

## Early Implementers of the Childcare Offer Expression of Interest

**LA/Regional Consortia: Caerphilly County Borough Council**

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<p><b>Section 1</b> – Why is your LA/regional consortia a good choice for being an early implementer?</p>	<p>Caerphilly county would be a good choice as an early implementer as it has a mixture of both rural and urban areas, as well as disadvantaged areas alongside more affluent areas.</p> <p>Caerphilly CBC has a well structured Early Years Team which coordinates all aspects of the Early Years agenda incorporating Flying Start, childcare, Family Information Service (FIS) and has strong links with Families First, Communities First and Supporting People teams.</p> <p>Within Early Years we have Safeguarding officer and Additional Learning Needs Advisors. Based within the Education department, Early Years has excellent working relationships with LA Education, EAS and Schools teams enabling positive opportunities for sharing information and knowledge.</p> <p>Within Early Years Childcare Team we have dedicated staff who work in partnership with the wider childcare sector; skilled development officers who are familiar with requirements of the non-maintained and maintained sector and developed excellent relationships with all providers across the county.</p> <p>We manage our own Quality award (Caerphilly Quality Standard (CQS)) and have commissioned many settings to deliver Flying Start and/or Early Years Education places. EY Staff monitor these contracts to ensure high standards are maintained alongside contract compliance. We also have a Performance Management Officer (Haz) within the team.</p>
<p><b>Section 2</b> – provide evidence of how well you know about and understand the demand for, accessibility to and availability of childcare in your area?</p>	<p>The Early Years team has been in place for the past 8 years and involved in the writing of the last 3 Childcare Sufficiency Assessments (CSA's) and in the process for CSA 2017. This requires understanding of childcare providers, parental demand and wide consultation. Conducting the CSA in-house enables a thorough understanding of the demand for, accessibility to and availability of childcare in Caerphilly county borough and informs our subsequent Action Plan.</p> <p>Childcare Development Officer and contracted partner work in geographic cluster areas across the Local Authority and have good understanding of the whole sector including accessibility and sustainability issues as well as where the gaps in provision are. The contracted Welsh Language Development Officer supports development of new and existing Welsh medium childcare as well as upskilling staff in English medium settings to</p>

	<p>improve their Welsh language skills with young children.</p> <p>The Early Years Manager chairs the local WESP Forum giving strategic knowledge of the sufficiency, accessibility and availability of Welsh medium childcare, Flying Start and Early Years Education places. FIS is part of the Early Years team and shares databases.</p> <p>Within the team we have expertise in Business development and sustainability, workforce development (qualifications and CPD), safeguarding, ALN, legal structures, CSSIW registration and developing across sector provision.</p> <p>We manage 21 maintained Flying Start childcare settings and contract manage a further 16 non-maintained settings for Flying Start and 12 for Early Years Education with 35 for Assisted / Supported Places. This allows for a good working relationships with the sector and operational knowledge of settings, parental demands, and potential expansion opportunities.</p> <p>Childcare Development Officers are in constant face to face communication with providers. Over 95% of Non-domestic childcare providers have gained or are working towards our locally developed Caerphilly Quality Standard. Furthermore, we have developed an Advanced Childminder Award. These establish a close working relationship and foster an element of trust and understanding of the issues that surround the sector that would be essential in the development and implementation of the offer.</p>
<p><b>Section 3</b> – provide evidence of your direct links to parents, providers and other relevant stakeholders. How could you engage them in the development and implementation of the offer?</p>	<p>The Early Years Team includes Family Support which links across the poverty programmes and with external delivery partners. Jointly commissioned Caerphilly Parent Network supports parent forum across the borough. ISCAN is based in Caerphilly Children’s Centre as a TAF for children with additional needs. All of the above partners work with a wide cross sector of parents and circumstances and as such could gauge needs and parental views. In addition we have excellent working links with the employment support programmes and Communities First who would be able to provide first hand knowledge of families needs returning to employment.</p> <p>Our FIS team has an Outreach officer who regularly engages with parents across the county as well as with families through their Facebook pages and website.</p> <p>We have a contract with Menter Iaith to support and develop Welsh medium childcare, and although we no longer fund Umbrella Organisations, we retain good working relationships with the CWLWM Partners.</p> <p>In addition to the links we have with Childcare providers explained in previous sections, we have the Early Years Website, Workforce Web site and termly newsletters.</p> <p>Our knowledge and understanding of the local childcare market would help us to identify potential settings that would honestly commit and respond to developing the offer.</p> <p>More widely the Early Years Manager play an active role on behalf of Education in the Programme Collaboration Group (FS, FF, CF and SP), Families First Board, Education Management Team, Wellbeing of Future Generations Assessment Group, JAFF group, WESP, as well as reporting</p>

	<p>to Education Scrutiny and working with Members. This will allow wider stakeholder engagement.</p>
<p><b>Section 4</b> – What elements of the childcare offer would you be particularly interested in advising on and testing?</p>	<p>We are interested in exploring how to deliver this offer in one of the 5 community planning areas where there is a good variety of maintained and non-maintained provision both sessional and full day care, as well as rural and town populations. This would enable us to look at the impact on existing provision, support variations to expand sessional into full day care as needed as well as expand holiday provision. This area has a significant number of Flying Start areas and offers both maintained and non-maintained Flying Start and Foundation Phase providers allowing us to explore the different requirements, barriers, and implementation models including transport and ALN support needs on a microcosm level.</p> <p>We already have significant expertise on supporting children with ALN and we will be able to use this to effectively support practitioners, as well as the links to Education teams to enable consistency of support. This will enable an accurate estimation of the numbers of children with ALN requiring support in wraparound provision and what support providers will need to be built into the offer.</p> <p>Using a community planning area model would enable controlled work plans, exploration of unique area issues including rural isolation and public transport complications prior to rolling the model into the subsequent 4 areas.</p> <p>It will be interesting to look at how providers can access the payment system and how to ensure sustainability and costs do not impact on Flying Start or Foundation Phase delivery.</p> <p>While implementing roll out in the phase 1 area in September 2017, the learning could inform development in phase 2 area etc. and timescales and communication for families planned to prevent unrealistic expectations and a smoother roll out across the borough.</p>
<p><b>Section 5</b> – How would you monitor and evaluate if the childcare offer was working on the ground, and identify issues as they arise?</p>	<p>Within Early Years we have established effective systems for performance management of all contracts, and quality assuring settings. We would look at what information WG require us to assess and work with WG to develop how we evaluate the offer. Then we will adapt current database systems to incorporate the data required and reporting mechanisms.</p> <p>We can currently report on individual children on a programme level but are currently unclear as to whether WG would want child level data or more setting level data aggregated and anonymised. We have good understanding of performance management systems and can flexibly develop a suitable robust data collection and reporting system.</p> <p>Alongside this we work with Caerphilly Parent Network to undertake independent consultation to inform qualitative research to complement the quantitative data.</p> <p>All systems can be developed with WG and in partnership with other pilot areas to ensure they can be adapted for all LAs and are not onerous in their nature.</p>

Signed by Chief Executive/s:

Date: 15/9/16