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For all enquiries relating to this agenda please contact Julie Lloyd
(Tel: 01443 864246 Email: lloydj4@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Date: 30th November 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

A multi-locational meeting of the **Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee** will be held in Penallta House, and via Microsoft Teams on **Tuesday, 6th December, 2022 at 5.30 pm** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda. Councillors and the public wishing to speak on any item can do so by making a request to the Chair. You are also welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, both these requests require a minimum notice period of 3 working days. A simultaneous translation will be provided on request.

Members of the public or Press may attend in person at Penallta House or may view the meeting live via the following link: <https://civico.net/caerphilly>

This meeting will be live-streamed and a recording made available to view via the Council's website, except for discussions involving confidential or exempt items. Therefore the images/audio of those individuals speaking will be publicly available to all via the recording on the [Council's website](#).

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chrissy Harrhy'.

Christina Harrhy
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AGENDA

	Pages
1 To receive apologies for absence.	

A greener place Man gwyrddach



2 Declarations of Interest.

Councillors and Officers are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest(s) in respect of any item of business on this agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Officers.

To approve and sign the following minutes: -

- 3 Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee held on 25th October 2022. 1 - 10
- 4 Consideration of any matter referred to this Committee in accordance with the call-in procedure.
- 5 Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme. 11 - 24
- 6 To receive and consider the following Cabinet reports*: -
1. Bryn Community Engagement Proposal – 19th October 2022;
 2. Street Lighting Review – 16th November 2022;
 3. Caerphilly Biodiversity Report 2022 – 16th November 2022.

**If a member of the Scrutiny Committee wishes for any of the above Cabinet reports to be brought forward for review at the meeting please contact Julie Lloyd, 01443 864246, by 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 5th December 2022.*

To receive and consider the following Scrutiny report: -

- 7 Play Sufficiency Assessment. 25 - 122

Circulation:

Councillors M.A. Adams, R. Chapman, C.J. Cuss, D.T. Davies (Chair), N. Dix, C. Elsbury, M. Evans, A. Gair, A. Hussey (Vice Chair), S. Kent, A. Leonard, D.W.R. Preece, H. Pritchard, J.E. Roberts, S. Williams and C. Wright

And Appropriate Officers

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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MULTI-LOCATIONAL MEETING HELD IN PENALLTA HOUSE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON TUESDAY, 25TH OCTOBER 2022 AT 5.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor A. Hussey (Vice-Chair Presiding)

Councillors:

M.A. Adams, C.J. Cuss, D.T. Davies (part of meeting), N. Dix, C. Elsbury, M. Evans, A. Gair, A. Leonard, S. Kent, D.W.R. Preece, H. Pritchard, J.E. Roberts, S. Williams, C. Wright

Cabinet Members:

Councillors S. Morgan (Leader of Council), C. Andrews (Education and Communities), P. Leonard (Planning and Public Protection), C. Morgan (Waste and Green Spaces), J. Pritchard (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Regeneration and Climate Change), J. Simmonds (Highways and Transportation), E. Stenner (Finance and Performance)

Together with:

M.S. Williams (Corporate Director for Economy and Environment), R. Hartshorn (Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services), M. Lloyd (Head of Infrastructure), P. Griffiths (Green Space Strategy and Cemeteries Manager), D. Thomas (Countryside Planning Assistant), M. Jacques (Scrutiny Officer), R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer), J. Lloyd (Committee Services Officer)

Also present to speak on the Notice of Motion:

Councillors J. Reed and J. Jones (Ynysddu Ward), Councillor K. Etheridge (Blackwood Ward), Mrs J. Jones and Mr L. Reardon (Local Residents)

CHAIRING ARRANGEMENTS

In view of a request from Councillor D.T. Davies MBE owing to a prior appointment, Councillor A. Hussey (Vice-Chair) presided as Scrutiny Chair for the duration of the meeting in order to provide continuity around proceedings.

RECORDING, FILMING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Chair reminded those present that the meeting was being live-streamed and recorded and would be made available following the meeting via the Council's website – [Click Here to View](#) Members were advised that voting on decisions would be taken via Microsoft Forms.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R. Chapman.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

3. MINUTES – 6TH OCTOBER 2022

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 6th October 2022 be approved as a correct record and by way of Microsoft Forms and verbal confirmation (and in noting there were 13 for, 0 against and 1 abstentions) this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee held on 6th October 2022 (minute nos. 1 – 7) be approved as a correct record.

4. CALL-IN PROCEDURE

There had been no matters referred to the Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the call-in procedure.

5. ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Mark Jacques (Scrutiny Officer) presented the report, which outlined details of the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme (FWP) for the period October 2022 to March 2023.

Members were asked to consider the FWP alongside the Cabinet work programme and suggest any changes prior to publication on the Council's website. The Scrutiny Committee noted the details of the reports scheduled for forthcoming meetings.

Members' approval was also sought to add a report to the Forward Work Programme on Grass Cutting Regimes for the meeting on 7th February 2023.

It was moved and seconded that subject to the inclusion of the aforementioned report, the report recommendation be approved. By way of Microsoft Forms (and in noting there were 14 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions) this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that subject to the inclusion of a report for 7th February 2023 (Grass Cutting Regimes) the Forward Work Programme as appended to the meeting papers be published on the Council's website.

6. CABINET REPORTS

It was confirmed that there had been no requests for any of the Cabinet reports listed on the agenda to be brought forward for discussion at the meeting.

7. NOTICE OF MOTION - RE-EVALUATE THE CABINET DECISION OF THE 9TH FEBRUARY 2022 - B4251 YNYSDDU TO WYLLIE HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT

Consideration was given to a Notice of Motion received from Councillors J. Reed and J. Jones, and supported by Councillors K. Etheridge, A. Farina-Childs, B Owen, and N. Dix. The Notice of Motion requested a re-evaluation of the Cabinet decision taken on 9th February 2022 in relation to the B4251 Ynysddu to Wyllie Highway Improvement.

At the meeting, Councillor Kevin Etheridge also handed in a petition of 124 signatures on behalf of residents and campaigners, which requested that the Scrutiny Committee following the notice of motion on the safety aspects of the Wyllie Bends recommends to Cabinet that the matter is discussed and debated at Full Council on the 24th November 2022 to all 69 Councillors.

Mrs Jo Jones, the mother of Miss Laurie Jones who tragically lost her life in an accident on Wyllie Bends in October 2019, addressed the Scrutiny Committee and detailed the circumstances and road conditions that led to her daughter's death. Mrs Jones outlined areas where she believed appropriate consultation had not taken place, and inaccuracies that she felt required addressing as they were not included in the report considered by Cabinet in February 2022.

The Scrutiny Committee were asked to note that the family had not been aware of the Amey Safety Report, and they felt that the Local Authority had not been open or transparent in this regard as they had been unable to explore the report or to fully engage with the consultation. From the first meeting they considered that Highways Officers did not have an accurate understanding of the accident and were surprised that the risk assessment conducted by them had been a desktop exercise with no site visit conducted. This they felt should have been conducted either after hours or in inclement weather and in liaison with Gwent Police. The police officer who had been involved with the consultation process had been a ward PC, who had no knowledge or experience of Wyllie Bends incidents and accidents, and not with the Collision Investigation Team despite Inspector Martin Smith being readily available to discuss improvements and ensure that they were robust and linked well with accident causes. Mrs Jones also stated that the accident investigation had revealed that there were no defects with her daughter's car when it was examined after the accident.

Reference was then made to the Cabinet report and the options offered, and the Scrutiny Committee were asked to note that although the concrete posts and chain link fencing was the preferred option, however this was not what was installed, and no other options such as crash barriers or street lighting were presented for consideration. Members were advised that Vehicle Restraint System crash barriers were designed to fall apart and would absorb impact and there was little chance of bounce back. Mrs Jones expressed her firm belief that crash barriers and additional street lighting was needed to prevent further accidents and asked the Scrutiny Committee to support the re-evaluation of the road and a thorough independent assessment that should include the full application of expert knowledge of past events and incidents in liaison with the Gwent Police Collision Investigation Unit.

Councillor Janine Reed, as proposer of the motion, presented the Notice of Motion and using photographs outlined the road in question and the boundary fence. The Scrutiny Committee were asked to note that the Amey safety report did not recommend the installation of a chain link fence, which was detailed in the Cabinet report as being the most appropriate safeguard for this section of the road and in accordance with relevant design standards, might reduce the risk of vehicles leaving the road and protect pedestrians. However, a mere boundary fence was installed, which Cllr Reed considered

would not provide the same level of protection to road users as a VRS.

Reference was then made to the Amey report and although it stated that a VRS or Vehicle Restraint System was considered to be disproportionate to the benefits it would achieve, it was worth noting that there had been 3 further accidents this year on Wyllie Bends where all 3 vehicles have left the carriageway. Councillor Reed asked the Committee to consider why this safety measure had been installed on other roads in the borough similar in topography to Wyllie Bends but not on Wyllie Bends, and advised that between 1999 and 2021 there had been 32 accidents: 21 slight, 9 serious and 2 fatal.

Councillor Reed asked the Scrutiny Committee to support the Jones family and the concerned local communities by recommending a reassessment of the road and the installation of a VRS System at strategic places along this dangerous road.

Councillor Jan Jones, as the second proposer of the motion, focused on reasons why night lighting should be reinstated on the Wyllie Bends. Councillor Jones asked the Committee to consider the 32 recorded incidents between 1991 to 2021 and the additional 3 incidents that have occurred in recent months, and that although the report advised that accidents occurred mainly during daylight hours or within street lighting operational hours, it was during the hours of darkness that the more serious incidents and fatalities occurred.

Councillor Jones advised that no reference was made to street lighting in the Cabinet report or the Amey report, and this she felt prevented Cabinet from making an informed decision. The Scrutiny Committee were asked to note the wording of the Amey report in relation to night lighting, and this Councillor Jones felt to be ambiguous and wrongly interpreted by Officers. Councillor Jones accepted that reinstating the lighting would probably not prevent accidents happening at night, however night lighting might well save other lives in the future, particularly given the history of this stretch of road and that it runs alongside a fast-flowing river.

Councillor Jones asked the Scrutiny Committee to consider the Notice of Motion and support the request for an independent re-evaluation of the safety of Wyllie Bends.

Councillor Kevin Etheridge, as a signatory of the Notice of Motion, then addressed the Scrutiny Committee and presented a petition of 124 signatures and asked that the Scrutiny Committee recommend that Cabinet consider recommending that the Notice of Motion also be presented to Council on 24th November 2022, so that all 69 Members can consider and debate it, and requested that a site visit between all respective ward members and Cabinet Members also be held.

Councillor Etheridge thanked Jo Jones for her emotive speech and asked for the Committee's compassion and understanding when considering the Notice of Motion.

Members thanked Jo Jones for her presence and expressed their condolences for the tragic loss of her daughter.

A Member expressed his support for the motion and his concern that a lot of information had appeared to have been lost between the Amey report and the Cabinet report, which prevented them from making, what he felt to be, an informed decision. Although accepting the supplier issues, the recommendation from Cabinet was for the installation of a chain link fence and not a boundary fence, which would in his opinion do little to prevent cars from leaving the road, and he also felt that street lighting had a part to play in the accident and its reinstatement in this area should be fully explored.

A Member referenced the safety report and the recommendation to reduce the speed limit on the road to 40mph, other significant traffic calming measures on the road as

recommended by the safety consultant and issues raised on social media about driver behaviour on this stretch of road and asked what, if anything could be done in this regard.

Clarification was then sought in relation to the Amey report and its consultation with the community and stakeholders, and what form this took and particularly whether the family had been aware of it. The Member also asked if any resurveying of traffic speeds on Wyllie Bends had been undertaken since the reduction of the speed limit had occurred.

A Member then queried if an independent re-evaluation was approved, how would it be conducted and how would Members be able to satisfy themselves that all aspects of the concerns raised at the Scrutiny meeting would be covered.

Officers in responding to the concerns raised, advised that the Amey report was independent, and Officers had worked extensively on the recommendation made therein. Should a subsequent independent report be required, then another consultant would be commissioned to undertake it.

Officers also highlighted that the Amey report and relevant actions implemented were clearly highlighted and detailed in the Cabinet report of the 9th February.

Officers explained that the VRS can itself cause a hazard, because it is designed and tested to be impacted with a certain angle and certain speed. The use on particularly tight radii such as Wyllie Bends can cause impact angles to be far too steep and then become a hazard in itself to the occupier of an errant vehicle. This was clearly highlighted in the Amey safety report. This view was taken into consideration when the safety report was reviewed, and as the consultants had not considered VRS necessary and can create a hazard, this was the reason this option was not taken forward. It was noted that as a result of ash dieback and the removal of a number of trees, the road had been significantly opened up. This was referenced in the Cabinet report and was the reason why a further review was undertaken and why a boundary fence was put in. The Officer confirmed that a meeting was held with the family to discuss the options and what the three options would be going forward to Cabinet. The Officer also confirmed that Cabinet had agreed a concrete post and chain link fence, however, the lead time for the materials due to supplier issues because of Covid were a further 3 months and so the Officer took a delegated decision to change to a steel post which was readily available but still complied with the highway specifications. Members were advised that the delegated decision had been posted for their awareness.

The Officer confirmed that the report also highlighted that the most beneficial improvement would be to change the road to 40mph, which was implemented, and further recommendations for additional chevrons were also implemented. The position and type of road markings were detailed and it was noted that solid markings could not be installed in sections along the road due to the location of the bus stops where overtaking would be required. The Officer also clarified that the road currently has a wide central hatched marking, which drivers should be aware of are there to deter any overtaking movements (in accordance with the highway code)

In relation to street lighting, Members were asked to note that this had been reviewed, and evidence from police reports did not attribute any of the accidents to street lighting, with most accidents occurring either during daylight hours or while street lighting was on.

In terms of driver behaviour, the Officer advised that they would be more than willing to look at a road safety campaign. It was noted that speed surveys had shown that the 85th percentile speed for the road is 40.5mph, so the vast majority of drivers were adhering to the speed limit, and because of this, the installation of enforcement cameras would be unlikely to be supported by GoSafe (the speed camera operator).

Members expressed further concerns that there seemed to be a disparity between safety recommendations as to what was and was not sufficient, and given this, felt that further investigation was warranted.

A Member queried whether the cutting down of the trees and opening up the road now meant that more substantial fencing should be installed, and referenced the fact that sections of the current fencing had already been obliterated, which seemed to illustrate that this needed to be looked at again.

Further concerns were then expressed regarding drainage on the road, and whether there were enough gullies present to prevent the build-up of water, and if there were any other safety measures that could be taken that would prevent any cars that did leave the road from entering the river. A Member then queried whether mature tree planting of 4/5 inch trunks could be used to provide a natural barrier to the river, further slowing vehicles.

The Officer advised that he was not aware of any system that would prevent cars from entering the river and was mindful that anything installed could become a hazard itself. In terms of the drainage system, he agreed that any road and not just Wyllie Bends could become overloaded depending on the level of rain. Members were asked to note that although it would not withstand a head on collision, the present boundary fence does provide some restraint, but the suitability and level of protection afforded by any barrier depends on the speed and angle of the impact. As to tree planting, they had the potential to be hazards themselves, but this could be considered.

The Officer advised that they were still waiting on information from Gwent Police on the latest accident, and as soon as that was received, then all safety information would be reviewed and considered.

Having fully considered the Notice of Motion, it was moved and seconded that it be supported and by way of Microsoft Forms and verbal confirmation (and in noting there were 11 for, 2 against and 2 abstentions) this was agreed by the majority present.

RECOMMENDED to Cabinet that the Notice of Motion be supported.

Councillor D.T. Davies abstained from voting on the item as he had not been present for the whole of the debate.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

8. IMPLEMENTATION OF GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY - PROGRESS REPORT

The Cabinet Member for Waste and Green Spaces presented the report, which updated the Scrutiny Committee on the implementation of the Green Infrastructure Strategy following its adoption in November 2020.

It was noted that significant process has been made in the delivery and implementation of the Strategy since its adoption. However, further work is required in order to integrate this important strategy into other services of the organisation over and above that of the Green Space Strategy Team, including the development, preparation and implementation of a 5-year integrated action plan originally outlined in the initial Cabinet report in 2020 whereby local priorities and projects were identified. The importance of the implementation of the Green Infrastructure Strategy at this strategic level will continue throughout the plan

period for the 2nd Replacement County Borough Local Development Plan process. The Strategy has been utilised in securing strategic grant funding and will continue to do so for a number of years.

It was noted that green infrastructure is a multi-functional strategy which offers multiple benefits whilst understanding and undertaking enhancement projects. These functions include biodiversity, access, water management, tourism, community regeneration, health and wellbeing, education and landscape amenity. The Scrutiny Committee were also asked to note examples of successful green infrastructure enhancement projects undertaken since November 2020, including community tree planting, river corridor and riparian habitat enhancement, Plant a Patch for Pollinators, Hedgehog Highway and Nature Isn't Neat.

The Scrutiny Committee referred to the Members Seminar on Biodiversity and Grass Cutting Regimes which had been held the previous evening, and complimented the usefulness of this session.

There were no questions received for Officers and the Scrutiny Committee noted the contents of the report.

9. STREET LIGHTING REVIEW

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation presented the report, which updated the Scrutiny Committee on a high level review of street lighting undertaken in lieu of the employment of LED and Part Night Lighting which was fully introduced across the County Borough in February 2021 and the Climate Emergency that has been declared by the Council. The report also sought Scrutiny Committee's views on a set of Officer recommendations prior to consideration of the review by Cabinet.

The Scrutiny Committee were advised that to meet the challenges of carbon reduction commitments and rising energy costs, in May 2018 the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee recommended a programme to Cabinet for the installation of LED lighting and implementation of a part night-lighting (PNL) strategy. This programme was subsequently agreed by Cabinet and was rolled out across the county borough over a 20-month period between April 2019 and February 2021. The system has been operational since, with full LED infrastructure and PNL between the hours of midnight and 5.30am.

Members were reminded that the Council has declared a climate emergency, and so the reduction in carbon emissions is a commitment to the prevention of the long-term threat of climate change to which energy reduction plays a key role. Whilst other activities affect climate change more than lighting, it is still a very strong contribution from a single industry sector. Experts agree that the Council will not meet the goals for mitigating climate change without reducing the amount of carbon being emitted into the atmosphere. In addition to the experiences of climate change which are now evident across the world, the Council's resources are inevitably finite, both operationally and financially. This, combined with rising energy costs, has reinforced the need for a proportionate response in terms of street lighting service provision.

The Strategy that was supported by Scrutiny and Cabinet has resulted in carbon savings of circa 2836 tonnes per annum, together with significant financial/future cost avoidance savings as set out in the report. It was noted that the total number of street lights across the Authority has increased over the last 5 years and now stands at 27,373 units. This increase in the street lighting asset has coincided with a period of MTFP savings, increasing energy costs and the very real threat of climate change being felt by communities. Following the implementation of the LED and Part Night Lighting Policy

approved in 2018, the Council has 22,344 street lights that are switched off at midnight for five and a half hours, 2684 illuminated signs and 711 flexible bollards. Signs continue to remain lit through all hours of darkness and bollards are no longer illuminated.

The report therefore set out the parameters of a high level review undertaken by Officers which considered a number of alternative options and examined the resultant carbon impact and financial implications of each option.

The Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Regeneration and Climate Change also spoke on the report and, in referencing the Climate Emergency declared by the Council in 2019, the Council's ongoing commitment towards reducing the long-term threat of climate change, and the carbon savings achieved to date, asked the Scrutiny Committee to consider the implications of increased carbon emissions and at a time when the general public is actively reducing their own personal electricity and energy, if they were to support extra lighting during the hours of midnight and 5.30am.

The Scrutiny Committee discussed the report and one Member suggested that part night-lighting had been implemented for financial and not environmental reasons, and stated that the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent had expressed a personal opinion in a recent article in support of keeping street lights on at night. The Member also questioned the validity of a county-wide policy in this regard and suggested a need for a rationale on a case-by-case basis for street lighting in each area of the county borough.

One Member advocated the adoption of a Central Management System for street lights in line with neighbouring Local Authorities. He also highlighted safety concerns around reports from residents in that sometimes the lighting does not come on at 5:30am as planned, and he also observed that on long terraced streets midpoint lighting should be provided during the hours of darkness. The Member also highlighted how the Rhymney area had received Safer Streets funding specifically for street lighting and sought clarification on how this funding had been allocated and spent.

A Member suggested that installing a Central Management System would allow the Council to be more creative in terms of exploring dimming options. He highlighted safety concerns for vulnerable people associated with the part night-lighting scheme and queried if further options beyond midnight to 5:30am could be explored, such as switching lights off for shorter periods during the night.

One Member queried the environmental aspect highlighted in the report, given that all energy to power the street lighting across the county borough is generated through renewable sources, and suggested that the current policy had only been implemented for financial reasons.

Mark S. Williams (Corporate Director for Economy and Environment) responded to these queries, and in referring to information received from the Energy and Water Officer, explained that even though the Council utilises green renewable energy, they do not recoup the associated benefits when reporting emissions back to Welsh Government, as there is still a carbon emissions factor associated with consumption and an implied assumption that green energy is not being used. The intention of this WG reporting policy is to force councils to work harder at decarbonisation strategies. If any electricity passes through a meter for a commercial supply, there is a carbon implication and the Council are expected to log that electricity in the reporting as though it is not from a renewable source.

Members were advised that if the Council were to revert to switching the lights on late at night, apart from the increase in costs, it would create additional electrical demand on the grid. At times when renewables are not able to meet this demand, this could result in electricity being generated from fossil fuel sources such as gas power stations or nuclear

energy. In view of this, if street lights were switched back on between midnight and 5.30am, then the result would be an increase in carbon emissions of circa 470 tonnes per annum which would need to be reported to Welsh Government.

One Member suggested that residents could explore buying personal head torches and solar-powered lighting for their properties late at night, if they had any concerns regarding the current policy.

A Member raised a question regarding antennas on top of street lighting columns within the county borough, which if operational would allow dimming by a management system allowing some light and reducing the carbon footprint. Marcus Lloyd (Head of Infrastructure) advised Members that the installation of a Central Management System would cost circa £3.5M and have a payback of approximately 40 years depending on the option chosen. He also highlighted how the nodes currently on columns are designed to regulate switch on/off times and not dimming options.

Mr Lloyd also highlighted the ways in which renewable energy can be stored and utilised at different times of day and night, along with some minor irregularities in the switching times during the time when the clocks go forward or back one hour during autumn and springtime. It was also explained that the current policy allows for street lights to be turned back on if required, following regular review and consultation between officers and Gwent Police colleagues, should there be a clear evidence base to do so. Examples of this were provided in the report, with it emphasised that the evidence to date indicates no increase in crime as a result of the part-night lighting policy. Mr Lloyd further explained that the levels of complaints received from residents in regard to the part-night lighting policy is exceptionally low.

One Member observed that a measured approach, where certain streets/areas could be switched on at night, rather than the current county borough-wide policy, would also reduce the carbon footprint and increase night-time safety on streets.

Following consideration of the report and the Officer recommendations and with the Scrutiny Committee having offered their views, an amendment to the recommendations was moved and seconded, to state *“Cabinet is asked to review the Street Lighting Policy and look at implementing the Central Management System so that the policy is fit for purpose”*. By way of roll call (and in noting there were 9 for, 5 against and 0 abstentions) this was agreed by the majority present.

The Committee Members were advised that the amendment as carried negated the original report recommendation 3.1 - that *“the existing street lighting policy is maintained.”*

It was therefore moved and seconded that the amended Recommendation 3.1 as set out at the meeting and Recommendations 3.2 – 3.3 as set out in the report be forwarded to Cabinet for approval. By way of Microsoft Forms (and in noting there were 12 for, 2 against and 0 abstentions), this was agreed by the majority present.

RECOMMENDED to Cabinet that:-

- (i) Cabinet Members are asked to review the Street Lighting Policy and look at implementing the Central Management System so that the policy is fit for purpose;
- (ii) Officers continue to work with their colleagues in Gwent Police in accordance with the existing, agreed protocol relating to crime;

- (iii) Issues relating to fear of crime are recognised by the Authority and where these issues are considered to be serious, taking account of the vulnerability of the complainant then an individual response is offered through the Community Safety Partnership which will include a number of wider interventions, such as security advice and guidance.

10. CAERPHILLY BIODIVERSITY REPORT 2022

The Cabinet Member for Waste and Green Spaces presented the report, which outlined the Council's Biodiversity Report for 2022 and sought any comments from the Scrutiny Committee prior to its presentation to Cabinet for approval and subsequent submission to Welsh Government.

Members were advised that under Section 6(7) of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, from the end of 2019 and before the end of every third year thereafter 2019, all public authorities are required to publish a report on what they have done to comply with the Section 6 in respect of Biodiversity. The next report is due in December 2022 and details of the Caerphilly Biodiversity Report 2022 was appended to the Officer's report.

It was explained that the Caerphilly Biodiversity Report 2022 detailed the actions and projects delivered in the county borough to halt the decline of biodiversity, and acts as a driver for ensuring that all service areas consider biodiversity and actively enhance biodiversity when carrying out their day-to-day activities.

A Member asked how the Council monitors the success or failure of their biodiversity policy, and Officers explained that the Caerphilly Biodiversity Report 2022 itself carries out this monitoring role, which demonstrates the progress that is made in terms of maintaining and improving diversity, including the activities that take place across the whole of the Council. Officers gave reassurances that a whole raft of monitoring takes place across the Authority in terms of biodiversity considerations, including the monitoring of species and habitats by Council ecologists, together with monitoring on a wider regional basis through collaboration with specialised working groups.

Following consideration of the Caerphilly Biodiversity Report for 2022, the Scrutiny Committee noted its contents.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Before closing the meeting, it was noted that Councillor D.T. Davies' wife was currently unwell, and Members expressed their best wishes to Mrs Davies for a speedy recovery.

It was also noted that Rebecca Barrett (Clerk to the Scrutiny Committee) was leaving Committee Services in the coming weeks to take up a post elsewhere in the Authority, and this would be her last Scrutiny Committee meeting. Members thanked Rebecca for her approachable manner and the professional support she had given to the Committee over the last nine years, and wished her every success in her new role.

The meeting closed at 7.23 p.m.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2022, they were signed by the Chair.

CHAIR



ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 6TH DECEMBER 2022

**SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND
CORPORATE SERVICES**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Forward Work Programmes are essential to ensure that Scrutiny Committee agendas reflect the strategic issues facing the Council and other priorities raised by Members, the public or stakeholder.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Members consider any changes and agree the final forward work programme prior to publication.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To improve the operation of scrutiny.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 The Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee forward work programme includes all reports that were identified at the scrutiny committee meeting on Thursday 25th October 2022. The work programme outlines the reports planned for the period December 2022 to March 2023.
- 5.2 The forward Work Programme is made up of reports identified by officers and members. Members are asked to consider the work programme alongside the

cabinet work programme and suggest any changes before it is published on the council website. Scrutiny committee will review this work programme at every meeting going forward alongside any changes to the cabinet work programme or report requests.

- 5.3 The Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme is attached at Appendix 1, which presents the current status as at 14th November 2022. The Cabinet Work Programme is attached at Appendix 2. A copy of the prioritisation flowchart is attached at appendix 3 to assist the scrutiny committee to determine what items should be added to the forward work programme.

5.4 **Conclusion**

The work programme is for consideration and amendment by the scrutiny committee prior to publication on the council website.

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 No assumptions are necessary.

7. **SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 As this report is for information only an Integrated Impact Assessment is not necessary.

8. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no specific financial implications arising as a result of this report.

9. **PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are no specific personnel implications arising as a result of this report.

10. **CONSULTATIONS**

- 10.1 There are no consultation responses that have not been included in this report.

11. **STATUTORY POWER**

- 11.1 The Local Government Act 2000.

Author: Mark Jacques, Scrutiny Officer jacqu@carphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Mark S. Williams, Corporate Director for Economy and Environment
Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services/ Monitoring Officer

Lisa Lane, Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer,
Legal Services
Councillor Tudor Davies, Chair of Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny
Committee
Councillor Adrian Hussey Vice Chair of Environment and Sustainability
Scrutiny Committee

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 Environment & Sustainability Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme
- Appendix 2 Cabinet Forward Work Programme
- Appendix 3 Forward Work Programme Prioritisation Flowchart

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Forward Work Programme - Environment & Sustainability

Date	Title	Key Issues	Author	Cabinet Member
06/12/2022 17:30	Play Sufficiency Strategy		Lougher, Jared;	Cllr. Morgan, Chris;
06/12/2022 17:30	Information Item - Environment & Economy 2022-23 P5 Budget Monitoring Report		Roberts, David;	Cllr. Stenner, Eluned;
07/02/2023 17:30	Grass Cutting Regimes	To seek the views of Scrutiny Committee on proposals to enhance and promote biodiversity in our grass cutting regimes across the county borough, following consultation with local members, and prior to presenting to Cabinet for approval.	Headington, Mike	Cllr. Morgan, Chris;
07/02/2023 17:30	Decarbonisation Action Plan	To update members on progress with the Authority's decarbonisation action plan which sits under the overarching decarbonisation strategy	Williams, Mark S	Cllr. Pritchard, James
07/02/2023 17:30	Information Item - Environment & Economy 2022-23 P7 Budget Monitoring Report		Roberts, David;	Cllr. Stenner, Eluned;
21/03/2023 17:30	Review of the Local Toilets Strategy	To seek Cabinet approval for the Council's updated Local Toilet Strategy following a review and public consultation.	Hartshorn Robert	Cllr. Morgan, Chris;
21/03/2023 17:30	Information Item - Environment & Economy 2022-23 P9 Budget Monitoring Report		Roberts, David;	Cllr. Stenner, Eluned;

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Meeting date:	Report title:	Key issue:	Report author:	Cabinet Member:
30/11/2022 13:00	Corporate Performance Assessment 2021/22	To provide members with a high-level position of the Councils performance for 2021/22	Sue Richards; Ros Roberts;	Cllr. Eluned Stenner
30/11/2022 13:10	Draft Self-Assessment Report for 2021/22	To consider and agree the Self-assessment for 2021/2022 as required by the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021	Sue Richards; Kath Peters; Ros Roberts;	Cllr. Eluned Stenner
30/11/2022 13:20	Update on Decarbonisation of fleet vehicles & policies	An update on progress with work to transition our fleet to electric vehicles, including details of phase I of the infrastructure works, with recommendations on policies relating to the use of Council charging points by employees and residents.	Paul Cooke; Sue Richards;	Cllr. Jamie Pritchard;
30/11/2022 13:30	Cyber Security Strategy	To recommend endorsement and implementation of the Strategy.	Liz Lucas; Ian Evans;	Cllr. Nigel George;
30/11/2022 13:40	Programme for Procurement	To extend the Council's existing Programme for Procurement, which is due to expire in May 2023 for a period of up to 12 months to consider and where applicable incorporate aspects of the UK Procurement Bill and Social Partnership & Public Procurement (Wales) Bill in the Council's new Procurement Strategy (the new Procurement Strategy will replace the existing Programme for Procurement).	Liz Lucas; Ian Evans;	Cllr. Nigel George;
30/11/2022 13:50	Education Strategy	For Cabinet to consider and approve the Education Strategy proposed from September 2022 – August 2025.	Keri Cole; Paul Warren;	Cllr. Carol Andrews;

Meeting date:	Report title:	Key issue:	Report author:	Cabinet Member:
30/11/2022 14:00	Christmas Closedown arrangements	For Cabinet to consider the proposals for the Christmas closedown arrangements.	Lynne Donovan;	Cllr. Nigel George;
14/12/2022 13:00	Agile Working Policies	For Cabinet to agree HR policies to support agile working.	Lynne Donovan	Cllr. Nigel George;
14/12/2022 13:10	Low Cost Home Ownership (Decision)	The LCHO (Low Cost Home Ownership) report will document the formulation, implementation and the publication of a new policy which governs the process by which the Council will sell homes to people living and/or working in the borough wanting to access homeownership but cannot afford to do so without some form of public subsidy.	Nick Taylor-Williams; Jane Roberts-Waite;	Cllr. Shayne Cook;
14/12/2022 13:20	HRA Charges (Rent Increase)	Members to agree the level of rent increase for council tenants effective from April 2023.	Lesley Allen;	Cllr. Shayne Cook;
14/12/2022 13:30	Council Tax Base 2023/24	For Cabinet to agree the calculation of the Council Tax Base for the 2023/24 financial year.	Sean O'Donnell;	Cllr. Eluned Stenner;
14/12/2022 13:40	A468 / B4600 Bedwas Bridge Roundabout improvement – Exempt Item	The use of CIL funding to initially secure the land necessary to deliver improvement to the Bedwas Bridge Roundabout at the A468/B4600	Mark S Williams; Marcus Lloyd;	Cllr. Julian Simmonds

Meeting date:	Report title:	Key issue:	Report author:	Cabinet Member:
18/01/2023 13:00	Heating Plant Replacement – Ty Penallta	To update Cabinet in relation to works required to the heating plant at Ty Penallta, to outline the costs and work programme involved and to seek Cabinet approval for the works to be funded from the Council’s Capital reserve.	Mark Faulkner;	Cllr. Nigel George;
18/01/2023 13:10	Draft Budget Proposals for 2023/24 and Updated Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP)	To present Cabinet with details of the draft budget proposals for the 2023/24 financial year and an updated MTFP, to allow for a period of consultation prior to final decision by Council on the 28th February 2023.	Stephen Harris;	Cllr. Eluned Stenner;
25/01/2023 13:00	Pontllanfraith Indoor Bowls	To provide an update on the management of the Islwyn Indoor Bowls Centre and to recommend a revised approach moving forward.	Mark S Williams;	Cllr. Chris Morgan;/Cllr. Nigel George;
25/01/2023 13:10	Bryn Carno funding update	To provide Cabinet with a funding update regarding the remedial works to address issues associated with failed external wall insulation to both Caerphilly Homes’ and private residential properties at Bryn Carno, Rhymney.	Nick Taylor-Williams;	Cllr. Shayne Cook;
25/01/2023 13:20	Extension of Flexible retirement - Exempt Item	To agree a flexible retirement extension for 1 year	Dave Roberts	Cllr. Eluned Stenner;
22/02/2023 13:00	Budget Proposals for 2023/24 and Updated Medium -Term Financial Plan (MTFP)	To seek Cabinet endorsement of the 2023/24 budget proposals prior to final determination by Council on the 28th February 2023, and to note the updated MTFP.	Stephen Harris;	Cllr. Eluned Stenner;

Meeting date:	Report title:	Key issue:	Report author:	Cabinet Member:
22/02/2023 13:10	HRA Business Plan 2022/23	To update Cabinet on the latest Housing Business Plan position in advance of submitting the plan to Welsh Government by 31/3/23, which is a requirement under the terms of the Major Repairs Allowance (MRA) grant. The Housing Business Plan is a 30 year plan and will include rental increase assumptions and forecasted borrowing requirements to enable the HRA to maintain viability while meeting its core objectives.	Lesley Allen;	Cllr. Shayne Cook;
22/02/2023 13:20	Empty Property Grant Approval (Decision)	The new Welsh Government National Empty Property Grant Programme will launch in September 22 and ask for bids from LAs to issue grants up to a Max of £25K to owner occupiers to bring empty properties back into use. Caerphilly Homes will administer the grant for Caerphilly with an expectation that in years 2 and 3 of the 3 year programme, there will be a 35% contribution from each participating LA. The grant will be awarded on a first come first served basis.	Nick Taylor-Williams; Claire Davies;	Cllr. Shayne Cook;
22/02/2023 13:30	Decarbonisation Action Plan	To update members on progress with the Authority's decarbonisation action plan which sits under the overarching decarbonisation strategy	Paul Rossiter; Paul Cooke; Allan Dallimore;	Cllr James Pritchard

Meeting date:	Report title:	Key issue:	Report author:	Cabinet Member:
08/03/2023 13:00	Biodiversity and Grass Cutting Regimes	To seek Cabinet approval in relation to proposals to enhance and promote biodiversity in our grass cutting regimes across the county borough and following consultation with local members.	Mike Headington;	Cllr. Chris Morgan;
08/03/2023 13:10	Empty Homes Strategy (Decision)	To seek Cabinet approval of the proposed strategy	Claire Davies; Mark Jennings;	Cllr. Shayne Cook;
22/03/2023 13:00	No items currently scheduled			
05/04/2023 13:00	No items currently scheduled			
19/04/2023 13:00	Review of the Local Toilet Strategy	To seek Cabinet approval for the Council's updated Local Toilet Strategy following a review and public consultation.	Rob Hartshorn;	Cllr. Philippa Leonard;

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Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme Prioritisation



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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 6TH DECEMBER 2022

SUBJECT: PLAY SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform members of 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 a brief overview of the requirement of the duty and updates members of the sufficiency of play opportunities and the priorities identified in the attached assessment submitted to Welsh Government in June 2022
- 2.2 The legislation came into effect in July 2014 with the publication of "Wales, a Play Friendly Country". The duty requires 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 The Play Sufficiency Assessment is a statutory requirement of Local Authorities and is required every three years.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the requirements of the statutory duty requiring Local Authorities to secure sufficient play opportunities for children, as far as reasonably practicable and the content of the latest Play Sufficiency Assessment.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 So that Members are aware of the Authority's Statutory duty as outlined in recommendations 3.1 above.
- 4.2 To inform Members of the outcome of the Play Sufficiency Assessment.

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 were no precedents for this work as Wales was 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 action plan.
- 5.5 The accountability of delivering the actions in the plan are not the responsibility of any one service area 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 has not had a Play Development Officer to this point, but the Council agreed budgetary growth for 2022/23 onwards and the service area is in the process of recruiting a play sufficiency officer who can then support this area of work going forward.
- 5.6 As part of the duty it is a requirement to submit a full Play Sufficiency Assessment every three years (2022 attached at Appendix 1) and review, update and submit Action plans annually to Welsh Government for assessment. The attached Assessment has been submitted and the Authority is awaiting feedback from Welsh Government.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 There are no assumptions within this report.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 An IIA is not necessary for this Information Only Report.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 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.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 No personnel implications.

10. CONSULTATIONS

- 10.1 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.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 The Local Government Act 2000, Play Opportunities, Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010

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

Consultees: Councillor Chris Morgan, Cabinet Member for Waste, Leisure and Green Spaces
Councillor D.T Davies, Chair of Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Adrian Hussey, Vice Chair of Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee
Christina Harrhy, Chief Executive
Stephen Harris, Head of Financial Services and Section 151 Officer
Mark S Williams, Corporate Director for Economy and Environment
Rob Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services
Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer
Sarah Mutch, Early years Manager
Benjamin Jones, Assistant Planner
Gareth Davies, Area Officer parks and outdoor facilities
Fiona Santos, Childcare Co-ordinator
Tina McMahon, Community Regeneration Manager
Ruth Lee, Family Information Services
Paul O'Neil, Senior Youth Service Manager
Natalie Thomas, Sport Caerphilly Team Leader
Sean Spooner, Sport and Leisure Area Team Leader

Appendices: The document attached is a Welsh Government document and is not fully accessible. Welsh Government advise that they are reviewing the Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit. For further information please contact the report author.

Appendix 1 Play Sufficiency Assessment 2022

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Play Sufficiency Assessment Form



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Name of Local Authority: Caerphilly County Borough Council

Name of responsible officer: Jared Lougher

Job title: Sport & Leisure Development Manager

Date of completion:

Please note that the Play Sufficiency Assessment must be received by the Welsh Government by 30 June 2022



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

This section should be used to articulate the Local Authority's acknowledgement of the value and importance of play in the lives of children.

Context

This section should describe the methodology used to undertake and approve the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan and any consultation with partners on the Assessment/Action Plan. It should also list the key; partners that engaged with the process And identify any challenges in undertaking the Assessment. It should describe the mechanism that the Local Authority proposes to use to take forward the identified actions for the action plan.

Partnership working

This section should demonstrate to what extent the following (and others) were involved in the undertaking of the Assessment and the development of the action plan:

- Town and Community Councils
- Third sector organisations, particularly play associations and play providers
- The private sector if appropriate
- Community groups

Consultation and participation

This section should describe how the Local Authority has:

- Obtained the views of children with regards to the play opportunities they currently access, how they would like the community to better support them to play and what barriers stop them from playing
- Obtained the views on play provision from parents, families and other stakeholders
- Analysed the information and how it has been used to inform future plans

Maximising resources

This section should provide an overview as to how partners currently use their existing budgets to support children's access to play opportunities. It should identify how budgets have been reprioritised as part of the 2022 Play Sufficiency Assessments and subsequent plans.

Please use this section to highlight what has changed since the 2019 Play Sufficiency Action Plan in terms of how resources are allocated.

Please also highlight how Welsh Government programmes have been used locally for the provision of play and how they have addressed priorities from your 2019 play sufficiency assessment:

The Play Sufficiency Assessment and local Well-being Plans

This section should identify how the Play Sufficiency Assessments form part of the local needs assessment and to what extent the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan are integrated into the Well-being Plan and Public Service Board.

Monitoring Play Sufficiency

This section should identify the lead director and lead member for children and young people's services. It should also describe the Play Monitoring Group or

equivalent. Along with a list of members, please describe how the group has been facilitated and the benefits and challenges of the group.

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 2022 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 2019?

At the time of writing 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 householder 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 fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not 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 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 35	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.</p> <p>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 out.</p>
	The play requirements of Welsh language speaking			The Council's Early Years Hub (including the Family Information Service) database (Dewis) identifies the		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 36	children are understood and provided for			<p>availability of CIW regulated Welsh Medium play provision. This has been mapped and assessed against Welsh speaking population figures. The Early Years Hub has a Welsh speaking member of staff. 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. 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. The WEF links with the Welsh Language Forum through the Welsh speaking Planning and Strategy Officer. 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>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 37	The play requirements of children from different cultural background are understood and provided for			<p>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 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>		
	The play requirements and support needs of disabled children are understood and provided for.			<p>The Early Years' team provides a range of support for children with emerging needs including Join in and Play, Let's Talk groups, Parents as First Teachers programme, training for childcare providers on the whole range of ALN modules, social communication needs groups, to provide inclusive opportunities for families.</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>		
	Play projects and providers have access to a range of resources which support inclusion			<p>Early Years has a range of resources and grants to support providers and families to provide play opportunities for children.</p>		
	There is a well-known and agreed mechanism which is used to identify the need for			<p>ISCAN is now in three hubs across Gwent enabling a care coordination model for children with emerging development needs.</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	separate provision for disabled children			Early Years team has developed a pathway of provision to support families with a range of needs to access the right support to meet their needs. Much of the play provision is offered through voluntary sector community groups.		
	Access audits for all play provision as described in the guidance are undertaken			Access audits have been completed on all council owned public buildings and they now all meet the 'foundation standard'. 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.		
Page 38	Designated play space is provided and well maintained on gypsy traveller sites			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.		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 39	The requirements of lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) children are understood and provided for			<p>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.</p> <p>However, the LA and its play providers aim to promote inclusive play and therefore if there are specific issues that are identified, play staff will ensure that these needs are provided for.</p> <p>A number of equalities awareness courses 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>	There is a lack of specific training to meet this need available for the sector.	

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 their 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 cultural issues through training of play providers where appropriate.

Page 10

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

Page 41	LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	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.</p> <p>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. 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</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). The database is not regularly updated or maintained.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>will be regularly updated to ensure it remains as accurate as possible.</p> <p>This data is regularly updated as a result of planning applications. With regards to residential streets, a road hierarchy is set out within the LDP 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>		
Page 42	The Local Authority has undertaken an Accessible Greenspace Study that maps areas that are used for playing			<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 'Providing Accessible Natural Greenspace in Towns and Cities'. 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</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 43				<p>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 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,</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>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>		
Page 44	<p>The Local Authority undertakes access audits at all open spaces and implements proposals to improve access and safety</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 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>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 including fixed provision in the first instance.</p> <p>Where the need for improvement is identified look for funding opportunities to facilitate these improvements.</p>	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority has developed its own Open Space Standards in accordance with the advice and requirements of Planning Policy Wales			<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).</p> <p>https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/Planning/LDP8-protection-of-openspace.aspx</p>		
Page 45	The Local Authority undertakes and actions play value assessments in public open space			<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. 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> <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>		
	Brownfield sites owned by the Local Authority are assessed for the potential for the site to be reclaimed to provide for children's				Brownfield sites owned by the Council are not assessed for their potential to be reclaimed to provide children's play. It should be noted,	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 46	play				<p>however, that many of these sites are allocated within the LDP for alternative uses such as housing and employment.</p> <p>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 reclaim sites for children's play facilities.</p>	

Outdoor Unstaffed Designated Play Spaces

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority has undertaken an Accessible			All designated play spaces are listed on the Caerphilly green spaces website which is now 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.

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	Greenspace Study that maps areas that are used for playing					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 are listed on the Caerphilly green spaces website, which is now 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.
Page 47	The Local Authority assesses play spaces for play value and potential to increase in play use as set out in the Statutory Guidance			<p>All fixed play facilities have been accessed as part of a playground 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 has 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>	Whilst a baseline 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.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<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>		
Page 48	<p>The Local Authority undertakes access audits at all designated play spaces and implements proposals to improve access and safety</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>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>	<p>No awards since 2019, due to the Covid 19 pandemic.</p>	
	<p>The Local Authority has developed and agreed a new fixed play provision standard</p>			<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</p>	<p>Although there is a baseline level of information regarding the usage of facilities based on the condition survey, play space assessments as</p>	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 49				<p>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>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>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>	
	The Local Authority undertakes, and actions play space assessments in designated play spaces			<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>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>	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
					Undertake joint play access audit/place space and play value assessments.	
	The Local Authority has introduced smoke-free playgrounds			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 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 playgrounds and was implemented as a request of the Junior Forum (part of CCBC Youth Service).		
Page 50	The Local Authority has removed 'no ball games' signs to encourage more children playing in the community			Work towards removing 'no ball games' signs was a key task identified within the CYPP Play Strategy. There has been success in achieving this as the majority of areas have had their 'no ball games' signs removed. 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 The Authority's Youth Service has been proactive in the replacement of such signage with that that says 'please play here'	In some instances, such as within housing estates, residents have requested or petitioned for these signs to be put back.	
	The Local Authority has erected signs, such as Play Priority Signs to encourage more children playing in the community			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 CYPP Play Strategy. The Authority's Youth Service has been proactive in the replacement of such signage with that that says 'please play here'	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.

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority includes a recognition of the importance of playing fields to children’s play when any disposal decisions are made			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.		
Page 51	The Local Authority includes children and their families in any consultations regarding decisions to dispose of playing fields			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. 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.		
	The Local Authority refers to guidance around creating accessible play space when refurbishing or developing new playgrounds			Discussions are undertaken with stakeholders when new schemes are proposed to ensure accessible play space is provided.		

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 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 54	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) now incorporated within the Early Years Hub service maintains a directory of all supervised play provision in the County Borough. This information is regularly updated and available on the Early Years Website. All supervised play provisions that operate for children under the age of 12, for more than 2 hours 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.		To develop a procedure for ensuring all supervised play providers keep their detail updated on the Dewis database.

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 55	The Local Authority offers play provision which offers a rich play environment as described in the Statutory Guidance			<p>CCBC and its partners seek to support providers to provide play provisions that offer rich play environments, 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.</p> <p>Training is currently offered to support play workers to deliver quality holiday play schemes and remain compliant with regulations through partnership with external organisations such as the local FE College and Childcare Umbrella organisations including Clybiau Plant Cymru and National Day Nurseries Association.</p>	As not all supervised play provisions 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, ITTERS / ECERS. Childcare staff support summer sports and community programmes to meet minimum quality practice.	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 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 56	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 Early Years Department support all CIW registered play settings via 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>CCBC Flying Start Programme also offer childcare via 16 maintained settings that are supported by CCBC officers who also act as Responsible Individuals on behalf of CCBC and ensure all settings adhere to the requirements of the NMS.</p>		
	Staffed play provision that the Local Authority funds meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards			<p>The LA does not directly fund staffed play provision with the exception of Holiday provision under the Childcare Offer which is offered through private childcare providers. All provision delivering the Childcare Offer meets the NMS, as well as the toolkits.</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				All CCBC maintained Flying Start provision meets the regulatory requirement of the NMS.		
	Staffed play provision that the Local Authority's partners provide meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards			The LA does not directly fund staffed play provision. All private provision delivering the Childcare Offer meets the NMS, as well as using the toolkits. All providers contracted with the Local Authority to deliver Flying Start and Early Years Education places meet the regulatory requirements and NMS.		
Page 57	Staffed play provision across the Local Authority works to a recognised quality assurance programme			All registered settings are encouraged to undertake the local authorities own free Quality Assurance scheme – the Caerphilly Quality Standard which has just undergone a thorough review. All settings are also encouraged to undertake a nationally recognised QA scheme such as the national umbrella organisation sector quality assurance scheme.		
	The Local Authority prioritises quality issues when engaging with/ commissioning the private sector to deliver recreational activities for children.			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.		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 58	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 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 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. Schools open up free of charge for the Food and Fun Programme. This programme is</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				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.		

Structured recreational activities for children

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 59	Local authority sport, physical activity, and active recreation plans are contributing to increasing free play and recreational activities			<p>The Local Authority's Sport and Active Recreation strategy is a 10 year holistic strategy for Sport and Active recreation in CCBC. 'Positive Futures' is run by Sport Caerphilly, which provides inclusive Play and Sports for all particularly in areas where there are high levels of Anti Social behaviour.</p> <p>The programme continues to be a targeted approach and supported by data provided by Gwent PCC. This is supplemented by work ongoing on 'Active Gwent'. 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).</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 60				<p>The term HoS refers 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. All the Council’s Comprehensive and High Schools are participating in school sport provision offer by Sport Caerphilly and it’s supporting partners such as Skateboarding Academy, Dragons Community Rugby etc. to encourage participation in extra- curricular and enrichment activities.</p> <p>School Sport also 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, however with COVID we are awaiting more accurate data from the latest school sport survey which is currently being undertaken.</p> <p>There has also been an increase in opportunities for children aged 3-11 years due to the physical literacy programme. Linked to this Sport Assessment Toolkit; 34 Play Sufficiency staff have undertaken training in the use of this toolkit – Part 2 LA Ref No Criteria RAG Status 2016 RAG Status 2019 Evidence to support strengths Shortfalls Identified actions for the Caerphilly Action</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 61				<p>Plan. Caerphilly are piloting a Health and well-being ambassador programme. This gives year 6 pupils the qualification to lead physical literacy play sessions during play times in schools and offers upskilling opportunities Within the School Holiday periods Sport Caerphilly run schemes/ camps for children across the borough to access sporting activities within leisure centre facilities.</p> <p>Sport Caerphilly also work in collaboration with Town Councils across the borough to provide free activities for children to access across the summer holidays. During summer 2021 additional free activities were also provided by Sport Caerphilly through the ‘Summer of Fun’ funding and the same approach will also be adopted in summer 2022.</p> <p>Sport Caerphilly also runs a comprehensive offer of tots sessions to children (aged 3-6) which links to the physical literacy programme adopted. Sports such as Football and Netball are run in leisure centre facilities with sporting club engagement provided so, children are able to continue playing sport once they are too old for our tots provision.</p> <p>A free Welsh Government swimming initiative, on a Friday at all leisure centres is continuing to prove popular, even after 5 years. The participation rates have increased year on year, with the exception of 2020 and 2021 due to covid-19 restrictions. CCBC have also offered free swimming in public swimming for</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>all children attending the 'Learn to Swim' classes. Free swimming lessons were also introduced to encourage children from deprived communities a chance to learn to swim. Additional free sessions were also introduced around school holidays to encourage children to be active. In 2021, all Year 7 pupils across the Borough were given access to 'free' leisure for a full School year. The take up has been extremely high.</p>		
Page 62	<p>The sports agenda contributes to the provision of sufficient recreational activities for children</p>			<p>A variety of programmes are offered to children in schools and community settings. This demand is based on data obtained by the School Sport Survey, which is conducted every 2 years.</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 	<p>This data is available every 2 years and has been delayed by COVID. However, it is now being undertaken again and data will become available end of October 22.</p>	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 63				<p>physical education opportunities in primary and secondary school; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>		
	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. The Caerphilly County Youth Theatre runs two groups in English and Welsh to help young adults, aged 15-19 develop skills in drama techniques. 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</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 64				<p>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. 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 perceptions of mental health.</p> <p>In addition, the Council has helped support the redevelopment of Blackwood Miners Institute, which is a 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</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				closely with the Parent Network in creating new ways for hard-to-reach families to come and see shows.		
Page 65	The Local Authority Youth Service provides for children’s 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 Leisure and Tourism 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 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 68	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.</p> <p>https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Community-Safety-and-Social-Inclusion/Welsh-Index-of-Multiple-Deprivation/wimd-map</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.</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Community-Safety-and-Social-Inclusion/Welsh-Index-of-Multiple-Deprivation/wimd-maps		
	The Local Authority keeps records of the number of children living in rural areas			Whilst Caerphilly is not a rural authority, fourteen wards have been identified as 'rural' as part of the 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.		
Page 69	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.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 70	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.		
	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 Youth Service has provided significant grant funding to a partner agency over the past decade for the purpose of supporting play providers.		
	The Local Authority provides subsidised transport for children travelling to play opportunities			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.

Page 71

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 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 72	The Local Authority keeps an up to date record of the number of 20 mph zones/school safety zones in residential areas			<p>The Council has implemented 20mph zones and limits around the majority of primary schools where it is practicable to reduce the speed limit.</p> <p>Accurate records of 20mph speed limits and zones are maintained.</p>		
	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			<p>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.</p> <p>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</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				aims to 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.		
Page 73	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>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.</p> <p>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>		
	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>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</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				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-developed Sustainable transport network will promote access to play and safer streets.		
Page 74	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 Speed Management Strategy 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.</p> <p>Communities will benefit from reduced traffic speed in the 20mph zones, although play areas are not specifically identified. 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>		
	The Local Authority uses road safety grants and/or other funding to support delivery of cycling training for children to national standards			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.		
	The Local Authority uses road safety grants and/or other funding to provide pedestrian			There are a number of schemes in operation in the County Borough which are funded by Welsh Government grants such as Kerbcraft which is an		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	safety training for children			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.		
Page 75	The Local Authority has an accessible and well-known way of arranging temporary road closures, to support more children to play outside their homes			<p>Temporary Road closures 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> <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>Special events procedures for closure of the highway are not 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>	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority refers to <i>Manual for Streets</i> when considering new developments and changes to the highway network/urban realm			Highways Engineers and Planning Officers administer, where appropriate, the design principles contained within <i>Manual for Streets</i> when considering new development. 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.		
Page 76	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 Welsh Government Design Guidance for Active Travel and the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges.		
	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		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 77				<p>served by a well serviced bus network will provide opportunities to travel to amenity areas.</p> <p>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 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>		
	The requirements of disabled children are understood and provided for within traffic and transport initiatives			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. 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.		

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.

<p>Page 78</p>	<p>The Local Authority has a clearly identified section on its website which gives information about play opportunities as described in the Statutory Guidance (play areas, play provision, clubs and their accessibility)</p>			<p>The Council has a number of website links that deal with Play opportunities within the Borough. These are:</p> <p>Parklife website – http://your.caerphilly.gov.uk/parklife/welcome-parklife which includes playgrounds, kickwalls, MUGA's, skate parks and Youth Shelters.</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>Leisure Centres (through Sport Caerphilly) also provide sports provision during the school holidays.</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:</p> <p>Parklife website – http://your.caerphilly.gov.uk/parklife/welcome-parklife which includes playgrounds, kickwalls, MUGA's, skate parks and Youth Shelters.</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. Leisure Centres (through Sports Caerphilly) also provide sports and play provisions during the school holidays.</p>		

				<p>There are links from the CCBC website to partner organisations including:</p> <p>Menter Iaith http://www.mentercaerffili.cymru</p> <p>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>		
Page 79	The Local Authority supports and publicises events which encourage play opportunities and events for children and families			<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>		
	The Local Authority publicises information which contributes to positive community			<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</p>		

	attitudes to play			<p>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 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>		
Page 80	The Local Authority publicises information and support for parents to help them encourage their children to play			<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>		
	The Local Authority widely uses on-site signposting to safeguard and promote play			<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 Authority's Youth Service has actively promoted the use of public areas for the purposes of play.</p>		

	<p>The Local Authority engages with the media to encourage the positive portrayal of children playing in the local area</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>		
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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?

Part of

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 embed 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.

Page 82

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 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
<p>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</p>						
83	The Local Authority keeps up to date information regarding the playwork workforce across the Local Authority (this should include the number of playworkers, playwork management structure, qualification levels, training opportunities and volunteers)			A childcare and play workforce audit is carried out (most recent Winter 2021/22) and includes data on the number of childcare workers with play work qualifications, qualification levels and training needs and opportunities. The Audit now considers both childcare and Playwork in separate sections.	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.	Explore with the Early Years Hub if we can Identify play settings that are not regulated to be included in the Audit

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 85	The Local Authority supports all of the workforce to achieve the qualification level required by the Welsh Government’s National Minimum Standards			<p>Training and signposting to funded training/qualifications 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 National Minimum Standards via Caerphilly Early Years.</p> <p>The promotion of Play and Playwork Careers is included in all literature, and on the Caerphilly early years website.</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>		
	The Local Authority supports the workforce to achieve the accepted qualification levels set out by SkillsActive			<p>Training and signposting to funded training/qualification opportunities 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 National Minimum Standards via Caerphilly Early Years</p> <p>The promotion of Play and Playwork Careers, and information about funded qualifications is included in all literature, and on the Caerphilly Early Years website.</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>		To re-engage with career events post pandemic.
	The Local Authority has a staff development budget			<p>Caerphilly Early Years ring-fence money for Play in the training budgets if it has been identified as a need from the childcare and play workforce audit. There are many WG funded Playwork qualification apprenticeships which are offered locally so staff are signposted to this route first.</p>	<p>Since COVID (March 2020) the majority of the training and qualification</p>	

	ring fenced for play, including playwork			<p>During 2019 Caerphilly Early Years part funded a Transition to playwork level 3 award in partnership with Coleg y Cymoedd. 16 participants achieved the qualification.</p> <p>Adult Learners Wales promote and fund the Playwork qualification which is actively promoted to the early years and childcare workforce.</p>	<p>courses were postponed or cancelled due to COVID restrictions. Caerphilly Early Years have slowly built the programme back up again using different methods of delivery i.e. virtual or blended learning as time is progressing.</p>	
Page 86	There is a comprehensive range of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities available for playworkers in the area			<p>Caerphilly Early Years have a training budget and offer a comprehensive regulatory and CPD training programme which is available to playworkers who are working in the borough in a known provision.</p> <p>Since April 2019, Playworkers have had access to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 courses to enhance their CPD (play type courses) • 10 courses around Additional Learning Needs • 28 courses around Safeguarding 	As above	
	Training is available for volunteers and parents to develop their knowledge on skills in playwork			<p>Parent Network continues to work with funders and Adult Learners Wales as well as other funding bodies to deliver play work training for volunteers in the communities to develop playful communities.</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	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 Early Years Workforce Development for Childcare purposes as evidenced above.		
	The Local Authority supports partners to deliver appropriate training to community groups, parents and volunteers			Parent Network has worked with funders and Adult Learners Wales as well as other funding bodies to deliver play work training for volunteers in the communities to develop playful communities.		
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, par not.						
Page 87	The Local Authority has undertaken a comprehensive training needs analysis for the play workforce as defined in the toolkit glossary and above			A childcare and Play Workforce Audit Is carried out every 2 years, with the latest audit report carried out in March 2022. The result of the audit is used to plan training and qualifications for the sector.		
	The Local Authority takes action to expand the variety of learning and development opportunities that are offered to staff			Learning and development is identified through the training needs analysis carried out by Caerphilly Early Years, and also through the latest curriculum. New courses are sourced to keep learning interesting and to keep up with current practice.		To incorporate identified training needs into the full Early Years Workforce Development Plan.
	There is a comprehensive range of CPD opportunities for a range of professionals who work with children			Learning and development is identified through the training needs analysis carried out by Caerphilly Early Years. 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 the new curriculum and then rolled out across the whole sector		
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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	Training awareness sessions are available for professionals and decision makers whose work impacts on children’s opportunities to play			<p>The Interact event and Parent Planet event are both useful in dissemination of information for frontline practitioners.</p> <p>The Local Authority is investing in a Play Development Officer post to support raising awareness of children’s opportunities to play.</p>		Following the recruitment of Play Development Officer, to promote the opportunity for development of play throughout the borough.

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 play work is integrated into the work carried out by Caerphilly Early years. To ensure we support the workforce in achieving nationally recognised qualifications and accessing CPD opportunities, we capture information through our Family Information Service 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 possesses and use this information to plan what training and qualifications are needed. We ring fence a budget through the Childcare Early Years training budgets and also promote funded play work qualifications and training.

How has the Local Authority ensured it understands and provides the play work 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?

COVID Restrictions has had a massive impact on training and qualifications. From March 2020 most courses were cancelled or postponed, and Caerphilly Early Years have been working with training providers and professionals ever since to amend their training delivery methods to enable us to offer the courses again. A cautious approach has been taken to ensure the quality of learning was not lost. As such we are still not offering as many courses as we did pre-COVID.

How can these be overcome?

Caerphilly Early Years are continually growing the programme and aim to offer a full suite of training courses again by Autumn 2022, COVID restrictions permitting.




Comments

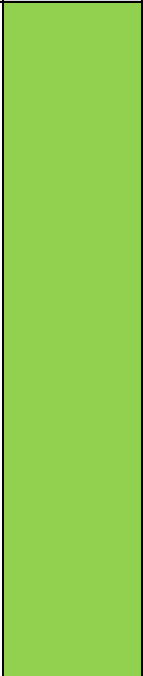

The promotion of Play and Play work careers is adequately addressed and included within Caerphilly Early Years workforce development. Within the Childcare Sufficiency Assessments, the ability and needs of the workforce need are examined - Chapter 15 of the Childcare Sufficiency assessment details in 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 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 91	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 summer of fun funding was used to run a trip to Margam Park and Aberavon beach. The trip was designed to be low cost with no attractions and free entry. 54 community members attended these were a mixture of children and parents of all</p>	This GAVO funded officer was made redundant March 2018, post not filled due to funding cuts.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 92				<p>ages. The trip was created to empower parents to recreate the journey with their own children and family members. The trip run from the Lansbury community and was created and booked through the Bridging together group, a local recently established community group whose aim is to provide better and improved services to their housing estate.</p> <p>Part 1 of the trip was to Margam park, people were able to explore the nursery Rhyme village, farm, park, lake, trails and castle.</p> <p>Part 2 of the trip, later in the afternoon the families visited the beach, Aberavon has a beautiful golden beach and water park. Lots of the children had never seen the sea before and found the whole experience overwhelming.</p> <p>Staff were able to help the families to positively encourage the children to walk on the sand and visit the sea. The trip was well received, with lots of positive feedback.</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 programme continues to undertake</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 93				<p>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 will also help to inform the</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>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>		
Page 94	<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>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				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.		

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 I: 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 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 97	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			There is not a named person on the Gwent Public Service Board who champions play.	There is no specific ‘champion’ on the board as the PSB considers a wide range of cross cutting agendas.	There is a need to explore a named person who champions play on the Gwent Public Service Board.
	The Well-Being Plan recognises the importance of play and contributes to the provision of rich play opportunities			The Wellbeing Assessment and plan is being reviewed with the move to Gwent Public Service Board with the objectives yet to be finalised.		The finalised Wellbeing assessment and plan for Gwent should include play.

Education and schools

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 98	Schools ensure that children are provided with a rich play environment for breaks during the school day			<p>School environments have improved to offer a range of diverse play opportunities during the school day as well as outside of school. The Sustainable Learning Communities team supports development of provision through both Band B funding and 50/50 schemes as well as maintenance and other funded Welsh Government programmes.</p> <p>The Flying Start and Childcare Offer capital programme has improved facilities and play provision on/near school sites.</p> <p>The Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme (Formerly referred to as the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme) has invested in outdoor spaces including soft play surfaces in collaboration with the schools in the borough.</p> <p>The Welsh Government and Local Authority's Education</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				Capital programmes continue to undertake investment in the ongoing maintenance of outdoor spaces.		
Page 99	Schools provide play opportunities during out of teaching hours			<p>Schools have been impacted by covid and had to reduce out of school provision. However, many schools are returning to delivery of out of school activity sessions and working with partners to offer a range of experiences using the school grounds and facilities.</p> <p>Food and Fun (SHEP) is planned for delivery in 6 schools with 8 cohorts in Summer 2022 (impacted by FSM canteen development and covid recovery), although this is planned to increase in summer 2023.</p> <p>Breakfast clubs and after school provisions as well as holiday clubs are advertised on Dewis to ensure families have the right information and support.</p> <p>All developments funded via the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme (Formerly referred to as the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme) ensure Community Usage is a key component of the development.</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>These often include access to multi-use games areas outside of school hours.</p>		
Page 100	Schools provide access to school grounds for playing out of school times			<p>Schools have been impacted by covid and had to reduce out of school provision. However, many schools are returning to delivery of out of school activity sessions and working with partners to offer a range of experiences using the school grounds and facilities. SHEP is being delivered in the school summer holidays to support vulnerable communities.</p> <p>Some schools have leisure facilities on joint sites which are open out of school hours, including leisure centres, 4G pitch, running tracks etc.</p> <p>A pre-requisite of funding via the Welsh Government’s Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme (Formerly referred to as the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme) is to ensure the school facility has a component of Community Usage accessibly outside of school hours.</p>		
	Schools encourage children to walk and cycle to school			<p>All schools have a sustainable transport policy which includes safe routes to schools plans for walking and cycling. Many</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 101				<p>schools have School Travel Plans which promote sustainable transport initiatives and encourage walking and cycling. The Healthy Schools Scheme includes criteria on 'fitness.' In order to demonstrate that the indicators related to this are being met many schools have implemented a walking bus, which has been successful in increasing the number of children walking to school. 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> <p>Active Travel is promoted via public consultation and as part of direct engagement with pupils as part the 'Pupil Voice' for any investments via the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				Programme (Formerly referred to as the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme).		
	The Local Authority offers guidance to ensure schools understand and ensure that regular outdoor play is not curtailed			Health and Safety, Healthy Schools and Sports teams offer guidance to schools on use of their outdoor spaces CCBC's 21st Century Schools have all designed appropriate play provisions inside and outside of the classrooms, so that play is not curtailed. In addition, guidance is given to staff and assistants in Play, such as the delivery of a Play workshop.		

Town and Country Planning

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 103	The Local Development Plan recognises and addresses the outdoor play needs of children of various age groups and abilities			<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>CCBC has continued to identify and develop new leisure facilities. In the past two years, new 3g pitches have been installed in Blackwood, Islywn</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 104				<p>High School, St Cenydd, Bedwas Leisure Centre, Lewis School Pengam and Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni.</p> <p>Some pitches have been converted from the previous Artificial Turf Pitches (ATP) to the new 3G style pitches that are more user friendly and will provide key strategic facilities for the surrounding communities in each of the areas. The new pitches add to Caerphilly’s County Borough Council’s vast portfolio of excellent facilities and will provide more opportunities for Caerphilly’s residents and pupils at the schools to engage in sport from an early age. The new facilities will provide local sports clubs with the opportunity to play and train all year around. The multi-use pitches can be used in all weather and are utilised by a number of different sports including football and rugby.</p> <p>A new artificial turf pitch has been laid in Sue Noake Leisure Centre, helping to establish this site as a centre for Hockey excellence. A 300m running track and field event area in Oakdale was developed in 2021, partnering with a local Athletics organisation.</p> <p>Significant investments have also been made in Risca and Newbridge leisure Centre fitness suites, almost doubling the capacity and allowing the community from 11years upwards to enjoy.</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</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				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.		

Traffic and Transport

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 105	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 South East Wales Local Transport Plan (SEW LTP) (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</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.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>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>		
Page 106	The local Transport Plan identifies ways of assessing and addressing the needs of all groups including those which are often marginalised.			<p>The SEW LTP impact assessment report considered a number of measures including children’s rights, equality and health. The SEW LTP also aims to improve accessibility for all individuals including children between and within communities. 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. 		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 107				<p>4. To improve connectivity by sustainable transport between the SE Wales Valleys and the rest of Wales, the UK and Europe.</p> <p>Quality and Efficiency</p> <p>5. To improve interchange within and between modes of transport.</p> <p>6. To improve the quality, efficiency and reliability of the transport system.</p> <p>7. To reduce traffic growth, traffic congestion and to make better use of the existing road system.</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>8. To achieve a modal shift towards more sustainable forms of transport for moving people and freight. To reduce significantly carbon emissions from transport.</p> <p>9. To reduce the impact of the transport system on the local street scene and the natural, built and historic environment.</p> <p>10. To promote sustainable travel and to make the public more aware of the consequences of their travel choices on climate, the environment and health.</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 108				Land Use and Regeneration 11. To ensure developments in the SE Wales Valleys are accessible by sustainable transport		

Early Years Plans

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	Early Years and Flying Start plans and services recognise			Quality childcare supported through the Early Years and Flying Start team includes		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 109	the importance of play and contribute to the provision of rich play opportunities for younger children			<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 Early Years 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-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</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				playing with their children. Flying Start is expanding with phase 1 starting Sept 2022.		

Family policy and initiatives

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 110	Family support initiatives provide up to date information and support for parents to enable them to support their children to play			<p>Caerphilly Early Years team support vulnerable families to support their children in play and development. the team delivers bespoke package to meet the family needs, speech and language, and child development, routines, behaviour, as well as parenting programmes. Caerphilly Early Years now works with families across the borough with families antenatal to 7years.</p> <p>The Early Years Hub helps to provide information to families including having the What Matters conversation to understand their needs. The team work with providers to keep Dewis updated with information for families. The Early Years website has recently been developed to provide information and links to wider websites for families.</p>		
	The local implementation of the Families First programme recognises the importance of play and contributes to the			Since the new guidance for Families First programme the adventure play project was removed from the commissioning cycle. However, all projects commissioned support		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	provision of rich play opportunities			vulnerable families with an element of play within this.		
	Plans to reduce the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences recognises the importance of play and contributes to the provision of rich play opportunities			ACEs work sits under Best Start in Life which has now developed into a focus on Early Years Integration Transformation Programme. ACEs training has been embedded into Safeguarding training and resilience training in early years.		

Inter-generational policy and initiatives

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	There are a range of play based approaches to inter-generational activity			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			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.	Youth Service activity does not include the total age-range that defines Play activity.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				Inter-generational working forms an aspect of youth service delivery.		

Health and Safety	
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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Page 113	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.		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	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

This section should identify the key priorities for the Local Authorities in accordance with the regulations and described in the Statutory Guidance.

Matter A: Population

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

Matter B: Providing for Diverse Needs

Page 11

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 (FIT 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 in neighbouring wards. A few wards have been identified as having insufficient provision.

The assessment also considers 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. Assessment Toolkit 81 Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

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 many 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 lower 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 play work 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.

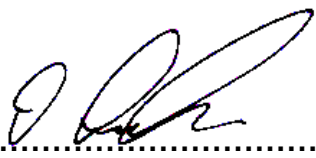
Way forward

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.

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Signed: 

Date: 29.6.2022.....



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

Proposed actions for the period of 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023

(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 2023.		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	Carry out assessments by 2023. 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.

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	'please play here' signs.				
Matter D: Supervised provision					
Matter E: Charges for play provision					
Matter F: Access to space/provision					
Matter G: Securing and developing the workforce	<p>Look to incorporate a specific section on Play Accreditations within the Workforce Development Audit.</p> <p>Explore with Family Information Service if we can Identify play settings that are not regulated childcare</p>	Try and carry out these actions by 2023.		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 2023.		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 2023.		Play Sufficiency Lead to action.	No funding is required.
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