



## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **CABINET**

#### **COUNCIL RUN NURSERY PROVISION – REVISED SERVICE DELIVERY ARRANGEMENTS**

**23<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 2023**

#### **REPORT OF THE INTERIM DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER (CLLR RHYS LEWIS)**

**Author(s): Zoe Lancelott, Head of Community Wellbeing and Resilience**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Cabinet with details of the current arrangements for the delivery of childcare provision at Council run nurseries and to set out revised service delivery options for consideration to further improve the local childcare offer available to families, informed by a recent market testing exercise.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

##### **2.1 Considers:**

- the current service delivery arrangements and associated resources as set out in Section 5 of this report;
- the proposed service delivery options as set out in Section 6; and
- the findings of the market testing exercise as set out in paragraphs 6.5 to 6.7 of this report.

- 2.2 Agrees to implement the preferred option (Option 4) to transfer the running of all four Council run nursery settings to experienced registered childcare providers as set out in paragraph 6.4 of this report

- 2.3 Subject to 2.2 above, agrees to the formal procurement of experienced registered childcare providers as set out in paragraphs 6.7 to 6.9 of this report

- 2.4 Subject to 2.3 above, agrees to delegate authority to the Interim Director of Social Services, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder, to award contracts following completion of the procurement process and to make all necessary arrangements for the subsequent transfer.

### **3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To provide Cabinet with revised service delivery proposals to further improve the local childcare offer available to families in local communities in line with the findings of the latest Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and informed by a recent market testing exercise, and to support more efficient service delivery.

### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Traditionally the Flying Start programme has offered grant funded part time childcare places for families living in particular geographical areas. Parents of children in Flying Start eligible areas are entitled to one funded 2.5 hour session per day, 5 days per week, 39 weeks per year for their child from the term after their second birthday until the term after their third birthday.
- 4.2 As part of the regional Early Years Transformation Programme, a hybrid approach to the delivery of childcare is currently being employed in Rhondda Cynon Taf. This comprises of funded childcare places (2.5 hours a day – morning or afternoon sessions, 5 days a week during term time) for children aged 2-3 years living in Flying Start postcode areas, and the provision of short term funded childcare places for children outside of Flying Start postcode areas with an assessed need.
- 4.3 Currently the Council commissions 50 Flying Start settings across Rhondda Cynon Taf, of which 4 (8%) are operated by the Council i.e. nurseries based at Tylorstown, Penrhys, Aman in Godreaman and Pontypridd. For information, from 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022 Ynyscynon nursery in Llwynypia transferred from the Council to an alternative childcare provider and further detail is included at Section 5.6.
- 4.4 Over recent years, there has been a reduction in the birth rate in Flying Start eligible postcode areas and as such, the number of children accessing Flying Start placements has subsequently declined in Penrhys and Ynyscynon. As a result, both settings have only operated on a part time basis (one session per day) for at least two years, and there is no evidence to indicate that this situation will change in the foreseeable future.
- 4.5 In addition to the delivery of Flying Start childcare, the setting in Pontypridd also operates as a day nursery providing full day care for a small number of fee paying children aged 0-8 years. As a day nursery, Pontypridd is open 7:30am to 6pm, 5 days per week, between 50 and 52 weeks per year (depending on parental demand). As such the staffing structure in Pontypridd differs from the other Flying Start settings and the nursery is staffed via two shifts per day (early and late). The day nursery provision is funded in part through charges made to families, the remaining cost is subsidised by the Council.
- 4.6 The provision of Flying Start childcare is managed by the Council, with places commissioned from private and third sector childcare providers. In line with the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2022-2032 priority to increase the number of children receiving nursery education through the medium of Welsh,

the adoption of an approved suppliers list has enabled a flexible approach to the commissioning of Welsh medium childcare that is responsive to parental choice.

- 4.7 As a result of the pandemic and limited opportunities for young children and families to socialise during extended lockdown periods, many children are arriving in childcare settings displaying some element of developmental delay. The need to provide a range of local opportunities to enhance the personal and social development of their children has been identified as a priority and the availability of a range of high quality childcare provision locally is a key component to achieving this.
- 4.8 Earlier this year the Welsh Government announced additional funding to support the Flying Start Expansion Programme. The programme of work will see the roll out of Flying Start childcare for all children aged 2-3 years over the coming years. Whilst the Council is in a good position to facilitate this roll out, as a result of the hybrid approach in operation as part of the transformation pilot, it is essential that we prepare the external childcare sector to be able to meet the demand for places.
- 4.9 All Local Authorities in Wales have a responsibility under Section 26 of the Childcare Act 2006 to prepare Childcare Sufficiency Assessments (CSA's). This is to have a clear understanding of the childcare provision in their area, the needs of parents/carers and to develop an action plan to address any gaps identified. [At the Cabinet meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022](#) the CSA was most recently considered and reviewed by Cabinet. The CSA identifies key strategic priorities for the provision of childcare services in Rhondda Cynon Taf for the next five years. In relation to the areas in which the Council run nurseries are located, the CSA found a lack of out of school registered settings in all areas. It also highlighted a general trend in the last 5 years of sessional care providers having changed their Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) registration to full day care to accommodate wrap around services for nursery aged children.
- 4.10 A Delegated Officer Decision was approved on [24th November 2022](#) to undertake a market testing exercise to inform revised service delivery proposals for Council run nursery provision, the results of which are set out at paragraphs 6.5 and 6.7.

## **5. CURRENT SERVICE DELIVERY FOR COUNCIL RUN NURSERIES**

- 5.1 The Council employs a total of 27 term time staff, both part time and full time at its nurseries in Aman, Tylorstown, Penrhys and Pontypridd. This equates to 18.92 FTE posts. The level of staffing is compliant with CIW regulations for staff to child ratios and comprises of the following:

<b>Nursery</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>FTE</b>
<b>Aman</b>	Supervisor	GR8	0.95
	Deputy	GR5	0.94
	Childcare Worker	GR4	4.87
<b>Total FTE</b>			<b>6.76</b>
<b>Tylorstown</b>	Supervisor	GR8	0.95
	Deputy	GR5	0.88

	Childcare Worker	GR4	3.58
<b>Total FTE</b>			<b>5.41</b>
<b>Penrhys</b>	Supervisor	GR8	0.47
	Deputy	GR5	0.44
	Childcare Worker	GR4	0.91
<b>Total FTE</b>			<b>1.82</b>
<b>Pontypridd</b>	Supervisor	GR8	0.88
	Deputy	GR5	1.48
	Childcare Worker	GR4	2.57
<b>Total FTE</b>			<b>4.93</b>

5.2 Below is a summary of occupancy levels for each nursery, showing the number of CIW registered places (this is the maximum number of children to be cared for at any one time and cannot be exceeded); the number of Flying Start commissioned places (each of which is a part-time place – either AM or PM session); and the number of part time places filled. The projected placement figures for Spring Term 2022/23 are based on the number of children living in the geographical area who will be eligible for a Flying Start place as a result of turning two during the Autumn Term (children are eligible for placement the term after their second birthday until the term after their third birthday).

<b>AMAN FS</b>	<b>FS TERM 1 Summer term 2021/22</b>	<b>FS TERM 2 Autumn Term 2022/23</b>	<b>FS TERM 3 Spring Term 2022/23</b>
<b>Number of CIW registered places</b>	30 (AM) 30 (PM)	30 (AM) 30 (PM)	30 (AM) 30 (PM)
<b>Number of Flying Start commissioned part time places</b>	48	48	48
<b>Number of part time places filled</b>	36	29	31 (projected)

<b>PENRHYS FS</b>	<b>FS TERM 1 Summer term 2021/22</b>	<b>FS TERM2 Autumn Term 2022/23</b>	<b>FS TERM 3 Spring Term 2022/23</b>
<b>Number of CIW registered places</b>	12 (AM) 12 (PM)	12 (AM) 12 (PM)	12 (AM) 12 (AM)
<b>Number of Flying Start commissioned part time places</b>	12	12	12
<b>Number of part time places filled</b>	9	10	7 (projected)

<b>TYLORSTOWN FS</b>	<b>FS TERM 1 Summer term 2021/22</b>	<b>FS TERM 2 Autumn Term 2022/23</b>	<b>FS TERM 3 Spring Term 2022/23</b>
<b>Number of CIW registered places</b>	26 (AM) 26 (PM)	26 (AM) 26 (PM)	26 (AM) 26 (PM)
<b>Number of Flying Start commissioned part time places</b>	44	44	44
<b>Number of part time places filled</b>	29	31	32 (projected)

<b>PONTYPRIDD FS</b>	<b>FS TERM 1 Summer term 2021/22</b>	<b>FS TERM 2 Autumn Term 2022/23</b>	<b>FS TERM 3 Spring Term 2022/23</b>
<b>Number of CIW registered places</b>	19* (AM) 19* (PM)	19* (AM) 19* (PM)	19* (AM) 19* (PM)
<b>Number of Flying Start commissioned part time places</b>	12	12	12
<b>Number of part time places filled</b>	10	9	6 (projected)

\* Please note - this number includes both Flying Start and Day Nursery children

5.3 As can be seen above, the occupancy rates vary between settings, however common across all settings are much lower occupancy rates than both Flying Start commissioned places and CIW registered places. This is attributable to the service delivery model of Flying Start only provision and the model's limited flexibility to meet the needs of families, especially working parents requiring full-time day care provision.

5.4 The table below provides a summary of the occupancy of the Council's fee paying day nursery at Pontypridd:

<b>PONTYPRIDD DAY NURSERY</b>	<b>TERM 1 Summer term 2021/22</b>	<b>TERM 2 Autumn Term 2022/23</b>	<b>TERM 3 Spring Term 2022/23</b>
<b>Number of CIW registered places</b>	19* (AM) 19* (PM)	19* (AM) 19* (PM)	19* (AM) 19* (PM)
<b>Number of day nursery places available per day</b>	4	4	4
<b>Number of children registered at day nursery</b>	11	11	6 (projected)

\* Please note - this number includes both Flying Start and Day Nursery children

5.5 The current staffing arrangements support up to four day nursery children at any one time and the projected number of registered children falls by almost half next term. This will have an impact on the income generated through fee paying children and, for Member's information, a new private day nursery is due to open early 2023 in Pontypridd, and this could potentially further impact on the number of fee paying children currently attending Pontypridd Day Nursery.

### **TRANSFER OF YNYSCYNON NURSERY PROVISION**

5.6 The Ynyscynon setting is a relatively new purpose built childcare facility within the grounds of Coleg Y Cymoedd in Llwynypia and despite being registered with CIW to operate two sessions per day for up to 26 children per session, the setting had on average only 17 children attending in any one day. As such the setting was operating as a part time provision, open to children in the mornings only.

5.7 The recent Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022 identified the need for wrap around childcare and Childcare Offer places within the geographical area serviced by the nursery; however due to the staffing arrangements it would not have been

sustainable for the Council to expand their own delivery to include these services without incurring additional financial cost.

- 5.8 The Council was approached by an existing commissioned childcare provider who expressed an interest in taking over the existing Flying Start service delivery and the day to day running of the Ynyscynon nursery setting. This also included the TUPE of existing Council staff team to the new provider on their existing terms and conditions, offering protection for staff.
- 5.9 Ynyscynon nursery formally transferred to the new provider on 28<sup>th</sup> October to deliver full time Flying Start provision to maintain continuity of provision for children already registered with the setting. The provider also has plans to further develop the setting and to expand provision to include full day care and wrap around services for the community. This will enable the setting to offer a range of flexible childcare options including Childcare Offer places for 3-4 year olds.

### **COMPARISON OF FEE CHARGES (PONTYPRIDD DAY NURSERY)**

- 5.10 The current fee charges at Pontypridd Day Nursery are set at the following flat rate irrespective of the age of the child. Whilst not the most expensive in Rhondda Cynon Taf, these rates are well above the average rate for Rhondda Cynon Taf with the weekly rate between £25 and £30 more than other day nursery settings in the Pontypridd area:

	<b>Pontypridd</b>	<b>RCT Average (CSA 2022)</b>	<b>Variance</b>
<b>Weekly</b>	£268.15	£221.57	+ £46.58
<b>Full Day</b>	£57.00	£47.85	+ £9.15
<b>Half Day</b>	£32.25	£30.27	+ £1.98

- 5.11 The above charges result in the Council subsidising the cost of running Pontypridd (fee paying) Day Nursery at a rate of **£17,897** per full time child place, per annum. Furthermore, this subsidy is likely to increase based on the projected demand for places (decreasing) from the Spring Term 2023.

## **SERVICE DELIVERY OPTIONS**

- 6.1 The Council run nurseries in their current form provide limited flexibility as part of the Flying Start offer in meeting the range of childcare needs of families within the communities they serve, especially working parents requiring full-time day care provision. The alternative service delivery options set out below will provide opportunities to further improve the childcare offer, for example, through offering out of school provision and wrap-around services.
- 6.2 There is also a need for the Council to ensure there are sufficient childcare places to facilitate the roll out of the Flying Start expansion programme to all 2-3 year olds in Rhondda Cynon Taf in the coming years and to support the sector to prepare for this.

6.3 This presents an opportunity to review the current arrangements for the delivery of Council run nurseries and to consider revised service delivery options that will increase the availability of a range of childcare provision for families in local communities. In line with this, service delivery options for consideration are as follows:

6.3.1 **Option 1** - Retain the status quo

Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The flexibility of provision to meet childcare needs of parents in the locality will remain limited in the four settings i.e. working parents, wrap around care</li> <li>• Reduced opportunity to increase capacity in the sector to facilitate the roll out of the Flying Start Expansion programme</li> <li>• Potential increase in day nursery fees for fee paying children (Pontypridd Day Nursery) in order to maintain the Council's current level of subsidy</li> </ul>
Benefits / Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No impact on staff</li> <li>• No impact on children and families</li> </ul>

6.3.2 **Option 2** – Retain Flying Start provision in all four nurseries and cease the delivery of day nursery provision at Pontypridd

Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The flexibility of provision to meet childcare needs of parents in the locality will remain limited in the four settings</li> <li>• Reduced opportunity to increase capacity in the sector to facilitate the roll out of the Flying Start Expansion programme</li> <li>• Day nursery registered children currently attending Pontypridd will be required to secure alternative provision</li> <li>• Impact on day nursery staff at Pontypridd</li> </ul>
Benefits / Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuity of provision for Flying Start registered children</li> <li>• No impact on Flying Start staff</li> <li>• YMCA developments due to be completed by the end of the year that will see a new day nursery opening in the area, providing an alternative setting for children that currently attend Pontypridd Nursery</li> <li>• Improve / strengthen financial viability of local third sector day nursery providers</li> <li>• Potential reduction of fees (Pontypridd Day Nursery) for parents and families seeking alternative day nursery provision.</li> <li>• Eliminate the Council's subsidy of non-statutory day nursery provision as part of ensuring the continued efficient use of public funds</li> </ul>

6.3.3 **Option 3** - Retain the three Flying Start nurseries in Aman, Tylorstown and Penrhys and transfer the running of the Pontypridd Nursery to an experienced registered childcare provider.

Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Securing an experienced registered childcare provider to transfer the running of the Pontypridd Nursery</li> <li>• The flexibility of Flying Start only provision to meet childcare needs of parents in the locality will remain limited in Aman, Tylorstown and Penrhys</li> <li>• Reduced opportunity to increase capacity in the sector to facilitate the roll out of the Flying Start Expansion programme in Aman Tylorstown and Penrhys</li> </ul>
Benefits / Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimal impact on staff at Pontypridd as they will be TUPE protected and continue to work in the sector, and no impact on Flying Start staff</li> <li>• More opportunity to improve and extend the range of provision available in the Pontypridd area and increase capacity in the sector to facilitate the roll out of the Flying Start Expansion programme</li> <li>• Continuity of provision for children / families</li> <li>• Improve / strengthen financial viability of local third sector day nursery providers</li> <li>• Potential reduction of fees (Pontypridd Day Nursery) for parents and families seeking alternative day nursery provision.</li> <li>• Eliminate the Council's subsidy of non-statutory day nursery provision as part of ensuring the continued efficient use of public funds</li> </ul>

6.3.4 **Option 4** - transfer the running of all four Council run nursery settings to alternative experienced registered childcare providers

Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Securing experienced registered alternative childcare providers to transfer the running of the existing 4 Council run nursery settings</li> </ul>
Benefits / Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimal impact on staff as they will be TUPE protected and continue to work in the sector</li> <li>• More opportunity to improve and extend the range of provision available in all four areas and increase capacity in the sector to facilitate the roll out of the Flying Start Expansion programme</li> <li>• Increased flexibility to meet childcare needs of parents in all four localities</li> <li>• Continuity of provision for children / families</li> <li>• Improve / strengthen financial viability of local third sector day nursery providers</li> <li>• Potential reduction of fees (Pontypridd Day Nursery) for parents and families seeking alternative day nursery provision</li> <li>• Eliminate the Council's subsidy of non-statutory day nursery provision as part of ensuring the continued efficient use of public funds</li> </ul>



- 6.4 Officers consider that doing nothing is not a viable option. Without exploring the potential for re-designing the current childcare service delivery model in Rhondda Cynon Taf, it will not be possible to improve and extend the range of childcare provision for families in local communities in line with the findings of the latest Childcare Sufficiency Assessment to support more efficient service delivery and facilitate the roll out of the Flying Start Expansion programme. Having regard to the outcome of the options analysis above, the proposed preferred option for a revised service delivery model for childcare provision in Rhondda Cynon Taf is **Option 4** – transfer the running of all four Council run nursery settings to alternative experienced registered childcare providers.
- 6.5 To assess the capacity and capability of local providers to deliver the proposed preferred option, a market testing exercise was undertaken with the Council’s nine commissioned Flying Start Childcare providers, with the process informed and supported by the Council’s Procurement Service. For Cabinet’s information, the nine commissioned providers are able to demonstrate a sound track record of delivering the services being considered as part of the exercise and also have experience of the necessary CIW registration arrangements.
- 6.6 The market testing exercise was undertaken between 30<sup>th</sup> November and 20<sup>th</sup> December 2022 where the nine providers were invited to submit an expression of interest for service transfer of one or more of the Council run nursery settings. Due to the small numbers registered in Penrhys and the close proximity of the Penrhys and Tylorstown settings, expressions of interest were sought for three potential lots: a combined Penrhys and Tylorstown; Aman; and Pontypridd. Responses were received from seven of the nine providers approached as set out in the table below (X denotes a response and – denotes no response):

Provider	Penrhys / Tylorstown	Aman	Pontypridd
A	-	X	-
B	-	-	X
C	-	X	-
D	X	X	X
E	X	-	X
F	-	X	X
G	X	X	-
H	-	-	-
I	-	-	-

- 6.7 Following this, providers were invited to meet with Council Officers to discuss their expression of interest further. Discussions were positive, focusing on the opportunities to further develop existing settings to offer a variety of childcare provision to meet local need within the area. Based on the engagement with providers, it is considered that there is sufficient capacity and capability in the local market to deliver the proposed preferred ‘Option 4 – transfer the running of all four Council run nursery settings to alternative experienced registered childcare providers.

- 6.8 Should Cabinet decide to proceed with the preferred option, a formal tender process would be undertaken based on the three lots set out in paragraph 6.6 and would include sharing financial and TUPE related information as part of the process.
- 6.9 For illustrative purposes, the table below provides key milestones and timeframes should Cabinet agree to implement the proposed preferred option (Option 4).

<b>Key Milestones</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
Cabinet decision to implement the proposed preferred option (Option 4)	23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2023
Undertake formal tender process	1 <sup>st</sup> February 2023
Contracts awarded	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023
Transfer arrangements implemented to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TUPE discussions</li> <li>• CIW registration of setting (minimum of 12 weeks)</li> </ul>	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023 – 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023
Service transfer complete	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2023

## **7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY**

- 7.1 An Equality impact Assessment including Socio-Economic Duty screening test has been undertaken (Appendix 1) and identifies positive and neutral implications associated with implementing the proposed preferred option (Option 4).

## **8. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 A Welsh Language Impact Assessment has been prepared (Appendix 2) and confirms there are no negative or adverse Welsh Language implications associated with implementing the proposed preferred option (Option 4).

## **9. CONSULTATION / SERVICE USER/STAFF ENGAGEMENT**

- 9.1 Should Cabinet decide to proceed with the preferred option (Option 4), parents and families would be kept fully informed of the process and timescales for service transfer. Following any procurement process and contract award the service would engage with all affected service users in order to address any concerns or questions they may have. There would also be opportunities for service users to meet with the new provider to discuss any queries they may have in relation to their child or the setting.
- 9.2 Similarly, staff would be kept fully informed of progress at each stage of the tender and transfer process and updated in relation to key milestones and timescales. As TUPE would apply there would be no changes to staff terms and conditions of employment, noting that support, as appropriate, would be available to staff throughout the process.

## 10. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

10.1 The estimated financial implication of each option is as follows:

<b>Options</b>		<b>Estimated Full Year Saving (£k)</b>
1	Retain the Status Quo	0
2	Retain Flying Start provision in all four nurseries and cease the delivery of day nursery provision at Pontypridd	72
3	Retain the three Flying Start nurseries in Aman, Tylorstown and Penrhys and transfer the running of the Pontypridd Nursery to an experienced registered childcare provider	88
4	Transfer the running of all four Council run nursery settings to alternative experienced registered childcare providers	322

10.2 Implementing the proposed preferred option (Option 4) would deliver a saving, in a full year, of £322k, this being a higher level of saving compared to other options on the basis of efficiencies being achievable across all four settings and at the same time supporting further improvement in the local childcare offer available to families.

## 11. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

11.1 Under the Childcare Act 2006, section 22, the Council must, “secure, so far as it reasonably practicable, that the provision of childcare (whether or not by it) is sufficient to meet the requirements of parents in their area who require childcare in order to enable them (a) to take up, or remain in work; or (b) to undertake education or training which would reasonably be expected to assist them to obtain work.”

11.2 The duties under the 2006 Act require the Council to shape and support the development of childcare provision in its area in order to make it flexible, sustainable and responsive to the needs of the community. The intention is to ensure that parents are able to access childcare locally that meets their needs and enables them to make a real choice about work. The effect of the wording “*reasonably practicable*” within the 2006 Act is to allow the Council to take into account its resources and capabilities in making decisions about when to intervene to address gaps in the childcare market.

11.3 The Council is not under a duty to provide the childcare directly (although it has the power to make provision if it so chooses). The Council is expected to support the development of childcare where there is sufficient parental demand in order that a childcare setting or a childminder could operate and be sustainable.

11.4 Regard must be given to Welsh Government Guidance when considering its statutory duty under s.22 of the 2006 Act. The particular relevant points from the Guidance in addition to the matters already set out in the Statute itself, and of relevance for this report, state that:

- i. Local authorities should consider the particular issues around access to childcare for black and other ethnic minority parents, lone parents and those making the transition to work, including those training.
- ii. Local authorities will also need to consider availability of childcare to support parents working atypical hours.
- iii. Local authorities are required to secure childcare of sufficient duration and reliability to enable parents to make a real choice about work. Local authorities are required to act to secure sufficient childcare that is registered by the Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales (CSSIW)

11.5 As part of meeting the Council's statutory duties as regards childcare, the Council has prepared its Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) 2022-2027. Members will be familiar with the contents of this document which was approved by Cabinet on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

## **12. LINKS TO CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT**

12.1 The provision of Flying Start childcare contributes to the Council's corporate priority that People are independent, healthy and successful, by improving services for children and young people and ensuring the needs of children are considered in everything we do by:

- working in partnership with Welsh Government, strive to reduce child poverty, providing services that encourage and build resilience of children and their families.

12.2 This provision also supports the Council to contribute to all of the seven well-being goals:

- **A prosperous Wales:** children who receive support at the earliest opportunity are more prepared for adulthood and achieving prosperous futures.
- **A resilient Wales:** children who are given every opportunity to meet their developmental milestones and overcome barriers to developing skills are prepared with the space to grow and the tools to build resilience throughout life.
- **A healthier Wales:** access to high quality childcare supports children to meet their developmental milestones and develop social skills, enhancing their emotional wellbeing.
- **A more equal Wales:** by delivering a full range of childcare provision in all localities to meet the needs of children and parents, ensures that children and families have access to high quality childcare irrespective of where they live.
- **A Wales of cohesive Communities:** access to services that are not restricted to particular communities promotes equality and harmony across communities

and the means to share community resources in order to be responsive to need and build resilience.

- **A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language:** children who are given the freedom to progress through the early years in the language of their choice learn to be tolerant and accepting, preparing them for a multi-racial, globalised adult world.
- **A globally responsible Wales:** children who have access to high quality childcare opportunities are afforded experiences that prepare them to be globally responsible adults.

**13. STRATEGIC OR RELEVANT TO ELECTORAL WARDS (please specify)**

13.1 The proposed preferred option (Option 4) will increase the availability of a range of childcare provision for families in local communities, with facilities based in the wards of Aberaman, Pontypridd and Tylorstown and Ynyshir.

**14. CONCLUSION**

14.1 The report provides details of the current arrangements for the delivery of childcare provision at the four Council run nurseries alongside proposed revised service delivery options for consideration.

14.2 The report sets out a preferred option for Cabinet's consideration (Option 4 - transfer the running of all four Council run nursery settings to alternative experienced registered childcare providers) informed by a recent market testing exercise.

Other Information:-

*Relevant Scrutiny Committee*  
**Community Services Scrutiny Committee**

*Contact Officer*  
**Zoe Lancelott, Head of Community Wellbeing and Resilience**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**23<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY 2023**

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WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER (CLLR RHYS LEWIS)**

**COUNCIL RUN NURSERY PROVISION – REVISED SERVICE DELIVERY  
ARRANGEMENTS**

**Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

**Community Services Scrutiny Committee**

**Background Papers**

18<sup>th</sup> July 2022 - 2022 CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT -  
<https://rctcbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s36042/Report.pdf?LLL=0>

24<sup>th</sup> November 2022 Key Officer Delegated Decision Council Run Nursery Provision –  
Market Testing to Inform Revised Service Delivery Arrangements

**Officer to contact**

**Zoe Lancelott, Head of Community Wellbeing and Resilience**