



EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 4TH NOVEMBER 2014

SUBJECT: CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT (CSA) 2014

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform Members of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) 2014.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 Currently the Childcare Act 2006 places a statutory duty upon each Local Authority in Wales to produce a full Childcare Sufficiency Assessment every 3 years. The next assessment was due for submission to the Welsh Government (WG) by April 30th 2014.

2.2 The report, **Caerphilly Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Gaps Analysis** aims to provide Caerphilly County Borough Council with the information it needs to identify gaps in the childcare market and plan the steps to secure sufficient childcare places. In this context, 'sufficient' means having the right type and the right volume of childcare places to meet the needs of all parents/carers in the local community, but with a particular focus on meeting the needs of families with children with disabilities, Welsh speaking households and those who are in work or who are seeking work.

2.3 The CSA comprises of three phases:

- Phase One – the collation and analysis of a range of information and data sets and the production of the Gaps Analysis, completed by Spring 2014.
- Phase Two – consultation with the general public and key stakeholders, completed by April 25th 2014.
- Phase Three – Action Planning workshops, completed during the Summer Term 2014

2.4 The CSA Summary Document (Appendix 1) and the Caerphilly CSA Gap Analysis Report supply local geographical need details for development of new childcare provision, and as such directs the Childcare Action Plan and the subsequent delivery planning of the Out Of School Childcare Grant.

2.5 Key improvements identified from the stakeholder consultation included:

- Income or affordability
- The types of childcare available
- Different Ages of children
- Opening times and Flexibility
- Families with children with disabilities
- Welsh speaking households
- Geographic location

- Families in work
- Families seeking work

2.6 There is currently a review of the CSA process especially with regard to frequency of completion, which is currently to complete a full CSA every 3 years with interim refresh annually. The proposal for consultation currently is for a full CSA every 5 years and a single mid point interim refresh of the data, which could be beneficial in both officer time and resource implications.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Childcare continues to be a key feature of the Welsh Government's Vision for a Better Wales. Their continuing commitment to childcare is demonstrated in their policy document '*Building a Brighter Future: The Early Years and Childcare Plan*', launched Summer 2013, which sets out the Welsh Government's policy priorities for Childcare and actions to take them forward, incorporating *The Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010* and *The Tackling Poverty Action Plan, 2012* and its subsequent *Building Resilient Communities: Taking Forward the Tackling Poverty Action Plan (2013)*
- 3.2 Welsh Government Guidance (2008) on the Childcare Act 2006 requires that the CSA should form part of the overall needs assessment and consultation stages of the preparation and annual review of the Single Integrated Plan and Families First Plan.
- 3.3 The Childcare Act 2006, Sections 22 and 26 requires the CSA completion.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The purpose of the CSA is to help local authorities gauge the childcare market and generate an overall picture of parent's use of and demand for childcare in their local area. By assessing the supply and demand in the local area, local authorities will be able to identify gaps in childcare provision and plan how to address them. It is vital that local authorities use this intelligence when planning new or extending existing provision.
- 4.2 The report, **Caerphilly Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Gaps Analysis** aims to provide Caerphilly County Borough Council with the information it needs to identify gaps in the childcare market and plan the steps to secure sufficient childcare places. In this context, 'sufficient' means having the right type and the right volume of childcare places to meet the needs of all parents/carers in the local community, but with a particular focus on meeting the needs of families with children with disabilities, Welsh speaking households and those who are in work or who are seeking work.
- 4.3 The Welsh Government has provided every Local Authority with a Toolkit and suggested templates on how to produce a CSA. The CSA identifies gaps in childcare in relation to:
- Income or affordability
 - The types of childcare available
 - Different Ages of children
 - Opening times and Flexibility
 - Families with children with disabilities
 - Welsh speaking households
 - Geographic location
 - Families in work
 - Families seeking work
- 4.4 The gaps outlined in this CSA are drawn from five separate reports which seek to profile various aspects of the childcare market in Caerphilly County Borough. These are:

4.4.1 **Analysis of factors affecting demand and the ability to pay for childcare (Annex A)**

This is based on a number of different data sets and presents a range of demographic and socio-economic indicators that may affect either the demand for childcare or the ability to pay for it. It also includes an analysis of enquiries made to the Caerphilly Family Information Service.

4.4.2 **Analysis of the supply of childcare (Annex B)**

This presents an analysis of the supply of registered and unregistered childcare places in Caerphilly County Borough. It includes: number and type of places, number of children per place, opening times, fees, vacancies and Welsh language provision. It also looks at the take up of free entitlement to Early Education and childcare, including Flying Start. It also captures the future plans of childcare providers.

4.4.3 **Measurement of Relative Supply (Annex C)**

This report applies a formula to attempt to understand where the key gaps and pressure points exist, with a specific focus on the number of places required to secure sufficient places for working families.

4.4.4 **Consultation with stakeholders on childcare (Annex D)**

Focusing on the level of demand for childcare and the improvements needed, this report includes a detailed analysis of results from a questionnaire distributed to parents in Caerphilly in the summer 2013. It also presents an analysis of focus groups held with parents and carers and Childcare Development Officers. The results of the questionnaire with children are also included.

During the summer 2013 a county wide consultation took place with parents/carers and other key stakeholders. Key improvements identified from the consultation included:

- Childcare to meet their individual child's needs
- Flexible childcare opening times (7.30-9am and after 6pm) and more after school provision and holiday provision for children with disabilities
- Increased local provision, although families with children with disabilities would travel further for the right provision to meet their needs
- Affordability
- Greater range of Welsh medium childcare including increased Cylchoedd Meithrin

4.4.5 **Geographical Gaps Analysis (Annex E)**

A profile of each ward/ward cluster or sub local authority area, including local demographics, local knowledge and geographic situation. This section also includes information about current childcare developments.

The reports would be available via the Early Years website portal

www.caerphilly.gov.uk/earlyyears

4.6 Following the period of consultation an Action Plan will be developed based on gaps identified. This plan should become an integral part of the process of review and publication of the Families First Plan, Single Integrated Plan and the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

4.7 The Action Plan will be drawn up to address the following areas linked with the childcare agenda for Wales:

4.7.1 **Developing the Childcare Market** – ensuring that sufficient childcare provision is secured to support identified gaps to allow children to access good quality provision, and to enable parents to work, by increasing capacity and supporting sustainability.

4.7.2 **Engaging with the Business Community** – WG recognises that childcare businesses may need support both in establishment and throughout their development. We understand the need to support all types of childcare settings and provide assistance such as business planning and financial management. In addition, increasing engagement with the wider

business sector is critical if local employers are to understand the childcare needs of their employees.

- 4.7.3 **Improving the Flexibility, Accessibility and Affordability of Early Years Education and Childcare** – changing patterns of provision to meet parental need and looking at more flexible packages of childcare as identified in the CSA 2014. This will include supporting flexibility, Welsh Language provision and provision for children with disabilities. In addition, this section will look at ensuring that there is sufficient access to information and knowledge about financial support for childcare.
- 4.7.4 **Developing a Workforce with the Right Skills** – considering how to up-skill the current workforce and attract new entrants, as well as considering the appropriate qualifications for the sector. This will include the development of a workforce that has suitable language skills to support Welsh medium childcare and a workforce that is confident and competent enough to support children with disabilities into childcare.
- 4.7.5 **Improving Information** – ensuring that parents have the right information about childcare options, the financial help available to them and the benefits to both the child and parent of good childcare.
- 4.7.6 **Whole Phase Approach to Transitions** – working in partnership to support children across the Foundation phase within and between settings to provide a seamless and consistent service.
- 4.7.7 **Improving the Quality of Early Years Education and Childcare** – developing a consistent approach to quality across the sector.
- 4.7.8 **Supporting Parents to Raise their Children Bilingually** – through the provision of Welsh medium and bilingual childcare provisions and improving the early years language ability of the childcare workforce.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The report considers data from, all groups that reside within Caerphilly County Borough, including Welsh speakers, non-white ethnic groups, military families, lone parents, travelling families, families with children with disabilities. Specific consultation has also taken place with families seeking Welsh medium childcare, families with children with disabilities and children.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no immediate financial implications associated with the publication of the CSA. The Childcare Action Plan directs the delivery planning of the Welsh Government's Out Of School Childcare Grant, £128,686.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no immediate personnel implications associated with the CSA.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 All consultation responses have been incorporated into the production of the CSA reports, including the Summary Document.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Members note the content of the report.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Compliance with the legal requirements under the Childcare Act 2006.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Childcare Act 2006, Sections 22 and 26.

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Consultees: Senior Management Team
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Councillor Wynne David, Chair of Education Scrutiny Committee
David Thomas, Senior Policy Officer (Equalities and Welsh Language)
Gail Williams, Principal Solicitor
Lynne Donovan, Personnel Manager
Mike Lewis, Principal Accountant, Education

Background Papers:

The following background papers can be viewed on the Members' Portal due to size of documents:

- Caerphilly CSA Gap Analysis Report
- Annex A – Analysis of factors Affecting Demand and the Ability to Pay For Childcare
- Annex B – Analysis of Supply and Appendix
- Annex C – Measuring Relative Supply
- Annex D – Consultation with Stakeholders
- Annex E – Geographic Gaps Analysis

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – CSA Summary Document (separate attachment)

Appendix 2 – Out of School Childcare Grant Funding Proposals 2014-15