

<b>ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL</b>	
<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Executive Committee</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> April 2017</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Childcare Sufficiency Assessment &amp; Action Plan</b>
<b>Portfolio Holder(s):</b>	<b>Councillor Kenneth P Hughes</b>
<b>Head of Service:</b>	<b>Mrs Delyth Molyneux</b>
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<b>Local Members:</b>	

<b>A –Recommendation/s and reason/s</b>
<p>The Childcare Act 2006 places a statutory duty on all Local Authorities in Wales to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure sufficient childcare is available</li> <li>• Undertake childcare sufficiency assessments; and</li> <li>• Provide information, advice and assistance relating to childcare to parents, prospective parents and those with parental responsibility or care of a child.</li> <li>•</li> </ul> <p>Under Section 26 of the Act, Local Authorities are required to complete a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan every 5 years. Annual Progress Reports will be required to detail the progress which has been made against the actions, priorities and milestones in the action plan.</p> <p>We have undertaken our first full assessment since the revised guidance was issued in July 2016. This to be published by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017.</p> <p><b>The Assessment</b></p> <p>Consultations were undertaken with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Childcare Providers</li> <li>• Parents</li> <li>• Children</li> <li>• Partner agencies</li> </ul> <p>Other data which informed the assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population data and projections</li> <li>• Birth rates</li> <li>• Local Well Being Needs Assessment</li> <li>• Employment and income</li> </ul>

## **Key Messages**

1. The Isle of Anglesey generally has a wide variety of childcare in various locations across the county.
2. The main towns all have sufficient childcare availability for children 0 – 4 years in day nursery and childminder provision.
3. All the County Primary schools offer a childcare club from 8.00am followed by a free breakfast club from 08.25am.
4. Childcare providers are supported through a variety of means:
  - Development Officer Support.
  - Training Programme.
  - Grant funding.
  - Family Information Service support and marketing.

## **Gaps in provision**

1. A lack of childminders in the rural areas of Bro Aberffraw and Bro Rhosyr and in the Talybolion area.
2. A lack of Welsh speaking childminders across the county.
3. Breakfast clubs for children aged 3 years old in part time education settings.
4. Flexible pricing options for parents who work part time during school hours.
5. A number of After Schools clubs are currently unregistered. Parents using these settings are not able to access financial support with their childcare costs.
6. No Registered After School or Holiday Provision in Llangefni which has a primary school population of 547 pupils.
7. Lack of regular and reliable out of school provision for pupils in secondary schools.

## **Addressing the issues**

An action plan has been complete in order to address the identified gaps, which includes:

- Targeted marketing and recruitment to increase the number of childminders in rural areas.
- Work in partnership with Menter Iaith and Mudiad Meithrin to improve Welsh language provision.
- Business support to voluntary committees and partnership working with schools to increase number of registered after school, wrap around and holiday clubs.
- Encourage providers to consider flexible hours and pricing structure.
- Continue to deliver a full training programme to the childcare workforce to ensure quality and sustainability.
- Ensuring that parents receive full information about the types of financial support available to them to help with childcare costs.
- Review the after school provision available for secondary school pupils.

The Executive Committee is asked to accept the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan for publication and to be presented to the Welsh Government by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017

**B – What other options did you consider and why did you reject them and/or opt for this option?**

N/A

**C – Why is this a decision for the Executive?**

To ensure compliance with statutory duty arising from Section 26 of the Childcare Act 2006

**CH – Is this decision consistent with policy approved by the full Council?**

**D – Is this decision within the budget approved by the Council?**

**DD – Who did you consult?**

**What did they say?**

	<b>DD – Who did you consult?</b>	<b>What did they say?</b>
1	<b>Chief Executive / Senior Leadership Team (SLT)</b> (mandatory)	Supportive of the report.
2	<b>Finance / Section 151</b> (mandatory)	
3	<b>Legal / Monitoring Officer</b> (mandatory)	
4	<b>Human Resources (HR)</b>	
5	<b>Property</b>	
6	<b>Information Communication Technology (ICT)</b>	
7	<b>Procurement</b>	
8	<b>Scrutiny</b>	
9	<b>Local Members</b>	
10	<b>Any external bodies / other/s</b>	

**E – Risks and any mitigation (if relevant)**

1	<b>Economic</b>	
2	<b>Anti-poverty</b>	

<b>3</b>	<b>Crime and Disorder</b>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Environmental</b>	
<b>5</b>	<b>Equalities</b>	
<b>6</b>	<b>Outcome Agreements</b>	
<b>7</b>	<b>Other</b>	

<b>F - Appendices:</b>
Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2017 – Action Plan 2017 - 2022

<b>FF - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):</b>
Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2017 - Report

## Childcare Sufficiency Assessment – Action Plan 2017 – 20122

### Assessment of Demand

Strengths	Weaknesses	Actions	Priorities	Milestones
<p>Anglesey has a range of childcare options to suit most demands from families.</p> <p>There is extensive Welsh language and English provision across all types. Childminders have the lowest availability of Welsh language provision.</p> <p>From FIS enquiries we have learned that where parents have been unable to access their first choice of childcare, alternatives have been successfully found.</p>	<p>Holiday provision is an issue for parents.</p> <p>In previous years we have funded subsidised holiday provision in 4 locations in the county. While there is a definite need for holiday provision it is historically a difficult area to get right. While parents report they would use a holiday club, the reality does not always reflect this.</p> <p>In developing childcare places in the county there is a need to be careful of over developing in certain areas which could lead to sustainability issues for settings.</p>	<p>Target rural provision by recruiting childminders.</p> <p>Consider provision in Secondary schools.</p> <p>Registration of after school cubs.</p> <p>Welsh language provision is improved and supported.</p>	<p>Reviews of after school and holiday provision for Summer 2017 and for 30 hours provision.</p> <p>Review of childminding in rural areas and work with business support agencies and CSSIW.</p>	<p>Parents aware of holiday provision.</p> <p>Increase numbers child-minding in rural areas.</p> <p>Welsh speaking providers increased.</p> <p>Number of after school clubs that are registered is increased.</p> <p>Secondary school provision reviewed and action plan to address any gaps after a thorough review of need.</p>

## Assessment of Supply

Strengths	Weaknesses	Actions	Priorities	Milestones
<p>Number of childminders who have been registered for a number of years.</p> <p>Holiday provision is available.</p>	<p>Number of childminders decreasing/availability in rural areas/ offering choice for parents .</p> <p>Parents not aware of holiday provision.</p>	<p>To work with PaCE, local rural communities, Communities for Work, Coleg Menai Llandrillo and Menter Busnes to increase the number of childminders.</p> <p>Work with FIS to promote holiday provision.</p>	<p>Increase number of childminders to 5 new providers per year over the next 5 years according to main key rural areas.</p>	<p>5 new childminders registered each year.</p> <p>25 new childcare spaces available.</p> <p>Parents more aware of holiday provision and numbers in provision increase and are sustainable.</p>

## Analysis of supply and demand of overall childcare provision

Category	Strengths	Weaknesses	Actions	Priorities	Milestones
Type of childcare available	<p>50 child carers available mostly in rural areas.</p> <p>Schools providing for the children who are 3 years old prior to the September term.</p> <p>After school clubs are available across the Island for 3 – 11 year olds.</p> <p>Holiday and after school</p>	<p>Childminders in rural areas/loss of childminders in recent years – 13 deregistered in 2 years.</p> <p>Nurseries not atypical providing flexibility for parents working shifts.</p> <p>Sustainability of a after school clubs is an issue, poor committee membership and number</p>	<p>Increase number of childminders.</p> <p>Increase number of after school clubs that are registered with CSSIW.</p> <p>Consider suitability of open access play schemes and undertake an assessment of need.</p> <p>Promote availability of</p>	<p>Rural areas identified as having low provision.</p> <p>All after school provision is registered with CSSIW.</p> <p>Promote Holiday clubs.</p> <p>Review demand in Secondary schools by undertaking a questionnaire.</p>	<p>5 new childminders per year.</p> <p>All after school clubs are registered with CSSIW.</p> <p>Parents aware of a range of holiday provision.</p>

	<p>identified as lacking by parents.</p> <p>Breakfast and after school care identified in Secondary schools.</p>	<p>have closed over the years.</p> <p>11 after school clubs are operating under 2 hours and are unregistered with parents unable to access tax benefits.</p> <p>No Open access play schemes.</p>	<p>holiday clubs as central hubs rather than being available in each locality as substantiality issue.</p> <p>Review demand breakfast and after school provision in secondary schools.</p> <p>Promote Voluntary Approval Scheme for Nannies</p>		
Provision for 0 – 4 years old	Number of full day care nurseries has increased over last 5 years providing for 0 – 4 years.				
Affordable Childcare		Day nurseries most expensive provision on the Island.			
Times at which childcare is available, including the need for flexible childcare catering for irregular patterns of usage across the day, the week and the year	<p>Day nurseries available 51 weeks of the year.</p> <p>Parents reported that they did not require childcare after 6pm.</p>	Parents wishing to have childcare between hours of 7 and 9am.			
Location of Childcare	Good availability in town/urban areas. Close to home was a parents choice.	Less availability in rural areas			

	Number of pre-school settings are Welsh medium and good practice identified by support from Mudiad Meithrin, PPA, Menter Iaith. County wide strategy has been completed and early years identified as a target area for the development and support of Welsh medium provision. 11 nurseries provide a bilingual service.	Poor number of Welsh childminding provision.  Some nurseries are not bilingual or confident in its provision. Only 1 offers a Welsh Medium service out of 12 nurseries.	Increase availability of Welsh /bilingual provision.  Linkage to National Eisteddfod 2017 where all providers will be supporting the Welsh language in the early years.  Working with Mudiad Meithrin and with PPA locally to improve provision and Menter Iaith.		All providers are working with a kite mark process to identify good practice in delivering the service through the medium of Welsh or bilingually.
	Providers are adaptable to the needs of families.  No families reported difficulties with finding suitable childcare.				

#### Issues facing specific categories of parents in relation to availability of childcare provision

Category	Strengths	Weaknesses	Actions	Priorities	Milestones
Working parents					
Parents seeking work or training opportunities					
Unemployed households					



Low income families					
Lone parent families					
Families from ethnic minority backgrounds	None of the respondents reported difficulty finding childcare to suit their child's cultural needs				
Families with children who have special educational needs or a disability	None of the respondents reported that they could not find childcare to suit their child's additional needs.				

**Other issues to be reflected in the plan**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Priorities</b>	<b>Milestones</b>
Sustainability of childcare		Voluntary led out of childcare settings at increased risk.	Provide business support to all voluntary committees	All after school provision is registered with CSSIW	All after school provision is registered with CSSIW
Cross Border Arrangements	Joint working with Gwynedd on 30 hour childcare offer pilot.		Agreement in place to create Anglesey and Gwynedd Childcare Unit		Gwynedd and Môn Childcare Unit in place by September 2017
Workforce Development and Training	Annual training programme delivered				

Partnership Working

Strategic and operational group in place to drive forward the childcare agenda.