

## Play Sufficiency Assessment Form



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

**Name of Local Authority: Rhondda Cynon Taf**

**Name of responsible officer: Gail Beynon**

**Job title: Children Centre and Information Manager**

**Date of completion: January 2019**

Please note that the Play Sufficiency Assessment must be received by the Welsh Government by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019



### 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.

Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is the most universally recognised human rights treaty and recognises that every child has the right to play. This right has been recognised and promoted for many years in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Our vision is that all children and young people should be able to: have fun; enjoy their childhood and youth; pursue learning; and develop life skills through participating in a range of high quality play, leisure, sporting and cultural opportunities, thus ensuring we meet the interest and needs of each individual child or young person. The Council continues to work collaboratively with partners from across all departments of the Council, as well as third sector and national organisations. Wherever possible we endeavour to

ensure that Welsh medium play opportunities are given the same priority as English medium provision.

In recent years, there has been an increase in the demand for play for disabled children and young people (C&YP) throughout the school holidays via the Council's Care2Play (C2P) programme. The aim of the C2P programme is to provide the relevant and package of support for C&YP to access open access play provision within their local community. The C2P programme and Open Access Play provision is continuously being improved.

By March 2019 RCTCBC will have made a a capital investment of over £3.2m into children's play areas, over a four year period. This capital investment programme has seen improvements being made in 97 playgrounds which is almost half of the council's play facilities. The investment has been used in a number of different ways. In some facilities it has been used to add new and interesting equipment that better meets the play needs of service users, whereas in other other areas the investment has been used to target maintenance or safety issues, with the focus being on improving overall access. This has included the installation of tarmac footpaths to the play areas; improvements to the entrance ways, or creating and renewing surfaces within the play area to link and create freeflow to the play equipment.

Whilst the focus of the investment has been on improving opportunities for all children, greater consideration has been given to the general principles of inclusivity, by ensuring that as many children and young people as possible have the opportunity to meet and play in a safe well maintained environment.

The provision of play, culture, leisure and sporting opportunities cannot be considered in isolation from formal childcare services or youth services. A range of CIW registered holiday care schemes who provide supervised full time play and leisure opportunities for the children of working parents and youth providers offering open access play and youth opportunities have been given due regard throughout the PSA.

The Council will strive to develop and deliver efficient, effective and high quality play, cultural, leisure and sporting opportunities for C&YP and ensure that the Council and its partner organisations continue to build on the strong foundations that already exist. We will continue to work collaboratively to develop, plan, co-ordinate and deliver local services effectively and efficiently.

### **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.

The starting point to undertake the 2019 Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA) has been to via the PSA working group. The group membership consists of representatives from a range of services, including Early Years and Family Support, Resilient Families Service (undertakes the Team Around the Family function in RCT), Youth Engagement and

Participation Service, Sport, Leisure, Parks, Transport, Planning, Menter Iaith, Education, Disabled Children's Team, Family Information Service and the Community Hub Team. In order to ensure that the Action Plan of the 2019 PSA continues to be addressed and reviewed the PSA group will continue meet on a termly basis.

### **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 play associations and play providers
- The private sector if appropriate
- Community groups

There are a number of third sector organisations commissioned to deliver play, leisure, cultural and sport provision across the County Borough. 'Interlink' is the organisation supporting voluntary sector organisations and representatives from this organisation and the play sector are also active members of the PSA working group.

Private sector businesses, such as after school clubs, childminders, and education providers have contributed to consultation and workforce development elements of the PSA. The lead officer with responsibility for the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) also sits on the PSA Group which serves to link the two assessments.

The Training Team have undertaken a Play Workforce audit as part of their Childcare training audit. However as there has been a very limited response to the audit and further work will be carried out during 2019 / 20 as part of the PSA Action Plan. Information gathered will then be used to assess the training needs of the sector and develop a training programme to meet these identified needs.

### **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 how it has been used to inform future plans

As part of the 2019 PSA we were required to carry out a consultation exercise with a range of C&YP. Therefore, using the questions provided in the PSA toolkit we worked with the Local Authorities consultation team to compile an on-line questionnaire. With support from a number of colleagues from the Family Information Services and Universal Childcare team, a total of 504 C&YP took part from 24 schools and 12 playschemes over the October half-term holiday. The full consultation report can be found at Appendix 1a and 1b.

The Soft Outcomes Toolkit for RCT open access play continues to be used. The main aims of the toolkit are: to consult with the C&YP on how the play space can be improved, support

providers to evaluate and reflect on their own practice and capture statistical information, to ensure play provision is being commissioned in areas of need.

It also supports the monitoring of the quality of play opportunities being delivered across the County Borough.

### **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 2019 Play Sufficiency Assessments and subsequent plans.

Please use this section to highlight what has changed since the 2016 Play Sufficiency Action Plan in terms of how resources are allocated.

Please also highlight how Welsh Government programme have been used locally for the provision of play and how they have addressed priorities from your 2016 play sufficiency assessment:

The withdrawal and changes in various funding streams both within the public and voluntary sectors since the 2016 PSA has had a significant impact on play, leisure, culture and sporting opportunities across the County Borough and we find ourselves in a position where there is no longer a Play Association, Scrap Store or Play/Toy Library operating in RCT.

The use of the Welsh Government Childcare and Play grant has been prioritised for the delivery of inclusive play opportunities for children and young people facing barriers to accessing play through the delivery of the Care2Play Service and the continuation of free open access play provision across the County Borough. In order to maximise resources over the last 12 months we have developed a more integrated approach to delivering play opportunities including the development of Youth Play activities for 9-11 year olds across the RCT. These sessions run 52 weeks a year and are delivered by RCT's Youth Engagement and Participation Service, who also meet the delivery costs.

It is envisaged that the new Children and Communities Grant when utilised alongside Council core budget will provide the level of flexibility needed to not only maintain provision but to support the development of new play initiatives.

### **The Play Sufficiency Assessment and local Well-being Plans**

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 Well-being Plan and Public Service Board.

The golden thread of the PSA is discernible through the organisation's plans all the way through to the Cwm Taf Well-being Plan. The PSA is used to inform the local needs assessment and as a priority for the Public Service Board, one of the three objectives of the Cwm Taf Well-being Plan states, ***“To grow a strong local economy with sustainable transport that attracts people to live, work and play in Cwm Taf.”*** This demonstrates that play sits at the highest strategic position of the organisation's direction. The Cwm Taf Well-being Plan is [accessible here](#)

### **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.

The lead Director for the PSA is the Group Director for Community and Children's Services, supported by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

Membership of the PSA Group includes representatives from a range of services, including Early Years and Family Support, Resilient Families Service (undertakes the Team Around the Family function in RCT), Youth Engagement and Participation Service, Sport, Leisure, Parks, Transport, Planning, Menter Iaith, Education, Disabled Children's Team, Family Information Service and the Community Hub Team. The group meetings on a needs led basis to monitor actions and review plans. The biggest challenge for this group has been the capacity for it to be as pro-active as it could be. Whilst members of the group are fully committed to the delivery of play opportunities and have been delivering against actions within the plan, there has been little capacity to facilitate the work of the group as a collective.

Following internal Service changes, from April 2019 responsibility for the management of the PSA and the subsequent monitoring of play sufficiency will sit with the Community Wellbeing and Resilience Service. This will ensure that the statutory responsibilities for the monitoring of the PSA and the monitoring of Youth Support Services provision will be undertaken together, providing a more comprehensive assessment of service provision, gaps and areas of development required. It will also enable the gathering of routine data and service mapping activity to inform the monitoring role of the RCT PSA Group.

### **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. (In the “RAG status column” ,Double click on the word STATUS – this will bring up drop-down form fields options, use the arrow down key until the status required RED, AMBER or GREEN- is at the top then press ok)

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 2019 column enables the local authority to indicate the direction of travel with the insertion of arrows.**

**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 Comments section:** asks some specific questions for each matter that should enable you to 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. It also provides the opportunity to identify challenges and how they might be overcome.



### **Matter A: Population**

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should provide an overview of population and demographic data used locally to plan for play provision. Information should also be included regarding:

- Ages of children
- First language Welsh speaking children
- Cultural factors (such as other language)
- Gypsy Traveller children
- Disabled children

### **What has changed in terms of population and demographic trends since Play Sufficiency Assessment 2016?**

In Rhondda Cynon Taf, no significant changes have been reported to the population or demographic data since the development of the Play Sufficiency Assessment in 2016. However, the more significant changes have and continue to be in relation to how we use data to identify individuals, families and communities in need. We are currently in the process of developing profiling models for individual children and young people, for families and for communities. These models will utilise both local and national data sets and intelligently analyse them to ensure we are targeting our services where they are needed most. This modification of our systems and processes takes account of national developments such as our involvement in the Flexible Funding Pathfinder Programme, the Early Years Co-construction work in Cwm Taf, the Children First Pioneer and the roll out of Community Hubs/Zones.

### **How has/will the Local Authority use its population data to plan for sufficient play opportunities locally?**

Working in conjunction with colleagues from across the play sector we will be moving towards commissioning and delivering play provision in areas of identified need through using a range of data sources including vulnerability profiling information, community profiles, children's services data, youth services data and community safety / anti-social behaviour data. Priority areas for the delivery of provision will also include evidence of need within the Community Hub areas as and when they are developed.

### **Have there been challenges?**

A number of organisations which would have been commissioned to deliver play provision are no longer operating, due to a lack of funding. This lack of organisations from which to commission play provision has been the greatest challenge for the play service.

### **How can these be overcome?**

It is envisaged that through working with colleagues across other council departments we can plan and deliver a range of play opportunities to



ensure there is no duplication of service provision. We are also looking to consolidate Service Level Agreements with external third sector providers delivering services commissioned via the new Children and Communities Grant to support their long term sustainability and improve the integration of joint service delivery.

### **Comments**

From April 2019 the new Service Planning and Transformation Team will produce robust and live profiling data from a range of sources with which the PSA group will be able to ensure that moving forward all play opportunities will be targeted to meet the emerging needs of our communities, whilst ensuring that there is an equitable spread of provision across the local authority as far as reasonably practicable.

### **RAG Status for Matter A**

Criteria partially met.



**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 partially met. 

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MB 1	The play requirements of children living in isolated rural areas are understood and provided for	AMBER	RED	In previous years data from the 2011 WIMD was used to identify the play requirement of children in isolated areas. As this data is now 8 years old, work is ongoing to produce up to date data	Work is ongoing and limited data is readily available at this time.	MB1. The data is to be analysed and used to develop and deliver appropriate levels of play opportunities.
		GREEN	AMBER	YEPS 'Your Voice' survey consults with more than 6,000 young people in a robust range of settings, ensuring young people aged 11-25 years have the opportunity to express their views and shape service improvement. This information is used at a	Information will not be available in time to be included in the body of this report.	MB1. Outcomes from the Your Voice report to be included in the PSA action plan, to inform service delivery.

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
		GREEN	RED	<p>local level to identify gaps, needs and to inform the planning of youth provision. The 'Your Voice' survey will be rolled out across all secondary schools, colleges and communities; from 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2018 until the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2018. Reports will be complete by February 2019.</p> <p>The Arts Service provides arts and cultural opportunities for children within the professional theatre programme and targeted universal art workshops on an outreach basis. They provide art and cultural opportunities that are accessible by public transport or can in certain circumstances arrange for transport for the individual to the provision.</p> <p>The two RCT Theatres (Coliseum Theatre,</p>	<p>Funding for this service has been cut and transport is limited and only made possible via securing external funding and is, therefore, short-term(Families First funding)</p>	<p>MB1.To secure external funding to enable opportunities to be created locally for children to engage with and participate in the arts.</p>

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>Aberdare, and the Park &amp; Dare Theatre, Treorchy) are in or close to the town centres.</p> <p>RCT Arts Service remains in Arts Council of Wales Portfolio client, which is in receipt of revenue funding.</p> <p>Arts Services is commissioned by Families First to deliver a youth arts and music industry programme.</p>	<p>This will be reviewed during Autumn 2019.</p> <p>The service is commissioned on an annual basis.</p>	
MB 2	The play requirements of Welsh language speaking children are understood and provided for	AMBER	<p>RED</p> <p>AMBER</p>	<p>The local authority currently commissions a limited amount of Welsh language Open Access Play provision.</p> <p>The YEPS ‘Your Voice’ survey is rolled out across all four Welsh medium secondary schools ensuring the requirements of Welsh language speaking young people are understood and</p>	<p>2 out of the 10 provisions commissioned are carried out through the Welsh Language.</p> <p>Shortage of suitable Welsh speaking providers.</p>	<p>MB2. Additional Welsh Language providers to be sourced and commissioned to deliver provision.</p> <p>MB2. Identify external providers to deliver sessions through the Medium of Welsh</p>

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		GREEN	GREEN	<p>inform service development and delivery.</p> <p>YEPS have a clear and robust commitment to the delivery of youth provision through the medium of Welsh. The service provides provision during lunchtimes and after school hours (up until 8pm) in the welsh language. All the staff based at the Welsh medium schools are fluent welsh speakers, which allows Young people to communicate through the language of their choice.</p> <p>YEPS have established and maintained strong partnership working with the Urdd and Menter Iaith to provide further provision.</p>		<p>MB2. To secure external funding to enable opportunities to be created locally for children to</p>
		GREEN	AMBER	<p>The Arts Service provides arts and cultural opportunities for children with diverse needs within</p>		

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
		<p style="text-align: center;">GREEN</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RED</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GREEN</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AMBER</p>	<p>the professional theatre programme (including bilingual productions and relaxed screenings/performances) and as targeted arts workshops at the theatres and on an outreach basis.</p> <p>A Welsh language performing arts group meet weekly at Gartholwg Lifelong Learning Centre. RCT Theatres programme Welsh language product for families as appropriate.</p> <p>Sport RCT in partnership with the Urdd provide after-school and community club provision through the medium of Welsh. All Urdd clubs are led by a Welsh speaking coaches / volunteers.</p> <p>The partnership continues and has seen an increase in the delivery of swimming</p>	<p>Lack of Welsh speaking staff and a lack of demand makes provision difficult to sustain financially.</p>	<p>engage with and participate in the arts through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>MB2. Continue to work in partnership with the Urdd. Undertake a workforce audit and actively seek to recruit Welsh speaking delivery staff</p> <p>MB2. Identify suitable staff to deliver sessions through</p>

## Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				lessons through the medium of Welsh		the Medium of Welsh. Promote the sessions to increase uptake of the service.
MB 3	The play requirements of children from different cultural background are understood and provided for	GREEN	AMBER	Section MB1 above data will also be used to meet this requirement.		
		GREEN	GREEN	The YEPS 'Your Voice' survey is rolled out across all 17 secondary schools, the 4 special schools, colleges and the community to ensure the requirements of all young people regardless of background are understood and the feedback is used to inform service development and delivery.		
			GREEN	YEPS held a BAME consultation event to in March 2018 to give young people an additional opportunity to express the issues they face in RCT. A BAME youth forum was established following this.		MB4. Identify new ways of commissioning provision to



## Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MB 4	The play requirements and support needs of disabled children are understood and provided for.	GREEN	GREEN	<p>The Care2Play programme provides C&amp;YP with access to a range of play opportunities over the holiday periods. It also meets the support needs of individuals to access either care or play provision locally within their community.</p> <p>YEPS staff coordinate and deliver support for young people who are disabled and/or have additional learning needs to access play and youth provision in their local communities.</p> <p>The Arts Service provides arts and cultural opportunities for children, young people and their families with diverse needs, ranging from professional theatre programme (including bilingual product and relaxed screenings/performances) through to targeted arts</p>	Current commissioning processes require review to ensure they are efficient	stream line the processes of the Care2Play programme
		GREEN	GREEN			

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
		GREEN	AMBER	<p>workshops at the theatres and on an outreach basis. The service is an Arts Council of Wales Arts Portfolio Wales client. Evidence to support this matter for Culture Services can be found in MB1 above.</p> <p>RCT is one of 3 Local Authorities working in partnership with Dragon Sports Wales to deliver the Get out and Get Active scheme (GOGA) focusing specifically on people with a disability.</p> <p>There is a full time Disability Sport Wales Development Officer in post to provide support to C&amp;YP to access recreation.</p> <p>(STARS) Coordinators provide both inclusive community provision in community sports clubs and school holiday programme.</p>	<p>The GOGA Delivery Plan is in its second year of a 3 year funding programme</p>	<p>MB4. Identify additional funding to continue to deliver the GOGA scheme.</p> <hr/> <p>MB5. Develop a catalogue</p>

## Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MB 5	Play projects and providers have access to a range of resources which support inclusion	GREEN	AMBER	The children centres have sensory rooms that providers and the public can use free of charge.	There are very limited physical resources available to the play sector that enables them to adapt play opportunities that support inclusion.	of specialist resources within the local authority that providers can borrow to enhance children and young people's play opportunities
		GREEN	GREEN	YEPS coordinate and deliver provision for young people who are disabled and/or have additional learning needs.		
		GREEN	GREEN	RCT Theatres offer accessible art performances for disabled young people to attend. In addition to this art services are also members of the HYNT scheme – the national access scheme for theatres.		
		AMBER	GREEN	Sport RCT in partnership with Disability Sport Wales is working with sports clubs and private sports providers		

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				to achieve 'InSport Accreditation. 'This is a quality assurance scheme designed to upskill coaches/volunteers and ensure sports clubs are inclusive to all. RCT is on track to achieve Silver InSport accreditation in 2019.		
MB 6	There is a well known and agreed mechanism which is used to identify the need for separate provision for disabled children	GREEN	GREEN	This is carried out through the Care2Play programme	More providers are required from which to commission Care2Play	MB6. Work with colleagues from the statutory and voluntary sector across RCT to identify the need and develop for specialist play provision for disabled children.
		AMBER	GREEN	Where possible integration is encouraged and supported within YEPS provision however where required YEPS ensure provision for disabled young people is developed and delivered separately from mainstream provision		
		GREEN	GREEN			MB6. To secure external funding to enable opportunities to be created

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
		GREEN	AMBER	<p>The Arts Service provides specialist arts and culture provision for children with diverse needs e.g. young carers, looked after children, and disabled children, utilising the theatres and community venues.</p> <p>The Art Service also commissions the provision of a community dance pathways programme accessible to all. Signed performances take place in RCT Theatres. These are made possible through our revenue funding received from ACW.</p> <p>Sport RCT through support from Disability Sport Wales are able to categorise disabilities and appropriately provide exclusive and inclusive sporting opportunities for all children.</p>	<p>Due to the lack of demand and take up of this service it is no longer sustainable for the local authority.</p>	<p>locally for children to engage with and participate in the arts.</p> <p>MB6. Identify new funding to ensure sustainability of new opportunities created by the end of the funded programme.</p> <p>MB6. Exploring the possibility of working regionally to support the development of disability sports clubs and community sessions. (Sport RCT)</p>
		GREEN	GREEN			
			AMBER			

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				The GOGA project has focused the development of developing new sustainable exclusive and inclusive opportunities within RCT.		
MB 7	Access audits for all play provision as described in the guidance are undertaken	GREEN	AMBER	A playscheme premises access form has been developed. The information captured within the form aims to inform service users of the accessibility of the building for service users.	Due to limited resources this work has yet to be completed.	MB7. Access audits of all provision to be carried out. Data to then be collated and publicised on the council website alongside the playscheme timetable. Thus supporting families to make an informed choice of which play provision best suits their need.
						MB8. Review of Gypsy traveller sites required.
MB 8	Designated play space is provided and well maintained on gypsy traveller sites	RED	RED	There are currently no council maintained play spaces on gypsy traveller sites	There are currently no council maintained play spaces on gypsy traveller sites	
MB 9	The requirements of young carers are understood and provided for	AMBER	GREEN	YEPS have established a Young carer's support group at Mountain Ash Comprehensive School, to support and consult with the Young carers at the school.		

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		GREEN	GREEN	Leisure centres provide a subsidised Leisure for Life (LFL) leisure pass for young carers. The subsidised LFL membership scheme continues.		
MB 10	The requirements of lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) children are understood and provided for	RED	GREEN	YEPS support the 'Bridges' Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) Project and have a designated member of staff who raises awareness of this.		

**Providing for Diverse Needs**

**How has data been used (or how will the data be used) to address the barriers that children with diverse needs face in accessing inclusive and accessible opportunities for playing?**

We have used the relevant data available to us to ensure that the children and young people referred to our flagship Care2Play programme are placed in settings to support their individual needs. Further work is on-going to analyse individual needs based data on a geographical basis to ensure that children and young people are fully supported to access play provision locally within their local community. We will also assess the needs of other cohorts of disabled children and develop more specialised play provision as required.

**Have there been challenges?**

Over the past 2 years with the loss of voluntary sector funding and re-profiling of various Welsh Government programme, such as, Families First and Communities First has been challenging. There has been a steady increase in the closure of voluntary sector play providers and play organisations across the County Borough.



**How can these be overcome?**

Play services is now working with various internal departments to stream line the processes and delivery of a number of services for children and young people. This will include the development and implementation of integrated service delivery opportunities facilitated by the flexible use of the new Children and Communities Grant alongside Council core budget. These developments will take into consideration new Welsh Government programmes of work and local government initiatives, which will include, The Cwm Taf Early Years Co-construction Project the Children First Pioneer work, the Resilient Families Service and the establishment of Community Zones across the County Borough.


**Comments:**

It is envisaged that through partnership working across all council departments and both, the voluntary and private sector, the quality and quality of play opportunities for all children throughout the County Borough will flourish.

**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. 

**Open Spaces**

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
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## Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

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MC 1	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	The Council has undertaken an Open Space Assessment. This forms an up to date assessment of accessible open space in the County Borough.	The open space assessment is only a snapshot in time.	
MC 2	The Local Authority has undertaken an Accessible Green space Study that maps areas that are used for playing	GREEN	GREEN	The Council has a Green Space assessment, which was conducted in 2007. The Open Space Assessment also builds on the 2007 report.		
MC 3	The Local Authority undertakes access audits at all open spaces and implements proposals to improve access and safety	AMBER	AMBER	The Open Space Assessment looks at elements of accessibility as part of its remit.	The assessment is a snapshot in time and there is no assessment on a more regular basis	MC3. Keep the Open Space Assessment up to date (Planning)
MC 4	The Local Authority has developed its own Open Space Standards in accordance with the advice and requirements of Planning Policy Wales	GREEN	GREEN	The Council has an open space study which sets standards for provision.		
MC 5	The Local Authority undertakes and actions play value assessments in public open spaces	NEW	RED	There is no evidence available to support this.	There is no current mechanism in place for this work to be undertaken.	MC5. Work with the wider Play sector and planning department to identify and agree a process to

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MC 6	Brownfield sites owned by the Local Authority are assessed for the potential for the site to be reclaimed to provide for children's play	GREEN	GREEN	With Corporate Estates officers being based within Leisure, Parks and Countryside they are requested to comment on any planned disposals or development of land.	Not all Brownfield sites are suitable locations for play. Other sites maybe designated sites of important nature and conservation (SINC) and therefore may require sensitive management	undertake play value assessments in public open spaces.

**Outdoor Unstaffed Designated Play Spaces**

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MC 7	The Local Authority has undertaken an Accessible Green space Study that maps areas that are used for playing	NEW	AMBER	The Local Authority has an up to date record of all fixed equipped play spaces and has carried out an accessibility audit.	This mapping does not include all Green spaces as the geographical area is too vast and would require additional resources across a number of service areas to carry it out fully.	MC7. Undertake a review of the accessibility audit.

## Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MC 8	The Local Authority keeps an up to date record of all designated play space as described in the Statutory Guidance	AMBER	AMBER	The Play Facilities team has an up to date record of all designated play spaces that fall within the ownership of the Local Authority.	There is limited information held on non-council owned facilities. With reducing physical resources, opportunities to source this information is challenging.	MC8. Contact Community Councils and Housing Associations to develop a fuller picture of existing designated play spaces not in Council ownership.
MC 9	The Local Authority assesses play spaces for play value and potential to increase in play use as set out in the Statutory Guidance	AMBER	GREEN	The Local Authority has an annual inspection undertaken on all fixed equipped play spaces, which takes into consideration and measures play value. Any identified shortfalls in provision are added to the Play Facilities development plan. Furthermore the Council is in year four of a 5 year investment programme, which has allocated over three million pounds worth of funding for improvements	The funding is only allocated for capital works	MC9. Continue with the use of the development plan to influence capital spend in future years

## Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				to fixed equipped play spaces.		
MC 10	The Local Authority undertakes access audits at all designated play spaces and implements proposals to improve access and safety	AMBER	AMBER	The Local Authority has undertaken an access audit on all fixed equipped play spaces following the implementation of the Disability Discrimination Act now Equality Act.	The study only considered access limitations in terms of disability, further studies are also required to identify physical limitations like busy roads, the proximity of safe crossing points etc.. Limited revenue funding for commissioning a new audit	MC10. Continue to work with partners in Planning and Highways so that appropriate access to play and open space are not overlooked.  MC10. Work with the Diversity and Equality team to gain a snapshot of generic access issues. Obtain costs to commission a new access audit to update existing information
MC 11	The Local Authority has developed and agreed a new fixed play provision standard	AMBER	GREEN	.RCTCBC uses the supplementary planning guidance note (TAN 16) and a play space design brief to ensure that all new provisions are in line with the standards required.	There are difficulties around getting housing developers to provide facilities that meet these standards.	MC11. Work with colleagues in Planning to ensure the wording in Section 106 documents supports the use of the play standard (play space design brief)
MC 12	The Local Authority undertakes and actions play space assessments in	AMBER	GREEN	The Local Authority has an informal for accessing play spaces which utilises local		

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	designated play spaces			knowledge, maintenance records and visual observational techniques.		
MC 13	The Local Authority has introduced smoke-free playgrounds	GREEN	AMBER	All new signage within Children's Play Spaces makes reference to the prohibition of smoking.	Some play spaces/parks have old signage which does not state that smoking is prohibited. The act of not smoking in a Children's play space is currently not enforceable	MC13. Continue to renew signage
MC 14	The Local Authority has removed 'no ball games' signs to encourage more children playing in the community	GREEN	GREEN	In suitable play spaces – signage prohibiting ball games has been removed.	Some spaces may not be suitable for playing ball games due to the limited space available or for safety reasons	MC14. Continue to review signage to support increased play opportunities.
MC 15	The Local Authority has erected signs, such as Play Priority Signs to encourage more children playing in the community	AMBER	AMBER	The Local Authority currently has nine non equipped designated play spaces, and signage has been erected to identify these sites as play spaces	Damage to signage. Limited funding for erection of signage	MC15. Review signage and replace where possible, subject to funding.
MC 16	The Local Authority includes a recognition of the importance	GREEN	GREEN	Through the planning process officers based		

## Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	of playing fields to children's play when any disposal decisions are made			within Leisure, Parks and Countryside (LP&C) are given the opportunity to comment on any planned disposals.		
MC 17	The Local Authority includes children and their families in any consultations regarding decisions to dispose of playing fields	RED	AMBER	Equality impact assessment and consultation information now required in all Cabinet reports	Lack of staff capacity to carry out consultation with children and families.	MC17.PSA group to review current process with Coporate Estates.
MC 18	The Local Authority refers to guidance around creating accessible play space when refurbishing or developing new playgrounds	NEW	GREEN	Through the Capital Investment programme for play areas the local authority has provided 28 additional wheelchair accessible roundabouts, 65 basket swings, 30 accessible rotators, 27 spring see saws and many sensory play items. Improvements have also been made to entrance and exit points and tarmac pathways linking the equipment have been increased.		

Open Spaces



**How has the Local Authority ensured collaboration between Open Space Assessments / Green Infrastructure Strategies and Play Sufficiency Assessments to improve spaces for play?**

The Local Authorities Play Faculties Manager works closely with and regularly contacts key colleagues within the Play and Planning department on developments that include the disposal and or development of land that may impact on play opportunities for C&YP.

**Have there been challenges?**

There have been no major challenges at this time.

**How can these be overcome?**

N/A

**Comments:**

The Local Authority officers from various departments will continue to work together in this area.

**Outdoor unstaffed designated play spaces**

The local authority's Play Team has engaged with disability groups, parents and carers and has undertaken accessibility audits

**Have there been challenges?**

There are many challenges and the key issues faced include resources – physical and financial. Accessibility usually requires physical work to be undertaken from lowering kerbs to creating pathways to play spaces, these often require expertise from different service areas. In terms of providing accessible equipment e.g. a roundabout or swing that can be used by wheelchair users, these are substantially more expensive than a standard item not deemed as inclusive or accessible.

**How can these be overcome?**

The majority of challenges can be overcome with additional funding and ensuring that wider partners have a better understanding of play considerations and its importance.

**Comments**

The Council has over 200 designated play spaces and to ensure that these play facilities better meet the play needs of ALL children and young people living in RCT. Over £3 million has been invested over the past four years, with a further commitment of additional funding to come in the next financial year (2019-20). Accessibility has been a fundamental part of this work. Whilst increasing accessible opportunities within the play space itself has been relatively easy to achieve, the greater challenge has been facilitating improvements to the old infrastructure like access paths and routes.

With the emphasis on changing needs has come a greater use of the phrases ‘accessibility’ of ‘inclusive play’. Whilst the concept has long been engrained in certain aspects of the play industry it relatively new in others and with this has come confusion and an expectation that all play equipment should be adapted for wheelchair users. As a provider of play opportunities it has sometimes been difficult to relay a message that shifts the emphasis from adapted equipment to providing spaces that enable children no matter what their ability to play together.

**Matter D: Supervised provision**

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

**RAG Status**

Criteria partially met. 

**Playwork provision**

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MD 1	The Local Authority keeps an up to date record of all supervised play provision as	GREEN	GREEN	Play services collate and publicise on the Council website and Family Information Services		MD1 Extend the use of the Capita One system to capture information on supervised play provision in

## Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	described in the Statutory Guidance			facebook page, a timetable of commissioned open access play provision. The Youth Engagement and Participation Service keep accurate and detailed records of all provision through our Capita One Management Information System (IYSS)		one place
MD 2	The Local Authority offers play provision which offers a rich play environment as described in the Statutory Guidance	GREEN	AMBER	The Play Soft Outcomes tool is used by commissioned play providers to reflect on the play environment created for the children and young people to use.	Processes for ensuring regular monitoring of the outcomes tool requires improvement.	MD2. Carry out monitoring visits to all play providers to ensure that they are using the data from the outcomes tool to inform their planning.
MD 3	The Local Authority ensures that partners are supported to offer rich play environments as described in the Statutory Guidance	GREEN	GREEN	A Development Officer post is funded by the LA with Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids Clubs. This officer supports out of school and play settings in RCT to deliver high quality play environments and to seek additional funding and training opportunities to		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				further improve their practice.		
MD 4	Staffed play provision that the Local Authority provides meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards	AMBER	GREEN	<p>All YEPS staff have qualifications relevant for the roles that they are employed to do. As a minimum, all staff have Disclosure and barring (DBS) checks which are renewed every 3 years, Youth Work Level 3, Child Protection Level 2 and Level 2 in Playwork Practice.</p> <p>All Sport RCT and Leisure Services staff have qualifications relevant for the roles that they are employed to do. Coaches have qualifications relevant to their specific activity e.g. swimming teachers, sports specific course or if coaching football a qualification from the relevant national governing body. All staff and volunteers have Criminal</p>	Currently undertaking a Workforce audit to identify additional training needs above the minimum requirements.	

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				Record Bureau (CRB) checks.		
MD 5	Staffed play provision that the Local Authority funds meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards	AMBER	AMBER	All commissioned open access play provision, is either registered with CIW or working within the under 2 hour rule, meet the required national minimum standards.	Number of play providers has reduced in recent years. Much work has been done to encourage providers to become CIW registered	MD5. Work with voluntary and private sector to support and develop community groups to deliver play provision in local communities.
MD 6	Staffed play provision that the Local Authority's partners provide meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards	AMBER	AMBER	Please see MD 5 Sport RCT offers a Play Your Part calendar which includes courses to obtain minimum qualification by community delivery people. I.e. Safeguarding, 1 <sup>st</sup> Aid.		MD6. Use the relevant data collected from workforce audit to inform the training needs of the sector to maintain regulated requirements. The PSA group to work collaboratively to create joint training opportunities for staff.
MD 7	Staffed play provision across the Local Authority works to a recognised quality assurance programme	GREEN	RED  GREEN	Each YEPS provision has clear quality assurance processes in place through the Dynamic Purchasing System	No joint quality assurance mechanism currently in place	MD7 Joint QA mechanism to be developed to cover registered and non-registered provision

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>All sports clubs in Rhondda Cynon Taf are encouraged to either gain a NGB club accreditation of Sport RCT Safe Sport accreditation. This aims to ensure all sports clubs operate with correct DBS, qualifications, ratios and policies.</p> <p>Launched a new membership scheme for all organisations providing physical activity (not just sports clubs) which requires the essential minimum qualifications and promotes the continuous development of delivery standards.</p>		
MD8	The Local Authority prioritises quality issues when engaging with/ commissioning the private sector to deliver recreational activities for children.	GREEN	<p>AMBER</p> <p>GREEN</p>	<p>Number of providers have reduced and therefore provider options are limited</p> <p>YEPS quality assures provision through robust quality assurance and procurement frameworks to ensure all commissioned</p>	<p>Provider options are limited</p> <p>Limited number of providers tendering to deliver provision.</p>	MD8. Need to attract more play providers to register with the Council's procurement framework to be eligible to bid for tenders via the Dynamic Purchasing System

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>third sector providers offer excellent support in response to local identified needs.</p> <p>The Dynamic Purchasing System consists of numerous providers that have tendered to deliver provision to young people through YEPS. The tenders are evaluated on the basis of price and quality. The ratio applied is 40/60 Price/Quality. Providers have to have a DBS dated within the last 3 years, insurance and specific qualifications and experiences to deliver the activity.</p>		
MD 9	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	GREEN	GREEN	All commissioned play provision is free (at the point of entry)		



**Structured recreational activities for children**

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MD10	Local authority sport, physical activity, and active recreation plans are contributing to increasing free play and recreational activities	GREEN	GREEN	<p>YEPS contributes to the aims for play, education, Culture and Leisure by offering young people the opportunity to participate in numerous activities such as Football and Drama taking place out of school; hours on school site, Leisure Centres etc. A YEPS team leader has the responsibility for Sport Leisure and Culture.</p> <p>The Streetgames initiative links with Voluntary Sector organisations across RCT. A couple of local youth projects continue to be commissioned through the WG Legacy fund and have</p>		MD10. Street games continue to link with the Communities For Work Central Team to look at opportunities for closer working in the future and support to develop links with

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
		GREEN	GREEN	<p>been given the opportunity to be part of the network with with this initiative.</p> <p>Sport RCT continues to deliver a comprehensive sports and physical activity development programmes detailed in the RCT Sport and physical Activity Plan. The plan focuses on supporting increased sustainable opportunities to participate in sport and physical activity for wellbeing and progression. A key focus is the development of physical literacy skills at Foundations level (pre-birth to 16) and supporting the creation of environments where young people can develop the motivation, confidence, skills and responsibility to be aware and engage in community opportunities to be active, as part of a lifestyle choice.</p>		partners in RCT.

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MD 11	The sports agenda contributes to the provision of sufficient recreational activities for children	GREEN	GREEN	<p>YEPS coordinate and deliver sport and physical activity for young people across the 17 Secondary Schools in RCT, the 4 Special Schools and wider community. These sessions take place during after School hours.</p>		
		RED	AMBER	<p>A new structure within the service has been implemented to deliver the Sport and Physical Activity Plan. In addition to this a new measurement framework is under development in conjunction with Sport Wales, to capture impact on wellbeing and sustainable outcomes, as well as outputs (opportunity take-up).</p>		
		AMBER	AMBER	<p>Continued partnership working with a collection of agencies to assess the needs of children and young people to improve provision.</p>		MD11. To use the PSA

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				The national funding has seen a reduction in the last 2 years and is projected to further decrease. This has necessitated a shift in focus from direct provision to supporting community organisations to developing and increasing their offers, to ensure sustainability.	Resource limitations to engage with the under 17 year old population.	working group to improve joined ways of working to plan and deliver provision across the sector to maximise current and future funding.
MD 12	The cultural and arts agenda, is contributing to the provision of sufficient recreational activities for children	GREEN	GREEN	YEPS provides arts and culture activities for young people aged 11-25 years across the 17 Secondary Schools in RCT and the 4 Special Schools, and the wider community. These sessions take place during after school hours. For specialised Art projects external providers are sourced from the YEPS Dynamic purchasing System such as animation.		
		GREEN	GREEN	The local authority has an Arts Service with an Arts & Creative Industries		

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>Development Team that provides and supports communities to provide recreational activities for C&amp;YP.</p> <p>They also provides art and culture focused structured recreational activities for children and young people through its Families First commissioned programme such as – Youth Arts and SONIG Youth Music Industry and Rock and Pop workshops.</p>		
MD 13	The Local Authority Youth Service provides for children’s opportunities for leisure and association	GREEN	GREEN	<p>YEPS activities are delivered during after school hours up until 8.00pm. Activities offered to the young people have been coordinated and organised through consultation with young people. Young people also have the opportunity to gain advice and guidance from YEPS Staff.</p>		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
			AMBER	<p>With the ending of the Communities First grant on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018, the Welsh Government (WG) legacy fund continues to commission four organisations to provide local youth drop in facilities in Hirwaun, Fernhill and Mountain Ash and Blaenllechau.</p> <p>Continue to discuss and agree plans with Sport Wales through the local authority's sports partnership board. (Sport RCT) Free swimming Initiative is currently being reviewed nationally, with recommendations being submitted for governmental decisions.</p>	Some local community based youth provision lacking due to lack of suitable premises.	MD13. Identify funding to sustain provision once the WG legacy fund comes to end.

**Supervised play provision**

**Where the Local Authority has assessed settings as part of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessments (CSAs), how have these settings been assessed in respect of the quality of play opportunities they provide and offer?**

A Development Officer is funded, via Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids Clubs, to offer support and advice to play and out of school childcare settings to ensure that they offer quality play opportunities. This includes business assessments to identify areas of improvement, as well as signposting settings to training and funding opportunities that can further improve their practice.

**How has provision that is not part of the CSA been assessed in respect of the quality of play opportunities they provide and offer?**

The same level of support, as detailed above, is provided to all play and out of school childcare settings.

**Have there been challenges?**

There is a limited capacity to offer an intensive level of support to all settings in RCT.

**How can these be overcome?**

The level of support, and how this can be improved, will be reviewed early in 2019.

**Comments:**

We will continue to work collaboratively with colleagues across the childcare and play sector to ensure that any emerging themes or areas of identified support needs are being met.

**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. ■

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
ME 1	The Local Authority keeps records of the number of children living in low income families	GREEN	GREEN	YEPS use Vulnerability Profiling to target young people identified as Amber/Red and ensure they are offered support from YEPS staff. These indicators include young people in receipt of free school meals and the LSOA data pertaining to the area in which they live.  Vulnerability Profiling has been developed to identify families at risk of requiring future support from statutory services as a result of the issues they face	Continue to support other departments to use vulnerability profiling methodology to support planning	ME1. PSA working group to use this data to plan, commission and deliver provision in areas of identified need.
ME 2	The Local Authority keeps records of the number of children living in areas of deprivation	GREEN	GREEN			
ME 3	The Local Authority keeps records of the number of children living in rural areas	GREEN	GREEN			



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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
ME 4	The Local Authority keeps records of the number of disabled children and those with particular needs.	GREEN	GREEN	<p>YEPS use Vulnerability Profiling to target young people identified as Amber/Red and ensure they are offered support from YEPS staff. One of the indicators for this is young people with Additional Learning Needs.</p> <p>The Capita One Management Information System also stores all records of children with additional learning needs therefore service data is able to reflect how many young people have engaged with the service who have Additional Learning Needs</p>		
ME 5	The Local Authority records the availability of no cost provision	GREEN	GREEN	Leisure Centres record participation in free provision available during weekends (Free Swimming) and during the holidays (Free Swimming)	Continues, although currently under national review.	ME6. Establish mechanisms

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
ME 6	The Local Authority records the provision of no cost / low cost premises used for play provision	GREEN	RED	The Council's Estates department has good mechanisms in place to monitor premises leases and there is a potential to link premises options to this work	There is no information currently recorded for no cost / low cost premises across the area	for recording no cost / low cost premises.
ME 7	The Local Authority records the provisions where grants or subsidies are available for play providers	AMBER	AMBER	The Family Information Service is best placed to record this information, in liaison with the Council's Regeneration Department	There is very limited information about grants for play providers.	ME7. Establish mechanisms to record and share this information with play providers. ME8 Assess need for transport using provision mapping data
ME 8	The Local Authority provides subsidised transport for children travelling to play opportunities	GREEN	AMBER	The Council's fleet management and transport department is ready to commission transport provision when funding becomes available	Due to funding constraints, limited transport to play opportunities	

### Charge for play provision

Most of the play / leisure opportunities commissioned or delivered by the local authority are either free or heavily subsidised for C&YP and their families.

### How is the Local Authority ensuring that children have access to no or low-cost provision?

The LA continues to invest in developing provision in areas of identified need. It also continues to review and re-profile the services to meet the changing needs of communities and in line with the most up to date research and Welsh and National Government initiatives.

**Have there been challenges?**  
 Due to the recent changes in how some of the WG anti-poverty programmes are being funded and delivered across Wales, the LA is currently going through a period of change to ensure that the services being delivered are meeting the identified needs of families across the County Borough.


**How can these be overcome?**  
 We will use emerging data to ensure that all play opportunities are being commissioned and delivered in areas of identified need.

**Comments:**  
 Play Services will over the coming months be working much closer with colleagues within the YEPS service to streamline processes to commission play provision alongside youth provision and deliver joined up provision as a result of the service changes to the Community Wellbeing and Resilience Service.

**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 partially met. 

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MF 1	The Local Authority keeps an up to date record of the number of 20 mph zones/school safety zones in residential areas	GREEN	GREEN	Traffic Management hold information on all 20mph zone locations which is regularly updated		
MF 2	The Local Authority has an identified mechanism for assessing the impact of speed reduction and other road safety measures on the opportunity for children to play outside in their communities	AMBER	AMBER	Before and after speed surveys are made at sites where traffic calming / 20 mph zones are introduced. This provides evidence of the effectiveness of the measures in reducing speeds.	This does not relate to opportunities for play.	MF2. Consider how opportunities for play can be included in the assessment. (Transport)
MF 3	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	AMBER	AMBER	Bids for schemes are submitted to Welsh Government for funding via the Road Safety grant.	Schemes are subject to funding, which is allocated towards road safety measures across Wales to reduce the incidence of personal injuries	MF3. Continue to bid for schemes and seek other opportunities of funding. (Transport)
MF 4	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	AMBER	AMBER	Bids for Active Travel and Safe Routes in Communities schemes are submitted to Welsh Government via the Local Transport Fund (LTF) and Safe Routes in	Active Travel and SRIC schemes aim to improve connectivity and health and wellbeing, access to leisure facilities is	MF4. Continue to bid for LTF and SRIC funding to enable further walking and cycling schemes to be implemented. (Transport)

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				Communities funding (SRIC).	an associated benefit and not a key outcome.	
MF 5	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	The Council can continue to introduce traffic calming measures at locations where there is identified need. The necessary legislation is in place.	Traffic calming is subject to funding, which is allocated towards road safety measures across the region to reduce the incidence of personal injuries	MF5. Agree traffic calming policies and procedures to introduce traffic calming measures. (Transport)
MF 6	The Local Authority uses road safety grants and/or other funding to support delivery of cycling training for children to national standards	AMBER	GREEN	National Standards cycle training delivered to approximately 800 pupils in 2017-2018.		MF6. Continue to bid for WG Road Safety grant funding to enable continuation of National Standards cycle training. (Transport)
MF 7	The Local Authority uses road safety grants and/or other funding to provide pedestrian safety training for children	AMBER	GREEN	Kerbcraft / Child Pedestrian Training delivered to approximately 1,200 pupils in 2017-2018	Only a minority of children can be accommodated by the training	
MF 8	The Local Authority has an accessible and well-known way of arranging temporary road closures, to support more children to play outside their homes	GREEN	GREEN	There are currently no applications for temporary road closures to support children to play outside.		MF8. Continue to bid for WG Road Safety grant funding to enable continuation of Kerbcraft / Child Pedestrian Training.
MF 9	The Local Authority refers to <i>Manual for Streets</i> when	GREEN	GREEN	RCT Residential Design Guide is based on Manual		

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	considering new developments and changes to the highway network/urban realm			for Streets <i>TAN 18 and RCTCBC's Design Guide for Residential Streets</i>		
MF 10	The Local Authority works to nationally recognised good practice guidelines when developing walking and cycling facilities	GREEN	GREEN	The Welsh Government's Design Guidance: Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 must be considered when designing and maintain active travel routes and related facilities.		
MF 11	The Local Authority uses child pedestrian road accident casualty data to inform the location and design of interventions which help children get around independently in their communities	RED	RED	There is no evidence currently available to support this.	Nationally, Wales to reduce the accident of personal injuries.	MF11. Further consideration on how the Local Authority can use child pedestrian road accident casualty data to inform interventions.
MF 12	The Local Authority considers children's needs to access play opportunities when making decisions about public transport planning and expenditure	AMBER	AMBER	This is currently not a significant consideration. Welsh Government has not increased public transport funding since 2013. Funding currently available will be used to focus on social inclusion; which will support	Limited access to play opportunities	MF12. Further consideration on how the Local Authority can address this once National information has been made available.

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				C& YP to access leisure opportunities.		
MF 13	The requirements of disabled children are understood and provided for within traffic and transport initiatives	Moved from Matter B	GREEN	All traffic and transport initiatives are designed to be inclusive for all service users.		MF.13 Further consideration will be given should additional funding become available

### 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.

MF 14	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 accessibility)	GREEN	GREEN	YEPS has a local website, <a href="http://www.WICID.tv">www.WICID.tv</a> , which has been designed by young people for young people. The site was developed as a result of young people stating that they currently look for information they want on the internet, YEPS has invested to develop <a href="http://www.wicid.tv">www.wicid.tv</a> as needs led information portal for young people in RCT. The site is managed by a Wicid Editor and has on average 30,000 views each month. The		MF14. Further promotion through school's social media platforms
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				<p>website is linked to a network of youth websites across Wales. The website aims to give young people opportunities in new media and offers help, advice and information on a vast range of topics, ranging from the latest local gig information to what provision, is offered to young people in RCT. The site is also linked to the RCT Council Website and the Family Information Service Website</p>		
		<b>RED</b>	<b>AMBER</b>	<p>Sport RCT undertook consultation with families in partnership with Merthyr Tydfil CBC. Based on the feedback, Sport RCT are developing new web-based information services for families to encourage activity and the development of physical literacy skills in informal settings.</p> <p>Sport RCT (<a href="http://www.sportrct.co.uk">www.sportrct.co.uk</a>) has a designated tab / hyperlink 'Find a Club' which</p>	<p>Web site information has been developed to improve access information.</p>	<p>MF14. PSA Working Group to establish mechanisms for sharing and promoting all opportunities for C&amp;YP.</p>



				showcases over 380 sports clubs available in RCT. Leisure Centres also provide detailed timetables for each centre on the clubs, classes and sessions available		
MF 15	The Local Authority provides information on access to play opportunities and contact for support if required	GREEN	GREEN	<p>YEPS provide information on all activity timetables on <a href="http://www.wicid.tv">www.wicid.tv</a>, which all young people can access. Information is also shared on individual secondary school websites and the local authorities Family Information Service website. Information is also displayed in the secondary schools via display boards and plasma screens.</p> <p>YEPS provide information and updates through Social media, via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat.</p>		
MF 16	The Local Authority supports and publicises events which encourage play opportunities and events for children and families	GREEN	GREEN	All YEPS programmes are advertised extensively on the WICID, social media platforms and RCT corporate website.		

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			<b>GREEN</b>	The Arts Service produces a bilingual seasonal brochure 3 times a year and has a website which includes provision in the theatre programme for children and young people. Activities are also promoted through websites and social media networks. The service is also publicised on the Council's website, and via other relevant means, such as printed posters/flyers and social media.		
MF 17	The Local Authority publicises information which contributes to positive community attitudes to play	<b>GREEN</b>	<b>GREEN</b>	YEPS produces press releases to showcase and celebrate young people's achievement gained from attending YEPS provision. This information is also put on Wicid  YEPS hold an annual Celebration Event to celebrate the achievements of young people and the wider community.		
MF 18	The Local Authority publicises information and support for	<b>RED</b>	<b>AMBER</b>	Sport RCT is currently developing a project that will		MF18. PSA Working Group to establish mechanisms for

## Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

	parents to help them encourage their children to play			be rolled out across the local authority to encourage family physical activity and active play, with web based resources and information to support parents. RCT parenting and Talk and Play encourage parents to play with their children. Formal programme include the importance of play and discuss development opportunities / milestones. While informal groups demonstrate how to play, looking at the fun element and helping parents to play at home and in the community.		sharing and promoting play opportunities via Community Zones and Hubs.
MF 19	The Local Authority widely uses on-site signposting to safeguard and promote play	AMBER	RED		There is very limited information currently available on the council website to promote play.	MF19. PSA working group to develop and share relevant information to promote play utilising the Council's website and social media platforms.
MF 20	The Local Authority engages with the media to encourage the positive portrayal of children playing in the local area	GREEN	GREEN	YEPS produces press releases to showcase and celebrate young people's achievement gained from attending YEPS provision.		

				<p>This information is also put on Wicid</p> <p>YEPS holds an annual celebration Event to recognise the achievements of young people and the wider community.</p> <p>Cultural events run by the Arts Service and by the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector arts organisations in RCT - such as the Hot Jam Bootcamp and SONIG Young Promoters Network music nights, promote the creativity of young people.</p>		
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**Access to space/provision**

**How has the Local Authority ensured collaboration to ensure children can move around their communities to increase access to opportunities for playing?**

The local authority continues to deliver a package of road safety initiatives to thousands of school children every year, which includes school road safety sessions. The aim of the road safety sessions is to equip C&YP with the necessary skills they will need to travel safely to and from school and their local play space. Other safety initiatives include 20 mile calming measures, dropped kerbs etc.

Safe routes in communities' schemes are also being developed locally in consultation with CYP and their parents, through school surveys and workshop sessions to ensure that the proposed measures meet the needs of the community.

**Have there been challenges?**

There have been no challenges at this point.

**How can these be overcome?**

N/A

**Comments**

We continue to work closely with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools team as and when new schools are being built to ensure we take account of the new routes C&YP will need to take in order to get to school safely.

**Information, publicity, events**

**How has the Local Authority positively used information to support access to play provision?**

The LA continues to use information to positively promote access to all provision for C&YP.

**Have there been challenges?**

There have been no challenges at this point.

**How can these be overcome?**

N/A

**Comments:**

PR and Tourism department continues to support all other council departments to advertise and disseminate a range of information, publications and up and coming events in line with council policy.

**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. ■

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
<b>Note – These criteria are specifically about Playwork: Playwork is a highly skilled profession that enriches and enhances play. It takes place where adults support children’s play but it is not driven by prescribed education or care outcomes. This includes both open access and out of school childcare settings</b>						
MG 1	The Local Authority keeps up to date information regarding the Playwork workforce across the Local Authority (this should include the number of play workers, Playwork management structure, qualification levels, training opportunities and volunteers)	GREEN	GREEN	All YEPS training is recorded on the ‘Training manager’ system. Relative training is organised for staff to attend throughout the year covering areas such as child protection/safeguarding, Restorative training, First Aid in Mental Health		
MG 2	The Local Authority supports all of the workforce to achieve the qualification	RED	GREEN	YEPS workforce planning informed by annual audit and QA framework. All		

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	level required by the Welsh Government's National Minimum Standards	AMBER	AMBER	<p>workforce meets the standards requirements</p> <p>As part of the PSA review a workforce audit has been undertaken. It is envisaged that all information gathered will be used to populate the new FIS training module. The aim of the training module is to identify the training needs of the sector at specific times, when statutory training is due for renewal. As this is part of the National FIS database, there will also be opportunity to sell or buy places to/from other local authority training departments.</p>		MG2. Information on the training needs of the workforce to be shared with members of the PSA working group, who will then identify funding to meet the training needs of the workforce. Where there is an opportunity
MG 3	The Local Authority supports the workforce to achieve the accepted qualification levels set out by SkillsActive	GREEN	GREEN	To ensure that all activities are being delivered to a high standard Sport RCT are undertaking a workforce audit and developing		

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				physical literacy training for activity providers.		
MG 4	The Local Authority has a staff development budget ring fenced for play, including Playwork	GREEN	GREEN	Funding from the Out of School Childcare Grant is ring fenced to provide training for the workforce.		MG4 Play remains a priority within the wider remit of the new Children and Communities Grant
MG 5	There is a comprehensive range of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities available for play workers in the area	GREEN	GREEN	YEPS staff is regularly offered CPD opportunities in response to emergent and identified needs and interests. CPD is also discussed in all 1-2-1's which take place every 6-8 weeks with staff.		MG5. PSA Working Group to ensure CPD opportunities are promoted
MG 6	Training is available for volunteers and parents to develop their knowledge on skills in Playwork	GREEN	GREEN	All volunteers are able to access various training delivered by the local authority and the local voluntary council Interlink		
MG 7	The Local Authority includes Playwork within its Workforce Development strategies	GREEN	GREEN	The Early Years and Family Support Service (EYFSS) provide learning and development opportunities for childcare, play and early year's professionals through the Flying Start Training and		



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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>Development Team. The primary focus of the training delivered is the up-skilling of the Flying Start Childcare workforce to ensure practitioners are suitably qualified and trained to provide high quality childcare to the children of RCT. To promote high quality provision across RCT and the wider area, the courses are open to all childcare and play practitioners. This provides a wide range of practitioners the opportunities to develop their skills and broaden their knowledge. Practitioners working at a non-Flying Start setting are required to pay a course fee</p>		
MG 8	The Local Authority supports partners to deliver appropriate training to	GREEN	GREEN	RCT parenting work alongside partner organisations such as valleys kids, Homestart		MG8 Community Zone developments to include opportunities for community groups and

## Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	community groups, parents and volunteers			and Challenging Behaviour Group to signpost and support families to access appropriate groups in their community.		local residents to access training opportunities
<b>Note – these criteria are about the Play workforce: This 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.</b>						
MG 9	The Local Authority has undertaken a comprehensive training needs analysis for the play workforce as defined in the toolkit glossary and above	AMBER	AMBER	All play settings in RCT were asked to complete a training audit to detail relevant staff details including qualifications and training achievements.	Due to the limited number of Play providers in RCT we have had a limited response to the workforce audit.	MG9. Develop a new process to gather and analyse the data needed to inform an annual training programme for the play sector workforce.
MG 10	The Local Authority takes action to expand the variety of learning and development opportunities that are offered to staff	GREEN	GREEN	The Flying Start training and development team welcome feedback from training events to assist with the future planning of courses. Practitioners are provided with an opportunity to suggest learning and development opportunities. In addition the feedback from the training audit is used to		

## Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				fill in identified training gaps in provision		
MG 11	There is a comprehensive range of CPD opportunities for a range of professionals who work with children	GREEN	GREEN	The variety of courses offered to practitioners is vast. In addition bespoke training is organised to meet new training needs or to broaden staff knowledge and skills. In addition termly conference days are held which provides further learning opportunities for practitioners as well as providing an opportunity to discuss training requirements and delivery patterns.		
MG 12	Training awareness sessions are available for professionals and decision makers whose work impacts on children's opportunities to play	GREEN	GREEN	Members of the PSA group have a wealth of knowledge and understanding of all aspects of play for C&YP, who are able to deliver tailor made training awareness sessions as and when the need arises.		

### **Securing and developing the play workforce**

#### **How has the Local Authority met the requirement to undertake or secure the managerial and delivery functions necessary to achieve sufficient play opportunities?**

We have delivered training to the play sector to support them to move towards CIW registration, however attendance was limited. Also, within year we allocated Play Opportunities Grant monies to elements of the PSA where achievement was funding bound. Open Access Play and Care2Play services have been delivered against a backdrop of reducing Council budget and third sector funding, which is a credit to play providers.

#### **How has the Local Authority ensured it understands and provides for the workforce development needs of the play workforce (as defined in *Wales: A Play Friendly Country and above*)?**

Relationships with play providers are building and their workforce developments needs are identified through direct liaison. More will be done in the coming year to pinpoint and prioritise workforce development and training needs as a means of moving the sector forward to ensure it is future sustainability.

#### **How has the Local Authority ensured it understands and provides the playwork workforce (as defined in *Wales: A Play Friendly Country and above*)?**

The Local Authority has a designated Play Officer who is responsible to ensure that the training needs of the play workforce are identified and met on an annual basis. The local Authority provides free / subsidised training for childcare, play and youth providers to ensure that they are meeting their legal requirements and are kept up to date with the outcomes of research or new practices. All training delivered is done so in partnership with local colleges and reputable training providers and is on the SkillsActive Framework.

#### **Have there been challenges?**

Over the past two years there has been a lot of changes to the levels of training staff have had access to and what their training requirements are.

#### **How can these be overcome?**

Through using the PSA working group meetings to develop and agree an annual training programme for key staff, commissioned providers or any organisation delivering provision on behalf of the service area.


**Comments**

It is envisaged that carrying out annual audits on the training needs of the sector, we will be able to target individuals to attend relevant training, whilst maximising budgets across the departments.

**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. 

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MH 1	The Local Authority promotes initiatives to engage relevant groups in enhancing play opportunities for children in its area.	GREEN	GREEN	The aim of the annual Teddy Bear Picnic is to engage with parents and children to promote the importance of play within the Early years. We see over 3000 visitors attend the event on an annual basis. This is also used as an opportunity to consult		MH1. Consultation with community members in relation to Community Zone to include play opportunities

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>with children and their families.</p> <p>We also deliver a number of free family fun days over the holiday periods from our children centres. An example of some of the activities we offer can range from a climbing wall to storytelling, silent discos, clog dancing, junk modelling and much more.</p> <p>RCT parenting held several engagement events across RCT to promote universal parenting services. Play opportunities for children of all ages and abilities were available including music making with ASD rainbows, soft play, magic demonstrations, climbing wall and crafts.</p>		
MH 2	The Local Authority promotes community engagement in:	GREEN	GREEN	Through close working relationships with a number of council and		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- making space available and suitable for play</li> <li>- organising play events</li> <li>- positive attitudes towards children and play</li> <li>- training on the importance of play.</li> </ul>			<p>voluntary organisations, we promote free usage of the children centres to organisations who want to deliver play opportunities for C&amp;PY.</p> <p>The venues are also used to deliver various play training and with prior notice we can arrange for the centres to be open in the evenings and weekends.</p>		

**Community Engagement and Participation.**

**How has the Local Authority effectively used existing mechanisms for children’s participation and family consultation processes with regards to play?**

Throughout this section there is a clear indication that a range of community engagement activities are taking place; from formal consultations to customer satisfaction. There have been a number events held to capture the views of specific cohorts of children and young people service users and community members in the development and delivery of specific projects and programme

**Have there been challenges?**

There have been no challenges in this area.

**How can these be overcome?**

N/A

**Comments**

The Local Authority will continue to consult and engage with CYP and communities to ensure that the provision being commissioned and delivered meets the individual needs of the service user, their families and communities.

**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 partially met. 

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MI 1	There is a named person on the Local Public Service Board who champions children’s play and ensures that the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan contribute to and are incorporated within the Well-being Plan	GREEN	GREEN	The Group Director for Community and Children’s Services as named person for Play sits on the Cwm Taf Strategic Partnership Board that acts as an advisory working group for the PSB. Any considerations for the PSB in relation to children’s play are fed up via the SPB		



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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MI 2	The Well-Being Plan recognises the importance of play and contributes to the provision of rich play opportunities	NEW	GREEN	Play is referred to in one of the key objectives of the Well-being Plan		

### Education and schools

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MI 3	Schools ensure that children are provided with a rich play environment for breaks during the school day	GREEN	GREEN	<p>The YEPS programme has been successfully developed in 17 secondary schools and provides activities for young people every day, including 2 evenings per week. Activities are arranged according to young people's needs and include homework support, art and craft, sports and leisure, adventurous activities, etc.</p> <p>Support for Primary and Secondary Schools to</p>		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				develop and increase their physical activity opportunities are included within the new structure and current plan. A new Primary School service has been launched which enables schools to choose the support package(s) most relevant to their particular school.		
MI 4	Schools provide play opportunities during out of teaching hours	RED	AMBER	Out of school childcare clubs are being developed in more of our schools. Although predominantly childcare based, these settings also provide a rich play environment for children.	More work can be done with schools to promote the benefits of free play opportunities for children.	MI4. PSA Working Group to engage with schools to promote play opportunities
MI 5	Schools provide access to school grounds for playing out of school times	AMBER	AMBER	School grounds across the 17 schools are utilised every day for YEPS after school and two evening per week	Work is ongoing to encourage schools to make their school grounds available for play opportunities out of school hours, particularly during school holiday periods.	MI5. Work with 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Schools Team to ensure community access to and use of school grounds out of school hours

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MI 6	Schools encourage children to walk and cycle to school	AMBER	GREEN	<p>Schools are required to develop a sustainable travel plan. Within this, they identify areas of development to encourage children to use more sustainable modes of transport to school, such as walking and cycling.</p> <p>As part of our 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools' investment we ensure that scooter and bicycle shelters are a part of the new school build. It is also a condition of Planning Consent that schools review their Travel Plan to incorporate any additional sustainable transport initiatives that have been included in the new school builds.</p> <p>Alongside this, Traffic Impact Assessments are undertaken as are</p>		

## Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				assessments of the safe walking routes. Where these assessments recommend improvements to the walking routes these works are implemented.		
MI 7	The Local Authority offers guidance to ensure schools understand and ensure that regular outdoor play is not curtailed	AMBER	GREEN	Welsh Government Foundation Phase guidance supports schools to design and develop engaging and appropriate outdoor play spaces for Foundation Phase pupils. This is supported through the 21st Century Schools investment programme as the ability for 'free-play' is designed into all of our Foundation Phase classrooms and associated external areas. There is guidance contained within the Welsh Government Building Bulletins, specifically 98 and 99, which advises on what type of external spaces are		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				required for schools, and the associated areas of each. We use this guidance to inform the design of all of our 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Schools. The Cwm Taf Well Being Plan 2018-23 encourages all schools to make the most of opportunities to engage pupils with the outdoors to support their health and mental well-being.		

**Town and Country Planning**

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MI 8	The Local Development Plan recognises and addresses the outdoor play needs of children of various age groups and abilities	AMBER	AMBER	The Local Development Plan (LDP) contains the following policies which recognises the importance of open space/play space and access to natural green space:		MI 8. A review of the policies will be carried out as part the next LDP review

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>AW4- Community Infrastructure and Planning obligations</p> <p>AW6- Design and Place making</p> <p>AW7- Protection and enhancement of the Built Environment.</p>		

**Traffic and Transport**

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MI 9	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	One of the LTP's core interventions is to develop programme for innovative walking, cycling and Smarter Choices, to deliver Active Travel schemes that improve walking and cycling links to key services and facilities and, to improve accessibility within and between communities.		
MI 10	The local Transport Plan identifies ways of assessing and addressing the needs of all groups including those which are often marginalised.	GREEN	GREEN	Social inclusion and equality is promoted in the LTP, through the provision of a transport system that is safe, accessible and affordable to all sections of the community. The needs of vulnerable groups are understood and taken into Account in the overall direction of the LTP and in the design of individual		

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				transport schemes that are delivered through the Plan.		

### Early Years Plans

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MI 11	Early Years and Flying Start plans and services recognise the importance of play and contribute to the provision of rich play opportunities for younger children	GREEN	GREEN	All strands of FS emphasise the benefit of learning through play. This is evidenced across all four strands and the role of the adult in scaffolding learning through play is evident.		

### Family policy and initiatives

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MI 12	Family support initiatives provide up to date information and support for parents to enable them to support their	GREEN	GREEN	Parenting programmes and early language programmes encourage parents to play with their children and to		



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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	children to play			<p>support learning through play</p> <p>YEPS promotes physical activity across the service, as part of their enrichment programme and holiday provision, including outdoor and adventurous activity. Mental health and wellbeing are supported through information advice and guidance sessions</p>		
MI 13	The local implementation of the Families First programme recognises the importance of play and contributes to the provision of rich play opportunities	NEW	AMBER	<p>Families First currently commissions a variety of providers to deliver sport and cultural activities to CYP across RCT but no direct play provision, as previously there was no strategic fit with the Families First program guidelines.</p> <p>However, the Families First programme indirectly contributes to the provision of play opportunities for those children identified as most in need of these</p>		MI13. Identified gaps in play provision will be addressed from April 2019 and will reconfigure our current Families First contracts with various providers to include play provision in areas of identified need within the PSA. This will now be made possible through the realigning of the Families First and Childcare and Play Grants in the new Children and Communities Grant

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				opportunities. Referrals for Care2Play are accepted from the Families First funded Resilient Families Service when it is identified that parents would benefit from additional support to enable their child(ren) to access play opportunities		
MI 14	Plans to reduce the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences recognises the importance of play and contributes to the provision of rich play opportunities	NEW	AMBER	A comprehensive ACE's awareness training schedule is underway across schools, youth service and communities as part of the Community Zone work. The protective factors of engaging in play opportunities is highlighted as an important aspect of reducing the impact on ACE's	Workforce ACE training audit currently underway across the County Borough to support Community Zone developments	MI14. Community Zone Plans to include play approaches to reduce the impact of ACE's

### Inter-generational policy and initiatives

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MI 15	There are a range of play based approaches to inter-generational activity		AMBER	Consultation with community members as part of the Community Zone developments have been intergenerational in nature to ensure feedback covers all aspects of the community. Using interactive approaches to gathering feedback has proved an accessible feedback for participants of all ages. The Community Hubs have been planned to include a range of activities available from both the Hub and the 'spoke' organisations to cater for the needs of all groups within the community		MI15. Community Zone Plans to include play opportunities
MI 16	There is a creative approach to inter-generational activity which encourages better interaction between children of different ages	AMBER	GREEN	The introduction of Youth Play sessions by the YEPS Service has encouraged better interaction between children of different ages and supported the smooth transition between playwork and youthwork for children and young people		

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
			<p><b>GREEN</b></p> <p><b>AMBER</b></p>	<p>Chwarae Plant have delivered family play workshops because a common barrier to play is parents not allowing their children to participate due to lack of understanding of the benefits. Family workshops help with this because parents, grandparents and children are enjoying experiencing activities together. The adults begin to tap into their more playful selves and have more confidence to let their children play.</p> <p>Over the past 3 years a number of Family Fun Days have been delivered across the local authority in partnership with anti-poverty programmes</p>	<p>No committed funding for the events at the start of the financial year.</p>	<p>MI16. Funding secured to ensure the events are being delivered in an identified area of need.</p>

<b>Health and Safety</b>	
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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MI 17	The Health and Safety policies explicitly recognise the value of children being able to experience risk and challenge	GREEN	GREEN	YEPS offer young people the opportunity to participate in numerous activities such as climbing and canoeing along with the DoE programme All off site activities have to comply with EVC and AALS licences protocol and all staff taking young people on 'risky' activities are experienced, have up to date DBS checks and are aware of Safeguarding procedures.		
MI 18	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)	RED	RED	Training could be identified with appropriate funding	There is limited evidence available across the play sector that supports this. In 2016, Chwarae Plant were able to deliver this training but funding was a barrier	MI18. Support the Play Sector to undertake a holistic review of their Health & Safety policies and procedures to ensure that the risk benefit is being applied.
MI 19	The Local Authority offers the provision of insurance through the Local Authority scheme to	RED	RED	Individual organisations must have their own public liability insurance in order to		MI19. Ensure third sector and community play providers have access to appropriate advice on

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	all third sector play providers and community councils			be commissioned by the Council		insurance requirements

**Play within relevant policy and implementation agendas**

**Please use this section to highlight successes of collaboration across policy areas to improve play opportunities.**

Play features in the top layer of objectives of the regional Cwm Taf Well-Being Plan adopted by the Council. This has encouraged a more innovative approach to meeting cross cutting objectives including play.

**Have there been challenges?**

The main challenges are the general reduction in funding available to providers and the subsequent loss of providers. Also a number of providers are not registered even after much investment in training and support from the Council

**How can these be overcome?**

More work needs to be done to develop a quality assurance framework that works to move providers from non-registration to minimum standards and on to CIW registration

**Comments:**

The service changes to be implemented in April 2019 onwards will see emphasis given to developing a continuum of provision for children and young people aged 0-25 years, from childcare to play and to youth work underpinned by a quality assurance framework that can be used across all providers within the sectors. Changes to commissioning arrangements via the new Children and Communities Grant will also encourage and support more collaboration between services and more sustainability for third sector providers able to deliver integrated provision.

**Conclusion**

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

Throughout the whole of the Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA) Report it is evident that there are a number of issues that need to be addressed in order to ensure that all budgets and funding available are being utilised to deliver provision to meet the emerging needs of individual service users, families and communities. A main priority will be the gathering, analysis and use of data to inform and co-ordinate the planning, delivery and monitoring of play, leisure, culture and sporting provision. The use of this data will enable us to identify areas of need and target our resources to address them. It will also enable us to identify those children and young people who face barriers to accessing play as a result of their socio-economic or family situation and enable us to proactively remove these barriers.

All members of the PSA group will be responsible for undertaking and monitoring of the actions of the 2019 PSA Action Plan. This will mean that colleagues from across the sector will need to share their knowledge and understanding of how various approaches and processes can be applied to achieve these actions, for example, engaging with communities and carrying out consultations. It is envisaged that through the joined up working across the sector we will be able to provide CYP, families and residents across the communities of RCT access to a range of play, leisure, culture and sports activities as and when they want it.

**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

The service changes from April 2019 in respect of the Community Wellbeing and Resilience Service taking responsibility for the management of the PSA and facilitating the work of the PSA Working Group in the monitoring of the play sufficiency action plan, will see a re-energised emphasis on delivering integrated play opportunities across the County Borough. This will ensure that the statutory responsibilities for the monitoring of the PSA and the monitoring of Youth Support Services provision will be undertaken together, providing a more comprehensive assessment of service provision, gaps and areas of development required. It will also enable the gathering of routine data and service mapping activity to inform the monitoring role of the RCT PSA Group.

The Action plan focuses on addressing those PSA criteria that have been assessed as red and amber within this document and therefore in need of development and improvement. Existing funding and resources will be utilised to create the infrastructure needed to quality assure a range of provision and develop the tools necessary to monitor quality of delivery.

**Signed:** .....

**Date:** .....







Play Sufficiency  
Assessment V5 App

## **Appendix 1a -**

### **Adult Consultation Report**



Play Sufficiency  
Assessment V5 App

## **Appendix 1b -**

### **Children and Young People's Consultation Report**