

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Report to:	Executive Committee
Date:	22nd April 2014
Subject:	Childcare Sufficiency Assessment
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Ieuan Williams
Head of Service:	Dr Gwynne Jones, Director, Lifelong Learning
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Local Members:	Not Applicable

A –Recommendation/s and reason/s
<p>Under the Childcare Act 2006, there is a requirement for Local Authorities in Wales to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assess the sufficiency of their child care services; • ensure that sufficient childcare services are available; • provide information, advice and support to parents, prospective parents or others who have parental responsibility or who have care of a child in relation to childcare services. <p>In April 2008, formal guidance was issued to Local Authorities prescribing the legislative requirements under the Act.</p> <p>We have to prepare a comprehensive assessment every 3 years and this year by 30th April 2014 to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A period of consultation with parents, children and employers between November 2013 and January 2014. - A period of consultation with childcare providers. - Analysis of the gaps in service. - details of local issues e.g. birth rates, unemployment figures, basis of the Welsh language with providers. - The types of childcare available e.g. full daycare, sessional. <p>Principal messages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A good response to the consultation process 510 responses an increase of 53% on the previous consultation in 2010. 2. Sufficient child care provision across the island, in particular in our main towns including Llangefni, Holyhead and Menai Bridge. 3. A substantial increase in the provision of full day care in the last 3 years with 3 new day nurseries opened.

4. After School care stable but a number of clubs have closed or de-registered.
5. Holiday clubs available but numbers attending are low.
6. In some rural areas there is a lack of childcare and a plan is needed to encourage more childminders.
7. Welsh language or bilingual provision is sufficient.
8. Employers do not provide childcare and do not realise the importance of this provision. However the number of large employers in the county is low. 69% of our employers are small businesses employing fewer than 5 workers.

Matters needing attention 2014 – 2017

- Increase the number of childminders in the rural areas noted in the report.
- Continue to provide essential training e.g. Paediatric First Aid, Food Safety and child protection, including specific training to improve the quality of provision.
- Provide business support to the workforce in preparation of future challenges and for them to recognise opportunities arising from developments such as the Energy Island Programme.
- Ensure the continuation of the Welsh language within childcare settings across the island and parents' choice for a Welsh language service for their children.
- Continue to work with the childcare and early years sector including Mudiad Meithrin, Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids Clubs, Wales PPA and others.

The Executive Committee is asked to accept the report as an assessment of childcare needs in Anglesey for publication in April 2014 and to be presented to the Welsh Government in accordance with the requirements.

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

C – Why is this a decision for the Executive?

Approval from the Council is needed to comply with the Council's statutory obligation to complete the report and to prepare a childcare strategy for Anglesey.

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

DD – Is this decision within the budget approved by the Council?

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E – Who did you consult?		What did they say?
1	Chief Executive / Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) (mandatory)	
2	Finance / Section 151 (mandatory)	
3	Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory)	
5	Human Resources (HR)	Not applicable
6	Property	Not applicable
7	Information Communication Technology (ICT)	Not applicable
8	Scrutiny	Not applicable
9	Local Members	Not applicable
10	Any external bodies / other/s	A number of external bodies have contributed to the report and a public consultation.

F – Risks and any mitigation (if relevant)		
1	Economic	A lack of childcare in some areas could impact on people's opportunities to work.
2	Anti-poverty	As above
3	Crime and Disorder	Not applicable
4	Environmental	Not applicable
5	Equalities	
6	Outcome Agreements	
7	Other	

FF - Appendices:

Anglesey Childcare Sufficiency Assesment 2014

G - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):

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Isle of Anglesey County Council

**Draft Childcare Sufficiency Assessment
2014**

1. INTRODUCTION

Each local authority in Wales has a legal duty under Section 26 of the Childcare Act to produce a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment every three years. The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment is a measurement of the nature and extent of the need for and the supply of childcare within the local authority.

Section 22 of the Childcare Act 2006 places a duty on Local Authorities to secure, as far as is reasonably practicable, provision of childcare that is sufficient to meet the requirements of parents in their area in order to enable them to work or undertake education or training leading to work.

Specific regard must be given to the needs of parents for:

- The provision of childcare in respect of which the child care element of the working tax credit is payable;
- The provision of childcare which is suitable for disabled children;
- The provision of childcare involving the use of the Welsh language.

Key indicators

- Number of childcare places
- Flexible and accessible provision
- Quality and range of available childcare
- Affordability
- Inclusivity of childcare to meet particular parental need
- Sustainability of childcare for the long term

Analysis of the supply of and demand for childcare will allow the local authority to identify gaps in the childcare market and establish plans to address these gaps. Gaps in the market can be considered as falling into the following categories:

- Geographical Gaps – where a geographical area has a general shortage of supply;

- Income Gaps – where there is a shortage of affordable childcare for the income groups populating an area;
- Specific needs Gaps – where there is a shortage of suitable places for disabled children, or children with other specific needs or requirements, including those from particular faiths or community groups;
- Time Gaps – where there is a shortage of childcare at a time that parents would wish to use childcare;
- Age Gaps - where there is a shortage of childcare suitable to the needs and requirements of a certain age group.
- Type Gaps – where there is a shortage in the type of childcare for which parents may be expressing a preference.

Section 27 of The Childcare Act 2006 requires the Local Authority to provide an integrated information service for parents and prospective parents. This information falls into two key categories:

- Childcare
- Other services or facilities which may be of benefit to parents, prospective parents, children or young people.

2. Methodology

Demographic data was sought from Anglesey Infobase, Stats Wales, and Census 2011 data. Employment Data was sourced from Job Centre Plus and information regarding financial assistance was gathered from HM Revenue and Customs website.

Information on deprivation was taken from the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2011.

Consultation with parents took place between November 2013 and January 2014. A questionnaire was developed and distributed to parents through an on line survey and a paper based questionnaire which was delivered through childcare settings, pre-school, school and after school settings. The Family Information Service distributed and collected questionnaires during their outreach sessions.

Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids Club held a focus group with children who attend an After School Club. Questionnaires were also completed.

A short questionnaire was developed for Employers and distributed via an online survey which was advertised on the Council's website. This was also shared via the Council's Twitter and Facebook pages. Links to the survey were sent to the local chamber of commerce and various local businesses.

Only one employer response was received and this was from Anglesey County Council.

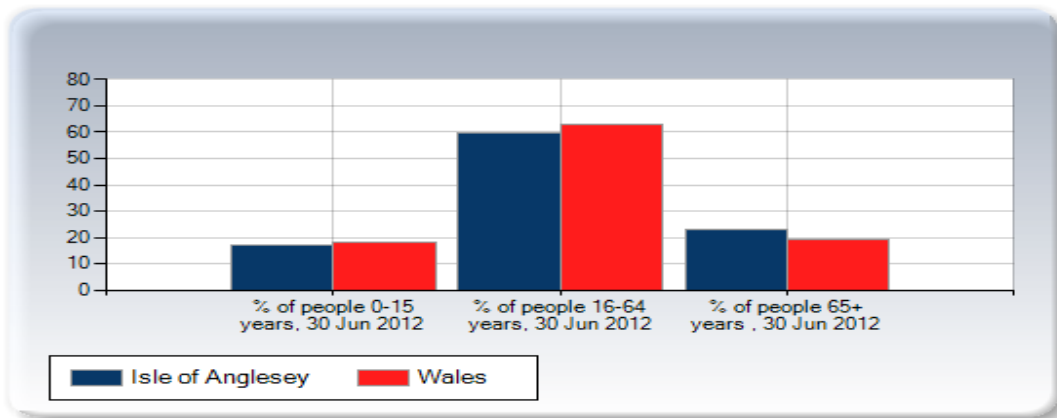
Regular meetings of the Childcare and Early Years Group were held, this group includes officers from the Local Authority's Supporting Families Unit and Family Information Service, representatives of Mudiad Meithrin, Wales PPA and Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids Clubs.

3. Understanding the Area

3.1 Population

The Isle of Anglesey is a rural area with a low population density of 99 people per square km compared to the Wales figure of 148 people per square km. The main centres of population on the island are Holyhead, Llangefni, Amlwch and the Llanfairpwll/Menai Bridge area.

Anglesey's population has seen a steady increase and in June 2012 there were an estimated 70,049 people living in Anglesey. There were 11,978 children and young people aged 0 – 15 living in Anglesey made up 17.1% of the county's population, down from 19.5% in 2001. This is in contrast to the over 65 age group which was 23.0%.



Source: Office for National Statistics

The areas with the highest under 16 population was Llanfair yn Neubwll 2 27.4% which is a community in the west of the island, Tudur 26.7% in the centre of the island and the Holyhead area with an average 20.1%

The areas with the lowest under 16 population were Aberffraw & Rhosneigr 10.6%; Cadnant 10.4% and Llanbedrgoch 10.8%

The number of live births in Anglesey in 2012 was 835. In 2012 Anglesey had the highest Total Fertility Rate (TFR) in Wales, 2.58 per woman compared to 1.88 for Wales as a whole. This figure is significantly higher than the projected number of 1.9 by 2016

3.1.1 Households

According to the 2011 Census Households there are approximately 30,600 households in Anglesey. Households including dependent children make up 25.4% (7772). There are 1811 lone parent households in Anglesey 88% of whom are female. 37% of lone parents in Anglesey are not in employment, 35% are in part time employment and 28% in full time employment.

3.1.2 Looked After children

Latest figures from the Local Authority's Children's Services Department report that 78 children are currently under local authority care. A further 288 children are recorded as Children in Need, this figure includes children on the Child Protection Register.

3.1.3 Children with Disabilities

The number of children with disabilities receiving support from the Integrated Specialist Children's Service is 71 with a further 77 children known to the health service.

There are currently 75 children aged 3 – 18 years attending the Local Authority's Special School and 12 children receiving specialist placement in schools outside the county. There are 2 children with disabilities receive home schooling.

3.1.4 Ethnicity

Data from the 2011 Census shows the population in Anglesey as predominantly white British/Irish 97.2%. Other white ethnicity 1%, mixed ethnic 0.7% and other ethnic 1.1%

3.2 Welsh Language

Anglesey continues to be a stronghold of the Welsh language with 57.2% of persons over the age of three who are able to speak Welsh. While this figure is well above the Wales average of 19% the number has decreased since the 2001 census when 70.4% of Anglesey's population could speak Welsh.

The highest percentage of Welsh speakers were based mainly in the central and south of the island in the Canolbarth Môn, Bro Rhosyr and Aethwy wards.

The wards with highest percentage of non Welsh speakers were Caergybi, Ynys Gybi and Llifton to the West and Lligwy and Seiriol to the East of the island.

3.3 Economy

3.3.1 Deprivation

According to the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2011 there are 7 Lower level Super Output Areas (LSOA) in Anglesey ranked in the 20% most deprived in Wales. Morawelon in the Holyhead is ranked within the 10% most deprived.

In the Access to Services Domain Rank 8 LSOAs are ranked in 10% most deprived with a further 16 LSOAs ranked in the 11-20% most deprived.

The Job Seekers Allowance monthly claimant count for February 2014 reported 1700 working age people claiming Job Seekers Allowance. 26% of claimant were aged 17 – 24 years.

3.3.2 Employment

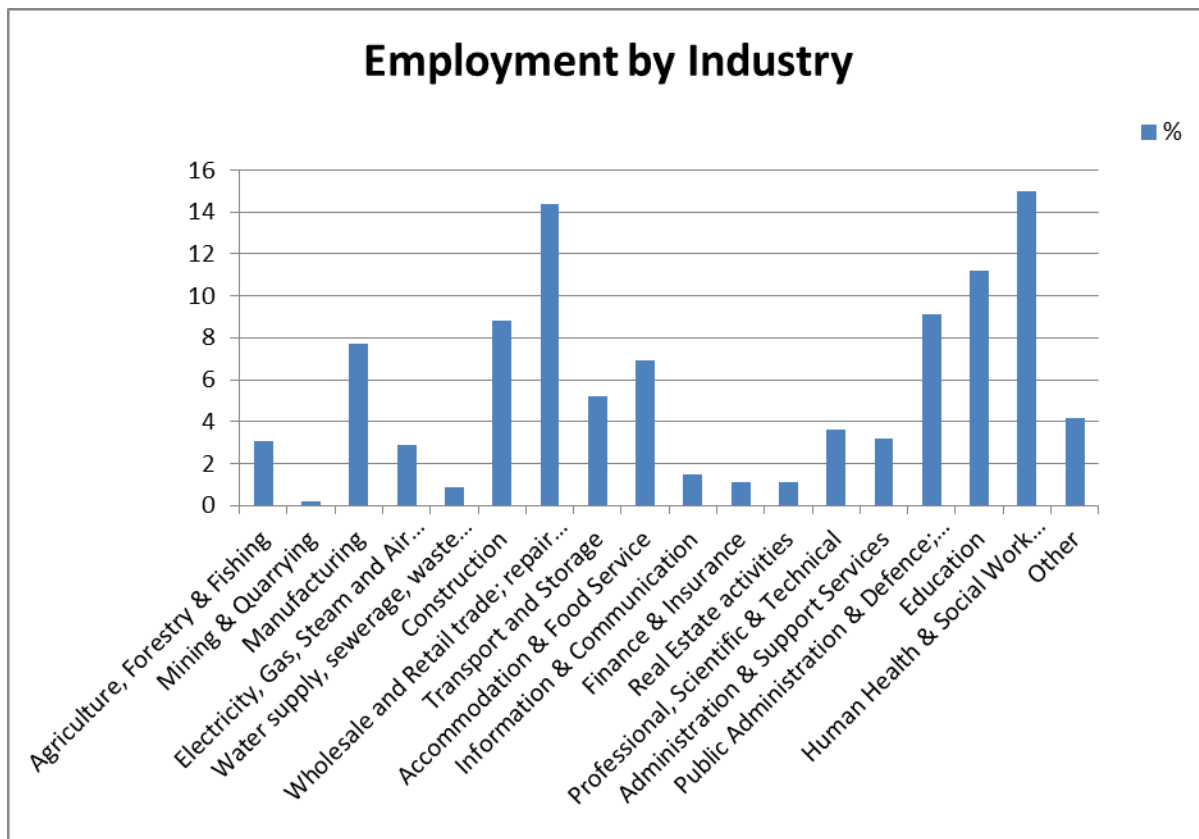
2011 Census key statistics show unemployment was 7.2% in Anglesey. This was the highest figure across the 6 North Wales Local Authorities although less than the Wales average of 8.1%.

Anglesey has a job density of 0.59 per person aged 16 – 64 compared to .70 for Wales as a whole.

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) 2013 conducted by HMRC shows that the average annual earnings for full time (30+ hours) in Anglesey was £23,860 which is slightly lower than the Wales average of £24,182.

In March 2013 there were 2825 registered businesses in Anglesey, of these 69.2% were small businesses with less than 5 employees.

The Local Authority is the largest employer on the island, employing around 3000 people.



4. The Childcare Market

Local Authorities are not obliged to meet the individual childcare needs of every working family, but to ensure that at a community level, the Local Authority is taking strategic action with its partners to address gaps in childcare. Local Authorities will be expected to support the development of childcare where there is sufficient parental demand that a childcare setting or a childminder could operate and be sustainable. Examples of how they could address gaps include:

- providing training and business support to childcare providers, to help providers run efficiently;
- providing market information to providers;
- supporting networks of and links between providers;
- creating targeted incentives to address any gaps in the market.

Local Authorities are required to secure childcare of sufficient duration and reliability to enable parents to make a real choice about work. Local Authorities are required to act to secure sufficient childcare that is registered by the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW).

4.1 Childcare Provision

The supply of and the demand for childcare is constantly changing. As such the figures presented in this report represent the best estimates at the time (March 2014).

For the purpose of this assessment Childcare is defined as provision that is reliable and regular and provides a safe place for children to be. This does not include ad hoc activities which may take place during school holidays and be used as childcare for specific days. Nor does it include the many grandparents or other family members/friends who provide informal childcare for their family/friends.

The Isle of Anglesey has 48 local authority maintained primary schools, 1 independent school, 5 secondary schools and 1 special school. All the county's primary schools have a breakfast club facility between 8.15am and 9.00am. Whilst the Breakfast Clubs were not set up with the intention of providing childcare they have become an invaluable source of Childcare for parents and are well attended.

Type of Provider	Providers		Places	
Childminders	63	48%	337	17%
Day Nurseries	11	8%	486	25%
Cylchoedd Meithrin	33	25%	632	33%
PPA Playgroups	8	6%	194	10%
After School Clubs (registered)	10	8%	166	9%
After School Clubs (non registered)	7	5%	126	6%
Holiday Clubs				
Total	132	100%	1941	100%

4.1.1 Full Daycare

The spread of childcare providers across the county is quite evenly matched with the population spread. The Holyhead area has the largest population and likewise has the largest number of childcare providers and spaces. All the day nurseries are situated in or near to the largest centres of population in Holyhead, Amlwch, Llangefni, Llanfairpwll and Menai Bridge. There are childminders operating in most areas of the county.

There is a lack of any full day care in the rural areas to the northwest and south of the island (Talybolion and Bro Rhosyr wards), The areas of Trearddur and Rhoscolyn in the Ynys Gybi ward also have a lack of day care provision although they are within close proximity to Holyhead.

There are currently day care settings providing full time childcare for children 0 -8 years. Work is currently underway on a new day care nursery in Llangefni which should be registered with CSSIW and open in June 2014 and offer up to 50 childcare places.

Ward	Area	Primary Schools	Day Nursery	Places	Child minder	Places
Aethwy	Llanfairpwll	Llanfairpwll	1	36	6	34
	Penmynydd					
	Menai Bridge	Porthaethwy	2	105	4	22
Bro Aberffraw	Aberffraw	Bodorgan			1	5
	Bodorgan	Niwbwrch			2	12
	Rhosyr	Dwyran			2	12
Bro Rhosyr	Llanidan	Brynsiencyn				
	Llanfihangel Esceifiog	Esceifiog			1	6
	Llanddaniel Fab	Parc y Bont	1	70		
	Llangristiolus	Henblas				
		Llangaffo				
Caergybi	Holyhead Town	Y Parc			2	10
	London Road	Llaingoch				
	Morawelon	Llanfawr	1	28	1	5
	Porthyfelin	St. Mary's	3	50		
	Parc a'r Mynydd					

Canolbarth Môn	Bryngwran	Bryngwran			1	4
	Bodffordd	Bodffordd	1	37		
	Llangefni	Y Graig	1	60	6	35
	Llangwyllog	Corn Hir				
	Tregaeon	Y Ffridd Talwrn				
Lliffon	Llanfaelog	Pencarnisiog				
	Llanfair yn Neubwll	Rhosneigr				
	Valley	Y Tywyn	1	68	2	8
		Caergeiliog Valley			2	11
Lligwy	Moelfre	Moelfre			1	5
	Llaneurgad	Goronwy Owen			3	14
	Llanfair M. E.	Pentraeth			6	33
	Pentraeth	Llanbedrgoch			1	5
	Llanfihangel Tre'r Beirdd					
Seiriol	Beaumaris	Biwmares			1	6
	Cwm Cadnant	Llandegfan				
	Llanddona	Llanddona				
	Llangoed	Llangoed				
Talybolion	Bodedern	Bodedern			2	10
	Cylch y Garn	Cylch y Garn				
	Llanerchymedd	Llanerchymedd				
	Llanfachraeth	Llanfachraeth				
	Llanfaethlu	Ffrwd Win				
	Mechell	Llanfechell				
	Tref Alaw	Cemaes			2	12
		Carreglefn				
Twrcelyn	Amlwch	Amlwch	1	32	8	41
	Llanbadrig	Cemaes			1	4
	Llaneilian	Penysarn			3	18
	Rhosybol	Rhosybol			2	11
Ynys Gybi	Trearddur	Thomas Ellis				
	Rhoscolyn	Rhoscolyn				
	Maes Hyfryd (Holyhead)	Morswyn				
	Kingsland (Holyhead)	Kingsland			3	14
			12	486	63	337

4.1.2 Pre School Provision

There are 33 Mudiad Meithrin pre school settings and 8 Wales PPA settings in the county. These settings offer both playgroup sessions for 2 and a half to 3 year olds and Early Years Education for 3 – 4 year olds.

Ward	Area	Cylch Meithrin	Places	Attending	PPA	Places	Attending
Aethwy	Llanfairpwll	2	40	38			
	Porthaethwy	1	24	16			
Bro Aberffraw	Bodorgan	2	34	6			
	Niwbwrch						
	Dwyran	1	14	8			
Bro Rhosyr	Brynsiencyn	1	18	7			
	Esceifiog	1	14	?			
	Parc y Bont						
	Henblas	1	12	12			
	Llangaffo						
Caergybi	Y Parc	1	20	9			
	Llaingoch	1	20	19			
	Llanfawr	1	16	20			
	St. Mary's				1	30	26
Canolbarth Môn	Bryngwran	1	13	7			
	Bodffordd	1	18	12			

	Y Graig	1	24	?			
	Corn Hir	1	26	30			
	Y Ffridd	1	16	?			
	Talwrn	1	16	?			
Llifon	Pencarnisiog	1	16	10			
	Rhosneigr				1	12	7
	Y Tywyn						
	Caergeiliog				1	45	21
	Valley						
Lligwy	Moelfre	1	18	?			
	Goronwy Owen	1	14	7	1	21	21
	Pentraeth	1	16	?			
	Llanbedrgoch						
Seiriol	Biwmares				1	24	?
	Llandegfan	1	22	?	1	22	15
	Llanddona						
	Llangoed						
Talybolion	Bodedern	1	16	16			
	Cylch y Garn						
	Llanerchymedd	1	19	?			
	Llanfachraeth						
	Ffrwd Win	1	18	14			
	Llanfechell	1	20	?			

	Cemaes	1	17	14			
	Carreglefn	1	12	?			
Twrcelyn	Amlwch	1	20	23	1	24	15
	Cemaes						
	Penysarn	1	20	14			
	Rhosybol	1	15	8			
Ynys Gybi	Thomas Ellis	1	40	?			
	Rhoscolyn				1	16	?
	Morswyn	1	24	19			
	Kingsland						
		33	632		8	194	

After School Childcare

There are 7 registered after school clubs and 7 unregistered clubs offering after school childcare on or close to school premises. One day nursery runs a registered after school club in premises separate to the nursery and a short walk from the primary school at Llanfairpwll. A further 3 nurseries offer after school care within the nursery setting. Childminders also offer after school care including pick up from schools.

There are no registered after school clubs in four of Anglesey's Electoral Wards, Llifon, Lligwy, Talybolion and Ynys Gybi. There are a number of childminders in Lligwy ward who are able to offer after school childcare, however the other three wards have limited or no childminder provision.

In the small rural communities the sustainability of after school clubs is an issue. There have been unsuccessful attempts in the past to establish clubs for children from 2 or more schools. The low numbers of children, distance between schools and the need for adequate transport for the children has proved to be a difficulty for schemes such as this.

There is one example of such a scheme in Rhosyr ward. Dwyran school has an after school club which offers care for children from Niwbwrch. These two schools however, already had strong links as they share a Headteacher.

Ward	Primary School	Registered Clubs	Reg Places	Unregistered Clubs	Unregistered Places
Aethwy	Llanfairpwll	1	16	1	30
	Porthaethwy				
		1			
Bro Aberffraw	Bodorgan				
	Niwbwrch				
	Dwyran	1	16		
Bro Rhosyr	Brynsiencyn				
	Esceifiog	1	16		
	Parc y Bont	1	24		
	Henblas				
	Llangaffo				
Caergybi	Y Parc				
	Llaingoch				
	Llanfawr				
	St. Mary's	1	30		
Canolbarth Môn	Bryngwran				
	Bodffordd	1			
	Y Graig				
	Corn Hir	1	24		

	Y Ffridd Talwrn				
Llifon	Pencarnisiog				
	Rhosneigr			1	16
	Y Tywyn			1	16
	Caergeiliog				
	Valley				
Lligwy	Moelfre				
	Goronwy Owen				
	Pentraeth			1	16
	Llanbedrgoch			1	16
Seiriol	Biwmares				
	Llandegfan	1	24		
	Llanddona				
	Llangoed				
Talybolion	Bodedern				
	Cylch y Garn				
	Llanerchymedd			1	16
	Llanfachraeth				
	Ffrwd Win				
	Llanfechell			1	16
	Cemaes				
	Carreglefn				
Twrcelyn	Amlwch	1	16		
	Cemaes				
	Penysarn				
	Rhosybol				
Ynys Gybi	Thomas Ellis				
	Rhoscolyn				
	Morswyn				
	Kingsland				
		10	166	7	126

Holiday Childcare

Holiday childcare has historically been a difficult area to maintain. Although only 59% of parents surveyed reported they were satisfied with their childcare during school holidays the take up of places in holiday clubs is low. The Local Authority has utilised the Welsh Government Out of School Childcare Grant (OSCG) to subsidise and advertise Holiday Clubs in strategic areas of the county but this has failed to increase the numbers attending.

295 parents responded to the question about the type of childcare they use during school holidays. Of these 223 said they use family and friends to care for their children and only 26 reported using holiday clubs. A further 20 say they use play/sport facilities during school holidays.

Affordability

According to the Family and Childcare Trust's Childcare Costs Survey 2014 the average cost of childcare for a child under 2 years old for 25 hours in a nursery is £109.89 per week or £5710 per year in Britain. Childminder costs are generally lower with an average cost of £99.77 for 25 hours per week.

The average price is slightly lower in Anglesey £100.00 per week for a child under 2 years old in a nursery and £87.50 with a childminder.

The average cost for after school care is £48.19 per week or £1830 per year.

For a two parent family on minimum wage this could amount to almost a quarter of their income.

Financial Help Towards Childcare Costs

Financial support is available to families to help with childcare costs in the form of Tax Credits and employer schemes such as Childcare Vouchers or Salary Sacrifice schemes.

The income threshold for support from the Tax Credits system was reduced in 2012 meaning that fewer families are able to access this support.

In our survey of parents, when asked if they claim Tax Credit support for their childcare costs 72% said they did not claim. Of these 57% assumed they were not eligible. 40% of parents who responded did not know how to find information about financial assistance for childcare costs.

Only 9% of parents surveyed reported that they use the Childcare Voucher scheme through their employer. The amount parents can claim will depend on when they joined the scheme and their rate of earnings.

“If you joined your employer’s scheme on or before 5 April 2011 you can get up to £55 each week, or £243 each month free of tax and NICs. If you joined your employer’s scheme on or after 6 April 2011 you can still get up to £55 each week free of tax and NICs if your employment earnings are not more than the higher rate threshold. If your earnings are more than the higher or additional rate thresholds then the amount you can get free of tax and NICs is reduced.

The amount for higher rate earners is £28 each week or £124 each month and for additional rate earners the amount is £22 each week or £97 each month. From 6 April 2013 the exempt amount for additional rate earners will be £25 each week or £110 each month”

(HMRC, Paying for Childcare, Getting help from your employer. Leaflet IR115)

Anglesey County Council is the largest employer on the island employed around 3000, however only 34 (1%) of its employees currently use the childcare voucher scheme.

Tax Credits*

Who can qualify?

Lone parents

You must work 16 hours or more a week to claim help with childcare costs.

You're part of a couple

Generally you and your partner must both work 16 hours or more a week to claim help.

Only one of you has to work 16 hours or more if the other is:

'incapacitated' - this means they're ill or disabled and getting certain benefits, or in certain circumstances National Insurance credits

in hospital

in prison - serving a custodial sentence or remanded in custody awaiting trial or sentence

entitled to Carer's Allowance - even if they don't get any payments because they receive other benefits instead

To get tax credits to help with your childcare costs, your childcare provider must be one of the following:

- registered with the Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales
- a school that provides childcare outside of school hours and on school premises
- a local authority that provides childcare outside of school hours
- a care worker or nurse from an agency registered for providing care in the home, for example, a domiciliary care worker
- someone approved by the Childcare at Home Approval Scheme, providing childcare in your child's home - or if several children are being looked after, in one of the children's homes

If you have one child

The amounts shown are the total you could get for the whole of this tax year (6 April 2013 to 5 April 2014). The annual income is before tax and National Insurance are taken off. It's your joint income if you're in a couple.

Annual income (£)	£90 a week child care costs	Maximum child care (£175)
0	10,440	13,535
5,100	10,440	13,535
9,500	9,970	13,065
10,000	9,765	12,860
15,000	7,715	10,810
20,000	5,665	8,760
25,000	3,615	6,710
30,000	1,565	4,660
35,000	0	2,610
40,000	0	560
45,000	0	0

*from the website of HM Revenue & Customs <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits/people-advise-others/entitlement-tables/work-and-child/work-pay-childcare.htm>

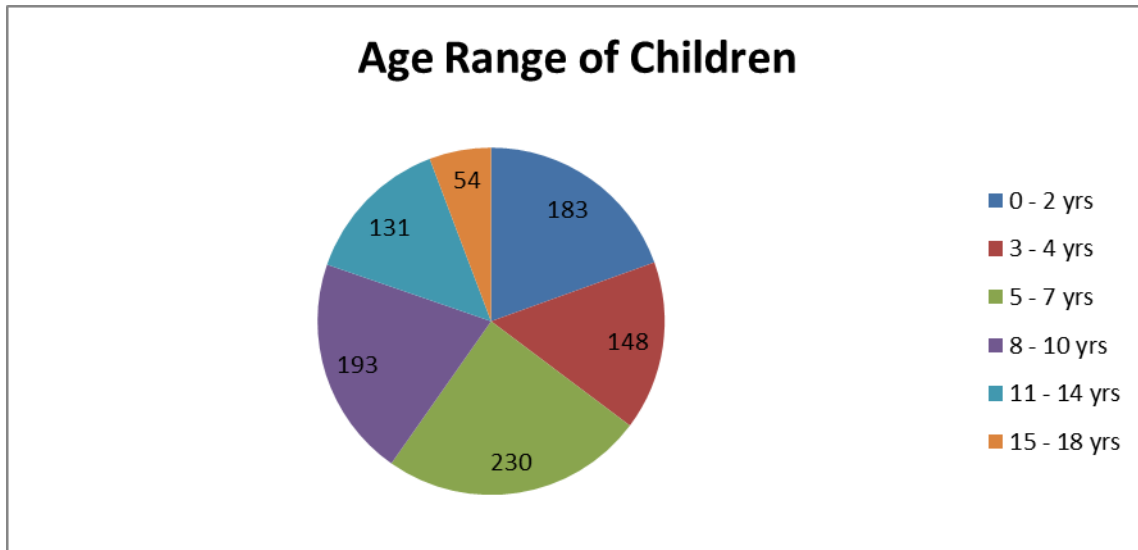
5. Consultation with Parents/Carers

A questionnaire was produced and published online with a link being sent out to parents via the Local Authority website, schools, pre schools and childcare settings.

The Family Information Service also distributed paper versions to families during the course of their outreach work.

A total of 510 responses were received. 86% of the responses were from females. 44 percent said they worked full time (30 hours or more) and 33% worked part time (less than 30 hours).

The age range of identified by the parents surveyed was quite evenly spread as shown in the table below.



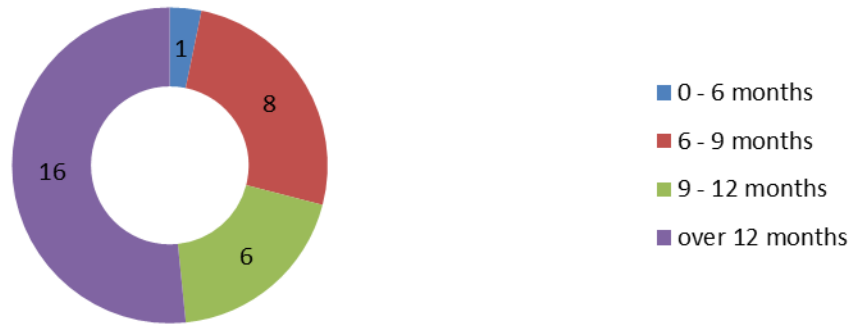
Ages of children reported in Parent Survey

52.6% of respondents reported that they use formal childcare for their children. Of the 47.4% who did not use formal childcare the 42.8% were stay at home parents and 39.8% used family and friends to look after their children.

Of the 510 respondents 23 reported their child had a disability.

Parents who are currently on maternity leave were asked about their plans for future use of childcare. More than half said their child would be over 12months old when they begin using formal childcare.

Age of child entering future childcare

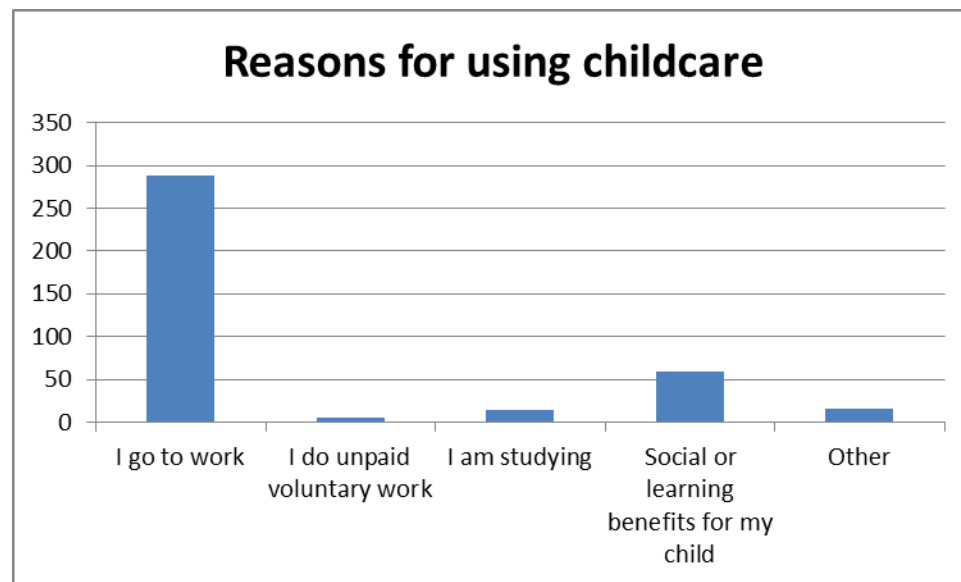


Asked about their choice of childcare 65% said they would be looking for part time childcare. 44% of respondents said they would be looking for day care in a nursery setting while 33% would choose a childminder to provide their childcare.

67% would prefer to have their childcare at a location near their home.

The vast majority of parents use childcare because they go to work.

Reasons for using childcare



Parents were asked to express their views on the childcare provision currently available.

70.6% of respondents agreed that childcare is too expensive.

Whilst 86% of parents reported they were satisfied with their childcare arrangements during term time, this figure dropped to 59% during school holidays.

Over half the respondents, 54% said they would prefer to use family/friends to look after their children, although 77.2% agreed that the standard of childcare on the island is high.

Whilst parents are generally happy with their childcare arrangements and believe that their children's needs are met within their current setting. The figures suggest that most parents would prefer their child to be cared for by family members.

6. Consultation with Children

A focus group was held in an after school club which is representative of the clubs in the county. 12 children between the ages of 4 and 10yrs old took part in the focus group. All the children had been regular attendees of the club for more than 6 months.

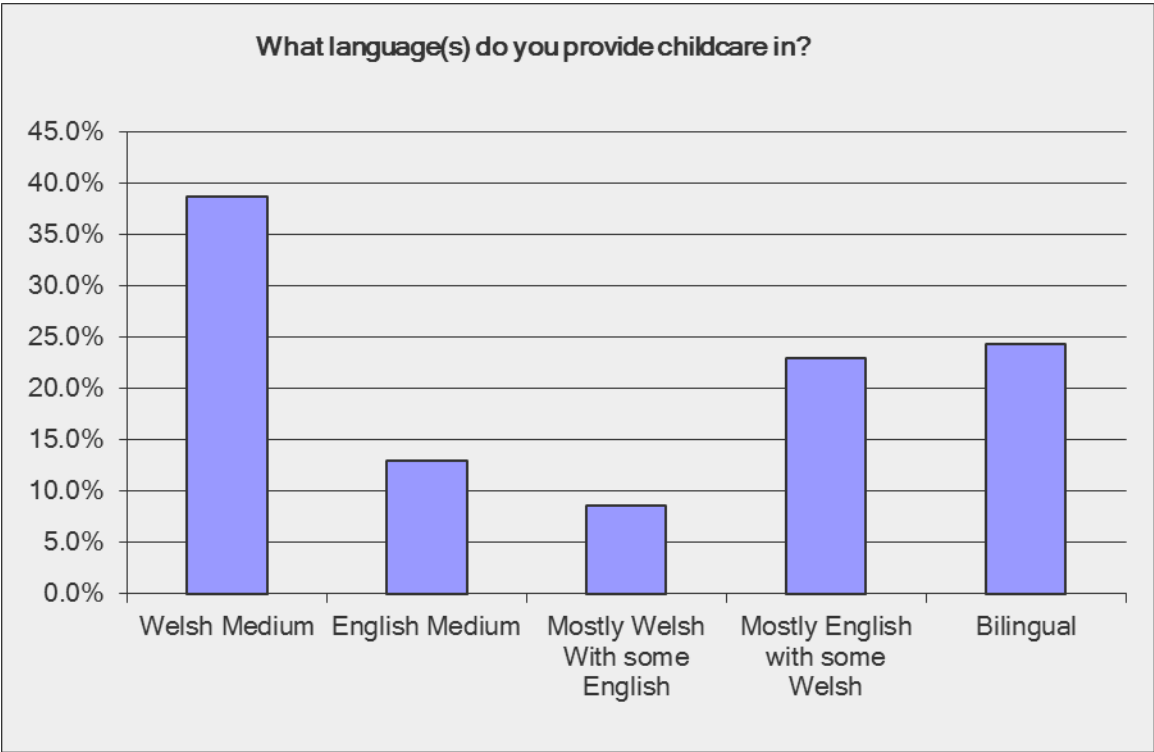
The children reported that they enjoyed the variety of activities offered at the club with most expressing their favourite activities as Ipad, Playstation, Playing Outdoors and being with their friends. All the children enjoyed the snacks on offer.

Some of the suggestions the children made for future activities included animal visits, volleyball, assault courses, hot dog eating contest and a hot tub.

7. Consultation with Childcare Providers

A survey of childcare providers in Anglesey was undertaken in December 2013. An on line questionnaire was distributed electronically as well as paper copies to those providers who do not have access to the internet. 71 responses were received from a possible 132.

71.5% of childcare providers said they offer a Welsh language or bilingual service.



Providers were asked about their future plans. 86% of providers said they plan to remain in business for the next 5 years. 21% have plans to increase the number of childcare spaces they offer. 61% have no plans to significantly increase their charges over the next 18 months.

In response to the question about the type of support providers require staff training was the area in which most support was required, 75% followed by 46% registration and inspection support; 44% needed support to network with other providers; 43% also wanted support to become more involved in local planning of childcare services.

8. Gaps Analysis

8.1 Geographical Gaps

The Isle of Anglesey generally speaking has sufficient childcare in most geographical locations. Full day care nurseries are well located in areas of higher population and employment.

The number of childminders and is lower this year despite more registrations taking place. Whilst there are currently 63 childminders registered and working in Anglesey there are a further 10 who are not currently working for reasons including maternity leave and illness but who still appear on the register.

For the purpose of this assessment those who are not currently working have not been counted in the available childcare spaces because they were unable to confirm that they would return to work in the near future.

There are many rural areas such as Trearddur, Llanfaelog , Aberffraw to the West of the island and Seiriol Ward in the East and Talybolion ward who have little or no childcare provision locally.

8.2 Income Gaps

It has been identified that many families who are entitled to financial assistance with childcare costs either through Tax Credits or Childcare Vouchers do not take up this entitlement. The main reasons given are a lack of knowledge about eligibility and the process is too complicated.

8.3 Specific Needs Gaps

There were no specific needs gaps identified

8.4 Time Gaps

Parents were asked about what would improve childcare in Anglesey. Of the 165 parents responded to the question 87% said earlier opening times, 89% later closing time and 85% said they would like weekend provision.

8.5 Age Gaps

Childcare settings are registered by CSSIW for children up to 8years old. After school settings offer childcare to children up to 11 years old. There is no regular provision for young people 11 years and over within the secondary schools. There have been

attempts in the past to establish after school provision for secondary age pupils, the numbers attending have meant that these settings have been unsustainable.

8.6 Type Gaps

The main gap identified was after school provision in the rural areas of low population. Half of the after school settings currently operating are unregistered and offer less than 2 hours childcare per day. Parents who use unregistered settings are also unable to claim financial assistance for this childcare.

In some of the areas identified as having no after school provision there is also a lack of full day care provision. The development of childminders in these areas would increase the availability of day care and after school childcare as childminders are able to pick children up from school.

8.7 Language Gaps

The provider questionnaire identified that all day nursery settings offer Welsh or bilingual childcare. The number childminders offering Welsh or bilingual childcare is 34 out of 63. This is an area for development.

9. Conclusion

The childcare market in Anglesey has increased over the last 3 years with opening of 3 new day nurseries. Childminder numbers have remained steady with newly registered childminders replacing those who leave the profession.

Pre school provision has remained static over the last 3 years. The Lifelong Learning Department will be reviewing its delivery of Early Years Education during the year. After school provision has seen the greatest fluctuation with clubs opening and closing or de-registering. This is an area to consider for development over the next three years.

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