

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022 - 2027

Name of Local Authority: Caerphilly

Name of responsible officer: Fiona Santos / Bethan Kay

Date of Completion: June 2022

Principle Statement

Caerphilly County Borough Council recognises the value and importance of childcare as a vital element of the anti-poverty agenda as well as providing an enriched, safe, and nurturing environment in which the children and young people of the county borough can flourish, learn, and have fun. As such the Local Authority has an Early Years' Service area that is dedicated to managing all aspects of the childcare market in a coordinated manner.

Caerphilly CBC recognises the importance of main carers in their child's life and that at times main carers need additional support through childcare to maintain the family home. This childcare fulfils a critical role and must meet the UNCRC for the child through the provision of safe, stimulating, caring, playful environments and suitable significant adults.

Research by Public Health Wales regarding Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and their impact on a child's life means that childcare practitioners need to understand the critical role they might play as significant adults in the child's life and in identifying and supporting families through critical points in their life journey. As a Local Authority, we recognise and have embedded this within our Early Years Model.

Caerphilly CBC recognises the importance of a competent and qualified workforce and offers support for business, quality, and sustainability for all childcare settings to enable them to meet the needs of parents and carers across the borough.

In addition, Caerphilly CBC recognises the need for flexible and skilled childcare provision to meet the needs of the Welsh Government initiatives, working parents, Welsh medium provision, children with emerging developmental / additional needs and children of school age who need holiday and out of school provision.

Contents

	Chapter	Page
	<u>Principle Statement</u>	2
	<u>Introduction/ Context</u>	4
	<u>Supply of Childcare - overview</u>	8
	<u>Impact of Covid 19</u>	14
	<u>CSA and Local Well Being Needs Assessment</u>	16
	<u>Demographic Overview of Caerphilly County Borough</u>	26
	4.2 <u>Caerphilly Basin</u>	51
	4.3 <u>Lower Sirhowy Valley</u>	57
	4.4 <u>Mid Valleys East</u>	63
	4.5 <u>Mid Valleys West</u>	68
	4.6 <u>Upper Rhymney Valley</u>	73
	<u>Supply of Childcare</u>	79
	<u>Childcare Types</u>	103
	6.1 <u>Childminder</u>	103
	6.2 <u>Full Day care and Mixed Sessional provision</u>	119
	6.3 <u>Sessional Day Care</u>	144
	6.4 <u>Creche</u>	156
	6.5 <u>Out of School</u>	157
	6.6 <u>Open Access Play</u>	170
	6.7 <u>Nanny</u>	176

[illegible]

2. Introduction / Context

The Caerphilly Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022 is a report that brings together a range of different data and information to develop a picture of the current childcare market and to identify where there are any gaps in supply. As a result of the assessment, an action plan will be drawn up to address any identified insufficiencies and demonstrate that at a community level, the local authority is taking strategic action with its partners to address gaps in childcare.

The Childcare Act 2006 (Local Authority Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2016, made under Section 26 of the 2006 Act, requires local authorities to prepare assessments of the sufficiency of childcare provision (Childcare Sufficiency Assessment – CSA) in their area and to keep these under review. This Act 2006 expands and clarifies in legislation the vital role local authorities play as strategic leaders in the development and support of childcare locally. The 2006 Act reinforces the framework within which local authorities already work – in partnership with the private, voluntary, independent, community and maintained sector – to shape and secure children’s services and focuses, in particular, on the provision of sufficient, sustainable, and flexible childcare that is responsive to parents’ needs.

The Childcare Act, 2006, underpins the Welsh Government’s Childcare Plan, Building a Brighter Future, and subsequent plans, and sets out the statutory basis for:

- Parents’ legitimate expectation of accessible high-quality childcare for children and their families; and
- Local Authorities’ responsibilities for providing information to parents and prospective parents to support them in their parenting role.

In Wales, The Childcare Act 2006 sets out to achieve these aims by placing a duty giving Local Authorities the lead role in facilitating the childcare market to ensure it meets the needs of working parents; in particular those on low incomes, those with disabled children and those wishing for their children to attend Welsh medium provision. In addition, it looks to support the childcare needs of those in training and those seeking work.

Section 26 of The Childcare Act requires Local Authorities in Wales to prepare assessments of the sufficiency of childcare in their area as a necessary first step towards securing sufficient provision and establish plans to address any gaps identified. Local authorities are required to undertake a full assessment of the childcare provision in their area by June 30th 2022, and then at least every five years after that, keeping the assessment under review in between main assessments, with an annual Progress Report. This report has been produced taking account of the Welsh Government “Childcare Act Guidance” revised August 2021.

In determining whether the provision of childcare is sufficient the local authority must have regard to the needs of parents in their area for:

- the provision of childcare in respect of which the childcare element of working tax credit or universal credit is payable
- the provision of childcare in respect of which employer supported childcare or tax-free childcare is payable
- the provision of childcare for children who have special educational needs or require specialist care due to disability
- the provision of childcare involving the use of the Welsh language
- the provision of childcare which enables them to access their foundation phase early education entitlement
- the provision of childcare which enables them to access their entitlement for funded childcare places

In addition, the information will support and inform the development of other Local Authority plans and programmes including expansion of the Flying Start programme, Early Years Education, Families First, the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, the regional Well Being Needs Assessment and the ongoing development of the Welsh Government initiative of the Childcare Offer for Wales for three and four-year-olds and the digitalisation of this programme. The Local Authority is also aware of future developments that will impact on the field of childcare such as the recently announced ‘funded part time childcare for 2 year olds’ delivered through expansion of the Flying Start programme, the review of the school day and the school year, and the opening up of the Childcare Offer to those in education, training or on the edge of work, the implementation of the new Curriculum for Wales in the non-maintained sector (Sept 2022), alongside the ongoing development of Early Childhood Education and Care, including the Quality Framework.

By analysing all the data looking at current demand, supply and potential barriers to families taking up childcare, a thorough assessment can be made which will contribute to the mapping of provision that is a key stage in local planning and allow us to determine as to whether there is sufficient childcare for the families of Caerphilly both now and in the future. Based on this detail a Childcare Action Plan has been drawn up which will guide the work of the Local Authority’s Early Years team to develop the local

childcare market in partnership with other identified Local Authority departments and external partner organisations including the private and voluntary sectors.

Data gathering has taken place over the Summer and Autumn of 2021 and the assessment has been written in the late autumn / early spring with a view to it going through the Local Authority's governance process March to July 2022. A 28-day Public Consultation on the draft Assessment will take place during May 2022, with submission to the Welsh Government due by the end of June 2022.

Data sources include the most up to date information available at the time of writing. For the supply element: this includes the information provided by childcare providers themselves submitted to Childcare Inspectorate Wales (CIW) as part of their annual Self-Assessment of Service Statement (SASS), information held by CCBC on the Education database and DEWIS as well as local knowledge. For the demand element: this has been a mixture of information supplied by childcare providers on vacancies and waiting lists as a part of their SASS submissions, information gathered by the Welsh Government's Parental survey carried out in Autumn 2021, data available from online data sources, such as the Office for National statistics (ONS) and its NOMIS service. We have also used in-house data to inform the assessment such as the Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC), Local Development Plan (LDP) Annual Monitoring Report 2021 and other data sources relevant to the assessment. Much of the data we have to build a picture of local demographics is from the Census data and unfortunately, at the time of writing, this is only available from the 2011 Census. As the information is released for the 2021 Census, this will be incorporated into the annual updates and progress report, as well as used in more specific project developments like the expansion of the Flying Start programme.

This CSA for the year 2022 is written against a backdrop of the global Coronavirus pandemic that has impacted on the delivery of Childcare across the County Borough as well as progress towards many of the Actions in the previous Action Plan. In early 2021, the Early Years Team at the Local Authority went through a re-structure to enable the team to be more responsive to the needs of both the childcare sector and the families that use it. The country is still in the grips of this Pandemic and there is still uncertainty as to the future demand for childcare as working patterns change and more families are working from home as well as preventative measures placed on the sector, both by Welsh Government Guidance and other operational restrictions such as closure of venues on school sites. It is unlikely that this Pandemic will disappear as quickly as it arrived, and so we will need to learn to live with it and produce an Action Plan that is flexible and dynamic to meet these potential changing future demands, whilst still being able to deliver to new Welsh Government 'business as usual' initiatives.

Globally, the sector has managed to come through the pandemic relatively unscathed. However, we are still not fully back to the picture of supply that we had prior to the pandemic. Many childcare settings are located on school sites, in particular wrap around provisions and after school/holiday clubs. Due to the Protective Measures Guidance, many clubs temporarily closed as they used shared spaces on school sites with larger mixed groups, which were not possible when schools had to develop smaller groups and distinct class bubbles. Delivering an afterschool provision that mixed year groups and, in some instances, children from different schools, made feasibly running a club almost impossible. School run breakfast clubs are starting to re-open within controls and it is hoped all will be reopened by Spring 2022. In the first lockdown of Spring 2020, all afterschool and the majority of Welsh medium providers closed down. Some afterschool and holiday provisions are still unable to open, and the true picture of childcare supply will only truly be seen in the months to come. This will be addressed in subsequent CSA refreshes. Further detail from the SASS on the Impact of Covid 19 on the sector is outlined below.

In addition to the sufficiency of supply of childcare we are also very conscious to support the quality of the childcare and knowledge of the workforce. To this end we provide a continuous programme of training both mandatory and regulatory as well as continuing professional development to support the sector to deliver in an informed, confident, and competent way. We also pride ourselves on our local quality support schemes, the Caerphilly Quality Standard (recently reviewed to fall in line with other national Quality schemes such as the ECEC Quality Framework), our Toolkits that support the sector to run effectively and compliantly for Health and Safety and Financially, alongside our ALN Readiness Tool and our Safeguarding Audit, processes, and templates. We also have a very experienced Childcare Development Team who support the childcare settings to apply for grants for development, expansion and sustainability alongside registration support and guidance.

In 2018, as a part of the Childcare Offer Capital programme, an ambitious project proposal was submitted to Welsh Government to develop new childcare places in areas where supply was not sufficient for supporting the scheme and/or the venue for the childcare was not fit for purpose. The pandemic has, like in many other areas of work, delayed progress on the majority of these schemes, but once built they will provide a much needed supply of places to accommodate eligible children in the future. This will provide much needed additional childcare places in areas of identified demand alongside enhanced facilities for colocation of childcare and foundation phase supporting continuity of provision for the child. We continue to work with our colleagues in planning, building consultancy, 21st Century schools and the Welsh capital grant scheme to bring our proposals to full development.

1.1 Supply of Childcare Places

Number of Childcare Providers by Type – 2017-2021

Provider Type	Lower Sirhowy Valley 2017	Lower Sirhowy Valley 2021	Mid Valleys East 2017	Mid Valleys East 2021	Mid Valleys West 2017	Mid Valleys West 2021	Caerphilly Basin 2017	Caerphilly Basin 2021	Upper Rhymney Valley 2017	Upper rhymney Valley 2021	Total 2017	Total 2021	Losses/Gains Borough Wide
Childminder CIW List (total)	19	11	51	36	15	9	53	38	17	8	155	102	-53
Public		9		26		6		31		5		77	
Off Public		2		10		3		7		3		25	
Suspended		3		5		2		5		4		19	
Day Nurseries	2	3	5	7	5	5	5	5	2	2	19	22	+3
Playgroups	3	3	8	8	7	7	10	6	6	5	34	29	-5
Wrap Around	3	4	4	7	6	7	11	12	5	5	29	35	+6
After School Clubs	4	6	6	10	6	7	14	16	3	3	33	42	+9
Breakfast Clubs	2	3	5	6	3	4	6	8	2	1	18	22	+4
Holiday Care	2	3	4	7	3	7	7	13	2	3	18	33	+15
Playscheme	Unknown	0	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	1	Unknown	2	Unknown	0	Unknown	3	Unquantifiable
Early Years Education	1	2	5	6	2	5	3	2	0	1	11	16	+5
Flying Start	3	3	7	14	2	6	8	11	8	9	28	43	+15
Total	39	38	95	101	49	58	117	113	45	37	345	347	

Figure 1. Supply of childcare places

Since the publication of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment in 2017, the supply of childcare has changed within Caerphilly County. When analysing data relating to 2017-2021, it's evident that the number of registered childminders has significantly decreased across

the borough; for further details and analysis of sufficiency of childcare, refer to subsequent chapters. Provider consultation indicates that some factors affecting this increase in de-registration include a desire to work in a different role that does not include working from home. Others have stated that they have a desire to retire and end their careers overall, irrespective of professional sector. Whilst the number of playgroups within the County Borough has decreased by 5 over the period, the number of Flying Start settings has increased by 15 following a procurement process. Notably in Mid Valleys East, the number of Flying Start settings doubled between 2017-2021, and the number of playgroups remained the same. In Lower Sirhowy Valley the number of Flying Start settings and playgroups settings remains the same. However, in Caerphilly Basin and Upper Rhymney Valley the number of Flying Start settings has increased whilst the number of playgroups has decreased. This could be due to settings changing provider status to sometimes day care (sessional) or to wrap around in certain areas. Overall, the childcare services throughout the borough have increased in line with demand needs.

Holiday provision is available throughout the borough through a range of registered and unregistered/approved services. For instance, Full Day Care Holiday Care can be delivered by Full Day Nurseries, Childminders, Out of School Care, and some Mixed Sessional Care providers. Other forms of holiday provision include Open Access Play Provision such as Play Scheme/Sessions. Collaborative work and consultation between Early years and Sports and leisure Department officers means that open access play provision (although typically overseen by Sports and Leisure colleagues) is strategically planned by both departments in response to demand needs. The 'Food and Fun' programme (Welsh Government) is also delivered throughout the summer holidays providing food and nutrition education, physical activity, enrichment sessions and healthy meals to children on their respective school site's. Again, this is strategically planned considering all other Holiday childcare provisions operating locally whilst still providing the service to those children it is aimed to support. This is an example of the use and allocation of monies relating to holiday provision.

The number of places in Figure 1 is the position on March 31st 2021, using data from the Caerphilly Family Information Service (FIS). This information has been compared with returns to the CIW annual SASS submissions that have been supplied. We have shown increase or decrease in number of places from the previous CSA Progress report (Spring 2021).

FULL DAYCARE SERVICES –

- **Childminders:** There are currently 103 active **Childminders** who are registered with CIW (which does not include those on suspended list), of which 83 completed their SASS return in 2021. There are also 13 childminders who appear on the CIW voluntarily suspended or semi-retired/retired in November 2021. Of the 86 childminders who completed their SASS return, there are 634 available registered places. Not all childminders opt to have their professional details available to the public via Dewis Cymru due to various data protection reasons, therefore not all providers are available for consideration within the public domain. Given that there were previously 102 Childminders registered throughout the borough during 2021, there's a net gain of 1 childminder in the ... area, providing ... new registered available childcare places. Since the previous CSA Re-Fresh there were 4 new Childminder – 2 Blackwood (16) 1 Crosskeys (8) 1 Aber Valley (6) Deregistration's – Jan-May 2021 6 de-registered – but we are aware that 15 have since de-registered due to CIW cleanse. 2 blackwood (10)/ 1 Hengoed (6)/ 1 crumlin (6) / 2 risca (12). Suspended list – cleanse by CIW between Jan-May 2021 – 1 Hengoed (8). Since SASS a further 9 have temporarily suspended service. According to the latest CIW list, there are 37 places due to be operational once again in 2022 throughout the county borough by 7 childminders who are currently on the suspended list.
- **Day Nurseries:** There are 23 Full Day Care providers across the county borough a net increase of 4 since the last CSA in 2017. There are 7 in the Caerphilly Basin (CB), 3 in the Lower Sirhowy Valley (LSV), 7 in Mid Valleys East (MVE), 5 in Mid Valleys West (MVW) and 2 in the Upper Rhymney Valley (URV). Since the last CSA there have been 2 additional Day Nurseries opened in the Caerphilly Basin area, 1 additional day nursery in the Lower Sirhowy Valley, 2 in Mid Valleys East and 1 additional in the Upper Rhymney Valley. The number of full day nurseries in Mid Valleys West has remained unchanged. Over the same period 2 Day nurseries closed. The one new Day nursery in the Lower Sirhowy area has filled one of the identified gaps in the last CSA providing 46 places in the Risca area. The 23 Full Day Nurseries provide 1125 registered childcare places throughout the county borough.

OUT OF SCHOOL PROVISION

- **After School Clubs:** The number of registered settings offering After School provision has increased from 38 in 2020 to 42 in 2021 with an overall increase in 30 childcare places. 16 of these services are within Day Nurseries and so the number of

places has not been included as these would be double counted. In addition, there are 2 unregistered clubs offering 26 places however these settings are currently closed due to the pandemic. Only 28 settings were open as of 31.3.21 offering 250 places. Menter Iaith, who currently run 6 After School Club provisions with 176 places remain closed due to the pandemic and have confirmed that they will not be opening their After School or Holiday Provisions until September 2021 at the earliest. A further 8 English medium clubs with 248 places remained closed as of 31.3.21 however 5 of these settings are looking to open in May 2021.

In **Caerphilly Basin** 2 school-based clubs closed and were replaced by 2 new clubs. The **Sirhowy Valley** remains stable and in **Mid-Valleys East** an After School service has been added to a day nursery. In **Mid-Valleys West** 1 new Out of School provision is registered for 29 places and 1 day nursery offers an additional after school service. **The Upper Rhymney Valley** remains stable.

- **Breakfast Clubs:** At the time of the SASS, no free breakfast clubs were running on school sites due to the pandemic and the restrictions on the mixing of bubbles. We are now aware that these provisions are opening up again and should be fully operational once again by September 2022. There are 22 services offering Breakfast clubs within Caerphilly borough (this includes a variety of providers), which is an increase of 2 since the previous year and an additional 49 places offered, many of which are now open. 14 of these services are within Day Nurseries and so the number of places has not been included as these would be double counted.

Since the previous CSA, 1 new day nursery offers a breakfast club service in the Lower Sirhowy Valley area (this is located in the Risca area).

The **Mid-Valleys West**, **Mid-Valleys East** and **Upper Rhymney Valley** areas all remain stable.

- **Holiday Clubs:** The number of services offering Holiday Clubs has increased from 25 to 32 an increase of 6 services with an overall increase of 150 childcare places, 7 of which remain temporarily closed due to the pandemic with a temporary loss of 239 places. 17 of these services are within Day Nurseries and so the number of places has not been included as these would be double counted. The Saturday Club and Holiday provision at Trinity Fields School (registered for 40 x 8 – 17year olds) continues to offer a referral-based service for children across the borough.

In **Caerphilly Basin** 1 day nursery stopped offering holiday care provision and 1 Holiday Club closed due to the pandemic with a loss of 19 places. Compared to the CSA Re-fresh in 2021, 4 new clubs were developed (3 within Caerphilly town and 1 in Machen) creating an additional 111 places. There was also a slight decrease in registered numbers in the Welsh Medium holiday clubs in this area, Clwb Gwyliau Caerffili 40 places to 35 and Clwb Gwyliau y Castell 50 to 45 due to the pandemic and building works taking place on the school site. In the **Sirhowy Valley** there was an increase of 1 service within a Day Nursery Setting.

Mid Valleys East remains stable with all but one service located in Day Nursery settings. **Mid Valleys West** area has increased by 2 settings with an additional 38 places due to one Playgroup registering for full day care and one new out of school registration. **Upper Rhymney Valley** has increased by 1 service within a day nursery setting.

SESSIONAL CARE

- **Playgroups:** There has been an overall loss of 1 playgroup since 2020. 30 registered in 2020 and 29 in 2021 with an overall loss of 74 playgroup places across the borough. 2 playgroups de-registered and 1 new registration and variations of childcare places across the borough due to the pandemic and restriction relating to mixing of bubbles. 1 Playgroup is temporarily closed due to Covid and only offering wraparound sessions currently to avoid mixing bubbles. 7 Playgroups are running temporarily on reduced CIW childcare numbers because of the pandemic / reduced staffing ratios etc., these groups are registered with CIW for 165 places but are currently offering 106 places.

In Caerphilly Basin 1 playgroup de-registered with a loss of 25 places. In the **Sirhowy Valley** 1 playgroup has reduced from 2 sessions per day to 1 session with a loss of 30 places. 1 Playgroup has increased its registered number of places from 16 to 19 meaning an overall loss of 27 places. In the **Mid-Valleys East** 1 playgroup de-registered with a loss of 12 places however a new setting registered offering 18 places. 1 playgroup reduced numbers from 30 + 30 (2 sessions) to 19+19 = 38 with a loss of 22 places and 1 Welsh Medium playgroup decreased their number of places from 14+14 to 26 and overall loss of 2 places. In **Mid-Valley's West** 1 playgroup increased their childcare places from 20 to 24. In the **Upper Rhymney Valley** numbers of registered settings remains stable however the registered number of places has changed since 2020. 1 playgroup now offers 2 sessions increasing numbers by 16 places 1 school-based playgroup is only running as a wraparound to avoid mixing bubbles with a temporary loss of 24 places, therefore an overall decrease of 10 places.

- **Wraparound:** The overall number of Wraparound services remains the same at 35 with 4 settings lost and 4 gained with an overall decrease of 2 childcare places borough wide. 2 settings remain closed both within **Caerphilly Basin area** with a temporary loss of 49 places. We are aware that since the previous CSA, many Play group and Wraparound Settings have redefined themselves, many have become Charitable Incorporated Organisations, and may have re-registered under a different service category type. So therefore, when considering the number of services and places within the Playgroup and Wraparound provisions, we must be mindful of this when planning. Many Wraparound services are also provided within Full Day Care/Mixed Day Care provisions.

In **Caerphilly Basin** 1 wraparound closed (19 places) and another registered (19 places). In the **Sirhowy Valley** a wrap setting closed with the loss of 40 places however a new setting was developed in Risca with 16 places. In the **Mid-Valleys East** area 1 wraparound setting de registered with a loss of 12 places but another provider added a wraparound service and accommodated children within their playgroup numbers. 1 new wrap around registered providing 18 childcare places. **Mid Valley's West** and **Upper Rhymney Valley** areas both remain stable.

- **Playscheme:** According to the SASS submissions there are 6 Full day care, out of school providers who state they deliver Play Scheme sessions throughout Caerphilly County; these services operate under the category of Out of School Care as per CIW regulations. During 2021, the number of registered playscheme settings and places has remained stable for the year, 3 providers across the borough, 2 in Caerphilly Basin offering 110 places and 1 in Mid Valleys West area with 60 places. According to SASS data, there's a net increase of providers delivering Play Scheme sessions throughout the borough with an increase to 186 places now available.

Going forward, our focus for the next 5 years will be to first and foremost support the recovery of the sector and try and understand the new levels of demand for childcare. We will continue to grow the sector in areas of identified need in particular in relation to the Childcare Offer both in Term Time and during School Holidays, and to ensure we have sufficient places to deliver Flying Start places, Flying Start expansion, and Early Years Education, while giving parents choice. We will be working closely with our colleagues in Education, building consultancy, the childcare sector, and the Welsh Government to complete our capital programme across the borough to create suitable, bespoke spaces for childcare. In light of this we will be working closely with our colleagues in the umbrella organisations and the schools where new space is developed, to ensure that

quality childcare providers are able to apply openly and transparently to rent the space to deliver the new quality provision. We will continue to highlight quality provision as our main driver for development and work in partnership to achieve the best outcomes for children and families across Caerphilly borough.

Chapter 2 - Impact of Covid on Childcare Services

Of the 177 childcare services that completed the SASS, 107 stated that they had temporarily closed at any time due to Covid 19. Of these, 30 (of 83) were childminders, 28 (of 42) were full day care and mixed sessional care, 13 (of 13) were out of school care and 13 (of 38) were sessional care. 31 settings temporarily closed more than once (correct in June /July 2021). Of those that temporarily closed, 5 still remained closed in July 2021 when the SASS was completed (1 childminder, 2 Full Day care (mixed sessional) and 2 out of school providers). In addition to this, 5 out of school settings based on school sites remain voluntarily suspended (and still remain suspended as at Feb 2022) and were not required to complete the SASS returns and so their information is not included here.

At the time of completing the SASS returns, 56 settings confirmed they had a positive Covid 19 case at their service, 38 relating to children and 31 relating to staff and 4 relating to people living at the service. Of the 177 settings 164 stated they had access to sufficient PPE. When asked if the pandemic had had an impact on staffing ratios at the settings, 14 stated they required less staff, 11 stated they required more staff and 151 stated there was no change to staffing ratios. Settings were able to temporarily relax staffing ratios to manage the impact of Covid 19 on their setting due to staff absences. This was allowed during the initial lockdowns and again during the recent Omicron variant. In the initial lockdowns 5 Day nurseries relaxed their minimum standards and in the recent Omicron wave, 3 Day Nurseries, 6 after school clubs and 1 wrap around also applied to relax their minimum standards in relation to staffing ratios.

The impact of Covid on training is discussed in more detail in the Workforce Development chapter below, but in the SASS, 108 settings said they had accessed less training during the pandemic, the main reasons given were that they didn't have access to sufficient IT (25), they were not able to access the hands-on face-to-face practical element (82) or were unable to source a suitable provider (79). A handful of settings were unable to access training because of lack of staff cover, staff being

on furlough, or that the time/date was unsuitable. 148 providers stated that they currently had access to all the training they needed with 28 stating they did not. Of these, 9 couldn't find a practical element and 24 stated there was no suitable training on offer.

At the time of completing the SASS (June/July 2021), 110 providers reported they were running at full capacity and 66 were still not operating at full capacity due to Covid 19. Providers were also asked, based on their current situation, how confident they were that it would be financially sustainable to continue to run their childcare provision. 41 providers did not know, 127 reported they expected to be operational for at least another year or longer and only 8 reported they would be able to operate for at least a further 6 months.

With regards to financial support to settings, Welsh Government gave grants to Local Authorities to help to sustain the sector through the Pandemic and to support its recovery. In 2020 to 2021, 19 settings were approved for support with the Self Isolation Grant, 15 were approved for support because of premises related inability to open (i.e., they were located on a school site that restricted access to childcare premises), 39 providers had grants approved for sustainability relating to reduced attendance and 70 grants were approved for increased costs as a result of Covid, for example for PPE and other associated costs. In 2021-2022, we have again had a tranche of sustainability grants relating to the impact of Covid 19 on the sector. To date we have approved 16 grants for settings at severe risk of closure, 5 of which were day nurseries, 9 were after school and wrap around, and 2 were Cylch Meithrin. In addition, 2 playgroups were approved for short term sustainability grants and 10 grants were approved for the self-isolation grant when the setting had to close due to self-isolating for Covid 19.

Despite the timing of the SASS in the grips of Covid and the perceived impact of the pandemic, the childcare picture in Caerphilly has remained relatively unscathed and at the time of writing, the sufficiency of childcare places for working families remains adequate. This is mainly due to the support offered via Welsh Government grants to help sustain the sector and the huge efforts put in by the Early Years team to support the sector to be so. However, the pandemic is still with us and, whilst things are getting easier in terms of delivery and easing of restrictions, the full impact of Covid 19 is not quantifiable at this time of writing and will only be seen fully in years to come.

3. The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and Local Well Being Needs Assessment

The Gwent Public Service Board Wellbeing Needs Assessment is in draft and will be published in May 2022. Gwent wide published data sets / statistical releases have been used to develop the Wellbeing Needs Assessment as well as the CSA. The wellbeing assessment section on Education notes the changing employment and skills needed with a noticeable increase in people working from home as well as an increase in elective home education. There is also the need to decrease the attainment gap between the most disadvantaged learners and the least disadvantaged learners.

This document analyses a range of secondary datasets that help to understand factors that affect the demand and ability to pay for childcare across Caerphilly county borough and within localities within the county. It explores those localities that may experience multiple demand and ability to pay factors which can help to highlight where different volumes of childcare or different types of childcare are required. It also highlights where affordability or childcare in a choice of language medium may be a particular issue. It takes into consideration the full CSA completed in 2017 and more recent data sets according to the Data Unit Wales and highlights where there have been changes in the demand and ability to pay for childcare and on predictions made at that time.

Data is set out using the Five Community Planning cluster localities as outlined in the Local Well Being Needs Assessment needs analysis which more accurately define a geographic community as far as is most practical. This is also the case with regard to sufficiency of childcare which will help further distinguish sufficiency of childcare in a more meaningful way for use locally. Where data is not available at ward level, we have noted the only published data using Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA's). Data has been derived from a number of sources including the 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics (ONS) mid-year estimates, NOMIS, the Welsh Index for Multiple Deprivation, live birth data and other sources annotated at the end of the report and as provided by the Data Unit Wales. Where possible the most up to date and reliable data has been sourced.

3.1 Caerphilly Borough Strategic Planning - 2035

The Local Development Plan (LDP) sets the strategic vision for the Caerphilly borough up to 2021 (Adopted LDP 2010). The vision capitalises on the Caerphilly borough's strategic location at the heart of the Cardiff Capital Region.

The review report in June 2021 recommended a full review of the LDP following development of the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for the Cardiff Capital region. The LDP ceased from 31st December 2021 and as such has no weight in planning decision and consequently a full review of the Adopted LDP is being undertaken.

During recent years there has been a raft of legislation which now impacts both LDP and SDP and with the regionalisation agenda there are many projects / developments working across the region to support good quality jobs and the skills needed, transport, economic growth and regeneration, residential development, tourism, and culture development as well as town centre development. Already Caerphilly is looking to develop area master plans to support development of integrated projects. This work is likely to influence the amount, type and location of childcare provision needed in the future.

The Shared Ambitions Strategy for Education is now being updated and reviewed as we emerge from the pandemic. A new Education Strategy is in development currently working across a range of stakeholders to ensure it is inclusive and holistic encompassing all learners from early years through schools, youth and on into further education or training opportunities. The priorities identified will then replace the existing priorities in the current Education Strategy as well as in the Corporate Wellbeing Plan under Objective 1: Improve Education Opportunities for all.

Building a Brighter Future – Any future childcare developments will pay heed to the Welsh Government priorities as set out in the defining document Building a Brighter Future, which is currently being reviewed and updated to take into account the changing priorities and Welsh Government commitments over the coming 10 years.

The funded Childcare Offer for 3–4year olds has supported working parents of 3-4year olds in part time Early Years Education provision to access up to 20 hours per week of childcare plus the Foundation Phase Early Education offer, for up to 48 weeks of the year and therefore includes the need for holiday provision for 3-4year olds.

In the future there is a commitment to universal funded part time childcare for all 2year olds, which will be delivered through the expansion of the Flying Start programme. There will need to be close working between health and local authority to understand the number of 2year olds and be able to create sufficient childcare places and wider early intervention support to meet parental demands.

The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan has new regulations which now focusses on a target number of children accessing Welsh medium provision in year 1. Caerphilly has a target of 26-32%. This means that instead of relying on parental demand surveys when we develop new childcare provision, the local authority will need to consider the percentage of places available in Welsh language and support the creation of new Welsh medium provision to meet this target as well as encourage English medium settings to move along the linguistic continuum to offer more Welsh in the setting. Welsh medium provision is a definite need in younger full day care provision i.e., 0-2year olds in day nursery or childminder provision.

In the development of this CSA the local master plans for town centre areas, the focus on Caerphilly / Ystrad Mynach as an employment hub by the Valleys Task Force, alongside the Wellbeing Needs Assessment for Gwent PSB and the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan will all be taken into account.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs): Childcare practitioners are often one of the significant adults in a child's life and can make a difference in building resilience. Safeguarding training includes an understanding of wider safeguarding issues including how to build resilience in children, how to recognise ACEs in the child's life as well as what support is available to families to support them to support their children and maintain a successful family structure.

3.2 Population

Gwent Public Services Board has continued to agree in setting a sense of place and community. The local and regional Well-being Assessment, and subsequent Well-being Plan will include the following five well established community areas in the Caerphilly county borough:

1. Upper Rhymney Valley – incorporating Bargoed
2. Mid Valleys West
3. Mid Valleys East
4. Lower Sirhowy Valley
5. Caerphilly Basin

The Caerphilly CSA will also follow the same community-based approach.

3.3 Overview of Caerphilly county borough

The Caerphilly county borough covers an area stretching from Powys and the Brecon Beacons National Park in the north, to Cardiff and Newport in the south. It is bordered to the west, by Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf and to the east by Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen and lies in the heart of the South Wales Valleys and the Cardiff Capital Region. The Caerphilly county borough occupies some 28,000 hectares of the Valleys area of South East Wales. It stretches over 40 kilometres between Cardiff and Newport and the Brecon Beacons, taking in the valleys of three rivers: the Rhymney, Sirhowy and Ebbw, with a mixture of urban, semi-urban and rural communities. 75% of the Caerphilly county borough is used for agriculture and forestry.

The topographical constraints associated with the three valleys communities presents significant challenges in terms of the inter-relationship between towns and villages and the way in which they function. There is a strong sense of community that is defined by geographical areas – and especially in the five community areas we have selected in setting a sense of place and community for this well-being assessment. Few areas within the Caerphilly county borough are capable of being economically self-sufficient. Consequently, settlements within the area have a close relationship with a cluster of other villages and towns.

There are five principal towns within the Caerphilly county borough: Blackwood, Risca, Bargoed, Ystrad Mynach and Caerphilly (the largest with a population of 33,236 (Census 2011) supported by the four local centres of Newbridge, Rhymney, Nelson and Bedwas. These local centres perform as the principal areas for employment and retail provision and are generally where services can be accessed. Blackwood and Caerphilly are also important as sub regional centres. The remaining settlements in the Caerphilly county borough are mostly residential urban areas. There are also a number of remote rural valleys settlements. Overall, the Caerphilly county borough comprises of 50 distinct towns and villages, many of which are linear settlements located on the valley floor.

The A465 Heads of the Valleys Road runs through the extreme north of the Caerphilly county borough and offers good road links to the west to Merthyr Tydfil, Swansea, West Wales, and Ireland, and to Ebbw Vale and the Midlands to the east. The south of the Caerphilly county borough has good links to the M4 motorway and so to the rest of the UK. The Caerphilly county borough's position between the Capital City of Cardiff and the Heads of the Valleys area gives it a strategic importance as a gateway to the valleys and a link between the prosperity of Cardiff and the less affluent valley communities.

3.3.1 City Deal and The South Wales Metro (Metro)

The South East Wales region is entering a significant period of change. In February 2016, the Council agreed that the authority (through the Leader) should formally sign a commitment to participate in the City Deal initiative, a £1.2 billion programme to regenerate the economic fortunes of the South East Wales region. Subsequently, in March 2016, the City Deal agreement was signed by the ten local authority Leaders, the First Minister for Wales, and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury. The City Deal sets out a transformative approach to how the Cardiff Capital Region will deliver the scale and nature of investment needed to support the area's growth plans, a key element of which is the delivery of significant public transport improvements that will facilitate the Region's economic growth aspirations.

City Deal seeks significant economic growth throughout the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR), with the focus on Cardiff as the economic engine for the CCR. A key element in the proposals is the Metro, a new transport system for the region that will transform the way people travel around the region providing faster, more frequent and joined up services using trains, buses and rail. Together the City Deal and Metro has the potential to realise significant changes to the county borough in the near future and could bring wide spread changes to the county borough's economy that could be realised over a relatively short timeframe.

3.4 Local population

Towards the end of the 20th Century the population of the Caerphilly county borough has remained relatively stable. The 2011 Census indicated that there had been little variation in population between the 1981 Census at 171,700 and the 2001 Census at 169,500. The 2011 Census indicated that the population of the Caerphilly county borough was considerably higher than had previously been estimated at 178,806 people. Notably, the Caerphilly county borough has one of the highest populations in Wales. The 2020 Estimates from the Office for National Statistics states that the population is now 181,700.

The structure of the Caerphilly county borough's population shows a fairly even distribution between 5-year age bands from 0-4 years to around 40 years of age, higher levels between the ages of 40 and 54 and then tailing off from age 70 onwards. The structure is similar to that of Wales as a whole. Consistent with the case at the national level, the number of children in the Caerphilly county borough has fallen, whilst the number of old people, particularly the very old has risen, with approximately 18.5% of the population being aged 65 and over. It is projected that there will be an increase in the number of older people in the coming decade, including the older old. According to the National Population Projections (2018) from the Welsh Government,

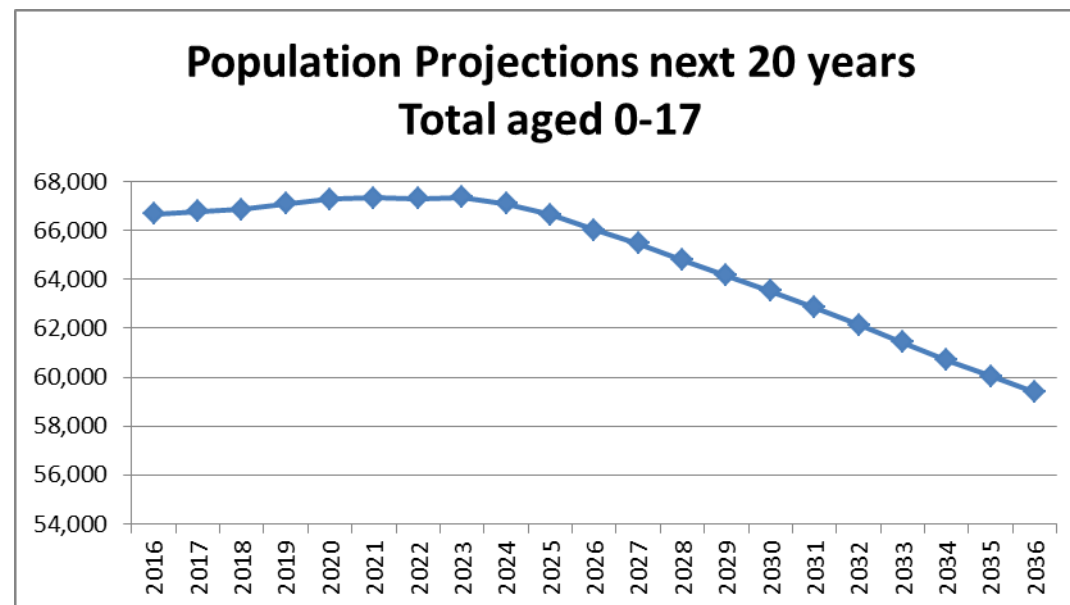
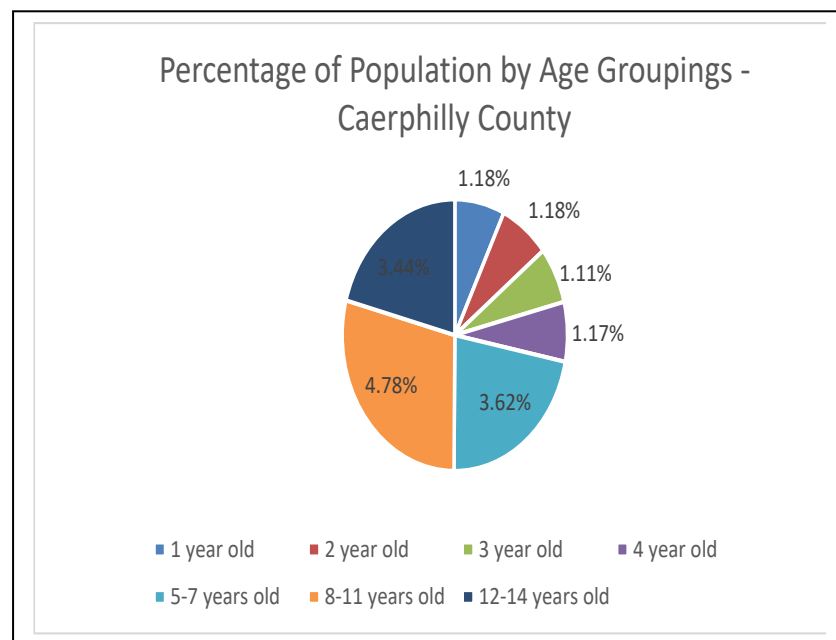


Figure 2 – Population Projections for Caerphilly over the next 20 years – aged 0 -17
Taken from Welsh Government 2011-based local authority population projections for Wales, 2011 to 2036 (last update 2013)

the number of children aged under 16 across Wales is projected to decrease by 4.7% between 2018 and 2028 with a higher decrease in numbers in the 0 – 10 age group.

Between 2015 and 2020 the number of live births has decreased from 2,050 to 1,648 in 2020. This is a marked decrease in birth rate since the

Figure 3 - Percentage of Population by Age Groupings – Caerphilly County – Source Census 2011

previous CSA in 2017 and follows the national picture of a decreasing population. According to population projections (Figure 1) the number of live births is predicted to decrease even further over the next 15 years.

In defining cultural identity 80.5% of the resident population indicate that they are of Welsh National Identity compared to 65.9% of residents in Wales. However, in terms of the Welsh language, 84% of the population of the Caerphilly county borough indicate that they have no knowledge of the Welsh language compared to 73% overall in Wales. 8.5% of residents in the Caerphilly county borough indicate that they can speak, read, and write Welsh compared to 14.6% in Wales with Welsh speakers are spread throughout the county borough (Census 2011). Ethnic minorities make up only 1.6% of the county borough's population (Census 2011).

The 2019 Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) demonstrates that the picture of deprivation in Caerphilly is not uniform, but rather gives the impression of pockets of intense disadvantage. 62.7% (69 LSOA's) of the county borough's Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) fall within the 50% most deprived LSOAs in Wales, but a drop of 6% reported in the last CSA in 2017. This is the 7th highest proportion amongst all Local Authorities in Wales. 10% of the borough's LSOAs fall within the top 10% most deprived category within Wales (increase from 14.5% in the previous WIMD).

3.5 The following is at a glance demographic overview of the Caerphilly county borough:

Population – the Caerphilly county borough has a population of 81,700, 49% of which are male and 51% female.

Age range – approximately 18.5% of the county borough are aged 0-15 years, 65 % are aged 16-64 years and 16.5% are aged 65 years or over. The Chart (Figure. 3) shows the proportion of children in the different age categories as required for the CSA analysis. See Chapter 4 to see the Child Population demographics by area.

Ethnicity – 98.4% of county borough residents are white, compared with 95.6% within Wales as a whole. The largest ethnic minority groups are mixed/multiple ethnic groups (0.6% in the county borough and 1% in Wales) and Asian or Asian British (0.5% in the county borough and 1.8% in Wales).

National identity – 80.5% of the county borough's residents gave their national identity as Welsh compared with 65.9% within Wales as a whole.

Access to car – 24.4% of households within the county borough have no access to a car or van, compared with a Wales Figure of 22.9%.

Employment Rate – (male) the employment rate for Caerphilly county borough's male population aged 16 to 64 as a whole is 76.3%. Of these 60.5% are employees and 11.1% are self-employed. (NOMIS 2020 -21). Approximately 46.9% working Full Time, 5.5% working part time. (Census data 2011)

Employment rate – (female) – the employment rate for Caerphilly county borough's female population as a whole is 73.3%. Of these 66.3% are employees and 5.3% are self-employed (NOMIS 2020 21). Approximately 30% working full time, 20.7% working part time (Census 2011 data).

Hours Worked (Male) – Males working 15 hours or less is 4.3%, working 16 – 30 hours is 8.6%, working 31 to 48 hours is 72.2% and working more than 49 hours is 14.9% (Source Census 2011)

Hours Worked (Female) – Females working 15 hours or less is 11%, working 16 – 30 hours is 31.4%, working 31 to 48 hours is 53.4% and working more than 49 hours is 4.1%.

Economic Inactivity – 25.3% of Caerphilly residents aged 16-74 years economically inactive, compared with a Figure of 24.6% for Wales as a whole. Of these 20.9% are students, 15.7% are looking after family/home, 39.2% are long term sick, 13.6% are retired. Of those who are economically inactive, 22.1% want a job and 77.9% do not want a job. (NOMIS July 2020 – June 2021). This data is not available broken down by gender or geographic ward area.

Workless Households – 16.1% of households across the borough are workless. Data is not available for number of children in workless households.

Employment by Occupation –

Managers, Directors and senior officials – 8.7%

Professional Occupations – 17.3%

Associate Professional and Technical – 15.9%

Administrative and Secretarial – 13.5%

Skilled Trades – 8.3%

Caring, Leisure and other service occupations – 8.7%

Sales and customer services – 8.5%

Process Plant and Machine Operatives – 8.5%

Elementary Occupations – 10%

(Source NOMIS Jul 2020 – June 2021)

Earnings – Male Full-time workers earn an average of £609.50/week slightly more than the Wales average (£599.70), while full time female workers earn £490.90/week which is less than the Wales average (£528.30). The average hourly rate for full time male workers is £15.86/hr compared to £13.11 for full time female workers. (Source NOMIS Jul 2020 – June 2021)

Employee Jobs status 2020 – 68.5% of jobs are full time and 29.6% are part time. (Source NOMIS Jul 2020 – June 2021). The majority of jobs are found in manufacturing (20.4%), with wholesale and retail (13%) and Human Health and social work (13%) and education (9.3%) and administrative support (9.3%) being the main areas of employment across the borough. (Source NOMIS Jul 2020 – June 2021)

Limited day to day activities – 25.4% of county borough residents said that their day to day activities were limited a little or a lot by their health, compared with a Figure of 22.7% for Wales as a whole. (Source Census 2011)

Hours Worked (Male) – Males working 15 hours or less is 4.3%, working 16 – 30 hours is 8.6%, working 31 to 48 hours is 72.2% and working more than 49 hours is 14.9%. (Source Census 2011)

Hours Worked (Female) – Females working 15 hours or less is 11%, working 16 – 30 hours is 31.4%, working 31 to 48 hours is 53.4% and working more than 49 hours is 4.1%. (Source Census 2011)

No qualifications – 10. 1% of county borough residents have no qualifications compared with a Figure of 7.7%% for Wales as a whole. (NOMIS Jan 2020 – Dec 2020) ⁽¹⁾

Welsh Language – According to the Annual Population Survey on stats Wales for 2021, 25.1% of county borough residents aged 3 years and over are able to speak Welsh compared with a Figure of 29.5% for Wales as a whole. In the statistical release for 2021 20.6% of county borough residents were able to read Welsh compared to 25.9% for Wales; 18.8% were able to write Welsh compared to 23.8% for Wales; and 27.9% were able to understand spoken Welsh compared to 33.7% for Wales.

Marital Status – 20.6% of the population are either married or cohabiting with dependent children. There are 39,361 parents with dependent children living in the County Borough. Of these 29,820 (75.5%) have one or more parent in employment and 1,486 (3.85%) families have both (or one in a single parent household) unemployed. (Source Census 2011)

Lone Parents – 6,478 households (8.8%) are inhabited with lone parents with dependent children. Of these, 29.7% are in Part time employment, 26.1% are in Full Time employment and 44.2% are not in employment. (Source Census 2011)

Out of Work Benefits – information from the Nomis website (Nov 2021) shows the number of benefit claimants for those aged 16 – 64. Under Universal Credit, a broader span of claimants is required to look for work than under Jobseeker's Allowance. As Universal Credit Full Service is rolled out in particular areas, the number of people recorded as being on the Claimant Count is therefore likely to rise. Across the county of Caerphilly there were 19,510 claimants of some form of benefit (17.4% of the working age population – a drop of 1% since 2017). Of these 2030 (1.8% of the working age population) were claiming Job Seekers Allowance and 11,180 (10 % of the working age population) were claiming employment support allowance or incapacity benefit. There were 1,420 (1.3% of the working age population) Lone parents claiming support (children aged under 16), 3,090 (2.8% of the working age population) were claiming Carers Allowance and 1,280 (1.1% of the working age population) claiming disability allowance. (Source NOMIS Jul 2020 – June 2021). This information is not available at ward level at this time.

⁽¹⁾ [Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://nomisweb.co.uk)

4. Comparative Demographic Overview of Caerphilly Borough's 5 Cluster Areas

Data included in this section is mainly taken from the Census 2011, which although out of date, still affords a relatively accurate comparative view of the 5 cluster areas. Information on Child populations has been taken from up to date Nomis information on live birth data.

4.1.1 Population

Caerphilly county borough has a population of 178,806, 49% of which are male and 51% female.

Caerphilly Basin has a population of 55,667, 48.9% of which are male and 51.1% female.

Lower Sirhowy Valley has a population of 24,258, 49.04% of which are male and 50.1% female.

Mid Valleys East area has a population of 45,266, 49.2% of which are male and 50.8% female.

Mid Valleys West area has a population of 25,297, 48.8% of which are male and 51.1% female.

Upper Rhymney Valley has a population of 28,318, 49.2% of which are male and 50.8% female.

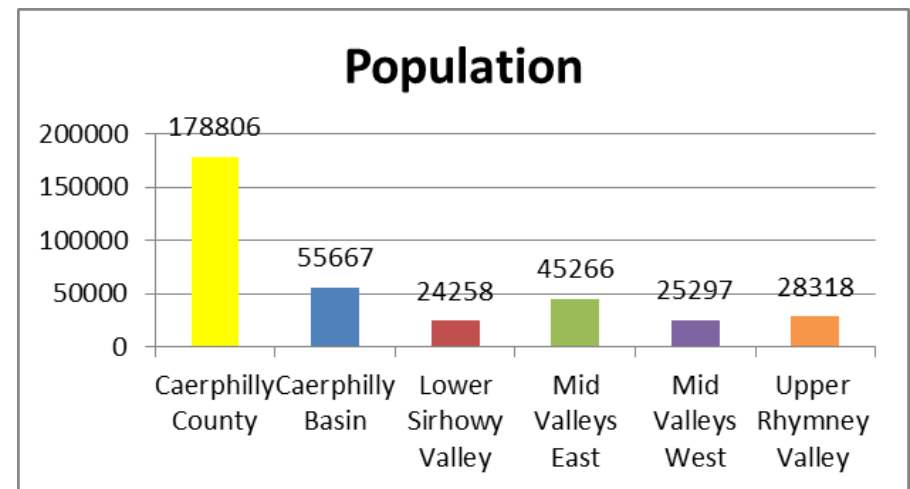


Figure 4 – Population number by geographic area – Census 2011

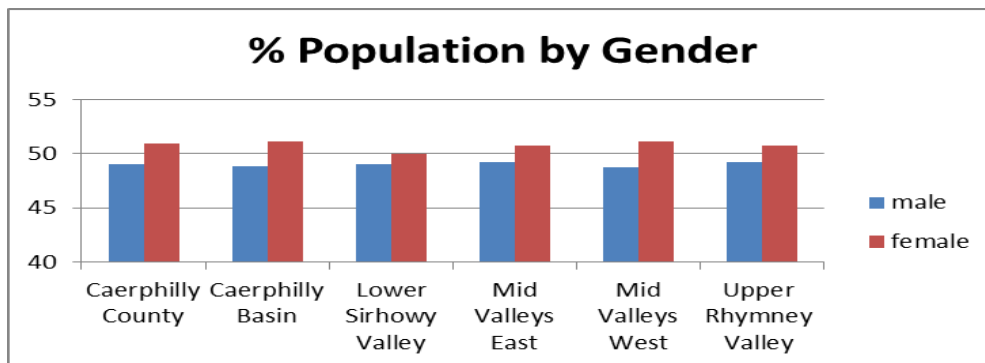


Figure 5 - Population by gender

4.1.2 Age range

Caerphilly County Borough - 18.3% of the county borough are aged 0-15 years, 65.2% are aged 16-64 years and 16.5% are aged 65 years or over.

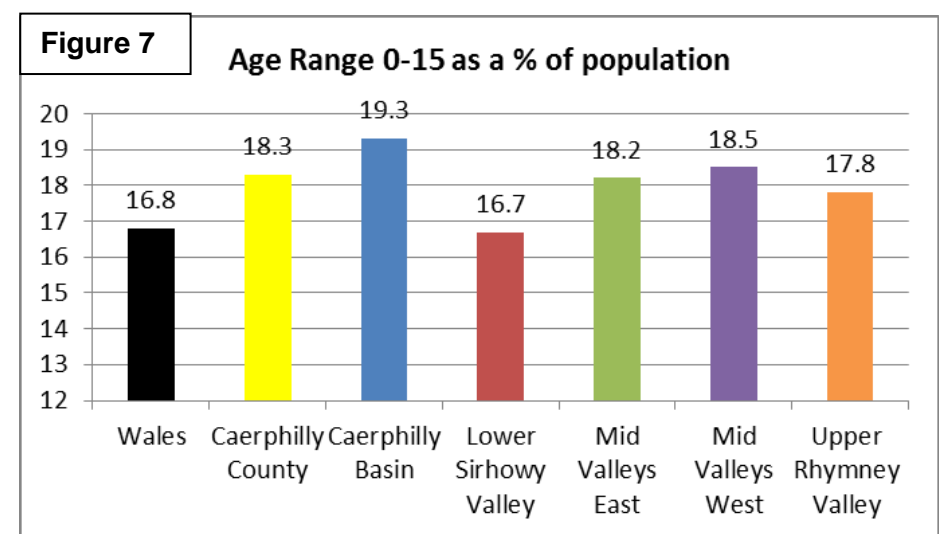
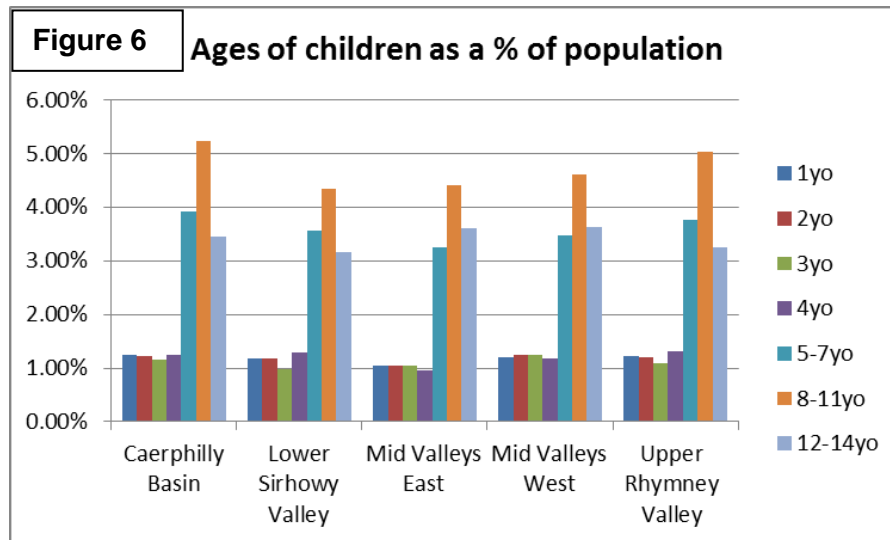
Caerphilly Basin - 19.3% of residents are aged 0-15 years, 65.2% are aged 16-64 years and 15.5% are aged 65 years or over. These Figures are comparable with the Caerphilly borough as a whole, although those in the 1 – 15 age range are slightly higher.

Lower Sirhowy Valley - 16.7% of residents are aged 0-15 years, 66.1% are aged 16-64 years and 17.2% are aged 65 years or over. Compared to Caerphilly as a whole, there are less children in the lower age range and a higher percentage in the older age range

Mid Valleys East - 18.2% of residents are aged 0-15 years, 64.4% are aged 16-64 years and 17.4% are aged 65 years or over. The percentage of people aged 65 years and over is higher than the Caerphilly county borough average of 16.5%.

Mid Valleys West - 18.5% of residents are aged 0-15 years, 65.4% are aged 16-64 years and 16.1% are aged 65 years or over – all of these Figures are similar to the county borough averages.

Upper Rhymney Valley - 17.8% of residents are aged 0-15 years, 65.3% are aged 16-64 years and 16.9% are aged 65 years or over. These Figures are comparable with the Caerphilly county borough as a whole.



4.1.3 Numbers of Children by Age

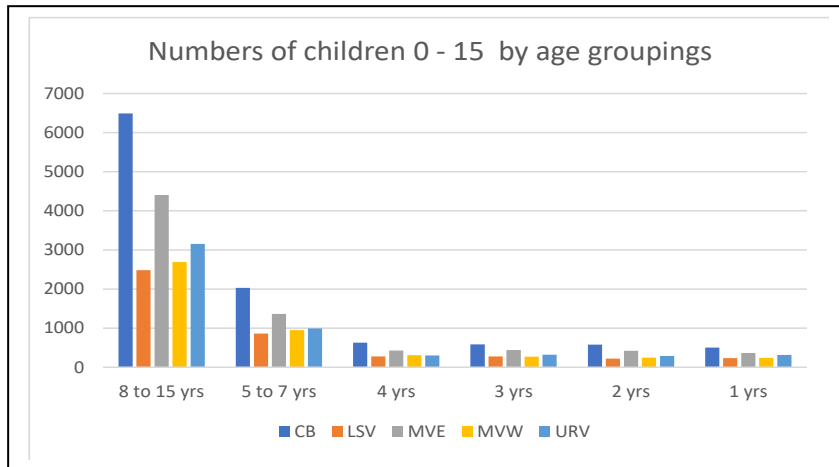


Figure 8. - Age Range as a percentage of population

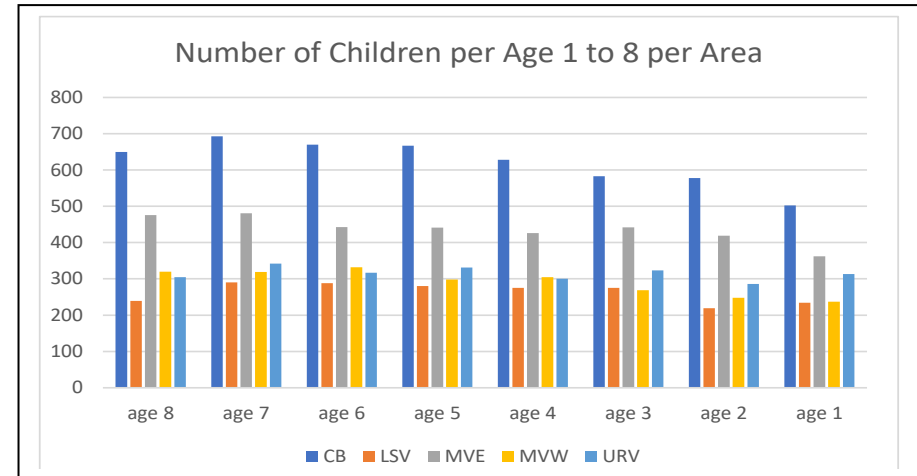


Figure 8a Numbers of children by age per area

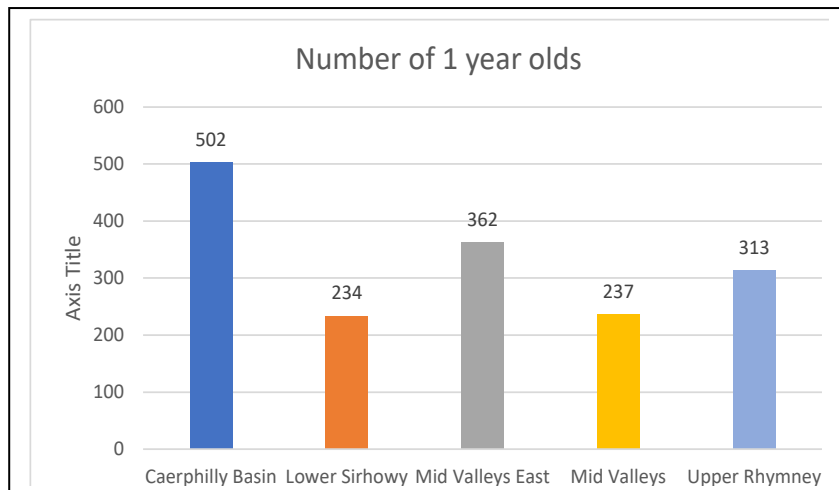


Figure 9 - Number of 1 year olds

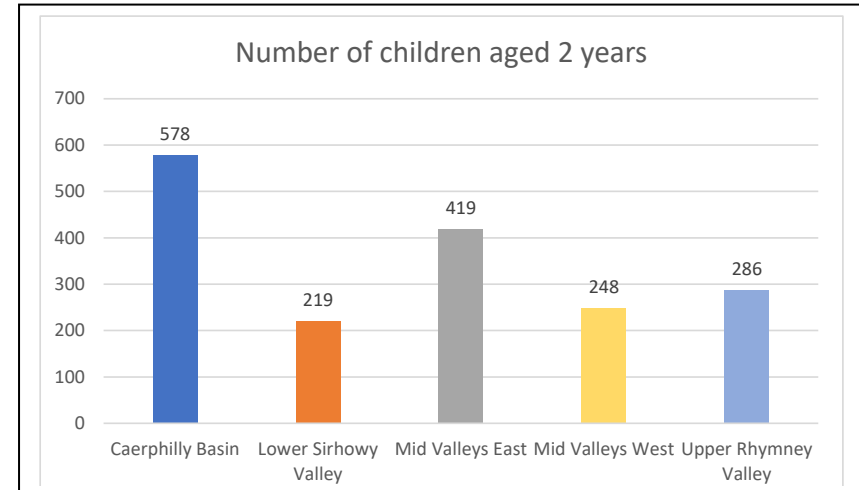
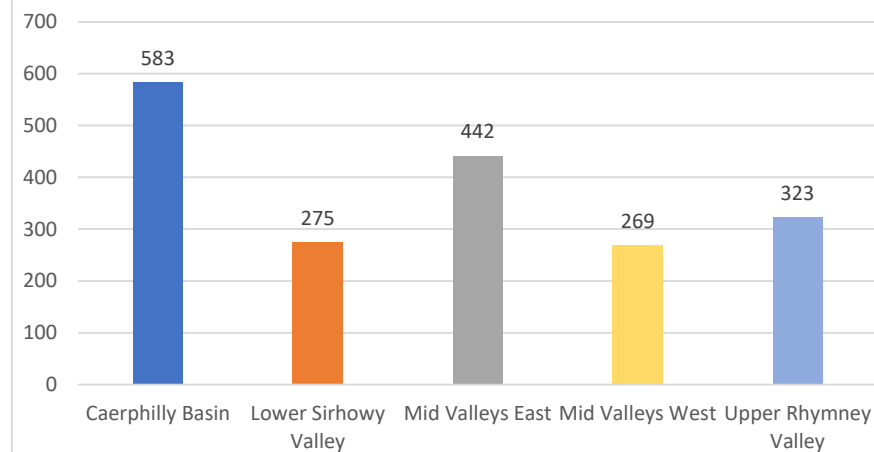


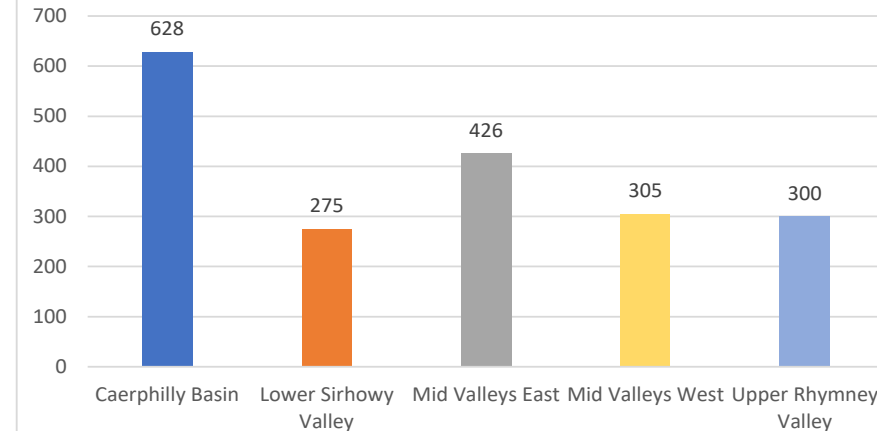
Figure 10 - Number of 2 year olds

Figure 11

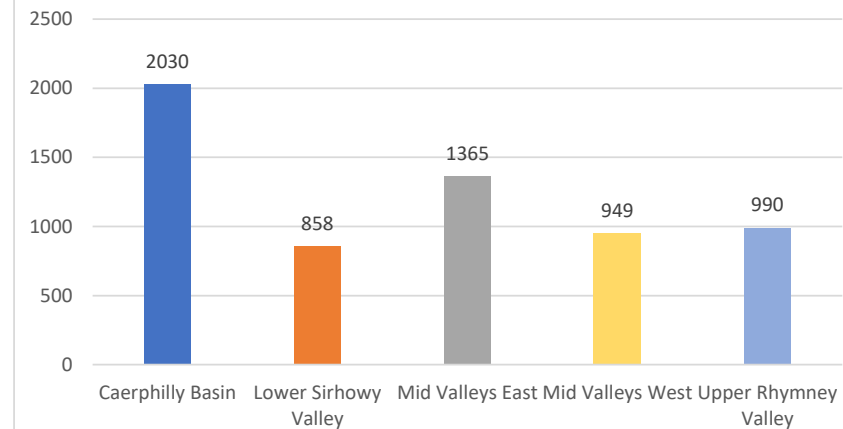
Number of Children aged 3 years

**Figure 12**

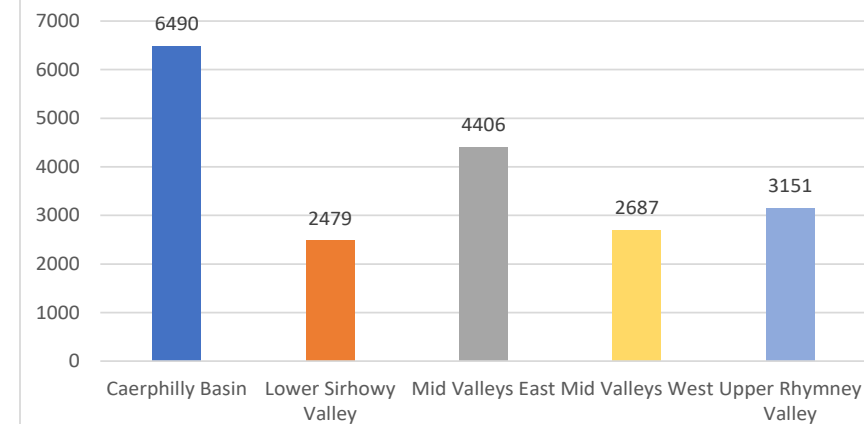
Number of children aged 4 years

**Figure 13**

Number of Children aged 5 to 7 years

**Figure 14**

Number of Children aged 8 to 15 years



4.1.4 National Identity (Figure 6) (source Census 2011)

Caerphilly County Borough - 80.5% of the county borough's residents gave their national identity as Welsh compared with 65.9% within Wales as a whole.

Caerphilly Basin - 78.4% of residents gave their national identity as Welsh

Lower Sirhowy Valley - 78.3% of residents gave their national identity as Welsh

Mid Valleys East - 81.1% of residents gave their national identity as Welsh.

Mid Valleys West - 81.6% of residents gave their national identity as Welsh

Upper Rhymney Valley - 84.9% of residents gave their national identity as Welsh

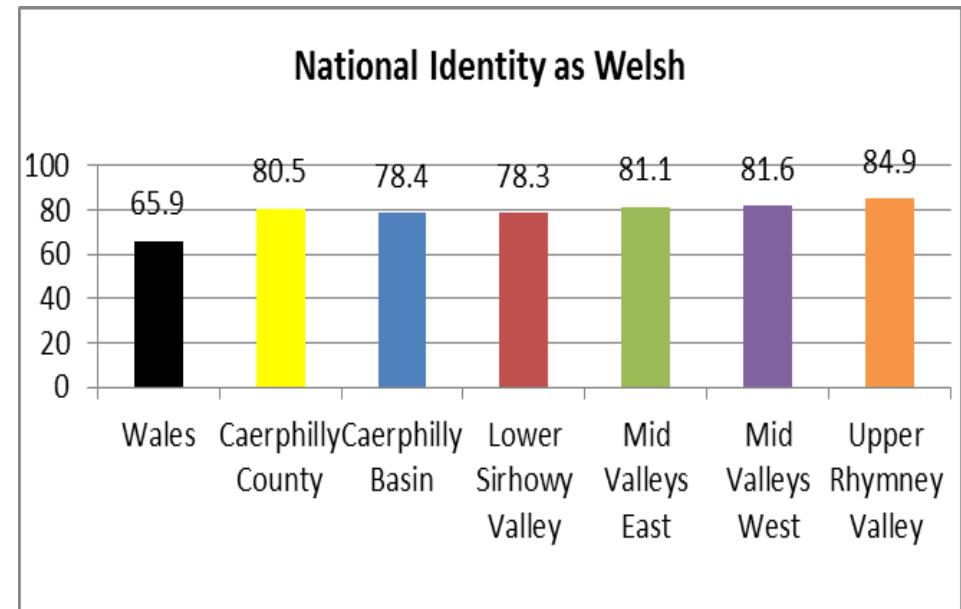


Figure15 – National identity as Welsh

4.1.5 Ethnicity (source Census 2011)

Caerphilly County Borough - 98.4% of county borough residents are white, compared with 95.6% within Wales as a whole. The largest ethnic minority groups are mixed/multiple ethnic groups (0.6% in the county borough and 1% in Wales) and Asian or Asian British (0.5% in the county borough and 1.8% in Wales).

Caerphilly Basin - 97.9% of residents are white, compared with 98.4% within the Caerphilly county borough as a whole. The largest ethnic minority groups are mixed/multiple ethnic groups (0.8%) and Asian or Asian British (0.7%).

Lower Sirhowy Valley - 98.5% of residents are white, compared with 98.4% within the Caerphilly county borough as a whole. The largest ethnic minority groups are mixed/multiple ethnic groups (0.8%) and Asian or Asian British (0.7%).

Mid Valleys East - 98.5% of residents are white, compared with 98.4% within the Caerphilly county borough as a whole. The largest ethnic minority groups are mixed/multiple ethnic groups (0.6%) and Asian or Asian British (0.4%).

Mid Valleys West - 98.4% of residents are white, identical to the Figure for the county borough as a whole. The largest ethnic minority groups are mixed/multiple ethnic groups (0.7%) and Asian or Asian British (0.5%).

Upper Rhymney Valley - 98.7% of residents are white, compared with 98.4% within the Caerphilly county borough as a whole. The largest ethnic minority groups are mixed/multiple ethnic groups (0.4%) and Asian or Asian British (0.4%).

4.1.6 No Access to car (source Census 2011)

Caerphilly County Borough- 24.4% of households within the county borough have no access to a car or van, compared with a Wales Figure of 22.9%

Caerphilly Basin - 24% of households have no access to a car or van, compared with a Caerphilly county borough Figure of 24.4%.

Lower Sirhowy Valley - 23.8% of households have no access to a car or van, compared with a Caerphilly county borough Figure of 24.4%.

Mid Valleys East - 22.1% of households have no access to a car or van, compared with a Caerphilly county borough Figure of 24.4%

Mid Valleys West - 20.4% of households have no access to a car or van, compared with a county borough Figure of 24.4%.

Upper Rhymney Valley - 32.3% of households have no access to a car or van, compared with a Caerphilly county borough Figure of 24.4%.

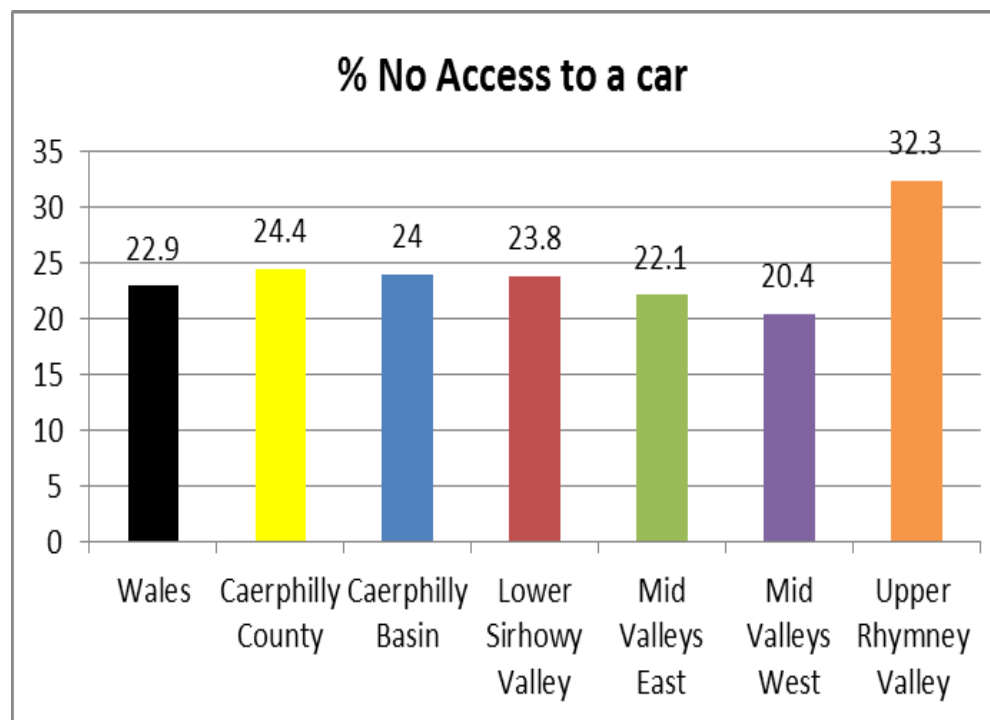


Figure 16 – access to car

4.1.7 Employment Rate – (male)

Caerphilly County Borough - the employment rate for Caerphilly county borough's male population as a whole is 70%, with 46.9% working Full Time, 5.5% working part time and 9.2% self-employed

Caerphilly Basin - the employment rate for Caerphilly Basin's male population is 71.7%, (higher than the Caerphilly County rate of 70%) with 47.4% working Full Time, 6% working part time and 10% self-employed.

Lower Sirhowy Valley - the employment rate for the Lower Sirhowy Valley male population is 71.9%, (higher than the Caerphilly County rate of 70%) with 50% working Full Time, 5.6% working part time and 8.3% self-employed.

Mid Valleys East - the employment rate for the Mid Valleys East male population is 70.3%, (similar to the Caerphilly County rate of 70%) with 48.1% working Full Time, 5.3% working part time and 9.1% self-employed.

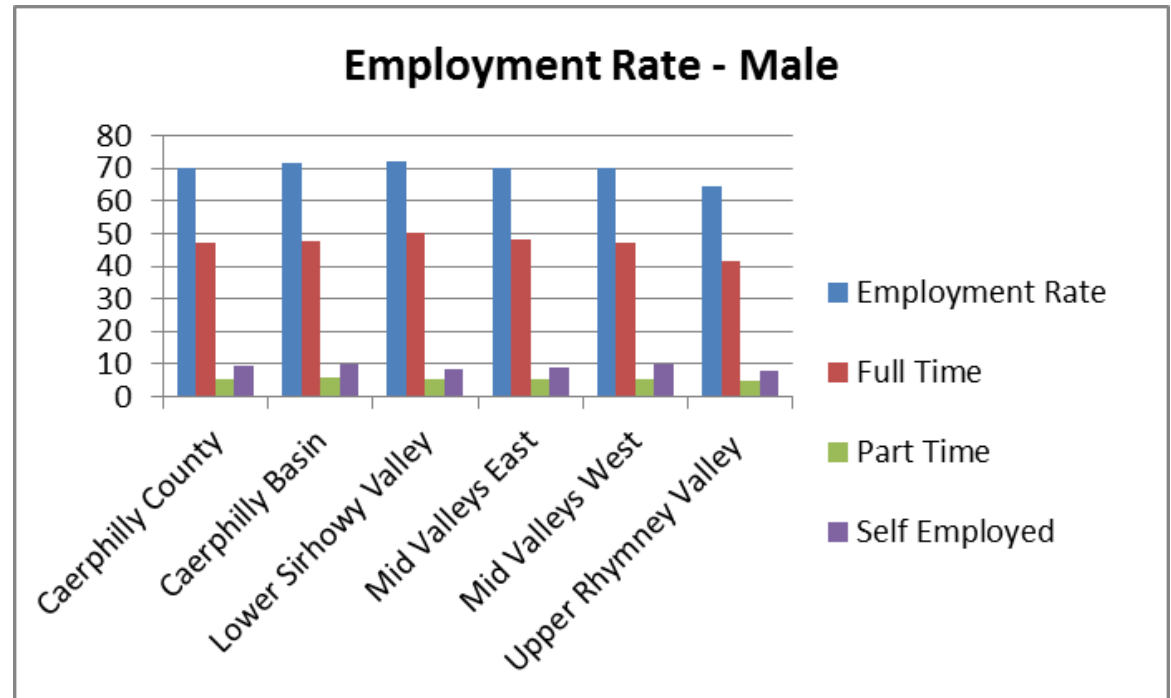


Figure 17 – Employment rate - male

Mid Valleys West - the employment rate for the Mid Valleys West male population is 70%, (similar to the Caerphilly County rate of 70%) with 46.9% working Full Time, 5.4% working part time and 10.2% self-employed.

Upper Rhymney Valley - the employment rate for the Upper Rhymney Valley male population is 64.4%, (far lower than the Caerphilly County rate of 70%) with 41.3% working Full Time, 5% working part time and 7.8% self-employed.

4.1.8 Unemployment Rate (male) (source Census 2011)

Caerphilly County Borough - 6.6% of male residents aged 16-74 years in the county borough are unemployed, compared with a Figure of 5.5% for Wales as a whole. 8.6% of male residents in the county borough are long term sick or disabled, compared with a Figure of 6.5% for Wales as a whole. 1.2% of males are looking after home or family.

Caerphilly Basin – 6.4% of male residents aged 16-74 years are unemployed, compared with a Figure of 6.6% for the Caerphilly county borough as a whole. 7.6% of male residents are long term sick or disabled, compared with a Figure of 8.6% for the Caerphilly county borough as a whole. 1.2% are looking after home or family.

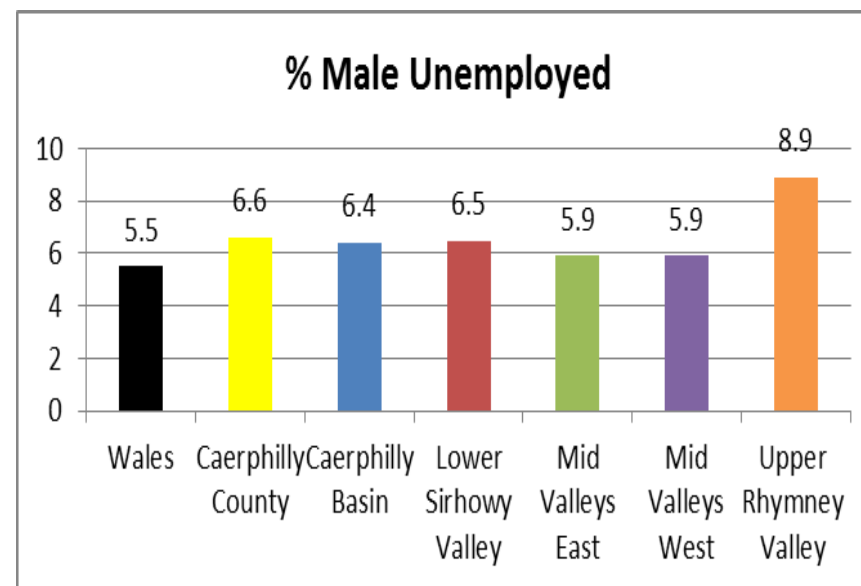


Figure 18 – unemployment rate male

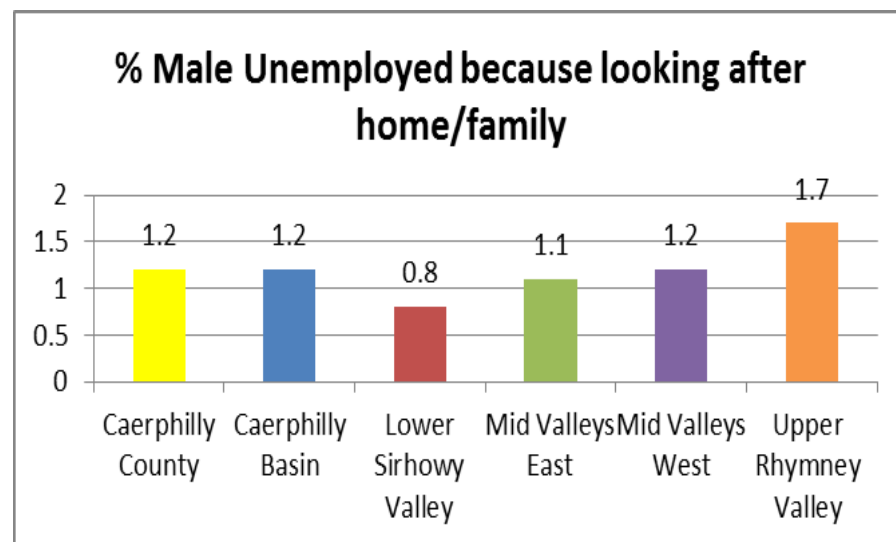


Figure 19 – unemployed looking after home/family

Lower Sirhowy Valley - 6.5% of male residents aged 16-74 years are unemployed, compared with a Figure of 6.6% for the Caerphilly county borough as a whole. 7.6% of male residents are long term sick or disabled, compared with a Figure of 8.6% for the Caerphilly county borough as a whole. 0.8% are looking after home or family.

Mid Valleys East - 5.9% of male residents aged 16-74 years are unemployed, compared with a Figure of 6.6% for the Caerphilly

county borough as a whole. 7.8% of male residents are long term sick or disabled, compared with a Figure of 8.6% for the Caerphilly county borough as a whole. 1.1% are looking after home or family.

Mid Valleys West - 5.9% of male residents aged 16-74 years in are unemployed, compared with a Figure of 6.6% for the county borough as a whole. 8.5% of male residents are long term sick or disabled, the same as the Figure for the county borough as a whole. 1.2% are looking after home or family.

Upper Rhymney Valley - 8.9% of male residents aged 16-74 years are unemployed, compared with a Figure of 6.6% for the Caerphilly county borough as a whole. 12.7% of male residents are long term sick or disabled, compared with a Figure of 8.6% for the Caerphilly county borough as a whole. 1.7% of males are looking after home or family.

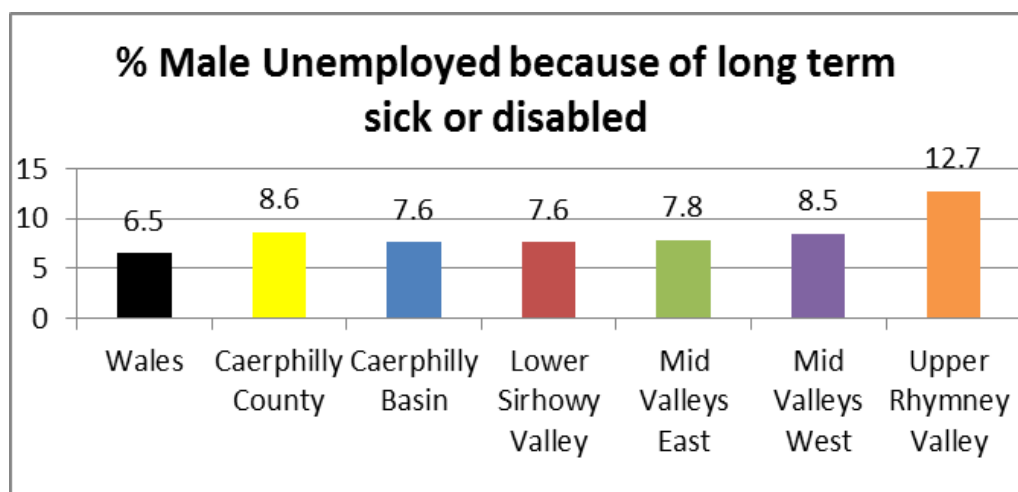


Figure 20 – unemployed male – sick or disabled

4.1.9 Employment rate – (female) (source Census 2011)

Caerphilly County – the employment rate for Caerphilly county borough's female population as a whole is 59.9% with 30% working full time, 20.7% working part time and 2.9% are self-employed.

Caerphilly Basin – the employment rate for Caerphilly Basin's female population as a whole is 61.1% (again, higher than the Caerphilly County rate of 59.9%) with 30.2% working full time, 21.6% working part time and 3.1% are self-employed.

Lower Sirhowy Valley – the employment rate for Lower Sirhowy Valleys female population as a whole is 63.2% (again, higher than the Caerphilly County rate of 59.9%) with 32.6% working full time, 21.3% working part time and 3% are self-employed.

Mid Valleys East – the employment rate for Mid Valleys East female population as a whole is 59.8% (again, similar to the Caerphilly County rate of 59.9%) with 29.9% working full time, 21% working part time and 2.8% are self-employed.

Mid Valleys West – the employment rate for Mid Valleys West female population as a whole is 60% (again, similar to the Caerphilly County rate of 59.9%) with 31.6% working full time, 19.3% working part time and 3.3% are self-employed.

Upper Rhymney Rate – the employment rate for Upper Rhymney Valley's female population as a whole is 54.5% (again, lower than the Caerphilly County rate of 59.9%) with 25.9% working full time, 18.9% working part time and 2.3% are self-employed.

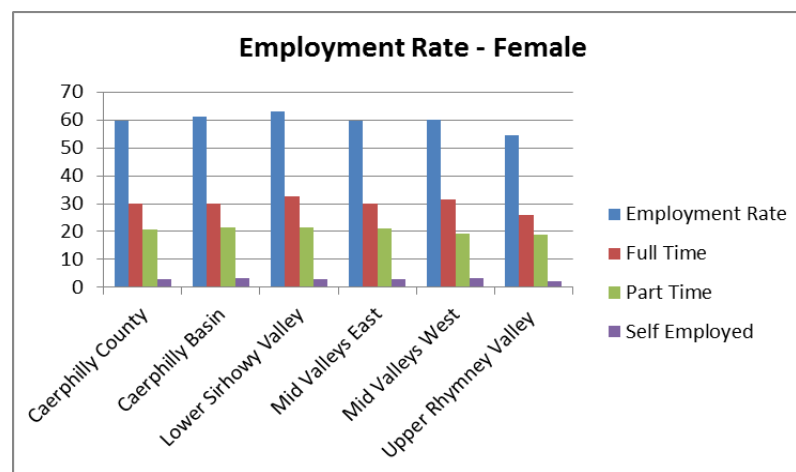


Figure 21 – Employment rate female

4.1.10 Unemployment rate (female) (source Census 2011)

Caerphilly County Borough - 3.7% of female residents aged 16 – 74 in the county borough are unemployed 7.8% of female residents aged 16-74 years in the county borough are long term sick or disabled, compared with a Figure of 6% for Wales as a whole. 7.3% are looking after home or family.

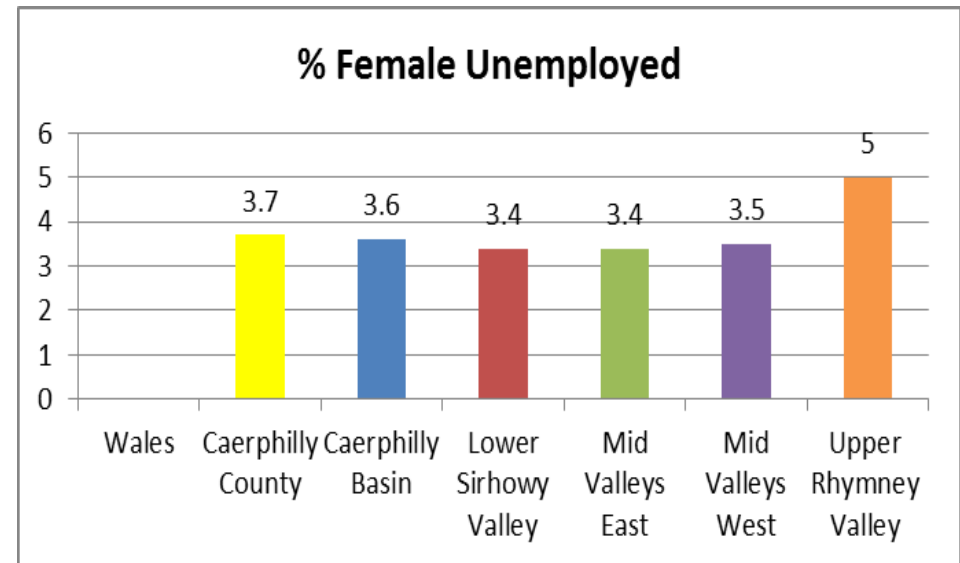


Figure 22 – Percentage unemployed female

Caerphilly Basin - 3.6% of female residents aged 16-74 years are unemployed, compared with a Figure of 3.7% for the Caerphilly county borough as a whole. 7.2% of female residents aged 16-74 years are long term sick or disabled, compared with a Figure of 7.8% for the Caerphilly county borough as a whole. 7.5% are looking after home or family.

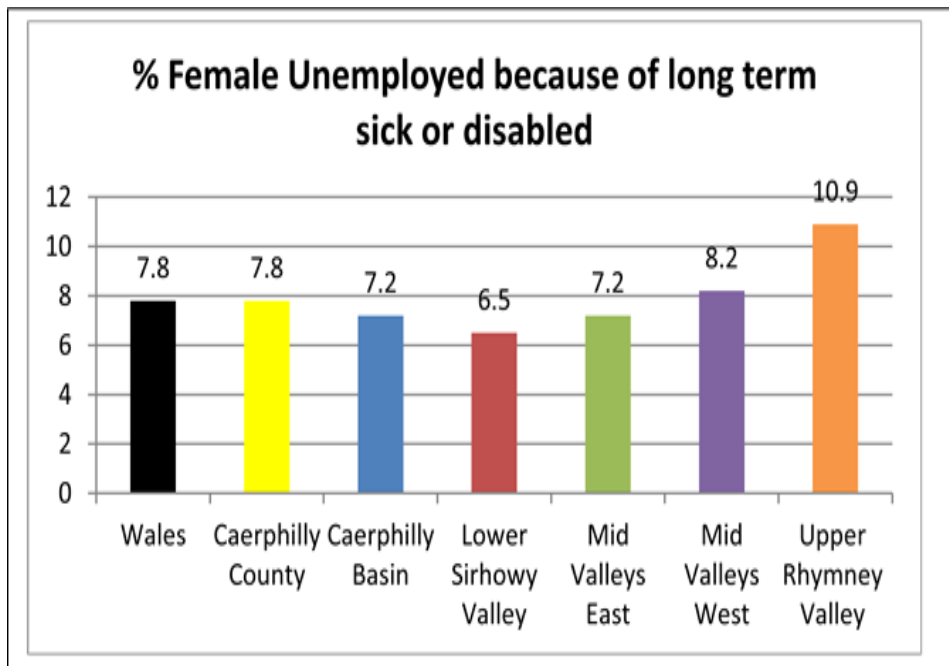


Figure 23 – unemployed because of disability / sick

Lower Sirhowy Valley - 3.4% of female residents aged 16-74 years are unemployed, compared with a Figure of 3.7% for the Caerphilly county borough as a whole. 6.5% of female residents aged 16-74 years are long term sick or disabled, compared with a Figure of 7.8% for the Caerphilly county borough as a whole. 6.3% are looking after home or family.

Mid Valleys East - 3.4% of female residents aged 16-74 years in are unemployed, compared with a Figure of 3.7% for the Caerphilly county borough as a whole. 7.2% of female residents aged 16-74 years are long term sick or disabled, compared with a Figure of 7.8% for the Caerphilly county borough as a whole. 7.2% are looking after home or family.

Mid Valleys West - 3.5% of female residents aged 16-74 years are unemployed, compared with a Figure of 3.7% for the county borough as a whole. 8.2% of female residents aged 16-74 years are long term sick or disabled, compared with a Figure of 7.8% for the county borough as a whole. 7.2% are looking after home or family.

Upper Rhymney Valley - 5% of female residents aged 16-74 years are unemployed, compared with a Figure of 3.7% for the Caerphilly county borough as a whole. 10.9% of female residents aged 16-74 years are long term sick or disabled, compared with a Figure of 7.8% for the Caerphilly county borough as a whole. 8.6% are looking after home or family

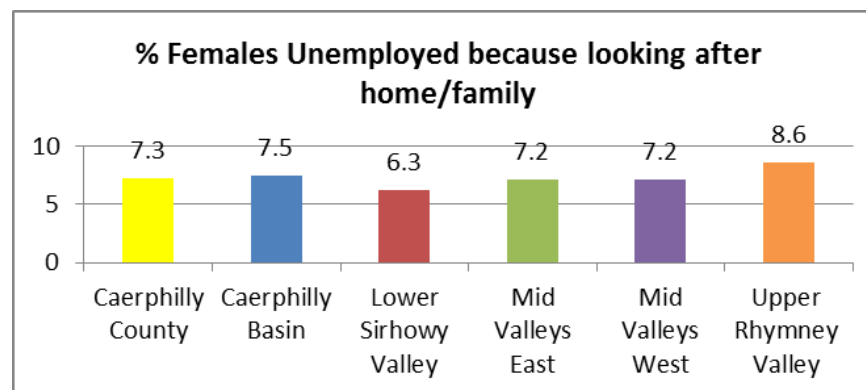


Figure 24 – Unemployed looking after home / family - female

4.1.11 Limited Day to Day Activities (source Census 2011)

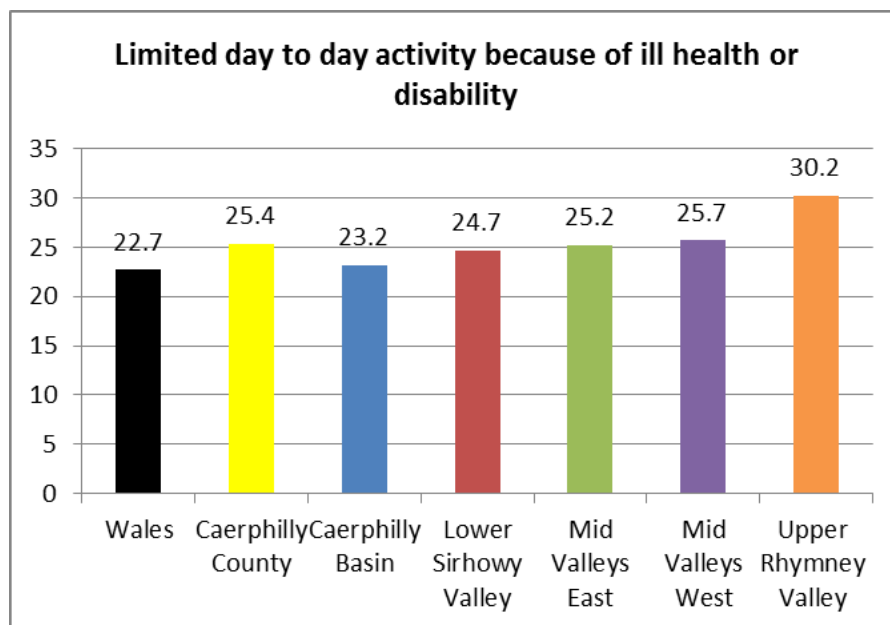


Figure 25 – Limited day to day activities

Caerphilly County Borough – 25.4% of county borough residents said that their day-to-day activities were limited a little or a lot by their health, compared with a Figure of 22.7% for Wales as a whole.

Caerphilly Basin– 23.2% of residents said that their day-to-day activities were limited a little or a lot by their health, compared with a Figure of 25.4% for the Caerphilly county borough as a whole.

Lower Sirhowy Valley - 24.7% of residents said that their day-to-day activities were limited a little or a lot by their health,

Mid Valleys East - 25.2% of residents said that their day-to-day activities were limited a little or a lot by their health,

Mid Valleys West - 25.7% of residents said that their day-to-day activities were limited a little or a lot by their health.

Upper Rhymney Valley - 30.2% of residents said that their day-to-day activities were limited a little or a lot by their health.

4.1.12 Areas of employment (source Census 2011)

Caerphilly County Borough - the most popular categories for industries of employment for county borough residents are: manufacturing at 16.2% (10.5% in Wales as a whole), wholesale and retail trade: repair of motor vehicles at 15.1% (15.6% in Wales), and human health and social work activities at 12.4% (14.5% in Wales).

Caerphilly Basin - the most popular industries categories of employment for residents are: manufacturing at 12.7% (16.2% in the Caerphilly county borough as a whole); wholesale and retail trade: repair of motor vehicles at 15.3% (15.1% in the Caerphilly county

borough) and human health and social work activities at 12.4% (12.4% in the Caerphilly county borough), Education is 9.8% and Public Administration at 9.3%.

Lower Sirhowy Valley - the most popular industries categories of employment for residents are: manufacturing at 17.5% (16.2% in the Caerphilly county borough as a whole); wholesale and retail trade: repair of motor vehicles at 15.7% (15.1% in the Caerphilly county borough) and human health and social work activities at 12.5% (12.4% in the Caerphilly county borough), Education is 8.5% and Public Administration at 9.2%.

Mid Valleys East - the most popular industries categories of employment for residents are: manufacturing at 19.8% (16.2% in the Caerphilly county borough as a whole); wholesale and retail trade: repair of motor vehicles at 14.9% (15.1% in the Caerphilly county borough) and human health and social work activities at 11.7% (12.4% in the Caerphilly county borough).

Mid Valleys West - the most popular industries of employment for residents are: wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles at 14.9% (15.1% in the county borough; manufacturing at 14.3% (16.2% in the county borough as a whole), and human health and social work activities at 12.4% (12.4% in the county borough).

Upper Rhymney Valley - the most popular industries categories of employment for residents are: manufacturing at 18.3% (16.2% in the Caerphilly county borough as a whole); wholesale and retail trade: repair of motor vehicles at 14.6% (15.1% in the Caerphilly county borough) and human health and social work activities at 13.9% (12.4% in the Caerphilly county borough).

4.1.13 Hours Worked (Male) (source Census 2011)

Caerphilly County Borough - Males working 15 hours or less is 4.3%, working 16 – 30 hours is 8.6%, working 31 to 48 hours is 72.2% and working more than 49 hours is 14.9%.

Caerphilly Basin - Males working 15 hours or less is 4.5%, working 16 – 30 hours is 9.4%, working 31 to 48 hours is 71.2% and working more than 49 hours is 15%.

Lower Sirhowy Valley - Males working 15 hours or less is 3.7%, working 16 – 30 hours is 8.2%, working 31 to 48 hours is 73.7% and working more than 49 hours is 14.4%.

Mid Valleys East - Males working 15 hours or less is 4.4%, working 16 – 30 hours is 8.1%, working 31 to 48 hours is 72.6% and working more than 49 hours is 15%.

Mid Valleys West - Males working 15 hours or less is 4.5%, working 16 – 30 hours is 8.5%, working 31 to 48 hours is 71.6% and working more than 49 hours is 15.3%.

Upper Rhymney Valley - Males working 15 hours or less is 4.2%, working 16 – 30 hours is 8.5%, working 31 to 48 hours is 72.7% and working more than 49 hours is 14.6%.

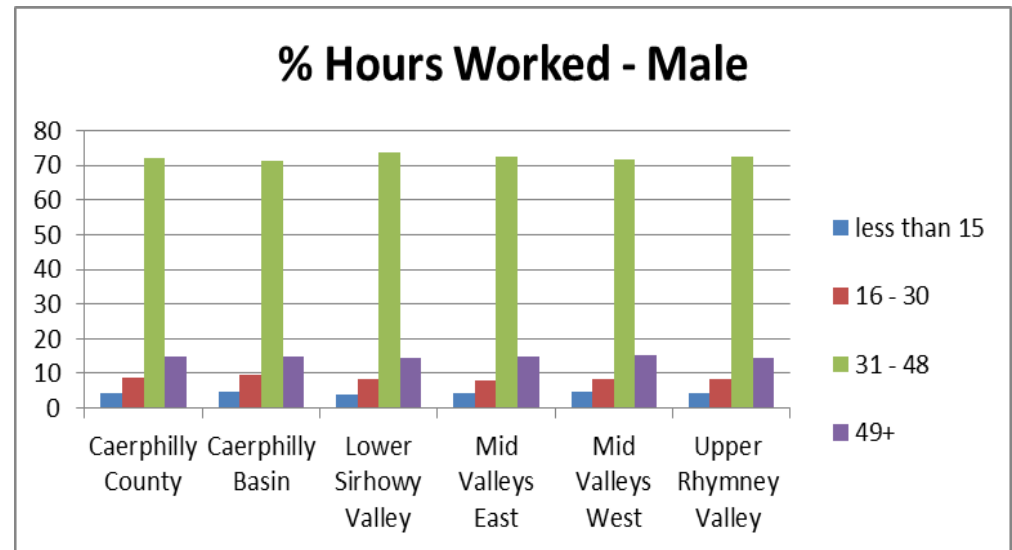


Figure 26 – Percentage Hours worked - male

4.1.14 Hours Worked (Female) (source Census 2011)

Caerphilly County Borough – Females working 15 hours or less is 11%, working 16 – 30 hours is 31.4%, working 31 to 48 hours is 53.4% and working more than 49 hours is 4.1%.

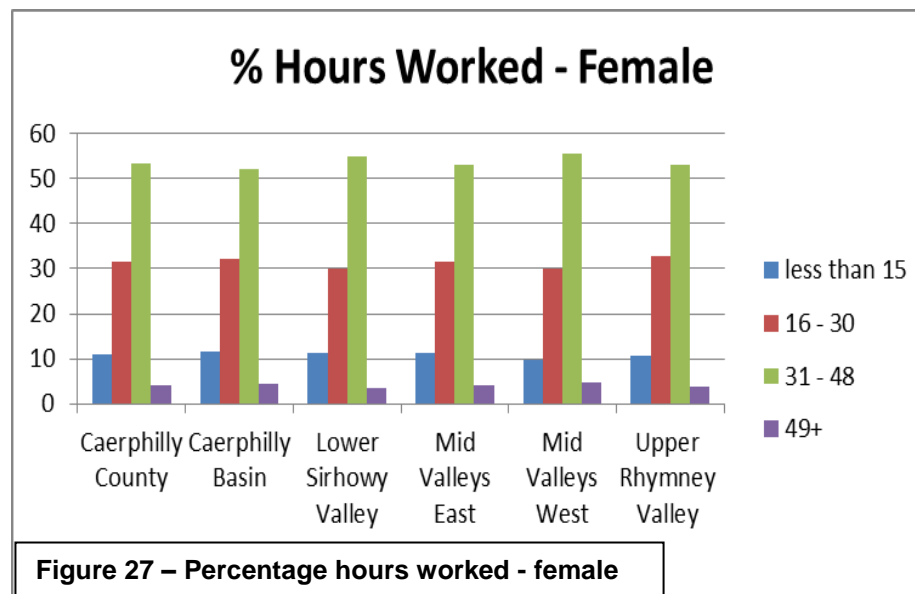
Caerphilly Basin – Females working 15 hours or less is 11.6%, working 16 – 30 hours is 32.1%, working 31 to 48 hours is 52.1% and working more than 49 hours is 4.3%.

Lower Sirhowy Valley – Females working 15 hours or less is 11.4%, working 16 – 30 hours is 30.1%, working 31 to 48 hours is 54.9% and working more than 49 hours is 3.6%.

Mid Valleys East – Females working 15 hours or less is 11.2%, working 16 – 30 hours is 31.6%, working 31 to 48 hours is 53.1% and working more than 49 hours is 4.2%.

Mid Valleys West – Females working 15 hours or less is 9.6%, working 16 – 30 hours is 30%, working 31 to 48 hours is 55.6% and working more than 49 hours is 4.8%.

Upper Rhymney Valley – Females working 15 hours or less is 10.6%, working 16 – 30 hours is 32.8%, working 31 to 48 hours is 52.9% and working more than 49 hours is 3.7%.



4.1.15 Benefits Claimants

The table shows the percentage of the working population aged 16 to 64 (both male and female) that are claiming any sort of working benefit. (latest data by ward). As can be seen the highest levels of claims are made in the Upper Rhymney Area and the lowest in the Lower Sirhowy Valley. The same pattern can be seen for those claiming Job Seekers allowance.

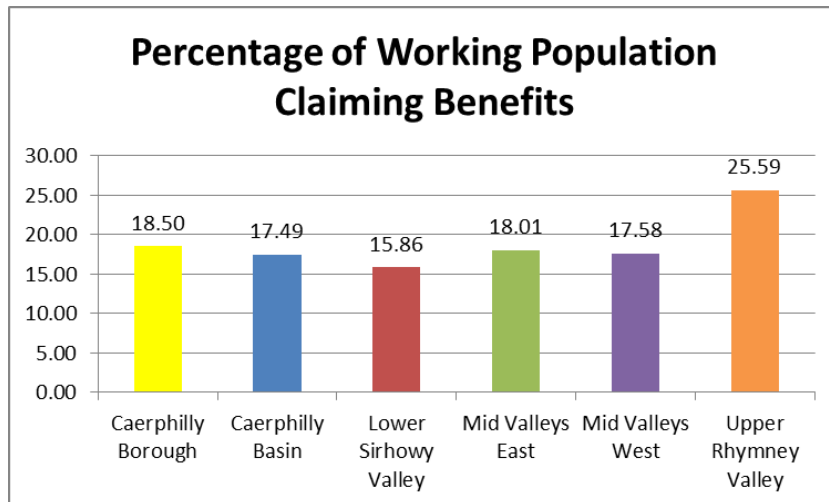


Figure 28- Percentage claiming

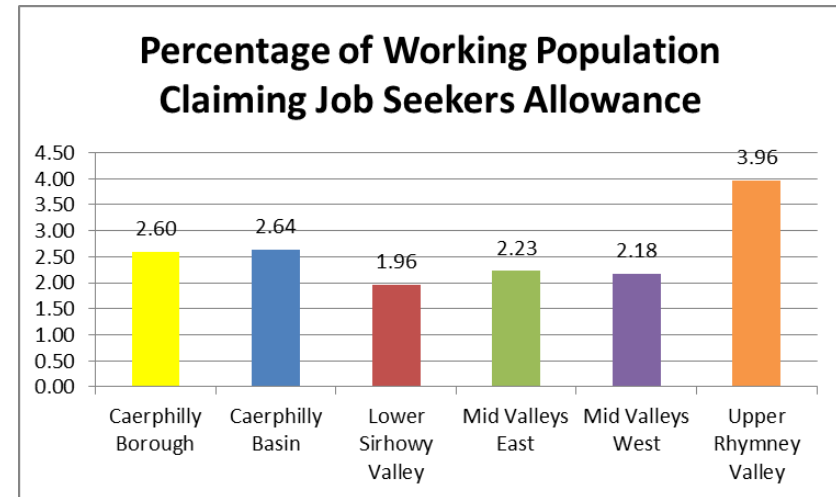


Figure 29 – percentage claiming Job Seekers

4.1.16 No Qualifications (source Census 2011)

Caerphilly County Borough - 31.4% of county borough residents have no qualifications compared with a Figure of 26% for Wales as a whole.

Caerphilly Basin - 28.1% of residents have no qualifications compared with a Figure of 31.4% for the Caerphilly county borough as a whole.

Lower Sirhowy Valley - 29.7% of residents have no qualifications

Mid Valleys East - 32% of residents have no qualifications

Mid Valleys West - 29.5% of residents have no qualifications compared with a Figure of 31.4% for the county borough as a whole

Upper Rhymney Valley - 39.8% of residents have no qualifications

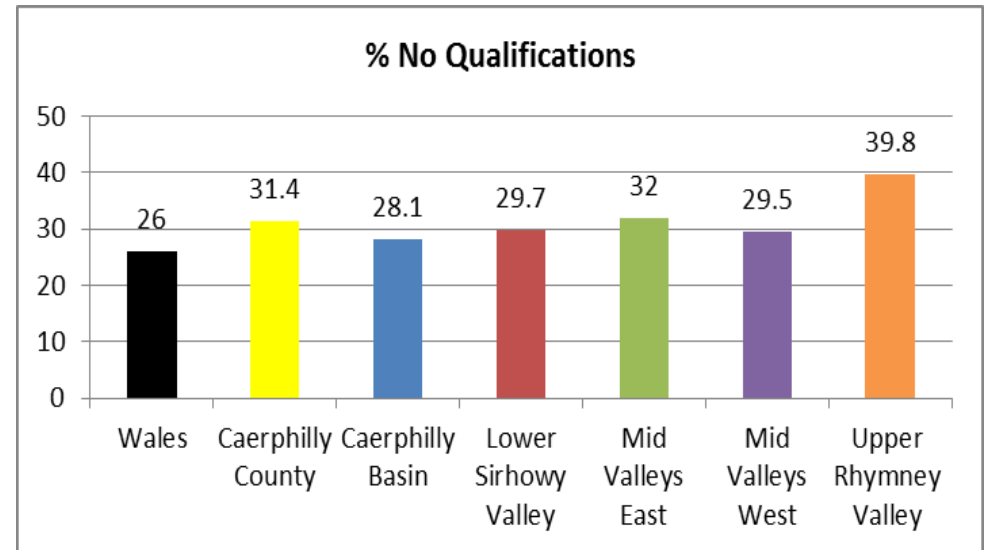


Figure 30 - Qualifications

4.1.17 Welsh language (source Census 2011)

Caerphilly County Borough – 11.2% of county borough residents aged 3 years and over have one or more skills in Welsh (understand, speak, read, or write) compared with a Figure of 19% for Wales as a whole (Census 2011).

Caerphilly Basin – 13.21 % of residents aged 3 years and over have one or more skills in Welsh (understand, speak, read, or write) compared with a Figure of 11.2% for the Caerphilly county borough as a whole. The Aber Valley area has the highest incidence of Welsh language.

Lower Sirhowy Valley – 10.08% of residents aged 3 years and over have one or more skills in Welsh (understand, speak, read, or write). The Abercarn area saw the highest increase (of 2.6%) in number of Welsh speakers since the 2001 Census.

Mid Valleys East – 10.36% of residents aged 3 years and over have one or more skills in Welsh (understand, speak, read, or write).

Mid Valleys West – 12.04% of residents aged 3 years and over have one or more skills in Welsh (understand, speak, read, or write).

Upper Rhymney Valley – 9.6% of residents aged 3 years and over have one or more skills in Welsh (understand, speak, read, or write).

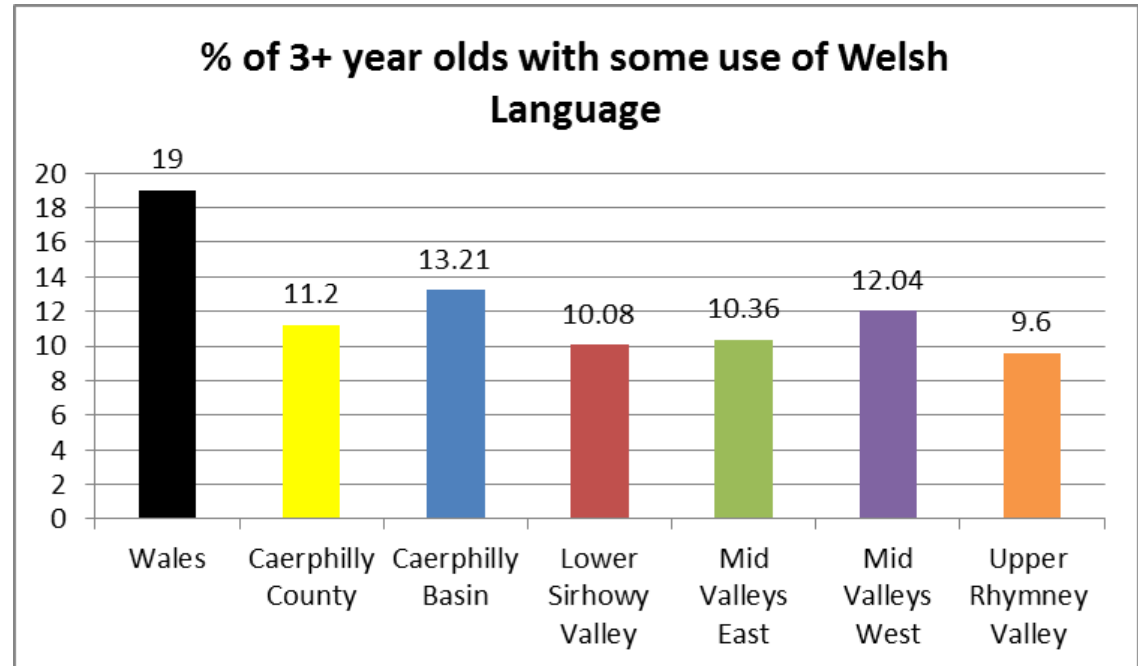
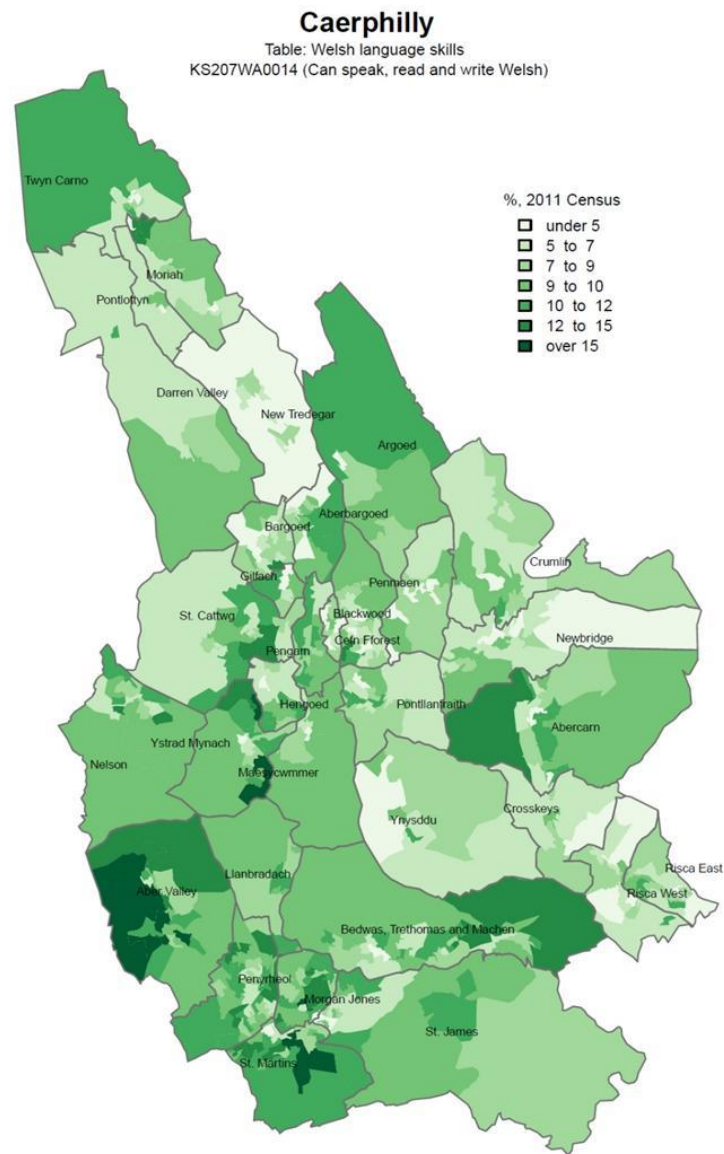


Figure 31 – percentage of those over 3 use of Welsh Language



A profile of Caerphilly County Borough (published by Menter Iaith May 2016), shows the Welsh language skills of people in the Caerphilly area in 2011:

Caerphilly has 19,251 Welsh speakers, which is 11.2% of the population

The data also shows a significant increase in the number of Welsh speakers in the early years with 3–4year olds increasing 7.7% between the 2001 and the 2011 Census dates. The 5–9year olds saw an increase of 1.5%, the 10–14year olds say a small decrease of 1% and the 15 to 19 year olds with some level of Welsh language remained constant.

The vast number of the population with some level of Welsh is at its highest in the school age years, far higher than in their parent's generation.

This data is sources from the Census 2011 and will be updated in subsequent CSA Refresh reports and in partnership with the Welsh in Education Forum and the Welsh language strategy group.

Figure 32 – Caerphilly Profile – Welsh language skills

4.1.18 Marital Status (source Census 2011)

Caerphilly County Borough - 20.6% of the population are either married or cohabiting with dependent children. There are 39,361 parents with dependent children living in the County Borough. Of these 29,820 (75.5%) have one or more parent in employment and 1,486 (3.85%) families have both (or one in a single parent household) unemployed.

Caerphilly Basin - 21.2% of the population are either married or cohabiting with dependent children. There are 12,489 parents with dependent children living in the Caerphilly Basin cluster. Of these 9,546 (75.87%) have one or more parents in employment and 441 (3.7%) families have both (or one in a single parent household) unemployed.

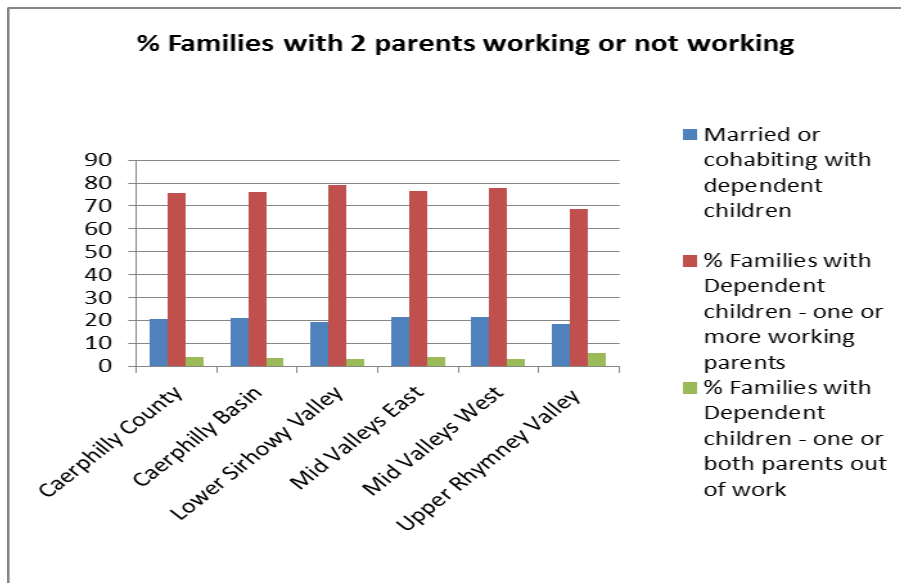
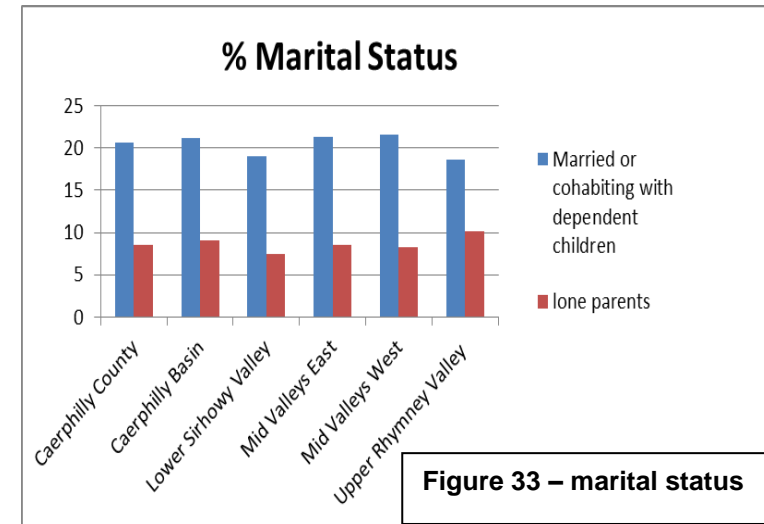


Figure 34 – Percentage families working / not working

Lower Sirhowy Valley - 19.1% of the population are either married or cohabiting with dependent children. There are 5,058 parents with dependent children living in the Lower Sirhowy Valley cluster. Of these 3,989 (78.94%) have one or more parent in employment and 158 (2.98%) families have both (or one in a single parent household) unemployed.

Mid Valleys East - 21.3% of the population are either married or cohabiting with dependent children. There are 10,035 parents with dependent children living in the Mid Valley East cluster. Of these 7,792 (76.33%) have one or more parent in employment and 338 (3.79%) families have both (or one in a single parent household) unemployed.

Mid Valleys West - 21.6% of the population are either married or cohabiting with dependent children. There are 5,609 families with dependent children living in the Mid Valley West cluster. Of these 4,354 (77.62%) have one or more parent in employment and 183 (3.08%) families have both (or one in a single parent household) unemployed.

Upper Rhymney Valley - 18.6% of the population are either married or cohabiting with dependent children. There are 6,094 parents with dependent children living in the Upper Rhymney Valley cluster. Of these 4,139 (68.75%) have one or more parent in employment and 366 (5.73%) families have both (or one in a single parent household) unemployed.

4.1.19 Lone Parents (source Census 2011)

Caerphilly County Borough - 6,478 households (8.8%) are inhabited with lone parents with dependent children. Of these, 29.7% are in Part time employment, 26.1% are in Full Time employment and 44.2% are not in employment.

Caerphilly Basin - 2068 households (9.1%) are inhabited with lone parents with dependent children. Of these, 29.2% are in Part time employment, 24.7% are in Full Time employment and 46.2% are not in employment.

Lower Sirhowy Valley - 782 households (7.5%) are inhabited with lone parents with dependent children. Of these, 31.8% are in Part time employment, 30.2% are in Full Time employment and 38% are not in employment.

Mid Valleys East - 1,551 households (8.5%) are inhabited with lone parents with dependent children. Of these, 32.3% are in Part time employment, 27.5% are in Full Time employment and 40.2% are not in employment.

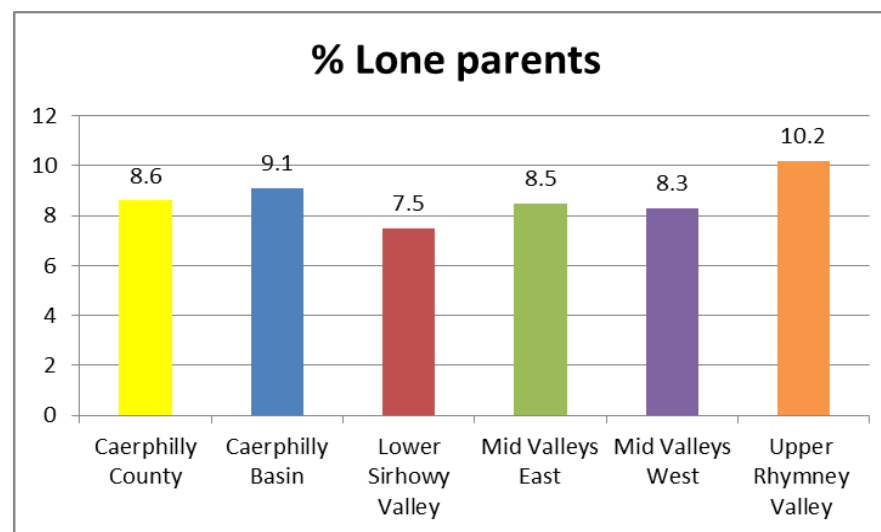


Figure 35 – Lone Parents

Mid Valleys West - 856 households (8.3%) are inhabited with lone parents with dependent children. Of these, 27.6% are in Part time employment, 29.7% are in Full Time employment and 42.8% are not in employment.

Upper Rhymney Valley - 1,221 households (10.2%) are inhabited with lone parents with dependent children. Of these, 27.6% are in Part time employment, 21.4% are in Full Time employment and 51% are not in employment.

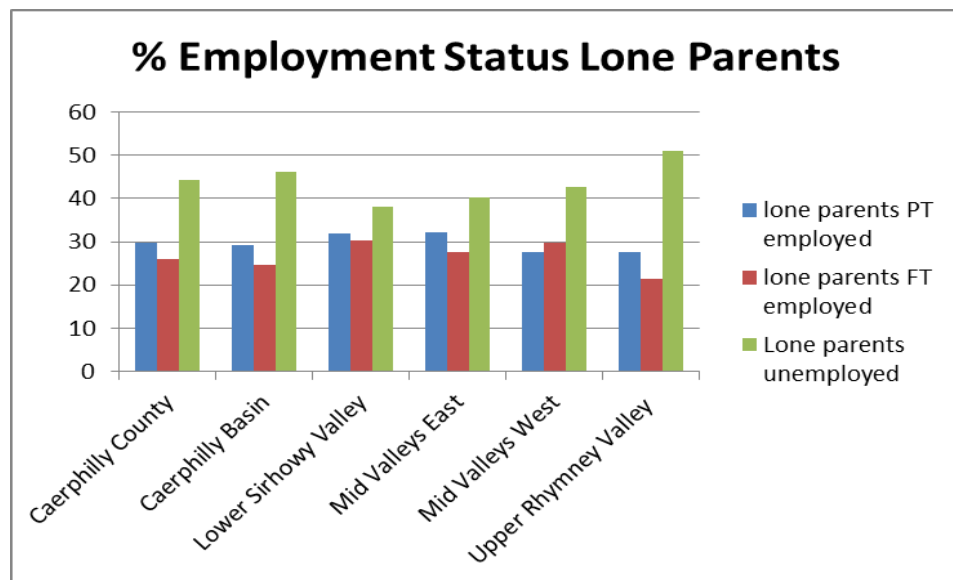


Figure 36 – Employment status Lone Parents

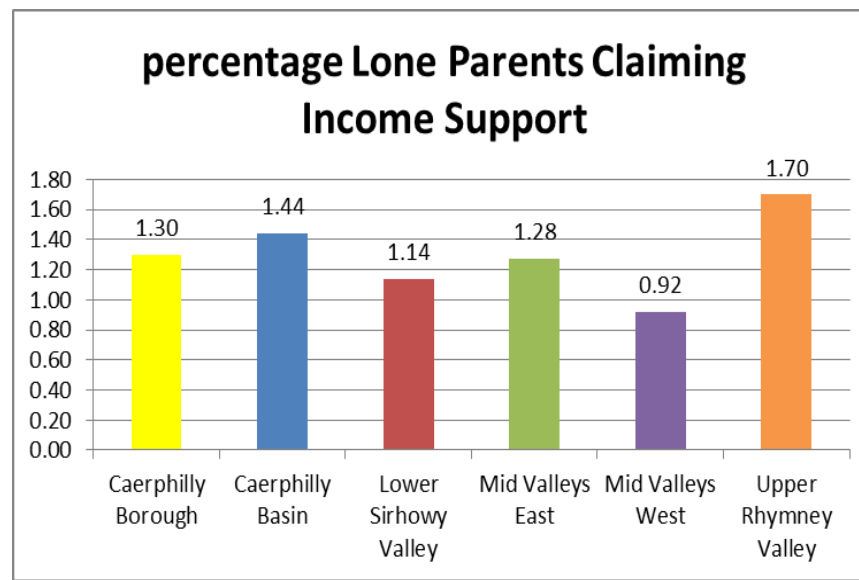


Figure 37 – Income Support Lone Parents

4.1.20 Benefits Claimants

We have updated the picture for the whole borough (included in Chapter 3 under 'out of work benefits') – data not currently available at ward level.

Out of Work Benefits - information from the Nomis website (Nov 2021) shows the number of benefit claimants for those aged 16 – 64 borough wide. This data is not available at ward level. Under Universal Credit a broader span of claimants are required to look for work than under Jobseeker's Allowance. As Universal Credit Full Service is rolled out in particular areas, the number of people recorded as being on the Claimant Count is therefore likely to rise. Across the county of Caerphilly there were 19,510 claimants of some form of benefit (17.4% of the working age population – a drop of 1% since 2017). Of these 2030 (1.8% of the working age population) were claiming Job Seekers Allowance and 11,180 (10 % of the working age population) were claiming employment support allowance or incapacity benefit. There were 1,420 (1.3% of the working age population) Lone parents claiming support (children aged under 16), 3,090 (2.8% of the working age population) were claiming Carers Allowance and 1,280 (1.1% of the working age population) claiming disability allowance (Source NOMIS Jul 2020 – June 2021)

The above data is showing that overall, there is a slight decrease in residents of working age population that are claiming out of work benefits indicating a possible increase in the demand for childcare. This may be an indication that the Childcare Offer for Wales has had a positive impact on families taking up employment or increasing their working hours.

The following ward level information is based on data from 2015.

Caerphilly Basin

There were 5,995 claimants of some form of benefit (17.49% of the working age population). Of these 890 (2.64% of the working age population) were claiming Job Seekers Allowance and 3,110 (9.10% of the working age population) were claiming employment support allowance or incapacity benefit. There were 490 (1.44% of the working age population) Lone parents claiming income support (children aged under 16) and 445 (1.27% of the working age population) claiming disability living allowance. The lowest levels of claimants were in the St Martins area of Caerphilly town (8.9%) and the highest levels were in St James (25%) and the Aber Valley (20.9%).

Lower Sirhowy Valley

There were 2,370 claimants of some form of benefit (15.86% of the working age population). Of these 290 (1.96% of the working age population) were claiming Job Seekers Allowance and 1,310 (8.82% of the working age population) were claiming employment support allowance or incapacity benefit. There were 175 (1.14% of the working age population) Lone parents claiming income support

(children aged under 16) and 165 (1.12% of the working age population) claiming disability living allowance. The numbers of claimants from all the wards that make up this community cluster were relatively consistent across the area.

Mid Valleys East

There were 4,685 claimants of some form of benefit (18.01% of the working age population). Of these 575 (2.23% of the working age population) were claiming Job Seekers Allowance and 2,580 (9.86% of the working age population) were claiming employment support allowance or incapacity benefit. There were 325 (1.28% of the working age population) Lone parents claiming income support (children aged under 16) and 350 (1.29% of the working age population) claiming disability living allowance. The lowest levels of claimants were in the Penmaen (12.4%) and Blackwood (12.8%) wards and the highest levels were in the Pengam (23.3%), Cefn Fforest (22.5%) and Argoed (22.1%) wards.

Mid Valleys West

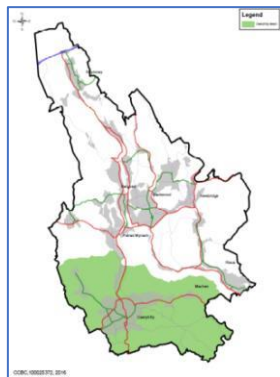
There were 2,870 claimants of some form of benefit (17.58% of the working age population). Of these 365 (2.18% of the working age population) were claiming Job Seekers Allowance and 1,560 (9.54% of the working age population) were claiming employment support allowance or incapacity benefit. There were 165 (0.92% of the working age population) Lone parents claiming income support (children aged under 16) and 250 (1.62% of the working age population) claiming disability living allowance. The lowest levels of claimants were in the Maesycwmmmer area (13.4%) with the highest levels in the Hengoed area (24.8%).

Upper Rhymney Valley

There were 4,470 claimants of some form of benefit (25.59% of the working age population). Of these 715 (3.96% of the working age population) were claiming Job Seekers Allowance and 2,535 (14.66% of the working age population) were claiming employment support allowance or incapacity benefit. There were 290 (1.7% of the working age population) Lone parents claiming income support (children aged under 16) and 255 (1.49% of the working age population) claiming disability living allowance. The lowest level of claimants was in the Darren Valley (21.1%) and Gilfach (22%) wards and the highest was in Twyn Carno ward (31.4%).

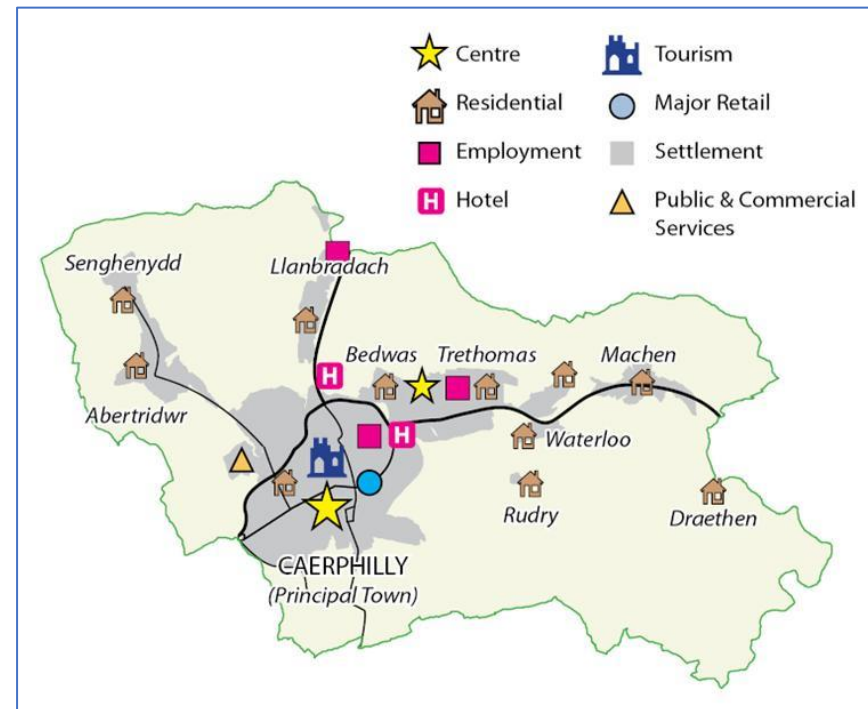
4.2 Caerphilly Basin - Profile

Incorporating the Wards of: Aber Valley, Penyrheol, Bedwas/Trethomas/Machen, Morgan Jones, St Martins, St James, and Llanbradach



The Caerphilly Basin area is situated at the southern end of the county borough. Surrounding the main urban area of Caerphilly town, are smaller rural communities/suburbs many of which are ex coal mining areas. Caerphilly is the largest town within the County Borough, accommodating approximately one third of the total population of the authority area. The majority of this land lies outside the existing settlements and comprises a mix of agricultural and open land largely identified as Special Landscape Area.

This area had very good rail and road transport links to both the north of the borough as well as the main artery down to the M4 and Cardiff and Newport and the rest of Wales. While most of the area benefits in prosperity from its close proximity to Cardiff and the M4 corridor, the Aber Valley settlements of Abertridwr and Senghenydd, although having their own retail centres, display characteristics similar to the more deprived areas in the north of the county borough. The Lansbury Park Estate in the heart of Caerphilly town centre also currently ranks as the 3rd most deprived area of Wales in the Welsh Government's Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019. The area has other pockets of deprivation with 4 Lower Super output areas (LSOA's) being in the top 10% most deprived. However, the WIMD Index 2019 also classifies 9 of this area's LSOA's as being in the least deprived 25%.



Caerphilly town also plays an important role in the strategic context as a satellite and dormitory town for Cardiff. Caerphilly undoubtedly provides housing for the employment base in Cardiff, and a significant level of retail expenditure is also lost to the capital city. As such the population is a mixture of those that work locally and those that commute south and east to the cities and beyond. This area of Caerphilly is likely to benefit from the Cardiff Capital regional development City Deal over the next 15 years as it opens up its potential.

Caerphilly Basin has the largest population of the community cluster areas and is a principle centre for employment, retail and service provision.

Caerphilly town centre is a major centre for employment within the county borough, comprising of the vibrant town centre, a number of secondary employment sites and a Business Park. It also accommodates a range of public and commercial services.

To the east of Caerphilly town lies Bedwas which is a significant employment centre, comprising of a large retail centre, and two large employment sites.

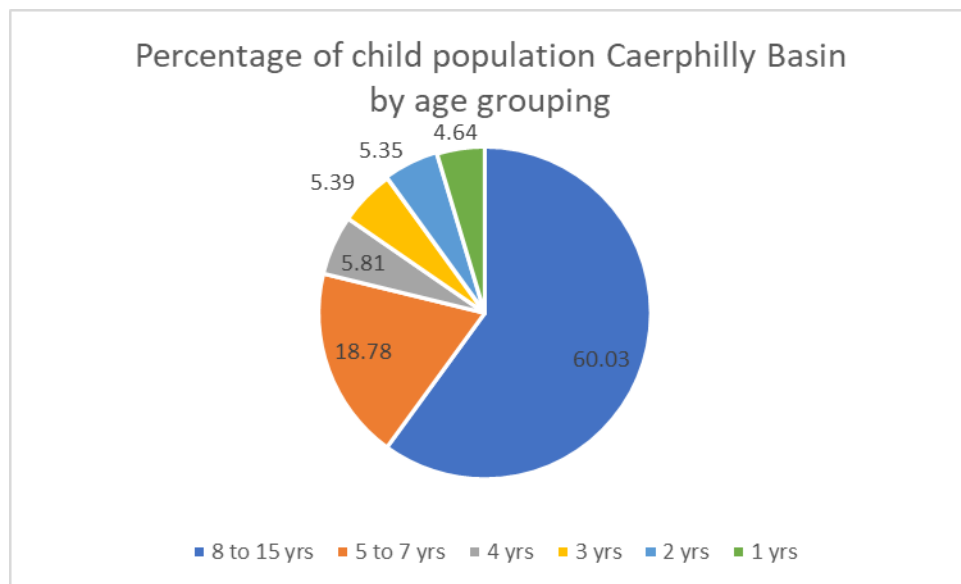
Some of the county's largest employers are based in this cluster, with two employers reporting a large expansion in the near future. Along with the on-going developments as part of the City Deal, childcare needs in this area are likely to be high, but consideration must be given to families that work across the borders into Cardiff and Newport and wish for their childcare to be located close to their workplace.

The adopted LDP allocates three employment sites in the Caerphilly Basin. To date, one of these sites has been built out (Western Industrial Estate) and a further site (Caerphilly Business Park) has been partially developed. Land availability within the Caerphilly Basin is, therefore, very limited. Whilst there are opportunities for redevelopment on existing industrial estates, the lack of any significant sites for employment growth is a concern from a strategic perspective. (Caerphilly LDP Review 2021)

The housing stock in the area is steadily increasing approximately 95 new family homes built over the past 3 years. According to the Caerphilly Local Development Plan Annual Monitoring Report 2021, the Housing trajectory shows there are 730 family homes due to be built over the next 5 years with an additional 338 family dwellings proposed for development with no date set for completion. The larger housing developments are in the Aber Valley, Bedwas Trethomas and Machen, Morgan Jones and Penyrheol wards.

In terms of population, not only does this area have the highest number of children aged 0 – 15 (10,811) in the county borough, it also has the highest proportion of its population in this age bracket. Data from the Nomis Live Birth data shows a steady decline in

birth rates since the last CSA (2017) in this area. Actual numbers and percentage of children aged 1 – 15 are shown in Figure 38. Despite having the highest number of children in all age groups borough wide, Caerphilly Basin has one of the lowest percentages of its child population in the 1year old and 3year old ages. Within the area, Penyrheol ward has the highest number of children in all ages and Bedwas Trethomas and Machen ward has high numbers of 2 and 4year olds. The Llanbradach ward is showing the lowest numbers of all ages.



Figures 38 and 38a child population by age groupings

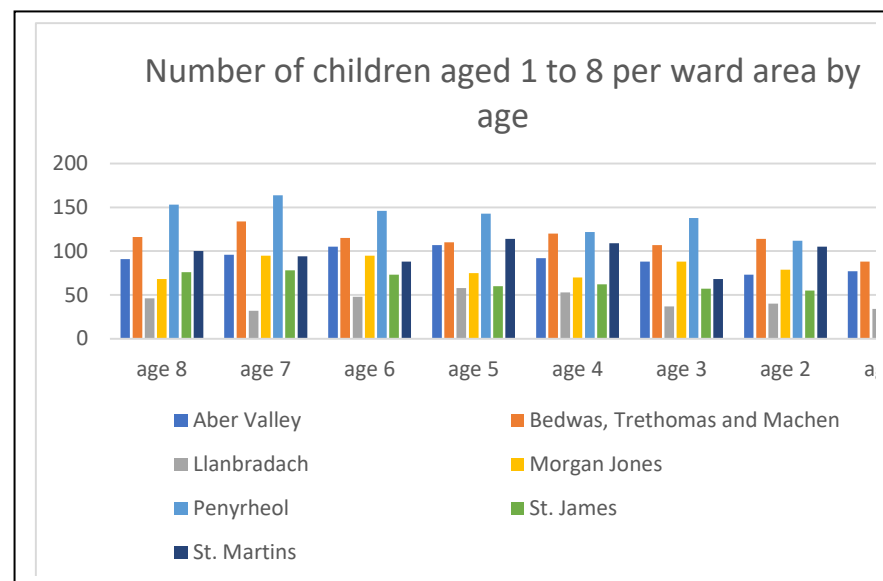


Figure 38a

Numbers of children living in Caerphilly Basin by age grouping - Figures from live birth data 2020

1year olds	2year olds	3year olds	4year olds	5-7year olds	8-15year olds
502	578	583	628	2030	6490

There are 8 Flying Start areas within this community planning area, however there are also more affluent areas with 9 LSOA's being in the top 20% across Wales.

78.4% of the population identified their nationality as Welsh in the Census 2011 which is slightly lower than the county average, but markedly higher than the average given across Wales as a whole. The ethnic makeup of the area is predominantly white, with only 1.6% of residents being non-white. This however, is the highest percentage in the county.

Nearly a quarter of all residents (24.4%) have no access to a car, but as mentioned above, there are good public transport links both in and around the area.

The employment rate for the male population is slightly higher than the county rate at 71.7%, with 47.4% working full time, 6% working part time and 10% being self-employed. The unemployment rate is 6.4% which is average for the county but relatively higher than that for Wales (5.5%). This area reports the lowest rate of unemployment because of long term sick or disability, but again it is still higher than the Wales average. 1.2% of males report they are unemployed because they are looking after the home and/or family. 28.1% of residents have no qualifications, which is better than that for the Caerphilly county borough as a whole. (Source Census 2011)

The employment rate for the female population is again higher than the county rate with 30.2% working full time, 21.6% working part time and 3.1% self-employed. This area has an average proportion of females unemployed and a relatively low percentage unemployed because of long term sickness/disability or because they are looking after the home or family.

With regards to the number of Benefits claimants this area has a rate that is lower than the county average with St Martins ward (in Caerphilly town) exhibiting the lowest rate of claimants across the whole borough at 8.9%. In comparison, the Aber Valley and St James wards both showed high rates of benefits claimants at 20.9% and 25% respectively, those claiming Job Seekers Allowance, (3.4% and 4.5% respectively), and Employment Support Allowance or Incapacity Benefit were also higher. The St James ward showed the highest levels of lone parents claiming income support at 2.3%. (Source Census 2011)

In the Caerphilly Basin there are 12 English medium primary schools, plus 3 junior schools and 4 infant schools, 3 Welsh-medium primary schools, 1 faith school (primary) and 4 comprehensives (one Welsh language) all of which have sixth forms.

This area also has one of the highest levels of Welsh language usage in the county with 13.21% of all those age 3 and above reporting that they use the language. The highest incidence of Welsh language in the county borough is in the Aber Valley area of this cluster. There are 3 Welsh medium primary schools in this area and 4 Cylch Meithrin with an additional Cylch Meithrin currently going through registration with CIW (due to open Easter 2022). In addition, there is a Welsh medium Flying Start provision and there are 3 wrap around clubs, 3 after school clubs and 2 holiday clubs all through the medium of Welsh. The Welsh medium 3 – 18-year school, a 'sister' campus to the Welsh medium Comprehensive Cwm Rhymni, has also opened in Caerphilly town alongside the new Welsh medium Integrated Children's Centre operating in Caerphilly town offering Flying Start, Wraparound care and After School and Holiday provision. There are 2 Ti a Fi groups that serve the Caerphilly Basin area.

There are a total of 65 registered childcare providers within CB according to CIW SASS 2020 data. This data set does not provide a complete overview of childcare provision within this area as we are aware of some non-completers, therefore when analysing this data in the context of sufficiency of childcare in a geographical area, consideration for accuracy of data set must be regarded. Of the 65 providers detailed on the SASS spreadsheet by CIW, there are 35 registered Childminders. Notably there is 1 childminder offering a bilingual service, however there are no Welsh medium Childminders operating in CB. There are a further 30 registered Children's Day care settings providing various types of services such as Out of School Care, Full Day Care and Sessional Day Care within CB. Of those providers, 4 offer a Welsh medium service; notably all four are located within proximity of Welsh medium primary schools. There are 4 bilingual childcare provisions in CB and a further 22 located throughout CB offering childcare through the medium of English.

21.2% of the population are either married or cohabitating with dependent children. Of the 12, 489 parents with dependent children, just over 75% (9,546) have one or more parents in employment (average for the borough as a whole) and slightly lower than the borough average (3.7% compared to 3.85%) unemployed. 9.1% of households are lone parent families, one of the highest rates in the borough, and it has a lower than the county average of lone parents in either Full Time or Part time employment, with 46.2% not in employment, the second highest rate in the borough. (source Census 2011)

Children with Disabilities.

Information from the Schools PLASC database (census date January 2022) shows that in Caerphilly Basin, there are 990 children of primary school age with an identified additional need attending schools in this area. The table to the right shows the number of children by Primary Need Type and Figure 39 shows the number of children by age with primary and secondary identified additional needs. as defined on the PLASC Database.

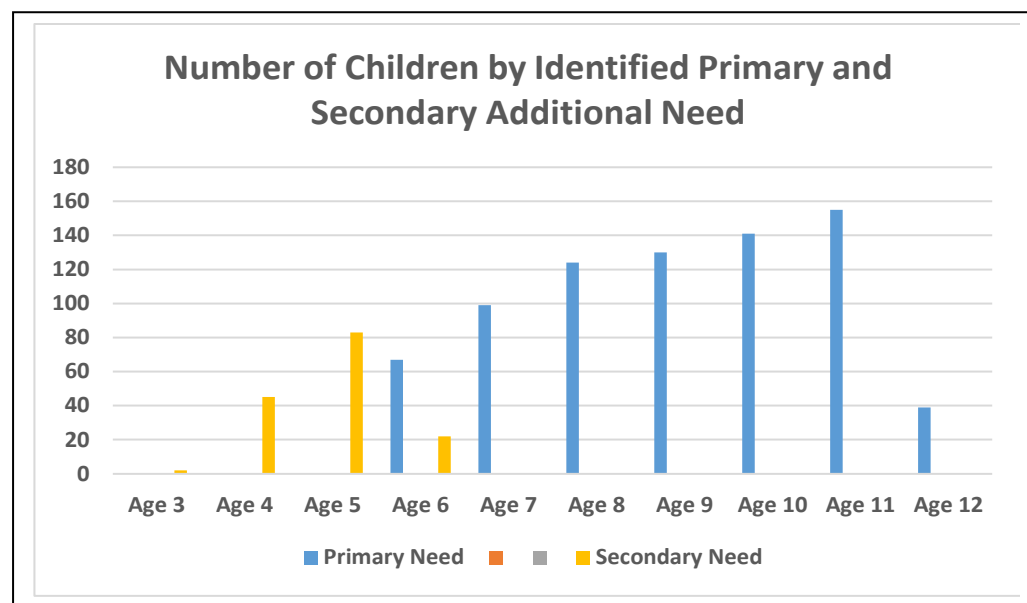
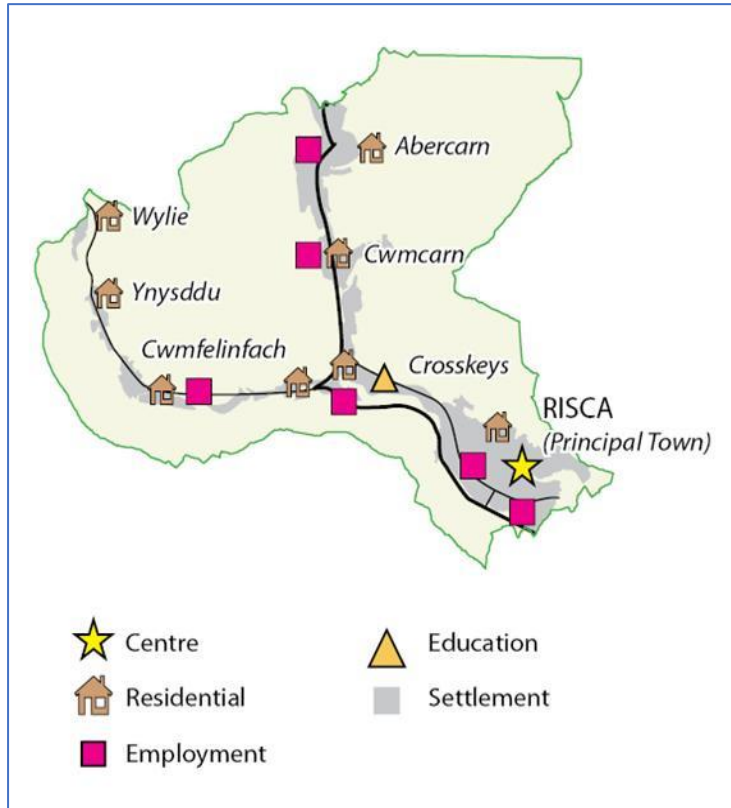


Figure 39 – number of children with Additional Needs – Caerphilly Basin

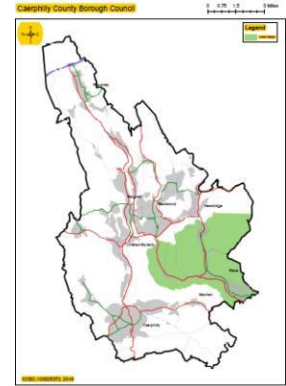
Identified Additional Need	Number
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	14
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	88
Behavioural, Emotional & Social Difficulties	167
Dyscalculia	0
Dyslexia	19
Dispraxia	2
General Learning Difficulties	282
Hearing Impairment	42
Moderate learning Difficulties	58
Multi Sensory Impairment	0
Physical and Medical Difficulties	73
Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties	5
Speech Language and Communication	221
Severe Learning Difficulties	11
Visual Impairment	8
Total	990

4.3 Lower Sirhowy Valley Profile

Incorporating the wards of: Abercarn, Ynysddu, Crosskeys, Risca East and Risca West



The Lower Sirhowy Valley area of the county is located to the lower east part of the county borough and has its main links South east toward the City of Newport. There are two steep-sided and narrow valleys, carved out by the River Ebbw and its tributary, the River Sirhowy, which are surrounded by mountain plateaux. Significant areas of the valley floor are potentially at risk from flooding. However, the implementation of a Flood Alleviation Scheme will help to unlock development sites throughout the town and encourage private sector investment to be the main regeneration driver for Risca, which if focused correctly, will allow Risca to flourish. The risk of flooding has, in the past, inhibited the development of new childcare facilities, however in September 2020 a new day nursery and after school provision was registered and is providing a much needed childcare provision for the area.



This area has the smallest population of the county's five Community planning areas with a count of 24,258 in the last Census (2011). With the main urban centre being the town of Risca. Risca has benefited from substantial public and private investment with the conversion of the Palace Cinema into a library/learning resource centre. The commercial function of the area is largely

overshadowed by its close proximity to Newport and to some extent Blackwood.

There are eight centres of employment with a mixture of industrial estates and business parks. A large industrial estate is located at Abercarn, while smaller ones are located at Crosskeys, Cwmcarn, Cwmfelinfach, and Wattsville, giving these settlements an

employment role as well. In addition, Risca-Pontymister has a number of large and small industrial sites, some with single occupiers and others with multiple users.

There is only one Flying Start area within this community planning area. Flying Start childcare is provided via 2 non-maintained providers. 78.3% of the population identified themselves as Welsh compared to just over 65% across Wales as a whole and 1.5% of residents are from a non-white ethnicity.

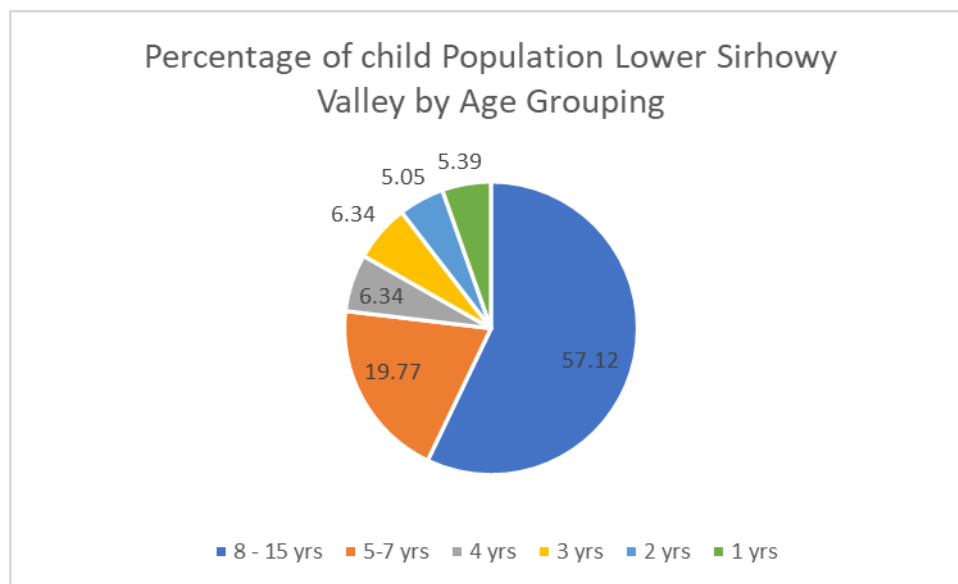
According to the Caerphilly Local Development Plan Annual Monitoring Report 2021, Housing trajectory there is very little housing development planned in this area over the next 5 years.

This area not only has the lowest numbers of children across the borough, but also has the county's lowest percentage of its population aged 0 – 15 years and the lowest percentage of 2year olds and 8 – 15year olds of its child population. It does, however, within its child population, have one of the highest proportions of 3year olds in the borough compared to other age groups. Since the last CSA (2017) numbers of 1, 2 and 4year olds have dropped, 3year olds have risen slightly, other age groups remain steady. Within the area the Abercarn and Risca East areas have the highest numbers of children in all age groups while the Crosskeys area has the least.

Numbers of children per age category for Lower Sirhowy Valley - Figures from live birth data 2020 ONS

1year olds	2year olds	3year olds	4year olds	5-7year olds	8-15year olds
234	290	275	275	858	2479

The Charts below show the proportion of children in the different age categories as required for the CSA analysis. Data is sourced from the Nomis Live Birth data by Ward 2020.



Figures 40 and 41 – Children by age grouping Lower Sirhowy Valley

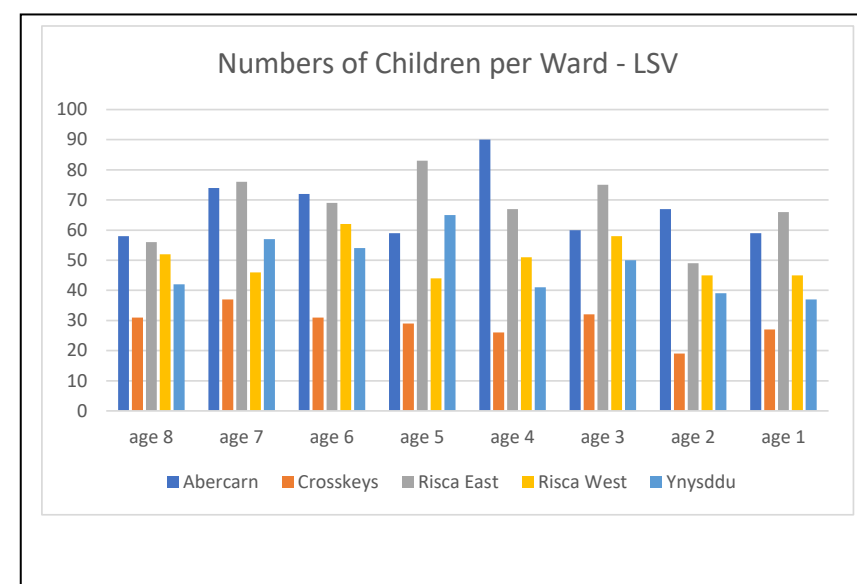


Figure 41

The employment rate for the male population is higher than the county average, at 71.9% with 50% working Full time, 5.6% working part time and 8.3% self-employed. The male unemployment rate is 6.5%, again higher than the Wales average of 5.5%. This area does have the lowest rate in the county for males who are unemployed because they are looking after the home or family and the lowest rate unemployed because of long term sickness or disability, although this is still a higher Figure than the Wales average. The employment rate for the female population is the highest in the county borough with 63.2% of women employed, of which 32.6% are working full time, (highest in the borough), 21.3% working part time and 3% are self-employed. Conversely, this area has the lowest percentage of its female population who are unemployed and the lowest percentage who are unemployed because of either long-term sickness or disability, or because they are looking after the home or family. (source Census 2011)

This area showed the lowest levels of total benefits claimants overall with all wards having levels of those claiming Job Seekers Allowance, Employment Support Allowance, and Incapacity Benefit below the average for the county borough. Many families are being moved to Universal Credit if their circumstances change, which incorporates a number of benefits into one calculation and

payment. There is a plan to move all families to Universal Credit by 2024 which will enable a more comprehensive understanding of poverty data which is not possible currently as some benefits remain hidden from datasets used, like housing allowance.

There are 7 English medium primary schools and 1 English medium infant school in the area and 1 Welsh medium primary. There is 1 English medium comprehensive school and 1 large further education college at Crosskeys. As a part of the 21st Century development scheme, there is a new 3 – 18 Welsh medium school being developed in the area in the next 5 years which will also house a new expanded childcare facility.

There are a total of 16 registered childcare providers within LSV according to CIW SASS 2020 data. This data set does not provide a complete overview of childcare provision within this area as we are aware of some non-completers, therefore when analysing this data in the context of sufficiency of childcare in a geographical area, consideration for accuracy of data set must be regarded. Of the 16 providers detailed on the SASS spreadsheet by CIW, there are 12 English medium provisions, 3 Welsh, and an additional 1 setting is registered as a bilingual provider. There are 7 registered Childminders detailed within LSV, and a further 9 registered Children's Day Care services providing a range of services such as Sessional Day Care, Full Day Care and out of School Care. There is Welsh medium provision in Abercarn, however there is no further registered Welsh medium childcare provision as per this data set within LSV therefore consideration of additional Welsh medium childcare provision may be required to meet the continued demand for Welsh language education provision in the Risca East/Risca West/Crosskeys areas.

Persons over the age of 3 years using the Welsh language, is one of the lowest in the county borough at 10.08% of the population (compared to 19% across Wales as a whole). (Source Census 2011). There is one Welsh medium primary school within the cluster towards its north western end, one Cylch Meithrin, one Bilingual setting and one Welsh medium wrap around and one after school provision. Statutory consultation has recently been completed to develop a new Welsh medium 3-11 school located in the eastern end of the area to serve the Lower Sirhowy area. There is also a Ti a Fi that serves this area. The development of the new school for Ysgol Gynradd Cwm Gwyddon will enable an expanded Primary school with 2 class entry cohorts, as well as expanded childcare provision to double the size of existing. However, while the school will be built to double the capacity, the existing school will be moved, and places grown in line with parental demand for the provision to allow any transitional impact to be managed in local English medium Primary schools. By the time of completion of the build in 2024, it is planned to develop our Welsh language immersion provision to enable transition of learners if parents wish to move from English medium to Welsh medium provision. IN the future there

may be need to develop additional Secondary school provision on site in Band C proposals, but the numbers will not be a challenge until circa 2029 according to latest school cohort planning Figures.

There are a relatively low percentage of households with married or cohabiting parents with dependent children (19.1% compared to 20.6 in the county borough). However, of the 5,058 parents with dependent children, 78.94% have one or more parents in employment which is the highest in the county, and they have the lowest percentage of families (2.98%) with both (or one in lone parent families), unemployed. This area also has the lowest percentage of lone parent families with dependent children at 7.5% of its families, and again of these lone parents there is one of the highest proportions across the county borough of those who are employed both full time and part time. This area has the lowest proportions of lone parents who are unemployed at 38% compared to 46.2% average across the county borough. (source Census 2011)

Children with disabilities

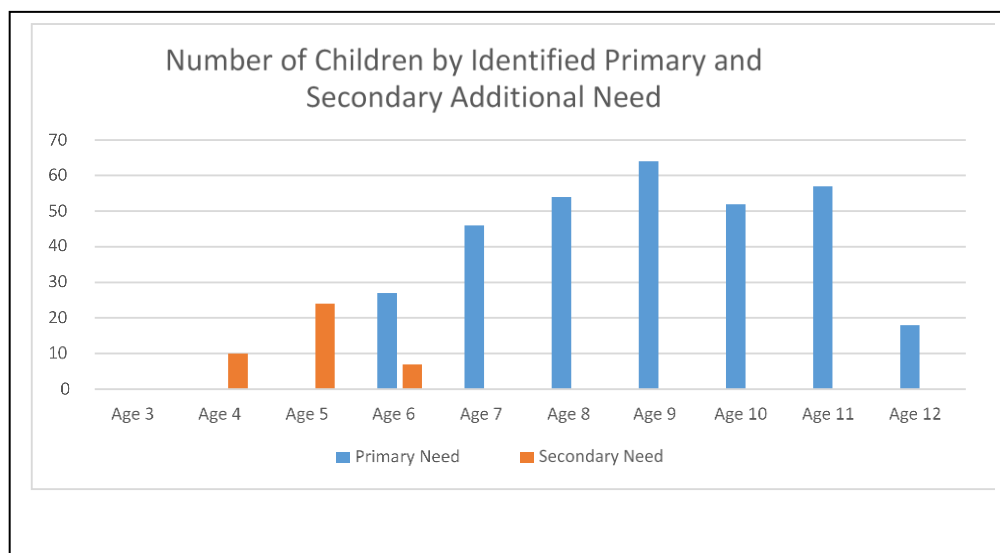


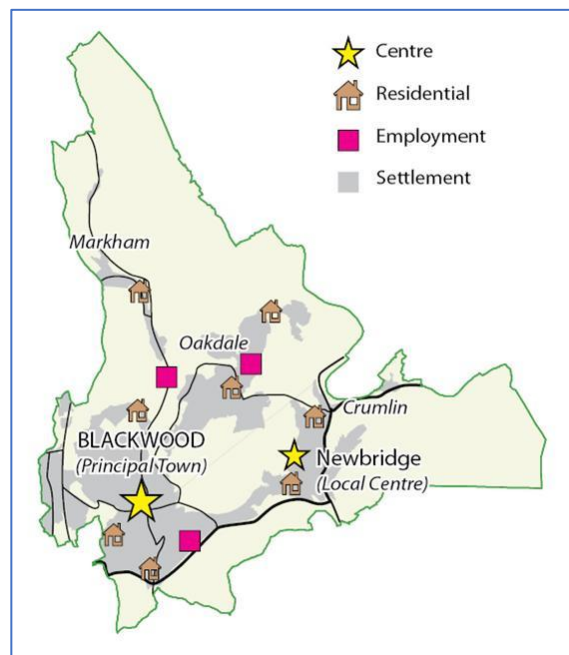
Figure 42 – Number of children by identified Additional Need Lower Sirhowy Valley

Identified Additional Need	Number
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	8
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	29
Behavioural, Emotional & Social Difficulties	88
Dyscalculia	1
Dyslexia	6
Dispraxia	1
General Learning Difficulties	128
Hearing Impairment	17
Moderate learning Difficulties	10
Multi Sensory Impairment	0
Physical and Medical Difficulties	20
Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties	1
Speech Language and Communication	105
Severe Learning Difficulties	1
Visual Impairment	2
Total	417

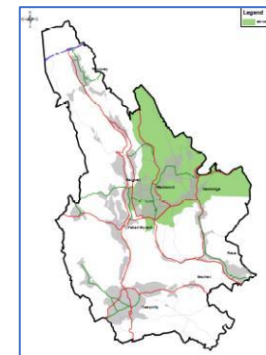
Information from the Schools PLASC database (census date January 2022) shows that in the Lower Sirhowy Valley there are 417 children of primary school age with an identified additional need attending schools in this area. The table to the right shows the number of children by Primary Need Type and Figure 42 shows the number of children by age with primary and secondary identified additional needs. as defined on the PLASC Database.

4.4 Mid Valleys East Profile

Incorporating the wards of: Argoed, Blackwood, Pengam, Penmaen, Cefn Fforest, Pontllanfraith, Crumlin and Newbridge



The Mid Valleys East area is located to the centre of the County borough and is characterised by small rural villages to the north and larger residential areas to the south. The main urban centres are Blackwood (with a thriving town centre) and Newbridge. Over 70% of the district is undeveloped and is used mainly for agriculture and forestry. These activities have created a distinctive landscape and an attractive environment. Successive land reclamation schemes have further enhanced the area. The district is characterised by small rural villages to the north and larger residential areas to the south.



The area benefits from strong southward road links connecting the area with the towns of Abercarn, Risca and Newport via the A467. The area's public transport links have been dramatically improved recently with the opening of the Ebbw Valley Line which provides a direct link to Cardiff, and the completion of the Newbridge Park and Ride scheme.

Blackwood is the principal town within the Mid Valleys East and is the second largest within Caerphilly County Borough as a whole. The town functions as a sub-regional centre, containing approximately 200 retail units, together with a variety of leisure and community facilities serving a wide catchment area (including Argoed, Cefn-Fforest, Penmaen, Pengam, and Pontllanfraith). The High Street is relatively vibrant and is the focus of retail and services within the mid-valleys' corridor.

At the last Census 2011, the population for this cluster area was 45,266 making it the second largest population cluster in the borough with an increase in population of approximately 3,000 since the Census in 2001.

There are 8 Flying Start areas within this cluster area, yet there are also 6 areas (LSOA's) that are among the top 20% more affluent according to the WIMD 2019.

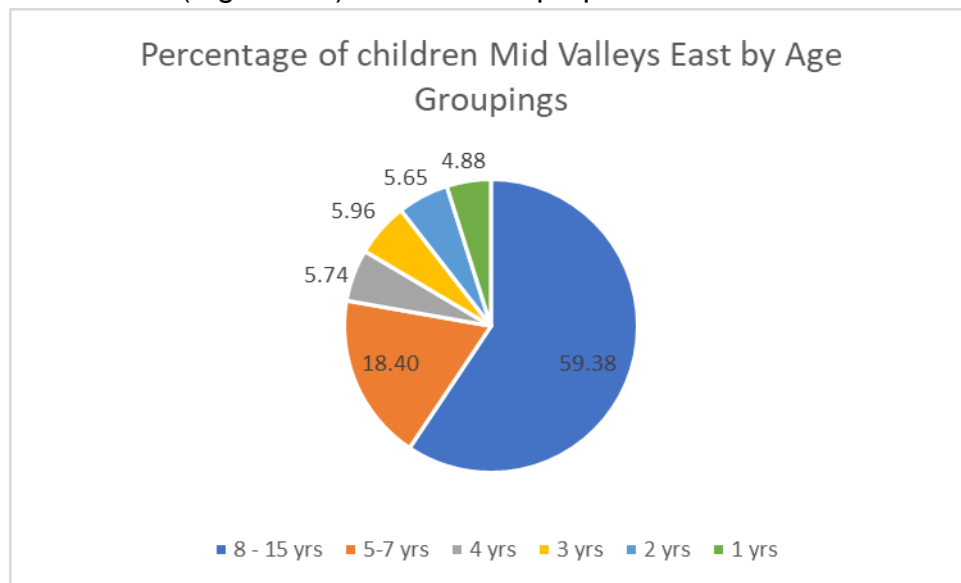
There are 9 main areas for employment in terms of business parks and Industrial Estates plus the retail centres in and around the town of Blackwood. Oakdale Business Park together with Penylan Industrial Estate. Completion of a new strategic highway network scheme has already been instrumental to the development of Oakdale Business Park and has the potential to facilitate new schemes for business use.

81.1% of residents gave their national identity as Welsh, higher than the county average and far higher than the Wales average of 65%. 1.2 % of residents are of a non-white ethnic background.

According to the Housing trajectory in the Caerphilly Local Development Plan Annual Monitoring Report 2021, there is a large rise in potential growth in the number of family homes being developed over the next 5 years with approximately 650 new dwellings due to be built by 2026. The major housing schemes are located in the Blackwood, Pontllanfraith, Pengam and Oakdale wards.

This area has the second largest child population of children aged 0 – 15 years and has the second largest number of children comparable with the county borough as a whole. Across the borough, this area has the highest proportion of 2year olds amongst its child population, the lowest proportion of 5 to 7year olds and relatively low proportions of 1 and 4year olds. The number of 1,2,3 and 4year olds has dropped since the last CSA (2017), but 5 to 7year olds remains stable. Pengam ward has the lowest number of 8 and 5year olds; Argoed ward has the lowest number of children in all ages except 1year olds and 7year olds; Cefn Fforest has the lowest number of 1year olds and 7year olds and Blackwood and Pontllanfraith wards have the highest number of children in all ages except Newbridge where there are the highest number of 8year olds.

The Chart (Figure 43) shows the proportion of children in the different age categories as required for the CSA analysis.



Figures 43 and 43a – Numbers of children per age category – Mid Valleys East

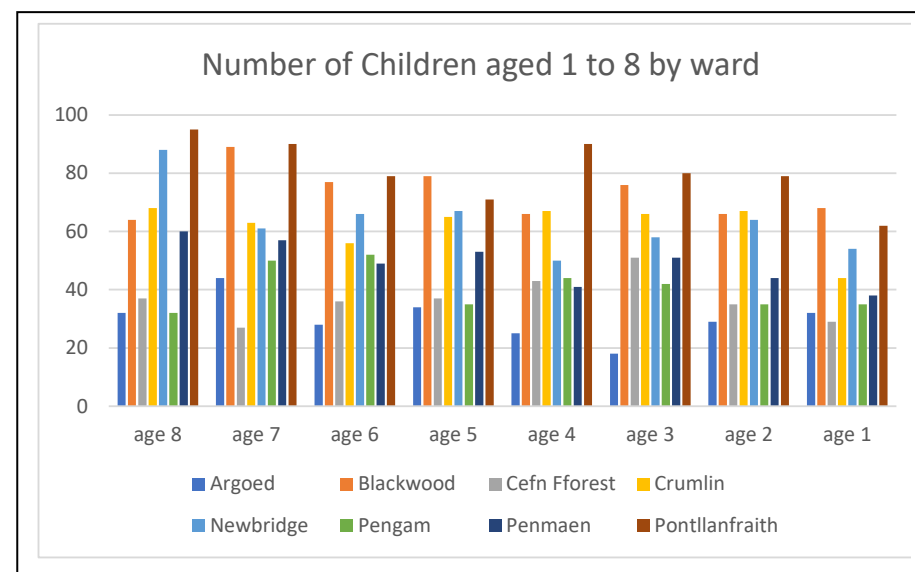


Figure 43a

Data is sourced from the Nomis Live Birth data by Ward 2020. The table below shows the numbers of children by age groupings.

Number of children – Mid Valleys East - Figures from live birth data 2020

1year olds	2year olds	3year olds	4year olds	5-7year olds	8–15year olds
362	419	442	426	1365	4406

The employment rate for the male population is 70.3% similar to the average Caerphilly rate, with 48.1% working full time, 5.35 working part time and 9.1% self-employed. This area has one of the lowest rates of male unemployment in the borough at 5.9%

although this is still higher than all Wales average of 5.5%. They are average within the borough of those unemployed because they are long term sick or disabled or looking after home or family. (source Census 2011)

The employment rate for the female population is 59.8%, again similar to the average for the borough, with 29.9% working full time, 21% working part time and 2.8 self-employed. The unemployed rate for the females of this area is lower than the county average at 3.4% and there is a comparable percentage to the county average of females unemployed because of long term sick or disability or because they are looking after the home or family. (source Census 2011)

This area showed similar rates of those claiming benefits to the county average. However, there is a wide range of rates with some wards Blackwood (12.8%) and Penmaen (12.4%) showing very low rates of benefit claimants and other wards, Pengam (23.3%), Cefn Fforest (22.5%) and Argoed (22.1%) showing much higher rates. Similarly, those claiming Job Seekers Allowance in these wards is correspondingly above average for the county borough. The Penmaen and Blackwood wards show some of the lowest rates for Lone Parents claiming income support across Caerphilly. (source Census 2011)

There are 16 English medium primary schools in this area, 1 Welsh medium primary school and 4 Comprehensive schools (one Welsh medium). There is also the Pupil Referral Unit located within the area taking children aged 5 – 16.

Only, 10.36% of residents aged 3 years and over have one or more skills in Welsh (understand, speak, read or write), compared to the County average of 11.2% and 19% in Wales. (source Census 2011). There are 2 Welsh medium primary schools in this area, and this is also the location of the one of the hubs of the Welsh Medium Comprehensive School.

There are a total of 51 registered childcare providers within MVE according to CIW SASS 2020 data. This data set does not provide a complete overview of childcare provision within this area as we are aware of some non-completers, therefore when analysing this data in the context of sufficiency of childcare in a geographical area, consideration for accuracy of data set must be regarded. Of the 51 providers detailed on the SASS spreadsheet by CIW, there are 29 registered childminders in the area, and a further 22 registered Children's Day Care services providing a range of services such as Sessional Day Care, Full Day Care and Out of School Care. Of those settings, there are 4 Children's Day Care services offering childcare through the medium of Welsh. There is 1 service offering Children's Day Care bilingually and a further 17 registered Children's Day Care providers delivering through the medium of English. There is a sufficiency of childcare services and providers delivering throughout MVE however there is only Welsh medium provision being offered in Pontllanfraith, Penmaen, Blackwood and Pengam according to SASS data set.

The marital status for this area is comparable with the county average of 21.3% of households who are either married or cohabiting with dependent children. Of the 10,035 families, 76.33% have one or both parents in employment and 3.79% (comparable to the county average) are unemployed. Lone parents constitute 8.5% of families with 27.5% in Full time employment, 32.3% in part time employment and 40.2% not in employment which is the highest rate across the county. (source Census 2011)

Children with Disabilities

Information from the Schools PLASC database (census date January 2022) shows that in Mid Valleys East, there are 825 children of primary school age with an identified additional need attending schools in this area. The to the right shows the number of children by Primary Need Type and Figure 44 below shows the number of children by age with primary and secondary identified additional needs. as defined on the PLASC Database.

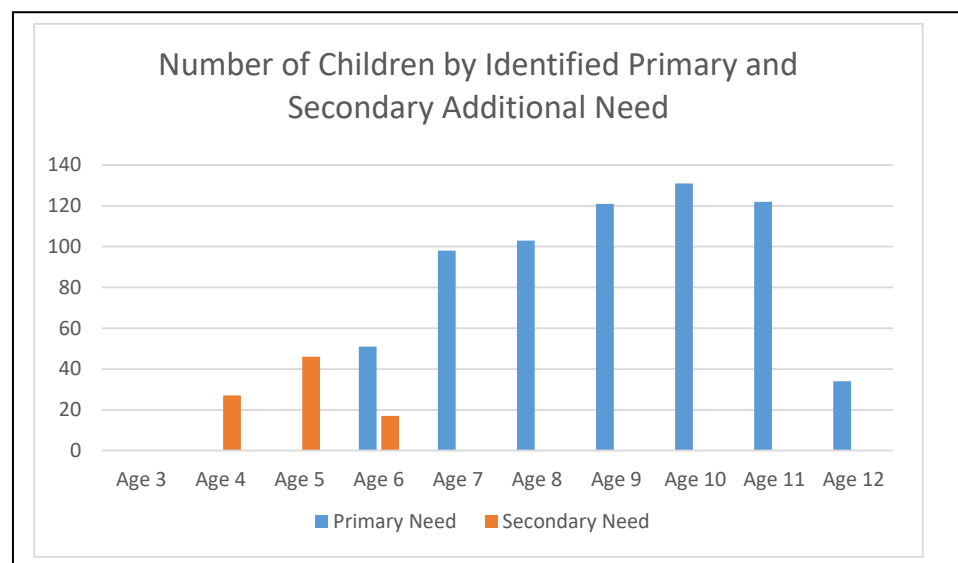
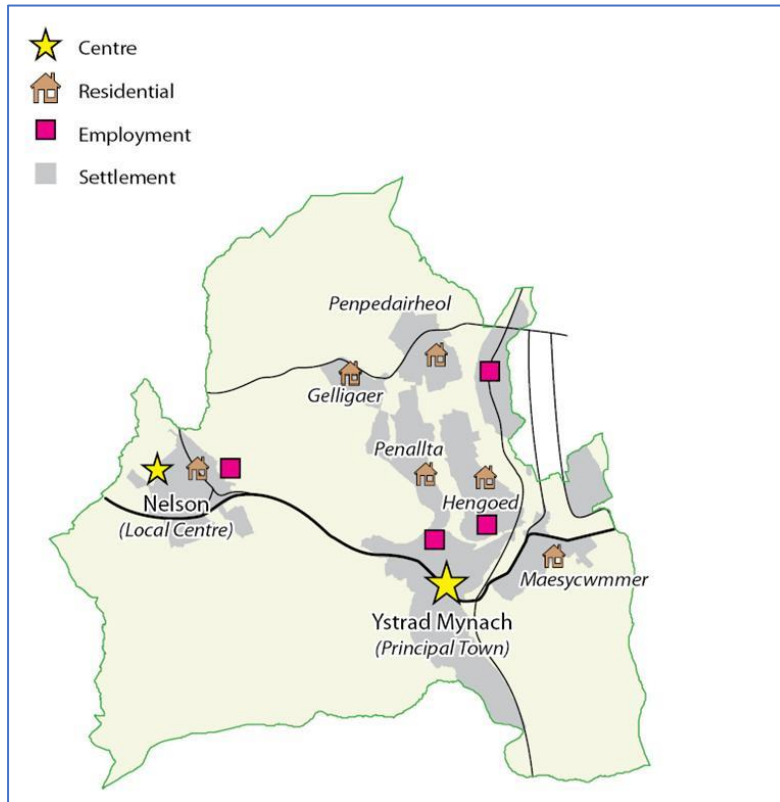


Figure 44 – Number of children by identified Additional Need

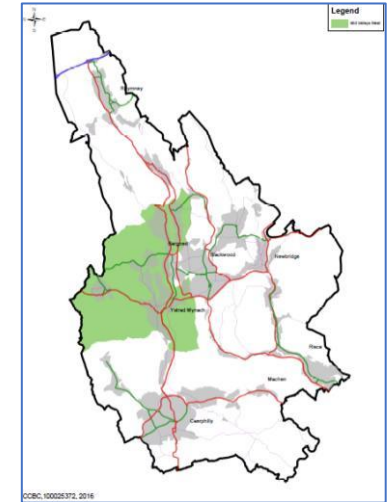
Identified Additional Need	Number
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	2
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	77
Behavioural, Emotional & Social Difficulties	141
Dyscalculia	1
Dyslexia	8
Dispraxia	7
General Learning Difficulties	215
Hearing Impairment	31
Moderate learning Difficulties	26
Multi Sensory Impairment	3
Physical and Medical Difficulties	62
Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties	0
Speech Language and Communication	237
Severe Learning Difficulties	7
Visual Impairment	7
Total	825

4.5 Mid Valleys West Profile

Incorporating the wards of: Maesycwmmmer, Hengoed, Ystrad Mynach, Nelson and St Cattwg.



This Community Planning area is located in the middle of the borough and forms the crossroads linking north and south with east and west. As such it has good road links to the A470 to the west (the main trunk road running from Cardiff to the Heads of the Valleys and Merthyr) and good rail links running north to south. Situated around the centre of the County borough, the Mid Valleys West comprises the principal town of Ystrad Mynach, the local centre of Nelson and several large villages – all of which have strong associations and in most cases roots in the mining industry.



Notably, Ystrad Mynach is the main administrative centre for the County Borough as the location of the Council headquarters at Tredomen Business Park, as well as a main police station, Coleg y Cymoedd, the Centre for Sporting Excellence and the general district hospital, Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr.

Main industrial sites are located south of Ystrad Mynach at Dyffryn Industrial Estate, and to the north of the town at Penallta. There are smaller mixed developments lining the A469 through Tiryberth with the prestigious Tredomen Business Park being located along the A472 at Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach all offering many opportunities for employment.

There are 3 Flying Start areas located within this cluster and two areas identified as being in the more affluent ranks in the WIMD 2019. With a population of around 25,297 this is the second smallest populated area within Caerphilly.

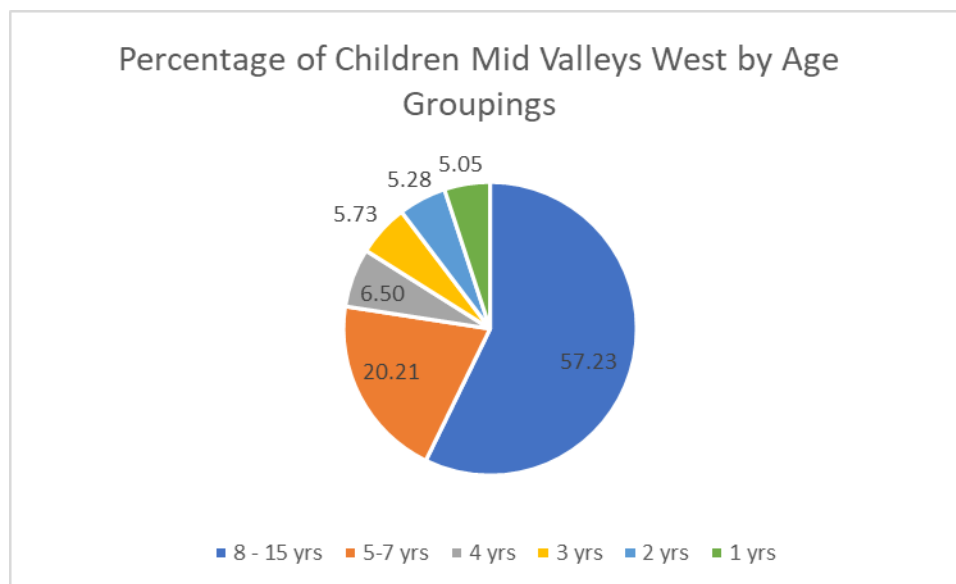
81.6% of the population of this area identify themselves as Welsh which is the second highest rate for the county borough, and again far higher than the Welsh Figure of 65.9%. Only 1.6% of residents are from non-white ethnic groups, although this is average with the rest of the county borough. This cluster area has the highest number of households who have access to a car at 79.6%. (source Census 2011)

There is a steady growth of family homes over the next 5 years with approximately 450 new builds in the Nelson and Maesycwmmmer wards, according to the Caerphilly Local Development Plan Annual Monitoring Report 2021, Housing trajectory.

This area has the second largest percentage of residents aged 0-15 years which is the second highest across the county borough, however, in terms of numbers of children this area has the second lowest across the borough. This area does have the highest percentage of 4 to 7 years olds amongst its child population. Since the last CSA in 2017 the numbers of 1, 2 and 3 year olds has dropped but the number of children aged 4 and over has grown quite significantly.

Within the area Hengoed and St Cattwg wards have the highest number of 2,3,4,5 and 6 year olds, St Cattwg and Ystrad Mynach have the highest number of 1 year olds, with Ystrad Mynach ward having high numbers for 2, 5, 7 and 8 year olds. The Maesycwmmmer ward has the lowest number of children in all ages.

The tables below (Figures 45) show the proportion of children in the different age categories as required for the CSA analysis. Data is sourced from the Nomis Live Birth data by Ward 2020.



Figures 45 and 45a – Number of children by age category – Mid Valleys West

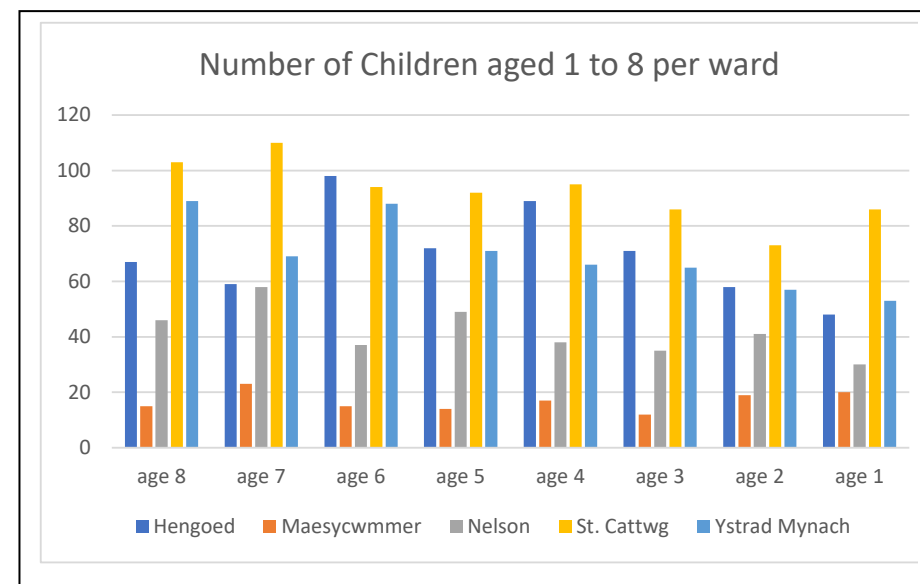


Figure 45a

Numbers of children in Mid Valleys West - Figures from live birth data 2014 and ward population estimates – 2020 NOMIS

1year olds	2year olds	3year olds	4year olds	5-7year olds	8–15year olds
237	248	269	305	949	2687

The male employment rate is 70% with 46.9% working full time, 5.4% working part time and 10.2% being self-employed. This area has one of the lowest rates of male unemployment in the borough at 5.9% although this is still higher than all Wales average of 5.5%. They are also average within the borough of those unemployed because they are long term sick or disabled or looking after home or family. This is a very similar demographic to the Mid Valleys East area. (source Census 2011)

The female employment rate is 60% similar to the county rate, with 31.6% working full time, 19.3% working part time and 3.3% are self-employed. This area has one of the lowest rates of female unemployment at 3.4% with percentages comparable to the county average for those who are unemployed because of long term sickness or disability or because they are looking after home or family. (source Census 2011)

The percentage of benefits claimants in this area is lower than the county average but there are wards where this is higher than other parts. Maesycwmmer has one of the lower rates (13.4%) along with Nelson (15.2%), but this is in contrast to Hengoed where the rate is 24.8% of the working population. Overall, there is a lower than the borough rate of those claiming Job Seekers Allowance: 2.18% compared to the Caerphilly rate of 2.6%, and there is a lower-than-average rate of lone parents claiming Income Support. Maesycwmmer has 0% lone parents claiming income support, whereas the Hengoed ward has 1.6%. (source Census 2011)

There are 8 English medium primary schools, 1 junior and 1 infant school and 2 Welsh medium primary schools within the area. There are 2 comprehensive schools and the Local Authority's specialist school for children with complex needs, Trinity Fields, is located in Ystrad Mynach. This area has one of the highest numbers of people in the county over the age of 3 years using the Welsh language at 12.04%. there are two Welsh medium primary schools.

There are a total of 24 registered childcare providers within MVW according to CIW SASS 2020 data. This data set does not provide a complete overview of childcare provision within this area as we are aware of some non-completers, therefore when analysing this data in the context of sufficiency of childcare in a geographical area, consideration for accuracy of data set must be regarded. Of the 24 providers detailed on the SASS spreadsheet by CIW, there are 6 registered Childminders, and 18 additional Full Day Care services offering a range of care such as Full Day Care, Sessional Day Care and Out of School Care. There are 5 Welsh medium provisions within MVW, notably 5 are in Ystrad Mynach and the other 1 is in Nelson. There are a further 3 providers offering Day Care services bilingually in different area within MVW, and 16 settings offering childcare through the medium of English throughout MVW. There is a sufficiency of Welsh medium provision in Ystrad Mynach with means for children to continue in their Welsh medium education with two local feeder primary schools.

In terms of the marital status of households, 21.6% are occupied by either married or cohabiting parents with dependent children, which is the highest in the county borough. Of the 4,354 parents, 77.62% have one or more parent in employment (higher than the county average) with 3.08% where both parents (or one in a lone parent household) are unemployed which is quite a bit lower than

the county rate. 8.3% of households are headed up by a lone parent. This area has one of the highest rates of lone parents in full time employment and lower than the county average who are not in employment at 42.8%. (source Census 2011)

Children with Disabilities

Information from the Schools PLASC database (census date January 2022) shows that in Mid Valleys West, there are 515 children of primary school age with an identified additional need attending schools in this area. The table to the right shows the number of children by Primary Need Type and Table (Figure 46) shows the number of children by age with primary and secondary identified additional needs as defined on the PLASC Database

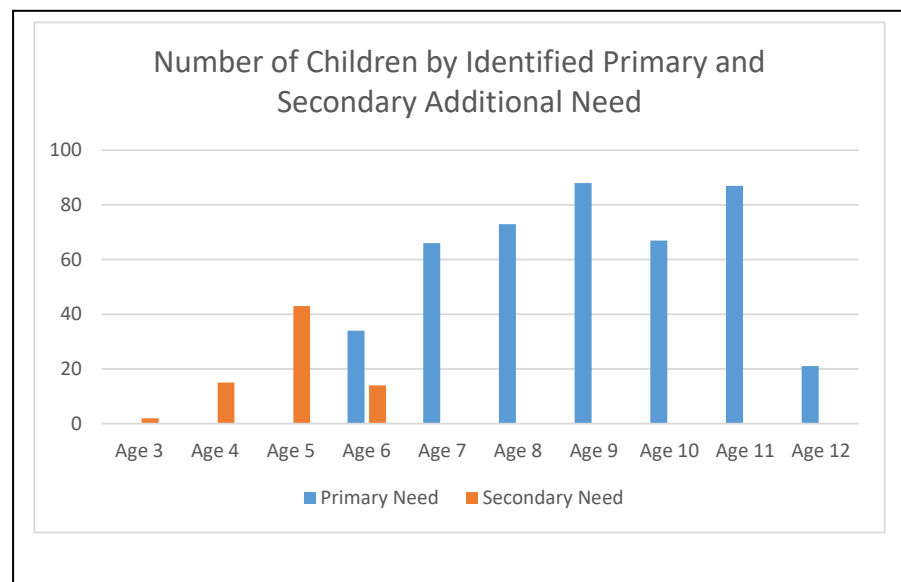
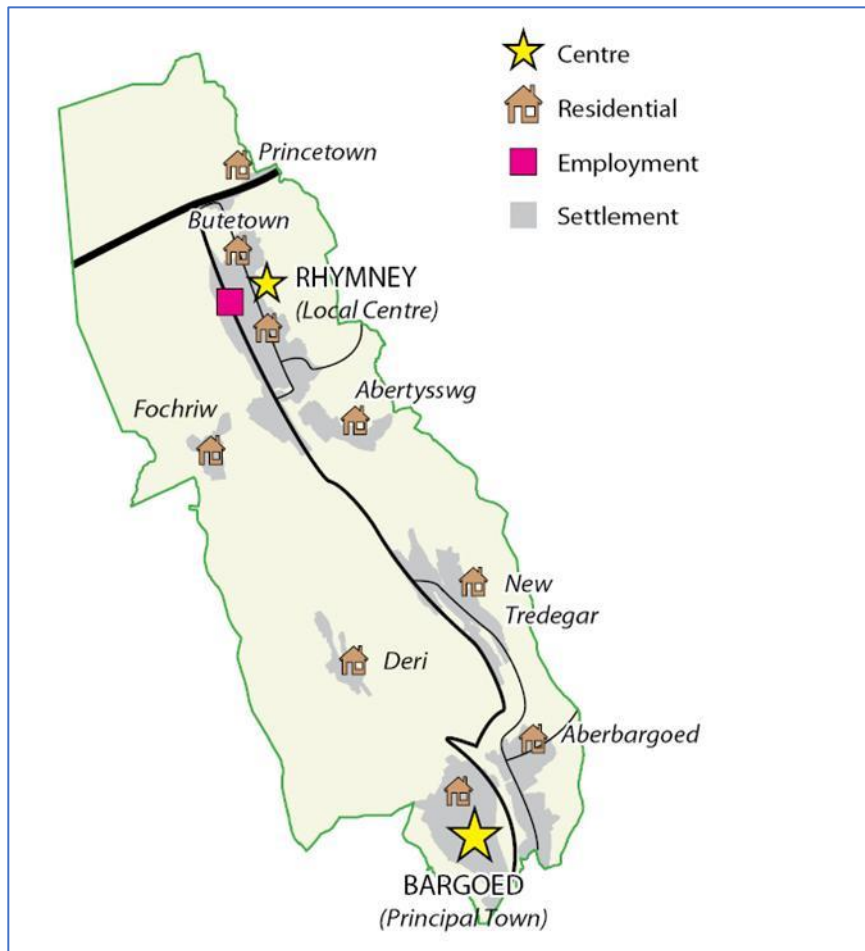


Figure 46 - Number of children by identified Additional Needs – Mid Valleys West

Identified Additional Need	Number
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	9
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	51
Behavioural, Emotional & Social Difficulties	87
Dyscalculia	1
Dyslexia	5
Dispraxia	1
General Learning Difficulties	175
Hearing Impairment	16
Moderate learning Difficulties	20
Multi Sensory Impairment	2
Physical and Medical Difficulties	17
Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties	1
Speech Language and Communication	128
Severe Learning Difficulties	2
Visual Impairment	0
Total	515

4.6 Upper Rhymney Valley (incorporating Bargoed) Profile



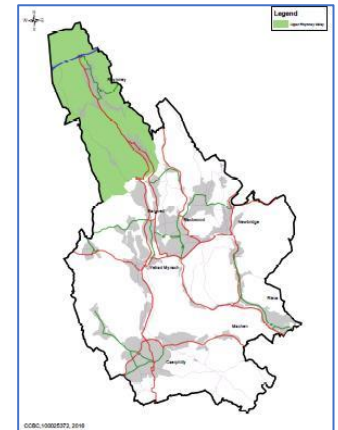
(Incorporating the wards of: Twyn Carno, Moriah, Pontlottyn, New Tredegar, Darren Valley, Aberbargoed, Bargoed and Gilfach)

The Upper Rhymney Valley lies at the north end of the county borough. In 2011 the Census indicated that the Upper Rhymney Valley had a population of 28,318. Whilst this is only a negligible increase of 207 people since the 2001 Census, it nevertheless suggests that the long-term trend of population loss from the area has been halted.

The area comprises a cluster of relatively small former mining settlements along the line of the River Rhymney and its tributary, the Nant Bargod Rhymney. The Valley sides are generally very steep but broaden out at the Heads of the Valleys into a plateau.

It is mainly rural in nature with valleys separating the communities, its principal town being Bargoed that is nestled at the southern end of the cluster. The A465 Heads of the Valley road runs along its northern tip joining Ebbw Vale and Tredegar to its East and Merthyr Tydfil to its west. A former heavy coal mining area, this cluster area experiences higher levels of unemployment and difficulties with access to urban areas and service provision. The majority of wards in the district are severely

deprived, making this area one of the most deprived not only in the United Kingdom but in Europe.



Regeneration in the New Tredegar area has led to the development of a community school, environmental improvements, new road infrastructure, and incubator industrial units. There are three large industrial estates located in the area (Heads of the Valleys, Capital Valley, and Maerdy) and other smaller estates and 2 business parks providing valuable local employment. The Rhymney Valley railway line connects Rhymney, Pontllytyn, New Tredegar, Bargoed and Gilfach, to Ystrad Mynach, Caerphilly and Cardiff.

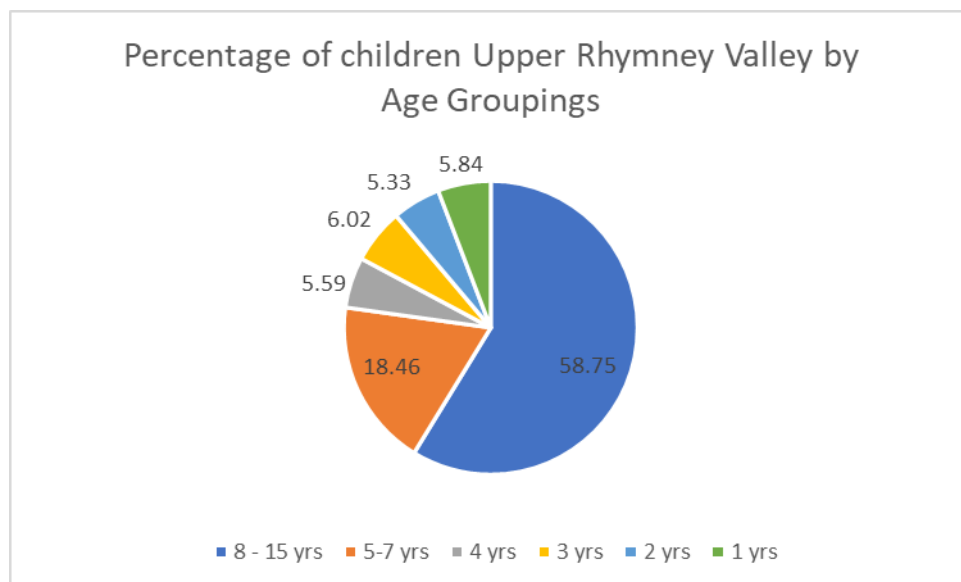
Nearly a third of all households do not have access to a car (32.3%), (source Census 2011) a far higher Figure than the rest of the county borough, which again will limit access to employment opportunities where there is no direct access to the areas of employment. There are three large industrial estates located in the area, namely the Heads of the Valleys, Capital Valley and Maerdy - located in the vicinity of the settlements of Rhymney and Pontllytyn (a total of 45.4 Ha of land). In addition, there are two industrial estates south of Aberbargoed at Angel Lane and Bowen (18 Ha of land), and a development of small workshops in New Tredegar. These industrial sites play an important role in terms of making provision for local employment within the Upper Rhymney Valley.

The Health and Social Care Resource Centre operates at The Lawn in Rhymney, which complements the facilities at Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr (in Ystrad Mynach) and serves the health needs of residents in the north of the county borough critical to the ongoing commitment to ensure the wellbeing of the more deprived communities in the area.

According to the Caerphilly Local Development Plan Annual Monitoring Report 2021, the Housing trajectory, there are approximately 230 new family homes going to be built over the next 5 years in the Aberbargoed area. With this many new family homes proposed there is likely to be an increased demand for childcare places in the future, in particular for Flying Start places and the potential childcare offer for 2year olds.

In this area the number of residents in the 0 – 15 age range is slightly below the county average. However, there is the highest percentage of 1year olds amongst its child population across the County borough and a relatively high percentage of 3year olds compared to other cluster areas. It also has the lowest percentage of 4year olds, but the highest percentage of 1year olds within its child population. It also has a relatively high proportion of 3year olds within its child population. Since the last CSA (2017) numbers in all age groups have dropped except for the number of 3year olds which has risen substantially. The Bargoed and New Tredegar

wards have the highest numbers of children in all ages with the lowest numbers for all ages spread across the Darren Valley, Pontlottyn and Gilfach wards.



Figures 47 and 47a show numbers of children by age category – Upper Rhymney Valley

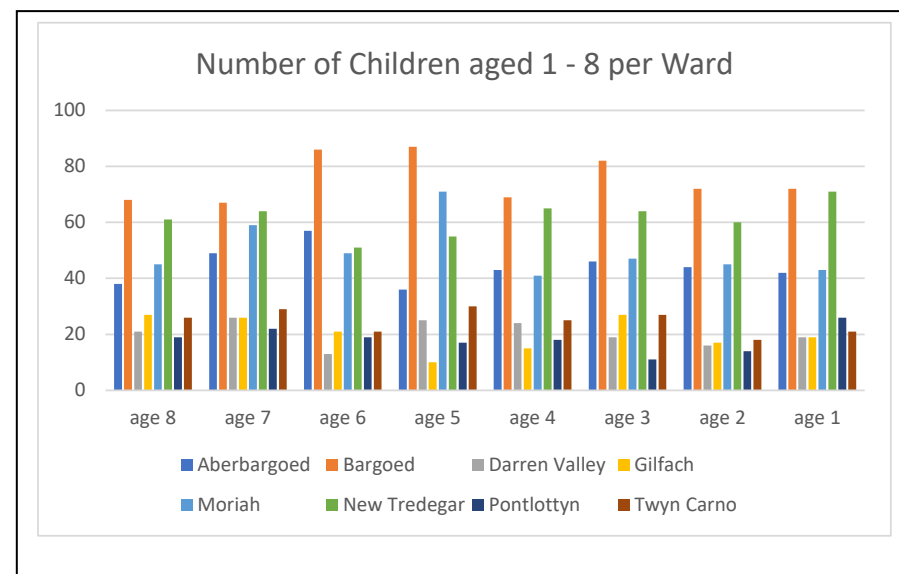


Figure 47a

The Chart above shows the proportion of children in the different age categories as required for the CSA analysis. Data is sourced from the ONS Live Birth data by Ward 2014. Numbers of Children can be seen in the table below (Figure 47).

Numbers of Children - Figures from live birth data 2020

1year olds	2year olds	3year olds	4year olds	5-7year olds	8-15year olds
313	286	323	300	990	3151

This cluster area has the highest percentage of residents who identify themselves as Welsh at 84.9%, compared to 80.5% in the county borough and to 65.9% in Wales. Only 1.3% of residents are from non-white ethnic backgrounds, the lowest in the county borough. (source Census 2011)

The employment rate for both the male and female population is the lowest in the county borough at 64.4% and 54.5% respectively. Both of these Figures are far lower than the county averages of 70% (male) and 59.9% (female). Likewise, those working Full time, part time and self-employed for both males and females, all show percentages far lower than the county averages. (source Census 2011).

As you anticipate from the previous Figures, the rates for unemployment in this area are the highest for the county borough, with 8.9% of males unemployed and 5% of females. This area also has the highest levels of males and females unemployed because of long term sick and/or disabled as well as because they are looking after the home or family. There is also a greater tradition of residents using family members for their childcare needs. There are also the highest levels of residents who say that their activities are limited due to health issues. In addition, the Upper Rhymney Valley has the highest percentage of residents with no qualifications at 39.8% compared to 31.4% across the county borough and 26% across Wales.

This area has a far higher level of its population claiming benefits at 25.59% (compared to 18.5% across the borough) with the highest levels in Twyn Carno (31.4%) and Moriah (27.9%). The New Tredegar ward has the highest levels of those claiming Job Seekers Allowance across the whole borough at 5.7%. The total rate of those claiming Job Seekers Allowance was 3.96% (compared to 2.6% in Caerphilly). Claims for Employment Support Allowance and Incapacity Benefit are also much higher than the county average at 14.66% compared to 10.1% borough wide.

There are 9 English medium primary schools in the area and three Welsh medium primary schools. There are also two comprehensive schools, both English medium, including a 3 – 18 campus. Coleg y Cymoedd (translating to College of the Valleys) has a presence in the Upper Rhymney Valley, providing a learning centre for further education in the area.

This area has the lowest percentage of residents aged 3 and over whom state they have some use of Welsh at 9.6%. There are two Welsh medium Primary schools in the area. There are no Ti a Fi groups in the area.

There are a total of 20 registered childcare providers within URV according to CIW SASS 2021 data. This data set does not provide a complete overview of childcare provision within this area as we are aware of some non-completers, therefore when analysing this data in the context of sufficiency of childcare in a geographical area, consideration for accuracy of data set must be regarded. Of the 20 providers detailed on the SASS spreadsheet by CIW, there are 6 English medium registered Childminders. There are also an additional 14 registered Children's Day care services offering a variety of care such as Full Day Care and Sessional Day Care. Notably there are 3 Sessional Day care providers who deliver through the medium of Welsh located within geographical proximity to the two Local Welsh medium primary schools in URV. There's also an additional 1 setting that delivers a bilingual service operating near the local Welsh medium primary school. There are a further 10 English medium settings delivering childcare throughout URV. Notably, there is no provision in Upper Rhymney Valley delivering After School Care or Before School Care.

This area has the lowest percentage of married or cohabiting parents with dependent children in the county borough (18.6%) and the highest rates of lone parents (10.2%). Of the 6,094 families, 68.75% are in employment, however, there are 5.73% of families with both (or one in single parent households) unemployed, the highest in the county borough. Of the 1,221 households headed up by a lone parent with dependent children, 27.6% are in part time employment, 21.4% are in full time employment and 51% are unemployed, the highest in the county borough. (source Census 2011).

Children with Disabilities

Information from the Schools PLASC database (census date January 2022) shows that in the Upper Rhymney Valley there are 451 children of primary school age with an identified additional need attending schools in this area. The table to the right shows the number of children by Primary Need Type and Table (Figure 48) shows the number of children by age with primary and secondary identified additional needs. as defined on the PLASC Database.

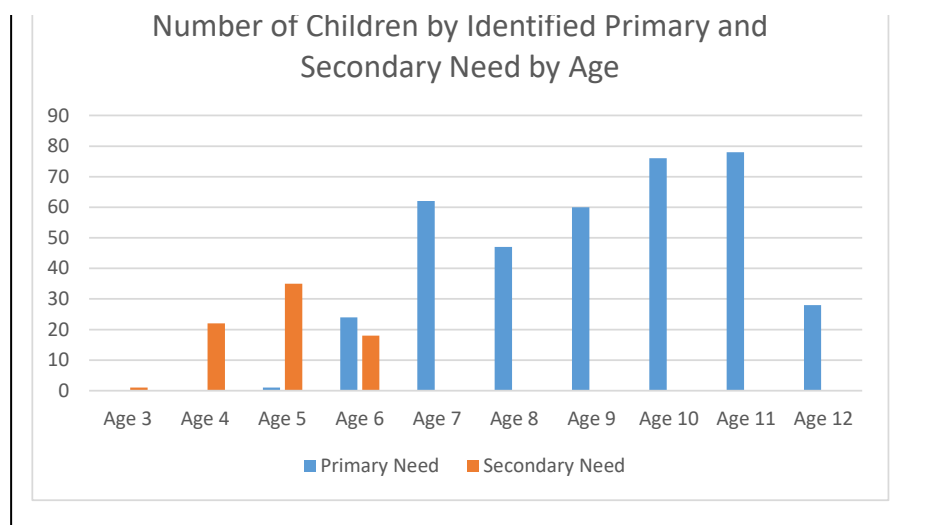


Figure 48 - Number of children by identified Additional Needs – Upper Rhymney Valley

Identified Additional Need	Number
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	1
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	26
Behavioural, Emotional & Social Difficulties	74
Dyscalculia	1
Dyslexia	2
Dispraxia	4
General Learning Difficulties	103
Hearing Impairment	14
Moderate learning Difficulties	50
Multi Sensory Impairment	0
Physical and Medical Difficulties	26
Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties	0
Speech Language and Communication	146
Severe Learning Difficulties	0
Visual Impairment	4
Total	451

5. Supply of Childcare

Overview Across the Borough – Childcare Types, Services and Places

In Caerphilly County Borough there is a good supply of childcare, of varying types, which are geographically distributed throughout the Local Authority. However, some geographic areas have a greater number of childcare providers, offering differing types of services, with various operating hours, and availability as per demand. The supply of childcare throughout the County Brough has been collated and presented within this report based on data shared by CIW, which was extracted from SASS data. Some local knowledge was also used to inform data gaps and provide further context to scrutiny of supply of childcare services throughout the County Borough.

According to CIW SASS data, there are more than 176 registered childcare providers operating within Caerphilly County (N.B. we are aware however that some data is incomplete due to late submitters and those who did not complete the full SASS documentation). These providers offer more than 3526 registered childcare places throughout the county borough under a variety of different types of services and registration categories.

The table (Figure 49) below shows the number of providers including a breakdown of different service types they offer by county and geographic spread as per CIW SASS 2021 data*, and local knowledge information:

	Caerphilly County	Caerphilly Basin	Lower Sirhowy Valley	Mid Valleys East	Mid Valleys West	Upper Rhymney Valley
Total providers	176	65	31	51	24	20
Childminders	83	35	7	29	6	6
Full Day Nurseries	23	7	3	7	5	3
Mixed Sessional Day Care	19	6	1	8	3	1
Sessional Day Care	38	10	5	7	7	10
Wrap Around Care	7	3	1	0	1	3

After School Care	118	49	12	36	14	7
Before School Care	95	39	10	32	10	2
Holiday Care	118	49	8	37	15	9
Early Years Education	13	1	1	6	4	1
Flying Start	25	7	1	6	3	8

Figure 49 – Childcare Services in Caerphilly – SASS 2021

The Figures above show the number of defined childcare services on offer, however, one provider may offer more than one service, for example, a provider may offer both a Playgroup provision, Wrap Around Care and After School Care. The table above also shows that the majority of childcare is in the Caerphilly Basin and the Mid Valleys East areas which is where both the main areas of work opportunities and the greatest economic activity amongst families exist.

All registered were required to complete the SASS in 2021 to ascertain the various range and type of service provision that they are delivering. Not all childcare providers returned their SASS; an analysis of 175 SASS' data was able to be completed to review sufficiency of childcare throughout the borough.

**N.B. When analysing the supply of childcare places, we need to consider operating times i.e., Term Time or Holiday Only provision, and sub-division of categories. Of the 176 registered childcare providers within Caerphilly County who completed SASS, and are therefore detailed in this CIW data source, 116 providers are listed as operating during Term Time and Holidays, 2 providers are listed as operating during Holidays Only, and a further 58 providers are listed as operating Term Time Only. Of the 176 childcare providers, 174 operate during Term Time Only and Term Time and Holiday periods. 118 childcare providers operate during Term Time and Holidays and Holiday Only periods. Due to data set provided and prescribed options within the SASS questionnaire, it was not possible to further filter results to sub categorize into Term Time or Holidays provision; some providers may appear in both categories. This information must be considered when analysing sufficiency of childcare throughout the county borough alongside local knowledge. For any future planning and developments, we will be using live un-anonymised data sources from DEWIS Cymru to ensure accuracy of information. For a further breakdown of available childcare provision and places throughout the County Borough, please refer to Chapter 6.*

The following table (Figure 50) gives an indication, by geographic area, of the types of childcare services, registered with CIW, that are offered by Caerphilly Childcare providers according to both the SASS returns and local knowledge. Figures for service types do not include those services offered by childminders who offer a range of services according to their individual Statements of Purpose.

	Caerphilly County		Caerphilly Basin		Lower Sirhowy Valley		Mid Valleys East		Mid Valleys West		Upper Rhymney Valley	
	English	Welsh/Both	English	Welsh	English	Welsh	English	Welsh	English	Welsh	English	Welsh
Childminders	83	0	35	0	7	0	29	0	6	0	6	0
Full Day Nursery	23	0	7	0	3	0	7	0	5	0	3	0
Playgroup AM*	10	0/0	1	0/0	1	0/0	4	0/0	3	0/0	1	0/0
Playgroup PM*	5	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	0	0
Before School	89	1/5	36	1/2	10	0/0	30	0/2	9	0/1	4	0/0
After School	105	6/7	44	2/3	11	1/0	32	2/2	11	1/2	7	0/0
Playscheme	2	1/3	1	0/2	0	0/0	0	0/0	1	1/1	0	0/0

Figure 50 - Number of services offered by geographic region and by language

**We do not have data for all those childcare providers who did not complete their SASS return therefore an overall analysis of childcare sufficiency throughout the borough must be considered before drawing final conclusions.*

** The data included above is as per SASS 2021 inputted Figures; to have an accurate overview of available childcare throughout the borough, specifically Playgroup/Cylch Meithrin provision, analysis of subsequent chapters is necessary. Some providers offer Playgroup/Cylch Meithrin provision but may be referenced under Full Day Care/Sessional Day Care/Full Day Care mixed provisions, and the data inputted into SASS varies due to provider preference and understanding of range of services provided; definitions in the context of service type vary and can therefore not be considered without further analysis of childcare services.*

145 providers indicated that they deliver provision through the medium of English according to SASS 2021 data. A further 19 settings that they deliver a Welsh medium provision, and an additional 12 state that they deliver through the medium of English. Notably, 2 providers indicated that they also deliver through the medium of Polish, and an additional 1 provider stated that they also deliver through the medium of Spanish.

Across the borough Day Nurseries reported in the SASS that there are 42 children accessing childcare places in Full Day Nurseries who are formally identified as having learning difficulties or disabilities. The ALNET Act (Wales) and subsequent CIW SASS documentation defines the definition and types of ALN: Cognition and Learning / Behaviour, Emotional and Social Development / Communication and Interaction / Sensory and or Physical.

There are children with emerging developmental needs who are placed by the Local Authority in day nurseries for Assisted and Supported Places as well as children who are supported to access their Flying Start, Childcare Offer and Early Years Education funded placements. However, there are very few children who have been diagnosed and need specialist provision identified with ALN and requiring an IDP. It appears day nurseries in their reporting have confused children with ALN and children with emerging developmental delays as the numbers identified by settings self-reporting do not correlate with those held in the local authority. During January 2022 there were a total of 42 children receiving support for a funded placement in Early Years Education, Supported Places Scheme, Flying Start or Childcare Offer across all settings in the borough (not just Full Day Nursery). None of these children have an identified ALN yet. The placement is a method to identify if a child needs a specialist placement and has an ALN or if a child can receive targeted support / strategies / equipment to access mainstream provision and therefore would not yet be identified as a child with ALN.

Taking this into consideration, 26 of the childminders were still reporting that they could/are providing support for children with cognition and learning difficulties, 28 could/are providing support for children with behaviour, emotional and social developmental difficulties, 34 could/are providing support for children with communication and interaction difficulties and 26 reported they could/are providing support for children with sensory and or physical difficulties. Again, it is likely that childminders may have misinterpreted this question as it is unclear whether it was asking if the setting was currently caring for these children or whether they had the ability (confidence and competence) to care for these children now and in the future.

Of all settings in this category, all but one had a designated person who makes arrangements for ALN/SEN provision for children, all but 2 had staff who had had additional/specialist training in supporting children with ALN/SEN, all but one was aware of the ALN Code and all but 2 noted that they make referrals to and/or liaise with the Local Authority in relation to provision/support for children with ALN/SEN.

A full detailed analysis of the different types of childcare provision across the borough can be found in Chapter 6.

5.1 Number of Childcare Providers & Type of Services (Registered and Unregistered/ Approved)

The following is a table that outlines the Number of Childcare Providers by type and the services that are offered by those providers.

Childcare Type	Registered	Childcare Services Offered	Registered	Unregistered/ Approved
Childminder	83	Full Day Care	78	0
		Half Day Care AM/PM	39/39	0
		Before School Care	71	0
		After School Care	78	0
		Wrap Around Care	7	0
		Holiday Provision	74	0
Day Care				
Full Day Care	23	Full Day Nursery	23	0
		Half Day Care AM/PM	22/22	0
		Before School Care	18	0
		Playgroup/Cylch Meithrin AM	2	0
		Playgroup/Cylch Meithrin PM	1	0
		After School Care	19	0
		Wrap Around Care	22	0
		Lunch	4	0
		Holiday Provision	23	0
Full Day Mixed Sessional Care	19	Full Day Nursery	1	0
		Half Day AM/PM	1/1	0
		Before School Care	3	0

		Morning Playgroup/ Cylch Meithrin	6	0
		Afternoon Playgroup/ Cylch Meithrin	0	0
		After School Care	7	0
		Wrap Around Care	0	0
		Lunch	0	0
Sessional Day Care	55	Morning Playgroup/ Cylch Meithrin	43	0
		Afternoon Playgroup/ Cylch Meithrin	18	0
		Wrap Around	7	0
Crèche	0	Full Day	0	0
		Half Day AM	0	0
		Half Day PM	0	0
		Holiday Care	0	0
		Ad-hoc	0	0
Out of School Care	13	Before School Care	3	0
		After School Care	12	2
		Holiday Care	2	0
		Playscheme Sessions	2	0
Open Access Play Provision	6	Playscheme Sessions	6 varied	Varied
Nanny	5	Nanny Approval Scheme	5	0

Figure 51 – source SASS 2021

In addition to childcare provision, there are a range of out of school services being offered by Menter Iaith and Urdd Gobaith Cymru on sites within Welsh medium comprehensive schools in CB and MVE. These groups promote opportunities for communication through the medium of Welsh to pupils via various sports and social contexts. These groups are overseen and strategically developed and delivered by partner organisations, in conjunction with consultation with Early years and Education department colleagues. Such clubs are in-line with objectives for continued opportunity for Welsh medium use beyond the educational context, as per Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

5.1.2 Geographical Distribution of Childcare Providers & Services providing Registered and Excepted/ Approved childcare

Childcare Type	Childcare Services	Caerphilly Basin	Lower Sirhowy Valley	Mid Valleys East	Mid Valleys West	Upper Rhymney Valley
Childminder	Full day care	32	7	28	5	6
	Half day care AM/PM	14/15	3/4	19/17	1/1	2/2
	Before school	30	7	26	5	4
	After school	34	7	27	6	3
	Wrap Around	0	1	1	0	0
	Holiday Provision	33	6	29	5	6
	Other – Overnight					
	Term Time	0	0	3	0	0
	Holiday	0	0	3	0	0
	Other – Weekend					
	Term Time	1	0	2	1	0
	Holiday	1	0	2	1	0
Full Day Care – Full Day Nursery:	Full day nursery	7	2	8	4	2
	Half day nursery	7	2	7	4	2
	Before school	6	2	5	4	1
	Morning Playgroup/ Cylch Meithrin	1	1	0	0	0
	Afternoon Playgroup/ Cylch Meithrin	1	0	0	0	0
	After school	6	2	5	4	2

	Wrap Around	6	2	5	4	1
	Lunch	0	0	0	0	0
	Holiday Provision	7	2	7	4	2
	Crèche	0	0	0	0	1
Full Day Care	Full day care	0	0	1	0	0
Mixed						
Sessional						
Care						
	Half day	0	0	1	0	0
	Before school	1	1	1	0	0
	Morning Playgroup/Cylch Meithrin	0	0	4	1	1
	Afternoon Playgroup/Cylch Meithrin	0	0	3	1	0
	After school	2	1	3	1	0
	Wrap Around	6	1	8	3	1
	Lunch	2	0	3	2	0
	Holiday Provision	1	0	1	1	0
	Crèche	0	0	0	0	0
Sessional Day Care	Morning Playgroup/ Cylch Meithrin	8	3	7	6	6

	Afternoon Playgroup/ Cylch Meithrin	6	2	5	3	4
	Wrap Around	3	1	0	1	3
	Lunch	0	0	0	0	0
Crèche	Operates Full Day	0	0	0	0	0
	Operates Mornings	0	0	0	0	0
	Operates Afternoons	0	0	0	0	0
	Holiday Provision	0	0	0	0	0
	Other – ad hoc	0	0	0	0	0
Out of School Care	Before School	2	0	1	0	0
	After School	5	2	1	2	0
	Holiday Provision	6	0	0	3	0
	Playscheme sessions	3	0	0	3	0
Open Access Play	Holiday Provision	3	0	0	3	0
	Playscheme sessions	3	0	0	3	0
Nanny		4	0	1	0	0

Figure 52 - Geographical Distribution of Childcare Providers & Services – source SASS

5.2 Childcare Places – Supply and Demand per Childcare Type

5.2.1 Registered Provision – Term Time – Borough Wide

Childcare Type	Registered Places	Number of children using this service	Number of vacancies	Number of children on waiting list
Childminder	634	Full-time: 89 Part-time: 480 Ad-hoc: 26	93	27
Day Care				
Full Day Nursery	1183	Full-time: 173 Part-time: 1403 Ad-hoc: 67	241	24
Full Day Care – Mixed Provision	453	Full-time: 193 Part-time: 453 Ad-hoc: 6	18	1
Sessional Day Care	826	Full-time: 442 Part-time: 464 Ad-hoc: 15	70	23
Crèche	0	0	0	0
Out of School Care	307	Full-time: 59 Part-time: 313 Ad-hoc: 4	230	51
Open Access Play Provision	186	Full-time: 33 Part-time: 238 Ad-hoc: 0	300	0

Nanny (5 operating throughout the county borough)	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
--	---------	---------	---------	---------

Figure 53 – Childcare Places – Supply and Demand per Childcare Type - source SASS 2021

*Vacancies – some settings calculated this by full time place and other calculated by the day; Figures are therefore misleading. Some providers may have entered data incorrectly and Figures are therefore potentially incorrect.

5.2.3 Registered Provision Borough Wide – School Holidays

When analysing operating times i.e., Term Time or Holiday Only provision, sub-division of categories must be considered. Of the 176 registered childcare providers within Caerphilly County who completed SASS, and are therefore detailed in this CIW data source, 116 providers are listed as operating during Term Time and Holidays, 2 providers are listed as operating during Holidays Only, and a further 58 providers are listed as operating Term Time Only. Of the 176 childcare providers, 174 operate during Term Time Only and Term Time and Holiday periods. 118 childcare providers operate during Term Time and Holidays and Holiday Only periods. Due to data set and prescribed options, it is not possible to further filter results to sub categorize into Term Time or Holidays provision; some providers may appear in both categories. This information must be considered when analysing sufficiency of childcare throughout the county borough as childcare providers indicated via SASS returns that they delivered childcare either on a term time only basis/term time and holiday basis/holiday only basis, therefore it is not possible to further assess data based on term time only care or holiday only care for all providers throughout the county borough. Therefore, the data presented below may not always refer to holiday only provision. For a further breakdown of available childcare provision and places thought out the County Borough, please refer to subsequent chapter.

Childcare Type	Registered Places	Number of children using this service	Number of vacancies	Number of children on waiting list
Childminder	606	Full-time: 83 Part-time: 468 Ad-hoc: 26	93	27
Day Care				
Full Day Nursery	1183	Full-time: 173 Part-time: 1403 Ad-hoc: 67	241	24
Full Day Care – Mixed Provision	90	Full-time: 49 Part-time: 136 Ad-hoc: 0	0	0
Sessional Day Care	826	Full-time: 442 Part-time: 464 Ad-hoc: 15	70	23
Crèche	0	0	0	0
Out of School Care	417	Full-time: 59 Part-time: 296 Ad-hoc: 109	230	59
Open Access Play Provision	417	Full-time: 59 Part-time: 296 Ad-hoc: 109	230	59
Nanny (5 operating throughout the county borough)	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

Figure 54 Registered Provision Borough Wide – School Holidays – source SASS 2021

5.3 Geographical Distribution of Registered Childcare Places per Childcare Type – Supply and Demand – Term Time

Caerphilly Basin

Childcare Type	Registered Places	Number of children using this service	Number of vacancies	Number of children on waiting list
Childminder	277	256	53	8
Day Care				
Full Day Nursery	389	675	90	4
Full Day Care – Mixed Provision	178	220	1	0
Sessional Day Care	263	288	0	0
Crèche	0	0	0	0
Out of School Care	128	155	63	44
Open Access Play Provision	0	0	0	0
Nanny	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

Figure 55 - Source: SASS 2021

Lower Sirhowy Valley

Childcare Type	Registered Places	Number of children using this service	Number of vacancies	Number of children on waiting list
Childminder	63	66	10	1
Day Care				
Full Day Nursery	90	98	20	0
Full Day Care – Mixed Provision	16	18	10	0
Sessional Day Care	105	118	0	2
Crèche	0	0	0	0
Out of School Care				
Open Access Play Provision	0	0	0	0
Nanny	0	0	0	0

Figure 56 - Source: SASS 2021

Mid Valleys East

Childcare Type	Registered Places	Number of children using this service	Number of vacancies	Number of children on waiting list
Childminder	217	202	24	8
Day Care				
Full Day Nursery	391	550	83	12
Full Day Care – Mixed Provision	131	233	10	15
Sessional Day Care	100	116	17	0
Crèche	0	0	0	0
Out of School Care	30	24	0	7
Open Access Play Provision	0	0	0	0
Nanny (1 operating in this area)	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

Figure 57 - Source: SASS 2021

N.B. Some of the data entered may be incorrect due to providers misinterpreting the question.

Mid Valleys West

Childcare Type	Registered Places	Number of children using this service	Number of vacancies	Number of children on waiting list
Childminder	40	42	0	10
Day Care				
Full Day Nursery	217	232	48	8
Full Day Care – Mixed Provision	80	96	3	0
Sessional Day Care	169	162	26	4
Crèche	0	0	0	0
Out of School Care	93	157	100	0
Open Access Play Provision	93	157	100	0
Nanny	0	0	0	0

Figure 58 - Source: SASS 2021

N.B. Some data may have been entered incorrectly by providers as they may have misinterpreted the question.

Upper Rhymney Valley

Childcare Type	Registered Places	Number of children using this service	Number of vacancies	Number of children on waiting list
Childminder	37	29	6	0
Day Care				
Full Day Nursery	96	88	0	0
Full Day Care – Mixed Provision	24	49	10	0
Sessional Day Care	189	237	0	0
Crèche	0	0	0	0
Out of School Care	0	0	0	0
Open Access Play Provision	0	0	0	0
Nanny	0	0	0	0

Figures 55 – 59 – Geographical Distribution of Registered Childcare Places per Childcare Type – Supply and Demand – Term Time source SASS 2021

N.B. It is possible that some data has been entered incorrectly by providers as they may have misinterpreted the question.

5.4 Geographical Distribution of Registered Childcare Places per Childcare Type – Supply and Demand – School Holidays

Caerphilly Basin

Childcare Type	Registered Places	Number of children using this service	Number of vacancies	Number of children on waiting list
Childminder	265	253	53	8
Day Care				
Full Day Nursery	389	675	90	4
Full Day Care – Mixed Provision	50	69	3	0
Sessional Day Care	0	0	0	0
Crèche	0	0	0	0
Out of School Care	112	139	200	0
Open Access Play Provision	142	131	50	0
Nanny (4 operating in area)	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

Figure 60 Geographical Distribution of Registered Childcare Places per Childcare Type – Supply and Demand – School Holidays – source SASS 2021

*Data entered inconsistently therefore true picture of usage is unavailable.

Lower Sirhowy Valley

Childcare Type	Registered Places	Number of children using this service	Number of vacancies	Number of children on waiting list
Childminder	63	66	10	1
Day Care				
Full Day Nursery	90	98	20	0
Full Day Care – Mixed Provision	0	0	0	0
Sessional Day Care	0	0	0	0
Crèche	0	0	0	0
Out of School Care	0	0	0	0
Open Access Play Provision	0	0	0	0
Nanny	0	0	0	0

Figure 61 – source SASS 2021

*Data entered inconsistently therefore true picture of usage is unavailable.

Mid Valleys East

Childcare Type	Registered Places	Number of children using this service	Number of vacancies	Number of children on waiting list
Childminder	128	123	13	0
Day Care				
Full Day Nursery	215	275	73	3
Full Day Care – Mixed Provision	24	67	4	0
Sessional Day Care	100	116	0	17
Crèche	0	0	0	0
Out of School Care	0	0	0	0
Open Access Play Provision	0	0	0	0
Nanny	0	0	0	0

Figure 62 – source SASS 2021

*Data entered inconsistently therefore true picture of usage is unavailable.

Mid Valleys West

Childcare Type	Registered Places	Number of children using this service	Number of vacancies	Number of children on waiting list
Childminder	40	42	0	10
Day Care				
Full Day Nursery	217	232	48	8
Full Day Care – Mixed Provision	16	49	18	0
Sessional Day Care	169	162	0	0
Crèche	0	0	0	0
Out of School Care	93	157	0	0
Open Access Play Provision	93	157	100	0
Nanny	0	0	0	0

Figure 63 – source SASS 2021

*Data entered inconsistently therefore true picture of usage is unavailable.

Upper Rhymney Valley

Childcare Type	Registered Places	Number of children using this service	Number of vacancies	Number of children on waiting list
Childminder	37	29	6	0
Day Care				
Full Day Nursery	77	60	0	0
Full Day Care – Mixed Provision	0	0	0	0
Sessional Day Care	0	0	0	0
Crèche	0	0	0	0
Out of School Care	0	0	0	0
Open Access Play Provision	0	0	0	0
Nanny	0	0	0	0

Figures 60 – 64 Geographical Distribution of Registered Childcare Places per Childcare Type – Supply and Demand – School Holidays
– source SASS 2021

*Data entered inconsistently therefore true picture of usage is unavailable.

6. Analysis by Childcare Type

6.1. Childminder

6.1.1. Analysis of Supply of Childcare Provision

In Caerphilly County, the latest CIW data showed there is a total of 103 childminders registered with CIW. Of these 83 completed the SASS and 3 more were subsequently contacted to gather their information. There are also 13 childminders who appear on the CIW voluntarily suspended or semi-retired/retired in November 2021. There are 16 other childminders who were required to complete the SASS but have not despite being contacted to do so, 5 of which do not wish their details to be in the public realm, 5 of whom have subsequently closed or are in the process of closing, and 6 who have been uncontactable, so their data is not included in the analysis. The data analysis below therefore accounts for 83 of the 103 registered, but not necessarily active, childminders.

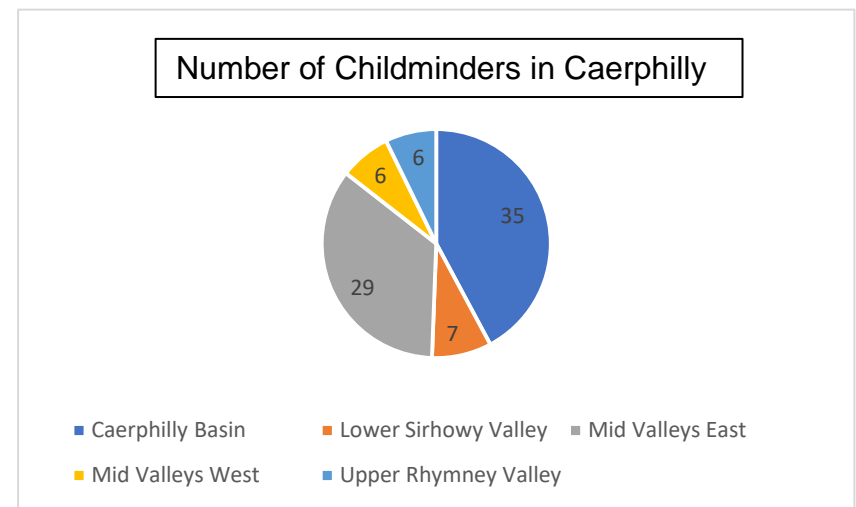


Figure 65 – Numbers of Childminders Across Caerphilly Borough

6.1.2 Range of services provided

Of the 83 childminders that completed the SASS, the following table shows the geographic distribution and range of services offered:

	Caerphilly County	Caerphilly Basin	Lower Sirhowy Valley	Mid Valleys East	Mid Valleys West	Upper Rhymney Valley
Number of Childminders	83	35	7	29	6	6
Full Day Care	78	32	7	28	5	6
Half Day Morning	39	14	3	19	1	2
Half Day Afternoon	39	15	4	17	1	2
Before School Care	71	30	7	26	5	4
After School Care	78	34	7	27	6	3
Wrap Around Care	7	0	1	1	0	0
Holiday	74	33	6	29	5	6
May Half Term	60	27	4	21	3	5
Summer Holidays	78	33	6	28	5	6
October Half Term	67	27	5	26	4	5
Christmas Holidays	24	12	3	5	2	2
February Half Term	71	30	5	27	4	5
Easter Holidays	65	27	5	25	4	4
Term Time Weekend	4	1	0	2	1	0
Term time Overnight	3	0	0	3	0	0
Holiday Weekend	4	1	0	2	1	0
Holiday Overnight	3	0	0	3	0	0

Figure 66 – range of services Childminders - source SASS 2021

The majority of childminders operate both term time and holidays however, due to data set provided and prescribed options within the SASS data, it was not possible to further filter results of services offered to sub categorize into Term Time or Holidays provision. For any future planning and developments, we will be using live non-anonymised data sources from DEWIS Cymru to ensure accuracy of information.

For a further breakdown of available childcare provision and places thought out the County Borough, please refer to Chapter 6.

Two Childminder's are registered with the Local Authority to deliver Flying Start; one provider offers this service through the medium of English and Welsh, whilst one offers this service in English.

29 Childminders indicated they are registered with the Local Authority to deliver Early Years Education; however, we are aware that there are in fact none on the Early Year's Plan.

There are 2 Childminders who are contracted with the Local Authority to provide placements for the Local Authority's Assisted Places and Supported Places Schemes.

6.1.3 Number and type of Childminder child places filled (full time, part time, ad-hoc) Term Time

The Following Table (Figure 67 shows the number and type of child-minding childcare places available and filled term time:

	Caerphilly County	Caerphilly Basin	Lower Sirhowy Valley	Mid Valleys East	Mid Valleys West	Upper Rhymney Valley
Registered Places	634	277	63	217	40	37
Total numbers of children	595	256	66	202	42	29

using the places						
Maximum Places used per service offered	Full Day Care	Full Day Care	Full Day Care	Full Day Care	Full Day Care	Full Day Care
	Total number: 573	Total number: 248	Total number: 66	Total number: 191	Total number: 39	Total number: 29
	Full-time: 84	Full-time: 22	Full-time: 14	Full-time: 29	Full-time: 13	Full-time: 6
	Part-time: 463	Part-time: 214	Part-time: 50	Part-time: 152	Part-time: 25	Part-time: 22
	Ad hoc: 26	Ad hoc: 12	Ad hoc: 2	Ad hoc: 10	Ad hoc: 1	Ad hoc: 1
	Half Day AM	Half Day AM	Half Day AM	Half Day AM	Half Day AM	Half Day AM
	Total number: 319	Total number: 136	Total number: 29	Total number: 134	Total number: 6	Total number: 14
	Full-time: 35	Full-time: 8	Full-time: 6	Full-time: 18	Full-time: 0	Full-time: 3
	Part-time: 267	Part-time: 121	Part-time: 23	Part-time: 108	Part-time: 5	Part-time: 10
	Ad hoc: 17	Ad hoc: 7	Ad hoc: 0	Ad hoc: 8	Ad hoc: 1	Ad hoc: 1
	Half Day PM	Half Day PM	Half Day PM	Half Day PM	Half Day PM	Half Day PM
	Total number: 318	Total number: 142	Total number: 20	Total number: 117	Total number: 6	Total number: 14

	Full-time: 32 Part-time: 269 Ad hoc: 17 Before School Total number: 541 Full-time: 79 Part-time: 440 Ad hoc: 22 After School Total number: 586 Full-time: 83 Part-time: 477 Ad hoc: 26	Full-time: 9 Part-time: 126 Ad hoc: 7 Before School Total number: 224 Full-time: 23 Part-time: 193 Ad hoc: 8 After School Total number:225 Full-time: 26 Part-time: 217 Ad hoc: 12	Full-time: 3 Part-time: 17 Ad hoc: 0 Before School Total number: 66 Full-time: 14 Part-time: 50 Ad hoc: 2 After School Total number: 66 Full-time: 14 Part-time: 50 Ad hoc: 2	Full-time: 13 Part-time: 97 Ad hoc: 7 Before School Total number: 190 Full-time: 26 Part-time: 154 Ad hoc: 10 After School Total number: 198 Full-time: 26 Part-time: 162 Ad hoc: 10	Full-time:0 Part-time:5 Ad hoc:1 Before School Total number: 39 Full-time: 13 Part-time: 25 Ad hoc: 1 After School Total number:422 Full-time:13 Part-time:28 Ad hoc:1	Full-time: 3 Part-time: 10 Ad hoc: 1 Before School Total number: 22 Full-time: 3 Part-time: 18 Ad hoc: 1 After School Total number: 25 Full-time: 4 Part-time: 20 Ad hoc: 1
--	--	--	---	--	--	---

Figure 67 – Number and type of Childminder child places filled Source SASS 2021

N.B. It is possible that providers may have misinterpreted the definitions of Full Time .Part time and ad hoc as per the guidance so these Figures should be interpreted with this in mind.

6.1.4 Vacancies and Waiting lists

The following table shows the range of vacancies that have been reported in childminding settings:

	Caerphilly County	Caerphilly Basin	Lower Sirhowy Valley	Mid Valleys East	Mid Valleys West	Upper Rhymney Valley
Full Day Care	93	53	10	24	0	6
Half Day AM	45	24	0	19	0	2
Half Day PM	45	26	19	19	0	0
Before School Care	141	102	4	30	1	4
After School Care	117	85	4	23	2	3
Wraparound Care	3	2	0	1	0	0
Half Day AM Holiday	45	24	0	19	0	2
Half Day PM Holiday	45	26	19	19	0	0

Figure 68– Vacancies and Waiting lists Source SASS 2021

Childminders reported vacancies according to the places they felt they have available in the different types of service they offer.

7 Childminders reported a waiting list for before school care provision within the borough during term time and holiday time: 4 in Caerphilly Basin, 2 in Mid Valleys East, and 1 in Mid Valleys West. 6 Childminders reported a waiting list for After School Care provision within the borough during term time and holiday time: 4 in Caerphilly Basin, 1 in Mid Valleys East, and 1 in Mid Valleys

West. 13 Childminders reported a waiting list for Full Day Care provision within the borough: 5 in Caerphilly Basin, 3 in Mid Valleys West, 4 in Mid Valleys East, and 1 in Lower Sirhowy Valley.

This indicates that the greatest number of vacancies for childminding places are in the Caerphilly basin area and the least amount of vacancies are in MVW, however there is a variety of other types of childcare, both English and Welsh medium, in this area to support the demand.

6.1.5 Number of places filled by children who have Additional Learning Needs or who require specialist care due to a disability

Across the borough 9 Childminders reported in the SASS that there are 10 children accessing childcare places in their settings who are formally identified as having learning difficulties or disabilities. The ALNET Act (Wales) and subsequent CIW SASS documentation defines the definition and types of ALN: Cognition and Learning / Behaviour, Emotional and Social Development / Communication and Interaction / Sensory and or Physical.

There are children with emerging developmental needs who are placed by the Local Authority in **day nurseries** for Assisted and Supported Places as well as children who are supported to access their Flying Start, Childcare Offer and Early Years Education funded placements. However, there are very few children who have been diagnosed and need specialist provision identified with ALN and requiring an IDP. It appears childminders in their reporting may have confused children with ALN and children with emerging developmental delays as the numbers identified by providers self-reporting do not correlate with those held in the local authority. During January 2022 there were a total of 42 children receiving support for a funded placement in Early Years Education, Supported Places Scheme, Flying Start or Childcare Offer across all settings in the borough (not just childminders). None of these children have an identified ALN yet. The placement is a method to identify if a child needs a specialist placement and has an ALN or if a child can receive targeted support / strategies / equipment to access mainstream provision and therefore would not yet be identified as a child with ALN. However, there are insufficient places to support children in Assisted and Supported Places Scheme, which needs more childcare providers to offer to provide this support.

Taking this into consideration, 23 of the childminders were still reporting that they could/are providing support for children with cognition and learning difficulties, 27 could/are providing support for children with behaviour, emotional and social developmental difficulties, 29 could/are providing support for children with communication and interaction difficulties and 27 reported they could/are providing support for children with sensory and or physical difficulties. Again, it is likely that childminders may have misinterpreted this question as it is unclear whether it was asking if the setting was currently caring for these children or whether they had the ability (confidence and competence) to care for these children now and in the future.

Of all childminders in this category (83), only 51 had a designated person who makes arrangements for ALN/SEN provision for children, 39 felt they had had additional/specialist training in supporting children with ALN/SEN, 66 were aware of the ALN Code and 38 noted that they make referrals to and/or liaise with the Local Authority in relation to provision/support for children with ALN/SEN.

6.1.6 Number of Welsh language places filled

Of the 83 Childminders, 81 state they deliver through the medium of English, with 2 stating they deliver through both English and Welsh medium provision. There are no childminders that deliver only through the medium of Welsh, although we are aware of one new childminder currently going through the registration process in the Bargoed area who intends to provide a Welsh medium service.

Of the total number of registered places provided by childminders (634) 20 are available in both English and Welsh.

Of the 595 children accessing childcare through a childminder, 21 were using a childminder who delivers through both English and Welsh medium. Of these, 0 are used on a Full Time, 21 Part Time and 0 Ad Hoc bases. There are 20 places available through childminders who use both languages during school holidays (2 childminders throughout each school holiday). Neither of the 2 childminders who use both languages offer weekend care during term time or holidays. Neither of the 2 Childminders in Caerphilly borough who deliver through both languages stated that they had a waiting list for any form of service.

The 10year Welsh in Education Strategic Plan identifies the need to develop 26-32% childcare places supporting Welsh language development by 2032 in order to meet the target of 26% children in year 1 in Welsh language Education. There is a need to develop

additional provision across the borough as well as support current provision to move along the linguistic continuum (for example accessing the Road to Bilingualism to move towards delivering category 2 English and Welsh medium provision or category 3 Welsh medium provision), to meet this ambitious target.

In addition, there is a commitment for universal funded part time childcare provision for all 2year olds through expansion of the Flying Start programme, within the same time period as the WESP 2022-2032. Parents may need flexibility in this provision to meet their individual family needs, including local community sessional based provision for families who do not have transport to commute long distances, full day care for working families who need full day provision to meet their working hours, flexible working patterns to meet shift work, and will require Welsh language and inclusive settings. As such there will be a need to develop increase Welsh language across all types of childcare provision.

6.1.7 Opening times, including the number offering flexible childcare hours and range of session lengths

Childminders offer the most flexible childcare service of all the various childcare types and many report offering a service to suit the individual needs of the families and children that use them. The following table shows the range of opening hours offered by the childminders:

Range of opening hours including flexible term time and hols

Caerphilly County	<p>Earliest opening time 6.00am (7 settings)</p> <p>78 opening before 8.00am in term time and 75 in holidays</p> <p>5 open after 6.00pm during term time and holidays</p> <p>Latest closing time not including overnight is 8.00pm</p> <p>3 childminders offer overnight care</p> <p>3 are open on a Saturday</p> <p>3 are open on a Sunday</p>
Caerphilly Basin	<p>Earliest opening 6.00am (4 settings)</p> <p>Latest closing 7.00pm not including overnight care.</p> <p>31 open before 8.00am during term time and 30 open during holidays</p> <p>17 open after 6.00pm during term time and holidays</p> <p>0 overnight care</p>

	1 provides weekend care during term time and holidays
Lower Sirhowy Valley	<p>Earliest opening is 6.30am Latest closing is 6.00pm 4 open before 8.00am term time and holidays 0 open after 6.00pm term time and holidays 0 open overnight term time or holidays 0 weekend term time or holidays</p>
Mid Valleys East	<p>Earliest opening is 6.00am Latest opening is 8.00pm 28 open before 8.00am during term time and holidays 11 open after 6.00pm during term time and holidays 3 open overnight term time and holidays 2 open weekend term time and holidays</p>
Mid Valleys West	<p>Earliest opening is 6.00am Latest opening is 8.00pm during term time and holidays 6 are open before 8.00am during term time and holidays 5 are open after 6.00 pm during term time and holidays 0 open overnight term time and holidays 1 open weekend term time and holidays</p>
Upper Rhymney Valley	<p>Earliest opening is 7.00am term time and holidays Latest closing is 6.00pm term time and holidays 5 open before 8.00am term time and holidays 2 open after 6.00pm term time and holidays 0 open overnight term time and holidays 0 open weekends term time and holidays</p>

Figure 69 – Opening times – childminders - Source SASS 2021

6.1.8 Age range of children

The Chart to the right the numbers of children utilising childminding services in the different age categories during Term Time and Holidays across the whole of the borough. This information demonstrates that more children aged 5-7 are accessing this service throughout term time and holidays than any other age.

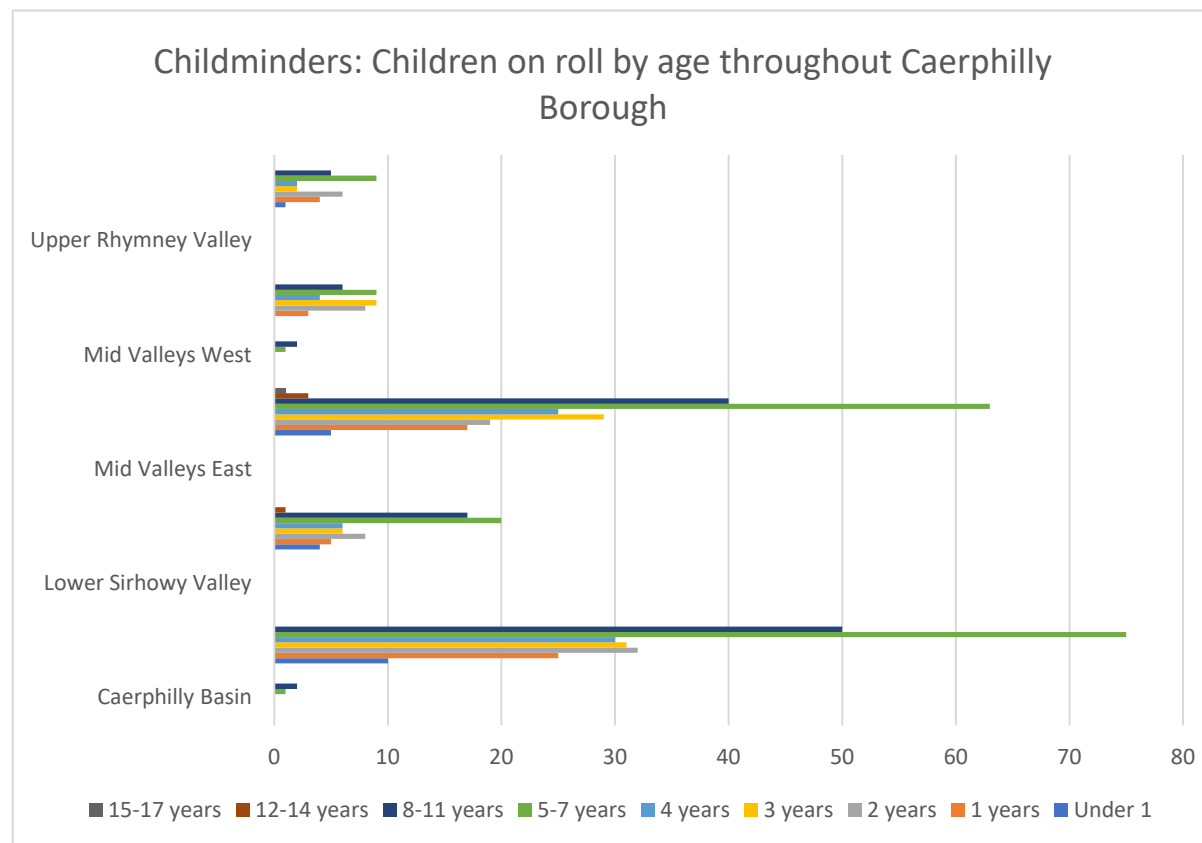


Figure 70 – Age range of Children using Childminders – Source SASS 2021

The Table below (Figure 71) shows the range of ages of children that are being cared for by childminders across the borough.

	Caerphilly Basin		Lower Sirhowy Valley		Mid Valleys East		Mid Valleys West		Upper Rhymney Valley	
	Term Time Only	Term Time and Holidays	Term Time Only	Term Time and Holidays	Term Time Only	Term Time and Holidays	Term Time Only	Term Time and Holidays	Term Time Only	Term Time and Holidays
Under 1	0	10	0	4	0	5	0	0	0	1
1 years	0	25	0	5	0	17	0	3	0	4
2 years	0	32	0	8	0	19	0	8	0	6
3 years	0	31	0	6	0	29	0	9	0	2
4 years	0	30	0	6	0	25	0	4	0	2
5-7 years	1	75	0	20	0	63	1	9	0	9
8-11 years	2	50	0	17	0	40	2	6	0	5
12-14 years	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0
15-17 years	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

Figure 71 – Source SASS 2021

6.1.9 Range of charges

Across the borough there are a range of charges for the different services offered by childminders as follows:
Fees have been reported in hourly/daily/sessional costs, the median fee has been calculated to summarise findings.

Range of fees

Caerphilly County	<p>Full Day: £3.50-£6.00 per hour (£4.75 median rate) £30.00-£48.00 per day (£39.00 median rate)</p> <p>Half Day: £3.30/hr to £25 /half day (average £3.84 /hr)</p> <p>Before School £2/hr to £10/session (average £5.68/hr)</p> <p>After School £2/hr to £26.30 /session (average 4.76/hr)</p> <p>Wraparound £2/hr to £35/session (average £3.81/hr)</p> <p>Holiday Provision half day. £2.00/hr to £30.00 session (average £3.78/hr)</p>
Caerphilly Basin	<p>Full day £3.50/hr to £45.00 per day</p> <p>Half day £3.50/hr to £25.00/session</p> <p>Before School £3/hr to £10.00/session</p> <p>After School £3.50/hr to £10.00/session</p> <p>Wrap - £3.50/hr - £35.00/session</p> <p>Holiday £3.50/hr - £30.00 half day session</p>
LSV	<p>Full day £3.33/hr to £42.50 per day</p> <p>Half day £3.33/hr to £20.00/session</p> <p>Before School £4.00/hr to £10.00/session</p> <p>After School £4.00/hr to £20.00/session</p> <p>Wrap - £4.00/hr</p> <p>Holiday £4.00/hr</p>
MVE	<p>Full day £2.90/hr to £40.00 per day</p> <p>Half day £3.33/hr to £20.00/session</p> <p>Before School £3.63/hr to £10.00/session</p> <p>After School £3.63/hr to £15.00/session</p> <p>Wrap - £4.50/hr - £30.00 session</p> <p>Holiday £4.00/hr - £20.00 half day</p>
MVW	<p>Full day £3.50/hr to £35.00 per day</p> <p>Half day £3.50/hr to £25.00/session</p> <p>Before School £2.00/hr to £7.50/session</p> <p>After School £2.00/hr to £12.50/session</p> <p>Wrap - £2.00/hr - £25.00 session</p>

	Holiday £2.00/hr - £25.00 half day
URV	Full day £3.00/hr to £40.00 per day Half day £3.50/hr to £23.00/session Before School £3.50/hr to £10.00/session After School £3.50/hr to £26.50/session Wrap - £3.50/hr - £35.00session Holiday £3.50/hr - £20.00 half day

Figure 72 - Range of Charges – Childminders – Source SASS 2021

6.1.10 Summary of key strengths and weaknesses

- The spread of childminders is not consistent across the borough with the highest numbers in the Caerphilly Basin and Mid Valleys East areas. However, these are the areas with high population and employment opportunities.
- However, there are very few childminders in comparison in the Upper Rhymney Valley, Mid Valleys West, and Lower Sirhowy Valley areas. In Upper Rhymney Valley there are only 2 Day Nurseries offering Full Day Care provision. In Lower Sirhowy Valley, there are also only 2 Day Nurseries offering Full Day Care provision. In the URV there is a lack of After school provision in the northern end of the area (Rhymney) which is a service that childminders could provide. It should be noted that there is a Day Nursery just over the border in Blaenau Gwent which can offer after school and full day care provision.
- There are no childminders offering overnight care in the Caerphilly Basin, Upper Rhymney Valley, Lower Sirhowy Valley or Mid Valleys West areas.
- Childminders can offer a complete wraparound service for families resulting in consistent care for the child.
- 2 childminders are registered with the local authority to offer placements for Assisted places.
- Childminder places are well used across the whole borough in term time. However, there are plenty of unused places reported. This is only a snapshot in time of usage and places may not be available where and when parents want them. Feedback from parents in the parent questionnaire suggested that some childminders are busier than others and finding availability in some childminders was difficult.

- There were vacancies reported in all areas. However, parental choice for childminders is a very important factor for parents when choosing childcare, so even though there may be spaces at another childminder close by, this may not suit the parent's choice.
- Childminders are often a preferred option for parents with children with additional / emerging needs as the childminder can offer smaller groups and a consistent service across the age ranges. They can also offer a more flexible service to cater for the child's medical appointments, etc.
- There are no Welsh medium childminders; 2 deliver through the medium of English and Welsh. Local knowledge means that we are aware of 1 Welsh medium Childminder who will be operating in the Bargoed area. The lack of current Welsh medium childminders (at the time of completion of the SASS) is a weakness within the borough. There is a sufficiency of alternative Welsh medium provision throughout the County Borough; that's available through Full Day Care, Sessional Day Care/Out of School Care provision however for those parents who are seeking a smaller scale,
- Childminders can offer the most flexible childcare service and often offer bespoke childcare packages to meet the needs of working families. 3 Childminders stated that they provide overnight care whilst 4 indicated that they provide weekend care.
- The charges vary across the range of services with before and after school care being the most expensive by hourly rate. Some charge a retaining fee in the summer holidays which some families find difficult to afford. Childcare Offer Wales hourly rate is £4.50, therefore all eligible 3–4-year-old children's families would be able to access this service and receive 9 weeks of holiday time funded childcare.
- There is a lack of provision specifically in the Aber Valley, Caerphilly Town, Gilfach and Gelligaer area of the borough according to SASS data. There is a sufficiency of alternative childcare providers within these areas offering alternative childcare provision, however it is notable to highlight that this may impact on flexibility of service delivery in these areas in terms of opening and closing times.
- COVID-19 has impacted this sector significantly, CIW SASS 2021 data indicates that of the 83 registered childminders who completed the SASS and were not within cohort of late submitters, only 53 indicated favourable financial and suitable conditions for more than 1 year of continued service delivery. Welsh Government have indicated that an impending Review of Child-Minding Services throughout Wales will be undertaken to gather data regarding sustainability issues and the reasons for the increase in de-registration of Childminders. This should provide additional insight into decreased service delivery; this report is expected to be completed by Autumn 2022 and should provide insight that will be useful in planning for future provision and recruitment and retention of childminders. Collaborative working with the registered Welsh Government body

CIW means that we are aware that they undertook a cleanse of providers who were registered on the system during 2021, to ensure that their data relating to registered childminders who remain operational is accurate. This cleanse of information could account for decrease in providers. Awaiting publication of this article to provide greater insight and further consultation with previously active childminders could provide insight into sustainability issues.

- Given limited numbers of children accessing Childminder provision due to ratio restrictions, there are more frequent opportunities for enhanced communication between parents/carers and providers with a focus on discussions relating to individual needs, feedback regarding interventions and support within the setting; this would be a perceived strength of service on behalf of parents seeking a greater level of interaction with childcare provider.
- Childminders can deliver a flexible service in terms of opening times; the earliest opening time is 6.00am within the County Borough. 7 settings are open at 6.00am and a further 78 settings are open before 8.00am which supports working parents to access childcare provision that is outside of typical school day/office hours. This is a strength of this service.
- Childminders can deliver a flexible service in terms of opening times; the latest closing time is 8.00pm within the County Borough. 5 settings in total are open after 6.00pm across the County Borough all year around which provides a greater level of flexibility for working parents, complementing those who work shift work. This is a strength of this service.
- With regards to Additional Needs provision, Childminders can deliver a more bespoke service, providing a potentially quieter and calmer physical environment, which is more familiar and comforting as service is delivered in providers own home can create increased opportunities for more meaningful interactions as the children feel at ease which is a strength of this service.
- Childminder settings are reporting they are looking after children with identified Additional Learning Needs – however, this is not formally the case and maybe an area that needs to be considered in future training around definitions and processes.
- Not all childminders have received training on the new ALNET Act and will be a target for future training.
- The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032 has a target of 26-32% children in year 1 attending Welsh language Education. To meet this target in 2032 there is a need to develop more Welsh language childcare provision as well as move existing childcare provision along the linguistic continuum. The Early Years Team work very closely with colleagues in the WESP and is prioritising this as a piece of work going forward.

6.2 Full Day Care

6.2.1 Analysis of Supply of Childcare Provision

There are 23 Full Day Care providers across the county borough a net increase of 4 since the last CSA in 2017. There are 7 in the Caerphilly Basin (CB), 3 in the Lower Sirhowy Valley (LSV), 7 in Mid Valleys East (MVE), 5 in Mid Valleys West (MVW) and 2 in the Upper Rhymney Valley (URV). One of these operates term time only as it is associated with the local Further Education College, Coleg y Cymoedd, located centrally in Ystrad Mynach, in MVW. All Full Day Care providers offer places for children aged 0-14 years.

Since the last CSA there have been 2 additional Day Nurseries opened in the Caerphilly Basin area, 1 additional day nursery in the Lower Sirhowy Valley, 2 in Mid Valleys East and 1 additional in the Upper Rhymney Valley. The number of full day nurseries in Mid Valleys West has remained unchanged. Over the same period 2 Day nurseries closed. The one new Day nursery in the Lower Sirhowy area has filled one of the identified gaps in the last CSA providing 46 places in the Risca area.

Of the 23 Day Nurseries, there are no Welsh medium only settings in Caerphilly borough. Notably, there are 4 settings that indicate they are a bilingual provision (Welsh and English). 1 other setting indicated that they provide an English service with the use of bilingual elements.

In addition, there are 19 providers who are registered as Full Day Care, that do not offer Full Day Nursery, but do offer a variety of mixed sessional provisions throughout the day according to the age of the child catering from the ages of 0-11 years. The length of provision a child could access would be dictated by each individual settings Statement of Purpose. Although these settings offer care throughout the day, we do not consider them as Full Day Nurseries as they do not provide continuous care for children, rather a range of sessional provisions. Of these 19 mixed sessional provisions, 14 are English medium and 5 are Welsh medium provisions.

6.2.2 Range of services provided

Of the 23 Day Nurseries, there are 18 that offer Before School care, 19 offer After School care, 22 settings offer Wrap Around provision, 1 setting offers Playgroup provision, 4 that offer lunch time provision. None offer crèche provision. 4 Full Day Nurseries offer Flying Start provision alongside other provision. 2 Day Nurseries offer Early Years Education; both settings are in MVE.

When analysing operating times i.e., Term Time or Holiday Only provision, sub-division of categories must be considered. It should be noted that of the 176 registered childcare providers within Caerphilly County who completed SASS, and are therefore detailed in this CIW data source, 116 providers are listed as operating during Term Time and Holidays, 2 providers are listed as operating during Holidays Only, and a further 58 providers are listed as operating Term Time Only. Of the total 176 childcare providers, 174 operate during Term Time Only and Term Time and Holiday periods. 118 childcare providers operate during Term Time and Holidays and Holiday Only periods. Due to data set and prescribed options within the SASS, it is not possible to further filter results to sub categorize into Term Time or Holidays provision; some providers may appear in both categories. All Full Day Nurseries (except the one based on the College campus) operate during both Term Time and School Holidays whereas the data for Full Day Mixed sessional Care is not possible to identify from the SASS data. Local knowledge of the sector indicates there are currently 6 providers registered as Mixed Full Day Care that offer Holiday provision 4 of which are Welsh medium.

The range of services offered by the Full Day Care providers by provider type i.e. Full Day Nurseries and Full Day Mixed Sessional Care are outlined in the table (Figure 92) below:

	Full Day Nursery	Mixed Sessional (English)	Mixed Sessional (Welsh)
Full Day Nursery	23	0	0
Half Day AM	22	15	4
Half Day PM	22	15	4
Before School Care	18	0	0
After School Care	19	11	3
Wrap Around	22	As above Half Day AM/PM	4 AM

			6 PM
Playgroup AM	2	24	1
Playgroup PM	1	14	2
Holidays	23	data not supplied	4
Lunch	4	11	1

Figure 73 – Range of Services – Full Day Care – Source SASS 2021 plus Dewis

The chart above indicates that whilst Full Day Nurseries are not currently providing a Welsh medium service throughout the County borough, there is a sufficiency of Welsh medium childcare available to families via Mixed Sessional Day Care settings or Sessional Care settings.

6.2.3 Number and type of child places filled (full time, part time, ad-hoc)

Caerphilly County Borough

Full Day Nursery

In total across Caerphilly county borough there are 1183 registered childcare places available in Full Day Nurseries being used by 1643 children according to SASS data, in a variety of capacities i.e. part-time/full-time etc.

Of these, there are a maximum of 1183 places available for Full Day Care during term time and holidays, 214 are used full-time, 1403 are used part-time, and 67 are used on an ad-hoc basis. There is a maximum of 24 places available on a term time only basis (at the childcare facility on the College campus), 3 are used full-time, 14 are used part-time, 1 is used on an ad-hoc basis.

There are a maximum of 1110 places available for Half Day AM during term time and holidays. 107 are used full-time, 1360 are used part-time and 66 are used on an ad-hoc basis. There is a maximum of 24 places available for Half Day AM during term time only basis (at the childcare facility on the College campus). 3 are used full-time, 14 are used part-time and 1 is used on an ad-hoc basis.

There are a maximum of 1110 places available for Half Day PM during term time and holidays. 107 are used full-time, 1389 are used part-time and 66 are used on an ad-hoc basis. There is a maximum of 24 places available for Half Day PM during term time only basis. 3 are used full-time, 14 are used part-time and 1 is used on an ad-hoc basis.

There are a maximum of 998 places available for Before School Care during term time and holiday time. 154 are used full-time, 1197 are used part-time and 63 are used on an ad-hoc basis.

There are a maximum of 1068 places available for After School Care during term time and holiday time. 245 are used full-time, 1282 are used part-time and 63 are used on an ad-hoc basis.

There are a maximum of 61 places available for Lunch during term time and holiday time. 22 are used full-time, 100 are used part-time and 3 are used on an ad-hoc basis. There is a maximum of 24 places available for After School Care during term time only basis. 3 are used full-time, 14 are used part-time and 1 is used on an ad-hoc basis.

NB – it is likely that not all providers have interpreted the definitions of Full time part time and ad hoc in the same way and therefore these results must be read with this in mind when considering sufficiency of places and for use in future planning of new places.

The table (Figure 74) below shows registered places and numbers of places used as a mixture of full time, part time and ad hoc across all services offered in **Full Day Nurseries** across the county borough

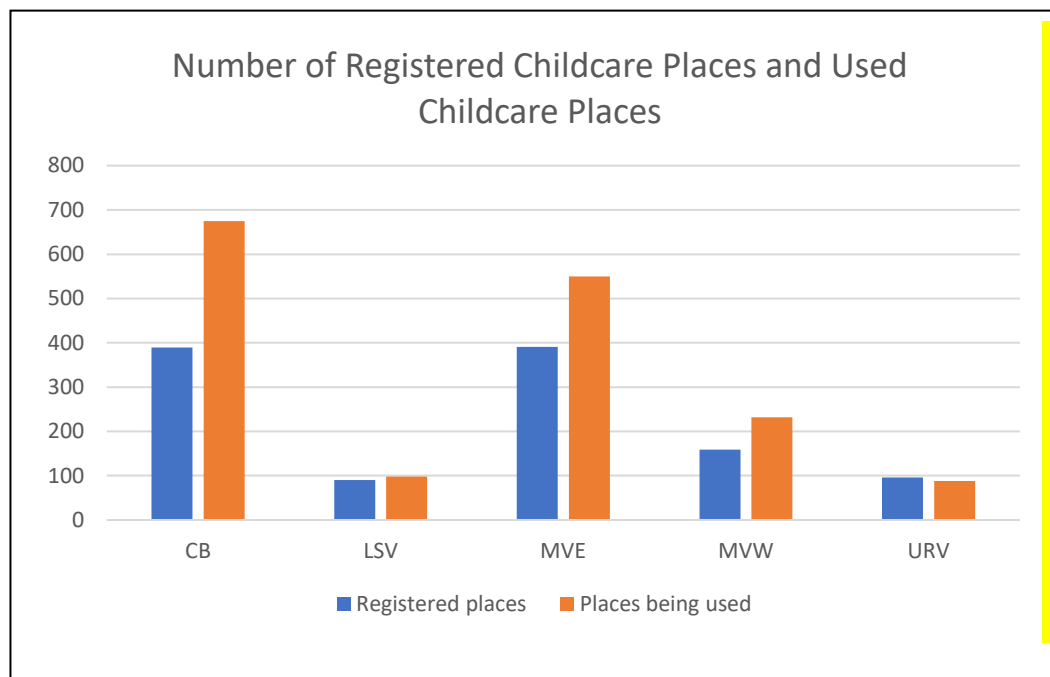


Figure 74 – Number of Registered Childcare places Full Day Care - usage

CB – 389 registered places being used by 675 children
 LSV – 90 registered places being used by 98 children
 MVE – 391 registered places being used by 550 children
 MVW – 159 registered places being used by 232 children
 URV – 96 registered places being used by 88 children

Mixed Sessional Care

Mixed Sessional Day Care services provide 835 registered places through Caerphilly County. Of these, the maximum number of available places available per service type is as follows:

- Playgroup/Cylch Meithrin/Wrap Around AM 199
- Playgroup/Cylch Meithrin/Wrap Around PM 149
- After School Care 209
- Before School Care 82
- Lunch 196

The profile of usage of these places will be highlighted in the geographic breakdowns below.

6.2.4 Full Day Nursery Waiting Lists and Vacancies:

Full Day Nursery	Caerphilly County	Caerphilly Basin	Lower Sirhowy Valley	Mid Valleys East	Mid Valleys West	Upper Rhymney Valley
Children Awaiting Immediate Start	24	4	0	12	8	0
Number of Unfilled Spaces	241	90	10	83	48	0

Figure 75 – Full Day Care waiting Lists and Vacancies – Source: SASS 2021

This shows that the childcare provided by Full Day care settings in this area are well used by the families in the area and provide a much-needed service for families with children of a variety of ages and childcare needs. This data is only as good as the day it was gathered but it shows that there appears to be sufficient childcare offered and of the types required by families in this area.

The chart above indicates that there is sufficiency of childcare places within Full Day nurseries through the county borough according to SASS 2021 data, however this data can only be relied upon to give an accurate overview of demand on the date of submission and again it is likely there is some misinterpretation of the definition of vacancy. The chart indicates that the greatest number of vacancies within Full Day Nurseries is in CB and MVE. This chart also denotes that all available childcare places within Full Day nursery provision in URV are being utilised accordingly. It should also be noted that these childcare places account for English medium childcare places.

Caerphilly Basin

Day Nursery

In total there are a maximum of 389 registered childcare places available in the 7 Day Nurseries being used by 675 children according to SASS data, in a variety of capacities i.e., part-time/full-time etc.

Of these, there are a maximum of 389 places available for Full Day Care during term time and holidays, 157 are used full-time, 608 are used part-time, and 10 are used on an ad-hoc basis.

Of these, there are a maximum of 389 places available for Half Day AM during term time and holidays, 157 are used full-time, 608 are used part-time, and 10 are used on an ad-hoc basis.

Of these, there are a maximum of 389 places available for Half Day PM during term time and holidays, 157 are used full-time, 608 are used part-time, and 10 are used on an ad-hoc basis.

There is a maximum of 308 places available for Before School Care during term time and holidays. 50 are used full-time, 508 are used part-time and 10 are used on an ad-hoc basis.

There is a maximum of 359 places available for After School Care during term time and holiday time. 137 are used full-time, 569 are used part-time and 10 are used on an ad-hoc basis.

There is a maximum of 49 places available for Lunch during term time and holiday time. 21 are used full-time, 81 are used part-time and 0 are used on an ad-hoc basis.

Mixed Sessional Provision

There are 6 Mixed Sessional Provisions in the Caerphilly Basin area. Of these, 5 are English medium and 1 is Welsh medium. The Welsh medium setting is located on site of one of the Welsh medium Primary School.

In total there are a maximum of 154 registered places (135 English medium and 19 Welsh medium) being used by 139 children; 29 children are accessing Welsh medium provision whilst a further 110 are accessing English provision within this category. The maximum number of places available by type of service and their usage is shown below (Figure 94):

	Maximum available places	Maximum available places	Places used full- time	Places used full-time	Places used part-time	Places used part- time
	English	Welsh	English	Welsh	English	Welsh
Half Day AM	79	0	26	0	76	0

Half Day PM	79	0	26	0	76	0
Before School Care	0	50	0	0	0	69
After School Care	30	50	6	0	23	69
Holiday Care	No data from SASS	No data from SASS	No data from SASS	No data from SASS	No data from SASS	No data from SASS

Figure 76 – Source SASS 2021

We are however aware that this data relates purely to Mixed Sessional Full Day provision. The services highlighted above may be offered in alternative sessional care, see chapters below.

Lower Sirhowy Valley

Full Day Nursery

In total there is a maximum of 152 registered childcare places available in the 3 Day Nurseries, being used by 98 children, according to SASS data, in a variety of capacities i.e. part-time/full-time etc. It should be noted that one Day Nursery (registered for 62 of these places) in this area failed to complete the SASS returns to CIW so data relating to the services they provide and places used is not included in the breakdowns below and only includes the 2 day nurseries that did complete the SASS – a total of 90 registered places.

Of these, there is a maximum of 90 places available for Full Day Care during term time and holidays, 4 are used full-time, 94 are used part-time, and 0 are used on an ad-hoc basis.

There is a maximum of 90 places available for Half Day AM during term time and holidays, 4 are used full-time, 94 are used part-time, and 0 are used on an ad-hoc basis.

There is a maximum of 90 places available for Half Day PM during term time and holidays, 4 are used full-time, 94 are used part-time, and 0 are used on an ad-hoc basis.

There is a maximum of 90 places available for Before School Care during term time and holidays, 4 are used full-time, 94 are used part-time, and 0 are used on an ad-hoc basis.

There is a maximum of 90 places available for After School Care during term time and holidays, 4 are used full-time, 94 are used part-time, and 0 are used on an ad-hoc basis.

There is a maximum of 0 places available for separate Lunch Club during term time and holidays.

Mixed Sessional Provision

There is only one English Medium provider offering Mixed Sessional Care in Lower Sirhowy Valley, registered for 20 places being used by 20 children. They offer wraparound and after school and holiday services and are located on an English medium Primary School site.

Note: there is no Welsh provision of this type (Full day sessional) currently however the Welsh medium primary school in this area do offer playgroup, wrap around and after school provision, but each is registered separately as sessional care and is included in the chapters below. The development of new Cwm Gwyddon school will include bespoke childcare facilities for full day sessional provision.

	Maximum available places	Maximum available places	Places used full- time	Places used full- time	Places used part- time	Places used part- time
	English	Welsh	English	Welsh	English	Welsh
Half Day AM	20	0	0	0	0	0
Half Day PM	20	0	0	0	0	0
Before School Care	16	0	8	0	10	0
After School Care	16	0	8	0	10	0

**Figure 77 – Number of
Childcare places
available and used
English and Welsh**

Lunch	0	0	0	0	0	0
--------------	---	---	---	---	---	---

Mid Valleys East

Full Day Nursery

In total there are a maximum of 389 registered childcare places available in the 7 Day Nurseries being used by 675 children according to SASS data, in a variety of capacities i.e. part-time/full-time etc.

Of these, there is a maximum of 389 places available for Full Day Care during term time and holidays, 74 are used full-time, 265 are used part-time, and 46 are used on an ad-hoc basis. There are a maximum of 24 places available for Full Day Care during term time only.

There is a maximum of 318 places available for Half Day AM during term time and holidays, 70 are used full-time, 363 are used part-time, and 46 are used on an ad-hoc basis. There are a maximum of 24 places available for Half Day Care AM during term time only; 3 are used full-time, 14 are used part-time and 1 is used on an ad-hoc basis.

There is a maximum of 318 places available for Half Day PM during term time and holidays, 70 are used full-time, 363 are used part-time, and 46 are used on an ad-hoc basis. There are a maximum of 24 places available for Half Day Care PM during term time only; 3 are used full-time, 14 are used part-time and 1 is used on an ad-hoc basis.

There is a maximum of 306 places available for Before School Care during term time and holidays. 69 are used full-time, 344 are used part-time and 43 are used on an ad-hoc basis. There are 0 places available for Before School Care during term time only – these are provided through free breakfast clubs on school sites.

There is a maximum of 306 places available for After School Care during term time and holidays. 69 are used full-time, 344 are used part-time and 43 are used on an ad-hoc basis. There are 0 places available for After School Care during term time only. All places are for term time and holiday alike.

Mixed Sessional Provision

There are 8 providers offering a variety of sessional day care services in this area: 2 Welsh medium services and 6 English medium services. Notably, there is no Before School provision in this area provided by mixed sessional care providers according to SASS data. Before school provision is provided via other types of childcare, such as free breakfast clubs.

The maximum number of places available by type of service and their usage is shown below (Figure 78):

	Maximum available places	Maximum available places	Places used full-time	Places used full-time	Places used part-time	Places used part- time
	English	Welsh	English	Welsh	English	Welsh
Half Day AM	80	16	29	7	118	29
Half Day PM	38	0	23	0	31	0
Before School Care	0	0	0	0	0	0
After School Care	24	35	0	10	67	61
Lunch	62	0	26	0	45	0

Figure 78 – Source SASS 2021

The chart above indicates that families are predominantly utilising childcare within Mixed Sessional Provision on a part-time basis, in the context of both Welsh and English medium childcare.

Mid Valleys West

Full Day Nursery

In total across Mid Valleys West, there are 264 registered childcare places available in the 5 Day Nurseries, being used by 232 children according to the SASS.

Of these, there is a maximum of 264 places available for Full Day Care during term time and holidays, 29 are used full-time, 196 are used part-time, and 7 are used on an ad-hoc basis.

There is a maximum of 264 places available for Half Day AM during term time and holidays, 29 are used full-time, 196 are used part-time, and 7 are used on an ad-hoc basis.

There is a maximum of 264 places available for Half Day PM during term time and holidays, 29 are used full-time, 196 are used part-time, and 7 are used on an ad-hoc basis.

There is a maximum of 264 places available for Before School Care during term time and holidays, 29 are used full-time, 196 are used part-time, and 7 are used on an ad-hoc basis.

There is a maximum of 217 places available for After School Care during term time and holidays, 29 are used full-time, 196 are used part-time, and 7 are used on an ad-hoc basis.

Mixed Sessional Provision

There are 3 providers that offer mixed sessional provision in this area, 2 English medium and 1 Welsh medium, registered for 92 places: 38 Welsh medium places and 54 English medium places. These are being used by 75 children; 26 children are accessing Welsh medium provision and a further 49 are accessing English medium provision.

The maximum number of places available by type of service and their usage is shown below (Figure 79):

	Maximum available places	Maximum available places	Places used full-time	Places used full-time	Places used part-time	Places used part-time
	English medium	Welsh medium	English medium	Welsh medium	English medium	Welsh medium
Playgroup AM	16	0	49	0	0	0
Playgroup PM	16	0	49	0	0	0
Before School Care	16	0	49	0	0	0
After School Care	16	0	49	0	0	0

**Figure 79 – Source SASS
2021**

Lunch	16	38	49	23	0	7
--------------	----	----	----	----	---	---

Note: full time could be interpreted by providers in different ways – it could indicate full time or part day sessions (5 days a week), or same day every week.

Upper Rhymney Valley

Full Day Nursery

In total across the Upper Rhymney Valley, there are 96 registered childcare places available in 2 Day Nurseries, being used by 88 children.

Of these, there is a maximum of 96 places available for Full Day Care during term time and holidays, 6 are used full-time, 79 are used part-time, and 3 are used on an ad-hoc basis.

There are a maximum of 96 places available for Half Day AM during term time and holidays, 6 are used full-time, 79 are used part-time, and 3 are used on an ad-hoc basis.

There are a maximum of 96 places available for Half Day PM during term time and holidays, 6 are used full-time, 79 are used part-time, and 3 are used on an ad-hoc basis.

There are a maximum of 77 places available for Before School Care during term time and holidays, 2 are used full-time, 55 are used part-time, and 3 are used on an ad-hoc basis.

There are a maximum of 96 places available for After School Care during term time and holidays, 6 are used full-time, 79 are used part-time, and 3 are used on an ad-hoc basis.

Mixed Sessional Provision

There are 2 English medium providers in this area registered for 43 places which are being used by 49 children. This provider offers after school, wrap around and a play group provisions. It is in the local primary school and forms part of the original Integrated Children's Centre for the area.

	Maximum available places	Maximum available places	Places used full-time	Places used full-time	Places used part-time	Places used part-time
	English medium	Welsh medium	English medium	Welsh medium	English medium	Welsh medium
Playgroup AM	24	0	26*	0	23	0
Playgroup PM	24	0	0	0	0	0
Before School Care	0	0	0	0	0	0
After School Care	19	0	0	0	16	0
Lunch	19	0	0	0	16	0

Figure 80 – Source: SASS 2021

N.B. it should be noted that other forms of childcare are offered within the area however the relevant data can be found in previous or subsequent chapters. All chapters must be read in conjunction of each other to provide an overview of available childcare within the borough.

* It is believed that this data may have been entered incorrectly. Other Figures within this chart may not have been entered correctly; it is possible that some providers may have misinterpreted the question or not provided any data when completing SASS return.

6.2.4 Vacancies and Waiting lists

	Caerphilly Basin	Lower Sirhowy Valley	Mid Valleys East	Mid Valleys West	Upper Rhymney Valley
Half Day AM	170	58	15	81	0

Half Day PM	262	86	10	149	0
Before School	80	9	9	59	0
After School	25	0	2	19	0
Full Day	241	90	20	82	0
Playgroup/ Cylch Meithrin AM	0	0	0	0	0
Playgroup/ Cylch Meithrin PM	3	3	0	0	0
Lunch	0	0	0	0	0

Figure 81 -Vacancies and Waiting lists – Full day Care – Geographic Source SASS 2021

Vacancies and Waiting lists should give us an indication of the demand for childcare places. Providers were asked to give an indication of the number of vacancies that they had available in the SASS survey. Figures shown below are for the variety of services offered within the childcare setting. Figures for full day provision have been included however, some nurseries calculated vacancies by the day and others by the week and one had high levels of vacancies as they had just closed for the summer holidays. One nursery did not declare any vacancies. A full day vacancy in a Full Day nursery could be turned into a variety of vacancies depending on the requirements of the child using the place. Also, the data is only as good as the day the snapshot was taken.

Although the SASS guidance asked settings to calculate vacancies in a particular way, i.e. by the week, (1 vacancy over 5 days equates to 5 vacancies) many calculated by the day (1 vacancy over 5 days is equivalent to 1 vacancy). Therefore, this should be taken into consideration when reviewing the data. Details for mixed provision was unreliable and so hasn't been reported here.

No Full Day Nurseries were reporting they had waiting lists in the term time except the Day Nursery provision at the local FE College in Ystrad Mynach (MVW). All Full day nurseries reported that they did not have any children waiting for an immediate start. No waiting lists reported for school holidays. We realise that it is very difficult for a full day nursery to outline how many vacancies they have for a particular service they provide as this can vary on a daily basis.

In general, there are more vacancies reported in the English medium mixed provision than in the Welsh medium provision.

6.2.5 Number of places filled by children who have Additional Learning Needs or who require specialist care due to a disability

Across the borough Day Nurseries reported in the SASS that there are 42 children accessing childcare places in Full Day Nurseries who are formally identified as having learning difficulties or disabilities. The ALNET Act (Wales) and subsequent CIW SASS documentation defines the definition and types of ALN: Cognition and Learning / Behaviour, Emotional and Social Development / Communication and Interaction / Sensory and or Physical.

There are children with emerging developmental needs who are placed by the Local Authority in day nurseries for Assisted and Supported Places as well as children who are supported to access their Flying Start, Childcare Offer and Early Years Education funded placements. However, there are very few children who have been diagnosed and need specialist provision identified with ALN and requiring an IDP. It appears day nurseries in their reporting have confused children with ALN and children with emerging developmental delays as the numbers identified by settings self-reporting do not correlate with those held in the local authority. During January 2022 there were a total of 42 children receiving support for a funded placement in Early Years Education, Supported Places Scheme, Flying Start or Childcare Offer across all settings in the borough (not just Full Day Nursery). None of these children have an identified ALN yet. The placement is a method to identify if a child needs a specialist placement and has an ALN or if a child can receive targeted support / strategies / equipment to access mainstream provision and therefore would not yet be identified as a child with ALN.

Taking this into consideration, 26 of the childminders were still reporting that they could/are providing support for children with cognition and learning difficulties, 28 could/are providing support for children with behaviour, emotional and social developmental difficulties, 34 could/are providing support for children with communication and interaction difficulties and 26 reported they could/are providing support for children with sensory and or physical difficulties. Again, it is likely that childminders may have misinterpreted this question as it is unclear whether it was asking if the setting was currently caring for these children or whether they had the ability (confidence and competence) to care for these children now and in the future.

Of all settings in this category, all but one had a designated person who makes arrangements for ALN/SEN provision for children, all but 2 had staff who had had additional/specialist training in supporting children with ALN/SEN, all but one was aware of the ALN Code and all but 2 noted that they make referrals to and/or liaise with the Local Authority in relation to provision/support for children with ALN/SEN.

6.2.6 Number of Welsh language places filled

Of the 23 Day Nurseries, there are no Welsh medium only settings in Caerphilly borough. Notably, there are 4 settings that indicate they are a bilingual provision (Welsh and English). 1 other setting indicated that they provide an English service with the use of bilingual elements. The profile for Bilingual and English with Elements of Bilingual provision can be seen in the table (Figure __) below:

	Caerphilly County	Caerphilly Basin	Lower Sirhowy Valley	Mid Valleys East	Mid Valleys West	Upper Rhymney Valley
English and Welsh Medium	4	1	0	2	1	0
English with use of Bilingual Elements	1	1	0	0	0	0

Figure 82 – Welsh Language Full day Care – Source SASS 2021

The distribution of bilingual Day Nurseries is uneven across Caerphilly borough as there are 2 settings in MVW, 1 in MVE and 1 further setting in CB, but no bilingual places in LSV.

Of the 19 Mixed Sessional Care providers see chart below denoting Welsh and English language settings:

	Caerphilly County	Caerphilly Basin	Lower Sirhowy Valley	Mid Valleys East	Mid Valleys West	Upper Rhymney Valley
English	15	5	1	6	2	1
Welsh	5	1	1	2	1	0

Figure 83 - Welsh language Mixed Sessional Care – Source: SASS 2021

The chart above indicates that whilst the ratio of English medium Mixed provisional settings

is greater than that of Welsh medium settings throughout the county borough, there are a range of providers who offer sessional care within other categories of care such as Full Day Care or Sessional Day care, therefore all data must be considered when analysing sufficiency of childcare places. Whilst the chart above denotes that there is no Welsh medium Mixed Sessional Care provision in the URV, there is alternative Sessional Day Care provision operating through the medium of Welsh.

The 10year Welsh in Education Strategic Plan identifies the need to develop 26-32% childcare places supporting Welsh language development by 2032 to meet the target of 26% children in year 1 in Welsh language Education. There is a need to develop additional provision across the borough as well as support current provision to move along the linguistic continuum (for example accessing the Road to Bilingualism to move towards delivering category 2 English and Welsh medium provision or category 3 Welsh medium provision), to meet this ambitious target.

In addition, there is a commitment for universal funded part time childcare provision for all 2year olds, within the same time period as the WESP 2022-2032. Parents may need flexibility in this provision to meet their individual family needs, including local community sessional based provision for families who do not have transport to commute long distances, full day care for working families who need full day provision to meet their working hours, flexible working patterns to meet shift work, and will require Welsh language and inclusive settings. As such there will be a need to develop increase Welsh language across all types of childcare provision.

6.2.7 Opening times, including the number offering flexible childcare hours

During term time the range of opening times of Full Day Nurseries varies across the borough; the earliest opening time provided by 2 settings is 6.00am. There are 20 settings that open before 8.00am throughout Caerphilly borough. 4 settings open at 8.00am.

There are 2 settings that close at 6.30pm. There are 18 settings that close at 6.00pm throughout Caerphilly borough.

No Day Nurseries offer over night or weekend care.

In the Mixed Sessional Provision, the settings tend to open at a variety of times to suit the service they are providing. Details of both Full Day Nursery and Mixed Sessional provision are in the table (Figure 84) below:

Full day Care: Range of opening hours including flexible term time and holidays:

Caerphilly County Full Day Nursery	<p>Term Time:</p> <p>1 Setting opens at 6.00am. 7 settings open at 7.00am. 17 settings are open at or before 8.00am. 6 open at 8.00am or later.</p> <p>1 setting closes at 5.00pm. 1 setting closes at 5.30pm. 15 settings close at or after 6.00pm; latest closure is 6.30pm.</p> <p>No overnight or weekend care is provided by any settings.</p> <p>Holiday Time:</p> <p>21 settings reported that their service hours did not change during holiday time. 1 setting reported a change in hours during holiday period – earliest opening time is 7.30am and latest closing time for this service is 6.00pm. 1 setting operates on a term time only basis.</p> <p>No overnight or weekend care is provided by any settings.</p>
Caerphilly Basin Full Day Nursery	<p>Term Time:</p> <p>2 settings open at 7.00am. 7 settings open at or before 8.00am.</p> <p>1 setting closes at 5.00pm. 1 setting closes at 5.30pm. 4 settings close at 6.00pm; this is the latest time of closure.</p> <p>No overnight or weekend care is provided by any settings.</p> <p>Holiday Time:</p> <p>settings reported that their service hours did not change during holiday time.</p> <p>No overnight or weekend care is provided by any settings.</p>
LSV Full Day Nursery	<p>Term Time:</p> <p>1 setting opens at 7.20am. 2 settings are open at or before 8.00am</p> <p>No overnight or weekend care is provided by any settings.</p> <p>2 settings close at 6.00pm.</p> <p>Holiday Time:</p>

	<p>1 setting reported that their service hours remain the same during term time and holiday time. 1 setting reported that their service hours are different during holiday time. 1 setting opens at 7.00am and 1 setting opens at 7.30am. 2 settings close at 6.00pm.</p> <p>No overnight or weekend care is provided by any settings.</p>
MVE Full Day Nursery	<p>Term Time:</p> <p>1 setting opens at 6.00am. 6 settings are open at or before 8.00am.</p> <p>4 settings close at 6.00pm. 2 settings close at 6.30pm.</p> <p>No overnight or weekend care is provided by any settings.</p> <p>Holiday Time:</p> <p>settings reported that their service hours do not did not change during term time or holiday time.</p> <p>No overnight or weekend care is provided by any settings.</p>
MVW Full Day Nursery	<p>Term Time:</p> <p>3 settings open at 7.00am. 1 setting opens at 8.00am. 3 settings stated that they close at 6.00pm. 1 setting stated that they close at 8.00am despite the fact that they state they do not provide overnight care (this discrepancy could be viewed as an error on their part).</p> <p>No overnight or weekend care is provided by any settings.</p> <p>Holiday Time:</p> <p>4 settings stated that their service hours did not change during term time or holiday time.</p> <p>No overnight or weekend care is provided by any settings.</p>
URV Full Day Nursery	<p>Term Time:</p> <p>2 settings open at 7.20am</p> <p>1 setting closes at 5.30pm. 1 setting closes at 6.00pm.</p> <p>No overnight or weekend care is provided by any settings.</p> <p>Holiday Time:</p> <p>2 settings stated that their service hours did not change during term time or holiday time.</p> <p>No overnight or weekend care is provided by any settings.</p>

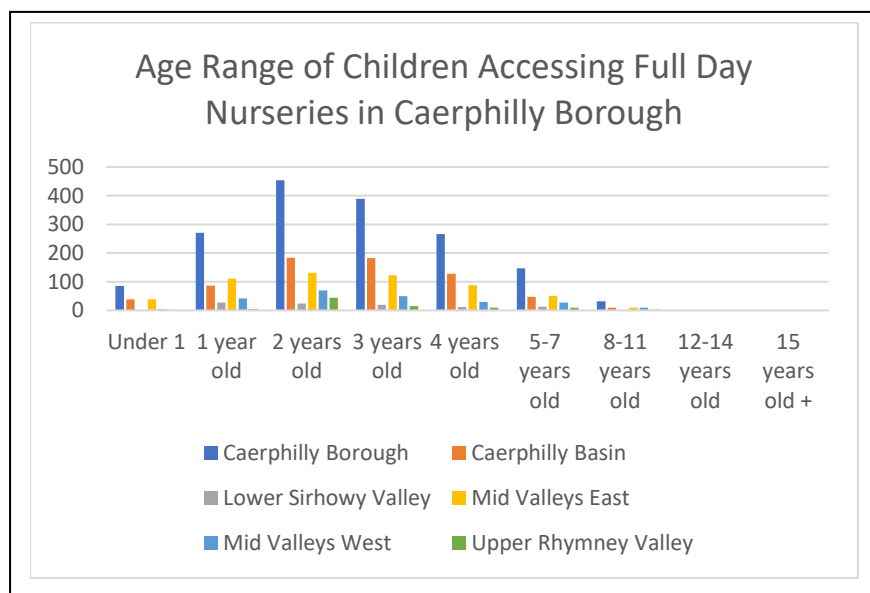
Figure 84 Full day Care: Range of opening hours including flexible term time and holidays

There is a wide range of session lengths across the day and across the county borough with Day Nurseries able to offer flexible packages to parents to suit family's individual needs. The session lengths in Mixed Sessional Care are less flexible and operate to fixed opening times as specified in their Statement of Purpose. Details are highlighted in the table (Figure 84) above.

6.2.8 Age range of children

Full Day Nursery

The profile of children across the County Borough who access childcare in day nurseries is highlighted in the following graph (Figure 85).



The table below shows the profile of the age ranges of children attending Day Nursery provision across the geographic areas.

Figure 85 - Age range of children Full Day Nursery – Source SASS 2021

	Caerphilly Borough	Caerphilly Basin	Lower Sirhowy Valley	Mid Valleys East	Mid Valleys West	Upper Rhymney Valley
Under 1	85	38	2	39	4	2
1 year old	271	86	27	111	42	5
2 years old	453	184	24	131	70	44

3 years old	389	182	20	122	50	15
4 years old	266	128	12	87	29	10
5-7 years old	147	47	13	51	27	9
8-11 years old	32	10	0	9	10	3
12-14 years old	0	0	0	0	0	0
15 years old +	0	0	0	0	0	0

Figure 86 – Age Range Full Day Care – Geographic – Source SASS 2021

From the information above, the data indicates that the majority of children accessing services provided in Full Day care are 2 and 3 year olds with a high percentage of 1 and 4 year olds. This data is unsurprising and will need to be updated as we work towards planning for the introduction of the Welsh Governments new 2 year old funded offer.

Mixed Sessional Provision

These settings are not offering Full Day Nursery and are only registered for children aged 2 years and above. Depending on the services offered by each provider as defined in their Statement of Purpose, settings are registered for the ages they provide childcare for, for example a setting only providing wrap around care will only be registered to provide care for 3 – 4year olds, whereas another setting that provides a mixture of playgroup, wraparound and after school provision may be registered for children from ages 2-12years.

The following table (Figure 87) shows a profile of the ages of children that are currently being cared for both in English I and Welsh (W) medium mixed provision settings as per SASS submissions. This data will be further checked when planning for future developments.

	Caerphilly Basin	Lower Sirhowy Valley	Mid Valleys East	Mid Valleys West	Upper Rhymney Valley
--	-------------------------	-----------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------	-----------------------------

	Term Time and Holidays	Term Time Only	Term Time and Holidays	Term Time Only	Term Time and Holidays	Term Time Only	Term Time and Holidays	Term Time Only	Term Time and Holidays	Term Time Only
2 years old	0	26	0	0	0	28	14	0	0	0
3 years old	0	26	0	0	0	28	15	0	0	0
4 years old	0	0	0	0	0	16	4	0	0	0
5-7 years old	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0
8-11 years old	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
12-14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Figure 87 – Age range attending Mixed sessional care – Source SASS						0	0	0	0	0
15 years old +										

6.2.9 Range of charges

Across the county borough there are a range of childcare fees reported as follows:

Full Day Nursery

Before School – Median fee is £4.67 per hour / Median fee is £14.08 per session

After School – Median fee is £5.80 per hour / Median fee is £14.08 per session
Lunch – Median fee is £3.50 per hour / No further data is available
Full Day Nursery – Median fee is £4.84 per hour / Median fee is £41.77 per session
Half Day AM – Median fee is £4.67 per hour / Median fee is £14.08 per session
Half Day PM – Median fee is £4.67 per hour / Median fee is £14.08 per session
Holidays – Median fee is £5.63 per hour / Median fee is £20.79 per session

Mixed Sessional Provision

This information has not been detailed within the SASS for some fees however Playgroup/Cylch sessional fees and lunch club fees are noted as follows and further information can be found on the DEWIS database for up to date fees:

Playgroup/Cylch Meithrin AM/PM – Median fee is £10.93 per session
Lunch – Single entry data included detailing £4.50 hourly fee

6.2.10 Summary of key strengths and weaknesses

- There is a good range of Day Nursery provision offering a wide range of services that are flexible to meet parents' childcare needs. Some areas have a greater number of places offered such as Caerphilly Basin.
- There are 5 Day Nurseries that state they are at full capacity and have no vacancies. There are 5 Day Nurseries with open vacancies 3 are in CB, 1 is in LSV and 1 is in URV. However, this was as of the date of the SASS so may not be accurate at time of writing.
- There are 23 Day Nurseries who provide care for children aged from 0. In addition, there are 2 other Day Nurseries that offer a full range of services for children aged from 2 years.
- There are no Welsh medium Day Nurseries in Caerphilly borough. 19 settings state that they provide an English medium service, 4 settings state that they deliver English and Welsh medium service, 1 states that they deliver an English service with bilingual elements.

- 3 Day Nurseries offer Early Years Education places; two are in MVE and one is in MVW central to the whole borough. Notably, 1 of the 3 settings highlighted also provide Flying Start provision alongside other services. 4 of the Full Day care Mixed sessional providers offer Early Years Education two in MVE (one Welsh), one in MVW and one in Caerphilly Basin, thus providing a full wrap around service for those children who are on roll in setting and who are entitled to Early years education.
- Six Full Day care and six full day mixed sessional settings offer Flying Start provision throughout Caerphilly borough, thus providing a full wrap around service for those children who are on roll in setting and who are entitled to Flying Start.
- There is a net gain of 4 Full Day nurseries since the last CSA. It is more difficult to state the net gain of full day sessional providers as providers alter their registration status thus not giving a true comparative picture.
- The range of services offered within both Full Day Nursery and Mixed sessional care is the greatest across the borough and the number of places is also the largest of all childcare types
- Full time usage of places is far greater in term time with numbers dropping to part time usage in school holidays.
- With reference to Welsh medium provision, the 4 Day Nurseries providing bilingual provision should be considered alongside other examples of registered Welsh medium provision such as Sessional Care and After School Provision to ascertain and consider the full extent of Welsh medium provision availability.
- According to DEWIS all 23 Day Nurseries are staffed to full capacity indicating a responsive methodology in the context of service and demand.
- There are 20 settings that offer Full Day Care commencing before 8.00am which is helpful to many working parents.
- Full Day care settings are reporting they are looking after children with identified Additional Learning Needs – however, this is not formally the case and maybe an area that needs to be considered in future training around definitions and processes.
- The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032 has a target of 26-32% children in year 1 attending Welsh language Education. To meet this target in 2032 there is a need to develop more Welsh language childcare provision as well as move existing childcare provision along the linguistic continuum. The Early Years Team work very closely with colleagues in the WESP and is prioritising this as a piece of work going forward.

6.3 Sessional Day Care

6.3.1 Analysis of Supply of Childcare Provision

Sessional Day Care includes childcare services that offer Playgroup or Cylch Meithrin, wraparound provision, or a mixture of both. Playgroup/Cylch Meithrin or wraparound services can also be offered within settings that are registered with CIW as Full Day Care if they are a setting that offers a variety of sessional provisions (including out of school provision) within a day that operates for more than 4 hours. Many settings provide various types of services under different categories of care and registration i.e., Full Day Care/Sessional Day Care/Out of School Care despite them delivering similar services, it is important that sufficiency of childcare throughout the Borough be measured with an overview of all available childcare in mind to gauge the true picture of available childcare provision. In Caerphilly there are 19 providers that are registered as such offering Mixed Sessional provision and have been included in the Full Day Care section above.

6.3.2 Range of services provided

Across the county borough there are 38 settings registered with CIW as sessional provision. All 38 settings completed the SASS online and we therefore possess relevant data for all those settings registered as Sessional Day Care within Caerphilly borough. Of the 38 registered Sessional Day Care providers there are:

- 16 Maintained Flying Start Childcare Settings
- 10 non-maintained sessional childcare settings delivering Flying Start in total (including 7 Welsh Medium, 1 Bilingual, 2 English Medium) The other 15 non-maintained settings that are contracted to offer Flying Start are registered as another type of childcare provision (Mixed sessional, Full Day Care or childminder)

- 12 childcare settings that do not deliver Flying Start
- 7 (6 Welsh, one bilingual) that offer Early Years Education – the other 7 EY Providers are registered as another type of provision including Full Day Care or full day mixed sessional.
- 17 settings that deliver Playgroup
- 7 settings that deliver Wraparound Care

With regards to the 16 maintained settings that provide Flying Start childcare, the settings are managed by Local Authority staff. They can only deliver childcare to children who meet the criteria of the Flying Start Programme, i.e. they must live in Flying Start areas, which are post code allocated as per Welsh Government guidance. These settings do not provide childcare to families who do not meet eligibility criteria within the borough and as such cannot be assessed as accessible by working parents in general.

Of those maintained Flying Start settings, there is 1 Welsh medium provision located in Flying Start Integrated Children's Centre, which is adjacent to the Welsh medium school for 3–18-year-olds in Caerphilly Basin. There are a further 15 settings that deliver Flying Start childcare through the medium of English throughout the borough; some are co-located within Hubs or Integrated Children's Centre's or within school sites.

There are an additional 10 settings which are non-maintained provisions, who are contracted by the Local Authority and therefore funded to deliver the childcare element of the Flying Start Programme. There is 1 sessional care setting that delivers a bilingual service, 7 Welsh Medium and a further 2 that deliver an English medium service throughout the borough.

In Caerphilly there are 20 providers that are registered as such offering Mixed Sessional provision which will include playgroup/cylch Meithrin, wrap around and out of school provision and have been included in the Full Day Care section above, however we possess SASS data for 19 of these settings. Of those 19 settings there are:

- 19 settings that provide Wraparound Care
- 10 settings that provide Playgroup provision
- 4 Welsh medium settings
- 15 English medium settings

Range of Services Provided by Geographic Area and Language

Total providers	Caerphilly County			Caerphilly Basin		Lower Sirhowy Valley		Mid Valleys East		Mid Valleys West		Upper Rhymney Valley	
Main Language	English	Welsh	Both	English	Welsh	English	Welsh	English	Welsh	English	Welsh	English	Welsh
Sessional Day Care	21	12	5	7 1 Both	2	1	3	4	3	3 1 Both	3	6 1 Both	3
						1 both							
Playgroup/Cylch Meithrin AM	33	9	1	5	3	1	1	4	3	4	2	4	2
						1							
Playgroup/Cylch Meithrin PM	13	3	2 both	4	1 1 Both	0	1	4	1	3	0	3	1
						1 both							
Wraparound Care	6	1		2	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	2
Flying Start (maintained)	15	1	0	4	1	0	0	4	0	2	0	5	0
						0 both							
Flying Start (Non-maintained)	3	6	1	1	1	1 both		0	2	0	1	1	2
Early Years Education	0	6	1	0	1	1 both		0	2	0	2	0	1
After School	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

Figure 88 – Range of Services Provided by Geographic Area and Language

NB. There are many more settings registered to offer sessional type services but are included within the Full Day care mixed sessional chapter above. This table only includes those that are registered as purely sessional care settings and also includes the maintained Flying Start providers that are not available to the general public.

6.3.3 Number and type of child places filled (full time, part time, ad-hoc)

Wraparound Care – although some services define themselves as offering a wraparound service, this can be part of a broader definition of a Playgroup/Cylch Meithrin service as the two services operate side by side at the same time. When it comes to describing the number and type of places filled, providers are counting the children who attend a mixed provision only once and these may be under either the wrap or playgroup/Cylch Meithrin provision.

The following table (Figure 89) shows the data as submitted by providers for the SASS.

The number and type of childcare places – showing usage by geographic area and language of setting.

Usage	Caerphilly County			Caerphilly Basin			Lower Sirhowy Valley			Mid Valleys East			Mid Valleys West			Upper Rhymney Valley		
	English	Welsh	Both	English	Welsh	Both	English	Welsh	Both	English	Welsh	Both	English	Welsh	Both	English	Welsh	Both
Maximum Capacity	446	239	110	168	59	36	24	51	30	68	32	N/A	78	67	24	134	61	20
Full Time	169	40	39	68	11	14	37	12	24	33	16	N/A	27	26	6	48	67	12
Part Time	241	172	37	114	33	20	0	39	6	29	25	N/A	30	62	11	85	27	0
Ad Hoc	6	8	0	4	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0	2	0	0

Figure 89 – Childcare Usage – Source SASS 2021

It can be seen from the table above that there is no bilingual Sessional Day Care provision in Mid Valleys East, however there is Welsh medium provision in this area. It's also evident that of the 446 available childcare places throughout the County Borough, there are also over 50% of this number, available Welsh medium childcare places that are in addition to this.

6.3.4 Vacancies and Waiting lists

Settings were asked to give an indication of the numbers of vacancies they had and the number of children on their waiting lists waiting for an immediate place. For morning playgroup 7 sessional care settings said they had a waiting list, 3 in the Caerphilly Basin area, 1 in LSV, 2 in MVE and 1 in URV. Those waiting for an immediate place was anything between 1 and 10 places. However, there were anything between 1 and 23 unfilled places reported. Only one setting (Welsh medium) reported one space available for afternoon care, however, other settings reported anything from 1 – 12 spaces that were unfilled.

These Figures are only accurate for the snapshot that was conducted in June/July 2022 and it is possible that the question has been misinterpreted by many settings as numbers are too variable to give an accurate reflection of vacancies and waiting lists for different types of care. This data will be checked prior to planning for any additional places that may be required.

6.2.5 Number of places filled by children who have Additional Learning Needs or who require specialist care due to a disability

Across the borough 26 of the 38 Sessional Care providers reported in the SASS that there are 69 children accessing childcare places in a variety of sessional care settings who are formally identified as having learning difficulties or disabilities. The ALNET Act (Wales) and subsequent CIW SASS documentation defines the definition and types of ALN: Cognition and Learning / Behaviour, Emotional and Social Development / Communication and Interaction / Sensory and or Physical.

There are children with emerging developmental needs who are placed by the Local Authority in day nurseries for Assisted and Supported Places as well as children who are supported to access their Flying Start, Childcare Offer and Early Years Education funded placements. However, there are very few children who have been diagnosed and need specialist provision identified with ALN and requiring an IDP. It appears sessional care providers in their reporting may have confused children with ALN and children with emerging developmental delays as the numbers identified by settings self-reporting do not correlate with those held in the local authority. During January 2022 there were a total of 42 children receiving support for a funded placement in Early Years Education, Supported Places Scheme, Flying Start or Childcare Offer across all settings in the borough (not just sessional care settings). None of these children have an identified ALN yet. The placement is a method to identify if a child needs a specialist placement and has an ALN or if a child can receive targeted support / strategies / equipment to access mainstream provision and therefore would not yet be identified as a child with ALN.

Taking this into consideration, 26 of the sessional care providers were still reporting that they could/are providing support for children with cognition and learning difficulties, 30 could/are providing support for children with behaviour, emotional and social developmental difficulties, 31 could/are providing support for children with communication and interaction difficulties and 27 reported they could/are providing support for children with sensory and or physical difficulties. Again, it is likely that providers may have misinterpreted this question as it is unclear whether it was asking if the setting was currently caring for these children or whether they had the ability (confidence and competence) to care for these children now and in the future.

Of all settings in this category, all but one had a designated person who makes arrangements for ALN/SEN provision for children, all but 3 had staff who had had additional/specialist training in supporting children with ALN/SEN, all but two were aware of the ALN Code and all but 2 noted that they make referrals to and/or liaise with the Local Authority in relation to provision/support for children with ALN/SEN.

6.3.6 Number of Welsh language places filled

The number of Welsh language places filled can be seen in the table (Figure 89) above.

Of the 38 registered Sessional Day Care settings in Caerphilly Borough, there are 13 Welsh medium settings and a further 3 settings that state they offer both Welsh and English medium childcare provision.

In Caerphilly Basin there are 4 Welsh medium sessional day care settings; there are 2 Cylchoedd Meithrin delivering sessional care for 2.5 hours per day. There is also 1 Local Authority maintained Flying Start childcare setting, and 1 Clwb Carco setting that is co-located on the same site as the Welsh medium Flying Start Integrated children's Centre, and the 3-18 Welsh medium super school. There are 2 Welsh medium childcare settings located on the site of the only Welsh medium primary school in Lower Sirhowy Valley. The 1 setting is a Cylch Meithrin setting delivering Playgroup provision and the other setting provides the same service as a wraparound provision for those children accessing Rising Three's and Nursery provision on the school site.

In Mid Valleys East there are 2 Welsh medium Cylchoedd Meithrin delivering playgroup provision. 1 setting offers AM and PM playgroup service.

There are 2 Cylch Meithrin in Mid Valleys West; both settings provide playgroup provision. There's also 1 additional Welsh medium setting providing wraparound care to local Welsh medium primary school.

There are 2 Cylch Meithrin settings providing Welsh medium sessional care in Upper Rhymney Valley; 1 of these settings also provides wraparound care.

Many settings provide various types of services under different categories of care and registration i.e., Full Day Care/Sessional Day Care/Out of School Care despite them delivering similar services, it is important that sufficiency of childcare throughout the Borough be measured with an overview of all available childcare in mind to gauge the true picture of available childcare provision.

The 10year Welsh in Education Strategic Plan identifies the need to develop 26-32% childcare places supporting Welsh language development by 2032 in order to meet the target of 26% children in year 1 in Welsh language Education. There is a need to develop additional provision across the borough as well as support current provision to move along the linguistic continuum (for example accessing the Road to Bilingualism to move towards delivering category 2 English and Welsh medium provision or category 3 Welsh medium provision), to meet this ambitious target.

In addition, there is a commitment for universal funded part time childcare provision for all 2year olds, within the same time period as the WESP 2022-2032. Parents may need flexibility in this provision to meet their individual family needs, including local community sessional based provision for families who do not have transport to commute long distances, full day care for working families who need full day provision to meet their working hours, flexible working patterns to meet shift work, and will require Welsh language and inclusive settings. As such there will be a need to develop increase Welsh language across all types of childcare provision.

6.3.7 Opening times, including number offering flexible childcare hours and Range of session lengths

There are no sessional care providers that operate before 8.00am or after 6.00pm There are also no sessional care providers that operate over weekends or overnight.

Caerphilly Basin – The earliest opening time is 8.45am and the latest opening time is 3.30pm. Session times are typically 2.5 hours however this is dependent on whether setting provides Wraparound Care and AM/PM Playgroup/Cylch Meithrin. 1 Welsh setting operates an AM only service whilst an additional 1 setting operates an AM and PM session. 6 English settings deliver AM and PM sessions, and an additional 1 setting offers an AM only service.

Lower Sirhowy Valley – The earliest opening time is 9.00am and the latest closing time is 3.30am. There's 1 Welsh medium setting that delivers an AM only service; this setting opens at 9.10am and closes at 11.40am. The other Welsh medium setting operates a PM only service; this setting opens at 12.15pm and closes at 3.30pm. There's 1 bilingual setting that delivers an AM only service; the setting opens at 9.10am and closes at 11.40am. There's 1 English medium setting that delivers an AM only service; the setting opens at 9.00am and closes at 11.30am.

Mid Valleys East – The earliest opening time is 8.50am and the latest closing time is 3.10pm. There's 1 English setting that operates an AM only service; the setting opens at 9.15am and closes at 11.45am. There are 2 English setting that open at 8.50am; 1 close at

3.00pm and the other setting closes at 2.50pm. The other English setting opens at 9.10am and closes at 3.10pm. 2 Welsh settings operate an AM only service; 1 setting opens at 9.00am and closes at 12.00pm, and the other setting opens at 9.15am and closes 11.45am.

Mid Valleys West – The earliest opening time is 8.50am and the latest closing time is 5.15pm. There are 2 Welsh settings that deliver an AM only service; both settings open at 9.00am and 1 close at 12.00pm and the other 1 setting closes at 12.30pm. There's 1 other Welsh setting that offers a PM only service; this setting opens at 12.45pm and closes at 5.15pm. There's 1 bilingual setting that offers an AM only service; this setting opens at 9.15am and closes at 12.15pm. There are 2 English settings that offer AM and PM sessions; both setting open at 8.50am, 1 setting closes at 2.50pm and the other setting closes at 3.00pm. There's a further 1 English setting that offers a PM only service; this setting opens at 12.00pm and closes at 3.10pm.

Upper Rhymney Valley – The earliest opening time is 8.45am and the latest closing time is 3.30pm. There are 2 Welsh settings that provide AM and PM sessions; the earliest opening time is 9.00am and the latest closing time is 3.15pm. There's 1 further setting that delivers a PM only service; the setting opens at 11.30am and closes at 3.30pm. There's 1 bilingual setting that offers an AM session only; the setting opens at 8.45am and closes at 11.00am. There's 1 English setting that provides an AM only session; the setting opens at 8.50am and closes at 11.20am. There are 5 English settings that offer an AM and PM session; the earliest opening time is 8.45am and the latest closing time is 3.00pm.

6.3.8 Age range of children

All sessional childcare operates for children between the ages of 2 and 5 years old. The numbers of children using the childcare provision by age is shown in the table (Figure 107) below:

	Caerphilly Basin		Lower Sirhowy Valley		Mid Valleys East		Mid Valleys West		Upper Rhymney Valley	
	English	Welsh/Both	English	Welsh/Both	English	Welsh/Both	English	Welsh/Both	English	Welsh/Both
2year olds	85	23/24	23	9/22	29	17/7	29	17/7	74	39/25
3year olds	64	14/18	14	16/8	30	32/10	30	32/10	73	37/5
4year olds	10	15/2	0	0/0	0	16/0	0	16/0	0	18/0

Figure 90 – Age range of children in sessional care

6.3.9 Range of Charges

The range of charges across the county borough is outlined in the table (Figure 91) below:

Range of fees (average)

Caerphilly Basin	£11.81 per session
Lower Sirhowy Valley	£9.33 per session
Mid Valleys East	£10.00 per session
Mid Valleys West	£13.83 per session
Upper Rhymney Valley	£10.00 per session

Figure 91 – range of charges – sessional care

6.3.10 Summary of key strengths and weaknesses

- There is a good range of sessional childcare across the county borough, with a relatively even distribution throughout each ward area. Some areas have more provision than others, but this needs to be considered along with the types of care offered through the mixed sessional provision identified in the chapters above.

- In terms of range of charges, sessional costs are reasonably consistent throughout each area within the County Borough meaning that parents/carers are not disproportionately affected by financial implications of sending their children to Sessional Day Care provision. The median fee per session is £10.99.
- There are no sessional care providers that operate before 8.00am or after 6.00pm. There are also no sessional care providers that operate over weekends or overnight due to nature of service being provided. This lack of flexibility for parents/carers could be viewed as a weakness however, there are alternative care providers who do offer more flexible provision in terms of operating times such as Full Day Care and specifically Childminders.
- There is evidence of effective collaboration between third sector organisations such as Mudiad Meithrin as there's a good range of Cylchoedd Meithrin throughout the County Borough; there are 11 Cylchoedd Meithrin in total offering Welsh medium childcare provision. There is also one playgroup in the LSV area that offers a bilingual service.
- There is also evidence of effective collaboration between third sector organisations such as Menter Iaith as there's a good range of Clybiau Meithrin/Clybiau Carco throughout the County Borough; there are 8 settings in total offering Welsh medium childcare provision. All settings are either co-located on school sites or are located nearby to local Welsh medium primary schools.
- There are 7 sessional care settings that are Education providers – all Welsh medium – all other settings contracted to deliver Early Years Education are registered as a different type of childcare as highlighted above.
- There is a lack of purely sessional care settings in the Caerphilly Basin with the only playgroup type sessions being in Welsh medium only.
- Settings that are maintained by the Local Authority deliver a childcare service that is limited those who are eligible to access the Flying Start Programme, as per their respective postal code. This means that other families living within a relatively proximity to these settings may not be able to access them due to them not being eligible geographically.
- The take up of places is high with most users utilising services in either a full-time capacity or regular part time capacity. Very few children attend ad hoc.
- There is no Welsh medium wrap around services in Caerphilly Basin, Mid Valleys East or Mid Valleys West that are registered as sessional care. These services are registered in these areas under Full Day Care.
- There is no bilingual Sessional Day Care provision in Mid Valleys East, however there is Welsh medium provision in this area.
- There are no reported vacancies in any area of the County Borough for Sessional Day Care settings.

- There is a lack of registered sessional Welsh medium childcare places in the Risca area of Lower Sirhowy Valley.
- In the 2016 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment it was noted that there were 55 Sessional Care providers, there are now 38 within Caerphilly borough. Although this may appear to be a significant loss within this sector and service type, consideration for the different means of registration category and type of service provided according to CIW must be regarded to account for this disparity. Settings may be registered under different categories such as Full Day Care as opposed to Sessional Day Care as they have now enhanced their delivery of services by operating with wraparound services. Many settings have reregistered over the past 5 years as Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIO's) and changed the definition/category of service type. We are aware of where these changes are and have accommodated for them throughout this CSA.
- Sessional Day care settings are reporting they are looking after children with identified Additional Learning Needs – however, this is not formally the case and maybe an area that needs to be considered in future training around definitions and processes.
- The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032 has a target of 26-32% children in year 1 attending Welsh language Education. To meet this target in 2032 there is a need to develop more Welsh language childcare provision as well as move existing childcare provision along the linguistic continuum. The Early Years Team work very closely with colleagues in the WESP and is prioritising this as a piece of work going forward.

6.4 Crèches

6.4.1 Analysis of Supply of Childcare Provision

There are no registered crèches in the county borough. The Local Authority did previously have a Mobile Crèche Team to deliver provision as and when needed that provided childcare support to the Families First and Flying Start programmes and could also be utilised to provide support to the Communities First programme, and other bodies on request and if capacity was available.

During 2020 the Local Authority Mobile Creche Team was disbanded. This strategic decision was made as a result of emerging needs being identified within the ever expanding and adaptive Early Years Team. Mobile Creche staff were redeployed into comparative roles within the newly developed Early Years Core Team. The role of 'Family Worker' was devised with a focus on alignment with new directive and desired outcomes of the Early Years Intervention model. The creche team do still operate one unregistered creche provision a week for under 2 hours for a specific programme, so is not available for general public use.

6.4.2. Summary of key strengths and weaknesses

As there is no longer a maintained Local Authority Mobile Creche provision available for wider use due to change in delivery during the pandemic, it is not possible to provide a summary of its effectiveness as a childcare type. This could be deemed as a gap in provision, however, there is very limited demand for this type of provision.

Due to the on-going challenges regarding community based face-to-face engagement, it could be suggested that the disbanding of the service to develop an updated and much needed enhanced service in the face of the pandemic and meeting service needs is a positive example of responsive service delivery.

6.5 Out of School Care

6.5.1 Analysis of Supply of Childcare Provision

Out of School Care comprises of any childcare that is provided outside of school hours; as such it is for school aged children. Childminders and Day Nurseries also provide a range of childcare options for school aged children and details of these can be found in the chapters above. Some Out of School provision can also be provided by Sessional Day Care providers dependant on their registration arrangements with CIW; details of these are found in the Full Day Care Childcare chapter above. Notably, there are 5 provisions that are currently suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with stated intention that these services will re-open in Spring 2022.

This chapter includes only those settings that CIW have registered as Out of School Provision but to get a full picture of the different range of out of school provisions available to the families of Caerphilly, this chapter must be read in conjunction with the three preceding chapters.

6.5.2 Range of services provided

There are 13 childcare providers registered with CIW as Out of School Care in Caerphilly County Borough including one at the Special school in Mid Valleys West and two are holiday playschemes only. There are a further 4 After School Clubs registered but temporarily suspended and therefore not required to complete the SASS. Notably, there are also 14 providers offering After School Care as a service within the Full Day Sessional Care category, and a further 2 providers offering the same service within Sessional Care category.

The range of services by language and geographic region that are provided by those 13 childcare providers registered under the category of Out of School Care (and required to complete the SASS) are outlined in table (Figure 92) below:

	Caerphilly County	Caerphilly Basin	Lower Sirhowy Valley	Mid Valleys East	Mid Valleys West	Upper Rhymney Valley
Total	13	7	2	1	3	0
English Medium	8 (+4)	7 (+1)	1	1 (+2)	1	0
Welsh Medium	2	0	1	0	1	0
Bilingual	3	0	0	0	1	0
Other Language	0	0	0	0	0	0
Before School Care	3	2	0	1	0	0
After School Care	10	5	2	1	2	0
After School Care (Temporarily suspended)	4	2	0	2	0	0
Term Time and Holidays	7	4	0	0	3	0
Term Time Only	4 (+4)	1 (+1)	2	1 (+2)	0	0
Holidays Only	2	2	0	0	0	0

Playscheme	2	2	0	0	2	0
-------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---

Figure 92 – Range of Out of School Care registered provision - Source: SASS 2021 / Local knowledge

Notably, even though there are no Welsh medium Out of School Care registered providers delivering in Caerphilly Basin area, there are 2 Welsh medium Sessional Care providers delivering After School Care within this area located on Welsh medium school sites.

The majority of after school provision is in the Caerphilly Basin and Mid Valleys West areas with a notable low number of places in the other areas. These may be provided by other types of provision (Childminders and full day care provision). Add Places provided by Mixed sessional providers. There is no registered Out of School Care provision in the upper Rhymney Valley area. All out of school care is provided either through Full Day nursery, childminders or limited time wrap around.

6.5.3 Number and type of child places filled (full-time, part-time, ad-hoc)

	Caerphilly County	Caerphilly Basin	Lower Sirhowy Valley	Mid Valleys East	Mid Valleys West	Upper Rhymney Valley
Total registered places available	417	238	56	30	93	0
Total number of children using provision	481	260	40	24	157	0
Total available places for After School Care	267	128	56	30	53	0
English (E)	128 (E)	66 (E)	32 (E)	30 (E)	0 (E)	0 (E)
Welsh (W)	48 (W)	0 (W)	24 (W)	0 (W)	24 (W)	0 (W)
Bilingual (B)	91 (B)	62 (B)	0 (B)	0 (B)	29 (B)	0 (B)
Total available places for Holiday Care*	315	222	0	0	93	0

English (E)	200 (E)	160 (E)	0 (E)	0 (E)	40 (E)	0 (E)
Welsh (W)	24 (W)	0 (W)	0 (W)	0 (W)	24 (W)	0 (W)
Bilingual (B)	91 (B)	62 (B)	0 (B)	0 (B)	29 (B)	0 (B)
Playscheme	186	93	0	0	93	0
Total available places for Before School Care	79	49	0	30	0	0
English (E)	49 (E)	30 (E)	0 (E)	19 (E)	0 (E)	0 (E)
Welsh (W)	0 (W)	0 (W)	0 (W)	0 (W)	0 (W)	0 (W)
Bilingual (B)	30 (B)	30 (B)	0 (B)	0 (B)	0 (B)	0 (B)

Figure 93 Number and type of registered out of school provision

N.B. Total number of available places during Holidays has been calculated based on data relating to providers who operate during Term Time and Holidays and Holidays Only.

It should be noted that the maximum number of places available is going to be different to the number a setting is registered for as it will include those places that may be available more than once in a day, for example a before and after school session. It also includes the number of unregistered places available. This number can also be determined by the number of staff employed and the ratios of children by age. The Maximum number given is as determined by the childcare provider.

	Caerphilly County		Caerphilly Basin		Lower Sirhowy Valley		Mid Valleys East		Mid Valleys West		Upper Rhymney Valley	
Notes											No OOS provision in URV	
	Max capacity	Usage	Max capacity	Usage	Max capacity	Usage	Max capacity	Usage	Max capacity	Usage	Max capacity	Usage

After School Care	267	Full Time: 59 Part-Time: 226 Ad Hoc: 4	128	Full Time: 37 Part-Time: 116 Ad Hoc: 2	56	Full Time: 8 Full Time: 32 Ad Hoc: 0	30	Full Time: 5 Full Time: 17 Ad Hoc: 2	53	Full Time: 9 Full Time: 61 Ad Hoc: 0	0	Full Time: 0 Full Time: 0 Ad Hoc: 0
After School Care (provided within Mixed Sessional Care category)	49	Full Time: 11 Part-Time: 60 Ad Hoc: 0	29	Full Time: 11 Part-Time: 18 Ad Hoc: 0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	20	Full Time: 0 Part-Time: 42 Ad Hoc: 0	N/A	N/A
Before School Care	79	Full Time: 27 Part-Time: 75 Ad Hoc: 4	49	Full Time: 22 Part-Time: 58 Ad Hoc: 2	0	Full Time: Full Time: Ad Hoc:	30	Full Time: 5 Full Time: 17 Ad Hoc: 2	0	Full Time: Full Time: Ad Hoc:	0	Full Time: 0 Full Time: 0 Ad Hoc: 0
Holiday Care (No data)												
Wraparound Care (No data)												
Play Scheme	186	Full Time: 33	93	Full Time: 24	0	Full Time: 0	0	Full Time: 0	69	Full Time: 9	0	Full Time: 0 Part-Time: 0

		Part-Time: 238 Ad Hoc: 0		Part-Time: 90 Ad Hoc: 0		Part-Time: 0 Ad Hoc: 0		Part-Time: 0 Ad Hoc: 0		Part-Time: 148 Ad Hoc: 0		Ad Hoc: 0
--	--	--------------------------------------	--	-------------------------------------	--	------------------------------------	--	---------------------------------	--	-----------------------------------	--	-----------

Figure 94 – Usage of out of school provision

6.5.4 Vacancies and Waiting lists

Vacancies:

Providers were asked to record vacancies calculated by the number of vacant places by the day. Some providers completed for weekly vacancies and some by full session place. Some providers did not complete this data and so it is assumed there are no vacancies. Therefore, this data will need to be substantiated through further investigation.

In Caerphilly Basin, there are 13 vacancies within a Bilingual provision delivering After School Care, there are 0 vacancies available within an English medium provision delivering After School Care. There are 23 vacancies within a Bilingual provision delivering Before School Care, there is also 1 vacancy available via provision delivering English medium After School Care.

In Lower Sirhowy Valley, there are 50 vacancies within a Welsh medium provision delivering After School Care, there are also 17 vacancies available within an English medium provision delivering After School Care.

In Mid Valleys East, there are 0 vacancies within an English medium provision delivering After School Care. There are 7 vacancies within an English provision delivering Before School Care.

In Mid valleys West, there are 100 vacancies within a Bilingual medium provision delivering After School Care, there are 0 vacancies available within a Welsh medium provision, and 0 vacancies available within an English medium provision delivering After School Care.

There is no provision in Upper Rhymney Valley delivering After School Care or Before School Care.

Waiting Lists:

In Caerphilly borough, there are 51 children on a waiting list awaiting an immediate place within After School Care; all 51 places relate specifically to English medium provision. There are a number of After School Clubs that are still not open following temporary closure for Covid across the borough (mostly in the CB area) and will probably account for this number on waiting lists. We need to work with these schools and settings to ensure they re-open provisions as soon as possible.

There are 44 children on a waiting list awaiting an immediate place within After School Care in Caerphilly Basin.

There are 7 children on a waiting list awaiting an immediate placement within After School Care in Mid Valleys East.

There are no recorded waiting lists within Lower Sirhowy Valley, Mid Valleys West and Upper Rhymney Valley for After School Care.

There are no recorded waiting lists within Lower Sirhowy Valley, Mid Valleys West, Upper Rhymney Valley, Caerphilly Basin and Mid Valleys East for Before School Care.

6.2.5 Number of places filled by children who have Additional Learning Needs or who require specialist care due to a disability

Across the borough 4 Out of School providers reported in the SASS that there are 93 children accessing childcare places in Out of School care who are formally identified as having learning difficulties or disabilities. This includes the 87 children who access the specialist provision at Trinity Fields Special School. The ALNET Act (Wales) and subsequent CIW SASS documentation defines the definition and types of ALN: Cognition and Learning / Behaviour, Emotional and Social Development / Communication and Interaction / Sensory and or Physical.

Taking the three settings that are not the Specialist school where all the children have been diagnosed with ALN and have an IDP, there are children with emerging developmental needs who are placed by the Local Authority in out of school provisions for Assisted and Supported Places as well as children who are supported to access their Childcare Offer funded placements. However, there are very few children who have been diagnosed and need specialist provision identified with ALN and requiring an IDP. It appears out of school providers in their reporting may have confused children with ALN and children with emerging developmental delays as the numbers identified by settings self-reporting do not correlate with those held in the local authority. During January 2022 there were a total of 42 children receiving support for a funded placement in Early Years Education, Supported Places Scheme, Flying Start or Childcare Offer across all settings in the borough (not including the specialist childcare provided in the special needs school). None of these other children have an identified ALN yet. The placement is a method to identify if a child needs a specialist placement and has an ALN or if a child can receive targeted support / strategies / equipment to access mainstream provision and therefore would not yet be identified as a child with ALN.

Taking this into consideration, 4 of the providers were still reporting that they could/are providing support for children with cognition and learning difficulties, 5 could/are providing support for children with behaviour, emotional and social developmental difficulties, 8 could/are providing support for children with communication and interaction difficulties and 6 reported they could/are providing support for children with sensory and or physical difficulties. Again, it is likely that providers may have misinterpreted this question as it is unclear whether it was asking if the setting was currently caring for these children or whether they had the ability (confidence and competence) to care for these children now and in the future.

Of all settings in this category (13), 9 had a designated person who makes arrangements for ALN/SEN provision for children, 10 had staff who had had additional/specialist training in supporting children with ALN/SEN, 10 were aware of the ALN Code and 8 noted that they make referrals to and/or liaise with the Local Authority in relation to provision/support for children with ALN/SEN.

6.5.6 Number of Welsh language places filled

Of the 13 Out of School provisions, there are 2 registered Welsh Medium settings. There are an additional 3 settings which offer bilingual provision. The 4 settings that are temporarily closed because of Covid are all English medium settings.

All Welsh medium settings offer After School Care, 3 also offer Wrap around provision and 2 also offer Holiday Provision. Details on places available and utilised (where given) are set out in the table (Figure 95) below:

	Caerphilly County	Caerphilly Basin	Lower Sirhowy Valley	Mid Valleys East	Mid Valleys West	Upper Rhymney Valley
Notes						No specific Out of School Care available in this area
After School Care						
Registered places	267	128	24	30	53	
Usage of service	Total: 289 Full-time: 59 Part-time: 226 Ad-hoc: 4	Total: 155 Full-time: 37 Part-time: 116 Ad-hoc: 2	Total: 40 Full-time: 8 Part-time: 32 Ad-hoc: 0	Total: 24 Full-time: 5 Part-time: 17 Ad-hoc: 2	Total: 70 Full-time: 9 Part-time: 61 Ad-hoc: 0	
Holiday Care						

Registered places	71	31	0	0	40	
Usage of service	Total: 118 Full-time: 10 Part-time: 108 Ad-hoc: 0	Total: 31 Full-time: 10 Part-time: 21 Ad-hoc: 0	Total: 0 Full-time: 0 Part-time: 0 Ad-hoc: 0	Total: 0 Full-time: 0 Part-time: 0 Ad-hoc: 0	Total: 87 Full-time: 0 Part-time: 87 Ad-hoc: 0	
Wraparound Care	No data available	No data available	No data available	No data available	No data available	
Registered places	No data available	No data available	No data available	No data available	No data available	
Usage of service	No data available	No data available	No data available	No data available	No data available	

Figure 95 - Number of Welsh language places – Out of School

It should be noted that much of the Welsh medium out of school provision, i.e. is After school, wrap and holiday provision is registered under a different service type such as Full Day Care or Sessional Care and so this data should be read in conjunction with those chapters above to get an accurate picture of the sufficiency of Welsh medium provision across the borough.

The 10year Welsh in Education Strategic Plan identifies the need to develop 26-32% childcare places supporting Welsh language development by 2032 in order to meet the target of 26% children in year 1 in Welsh language Education. There is a need to develop additional provision across the borough as well as support current provision to move along the linguistic continuum (for example accessing the Road to Bilingualism to move towards delivering category 2 English and Welsh medium provision or category 3 Welsh medium provision), to meet this ambitious target.

In addition, there is a commitment for universal funded part time childcare provision for all 2year olds, within the same time period as the WESP 2022-2032. Parents may need flexibility in this provision to meet their individual family needs, including local community sessional based provision for families who do not have transport to commute long distances, full day care for working families who need full day provision to meet their working hours, flexible working patterns to meet shift work, and will require Welsh language and inclusive settings. As such there will be a need to develop increase Welsh language across all types of childcare provision.

6.5.7 Opening times, including the number offering flexible childcare hours and range of session lengths.

Within Caerphilly Borough, the range of opening and closing times for services vary according to type of service provided. For example, providers offering After School Care provision will operate later closing time, and those providers offering Before School care will operate with earlier start times.

During Term Time, the earliest opening time recorded is 7.30am, the latest time of closure recorded is 6.00pm. During Holidays, the earliest opening time recorded is 8.00am, the latest recorded time of closure is 6.00pm.

6.5.8 Age range of children

The age range of children that attend Out of School provision across the County borough ranges from 3 to 11 years old. In playschemes the youngest children that can attend are 5 years old. The numbers of children (where given) by age in geographic areas and language can be seen in the table (Figure 96) below:

	Caerphilly Basin		Lower Sirhowy Valley		Mid Valleys East		Mid Valleys West		Upper Rhymney Valley
	Term Time and Holidays	Holidays Only	Term Time and Holidays	Holidays Only	Term Time and Holidays	Holidays Only	Term Time and Holidays	Holidays Only	
3year olds	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

4year olds	12	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
5 – 7year olds	88	41	0	0	0	0	58	0	0
8 – 11year olds	74	64	0	0	0	0	38	0	0
12+ year olds	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	0

Figure 96 – age range of children accessing childcare provision

6.5.9 Range of charges

The range of charges per childcare type is outlined in the table (Figure 97) below. Some providers gave their fees by the hourly rate and others included their cost per session.

Caerphilly Basin	After School Care: £8.00-£10.00 per session Before School Care: £9.50-£10.92 per session
Lower Sirhowy Valley	After School Care: £7.00-£15.00 per session
Mid Valleys East	After School Care: £18.77 per week Before School Care: £18.77 per week
Mid Valleys West	After School Care: £7.50-£9.50 per session
Upper Rhymney Valley	No Out of School provision in this area

Figure 97 - charges per childcare type – out of School

6.5.10 Summary of key strengths and weaknesses

The Range of Out of School Provision includes After School Clubs, Wrap Around childcare, Before School Clubs, Holiday Care and Holiday Playschemes. These types of childcare service can also be provided by Childminders, Full Day Nursery and other Full Day Care Providers (Mixed Provision), through sessional care provision and through Open Access Play provision. As such, to understand the full range of out of school provision, this chapter must be read in conjunction with the proceeding chapters and the chapter on Open Access provision below.

Key strengths and weaknesses include:

- English and Welsh medium holiday childcare settings that operate in the centre of the county borough in Mid Valleys West and offer a service through all holiday periods (except Christmas) are well used by families. Both are well located to major economic centres and on routes to work across the borough and as such are fully sustainable.
- The two Play Schemes in the Caerphilly Basin are also very well attended but do not offer a full day childcare provision.
- 10 of the 11 Welsh medium primary schools have out of school provision on site, although not all of these provisions are registered under Out of School Care, (some are registered as Sessional care and some as full day care). All but one of the 10 schools have both wrap (Clwb Meithrin) and after school clubs/Clwb Carco (except Y Lawnt in the Upper Rhymney Valley which only has wrap around) and there are also 3 Welsh medium Holiday clubs associated with these providers. The 1 school that does not have this provision is located at the southern end of the Upper Rhymney Valley where previous provisions have not been sustainable in the past.
- There are 6 unregistered providers for 11 – 14 year olds operational across the county borough. 2 of these are Welsh medium and offer an out of school facility for children.
- Waiting lists for out of school provision in particular in the CB area are due to temporary closure because of the Pandemic and need to be supported to re-open.
- The most obvious **weakness** lies in the lack of Out of School Provision in the Upper Rhymney Valley. All holiday provision is offered by childminders and the one day nursery. There are also 3 unregistered open access playschemes that operate in this area (one in Bargoed and one in Rhymney) that offer some provision, but this is not full day care.

- There is also no holiday childcare (Out of School) provision offered in the Lower Sirhowy Valley or Mid Valleys East. However, there is a good range of day nurseries and childminders in Mid Valleys East that offer Holiday childcare as well as the Sessional Care setting that also offers sessional care during the Easter and Summer holidays.
- In the Lower Sirhowy Valley again all holiday provision is through full day nursery or through childminders, however, there is a lack of both of these types of childcare provision in the Crosskeys and Risca areas which is a main through route to and from Newport City and also a densely populated area with good economic output.
- The trend for attendance is again towards part time rather than full time. This is even more so the case in the school holidays.
- Vacancies are lower in the Welsh medium settings than in the English medium settings.
- The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032 has a target of 26-32% children in year 1 attending Welsh language Education. To meet this target in 2032 there is a need to develop more Welsh language childcare provision as well as move existing childcare provision along the linguistic continuum. The Early Years Team work very closely with colleagues in the WESP and is prioritising this as a piece of work going forward.
- The opening times of playschemes and holiday provision could be longer to accommodate working parents.

6.6 Open Access Play Provision

6.6.1 Range of services provided

According to the SASS submissions there are 6 Full day care, out of school providers who state they deliver Play Scheme sessions throughout Caerphilly County; these services operate under the category of Out of School Care as per CIW regulations. The definition of Open Access Play as per the National Minimum Standards is:

Open access play provision – Staffed Open Access play provision operating for over 2 hours a day for children up to the age of 12 years can be permanent or temporary provision, located in a variety of settings with or without premises and can include holiday play schemes. This provision usually caters for a wide age range of children, normally aged 5 years and over. The purpose is to provide staffed play opportunities for children usually in the absence of their

parents. Children are not restricted in their movements, other than where related to safety matters and they are not prevented from coming and going as and when they wish.

The SASS submissions did not categorise Open Access Play as an option as a type of childcare. The CIW lists only identifies one Open Access Play provider, however, we are aware that there are 2 or 3 other Community councils who operate summer open access play provisions who run unregistered, alongside the Sports and Leisure summer schemes and the Food and Fun Programme. The information below is taken from the SASS and does not include these other schemes, but we work inter-departmentally with our colleagues within the Local Authority and plan summer provision accordingly. Planning for summer provision also takes into account the registered childcare places in other settings detailed in the Sessional and Out of School Chapters.

Details of location and number of places and attendances shown in the table (Figure 98) below as of the SASS data provided:

	Caerphilly County	Caerphilly Basin	Lower Sirhowy Valley	Mid Valleys East	Mid Valleys West	Upper Rhymney Valley
Number of Registered Schemes	6	3	0	0		0
Number of places	186	93	0	0	93	0
Usage full-time	33	24	0	0	9	0
Usage part-time	238	90	0	0	148	0
Usage ad-hoc	0	0	0	0	0	0

Figure 98 - range of services provided – open access play

The table above demonstrates that parents/carers opt for the use of designated Playscheme provision on a part-time basis predominantly, with no usage conveyed on an ad-hoc basis. Parents/carers may access alternative holiday care provision as per different service type such as designated Out of School Care/Full Day Care during holiday time/Childminders who operate during holiday time.

6.6.3 Vacancies and Waiting lists

Vacancies – In Caerphilly Basin there were 200 reported vacancies throughout 3 Play Scheme provisions. In Mid valleys West there were 100 vacancies reported throughout 3 Play Scheme provisions. This data was submitted prior to a scheme operating so is not reflective of the actual vacancies per se, but of the number of places available prior to the playscheme opening.

Waiting Lists – In Caerphilly Basin there were no reported waiting lists or children awaiting an immediate placement. In Mid valleys West there were no reported waiting lists or children awaiting an immediate placement.

6.6.4 Number of places filled by children who have special educational needs or who require specialist care due to a disability

Details of location and number of places and attendances shown in the table (Figure 99) below:

	Caerphilly County	Caerphilly Basin	Lower Sirhowy Valley	Mid Valleys East	Mid Valleys West	Upper Rhymney Valley
Total number of children	0	0	0	0	87	0
Places used full-time	0	0	0	0	0	0

Places used part-time	0	0	0	0	87	0
Places used ad-hoc	0	0	0	0	0	0

Figure 99 – Children with ALN – open access play

A specialist provision for children with complex medical needs and ALN operates within MVW, in a Special Needs School and Resource Centre. The table above demonstrates that children accessing this provision do so on a part-time basis in MVW, and that there's no alternative provision of this kind throughout the county borough. Usage is maximised by part-time attendance.

6.6.5 Number of Welsh language places filled

There's 1 Play Scheme operating in the MVW area through the medium of Welsh.

Details of number of places and attendance is shown in the table (Figure 100) below:

Number of registered places	24
Total number of children	43
Number of places being used full-time	9
Number of places being used part-time	34
Number of places being used ad-hoc	0

Figure 100 – Welsh language – open access play

The chart above indicates that there is a demand for Welsh medium Play Scheme provision in the Ystrad Mynach area, however notably, this provision indicates that there are no children awaiting a place within this setting. The service is well used, with 9 children accessing the service on a full-time basis which differs from full-time usage data as per English medium alternative provision within the locality. Usage is maximised by part-time attendance.

Additionally, there are 2 Play Scheme's operating in the CB area, and a further 1 Play Scheme operating in MVW providing bilingual services.

6.6.6 Opening times, including the number offering flexible childcare hours

The range of opening hours is varied across the borough. Details are shown in the table (Figure 116) below:

Range of Opening Hours Open Access Play including Holiday Playschemes

Caerphilly Basin	8.00am-6.00pm
Lower Sirhowy Valley	Not applicable
Mid Valleys East	Not applicable
Mid Valleys West	8.30pm-5.30pm or 8.00am-6.00pm
Upper Rhymney Valley	Not applicable

Figure 101 – range of operating times

6.6.7 Age range of children

The age range of children who attend these schemes varies depending on the type of service they offer.

Age Range of Children Who use Open Access Play Provisions – Holiday Time

Caerphilly Basin	4-11 years
Lower Sirhowy Valley	Not applicable
Mid Valleys East	Not applicable
Mid Valleys West	4-17 years (due to specialist ALN Play Scheme provision that's delivered within area)
Upper Rhymney Valley	Not applicable

Figure 102 – age range of children accessing provision

6.6.8 Range of charges

The range of fees can be seen in the table (Figure 103) below. Some are free provisions and others are subsidised by grants from Community Councils or elsewhere. As can be seen, the rates for open access play are very reasonable compared to registered holiday childcare provision.

Range of Fees

Caerphilly Basin	£8.00-£9.50 per session
Lower Sirhowy Valley	Not applicable
Mid Valleys East	Not applicable
Mid Valleys West	£3.00 - £9.50 per session
Upper Rhymney Valley	Not applicable

Figure 103 range of charges – open access play

6.6.9. Summary of key strengths and weaknesses

- These Open Access Play Provisions play a vital role in supporting children's play throughout the holiday periods. They only operate during the summer holidays and the majority are only open for children over the age of 8 years and operate for hours which are shorter than the typical working day. However, they do offer a vital service to these children.
- Play Scheme provision offers working families a good deal of flexibility in terms of hours of operation with the earliest start being 8.00am and the latest closure being 6.00pm.
- Charges are similar with no significant variation reported in terms of highest fee charged per session: £9.50.
- Play Scheme provision is typically managed by Sports and leisure Department, with well-established connections and regular communication between Sports and Leisure and Early Years colleagues to ensure that services are compliant and effective in terms of providing open access play opportunities for children throughout the county borough. Whilst open access play is

strategically developed in line with demand and consultation with existing providers and local partners, colleagues within the Sports and Leisure Team have oversight of local Play Schemes.

- A specialist provision for children with complex medical needs and ALN operates within MVW, in a Special Needs School and Resource Centre. The table above demonstrates that children accessing this provision do so on a part-time basis in MVW, and that there's no alternative provision of this kind throughout the county borough. Usage is maximised by part-time attendance. This service is highly beneficial to children and families who access this Play Scheme as it provides continuous specialist care provision and access to play within holiday times, supporting families with working parents and carers to have greater flexibility.
- There's no designated Play Scheme Provision in URV/LSV/MVE although there is a range of holiday care available in these areas, that may be delivered by alternative service providers such as Childminders or Full Day Nurseries for greater ease of flexibility and usage by families.
- Usage data indicates that there is a demand for Welsh medium Play Scheme provision in the Ystrad Mynach area, however notably, this provision indicates that there are no children awaiting a place within this setting. The service is well used, with 9 children accessing the service on a full-time basis which differs from full-time usage data as per English medium alternative provision within the locality. Usage is maximised by part-time attendance.

6.7 Nanny

Local authorities are aware that a new Nanny Scheme for Wales came into force from 1st April 2021 – The Approval of Home Childcare Providers (Wales) Scheme 2021. From that date, any new approvals are approved under the new nanny scheme and upon re-approval, existing nannies will transition over to the new scheme.

6.7.1. Analysis of Supply of Childcare Provision

There are 5 approved home-based childcare providers in Caerphilly Borough. There are four located in Caerphilly Basin and one is in Mid Valleys East. We do not have further information relating to number of children being cared for, operational service hours, or fees charged per day etc.

6.7.2 Summary of Key Strengths and weaknesses

There are no additional homebased Childcare providers operating in the borough that we are aware of. Key strengths include the ability of the nanny to offer very flexible provision and support to families that work irregular shift patterns, over night and weekend care, and to provide an enhanced childcare service due to the home-based delivery aspect.

7. Early Years Part Time Education (Foundation Phase)

7.1. Analysis of Early Years Part Time Education (Foundation Phase)

7.1.1 Number of childcare providers funded to provide Early Years Part Time Education

There are currently 14 Childcare providers contracted to deliver Early Years Education across the county borough, 6 English medium and 7 Welsh Medium and 1 bilingual. This is an increase of 2 providers since the CSA 2017. Number of places available in non-maintained settings varies and depends on registered capacity and spaces available.

7.1.2 Number of schools funded to provide Early Years Part Time Education

According to Caerphilly Schools data there are 70 schools who provided Early Years Education, 58 English medium and 11 Welsh medium. Of these, 4 English medium (134 places), 3 Welsh medium (108 places) and 1 Faith school (30 places) do not offer places for Rising 3's. (N1). The Admissions number (available places) per academic year for all infant and primary schools is 2,412 places for Early Years Education, 2006 places in English Medium and 421 in Welsh medium plus 30 in the Faith school (rising 4s only) in Caerphilly Basin. Currently, (2021 /2022 academic year), the number of places borough wide for Rising 3's (N1) is 1872 English Medium and 313 Welsh Medium. Class numbers, in many cases, include both N1 and N2 children where they share a class space. It is difficult to accurately predict the number of places available for Rising 3's going forward as this is a decision taken by schools themselves depending on a number of factors, including space available, class size, birth rates, etc.

7.1.3 Attendance profile of children attending provision (childcare providers and schools)

Take up of rising 3's nursery places (N1) in schools for the summer of 2021 was 822 children. Take up of places in non-maintained settings was 76 places. The Admissions department estimate this as approximately an 85% percentage take up, however, this is approximate as they do not know actual eligibility numbers. As Rising threes provision is only offered the term after their third birthday, these Figures represent only children whose 3rd birthday falls in the autumn and spring terms (i.e., 7/12ths of a full year cohort of live births).

The number of parents who responded to the question in the parent survey as to whether they accessed their entitlement to Early Years Education was 142. Of these, 76% were accessing their entitlement within Caerphilly borough and the number of parents stating in the Parent Questionnaire that they take up their Early Years entitlement out of county was 3. Of the remaining parents, 4.23% noted they would be taking up the entitlement soon, 2.11% were not sure and 14.79% were not taking up the entitlement. For those who stated they did not access their Early Entitlement see below.

7.1.4 Number of childcare places filled, required and available

The number of Early Years Education places in childcare settings across the borough in the summer term 2021 was 76 places. The number required is unknown and the number available is flexible depending on parental choice, number registered with CIW and

policy of the setting. For the majority of the settings, if there is high demand for Early Years Education places the childcare setting will make available all childcare places for rising threes. Some settings on the other hand, may also provide childcare for Flying Start children (mixed provision) and will share places between the two programmes depending on the demand for each. This fluctuates annually.

When looking at the number of Early Years Education places available for Rising 3's (N1) there are approximately 1,103 children aged 3 who are eligible for Early Years Education (7/12ths of the full number of 3year olds across the borough). The annual admission number for schools is 2,412 plus the places available in childcare settings.

When looking at the number of Early Years Education Places available for the 4year olds (N2) there are approximately 1,934 children aged 4 across the borough who are eligible for Early Years Education. The annual admission number for schools is 2,412

Given the Figures above, across the borough there are sufficient Early Years Education places available for all children who are eligible to attend.

7.1.5 Demand for Welsh medium provision

The 10year Welsh in Education Strategic Plan identifies the need to develop 26-30% childcare places supporting Welsh language development by 2032 in order to meet the target of 26% children in year 1 in Welsh medium Education. There is a need to develop additional provision across the borough, as well as support current provision to move along the linguistic continuum (for example accessing the Road to Bilingualism to move towards delivering category 2 English and Welsh medium provision or category 3 Welsh medium provision), to meet this ambitious target.

In addition, there is a commitment for universal funded part time childcare provision for all 2year olds, within the same time period as the WESP 2022-2032. Parents may need flexibility in this provision to meet their individual family needs, including local community sessional based provision for families who do not have transport to commute long distances, full day care for working families who need full day provision to meet their working hours, flexible working patterns to meet shift work, and will require Welsh language and

inclusive settings. As such there will be a need to develop increase Welsh language across all types of childcare provision. There is very limited Welsh medium childcare provision for under 2s, which has been raised by parents seeking Welsh medium childcare on return from maternity leave which needs to be considered in future development.

The demand for Welsh Medium education, according to the WESP – Assessing Demand for Welsh Medium Education (Wales) Regulations 2013, previous annual survey was 21.6%. However, this is moving from parental demand led provision development to target number of places led provision development.

Care Inspectorate Wales childcare data from the Self-Assessment for Childcare providers (2019-20) used in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022 development, states the registered number of places is 474 in Welsh language provision which equates to 11.77% of total registered places available. However, when considered alongside the data in the Caerphilly Childcare Sufficiency Assessment data refresh 2020 data snapshot pre-covid, there were 4361 registered childcare places across all services offered through the Welsh language provisions, of which 994 (22.8%) were category 3 Welsh language, and 128 (2.9%) were category 2 English / Welsh language. The childcare data for Welsh language provision from CIW is not broken down by type of childcare so the numbers offering Childcare Offer or Early Years Education places are not identified in their graph.

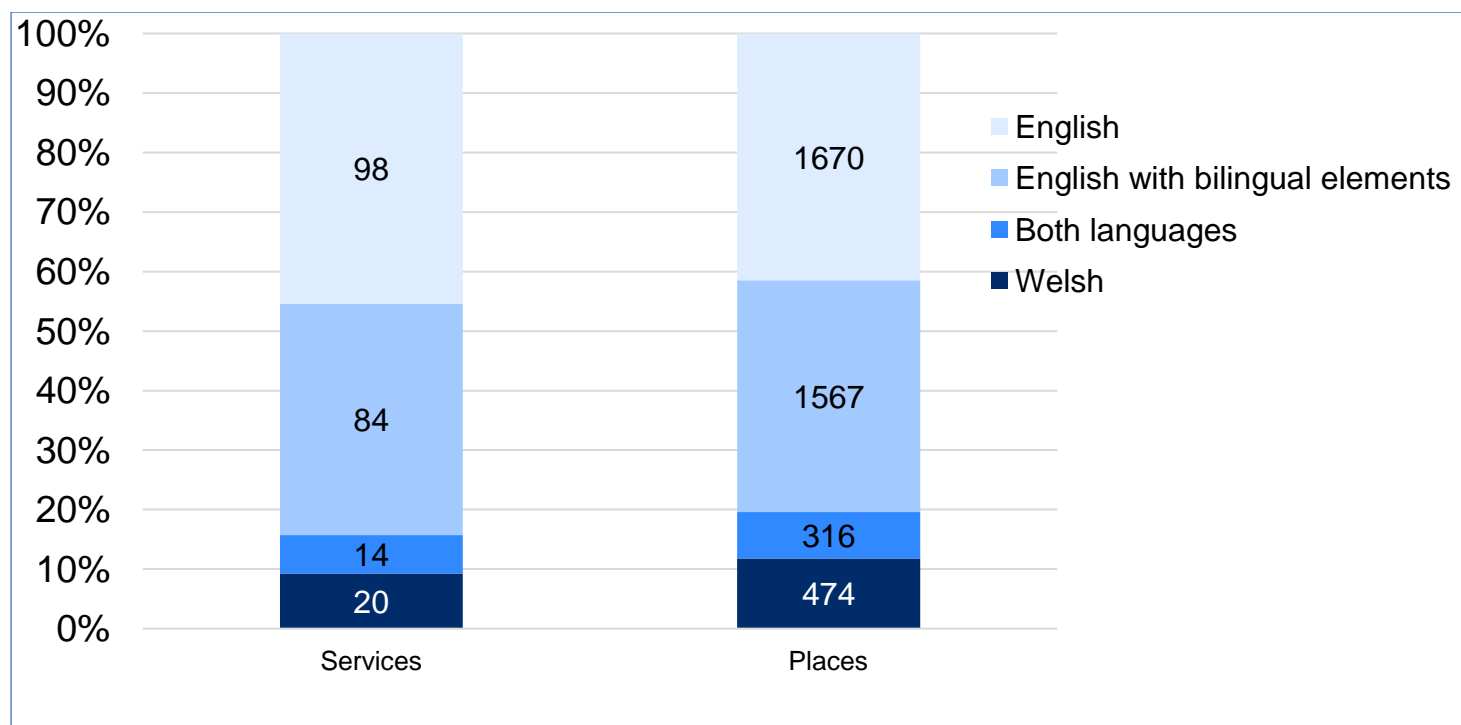


Figure 104 shows the number of childcare and play services and places according to the main working language of the service (Care Inspectorate Wales Data 2019-20)

The following table (Figure 127) calculates whether there will be sufficient places for Welsh medium education for 3 and 4year olds in Foundation Phase in schools and childcare settings under current plans by 2032:

	Caerphilly	Caerphilly Basin	Lower Sirhowy Valley	Mid Valleys East	Mid Valleys West	Upper Rhymney Valley
Annual Welsh places available in nursery in school in 2020	421	163	35	57	78	88
Places taken up in Welsh school nursery September 2020	344	147	31	45	55	48
Number of registered places for Cylch Meithrin offering Nursery Education	149	40	0 30 Bilingual	48	43	18
Current sufficiency of places for 3-4year olds	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Number of eligible 3year olds (ONS 2020) x 7/12ths**	Total: 1872 7x12ths 1092	583 340	275 160	422 246	269 157	323 188
Number of eligible 4year olds (ONS 2020)	1934	628	275	426	305	300
Admission number school Welsh places planned with current developments up to 2031	466	167	60	65	86	88
Available non-maintained places	149	40	0 30 Bilingual	48	43	18
Total Places predicted available both schools and Cylch	615	207	60 30 Bilingual	113	129	106
Predicted number of places needed for target 26% Welsh language per year group plus rising 3 for two terms	503 + 284	163 + 88	72 + 42	111 + 64	79 + 41	78 + 49
Sufficient Places by 2032 – 4year olds*	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sufficient places by 2032 – 3year olds*	No	No	No	No	Yes	No

Figure 105 - sufficiency of Welsh medium education places

*It should be noted that some schools operate a system of 3 and 4year olds sharing a classroom. There is also no statutory limit on the number of children aged 3 (i.e., not of statutory school age) that can be in a class and many settings operate a part time offer whereas the planned admission number is based on a full-time reception age place from September.

**3year olds only access EY Ed from the term following their third birthday so this is calculated as being 7/12ths (two terms) of an annual cohort.

The above table combined with local knowledge shows that while currently there has been sufficient development to meet existing demand, there is likely to be insufficient places in the future to meet the 26% target cohort by year 1. Welsh medium provision will need to be developed across the ages to ensure sufficiency of places in Early Years Education, part time 2year old, funded childcare as well as ongoing demands by working families following the end of maternity and throughout the primary age.

7.1.6 Number of parents not claiming their Early Years Education funded entitlement and reasoning

This information is not available at a school's admission level. Anecdotal information has been analysed from the Parent Survey that was available to all parents to complete during the summer of 2021

For those that answered that they did not take up their entitlement a variety of reasons were given including their children were not of the right age. Some parents felt their child was not eligible as they were not working parents, but as Early Years Education is a universal entitlement, they may be mistaken in thinking about the Childcare Offer element. One parent was not accessing Early Years Education as they noted difficulties with a school being 'reluctant' as their child had additional needs. One noted that it was easier to keep their child in a day nursery as this was more convenient for their working hours but the day nursery they currently used was not on the Caerphilly Early Years Framework to deliver Early Education places.

Notably, the responses received relating to the question asking parents 'if not, why?' resulted in varied responses. The most common response was that their child was no longer entitled as they are now in Reception in Primary School. Three parents stated that they or their partners are now students and are therefore ineligible. Three parents stated that the financial implications of childcare costs in general meant that they were not eligible as they were not in employment by choice due to the cost of childcare outweighing their earnings. Notably, one parent stated that there is no childcare provider in the locality who can drop off and collect their child to/from

provision in the Mid Valleys East area. Another parent stated that there's no wraparound provision in their local areas despite them both being in employment, this respondent resides in Mid Valleys West.

7.1.7 Foundation Phase Availability by Geographic Area

Caerphilly Basin

Caerphilly Basin	Summer 2021 data
Number of childcare providers funded to provide Early Years Part Time Education	2 (1 English medium, 1 Welsh medium)
Number of schools funded to provide Early Years Part Time Education	21 schools (17 English medium, 3 Welsh medium, plus 1 Faith school) N.B. 3 English schools do not offer Rising 3's (N1), nor does the Faith school. This, coupled with only a Welsh medium childcare setting offering Rising 3's indicates a gap for Rising 3 places in the Caerphilly Basin area

- **Number of EY Education places filled, required and available**

The total admission number in schools per academic year is 776, (613 English medium and 163 Welsh Medium). In addition, there are places available for Rising 3's in childcare provision (both English and Welsh medium). There are approximately 340 children who are eligible for Rising 3's (N1) and 628 children who are 4year olds (N2). There are sufficient places available for all eligible 3 and 4year old for Early Years Education.

- **Demand for Welsh Medium** – the table (Figure 127) above shows that currently there are sufficient Welsh medium Early Years Education places for both 3 and 4year olds who require it, but predictions show that by 2032 there should be sufficient places for 4year olds but may not be sufficient for 3year olds.

Lower Sirhowy Valley

Lower Sirhowy Valley	Summer 2016 data
Number of childcare providers funded to provide Early Years Part Time Education	1 (1 Bilingual, 0 Welsh medium)
Number of schools funded to provide Early Years Part Time Education	9 schools (8 English medium, 1 Welsh medium)

- Number of EY Education places filled, required and available**

The total admission number in schools per academic year is 325, (290 English medium and 35 Welsh Medium). In addition, there are places available for Rising 3's in childcare provision (Welsh medium). There are approximately 160 children who are eligible for Rising 3's (N1) and 275 children who are 4year olds (N2). There are sufficient places available for all eligible 3 and 4year old for Early Years Education.

- Demand for Welsh Medium** – the table (Figure 127) above shows there are currently sufficient Welsh medium Early Years Education places for all 3year olds who require it, but predictions show that by 2032 there will not be sufficient places for either 3 or 4year olds.

Mid Valleys East

Mid Valleys East	Summer 2016 data
Number of childcare providers funded to provide Early Years Part Time Education	6 (3 English medium, 3 Welsh medium) 2 are Day Nurseries
Number of schools funded to provide Early Years Part Time Education	17 schools (15 English medium, 2 Welsh medium) N.B. 1 English school and 1 Welsh school do not offer Rising 3's (N1)

- **Number of EY Education places filled, required and available**

The total admission number in schools per academic year is 579, (522 English medium and 57 Welsh Medium). In addition, there are places available for Rising 3's in childcare provision (English and Welsh medium). There are approximately 258 children who are eligible for Rising 3's (N1) and 426 children who are 4year olds (N2). There are sufficient places available for all eligible 3 and 4year old for Early Years Education.

- **Demand for Welsh Medium** – the table (Figure 127) above shows there are currently sufficient Welsh medium Early Years Education places for all 3year olds who require it, but predictions show that by 2032 there should be sufficient places for 4year olds but may not be sufficient for 3year olds.

Mid Valleys West

Mid Valleys West	Summer 2016 data
Number of childcare providers funded to provide Early Years Part Time Education	4 (2 English medium, 2 Welsh medium) 1 is a day nursery
Number of schools funded to provide Early Years Part Time Education	11 schools (9 English medium, 2 Welsh medium), plus 1 Special needs school N.B. 2 Welsh medium schools do not offer Rising 3's (N1).

- **Number of EY Education places filled, required and available**

The total admission number in schools per academic year is 357, (279 English medium and 78 Welsh Medium). In addition, there are places available for Rising 3's in childcare provision (English and Welsh medium). There are approximately 156 children who are eligible for Rising 3's (N1) and 305 children who are 4year olds (N2). There are sufficient places available for all eligible 3 and 4year old for Early Years Education.

- **Demand for Welsh Medium** – the table (Figure 127) above shows there are currently sufficient Welsh medium Early Years Education places for both 3 and 4year olds who require it and predictions show that by 2032 there should still be sufficient places for both 3 and 4year olds.

Upper Rhymney Valley

Upper Rhymney Valley	Summer 2016 data
Number of childcare providers funded to provide Early Years Part Time Education	1 (Welsh medium) In Bargoed Area
Number of schools funded to provide Early Years Part Time Education	13 schools (10 English medium, 3 Welsh medium) N.B. all schools offer Rising 3's (N1),

- **Number of EY Education places filled, required and available**
The total admission number in schools per academic year is 375, (287 English medium and 88 Welsh Medium). There are also additional places available for Rising 3's in childcare provision. There are approximately 188 children who are eligible for Rising 3's (N1) and 300 children who are 4year olds (N2). There are sufficient places available for all eligible 3 and 4year old for Early Years Education.
- **Demand for Welsh Medium** – the table (Figure 137) above shows there are currently sufficient Welsh medium Early Years Education places for all 3year olds who require it, but predictions show that by 2032 there should be sufficient places for 4year olds but may not be sufficient for 3year olds.

7.2 Childcare Offer for 3 and 4year olds

The Welsh Government Free Childcare Offer for 3 and 4year olds encompasses all eligible children matching the eligibility criteria for Foundation phase part time early years education, i.e., the term after a child's third birthday until the September after their fourth birthday for eligible working parents. This will encompass 5 school terms. In Caerphilly there were approximately 3036, 3 and 4year olds who would be of eligible age to access the Offer. Of these, take up is approximately 50 – 55% which means there are

approximately 1520 and 1670 childcare places required across an academic year to accommodate those children who require the childcare offer. Currently all children who require a place are able to access one in the childcare provider of choice.

Number of providers signed up to offer Childcare Offer

There are 245 childcare providers signed up with Caerphilly CBC to offer Childcare offer places, of these, 22 are Welsh Medium, 13 state they are bilingual and 224 are English medium. There are 56 providers in the Caerphilly Basin, 20 in Lower Sirhowy Valley, 46 in Mid Valleys East, 23 in Mid Valleys West, 14 in the Upper Rhymney Valley and 73 are out of county.

The types of childcare signed up are 9 After school club / wrap, 91 childminders, 55 Day nurseries, 4 standalone holiday clubs and 44 playgroups/wrap arounds. The number of places available is unknown and will depend upon registration number of the setting and vacancy rates which will vary week to week.

During the period Sept 2020 to August 2021, 1017, individual childcare placements were made for the Childcare Offer for Caerphilly resident children. All children were able to access the offer indicating that there are sufficient childcare places for 3 and 4year olds across the borough.

7.3 Summary of key strengths and weaknesses

- Across Caerphilly Borough there are sufficient places for 3 and 4year olds to access their Early Years Foundation Phase entitlement and Childcare offer places.
- There are a number of schools in the Caerphilly Basin area that do not offer Rising 3's and only two childcare providers are registered to deliver Early Years Education. This may mean there is a gap in availability of places for children to access their Rising 3 place.
- The non-maintained sector (childcare) offers parents a choice for children who are rising 3 years old. This increases the number of places available for this age group particularly for those who wish to access Welsh medium provision.
- Working closely with colleagues in Mudiad Meithrin, we are increasing the rate of transition between children attending Cylch Meithrin and Welsh medium primary school.
- Sufficiency of places in Welsh medium for children the year they turn 4 years old is only available in maintained (school) settings.

- The parent survey indicated that only 76% of parents take up their free entitlement to Early Years education. This is an increase of 10% from the last CSA in 2017.
- We cannot look at Funded Early Years Education places in isolation from other funded places for childcare offer, Flying Start and assisted places etc which all impact on availability and will need to be considered when planning for the funded 2 year old offer and any future Welsh Government programmes and places required.

8. Flying Start Provision

8.1 Number of childcare providers funded to provide Flying Start, including Flying Start only provision

In total there are 41 settings delivering Flying Start childcare provision across the 26 Flying Start areas in Caerphilly borough an increase of 15 settings since the last CSA in 2017. Of these, 16 are maintained by Caerphilly County Borough Council and 25 are non-maintained childcare providers who are contracted with the council to provide Flying Start Places and increase of 10 settings since the last CSA. A new Welsh medium Flying Start centre has opened in the Caerphilly Basin area Autumn 2016 which offers a morning Flying Start provision.

In the maintained sector, in July 2021 there were 326 registered maintained Flying Start places offering up to 580 Flying Start Childcare places. (N.B. we currently do not staff all settings to maximum capacity but have the ability to increase numbers available as demand increases). The majority of the places taken up in the maintained sector were in English medium Settings with elements of Welsh and up to 12 places are available in the Welsh only immersive setting located in Caerphilly town.

In the non-maintained sector, which offers a mixed economy of provision (Flying Start childcare and childcare for private customers with 11 settings also offering Early Years Education places as well), there are 5 Day Nurseries, 2 Childminders, 8 Playgroups, 8 Cylch Meithrin, 1 bilingual playgroup and one mixed sessional care setting. Registered places available will vary depending on capacity and demand, but there are a total of 380 registered places available in playgroups and Cylch Meithrin, 20 in childminding settings and approximately 60 in the Day nursery provision. In financial year 2020/21, 570 children were eligible and offered a Flying Start Childcare place; of which 465 places were taken up (81.5%), where 414 places were wanted in English medium settings (89%), and 51 were in Welsh medium settings (11%). The availability of registered places between both maintained and non-maintained settings far exceeds the number required if all places were available for Flying Start children. All requests for places were fulfilled.

Since the CSA 2017, we have reduced the staffing levels in maintained settings to accommodate the demand and the number available in the non-maintained sector is dependent on parental choice and spaces available in the childcare provision.

Caerphilly Basin – 5 maintained settings (including one Welsh Medium) and 5 Non maintained settings (including one Welsh medium). There were 212 registered places available in the maintained sector. In the non-maintained sector, there were 94 registered places in sessional care (19 in a Welsh Cylch Meithrin) plus a day nursery.

Lower Sirhowy Valley – there are no maintained settings, and 4 non-maintained settings, 3 English medium and one bilingual. In the non-maintained sector, there were 80 places available in 2 playgroup/wrap setting plus those in 2 day nurseries. 20 of these places are in English medium settings and 60 are in bilingual settings.

Mid Valleys East – 4 maintained settings, and 9 non-maintained settings (including 2 childminders, 2 Day nurseries, 3 Cylch Meithrin and 2 English medium playgroup settings). There are 136 registered places available in the maintained sector and in the non-maintained sector there are 20 places with childminders, 38 registered places with English medium playgroups, 48 registered places in Welsh medium settings plus those available in 2 day nurseries. In the Trinant area, there was a high demand so this maintained provision has moved from one part time session to two sessions.

Mid Valleys West - 2 maintained settings, and 3 non-maintained settings (2 Cylch Meithrin and 1 English medium playgroup). There were 92 registered places available in the maintained sector. In the non-maintained sector, there were 43 Welsh and 28 English medium registered places. It should be noted that in 2017 there were no Welsh medium places available in this area for Flying Start.

Upper Rhymney Valley - 5 maintained settings, and 4 non-maintained settings (two Welsh medium and 2 English medium playgroups). There were 140 registered places available in the maintained sector. In the non-maintained sector, there were 35 English medium and 34 Welsh Medium registered places.

8.2 Number of parents living in a Flying Start area, who are accessing free childcare

The number of eligible children of parents who were living in a Flying Start area who accessed funded Flying Start childcare provision in financial year 2020/21 was 465 out of 570 eligible children which equates to 81.5%. However, there is a need to understand the barriers to accessing provision and how we work with families to remove the barriers.

8.3 Parental Survey responses in relation to Flying Start.

In the Welsh Government Parental Survey conducted in 2021, 157 Caerphilly parents (of the 442 respondents) responded to the question, 'Is your age 2 or 3year old child(ren) accessing Flying Start Childcare?' of these 8.2% stated they were using Flying Start places and 72% said they were not. 22% responded but said it was not applicable to them. If they chose not to take up their Flying Start place the majority said that either they were not eligible or lived outside of a Flying Start area. Some indicated that their children attended a non-maintained setting where Flying Start was offered, but they were fee paying as not eligible. Four respondents noted that as they worked full time the short sessions were not long enough to cover their working day and there were no local full day care providers that offered Flying Start as well (3 of these were in the Caerphilly town area). One was with a local childminder who did not offer Flying Start but as the child was settled, they did not want to move them. Others noted that they lived just outside a Flying Start area so were not eligible. This will be addressed in the planning for the expansion of childcare for 2year olds that is being planned to start in September 2022 which will initially look to encompass those neighbourhood areas that are often close to an existing Flying Start post code area and meet the new eligibility criteria.

8.4 Summary of key strengths and weaknesses

- There are currently sufficient childcare places in both maintained and contracted non-maintained settings across the borough for all children who are eligible.
- There is a good mix of English and Welsh medium childcare places available in a variety of types of childcare settings across the borough.
- The expansion of the 2year old childcare offer planned to begin in the Autumn 2022 will take all the available spaces into consideration when planning this expansion.
- Lack of wrap around Flying Start places available for working parents in the Caerphilly Town area.

9. Free Breakfast Club Provision

Data in this chapter is based on pre-Covid data and will be updated post Covid recovery for an accurate picture.

9.1. Analysis of Free Breakfast Club Provision

Area	Medium of Places Available	Notes
Caerphilly Basin	1147 English 198 Welsh	There are no free Breakfast club places in the St Martins ward. All Welsh schools offer Free Breakfast club places.
Lower Sirhowy Valley	415 English 38 Welsh	There are no free Breakfast club places available in the Risca West ward.
Mid Valleys East	726 English 51 Welsh	There are no free Breakfast club places available in the Penmaen ward.
Mid valleys West	296 English 118 Welsh	
Upper Rhymney	363 English 127 Welsh	There are no free Breakfast club places available in the Pontlottyn or Twyn Carno wards.

Figure 106 analysis of free breakfast club provision

As many parents utilise the funded breakfast clubs operating on school premises as childcare to support working hours this is a valuable asset that supports childcare sufficiency. However, it should be noted that these clubs are not regulated by CIW. In areas where there is a lack of funded on school site breakfast clubs, we will need to consider whether there is sufficient before-school childcare provision to support working parents.

10. Understanding the Needs of Parents / Carers

A vital part of assessing the sufficiency of childcare across the borough is understanding the childcare needs of parents and carers.

An on-line parent survey was developed by Welsh Government to ascertain the parental use of and future demands for childcare. This was widely publicised across all Local Authority communications methods, including our public websites (Caerphilly Council, Family Information Service and Early Years), and internal intranet. The survey was also publicised via the Local Authority, Flying Start and FIS Facebook pages as well as via the Local Authority's Government Delivery Bulletin.

Working in close partnership with the Caerphilly Welsh in Education Strategic Planning group (WESP), Welsh medium childcare and Early Years Education has been closely analysed to determine gaps in provision and challenges and opportunities for new developments. Close partnership working with the Play Sufficiency Group and being instrumental in the development of the Play Sufficiency Assessment and subsequent Action Plan has ensured that childcare and play continue to be developed in partnership, in particular the development of a well- resourced and appropriately trained workforce. In addition, within the Local Authority, we have engaged and consulted with the Planning Department, in relation to the development of new childminders and Day Nurseries and with the Heads of Primary Schools.

Childcare providers have been consulted fully via the SASS regarding their provision and via a corresponding questionnaire. In addition, children were consulted via Children's Questionnaire distributed throughout all After School Care childcare provision within the borough to ensure a robust response to the consultation aspect of the sufficiency assessment.

In addition, we work very closely with our own Family Information Service and have good contacts with our Childcare colleagues in neighbouring authorities with whom we regularly consult.

Welsh Government produced an online Parental Survey relating to childcare provision within the locality. Within Caerphilly Borough, 442 responses were received following marketing campaigns promoting the importance of parents/carers sharing their thoughts and opinions on current and future childcare provision within their local area. The survey included a range of prescriptive and open-ended questions to best gauge context surrounding feedback relating to services.

Chart – Household composition

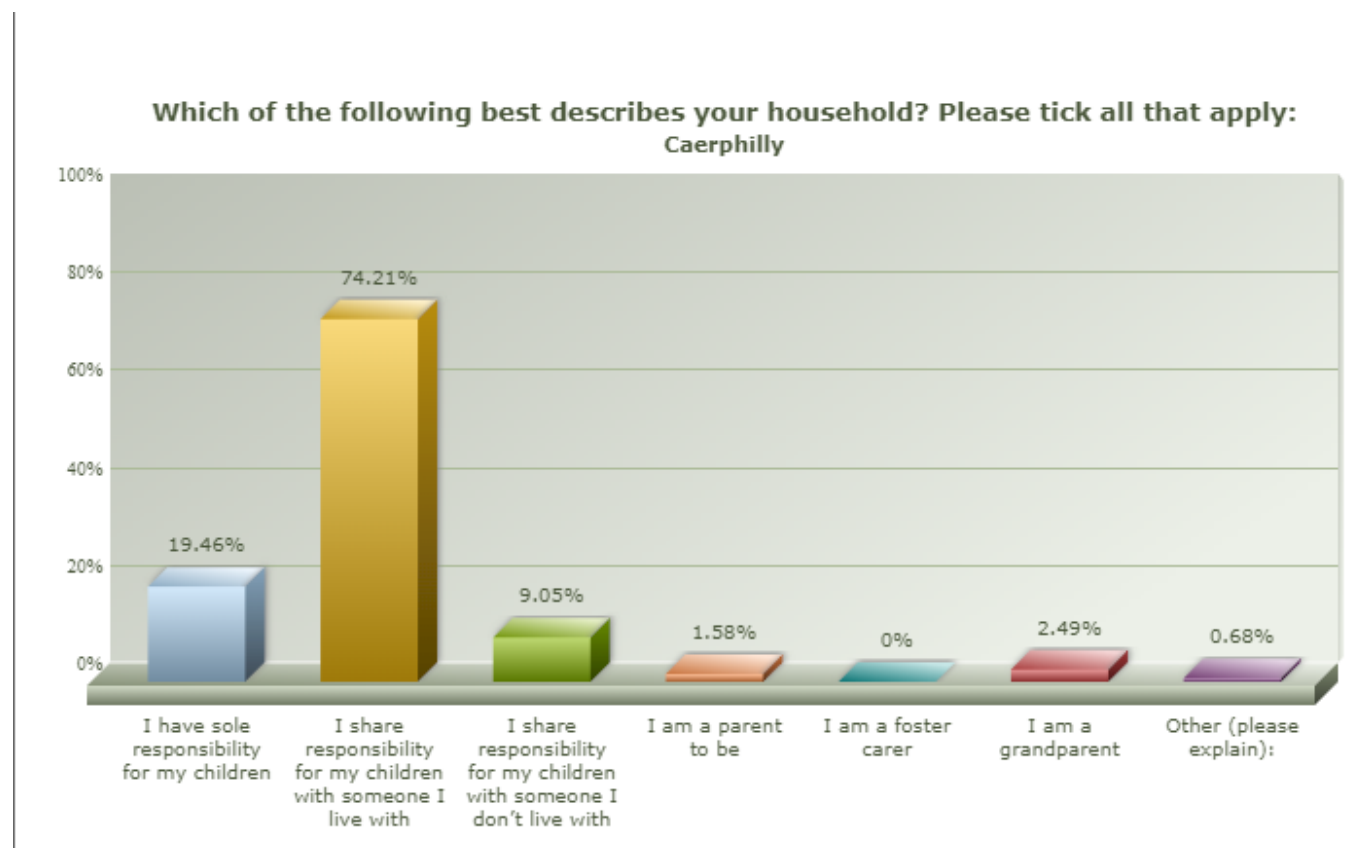


Figure: 107 – Household composition Source: Welsh Government, Parents Survey on Childcare (2021)

It is evident from the chart seen above that most of the 442 parents who completed the survey shared parental responsibility with someone who they lived with. The anomalies included parents/carers who indicated their need for further details/categories such as 'adoptive parents', 'Armed Forces parents', and carers with 'special guardianship' arrangements in place.

Chart – Age of children

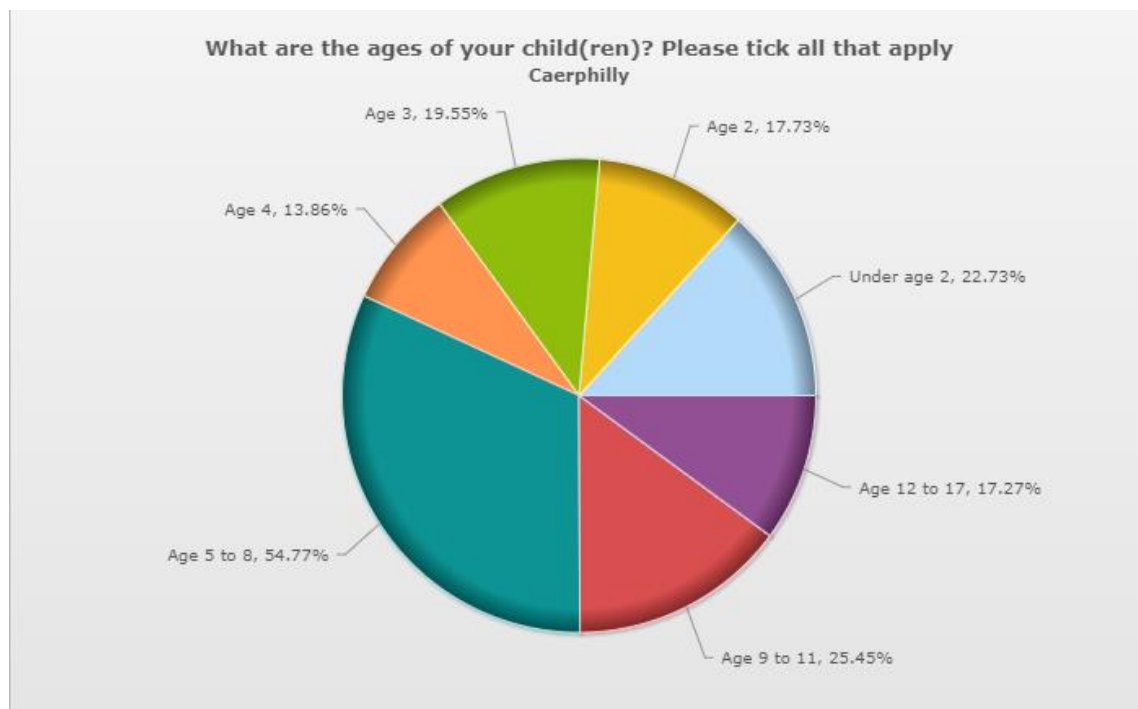


Figure 108 – Age of Children profile – demand survey

Source: Welsh Government, Parents Survey on Childcare (2021)

The chart above indicates that the primary respondents to the survey were parents of children aged 5-8 years. However, as this is an age category as specified for the completion of the CSA, the spread of ages of children is fairly equal across all ages except the 12 – 17-year-olds where numbers were much less corresponding with childcare usage in this age range.

Chart – Is your 3–4-year-old child accessing an Early Years Education placement?

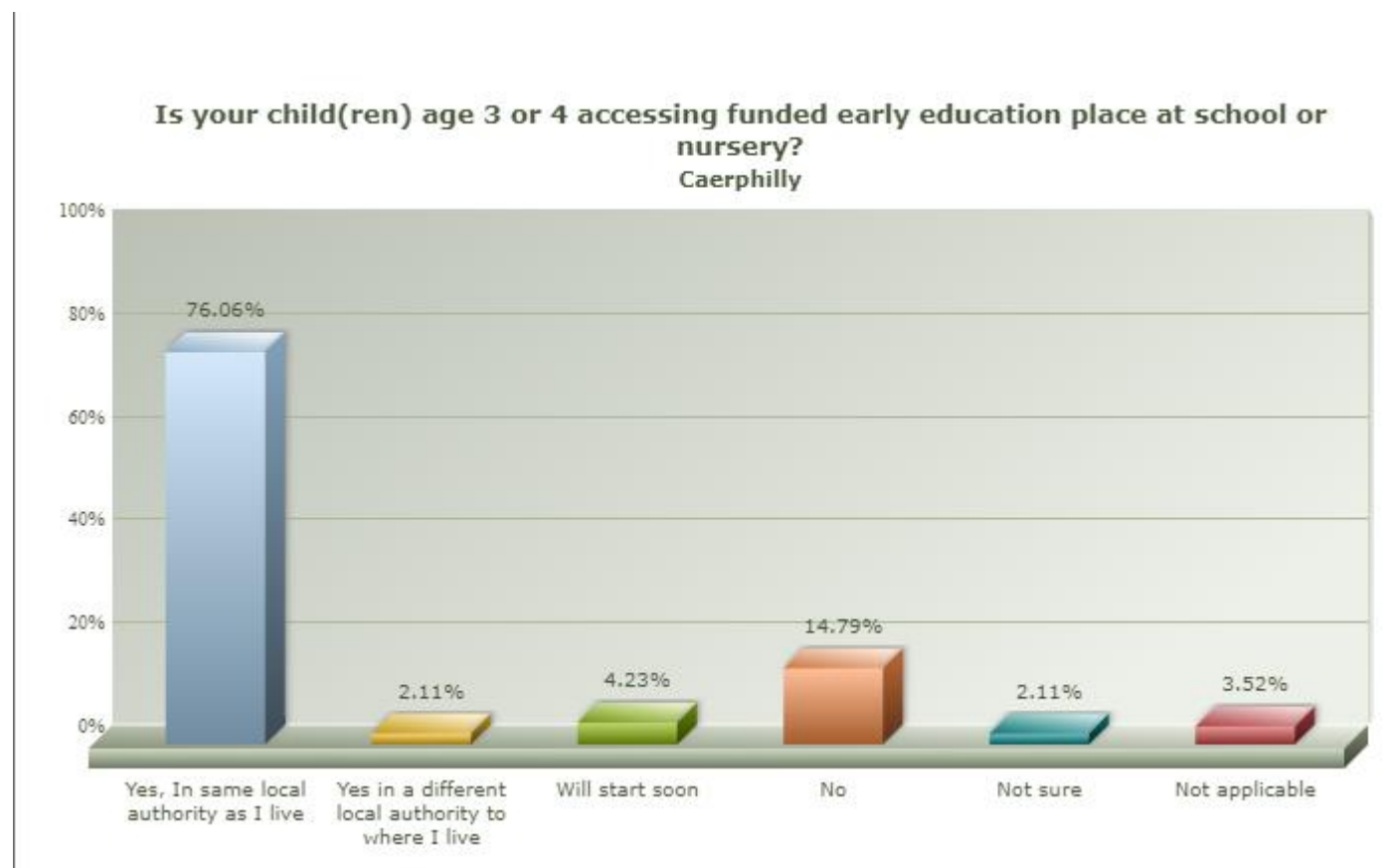


Figure 109 – EY education usage – demand survey
Source: Welsh Government, Parents Survey on Childcare (2021)

142 parents responded to this question of the 442 who completed the survey. The chart above demonstrates that over 75% of parents stated that their child/ren are accessing funded Early Education places within a school or nursery setting, whereas 14.79% of parents stated that their child was not accessing this service. Notably, the responses received relating to the question asking parents 'if not, why?' resulted in varied responses. The most common response was that their child was no longer entitled as they are now in Reception in Primary School. One parent stated that they are now a student and are therefore now ineligible. One parent stated that

the financial implications of working part-time hours to secure eligibility to service were outweighed by their desire to spend more time with their child during their early years. Notably, one parent stated that they had faced challenges with regards to 'getting the school onboard as they were reluctant to have a SEN child'. Of the 3 parents who stated that their child/ren are accessing a funded early years education place at a school or nursery within a different local authority to where they live, it is presumed that given the geographical implications of living in a largely cross-county bordered local authority such as Caerphilly Borough, it is convenient for some families to access childcare provision that is in a neighbouring authority to cater to other factors such as place of work.

Chart – 3–4-year-old children accessing government funded childcare

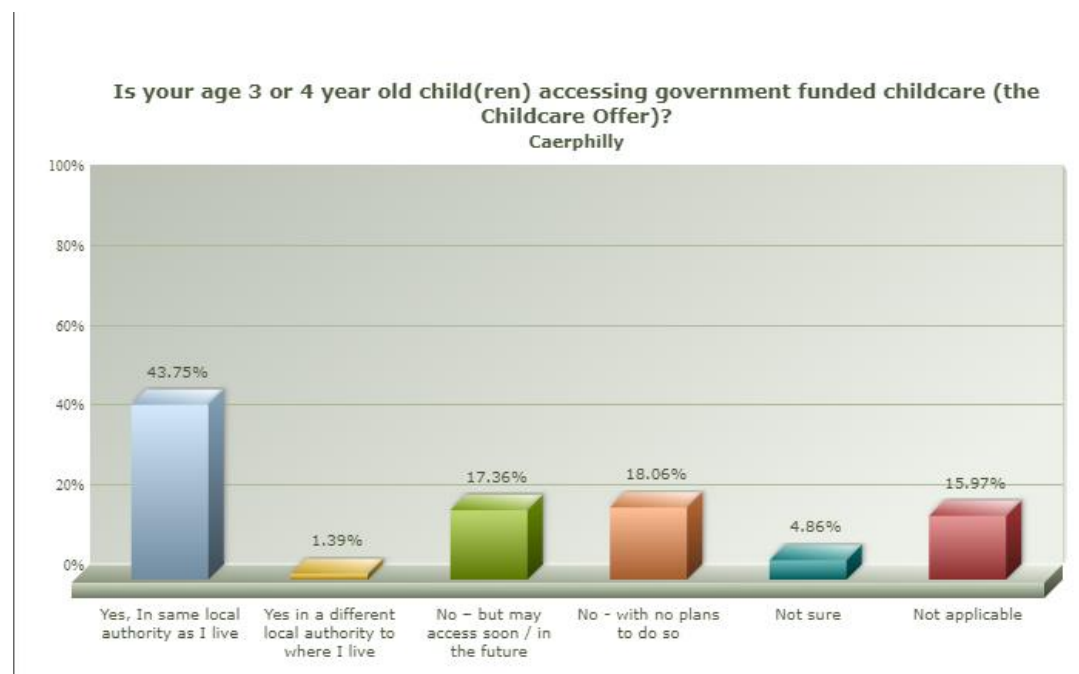


Figure: 110 – Childcare offer usage – demand survey
Source: Welsh Government, Parents Survey on Childcare (2021)

144 parents responded to this question of the 442 who completed the survey. The chart above demonstrates that 43.75% of parents stated that their 3–4-year-old child/ren are benefiting from the Childcare Offer, whereas 18.06% stated that they were not and had no plans to utilise the scheme. Of the 2 parents who stated that their child/ren are accessing a funded early years education place at

a school or nursery within a different local authority to where they live, it is presumed that given the geographical implications of living in a largely cross-county bordered local authority such as Caerphilly Borough, it is convenient for some families to access childcare provision that is in a neighbouring authority, to cater to other factors such as place of work. Notably, the responses received relating to the question asking parents 'if not, why?' resulted in varied responses. The most common response was that their child was no longer entitled as they are now in Reception in Primary School. Three parents stated that they or their partners are now students and are therefore ineligible. Three parents stated that the financial implications of childcare costs in general meant that they were not eligible as they were not in employment by choice due to the cost of childcare outweighing their earnings. Notably, one parent stated that there is no childcare provider in the locality who can drop off and collect their child to/from provision in the Mid Valleys East area. Another parent stated that there's no wraparound provision in their local areas despite them both being in employment, this respondent resides in Mid Valleys West.

Chart – 2–3-year-old accessing Flying Start funded childcare

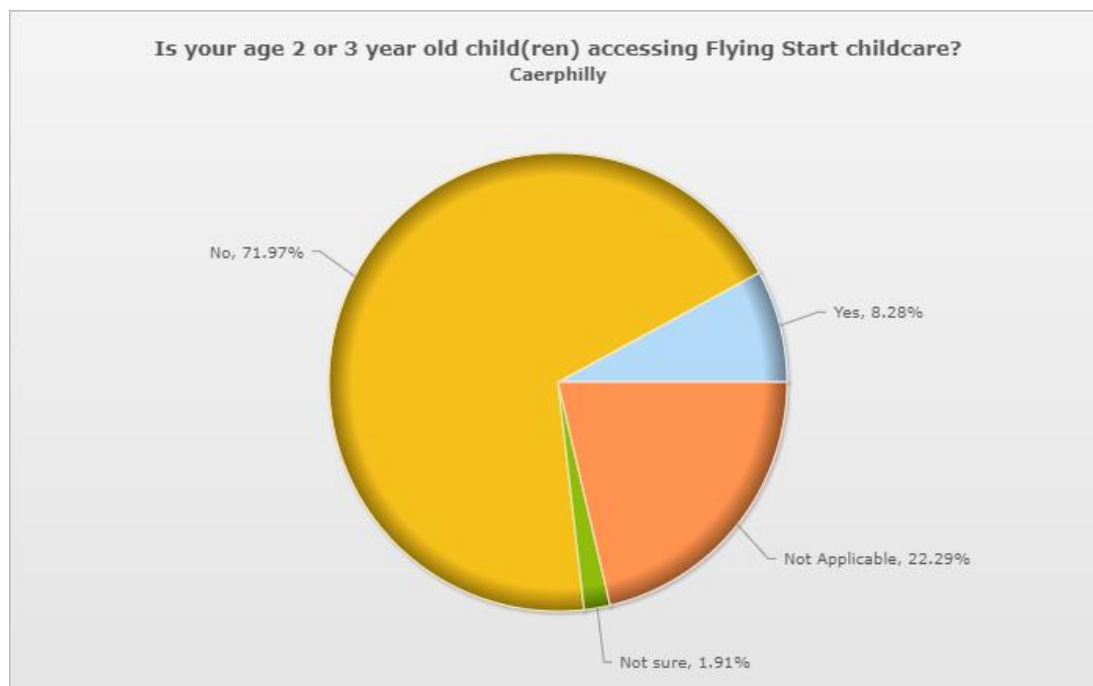


Figure: 111 Flying Start Childcare – Demand Survey Source: Welsh Government, Parents Survey on Childcare (2021)

157 parents responded to this question of the 442 who completed the survey. The chart above demonstrates that only 13 respondents indicated that their child is accessing Flying Start provision, 35 stated that they were not eligible and a further 113 stated that they were not accessing this provision. A further open-ended question asking, 'if not, why?' resulted in primary response indicating non-eligibility for service due to postcode lottery allocation.

Chart – Future three-year-old government funded childcare indicator

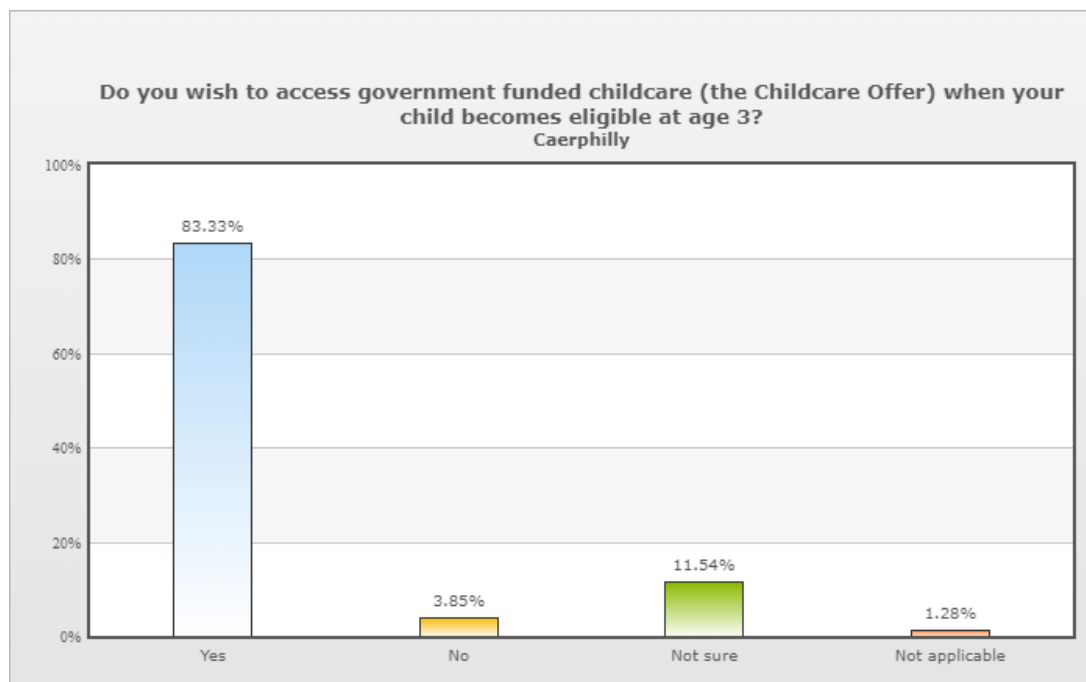


Figure: 112 - Future use of Childcare offer – demand survey Source: Welsh Government, Parents Survey on Childcare (2021)

78 parents responded to this question of the 442 who completed the survey. The chart above demonstrates that over 80% of parents who answered this question indicated a desire to access the Childcare Offer upon eligibility and utilise government funded 3-year-old childcare provision. 3 respondents stated that they are not eligible for reasons that include student status and income status that's surpasses eligibility criteria.

Chart – Do any of your children have a disability or long-term illness?

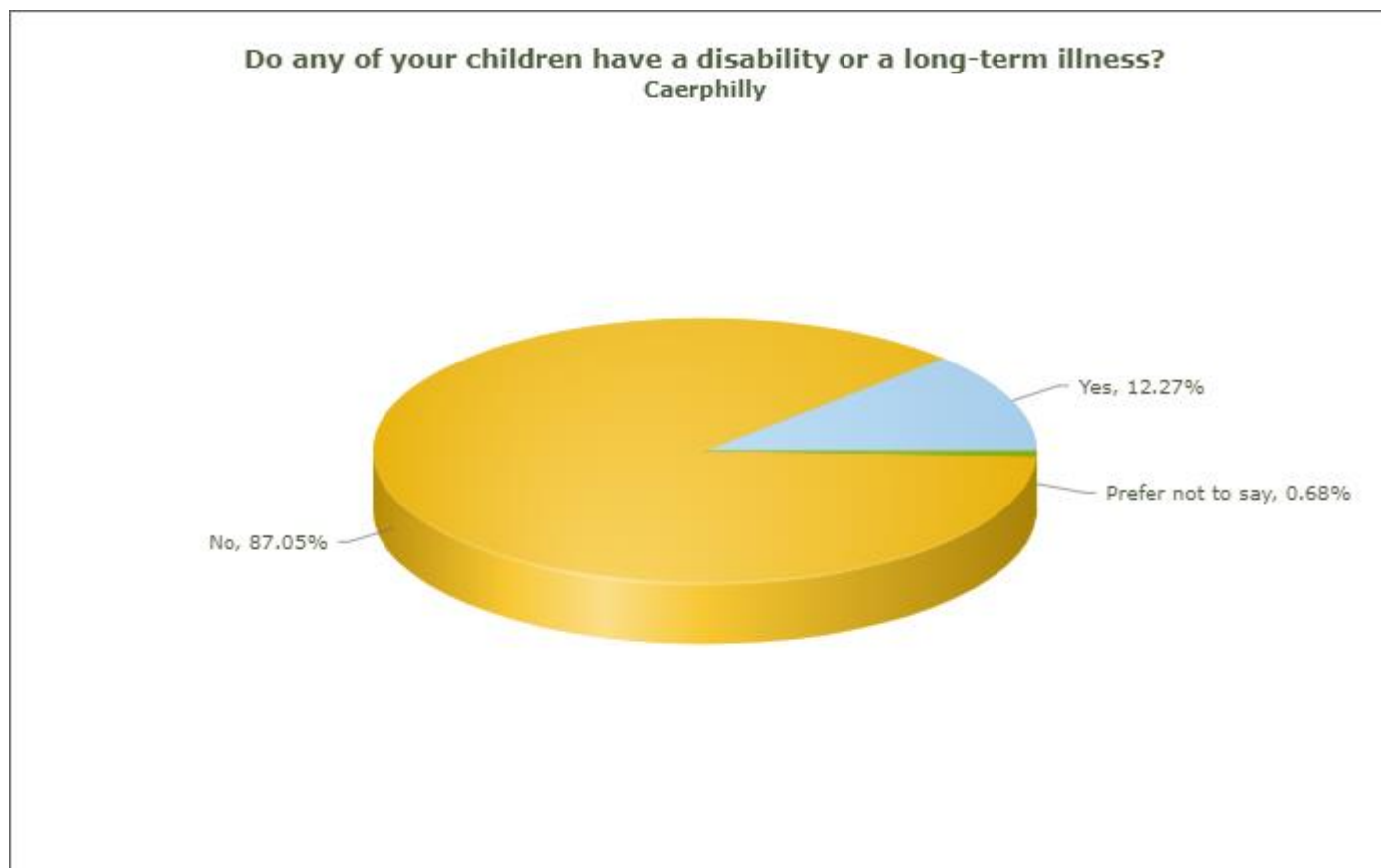


Figure: 113 – Children with disabilities – Demand Survey
Source: Welsh Government, Parents Survey on Childcare (2021)

440 parents responded to this question of the 442 who completed the survey. 54 respondents stated that their child has a disability or a long-term illness.

Chart – Do any of your children have an Additional Learning Need?

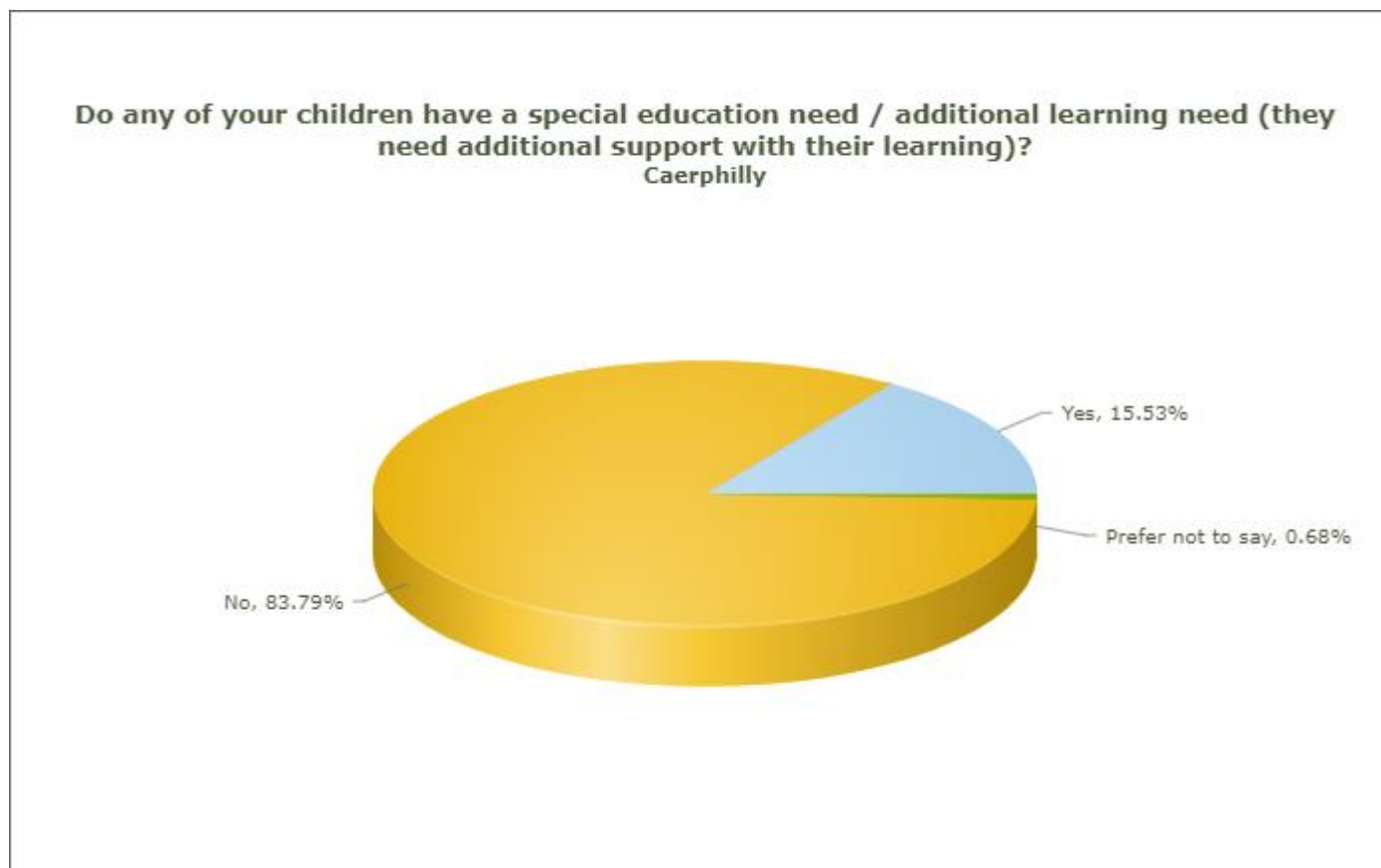


Figure 114 - Additional Learning Needs – Demand survey Source: Welsh Government, Parents Survey on Childcare (2021)

438 parents responded to this question of the 442 who completed the survey. 68 respondents stated that their child has an Additional Learning Need, and they require additional support with their learning.

Chart – The type of provider used during term time

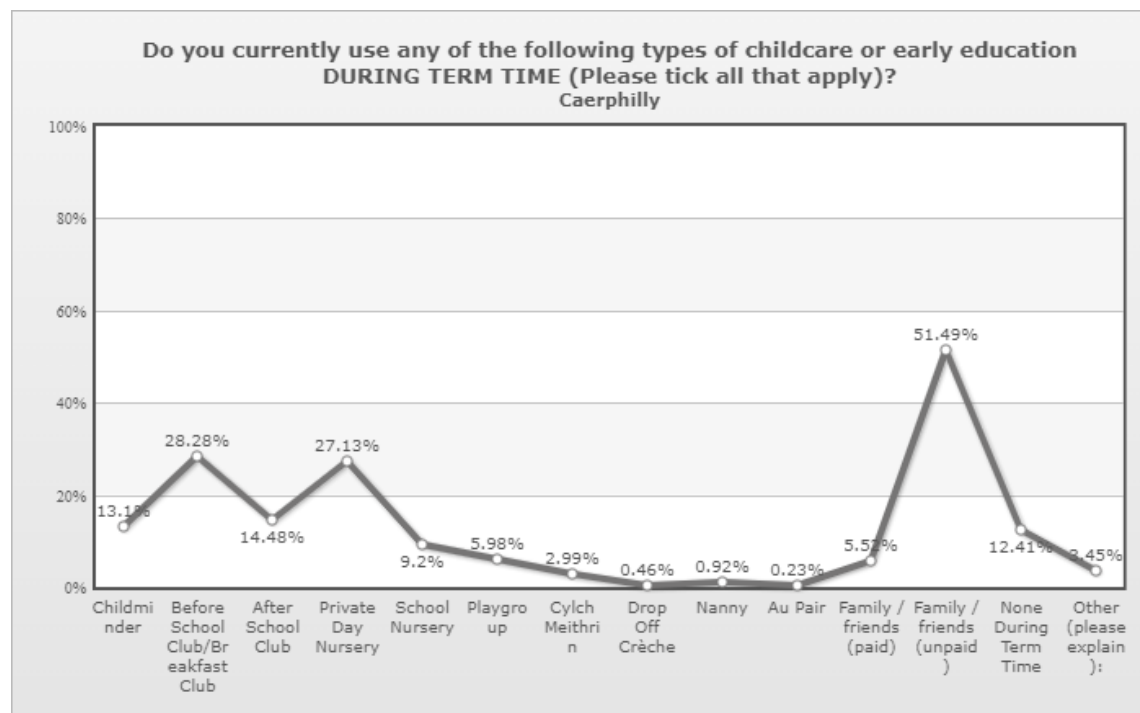


Figure: 115 - Term Time Provider – demand survey
Source: Welsh Government, Parents Survey on Childcare (2021)

435 parents responded to this question of the 442 who completed the survey. The chart above indicates that parents are primarily reliant upon family and friends for childcare during term time; over 50% of respondents stated they do this on an unpaid basis. Notably, responses to this question included references to the impact of COVID-19 and the fact that those specific parents are now working from home and are therefore no longer in need of childcare that wrap arounds the school day. 123 respondents noted that they utilise Before School Club/Breakfast Club care for their children. 118 respondents stated that they rely upon Private Day Nursery provision. Notably, one parents stated that there was no suitable provision for children with 'SEN' such as After/Before School Clubs in the Caerphilly Basin area.

Chart – The type of provider used during holiday time

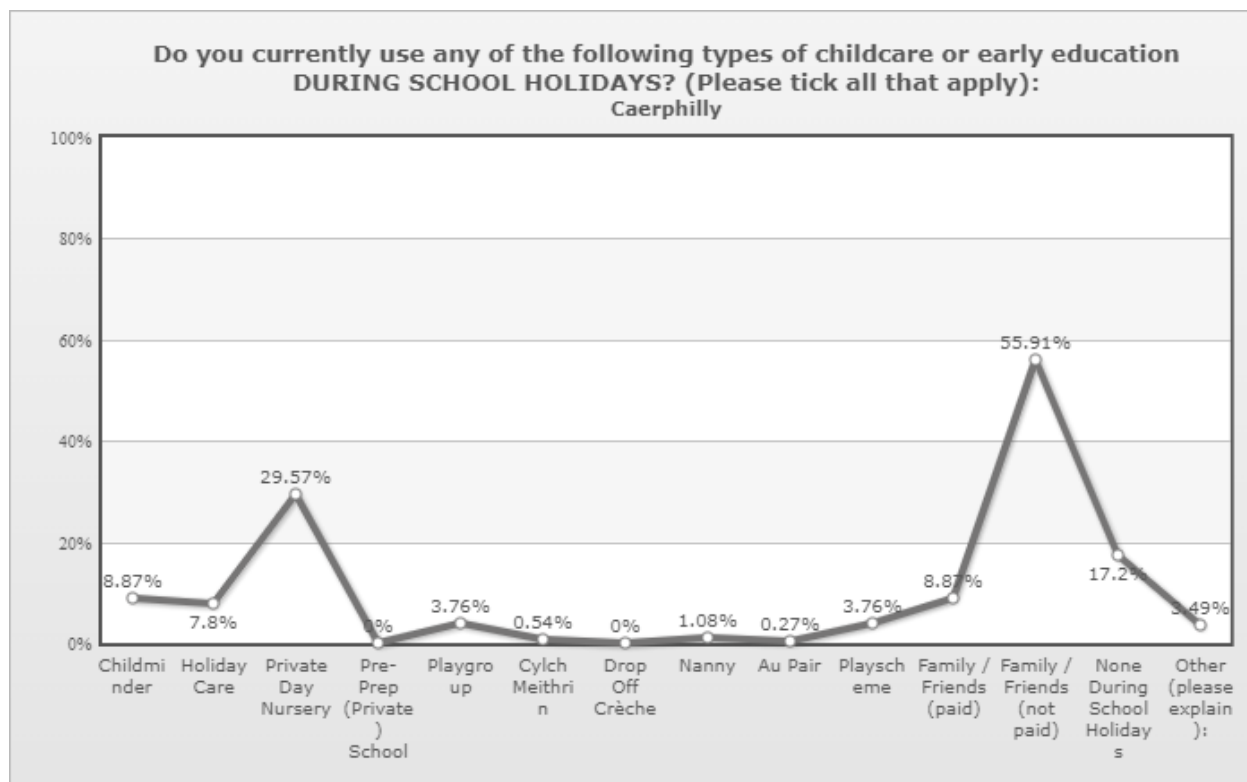


Figure: 116 - Holiday time provider
Source: Welsh Government, Parents Survey on Childcare (2021)

372 parents responded to this question of the 442 who completed the survey. The chart above indicates that parents are primarily reliant upon family and friends for childcare during holiday time; over 50% of respondents stated they do this on an unpaid basis. Notably, one parent stated that due to the impact of COVID-19 and them now working from home they no longer needed to employ the use of registered childcare provision as before. 110 respondents stated that they use Private Day Nursery to provide care for their child/ren during holiday time.

Chart – Childcare costs

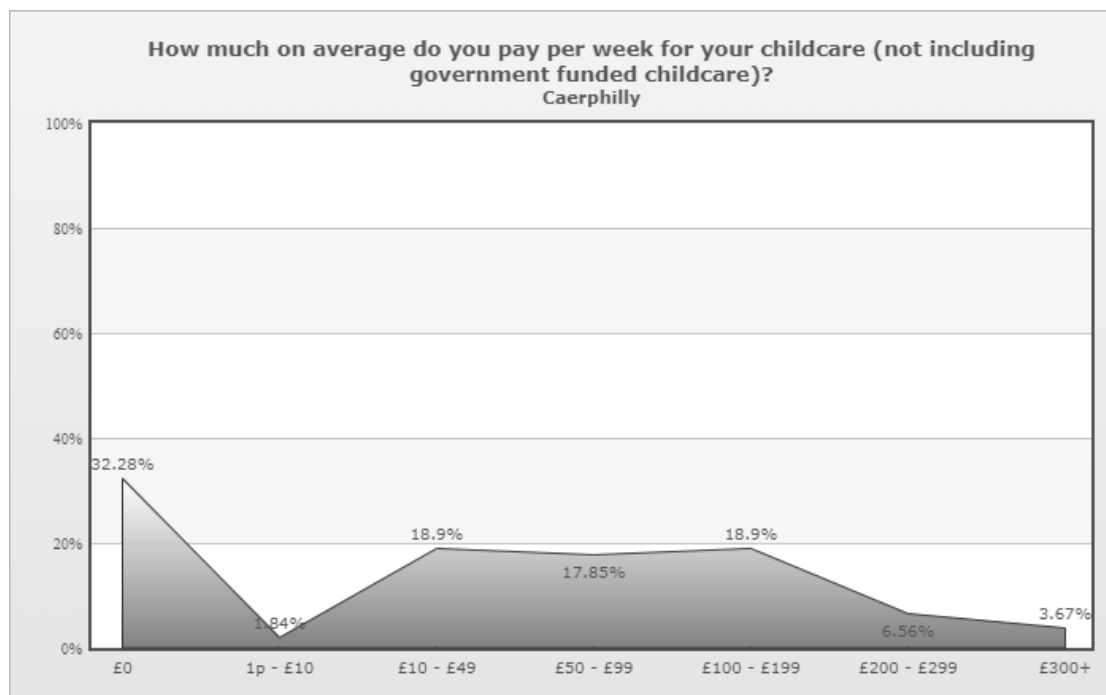


Figure: 117– Childcare Costs Demand survey Source: Welsh Government, Parents Survey on Childcare (2021)

381 parents responded to this question of the 442 who completed the survey. The chart above indicates that 32.28% do not pay any childcare fees – this could be for a variety of reasons including using funded childcare places including Flying Start, Early Years Education and family and friends as their main source of childcare. Notably, 3.67% of parents stated that they pay over £300 pr week for childcare.

Chart – Parental/carer satisfaction with current childcare provider

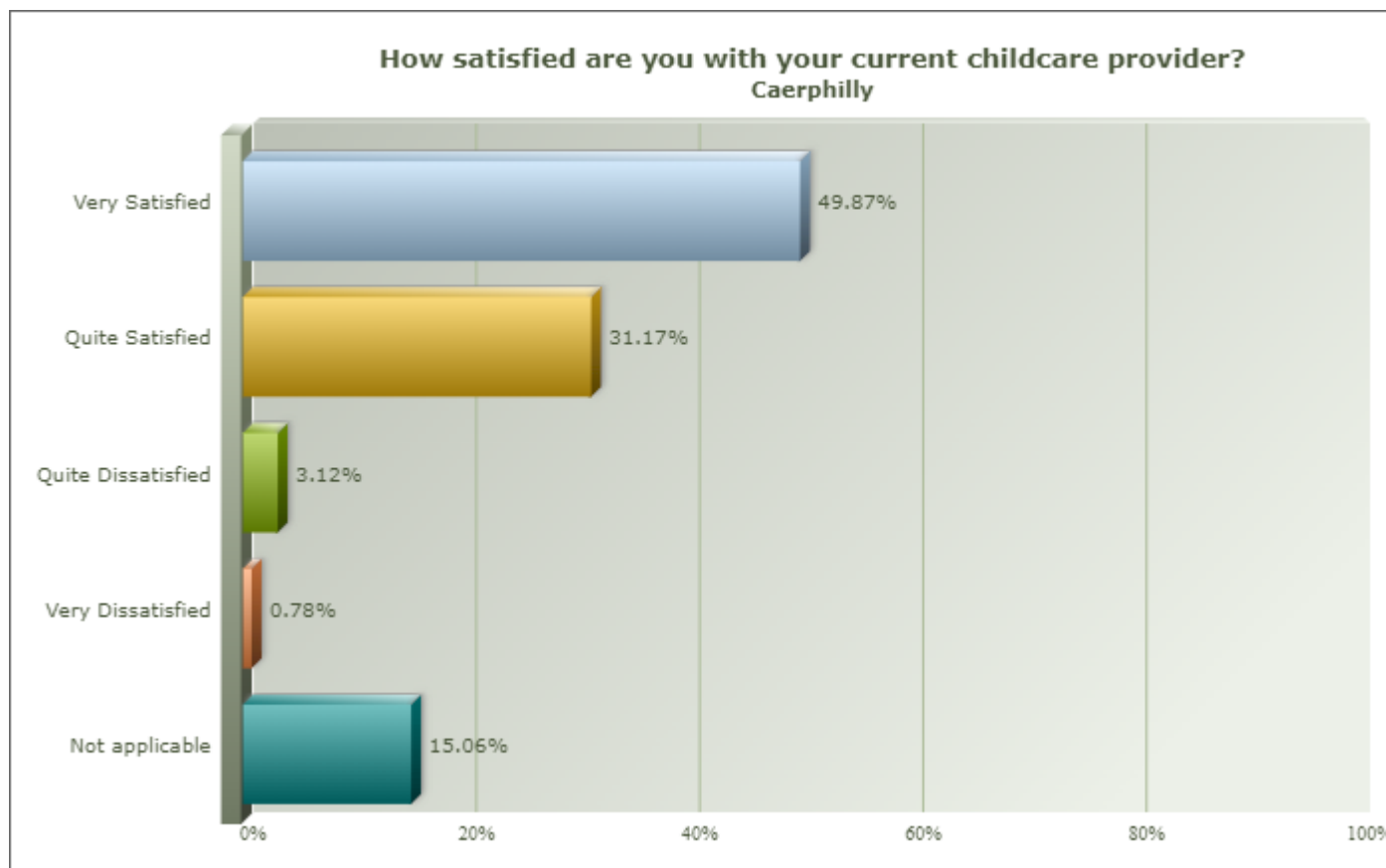


Figure: 118 Parent satisfaction – demand survey Source: Welsh Government, Parents Survey on Childcare (2021)

385 parents responded to this question of the 442 who completed the survey. The chart above indicates that 192 respondents are very satisfied with their current childcare provider, and a further 120 respondents are quite satisfied with their provider.

Chart – Tell us what aspects of your childcare arrangements could be improved

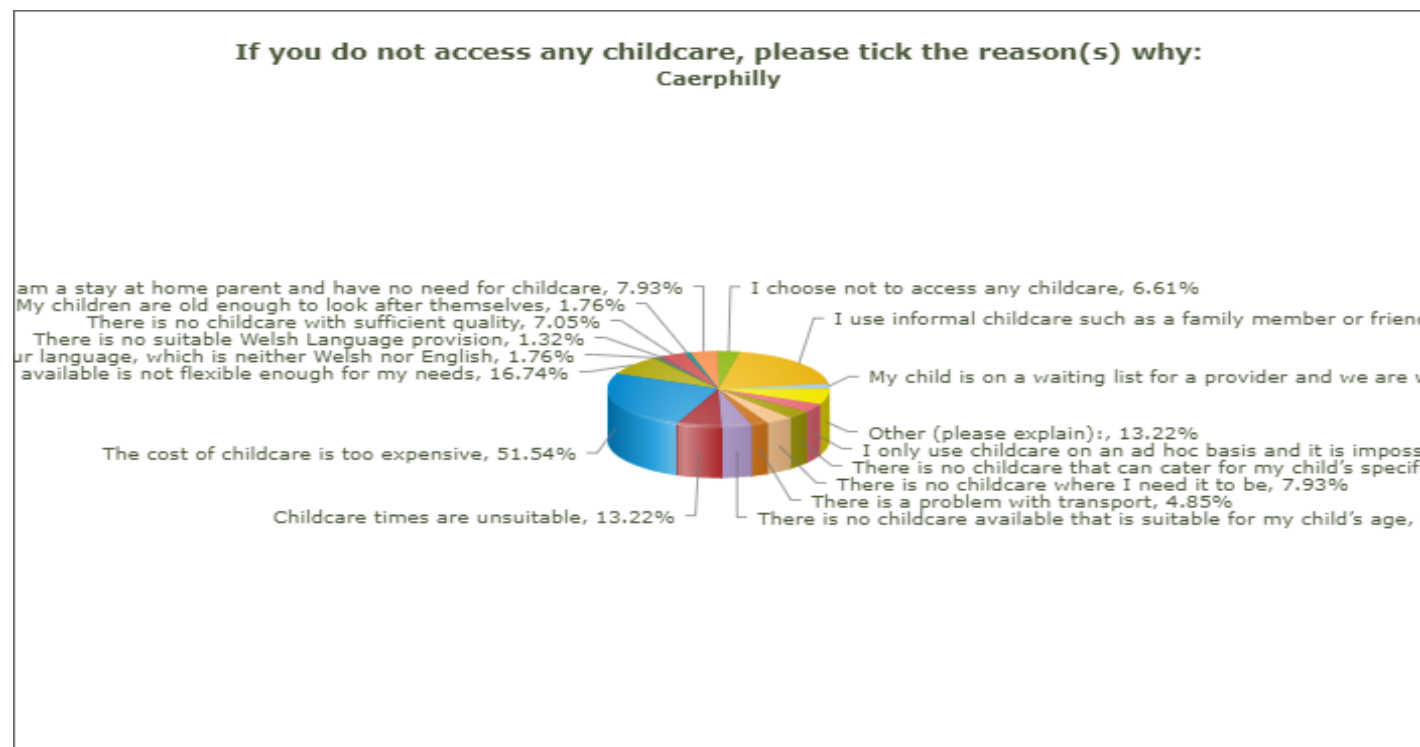


Figure: 119 – improvements to services – demand survey Source: Welsh Government, Parents Survey on Childcare (2021)

16 parents responded to this question of the 442 who completed the survey. The chart above indicates that 81.25% of those 16 parents who completed the survey stated that their childcare could be more affordable and 18.5% indicated that they require more flexible childcare to open in evenings, weekends, and early mornings. One parent added that there's still no available Breakfast Club provision which has an impact on their employment, the respondent resides in the Caerphilly Basin area. Another parent stated that their child's school charges £4.50 per hour for Breakfast Club in Caerphilly Basin.

For those parents that were unhappy with their current childcare provider the 16 respondents were asked to show which aspects they were not happy with and how could that be improved, 13 suggested that it could be made more affordable, 5 wanted sessions to be more flexible 2 wanted the setting to be more responsive to their child's additional needs, 5 would like better quality provision and 3 wanted longer/extended opening hours in the morning, evening and at weekends. In the main most parents were happy with their current childcare provision and the suggestions for improvement correspond with the comments that are made in the last question on the survey (see below) i.e., more flexible childcare to suit parents who work atypical hours / shifts, and more support for children with additional needs. Most parents want childcare to be more affordable despite the range of financial support options that are available to families.

Chart – What are the reasons that childcare is not used?



**Figure: 120 – Not using
Childcare – demand survey
Source: Welsh Government,
Parents Survey on Childcare**

227 parents responded to this question of the 442 who completed the survey. The chart above indicates that over 51% of parents who completed the survey stated that the cost of childcare is too expensive. Notably, several respondents stated that due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, they no longer require childcare as they are now working from home and are therefore able to manage childcare commitments themselves. A further 39.65% of respondents stated that they use informal childcare arrangements provided by a family member or friend. Notably 4 parents stated that there was no suitable Welsh language provision however there is no way to determine a further breakdown of their geographical location to review range of provision in the area. A further 4 parents stated that there is no suitable provision available in their language, which was neither Welsh nor English.

Chart – Welsh medium childcare provision

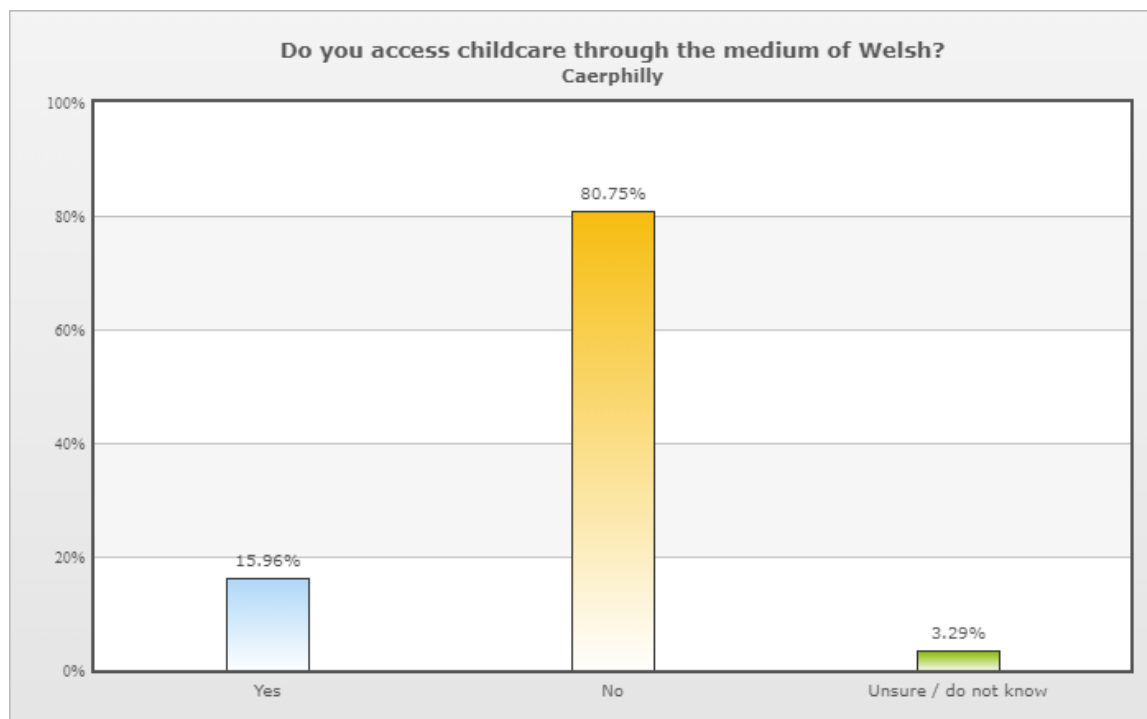


Figure: 121 Welsh Medium usage – demand survey
Source: Welsh Government, Parents Survey on Childcare (2021)

213 parents responded to this question of the 442 who completed the survey. The chart above indicates that 34 respondents stated that their child access' Welsh medium childcare provision within Caerphilly Borough.

Chart – Would you like to access Welsh medium childcare provision?

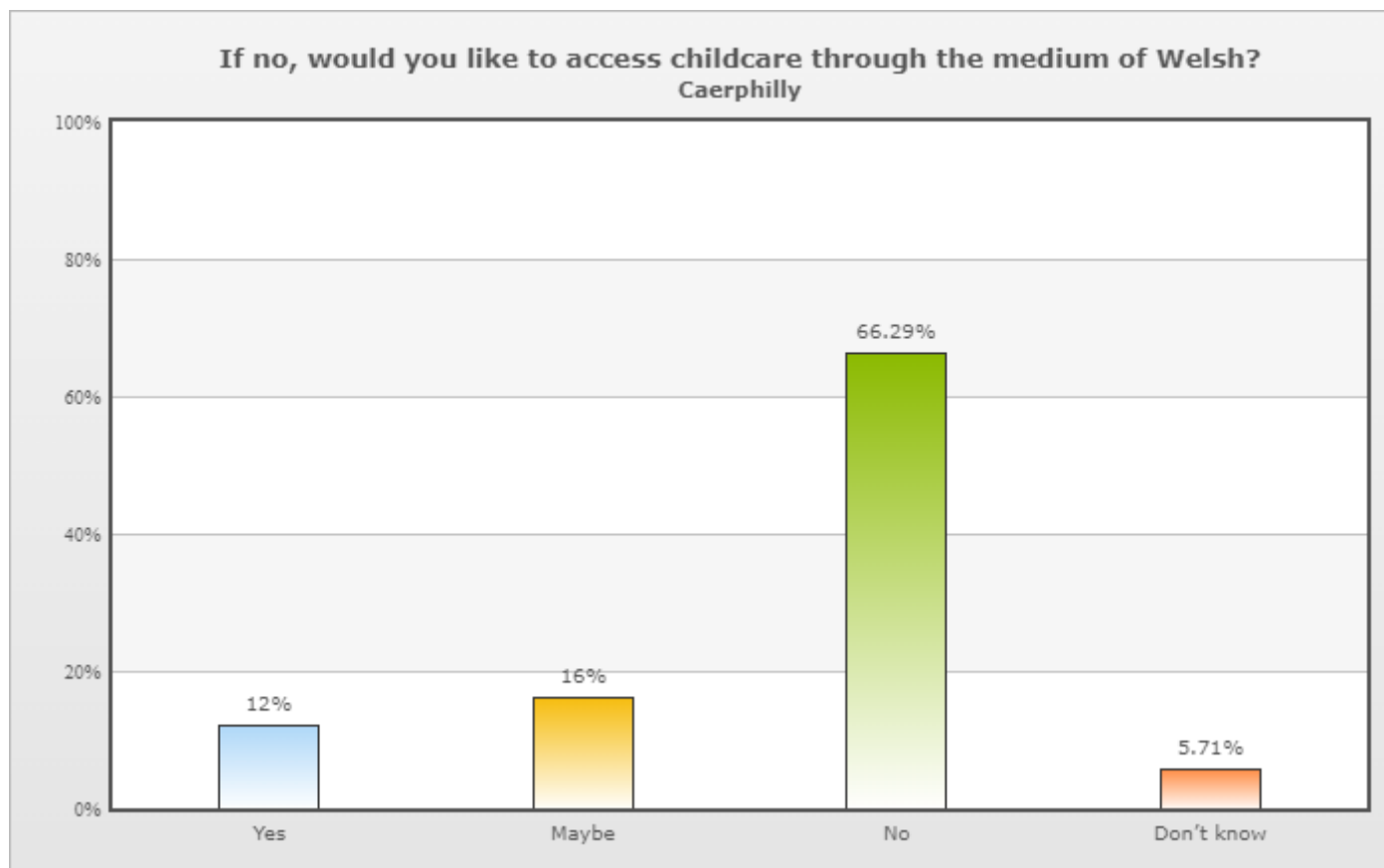


Figure: 122 – Desire to use Welsh language setting Source: Welsh Government, Parents Survey on Childcare (2021)

175 parents responded to this question of the 442 who completed the survey. The chart above indicates that 21 parents would like to access Welsh medium childcare provision and a further 28 would consider this.

Chart – What issues are you facing that prohibits you from accessing Welsh medium childcare?

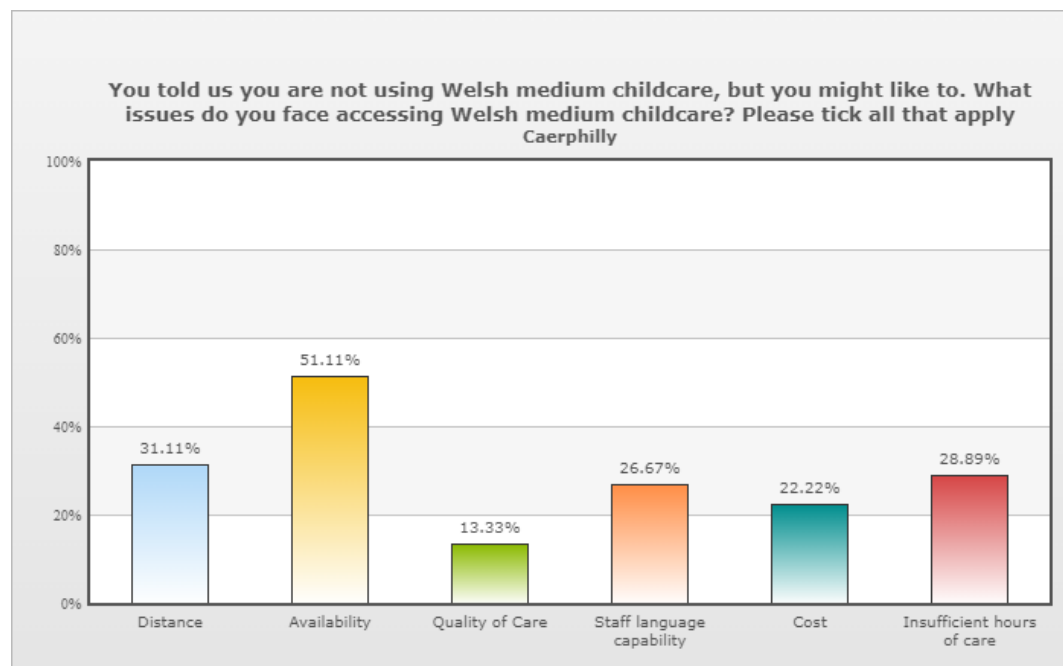


Figure: 123 – barriers to using Welsh medium childcare – demand survey Source: Welsh Government, Parents Survey on Childcare (2021)

45 parents responded to this question of the 442 who completed the survey. The chart above indicates that over 50% stated that availability was an issue they faced when considering accessing Welsh medium childcare provision, notably parental feedback included several comments relating to Welsh medium childcare provision commencing from 2 years of age, with minimal or no options for Welsh medium childcare provision before Cylch Meithrin. One parent was seeking a Welsh Medium childminder of which there are currently none in the borough. In other instances where parents indicated lack of availability there was no option to indicate the type of childcare they felt was lacking. Working in partnership with the Welsh in Education Forum further work will be done and this will be addressed as an action going forward.

Question - Thinking about all the childcare you use for your children, or are aware of, how much do you agree with the following statements

Source: Welsh Government, Parents Survey on Childcare (2021)

I am satisfied with my childcare in term time	33.7% (147)	36.5% (159)	6.9% (30)	4.8% (21)	18.1% (79)	436
I am satisfied with my childcare in school holidays	22.2% (96)	25.2% (109)	12.3% (53)	11.6% (50)	28.7% (124)	432
The quality of childcare is high	36.6% (159)	32.0% (139)	6.0% (26)	2.3% (10)	23.0% (100)	434
There is a good choice of childcare in my area	10.1% (44)	23.5% (102)	30.9% (134)	23.3% (101)	12.2% (53)	434
Childcare is well located	22.4% (97)	32.0% (139)	19.1% (83)	11.3% (49)	15.2% (66)	434
Childcare caters for my children's needs	29.1% (127)	31.9% (139)	8.3% (36)	7.3% (32)	23.4% (102)	436
I would like my child to attend more registered childcare	25.5% (110)	25.2% (109)	9.0% (39)	4.6% (20)	35.6% (154)	432
Childcare is too expensive	68.8% (300)	17.4% (76)	4.8% (21)	0.7% (3)	8.3% (36)	436
I would prefer to use family/friends for childcare	17.7% (77)	22.4% (97)	30.6% (133)	10.4% (45)	18.9% (82)	434
I have a problem with childcare arrangements that are unreliable (eg. cancel sessions at short notice)_	6.0% (26)	11.3% (49)	12.2% (53)	23.0% (100)	47.6% (207)	435
Childcare is a barrier to me accessing employment or training	23.2% (101)	26.0% (113)	11.3% (49)	10.8% (47)	28.7% (125)	435
I know where to find out information about childcare	17.0% (74)	40.6% (177)	20.9% (91)	11.5% (50)	10.1% (44)	436
I know where to find out info on financial assistance for childcare	7.8% (34)	29.1% (127)	26.1% (114)	25.2% (110)	11.9% (52)	437

The chart above demonstrates that of the 442 respondents 439 parents/carers responded to these set of statements.

- I am satisfied with my childcare in term time – approx. 70% either strongly agree or tend to agree, approx. 11.5% tending not to agree or strongly disagreeing. Satisfaction rate is 34.29

- I am satisfied with my childcare in School holidays, 47.5% either strongly agree or tend to agree, approx. 24% tending not to agree or strongly disagree and 29% said N/A
- The quality of childcare is high: 68.5% either strongly agree or tend to agree, approx. 8% disagree and 23% stated it was not applicable.
- There is a good choice of childcare in my area: 33% either strongly agree or tend to agree, 56% either disagree or strongly disagree. 12.2% said N/A
- Childcare is well located: 54.5% either strongly agree or tend to agree, 30% either disagree or strongly disagree. 15% said N/A
- Childcare caters for my children's needs: 61% either strongly agree or tend to agree, 15.5% either disagree or strongly disagree, 23.4% N/A
- I would like my child to attend more registered childcare: 50.5% either strongly agree or tend to agree, 13.5% either disagree or strongly disagree and 35.6% N/A
- Childcare is too expensive: 86% either strongly agree or tend to agree, 5.5% either disagree or strongly disagree. Only 8.3% N/A
- I would prefer to use family and friends for childcare: 40% either strongly agree or tend to agree, similar amount either disagree or strongly disagree.
- I have a problem with childcare arrangements that are unreliable: 17% either strongly agree or tend to agree 35% either disagree or strongly disagree and nearly 50% said N/A
- Childcare is a barrier to me accessing employment or training: 49% either strongly agree or tend to agree 21 either disagree or strongly disagree, 29% N/A
- I know where to find out info on childcare: 57.5% either strongly agree or tend to agree with 32% either disagreeing or strongly disagreeing. 10% said N/A

- I know where to find out info on financial assistance for childcare: only 7.8% said they strongly agree, with 29% agreeing and 51% either disagreeing or strongly disagreeing

As noted, most parents find childcare too expensive, however only about a quarter stated they knew where to find out information on financial assistance. Parents indicated they were more satisfied with term time childcare arrangements than those in the holidays and more people felt that there was not enough choice of childcare in their area, however parents did feel that childcare was well located in the main. The majority of parents felt that childcare catered for their children's needs, and more than half wished for their child to attend more registered childcare, however when asked if they wished to use more informal childcare with family and friends there was an equal split in opinion. Most parent had childcare that they felt was reliable. Quite a high percentage felt that childcare was a barrier to them accessing work or training and in the main, when cross referenced to responses in the free text question below, put this down to the expense of childcare and limited government funded places for those in training. It should be noted that we are currently working with Welsh Government to extend the Childcare offer for Wales to those in education and training and those on the cusp of work to start Sept 2022). Most parents knew where to find our information about childcare, but many did not. It should be noted that we are currently working on the development of a new Early Years Website and are in the process of moving to a new streamlined search website.

Chart – Within the past year, what issues have you faced surrounding childcare?

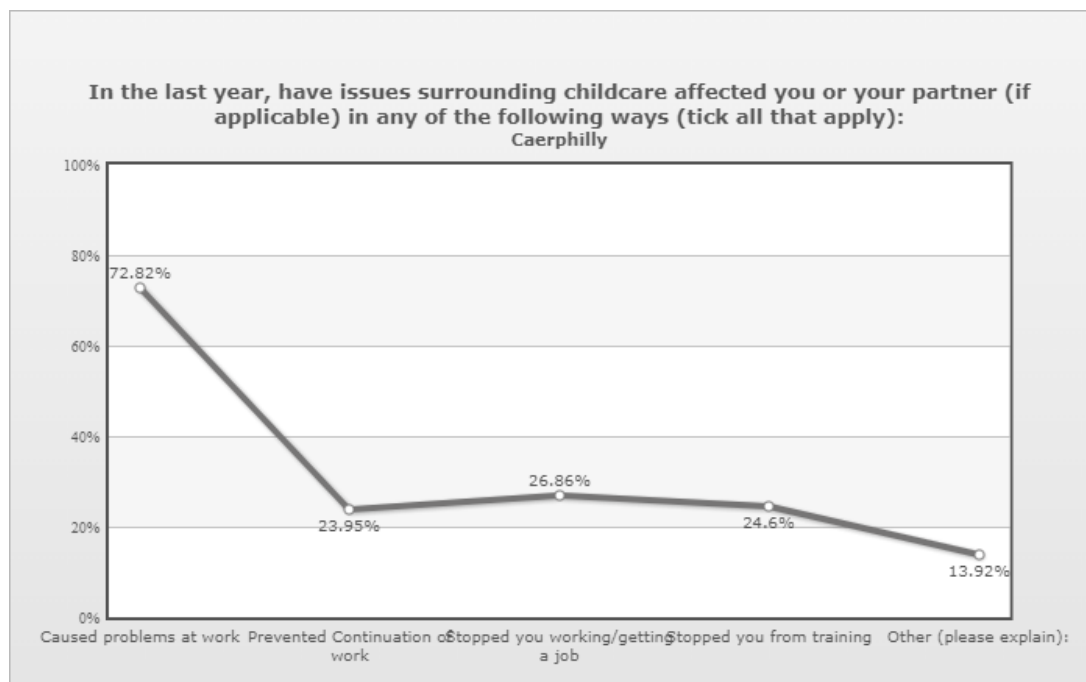


Figure: 124 – Issues faced surrounding childcare

Source: Welsh Government, Parents Survey on Childcare (2021)

309 parents responded to this question of the 442 who completed the survey. The chart above indicates that over 70% of parents stated that childcare has caused them, or their partner issues at work. Unfortunately, the survey did not ask for further information as to what sort of problems they encountered so we are unable to comment further on this. The survey did however, ask if there were any other issues surrounding childcare that have affected families in the past year: One parent stated that their child was unwell, and they were therefore unable to attend nursery which impacted their employment negatively. Another parent stated that they lost 'days at work' which had a negative impact on progression opportunities. More than one parent noted that COVID-19 had impacted their childcare arrangements and subsequent employment. Many parents noted the cost of childcare making going to work an unaffordable option. Except for the 133 respondents who skipped this question, 309 stated that one of these issues had arisen within the past year due to their own childcare arrangements. See corresponding data below:

Chart – Employment composition

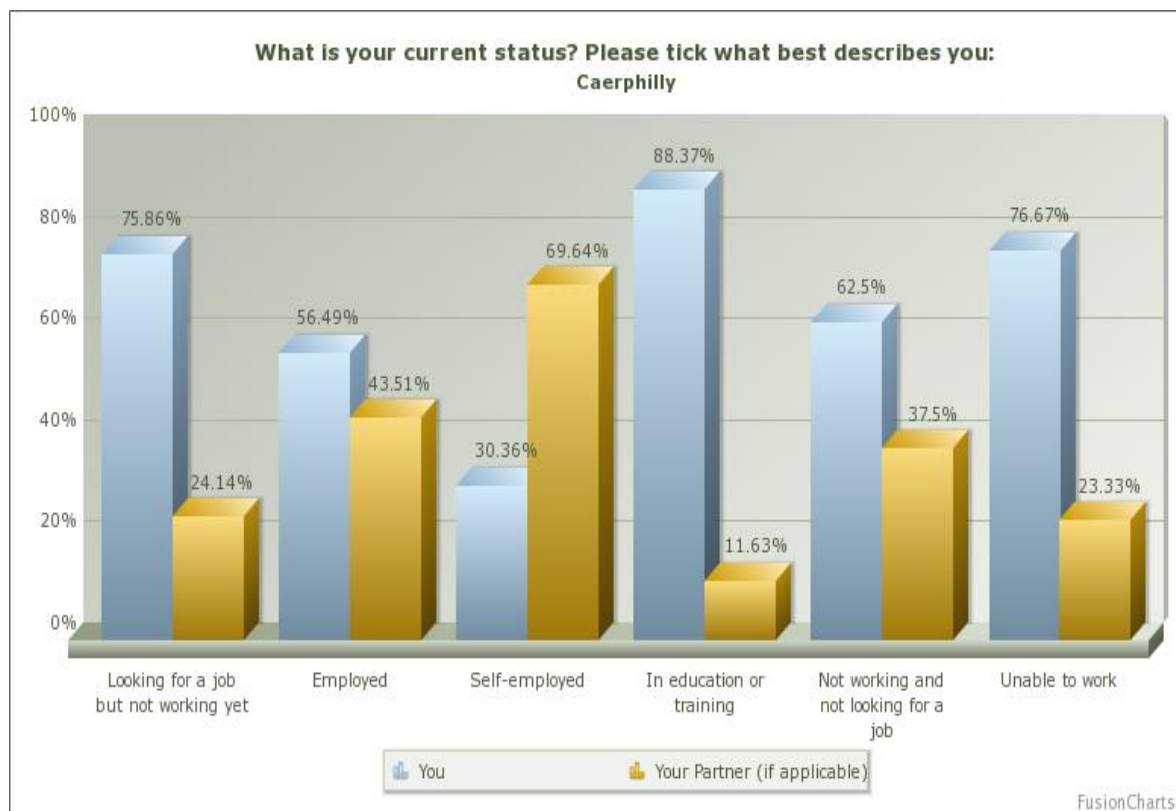


Figure: 125 – Employment composition of Survey respondents Source: Welsh Government, Parents Survey on Childcare (2021)

438 parents responded to this question of the 442 who completed the survey. The chart above indicates that 56.5% of those who completed the survey and 43.5% of their partners are currently employed, a further 30.4% of those who completed the survey, and 69.6% of their partners are self-employed. A further 75.9% of those who completed the survey and 24.1% of their partners are currently seeking employment.

Chart – Future childcare needs

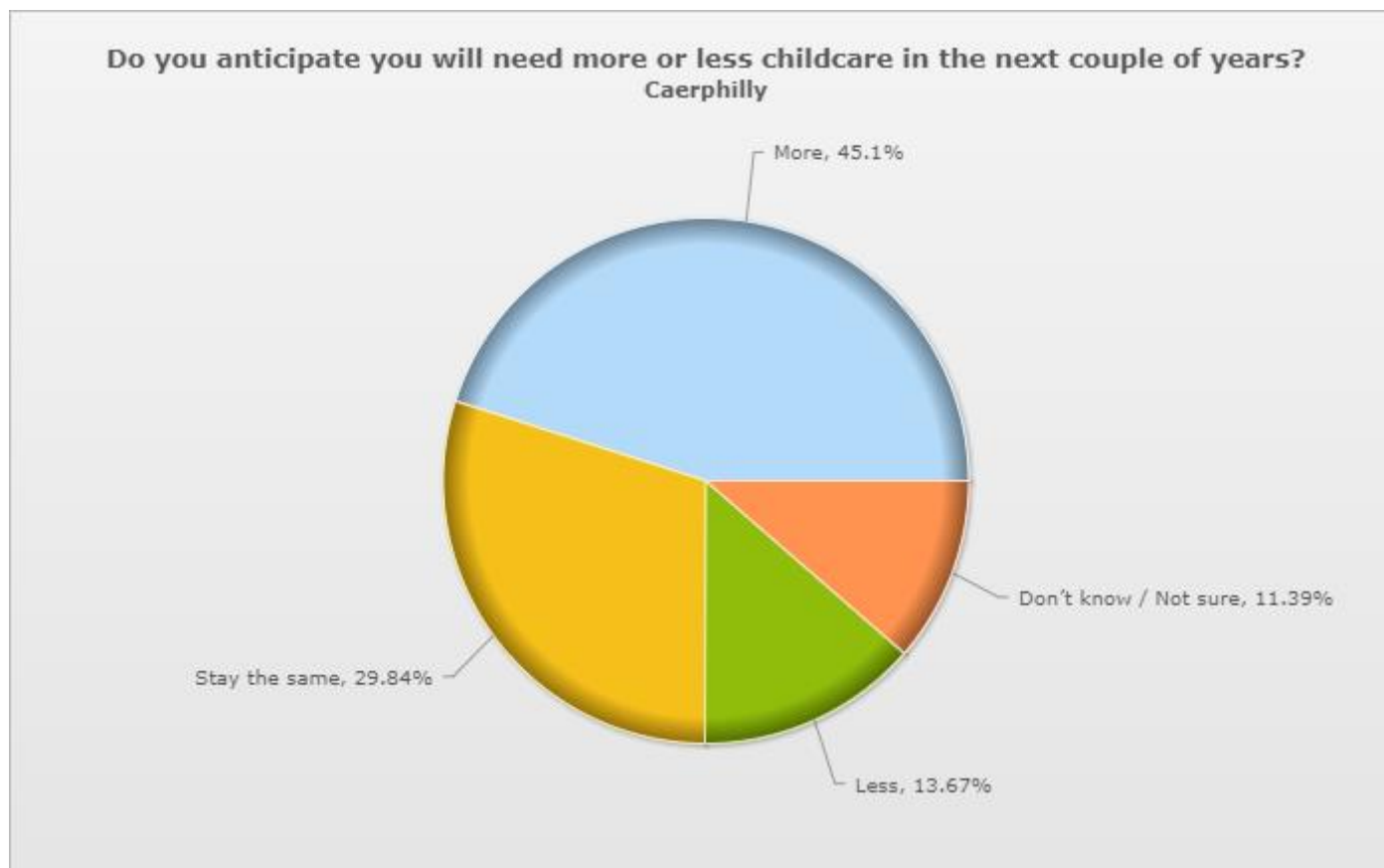


Figure: 126 – Future childcare needs – demand survey Source: Welsh Government, Parents Survey on Childcare (2021)

439 parents responded to this question of the 442 who completed the survey. The chart above indicates that over 45% of parents indicate they anticipate a need for more childcare in the future. Notably, 13.67% of parents indicated they anticipate a need for less childcare in the future. 56 parents stated that this is because their child will be older.

Chart – Future childcare type needs

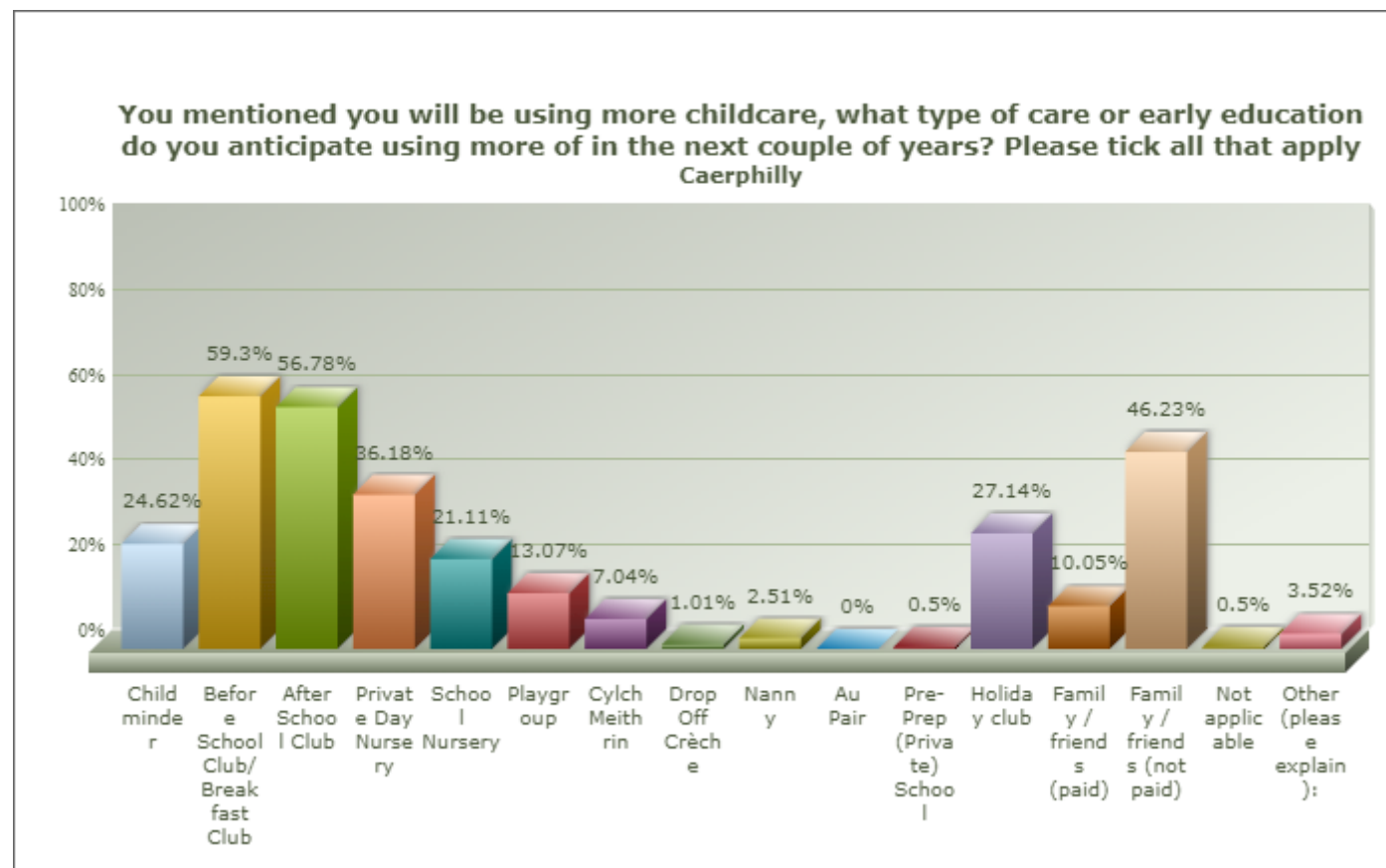


Figure: 127 – Future Childcare Type needs – demand survey Source: Welsh Government, Parents Survey on Childcare (2021)

199 parents responded to this question of the 442 who completed the survey. The chart above indicates that 118 parents stated that they anticipate a need for future Before School Care and a further 113 parents indicated that they anticipate a need for future After School Care. Notably, 92 parents stated that they anticipate a need for unpaid childcare support from family or friends in the future.

Chart – Do you receive any help towards the cost of childcare?

The Parent Survey asked: Do you receive any other help towards the cost of childcare? The responses are below:

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Childcare element of the Working Tax/Universal Credit		27.81%	52
2	Childcare vouchers / Tax free childcare		52.94%	99
3	Childcare Grant for Students		1.60%	3
4	Employer contribution		0.00%	0
5	Other (please say):		21.39%	40

Figure: 128 – Help towards cost of childcare – demand survey Source: Welsh Government, Parents Survey on Childcare (2021)

The chart above denotes that of the 442 respondents who completed the survey, 187 parents/carers completed to this question. The data indicates that over 50% of those respondents who answered this question utilise the Tax-Free Childcare Scheme which enables them to get 20% off their monthly childcare bill. A further 27% of respondents stated that they are in receipt of the childcare support element of Working Tax/Universal Credit benefit system. Notably a further 40 respondents provided 'other' responses to this question, some included utilisation of the Childcare Offer for Wales, most stated that they receive no support. Another notable response included a statement regarding their childminders apparent refusal to accept the Tax-Free Childcare Scheme – further investigation into this matter is required to determine if additional support is needed for providers to successfully deliver this scheme as a means of financial support to working families.

Parental Feedback – Comments

Of the 442 who completed, 201 parents/carers answered this open test question: 'Were there any specific difficulties finding childcare for one or more of your children? If so, why? Please also complete this box if you have had difficulty finding childcare for a disabled child who is 18 or older.' 21 parents/carers noted that they had difficulties finding appropriate care because there was nothing suitable for their child who had emerging or diagnosed disability. 17 parents noted that childcare was not flexible enough to cater to their shift needs, or the hours weren't long enough to cater for working family's needs overall. 60 parents/carers stated that childcare was too expensive, or not affordable and that the financial help available did not meet all the needs of working families. 19 parents/carers said

that their respective (Free) Breakfast Club was not operating at the time due to COVID-19 restrictions etc which made it difficult for them to get to work on time. We are aware that Breakfast Club provision overall was temporarily suspended during the pandemic, but many clubs have now re-commenced this delivery, however at the time, 8 respondents stated that their ASC had not yet re-opened because of COVID-19. 4 parents noted that there was nothing available for their children who were over the age of 12 years. 14 parents/carers stated that they have struggled to find appropriate holiday care. 9 parents/carers noted that their choice of childcare had no available spaces, or there's a significant waiting list. 6 parents/carers said they did not know where to go to find information about childcare. 33 parents/carers stated that there was no childcare available in their area: specifically, Aber Valley (CB), Risca/Crosskeys (LSV). We are aware of some of these identified gaps within service provision, but further investigation with regards to these responses will be required to fully understand the geographic gaps and types of childcare required, when planning for new developments. Some parents/carers noted that there was no Wrap Around care provision in Caerphilly town (CB); the development of a new childcare facility on a central school site is underway which will meet this demand need. Other gaps noted were a lack of After School Care provision in the Bargoed area (URV) and Wrap Around Care and After School Care in the Hengoed area (MVW). Notably, there is a new Welsh medium build that will include After School Care and Wrap Around Care in Cwm Aber area (CB).

This information provides a snapshot of parental/carer feedback, opinion, perspective, and challenges during September 2021. Therefore, this data is no longer up-to date, but it does provide the Local Authority with a valuable overview and insight into challenges faced by parents and carers in the context of childcare throughout the county borough. This feedback also acts as an indicator to the needs of families during the on-going COVID-19 pandemic (atypical circumstances) and will be used to further aid the Local Authority in its delivery of on-going COVID-19 recovery services. Likewise, this insight will be used in the context of future childcare and early years provision planning. However, further analysis into comments will need to be undertaken as part of Action Plan to evaluate sufficiency of childcare.

Summary of strengths and weakness:

- A high proportion of parental feedback states that childcare is too expensive and that their salary is less than the expenditure of sending their child to a childcare provider, this is despite some families being able to access funded government childcare places through Flying Start, Childcare Offer Wales and Early Education Placements. This feedback was analysed with a geographical indicator breakdown in mind, however there was no suggestion that childcare cost was disproportionate within specific areas within the borough, the data indicated that parents across the board felt childcare was too expensive.

- COVID-19 has placed a significant impact on the Early Years and Childcare sector in terms of losses of children on roll within settings, due to parents now working from home, and now being able to manage care for their children that wraps around the school day. Also, parental feedback states that families can utilise unpaid childcare arrangements through the help of family and friends. It is known that legal mandates meant that employees were required to work from home where possible since the onset of the pandemic, therefore parents/carers have been able to transport their children to and from school more frequently according to feedback. Notably, some parents/carers have indicated a potential need for increased childcare provision in terms of wraparound care should pre-COVID office working arrangements return to normal.
- 33 parents/carers stated that there was no childcare available in their area: specifically, Aber Valley (CB), Risca/Crosskeys (LSV). We are aware of some of these identified gaps within service provision, but further investigation with regards to these responses will be required to fully understand the geographic gaps and types of childcare required, when planning for new developments.
- Other gaps noted were a lack of After School Care provision in the Bargoed area (URV) and Wrap Around Care and After School Care in the Hengoed area (MVW). Further investigation into this feedback will be considered alongside sufficiency of existing provision alongside the development of new provision if needed.
- Almost half of those parents who answered question relating to satisfaction rate in the context of current childcare provider stated that they were 'highly satisfied' with their respective service providers, however there's no way to determine a further breakdown of their geographical location to review range of provision in the area. 78% of parents/carers who completed the survey answered this question. Only 3.9% of parents/carers were dissatisfied with their childcare provider; overall families are satisfied with the existing provision, provider, and arrangements they have in place throughout the borough, which is a strength.
- There were several parental comments relating to lack of ALN provision and specifically Holiday Care for children who require additional support. 5 parents stated that there was a lack of Holiday Care for children with ALN within the Caerphilly Basin area, a further 1 parent reported the same issue in Mid Valleys East. Whilst there is no ALN specific Holiday care within Caerphilly Borough, there is a range of Holiday Care for children through various providers. There's a range of childcare providers who operate throughout the holidays across the borough. SASS data indicates that services that have a designated person in place who makes arrangements for ALN/SEN provision for children are also widespread throughout the borough; there are 60 in total. This includes 25 different types of providers within the Caerphilly Basin area, 4 in Lower Sirhowy Valley, 17 in Mid Valleys East, 8 in Mid Valleys West, and a further 4 in Upper Rhymney Valley.

- Of the 4 parents who stated within the list of possible answers that there was no suitable Welsh language provision in their local area, as there's no way to determine a further breakdown of their geographical location to review range of provision in the area. It is not possible to extract data indicative to postcodes and to therefore comment on sufficiency of surrounding Welsh medium childcare provision for each family. There are 5 Full Day Care registered providers offering a Welsh medium service within the borough; 2 are in Caerphilly Basin, 2 are in Mid Valleys East and a further 1 is in Mid Valleys West. There are 2 Out of School registered providers within the borough offering a Welsh medium service; 1 is in Mid Valleys West, 1 is in Lower Sirhowy Valley. There are 12 Sessional Day care registered providers offering Welsh medium service within the borough; 2 are in Lower Sirhowy Valley, 2 are in Caerphilly Basin, 2 are in Mid Valleys East, 3 are in Mid Valleys West, and an additional 3 are in Upper Rhymney Valley. Welsh medium childcare provision is available within each of the five sub-geographical areas within the borough, however there is not a Welsh medium childcare provision within each ward area.
- A further 4 parents stated that there's no suitable provision available in their language, which was neither Welsh nor English. These parents do not specifically state which other language provision they would like to access, meaning that it's indeterminable when ascertain service availability in the context of geographical area of need. Notably, SASS data indicates that there are 2 Polish and 1 Spanish speaking Childminders located within the borough; specifically, 1 Polish speaking Childminder resides in Caerphilly Basin and 1 other Polish speaking Childminder resides in Mid Valleys East area. 1 Spanish speaking Childminder resides in Mid Valleys East also. There is a very small distribution of childcare providers offering a service through an additional language within the borough.
- 2 parents/carers stated that their respective Before School Clubs in Caerphilly Basin had not reopened at the time of completion of this survey; however, we are aware that Welsh Government stated that all Before School Care provision needed to reopen by September-October 2021. There was sufficient guidance as to operating safe health and safety practices to support the safe delivery and running of these key services.
- Further investigation where respondents have stated that there's no childcare provision available within their local area (see above) to cross-reference to type of childcare service needed and the required hours in the context of flexibility to support working families.
- Cross reference those parents who are stating that childcare is too expensive and their employment status. Need to promote financial support more on web site and Facebook pages and through FIS.
- As detailed above, 6 parents/carers stated that they were unaware of where and how to access necessary childcare information therefore further analysis is needed to ascertain how best to disseminate this key information i.e. Family

Information Service to families in order for them make informed choices regarding available childcare provision throughout the county borough.

- 21 parents noted they had difficulties finding appropriate care because there was nothing suitable for their child who had emerging or diagnosed disability. Further investigation is needed to determine if there is a common geographical theme that's arisen with regards to this feedback, or analysis to determine if this issue is across the county borough. This follow-up work will be referenced within the subsequent Action Plan to ensure families are supported with suitable provision to meet their child's individual needs.
- As detailed above there's significant feedback relating to the temporary suspension of Breakfast Club provision due to COVID-19, this is no longer the case, and most clubs have now recommenced delivery since this survey was completed with suitable support relating to safe practices by the Local Authority and partners.

11. Financial Support for Childcare

11.1. Analysis of Working Tax Credit/ Universal Credit and Employer Supported Childcare/ Tax Free Childcare

11.1.1 Summary of the key findings from the SASS 2021 survey.

Across Caerphilly there were 187 respondents (of the 442 who completed the Parent Survey) who completed the question about accessing financial support to help with childcare costs. Of these 52 (27.81%) stated they claimed the childcare element of Working Tax Credit. There were 99 respondents (52.9%) who stated they claimed tax free childcare or used Childcare vouchers / received assistance through an employer supported scheme. The childcare element of the Working families tax credit is accessible by families who are using childcare that is registered with CIW or as an approved Nanny and where the household income is below a certain threshold. For full details go to: <https://www.gov.uk/child-tax-credit/what-youll-get>. A further 3 respondents (1.6%) stated they used the childcare grant for students.

Further detail about geographic distribution and the types of childcare that are accessed by those parents that responded to this element of the parent survey can be analysed within specific enquiries into planning new developments. However, the limited scope and number of responses were too few and would not be meaningful for this report. Supporting the childcare sector to offer a full range of financial incentives for parents to access and to ensure all childcare providers are signed up for these incentives is a part of the financial and business Toolkit we use with all providers and as such knowledge of schemes is widely available and accessed across Caerphilly providers. Our FIS also have a range of information about such financial support which is shared with families.

Parents were not asked in the Welsh Government survey if they intend to claim either the childcare element of working tax/universal credit or tax-free childcare or receive assistance through an employer supported scheme in the future. However, it is our intention as an Early Year's Service to ensure that all parents are aware of what they are able to access and claim.

Many respondents noted that they access Childcare Offer places, Early Years Education places and / or Flying Start places which help towards their childcare cost. Promotion of the Childcare Offer is wide and varied across a number of formats including social media platforms, Local Authority newsletters, Welsh Government promotional materials, via the admissions to schools' process and most importantly of all, word of mouth. With regards to Flying Start, all families that are eligible are known to the early years' service and contacted the term prior to starting with the scheme to offer them a place in one of our childcare settings or with a provider that is contracted with the Local Authority to delivery Flying Start places – see Chapter 8 for more detail on Flying Start childcare options. We are working hard with colleagues in Health and our Family support teams to ensure all children that are eligible are offered a place. We also work closely with Schools Admissions to promote access to children's Rising 3's place in either a school-based nursery or in a childcare provider who is contracted with us to delivery Early Years Education places. Again, further detail can be found in Chapter 8. If a child is eligible for a Rising 3 place and their parents work, they can also access the Childcare Offer (if all other eligibility criteria are met) for up to 30 hours a week during both term time and for 9 weeks of the school holidays. It is calculated that this can save parents upwards of £4,500 a year in childcare costs.

The Assisted and Supported Places scheme supports children with emerging developmental delays to access a part time childcare place in the term prior to starting an Early Years Education Nursery place. The placement allows us to understand the child's needs in a universal childcare setting and to identify any support a child may need on starting Nursery. The Assisted place pays for the placement while the Supported place pays for targeted additional staff time to put interventions in place to support a child's development. Children accepted onto the scheme tend to be known to early years already through Join in and Play or Portage support who then provide a report to the Emerging Needs Panel for decision. There are currently insufficient placements to meet the needs of children and so this area needs to be increased in the forthcoming year.

12. Sustainability of the Childcare Sector

In Caerphilly, the Local Authority's Early Years' Service Area recognises the importance of supporting the sustainability of the local childcare market and employs dedicated Childcare Development Officers to ensure this is realised. Working in partnership with our Family Information Service (now incorporated within the Early Years Hub), planning department, Business development unit, Families First partner organisations, GAVO, the national umbrella organisations, Business Wales and other relevant departments and external organisations, our Early Years team offers support and guidance to the childcare sector to help provide a strong, well-qualified, highly regarded, and sustainable childcare sector.

Through the Children and Communities Grant (soon to be the Children and Young People Grant) and the Local Authority's Revenue Support Grant (RSG), we offer Childcare Business Start-up grants to new childcare ventures to support settings through their initial start-up period. In addition to the funding, the Childcare Development team offer a package of support that includes financial forecasting, development of sound business plans, marketing advice, consultation, safe recruitment, quality environments, etc., in order to help them become an established, strong, and viable business. On-going advice and guidance is available to the sector for supporting sustainability in the long term alongside sustainability grants to strengthen a registered childcare setting that is at severe risk of closure. These grants have been enhanced this year by a series of grants to support settings in their recovery from the impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Within the package of support for childcare providers our Childcare Development Officers signpost providers to all available means of support including our Business Development Unit to access grants and web site design, to HMRC to access the most up to date information on tax free childcare and employer supported childcare, and more recently to the Welsh Governments Talk Childcare Website to ensure settings are fully conversant with all information that can help them to become sustainable settings. Our FIS colleagues also work with both parents and providers to ensure that they are fully aware of any funding that is available to help to pay for the costs of childcare such as Working Tax credits. This is achieved through visits to settings, through the Early Years and Childcare Web site, the Facebook pages, via direct emails and texts and through our monthly Childcare bulletin newsletter.

We believe that one of the best ways of achieving sustainability is to provide a high-quality setting and in order to achieve this, childcare providers should have highly qualified staff and present an environment that is safe and nurturing for the children it cares

for. As such, we provide a comprehensive package of qualifications and continuing professional development training which is inclusive and open to all. We also work alongside other programmes that are helping to both upskill and bring new entrants into the childcare sector including our employment support programmes. In addition, we work closely with the Welsh comprehensive school to encourage Welsh speakers to enter the childcare market as a career option to help sustain our Welsh medium childcare provision.

We encourage all providers to undertake and maintain the Caerphilly Quality Standard (CQS), the Healthy Early Years Scheme and the Advanced Childminder Award. We have recently reviewed and upgraded our local CQS. Parents will be more likely to choose a provider for their child if it promotes a high-quality service and thus helping to sustain the setting. We also support unregistered settings to become registered with CIW in order to not only demonstrate to families and parents that they meet a set of approved standards and that they are monitored provision, but also that families can access financial support, such as tax free childcare, if they are registered.

We continue to work with settings to support sustainability and those settings that are contracted with the local authority to deliver Flying Start Childcare, Early Years Education (Foundation Phase), and Assisted Places / Supported Places have additional support to ensure they are strong and viable businesses where parents will choose to send their children. We also work with all providers to ensure the sector can offer a high-quality service that is resilient, nurturing and safe where families can access their entitlement to the Childcare Offer for 3 and 4year old, and also over the coming months and years to ensure we have a strong and sustainable sector to support the expansion of the Flying Start programme to provide funded part time childcare placements for all 2year old. Again, programmes such as these, can only help to sustain the childcare market.

Despite the Coronavirus pandemic and all the impact that has had upon the sector, the number of childcare providers across the borough has remained relatively stable and with the development of a new day nursery in the Risca area of the Lower Sirhowy Valley a much-needed gap in provision has been filled. However, the past 2 years during the pandemic has seen a marked decrease in the number of childminders across the borough, which has also been the case across Wales. We are aware of work going on across Wales to investigate the reasons for this and will be working closely with our partners in CWLWM to understand the reasons for this. We always ask Childminders for their decisions behind deregistration and most of them state that they are stopping because they only wanted to mind children when their own children were little, and they have now grown up, or that they are retiring. One of the explanations for such a marked drop in numbers over the past 2 years may be partly due to it being a natural pause and stop while

parents were not accessing so much childcare while working from home during the pandemic and also with CIW 'cleansing' their records and removing those childminders who have been suspended for many years with no intention of returning to active service. Many childminders seem to stop minding gradually, some only providing care for existing children during holiday periods and others only providing care during term time and reclaiming the holidays as their own. However, despite the drop in numbers of childminders we now are more assured that the childminders who remain are active and registered and offering a full service to parents. We have a comprehensive package of new childminder development, from recruitment through the registration process to becoming sustainable providers. In this way we are helping to sustain the market for families.

The childcare sector has also borne the brunt of the introduction of the new minimum wage and living wage. The balance between providing an affordable quality service and being able to pay the increased staff salaries is always going to be a fine-tuning act, most keenly seen in the more deprived areas of the local authority where financial viability of settings is hardest to manage. One day nursery owner told us that at the introduction of the increased Living Wage, her staff salaries had gone up by nearly £1,000 a month. This in turn is then passed on to parents through rising fees. All childcare settings are advised by our officers (and through their membership organisations), of the financial support available to help parents pay for childcare and we have provided and increase in support for settings recently to register with HMRC so that families can benefit from the Tax-Free Childcare scheme in force. We also support settings to look at alternative methods of staffing (within regulated staffing ratios) through apprenticeship schemes although we recommend a balanced workforce to ensure quality and experience is not compromised.

In summary, our Early Years' Team, offers a complete package of support for childcare providers, and in partnership with others, helps to develop and grow a high quality, established sector that is sustainable and resilient and offers variety and choice to the families of the county borough and those that work here. We are proactive and innovative in exploring and securing funding to support local and national initiatives and in ensuring families are encouraged to claim the financial support available. In supporting settings to become and remain registered with CIW we support the provision of childcare in respect of which the child care element of working tax credit or universal credit is payable and the provision of childcare in respect of which employer supported childcare or tax-free childcare is payable. Through our contracted settings we support the provision of childcare which enables families to access their foundation phase early education entitlement and eligible family's funded childcare place within Flying Start, Childcare Offer for 3 and 4year olds and in the future expansion of the Flying Start programme. In addition to our settings contracted for Assisted and Supported Places, we offer the whole sector a comprehensive Additional Needs training package which helps to support the provision of

childcare for children who have special educational needs or require specialist care due to disability. The accumulation of all of these elements, we believe, helps to sustain, and strengthen the childcare market across Caerphilly county borough.

13. Cross Border

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment should consider those who use childcare outside the Local Authority area as well as those who travel to the Local Authority area to use childcare. Local authorities should consult with their neighbouring Local Authorities to assess the numbers involved and ensure they are reflected in the assessment. The Assessment should include information on:

- Current and future demand for childcare outside of the Local Authority area, broken down by childcare type and number of places being used or required

Gathering information on the actual number of families who currently use and/ or will require childcare places out of Caerphilly is very difficult to accurately account for. We work closely with neighbouring authorities and as such are aware of the sufficiency of their childcare. We are aware of some localities where community's cross county borders and focus our cross-border attention in these areas. This is also the case where there are sufficient/insufficient places in the medium of Welsh such as is the case in the Risca and West Newport areas.

Local knowledge and ad-hoc provider feedback indicates that parents/carers sometimes opt to utilise childcare services out of county due to variable factors such as employment being located out of county and families choosing or utilising childcare that is on-site or within proximity of their place of work. This could also be said of those parents who are students and are accessing on-site childcare within Further Education campuses.

Using CIW providers details regarding those who deliver Childcare Offer, it's possible to determine cross-border childcare settings that have been utilised by children and families who reside in Caerphilly Borough but have previously or currently access alternative childcare provision that's out of county.

This data indicates that there are 85 registered childcare settings who deliver Childcare Offer and have previously or are currently engaged in cross-border arrangements. The table below demonstrates the total number of registered childcare settings who deliver Childcare Offer and have previously, or are currently engaged in cross-border arrangements:

Local Authority	Blaenau Gwent	Cardiff	Merthyr Tydfil	Monmouthshire	Newport	Powys	Rhondda Cynon Taff	The Vale of Glamorgan	Torfaen
Number of Providers	12	23	10	2	24	1	8	1	6

Figure: 129 – Cross border providers used by Caerphilly residents Source: CIW/Childcare Offer Wales Caerphilly (2021)

Blaenau Gwent

The following table is a further breakdown of those registered childcare settings who deliver Childcare Offer and have previously or are currently engaged in cross-border arrangements and the services they provide. Childcare Offer Wales (2021) data for Caerphilly providers is detailed in the table below regarding type of provision being used by families who reside in Caerphilly County, but are opting to use childcare services in Blaenau Gwent:

Blaenau Gwent	Childminders	Day Nursery	Holiday Club	After School Care
Number of Services	5	5	5	1

Figure: 130 Source: CIW/Childcare Offer Wales Caerphilly (2021)

Cardiff

The following table is a further breakdown by service type of those registered childcare settings who deliver Childcare Offer and have previously or are currently engaged in cross-border arrangements and the services they provide. Childcare Offer Wales (2021) data for Caerphilly providers is detailed in the table below regarding type of provision being used by families who reside in Caerphilly County, but are opting to use childcare services in Cardiff:

Cardiff	Day Nursery	Holiday Club	Childminder	Playgroup	Wraparound	Breakfast Club	Nursery
Number of Services	15	14	3	3	1	1	1

Figure:131 Source: CIW/Childcare Offer Wales Caerphilly (2021)

Merthyr Tydfil

The following table is a further breakdown by service type of those registered childcare settings who deliver Childcare Offer and have previously or are currently engaged in cross-border arrangements and the services they provide. Childcare Offer Wales (2021) data for Caerphilly providers is detailed in the table below regarding type of provision being used by families who reside in Caerphilly County, but are opting to use childcare services in Merthyr Tydfil:

Merthyr Tydfil	Day Nursery	Holiday Club	After School Care	Playgroup	Childminder
Number of Services	5	6	1	1	1

Figure:132 Source: CIW/Childcare Offer Wales Caerphilly (2021)

Monmouthshire

The following table is a further breakdown by service type of those registered childcare settings who deliver Childcare Offer and have previously or are currently engaged in cross-border arrangements and the services they provide. Childcare Offer Wales (2021) data for Caerphilly providers is detailed in the table below regarding type of provision being used by families who reside in Caerphilly County, but are opting to use childcare services in Monmouthshire:

Monmouthshire	Day Nursery	Holiday Care
Number of Services	2	2

Figure: 133 Source: CIW/Childcare Offer Wales Caerphilly (2021)

Newport

The following table is a further breakdown by service type of those registered childcare settings who deliver Childcare Offer and have previously or are currently engaged in cross-border arrangements and the services they provide. Childcare Offer Wales (2021) data for Caerphilly providers is detailed in the table below regarding type of provision being used by families who reside in Caerphilly County, but are opting to use childcare services in Newport:

Newport	Day Nursery	Holiday Care	Childminder
Number of Services	16	14	7

Figure: 134 Source: CIW/Childcare Offer Wales Caerphilly (2021)

Powys

The following table is a further breakdown by service type of those registered childcare settings who deliver Childcare Offer and have previously or are currently engaged in cross-border arrangements and the services they provide. Childcare Offer Wales (2021) data for Caerphilly providers is detailed in the table below regarding type of provision being used by families who reside in Caerphilly County, but are opting to use childcare services in Powys:

Powys	Wraparound
Number of Services	1

Figure: 135 Source: CIW/Childcare Offer Wales Caerphilly (2021)

Rhondda Cynon Taff

The following table is a further breakdown by service type of those registered childcare settings who deliver Childcare Offer and have previously or are currently engaged in cross-border arrangements and the services they provide. Childcare Offer Wales (2021) data for Caerphilly providers is detailed in the table below regarding type of provision being used by families who reside in Caerphilly County, but are opting to use childcare services in Rhondda Cynon Taff:

Rhondda Cynon Taff	Day Nursery	Holiday Care	Childminder	Playgroup	Wraparound
Number of Services	5	6	1	2	1

Figure: 136 Source: CIW/Childcare Offer Wales Caerphilly (2021)

The Vale of Glamorgan

This is a further breakdown by service type of those registered childcare settings who deliver Childcare Offer and have previously or are currently engaged in cross-border arrangements and the services they provide. Childcare Offer Wales (2021) data for Caerphilly providers is detailed in the table below regarding type of provision being used by families who reside in Caerphilly County, but are opting to use childcare services in The Vale of Glamorgan:

The Vale of Glamorgan	Day Nursery	Holiday Care
Number of Services	1	1

Figure:137 Source: CIW/Childcare Offer Wales Caerphilly (2021)

Torfaen

The following table is a further breakdown by service type of those registered childcare settings who deliver Childcare Offer and have previously or are currently engaged in cross-border arrangements and the services they provide. Childcare Offer Wales (2021) data for Caerphilly providers is detailed in the table below regarding type of provision being used by families who reside in Caerphilly County, but are opting to use childcare services in Torfaen:

Torfaen	Childminder	Day Nursery	Holiday Care
Number of Services	1	5	5

Figure:138 Source: CIW/Childcare Offer Wales Caerphilly (2021)

It is evident by reviewing the data that a higher proportion of families living in Caerphilly County have either previously been/are currently accessing childcare providers within Newport City and Cardiff City than other bordering Local Authorities.

Whilst this data regarding those registered childcare settings who deliver Childcare Offer and have previously or are currently engaged in cross-border arrangements with Caerphilly County Borough Council, it is not a true reflection of how many families are currently accessing childcare provision that is out of county beyond the Childcare Offer. This data set only accounts for all settings who have previously or currently delivered services for Caerphilly families and can be used as an indicator for possible future demand. However, determining whether there is sufficient future demand for childcare across borders is not possible to accurately surmise based on available data. An agreed future action with cross-border colleagues would be to consult with Data Capture Wales to ensure questions relating to cross-border childcare arrangements are denoted on Dewis Cymru.

442 parents/carers completed the Parent Survey produced by Welsh Government (2021). When asked: 'Is your 3 or 4 year old child(ren) accessing government funded childcare (the Childcare Offer)?' 144 parents responded to this question. The chart above demonstrates that 43.75% of parents stated that their 3–4-year-old child/ren are benefiting from the Childcare Offer, whereas 18.06% stated that they were not and had no plans to utilise the scheme. Of these, only 2 parents stated that their child/ren are accessing a funded early years education place at a school or nursery within a different local authority to where they live. It is therefore presumed that given the geographical implications of living in a largely cross-county bordered local authority such as Caerphilly Borough, it is convenient for some families to access childcare provision that is in a neighbouring authority, to cater to other factors such as place of work.

Local knowledge indicates that some childcare provision is geographically situated on bordering lines in a cross-county context. These settings may be accessed by parents/carers as they are physically closer to their homes than those within county due to proximity. In Newport, the closest settings include Ty Du Playgroup in Rogerstone, Greenfields Nursery in Rogerstone, and Little Oaks Meithrin in Rhiwderin.

In Blaenau Gwent, the closest childcare provision is Tiggywinkles Day Nursery in Tredegar which is close to the border with Rhymney; this setting is a Registered Education Provider also. There is also a registered Childminder in Swffryd, Blaenau Gwent very close to the Caerphilly and Torfaen border, and on a route to work between Crumlin and Pontypool.

13.1 Current and future demand for childcare within the Local Authority area by parents living outside the Local Authority area, broken down by childcare type and number of places being used or required

Consultation with cross border neighbouring Local Authorities took place during February 2022; this included representatives from Early Years and Childcare Teams in Newport City Council, Caerphilly County Borough Council and Torfaen County Borough Council. It was agreed that continued consultations as an on-going action to review this specific cross border issue would be an effective means of ensuring we fully understand the needs of parents and families seeking childcare across county borders. COVID-19 has impacted on typical in-person regional Family Information Service and networking meetings being conducted, but this consultation was unanimously voted for as a positive example of collaborative working. Should families make enquiries with Family Information Services regarding childcare services in another Local Authority, they will be signposted onto the relevant FIS Team or to the Dewis website to ensure their information needs are met accordingly.

Gathering information on the actual number of families who currently use and/ or will require childcare places out of Caerphilly is very difficult to accurately account for. We work closely with neighbouring authorities and as such are aware of the sufficiency of their childcare. We are aware of some localities where community's cross county borders and focus our cross-border attention in these areas. This is also the case where there are sufficient/insufficient places in the medium of Welsh such as is the case in the Risca and West Newport areas.

14. Caerphilly county borough Workforce Development

14.1 Introduction

In the Early years, Childcare and Play sector, working effectively with children requires a specific set of skills. It is a responsible role, which can be very rewarding. The skills of staff in the sector and the quality of their work makes a huge difference to the learning and developmental experiences of the children they work with. With the introduction of the Childcare Offer for Wales, and the proposed expansion of the Flying Start programme, it is essential that a profile of the current workforce be identified so we can ensure that we can continue to support new and existing provision to meet the current national minimum standards and regulations.

In Caerphilly county borough a biennial qualifications and skills audit is carried out to identify what national qualifications, training, and skills the workforce currently has, and to identify the gap in skills and qualifications. As a result of this study, strategies can be developed that address and prioritise the skills shortages and gaps, and when planning our future workforce, we can measure and identify the steps needed.

14.2 Research outline

This study was carried out through information gathered from 176 settings within the borough. These settings included:

- Day Nurseries
- Childminders
- Sessional Care Settings e.g. Playgroups and Cylchoedd Meithrin
- Flying Start Childcare Settings
- Crèches
- Out of School Clubs

The information was collected from:

- Care Inspectorate Wales SASS (conducted in July 2021)

- Caerphilly County Borough Councils 'Caerphilly Early Years Workforce Development' Website (data extracted from 2019 to December 2021).
- The Early Years Childcare and Play Workforce Survey 2021 (conducted September 2021 to November 2021).

14.3 The Workforce within Caerphilly County Borough

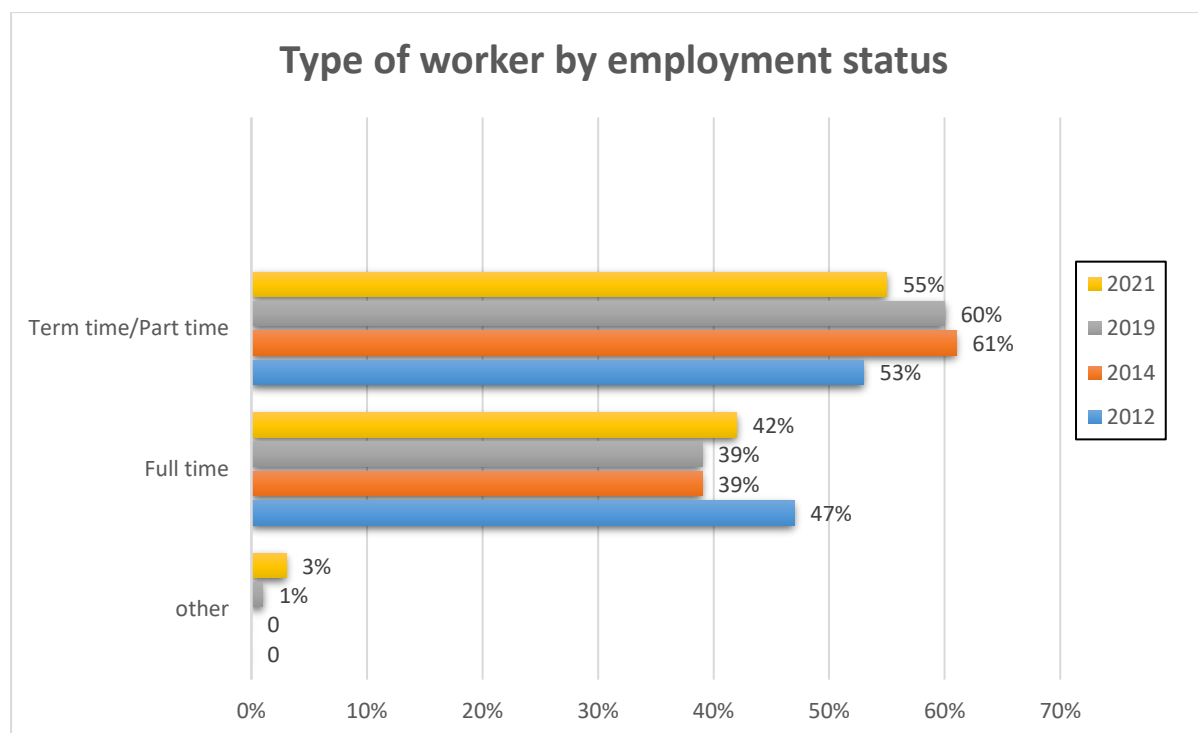
The Early Years, Childcare and Play workforce within the borough consists of approx. 700 individuals, with 99% of those being female. It must be acknowledged that there will always be some fluctuation in the size of the workforce and based on this there has been no significant change over the past 5 years.

During this study we identified that since 2018 the workforce increased by approx. 8% (as of July 2021). This increase could be attributed to the 3 New Day Nurseries that have opened in the last 2 ½ years. Combined, they have employed approx. 40 staff. However, since July 2021 there has been a reduction in the numbers of registered childminders and the closure of a playgroup. As a result, the workforce size has decreased slightly.

14.3.1 Recruitment and Retention:

Since the last study the patterns of employment have remained generally the same. There has been a slight increase in the number of full-term workers and slight decrease in the number of part time/term time workers.

- 42% of the workforce class themselves as full time and 55% part time/term time.
- 22% reported that they were working less than 16 hours per week.
- 14% of employers reported that they find it difficult to offer 16 hour or more contracts.
- 10% of the workforce are on 0-hour contracts.



Employers in the borough are reporting that they are finding it difficult to employ suitably qualified staff. At the time of the SASS, around 4% of posts were vacant in Caerphilly county borough. Between July 2018 and July 2019 12% of workers left their role with their employer. It is not known if they remained in the childcare, early years and play workforce.

72 settings out of the 176 settings stated that they undertake workforce planning. Many of them envisaged they would need to recruit additional staff in the next 24 months. Borough wide the statistics indicate that an additional 65 posts may be needed.

Childminder Information Sessions continue to be offered locally and regularly through Caerphilly Early Years. Since April 2019:

- 24 people have attended a Childminder Information Session and

- 16 are in the process of undertaking the relevant Childminder qualification and looking to register with CIW and
- 11 have registered as Childminders.

Even though we have a steady number of people registering as Childminders since April 2019 the childminding workforce has still decreased by 11%. At the time of data collection 37 childminders had de-registered over 21 months.

14.3.2 Language of the Workforce:

The majority of the workforce use English as their first language with 26% stating they can speak a fair amount of Welsh and 16% recorded that they are fluent in Welsh. When asked in the workforce survey, 54% stated they wanted to learn more Welsh.

14.3.3 Promotion of Childcare Careers:

Caerphilly county borough council Early Years team continue to work in partnership with CWLWM, local schools, Job centre plus, Careers Wales and other work programmes to promote careers within Early Years, Childcare, and Play to encourage new entrants into the sector. It must be noted that since COVID all face to face events have stopped however online presentations have been produced to circulate to those interested partners.

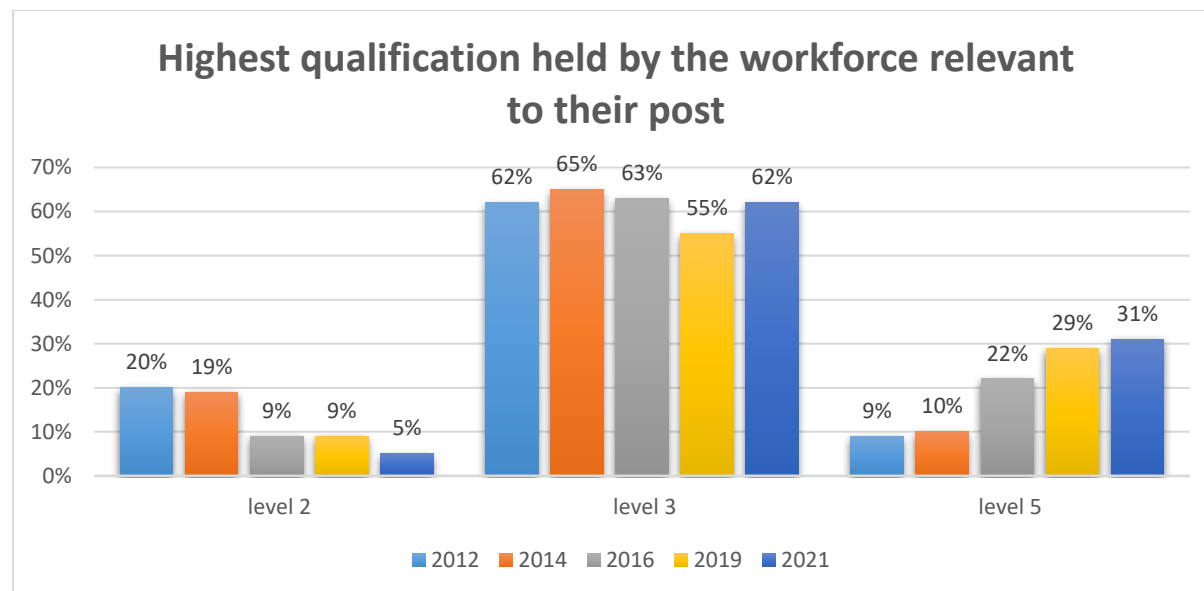
14.3.4 Impact of COVID on workforce:

Although many staff were furloughed during COVID, the size of the workforce has remained quite stable. When surveyed 72% of employers stated that they are fairly confident that they would be financially stable to continue running their provision for at least another year or longer.

14.4. Qualifications and the Childcare Workforce

In Caerphilly county borough the statistics indicate that an average of 93% (an increase of 2% since 2019) possess a qualification at a level 3 or above, in accordance with the 'list of required qualifications to practice within the Early Years and Childcare sector in Wales' or Skills active 'list of required qualifications for Wales (Playwork)' which indicates that the workforce is competent and qualified above the National Minimum Standards.

The chart below shows the percentage of the highest qualifications held by childcare and play practitioners within Caerphilly county borough:



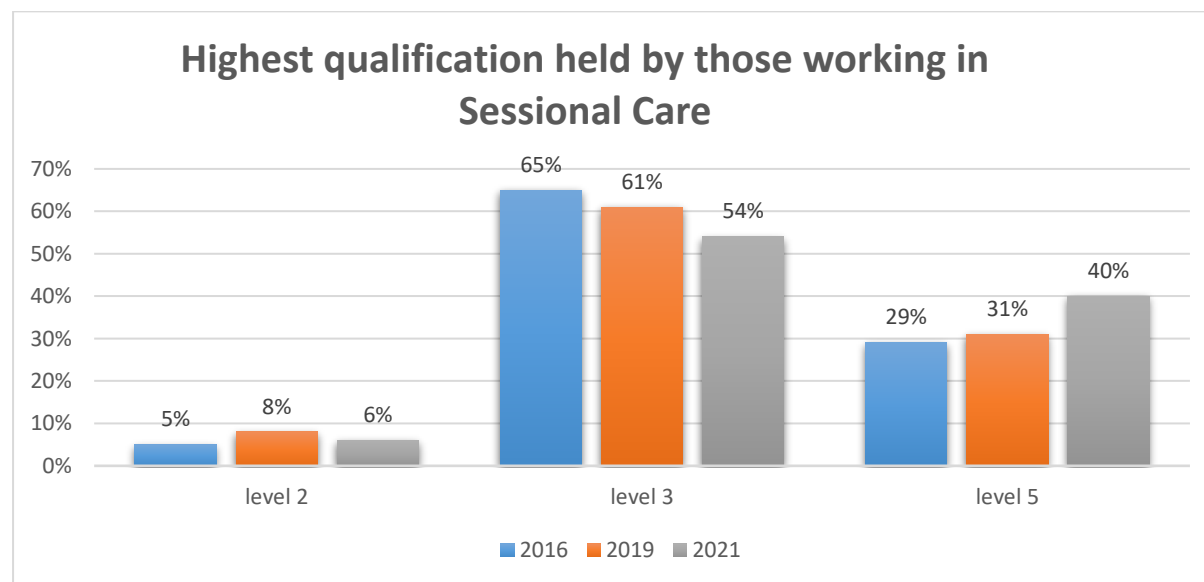
The data suggests that the workforce is more qualified in 2021 than in 2019 with:

- A 2% increase in the number of practitioners who now hold a level 5 qualification.
- A 7% increase in the number of practitioners who reported that a level 3 in Childcare or Playwork is now their highest qualification. The increase is likely as the result of the uptake of Playwork qualifications.
- A decrease of 4% in the number of level 2 qualified practitioners who report this is their highest qualification. This is likely because of more people progressing onto a level 3 qualification.

14.4.1 Breakdown of qualifications by sector type:

Sessional care (including maintained Flying Start provision):

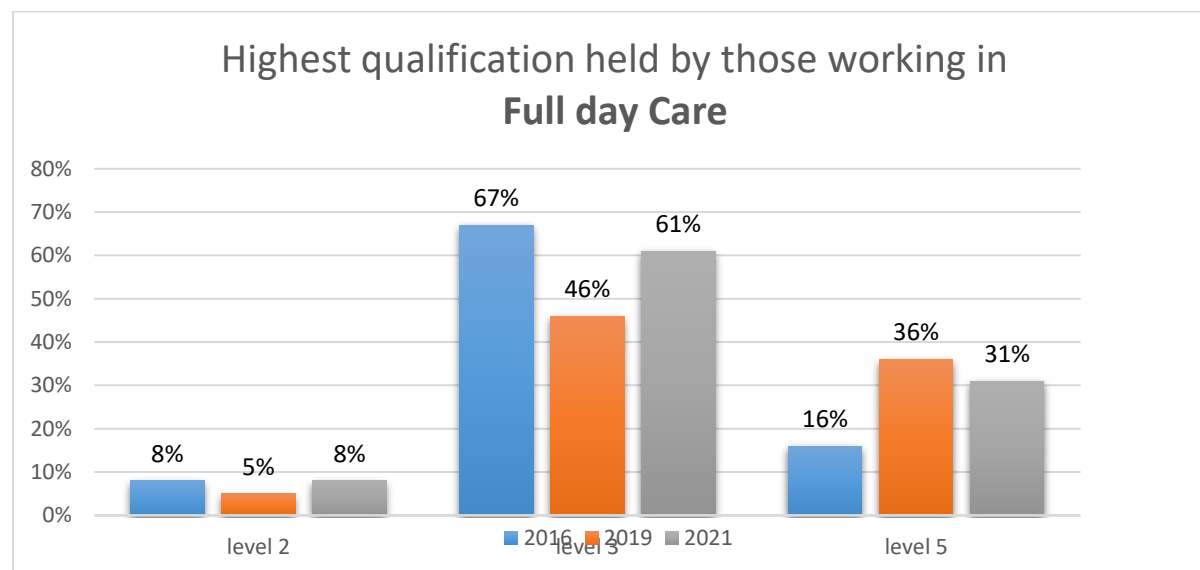
Over the last 5 years the majority of practitioners hold a level 3 as their highest-level qualification. However, there continues to be an upward trend with more practitioners obtaining a level 5 qualification. Since 2016 there has been an 11% increase, resulting in 40% of the workforce now possessing this higher level.



Full Day Care:

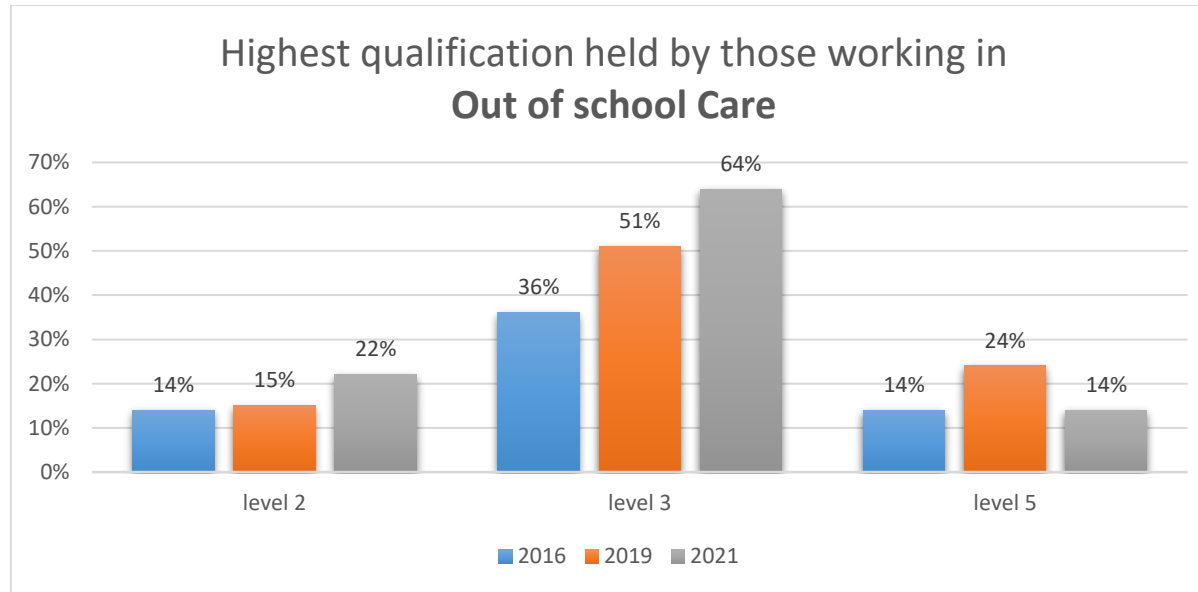
More than half the workforce in full day care possesses a level 3 as their highest qualification, and roughly a third possess a level 5 qualification.

There is an upward trend since the last study with more people now possessing a level 3 rather than a level 5 qualification, but it must be noted approx. 18% of practitioners now class their level 2 or 3 Playwork qualification as their highest qualification so this may be a factor in the change.



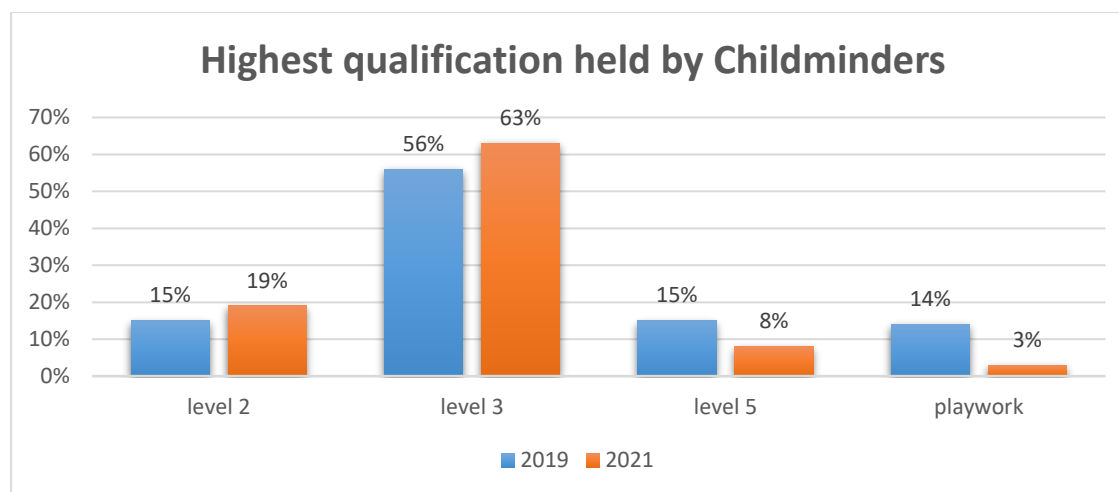
Out of School care:

There has been a clear shift in the Out of school workforce with more practitioners now possessing a level 3 qualification. From those questioned, 57% (13% rise since 2018) now possess a Playwork qualification as their highest qualification and 54% (2% decrease since 2019) possessing a childcare qualification as their highest qualification. The increase in those holding a Playwork qualification can be attributed to the funding and availability of Playwork qualifications and the proposed change to the National Minimum Standard for regulated childcare for children up to the age of 12 years; Standard 13. (Welsh Government Circular Letter WGC 006/2017) where practitioners must hold a relevant qualification depending on the age of children they are working with.



Childminders:

Over 60% of childminders stated that a relevant level 3 was the highest qualification they possess. From those questioned, 3% have recorded a Playwork qualification as their highest qualification.



Through Caerphilly Early Years Records, 10 individuals in the borough have achieved the recognised childminder qualification via a locally delivered face to face course in 2019.

14.4.2 Qualifications and ratios required as set out in the National Minimum Standards for regulated childcare for children up to the age of 12 years:

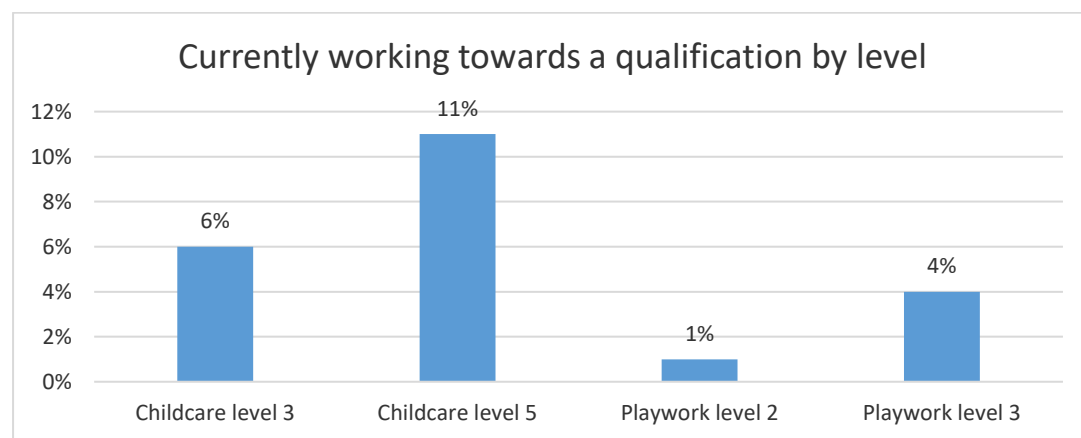
There are more qualified practitioners in the workforce compared to ever before, and in comparison, to the National Minimum Standards staffing ratios (Standard 13) the percentage of practitioners working with a qualification in each sector type is far greater than the required level:

Sector Type:	National minimum standard (standard 13) qualification ratio:	Caerphilly workforce average ratio:
Sessional care	50%	91% (was 92%)
Full day care	80%	87% (was 82%)
Out of School	50%	74% (was 75%)

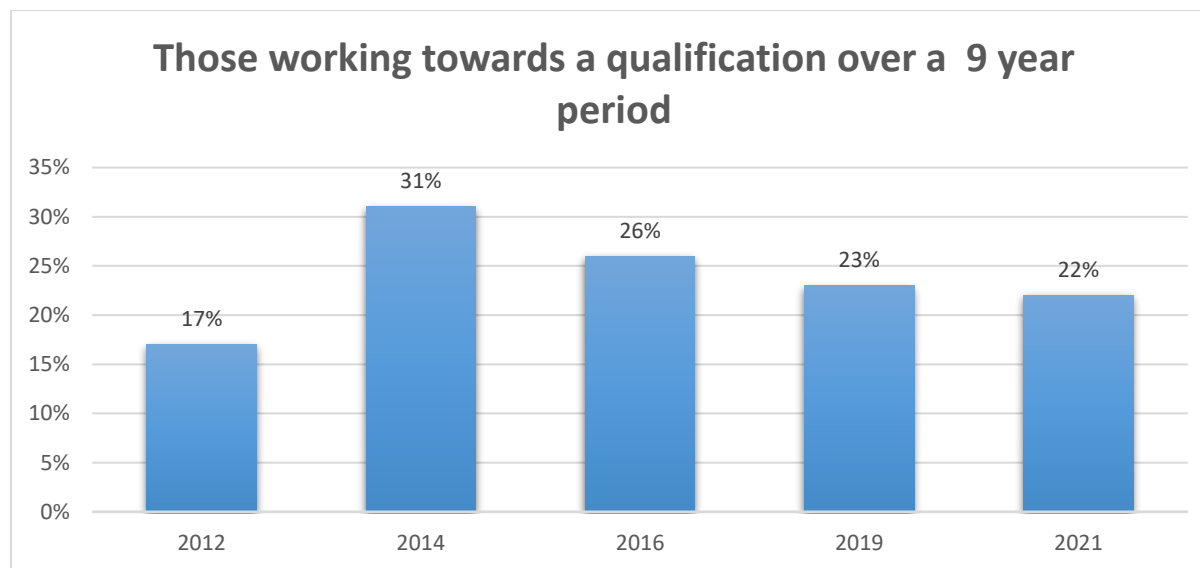
These statistics reflect a really positive picture of the current workforce and indicates that the funding and availability of qualifications offered throughout the borough is having a propitious impact.

14.4.3 Childcare workforce working towards a national qualification:

In this latest study 22% of the workforce are working towards a nationally recognised qualification. This has decreased by 4% compared to the 2016 study.

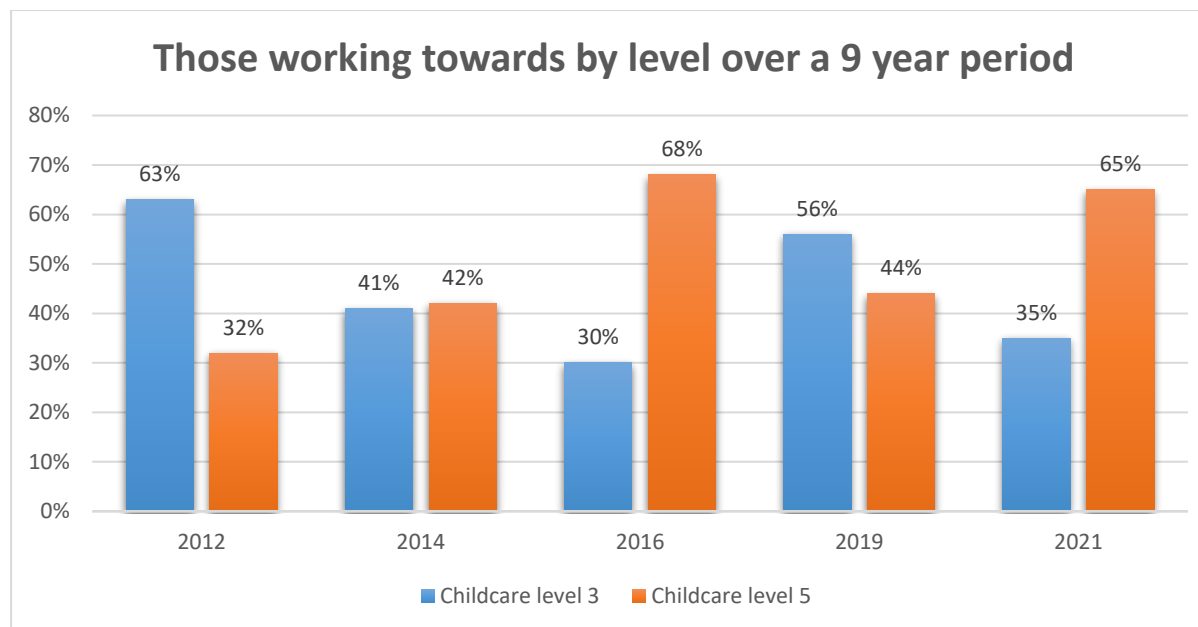


Compared to previous years, there has been a steady decline in those working towards a national qualification in the sector, with numbers peaking in 2014. With 93% of the workforce already trained at the time of this survey being taken, a decrease is natural and expected.



Childcare qualifications – those currently working towards:

Of those working towards a qualification, 35% are working towards a childcare level 3 and 65% are working towards a childcare level 5.



Childminders:

Since 2019 there are currently 16 people who are either working towards a childminder qualification or they have completed the qualification and are working towards becoming CIW registered.

14.4.4 Impact on National Qualifications and the workforce due to COVID

There is no significant change to the sector at the time of the study, however it may be too early to see the full impact on the workforce due to COVID.

From the data collected, 63% of people working towards a qualification recorded that the COVID outbreak had a negative impact. Reasons for this included:

- Due to Bubbles, work placements were not allowed to take place

- Due to settings temporarily closing, people could not progress with the competency/evidence sections of their qualification, and many people were furloughed.

In particular, records are showing a notable decrease in the numbers working towards a play work qualification. In the last study, 15% of the workforce were working towards a Playwork qualification. In the latest study only 5% were working towards a playwork qualification.

14.4.5 National Qualifications summary:

From the data collected, it is evident that Caerphilly county borough has a well-qualified workforce with more practitioners than ever before (93%) possessing a level 3 or above qualification.

There has been an upward trend of those possessing a Playwork qualification since the increased funding and availability options available nationally and locally. In this latest data collection, approx. 20% (an increase of 8% since 2019) of the whole workforce, and specifically 57% of those working in Out of School care, record that they now possess a playwork qualification and it is the most relevant to their role i.e. working with older children. With the proposed qualification changes to the National Minimum Standards coming into force in September 2022, Caerphilly Early Years have been proactive in promoting these planned changes and advising the sector to upskill their staff in the relevant timescales. As a result, the statistics are of no surprise, however there is a concern that due to COVID this upward trend will not continue until the sector has recovered from the impact.

During the time the data was collected, 22% were working towards a nationally recognised qualification. From previous data collected (since 2012), there is a clear slow decline in those taking up qualifications, however as previously noted a main factor for this is that the majority of the workforce is already qualified to the required standard.

There are some clear trends with those working towards qualifications:

- There are more practitioners working towards a level 5 in childcare than recorded in previous years.
- There has been an 10% decline since 2019 in the number of people working towards a Playwork qualification. COVID restrictions are a major contributing factor towards this, because many OOS settings were closed during the time of the study.

- The current picture of the workforce shows that there are more practitioners from the Full day care sector working towards a national qualification compared to the rest of the sector.
- Nationally, fewer learners completed their vocational programmes in 2019/20.

Contributing factors for the current picture of the qualified workforce remain like previous studies:

- Access to funding:
 - The promotion and availability of the Welsh Government's Progress for Success ESF Funded level 5 Apprenticeships.
 - The Promotion and availability of Welsh Government's Progress for Success ESF funded Playwork Apprenticeships.
- The proposed changes to the National Minimum Standards with regards to Playwork qualified staff in out of school provision, holiday club provision, and anyone else working with older children.
- Entrants coming into the sector are already qualified e.g. Many have come from school/college.
- A decrease in the number of people entering the sector via the voluntary route.

14.5. Regulatory Training and Continuous Professional Development (CPD):

Caerphilly Early Years operate a regulatory and CPD training programme for all individuals who work in the Childcare, Early Years and Play sector within the borough. (www.childcareincaerphilly.org.uk)

Local Authorities (LA) have a duty written within the Childcare Statutory Guidance to Local Authorities (revised 2016) to provide access to an appropriate level of training that ensures childcare providers are able to run effectively and efficiently.

Training is offered at a subsidised rate of £15 per place or fully funded. This has remained the same since 2018. Between April 2019 and March 2021 In total Caerphilly Early Years offered 69 courses with 1288 practitioners from the Early Years, Childcare and Play sector attending.

14.5.1 Regulatory training

Between April 2019 and March 2021, the following regulatory courses were delivered by Caerphilly Early Years:

- 19 x 12hr Paediatric First Aid courses = 293 individual attended
- 14 x Safeguarding courses = 224 individuals attended
- 4 x Food Hygiene level 2 face to face courses = 66 individuals attended
- 4 x Behaviour Management courses = 78 individuals attended
- 11 x ALN training programme courses = 193 individuals attended
- 6 x Manual Handling courses = 56 individuals attended

Paediatric first aid:

With Paediatric First Aid training it is recommended that practitioners renew their certificate every 3 years. The impact of COVID was quite significant in relation to the training and workforce. As First Aid was previously delivered face to face (in a room with a tutor) and a good proportion of the course involves an assessment of an individual's competency, it took a while to work with the training company to devise a blended delivery method. As a result, combined with COVID restrictions, there was no training offered from March 2020 to December 2020. In response to the needs of the sector Caerphilly Early Years increased the numbers of courses on offer from December 2020 (when the courses started again) to ensure that all settings had access to the training they needed. Analysis of the data has shown that in July 2021, 78% of the workforce were trained through the following delivery methods:

PAEDIATRIC FIRST AID:

Delivery Method	Trained:
Blended (part online theory, part face to face)	25%
Face-to-face (in a room with a tutor/trainer)	62%
Online (via e-learning or virtual e.g., Microsoft Teams)	13%

Safeguarding training:

It is recommended that every practitioner renews their Safeguarding training on a 3year basis, with managers undertaking a level 2/Tier 2 or equivalent and all other practitioners undertaking a level 1/Tier 1 or equivalent. Pre-COVID all the local courses were offered through face-to-face delivery (in a room with a tutor). Based on the data 88% are trained at level 1 (or equivalent) and 68%% are trained at level 2 (or equivalent). The table below shows the methods used to deliver the training:

SAFEGUARDING:

Delivery Method:	Level 1 or equivalent	Level 2 or equivalent
Online (via e-learning or virtual e.g., Microsoft Teams)	75%	85%
Face-to-face (in a room with a tutor/trainer)	25%	15%

Food safety:

Within Caerphilly county borough it is recommended that those who handle food and drinks within their day to day job role must attend Level 2 Food Safety training every 3 years. Based on data collected 77% of the workforce are trained.

In relation to COVID, there was no impact to the Food Safety level 2 training as e-Learning was already available and being offered alongside the face-to-face course. As a result, the face-to-face courses stopped and all practitioners were signposted to the online courses.

The table below shows the methods used to deliver the training:

FOOD SAFETY

Delivery Method:	Trained
Online (via e-learning or virtual e.g., Microsoft Teams)	92%
Face-to-face (in a room with a tutor/trainer)	8%

ALN training programme

Within Caerphilly county borough it is recommended that practitioners undertake the ALN training programme, so they understand their duties as a practitioner in relations to the latest regulations (ALNET Act 2021) and guidance. This training programme started in 2019 and to date more than 193 practitioners have attended from 60% of the settings. In particular:

- 89% of staff / leaders in contracted settings have been trained
- Approx. 54% of childminders have been trained

The table below shows the methods used to deliver the training:

ALN TRAINING

Delivery Method:	trained
Online (via e-learning or virtual e.g., Microsoft Teams)	74%
Face-to-face (in a room with a tutor/trainer)	26%

Behaviour management:

Within Caerphilly county borough it is recommended that practitioners undertake Behaviour management training every 3 years. Based on the data collected only 20% of the sector is trained in this field. From April 2019 to March 2020, 4 courses were delivered through Caerphilly Early Years. With COVID restrictions these courses stopped. In the last study nearly half the sector was trained in this field. Although many practitioners have sourced online training for themselves, the evidence shows that because of COVID and lack of access to this training 80% of the workforce are not trained in Behaviour management. From those trained more people have attended online training:

BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

Delivery Method	Trained:
Online (via e-learning or virtual e.g., Microsoft Teams)	62%
Face-to-face (in a room with a tutor/trainer)	38%

Manual Handling:

Manual Handling training is recommended for all practitioners who work in Childcare, Early Years and Play. From the data collected 10% of the workforce are trained in this field. Between April 2019 and March 2020, 6 face-to-face courses were delivered to the

sector. With COVID restrictions and the competency-based element of the course being a significant factor, the courses stopped from April 2020. As a result, only 2% of the workforce have sourced alternative training. From those trained more people have attended face to face training:

MANUAL HANDLING:

Delivery Method	Trained:
Online (via e-learning or virtual e.g., Microsoft Teams)	23%
Face-to-face (in a room with a tutor/trainer)	76%

Risk Assessment:

Risk Assessment training is recommended for practitioners who work in Childcare, Early Years and Play. Caerphilly Early Years have not offered this training between 2019 and 2021 so the data collected refers to practitioners undertaking training from alternative sources. The statistics show that 28% of the sector are trained in this field. From those trained, more people have attended face to face training:

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Delivery Method	Trained:
Online (via e-learning or virtual e.g., Microsoft Teams)	75%
Face-to-face (in a room with a tutor/trainer)	25%

14.5.2 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) training:

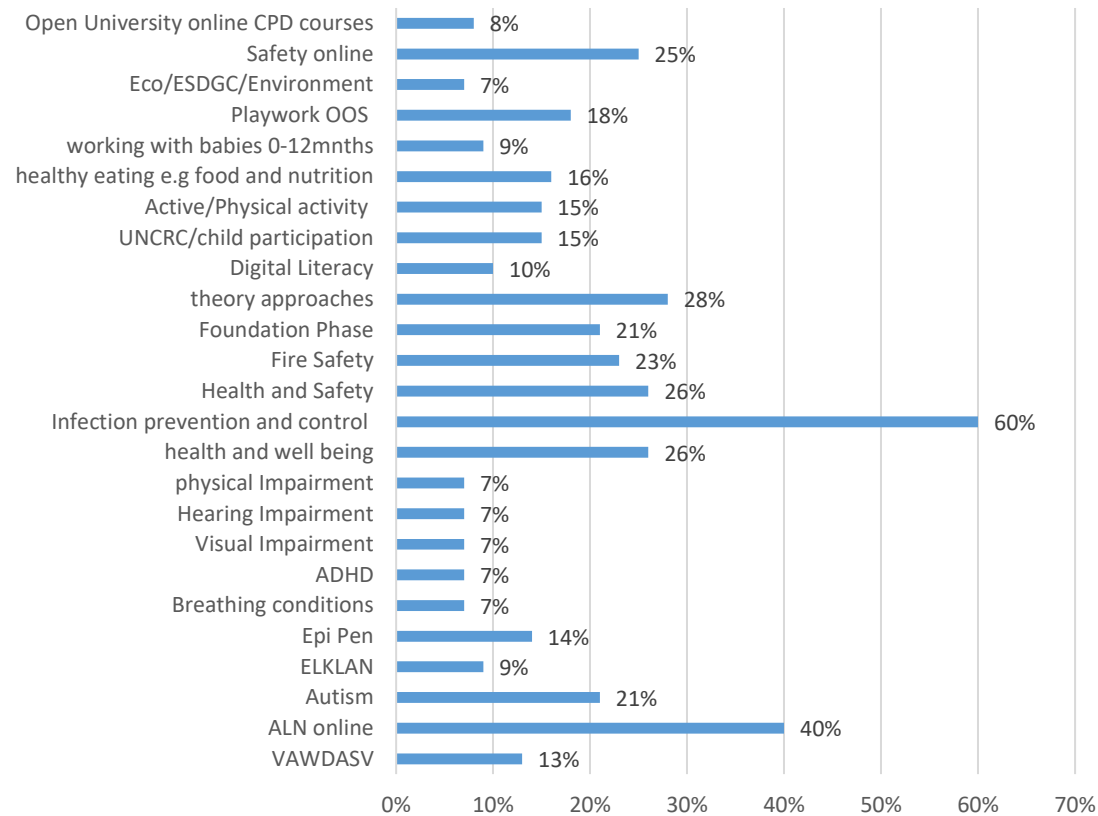
A full training programme was designed as a result of the last workforce audit in 2018. The programme was stopped in March 2020 as a result of COVID. Whilst some courses were offered online, all Face-to-face courses were cancelled. In the previous study approx.

1200 practitioners attended training from 2016 to 2018. In this 2year study (2019 to 2021) only 243 practitioners attended training organised through Caerphilly Early Years. A breakdown of the type of training and numbers attended during 2019/20:

HEY scheme (HSPSS) training:	118 attendees
Welsh Language training:	15 attendees
Health/ALN related training:	110 attendees

Whilst there is an 80% drop in CPD organised through Caerphilly Early Years, it must be noted that in the latest survey, an average of 18% of the workforce engaged in other types of relevant CPD training:

CPD online courses attended between 2019 - 2021



14.5.3 Impact on regulatory and CPD training due to COVID

Since COVID restrictions were imposed in March 2019, the approach to delivering training to the whole workforce changed. A total of 12 courses, with 239 places, had to be cancelled because they were due to be delivered through the traditional face to face (in a classroom with a tutor/trainer) method. As a result, a proportion of the workforce had no access to training and subsequently their certificates in many regulatory courses expired. As much of the workforce was still operational there was a duty to provide the essential regulatory training through an online and blended approach rather than the traditional face to face delivery method.

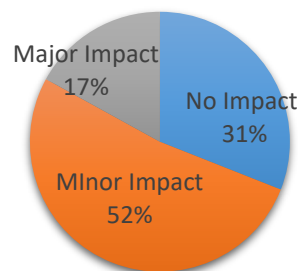
Comparison of courses delivered between 2018 and 2020:

2018	2019 - 2021
86 courses = 1521 attendees	69 courses (1288 attendees)

When asked, 62% of employers said that COVID had an impact with less training being offered/attended. Reasons for this included:

- 45% stated that they were unable to source available training
- 15% reported that they attended less training because their service was closed due to COVID
- 14% had insufficient IT access to attend online/blended training
- 5% reported that they had a lack of staff cover

Impact on practice due to lack of available training throughout COVID:



At the time of the data collection (July 2021) 84% of employers stated they now had access to the training they needed, which indicates that the majority have recovered from the impact.

From the latest data collection, 66% of the workforce are now accessing training online either through ELearning or virtually through Microsoft Teams or Zoom. To ensure that safe, good quality practices are met, the number of practitioners attending a course had to be reduced. Pre-COVID the average attendance at a course would be 20 people. It is now averaging 12 people. As such the number of courses has increased where possible to meet demand.

Caerphilly Early years are still moving towards building up the full programme to pre-COVID levels so the needs of the sector can be met. There are a couple of regulatory courses such as Manual Handling and Behaviour Management that are yet to be re-introduced to the programme, but these are planned for 2022.

There has been a drastic reduction in the number of CPD courses that have been offered and attended since March 2020 because of COVID restrictions and guidelines. Interestingly though, 12% of employers stated that they have accessed more training since the start of COVID.

14.5.4 Regulatory and CPD Training Summary:

From the data collected it is clear that there is a sufficiently trained workforce to meet the National Minimum Standards. Whilst there has been a quite significant impact on accessing and attending training because of COVID the workforce is adapting and recovering quickly.

Removing barriers so training remains accessible is a key factor when supporting the workforce, and Caerphilly Early Years have adapted to the changes brought with COVID restrictions. More than 90% of courses offered are now being delivered virtually and over 70% of people reported that they prefer this delivery method which is positive. Over 95% of course places offered were filled on all courses.

Grants have been offered to the sector to support IT which has supported practitioners to access courses and are digitally more able.

Caerphilly Early Years were able to offer regulatory and CPD courses at minimal cost through:

- subsidising the courses through grants e.g., HSPSS
- utilising the expertise from in-house staff and services to deliver courses,
- partnership working
- Using own venues (for face-to-face training).

The regulatory and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) training programme operated by Caerphilly Early Years is affordable for the majority of the sector and the times of delivery i.e., evenings and weekends, are preferred with approx. 70% opting for this option. From analysis of the data collected, there are some significant training needs in Manual Handling, Risk Assessment and Behaviour Management however the number of courses offered via Caerphilly Early Years has been limited due to COVID.

The regulatory and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) training programme that was offered from 2019 to 2021 as a result of the last workforce audit has proven to be successful with 83% of the workforce reporting that they were satisfied or very satisfied with the training and development opportunities on offer in Caerphilly county borough.

14.6. Workforce Training Needs:

It is evident that there are some clear training needs in the sector which will give Caerphilly Early Years guidance when planning the training and qualification programme for the next two years. Being able to offer relevant, high-quality training, as well as new training from leading sector professionals will ensure the children accessing Early Years, Childcare and Play are experiencing the best possible outcomes.

14.6.1 Qualifications needs:

Even though Caerphilly county borough has a well-qualified Early Years, Childcare and Play workforce, an average of 21% of practitioners reported that they need or would like to undertake a nationally recognised qualification.

- 18.5% reported that they need, or would like, to work towards a nationally recognised Childcare qualification in the next two years.
- 24% reported that they need, or would like, to work towards a nationally recognised Play work qualification in the next two years. From these, over 80% reported that they would need or like to work towards a level 3 Transition to Playwork, or level 3 Playwork qualification.

With the numbers of individuals who are interested in childminding it has been identified that there is still a need to offer the nationally recognised childminding course. To remove as many of the barriers (e.g., childcare, work, and travel issues) for individuals, courses should continue to be offered as tutor led locally and also online.

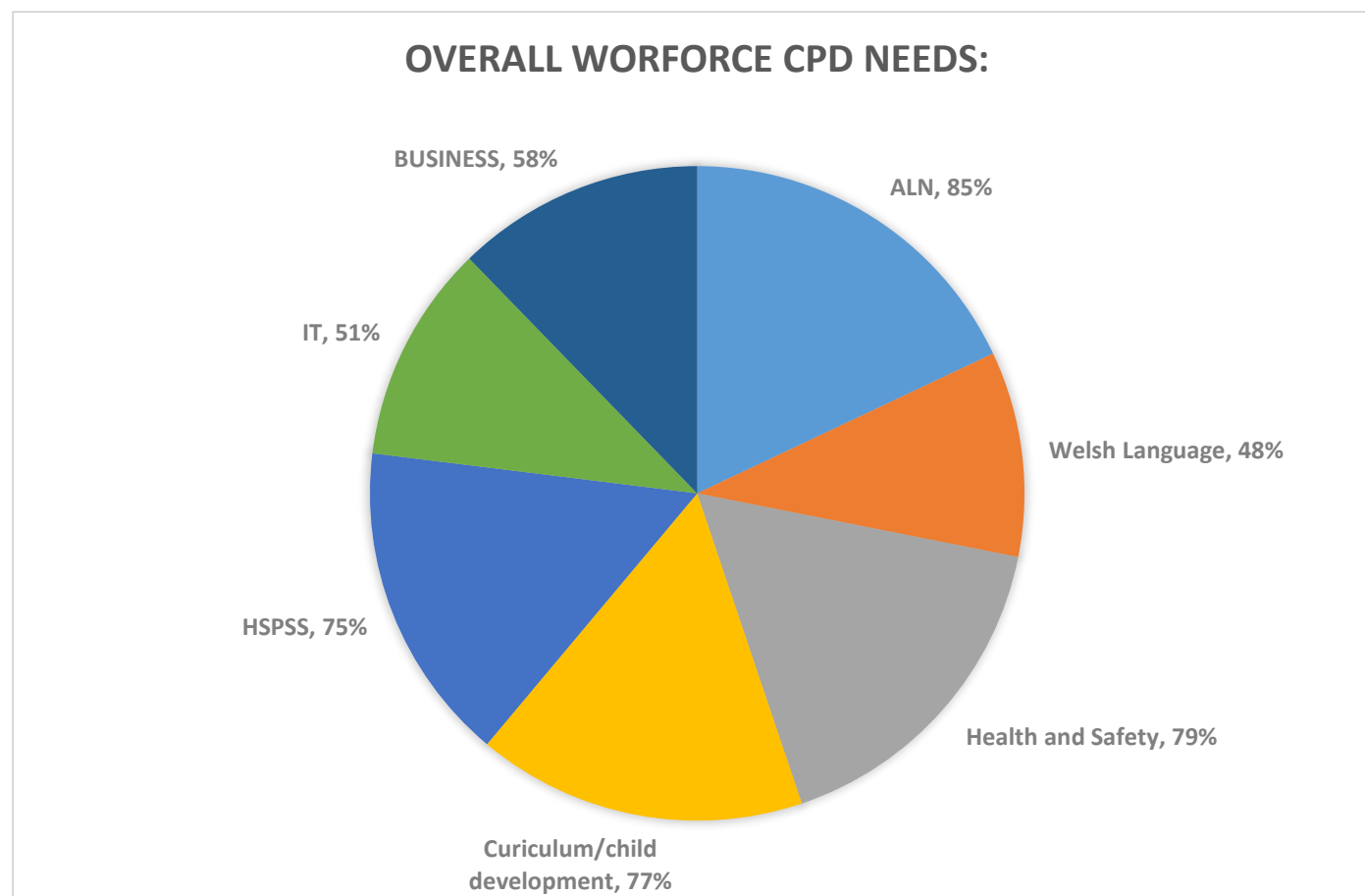
14.6.2 Regulatory training needs:

As the majority of regulatory training has a 3year certificate, it can be expected that roughly a third of the workforce will need to upskill on a yearly basis. For Paediatric First Aid and Food Safety this is the case in Caerphilly county borough, however there was a significant demand for Behaviour Management, manual handling, and Risk Assessment from across the whole sector:

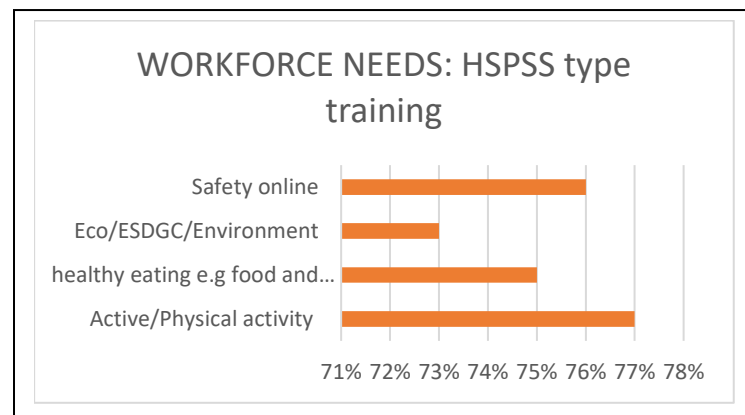
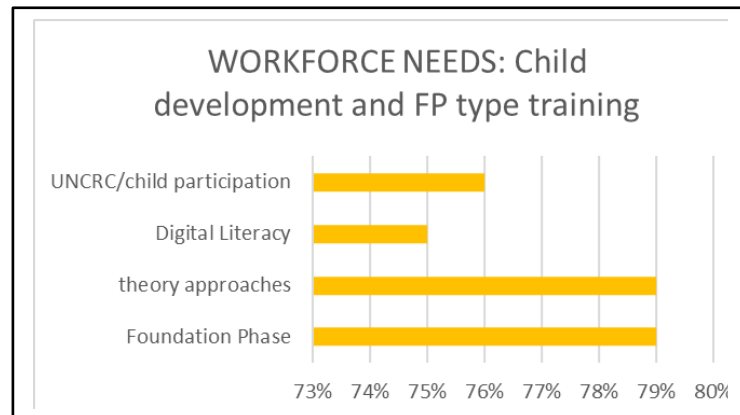
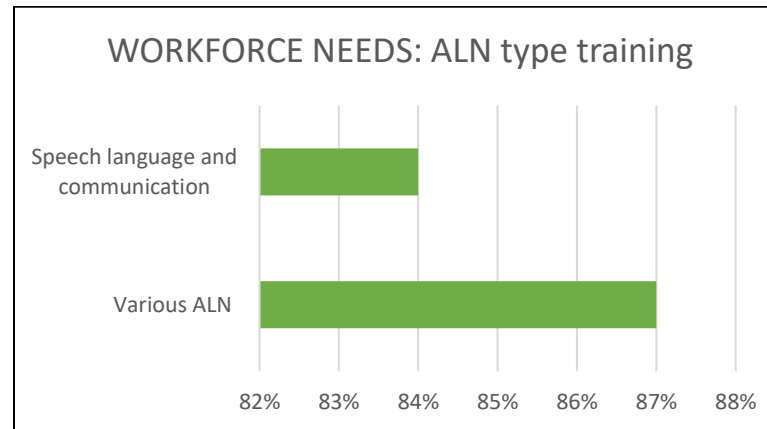
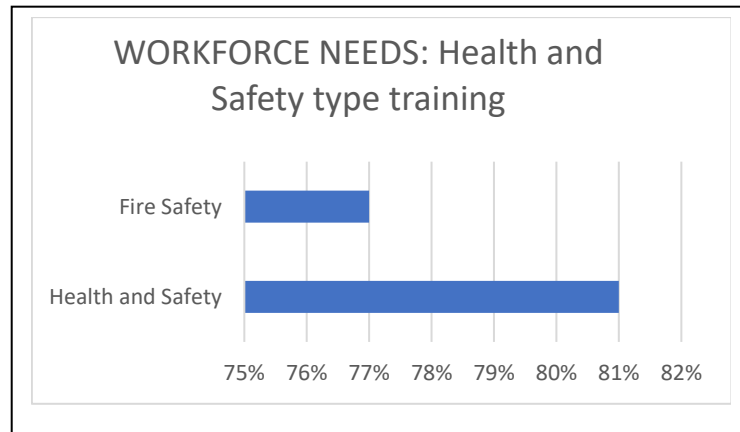


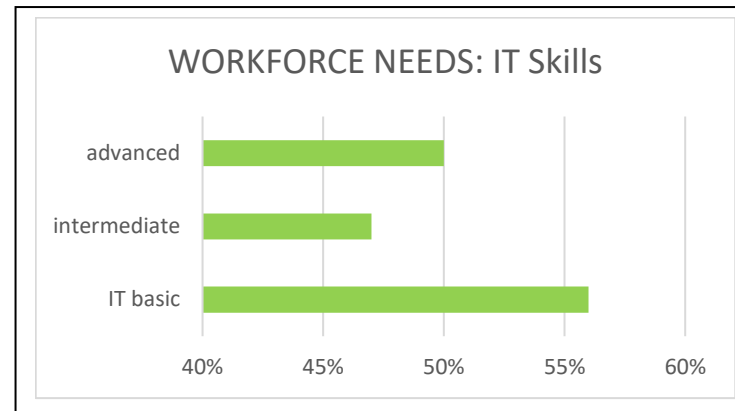
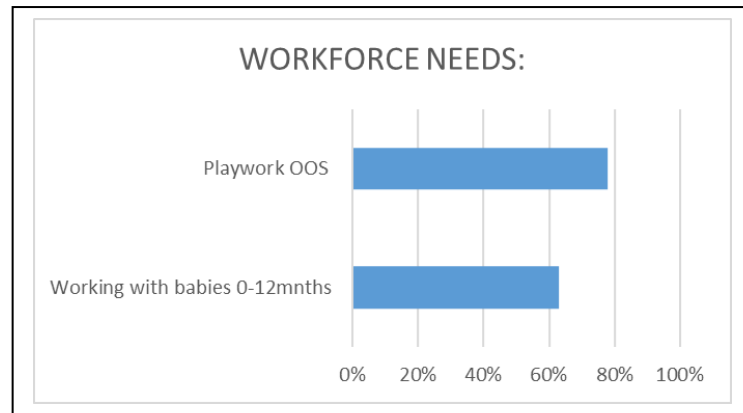
14.6.3 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) training needs:

In the last two years the evidence shows that there has been a reduction in the number of practitioners accessing CPD type courses. COVID is the main contributing factor for this. As a result, the needs and wants for the sector are quite high. In the latest study the workforce reported their training needs for CPD:



This can be broken down per topic area:





14.6.4 Impact on workforce training needs due to COVID restrictions.

The evidence is quite clear that there has been an impact to those people who have training needs. Due to the lack of training opportunities, many people have a need, or want, to upskill and this can be seen in the statistics.

Since March 2019 when COVID restrictions came into force, the Caerphilly Early Years training programme was stopped. Even though many courses have been updated and are now delivered virtually, Behaviour Management, Manual handling and Risk assessment courses are still to be re-introduced. As a result, over 70% of the workforce have a need to undertake this training.

In 2018, on average, 16% needed or wanted to undertake CPD. Due to most CPD courses being cancelled or postponed because of COVID, the statistics have changed significantly and now, on average, 67% of the workforce need or want to undertake CPD.

14.6.5 Workforce training needs summary

The need to undertake a nationally recognised qualification has slightly declined in the last two years with around 21% of the workforce needing or wanting to start a qualification in the next two years. There is a higher demand to work towards a playwork qualification and a reason for this could be linked to the proposed change to the National Minimum Standard for regulated childcare for children up to the age of 12 years; Standard 13.

Welsh Government Circular Letter WGC 006/2017 states:

'all settings working with children between the ages of 0-12 years, both existing and newly registered, will have the same lead in time to gain the additional playwork qualifications required to work with children aged 8 and over. Therefore, by 30 September 2022 all persons in charge of, and a proportion of non-supervisory staff working in, all regulated childcare and daycare settings including open access playwork and out of school childcare settings will hold a relevant qualification.'

The need to undertake regulatory training is mixed. Where Caerphilly Early Years have been offering First Aid, Food safety, safeguarding and ALN online or through a blended delivery method since October 2020, the needs are relatively low (around 20%) However, where some courses are still to be re-introduced i.e., Behaviour Management, Manual Handling and Risk Assessment, the needs are very high (around 70%)

With CPD courses there is a high demand for many courses across all areas. Some of the demand is for new training and much of it is for refresh training.

With the new Curriculum for Wales, Caerphilly Early Years will promote the Welsh Government training modules available via Hwb and support the sector via Welsh Government grant funding to pay practitioners to undertake this training or pay for additional cover to release them to attend the training in their contracted hours.

For the last 8 years all the courses and qualifications that have been offered through Caerphilly Early Years have been publicised on our Workforce Development Website. When the workforce was questioned about how they would prefer to hear about the training opportunities available, the majority would prefer an email:

Communication preference:	Responses:
Website	9%
Text	12%
Email	79%

14.7 Summary and Conclusion:

14.7.1 The workforce:

It is evident that the size of the workforce has remained quite stable since the last study in 2018, however there are indications there are not enough entrants into the sector as employers are reporting that they are finding it hard to recruit suitably qualified staff. This is concerning because with the proposed expansion of the Flying Start programme, there will be a greater need for even more childcare provision and early intervention teams across the borough which naturally equates to a bigger workforce. When combined with the staffing ratios that are in place (1:4). It is envisaged there will be a shortage of practitioners.

Caerphilly Early Years are already currently using grants from Welsh Government in innovative and exploratory ways to increase the size of the workforce as well as upskill them at the same time. Through the Recruit, Recover, Raise Standards training programme, funding has been provided for Early Years Educational settings to recruit a new staff member who alongside other staff members will have access to a high-quality training programme. The funding provided will allow cover staff to be employed enabling them to be released from practice. The idea is to 'grow' and upskill the workforce within the sector.

Caerphilly Early Years promote and support careers and work placements via schools, colleges, and training providers, however due to COVID all placements were stopped for a number of months to meet the restrictions needed to keep the population at minimal risk from catching COVID. Although slowly increasing, numbers of students and volunteers in placements are still nowhere near the Figures they were pre-COVID. There are also work programmes within the borough (for example through CCBC programmes and NDNA childcare works project) who work with Caerphilly Early Years to place individuals within the childcare settings for long term placements. These placements also stopped for a number of months but have recently started again. It must be noted that there has been a big impact because of COVID on supporting new people into the sector and this may continue to be seen into 2022 and beyond.

14.7.2 Qualifications:

It is evident since the last workforce study in 2018 that the childcare and play workforce is more qualified than ever before. In 2018, around 91% of the workforce possessed a recognised childcare or Playwork qualification. From this study, it has been acknowledged that the level is now around 93%. It has also been recorded that the number of those possessing a higher qualification (level 3 or above) has also increased by 9% since 2018. A contributing factor for this is because of the Welsh Governments 'progress for success' funding programme i.e., the availability of the funded CCPLD and Playwork apprenticeships including the level 5 CCPLD.

The new suite of childcare qualifications that sit on the new qualification framework have been phased in since 2019. These have been designed to reduce complexity and raise quality and consistency in the sector. The overhaul of the qualifications has been received well by the sector however the qualifications take longer to complete. It is predicted that this will have an impact on the rate of qualified people coming into the sector and also the rate of practitioners achieving a higher-level qualification.

14.7.3 Skills and training:

The majority (83%) of the workforce are 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied' with the training and development opportunities on offer to them in Caerphilly county borough which is really positive.

There has been an impact to the workforce because of COVID but this is mixed. There are clearly areas where the workforce need to upskill, particularly Behaviour Management, Manual Handling and Risk Assessment, and there is a surge in the numbers of people who need/want to undertake a full range of CPD. At the other end of the scale the numbers of people who are trained in First Aid, Food Safety and Safeguarding are high (more than two thirds which was the average pre-COVID)

Caerphilly Early Years approach to delivering training had to change due to COVID restrictions but the emphasis remains on delivering a quality learning experience. One of the main priorities as a childcare practitioner is to ensure that children have the best possible outcomes from being in their care. As such all the courses that have been re-introduced, have been through a virtual delivery method. Tutors and Trainers have adapted their training strategies to ensure that learning is still being understood. To accommodate for this, most of the courses on offer through Caerphilly Early Years now only have a maximum capacity of 12 per course. Pre-COVID, Tutors and Trainers would deliver to 20 plus per course. The consequences of this have resulted in increased numbers of courses being offered to meet the demand. All the courses that have been offered from 2019 to 2021 have been fully booked and waiting lists for the courses are common. Caerphilly Early Years are re-introducing courses in 2022 and plan to increase the size of their training programme in the future in line with pre-COVID times to meet the needs of the sector.

Caerphilly Early Years have recognised that the following factors contribute towards the popularity of the training programme:

- The low costs attached to the courses due to subsidised funding
- The use of local authority 'in-house' trainers
- The delivery methods being offered
- The times and days we offer the training (weekday evening/twilight and Saturdays where possible) This does not impact of taking practitioners out of ratio during the day.

14.8 Recommendations

- With the Welsh Governments full roll out of the childcare offer for Wales, and the proposed free childcare for all 2 year olds, the promotion of childcare and Play careers and qualifications should continue so there will be no shortage of qualified workers.

- Caerphilly Early Years to continue to work with partners within the local authority to promote childcare and Play as a career and support individuals into placements so they have experience of working in this field before undertaking a qualification.
 - Caerphilly Early Years to continue promoting childcare and Play as a career to Secondary school students.
 - Further funding and support and easier access to nationally recognised Play qualifications should be made available to new entrants and existing practitioners in the sector.
- Releasing staff from practice to attend training has always been difficult for many employers. As a result, CPD opportunities offered during the daytime is not preferred. To upskill the workforce, it has been recognised that further funding is required to employ additional staff as cover.
- Evaluate the Recruit Recover Raise Standards grant and training programme to see if it had a positive impact on:
 - The size of the workforce longer term
 - Quality of childcare as a result of upskilling the practitioners
 - Being able to release staff to attend training
- To meet the future proposed changes to the National Minimum Standards for regulated childcare for children up to the age of 12 years it is envisaged that more of the workforce will need to achieve the recognised Playwork qualification.
 - Funding and support should continue, to enable practitioners to undertake a nationally recognised Play qualification.
 - Caerphilly Early Years to review their action plan to improve the number of qualified Play workers in Out of School provision.
- Caerphilly Early Years to change the model of running Childminder Information Sessions to a more responsive approach. It is currently offered as a one-to-one session, where identified gaps have been highlighted in certain areas of the borough, although group sessions should be offered locally (restrictions allowing) or virtually.
- Caerphilly Early Years to continue to deliver the Childminder qualifications locally or virtually to increase the numbers of childminders in areas where we have identified gaps in childcare and where there is demand for a taught course preferred to the online course delivered through PACEY.
- Caerphilly Early Years to develop a training plan to coordinate and support the delivery of courses over two years as identified in this study, utilising funding and 'in-house' expertise, with the outcome of improving the childcare workers confidence and competence in areas identified.

- Caerphilly Early Years to promote and monitor the contract to Menter Iaith to deliver the Road to Bilingualism and the Welsh language training attached to the scheme, as well as promote Welsh language courses offered locally through other partners.
- Caerphilly Early Years to work with sector professionals to source and/or develop new training to upskill practitioners, thus leading to better provision, experiences, and outcomes for Children.
- Caerphilly Early Years should continue to explore new ways to monitor and evaluate training and measure the impact on:
 - the practitioners practice
 - the environment
 - the outcomes for children.

15. Results of Consultation with Stakeholders

In preparing the Caerphilly Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022, Consultation was undertaken with a number of key stakeholders. Below is a summary of the key findings from those consultations.

15.2 Consultation with Early Years Wales

Early Years Wales support a wide range of childcare types in Caerphilly which include Day Nurseries, playgroups, childminders and After School clubs. They are currently working with the sector to help them to recover from the impact of Covid on their businesses, ranging from issues of sustainability, recruitment, risk assessments and quality. It was noted that in general the sector is currently struggling to recruit and retain qualified staff, and this has an impact on quality and sustainability. It was also noted that lack of staff for some has resulted in not being able to run at capacity and waiting lists.

Early Years Wales would welcome supporting low-income families through the provision of childcare spaces within member providers for programmes such as Flying Start.

With regards to supporting families with children with disabilities Early Years Wales noted they have had no input into the local schemes but recognise that there needs to be clear referral pathways and information to members from LA's.

Early Years Wales felt that despite not working directly with families in the Local Authority they are able to promote their support, including training and workshops, and that of the local authority via social media and web sites.

15.3 Consultation with Clybiau Plant Cymru Kid's Clubs (CPCKC)

Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids Clubs offered the following observations of the Childcare sector locally and nationally:

- In comparison to the trend observed in Out of School Care (OSC) in a lot of other counties, Caerphilly does not have a great deal of unregistered Welsh medium provision and has comparatively more Welsh medium OSC available than some neighbouring South East Wales counties. In saying that, they did feel that there is still room for growth in registered Welsh medium childcare to support the Cymraeg 2050 goal. They also felt that having registered childcare based on school sites can be a factor in parental choices (e.g. in choosing Welsh medium education).
- There are currently 2 unregistered OSC providers in Caerphilly and it would be good to see these become registered with CIW to ensure parents have assurance of quality through regulation, and also to support affordability.
- There are a few multi providers of OSC in Caerphilly, i.e. full day sessional care settings that offer OSC as a part of their offer. There is a need to be mindful of the significant gap that would be created should any of these multi-providers go out of business following the impact of Covid-19.
- Sustainability is an ongoing concern for the OSC sector, particularly in light of increased families working from home following the Pandemic. This could cause an issue in terms of childcare sufficiency should providers no longer be able to offer their services.
- There is a need to explore whether there is a demand for childcare within schools that are currently not served by out of school childcare provision. Parents/carers may currently be using unregulated/informal childcare options if there is not registered childcare available

In relation to improvements that could be made for low-income families, CPCKC noted that work needs to be done to develop, sustain and promote childcare provision that offers atypical hours as lower paid workers often work atypical shift patterns, and so the lack of availability of registered childcare during these hours can perpetuate this. They also noted that Caerphilly Early Years should be supporting the development of registered childcare, and encouraging the registration of existing childcare, as this will also support low-income families by ensuring they are able to benefit from financial support schemes (e.g., Tax Free Childcare / Childcare Offer) and to further promote these support schemes too to ensure that families are aware of their availability.

With regards to improvements for families with children with disabilities CPCKC noted that Caerphilly Early Years need to ensure that there is funding available and support to develop and sustain provision for children with complex needs, as well as funding and support to ensure that all childcare provision can be inclusive and accessible (e.g., funding for additional support / additional training for staff). *It should be noted that Caerphilly Early Years has a comprehensive programme of training and support for the sector and*

for families and children with additional needs following the requirements of the ALNET Act, providing appropriate support to meet the learning needs of the child.

Improvements for working families

In addition to the need to develop an action plan from the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, to ensure that there are sufficient, quality, registered childcare opportunities available for all ages and in the language of choice, CPCKC felt that in the aftermath of Covid-19, it is also essential that the childcare provision that remains open is supported to continue offering services to local families, and that there is sufficient funding and support to prevent unnecessary raising of fees (which would negatively impact families) – this includes retaining a community focused ethos when schools/community buildings/local authorities consider rental charges for childcare providers. *It must be noted that when setting rental rates, no public funding can give advantage to one sector over another and so could not charge differently for an afterschool provision, or a day care provider, or a local private provider in another building, etc.*

CPCKC felt that as a local authority we need to be mindful of the difficulties facing committee run services and those in rural areas where there is a disproportionate disadvantage which is passed on to families as fees. They also noted that there needs to be a collaborative, strategic approach to planning services that run during school holidays.

In addition to the above comments, CPCKC also noted the broader considerations of closer links between schools/education and childcare on school sites and when planning new developments, the promotion of the professionalisation of the workforce to encourage new entrants, and the retention of existing workforce.

15.4 Consultation with National Day Nurseries Association Cymru (NDNA Cymru)

NDNA Cymru noted that they did not have immediate information about day nurseries in Caerphilly.

NDNA were able to comment on a more national level:

- They did note that Covid 19 and the protective measures taken by nurseries has resulted in a considerable lack of income for many nurseries and created uncertainty about the future. Many settings are facing sustainability issues which will have an impact on the future availability of childcare places.
- Recruitment, especially of qualified staff, is a major problem for the sector. Increased staffing costs will, inevitable affect the affordability of childcare for parents.
- There is concern that new settings opening on school sites could risk displacing existing childcare places at nurseries, this will ultimately lead to nurseries becoming unsustainable or a larger financial burden on families of younger/unfunded children.
- They also noted that LA's providing information to families about choices in childcare is key for low-income families along with information about financial support available.
- In relation to supporting the sector with children with disabilities, they noted that a full training programme needs to be on offer to providers.
- For working families NDNA suggest there are sufficient places in full day care settings for working families and that they are fully aware of the Childcare Offer for 3 and 4year olds.
- With regards to families seeking work, NDNA suggest financial support is given to parents for an initial period when starting employment.

15.5 Consultation with PACEY Cymru

PACEY Cymru noted that they do not have the detailed local knowledge of the whole childcare market in Caerphilly to comment fully.

PACEY Cymru are concerned to note a general decline in the number of childminders across Wales and have been reporting on this for the last five years. In Caerphilly they understand there to have been 12 de-registrations in the six months between April 2021 and September 2021. They are also concerned about the low number of new registrations across Wales, in Caerphilly there have been no new registrations during the same period.

From April 2021, PACEY Cymru have been focusing on promotion of childminding as a career choice and childcare option for families to support sustainability, childminder numbers and availability of childcare choice for parents.

In relation to support for low-income families, PACEY Cymru understand that in Caerphilly registered childminders are able to provide Flying Start funded childcare. The outcome of this is that families living in areas of poverty are able to choose from a variety of accessible, quality childcare settings.

PACEY Cymru also believes that opportunities for childminder settings to access funding for Early Education should be considered by Caerphilly Local Authority if settings meet defined criteria. We believe that access to early education funding for childminders would ensure parity of opportunities across the sector, support sustainability of childminding settings and consideration of parental choice. This is also likely to support better outcomes for children through providing continuity of care that meets children's needs linked to well-being. PACEY Cymru understands the cost implications of using childminders to provide funded services but believes that the outcomes for children should be central to any decisions made. (Authors Note: this is an option for Childminders in Caerphilly already – none have taken up the option).

PACEY Cymru is working in partnership with JCP, PaCE, Careers Wales and other agencies to support recruitment to become a childminder, which not only provides wider childcare options for families in their local area but supports people back into work.

The organisation would welcome more information about how the local authority is preparing childminders for taking up their responsibilities under the new ALNET Act and any support they can offer childminders. PACEY Cymru also fully supports the role of Nannies in supporting children with disabilities and would welcome the opportunity to work in partnership with the Local Authority to discuss potential models of working with nannies to meet the needs of children and their families, in particular in relation to children with additional needs and for working families as families can still access working tax credits if using a Nanny registered under the Approved scheme.

PACEY Cymru feels that the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment is a timely opportunity to consider any local issues that may be impacting on childminders such as trade waste fees or if there are limits placed by planning on the number of children at the setting before planning permission is required. PACEY Cymru believes that the childcare regulatory framework is the appropriate control mechanism for setting out the maximum number of children being cared for at the property, including those which reside there. PACEY Cymru also feels that the process and fees applied by the planning authority for those seeking to establish a home-based childcare service should also be reviewed.

15.6 Consultation with Mudiad Meithrin

Locally, Mudiad Meithrin felt that more services were needed across the borough through the medium of Welsh including Flying Start provision. They also felt that a Welsh medium nursery is needed in every area in order to make the provision convenient for families to be able to choose equally.

With regards to families on low income they suggested 'free' childcare should be available to those families outside of Flying Start areas. They also suggest that Welsh medium provision should be promoted so parents can make informed choices.

15.7 Consultation with South East Wales Safeguarding Children's Board (SEWSCB)

Caerphilly Early Years has a Safeguarding Compliance Officer in the team who supports childcare settings across the borough. The postholder delivers training for assistants and more in-depth training for safeguarding designates in childcare settings to ensure they understand their responsibilities to keep children safe. The Officer also undertakes safeguarding audits with settings to understand where they are doing well as a setting, where they can make improvements and identify good practice to share with others. The Officer also supports safeguarding designates through making a referral to Intake Advice and Assessment team as well as through the safeguarding process (as needed) and through professional allegations or CIW inspection recommendations. This is an excellent resource for childcare staff across the borough to allow them to feel confident and supported through challenging situations and in so doing safeguards our children and young people.

NB: Full Consultation with the SE Wales Safeguarding Children's Board will take place during the formal consultation on the written report.

15.8 Consultation with Children

A bilingual Children's Survey was sent out to all After School care providers within Caerphilly borough as part of consultation process to ensure children's views, opinions and experiences surrounding their care was being held in regard when analysing childcare

supply, demands and sufficiency throughout the Local Authority. The questionnaire was sent to 37 English and Welsh medium providers; we received a total of 20 completed children's responses from 3 settings during January/February 2022. 2 English settings and a further 1 Welsh setting issued, supported children to complete and then returned those completed questionnaires.

Children's ages varied with the youngest respondent being 3 years old and the oldest being 9 years old. The survey asked children to provide feedback regarding why they accessed After School Care provision, whether they liked attending the provision, if they would be interested in attending After School provision in Comprehensive School, and if so, what activities would they like to do there. No further guidance surrounding the target audience was given to providers to ensure we received a good return on questionnaires; although it is recognised that staff would have noted answers after verbally discussing with children in most cases due to children's ages.

12 boys completed the survey alongside 8 girls. Of those children, 2 children attend 1 day per week, 5 children attend 2 days per week, 4 children attend 3 days per week, 1 child attends 4 days per week, and a further 8 children attend 5 days per week. Most children attend due to parental working arrangements.

The final question gave the children an opportunity to say which activities they would like to have access to at a future After School Club. Cooking, art and craft, football, Wii club, film making, dodge ball and just chilling came out as the most popular activities with a range of other activities being suggested. As part of Action Plan, this consultation data will be fed back to existing providers to address positive examples of children's well-being being promoted and needs being met within a service that is necessary for some families, but also to look at any need for developing provision to meet desires of children if possible.

In Caerphilly, alongside our play colleagues, we have acknowledged the Children's Commissioners Annual Report (2020/2021) and their Coronavirus and Us Reports (September 2020 and 2021) about the impact on children of the Covid pandemic and the need for play and socialisation relating to children's wellbeing. We are paying attention to these reports and have modelled our Summer of Fun and Winter of Wellbeing programmes as a response to this.

15.9 Consultation with Head Teachers

A survey was circulated to all primary school head teachers via the Education Bulletin, in the Autumn term 2021, and 15 responses were received.

Schools were asked what sort of childcare they already had operating from their school sites, whether they felt this was beneficial and if they were aware of other local childcare provision operating locally and if they thought it was sufficient to meet the needs of the community. They were also asked if they had been approached by parents enquiring about local childcare and if they had any available space on site in which childcare could be developed. In addition, they were asked about what they believed the local take up would be if childcare was made available, about the impact of Covid 19 on childcare and also about their knowledge of the Childcare Offer for Wales and if they believe this has benefitted working parents that attend their nursery provision.

Of the 15 schools that responded, 4 had after school provision on site, 5 had wrap around, two had holiday clubs and one had SHEP Programme, 13 operated free breakfast clubs and one had a fee-paying breakfast childcare club and two had Flying Start provisions on school site. Of those that had registered childcare, all had some form of rental agreement in place with the childcare provider. Only one school felt it wasn't beneficial to have childcare on school site, but this school has a Flying Start childcare facility located locally. All other schools did feel it is beneficial to have childcare located on school site.

Nine of the schools agreed that the impact of Covid had affected the ability of childcare to open on their school sites, two school said it had not and one was unsure. Thinking about the future, only 3 schools thought that the pandemic would affect the future use of childcare on school sites and the rest were unsure.

Thinking about other childcare that ran locally, 13 of the schools were aware of other childcare providers that collected children from their schools, 2 (one was a secondary school) were not aware. There was a good knowledge of the wrap, childminder and day nursery providers that collected children. Six of the schools reported that they felt that there was sufficient childcare locally to cater for the needs of the families that attend the school, with 4 saying they didn't this there was sufficient. These four were in the Risca/Crosskeys area, the Aber Valley area, and the other 2 were in two of the more deprived areas of the borough in Mid Valleys East.

All but 2 of the schools (one was the secondary school) were aware of the Childcare Offer for Wales. 1 of these was in the Caerphilly Basin area and has a Flying Start Childcare provision on site. 9 of the respondents felt that the Childcare Offer for Wales has benefitted

working parents and 4 were unsure. 1 noted that many families in the area who were not eligible, used family and friends to meet childcare needs.

When asked if they felt that there was sufficient childcare available locally to cater for the needs of the families that attend their schools, 6 felt there was sufficient childcare (they all have childcare provisions on site), 2 felt there was insufficient locally (no childcare provision on site – one in process of developing wrap and after school provision), and 4 were unsure. 10 of the 15 schools noted that parents had approached them regarding childcare and mostly about wrap around care, after school care, holiday care, free breakfast clubs and the Childcare offer for Wales. This response was given by a mixture of schools who both had childcare on site or did not have childcare on site or was in the process of developing childcare on site. When asked if they had any available space on school site from which to develop or deliver childcare, the 4 schools that are in the process of development of new childcare answered positively, the other 10 said they did not have space to develop childcare and probably wouldn't develop childcare if there was space. Only two schools who don't currently have childcare on site and are not in the process of developing new provision indicated that they would be interested in developing new childcare, both in the Flying Start areas of the borough in Mid Valleys East.

Asked if working parents would take up the opportunity to access childcare if it was available and schools agreed this was a probability and one school in the Lower Sirhowy area said that parents were often enquiring about childcare and that the childcare close by (childminders) were all fully booked and the other childcare, i.e., wrap around was too difficult for parents to access because of the distance from the school. This area of the borough is one where there is a gap in provision. One school would like to develop childcare on site so long as it was a private provider and other schools in more deprived areas felt that parents would find affordability difficult, however, one Welsh medium school whose catchment is wider than the community it is located in would welcome the opportunity to develop additional onsite childcare.

- **Childcare Currently Operating from School sites**

Of the 75 Primary schools, 6 do not offer free breakfast provision (4 English medium and 2 Welsh Medium).

In Caerphilly Basin area, there are twenty English Medium primary schools (including the one faith school), six of which offer a wraparound service onsite, two have a playgroup, six have an after-school club, three offer holiday provision and four have Flying

Start provisions on site. All offer free breakfast provision except the faith school. There are three Welsh medium primary schools where all three offer wrap around and after school provision on site (one is temporarily closed awaiting a new capital build), one has a Cylch Meithrin, all three offer free breakfast provision. two offer holiday provision.

In the **Lower Sirhowy Valley** there are eight English medium primary schools, three of which offer wrap around on site (one unregistered), three offer after school provision and all offer free breakfast club. One wrap service offers Flying Start places. The one Welsh primary school offers one play group and two wraparound clubs covering both morning and afternoon and an after school club. They also offer free breakfast club. There are no holiday clubs operating from school sites in this area. The new Welsh 3-18 school is being developed in this area to replace the current Welsh medium primary school and will have purpose built childcare facilities available to house the current childcare on school site and offer opportunities for expansion of places.

In the **Mid Valleys East** area there are fifteen English medium primary schools, four of which offer wrap around provision, three offer playgroup, two schools offer after school provision, and one offers fee paying breakfast club. Free breakfast provision is available at another thirteen schools. There are also three schools that offer Flying Start provision on site. There are two Welsh medium schools, both of which offer wrap and after school club, one offers fee paying breakfast and the other offers free breakfast club. One offers Cylch Meithrin which also offers Early Years Education places. There are no holiday clubs operating from school sites in this area.

In the **Mid Valleys West** area, there are ten English medium primary schools (plus a 3 to 19 Special Needs School), two of which offer both playgroup and wrap around childcare, only one offers wrap around and two (including the special needs school), offer holiday provision. Eight of the nine English medium schools offer free breakfast club and two offer Flying Start provision. There are two Welsh medium schools in the area both of whom offer a wraparound provision, one of which offers an afterschool club, and both offer free breakfast provision.

In the **Upper Rhymney Valley** area there are nine English medium primary schools and one English medium 3 – 18 school, three of which offer play group and four offer on-site wrap around provision, two offer after school provision and four offer Flying Start provision on site. All schools offer free breakfast provision. One school has a holiday childcare provider on site. There are three Welsh medium schools two of which offer wrap around and one of which offers Cylch Meithrin. None offer after school but all three offer free breakfast

provision. One offers Flying Start via the local playgroup which is located on site. Again, there are no Welsh medium holiday clubs operating from school sites in this area.

15.10 Consultation with Parents of Children with Disabilities

There was no specific survey for parents of children with disabilities, but questions were asked in the main parental survey completed nationally by Welsh Government. The experiences for families of children with disabilities have remained fairly positive, although a need for more provision was identified. 21 parents noted within the Parental Survey (Welsh Government) they had difficulties finding appropriate care because there was nothing suitable for their child who had emerging or diagnosed disability. Further investigation is needed to determine if there is a common geographical theme that's arisen with regards to this feedback, or analysis to determine if this issue is across the county borough. This follow-up work will be undertaken to ensure families are supported with suitable provision to meet their child's individual needs.

Since the last full CSA, much work has been done to increase the levels of childcare staff confidence and competence in order to meet the needs of children with emerging developmental needs and identified disabilities within mainstream childcare settings. This has been through a comprehensive training programme which is always very well attended and through mentoring and support offered through programmes such as the Assisted and Supported Places scheme, and the Flying Start Programme. The Childcare Advisors support the childcare sector to implement appropriate strategies, set targets for the child's development and target the intervention to support progression in those targets. There is also a Social Communication Needs Advisor who supports strategies with families and transition from childcare to Nursery provision for children with social communication needs.

15.11 Consultation with Play Wales

Play Wales were asked if they would comment on childcare in Caerphilly and they noted that there is a clear synergy between CSA data and Matter D (supervised provision) and Matter G (play work workforce) in which the narrative will ask specific questions in relation to play provisions and childcare. There are specific questions around the quality assessment of opportunities to play within childcare settings, which would be helpful to understand and enhance moving forwards including asking children about their views on play both in regard to space and time.

Play Wales feels it would be useful to have insight regarding to what extent childcare settings offer rich play environments as described in the [Wales a play friendly place](#) statutory guidance. In future setting improvement plans it would be useful to understand if settings assess opportunities to play while identifying successes / challenges.

Play Wales have acknowledged a loss of specific skills and officer time since the loss of the GAVO Play team but have welcomed the local authority commitment to develop a Play Officer role from April 2022 to renew focus on play opportunities and developments across the borough.

The development of play provision will include supporting community play and street play opportunities which will be of particular importance for community resilience and low-income families.

With regards to improvements for children with disabilities Play Wales advocates inclusive approaches wherever possible. Consultations with disabled children and their parents suggest that in most instances, much is gained from inclusive provision.

We advise that play provision should strive to be inclusive, and community based.

15.12 - Consultation with the Welsh Education Forum who deliver on the Caerphilly Welsh in Education Strategic Plan

The Childcare Coordinator sits on the Welsh Education Forum (WEF) as does the Early Years and Partnerships Service Manager. As such there is collaboration, integration, and involvement amongst all the WEF partners and the early years. The WESP has been written in advance of the full Childcare Sufficiency Assessment. However, the two plans have worked in tandem to ensure each plan informs the other, with Early Years being integral to the ethos and development of Welsh medium Education across the county borough. The WESP recognises that to fill the places developed to meet the target of 26% in year 1 by 2032, there is the need to develop Ti A Fi and Cylch Meithrin provision to support family choices before school.

The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan Outcome 1 shows the strong relationship between the WESP and the CSA and all delivery partners.

Our target by 2031/32 is to create 26% of childcare places in category 3 Welsh language childcare provision.

We will need to expand our Welsh language registered childcare places, including Flying Start childcare places, with a focus on any further school expansion to enable continuity for families as well as areas where there is currently no Welsh language childcare provision. Expansion of childcare provision will require a focus on capital developments submitted to Welsh Government, as well as workforce development to ensure sufficient staff to run high quality Welsh language childcare.

Increasing the places available is one aspect but we will also need to increase the take up of those places to make the provision sustainable and effective. Therefore, we will develop a promotional strategy that is innovative and relevant to our communities, building on the research around the use of effective language in publicity campaigns avoiding indirect negative messaging. In addition to promotional campaigns the admissions online application process and web presence will ensure there is sufficient information to support families to make informed decisions about the language of their child's education.

There has been a significant amount of collaborative work with Mentrau Iaith, Urdd, RhAG, Mudiad Meithrin and other WEF members previously in developing leaflets and booklets promoting the benefits of bilingualism, social media presence and campaigns as well as active involvement in consultations. The Grwp Deddf local authority officers are revising and updating their 5year Welsh Language Strategies and alongside the significant development and promotion for the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032, there is an identified need for a regional Welsh medium promotion officer. The proposal has been developed and submitted by Grwp Deddf to Welsh Government to secure 3year initial funding for the post, to work across the 5 local authority's Welsh Education in Strategic Plan and Welsh Language Strategies in a coordinated approach to promotion of Welsh language education.

The Parent Network has been developing Parent Champions, who as volunteers undertake the required training to become accredited. The Parent Champions are linked to each other, Parent Network and early years to ensure consistency of messages and information to families across communities. Recently a number have undertaken Elklan Lets Talk Under 5s training to become Language Champions and begin sharing and embedding the key speech and language messages in our communities. This concept

will be expanded to develop Welsh language Champions who can embed the key messages around benefits of bilingualism and multilingualism in our communities. This is an area of work to explore and develop further during the life of this plan.

In the post recovery period following the pandemic, it has been noted that many previous community-based groups have stopped and there are challenges to restart volunteer led groups. We will work with Mudiad Meithrin, Parent Network, Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations and Caerphilly Cares to support the rental of venues, while the volunteers are restarting and refinancing the community groups including Ti A Fi. We will work across grant funding streams to support the recovery of community groups.

What are the high-level actions required to improve the number of children entering Welsh language nursery?

- Use the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment data analysis when working with partners in the development of category 3 Welsh language childcare provision and keep under review annually. Work with Mudiad Meithrin officers to develop new provision under the Set up And Succeed scheme.
- Continue to work collaboratively across partners to maximise capital investment funding particularly focussed on category 3 Welsh language provision.
- Develop a 10year communication plan with annual promotional milestones/tasks, which will be supported by the regional publicity officer post. The plan will include capturing lived experiences to change the cultural conversation with communities, and development of Welsh language parent champions, children story books from Petra and learning materials, and timed to target the areas of the capital programme implementation. The promotional plan needs to look at how we use different tools or information for targeting different groups including late entry or transfers from English medium, children with emerging developmental needs or disabilities, and new births.
- Work with parents and carers to understand what information they need to inform their choices of language provision for education, including resources, web presence, activities, etc. building this into our communication plan.
- Work with Mudiad Meithrin, Cymraeg I Blant, Parent Network and Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations to support community-based peer support groups to be developed and run by volunteers.
- Work with the admissions team to consider the parent journey when applying for school places, ensuring parents have information about Welsh language education throughout the online process including benefits of bilingualism / multilingualism and the latecomers' policy.

- Support the Road to Bilingualism for English language childcare settings to progress through the continuum towards category 3 Welsh language childcare provision.
- The above actions will link with the Welsh language 5year strategy targets.
- Work with partners to develop clearly defined localised data for registered childcare places, nursery and funded childcare placements to understand where there is a need for development.

15.13 Consultation with Employers

Working with colleagues in the local authority's economic development department and business development team, over 1000 bilingual surveys were sent to employers across the county borough ranging in size from self employed and small local businesses to larger employers with over 500 members of staff. One survey was returned and this was from a Childcare Umbrella organisation whose comments have been included above.

Whilst this is a disappointing return, it indicates that childcare is not an issue facing employers in relation to retention and recruitment of staff.

15.14 Key Points

Umbrella Organisations – the 5 key umbrella organisations looked at both local and national issues – with regards to many of their observations at a national level, Caerphilly are already aware of and addressing if it within our gift to do so. The areas that have been suggested at a more local level that are within the gift of the Early Years Team to address include:

- Work with stakeholders to support the recruitment and retention of qualified childcare staff and childminders. It is noted that this is an issue both nationally and locally and across all types of childcare. It is noted that the lack of qualified staff is having an impact on both quality and sustainability of the sector and this should also be addressed.
- In relation to supporting children with emerging needs there is a suggestion that we may need to be clearer with the sector in our referral pathways and processes.

- Supporting out of school childcare development on school sites, in particular in the Welsh medium sector, whilst giving parents greater choice in terms of access to Welsh medium education, might have an impact on local providers and needs to be considered when planning for new developments.
- Unregistered out of school childcare needs to become registered.
- Support the development of childcare that supports atypical hours which are often taken up by lower paid workers.
- Further promote the various avenues of financial support available to all families.
- Continue to support the sustainability of the sector, in particular in light of the ongoing impact of the recent pandemic while settings recover to pre-Pandemic levels.
- When planning school holiday programmes to consider the impact on Out of school holiday provision.
- Further promote the ability of childminders to offer Flying Start and Early Years Education places through opening up the Framework for the delivery of Childcare Placements in Spring/Summer 2022
- To consider local issues on childminders and other providers such as trade waste fees, planning restrictions (on both numbers and location) and rental costs.

Children

- To consider the likes and dislikes of children when planning new developments.
- To be aware of the Reports from the Children's Commissioner when developing programmes for children.

Schools

- we will work with schools who have indicated they wish for more childcare on school site to plan and fully assess the demand and support them to develop. In particular this is in the Aber Valley, Crosskeys/Risca area and in two of the more deprived areas of Mid Valleys East. Co-location will be particularly important as we plan and develop for the expansion of funded provision for two year olds whilst taking into consideration the availability of other childcare locally to avoid displacement of provision but at the same time offering choice to families.

Welsh in Education Forum – developments of Welsh medium provision and other support services for Welsh Language acquisition and retention will continue in tandem between the Caerphilly Early Years Team and the stakeholder partners who sit on the Welsh in Education Forum as outlined above.

16. Gap Analysis & Areas for Improvement

This Childcare Sufficiency Assessment is based on supply data drawn from the Self-Assessment of Service Statements (SASS) issued by CIW in June 2021. Due to GDPR, the SASS data set is anonymised. Most completed SASS were submitted by providers within the timescale; however, some were submitted later, and others were not submitted due to various extenuating circumstances. The use of local knowledge, Family Information Service and Dewis Cymru have also been employed to ensure that a full picture of current childcare services throughout the county borough has been presented and subsequently analysed within this report. However, it should be noted that there appear to be some anomalies in data as well as many omissions in data entered through the SASS process, demonstrating a possible misunderstanding in the context of what was being asked for, despite guidance being available to support and clarify queries.

The Local Authority has a well-established Early Years Team in place, with effective links to Family Information Service, who poses an in-depth knowledge of the childcare sector throughout the county borough. Dewis Cymru is a new tool that has been utilised since the completion of the previous CSA in 2017 and has been referred to when gaps in data have been apparent. Where the analysis of supply has not been completed, the addition of as much local knowledge as possible has attempted to give a fuller and more realistic picture of the childcare market across Caerphilly.

Childcare provision for children of parents who work atypical hours

Although there are a relatively high number of childcare providers (predominantly Full Day Nurseries and Childminders) who offer childcare provision before 8.00am (with some opening before this) there are few that open after 6.00pm. In addition, there are very few places available for weekend or overnight care. Some parents/carers who responded to the Parental Survey (Welsh Government) stated there was a need for more flexible childcare, for weekend care and later closing of after school provision to accommodate working parent needs. It should be noted that there are currently 4 Childminders who provide Overnight Care within the county borough and 3 Childminders who provide Weekend Care within the county borough. Further investigation and consultation are needed to ascertain whether more Childminders would be willing to deliver this type of service in the future, should a need arise. Continued promotion via the Local Authority/FIS and Dewis Cymru is needed to ensure that families are aware of which providers deliver these services to support working families in terms of flexibility of care.

Welsh medium childcare provision

The 10-year Welsh in Education Strategic Plan identifies the need to develop 26-30% childcare places supporting Welsh language development by 2032 in order to meet the target of 26% children in year 1 in Welsh medium Education. There is a need to develop additional provision across the borough, as well as support current provision to move along the linguistic continuum (for example accessing the Road to Bilingualism to move towards delivering category 2 English and Welsh medium provision or category 3 Welsh medium provision), to meet this ambitious target. Continued Welsh in Education Forum collaboration to promote on-going development of Welsh medium childcare provision throughout the next ten years. To meet this target in 2032 there is a need to develop more Welsh language childcare provision as well as move existing childcare provision along the linguistic continuum. The Early Years Team work very closely with colleagues in the WESP and is prioritising this as a piece of work going forward.

There are currently no Childminders delivering services through the medium of Welsh, however there are 2 (as per SASS data) who state that they deliver services through the medium of English and Welsh. There is a reported lack of Sessional Care welsh medium registered places/provision within the Risca area of LSV, however, there is a bilingual Mixed Sessional Care provision in the same area. The new development/relocation of the upcoming Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon school site may create future demand for increased Welsh medium places in the surrounding areas such as Risca, therefore continued review of demand needs is required. There are currently no Welsh medium Day Nurseries operating in Caerphilly borough as per SASS data; 19 settings state that they provide an English medium service, 4 settings state that they deliver English and Welsh medium service, 1 states that they deliver an English service with bilingual elements. Continued demand review is needed to ascertain if the development of a Full Day Nursery that delivers services through the medium of Welsh is needed.

Of 176 providers who submitted CIW SASS on time, 26 state that they are providing the Welsh Language Active Offer within their respective service area, and a further 27 are working toward delivering this offer. Further support is needed to enable childcare providers to deliver this. Further promotional work regarding the More Than Words (Welsh Government) to ensure providers understanding regarding their duty within this is needed to ensure families are presented with the opportunity for their respective Welsh language needs to be addressed and regularly reviewed.

When planning for future expansion of the Flying Start Programme, collaboration is needed with Mudiad Meithrin in order support the development, robustness, and sustainability of management committees / trustees to support local Cylchoedd Meithrin to operate effectively.

Childcare provision for different language categories other than English or Welsh

4 parents stated that there's no suitable provision available in their language, which was neither Welsh nor English. These parents do not specifically state which other language provision they would like to access, meaning that it's indeterminable when ascertain service availability in the context of geographical area of need. Notably, SASS data indicates that there are 2 Polish and 1 Spanish speaking Childminders located within the borough; specifically, 1 Polish speaking Childminder resides in Caerphilly Basin and 1 other Polish speaking Childminder resides in Mid Valleys East area. 1 Spanish speaking Childminder resides in Mid Valleys East also. There is a very small distribution of childcare providers offering a service through an additional language within the borough, this may need to be considered in the future should a demand in need arise for other language specific childcare services arise.

Types of childcare available and location

Given all the data and information contained within the chapters above, through analysis of the supply of childcare, consideration for local demographics, set against the backdrop of future Welsh Government planning, we note the following gaps in the context of current childcare provision within each LDP area:

According to SASS data and local knowledge there is no English medium playgroup provision in Caerphilly town (CB). This will need to be reviewed in-line with demand needs to ensure that there is a sufficiency of available childcare places within this area.

There's an identified gap in provision in the Aber Valley in terms of Wraparound and after school Care (CB) however this gap will be filled with the development of a new school in this area which will include facilitates to deliver both wraparound and after school provision.

There's no current English medium form of Wraparound Care provision in the Crosskeys area (LSV); this was identified within the professional partners consultation process and within the parental survey. Although there are other childcare providers operating in the area who deliver this form of care, they may be at capacity therefore further investigation will be required to ascertain demand needs and consider the development of a new childcare provision that is able to deliver English medium wraparound care in this area.

There's an identified need to support one setting in MVW to meet the criteria of the framework to commence FS childcare delivery, as this will enable further Flying Start registered childcare places to be offered to this eligible families.

There's a demand for After School Care provision in the Bargoed area (URV) and Wraparound Care and After School Care in the Hengoed area (MVW) as per WG Parental Survey. Further investigation into this feedback will be considered alongside sufficiency of existing provision alongside the development of new provision if needed.

There's a need to develop more Early Years Education providers throughout the county bough to provide parents with greater flexibility and choice of childcare provision, this is of particular prevalence within English medium context in Caerphilly town area of Caerphilly Basin. There's a need to open the framework to bring new providers on board to support the delivery of EYE and FS places to support families in this area as demand analysis suggests that all alternative childcare provision is full. This is also needed in the Risca area (LSV).

There's no specific registered Out of School Care in the URV, however this is a typically low economically active area therefore this could account for lack of growing demand regarding this form of service as other providers in the area do offer this service, and they are well utilised by families. Continued review of this need will be required to ascertain potential future demand needs.

There are 5 Day Nurseries that state they are at full capacity and have no vacancies. There are 5 Day Nurseries with open vacancies 3 are in CB, 1 is in LSV and 1 is in 1 in URV. There will be a need to review this in the future, in particular with the expansion of the existing Childcare Offer and subsequent expansion of the Flying Start programme to ensure sufficiency of registered childcare places to meet the growing demand.

The spread of Childminders throughout the county borough is not consistent; highest levels of providers are in Caerphilly Basin and Mid Valleys East. There are very few Childminders in comparison in the Upper Rhymney Valley, Mid Valleys West, and Lower Sirhowy Valley areas. In Upper Rhymney Valley there are only 2 Day Nurseries offering Full Day Care provision. In Lower Sirhowy Valley, there are also only 2 Day Nurseries offering Full Day Care provision. In the URV there is a lack of After school provision in the northern end of the area (Rhymney) which is a service that childminders could provide. LSV and MVW provide route to work access; notably MVW is a central hub for economic activity in terms of the various business parks, the main hub of the Council and the central hospital, therefore due regard to potential future demand needs will be considered. Demographics indicate that URV is a low economically active area but if demand rises this will be considered as means of future development.

Each gap noted will be reviewed in the subsequent Action Plan, or further investigated and analysed to ascertain demand need.

Age of children for whom childcare is available

Whilst the SASS data indicates that we currently have sufficiency of childcare provision throughout the county borough for children of all ages, this may change in the future; demographics and future Welsh Government planning will need to be considered when developing new childcare provision. Further investigation and corroboration of the data supplied for registered places available for those children aged 3-4 years will be needed to ensure sufficiency of childcare with the expansion of the existing Childcare Offer Wales scheme to include students. Further investigation and corroboration of the data supplied for registered places available for those children aged 2 years to ensure sufficiency of childcare to deliver the expansion of the Flying Start Programme towards funded childcare places for all 2-year-olds. It is noted that further analysis of data relating to existing vacancies and waiting lists will need to be used to develop an overview of supply and demand needs with expanding provision.

Affordability of childcare

CIW SASS data indicates that of the 177 providers who submitted their SASS return according to timescale, 32 state that they are not providing Tax Free Childcare or Childcare Voucher schemes to support families to access affordable childcare. All providers must be supported to offer money saving support schemes to families where possible and to utilise these existing means of support to enable families to access childcare as needed/afforded.

Most parents within the Childcare Survey (Welsh Government) state that they feel that childcare is too expensive, however only a quarter of those who answered this question stated that they knew where to access information regarding financial assistance. A high proportion of parental feedback states that childcare is too expensive and that their salary is less than the expenditure of sending their child to a childcare provider, this is despite some families being able to access funded government childcare places through Flying Start programme, Childcare Offer Wales and Early Education Placements. This feedback was analysed with a geographical indicator breakdown in mind, however there was no suggestion that childcare cost was disproportionate within specific areas within the borough, the data indicated that parents across the board felt childcare was too expensive. Further promotional works regarding signposting families to financial assistance is required to ensure they are aware of support that is available and how to seek this.

With regards to the expansion of the current Childcare Offer Wales, consideration for the expansion to include students will need to be promoted accordingly in order to ensure families are aware of this change to the 3–4year old scheme.

With the further expansion of the Flying Start Programme, and additional funded childcare places being provided, subsequent promotional works will need to be undertaken to ensure that families are aware of their respective eligibility and financial assistance.

Times at which childcare is available

Childminders and Day Nurseries provide families with the greatest amount of flexibility in terms of operating times, with many opening before 8.00am and closing at 6.00pm. There is a good spread of available childcare throughout the daytime, in term time and holidays to accommodate the needs of working families. Some parents indicated in the Parental Survey that they were unable to find childcare to suit their flexible working patterns so continued support around encouraging providers to have open and honest conversations with families to ascertain their needs as they could potentially evolve over time is needed to ensure that flexibility of services is being delivered where possible.

Childcare for Children with Additional Needs

21 parents noted within the Parental Survey (Welsh Government) they had difficulties finding appropriate care because there was nothing suitable for their child who had emerging or diagnosed disability. Further investigation is needed to determine if there is a common geographical theme that's arisen with regards to this feedback, or analysis to determine if this issue is across the county borough. This follow-up work will be undertaken to ensure families are supported with suitable provision to meet their child's individual needs.

There has been a noted increase in the need for Assisted and Supported placements generally across the borough and as such there is a need to increase the number of settings able to offer placements. The Early Years team will work with procurement to ensure that legal processes are followed to increase the number of contracted settings able to offer high-quality inclusive placements for children with emerging developmental delays the term prior to Early Years Education place.

Sustainability within the sector

In the context of COVID-19 and a post pandemic reality, we currently have sufficient childcare provision throughout the county borough. Within the sector, COVID-19 recovery packages and allocated grants mean that childcare businesses are being supported and sustained throughout a recent period of significant uncertainty and financial implications. Notably some comments given by parents/carers within the Parental Survey (Welsh Government) that was conducted during the pandemic, noted that families were looking to utilise informal childcare arrangements as they continue to work from home, and therefore rely upon formal and registered childcare provision less frequently. Given COVID-19 we are aware that the nature and demand for childcare has changed, but we may not know the full effect of this for some time. Support for the sustainability and potential expansion of registered After School Care provision may be required to support parents as they potentially return to the workplace on a more frequent basis.

In the context of Childminders, CIW SASS data indicated that of the 83 providers who submitted their SASS return within timescale, when asked about future provision, 2 stated that they felt confident to state that they could sustain operation for a further 6 months, 53 stated that they felt confident to operate for a further 1 year, and 28 stated that they did not know in terms of continued sustainability and ability to deliver childcare services. Whilst it is acknowledged that the SASS data is indicative of that period when it was completed, it is notable in terms of addressing childminder sector sustainability issues. There have been some losses throughout the county borough, which has occurred in part due to some childminders reaching age of retirement. Given that 53 of 83 childminders

indicated favourable financial and suitable conditions for more than 1 year of continued service delivery, it is noted that further support to the sector is needed to promote continued service delivery. Welsh Government have indicated that an impending Review of Childminding Services throughout Wales will be undertaken to gather data regarding sustainability issues and the reasons for the increase in de-registration of Childminders and should provide additional insight into decreased service delivery. This report is expected to be completed by Autumn 2022 and should provide insight that will be useful in planning for future provision as well as recruitment and retention and future sustainability of childminders. Collaborative working with the registered Welsh Government body CIW means we are aware that they undertook a cleanse of providers who were registered on the system during 2021, to ensure that their data relating to registered childminders who remain operational is accurate. This cleanse of information could also account for the decrease in providers.

Workforce Development

There is a need to address the post-pandemic recruitment and retention issues within the Early Years and Childcare Sector. It has been noted that staff have left the sector in order to pursue alternative employment opportunities, which has implications on service delivery in some areas/settings. Continued analysis of emergent gaps in staffing is to be undertaken in order to ensure sector sustainability and continued adherence to national minimum standards.

There's a need to further support the sector and its workforce, to understand their respective obligations and ensure legal compliance in the implementation of the ALNET Act and all legal obligations.

Childcare sector staff will be supported to undertake relevant safeguarding training to understand their respective obligations and ensure legal compliance.

The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan indicates a need for the continued review and consideration of the recruitment and retention of those childcare sector staff who speak Welsh in order to meet the current and future demands of increased Welsh medium childcare places. Sufficiency of Welsh speaking childcare staff will be a significant issue for consideration and the importance of promotional works to attract Welsh language speakers into this field of work to meet the increasing demand will be a key focus.

There's an ongoing need to address workforce recruitment and retention issues due to the typically minimum wage rate of pay for practitioners within this sector. Ongoing promotional works to promote the sector is needed and continued business support where needed.

Other

The continuation of collaborative working and communication with cross-border colleagues is needed to share data relating to cross-border childcare arrangements and queries. Ongoing development of Childcare Offer Wales arrangements and Early Years Education arrangements to ensure that the needs of eligible families who reside in Caerphilly County are being met, and also to gain an insight into family's choices regarding the utilisation of cross county provision and services.

It was noted that the development of a baseline data set of questions relating to the number of children being cared for, operational hours/weeks, and usage of childcare could be developed for use by those providers who are registered with CIW's Approved Nanny Scheme in order to provide the Local Authority with data relating to this. This will increase knowledge regarding family's reasons for utilising this service.

When considering the future expansion of the Flying Start Programme including the funded childcare places for two-year-olds, it is of great importance that consideration for subsequent quality indicators is upheld to meet the requirements of the Flying Start programme guidance which is above the national minimum standards. This insight is notable as staff will be required to undertake higher qualifications and ongoing continuing professional development. There is also the need to consider how settings will be contracted to enable services to be delivered in a seamless manner.

There's a need to corroborate SASS data to ensure that our understanding of available childcare throughout the borough is accurate in terms of our ongoing duty to review supply and demand of childcare both now and in the future. Further investigation and local consultation will be needed when developing provision in the future (including new capital builds) to ensure this is done on an accurate basis and in response to authenticated demand or new programme requirements to prepare for stimulated demand.