



EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – INFORMATION ITEM

SUBJECT: CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT 2017-2022

REPORT BY: CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report on the draft Caerphilly Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) 2017-22 is for information for scrutiny members during the consultation period prior to its submission to Welsh Government for Ministerial recommendations.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Childcare Act 2006 (Local Authority Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2016 places a statutory duty upon each Local Authority in Wales to produce a full Childcare Sufficiency Assessment every 5 years with a refresh of data during year 3. The next assessment is due for submission to the Welsh Government (WG) by April 30th 2017.
- 2.2 The CSA fulfils the local authority's duty to assess demand and supply data and develop an action plan to support the development of sufficient quality, accessible, affordable, sustainable and flexible childcare places across the Caerphilly county borough.
- 2.3 This CSA has been developed using data supplied by CSSIW through their new Self-Assessment Service data return developed in the summer 2016. This data aims to eventually build a good national consistent data set, but the return rate was circa 80% which means it is an incomplete picture nationally and locally of supply, and there are various misunderstandings of definitions by providers due to this being the first time it has been used. As such the report does highlight local knowledge and concerns in data gaps as it tries to identify the needs of the borough.
- 2.4 Parents are key stakeholders and there have been a variety of consultations across the borough throughout the summer to gain insights into parental demand and build these into the report.
- 2.5 Key areas for development include following up missing data on supply, increasing flexibility of childcare provision to meet parental needs, increasing Welsh medium provision as well as continuing to improve quality of provision offered.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

3.1 The Caerphilly CSA contributes to the following Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2016:

- *A prosperous Wales* – The CSA aims to support families to be able to secure employment or training opportunities and support child development for long term attainment of the next generation.
- *A resilient Wales* – The Healthy Early Years scheme and Eco Early Years scheme are both embedded into practice across 75 childcare settings.
- *A healthier Wales* – The Healthy Early Years scheme is embedded into practice across 75 childcare settings.
- *A more equal Wales* – The CSA takes into account parental situations to offer flexible childcare provision to meet parental needs including sufficient Flying Start, Assisted and Supported Placements. .
- *A Wales of cohesive communities* – childcare settings are at the heart of their communities.
- *A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language* – Improving use of Welsh language and supporting the development of a bilingual workforce in the future is a key action for the CSA to meet parental demand.
- *A globally responsible Wales* – Wellbeing is embedded in phase 3 of the HEY scheme and is actively promoted in settings for children, families and staff.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The Childcare Act 2006 (Local Authority Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2016 places a statutory duty upon each Local Authority in Wales to produce a full Childcare Sufficiency Assessment every 5 years with a refresh during year 3. The next assessment is due for submission to the Welsh Government (WG) by April 30th 2017. This Act 2006 expands and clarifies in legislation the vital role local authorities' play as strategic leaders in the provision 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.
- 4.2 This CSA has been developed using data supplied by CSSIW through their new Self-Assessment Service Statement (SASS) data return developed in the summer 2016. This data aims to eventually build a good national consistent data set, but the return rate was circa 80% which means it is an incomplete picture nationally and locally of supply, and there are various misunderstandings of definitions by providers due to this being the first time it has been used. As such the report does highlight local knowledge and concerns in data gaps as it tries to identify the needs of the borough.
- 4.3 Parents, children and young people are key stakeholders and there have been a variety of consultations across the borough throughout the summer to gain insights into parental demand and build these into the report. Parents have been invited to specific focus groups especially for those with protected characteristics as well as consultation at the play in the park and play day events run by the anti-poverty programmes throughout the borough in the summer holidays, and internet / social media promotion of the link to the survey. Children and young people have been involved through specific focus groups, junior forum, youth forum, schools and childcare provider groups.
- 4.4 Key actions for 2017-2020 are listed below for incorporating into the annual action plan:
- Follow up missing data for childcare settings locally and through the second SASS return in May 2017
 - Increase the number of Welsh medium childminders
 - Increase the number of Welsh medium settings to deliver Assisted Places and Supported Places
 - Increase numbers Early Years Education in LSV (parental choice) and English/Welsh Early Years Education in URV.
 - Increase the Welsh medium wraparound in MVW
 - Increase Out Of School provision in URV

- Develop registered Holiday provision in URV, LSV and MVE
- Increase full day holiday childcare provision
- Support unregistered provision to become registered – 3 after schools, 1 playgroup, 1 wraparound
- Conduct a thorough survey of schools – in readiness for development of provision to meet the 3 and 4 year old offer.
- Support for play schemes regarding quality and support development of new in areas where there are none – LSV, MVV
- Development of flexible childcare especially before school and slightly later than 6 p.m. in day care settings
- Increase number of potential places available for overnight and for weekend care to accommodate shift workers
- Offer information for parents to access financial support and for settings to become registered with CSSIW and HMRC
- Consider provisions specifically for 8 – 11 year olds, encouraging after school and holiday settings. In particular to consider activities that are more age appropriate for the older children especially now that a number of settings are registered up to the age of 12.
- Increase the number of Welsh medium places in Caerphilly Basin – in particular in the BTM area
- Explore the flexibility of childcare providers to meet the needs of children with disabilities.
- Further publicise Early Years Education in non-maintained to encourage take up of places
- Develop Welsh medium holiday provision for children under the age of 5.
- Explore the need to offer Rising 4's Early Years Education in non-maintained settings.
- Evaluate opening hours of After School Club's that only open until 5.30 and encourage opening until 6 p.m.
- Increase English medium holiday provision – full day
- Increase availability of Early Years Education English medium in Ystrad Mynach
- Explore the possibility of offering and demand for full day care provision at/near the Ty Penallta
- Increase wrap around across the borough but in particular in LSV
- Encourage more childcare providers to take up the Road to Bilingualism to increase the number of providers who can offer a service to families wanting Welsh medium childcare or more Welsh provision in their English medium setting.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 This report contributes to the Well-being Goals as set out in Links to Strategy above. The CSA aims over the long term to increase the number of childcare places for parents, improve standards of provision, and create flexible affordable accessible provision.
- 5.2 It is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act in that childcare places are planned in the long term to increase provision in line with parental demand increases.
- 5.3 A focus on closing the gap in communities' aids and improving educational attainment standards through Flying Start and use of the Early Years Pupil Deprivation Grant aims to prevent the cycle of poverty being repeated.
- 5.4 The CSA has a regional approach to understand the cross border needs of families.
- 5.5 The CSA encourages a collaborative approach across the sector as well as regional collaboration to share best practice.
- 5.6 Involvement is intrinsic to the CSA development and delivery as the stakeholders are diverse and we seek opinions across the borough from families, children, young people, professionals, both public bodies and voluntary sector. Stakeholders inform the content of the CSA and bring a range of views across the sector which is monitored for delivery through the local delivery action plan.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The CSA has positive equality implications linked to provision of sufficient places, access to resources and sharing of best practice to deliver sufficient affordable accessible childcare provision.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 This plan will be implemented through the existing Early Years team and their voluntary sector partners using existing resources.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no personnel implications in this report.

9. CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 There are no consultations that have not been reflected within this report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 Members are requested to note the contents of the draft CSA for submission to Welsh Government.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 For information for members of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and targets.

12. STATUTORY POWER

- 12.1 Childcare Act 2006 (Local Authority Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2016
Childcare Assessment guidance 2016

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Appendices:
Appendix 1 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2017-2022