groups, local interest groups, disability organisations, community councils and children and young people and use a variety of different consultation and engagement techniques.</p> <p>Formal and informal play including playparks, skate parks and MUGAs identified in several areas across Caerphilly and work has recently started at Penyrheol.</p> <p>Where a potential play site is identified and funding and maintenance requirements met, further in depth consultation will be undertaken with the local community, including children and young people, to determine the requirements of the play area. This is ongoing until 2020.</p> <p>The Lansbury Park Coalition for Change board has recently agreed to undertake a Community needs assessment / rapid participatory appraisal in Lansbury Park, which will focus on community engagement and provide qualitative information on a community's health and well-being needs. This will help to identify what play provision is needed and what space is available for play. It</p>		<p>enhancement plan for Lansbury Park has been drafted and is currently out for internal consultation</p>

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>will also help to inform the community of what current play opportunities are available to them.</p> <p>The Welsh medium schools cluster in Caerphilly enabled sixth form pupils to attend a series of careers based workshops including one on the play sector.</p>		
	<p>The Local Authority promotes community engagement in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - making space available and suitable for play - organising play events - positive attitudes towards children and play - training on the importance of play. 			<p>Many teams within the LA have a remit to promote community based engagement examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • play schemes • play days • use of parks and open spaces for family play sessions • delivery of training to practitioners and in future also extending to community members to support play provision • development work under Children First to support the development of playful communities. <p>Youth Service facilities, which are community located, are open access in flavour and the delivery of activity at these locations incorporates principles that are consistent with those of Play.</p> <p>As part of the WHQS programme, asset mapping work is being undertaken by an Asset Surveyor in Housing which will help to identify spaces available and suitable for play.</p>		

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>Officers within Community Regeneration are supporting local community groups and residents in Lansbury Park to organise community events and outings which have incorporated elements of play. This is in partnership with the Parent Network, which will commence in April 2019.</p>		

Community engagement and participation.

How has the Local Authority effectively used existing mechanisms for children's participation and family consultation processes with regards to play?

Have there been challenges?

How can these be overcome?

Comments

Through the various schemes and programmes run by the Local Authority, a number of consultations take place regularly to help gauge how successful various schemes have been, or if there are any gaps in provision. Children and young people are actively encouraged to engage in opportunities to promote play and there are a number of good practice examples across the County Borough of where this is succeeding.

Matter 1: Play within all relevant policy and implementation agendas

The Local Authority should examine all its policy agendas for their potential impact on children’s opportunities to play and embed targets and action to enhance children’s play opportunities within all such policies and strategies.

RAG Status

Criteria fully met.
Criteria partially met.
Criteria not met.

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 70	There is a named person on the Local Public Service Board who champions children’s play and ensures that the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan contribute to and are incorporated within the Well-being Plan			<p>The Caerphilly Public Service Board (PSB) comprises the leader and Chief Executive of Caerphilly CBC, alongside representatives from the Aneurin Bevan Health Board.</p> <p>Within the PSB Well-being Plan there are several objectives which promote children’s play under their action areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children First sits under WBO 1 Best Start in Life and has a task group exploring play in the community • WBO 3 Good Health and Well-being has an area looking at how individuals can improve their own health and well-being which has been supported by the additional funding to ABUHB for developing provision closer to home as well as activities to support prevention of poor health • WBO 4 Safe and resilient communities has aspects looking at play opportunities and 	There is no specific ‘champion’ on the board as the PSB considers a wide range of cross cutting agendas.	There is a need for a Play Champion.

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>safe spaces to support well-being and reduce antisocial behaviour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WBO 5 Natural environment has cross over areas with the others for use of green spaces to support well-being, play and community benefits. 		
	The Well-Being Plan recognises the importance of play and contributes to the provision of rich play opportunities	NEW		The Well-being Assessment recognised the importance which then followed through into the plans under the objective areas listed above.		

Education and schools

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	Schools ensure that children are provided with a rich play environment for breaks during the school day			<p>Some schools have invested in outdoor fixed play equipment and trim trails as well as training for dinner supervisors through the Healthy Schools programme</p> <p>Caerphilly Healthy Early Years scheme (HSPSS) has gone from strength to strength increasing to more than 75 childcare settings engaged in the scheme.</p> <p>The play pods are in place at 5 primary schools.</p> <p>21st century schools programme has developed the</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>outdoor spaces including canopies and soft play surfaces in collaboration with the schools in the borough.</p> <p>The Flying Start capital programme has developed outside areas to reflect a wide range of play opportunities and restorative play environments.</p> <p>Schools work with wider partners to deliver activities for pupils outside of the school day.</p>		
	<p>Schools provide play opportunities during out of teaching hours</p>			<p>SHEP delivers holiday sessions for children in areas of disadvantage. In 2018 this was in 2 schools but is planned for potentially 8-10 schools in 2019.</p> <p>Many primary schools in the County Borough offer funded Breakfast Clubs as well as fee paying After School clubs and a list is available on the FIS website to inform families where these opportunities exist.</p> <p>Further information is also available on holiday schemes that use schools premises. In most situations these settings are provided on school premises and therefore opportunities to utilise facilities such as halls and playgrounds or equipment will exist.</p> <p>Some schools support access to facilities outside of the school day working with wider partners.</p>	<p>There is a need to deliver lunchtime supervisor play training but this has decreased in recent years.</p>	
	<p>Schools provide access to school grounds for playing out of school times</p>			<p>Childcare Offer capital is supporting the creation of on site childcare facilities which will broaden the access and use of school sites outside of normal operational times.</p> <p>SHEP delivers during school holidays to widen usage of school facilities outside of normal operational hours.</p> <p>Data is held by finance officers on which individual</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>primary schools provide access to indoor and outdoor facilities outside of school hours and any costs that are attributed to the use of the facilities.</p> <p>A high proportion of secondary schools within the County Borough are based on joint use sites, sharing facilities with a leisure centre and many of the other secondary schools that are not joint use have facilities that can be hired out to the community in the evenings. Joint Use Agreements ensure that the facilities can be used throughout the day to offer a range of play opportunities.</p> <p>All the Council's Comprehensive and High Schools are participating in the 5x60 programme to encourage participation in extra curricular activities. 5x60 provides schools with the opportunity to listen to the needs of young people by providing opportunities that they would like to participate in and be fully inclusive for all young people. Overall, there has been a year on year increase for participation and over half of all children have taken part in 5 x 60 activities at least once. This is referenced as an action within the Vision for sport.</p> <p>All schools have a sustainable transport policy which includes safe routes to schools plans for walking and cycling.</p> <p>Many schools have School Travel Plans which promote sustainable transport initiatives and encourage walking and cycling.</p> <p>The Healthy Schools Scheme includes criteria on 'fitness.' In order to demonstrate that the indicators related to this are being met many schools have</p>		
	Schools encourage children to walk and cycle to school					

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>implemented a walking bus, which has been successful in increasing the number of children walking to school.</p> <p>The Authority has also implemented a number of projects and schemes that promote walking and cycling. This includes 'Safe Routes in Communities' Initiatives. The development and implementation of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 which places duties on LA's to create an Active Travel Existing Routes Map and identified future improvements. These projects will assist in encouraging walking and cycling as part of the school journey.</p>		
	The Local Authority offers guidance to ensure schools understand and ensure that regular outdoor play is not curtailed			<p>Health and Safety, Healthy Schools and Sports teams offer guidance to schools on use of their outdoor spaces</p> <p>CCBC's 21st Century Schools have all designed appropriate play provisions inside and outside of the classrooms, so that play is not curtailed.</p> <p>In addition, guidance is given to staff and assistants in Play, such as the delivery of a Play workshop.</p>		

Town and Country Planning

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	<p>The Local Development Plan recognises and addresses the outdoor play needs of children of various age groups and abilities</p>			<p>The Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted in November 2010. One of the key objectives of the plan is to "ensure that the County Borough is well served by accessible public open space and accessible natural green space." This objective has been translated into a strategic policy which states that "the Council will protect important networks of public open space, natural green space and recreational facilities from inappropriate development." This is supported by criteria based policies on the protection of open space as well as community and leisure facilities.</p> <p>The LDP recognises that new development may generate additional pressure on existing play spaces and therefore a policy has been included which requires developments of 10 or more dwellings to "make adequate provision for well designed useable open space as an integral part of the development and appropriate formal children's play facilities and outdoor sports provision either on or off site".</p> <p>New formal leisure facilities such as football and rugby pitches have also been identified on a number of sites across the County Borough.</p> <p>Policy CW7 Protection of Open Spaces is also supported by a Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) LDP8. This SPG seeks to provide further guidance on how more informal open spaces – the areas that are likely to have the significant value for children's play – will be assessed to ensure that the most valuable areas are protected if there is the potential threat that they may be lost. The guidance sets standards and a methodology for assessing the amount of open space in an area that is based on the FIT standards and guidance in TAN 16 in order to determine the value of an area of open space in both quantitative and qualitative terms.</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				In light of these policies, it is considered that the useable areas of open space and playgrounds that children play in have adequate protection through the LDP, with new provision being provided in areas where there are significant new developments.		

Traffic and Transport

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 76	The local Transport Plan recognises the importance of local streets, roads and walking and cycling route in offering play opportunities for children of different ages and abilities			<p>The Transport Act 2000, as amended by the Transport (Wales) Act 2006, requires Local Authorities to produce their highway strategy which can be produced in collaboration with other Local Authorities. These are known as Local Transport Plans</p> <p>The <u>South East Wales Local Transport Plan (SEW LTP)</u> (January 2015) has been produced in partnership between local Authorities in the area. It identifies priorities for transport on an area wide basis. The plan has been developed and identifies a programme of initiatives and schemes that reflect local and national priorities. The plan helps deliver the objectives contained in the Welsh Government Transport Strategy for management and development of the transport system aims to achieve environmental, social, economic and health benefits.</p> <p>Some objectives and interventions included in the South East Wales Local Transport Plan SEW LTP aim to encourage Active Travel and to improve access to leisure and cultural facilities for all individuals, including children & young people.</p> <p>The SEW LTP impact assessment report considered a number of measures including children's rights, equality and health. The</p>	The LTP does not make reference to the local streets and walking and cycle routes specifically as places for children to play. Rather, the document is focussed on the wider sustainability benefits of traffic reduction and modal shift.	
	The local Transport Plan					

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	<p>identifies ways of assessing and addressing the needs of all groups including those which are often marginalised.</p>			<p>SEW LTP also aims to improve accessibility for all individuals including children between and within communities.</p> <p>The SEW LTP seeks to address a number of problems in society and remove barriers in the transport system. These include the following objectives:-</p> <p>Safety and Security</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To reduce the number and severity of road traffic casualties. 2) To improve actual and perceived level of personal security when traveling. <p>Connectivity and Accessibility</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) To improve access for all and promote equality of opportunity to employment opportunities, services, healthcare, education, tourism and leisure facilities. 4) To improve connectivity by sustainable transport between the SE Wales Valleys and the rest of Wales, the UK and Europe. <p>Quality and Efficiency</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5) To improve interchange within and between modes of transport. 6) To improve the quality, efficiency and reliability of the transport system. 7) To reduce traffic growth, traffic congestion and to make better use of the existing road system. <p>Environment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8) To achieve a modal shift towards more sustainable forms of transport for moving people and freight. 9) To reduce significantly carbon emissions from transport. 10) To reduce the impact of the transport system on the local street scene and the natural, built and historic environment. 11) To promote sustainable travel and to make the public more aware of the consequences of their travel choices 		

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>on climate, the environment and health.</p> <p>Land Use and Regeneration</p> <p>12) To ensure developments in the SE Wales Valleys are accessible by sustainable transport</p>		

Early Years Plans

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 78	<p>Early Years and Flying Start plans and services recognise the importance of play and contribute to the provision of rich play opportunities for younger children</p>			<p>Quality childcare supported through the Early Years and Flying Start team includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ITERS / ECERS assessments on the quality of the environment and staff interaction • Advisors and Officers all recognise the importance of play and playful environments, and deliver training to expand the staff understanding of learning through quality play opportunities • Play specific training is delivered regularly • Forest School sessions include fire pits and the importance of children experiencing the rich outdoors environment <p>The LA's <u>Early Years</u> education programme considers play as an important part of learning. All early years settings providing places for 3 year old have to be inspected by a registered education inspector (ESTYN) on a regular basis. Non-maintained settings also undergo the usual annual inspection by the Care Inspectorate Wales. In Caerphilly County Borough non-</p>		

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>maintained settings have to go through a quality tendering procedure to achieve early years status. Opportunities for play and learning are one of the minimum standards that need to be achieved.</p> <p>There are 26 Flying Start areas in the County Borough that offer a range of support and advice for parents and children living within Flying Start areas. The importance of play is integral to the Flying Start service and all core services aim to reinforce this message to parents through advice on play activity ideas and support for parents in playing with their children.</p>		

Family policy and initiatives

Page 70

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	<p>Family support initiatives provide up to date information and support for parents to enable them to support their children to play</p>			<p>Parenting programmes delivered are Solihull and Parent Nurturing Programme both of which support parents to develop their parent child relationship, understanding of child development, realistic boundaries and importance of play. In addition Tiny Talkers / Little Voices groups both support parents to develop the home learning environment, learning through play and the importance of parent and child interactions, although there is an underlying focus on Speech language and communication.</p> <p>Families First projects supporting families, children and young people all encourage play as a vehicle for engagement or developing positive relationships in a wider context of family support.</p>		

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 80	<p>The local implementation of the Families First programme recognises the importance of play and contributes to the provision of rich play opportunities</p> <p>Plans to reduce the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences the</p>	NEW	NEW	<p>The <u>Family Information Service</u> helps provide free up to date information for families including links to other organisations that are available to support families in all areas of life, including play.</p> <p>The Targeted Youth and Family Engagement project, which provides support to families in their local communities, has had success in supporting families to engage in services including helping children to play.</p> <p>The Parent Network supports parent forum groups across the borough and can be used to inform, deliver training, consult, support and promote the benefits of children's play.</p> <p>Although with the change in guidance for Families First the adventure play project was removed from the delivery plan, there is a fundamental support for play through the other projects as above.</p> <p>ACEs work is in its infancy within the county borough and has to date focussed on training and supporting practitioners to raise their awareness and reflect on their current practice and whether it has a detrimental impact for children and young people who may have experienced ACEs.</p> <p>However, this area of work under the PSB is linked to Children</p>		

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	importance of play and contributes to the provision of rich play opportunities			<p>First and F1000D / Early Years System work and so as the learning progresses especially with the play in the community task group this may develop moving forward in 2019/20.</p> <p>Selected Youth Service teams provide structured activities that include Play-oriented aspects – these teams are ACEs aware and this awareness informs delivery.</p>		

Inter-generational policy and initiatives

Page 01

EA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	There are a range of play based approaches to inter-generational activity	New		Inter-generational working forms an aspect of youth service delivery	Youth Service activity does not include the total age-range that defines Play activity	
	There is a creative approach to inter-generational activity which encourages better interaction between children of different ages	New		<p>Under the Children First task group this is being explored to develop a greater understanding between generations of play, the importance of play for children and young people and adults and to cultivate a tolerance in communities moving towards developing playful communities.</p> <p>Inter-generational working forms an aspect of youth service delivery</p>	Youth Service activity does not include the total age-range that defines Play activity	

Health and Safety						
LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Health and Safety policies explicitly recognise the value of children being able to experience risk and challenge			While we cannot enforce all policies from Early Years across all childcare settings we do offer templates to support their implementation. Within Early Years we encourage an understanding of children's development needs and foster a play experiential learning environment with a risk management approach to health and safety policies, so that appropriate risk and challenge is enabled for the age and stage of the children.		
	The Health and Safety policies and procedures incorporate the risk-benefit approach to health and safety assessments as recommended by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE)			While we cannot enforce all policies from Early Years across all childcare settings we do offer templates to support their implementation. Within Early Years we encourage an understanding of children's development needs and foster a play experiential learning environment with a risk management approach to health and safety policies, so that appropriate risk and challenge is enabled for the age and stage of the children.		
	The Local Authority offers the provision of insurance through the Local Authority scheme to all third sector play providers and community councils			The Council offers insurance to third sector play providers and community councils using Council buildings through its corporate insurance policy.		

Play within relevant policy and implementation agendas

Please use this section to highlight successes of collaboration across policy areas to improve play opportunities.

Have there been challenges?

How can these be overcome?

Comments:

Conclusion

Matter A: Population

The 2011 Census is still the most appropriate data source, as in 2016.

Matter B: Providing for Diverse Needs

The Local Authority's approach to play is to promote inclusivity for all and therefore those with a specific need by virtue of a disability, culture, language, sexual orientation or any other reason will be supported to participate within existing play settings as much as possible, rather than being segregated through different provision.

However, it is recognised that specific groups may have particular requirements for which specific provision is needed. The Assessment has therefore considered the location of provision specifically for disabled children and it is evident that, whilst provision is available, the geographical coverage of provision is varied. Community transport is, however, available to assist.

Through the Open Space Audit undertaken as part of the Local Development Plan evidence base, the LA has a clear indication of the open spaces available to those living in rural areas and through child survey the barriers facing children in these areas have been identified, although there it would be beneficial to undertake further survey work in some communities. There are few areas that would be classified as 'isolated.'

There are small numbers of specific ethnic groups in the County Borough. No specific demand has been identified as yet for culturally specific play provision and the lack of culturally specific provision has not been identified as a barrier to play. However, more consultations around this area will need to take place.

With regards to Welsh language, an assessment of provision across the County Borough clearly indicates that there is only a limited supervised provision in certain areas for certain age groups, and much of this provision is linked to Welsh Medium schools (breakfast and after school clubs). However, it has been the case, particularly in the north of the County Borough, that Welsh Medium childcare provision has been found to be unsustainable and therefore it is important that any future Welsh medium play provision is based on demand. The Local Authority will therefore continue to work with Welsh language groups such as Menter Iaith and Mudiad Meithrin to determine through further consultation with children and parents where there would be a demand for increased facilities and to encourage the provision of these facilities where appropriate.

Matter C: Space available for children to play: Open Spaces and Outdoor unstaffed designated play spaces

A comprehensive Open Space Assessment has been carried out in accordance with the typologies of Open Space set out within TAN 16, although no specific assessment has been undertaken in respect of those typologies included within the Play Sufficiency Statutory Guidance that are additional to those included in TAN 16, namely brownfield sites and residential streets. This data has been used, in accordance with local standards for open space provision, to identify which areas may have an insufficient overall amount of open space that is useable for play when assessed against these local standards. The results of this assessment have indicated that there are a small number of wards which fall below the children's play space standards. However, where there are apparent deficiencies purely in quantitative terms, consideration has also been given to other factors, including play space provision in adjoining wards.

The quantity of playgrounds and of all designated play spaces have been calculated and assessed against local standards based on both the area of facilities (EIT standard per 1000 population) and the actual number of facilities per child population, as well as considering against known future provision e.g. through Section 106 agreements and provision is neighbouring wards. A few wards have been identified as having insufficient provision.

The assessment also takes into account the usability of the space as well as accessibility based on the minimum distances to travel standards by age group, its recreational and visual amenity and its condition. Areas that fall below minimum distance standards have been identified.

Whilst this provides a baseline of the value of each open space and designated space, a full play value assessment has not been carried out and there would be benefit in undertaking a more detailed assessment of play value, specifically in relation to designated spaces to inform future reviews of the Play Sufficiency Assessment.

Matter D: Supervised provision

The local authority keeps an up to date record of all supervised play provisions that occur within the County Borough. The majority of these are published on the Council's various websites. However, this data does not include information on the capacity or general size of groups, nor if there is a waiting list. This is an area that needs to be developed further.

Analysis of current provision indicates that there is a good distribution of supervised play across the County Borough and there are a number of free to attend or low cost groups in some areas. In addition, there is provision in some areas for different needs such as disability and Welsh Medium although shortfalls have been identified in some areas.

It is clear that CCBC and its play partners seek to provide a provision that offers a rich environment given the number of different play opportunities on offer, and many of the provisions available are CIW accredited. CCBC also has its own Quality Standard through which play schemes will aspire to be accredited towards. The analysis of supervised play provision indicates that there is a wide and rich variety of play opportunities available for children of all ages to participate in within their individual wards.

The sports development strategy, arts and cultural development groups, the leisure and tourism teams all help to highlight the variety of play provisions on offer around the borough and SHEP is delivered in schools free of charge to families in disadvantaged areas during the school holidays to support play, sports and nutrition.

Matter E: Charges for play provision

There is a good provision of free and low cost provisions for children within most wards in the County Borough. Children and young people benefit from Families First funding and the majority of wards have a provision of free play sessions for young children to attend. Older children benefit from Youth Service run youth clubs as well as some voluntary sector run clubs. Youth Service Projects funded by Families First, Legacy and Safer Communities Funding also enable free youth activities to be delivered on an outreach basis to young people in their communities. This means that those areas where there are more low-income families are able to receive free play provisions.

However, the location of these provisions may mean that young children have to use public transport to gain access to free provisions. Currently, public transport costs are around half price for a child, however this is not a subsidised fare but that set by the various transport operators. Availability of further subsidised travel may lead to an increase in the uptake of play events.

Matter F: Access to space/provision

To ensure that collaborative working is taking place, the regional transport plan also helps inform LDPs. Within CCBC, the adopted LDP helps inform upcoming proposals and looks to improve key transport routes, for all types of vehicles and pedestrians. The LDP also seeks to further imbed cycle routes as part of the greater transport network. The addition of more frequent train services will help increase access to play provisions in Caerphilly.

The Local Authority has invested in a large number of traffic calming schemes, and 20 mph zones and limits have ensured that the County Borough's roads are safer for children, particularly around schools. Whilst the parent and child surveys do indicate that the public perceive that more could be done, it is evident that the LA has made significant progress in improving road safety already and through the Speed Management Strategy, people can nominate roads that should have speed reduction measures put in place, which provides an opportunity to tackle the barriers to play in respect of road safety where appropriate. There is also an extensive road safety education programme in place.

The Council encourages walking and cycling schemes within its Healthy Schools and the Active Travel Plan. In addition, schools also help to educate young children in using the streets safely, and grants are available to help fund this.

Whilst information is available on the Council website in respect of temporary road closures, this is aimed at special event and improvements to the website

information will be taken forward.

Information, publicity, events

Information about play facilities and groups is readily available on websites of the council and its play partners. The websites have all been designed for ease of use, and to allow children and parents to see what provisions are available to them.

All materials produced by the Council and its play partners are aimed at their target audience, and are available upon request in a variety of different mediums.

Matter G: Securing and developing the play workforce

Play and playwork is integrated into the work carried out by CCBC's Early years. To ensure we support the workforce in achieving nationally recognised qualifications and accessing CPD opportunities, we capture information through our FIS and through our Early Years Workforce Development Training Website around the size and structure of the workforce. We have a team of Childcare Officers who support out of school club settings who can advise on what is available, and support the setting to ensure they are meeting the National Minimum Standards.

Matter H: Community engagement and participation

Through the various schemes and programmes run by the Local Authority, a number of consultations take place regularly to help gauge how successful various schemes have been, or if there are any gaps in provision. Children and young people are actively encouraged to engage in opportunities to promote play and there are a number of good practice examples across the County Borough of where this is succeeding.

Matter I: Play within all relevant policy and implementation agendas

It is recognised that play is a cross cutting policy agenda that can be influenced by a number of policy areas and an assessment of the many policies and strategies produced by the Council indicates that whilst play is often not directly referenced, the overall aims of many strategies e.g. traffic reduction, increased number of childcare providers adhering to local standards, community safety etc. will all indirectly improve play provision in Caerphilly.

There is evidence of good practice in schools with regards to play opportunities, but there is scope to expand the existing programmes that are successfully being implemented as well as looking to increase the use of playgrounds out of school hours as these are valuable play spaces.

The protection of valuable areas of open space and delivery of new open space and fixed facilities where new development generates a demand are both important elements of the LDP and the shared evidence base on Open Spaces between the Play Sufficiency Assessment and the LDP is critical in ensuring that the information remains up to date.

Matter D: Supervised provision						
Matter E: Charges for play provision						
Matter F: Access to space/provision						
Matter G: Securing and developing the workforce	Look to incorporate a specific section on Play Accreditations within the Workforce Development Audit. Explore with Family Information Service if we can identify play settings that are not regulated childcare.	Try and carry out these actions by 2020.		Current CCBC staff and partners.	Funding will be required to carry out these actions.	
Matter H: Community engagement and participation	A draft environmental enhancement plan for Lansbury Park has been drafted and is currently out for internal consultation which could include play improvements.	Adoption of policy and provision of improvements by 2020.		Current CCBC staff and partners.	Funding will be required to carry out these actions.	
Matter I: Play within all relevant policy and implementation agendas	There is a need for a Play Champion.	Try and appoint a community champion by 2020		Play sufficiency Lead to action.	No funding is required.	

Actions to be taken to address the issues / shortcomings recorded in the Play Sufficiency Assessment

**Proposed actions for the period of 1st April 2019 – 31st March 2020
(Funding source: funding from Local Authority own budgets and to be included in the Single Integrated Plan).**

Matter	Priorities	Targets	Links to other Matters	Resources, including costs	Funding source (new or existing funding streams)
Statutory Guidance-policy framework	To adhere to the Statutory Guidance – policy framework for future Play Sufficiency Assessments	Submit subsequent Assessment and accompanying Action Plan to Welsh Government every 3 years.		Current CCBC staff and partners where possible.	Additional funding would be required as CCBC does not have a play sufficiency officer.
Matter A: Population					
Matter B: Providing for diverse needs	Undertake targeted consultation with children and their parents in isolated areas to establish need.	Try and carry out consultation by 2020.		Current CCBC staff and partners where possible.	Funding will be required to carry out these actions.
Matter C: Space available for children to play	Undertake joint play access audit / place space and play value assessments. This area of 'No ball games' signs will be explored through the council Youth Services initiative of 'please play here' signs.	Carry out assessments by 2020. Work with Youth Service and parks to undertake this action.		Training will be required for CCBC staff to undertake assessments. Current CCBC staff and partners where possible.	Funding will be required to carry out these actions. Funding will be required to fund 'please play here' signs.

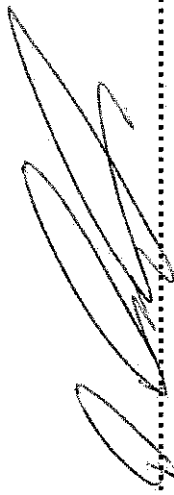
Way forward

The Action Plan highlights that whilst provision of Play is wide and varied, more work needs to be undertaken to assess the quality of provisions that are available. This work will undoubtedly have funding consequences on the teams that need to implement wider research or analysis.

Without appropriate funding from the Government, it is uncertain how these actions can be implemented.

In order to build upon the strong networks created by the Play Sufficiency Working Group, regular meetings will continue to take place to discuss and update colleagues on progress that is being made with the project.

Signed:



Date:

29th March 2019

