

Appendix A

Play Sufficiency Assessment Form



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Name of Local Authority: Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Name of responsible officer: Gail Beynon

Job title: Play Development Manager

Date of completion: 1st February 2022

Please note that the Play Sufficiency Assessment must be received by the Welsh Government by 30 June 2022



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 service areas of the Council,

as well as third sector and national organisations. 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 and vulnerable children and young people at the end of the school day and throughout the school holidays. To ensure we are meeting the needs of these cohorts of children and young people, RCT has established the Council's Care2Play (C2P) programme. The aim of the C2P programme is to provide a bespoke package of support for children and young people to enable them to access open access play provision within their local community alongside their peers and siblings. This support may be provided in the form of strategies for the play team to use whilst at the play setting or additional adult support, depending on the needs of the child. The C2P and Open Access Play programmes are continuously monitored, reviewed and improved.

The Council will continue to strive to develop and deliver efficient, effective and high quality play, cultural, leisure and sporting opportunities for all children and young people 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 and co-ordinate the delivery of effective and efficient services to meet the identified needs of local communities across the county borough.

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 2022 Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA) has been via the PSA working group. The group membership consists of representatives from a range of services, including the internal services: Community Wellbeing and Resilient Service, the Children & Young People Service, Sport RCT, Leisure, Parks, Transport, Planning and Regeneration, Education and Inclusion, Disabled Children's Team, Family Information Service and the Community Development Team. External PSA partners include Interlink and Menter Iaith. In order to ensure that the action plan of the 2022 – 2025 PSA continues to be monitored and reviewed the PSA group will continue to meet on a quarterly basis.

The PSA itself has been compiled by involving all partners listed above in the self-assessment process. Each has contributed to the rating of the Council's current ability to meet the key elements of the assessment documentation, outlining the reason for that rating, the evidence that supports the rating and any mitigating factors as to why the rating was not different. These ratings were subsequently scrutinised by fellow PSA working group partners to ensure the rating is objective. Each partner was then required to consider the development actions it would need to undertake over the life of this PSA to increase the rating and provide a full play offer.

In addition, feedback has been taken from play delivery partners throughout the three year period of the previous PSA, and this has been used to influence the self-assessment process to inform future developments across the sector in RCT.

A consultation was undertaken with children and young people from across RCT, both those involved with existing play services and those who do not participate in the open access play or C2P provision. This highlighted the play opportunities they are interested in, the opportunities currently available to them and those that they would like to have more chance to participate in. There were also a number of pandemic related questions that looked at how it had affected them and their right to play. The results of these consultations have been reflected in this document and used to inform the future action plan.

As part of the 2022-2025 PSA, the Council conducted a Play workforce audit with play staff from 3rd sector, private and local authority play teams across the county borough. Using the questions provided in the PSA toolkit, the team worked with the corporate consultation team to compile an on-line questionnaire. There was a total of 44 respondents from 11 play settings. The main aim of the Play workforce audit is to identify the training needs of the sector to ensure that they have access to training throughout the year to enable them to deliver good quality, stimulating play opportunities for CYP. The full workforce audit report can be found at Appendix 1A .

This PSA document and the subsequent action plan has been presented to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee and the Council's Cabinet, for discussion and approval.

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 body supporting voluntary sector organisations and representatives from this organisation and the play sector are 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) is a key member of the PSA Group which serves to link the two assessments.

Since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, the play sector across RCT has continued to develop and deliver a range of virtual and face to face play opportunities for some of the local authority's most vulnerable children. The play sector supported the delivery of the emergency childcare hubs, for key workers and vulnerable families during the summer holidays in 2020, delivered over 2000 craft packs to the homes of isolating children and

young people across RCT and delivered virtual play sessions for children and young people open to the Children's Services.

The feedback from all of the above partners has been reflected in this PSA document, including helping the Council to identify good practice and areas for development for the future.

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 2022-2025 PSA, the Council conducted a consultation exercise with a range of children and young people. Using the questions provided in the PSA toolkit, the team worked with the corporate consultation team to compile an on-line questionnaire. A total of 588 children and young people took part in the consultation, from 18 schools and 7 playschemes over the October half-term holiday 2021. The full consultation report can be found at Appendix 1B.

During the summer holiday period 2021, parents were asked for their feedback on the provision offered by the Play Development Team. The results were overwhelmingly positive with requests being made for even more sessions to be made available in future holiday periods. This feedback has been used to inform the PSA action plan with additional providers being sought to offer additional play sessions.

All commissioned play providers are required to regularly consult with the children and young people accessing their provision to enable them to improve the play space and opportunities they are delivering. The play teams are also required to reflect on their own practice and capture statistical information on the effectiveness of their offer. The Council uses this statistical information to ensure that the play provision being commissioned and delivered is in communities where there is an identified need.

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 2022 Play Sufficiency Assessments and subsequent plans.

Please use this section to highlight what has changed since the 2019 Play Sufficiency Action Plan in terms of how resources are allocated.

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

Please also highlight how Welsh Government programmes have been used locally for the provision of play and how they have addressed priorities from your 2019 play sufficiency assessment:

During 2021/22, the Council has welcomed an increase in funding from Welsh Government. The Summer of Fun and Winter of Wellbeing funding was used to commission a range of third sector, community organisation and local authority partners, many of whom the Council's Play Development Team had not previously worked with, to deliver additional play, leisure, cultural and sporting opportunities for children and young people 0 – 25 years. This increased capacity in the county borough's play offer has been vital to respond to the emerging needs of children, young people and their families that have arisen or been exacerbated by the pandemic.

The revenue element of the All Wales Play Opportunities Grant (AWPOG) has been used to improve a range of play and youth facilities that children and young people access locally and across the wider community.

The capital element of the All Wales Play Opportunities Grant has been used to develop the outdoor play spaces in parks and skate parks; cultural venues for use by children and young people such as theatre spaces; and, nature trails and allotments.

The Children and Communities Grant (CCG), specifically the Childcare and Play element, has been used to upskill the play workforce to respond to the emerging needs of children and young people as we exit the pandemic. Furthermore, it has been used to enhance the delivery of free open access play provision across the county borough in the areas identified as having the least amount of opportunities available. Additional CCG funding was made available during 2021/22 and was used to pilot the Children's Wellbeing Support Programme (CWSP) for 7-11 year olds.

The new Playworks funding has been used to improve the quality of the play equipment and resources that children and young people have access to within the commissioned play sessions. We have also used the funding to raise the profile of play across RCT, ensuring that families are aware of the opportunities in their local area so that they have the option to engage in them. In addition, this funding had supported the delivery of 12 National Play Day celebratory events in various communities, nine Family Fun Days and project based workshops within play sessions. This was a conservative number of events due to the pandemic restrictions, and so this future PSA plan will include an increased number of these as the restrictions ease.

The service has secured Integrated Care Fund (ICF) monies to support the delivery of the Care2Play programme. This grant funded the additional adult support costs incurred when a child was in need of a dedicated adult to help them attend and engage in open access play provision alongside their siblings and peers.

A Council commitment in the form of a Play Development Team base budget funds the three staff that coordinate all of the work of the team and much of this PSA.

The continuation of the the AWPOG, CCG, Playworks and base budget will allow the Council to meet some of the identified play needs of children and young people across the

county borough. However, additional long term funding will need to be secured to meet all the desired outcomes of the 2022 - 2025 PSA action plan, if previous short term funding is no longer available, i.e. ICF, AWPOG capital, additional CCG, Summer of Fun and Winter of Wellbeing.

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 vision of the PSA is evident 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 can be found at www.ourcwmtaf.wales

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. Since April 2019 responsibility for the management of the PSA and the subsequent monitoring of play sufficiency sits with the Community Wellbeing and Resilience Service.

Membership of the PSA Group includes representatives from a range of internal service and external partners who are committed to ensuring appropriate play opportunities across RCT. The working group meetings are held to monitor and review the priorities of the PSA action plan. Whilst members of the group are fully committed to the development and delivery of play opportunities against actions within the plan, recently there has been limited opportunities and capacity to facilitate the work of the group as a collective due to Covid restrictions. This partnership working will resume as restrictions ease.

Collective monitoring of the PSA and Youth Support Service Strategy has been undertaken and the information taken from this has identified that work needs to be done to develop an enhanced commissioning model for third sector organisations to deliver a comprehensive joint play and youth offer across the county borough for ages 5 – 25 years. It is envisaged that through the continuation of the monitoring role of the PSA working group it will enable the Council to gather routine data to identify priority areas for the development of play, youth and other recreational opportunities.

Insights from the Coronavirus

This section should discuss the impact the Coronavirus has had on the local authority's ability to progress Play Sufficiency Actions.

Since the start of the pandemic in March 2020 and in light of the imposed restrictions across the UK and Wales, the Council been limited in how it has been able to complete the 'in-person' actions within our PSA action plan. However, with that said, services have continued to deliver covid compliant play opportunities, albeit using a targeted approach for vulnerable children and young people and on a virtual basis. It has also provide time to identify and deliver training opportunities to upskill the play workforce to meet the emerging needs of children and young people.

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.

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

The 2022 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 2019?

In Rhondda Cynon Taf, we are waiting for the dissemination of the 2021 Census data. Once the data has been released we will be use a number of factors such as deprivation, ages of children and young people etc, to determine where we will be focusing the development of play, youth and recreational opportunities for the next 3 years. We are continuing to develop profiling models for children and young people, for families and for communities. These models will utilise both local and national data sets and 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 Early Years Transformation work in Cwm Taf Morgannwg, the NEST/NYTH regional implementation plan and the roll out of Community Resilience Hubs and Neighbourhood Networks.

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

We have worked in conjunction with colleagues from across the play sector to commission and deliver 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 Neighbourhood Network areas.

Have there been challenges?

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

previous years. However, during the pandemic, the Play Development Team have worked with new local groups to support them to become play providers and as such, three new providers have been commissioned to deliver play provision in 2021/22 alone despite the pandemic, offering a total of five additional playschemes across the county borough.




How can these be overcome?

Part of the challenge has already been overcome, and using the same model, it is hoped that further external partners will wish to be supported to become long term play providers within their local area. Service Level Agreements with current and new third sector providers will provide them with the security to invest in resources, staff development and marketing activities to support their long term sustainability and improve the integration of joint service delivery. Furthermore, it is envisaged that through working with colleagues across other council departments, it will be possible to plan and deliver a range of Council-maintained play.

Comments

The Council’s 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 fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

Matter B: Providing for Diverse Needs

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

RAG Status:

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MB01	The play requirements of children living in isolated rural areas are understood and provided for	GREEN	AMBER	<p>Whilst we know understand generic themes about what children and young people would like in terms of play opportunities, the data behind this is not yet available whilst we await the most up to date census information.</p> <p>As part of the 2022 PSA, specific cohorts of children and young people from rural areas have been consulted with and the findings will be referenced throughout this report.</p>	We are waiting for the data from the 2021 Census to be released. Once we have this information we will use it to prioritise the future development of play opportunities.	The data is to be analysed and used to develop and deliver appropriate levels of play opportunities.

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>The 'Your Voice Survey' consults approximately 5,000 children and young people about their needs, feelings about their community and the activities they participate in, or the barriers they face to participate.</p> <p>The RCT assessment of Needs offers further guidance on local needs of communities.</p> <p>Finding suitable and accessible venues to offer play provision can be difficult in rural areas – the RCT mobile provision has enabled play provision to be accessible and inclusive across the rural areas of RCT.</p>		
MB02	The play requirements of Welsh language speaking children are understood and provided for	RED	RED	As part of the 2022 PSA, specific cohorts of children and young people from rural areas have been consulted with and the findings will be	It has been difficult to identify external providers that can deliver through the medium of Welsh	Work to be carried out to identify partners to support the development and delivery of play and youth

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>referenced throughout this report.</p> <p>The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) includes specific actions to increase and improve the opportunities for children to engage in activities through the Welsh Language, this is done through a partnership between different organisations.</p> <p>A high percentage of Welsh speaking staff allows children aged 11-14 to engage through the language of their choice.</p>		<p>provision through the medium of Welsh.</p>
MB03	<p>The play requirements of children from different cultural background are understood and provided for</p>	AMBER	GREEN	<p>As part of the 2022 PSA, specific cohorts of children and young people from rural areas have been consulted with and the findings will be referenced throughout this report.</p>		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>All provision is inclusive and diversity is encouraged and celebrated.</p> <p>Further opportunities for children are developed through the equality and diversity youth forum.</p>		
MB04	The play requirements and support needs of disabled children are understood and provided for.	GREEN	GREEN	<p>The Care2Play programme provides children and young people with access to a range of play opportunities during term-time and holiday periods. It also meets the support needs of individuals to access play provision locally within their community.</p> <p>We continue to work with our Education colleagues to provide additional supported places as part of the SHEP programme.</p> <p>Specific provision is offered to children attending Special Schools in RCT. A strong working partnership has been developed with the schools to</p>		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				ensure the needs and requirements of each pupils is understood and met during the provision. Some school staff are offered temporary play worker posts to ensure a level of consistency to the required care.		
MB05	Play projects and providers have access to a range of resources which support inclusion	GREEN	GREEN	<p>As part of the Care2Play offer, a Passport 2 Play (P2P) is completed specifically for each child or young person. The aim of the P2P is to support the child, to develop their play skills in specific areas of their holistic development. Where it has then been identified that the child may need some additional resources or specialist equipment this is sourced and provided by the play development team.</p> <p>Additional staff can be allocated to provision to ensure that all young people are able to attend.</p>	Prior to covid the sensory rooms at the children and family centres were available for use for practitioners and the general public free of charge. Whilst there is still no cost robust measures now need to be developed and implemented to ensure they are covid compliant before they can be used publicly.	Covid risk assessment to be developed to reinstate public usage of the sensory rooms across the Children and Family Centres.

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MB06	There is a well known and agreed mechanism which is used to identify the need for separate provision for disabled children	GREEN	GREEN	The Care2Play service receives applications from the Disabled Children's Team and Resilient Family Service for children and young people they are working with and where they have identified that they may need additional support or strategies to access local play provision.		
MB07	Access audits for all play provision as described in the guidance are undertaken	AMBER	RED	Access audits are undertaken on all playscheme premises. The information captured in the audit aims to inform service users of the accessibility of the building for service users.	All collated data needs to be embedded into the virtual playscheme timetable via a range of symbol and publicised on the council website.	Work to be completed on including access data onto the playscheme timetable.
MB08	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		Work with colleagues within the parks department to undertake a consultation with the gypsy traveller community to gain their views and opinions on

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MB09	The requirements of young carers are understood and provided for	GREEN	GREEN	Support for young carers is offered through a service level agreement with an internal children service.		developing a designated play space on their site.
MB10	The requirements of lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) children are understood and provided for	GREEN	GREEN	<p>Training is provided to our commissioned play providers to enable them to understand and support the needs of LGBTQ+ children and young people within the play setting. Service wide training has been delivered to staff to improve the knowledge and understanding of the requirements of LGBTQ+ children and young people.</p> <p>The equality and diversity youth forum develops further opportunities for young people to engage in inclusive provision.</p>		

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?

The Council uses the relevant data available to us to ensure that the children and young people referred to our flagship Care2Play programme are placed in community based play settings alongside siblings and peers. The Play Development Team also use the data to put in place the necessary support for their individual needs. During the pandemic, the Council used local data and information from a range of sources to assess the play needs of other cohorts of vulnerable and play deprived children, to ensure resources were targeted in these areas to help them access the available play offer.

Have there been challenges?

Due to Covid restrictions, the level of play opportunities were significantly impacted, reducing the availability of provision for children and young people.

How can these be overcome?

The easing of Covid restrictions will resolve the majority of the challenges and allow the key actions to be addressed.

The Play Development Team is 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 Transformation Programme the Resilient Families Service and the Neighbourhood Networks.




Comments:

It is envisaged that through partnership working across all council departments and with both, the voluntary and private sector, the quality of play opportunities for all children throughout the County Borough will flourish. We will also be working extensively with partners to support children and young people to improve their wellbeing and feel safe to go out and play again.

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

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

RAG Status

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

Open Spaces

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MC01	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	An updated Open Space Assessment (OSA) will be prepared during the preparation of the Revised Local Development Plan. However, the study whilst including some areas used for play such as play areas, does not assess whether areas are used for or could be used for play and is broader in its remit.	OSA to be completed as part of the next planned LDP. Any issues are to be reported back to the PSA working group for consideration.	

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MC02	The Local Authority has undertaken an Accessible Greenspace Study that maps areas that are used for playing	GREEN	GREEN	A Green Infrastructure Assessment and an updated Open Space Assessment will be prepared during the preparation of the Revised Local Development Plan. However the studies do not specifically assess areas for play and will not specifically map areas used for play.		
MC03	The Local Authority undertakes access audits at all open spaces and implements proposals to improve access and safety	GREEN	GREEN	Access audits on all LA owned/maintained play spaces are undertaken on an annual basis. Also, where an open space is part of a Community Asset Transfer, the relevant department provides support and guidance on access and safety.		
MC04	The Local Authority has developed its own Open Space Standards in accordance with the advice and requirements of Planning Policy Wales	GREEN	GREEN	An updated Open Space Assessment will be prepared during the preparation of the Revised Local Development Plan.		

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				During the preparation process consideration will be given for the need for localised policies on open space where there is evidence to support this.		
MC05	The Local Authority undertakes and actions play value assessments in public open space	RED	AMBER	Play value assessments are undertaken on fixed equipped playgrounds only.	Undertaking play value assessments on all public open space is not feasible within the current service provision structure.	
MC06	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.		

Outdoor Unstaffed Designated Play Spaces

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MC07	The Local Authority keeps an up to date record of all designated play space as described in the Statutory Guidance	AMBER	GREEN	The Playgrounds team has a record of all fixed equipped play spaces and designated play spaces within the Councils ownership.		A schedule of works has been developed and will be implemented as and when resources and funding becomes available. A monitoring cycle will be developed and any issues fed back to the PSA
MC08	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	Play value assessments are undertaken on fixed equipped play spaces. Capital programme in place supporting play space improvements.		
MC09	The Local Authority undertakes access audits at all designated play spaces and implements proposals to improve access and safety	AMBER	AMBER	Access audits undertake in 2021.	Funding to implement all the work required.	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MC10	The Local Authority has developed and agreed a new fixed play provision standard	GREEN	GREEN	The Local Authority applies minimum standards and undertakes inspections in line with the standard	On-going monitoring and review	
MC11	The Local Authority undertakes and actions play space assessments in designated play spaces	GREEN	GREEN	Assessments are undertaken on fixed equipped play spaces. Capital programme in place supporting play space improvements	On-going monitoring and review	
MC12	The Local Authority has introduced smoke-free playgrounds The local authority complies with The Smoke-free Premises and Vehicles (Wales) Regulations 2020 that requires playgrounds in Wales to be smoke-free.	AMBER	GREEN	Legislation introduced in 2021. All playgrounds now have appropriate signage.		
MC13	The Local Authority has removed 'no ball games' signs to encourage more children playing in the community	GREEN	AMBER	Action can only be taken by the service area on land within their portfolio. Where playgrounds are not safe for ball play, signs will remain.	On-going monitoring and review	Signage to be monitored and removed during routine checks

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MC14	The Local Authority has erected signs, such as Play Priority Signs to encourage more children playing in the community	AMBER	AMBER	Where appropriate space is allocated, signage is erected.	Action can only be taken by the service area on land within their portfolio.	Signage to be monitored and erected during routine checks if required Corporate Estates to develop a process that a community organisation applying for a lease or transfer of community asset that are able to evidence they have consulted with the children and families within the area.
MC15	The Local Authority includes a recognition of the importance of playing fields to children’s play when any disposal decisions are made	GREEN	GREEN	Disposal notices are sent to appropriate service areas for comment.		
MC16	The Local Authority includes children and their families in any consultations regarding decisions to dispose of playing fields	AMBER	RED	A formal Open Space Notice will advertised for each location and an opportunity for any resident to comment on proposal.	General Land Disposal (via a lease) Where this may include the leasehold transfer of land for a Community Asset Transfer the applying community organisation will be expected to undertake its own community consultation activities evidencing the need and support	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
					for the proposal. Recent examples include Splash Pads, Multi Use Games Areas, Skateboard Park and Outdoor Gym etc.	
MC17	The Local Authority refers to guidance around creating accessible play space when refurbishing or developing new playgrounds	GREEN	GREEN	Local Authority applies minimum standards and undertakes access/accessibility audits	On-going monitoring and review	

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 collaboration between the OSA and PSA has resulted in additional spaces being identified for use either for informal play or formal structure play provision, such as family fun days. In addition, the capital funding made available via the PSA has allowed development work to be undertaken at specific sites.

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

Due to the restrictions imposed as part of the pandemic limited work has been undertaken in this area and will be a priority for development in during the 2022-2025 PSA action plan.

The local authority's Play Development Team undertook all accessibility audits in 2021 and will continue to do so in 2022 and beyond.

How has the local authority considered all issues of accessibility in play space development?

In 2021 an accessibility audit of all children's play areas within the Council's remit was undertaken. This report will be reviewed and broken down into key actions as soon as staffing resources become available.

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. However where resources allow all play area refurbishments include an accessible roundabout and an inclusive basket swing as minimum, as well wheelchair accessible picnic tables, hard surfaces and linking pathways around the play area and hydraulic self closing gates in yellow.

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 £5 million has been invested over the past six years, with a further commitment of additional funding to come in the next financial year. 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' or '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.

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

Matter D: Supervised provision

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

RAG Status

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

Playwork provision

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MD01	The Local Authority keeps an up to date record of all supervised playwork provision as described in the Statutory Guidance	GREEN	GREEN	All information of commissioned open access play provision is collated into quarterly timetables which is then disseminated to the public, through the FIS, Wicid website, RCT council website, Community Wellbeing and Resilience Service website and all play providers websites and Facebook accounts.		
MD02	The Local Authority offers playwork provision which offers a rich play environment as	AMBER	RED		The Play Soft Outcomes tool was previously used by	This is a priority for the play and childcare team to support all play providers

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	described in the Statutory Guidance				commissioned play providers to reflect on the play environment created for the children and young people to use. However, this process has now been disestablished and we are waiting for the All Wales QA to become available from Play Wales.	to undertake the All Wales QA toolkit as and when it becomes available.
MD03	The Local Authority ensures that partners offering playwork provision are supported to offer rich play environments as described in the Statutory Guidance	GREEN	AMBER	The play development officer (PDO) carries out annual monitoring visits at all commissioned play provisions. Where necessary the PDA will issue requirements for improvement.	As and when funding becomes available the play team issues grants to replenish equipment and resources. There is no long term funding available to embed this as an annual play improvement grant.	Identify a long term funding stream to deliver an annual play improvement grant offer.

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MD04	Staffed playwork provision that the Local Authority provides meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards	GREEN	GREEN	All play provision delivered directly by the RCT play team is done so in line with the National Minimum Standards for OAP.		
MD05	Staffed playwork provision that the Local Authority funds meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards	AMBER	GREEN	<p>All existing and newly commissioned community based play provision is delivered in line with the NMS for OAP.</p> <p>During the last 2 years and within the Covid pandemic we have recruited 3 new play providers and opened 5 new play provisions.</p>		
MD06	Staffed playwork provision that the Local Authority's partners provide meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards	AMBER	GREEN	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.		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MD07	Staffed playwork provision across the Local Authority works to a recognised quality assurance programme	RED	RED		At present there is no formal QA scheme for play, however, Play Wales are developing an All Wales version. RCT will use as soon as it becomes available.	Engage with Play Wales to ascertain when the QA scheme will be available for rollout. Play Development Team will work with the play sector to produce a timeline for roll out of the QA scheme across all commissioned play provision.
MD08	The Local Authority prioritises quality issues when engaging with/ commissioning the private sector to deliver recreational activities for children.	AMBER	GREEN	As part of the Summer of Fun and Winter of Wellbeing grant funding streams, the LA has commissioned a number of community based organisation to deliver recreational activities. All partners are required to submit copies of their public liability insurance, Safeguarding policy and activity risk assessments to ensure they meet the requirements of grant funding.		
MD09	The Local Authority provides council premises and space free of charge to organisations	GREEN	GREEN	We work closely with our leisure colleagues and extensively use their		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	which provide free (at the point of access) playwork provision for children			facilities free of charge to deliver play and family play opportunities.		

Structured recreational activities for children

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	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	RED	Sports RCT have linked with stakeholders to support the Summer of Fun and Winter of Wellbeing objectives and offering free sessions through play.	Lack of casual workforce in Sport RCT. At present there is limited access to free provision for families.	Undertake a recruitment drive to enhance the casueal workforce in Sport RCT. Leisure services to look at free access to paid provision for families that need it most, which will include dry and wet side provision for all the family.
MD11	The sports agenda contributes to the provision of sufficient recreational activities for children	AMBER	AMBER	Through collaboration with stakeholders that include Welh Cycling, FAW, Welsh Netball, Welsh Athletics, we	Lack of casual workforce.	Undertake recruitment drive to enhance the casual workforce in Sport RCT.

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				are currently offering more than ever. This includes fun weekly sessions happening across the authority. Leisure for Life has been integral to its success and has been key in enabling us to subsidise these sessions as much as possible.		
MD12	The cultural and arts agenda, is contributing to the provision of sufficient recreational activities for children	GREEN	GREEN	The local authority Arts Service works with partners to provide creative opportunities through play. RCT Theatres work with artists to provide activities and are creating an outdoor community space at the Park & Dare Theatre for the provision of creative play and performances.	Lack of casual workforce in Sport RCT. At present there is limited access to free provision for families.	
MD13	The Local Authority Youth Service provides for children's opportunities for leisure and association	GREEN	GREEN	The Council's youth service, Youth Engagement and Participation Service, offers a range of sporting and leisure opportunities as part of the after-school,		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				evening and holiday provision. Some of these are provided by the youth workers, others are with local organistaions including Cardiff City Football Club.		

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?

Development Officers support childcare settings in all aspects of their practice and businesses. Specific advice concerning improving play opportunities is provided by Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids Clubs via settings membership and courses commissioned by the LA, and signposting to other training and funding opportunities that will 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?

Without additional funding to provide additional Development Officers, this will continue to be a challenge.

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.

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

Matter E: Charges for play provision

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

RAG status

Criteria fully met.	■
Criteria partially met.	■
Criteria not met.	■

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
ME01	The Local Authority keeps records of the number of children living in low income families	GREEN	RED	Continue to use vulnerability profiling methodology to support the planning and delivery of recreation activities for all children and young people across RCT.	No up to date information has been shared with the PSA partners.	New information to be collated against the 2021 census and shared with PSA partners.
ME02	The Local Authority keeps records of the number of children living in areas of deprivation	GREEN	RED	As Above		
ME03	The Local Authority keeps records of the number of children living in rural areas	GREEN	RED	As Above		
ME04	The Local Authority keeps records of the number of disabled children and those with particular needs.	GREEN	GREEN	The Capita One Management Information System also stores all records of children with additional learning needs therefore service data is able to		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				reflect how many young people have engaged with the service who have Additional Learning Needs		
ME05	The Local Authority records the availability of no cost provision	GREEN	GREEN	The Play Development Team collates this information and is available via the FIS website and social media platforms, where they are made aware of them through commissioning routes etc.		
ME06	The Local Authority records the provision of no cost / low cost premises used for play provision	RED	RED		There is no information currently recorded for no cost / low cost premises across the area	Establish mechanisms for recording ALL no cost / low cost provision across RCT.
ME07	The Local Authority records the provisions where grants or subsidies are available for play providers	AMBER	AMBER	<p>The Play Development Team records this information, which is then used to inform grant funders of the desired outcomes of the funding.</p> <p>More recently additional funds have been distributed to community organisations to deliver play and recreational activities as part of the the</p>	The lack of sustainability for community organisations due to lack of continuity of funding from WG post the 31 st of March 2022.	Set up an approved supplier list on Bravo for small community organisations to become an approved supplier to deliver recreational activities. All community organisations will receive the same

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				Summer of Fun and Winter of Wellbeing grant offers.		information and notifications of opportunities to apply for grant funding.
ME08	The Local Authority provides subsidised transport for children travelling to play opportunities	AMBER	AMBER	Funding has been allocated to community organisations to provide free transport for participants to access play and recreational activities.		Seek clarification from WG to find out if any additional funding will be available from the 1 st of April 2022 to allow better co-ordination of the delivery of play and recreational activities.

Charge for play provision

All commissioned play and additional recreational activities delivered by the local authority or third sector organisations are free for children and young people 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 play opportunities and community events in areas of identified need. The Council favour smaller, more local activities over larger events to reduce access and transport barriers. The Council will also continue to review and re-profile our 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?

The Covid-related additional funding, namely Summer of Fun and Winter of Wellbeing, have supported the Council to offer more free activities to children, young people and their families. However, the challenge will be maintaining the offer from April 2022 onwards when they funding is no longer available. Without this funding, the Council will have to evaluate the current offer and decide what can be sustained over the next three years of the PSA and what will have to be de-commissioned/end with the financial year.

How can these be overcome?

We will use emerging data to ensure that all play opportunities are being developed, commissioned and delivered in areas of identified need.

Comments:

The Play Development Team will work more closely with colleagues within the YEPS service to streamline processes to commission play provision alongside youth provision and deliver joined up provision to offer provision 5 – 25 years.

Charge for play provision

All commissioned play provision is free on entry for all children and young people across the county borough.

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

PSA working group members will work to identify opportunities to make fee-paying activities available free/lower cost to families most in need. This will include sporting activities, cultural activities and those offered by third party providers, such as football groups etc.

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

Matter F: Access to space/provision

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

RAG Status

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MF01	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		Continue to bid for schmes and seek other funding opportunities.
MF02	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	GREEN	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.		
MF03	The Local Authority has a plan(s) to reduce the negative effect of busy roads and junctions through the	AMBER	AMBER	Measures are implemented on an evidential need basis through a numbe of internal	Schemes are subject to funding availability.	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	introduction of speed reduction measures and provision of safe crossing points/routes for pedestrians and cyclists			and external funding sources.		
MF04	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 Communities funding (SRIC).	Active Travel and SRIC schemes aim to improve connectivity and health and wellbeing, access to leisure facilities is an associated benefit and not a key outcome.
MF05	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 continues to introduce traffic calming measures at locations where there is identified need. The necessary legislation is in place. Welsh Government are pursuing a	Traffic calming is subject to funding, which is allocated towards road safety measures across the region to reduce the incidence of personal injuries

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
					change in legislation to introduce a national default speed limit in Wales from 30mph to 20mph on residential roads and busy pedestrian streets	
MF06	The Local Authority uses road safety grants and/or other funding to support delivery of cycling training for children to national standards	GREEN	RED	.	Welsh Government are pursuing a change in legislation to introduce a national default speed limit in Wales from 30mph to 20mph on residential roads and busy pedestrian streets	Agree traffic calming policies and procedures to introduce traffic calming measures. (Transport)
MF07	The Local Authority uses road safety grants and/or other funding to provide pedestrian safety training for children	GREEN	AMBER	National Standards cycle training delivered is delivered to approximately 1000 pupils (age 10-11) each year. Kerbcraft / Child Pedestrian Training delivered to	Only a minority of children can be accommodated by the training	Continue to bid for WG Road Safety grant funding to enable continuation of National Standards cycle training.

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				approximately 1,600 pupils (age 5-7) each year.		
MF08	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	RED		The LA will be trialling the introduction of a number of Play Street Schemes in 22/23, in co-ordination with Play Wales.	RCT Playstreets working group to develop a devleiry plan for the delivery of the pilot proposed for the Spring term.
MF09	The Local Authority refers to <i>Manual for Streets</i> when considering new developments and changes to the highway network/urban realm	GREEN	GREEN	RCT Residential Design Guide is based on Manual for Streets <i>TAN 18</i> and <i>RCTCBC's Design Guide for Residential Streets</i>		
MF10	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.		
MF11	The Local Authority uses child pedestrian road accident casualty data to inform the	RED	RED	There is no evidence currently available to support this.	Nationally, Wales to reduce the accident of personal injuries.	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	location and design of interventions which help children get around independently in their communities					
MF12	The Local Authority considers children's needs to access play opportunities when making decisions about public transport planning and expenditure	AMBER	AMBER	This is 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 children and young people to access leisure opportunities.	Limited access to play opportunities	
MF13	The requirements of disabled children are understood and provided for within traffic and transport initiatives	GREEN	GREEN	All traffic and transport initiatives are designed to be inclusive for all service users.		

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.

MF14	The Local Authority has a clearly identified section on its	GREEN	GREEN	Information of all commissioned play		
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Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

	website which gives information about play opportunities as described in the Statutory Guidance (play areas, play provision, clubs and their accessibility)			opportunities is recorded on a timetable and disseminated on a quarterly basis through the council's website, FIS, Wicid website and play providers.		
MF15	The Local Authority provides information on access to play opportunities and contact for support if required	GREEN	AMBER	<p>YEPS provide information on all activity timetables on www.wicid.tv, 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>	At present the Play Development Team has limited means to promote play online. The service currently uses FIS and the online platforms of out third sector providers. However, it is anticipated that this will significantly change with the launch of the new RCT Families website.	The Play Development Team will develop a range of information leaflets for professionals and parents on play opportunities and play support services available to them. All information to then be kept up to date and made available on the designated play page on the new RCT Families website.
MF16	The Local Authority supports and publicises events which encourage play opportunities and events for children and families	GREEN	GREEN	The play team deliver family play opportunities during school holiday periods, which is publicized via the council's website, FIS,		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

				Wicid website and play providers.		
MF17	The Local Authority publicises information which contributes to positive community attitudes to play	GREEN	AMBER	<p>YEPS produces press releases to showcase and celebrate young people's achievement gained from attending YEPS provision. This information is also put on Wicid</p> <p>YEPS hold an annual Celebration Event to celebrate the achievements of young people and the wider community.</p>	At present the Play Development Team has limited means to promote play online. The service currently uses FIS and the online platforms of out third sector providers. However, it is anticipated that this will significantly change with the launch of the new RCT Families website.	
MF18	The Local Authority publicises information and support for parents to help them encourage their children to play	RED	AMBER	During lockdown, the Council's Play and Parenting teams developed a range of short 'follow along' films for children and their families to use to play together. They raged for nursery rhyme dances to arts and crafts project to nature trails. This were made available on the FIS	These will continue to be developed and circulated on the new RCT Families website once it has launched.	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

				social media pages on YouTube.		
MF19	The Local Authority widely uses on-site signposting to safeguard and promote play	AMBER	AMBER			
MF20	The Local Authority engages with the media to encourage the positive portrayal of children playing in the local area	GREEN	GREEN	<p>YEPS produces press releases to showcase and celebrate young people's achievement gained from attending YEPS provision. 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 3rd 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>		

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 children and young people 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 children and young people 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 21st Century Schools team as and when new schools are being built to ensure we take account of the new routes children and young people 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 children and young people.

Have there been challenges?

In recent years there has been limited opportunities to disseminate play information to children and young people and their families.

How can these be overcome?

The Community Wellbeing and Resilience Service is in the process of developing a bespoke website where the play service will have a designated section on it to be able to promote all aspects of the play service.

Comments:

The corporate Public Relations 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.

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

Matter G: Securing and developing the play workforce

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

RAG status

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

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.

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MG01	The Local Authority keeps up to date information regarding the playwork workforce across the Local Authority (this should include the number of playworkers, playwork management structure, qualification levels, training opportunities and volunteers)	GREEN	GREEN	We have recently undertaken our annual Play Workforce audit, which identifies the training needs of the play workforce. The outcome of the audit will be used to develop the play training programme for 2022/23. Additional annual audits will be carried out for		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

				23/24 and 24/25 to inform the future training for the play sector.		
MG02	The Local Authority supports all of the workforce to achieve the qualification level required by the Welsh Government's National Minimum Standards	AMBER	GREEN	<p>We provide free statutory training for the play workforce. Where applicable we also provide training grants to enable volunteers and play workers to undertake level 1 & 2 play training course.</p> <p>All play training qualifications promoted in RCT are on the Pathway Framework for Playwork.</p>		
MG03	The Local Authority has a staff development budget ring fenced for play, including playwork	GREEN	GREEN	An element of the Childcare & Play grant is designated on an annual basis to deliver quality play training opportunities.		
MG04	There is a comprehensive range of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities available for playworkers in the area	GREEN	GREEN	The Play Development Team and their commissioned providers have access to the Community Wellbeing and Resilience Service's training prospectus, offering mandatory and	The training prospectus continues to be developed to ensure emerging training needs of the play workforce	Regularly review the play workforce training needs and liaise with the Training and Development Officer to offer these as part of the termly training prospectus.

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

				good practice training courses for funded staff	are offered on a termly basis.	
MG05	Training is available for volunteers and parents to develop their knowledge on skills in playwork	AMBER	RED		Due to recent covid restrictions there has been extremely limited engagement with volunteers and parents	The Play Development Team will reengage with local communities to improve the knowledge and understanding of Playwork locally.
MG06	The Local Authority includes playwork within its Workforce Development strategies	GREEN	GREEN	The Community Wellbeing and Resilience Service has a Training Working Group that identifies and delivers a range of mandatory and service specific training for the Play workforce.		
MG07	The Local Authority supports partners to deliver appropriate training to community groups, parents and volunteers	GREEN	RED		Due to covid restrictions limited work has been carried out in this area.	The play team will develop a bespoke package of play training to raise awareness of the importance of play to community groups parents & volunteers.

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.

MG08	The Local Authority has undertaken a comprehensive training	GREEN	GREEN	This has been achieved through the play workforce audit, which		
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Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

	needs analysis for the play workforce as defined in the toolkit glossary and above			identified the mandatory training and specialist training needs the play workforce need for 2022/23		
MG09	The Local Authority takes action to expand the variety of learning and development opportunities that are offered to staff	GREEN	GREEN	This is done through offering blended training opportunities and evening and weekend training sessions.		
MG10	There is a comprehensive range of CPD opportunities for a range of professionals who work with children	GREEN	GREEN	Our training officer identifies and sources new inavitive training opportunities for the play sector.		
MG11	Training awareness sessions are available for professionals and decision makers whose work impacts on children's opportunities to play	GREEN	RED		Due to recent changes in service areas and the commissioning of services there is limited evidence available to support this.	Work to be undertake by the PSA working group to identify record and publicise play awareness training for professionals and decision makes. The information gathered will focus on the importance of providing children with stimulating play opportunities.

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 a designated core Play Development Team that commissions providers to deliver open access and targeted play, as well as assisting new providers to deliver play opportunities. The service also has a bank of casual play staff that support the direct delivery of the after-school play provision in RCT's special schools, family fun days and community play sessions. The team commissions third sector organisations to deliver the new Children and Wellbeing Project and Family Play Programme.

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*)?

During 2020, the service undertook a play workforce audit to identify the training needs of the play workforce. Therefore, as the covid pandemic hit and lockdown restrictions were imposed, the service was able to use the time to upskill the play workforce by providing them with innovative and a bespoke package of training.

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 for ensuring 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 Adult Learning Wales and other reputable training providers.

Over the past two years, there have been many changes in the way training is offered to the play sector. Due to staff having the opportunity to access blended learning there has been a noticeable increase in the uptake of and attendance at training sessions.

Have there been challenges?

Due to the restrictions imposed throughout the covid pandemic there has been limited opportunities for face to face training.

How can these be overcome?

We will endeavour to reinstate elements of face to face training as and when it is safe to do so.

Comments

We will continue to carry out annual training audits on the needs of the play sector. This will enable the Council to prioritise and compile and annual comprehensive package of training whilst maximising budgets across the sector.

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

Matter H: Community engagement and participation.

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

RAG Status

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MH01	The Local Authority promotes initiatives to engage relevant groups in enhancing play opportunities for children in its area.	GREEN	GREEN	<p>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 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</p>		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>activities we offer can range from a climbing wall to storytelling, silent discos, clog dancing, junk modelling and much more.</p> <p>Street Play workshops have been delivered to community development partners to identify and engage with new community groups to develop locally based play opportunities.</p>		
MH02	<p>The Local Authority promotes community engagement in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - making space available and suitable for play - organising play events - positive attitudes towards children and play - training on the importance of play. 	GREEN	AMBER	<p>Through close working relationships with a number of council and voluntary organisations, we promote free usage of the children centres to organisations who want to deliver play opportunities for children and young people.</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</p>	<p>Due to the Covid restrictions over the past 2 years, there has been limited promotion of access to these venues and resources.</p>	<p>As the Covid restrictions ease, the PSA working group will establish a list of community based venues and facilities that can be promoted to community groups that are suitable for a range of play opportunities and support groups.</p>

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				the evenings and weekends.		

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 of 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 programmes. We have recently undertaken our annual consultation with 560 children and young people from across 18 schools and 7 playschemes. We have also consulted with children and young people and the families who access the Care2Play programme.

Have there been challenges?

There have been no challenges at this time.

How can these be overcome?

N/A

Comments




The Local Authority will continue to consult and engage with children and young people and communities to ensure that the provision being commissioned and delivered meets the individual needs of the service user, their families and communities. All feedback information from the consultations we have undertaken will be imbedded into the annual play service delivery plan and 2022/23 PSA action plan.

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

Matter I: Play within all relevant policy and implementation agendas

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

RAG Status

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MI01	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 Play is referred to in one of the key objectives of the Well-being Plan		
MI02	The Well-Being Plan recognises the importance of play and contributes to the provision of rich play opportunities	GREEN	AMBER	The Wellbeing Plan places an emphasis on the need of play opportunities for all children and young people, including those who require	From April 2022, much of the funding previously used to support wellbeing programmes will not	Identify funding to continue to deliver the play projects that improve children and young people's wellbeing.

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				<p>support to access provision. The Regional Commissioning Board have realised this and approved ICF funding for the Care2Play programme in RCT.</p> <p>Children and Community Grant (CCG) funds the Children's Wellbeing Support Programme in RCT to offer 1:1 support for children aged 7 – 11yrs known to the Resilient Families Service. The programme builds resilience via the use of play techniques that families can continue with once the initiative has ended.</p>	<p>be available. Therefore, the PSA partners will need to continue to champion the need for play opportunities as a means to improve children and young people's wellbeing.</p>	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

Education and schools						
LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MI03	Schools ensure that children are provided with a rich play environment for breaks during the school day	GREEN	AMBER		<p>Opportunities have been limited over the past 2 years due to Covid restrictions but YEPS is re-opening its after-school provision, we have after-school special school sessions delivered by PDT.</p> <p>Play wales are working with schools to make their outdoor spaces available after the school day.</p>	<p>Re-establish YEPS after-school provision once it is safe to do so</p> <p>Progress the Play Wales initiative of utilising school playgrounds after the school day.</p>
MI04	Schools provide play opportunities during out of teaching hours	AMBER	AMBER	Some schools have been commissioned from the Winter of Wellbeing grant to run afterschool activity sessions.		Clarity needed from WG if additional funding for 2022/23 will be made available to continue to support these sessions to run.

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MI05	Schools provide access to school grounds for playing out of school times	AMBER	AMBER		Work is currently on-going to engage with local schools to promote this.	Work with relevant partners to take the Play Wales initiative forward.
MI06	Schools encourage children to walk and cycle to school	GREEN	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 21st Century Schools' investment we ensure that scooter and bicycle shelters are a part of the new school build, and we work closely with officers in our 'Safe Route's Team' to ensure that the works onsite and off complement each other.</p> <p>It is a condition of Planning Consent that schools review their Travel Plan to ensure they utilise any additional sustainable transport initiatives that have been included in the new school builds, and schools are supported by officers to</p>	these assessments recommend improvements to the walking and cycling routes, these works are implemented.	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

				<p>deliver any new initiatives that are developed. Alongside this, Traffic Impact Assessments are undertaken as are assessments of the safe walking routes.</p>		
MI07	<p>The Local Authority offers guidance to ensure schools understand and ensure that regular outdoor play is not curtailed</p>	GREEN	GREEN	<p>Welsh Government Foundation Phase guidance supports schools to design and develop engaging and appropriate outdoor play spaces for Foundation Phase pupils, this is also a priority within the New Curriculum for Wales. 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, and where practical in our KS2 classes too. Our 21st Century School standard design includes external canopies that are installed outside all Foundation Phase classrooms to ensure that</p>		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

				<p>there is the opportunity for outdoor play whatever the conditions.</p> <p>There is guidance contained within the Welsh Government Building Bulletins, specifically 98 and 99, which advises on what type of external spaces are required for schools, and the associated areas of each. We use this guidance to inform the design of all of our 21st Century Schools.</p> <p>The Cwm Taf Well Being Plan 2018-23, and the New Curriculum for Wales encourages all schools to make the most of opportunities to engage pupils with the outdoors to support their mental health and well-being.</p>		
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Town and Country Planning						
LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MI08	The Local Development Plan recognises and addresses the	AMBER	GREEN	The Local Development Plan contains policy AW4		

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

	<p>outdoor play needs of children of various age groups and abilities</p>			<p>which seeks planning obligations including for open space, sport and play space where it is deemed appropriate. The plan also contains policy AW6 which supports development proposals which provides open space in line with the Fields in Trust Standards. Policy AW7 also seeks to protect areas of public open space.</p> <p>In preparing the revised LDP consultation with other Council departments will be undertaken.</p>		
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Traffic and Transport						
LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MI09	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	GREEN	GREEN	One of the LTP's core interventions is to develop programme for innovative walking, cycling and Smarter Choices, to deliver		

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	abilities			Active Travel schemes that improve walking and cycling links to key services and facilities and, to improve accessibility within and between communities.		
MI10	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 transport schemes that are delivered through the Plan		

Early Years Plans

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MI11	Early Years and Flying Start plans and services recognise the importance of play and contribute to the provision of rich play opportunities for	GREEN	GREEN	Flying Start continues to support commissioned childcare settings to improve the quality of play provision. Recent		

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	younger children			<p>improvements over the past 12 months include providing settings with outdoor play equipment, canopies, wet weather clothing so the children can access outdoor play in all weather conditions.</p> <p>Settings have been provided with movement matters packs and resources to encourage outdoor physical literacy activities.</p> <p>Childcare staff have received training around developing the outdoors and physical play which included natural resources and Jabadao.</p> <p>Outdoor play has been the main focus throughout the COVID 19 Pandemic where settings have adapted their practice to fully utilise outside play.</p>		
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Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

Family policy and initiatives						
LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MI12	Family support initiatives provide up to date information and support for parents to enable them to support their children to play	GREEN	AMBER	The play team has recently developed and piloted the new Family Play Programme initiative. Once the evaluation of the pilot has been completed, aspects of the programme will be amended. A programme of delivery for the year will be timetabled and delivered.	To date, this initiative has only been piloted. Going forward, this needs to be mainstreamed to offer maximum capacity for targeted families to access the support.	Roll out the Family Play Programme across additional areas of RCT
MI13	The local implementation of the Families First programme recognises the importance of play and contributes to the provision of rich play opportunities	AMBER	GREEN	In 2021/22 a new Children's Well Being project was piloted via the increase in CCG in order to meet an identified need and gap in provision. The aim of the pilot was to develop a wellbeing intervention for children aged 7-11 where the child displayed low self-esteem, confidence and resilience levels which focused on play opportunities.		

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MI14	Plans to reduce the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences recognises the importance of play and contributes to the provision of rich play opportunities	AMBER	GREEN	<p>A comprehensive ACE's awareness training schedule has been implemented across schools, youth service and children's services teams. The protective factors of engaging in play opportunities is highlighted as an important aspect of reducing the impact on ACE's</p> <p>Trauma-informed practice is fundamental to the way in which Play Development Team operate. Training has also been provided to wider Community Wellbeing and Resilience Service teams and Education and Inclusion Services.</p>		
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Inter-generational policy and initiatives						
LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MI15	There are a range of play based approaches to inter-generational activity	AMBER	GREEN	The play team delivers a number of family fun days throughout the year, offering children, young people, and		

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				<p>families to come together to take part in groups activities.</p> <p>YEPS deliver intergeneration projects to support the perception of young people in the community. An example of this is where young people share a building with a local bowls club. The young people designed and created a mural of a bowls player and created planters with some of the older players that were placed outside the bowls pavillion</p>		<p>Play Development Team and the Youth Engagement and Participation Service to jointly commissioned community-based play and youth sessions across RCT.</p>
MI16	<p>There is a creative approach to inter-generational activity which encourages better interaction between children of different ages</p>	GREEN	RED	<p>The Play Development Team and the Youth Engagement and Participation Service are planning to jointly commission external partenrs to deliver provision to children and young peole aged 5 – 25 years. The widened age range will improve the interaction between age groups and</p>	<p>Youth Play sessions have been suspended as a result of the pandemic. It is being considered if these are the best way forward as normal service resumes.</p>	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

				ease children's anxiety as they transition from primary to secondary school, and the associated support services.	The services have not yet implemented this commissioning model	
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Health and Safety

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2019	RAG Status 2022	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
MI17	The Health and Safety policies explicitly recognise the value of children being able to experience risk and challenge	GREEN	GREEN	<p>YEPS offer young people the opportunity to participate in numerous activities such as climbing river boarding and canoeing. All off site activities have to comply with EVC and AALS licences protocol and all staff taking young people on 'adventurous' activities are experienced, have up to date DBS checks and have completed First Aid and safeguarding training.</p> <p>All building and activity risk assessments are reviewed as part of the Play Monitoring visit.</p>		

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MI18	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	GREEN	A number of Risk v. Benefit training sessions have been and will continue to be deliver to the play sector throughout the year.		
MI19	The Local Authority offers the provision of insurance through the Local Authority scheme to all third sector play providers and community councils	RED	GREEN	<p>Individual organisations must have their own public liability insurance in order to be commissioned by the Council.</p> <p>However when commissioned play providers deliver provision jointly with the play team the RCT council insurance is used for cover.</p>		

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 challenge over the past 2 years has been the covid pandemic and restrictions that were imposed.

How can these be overcome?

With the easing of restrictions and our way of life continuing to become more normal again, we need to ensure that at every step of the way we develop and promote a range of play and wellbeing opportunities for children and young people and families in local communities.

Comments:

We will continue to work with partners from across council departments and our community based third sector organisations to develop and deliver play and recreational opportunities 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 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 2022-25 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 children and young people, 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.

As the county recovers from the pandemic, the Council will need to realign our priorities to develop services that focus on supporting the needs of all of our children and young people aged 0 – 25 years and their families to enable them to engage in accessing community based play, childcare, youth and other recreational activities.

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. This does not mean that the activities rated as green will not be continued, but that they will be mainstreamed as part of the ongoing work of internal services and partners. 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 Template

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

Proposed actions for the period of 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023

Matter	Priorities	Targets	Links to other Matters	Resources, including costs	Funding source (new or existing funding streams)
Matter B: Providing for diverse needs	To analyse the 2021 Census data and use it to prioritise the future development of play opportunities.	To develop play opportunities in the 3 most vulnerable areas across RCT.	Matter E	New play providers. Approximately £15,000	New 2022 / 23 Playworks funding.
	Work with the PSA working group to undertake a mapping exercise to identify where current play, youth and other recreational activities are being delivered through the medium of Welsh across the county borough.	Review and amend current SLA's to meet the identified needs for the development of provision for Welsh language speaking CYP.	Matter C	Staff time	Reprofile existing funding streams.
		Identify partners to support the development and delivery of provision through the medium of Welsh.	Matter G	Welsh medium play providers	
To reopen the sensory rooms to the general public free of charge	Develop and implement robust Covid compliant risk assessment to reinstate public usage of the sensory rooms across the C&FC.	Matter E	Staff time to take responsibility for the implementation the Covid Risk assessments.	Core funding	

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	Design a playscheme timetable that incorporates a range of symbols to publicise the accessibility of buildings for service users.	To enable services users to make an informed choice of what playscheme suits their needs best.		Staff time	Core funding
	Undertake a consultation with the gypsy traveller community to gain their view on developing a designated play space on their site.	Work with colleagues within the parks department to design and undertake a consultation with the gypsy traveller community.	Matter C	Staff time and potentially capital costs to fund the purchase of land/construction of play equipment.	Core funding to undertake the consultation. Use AWPOG Capital funding as and when becomes available.
Matter C: Space available for children to play	Undertaking play value assessments on all public open space	Identify staff within the departments current service structure to undertake the work.		Additional hours for staff to undertake this work.	New funding to be identified.
	Access audits undertake in 2021.	Implement the schedule of works that has been developed from the outcome of the access audits. Remove No Ball signs from areas where it is safe to do			New funding to be identified.

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		so on land within the department's portfolio.			
	<p>All residents are given the opportunity to be able to comment on the proposal to dispose of General Land,</p> <p>All residents are given the opportunity to comment on the proposal to transfer the leasehold of land for a Community Asset Transfer, including Splash Pads, Multi Use Games Areas, Skateboard Park and Outdoor Gym etc.</p>	<p>Corporate Estates to develop a process that enables residents to comment on the disposal of General Land</p> <p>Corporate Estates to develop a process that a community organisation applying for a lease or transfer of community assets can evidence they have consulted with the children and families within the area.</p>	Matter I	<p>Staff time</p> <p>Staff time</p>	<p>Existing funding</p> <p>Existing funding.</p>
Matter D: Supervised provision	To identify a fit for purpose designated play quality assurance scheme (QAS) to be rolled out across RCT.	Roll out of the new All Wales Play QAS to as and when it becomes available from Play Wales.		<p>Staff time</p> <p>Cost of registration to the QAS.</p>	<p>New 2022 / 23 Playworks funding.</p> <p>Children and Communities Grant allocation.</p>
	Identify funding to introduce an annual Play Improvement Grant.	Provide commissioned play providers with an opportunity to apply for funding to improve and		<p>Staff time</p> <p>£20,000</p>	<p>New 2022 / 23 Playworks funding.</p>

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

		replenish play equipment and resources.			Children and Communities Grant allocation.
Matter E: Charges for play provision	Provide service user with information on free or subsidised provision.	Establish mechanisms for recording no cost / low cost premises	Matter D	Staff time	Existing funding
	Develop an approved supplier list for private and 3 rd sector organisations to deliver recreational activities.	To create a central distribution list to notify providers of funding as and when funding becomes available.		Staff time	Existing funding
	Identify funding to continue to commission community organisation to deliver recreational activities locally.	Develop a process and guidance to commission additional recreational activities.	Matter I	Staff time £10,000	Children and Communities Grant allocation.
Matter F: Access to space/provision	Develop a timetable of delivery for specific schemes that meet the needs of service users.	Continue to bid for funding for schemes and seek other funding opportunities to deliver various road safety training opportunities to CYP.		Staff time	Existing funding streams
	To implement changes in legislation on the national speed	Develop and agree traffic calming policies and procedures to introduce traffic calming measures in		Staff Time	Existing funding

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

	limit as and when directed by WG.	residential roads and busy pedestrian streets			
	To deliver a comprehensive programme of Active Travel and SRIC schemes.	Continue to bid for funding to schemes and seek other funding opportunities			
	To develop a process of sharing child road traffic accident data	Use the data to inform changes that may be needed to enable children to safely move around their local communities		Staff time	Existing funding streams.
	Work with Play wales and other key partners to pilot the Play Street Scheme.	Develop a scheme of works to pilot the delivery of Street play across RCT. RCT Playstreets working group to implement the delivery of the pilot in the Spring term.	Matter G	Staff time	Play Wales funding.
	To establish a publicity campaign to promote the importance of play for ALL CYP. which will be highly visible across the CWRS Website.	Develop a range of publicity material to be disseminated to professionals and decision makers RCT wide. Develop a range of promotional information for parents / CYP and volunteers.	Matter G Matter H	Staff time	New 2022 / 23 Playworks funding

Play Sufficiency Assessment Template

		Develop a range of promotional material for schools and lunchtime supervisors.			
Matter G: Securing and developing the workforce	To create CPD opportunities for staff across the social care sector.	Develop a CPD pathway across play, youth, and childcare to upskill the social care workforce. Develop a training package to upskill the social care workforce.			New 2022 / 23 Playworks funding
	To create opportunities for volunteers to become engaged in the delivery of play provision.	Develop a pathway for volunteers and/or parents to get involved in the delivery of play opportunities within their community.	Matter H	Staff time	Existing funding
Matter H: Community engagement and participation	Undertake a mapping exercise and to identify and record the availability of community buildings that are suitable to deliver a range of play, recreational and training opportunities.	Develop promotional material for community groups on how to apply for usage of council buildings.	Matter B Matter E Matter G	Staff time	Existing funding

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Matter I: Play within all relevant policy and implementation agendas	Streamline the delivery of the Childrens Wellbeing Support Programme.	Identify relevant funding to continue to deliver the CWSP. Develop a 3-year plan for the continued development and roll out of the CWSP.	Matter B	Staff Time £80,000+	To be sourced.
	To raise the profile of play during the school day with all teaching staff and lunchtime supervisors.	Work with colleagues in Education to support schools to develop a play policy. Promote and support the Play Wales initiative to enable communities to have access to the school grounds at the end of the school day.	Matter G	Staff time	Existing funding
			Matter H	Staff time	Existing funding
	To develop a programme of delivery for the Family Play Programme.	Work with partners to identify staff to deliver the programme		Staff Time	To be sourced.
Streamline the commissioning of Play & Youth provision.	To develop a timeline for the commissioning of a Play & Youth offer.		Staff Time	Existing Funding	

		Develop a framework for the commissioning of a Play & Youth offer.			
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