

Report



Cabinet Member for Community Services, Work & Skills

Part 1

Date: 17 June 2016

Item No: 03

Subject **Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan 2016/17** – A Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities on assessing and securing sufficient play opportunities.

Purpose To seek approval to submit the updated Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan 2016/17 to Welsh Government in accordance with the Statutory Guidance for local authorities on assessing and securing sufficient play opportunities.

Author Play Development Manager

Ward All Wards

Summary Play Development forms part of the Regeneration, Investment and Housing Service, under Community Regeneration. We are funded via the Newport City Council Core Playscheme budget and the Welsh Government Families First Grant. We are also governed by the statutory duty placed on Newport City Council by Welsh Government to secure sufficient play opportunities for **all** children.

The Play Development Team offers opportunities for children's play during term time in the form of evening Play Clubs and during the holidays in the form of daily playschemes. The Families First Grant also enables children with complex care needs and / or specific requirements to be supported in to mainstream provision.

In 2012 guidance was issued to ensure that Local Authorities provided sufficient play opportunities following the Royal Assent of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010. In July 2014, the second part of the guidance was released for consultation under 11(3) and 11(4) of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010. Welsh Government has made it clear that the duty is cost neutral.

As part of the duty, we are required to submit an Action Plan yearly and a review of the Play Sufficiency Assessment every three years. Play Development seek approval from Cabinet on the revised Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan 2016/17.

Proposal **To note the updated Play Sufficiency Assessment and agree the Action Plan for Newport City Council for 2016/17.**

Action by Head of Regeneration, Investment and Housing

Timetable Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Strategic Director – Place

- Head of Regeneration Investment and Housing
- Community Regeneration Manager
- Flying Start Manager
- Play Development Team
- Head of Law and Regulations (Monitoring Officer)
- Head of Finance (Chief Finance Officer)
- Head of People and Business Change

Signed

1. Background

- 1.1 Play Development forms part of Community Regeneration, RIH following the restructure completed in March 2015. The Play Development Team offers opportunities for children's play during term time in the form of evening Play Clubs and during the holidays in the form of daily Playschemes funded using both Core and Families First budgets. The Families First Grant also enables children with complex care needs and/or specific requirements to access the opportunity to play in their communities. In addition to these services, Families First has enabled us to expand, supporting families to develop play in the home, building resilient and thriving families throughout Newport.
- 1.2 The core budget currently funds our summer provision and the Families First grant complements the core contribution by funding term time Play Clubs operating out of school hours and Playschemes facilitated during October, February and Easter school holidays. Families First currently funds four registered playschemes during the summer holidays, providing open access play for children aged 5-12 years and each site is registered with the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW).
- 1.3 In 2010 The Welsh Assembly placed a statutory duty on Local Authorities to provide sufficient play opportunities for children and young people, following the Royal Assent of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010. In July 2014, the second part of the duty has now commenced and stipulates that all Local Authorities must secure sufficient play opportunities for children and that all information is published about play opportunities for children in their areas. In line with this duty, all local authorities have to conduct a Play Sufficiency Assessment and an Action Plan to pave the way forward for play. An Action Plan must be in place and reviewed annually and the Play Sufficiency Assessment reviewed and updated every three years.
- 1.4 Welsh Government states **"We believe that children have a fundamental right to be able to play, and that play is central to their enjoyment of life and contributes to their well-being. We also believe that play is essential for the growth in children's cognitive; physical; social and emotional development. There is much evidence to support this belief and an increasing understanding of play's contribution not only to children's lives, but also to the well-being of their families and the wider community."**
- 1.5 The statutory obligations places emphasis on ensuring all children have the right to play and within the Play Sufficiency Assessment. The Play Sufficiency is completed using Outcome Based Accountability utilising the RAG status. We are successfully performing in the following areas;
 - **Matter B - Providing for diverse needs.**
We have recently developed a Welsh Language Playscheme, providing opportunities for welsh language speakers across the city.
 - **Matter C - Space available for children to play: Open Spaces and Outdoor unstaffed designated play spaces**
The Local Authority has worked closely with Smoke Free Wales and has implemented Smoke Free signage across all park facilities. A positive partnership has been created between Play and Parks and the consultation of children, young people and families in communities across Newport City Council.
 - **Matter D – Supervised provision**
We are successfully providing opportunities for play and recreation across the city. This may look different in 2016/17 due to funding reductions and changes to CSSIW legislation.
- 1.6 We do however need to review how we secure and develop the play workforce. This is a particularly challenging area because of the nature of play and staff being seasonal. On a positive note we are currently awaiting the approval to develop and pilot an Apprenticeship

Scheme whilst up skilling the existing Play Development team to deliver, assess and internally verify Playwork and Childcare, Learning and development Level 2 and 3 qualifications. This will support us in meeting the CSSIW legislation for the registration of Childcare and Play in Wales.

▪ **Matter G – Securing and Developing the play workforce**

- 1.7 There is a risk that should Play Development be at risk of any further reductions in funding through Families First or Core 2017/18, we will be significantly at risk of non-compliance in accordance with the statutory obligation, Disability Discrimination Act under the Equalities Act 2010 and the Families First Service Level Agreement.
- 1.8 It has been recognised that play has a direct impact on children’s health and wellbeing and this is noted in the Child Poverty Strategy for Wales, launched on 3rd February 2011. A significant section of the strategy focuses on “Making Poverty less damaging for children.” Within this section the right to play and its contribution to the development of the child is highlighted and acknowledged as being a significant part of a child’s development and growth in to adulthood.
- 1.9 The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 31 highlights the importance of Children having the right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of cultural, artistic and other recreational activities. The Participation Standards ensures that’s all children have a voice and are included in the issues affecting them.

2. Financial Summary

- 2.1 The budget allocated to the Play Development team is summarised in the following table. Funding is split between core and grant funded budgets.

| | Year 1 (15/16) £ | Year 2 (16/17) £ | Notes (including budgets heads affected) |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Costs | £395,046 | £366,030 | Reduction in FF grant |
| Core budget funding | £(75,191) | £(75,191) | |
| Families First Grant Income funding | (£320,000) | (£293,216) | Families First funding 17/18 not yet confirmed |
| Net Impact on Budget | £145 | £0 | |

3. Risks

| Risk | Impact of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L) | Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L) | What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect. | Who is responsible for dealing with the risk? |
|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Families First Grant ends March 2017. Potentially very limited Play Services within the city. | H | H | Discussions with Welsh Government, Play Wales. Review of current budgets and current programme delivery. A robust exit strategy to be in place. | Play Development Manager Community Regeneration Manager |
| Potential MTRP savings to the Core Budget come 2017/18 and no play service within Newport City Council. | H | H | Discussions with Head of Service. Loss of core budget could result in Play being completely reliant on Families First funding or loss of both results in no Play Development service within the local authority. A robust exit strategy to be in place. | Play Development Manager Head of Service, RIH Community Regeneration Manager |
| Potential risk of Newport City Council not meeting the statutory obligation for Play should funding cease. | M | M | On-going discussions with Head of Service and Community Regeneration Manager. The restructure will allow us to create an effective operational delivery model until March 2017, reducing the risk of breaching our statutory obligation. | Head of Service, RIH Community Regeneration Manager |

* Taking account of proposed mitigation measures

4. Links to Council Policies and Priorities

- Play Sufficiency Assessment
- Single Integrated Plan under the Health and Wellbeing Priority
- Child Poverty Agenda
- Childcare Sufficiency Assessment
- Welsh Language Standards
- Children and Families Measure Wales (2010)

5. Options Available

- 5.1 To approve the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan for 2016/17.
- 5.2 Not to approve the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan for 2016/17.

6. Preferred Option and Why

- 6.1 To approve the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan for 2016/17.
- 6.2 The Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan 2016/17 will allow us to continue to assess and secure sufficient play opportunities across Newport City Council.

7. Comments of Chief Financial Officer

This report is asking to note the updated Play Sufficiency Assessment and agree the Action Plan for Newport City Council for 2016/17 so there are no further financial issues arising from this report.

8. Comments of Monitoring Officer

The Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan complies with the Council's statutory duties under the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 and relevant statutory Guidance. As part of these duties, the Council is required to prepare an annual Action Plan and carry out a review of the Play Sufficiency Assessment every three years.

9. Staffing Implications: Comments of Head of People and Business Change

There are no HR or staffing implications to the Play Sufficiency Assessment and action plan. In November 2012, Welsh Government placed a duty on all Local Authorities to assess the sufficiency of play opportunities for children in their areas every three years. The first Play Sufficiency Assessment was submitted to the Welsh Government in March 2013. Three years on a second assessment has been developed along with an action plan for 2016/17. The Play Sufficiency Assessment and action plan supports one of the key focuses of the Single Integrated Plan (SIP) and is an integral part of the Health and Wellbeing Theme of the SIP.

10. Comments of Cabinet Member

Cabinet Member has approved the report.

11. Scrutiny Committees

N/A

12. Equalities Impact Assessment

See Background papers

13. Children and Families (Wales) Measure

Children and Families are consulted regularly through Playschemes, Play Clubs and as part of the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan 2016/17.

13. Consultation

It is important to note that we recognise and value consultation, we will therefore be raising awareness of the changes to Play Development and how this will impact services for families across Newport. Our commitment is to ensure all children, young people and families are an integral part of the consultation process to support in shaping the future of our service.

14. Background Papers

- Play Sufficiency Assessment 2016/17
- Play Implementation plan 2006
- Play Policy 2002
- Welsh Government Wales – a play friendly country statutory guidance

Dated: 17 June 2016



Fairness and Equalities Impact Assessments F&EIAs (2015)

This form presents evidence that equalities, Welsh language and fairness have been considered when taking policy and service delivery decisions in Newport City Council.

Our Equalities focus is taken from the Equalities Act 2010: we consider the nine protected equalities characteristics- age, gender reassignment, disability, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex, sexual orientation.

Under the General Equality Duty we have a duty to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity and
- Foster good relations

across the nine protected characteristics.

Under the Welsh Language Measure 2011 the Welsh language cannot be treated any less favourably than the English language

In Newport we focus on Fairness through the following themes: Health, Poverty, Skills and Work, Domestic Abuse and Tackling Area Based Deprivation.

| | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <p>Service Area Regeneration, Investment and Housing</p> | <p>Head of Service Beverly Owen</p> | <p>Person responsible for the Assessment: Alexa Tudball</p> | <p>Date of Assessment: 07.06.16 Version (if applicable)</p> |
|---|--|--|---|

1. What is the policy/ service being assessed?

Newport City Council utilising both Core and Families First grant to employ qualified Family Play Development Officers to support Play Club and seasonal Playscheme staff to deliver play opportunities for all across Newport. We aim to provide meaningful play for all children in accordance with the statutory obligation. In addition, we also support children with complex care needs and / or specific requirements both in the Specialist Playscheme and through our inclusive service.

2. What is the purpose of the policy/ service change?

The Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan measures how well the local authority is delivering play opportunities for all children and their families across Newport. The statutory obligations places emphasis on ensuring all children have the right to play and within the Play Sufficiency Assessment. The Play Sufficiency is completed using Outcome Based Accountability utilising the RAG status. We are successfully performing in the following areas;

Matter B - Providing for diverse needs

We have recently developed a Welsh Language Playscheme, providing opportunities for welsh language speakers across the city.

Matter C - Space available for children to play: Open Spaces and Outdoor unstaffed designated play spaces

The Local Authority has worked closely with Smoke Free Wales and has implemented Smoke Free signage across all park facilities. A positive partnership has been created between Play and Parks and the consultation of children, young people and families in communities across Newport City Council.

Matter D – Supervised provision

We are successfully providing opportunities for play and recreation across the city. This may look different in 2016/17 due to funding reductions and changes to CSSIW legislation.

We do however need to review how we secure and develop the play workforce. This is a particularly challenging area because of the nature of play and staff being seasonal. On a positive note we are currently awaiting the approval to develop and pilot an Apprenticeship Scheme whilst up skilling the existing Play Development team to deliver, assess and internally verify Playwork and Childcare, Learning and development Level 2 and 3 qualifications. This will support us in meeting the CSSIW legislation for the registration of Childcare and Play in Wales.

Matter G – Securing and Developing the play workforce

3. Protected Characteristics

| Protected Characteristic | Who are the customers/service | If we take this decision what is the potential impact? | Action Plan to address issues raised | Who is responsible? | Timeframe to review |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|

| | users/ potential service users? | <p>The impact may be either positive or negative</p> <p>Explain how people may be affected and give the evidence for this</p> | <p>What changes or practical measures would reduce adverse impact on particular groups?</p> <p>What changes would increase positive impacts e.g. improve access or opportunity</p> <p>May be revisited post consultation</p> | | |
|-----|---|--|--|--------------------------|------------|
| Age | <p>Children 0 – 18 years</p> <p>Families 0 – 60 years</p> | <p>The Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan allow us to review what Play Development delivers as a service.</p> <p>There are some positive relationships built with services such as Parks and Health and Safety.</p> | <p>The biggest impact on the delivery of play is funding. Currently we are supported by core and Families First. Families first comes to an end March 2017 and core is forever subject to change.</p> <p>The changes to CSSIW legislation has resulted in us having to review our service delivery model and ensure that we meet strict guidelines for the registration of children up to the age of 12 years.</p> <p>Review of current Playscheme delivery and develop a new model within budget constraints.</p> | Play Development Manager | April 2016 |

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--|---|--|--------------------------|----------------|
| Gender reassignment | Not applicable | Not applicable | Not applicable | Not applicable | Not applicable |
| Disability | Children 0 – 18 years Families 0 – 60 years | <p>We support children with specific requirements through two elements of the service. We have a Specialist Playscheme for children with complex care needs and an inclusive service providing support to children with specific requirements in a mainstream setting.</p> <p>With the reduction of Playschemes across the city due to funding and changes to CSSIW legislation, there will be a reduction in the number of staff we have to support children with specific requirements across the city.</p> | <p>The biggest impact on the delivery of play is funding. Currently we are supported by core and Families First. Families first comes to an end March 2017 and core is forever subject to change.</p> <p>The changes to CSSIW legislation has resulted in us having to review our service delivery model and ensure that we meet strict guidelines for the registration of children up to the age of 12 years.</p> <p>Review of current Playscheme delivery and develop a new model within budget constraints.</p> | Play Development Manager | April 2016 |
| Marriage/Civil Partnership | Not applicable | Not applicable | Not applicable | Not applicable | Not applicable |
| Pregnancy and Maternity | Not applicable | Not applicable | Not applicable | Not applicable | Not applicable |
| Race | Children 0 – 18 years | Play is for all children. | Play is for all children. | Not applicable | Not applicable |

| | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--------------------------|----------------|
| | | | | | |
| Religion/belief (or the absence of) | Families 0 – 60 years | Play is for all children. | Play is for all children. | Not applicable | Not applicable |
| Sex | Not applicable | Not applicable | Not applicable | Not applicable | Not applicable |
| Sexual Orientation | Not applicable | Not applicable | Not applicable | Not applicable | Not applicable |
| Welsh language | Children 0 – 18 years Families 0 – 60 years | <p>Welsh language holiday provision delivered 8 weeks of the year centrally in Newport.</p> <p>A risk of failing to recruit a suitably qualified welsh language speaking workforce to deliver welsh language playschemes and childcare. Our aim is to develop an Apprenticeship Scheme in partnership with Flying Start to develop a more robust bilingual workforce within Childcare and Play.</p> | <p>Review of current Playscheme delivery and develop a new model within budget constraints.</p> <p>More collaborative working with key partners both internally and externally.</p> <p>Research and explore delivering playscheme bilingual to offer all children the opportunity to access play.</p> <p>Play Development currently supports one welsh language playscheme in the community.</p> | Play Development Manager | April 2016 |

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| | | | <p>Should a request be received we can deliver Play in the home, Families First through the medium of welsh.</p> <p>The creation of an Apprenticeship Scheme to address and develop the welsh language workforce.</p> | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|

4. Who has the service consulted regarding the proposed change? When should new consultation take place?

NB: It is essential that service users and other interested parties are involved in the planning process at the earliest opportunity. Consultation at an initial stage should be along broad themes. It is appropriate to ask what services are valued, how services could be changed and or what could be done differently. This feedback should then inform your business case proposals and the F&EIA. When specific proposals have been drawn up, they too will need to be consulted upon. All stakeholders and their views need to be represented.

It is important to note that we recognise and value consultation, we will therefore be raising awareness of the changes to Play Development and how this will impact services for families across Newport. Our commitment is to ensure all children, young people and families are an integral part of the consultation process to support in shaping the future of our service.

We will be conducting a public consultation across Newport to raise awareness of the changes to legislation, the reduction in Families First funding and the impact this will have on the operational delivery of Play Development services. We will consult with all children and young people currently accessing our services through Play Club, Playscheme, Inclusion, Play on the Playground and Play in the Home as well as their families.

Trade Unions – meeting to discuss level of changes and circulate consultation documents
 Staff – staff meetings for those directly affected, individual meetings offered, circulate consultation documents to individuals affected, staff meetings for those indirectly affected
 Elected Members – circulate consultation documents
 Children, Young People and their families – summary for discussion at Playschemes, Play Clubs, Schools, Home visits
 Partner Organisations – meet with partners to discuss changes

5. What evidence/ data has been used to complete this F&EIA (This will include local and national guidance)

Disability Discrimination Act under the Equalities Act 2010
Children and Families Measure 2010
Creating a Play Friendly Wales – Statutory Guidance 2012
Play Policy and Play Implementation Plan 2006
Welsh Government Child Poverty Strategy (2011)
NCC Strategic Equality Plan and Equality Objectives 2012 – 2016
UNCRC Article 31 (adopted by Welsh Government in 2004)

6. How will the relevant groups be advised of the changes and the F&EIA?

All relevant groups are consulted upon when completing the Play Sufficiency Assessment review. As a service we value what our service users have to say and like to capture it at every opportunity. We consult regularly through Playschemes and Play Clubs and are forever looking for ways to improve service delivery and meet the needs of the statutory obligation.

7 How will the policy/ practice make Newport more or less fair in relation to:

- Health Inequalities
- Child Poverty
- Skills and Work
- Tackling Domestic Violence
- Alcohol and Substance misuse
- Homelessness
- Armed Forces Veterans

We aim to ensure all children and their families have the right to access meaningful play opportunities.

8. How will the service / policy affect local areas of the city?

Will it have a positive or negative impact in terms of fairness and addressing local area deprivation (you will need to use spatial data available through the Newport Profile and specific Ward Profiles to address this question)?

We aim to ensure all children and their families have the right to access meaningful play opportunities.

9. In summary, how does the changed service /policy promote good community relations (cohesion)?

Extending collaborative working, building closer partnerships both internally and externally.

10. In summary, how does the changed service /policy promote equality?

Play Development recognises that all children have the right to play and through the restructure we will endeavour to provide opportunities for children to play across Newport in accordance to the statutory guidance. Play recognises and promotes equality to all children accessing our service.

Welsh Government states **“We believe that children have a fundamental right to be able to play, and that play is central to their enjoyment of life and contributes to their well-being. We also believe that play is essential for the growth in children’s cognitive; physical; social and emotional development. There is much evidence to support this belief and an increasing understanding of play’s contribution not only to children’s lives, but also to the well-being of their families and the wider community.”**

The statutory obligations places emphasis on ensuring all children have the right to play and within the Play Sufficiency Assessment, it highlights areas that are crucial in ensuring this happens. Areas which would be impacted by the restructure, reduction in Families First funding and regulations are the following;

- Matter B - providing for diverse needs. (A reduction in the number of children per sq. meter indoor space and staffing restrictions due to funding reductions.)
- Matter D – Supervised provision (A reduction in the number of children per sq. meter indoor space and registration process of full day playschemes with CSSIW and reduction in funding for seasonal staff.)
- Matter G – Securing and developing the play workforce (A restructure to support a more robust service delivery and the development of an Apprenticeship Scheme.)

The restructure will afford us the opportunity of developing and enhancing the play workforce by recruiting three Community Playworkers who will support both our Play Clubs and Playschemes. However, the changes to the CSSIW regulations and Families First funding will result in the reduction of supervised provision for all children across Newport including those children with specific requirements, which will then impact on our ability to provide for diverse needs.

However, should Play Development be at risk of losing any further funding through Families First or Core come 2017/18, we are significantly at risk of non-compliance in accordance with the statutory obligation, Disability Discrimination Act under the Equalities Act 2010 and the Families First Service Level Agreement.

11. In summary, how does the changed service /policy eliminate discrimination?

Play Development are committed to ensuring all children, young people and families across Newport are not discriminated against and we will continue to work with local communities and partner agencies to put pro-active processes in place to support this.

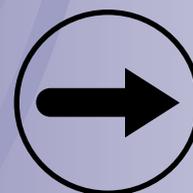
However, as stated above, should Play Development be at risk of losing any further funding through Families First or Core 2017/18, we are significantly at risk of non-compliance in accordance with the statutory obligation, Disability Discrimination Act under the Equalities Act 2010 and the Families First Service Level Agreement.

Completed by/ Date:

Signed off by/ Date:

Play Policy Implementation Plan

Information Document



Play

DfTE Information Document No: 002-06

Date of Issue: February 2006



Play in Wales



PLANT A PHOBL IFANC - GWEITHREDU'R HAWLIAU
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE - RIGHTS TO ACTION



www.dysgu.cymru.gov.uk
www.learning.wales.gov.uk

Adran Hyfforddiant ac Addysg
Department for Training and Education



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

- Title of document:** Play in Wales: The Assembly Government's Play Policy Implementation Plan
- Audience:** Chief Executives of Local Authorities, Directors of Social Services; Directors of Education; Children and Young People's Framework Partnership Co-ordinators, Children Partnership Co-ordinators; Young People's Partnership Co-ordinators, County Librarians; Relevant Children's Voluntary Organisations; Community Voluntary Services; Principal Youth Officers; Directors for Transport and Environment; Road Safety Officers; Police Chief Constables; Local Authority Health Groups; Play Development Workers; Toy Libraries; Colleges; Parks Officers and Managers; Play schemes and Youth Centres; Local Authority Planning Officers; Welsh Local Government Association; Members of the Play Policy Implementation Group, Assembly Members; Big Lottery Fund, Skills Active, Care Council for Wales
- Overview:** This document sets out how the Welsh Assembly Government will implement the principles detailed in the Play Policy. It draws together the Assembly Government's existing support for play and direction for the future.
- Further information:** Enquiries about this document should be directed to:
Elinor Jones
Tel: 029 2080 1119
e-mail: play@wales.gsi.gov.uk
- Additional copies:** Can be received from:
Elinor Jones
Tel: 029 2080 1119
e-mail: play@wales.gsi.gov.uk
- Related documents:** Consultation on the Recommendations of the Play Policy Implementation Group, issued in November 2004.

PLAY IN WALES

THE ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT'S PLAY POLICY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

1. Introduction

In October 2002 the Welsh Assembly Government published its play policy. That set out our recognition of the vital importance of play, and our commitment that society should seek every opportunity to support it. This action plan now sets out to explain how the principles in the play policy will be implemented. It:

- draws together the Assembly Government's existing support for play;
- sets out our future direction for play;
- lists a number of key actions and a timetable for delivery; and
- highlights innovative practice.

This document is founded on the aims and priorities outlined in the Welsh Assembly Government strategic plan, 'Better Wales' and the policy statement, 'Children and Young People: Rights to Action'.

'Better Wales' sets out a long-term vision of Wales as a place which values its children and young people. It includes amongst its core values the statement that 'children and young people should be treated as valued members of the community whose voices are heard and needs considered across the range of policy making'.

This action plan contributes towards the Better Wales key action area 'Better quality of life', and the Assembly Government's commitment to both improve the quality of life of everyone living in Wales today. It also supports the aim to ensure that our actions over the coming years bequeath to future generations an inheritance they will value and build on to achieve further, lasting improvements.

'Children and Young People: Rights to Action' sets out the Assembly Government's actions under its seven core aims for children and young people. This action plan is a significant contribution to achieving the core aim that all children and young people should have access to a range of play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities.

The action plan proposes a way in which the commitment to implementation articulated in the Welsh Assembly Government Play Policy may be met, and how the Play Policy relates to and contributes towards other complimentary Assembly Government strategic plans. It is a response to the report of the Play Policy Implementation Group's report and our

public consultation on that report. The recommendations of the Play Policy Implementation Group are attached as an Annex to this document.

Play Policy

This policy statement has been produced to reflect the value that the Welsh Assembly Government places on play and the importance of children in our society. It reflects our commitment to ensure that children and their needs are central to policy making and that provision is made to meet those needs.

The statement is founded on the principle that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by the UK Government in December 1991, recognises the importance of play for the child.

The Welsh Assembly Government, in seeking to ensure the full implementation of Article 31 of the Convention, intends that this statement should contribute to creating an environment that fosters children's play and underpins a national strategy for providing for children's play needs.

The Welsh Assembly Government believes that:

play is the elemental learning process by which humankind has developed. Children exhibit a behavioural imperative and instinctive desire to play. It has contributed significantly to the evolutionary and developmental survival of our species. Children use play in the natural environment to learn of the world they inhabit with others. It is the very process of learning and growth, and as such all that is learnt through it is of benefit to the child.

play encompasses children's behaviour which is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated. It is performed for no external goal or reward, and is a fundamental and integral part of healthy development - not only for individual children, but also for the society in which they live.

play is so critically important to all children in the development of their physical, social, mental, emotional and creative skills that society should seek every opportunity to support it and create an environment that fosters it. Decision making at all levels of government should include a consideration of the impact of those decisions, on children's opportunities to play.

play is first and foremost the process of a child's own, self-directed learning and as such is a process that has a validity for all ages of children. It is such a vital component of a child's life that the child's capacity for positive development will be inhibited or constrained if denied free access to the broadest range of environments and play opportunities.

It is the very freedom and child centredness of play that makes it such an effective and comprehensive learning process.

This policy statement is predicated upon the principles that:

every child is entitled to respect for their own unique combination of qualities and capabilities;

the perceptions of the child, their views and opinions should always be respected for each child is connected to, and a bearer of, a wider culture;

the child's free choice of their own play is a critical factor in enriching their learning and contributing to their well being and development.

The Welsh Assembly Government recognises the significance and the value of play in children's development and that children have an innate desire to seek out opportunities to take increasing risks. This is an essential part of their play and learning. It requires us to respond positively by extending the range of environments and opportunities available for children's play while continuing to have due regard for their physical and psychological well being.

The Welsh Assembly Government is committed to ensuring that all children have access to rich stimulating environments, free from inappropriate risk, and full of challenge, thereby offering them the opportunity to explore through freely chosen play both themselves and the world.

The Welsh Assembly Government recognises that the impact of modern society on children's lives has significantly restricted their opportunity to play freely and has resulted in a poverty of play opportunities in the general environment. It is therefore committed to encouraging the creation of high quality 'compensatory' play provision that is appropriate, local, stimulating and challenging for all children in Wales.

The Welsh Assembly Government commits itself to the development in partnership of a strategy that will set out the way in which the principles in this statement can be implemented.

2. Encouraging more play provision

The Assembly Government has created a new statutory framework, and provided new resources that will help develop new play provision.

The Children Act 2004 imposes a duty of co-operation between agencies that promote the well being of children and young people. It specifies that one of the purposes of this co-operation is to improve the well being of children relating to education, training and recreation. Play is therefore included in a specific duty in the primary legislation. That duty will be supported by statutory guidance that is currently out to consultation. The Act will also require local authorities to prepare Children and Young People's Plans, setting out the joint priorities and objectives of the local partners. The current intention is that the first of these plans will cover a three-year cycle beginning in April 2008. Detailed guidance on these plans, which will build on the existing Children and Young People's Framework Plans, will be issued for consultation in 2006.

Action: The Assembly Government will include in Children Act planning guidance a duty to co-operate in addressing the play needs of local children and young people. This will include the need for staffed adventure play that provides children with a rich play environment to compensate for the loss of natural open space. It will also point out the need for play to be inclusive of all children; none should be excluded because of issues such as different levels of ability, language, race or gender.

RHONDDA CYNON TAF'S PLAY STRATEGY

The Council recognises the value of play for child development, and for promoting children's well being, social interaction and skills development.

Recognising the need to establish a robust strategic framework for expanding existing play opportunities, and for maximising the contribution of all those local organisations interested in, and involved with, children's play, the Lifelong Learning Division of the Education and Children's Services Group commissioned a well-known voluntary organisation, Valleys Kids, to undertake preparatory work for a comprehensive Play Strategy.

Valleys Kids' brief was to lead a wide-ranging consultation with key local stakeholders, so that whatever was eventually produced would have significant local support and, most importantly, would encompass all the perceived play needs of children, young people, and their communities.

Key to the gathering of information and respondents' views was the development of a questionnaire, supported by personal interviews (face to face and by telephone) focus group meetings, and by workshops. Consultees' included voluntary organisations, schools, health workers, teachers and parents. The views of children were sought, too, but the resources available were not sufficient for the development of a large-scale exercise.

The Play Strategy which resulted includes nine key objectives relating to audits of provision, play promotion, staff training, quality assurance, the contribution of fixed play areas, and resource implications.

The Play Strategy was formally adapted by Fframwaith, the children and young people's strategic planning framework. The multi-agency Play Strategy Group – whose terms of reference are to work towards the implementation of the strategy – reports to Fframwaith.

Local authorities are free to use their own funding for all types of play, but in 2000 the Assembly Government introduced new funding specifically for play. Since April 2003, that stream of funding has been within Cymorth - the Children and Youth Support Fund. Play is a key theme within Cymorth and every local authority has continued to use Cymorth to support play. Allocations to local authorities under Cymorth are increasing by a total of £11.5 million between 2005-06 and 2006-07.

TRAVELLERS PLAY PROJECT

This Cymorth-funded project in Cardiff aims to integrate and include children from Gypsy and Traveller communities into mainstream local open access play and youth provision, to raise awareness of Gypsy and Traveller culture and to counter discrimination and prejudice.

Activities include 4 sessions per week for Gypsy and Traveller young people aged 5-15 yrs living on the two Local Authority sites at Rover Way and Shirenewton with availability made for housed Gypsy and Traveller children where possible, regular swimming sessions at Pentwyn leisure centre, involving children with Cardiff's Mass Carnival, a video project with HTV Wales and an Arts Recycling project in partnership with Eastmoors and Tesco.

The Extending Entitlement programme for the 11-25 group is founded on ten entitlements. One of those is "an opportunity for recreational and social opportunities in a safe and accessible environment."

The Assembly Government worked with the Lottery to provide more than 24,000 new out of school childcare places between 1999 and 2002. Across Wales these have provided safe play environments before and after school, and during school holidays, while helping parents with childcare. The Childcare Action Plan, published in 2002, began with a clear statement that childcare is a key part of the programmes to support children. The Assembly Government is not interested in supporting care that merely warehouses children. Quality out of school care should provide children with opportunities for freely chosen play, and therefore make a significant contribution to this action plan.

Action: The Assembly Government will produce guidance on what constitutes quality play opportunities.

The Assembly Government also worked with the Lottery to develop proposals for at least one Integrated Centre in each local authority area. The centres are required to include open access play facilities within their networks of services. It is intended that the benefits of adventure play can be spread by this mechanism in some of Wales' most disadvantaged areas. Currently 30 centres are open or in hand. The next stage in their development will be as part of the Flying Start Initiative, under which the Assembly Government has made available £46 million for interventions for 0-3 year olds in disadvantaged areas over the next two years.

The National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services (NSF) emphasises the importance of play and leisure in children and young people's mental health and psychological well being, and requires the Children and Young People's Framework Plan to include services and facilities for inclusive play and leisure.

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 established rights for disabled people to have the same access to 'goods and services'. The Disability Discrimination Act 2004 requires service providers to take reasonable steps, to tackle physical barriers to access for disabled people.

INTERPLAY

Interplay began in 1987 as a summer play project and has since grown to become a year round provider of inclusive play and leisure for 5 –19 year olds in the counties of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot.

The majority of users have some degree of learning disabilities; many have physical impairments, sensory impairments and challenging behaviour. Interplay does not run play schemes, but instead provides additional support staff to enable children aged 5-11 with various needs to be integrated into play schemes organised by local authorities, local voluntary groups and leisure centres.

During the summer there are fortnightly sessions known as 'Choosedays' where the young people decide upon their own itinerary and activities with the assistance of trained workers. Similar activities take place throughout the year. Interplay also runs 2 inclusive performing art groups that meet on a weekly basis in the counties they operate in. Interplay is also involved with the Blue Light Discos organised by the South Wales Constabulary, integrating 13 plus age groups.

Interplay is heavily involved in play training for community-based play schemes in both counties. This ensures that all local authority play staff receive training on inclusion.

In 2005-2006 Interplay is receiving Cymorth funding of £26,259.

The Big Lottery Fund has consulted on priorities for its programmes, agreed with the Assembly Government. It is now developing a new programme on Children's Play and Active and Healthy Families that will

- develop new and stimulating play opportunities for children;
- promote the long-term strategic development of play provision across Wales; and
- develop joined up approaches to promote healthy eating, exercise and play among children and families.

The Programme has an overall budget of approximately £20 million, and will incorporate dedicated funds for play development and for new play provision.

Action: The Big Lottery Fund will work with the Welsh Assembly Government and key stakeholders working on play and healthy lifestyles to ensure that the programme meets local and national priorities and has a clear strategic impact.

If practitioners throughout Wales are to share and implement the Assembly Government's vision of the importance of quality play experiences, there is a need to develop a common idea of what good play facilities look like. The experts in identifying what is needed are of course children and young people, who should be involved in planning and designing facilities.

Action: The Assembly Government will work with practitioners, communities and children to develop standards for a wide variety of play provision, that will be mandatory for play funded by specific grant and will give a lead to other provision. The standards will build on the existing National Minimum Standards for Open Access Play. They will encourage children and young people to be included in planning and designing local play facilities.

3. The Role of Schools

The Assembly Government agrees with the Implementation Group that schools are well placed within the community to provide a range of opportunities for children's play. School playgrounds and playing fields can often represent the only local open space in urban areas.

The Foundation Phase for children from 3 to 7 years recognises the international evidence that children learn best through play and being actively involved in activities. School grounds, if well designed, landscaped, and managed, offer children and young people a valuable range of stimuli, ideas and resources.

The Foundation Phase and Play

Play Wales working with 'Playpeople' has developed a programme of one-day courses that supports early years teachers and teaching assistants, providing them with ideas to create the best outdoor environment that centres on the value and integrity of children's learning through play.

This course is tailored to meet the particular needs of teaching staff preparing for the Foundation Phase in Wales. It is being delivered through Local Education Authorities. "The Foundation Phase: a 'play-led' approach" explores the delivery of early years learning in schools from a play perspective. The course defines a 'play-led' approach to learning and summarises the current state of research into the link between learning and play. It significantly enhances training and support which focuses on environmental improvements.

Initial feedback has been positive and indicates that by the end of the day practitioners have a clear understanding of the 'play-led' approach to early years learning and have many practical ideas of the play environments and materials needed to put this approach into practice.

One of the Assembly Government's Top Ten commitments in Wales: A Better Country is to improve school buildings so that they are fit for purpose and properly maintained by 2010. There is a budget to support improvements to school buildings and the school site, which at the local authority's discretion may be used to improve landscaping so as to make a more rich and exciting play environment. In order to ensure that maximum benefit is obtained from such landscaping, pupils should always be consulted, through mechanisms such as Schools Councils, about how the environment of schools/setting can be changed.

This development will provide spaces that serve the play policy and enable children to interact with the environment and each other. The spaces will provide for the experience of a range of play types, both for use by the children attending during the school day and for children and wider community use out of school hours.

Schools can play a key role in creating and improving opportunities for play and informal recreation. Schools are actively encouraged to develop a community focus and to open up their playing fields or make parts of their grounds available outside school time as play resources. This is particularly important in areas where there is limited playing field or open space provision.

The Welsh Assembly Government is making £3 million available through Local Education Authorities in 2005-06 and in each of the following two financial years to help schools develop a community focus. Play schemes would be eligible for funding providing they meet the scheme criteria.

The reduction in children's ability to play freely out of doors outside school hours means that the importance of school playtimes has increased in terms of offering scope for play that is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated. It is important that both teaching and non-teaching staff should have an understanding of the philosophy and practice of play. This includes knowledge of play types, play behaviour, play needs, and appropriate intervention styles.

Action: The Assembly Government will support the development of training resources on play for teaching and non-teaching staff in schools, and bring them to the attention of all schools.

Action: The Assembly Government will highlight the opportunity for new play facilities provided by Community Focussed Schools, and will provide guidance as to how these might be developed effectively.

4. Play in the Community

Children and young people want to meet up and play in open spaces wherever they occur. But the growth in motor traffic over the last 40 years has greatly increased the reluctance of parents to let their children roam freely. Young people have told us that they want more facilities to meet up and socialise. But, in the absence of more suitable provision, communities often feel threatened by congregations of young people on the street.

It is estimated that only 45% of 5-16 year olds now walk to school. This has a negative effect on their ability to explore their locality and the opportunity to play together. Other journeys made independently - to see a friend or have access to play outside - have also lessened. Children and young people should be given every chance to fulfil their potential and access to play, leisure and sporting facilities is important in realising this aim.

Walking to school leads to higher levels of physical activity, including the opportunities to play, which has a positive impact on a child's health. It is important that we open up these chances for active lifestyles as more children are experiencing health problems as fitness has declined.

Many adventure playgrounds incorporate an element of self-build using natural resources. Building play opportunities can draw communities together. When communities are actively involved in planning play, across the generations, there can be wider benefits for social cohesion, social enterprise and the inclusive impact of voluntary initiative. Adults who become involved in the planning or delivery of play opportunities locally acquire the transferable skills of the social entrepreneur. Play opportunities have acted, in many parts of Wales, as a catalyst to further community development, involvement, and participation. This can be the most effective way to engender feelings of ownership by the wider community and, as a result, more people have an interest in the playground.

'Flat pack' playgrounds

Cardiff County Borough Council has worked with a small company based in the Cotswolds to develop structures for new playgrounds that can be assembled by the community.

The concept itself is extremely simple. It uses various lengths of prepared timber and a series of steel sockets into which the timbers fit. The sockets come in a variety of shapes which gives those who are building the structure flexibility in terms of initial design and add on modifications.

Workers began to refer to these structures as "flat pack" as a way of making the concept of playground design and build much more accessible in people's minds.

The project to date has seen a number of structures built at a variety of sites across Cardiff. Some have been built utilising volunteer support from various businesses as part of their work in the community, some have been built by groups of young people and some have been built by play staff at play centres. A structure has also been adapted for use in a nursery setting.

The cost of these structures can be about one tenth of the price of traditional equipment.

Cardiff Council now hopes to develop a suitable training package that can go alongside the component purchase and to develop the concept as an integral part of a more naturalistic approach using fallen trees, boulders, sand, gravel and natural landscaping as part of playscapes.

The provision of trained playworkers and play rangers can help in making environments safer, by supporting and facilitating opportunities for children to play.

Planning policy and transport policy are influential in determining how space in communities is used. Planning Policy Wales, supplemented by Technical Advice Notes, sets out the Assembly's planning policy, which is used by local authorities preparing development plans for their area and in taking planning decisions.

The Assembly Government has made large investments in Safe Routes to School to make the streets around school more safe. The Assembly Government's Road Safety Strategy calls for more 20-mph zones, and for 20 mph to be the speed limit in new residential developments unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Strategy promotes the greater use of shared space ideas, and Home Zones in particular. In order to do this in existing areas, local communities should be in the forefront of planning, designing and implementing their own Home Zone solutions – with local authorities and consultants providing the necessary technical expertise.

20 mph zones in Neath Port Talbot

Fifty-seven schools within Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council have had advisory 20-mph zones installed around them. The aim of the scheme is to reduce vehicle speeds in and around schools, in particular the approach to School Crossing Patrols, hence the zonal approach. The start of each zone consists of a gateway feature incorporating a plateau and one pair of the nine different types of 20-mph sign being used. The signs have different motifs, which is dependent upon whether the school is primary or secondary. Local pupils designed the motifs. The zone also consists of red road markings. Early indications show that speeds are dropping in these zones, making them much safer for pupils to walk to school.

The Assembly Government will seek to ensure that, in preparing planning policy, appropriate account is taken of the need for children and young people to have opportunities and facilities for play and exercise.

The Assembly Government notes that Local Authorities may dispose of land at a price under commercial value if a consequent community benefit, such as retaining play space, justifies it. "Best value" is a general principle to be applied to the whole range of an authority's operations and services, rather than to individual transactions.

The Assembly Government will support the preparation of new guidance for local authorities. The guidance should consider the planning issues raised by the needs of different age groups and types of community – from urban areas with a lack of open space, to rural areas where villages may face fast through traffic.

Action: The Assembly Government will consult widely, including with children and young people in reviewing the Planning Technical Advice Notes which relates to open space, play and recreation.

Action: The Assembly Government will encourage those involved locally with transport and play to co-operate in taking forward the Home Zone policies of the Road Safety Strategy for Wales.

Action: The Assembly Government will support the development of new guidance for Local Authorities on appropriate community play provision. This will complement the Technical Advice Notes and include the issues of staffing and ensuring that responsibility is not delegated to community councils without appropriate expertise.

5. A playwork profession

The Assembly Government wishes to see play provision staffed by workers trained to understand how to promote inclusive freely chosen play. The Assembly Government supports the notion of a playwork profession. The Assembly Government support flexible qualifications to attract and retain recruits to childcare, youth work, and play, while ensuring that the quality of children's play is not compromised. The Assembly Government has already supported Play Wales to undertake the UK lead of a review of the Playwork Values and Assumptions that underpin the Playwork NVQs, and endorses the outcome of this work, the Playwork Principles.

The Assembly Government wishes to ensure that different professions can understand each other's language and value the contributions that they make. It will be working with the UK Government and the Care Council for Wales in developing an integrated children's workforce, including the development of a single qualifications framework, incorporating playwork, and a common core of skills and knowledge. The Care Council will be bringing together a network representing those working with children and young people, including SkillsActive, the sector skills council for playwork. This will be the mechanism for facilitating consultation on the proposals for developing the workforce, including the common core for qualifications. The inclusion of SkillsActive and its role in supporting playwork reflects the Assembly's recognition of the unique nature of play in being a child-determined agenda.

Action: The Assembly Government will continue to work with Play Wales and other partners to seek to ensure that there are appropriate training opportunities at all levels for play workers.

Action: The Assembly Government will work with the UK Government on the development of the children's workforce, including a single qualifications framework and the development of a common core of skills and knowledge.

Action: As part of both this Action plan and the Childcare Action Plan, the Assembly Government will seek ways of addressing recruitment and retention issues, in conjunction with the Sector Skills Council SkillsActive.

6. Managing risk and parental concerns

The Play Policy Implementation Group pointed to the reduction in children's opportunities to play freely outside of the home. Children and young people living in Wales have become sheltered from the environment that might support their developmental play needs. Many are driven to school and leisure time activities, are watched when at play and never experience the freedom of playing without constraining supervision. As a result, they have fewer opportunities to explore the world they live in, to choose their own friends, to learn independence and to gain knowledge of the characteristics of their community.

To acknowledge this is not to criticise parents and carers, who have genuine concern for the children, particularly in the light of modern traffic conditions. In some communities, they may also fear that allowing children to 'play out' will be interpreted as poor parenting. The Assembly Government will look for opportunities to promote to parents active play and managed risk, which offers such wide benefits to children and society.

Play providers are finding it more difficult to meet children's needs in the light of increased insurance premiums. Part of the reason for the higher premiums is the cover against legal action taken by parents against play providers if children suffer injury. The Assembly Government will look at every opportunity to influence this position, but must recognise its powers are limited. Government cannot influence the right of parents to take action where negligence has given rise to injury. However, Government can influence the context in which such legal action takes place. Central Government sets the guidelines for "no win, no fee" litigation, and the Assembly Government would support a review of this arrangement as it affects children's services.

Government can also indicate what it regards as good practice in risk management, recognising that support for play and children's development requires a balanced judgement of risk. Through the Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales, the Assembly Government regulates staffed play provision serving children aged under 8 and can ensure that such a balanced approach is taken in these settings. In judging this balance, it will take into account the report of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Children review that has been conducted by Gwenda Thomas AM.

The Assembly Government has funded the Welsh Council for Voluntary Action to produce a DVD for voluntary bodies on risk management.

Action: The Assembly Government will request central Government to review the impact of "no-win no-fee" arrangements on children's activities.

Action: The Assembly Government will revise the Regulations for Childminding and Daycare to require risk assessment that balances risk against the benefits of the play opportunity, rather than an avoidance of all unnecessary risk.

Action: Through new standards for play provision, the Assembly Government will define a public benchmark of balancing risk against benefit in play.

Action: The Assembly Government will incorporate encouragement of play at all ages in the Assembly Government's parent support programmes.

Action: The Assembly Government will produce a handbook for parents on what constitutes quality play and how they can help facilitate it.

7. Play across the Assembly

Play is a child's right and is a fundamental part of childhood. At the same time it provides a number of benefits to children and communities that cross Ministerial portfolios. In particular it supports long term mental health and psychological wellbeing and social skills. There is international evidence that active play helps prevent obesity.

Research (Macket, R. University college London, 2004) has established that children need regular opportunities for outdoor play in order to maintain healthy levels of physical activity. The BMA published a paper on Preventing Childhood Obesity (June 2005) that highlights the benefits of play and the value of outdoor play spaces. This confirms that medical experts and government policy agree that more physical activity from an early age is essential to combat the growing public health issues regarding children and young people.

The Assembly Government's Child Poverty Strategy, "A Fair Future for our Children" is based on the principle that children experience poverty in many different ways – poverty of income, of services, and of participation in society. The support to play through Cymorth – the children and youth support fund has been concentrated on disadvantaged areas. This action plan will help to provide greater access to play opportunities, and thus address this aspect of service poverty.

This action plan has discussed some of the ways that policies on issues such as planning, transport and education can affect children's opportunities to play. The Assembly Government uses a Policy Gateway to test new policies for their impact on existing priorities that cut across Ministerial responsibilities. This will be amended to ensure that the impact on play is considered when new policies are developed.

Action: The Assembly Government will continue to ensure that play is recognised as a means of providing enjoyable psychological and physical activity for all children and will commission research in Wales on the psychological benefits of freely chosen play.

Action: The Assembly Government will proof its policies for their impact on children's play through its Policy Gateway.

Implementation

The Assembly Government is concerned that the focus should now be on achievable action rather than statements of principle. The last few years have seen a far greater acknowledgement of the value of freely chosen play across Wales. To ensure that this momentum is not lost, the chart below sets out a timetable that can be monitored for the implementation of the recommendations in this action plan. This will be achieved by regular cross governmental monitoring meetings within the Assembly Government.

Implementation Timetable

| Action | Timetable |
|--|--|
| <p>Action: The Assembly Government will include in Children Act planning guidance a duty to co-operate in addressing the play needs of local children and young people. This will include the need for staffed adventure play that provides children with a rich play environment to compensate for the loss of natural open space. It will also point out the need for play to be inclusive of all children; none should be excluded because of issues such as different levels of ability, language, race or gender.</p> | <p>March 2007</p> |
| <p>Action: The Assembly Government will produce guidance on what constitutes quality play opportunities.</p> | <p>March 2007</p> |
| <p>Action: The Big Lottery Fund will work with the Welsh Assembly Government and key stakeholders working on play and healthy lifestyles to ensure that the programme meets local and national priorities and has a clear strategic impact.</p> | <p>Details to be announced Spring 2006</p> |
| <p>Action: The Assembly Government will work with practitioners, communities and children to develop standards for a wide variety of play provision, that will be mandatory for play funded by specific grant and will give a lead to other provision. The standards will build on the existing National Minimum Standards for Open Access Play. They will encourage children and young people to be included in planning and designing local play facilities.</p> | <p>Begin: February 2006 Complete: March 2008</p> |
| <p>Action: The Assembly Government will support the development of training resources on play for teaching and non-teaching staff in schools, and bring them to the attention of all schools.</p> | <p>September 2007</p> |
| <p>Action: The Assembly Government will highlight the opportunity for new play facilities provided by Community Focussed Schools, and will provide guidance as to how these might be developed effectively.</p> | <p>September 2006</p> |

| Action | Timetable |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Action: The Assembly Government will consult widely, including with children and young people in reviewing the Planning Technical Advice Notes which relates to open space, play and recreation. | Consultation to begin Spring 2007 |
| Action: The Assembly Government will encourage those involved locally with transport and play to co-operate in taking forward the Home Zone policies of the Road Safety Strategy for Wales. | Ongoing |
| Action: The Assembly Government will support the development of new guidance for Local Authorities on appropriate community play provision. This will complement the Technical Advice Notes and include the issues of staffing and ensuring that responsibility is not delegated to community councils without appropriate expertise. | March 2007 |
| Action: The Assembly Government will continue to work with Play Wales and other partners to seek to ensure that there are appropriate training opportunities at all levels for play workers. | Ongoing |
| Action: The Assembly Government will work with the UK Government on the development of the children's workforce, including a single qualifications framework and the development of a common core of skills and knowledge. | Ongoing |
| Action: As part of both this Action plan and the Childcare Action Plan, the Assembly Government will seek ways of addressing recruitment and retention issues, in conjunction with the Sector Skills Council SkillsActive. | Guidance issued by March 2006 |
| Action: The Assembly Government will request central Government to review the impact of "no-win no-fee" arrangements on children's activities. | March 2006 |

| Action | Timetable |
|---|---|
| Action: The Assembly Government will revise the Regulations for Childminding and Daycare to require risk assessment that balances risk against the benefits of the play opportunity, rather than an avoidance of all unnecessary risk. | September 2006 |
| Action: Through new standards for play provision, the Assembly Government will define a public benchmark of balancing risk against benefit in play. | March 2008 |
| Action: The Assembly Government will incorporate encouragement of play at all ages in the Assembly Government's parent support programmes. | Ongoing |
| Action: The Assembly Government will produce a handbook for parents on what constitutes quality play and how they can help facilitate it. | September 2006 |
| Action: The Assembly Government will continue to ensure that play is recognised as a means of providing enjoyable psychological and physical activity for all children and will commission research in Wales on the psychological benefits of freely chosen play. | Commission research: September 2006 Report: September 2007 |
| Action: The Assembly Government will proof its policies for their impact on children's play through its Policy Gateway. | March 2006 |

Summary of Recommendations of Play Policy Implementation Group

| Recommendation | | Related Action Plan Section |
|----------------|---|---|
| 1 | That the Welsh Assembly Government place a statutory duty upon local authorities to provide for children's play needs to meet national minimum standards. | 2. Encouraging more play provision |
| 2 | That the Welsh Assembly Government commit itself to supporting the transformation of those areas of school grounds not dedicated to sports activities, by landscaping and planting, to create compensatory natural spaces that provide children with a rich play environment. | 3. The Role of Schools |
| 3 | That the Welsh Assembly Government support the development of training for school staff, teaching and non-teaching, to better enable them to recognise and understand the value of play as children's self directed learning, and how they as adults might better facilitate that play in school play time. | 3. The Role of Schools |
| 4 | That the Welsh Assembly Government ensures that all teacher training courses for new teachers and nursery staff in Wales, include content that addresses the most recent developments in the understanding of children's play as children's self-directed learning and how playwork facilitates that process. | 3. The Role of Schools |
| 5 | That the Welsh Assembly Government ensures that in future it will direct resources and initiatives, to take account of the fundamental significance of play in children's and young people's healthy development and lifestyle. | 2. Encouraging more play provision and 7. Play across the Assembly |
| 6 | That the Welsh Assembly Government, remain cognisant of features of play deprivation when considering the distribution of new lottery funds including the Young People's Fund. | 2. Encouraging more play provision |
| 7 | That the Welsh Assembly Government support the development of action research to inform the issue of play deprivation and its consequences upon the individual child and society in general. | 7. Play across the Assembly |

| Recommendation | | Related Action Plan Section |
|-----------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 8 | That the Welsh Assembly Government includes consideration of children and young people and their play needs in the Assembly Government Policy Integration Tool. | 7. Play across the Assembly |
| 9 | That the Welsh Assembly Government require all Local Authorities and Framework Partnerships to take a lead role in the development of Local Play Policies and Strategies for policy implementation when considering the development of Community Strategy. | 2. Encouraging more play provision |
| 10 | That the Welsh Assembly Government clarify aspects of 'Extending Entitlement' so as to ensure that this initiative makes the maximum possible contribution to meeting children's play needs. | 2. Encouraging more play provision |
| 11 | That the Welsh Assembly Government continue to support the development of the unique role of the playworker, to facilitate children's play within the community. | 5. A playwork profession |
| 12 | That the Welsh Assembly Government ensures the development of Higher Education training and qualifications appropriate to the needs of those whose role combines playwork, early years work, community development and youth work. | 5. A playwork profession |
| 13 | That the Welsh Assembly Government, in recognition of the increased parity of role, support the integration of Playwork pay and conditions into the Joint National Committee conditions of service and pay scales for Youth Work and Community Work. | 5. A playwork profession |
| 14 | That the Welsh Assembly Government supports this development to produce a new range of playwork training materials and courses to meet the needs of the playworker in the twenty first century. | 5. A playwork profession |
| 15 | That the Welsh Assembly Government develop concise guidance that will enable the development of a community build play area programme throughout Wales. | 4. Play in the community |

| Recommendation | Related Action Plan Section |
|--|--|
| 16 That the Welsh Assembly Government ensure that Community Land Trusts (and others) have first refusal on any suitable public land that becomes available for sale, in order that pockets and areas of open space, wasteland and woodland, particularly within urban areas, where children and young people already play, can be protected. | 4. Play in the community |
| 17 That the Welsh Assembly Government should prepare and keep under review new guidance with respect to children's play provision. | 2. Encouraging more play provision and 4. Play in the community |
| 18 That the Welsh Assembly Government support the development of a coherent public education programme and publicity campaign to ensure that the developmental play needs of children are recognised for their critical importance to society and its future. | 6. Managing risk and parental concerns |
| 19 That the Welsh Assembly Government, pursue all avenues to ensure the development of an environment in which the balance between children's play needs and their need to experience risks, is not compromised by inappropriate use of litigation. | 6. Managing risk and parental concerns |
| 20 That the Welsh Assembly Government revise The Child Minding and Day Care (Wales) Regulations to ensure that the Regulations do not militate against provision being made to meet children's developmental needs to learn how to manage risk. | 6. Managing risk and parental concerns |
| 21 That the Welsh Assembly Government commends to other bodies the exemplar of the Forestry Commission's important contribution to the development of provision to meet children's play needs throughout Wales. | 2. Encouraging more play provision |
| 22 That the Welsh Assembly Government promote the use of traffic calming and Home Zones within existing and new developments to increase the use of residential roads for children's play. | 4. Play in the community |
| 23 That the Welsh Assembly Government continue to stress the importance of local authorities working in partnership with voluntary organisations, and through them children within local communities. | 2. Encouraging more play provision |
| 24 That the Welsh Assembly Government publish a programme for implementation of the recommendations, identifying key milestones and a time frame against which they may be measured. | 7. Play across the Assembly |

Play Sufficiency Assessment Form



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Name of Local Authority: Newport City Council

Name of responsible officer: Alexa Tudball

Job title: Play Development Manager

Date of completion: 31st March 2016

Please note that the Play Sufficiency Assessment must be received by the Welsh Government by 31st March 2016



Conducting the Assessment – Play Sufficiency Assessment

As well as establishing a baseline of provision, the Play Sufficiency Assessment will enable the following:

- Identification of gaps in information, provision, service delivery and policy implementation
- Support the establishment of evidence to give an indication of distance travelled in relation to play sufficiency
- Highlight potential ways of addressing issues relating to partnership working
- The input and involvement of all partners increasing levels of knowledge and understanding
- A monitoring system which will involve and improve communication between professionals
- The identification of good practice examples
- Increased levels of partnerships in assessing sufficient play opportunities
- The identification of actions for the Securing Play Sufficiency Action Plan which accompanies the Play Sufficiency Assessment

A template has been produced to support a corporate appraisal of the matters that need to be taken into account as set out in the Statutory Guidance. The indicators listed within each matter are provided as sample indicators which should be amended to meet local issues as appropriate.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment must demonstrate that the Local Authority has taken into account and assessed the matters set out in The Play Sufficiency Assessment (Wales) Regulations 2012 and Statutory Guidance.

As well as providing baseline information, the Assessment can include examples of current practice that the Local Authority wishes to highlight.

Local Authorities might consider structuring the Play Sufficiency Assessment in the following way and as a minimum address all the identified sections.

Principle Statement

This section should be used to articulate the Local Authority's acknowledgement of the value and importance of play in the lives of children.

Children's play has been supported by the Local Authority for many years with the provision of spaces to play and a summer programme. In 2000 we were able to further enhance our provision with the Welsh Government 'Play Grant 2000' This enabled us to employ someone to focus on children's play and develop more play provision and opportunities. Since 2000 a small Play Development team has developed many services for children and young people along with the support this gives the whole family. The Local Authority values the benefits this has to these families and the community and look to support the continuation and further development.

We are currently undergoing a service review to create a robust delivery model for 2016/17. The delivery will look different in comparison to previous years in light of reduction in funding and the changes to CSSIW regulations.

We are pleased with the recent legislation that supports children's play and look forward to reviewing and enhancing the opportunities further with the support of Welsh Government and other partners.

Context

This section should describe the methodology used to undertake and approve the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan and any consultation with partners on the Assessment/Action Plan. It should also list the key partners that engaged with the process and identify any challenges in undertaking the Assessment. It should describe the mechanism that the Local Authority proposes to use to take forward the identified actions for the action plan.

A number of key individuals were consulted with an overview of services and gain support from organisations and internal departments. All partners were contacted and updates provided which has provided valuable information on the developments since the previous Play Sufficiency in 2013.

We were keen to consult with the public, service users and families to identify their needs using social media, online, Playschemes and Play Clubs across the city. Unfortunately this has not been as thorough as past consultation events due to the timing coinciding with a service restructure.

The Draft Play Sufficiency & Action Plan will be submitted to Welsh Government on 31st March 2016 deadline. The agreed Play sufficiency Assessment and action plan will follow following cabinet approval.

Timescales for completion were a challenge to the Local Authority because in the lead up to Christmas 2015, we were notified that the Play Development service was potentially facing a reduction to both our core and Families First funding. This resulted in a whole service review and a number of reports which are currently awaiting approval. The reduction to families first funding coupled with the changes to CSSIW regulations has resulted in a significant change to the way we deliver play across the city.

Partnership working

This section should demonstrate to what extent the following (and others) were involved in the undertaking of the Assessment and the development of the action plan:

- Town and Community Councils
- Third sector organisations, particularly regional play associations
- The private sector if appropriate
- Community groups
- Community First Partnerships

We conducted a number of one to ones with key partners who provided invaluable support to the undertaking of the Assessment. The Family information Service and the Marketing team internally provided support in ensuring we consulted with as many service users, families and communities as possible.

We have received overwhelming support through a number of stakeholder meetings such as the EYDCP, FIS, SIP – Health and Wellbeing strand especially in relation to the development of a Welsh Language Playscheme. We are currently in the process of registering this site for 5 – 12 years, however, our main issue has been the recruitment and retention of welsh language speakers. As a partnership between Play Development, Work Based Learning Academy and Flying Start we are in the process of creating an Apprenticeship Scheme to develop welsh language provision and skills across Early years, Flying Start and Play. it is our hope that this scheme will assist us in developing and sustaining a welsh speaking workforce.

Action Plan

The Action Plan has been drafted by using the information gathered from one to ones with individual partners. The Local Authority did not form a working group however there were nominated Officers who took a lead role in pulling the Action Plan together. Any issues that arose were taken directly to Community Regeneration Manager and Head of Service for further support and actions to ensure the deadline for completion was met.

Consultation and participation

This section should describe how the Local Authority has:

- Obtained the views of children with regards to the play opportunities they currently access, how they would like the community to better support them to play and what barriers stop them from playing
- Obtained the views on play provision from parents, families and other stakeholders
- Analysed the information and have used it to inform future plans

Children and Families were the main target for the consultation however the whole process has given everyone an opportunity to have their say throughout the process.

Children were consulted at play settings across the city and online consultation was conducted with the support of the Family Information Service and Marketing. Consulting with children takes longer than with adults which resulted in less children participating. More time needs investing in the consultation and participation with children to ensure there is accurate view. Play Development and playworkers undertook the task of consulting with children through playing games to obtain views and when appropriate through the use of questionnaires.

A total of 143 children and 75 adults were consulted with over 6 week period. As this period spanned the Christmas holidays we felt this was a good response but could have been higher much higher in terms of adult questionnaires.

Maximising resources

This section should provide an overview as to how partners currently use their existing budgets to support children's access to play opportunities. It should identify how budgets have been reprioritised as part of the 2013 Play Sufficiency Assessments and subsequent plans.

Please use this section to highlight what has changed since the 2013 Play Sufficiency Action Plan in terms of how resources are allocated.

Please also highlight how Welsh Government programmes have been used locally for the provision of play and how they have addressed priorities from your 2013 play sufficiency assessment:

Within the current climate it is difficult for the Local Authority to commit to further supporting children's play financially. There will be reprioritisation of budgets on all aspects including children's play to support the challenging budget cuts across Regeneration, Investment and Housing.

Currently the Local Authority invests £72,814 in children play for summer provision and £50,000 for fixed play area development. In addition to this we received £293,216 from Families First to support play opportunities for children throughout the year and to support play opportunities for disabled children, enhancing the core investment to allow children aged 5+ to attend. Within the Action Plan there is a requirement to make careful decisions regarding further budget cuts to areas which impact on children playing in their community. This is a true reflection of budgets set for 2016/17 and will be reviewed yearly in line with savings to each local authority across Wales.

It will take the Local Authority longer to work with other partners regarding their budget priorities to further support children's play within communities. It is anticipated that this will not generate additional budgets for children's play but ensure there is an increase in consideration to children's play at a decision making level.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment and the Single Integrated Plan

This section should identify how the Play Sufficiency Assessments form part of the local needs assessment and to what extent the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan are integrated into the planning, implementation and review of the Single Integrated Plan.

Newport's Single Integrated Plan continues to reference the Play Sufficiency Assessment and action plan. There will be a refresh on an annually basis which will further strengthen the links between the two plans.

Monitoring Play Sufficiency

This section should identify the lead director and lead member for children and young people's services. It should also describe the Play Monitoring Group or equivalent. Along with a list of members, please describe how the group has been facilitated and the benefits and challenges of the group.

We have an established Play Strategy group which will be reconvened once the restructure is agreed within Play Development. This group is supported by key stakeholders both internally and externally. There have been meetings with the Cabinet Member of Work, Skills and Newport Live, Councillor Whitcutt. He is aware of changes to operational play delivery and the importance of play to all children and their families across Newport.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment has provided Play Development with the opportunity to engage and collaborate on a number of beneficial projects across the city. In partnership with Parks, we support and deliver all consultation with children and families. Another benefit of the Play Sufficiency is the partnership developed between Health and Safety and Play Development. They are open to delivering bespoke training to our seasonal staff, created crib sheets to support with form filling and are open to the idea of further exploring and adopting Risk Benefit Assessment / Dynamic Risk Assessments in a play environment.

Criteria

This section contains the “matters that need to be taken into account” as set out under section 10 of the Statutory Guidance.

The Criteria column: sets out the data that needs to be available and the extent to which Local Authorities meet the stated criteria.

The RAG status column: provides a drop down box, whereby the Local Authority can show its assessment of whether that criterion is fully met; partially met; or not met. These have been given Red, Amber Green markers, which appear as words in the drop down boxes.

Red, Amber Green (RAG) status is a tool to communicate status quickly and effectively.

RAG status

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Criteria fully met. | Fully met |
| Criteria partially met. | Partially met |
| Criteria not met. | Not met |

The Evidence to support strengths column: should be used to provide the reason for the chosen criteria status and how the evidence is held.

The Shortfall column: should be used to explain the areas in which the Local Authority does not fully meet the criteria.

The Identified Action for Action Plan column: Should be used to show the Local Authority action planning priorities for that Matter.

The General Comments: for each matter should give a clear overview of how the Local Authority complies with the intention and implementation of this matter as set out fully in the Statutory Guidance.

The template should be monitored by the officer who is co-ordinating the Assessment and reviewed on a regular basis by the Play Sufficiency Working Group.

Matter A: Population

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should present data about the number of children living in the Local Authority to enable an assessment of their potential play requirements. The data should provide information about the numbers of children in different categories that may affect their play requirements. The data should also show if the area is classified as one of disadvantage/deprivation and whether a 5 year population projection is available.

RAG Status

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Criteria fully met. | |
| Criteria partially met. | |
| Criteria not met. | |

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|--|---|--|
| There is data broken down by Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) | AMBER | AMBER | Information held by the corporate Spatial Data unit for Newport City Council. | Some data is not currently available. | |
| There is up to date data for ages: | | | | | |
| 0-3 | AMBER | AMBER | GP Registration data provided by Aneurin Bevan Health Board. Population Estimates on Stat Wales are both sources of information that is used by the LA | GP registration data will not include children not registered with a GP | LA will need to work with Spatial Data team to develop a mechanism for collecting & monitoring the information in the future. This will inform the play sufficiency assessments in the future. |

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|---|---|
| 4-7 | AMBER | AMBER | As above and (PLASC) Pupil Level Annual School Census. | This includes children who are educated in Newport but could live outside of the City. It will not include children educated outside Newport. | As above |
| 8-12 | AMBER | AMBER | As above | As Above | As above |
| 13-15 | AMBER | AMBER | As Above | As Above | As above |
| 16-17 | AMBER | AMBER | As Above | As Above | As above |
| There is an up to date recorded number of disabled children in each age group | AMBER | AMBER | Disabled Children's Team hold data | Not currently broken down into the age groups | Break down and develop monitoring arrangements for the data to be produced as directed. |
| There is up to date information regarding the number of children for whom Welsh is their first language or attend Welsh medium schools | GREEN | GREEN | PLASC NCC transport database – this will include pupils attending welsh medium schools outside the City | | |
| There is up to date information regarding other recorded cultural factors, including other language, and gypsy traveller children | AMBER | AMBER | Pupil Level Annual Level School Census (PLASC) includes ethnicity and first language data for all pupils whose parents are willing to disclose this information. | Some parents choose not to disclose ethnicity and/or first language. Gypsy traveller children often do not identify as such on pupil data collection forms which inform PLASC data. | Actions are difficult to determine information is not compulsory |

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|----------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------|
| | | | | | |

General Comments: Population Measures

Newport has a high level of inward migration, both from within the UK and outside the UK. Therefore, population estimates are likely to be lower than actual figures.

Matter B: Providing for Diverse Needs

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should present data about how the Local Authority and partners aim to offer play opportunities that are inclusive and encourage all children to play and meet together.

RAG Status:

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Criteria fully met. |  |
| Criteria partially met. |  |
| Criteria not met. |  |

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|--|---|
| The play requirements of children living in isolated rural areas are understood and provided for | RED | RED | The Local Authority undertook a review of summer provision in 2010. Consultation undertaken for | This only concentrated on Summer Playschemes Limited quantity and focuses on requirements | Undertake specific consultation and research to engage with families in rural |

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| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|---|---|--|
| | | | PSA | not provision. | areas of Newport. |
| The play requirements of Welsh language speaking children are understood and provided for | AMBER | GREEN | <p>We have a Welsh Language Playscheme which runs successfully for 8 weeks during the school holidays (February, Easter, Summer and October)</p> <p>Play Development are also part of a Welsh Language Workforce Development Group alongside Menter Iaith, Family Information Service, Education, Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids Clubs and Early Years to discuss and support one another with training and welsh language recruitment.</p> | | The Welsh Language Playscheme becoming a registered site with CSSIW for all children from 5 – 12 years. |
| The play requirements of children from different cultural background are understood and provided for | AMBER | AMBER | Girls only Play Club provided in community with high population of BME. | We do not currently hold specific information on the specific cultural requirements of children in Newport. | Undertake specific consultation and research to engage with families to understand their specific play requirements. |
| The play requirements and support needs of disabled | GREEN | GREEN | The Inclusive element of Play Development offers a | Significant savings placed on Local | Where possible identify additional |

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|--|---|---|
| children are understood and provided for. | | | <p>variety of play opportunities for children with specific requirements.</p> <p>Programmes vary each year to meet demands.</p> <p>Specialist Playscheme for 4 weeks during the summer for children with complex care needs.</p> <p>Serennu Children’s Centre Play, Youth and Activity programmes.</p> | Authorities are resulting in a reduction of provisions available for children with specific requirements. | funding for this project. |
| Play projects and providers have access to a range of resources which support inclusion | AMBER | AMBER | Both LA and Grants have improved resources available to support inclusion. | Equipment is easily damaged and requires constant replenishment. | <p>Explore options of an audit of resources across LA departments.</p> <p>Develop and produce a resources ideas pack for cheap solutions to sensory items</p> |
| There is a well-known and | AMBER | GREEN | A referral process is in place | | |

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|--|--|
| agreed mechanism which is used to identify the need for separate provision for disabled children | | | to ensure all children with complex care are supported in the correct environment. | | |
| Access audits for all play provision as described in the guidance are undertaken | RED | RED | Current play provision comply with access requirements as set out in the Equality Act | Current information only considers access into facility and toilet requirements. Comprehensive access audits are not undertaken. | Identify funding to commission access audits using the identified toolkit. |
| Designated play space is provided and well maintained on gypsy traveller sites | RED | RED | Consultation is underway in relation to a permanent resident Gypsy and traveller site in Hartridge Farm Road. | Currently there are no Gypsy traveller sites in Newport. | To work with GEMS and LA to develop these when allocated site has been agreed for gypsy traveller site in Newport. |
| The requirements of young carers are understood and provided for | AMBER | AMBER | Young Carers Project supports young people in caring roles and gathers views from them regarding their needs. Young Carers strategy for Newport has currently expired & is in the process of being rewritten. | Lack of funding to provide further support. | Further funding required to meet the ever increasing support needed for Young Carers. |
| The requirements of lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) | AMBER | AMBER | The Local Authority has a range of activities across the | Lack of funding to provide further support. | Review process and provision of |

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|---|------------|--|
| children are understood and provided for | | | city to support LGB children and young people to have their voices heard on a range of issues | | engagement mechanisms through Single Integrated Plan Engagement Strategy |
| The requirements of disabled children are understood and provided for within traffic and transport initiatives | GREEN | GREEN | <p>All disabled people are eligible for a Free bus pass under All Wales initiative New Link – community bus service for disabled people to support access to services.</p> <p>Newport City Council also supports rural services where Newport Transport cannot sustain services to ensure links to City centre are continued.</p> | | |

General Comments: Providing for Diverse Needs

Newport is a diverse multi-cultural City with a host of services for all residents. We aim to offer play opportunities that are inclusive and encourage all children to play in their community, however, this extremely challenging in the current climate.

Any barriers identified to children’s play are addressed wherever possible and the Play Development Team work hard to integrate children into mainstream services if appropriate. A reduction of Families First funds will restrict us meeting some of those families’ requirements. Whilst a vast amount of funding is set aside to deliver services there needs to be adequate mainstream provision in

order for integration to take place.

Newport City Council is working to adopt a suitable gypsy traveller site and consultation is underway. Once this has been developed and adopted further work can be undertaken in relation to assessing their play needs.

Matter C: Space available for children to play: Open Spaces and Outdoor unstaffed designated play spaces

The Local Authority should recognise that all open spaces within their area are potentially important areas where children can play or pass through to reach other play areas or places where they go.

RAG Status

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Criteria fully met. |  |
| Criteria partially met. |  |
| Criteria not met. |  |

Open Spaces

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|---|--|---|
| The Local Authority has undertaken an Open Space Assessment (OSA) that maps areas that are used, or might be used for playing as listed in the Statutory Guidance | GREEN | GREEN | Newport has undertaken A greenspace assessment which details 'Accessible Natural Greenspace' It maps spaces on Tiered basis and highlights both potential space and current spaces. This assessment highlights no person should | The Parks Department no longer benefits from capital funding for children's play. Therefore, the implementation of OSA is limited. | To identify other funding opportunities such as Section 106 or community led initiatives (Big Lottery) to implement new |

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| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|---|---|--|
| | | | live more than 300m from open spaces. | | play in accordance with OSA. |
| The Local Authority has undertaken an Accessible Greenspace Study that maps areas that are used for playing | GREEN | GREEN | As above | | |
| The Local Authority undertakes access audits at all open spaces and implements proposals to improve access and safety | AMBER | AMBER | Contained within the Greenspace audit are areas for development and the team is still working on this | The work is still on-going. | Continue to work with Natural Resources Wales and sustrans to further develop accessible spaces. |
| The Local Authority has developed its own Open Space Standards in accordance with the advice and requirements of Planning Policy Wales | AMBER | AMBER | This has been included within the Local Development Plan under Outdoor Play Space Requirements. | There is not a stand-alone document developed for this criteria | Parks and Planning would need to review these to ensure it complies with the requirements of Planning policy Wales |
| The Local Authority undertakes and actions Play | RED | RED | | All play areas are now inspected accordance with its | Investigate the use of Play |

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Space assessments which include actions to make public space clear from hazards | | | | usage in line with the requirements of BS EN 1176. No average all facilities are inspected every two weeks. | Space Assessments within the LA with Parks. This could be supported by Play Development. |
| Brownfield sites owned by the Local Authority are assessed for the potential for the site to be reclaimed to provide for children's play | RED | RED | | Information not available at the time of submitting the assessment | LA need to identify this information and work with departments to assess the criteria. |

Outdoor Unstaffed Designated Play Spaces

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|---|------------|------------------------------------|
| The Local Authority keeps an up to date record of all designated play space as described in the Statutory Guidance | GREEN | GREEN | Outdoor Playspace is recorded using a software system PSSlive which maps out areas and records a full asset register. | | |

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|---|--|--|
| | | | | | |
| The Local Authority assesses play spaces for play value and potential to increase in play use as set out in the Statutory Guidance | RED | AMBER | Play areas are assessed against 6 Acre Standard | This is a poor system which works on a points analysis basis and not true reflection of play value | Play Development & Parks to explore options for improving the methods of assessments with parks. |
| The Local Authority undertakes access audits at all designated play spaces and implements proposals to improve access and safety | AMBER | AMBER | The Local Authority undertakes Annual Playground safety inspection. Fortnightly inspections of play spaces are undertaken by the parks team who are RPII qualified. | This is not as in depth as the access audits example provide as part of the toolkit for assessment | As above |
| The Local Authority has developed and agreed a new fixed play provision standard | RED | RED | The Local Authority only considers EN1176 and the 6 Acer Standard. | | This needs further investigation and development within Parks Department. |
| The Local Authority undertakes and actions play space assessments in designated play spaces | RED | RED | The Local Authority currently assess space for safety and maintenance. | Informal data may be collected on the play space at the same time but is not formally recorded. | Consider the benefits of adopting the Play space assessment tool and adopt a |

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|--|--|
| | | | | | procedure for undertaking this. Identify funding to support the implementation. |
| The Local Authority has introduced smoke-free playgrounds | RED | GREEN | The Local Authority has worked closely with Smoke Free Wales and has implemented signage across all park facilities. | The Local Authority has no control of enforcing this policy. | |
| The Local Authority has removed 'no ball games' signs to encourage more children playing in the community | GREEN | GREEN | The Parks department do not permit these within the City. Data is not held relating to this criteria but requests would be denied. | | |
| The Local Authority has erected signs, such as Play Priority Signs to encourage more children playing in the community | AMBER | AMBER | A number of signs were erected under a Going for Gold scheme | Going for Gold project ended. The promotion and profiling of these areas has ceased. | Incorporate into Web information. Identify further funding to support this programme as part of core parks service delivery. |
| The Local Authority includes a recognition of the importance of playing fields to children's play when any | GREEN | GREEN | This is supported through section 106 decisions and must be agreed by a cabinet member | | Community Infrastructure Levy will need to be explored and |

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|--|--|
| disposal decisions are made | | | Local Development Plan & Single Integrated Plan also supports. | | understood & used to protect playing fields in the future. Parks to consider this. |
| The Local Authority includes children and their families in any consultations regarding decisions to dispose of playing fields | AMBER | AMBER | No disposal occurred to date. The LA aim to protect playing fields and play spaces within Newport. | Not a procedure or policy in place that relates to this. | Investigate how this could be written into existing plans and agreements or strengthen LDP |

General Comments: Open Spaces

Green spaces are important to the Local Authority and there has been some work recently to establish additional accessible green spaces within Newport for residents to enjoy. This is an on-going project which will continue to be enhanced over the forthcoming years, particularly where there is regeneration of areas.

Other Comments on Outdoor unstaffed designated play spaces

The Local Authority has 65 well used play spaces in Newport which are in constant use. The LA works hard to ensure these are safe and inviting to the public at all times but are faced with challenging financial constraints. Anti-social behaviour can have an impact on play spaces and the quality of these. Newport City Council aim to work with partners to reduce this in areas of high risk to minimise the expenditure on maintaining these areas.

The Local Authority continues to invest £50,000 annually into children's fixed play for on-going maintenance. There is a commitment to explore further options to enhance play spaces following our initial play sufficiency assessment. All developments to outdoor play space involve children to ensure they participate in the design and placement of play spaces.

Matter D: Supervised provision

The Local Authority should aim to offer a range of supervised play provision.

RAG Status

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Criteria fully met. |  |
| Criteria partially met. |  |
| Criteria not met. |  |

Play work provision

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|---|---|--|
| The Local Authority keeps an up to date record of all supervised play provision as described in the Statutory Guidance | GREEN | GREEN | Customer publications & marketing Active Newport and Families First Website | | |
| The Local Authority offers play provision which offers a rich play environment as described in the Statutory Guidance | AMBER | AMBER | Play Development Team use The First Claim to assess the playworkers in the play space and work to the playwork principles We are also in the process of creating a quality assurance | Not formally collated Not able to deliver play programme City Wide | Play Development to tie this in to supervision arrangements. Maintain links with All Wales strategic Network supported through Play Wales to keep abreast of good practice and share rich play ideas. Further enhance play |

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| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|---|---|--|
| | | | within Play Development. | | programme where further funding can be identified. Work closely with Families First funded programmes to ensure resources and shared. |
| The Local Authority ensures that partners are supported to offer rich play environments as described in the Statutory Guidance | AMBER | AMBER | Play Development Team in early discussion with Groundworks. | | Continue to support Groundworks to add value to delivery. |
| Staffed play provision that the Local Authority provides meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards | GREEN | GREEN | CSSIW Reports and registration documentation. | | |
| Staffed play provision that the Local Authority funds meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards | GREEN | GREEN | CSSIW Reports and registration documentation support the provision that is registered | LA funded play provision only operates in limited spaces. We meet the criteria based on those registered. | Funding and training deficit prevents ALL provision from operating for children up to the age of 12 years. |
| Staffed play provision that the Local Authority's partners provide meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards | RED | RED | Current partners in the voluntary sector do not meet the requirement to register. | Not Applicable at the time of completing the Assessment | Maintain awareness in the future. |

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| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|---|--|---|
| Staffed play provision across the Local Authority works to a recognised quality assurance programme | AMBER | AMBER | Play Development in the process of developing a Quality Assessment Framework internally. | No QA programme specific to play has been adopted. | Investigate the availability of suitable QA programme for play and identify funding, training and resources required to implement this. |
| The Local Authority priorities quality issues when engaging with/ commissioning the private sector to deliver recreational activities for children. | AMBER | GREEN | <p>CRB/DBS, qualifications Customer and staff feedback.</p> <p>My Club Development programme support sports clubs and groups with minimum standards, guidance, and advice for sustainability.</p> <p>Newport LIVE operates a facility booking procedure that requires clubs and organisations to confirm coach</p> <p>CRBs/DBS checks, qualifications and insurance</p> | Limited to essential checks and then periodically checked when time allows. Quality is with the Sports Club or Groups programme or National Governing Body of Sport – we only offer support. | |

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| The Local Authority provides council premises and space free of charge to organisations which provide free (at the point of access) play provision for children | AMBER | AMBER | Play Development team hold records on free to use facilities. | Only for LA provision | The LA would need to give this further consideration prior to giving an action. |

Structured recreational activities for children

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|------------|------------------------------------|
| The Local Authority is delivering on its responsibility to secure the services set out under Core Aim 4 for sport, leisure and culture | AMBER | GREEN | Newport Live is offers a wide variety of accessible sport and leisure activities (e.g. in leisure facilities for children and families) Newport Live sports development team are grant funded, commissioned and contracted to provide: - Positive Futures programme funded by partners including Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner. | None | None |

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | <p>- Sport Wales school sport active young people programme and volunteer pathway with training and qualifications for young people.</p> <p>-Families First Family Health & Wellbeing Strand / consortium leading early intervention/prevention work on physical activity, obesity, drugs, alcohol, and mental health with key partners</p> <p>-Communities First, Newport City Homes, Newport City Council, and others to provide outreach community sport / doorstep engagement opportunities (sometimes to provide for lower income families, free activity, on MUGGAs and in Community centres).</p> | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|

| | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|--|---|--|
| | | | <p>-Also contracted to receive referrals from preventions, Education, Alternative Education to work with 'using sport as a hook' young people at risk of NEET, ASB, on the cusp of exclusion. High success rate on retention, and attainment.</p> <p>- Provide qualifications through Sports Leaders UK, Sweet Training (GCSE), ASDAN, and more.</p> | | |
| The local "Creating an Active Wales" plan is increasing play and recreational activities for children | AMBER | AMBER | Active Newport Plan & reports | Too many similar plans cause confusion. NCC Does not have standalone Creating Active Wales Plan | |
| Local Authority Partnership Agreements (LAPAs) are contributing to increasing free play and recreational activities | AMBER | AMBER | Participation rates at events & programmes funded through LAPA's | Too many similar plans cause confusion. | Review current plans to avoid duplication & confusion. |
| The sports agenda contributes to the provision of sufficient recreational activities for children | GREEN | GREEN | Participation at Community sports and engagement sessions in communities in Newport. Activities are | All programmes are externally funded and rely on year to year grants, and contracts. | None. |

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| | | | <p>based outside of school at sites in schools, communities, and parks.</p> <p>Newport provides the largest multi skill and physical literacy programme to children and tots in Gwent – linking to nurseries, schools, teacher training, leisure activities, and sports clubs.</p> <p>Sport in the Park events programme with local clubs, and National Governing Bodies of Sport provides a mass participation programme at holiday periods which is cheap and accessible to local families whilst promoting healthy living.</p> <p>Voluntary sports clubs across the city provide opportunities for</p> | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

| | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|--|---|--|
| | | | <p>children to participate in various sports.</p> <p>Active Play at Newport LIVE facilities provide recreational activities for Children aged 0-5 years.</p> | | |
| The cultural and arts agenda, is contributing to the provision of sufficient recreational activities for children | GREEN | GREEN | <p>Participation figures for Annual family focussed programme. Newport Ship holds Family Open days and themed family activity days throughout the year.</p> | <p>Evaluation mechanisms need to be reviewed as they tend to be quantitative rather than outcome focussed.</p> | <p>Work towards Accreditation to improve standards.</p> |
| The Local Authority Youth Service provides for children's opportunities for leisure and association | AMBER | AMBER | <p>Usage from Youth programmes; 15 Youth Clubs</p> <p>18 Youth Club Sessions offered per week.</p> <p>4 DofE clubs with 7 sessions offered per week.</p> <p>I-Zone mobile provision.</p> <p>Central Information Provision.</p> | <p>Savings against the service area and loss of grant income could result in loss of provision.</p> <p>Youth Club 1034 individuals registered with 12,120 participations.</p> <p>I Zone 172 registered with 4,473 participations.</p> | <p>Provision will be reviewed and revised, throughout the City in relation to savings and on receipt of the grant outcome.</p> |

General Comments: Supervised play provision

Supervised Play for children operates during term time and there is an increase in provision during the school holidays to help cope with the demand. Newport values the benefits of this provision to children, young people and the community and aim to provide a variety each year. The Play Development team monitor trends and requirements of the communities in Newport to ensure the programme delivered meet their needs. The Play opportunities are very flexible and can be transferred, increased or decreased as required. Additional resources would enhance supervised play in more areas of Newport but currently there is good coverage across the City. As mentioned previously, there is currently a review of service delivery and the creation of a more robust delivery mechanism. We are in the consultation phase and awaiting approval on the new method of delivery ahead of Summer 2016.

Matter E: Charges for play provision

The Local Authority should consider which play opportunities involve a charge and the extent to which the Local Authority takes these charges into account in assessing for sufficient play opportunities for children living in low income families as set out in the Statutory Guidance.

RAG status

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Criteria fully met. | |
| Criteria partially met. | |
| Criteria not met. | |

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|---|--|------------------------------------|
| The Local Authority keeps records of the number of children living in low income families | GREEN | GREEN | The Local Authority keeps various records, along with its partners. Census data is available at | More work is underway to collate this in a way that is more useable to service planners. | |

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| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|---|------------------------------------|
| | | | <p>LA level but shortly will be available at LSOA. WG have provided data on the numbers of children 0 – 3 in low income households for provision of Flying Start. NCC operates a Geographic Information Mapping system and utilises Experia Mosaic to identify households, communities and areas in need.</p> <p>A mapping exercise has been completed and we now have Ward Profiles containing ward specific data for all wards across Newport.</p> | | |
| The Local Authority keeps records of the number of children living in areas of deprivation | GREEN | GREEN | As above and our GIS Team map this using the WMID / Child Index | More work is underway to collate this in a way that is more useable to service planners | |
| The Local Authority keeps | RED | RED | | Not currently undertaken | This can be determined if |

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|---|--|---|
| records of the number of children living in rural areas | | | | | required via spatial analysis on the ONS population data. One Newport Partnership and Spatial data could look at this criterion. |
| The Local Authority keeps records of the number of disabled children and those with particular needs. | GREEN | GREEN | Information collated and held by disabled children's Team | | |
| The Local Authority records the availability of no cost provision | RED | RED | | This is not formally collated & documented in one specific area but available through publications such as 'What's happening & when' | An agreement would need to be sought as to where the best place to hold this information and how it would be monitored and updated. Formalise and make available information where appropriate. Further develop information on parks and play spaces which provide a 'free family day out' |
| The Local Authority records the provision of no cost / low cost premises used for play provision | AMBER | AMBER | The Play Development Team holds this data. | It is only for LA provision | Further discussions with stakeholders would need to take place prior to an action being agreed. The publication of such data could increase costs or destroy current 'good will' arrangements which have been built on trust and partnership working. |

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| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|---|--|---|
| The Local Authority records the provisions where grants or subsidies are available for play providers | AMBER | AMBER | The Play Development Team would keep information but not in formal documentation. | | Play Development could be responsible for this information or work in partnership with voluntary sector to share this. However the current LA staff are working to full capacity and additional resources would need to be allocated to ensure this was monitored and reviewed. |
| The Local Authority provides subsidised transport for children travelling to play opportunities | AMBER | AMBER | <p>This has been provided through community transport NewLink.</p> <p>Children with a disability have had transport free where there is an identified need.</p> <p>All children receive reduced fare on public transport & most play opportunities and parks are located near a main bus route.</p> | No clear evidence if this is a barrier to children accessing play in Newport | Need to undertake further research and identify where the barriers are. These could be addressed under Single Integrated Plan or as part of the changes in service delivery in Families First Play programmes. |

General Comments: Charge for play provision

The Local Authority is facing challenging times and understands that families are in the same position financially. We are considering a number of ways that we can support those families as well as make efficiency savings. These decisions would need careful consideration to ensure they do not further impact on struggling families.

Whilst we consider no cost provision is important, we would not want to promote this to the extent that income generation for recreational facilities and the private sector are effected. Careful thought and consideration needs to be given to this specific criterion.

Matter F: Access to space/provision

The Local Authority should consider all the factors that contribute to children’s access to play or moving around their community.

RAG Status

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Criteria fully met. | |
| Criteria partially met. | |
| Criteria not met. | |

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| The Local Authority keeps an up to date record of the number of 20 mph zones/school safety zones in residential areas | AMBER | AMBER | GIS park map holds this data | Not readily available in accessible format | Play Development Manager to work with Highways regarding developing a record in easy format. |
| The Local Authority has an identified mechanism | AMBER | AMBER | In general there is a methodology to | Not related to ‘children playing’ as such but does | LA would need to investigate if there was a requirement to extend |

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

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|--|-------|-------|--|---|--|
| for assessing the impact of speed reduction and other road safety measures on the opportunity for children to play outside in their communities | | | measure traffic and speed, assess pedestrian movements & rank them high, medium & low through points system. | relate to children accessing schools & play areas. | this further prior to agreeing an action to develop this further. Children playing in roads cause the LA concern and they would not advocate this. However they recognise children need access to community play. Play Development Manager would need to support this process. |
| The Local Authority has a plan(s) to reduce the negative effect of busy roads and junctions through the introduction of speed reduction measures and provision of safe crossing points/routes for pedestrians and cyclists | GREEN | GREEN | Road safety Strategy expired in 2010 but LA follows this strategy and all actions are recorded. | Can be triggered by complaints/concerns or local knowledge. | |
| The Local Authority has a plan(s) to improve walking and cycle access to parks, outdoor play facilities and local leisure centres from residential areas | GREEN | GREEN | School routes included as safer routes to schools have been replaced with safer routes to communities. | | Spatial data team have routing software that could assist in this area in the future. |
| There is potential for the Local Authority to take further action to reduce traffic speed and improve road safety to promote play opportunities | AMBER | AMBER | This is on-going as part of LA role to improve road safety. | Not specific to play. Reduction in core funding impacts on further work unless essential. | Investigate undertaking joint research project to identify potential road safety issues around play areas/opportunities and identify funding to support this. |
| The Local Authority uses | GREEN | GREEN | Cycling Proficiency | | |

| | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|--|---|---|
| road safety grants and/or other funding to support delivery of cycling training for children to national standards | | | Training in schools. Local Road Safety Grant funds this. | | |
| The Local Authority uses road safety grants and/or other funding to provide pedestrian safety training for children | GREEN | GREEN | Kerbcraft scheme currently spends 35,000 per year | | |
| The Local Authority has an accessible and well-known way of arranging temporary road closures, to support more children to play outside their homes | RED | RED | | Resources are not available to support this as the cost to close road is approx. £1500 and there is limited manpower to support this as a service | There has not been an 'identified need' for this to be further developed in Newport. Further work would need to be undertaken to identify this need and funding sought to support further work for this criteria. |
| The Local Authority refers to <i>Manual for Streets</i> when considering new developments and changes to the highway network/urban realm | GREEN | GREEN | Comments are made by an officer on all planning applications regarding this. | | |
| The Local Authority works to nationally recognised good practice guidelines when developing walking and cycling facilities | GREEN | GREEN | Work with Sustrans. | | |
| The Local Authority uses child pedestrian road accident casualty data to | GREEN | GREEN | Data held by Highways team. Numerous examples in Newport | | |

| | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|--|--|--|
| inform the location and design of interventions which help children get around independently in their communities | | | can be supplied where improvements have been made. | | |
| The Local Authority considers children’s needs to access play opportunities when making decisions about public transport planning and expenditure | AMBER | AMBER | Newport Council work with Newport Transport who are the main provider to ensure that services are available to rural areas and those who most need it. NC would buy back services if they felt there was a need. | No specific consideration has been given to children | Need to undertake further research and identify where the barriers are if any and establish a method to ensure information relating to children’s needs around transport requirements are fed through to the Transport team. |

Information, publicity and events:
 For children and families to take part in play opportunities, recreational activities and events it is necessary for them to know what is available in their area.

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|---|------------|------------------------------------|
| The Local Authority has a clearly identified section on its website which gives information about play opportunities as described in the Statutory Guidance (play areas, play provision, clubs and their | AMBER | GREEN | Web pages have been developed including up to date information on Play Clubs, Playschemes and Play Sufficiency. | | |

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|--|-------|-------|--|---|--|
| accessibility) | | | We have also developed a Families First website for Play Development providing information about Play Development services. | | |
| The Local Authority provides information on access to play opportunities and contact for support if required | GREEN | GREEN | NCC's Play Development Web pages hold this information. Also available through Family Information Service, Parent Network & all marketing materials provided for Play. | | |
| The Local Authority supports and publicises events which encourage play opportunities and events for children and families | GREEN | GREEN | NCC hold a Big Splash and Play Day family event annually to support and promote play opportunities | | |
| The Local Authority publicises information which contributes to positive community attitudes to play | AMBER | AMBER | Regular articles feature in Family Information publications & distributed through parent networks | Local press is not always utilised & difficult to engage them with 'Good News' stories. | Develop better links with local press and Newport City Council Public relations team. Explore further use of social network sites |

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|--|-------|-------|--|---|---|
| | | | | | Explore further use of Newport Matters – local free paper to all Newport residents. |
| The Local Authority publicises helpful hints and support for parents to help them encourage their children to play | AMBER | AMBER | Play Development has developed some leaflets and helpful hints for parents including a Play in the Home booklet. | Language barriers and limited budget. | Need to consider languages this is available in. Explore options of adding this to the website. |
| The Local Authority widely uses on-site signposting to safeguard and promote play | AMBER | AMBER | Play Services uses display materials to highlight safeguarding issues and attract children. Social media is utilised to sign post to play info and opportunities. | Challenges are play opportunities are in shared facilities and often all signposting must be removed. | Play Development to be proactive and improve the way we signpost both on site and off site. Identify further funding to rebrand and promote play. Review outdoor play space signs. |
| The Local Authority engages with the media to encourage the positive portrayal of children playing in the local area | GREEN | GREEN | Through Press releases and invites to all local play events organised by Newport City Council | | |

General Comments: Access to space/provision

This area will require further on-going investment and some areas could be slow to achieve or progress. The Local Authority is made of a number of departments who need to be involved in the decision to effect changes in relation to access and space. The Play Development Team will need to engage across the departments to help understand the barriers and identify priorities.

General Comments Information, publicity, events

The Local Authority aim to provide information in a number of formats to best suit the individual. There has been recent development to improve the website and develop a section for Play on both our NCC and Families First website. The LA is committed to monitoring the developments of these methods and will listen to the views of children and their families as to how they prefer to receive information.

From the consultation undertaken the majority of people want to find information on the website or through the Family Information Service.

Matter G: Securing and developing the play workforce

The Local Authority should provide information on the organisational structure of the policy area which manages the play agenda and the play workforce.

RAG status

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Criteria fully met. | |
| Criteria partially met. | |
| Criteria not met. | |

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|--|---|
| The Local Authority keeps up to date information regarding the workforce across the Local Authority (this should include the number of playworkers, play management structure, qualification levels, training opportunities and volunteers) | RED | RED | | Workforce development group no longer meets under the new partnership structure. | Information on staffing qualifications and structures currently lies with individual teams. Play Development would hold records of the number of staff qualified and hold information on training opportunities. This needs formalising and developing to hold accurate data and would need to be assigned to an officer to ensure the |

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| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|------------|--|
| | | | | | <p>information is updated at least annually.</p> <p>It is unclear at the time of submission as to how this would link into the wider 'Workforce development' plans for the Local Authority and would need further investigation. This may be easier to identify when the current changes with the Single Plan and Families First Programme have fully come into place.</p> |
| The Local Authority supports all of the workforce to achieve the qualification level required by the Welsh Government's National minimum Standards | AMBER | AMBER | <p>Limited training available along with support through childcare sector.</p> <p>Currently developing an Apprenticeship Scheme in partnership with Flying Start to strengthen the skills gap in both areas whilst also encouraging the use of the welsh language.</p> | | Work with Welsh Assembly, Play Wales and third sector to highlight the requirements of the workforce and identify further funding to support identified need. |

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| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|--|------------|--|
| | | | Providing training opportunities within Play Development team to enable delivery of Level 2 & 3 Play and CCLD qualifications in partnership with Flying Start and Work Based Learning Academy. | | |
| The Local Authority supports the workforce to achieve the accepted qualification levels set out by SkillsActive | RED | AMBER | Currently Play Development is working closely with the Work Based Learning Academy and Flying Start to address workforce development. Play Development are also delivering P3 Level 2 and 3 in-house with the support of YMCA Community College. | | Continue to develop the Apprenticeship model and further develop Play development team to deliver CCLD and Play qualifications. |
| The Local Authority includes playwork within its Workforce Development strategies | RED | RED | | | This is not included and would need to be investigated further as there is not a workforce strategy within Newport. Play Development will explore options as to where this 'best fits' within existing policies. |
| The Local Authority supports partners to deliver | RED | RED | | | Once the Apprenticeship |

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| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|---|--|
| appropriate training to community groups, parents and volunteers | | | | | Scheme is established, we aim to provide opportunities for the third sector and neighbouring authorities to access training delivered through the Play Development Team. |
| The Local Authority has undertaken a comprehensive training needs analysis for the play workforce as defined in the toolkit glossary | AMBER | AMBER | | Staff files hold information on training needs. | Data held centrally by the Play Development Management Team. |
| The Local Authority has a staff development budget ring fenced for play, including playwork | RED | RED | | Funding for Play Training currently sourced through external grants | Newport has a training programme for childcare providers which are delivered annually. Play Development staff are not prohibited from attending these courses. Investigate further development of the training timetable to include playwork requirements and |

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|------------|---|
| | | | | | identify costs. Core funding is used to support basic in house play training prior to summer playscheme's but this is supported through grant funding. Review current training requirements and identify funding. |
| The Local Authority takes action to expand the variety of learning and development opportunities that are offered to staff | GREEN | GREEN | <p>Comprehensive internal training programme. Additional training is supported by Play Team particularly throughout summer period.</p> <p>Currently Play Development is working closely with the Work Based Learning Academy and Flying Start to address workforce development. Play Development are also delivering P3 Level 2 and 3 in-house with the support of YMCA Community College.</p> | | |
| There is a comprehensive range of Continuing Professional Development | AMBER | AMBER | Opportunities are available across other service areas such as Flying Start, Families | | Opportunities need to be formalised and made available to all |

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| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|---|---|
| (CPD) opportunities available for playworkers in the area | | | First, Work Based Learning Academy under Regeneration, Investment and Housing. | | staff. Further Playwork CPD can only be made available if funding is identified and Higher Education training is made available. |
| There is a comprehensive range of CPD opportunities for a range of professionals who work with children | AMBER | AMBER | | Training programme available to childcare sector. Limited availability. | |
| Training is available for volunteers and parents to develop their knowledge on skills in playwork | AMBER | AMBER | Training can be provided in-house through the Play Development Team | Not available annually or available to all areas | Newport City Homes have previously delivered training relating to children's play. Play Development to develop closer working relationship to further enhance this if further funding is available. |
| Training awareness sessions are available for professionals and decision makers whose work impacts on children's opportunities to play | AMBER | RED | | Not available to all or promoted | Consider options available & investigate joint initiative across boundaries to explore developing awareness sessions in the future. |

General Comments

Securing and developing the play workforce

Whilst there is a commitment to assisting employees to further the education the LA has difficulty in supporting all staff to achieve these levels. However, in light of the Apprenticeship Scheme Pilot, we are looking at ways we can develop the Play Development team to deliver both CCLD and Play qualifications, as well as assess and internally verify will enhance delivery in line with CSSIW regulations and assist in improving the workforce development within Early Years, Childcare and Play.

Matter H: Community engagement and participation.

The Local Authority should consult widely with children, their families and other stakeholders on their views on play provision. It should also promote wide community engagement in providing play friendly communities.

RAG Status

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Criteria fully met. |  |
| Criteria partially met. |  |
| Criteria not met. |  |

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|--|---|---|
| The Local Authority promotes initiatives to engage youth groups, school councils, school governing bodies, community groups and other relevant groups in enhancing play opportunities for children in its area. | AMBER | AMBER | A robust structure is in place to engage with school councils, youth forum and Newport Youth Council on a variety of issues. | More work required to build engagement in to community based issues and provision | Develop operational staff on the ground with communities with skills to assist with consultation techniques and devise methods to capture data. |
| The Local Authority promotes community engagement in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - making space available and suitable for play - organising play events | AMBER | AMBER | NCC actively promotes community engagement through Neighbourhood Meetings, Street Scene. | More required re 'positive attitudes towards children and play' required at community level | Local Authority will need to evaluate current community engagement and tie this into the SIP |

| | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - positive attitudes towards children and play - training on the importance of play. | | | LDP consultation Big Splash, Play day & various events. | | Devise and implement marketing to promote play within communities |
|---|--|--|--|--|---|

General Comments: Community engagement and participation.

Newport City Council provides opportunities for participation and community engagement particularly regarding decisions impacting families. The cost of interacting with individual communities can be extremely high and Newport would need to consider developing people to ensure this is carried as part of daily duties and identify mechanisms for capturing this information.

Newport values the people and communities and dedicated to providing the services and places they need and will seek to identify innovative ideas to help them achieve improved consultation.

Matter I: Play within all relevant policy and implementation agendas

The Local Authority should examine all its policy agendas for their potential impact on children’s opportunities to play and embed targets and action to enhance children’s play opportunities within all such policies and strategies.

RAG Status

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Criteria fully met. | |
| Criteria partially met. | |
| Criteria not met. | |

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|------------|------------------------------------|
| There is a named person on the Local Service Board who champions | AMBER | GREEN | The provision of play, play opportunities and space to play is taken in to | | |

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|---|--|--|-------------------------------|--|--|
| children's play and ensures that the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan contribute to and are incorporated within the Single Integrated Plan | | | consideration within the SIP. | | |
|---|--|--|-------------------------------|--|--|

Education and schools

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|--|---|--|
| Schools ensure that children are provided with a rich play environment for breaks during the school day | AMBER | AMBER | Play Development, where possible will endeavour to support schools to ensure all children have a rich play environment. | Some schools have limited green space due to urban location | If funding could be sought the Play Development team could undertake further analysis on the play environment in the schools & identify ways of overcoming barriers. |
| Schools provide play opportunities during out of teaching hours | AMBER | AMBER | School break times facilitate play opportunities Currently developing a training package to deliver to Lunchtime Supervisors and Learning Support Assistants to ensure children are experiencing play during breaks and | The quality of this varies in school settings | As above |

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| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|---|---|
| | | | lunch. | | |
| Schools provide access to school grounds for playing out of school times | RED | RED | | Only 2 schools in Newport are known to provide this option. | Investigate opportunities to expand provision if resources could be identified. Schools are required to secure their facilities and there needs to further investigation surrounding the barriers for opening up school grounds. |
| Schools encourage children to walk and cycle to school | RED | RED | | Information on method of travel to school not held. | The LA would need to work with schools to collect this data. |
| The Local Authority offers guidance to ensure schools understand and ensure that regular outdoor play is not curtailed | AMBER | AMBER | All schools follow WG foundation phase guidance. Some schools have forest school initiatives. | Other than foundation phase it is not known if schools offer further support to playing outdoors. | Further investigation would be needed to establish a baseline of data and be able to assess these criteria. |

Town and Country Planning

| Criteria | RAG Status | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|----------|------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------|
|----------|------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------|

| | 2013 | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|--|--|--|
| The Local Development Plan recognises and addresses the outdoor play needs of children of various age groups and abilities | GREEN | GREEN | Assessment of Outdoor play space undertaken by Parks and referenced in LDP | | |

Traffic and Transport

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|---|------------|------------------------------------|
| The local Transport Plan recognises the importance of local streets, roads and walking and cycling route in offering play opportunities for children of different ages and abilities | GREEN | GREEN | The Local transport plan doesn't exist anymore following WG changes. However this is part of LA core business | | |
| The local Transport Plan identifies ways of assessing and addressing the needs of all groups including those which are often marginalised. | GREEN | GREEN | The Local transport plan doesn't exist anymore following WG changes. However this is part of LA core business | | |

Health and Wellbeing

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| The Local Authority plans and agenda to promote health and well-being recognise the importance of play for children's and families' physical health and well-being | GREEN | GREEN | Play, Play Sufficiency and access and use of open space are within the Health Improvement theme of the SIP and are clearly understood as important factors in the promotion of healthy lifestyles. | PSA will show where the gaps are. | Implement SIP. |

Child Poverty

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|--|---|
| The Local Authority's tackling poverty agenda and plans recognise the importance of ensuring that play opportunities are available to all families regardless of their income. | GREEN | GREEN | Commissioned Play provision is targeted at those communities with highest level of need and supports a range of agendas, including skills and work | Difficult to measure the impact of provision on the poverty agenda | Ensure the revised Child Poverty Strategy is strongly tied to the PSA |

Early Years/Childcare

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Early Years, and Flying | AMBER | AMBER | One Newport – Single | Families First Programme not | Currently Flying Start |

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| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|---|--|--|
| Start plans and services recognise the importance of play and contribute to the provision of rich play opportunities for younger children | | | Integrated Plan Welsh Government Flying Start Policy | fully underway. Only available in targeted areas | is offered to 2512 children across targeted areas within the city The entitlement includes free childcare of 12.5 hours for 2-3 year olds per day which includes access to quality play opportunities currently 650 children currently access this entitlement. In addition to the childcare entitlement crèche provision, rhyme time sessions, Language and Play, Number and Play are all offering quality play to younger children aged 9 -24 months Target 200 |
| The Childcare Strategy offers guidance to ensure local childcare providers understand the importance of and provide a rich play environment as a routine | AMBER | AMBER | CYP Plan Childcare Action Plan | Currently being tied in to SIP Unclear if this will address this criteria | Early years & Development Childcare Partnership recognises this importance. At the time of |

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------|---|
| part of the care they provide | | | | | <p>submission there is inadequate information to identify actions as there is not a childcare strategy in place. The LA does have Childcare action plan to address the Childcare sufficiency actions and Children & young people plan. These are being reviewed and included within the development of Single Integrated Plan.</p> <p>Play inputs into the CSA action plan on a quarterly basis to inform partners and the public of what play provision is accessible to children in their area.</p> <p>Training funded by both FIS and Early Years Education incorporates Play into</p> |

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|----------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------|---|
| | | | | | its training programme for childcare professionals and recognises the importance that free play has on a child's development. |

Family policy and initiatives

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|------------|--|
| Family support initiatives provide up to date information and support for parents to enable them to support their children to play | AMBER | GREEN | IFST and Families First both have string parenting elements to them, including supporting parents to engage in play with their children Play Development are also working with families in the home delivering Play in the Home building resilient families across Newport. | | Embed Parenting for play within all programmes across Families First |

Inter-generational policy and initiatives

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|---|--|
| There are a range of play based approaches to inter-generational activity | AMBER | AMBER | Leisure programme provides family activities but no play specific activities operate. Some City parks offer opportunities for a range of users so that teenagers and young children mix together. | These tend to be holiday times & limited to leisure provision | Investigate further Inter – generational approaches with regards to play provision and develop people’s understanding of the meaning and benefits. |
| There is a creative approach to inter-generational activity which encourages better interaction between children of different ages | AMBER | AMBER | Family events such as; Big Splash and Play Day. | Limited resources prevent expansion of programmes | As above |

Community Development

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| The Community Strategy makes a clear statement regarding the rights of children to play within their communities | RED | RED | | Community Strategy currently does not include any detailed reference to service provision | Statement to be included within SIP |

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|--|---|---|
| The Community Strategy supports communities to provide play opportunities for their children | RED | RED | | Community Strategy currently does not include any detailed reference to service provision | SIP will add recommendations from PSA following agreement |
| The Community Strategy makes a clear statement regarding how providing play opportunities contributes to community cohesion | RED | RED | | Community Strategy currently does not include any detailed reference to service provision | Statement to be included within SIP |

Community Safety

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| The Community Safety Strategy makes a clear statement which recognises the rights of children to play in their communities | RED | RED | | Community Safety Plan does not currently reference this | LA would need to identify an appropriate lead to progress the development in this area. |
| The Community Safety Strategy includes actions which provide a safe environment for children to play in their communities | RED | RED | | Community Safety Plan does not currently reference this | As above |

Health and Safety

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|---|--|
| The Health and Safety policies explicitly recognise the value of children being able to experience risk and challenge | AMBER | AMBER | <p>Within schools this has happened.</p> <p>Positive work has taken place with NCC Health and Safety Department and Play Development. There is recognition of dynamic risk assessment and an acceptance of Risk Benefit. This is a working progress between departments.</p> | Not explicitly. | Local Play Team Health and Safety Documents |
| The Health and Safety policies and procedures incorporate the risk-benefit approach to health and safety assessments as recommended by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) | AMBER | AMBER | <p>Positive work has taken place with NCC Health and Safety Department and Play Development. There is recognition of dynamic risk assessment and an acceptance of Risk Benefit. This is a working progress between departments.</p> | Not currently used in Newport | Investigate this further to establish benefits and establish costs for training staff. |
| The Local Authority offers the provision of insurance through the Local Authority scheme to all third sector play | RED | RED | | This could be facilitated if identified by the service area | Investigate benefits to local authority for this service. Cost would need to be identified and would have to be met by Service area. |

| Criteria | RAG Status 2013 | RAG Status 2016 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls | Identified Actions for action Plan |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------|--|
| providers and community councils | | | | | Investigate benefits to local authority for this service. Cost would need to be identified and would have to be met by Service area. |

General Comments: Play within relevant policy and implementation agendas

The Local Authority will examine all its policy agendas for their potential impact on children’s opportunities to play and assess what targets and actions are required to enhance children’s play opportunities within all such policies and strategies over a period of time. There are many factors which effect policy changes and these will have to be undertaken slowly. The LA would need more time to consider each policy agenda and assess the need to make changes.

Conclusion

This section should identify the key priorities for the Local Authorities in accordance with the regulations and described in the Statutory Guidance.

It was evident that the sufficiency assessment was a comprehensive audit and would be a large task. However the completion and collation of the data has been challenging and more time consuming than anticipated. The Play Development Manager kept to an agreed timeframe to fit with LA reporting timescales which has meant that some information has not been included. Some areas of the assessment show Newport has good grounding for development. The weaker areas may not be down to poor policy or practice but down to lack of information at the time submission.

Matter A – There has been some extensive work completed on LSOA's as well as Ward profiles providing in-depth information and statistics relevant to wards across Newport.

Matter B – Whilst Newport offer inclusive play services the assessment has highlighted areas that need development. Priority will be given to Welsh medium play opportunities and address low cost option to further develop the existing inclusive provision. This is heavily dependent on funding the Play Development team receives for 2016/17 and 2017/18.

Matter C - Space available for children to play is an area that requires further investigation and analysis before the LA can identify priorities over a 3 year period. The assessment has highlighted initial areas for development and these will be further supported through the Single Integrated Plan.

Matter D - In general Newport offers a good variety of supervised provision. This could always be further developed with additional resources and funding. There is a good balance between play and recreational activities but there needs to be further work to bring together policy and delivery. It is important to note that the service is currently undergoing a restructure which could result in staffed provision looking significantly different to how it's looked across Newport in the past.

Matter E – Newport demonstrates strengths and weaknesses in this area in relation to the specific criteria's outlined however we would need to undertake further investigation to understand the benefits of achieving them all. The Local Authority would not want to cause further issues or establish mechanisms for achieving these criteria if this could potentially be at detriment to other services.

Matter F – This area will require further on-going investment and some areas could be slow to achieve or progress. The Local Authority is

made of a number of departments who need to be involved in the decision to effect changes in relation to access and space. The Play Development Team will need to engage across the departments to help understand the barriers and identify priorities.

Matter G – We consider this as an area of weakness for the LA however, we have identified some options to improve standards, working collaboratively across departments. We would benefit from additional funding to support this delivery model from Welsh Government.

Matter H – The cost of interacting with individual communities can be extremely high and Newport would need to consider developing people to ensure this is carried as part of daily duties and identify mechanisms for capturing this information. Newport values the people and communities and dedicated to providing the services and places they need and will seek to identify innovative ideas to help them achieve improved consultation. The Single Integrated Plan will continue support the delivery of this Matter.

Matter I – The Local Authority will examine all its policy agendas for their potential impact on children's opportunities to play and assess what targets and actions are required to enhance children's play opportunities within all such policies and strategies over a period of time.

Way forward

This section should briefly introduce the Action Plan which sets out what steps need to be taken to improve the opportunities for children to play within the Local Authority area, including what mechanism and criteria were used to agree and prioritise actions. It should also describe the actions the Local Authority will take with regards to change in infrastructure, partnership working or mechanisms to ensure that it is well placed to deliver on the duty to secure sufficient play opportunities.

At the time of completing the assessment the Local Authority are taking efficiency saving decisions on a number of services.

Following submission of the assessment before 1st March 2016 the play development team will continue to consult with children and families. The majority of priorities are based on no cost or low cost options as there is no surplus funding to support. The current Play Development team do not have the capacity to undertake further work to continue the targets outlined although they are fully committed to improving play opportunities. Some priorities have been selected due to partner support and potential grant funding. This is set to become increasingly more challenging with a reduction of funding to Play development and the changes to CSSIW legislation.

It is proposed to review and resume the Play Strategy group to incorporate new members to support Play Sufficiency In Newport. This group will be required to review the current assessment and achieve priorities for the Action Plan for 2016-2017. This will be in collaboration with the Single Integrated Plan.

Signed:

Date:

Play Sufficiency Action Plan



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Name of local authority: Newport City Council

Name of person responsible officer: Alexa Tudball

Job title: Play Development Manager

Date of completion: 31st March 2016



Actions to be taken to address the issues / shortcomings recorded in the Play Sufficiency Assessment

Proposed actions for the period of 1st April 2016 – 31st March 2017

(Funding source: funding from Local Authority own budgets and to be included in the Single Integrated Plan).

| Matter | Priorities | Targets | Milestones | Resources, including costs | Funding source (new or existing funding streams) |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|---|-------------------------------|--|
| Statutory Guidance-policy framework | <p>Enhance cross boundary working through further supporting the Third sector & establishing further links with bordering authorities.</p> <p>Build on existing partnerships to include town & community councils.</p> | Achieve a Play Friendly City where partners work together to provide a wide range of play and recreational activities. | <p>Establish working Group – Review & reconvene Play Strategy Group. Agree Terms of reference & reporting mechanism.</p> <p>Review Play sufficiency assessment.</p> <p>Establish proactive procedure for providing equality impact assessments in relation to matters effecting play.</p> | Management Resources | Core Play Budget |
| Matter A: Population | The LA holds up to date | Adopt a mechanism for | Explore options available to find | Spatial data team & Education | Costs to be identified with |

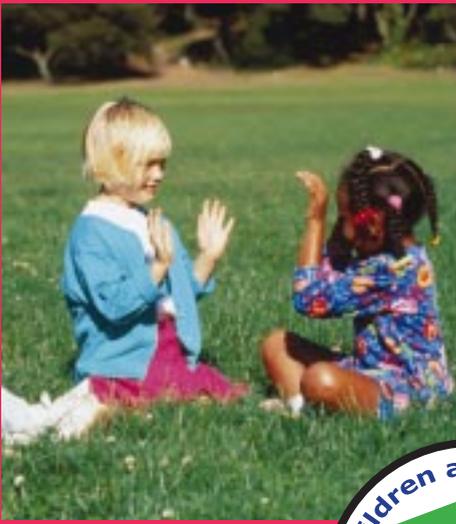
| | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|
| | population data broken down into LSOA's | collecting & monitoring population information in relation to PSA | suitable method and agree system. Establish method for monitoring and gathering data to keep up to date. | resources Officer time to monitor and update | Spatial data team and Education. It is anticipated this is minimal and can be achieved within existing budgets |
| Matter B: Providing for diverse needs | Maintain current play opportunities to provide inclusive provision across the City. | Understand individual community specific play requirements and barriers to play. | Review process and provision of engagement mechanisms through Single Integrated Plan Engagement Strategy Undertake specific consultation and research to engage with families. | Continue to develop play resources; venue and support materials for establishing play provision. Develop training and resources for Learning Support Assistants and Lunchtime Supervisors. | Families First & Core |
| Matter C: Space available for children to play | The LA has improved knowledge across departments regarding barriers to play space. | Develop and enhance play spaces and facilities. Identify Officers and relevant information regarding | Investigate the use of Play Space Assessments within the LA with Parks. This could be supported by Play Development. This includes agreeing a new fixed play | | Core funding & Families First |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|---|-----------------------|
| | | Brownfield sites in the City. | standard. | | |
| Matter D: Supervised provision | Local Authority supports supervised play provision. | Any play provision delivered by LA is rich in environment and is registered with CSSIW. Continue to develop an internal method of Quality Assurance. | Improve supervision arrangements to monitor use of the first claim. Work with other internal providers to share resources. Review the actions within SIP and join up with Play Sufficiency to ensure Newport deliver on their responsibility. | | Families First & Core |
| Matter E: Charges for play provision | Complete the current Neighbourhood Working Project | Develop a framework for mapping Play development services across Newport in line with the ward profiles to explore the possibility of charging for play provision. | Consultation within localised communities | Play Wales Toolkit would provide the resources required this. | Families First & Core |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|--------------------------|
| | | Further explore the barriers of cost to families | | | |
| Matter F: Access to space/provision | Continue to improve Information in relation to children’s play and matters which support this agenda & ensure it is available for families. | Provide information on Newport’s and Families First website to allow parents to access info regarding play opportunities. Utilise Newport Matters, social media, marketing and local press. | Work with marketing to develop on site posting and the use of social media to raise the profile and importance of Play. | Marketing & Nominated Officer from Play Development. Commitment from Officers both internally and externally. | Families First and Core. |
| Matter G: Securing and developing the workforce | Understand the workforce requirements in relation to play specific training and in accordance with CSSIW regulations. | Develop a training programme to upskill Play Development Officers to deliver Level 2 and 3 Play qualifications. Continue to create and pilot the Apprenticeship scheme in partnership with | Build links across LA boundaries and work with local colleges to raise profile of play requirements and establish partner support. Continually monitor and evaluate the Apprenticeship Scheme. | Staffing costs. Qualification and Accreditation costs. | Families First and Core. |

| | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| | | <p>Work Based Learning Academy, Flying Start and Play.</p> <p>Explore the possibility of providing play training to neighbouring authorities.</p> | | | |
| Matter H: Community engagement and participation | Continue to promote community engagement. | Finalise Neighbourhood working Project | <p>Hold training session with existing Play Development Team to improve their consultation techniques.</p> <p>Develop relationships with Schools within the new service delivery model.</p> | <p>Basic training resources.</p> <p>Venue costs.</p> <p>Staffing costs.</p> | Core and Families First |
| Matter I: Play within all relevant policy and implementation agendas | Continue to examine policies across the LA to enhance play opportunities | | Improve partner's knowledge regarding their responsibilities in relation to their own areas and impact of | <p>Officers and partners time.</p> <p>Develop fact sheets</p> | <p>Core Families First.</p> <p>Further / New funding required.</p> |

| | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| | <p>Build relationships between Play and Schools.</p> <p>Seek approval from Cabinet to adopt Risk Benefit Assessments within all play settings.</p> | <p>Play Development Manager to work with Education to agree priorities</p> <p>Continue building strong partnerships with health and safety.</p> | <p>their decisions.</p> <p>Investigate barriers to accessing school facilities & school grounds.</p> <p>Risk Benefit proposal in draft to for approval in partnership with Legal and Health and Safety.</p> | <p>and basic information specific to each department.</p> | |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|



Welsh Assembly Government Play Policy



October
2002



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Foreword

Welsh Assembly Government's Play Policy



Jane Hutt

I am delighted to publish the Welsh Assembly's Play Policy.

The decision to adopt a play policy is an explicit demonstration of the importance that the Welsh Assembly Government places on the value of play in childhood and the importance of children in our society. It makes clear the commitment of the Welsh Assembly Government to ensure that children and their needs are central to policy making and that provision is made to meet those needs.

The policy is a broad statement of principles, rather than a detailed prescription of how play provision should be implemented. The Assembly Government will, over the coming year, be working up a more detailed strategy in partnership with practitioners.

This is the beginning of an exciting new phase in the Assembly Government's services for children and young people. I look forward to working with colleagues in both the voluntary and statutory sector in developing our support for play opportunities.

Jane Hutt:
Minister for Health and Social Services

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Hutt".

WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT PLAY POLICY

This policy statement has been produced to reflect the value that the Welsh Assembly Government places on play and the importance of children in our society. It reflects our commitment to ensure that children and their needs are central to policy making and that provision is made to meet those needs.

The statement is founded on the principle that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by the UK Government in December 1991, recognises the importance of play for the child.

The Welsh Assembly Government, in seeking to ensure the full implementation of Article 31 of the Convention, intends that this statement should contribute to creating an environment that fosters children's play and underpins a national strategy for providing for children's play needs.

The Welsh Assembly Government believes that:

- play is the elemental learning process by which humankind has developed. Children exhibit a behavioural imperative and instinctive desire to play. It has contributed significantly to the evolutionary and developmental survival of our species. Children use play in the natural environment to learn of the world they inhabit with others. It is the very process of learning and growth, and as such all that is learnt through it is of benefit to the child.
- play encompasses children's behaviour which is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated. It is performed for no external goal or reward, and is a fundamental and integral part of healthy development - not only for individual children, but also for the society in which they live.
- play is so critically important to all children in the development of their physical, social, mental, emotional and creative skills that society should seek every opportunity to support it and create an environment that fosters it. Decision making at all levels of government should include a consideration of the impact of those decisions, on children's opportunities to play.

- play is first and foremost the process of a child's own, self-directed learning and as such is a process that has a validity for all ages of children. It is such a vital component of a child's life that the child's capacity for positive development will be inhibited or constrained if denied free access to the broadest range of environments and play opportunities.
- It is the very freedom and child centredness of play that makes it such an effective and comprehensive learning process.

This policy statement is predicated upon the principles that:

- every child is entitled to respect for their own unique combination of qualities and capabilities;
- the perceptions of the child, their views and opinions should always be respected for each child is connected to, and a bearer of, a wider culture;
- the child's free choice of their own play is a critical factor in enriching their learning and contributing to their well being and development.

The Welsh Assembly Government recognises the significance and the value of play in children's development and that children have an innate desire to seek out opportunities to take increasing risks. This is an essential part of their play and learning. It requires us to respond positively by extending the range of environments and opportunities available for children's play while continuing to have due regard for their physical and psychological well being.

The Welsh Assembly Government is committed to ensuring that all children have access to rich stimulating environments, free from inappropriate risk, and full of challenge, thereby offering them the opportunity to explore through freely chosen play both themselves and the world.

The Welsh Assembly Government recognises that the impact of modern society on children's lives has significantly restricted their opportunity to play freely and has resulted in a poverty of play opportunities in the general environment. It is therefore committed to encouraging the creation of high quality 'compensatory' play provision that is appropriate, local, stimulating and challenging for all children in Wales.

The Welsh Assembly Government commits itself to the development in partnership of a strategy that will set out the way in which the principles in this statement can be implemented.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Wales – a Play Friendly Country

www.cymru.gov.uk

Statutory Guidance

July 2014



Foreword

“Wales: A Play Friendly Country” is Statutory Guidance to Local Authorities on assessing for and securing sufficient play opportunities for children in their areas. It is published by Welsh Ministers to give detail to the duty on Local Authorities under section 11, Play Opportunities, Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010. This section of the Measure fully came into effect on 1st July 2014.

This Statutory Guidance combines **“Creating a Play Friendly Wales”**, the Statutory Guidance to Local Authorities on assessing for sufficient play opportunities (2012), along with new guidance to Local Authorities to support in securing sufficient play opportunities for children in their areas, 2014.

The detail on assessment and the matters that need to be taken into account in the Play Sufficiency Assessments, as set out under “Creating a Play Friendly Wales” Statutory Guidance, have not been changed. They have been taken forward into the new Statutory Guidance “Wales: a Play Friendly Country”. This Guidance also sets out the detail under the duty to secure sufficient play opportunities following the consultation on draft Statutory Guidance “Wales: A Place Where Children Can Play”.

“Wales: A Play Friendly Country” is the Statutory Guidance that Local Authorities must follow to comply with the duty to assess for and secure sufficient play opportunities.

Ministerial Foreword



I am very proud that the Welsh Government is the first Government in the world to legislate for children's play and I am committed to taking this agenda forward through fully commencing the duty on Local Authorities to assess for and secure sufficient play opportunities for all children.

We are acting on the Welsh Government commitment to continue to improve opportunities for all children and young people to play in safety and, in particular, to support improved access to play for children with disabilities.

We strongly believe in the importance of play in children's lives and the benefits it gives to their health, happiness and well-being. It is also important in laying the foundation for each child in reaching their full potential during their adult life.

Through this legislation we are continuing to make Wales a country where every child has a wide range of challenging and interesting opportunities to play and to enjoy their leisure time. This is a task that will involve working with our partners to consider the many aspects of community life that affect play opportunities. These include use of the environment, traffic and transport; play and leisure provision, and parental and community involvement with play.

I should like to thank the many individuals, organisations and other stakeholders who have contributed to making sure that this document is fit for purpose, particularly Play Wales and the Welsh Government Association. I am sure that we will continue to work together on taking this important agenda forward and making the necessary changes to ensure that Wales truly is a play friendly country that meets the needs and rights of all our children.

Vaughan Gething AM, Deputy Minister for Tackling Poverty

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1. Introduction

The Welsh Government places great value on play and its importance in the lives of children in our society. We believe that children have a fundamental right to be able to play, and that play is central to their enjoyment of life and contributes to their well-being. We also believe that play is essential for the growth in children’s cognitive; physical; social and emotional development. There is much evidence to support this belief and an increasing understanding of play’s contribution not only to children’s lives, but also to the well-being of their families and the wider community¹.

Children’s right to play is enshrined in Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The Welsh Government formally adopted the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2004, and we are committed to making the principles of the UNCRC a reality for all children and young people. There are three articles which particularly relate to this duty:

- **Article 31 (Leisure, play and culture):** Children have the right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of cultural, artistic and other recreational activities.², which must be read in combination with the **General Comment No17 on the right of the child to rest, leisure, play, recreational activities, cultural life and the arts (art. 31):** “ The general comment seeks to enhance the understanding of the importance of article 31 for children’s well-being and development; to ensure respect for and strengthen the application of the rights under article 31”
- **Article 15 (Freedom of association):** Children have the right to meet together and to join groups and organisations.
- **Article 12 (Respect for the views of the child):** When adults are making decisions that affect children, children have the right to say what they think should happen and have their opinions taken into account.

In Wales play is established as one of children’s rights under Core Aim 4 - Play, Sport, Leisure and Culture, of the Welsh Government’s 7 Core Aims for Children, set out in *Children & Young People: Rights to Action, 2004*.³

The Welsh Government also believes that high quality play opportunities for all children may contribute to mitigating the negative effects of poverty on children’s lives and help to build their resilience.⁴ Play can also be a means of reducing

1 Lester, S. and Russell, W. (2008) Play for a Change – Play, Policy and Practice: A review of contemporary perspectives. National Children’s Bureau for Play England: London.

2 A General Comment is currently being developed by the UNCRC to further explain the right of children to play, within Article 31

3 <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/childreynyoungpeople/publications/rightstoaction/?lang=en>

4 Child Poverty Strategy for Wales - <http://wales.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/child-poverty-strategy/?lang=en>

inequalities between children living in families that can afford costly recreational provision and those that cannot so reducing poverty of experience for all children.

The Welsh Government wishes to create an environment in Wales where children have excellent opportunities to play and enjoy their recreation time. Our Play Policy⁵ states that:

“Play is so critically important to all children in the development of their physical, social, mental, emotional and creative skills that society should seek every opportunity to support it and create an environment that fosters it. Decision making at all levels of government should include a consideration of the impact of those decisions, on children’s opportunities to play.”

To achieve this purpose the Welsh Government commenced the first part of the duty under section 11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010, Play Opportunities for Children in November 2012. That part of the duty requires Local Authorities to assess the sufficiency of play opportunities for children in their areas, in accordance with regulations. The Play Sufficiency Assessment (Wales) Regulations published in November 2012 set out the requirements of the assessments and the matters they need to take in to account.

On 01 July 2014 Welsh Ministers commenced the second part of this legislation, which places a duty on Local Authorities to secure sufficient play opportunities for children in their areas, so far as reasonably practicable, having regard to their assessments. The duty also requires Local Authorities to publish and keep up to date information about play opportunities for children in their areas.

Wales is the first country in the world to establish such a duty within its legislative framework, so there are no precedents for this work. We wish to work with all stakeholders to make this legislation fit for the purpose of making Wales a play friendly country with all the benefits that this will offer to our children. We welcome your endorsement, and implementation of this Statutory Guidance and ongoing positive engagement and support for the play agenda in Wales.

2. Play Policy development in Wales

To achieve the outcomes for children that play provides, the Welsh Government worked with stakeholder organisations to create the **Play Policy** in 2002 and the **Play Policy Implementation Plan** in 2006 (see Appendix A, Associated Policy documents). These documents set out the Welsh Government’s vision for Play for children in Wales and the actions that it intended to take to realise this vision. The

1. ⁵ Play Policy (2002). www.nwwplayforum.org.uk/documents/play-policy-e.pdf

Welsh Government recognises that to achieve the aim of creating a play friendly Wales and to provide excellent opportunities for our children to play; it is necessary for Local Authorities, their partners and other stakeholders to also work towards this purpose. Therefore a section on “Play Opportunities” was included in the **Children and Families (Wales) Measure**, which received royal assent in 2010.

3. Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 (Legal Basis)

Chapter 2, Section 11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure sets out the duty on Local Authorities as regards Play Opportunities.

Section 11 -

Local authority duties in respect of play opportunities for children

- (1) A local authority must assess the sufficiency of play opportunities in its area for children in accordance with regulations.
- (2) Regulations may include provision about—
 - a. The matters to be taken into account in assessing sufficiency.
 - b. The date by which a first assessment is to be carried out.
 - c. Frequency of assessments.
 - d. Review of assessments.
 - e. Publication of assessments.

Commenced 01 July 2014(3) *A local authority must secure sufficient play opportunities in its area for children, so far as reasonably practicable, having regard to its assessment under subsection (1).*

Commenced 01 July 2014(4) *A local authority must—*

- a. publish information about play opportunities in the authority’s area for children, and*
- b. keep the information published up to date.*

- (5) In performing its duties under this section, a local authority must have regard (among other things)—
 - a. to the needs of children who are disabled persons (within the meaning of section 1 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (c. 50)).
 - b. to the needs of children of different ages.
- (6) In this section—

“play” includes any recreational activity;
“sufficient”, in relation to play opportunities, means sufficient having regard to quantity and quality.

Welsh Ministers decided to commence the duty in two parts. The first part covered the duty on Local Authorities to assess for sufficient play opportunities, sections 11(1); 11(2); 11(5); 11(6) and commenced in 2012.

The second part of the duty placed a duty on Local Authorities to secure sufficient play opportunities in their areas for children, so far as reasonably practicable, having regard to the assessments 11(3); and the duty to publish information about play opportunities for children in their areas and keep the information up to date 11(4). This duty was commenced on 01 July 2014, after full consideration of the Play Sufficiency Assessments and the Local Authorities’ Action Plans for improving play opportunities.

This Statutory Guidance is intended to:-

- support Local Authorities in completing their Play Sufficiency Assessments and Play Action Plans for achieving sufficiency. It sets out the purpose of the duty and the matters to be taken into account in assessing sufficiency as set out under section 10. A toolkit has also been made available to support the production of the assessments.⁶
- support Local Authorities in securing sufficient play opportunities. This will be through the implementation of the Play Action Plans which they are required to develop to maintain the strengths and improve on the shortcomings identified in their Play Sufficiency Assessments.

Under Section 71 of the measure, “child” (“plentyn”) means a person who has not attained the age of 18.

This guidance is issued in accordance with Section 17(3) of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure, which states that:

*In exercising its functions under **sections 11** (Local authority duties in respect of play opportunities for children) **and 12** (Participation of children in local authority decision making), a local authority **must** have regard to any guidance given from time to time by the Welsh Ministers.*

And in accordance with Section 70 (guidance) of the Measure, which states:

- (1) This section has effect in relation to any guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers under this Measure to bodies that must have regard to it.
- (2) The Welsh Ministers —

⁶ <http://www.playwales.org.uk/sufficiency>

- (a) may give guidance to bodies generally or to one or more particular bodies;
- (b) may issue different guidance to or in respect of different bodies;
- (c) must, before they issue guidance, consult the bodies that must have regard to the guidance;
- (d) must publish the guidance.

4. Policy Framework

4.1 Assessing for and Securing Sufficient Play Opportunities through Partnership working and collaboration

To achieve a play friendly society that offers a wide range of play and recreational opportunities it is necessary for all partners within the community to work together for this purpose.

The Welsh Government encourages Local Authorities to acknowledge the importance of play in children's lives and make a firm commitment to work strenuously within their own structures; with partner organisations; with children and their families and communities to ensure that children have access to the play opportunities that they want and have a right to expect.

The relevant partnerships are likely to include:

- Town and Community Councils.
- Third sector organisations, particularly regional play associations.
- The private sector if appropriate.
- Community groups.
- Communities First partnerships.
- Health Boards;
- Housing Associations Police and Fire Services as appropriate.

As well as working with relevant organisations within its area, the planning and delivery of play provision can take place on a regional and cross Local Authority basis where appropriate, and with national organisations that support the development of play. Each area should be proactive in developing play opportunities for children in its own area, as well as being supportive and sharing good practice with other authorities/organisations to promote play for all children in Wales. The Assessments and implementation of the Action Plans should take account of provision that may be used by children beyond Local Authority boundaries.

To ensure a sufficient contribution from a range of partners, and across Local Authority policy and delivery areas and to meet the duty for assessment, planning and securing of sufficient play opportunities, the Local Authority should establish a

Play Monitoring Group or equivalent. This group should support the **lead director**, the **lead member for children and young people's services** (point 4.2) and the **designated lead for the managerial and delivery functions** (matter G) to fulfil the duty under the Measure and thereby secure sufficient play opportunities for children in its area. It should also invite the active involvement of Play Champions to promote engagement and support in achieving sufficient opportunities for children to play.

To support Local Authorities in sharing information about their progress in securing sufficient play opportunities, the Welsh Government will work collaboratively with the authorities and other stakeholders to provide information on case studies under its section on Play Opportunities on the Welsh Government website.

4.2 Completion of the Assessments

The Local Authority has the duty to assess for, and with regard to the assessment, develop an action plan for securing sufficient play opportunities.

- Where an assessment identifies an insufficiency in play opportunities for children in the Local Authority area, the action plan must set out what steps need to be taken to improve the opportunities for children to play within that Local Authority area.
- Where an assessment identifies that opportunities for children to play in the Local Authority area are sufficient, the action plan must set out what steps need to be taken to maintain opportunities for children to play within that Local Authority area.

Local Authorities and key partner agencies are required in law to cooperate to improve the wellbeing of children and young people in the local area. The Children Act 2004 placed a duty on every Local Authority in Wales to appoint a **lead director** and **lead member for children and young people's services**. It is expected that these lead directors and members will be responsible for the completion of the Play Sufficiency Assessment and the development and implementation of the Play Action Plan.

Single Integrated Plan or subsequent high level plan

The Single Integrated Plan is the mechanism through which action on local priorities is planned and delivered, and outcomes monitored and evaluated, based on an assessment of local needs. Action to develop, monitor and scrutinise the Single Integrated plan is coordinated by the Local Service Board, bringing together leaders of local government, the NHS, the police, third sector and the Welsh Government itself.

Local Authority representatives on the Local Service Board should ensure that the Play Sufficiency Assessments form part of the local needs assessment. Progress made to improve the opportunities for children to play, as set out in the Single

Integrated Plan should follow the planning cycle in the Guidance on Shared Purpose – Shared Delivery: Integrating Partnerships and Plans⁷. The assessment and the proposals for securing sufficient play opportunities should be integrated into the planning, implementation and review of the Single Integrated Plan at every stage of the planning cycle.

Action plans are the essential building blocks of the Single Integrated Plan. They set out in detail what actions each of the Local Service Board partners will undertake over 3–5 years to achieve outcomes which contribute towards identified long-term goals.

Legal duties on local partners in respect of play remain. Participation of children in planning for play and the monitoring of play provision should become part of developing citizen engagement and scrutiny procedures.

At the time of publication of this Guidance, the Local Authority Single Integrated Plan is the high level plan to which the Play Action Plan should contribute. In future years this may be changed, and the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Play Action Plan should contribute to any subsequent high level plan.

4.3 Providing and maximising resources

Play covers a wide range of provision; facilities; services and community organisation, therefore it is essential that budgets that cover all these areas contribute towards the purpose of achieving sufficient opportunities for children to play

It is anticipated that with a slight shift in emphasis in how a budget is utilised a significant improvement in the availability of play opportunities can be achieved.

Local partners should identify and consider use of these budgets in developing the Action Plans for improving play opportunities, including reprioritisation if necessary. Review of budgets of relevant policy areas that affect children’s play opportunities and maximise their benefit for play should contribute to the Single Integrated Plans.

4.4 Securing sufficient play opportunities

Under the duty to secure sufficient play opportunities for children in their areas Local Authorities should use all practical means available to them to maintain provision and services, and to increase and improve play opportunities for all children in their areas. They should have regard to the strengths and shortcomings identified in their Play Sufficiency Assessments and to the requirements of assessment as set out in the Regulations and this guidance.

⁷ <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/improvingservices/publicationevents/publications/sharedpurpdel/?lang=en>

Sufficient play opportunities must particularly be secured through implementation of the actions set out in the Local Authorities' **Play Action Plans** developed to maintain the strengths and address the shortcomings identified in the assessment. The Play Action Plans must be developed and reviewed each year to record progress and identify and set out actions that need to be taken during the following year; how these will be achieved; and timescales for completion. Further information is given under point 6.

4.5 Publishing information

The Welsh Government expects each Local Authority to develop a clearly identified play section on its website giving comprehensive information about:

- parks, play grounds and other outdoor spaces affording opportunities for children to play; Indoor play provision; play activities and clubs providing play opportunities;
- Holiday play schemes;
- Events for children and families; and wider community events where children can play.

This information should also be made available via the Local Authority's other main methods of publicising its provision, services and events, including the Family Information Service and CLIC if appropriate.

All information provided should be kept up to date.

This is a statutory requirement under section 11(4) of the Measure.

5. Consultation, Participation & Engagement

For play opportunities to meet the requirements of children it is essential that they are consulted on what they want from play and recreational activities.

The Local Authority should consult with children as to what play opportunities; play provision; activities and events they want in their area. The participation and consultation methods should comply with the Welsh Government's Children and Young People's Participation Standards⁸ and Section 12 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 on Participation⁹. The Authority should also consult with parents; the local community and any other interested stakeholder on the development of play opportunities and developing child and play friendly communities. The National Principles for Public Engagement in Wales¹⁰ can be used to support this process. Further guidance on consulting on play is available in

⁸ <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/publications/participationstandards/?lang=en>

⁹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2010/1/section/12>

¹⁰ <http://www.participationcymru.org.uk/national-principles>

the **toolkit**¹¹ which was developed to support Local Authorities in conducting the assessment.

The assessment should take into account:

- The views of children, obtained through consultations, on what play and recreation provision they want in their areas; how they would like their neighbourhood to be organised to provide the play opportunities they want; and what barriers stop them from playing. The consultation should include the views of children who do and do not use the existing play opportunities.
- An analysis of the results of these consultations and how these have or will be used to inform future plans.
- The views of parents, families and other stakeholders, obtained through consultation, on play provision/opportunities and how this has or will inform future plans.

As the Play Action Plans are developed, implemented and reviewed each year, children and families who have been, or will be, affected by the actions should be consulted as to their views on what has been achieved; the benefit in increasing their opportunities to play; and actions for future improvements.

6. Timetable for the completion of the Play Sufficiency Assessments, Play Action Plans, securing sufficient play opportunities and reporting to Welsh Ministers

The duty to assess for sufficient play opportunities commenced on **2 November 2012**.

The duty to secure sufficient play opportunities commenced on **1 July 2014**.

Assessing for sufficient play opportunities

Under these duties Local Authorities must complete assessments of play opportunities for children in their areas every three years as set out in the Regulations.

Local Authorities are required to complete and submit a copy of their Play Sufficiency Assessments and Play Action Plans to the Welsh Government. The first assessments and action plans were completed and submitted to the Welsh Government in March 2013.

The documents required to be submitted to Welsh Ministers are:

¹¹ <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/publications/toolkit/?lang=en>

- 1. The Play Sufficiency Assessment** – This must be a full assessment of the play opportunities in the Local Authority area, set out on the Play Sufficiency Assessment template provided under the Welsh Government toolkit
- 2. An Executive Summary of the Play Sufficiency Assessment** which must include a summary of the main outcomes from the Play Sufficiency Assessment and highlight the actions that the Local Authority proposes to take to achieve sufficiency. This summary must be published on the Local Authority web site.
- 3. An Annual Play Action Plan** detailing the actions, priorities and milestones to maintain strengths and address shortcomings identified in the Play Sufficiency Assessment. An updated Play Action Plan is required each year.

Securing sufficient play opportunities

Under the duty to secure sufficient play opportunities, Local Authorities should work with partners to develop and implement the Play Action Plans that remove shortcomings and maintain the strengths identified in the Play Sufficiency Assessments. The Play Action Plans should be developed and implemented each year. Each year Local Authorities should show continuous improvement in securing play opportunities.

Both Play Sufficiency Assessments and Play Action Plans must contribute to the Single Integrated Plans or future high level Local Authority as detailed in point 4.2.

Report to Welsh Minister on assessing and securing sufficient play opportunities

Local Authorities must submit the Play Sufficiency Assessments, Play Action Plans and other reports to Welsh Government officials as set out below. The Welsh Government wishes to develop a strong working relationship with Local Authorities in taking the play agenda forward through, information sharing and monitoring of the Play Action Plans.

Timetable for assessing and securing sufficient play opportunities for the next 10 years.

| | |
|--|---|
| October 2014 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Progress Report on the Play Action Plan 2013-2014 2. Annual Play Action Plan 2014-2015 3. Timetable for Cabinet to sign off the Annual Play Action Plan 2014-2015 |
| March 2015 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Progress Report on the Play Action Plan 2014-2015 2. Annual Play Action Plan 2015-2016 3. Timetable for Cabinet to sign off the Annual Play Action Plan 2015-2016 |
| March 2016 March 2019 March 2022 March 2025 | <p>Local Authorities are required to complete and submit a copy of their Play Sufficiency Assessments; the Executive Summary of the Play Sufficiency Assessments; and the Play Action Plan for the following year to the Welsh Ministers.</p> <p>The Executive Summaries of the Play Sufficiency Assessments should be published on the Local Authorities' websites. The published summaries must include the outcomes of the Play Sufficiency Assessments and highlight the actions that the Local Authorities intends to take to achieve sufficient play opportunities.</p> <p>Play Action Plans must be developed and submitted to the Welsh Government each year.</p> <p>Local Authorities were required to contribute the results of the Play Sufficiency Assessments to the Single Integrated Plan (please see the Guidance on Shared Purpose, Shared Delivery: Integrating Partnerships and Plans¹²).</p> |

A toolkit¹³ has been developed, in conjunction with Play Wales, to assist Local Authorities in preparing for and conducting the Play Sufficiency Assessments and developing the Play Action Plans. The toolkit includes templates that will support these processes.

¹² <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/improving/services/publicationevents/publications/sharedpurpdel/?lang=en>

¹³ <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/publications/toolkit/?lang=en>

7. Definition of Play

The definition of play as used in the Play Policy and Implementation Plan is the one that had been developed by the play sector and is recognised internationally. This states that:

“Play encompasses children’s behaviour which is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated. It is performed for no external goal or reward, and is a fundamental and integral part of healthy development - not only for individual children, but also for the society in which they live”.

The Welsh Government wishes to emphasise this definition of play. It also recognises that play can include a wide range of recreational activities.

The Welsh Government sees creating an environment where children can freely play as central to the aim of this section of the Measure. We recognise that our society has changed significantly in recent years in the extent to which it is accepted as the norm for children to go out to play and organise where they go and what they do in their own time. This has come about for various reasons including increased concerns about risks to children from increased traffic density; perceived danger from adults who may pose a threat to children; lack of safe places to play; increased television and computer use and sometimes a negative view of playing children by other sections of the community. For these reasons we aim to make communities more play friendly by valuing and increasing quality opportunities for play throughout the community. The intended outcome will be more children playing both inside and outside and so enjoying the health, social, cognitive and emotional benefits that play provides.

Play is defined for the purposes of the measure as including “any recreational activity” (Section 11(6) Measure). The definition of play includes but is not limited to “any recreational activity”. This recognises that children enjoy and benefit from taking part in a wide range of activities that are, in the main, organised by adults for children. These can include junior and youth clubs; leisure centre and sporting activities; cultural and arts activities; indoor play centres, play buses and events organised for children and their families. These recreational activities may offer a combination of adult led organised activities, and opportunities for freely chosen and child led play. In any of these situations children should have the choice of taking part and a voice in what opportunities are offered and how they are organised.

We see the range of play opportunities for children that are covered under the Measure as being:-

- **Freely chosen Play** - With or without adult supervision / facilitation.
- **Structured recreational activities** - in the main led by adults, with predefined rules.

These opportunities can be available in a range of spaces and settings and any setting may afford both opportunities for freely chosen play and structured recreational activities.

Examples within these categories and a glossary of terms is provided in Appendix B

8. Priorities for assessing and securing freely chosen play and recreational activities

The Play Sufficiency Assessments to be carried out by each Local Authority under this duty should give a comprehensive assessment of freely chosen play opportunities as described in the Play Policy.

The assessment should also cover voluntarily chosen structured recreational activities for children covering opportunities for leisure, sporting and cultural activities. These areas are covered, together with play, under the Welsh Government's Core Aim 4 for children and young people. It should identify whether access to provision is free to use or paid for at the point of entry. We recognise that much work has and is being carried out in these areas and do not wish to require duplication with other assessments. We therefore require clear and concise statements on these areas of provision, with cross reference to other relevant assessments of delivery so allowing Local Authorities to utilise existing information.

In securing sufficient play opportunities the Local Authority should give emphasis to the actions required as identified through the play sufficiency assessment and planning process. It should also give consideration to children's opportunities to take part in leisure, sporting and cultural activities and the extent to which these policy and delivery areas support freely chosen opportunities for children to play.

8.1 Play as a tool within other policy agendas

Play is important in its own right. It is also seen as an important tool or method in achieving other agendas relating to children's well-being and development. These include:

- Childcare and early years development.
- Education, particularly the Foundation Phase.
- Healthy living and wellbeing.

The Welsh Government fully recognises the importance of play in its own right and also its being seen as experiential learning; a source of physical activity; and in some contexts a form of therapy, by professionals and others working in service areas for children. Child led play can also contribute to the desired outcomes in these areas. It is important that service providers and practitioners in all relevant areas are aware of the balance between play for its own sake and play as contributing to other agendas.

The provision of quality play opportunities can also significantly contribute to agendas for the whole community, including:

- Community safety – by providing safe environments for children and all other citizens.

Sustainable development – by providing environments that attract families to work and live in areas that meet the needs of the whole family over a period of time.

9. What are sufficient play opportunities?

Section 11(6) sets out that “sufficient” in relation to play opportunities means sufficient having regard to **quantity** and **quality**.

The Welsh Government recognises that clearly setting out a required quantity and quality of play opportunities for a particular area is not a straightforward task as it depends on many variables including:

- The natural environment and geography of the area.
- The built environment and characteristics of the communities.
- The demography of the area.
- Existing play opportunities and provision.
- Existing organisational structures.

These will all affect what is:

- The present situation.
- What changes are needed to create a play friendly environment.
- How these can be achieved.

We acknowledge that what is considered as sufficient and achievable will depend on these variables and should be determined locally, in accordance with the intentions and matters to be taken into account as covered in the Regulations and this Statutory Guidance. This includes consultation with children, their families and communities.

9.1 Quantity

The quantity of play opportunities should be such that any child should be able to play freely and take part in a range of recreational activities in their communities at times and in places that meet their needs.

9.2 Quality of provision

The Local Authority should assess for, and secure, opportunities for children to play of a quality that meets the enjoyment; social and developmental needs of the children in its area. Many documents have been produced by specialist play organisations giving advice on the criteria associated with good quality and successful play spaces. A rich play environment¹⁴ is one which is flexible, adaptable, varied and interesting. It maximises the potential for socialising, creativity, resourcefulness, challenge, and choice. It is a trusted public space where children feel free to play in their own way, in their own time, on their own terms.

Quality play provision offers all children the opportunity to freely interact with or experience the following:

- **Other children** - of different ages and abilities with a choice to play alone or with others, to negotiate, co-operate, fall out, and resolve conflict.
- **The natural world** - weather, trees, plants, insects, animals, mud.
- **Loose parts** - natural and man made materials that can be manipulated, moved and adapted, built and demolished.
- **The four elements** - earth, air, fire and water.
- **Challenge and uncertainty** - graduated opportunities for risk taking; both on a physical and emotional level.
- **Changing identity** - role play and dressing up.
- **Movement** - running, jumping, climbing, balancing, rolling, swinging, sliding and spinning.
- **Rough and tumble** - play fighting.
- **The senses** - sounds, tastes, textures, smells and sights.

Under the different sections of the Play Sufficiency Assessment the Local Authority should take account of the extent to which children have access to play spaces with high play value; and to a range of recreational activities that meet their needs.

In securing sufficient play opportunities Local Authorities should ensure that their Play Action Plans are developed and implemented to achieve high quality opportunities for all children to play.

9.3 Time, Space and Permission

For children to have sufficient play opportunities, they need time to play, space to play and the recognition by adults that this is every child's right so that all children are allowed this time and space.

¹⁴ Play Wales <http://www.playwales.org.uk/landing.asp?id=6>

10. Play Sufficiency Assessments: Matters that need to be taken into account in assessing for and securing sufficient play opportunities.

This section sets out the matters that need to be taken into account in assessing for sufficient play opportunities. The assessments will show the strengths and shortcomings for each matter and the actions to be taken to maintain strengths and address shortcomings.

To secure sufficient play opportunities Local Authorities must develop and implement Play Action Plans as set out under point 6 covering all of the matters to be taken into account in the assessments.

Matter A: Population

The assessment should present data about the number of children living in the Local Authority area at the present time with a projection of 5 years forward, to enable an assessment of their potential play requirements. The data should provide information about the numbers of children in different categories that may affect their play requirements. The data should also show if the areas are classified as being areas of disadvantage or deprivation.

This should cover the number of children in each, ward, broken down into Lower Super Output Areas, or areas that the local authority has identified as appropriate for sufficiency planning purposes, by:

- Age groups for 0-3 year olds; 4–7 year olds; 8–12 year olds; 13-15 year olds; 16–17 year olds.
- Recorded number of disabled children in each age group.
- Welsh as a first language and those educated through the medium of Welsh.
- Children for whom English or Welsh is not their first language.
- Other recorded cultural factors including ethnicity (including gypsy traveller children, refugees and asylum seekers).
-

Matter B: Providing for diverse needs

The Local Authority should aim to offer play opportunities that are inclusive and encourage all children to play and meet together if they wish to. It should recognise that there may be barriers for some children in taking part in the range of play opportunities in their area. This could be due to disability/impairment; children's own communities' cultural values or other environmental or attitudinal factors. The play assessment should cover the extent to which:

- Play opportunities are appropriate to the requirements of children from diverse communities and cultures, including those in isolated rural areas.
- Play opportunities are appropriate to the requirements of Welsh language speaking children.
- Play opportunities are accessible to and inclusive of disabled children and may include support to access play opportunities.
- Specialised provision is available for disabled children if there is a clearly identified need for this.
- Community planning; traffic and transport initiatives cover the requirements of disabled children to access play opportunities.

Matter C: Space available for children to play

Open Spaces

The Local Authority should recognise that all open spaces, including those which whilst not owned by them, are accessible to the public within their area, are potentially important areas where children can play or pass through to reach other playable areas or places where they go. The Play Sufficiency Assessment should take into account:

- Grassland/scrubland.
- Woodlands and amenity green space.
-
- Beaches and river and lake sides.
- Public parks and gardens (in addition to dedicated play areas within the parks).
- Residential streets.
- School grounds.
- Brownfield sites.
- Village greens, town squares, plazas and other open urban public spaces.
- Incidental pockets of land, for example alongside roads and paths

As part of the Play Sufficiency Assessments Local Authorities should draw upon existing Open Space Assessments and other local sources of information to map areas that are used for play or could potentially be used for play. The open spaces considered should include those set out in the Welsh Government Planning Policy Wales and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 16 “Sport, Recreation and Open Space”; Technical Advice Note (TAN) 12 “Design” * and Creating an Active Wales (2009)* as well as brown field sites; residential streets; and school grounds.

A space should be assessed for:

- Its play value.

- Distance to travel from where children live without any significant physical barriers.
- Its accessibility.
- Its freedom from inappropriate hazards.
- Acceptable levels of opportunities for beneficial risk taking.
- Its existing use for play.
- Its potential for play use.

Any change of use for open spaces, or areas that become disused, will come under the guidelines and regulations set out as part of the planning system in *Planning Policy Wales* and the associated Technical Advice Notes¹⁵.

It is expected that any assessment relating to planning of open space and leisure and recreation, will be undertaken with close collaboration with the Local Authority Play Officer and that Open Space Assessments (OSAs) will inform the Play Sufficiency Assessment and vice-versa, to avoid duplication of effort.

Securing sufficient play opportunities

In securing sufficient play opportunities through the Play Action Plan, Local Authorities should ensure that the collaboration that was established in undertaking the assessment is continued in developing and undertaking actions to improve open spaces for play. The Play Implementation Group should include representation from the Local Authority Planning Department to ensure a strong contribution from this policy area in the Play Action Plans.

Outdoor unstaffed designated play spaces

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should take into account:

- Playgrounds and play areas.
- Doorstep.
- Local.
- Neighbourhood.
- Destination.
- Recreation (sports) fields – natural and artificial.
- Multi use games areas (MUGAs).
- Wheeled play areas – BMX bike and skate parks.
- Youth shelters.

¹⁵ <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/policy/guidanceandleaflets/policyindex/?lang=en>

A space should be assessed for:

- Play value.
- Distance to travel from where children live without any significant physical barriers.
- Quantity of provision in relation to number of children.
- Accessibility and suitability in relation to different ages; abilities; dry and wet weather use.
- Acceptable levels of opportunities for beneficial risk taking.
- Its existing use for play.
- Potential for increasing use for play

Playing Fields

The Local Authority should recognise the importance of playing fields as areas of community use for organised sporting activities and for play and informal recreational use. The Playing Fields (Community Involvement in Disposal Decisions) (Wales) Measure 2010¹⁶ empowers the Welsh Ministers to make provision by way of regulations for the involvement of communities in decisions by local authorities about proposed disposals of fields. A “Local Authority” in this context is a county/county borough council, community council and a national park authority.

The Welsh Ministers have consulted on draft regulations (and the related statutory guidance) to be made under the Measure. The draft regulations require a local authority to publish information on the impact of a proposed disposal of a playing field on the health and well-being of the community, by reference to key strategies and plans for the area (including the play sufficiency assessment). The regulations will also strengthen arrangements for meaningful consultation by local authorities with the local community and appropriate national and local sports and other organisations prior to a decision to dispose of a playing field.

It is currently anticipated that the regulations will come into force in late 2014.

Any impact assessment should recognise the importance of playing fields to children’s opportunities to play and include children, young people and their families in any consultations on such decisions.

¹⁶ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2010/6/contents>

Matter D: Supervised provision

Play work provision

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should take into account play provision including:

- Holiday play schemes (Registered and unregistered).
- Adventure playgrounds.
- Play opportunities supported by peripatetic playworkers (play rangers).
- Mobile provision, such as play buses.
- Clubs and youth groups.
- Organisations which provide resources for these settings (such as toy libraries or scrap stores).

This provision should be assessed for the extent to which:

- There is sufficient provision to meet the needs of children and their families.
- The provision meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards for that setting, as set out by the Welsh Government; Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) or other inspection body.
- The provision works to achieve high standards in offering play opportunities for children as developed by the Sector Skills Council for Play (SkillsActive) and the play sector.

Where out of school childcare and open access play is already assessed by Local Authorities through the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, the Play Sufficiency Assessment should also assess these settings in respect of the quality of the play opportunities that they provide and offer.

Structured recreational activities

Under the Measure recreational activities form a part of Play Opportunities.

The Welsh Government wishes to avoid duplication of assessments of provision and service delivery within the range of youth support services and other areas providing for Sport, Leisure and Culture, so requires less information on this provision within the Play Sufficiency Assessment. (See point 8: Priorities for assessing freely chosen play and recreational activities). A statement should be provided of sufficiency in these areas with cross reference to the relevant sections in each policy/delivery area's assessments of provision.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should take into account the extent to which:

- The Local Authority is delivering on its responsibility to secure the services set out under Core Aim 4 for sport, leisure and culture.

- Local “Creating an Active Wales” Plans are increasing play and recreational activities for children.
- Local Authority Partnership Agreements (LAPA) are contributing to increasing free play and recreational activities.
- The sports agenda is contributing to the provision of sufficient recreational activities for children.
- Leisure centre provision of free play opportunities – free swimming; play sessions.
- The cultural and arts agenda, is contributing to the provision of sufficient recreational activities for children.
- The Local Authority Youth Service is providing for children’s opportunities for leisure and association.

As set out in Shared Planning for Better Outcomes (2007),¹⁷ Youth Support services and the Youth Service should provide children with their entitlement to accessible recreational and social opportunities, sports, culture, music and arts.

Matter E: Charges for play provision

Play opportunities in open spaces and outdoor unstaffed designated play spaces (Matter C) will, other than in exceptional circumstances, be free of charge to children and any accompanying adults. Supervised provision both for playwork provision and structured recreational activities (Matter D) may incur a cost to children and their families. This could be through voluntary contributions, entry charges and payment or subscriptions for activities. A further cost could be for transport to these opportunities (Matter F). Any charges will clearly affect whether a wide range of play opportunities are available for all children and therefore the sufficiency of provision for a particular area. It should be appreciated that even relatively small costs for low income families with several children can mean that opportunities are not available to these children.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should show which play opportunities involve a charge and the amount of that charge. It should take into account the extent to which any charges affect the sufficiency of play opportunities for:-

- Children living in low income families.
- Children living in areas of deprivation.
- Children living in rural areas.
- Disabled children or children with particular needs.

¹⁷ <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/publications/sharedplanning/?lang=en>

The Play Sufficiency Assessment and Play Action Plans should show the extent to which Local Authorities take charges into account for these children and their families and the measures used to mitigate these circumstances including:

- Provision of no cost opportunities for children to play.
- No or low charges for Local Authority premises used for play provision.
- Grants or subsidies for play providers.
- Subsidised transport costs for children travelling to play opportunities.

Information of no or low cost play provision will be accessible via the Family Information Service available in each local authority area.

Matter F: Access to space/provision

In assessing for and creating play friendly communities Local Authorities should work to ensure that children are able to move around their communities to play; to walk or cycle to open spaces, play or leisure provision; to visit family and friends or to attend school, without risk of harm.

The Welsh Government is committed to reducing road traffic collisions and injuries, and developing a safer environment for all. The goal is a safer country - for our children and for all the people of Wales.

Local Authorities have powers to introduce 20mph limits where appropriate – for example in residential areas where children could play. The number of 20 mph schemes in Wales has risen steadily in recent years, largely due to Welsh Government funding through our Local Road Safety Grant and Safe Routes programmes.

For many children the pavements and roads outside their front doors represent not only access to play provision, but also a space in its own right, where they can play; sometimes the only public open space in a community. We also recognise that when children travel somewhere they don't just walk or cycle but they play their way through their community.

Under the Welsh Government's Local Transport Services Grant, Local Authorities are allocated annual funding to help them boost the number and range of subsidised local bus and community transport services. While the majority of local bus services are provided commercially, Local Authorities have powers to subsidise services that they believe are required to meet a social need. To achieve this they use their own budgets but also the annual allocations that they receive under the Local Transport Services Grant Scheme.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should take into account all factors that contribute to children's access to play or moving around their communities including:

- Traffic calming.

- Play streets / temporary road closures.
- Safe walking, cycling routes.
- Public transport provision.
- Shared spaces.
- Parking.
- Opening hours of play provision.

These factors should be assessed for:

- The number of 20 mph limits in residential areas.
- The effectiveness of these limits in allowing for children to safely move around their communities and playing outside.
- The potential for increasing the number of 20 mph limit areas to promote play opportunities.
- The Local Authority's provision of safe walking and cycle routes and potential for increasing these. This should align with the proposals that are set out in the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013.¹⁸
- Confirmation that their public transport planning and decisions about expenditure on bus and community transport services reflect their assessment of children's needs to access play.
- Processes for arranging temporary road closures being straightforward and information on these being readily available.
- The impact that parked cars in residential streets have on children's use of space.
- Whether play opportunities are available at times when children want them.

Information; publicity; events

For children and families to take part in play opportunities, recreational activities and events it is necessary for them to know what is available in their area.

The Welsh Government expects each Local Authority to develop a clearly identified play section on its website. This should give comprehensive information about all play opportunities; play areas and areas not necessarily designated as such that provide a range of play opportunities; activities; clubs and events for children in its area. It would also be useful to provide information and relevant links for parents, to promote support for, and involvement with play opportunities within the wider community. This information could also be provided through the Local Authority's other publicity methods.

¹⁸ <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/transport/integrated/walkingcycling/activetravelact/?lang=en>

Events which encourage play and which promote the normalisation/acceptance of play activities in community spaces will contribute to play being accepted at other times, as will publicity of events and providing positive information and news stories to develop positive community attitudes to children and their right to play.

The Local Authority could use physical on site signposting of areas within the community which are available for children to play, to provide a clear message to both children and adults that children are welcome to play in this area. This could take the form of play equipment or more symbolic indication of permission to play. It should be clear that this does not limit children's play just to these areas.

The assessment should cover the extent to which:

- Information about play areas; play and recreation activities; clubs and events for children is readily available through the Local Authority website and other sources.
- Information about the accessibility of provision and contact for support if required.
- Information about events for the whole family is available.
- Information of how parents; school governors community groups; volunteers can become involved in providing play opportunities.
- The Local Authority publicises positive attitudes towards children and their presence outside, playing in their communities.

Note: that there is now the legal requirement on Local Authorities under section 11(4) of the Measure to publish information about play opportunities and keep the information up to date.

Matter G: Securing & Developing the Play Workforce

Local Authorities and partners are required to undertake or secure the managerial and delivery functions necessary to achieve sufficient play opportunities. This will include the co-ordination of the required assessment of the cross cutting policy areas; the integration of the assessment results into the single strategic plan and the delivery of the play agenda by a sufficiently resourced, sized and qualified workforce

The play workforce should have, or be supported in achieving, the qualifications required by the Welsh Government's National Minimum Standards for Regulated Settings; the accepted qualification levels set out by SkillsActive, the Sector Skills Council covering Play; and other requirements set out by other associated inspection and regulatory bodies including CSSIW. The Local Authority should support the development of the play workforce including the involvement and training of other professionals within the children's workforce; volunteers and community members, in line with the National Occupational Standards for the sector.

The assessment should provide information on the organisational structure of the policy area which manages the Play agenda and the play workforce.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should take into account the extent to which:

- The structure and size of the Play workforce (policy and delivery) is able to achieve sufficient play opportunities for children in the area.
- The level of qualifications of the play workforce is sufficient and appropriate for their roles.
- Training is available for the play workforce to achieve the necessary qualifications.
- Training is available for volunteers and parents to develop their knowledge and skills in play work.
- Training is available for professionals working in the children's workforce in relation to play.
- Training or awareness sessions are available for professionals and decisions makers whose work impacts on children's opportunities to play for instance town planners.

Welsh Government recognises that this is a cross cutting agenda and many professionals whose primary purpose at work is not necessarily to support children's play, undertake roles which impact directly and indirectly on children's access to play opportunities. The Play Sufficiency Assessment should take into account the extent to which training is available to enable this broad group to develop their knowledge and understanding of how they may contribute to ensuring sufficiency of play opportunities.

The Welsh Government is developing, with partners, a 10 Year Early Years, Childcare and Workforce Plan which will contribute to ensuring an appropriately trained and qualified play workforce.

Matter H: Community engagement and participation

The Local Authority should consult widely on children's; their families' and other stakeholder's views on play and recreational provision as set out in Section 5. It should also aim to promote wide community engagement in providing play friendly communities.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should take into account the extent to which the following groups are engaged in initiatives to enhance play opportunities:

- Youth groups.
- School Councils.
- School governing bodies.
- Community Groups.
- Any other relevant groups.

Such initiatives could include:

- Making space available and suitable for play.
- Organising play events.
- Promoting positive attitudes of children and play.

As securing sufficient play opportunities is achieved through the development and implementation of the Play Action Plans each year, the children and families affected by the actions should be consulted as to their views of what has been achieved, the benefit in increasing their opportunities to play, and actions for future improvements. It is expected that Local Authorities will use existing mechanisms for children's participation and family consultation processes to achieve this.

Matter I: Play within all relevant policy and implementation agendas

To achieve the outcomes we desire for children and to create a child friendly society that offers a wide range of opportunities for freely chosen play and recreation, it is necessary for policy and implementation across many policy areas to contribute to this purpose.

The Local Authority should examine all its policy agendas for their potential impact on playing children and embed targets and actions to enhance children's play opportunities into all such strategies and policies.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should take into account the extent to which the policy areas set out below include consideration of, and actions to enhance, children's play opportunities. This should also cover any other Local Authority agendas that affect children. The Play Sufficiency Assessment should show that it has taken account of these policy areas either through the provision of related information or by cross-referencing to the related plan with reference to the detail on play.

In securing sufficient play opportunities the Local Authority must give full regard to its Play Sufficiency Assessment and the Play Action Plan showing the actions it is taking each year to improve play opportunities within each of these policy areas. As set out under section 4.1, the Play Monitoring Group should form the basis whereby all policy and delivery areas report progress against actions and targets in the plan, The Play Monitoring Group should be the mechanism for ensuring collaboration across all policy areas. As set out in section 4.3, the Local Authority should examine budgets in the policy areas listed below, to identify how they can be used to meet the actions in the Play Action Plan for improving play within that policy area.

Policy areas to be considered in the assessment:

Education/schools

Schools provide an important opportunity for children to play during the school day and for periods before and after classes. They can also provide valuable play space at weekends and during holiday periods if the school is organised to allow for this. The Welsh Government recommends that Local Authorities advise schools to provide high quality play space and sufficient time for children to play during the school day and give full consideration to opening this provision during out of teaching hours.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should assess the extent to which:

- children are provided with an interesting play environment for breaks during the school day.
- schools provide play opportunities during out of school times, including before school, in the evenings, at weekends and during holiday periods, as well as open access to school grounds and use of premises for activities.
- schools encourage children to walk or cycle to school.
- children are provided morning, lunchtime and afternoon play breaks.

Town and Country Planning

Town and country planning is an important factor in providing spaces where children can play. The assessment of open space provision should be undertaken as part of the preparation of the local development plan. This should assess the suitability of streets and open spaces for play, including the mapping of formal and informal play provision and opportunities. The development plan should show how the Local Authority intends to provide play space in residential, neighbourhood and town or city centre environments where provision has been assessed as inadequate.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should assess the extent to which:

- Planning of the built environment including housing and use of public and open spaces provides for children's opportunities to play.
- The Local Development Plan recognises and addresses the outdoor play needs of children of various ages

Traffic and transport

Traffic control and transport services are important in enabling children to walk, cycle or use public transport in reaching places where they play or take part in leisure provision.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should assess the extent to which:

- Children can play within community areas and there are safe routes for walking, cycling or using public transport to access play; leisure provision and school.
- The Local Transport Plan recognises the importance of local streets, roads and walking and cycling routes in offering play opportunities for children of different ages and abilities.
- The Local Transport Plan identifies ways of assessing the needs of all groups including those which are often marginalised.

Health and Wellbeing

Evidence shows that active play contributes strongly to children's health and well-being. It is shown as contributing to both children's physical and mental health and a means of reducing childhood obesity. Local Authorities should work to ensure that play is taken into full account in providing for a healthy community. The Play Sufficiency Assessment should assess the extent to which:

- the Local Authority's plans and agenda to promote health and well being recognising the importance of freely chosen play and recreational activities in contributing to both children's and their family's physical, mental and social health.
- Such plans support actions to enhance play opportunities for children to promote their health and well being.

Child Poverty

Play has been shown to mitigate the negative effects of poverty on children's lives by providing enjoyment and helping to build their resilience to difficult situations. Play can also be a means of reducing inequalities between children living in families that can afford costly recreational provision and those that cannot so reducing poverty of experience for all children. The Play Sufficiency Assessment should assess the extent to which:

- the Local Authority's tackling poverty agenda and plans recognise the potential of play to increase children's resilience and mental well-being in difficult situations.
- Play opportunities are available to all children regardless of family income.

Early years/Childcare and Family policy and initiatives

Play is central to children's early years and vital for their health, learning and development. Building a Brighter Future, the Welsh Government Early Years and Childcare Plan 2013, recognises the importance of play for all 0 – 7 year olds. The Local Authority in its provision of services for early year's children and their families should recognise the importance of high quality play opportunities in their lives.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should assess the extent to which:

- The Local Authority recognises the importance of play within this policy area, and the benefit to parents and families as a whole, through access to a wide range of play opportunities.

Early Years, Flying Start and family support plans and services recognising the importance of play and contribute to the provision of rich play opportunities for children.

Inter-generational policy and initiatives

The Welsh Governments believes that intergenerational activities and programmes can benefit both children and older people. Play provision can help to promote this interaction.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should assess the extent to which:

- The Local Authority values an inter-generational approach to play and recreation opportunities for the benefit of children and people from older age groups.
- Policies allow for different age ranges – children, teenagers and adults to
 - Use the same space separately at different times of the day.
 - Share the same space at the same time.

Community Development

Welsh Government values community development to build up equal and fair societies where community's needs are understood and fulfilled. Opportunities for children to play form an important part in meeting the communities needs.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should assess the extent to which:

- The Local Authority recognises the rights of children to play within their communities.

- Promotes communities that support and provide for play opportunities for their children.
- Promotes communities that value the benefits which play provides for both children and the community as a whole and in promotes community cohesion.

Community Safety

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should assess the extent to which:

- The Play Sufficiency Assessment should assess the extent to which:
- The Local Authority recognises the rights of children to play within their communities and provides a safe environment for this to happen.
- The Community Safety Strategy has a clear statement which recognises the right of children to play in their communities.
- The Community Safety Strategy includes actions to provide a safe environment for children to play in their communities.

Health and Safety

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should assess the extent to which:

- The Local Authority's Health and Safety policies and procedures embracing the principle of Risk Benefit Assessment as illustrated in the Health and safety Executive's (HSE) High Level Statement on managing risk in play.

11. Future Developments

From 01 July 2014 the full duty on Local Authorities under section 11, Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 came into effect. The detail on assessing for and securing sufficient play opportunities is set out in this Statutory Guidance. This includes detail on undertaking the Play Sufficiency Assessments, development and implementation of the Play Action Plans, monitoring processes and reporting to Welsh Ministers.

Case studies and examples of how Local Authorities are securing sufficient play opportunities for children in their areas will be available on the Welsh Government website. Welsh Government officials will liaise with Local Authority Play Co-ordinators and other representatives on the development of and updating this material and on monitoring of progress and further initiatives for collaboration and partnership working.

Other materials to support Local Authorities and promote the play agenda will appear from time to time on the Welsh Government website.

Appendix A

Welsh Government policy and legislation

POLICY

Play Policy (2002)

In October 2002 the Welsh Government published its Play Policy, which was founded on Article 31 of the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child. The Play Policy was produced to demonstrate the importance that the Welsh Government places on the value of play in childhood and the importance of children in our society. It stated that:

The Welsh Assembly Government is committed to ensuring that all children have access to rich stimulating environments, free from inappropriate risk, and full of challenge, thereby offering them the opportunity to explore through freely chosen play both themselves and the world.

It made clear the Welsh Government's commitment to children, and policymaking and provision designed to meet their needs. The Play Policy was a broad statement of principles rather than a detailed prescription of how provision should be implemented.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/3291781/?lang=en>

Health, Social Care and Well-being Strategy (2003)

From April 2003, local authorities and local health boards will be required to formulate and implement a Health, Social Care and Wellbeing strategy for their local area.

Local authorities and local health boards will be under a duty to formulate and implement a local Strategy. In doing this, they will be required to co-operate with a range of local partners. The named partners are:

- NHS Trusts
- Health Commission Wales (Specialised Services)
- Community Health Councils (CHCs)
- County Voluntary Councils (CVCs)
- Any other voluntary, business or private body with an interest in health and well-being.

A range of other organisations will come under the heading of 'other voluntary, business or private body'. It is for the partners at a local level to determine this wider stakeholder group.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/health/publications/health/strategies/strategies/?lang=en>

‘Children and Young People: Rights to Action’ (2004)

This set out the Welsh Government’s seven core aims for children and young people. The Play Policy Implementation Plan made a significant contribution to achieving the core aim 4: that all children and young people should have access to a range of play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/publications/rightstoaction/?lang=en>

Wales: A Better Country (2005)

Sets out a long-term vision of Wales as a place which values its children and young people. It included amongst its core values the statement that ‘children and young people should be treated as valued members of the community whose voices are heard and needs considered across the range of policy making’.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/wales-a-better-country?lang=en>

Play Policy Implementation Plan (2006)

To further the commitment of the Play Policy, the Welsh Government worked with partners to develop an implementation plan, which was published in February 2006. This reaffirmed the Welsh Government’s commitment to play and how it related to and contributed towards other UK and Welsh Government policies and strategic plans. It set out actions that the Welsh Government would take including:

- Creating a duty of co-operation in addressing the play needs of children and, regardless of issues such as levels of ability, language, race or gender.
- Working with stakeholders, including children, to produce Standards for a wide range of high quality play provision.
- Checking its own policies that impact on children’s opportunities to play, including planning and transport, for consideration of and promotion of play.
- Providing information and training materials for schools and parents on facilitating play.
- Supporting the development of the Play workforce.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/playpolicy?lang=en>

Creating an Active Wales (2009)

- The Welsh Government recognises the importance of creating an environment that makes it easier and safer for people to choose to be more physically active, and that active play contributes to children's physical health and fitness, both during childhood and into later life. Creating an Active Wales includes a section on access to quality play and on woodlands and green spaces.

In Creating an Active Wales (2009), the Welsh Government sets out a vision where all children would frequently play outdoors in safe environments and that people would use their local environment for active recreation. One of the actions in the document was to improve access to woodlands and green space especially those near disadvantaged communities. For this action the Welsh Government undertook to work with the National Trust. We recognise the importance of woodlands and green spaces for children to play and develop an understanding of and respect for the environment. The play sufficiency assessment should include an assessment of children and young people's access to woodlands and green spaces as an opportunity to play, particularly in disadvantaged communities and work with relevant partners in addressing issues of access and removal of hazards.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/cultureandsport/sportandactivererecreation/active/?lang=en>

Good Practice Guide in Designing Gypsy Traveller Sites in Wales (2009)

This Good Practice Guide is intended as a guide to local authorities in providing appropriate services at reasonable cost to Gypsies and Travellers living on residential sites in Wales. It contains advice and examples of good practice and should be used as a basis to facilitate authorities in making decisions specific to their own particular local circumstances. It is not the intention of the Welsh Government to impose uniform solutions since situations may vary considerably across regions in Wales.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/people-and-communities/communitycohesion/publications/goodpractice/?lang=en>

Child Poverty Strategy (2011)

The Child Poverty Strategy, which sets out the Welsh Government's ambition to eradicate child poverty, recognises the importance of making poverty less damaging for children. It emphasises children's right to play and states that "the Welsh Government sees play as being a vital element in children's development and something that can provide a strong protective factor in children's lives. It can, to an extent, shield children from the negative aspects of poverty and allow them to develop their inner resources and build resilience to difficulties and uncertainties in their home and other parts of their lives."

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/child-poverty/?lang=en>

Gypsy and Traveller strategy (2012)

The aim of 'Travelling to a Better Future' is to realise our commitment to the Gypsy and Traveller community; to ensure equality of opportunity for Gypsies and Travellers in Wales and to think about new ways in which we can enable Gypsy and Traveller communities to access resources not always available to them by ensuring our services are flexible enough to respond to their needs.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/people-and-communities/communitycohesion/gypsytravellers/?lang=en>

Vibrant and Viable Places : New Regeneration Framework (2013)

Vibrant and Viable Places is the result of a review of approaches to regeneration in Wales and further afield and extensive consultation with partners.

It has the backing of the whole Cabinet and promotes a well-evidenced approach combining support for people and places. It also encourages partnership working with the public, private and third sectors.

The framework seeks to get the best out of every pound spent by the Welsh Government in terms of mainstream funding like health and education.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/housing-and-regeneration/regeneration/vibrant-and-viable-places/?lang=en>

Road Safety Strategy (2013)

Road traffic injuries happen every day on Welsh roads. They can potentially have tragic consequences for those involved and their families, but are almost entirely avoidable.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/transport/roads/safety/?lang=en>

Early years/Childcare and Play Workforce Development (2013)

"Building a Brighter Future: the Early Years and Childcare Plan", sets out the Welsh Governments intentions for policy development and implementation for children, pre-birth to seven years of age, for the next 10 years.

Part of Building a Brighter Future covers the development of a 10 year workforce plan for early years, childcare and play work practitioners. This aims to raise the profile of these sectors and increase the skills of the workforce. A proposal for future European Funding is being developed to support this programme.

This strategic plan will be looking to ensure that play workers in Wales are able to offer high-quality play opportunities which support children's development.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/building-a-brighter-future/?lang=en>

Planning Policy Wales (2014)

Planning Policy Wales (PPW) sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. It is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TANs, listed in the Annex). Procedural advice is given in circulars and policy clarification letters. It translates our commitment to sustainable development into the planning system so that it can play an appropriate role in moving towards sustainability

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/policy/ppw/?lang=en>

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment/publications/manualforstreets/?lang=en>

LEGISLATION

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) (Came into force in UK in 1992).

The right to engage in play and recreational activities is enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Article 31.1 of the Convention states that “State Parties recognise the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts”.

<http://www.unicef.org.uk/UNICEFs-Work/Our-mission/UN-Convention/>

The Children Act (2004)

This imposed a duty of co-operation between each Local Authority in Wales and their partners as set out within section 25 of the Children Act 2004 to make arrangements to promote the well being of children. It specified that one of the purposes of this co operation was to improve the well being of children relating to education, training and recreation and therefore play.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/31/contents>

The Childcare Act (2006)

The Childcare Act placed a duty on Local Authorities to assess childcare provision in its area. It also places a duty on Local Authorities to provide information on services or facilities for children and young people, including play, sports and other

recreational facilities. This information can be used to contribute to the Play Sufficiency Assessments.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/21/contents>

Shared Planning for Better Outcomes (2007)

The document provided Regulations and Guidance for Local Authorities and their Partners on producing Children and Young People's Plans. Core Aim 4 requires that all children and have access to play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities.

Section (7.3) states that Local Authorities should plan with their partners to provide or secure play opportunities for children and young people. Youth Support services should provide young people with their entitlement to accessible recreational and social opportunities, sports, culture, music and arts.

This includes:

- Play strategies, including plans for staffed adventure play.
- Leisure and sporting opportunities.
- Out of school hours childcare and holiday play-schemes.
- Action to promote other out of school hours activity.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/sharedplanningforbetteroutcomes?lang=en>

Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure (2011)

The Welsh Government put before the National Assembly for Wales a proposal for a new 'Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure related to the United Nations convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The Measure was unanimously accepted and received royal assent in 2011. The Welsh Government believes that the new Measure will be an effective way of ensuring that, in doing its work; it will place greater emphasis on helping children in Wales to access the rights which are set out in the UNCRC, as a step towards them all achieving well being. This increased emphasis will apply to all the Articles, including Article 31.1 relating to a child's right to play.

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's Concluding Observations in 2008 stated that the UK should:-

95.Do more to make sure all children can enjoy their right to rest and play, and to take part in leisure and cultural activities. These activities should be appropriate for all different age groups (ranging from little children to teenagers).

96. Make sure all playgrounds are of good quality and accessible to all children, including disabled children.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2011/2/contents>

Shared Purpose – Shared Delivery (2012)

The statutory guidance on single plans “Shared Purpose – Shared Delivery” sets out the role of local government and their partners, through Local Service Boards (LSBs), in helping to bring together public service leaders to plan, work, deliver and improve. The date for the first plans is set for April 2013. The intention is that each area will develop a single integrated plan, based on a single needs assessment and owned by the Local Service Board. It will be built on the separate statutory plans now in place. The plan should cover the whole range of outcomes for the locality and discharge duties arising from legislation including the Children Act 2004 and NHS Wales Act 2006. The local Play Sufficiency Assessment should contribute to the overall needs assessment that will inform the single plan. Legal duties on local partners in respect of play remain.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/improvingservices/publicationevents/publications/sharedpurpdel/?lang=en>

Active Travel (Wales) Act (2013)

The Act requires local authorities to continuously improve facilities and routes for pedestrians and cyclists and to prepare maps identifying current and potential future routes for their use. The Act also requires new road schemes (including road improvement schemes) to consider the needs of pedestrians and cyclists at design stage.

<http://wales.gov.uk/legislation/programme/assemblybills/active-travel-act/?lang=en>

Funding

The Welsh Government has various funding streams which may be available to Local Authorities to increase play opportunities for children in their areas. The funding programme is decided by Welsh Ministers to achieve the required outcomes under their portfolios to deliver on the Programme for Government and meet the needs of people in Wales. Proposals for increasing play opportunities may be eligible for funding under these programmes, but would need to comply with the funding criteria and be identified as an area of locally identified need by that Local Authority

Appendix B

Glossary of Terms

- **Provision for children's play:** play provision offers a place, in a range of settings which are unsupervised and supervised where children can invent and extend their own play.
- **Open space:** Land laid out and used for the purposes of public recreation or has public value. Open spaces can be as diverse as informal amenity space, sitting areas, public parkland, landscaped areas, incidental open space such as tree belts and screening. A Typology of Open Space is included in Technical Advice Note (TAN) 16: Sport, Recreation and Open Space.
- **Designated play space:** A place that has been designated specifically for children's play as its principal function
 - **Door-step:** A play space, within sight of home, where children, especially young children can play within view of known adults.
 - **Local:** A larger space which can be reached safely by children beginning to travel independently and with friends, without accompanying adults and for adults with young children to walk to with ease.
 - **Neighbourhood:** A larger space or facility which children and young people, used to travelling longer distances independently, can get to safely and spend time in play and informal recreation with their peers and have a wider range of play experiences.
 - **Playable space or shared public space:** A place where children can play that is not specifically designated for play and which does not have play as its principal or only function.
 - **Inclusive play space:** A play provision that is accessible and welcoming to disabled and non-disabled children.
 - **Destination play areas:** A play space within a key site, such as a park. It is aimed at attracting families and similar groups for longer visits and tend to be the same size or larger than neighbourhood sites.
 - **Multi-use games areas:** An enclosed area, using a synthetic grass or hard surface for playing sports formally and informally.
 - **Youth shelters:** An area dedicated to local children as a place to hang out.
 - **Out of School Childcare Clubs:** Provide childcare and positive play opportunities for school children aged 3-16 years directly before and/or

after school and during school holidays. Qualified Play workers facilitate sessions. Clubs are based in community hubs such as schools, community centres, church halls and also within day nurseries. Childcare clubs are registered with CSSIW unless care is being provided for children over 7 years only or the care being provided does not exceed 2 hours daily e.g. a breakfast club running for an hour before school every morning. Childcare clubs enable parents/carers to enter work, training or education and provide respite for vulnerable families. Because of this, they aim to be sustainable, charging fees that are affordable for the local community.

- **Wheel park/wheeled play:** An area for activities on wheels such as skateboarding, rollerblading and BMX biking.
- **Staffed open access play sessions:** Open Access play provision can be permanent or short-term provision, located in a variety of settings with or without premises. Whilst the term Open Access applies to registered provision for children under 8 years, such provision usually caters for a wide age range of children, including those over 8 years and older. Open access provision for children 8 years and older is un-regulated. The purpose of the provision is to provide staffed play opportunities for children in the absence of their parents. Children are not restricted in their movements, other than where related to safety matters and are not prevented from coming and going as and when they wish. Children have the freedom of choice as to what range of play activity they wish to undertake and with whom they play.
- **Adventure playgrounds:** an open access setting staffed by trained play workers, where children can find materials and support so that they can build and adapt their own play space to suit their own needs. It is a rich play environment that compensates for today's lack of accessible natural space where children can play independently of adults.
- **Peripatetic play work (play rangers) project:** An open access, often short term project staffed by a small team of trained playworkers, visiting a different place, a park, estate play area or other public space, once or twice a week for a couple of hours. They will be equipped with ideas and equipment, and will work to help children places to play in their local area, and to reassure parents that it is safe for children to play out.
- **Playwork:** Playwork is a highly skilled profession that enriches and enhances children's play. It takes place where adults support children's play but it is not driven by prescribed education or care outcomes. (SkillsActive).
- **Play workforce:** Encompasses anyone employed whose role has an impact on children playing – those who may either directly facilitate their play, design for playing, or those with the power to give permission for children to play, or not.

