



# Neath Port Talbot Council

## DRAFT Play Sufficiency Assessment 2019 - 2022

March 2019





|             |  |           |
|-------------|--|-----------|
| <b>1.0</b>  | <b>Introduction and Background</b>   | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>2.0</b>  | <b>What is a Play Sufficiency Assessment?</b>  | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>3.0</b>  | <b>The Value of Play</b>   | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>4.0</b>  | <b>How we approached the assessment</b>  | <b>5</b>  |
| 4.1         | Methodology  | 5         |
| 4.2         | Challenges   | 9         |
| 4.3         | Delivering Change  | 9         |
| <b>5.0</b>  | <b>Working Together</b>  | <b>10</b> |
| <b>6.0</b>  | <b>Conversations About Play</b>  | <b>11</b> |
| 6.1         | The Play Population  | 11        |
| 6.2         | Engaging Children and Young People   | 13        |
| 6.3         | Engaging Parents and Carers  | 17        |
| 6.4         | Understanding Diverse Needs  | 21        |
| 6.5         | Stakeholder Interviews   | 21        |
| 6.6         | Engaging Play Providers  | 22        |
| 6.7         | Action Plan Workshop   | 22        |
| <b>7.0</b>  | <b>Places to Play</b>  | <b>23</b> |
| 7.1         | Introduction   | 23        |
| 7.2         | Space available for children to play: Open Spaces and Outdoor unstaffed designated play spaces | 23        |
| 7.3         | Supervised Play Provision  | 31        |
| <b>8.0</b>  | <b>Maximising Resources for Play</b>   | <b>34</b> |
| <b>9.0</b>  | <b>Play and The Well-being Agenda</b>  | <b>39</b> |
| <b>10.0</b> | <b>Accountability for Play</b>   | <b>40</b> |
| <b>11.0</b> | <b>What have we learnt?</b>  | <b>41</b> |
| 11.1        | Introduction   | 41        |
| 11.2        | SWOT Analysis  | 41        |
| 11.3        | Gap Analysis   | 47        |
| 11.4        | Recommendations for the Future   | 48        |
|             | <b>Appendices</b>  |           |
| 1.          | Play Sufficiency Assessment  |           |
| 2.          | Play Sufficiency Assessment Action Plan  |           |
| 3.          | Outdoor Designated Equipped Play Spaces  |           |
| 4.          | Supervised Play Provision  |           |
| 5.          | Spaces with Potential for Play   |           |



# 1.0 Introduction and Background

“The Welsh Government places great value on play and its importance in the lives of children in our society. We believe that children have a fundamental right to be able to play, and that play is central to their enjoyment of life and contributes to their well-being. We also believe that play is essential for the growth in children’s cognitive; physical; social and emotional development.<sup>1</sup>” The Neath Port Talbot Play Sufficiency Assessment explores how the Local Authority and it’s partners work together and could work differently in the future to enable all children and young people to be able to access opportunities to play. This is a statutory duty but more importantly a tool for helping maintain and improve play for the benefit of children, young people, families and communities across Neath Port Talbot.

This document forms the Neath Port Talbot Play Sufficiency Assessment alongside the toolkit and action plan. It explains how we’ve carried out the assessment and what we’ve learnt from talking to children, young people, parents, carers and stakeholders. The process has enabled us to understand what the community of Neath Port Talbot thinks and feels about play, as well as how stakeholders can effect access to play and impact on the potential “to maintain provision and services, and to increase and improve play opportunities for all children in our area.<sup>2</sup>”

To be a worthwhile process the Play Sufficiency Assessment has to be honest about the challenges facing play across the County Borough, we have to be realistic about what change is achievable and balance this with the aspirations of our community. Therefore our action plan will deliver positive change, but this is balance against existing capacity and resource.

---

1 <https://gov.wales/docs/dsjlg/publications/cyp/141007-wales-a-play-friendly-country-en.pdf>  
2 <https://gov.wales/docs/dsjlg/publications/cyp/141007-wales-a-play-friendly-country-en.pdf>

## 2.0 What is a Play Sufficiency Assessment?

The Play Sufficiency Assessment looks on the provision of play across the County Borough and is based around an understanding of 9 matters.

Figure 1. Play Sufficiency Matters



This report, including the Play Sufficiency Assessment toolkit (appendix 1), summarises the findings in relation to each matter. The action plan (appendix 2) explores how we are proposing to work to improve play in relation to each matter in the future.

## 3.0 The Value of Play

The Play Sufficiency Assessment guidance asks each Authority to acknowledge the value and importance of play in the lives of children. Neath Port Talbot Council is committed to ensuring that children and young people have the opportunity to play and hang out with their friends. This may be through the direct delivery of play or by working in partnership with the third and private sectors which, enables us to address identified gaps and improve the quality of play provision. Play can change children and young people's lives, helping them learn, make friends and be healthy. The Neath Port Talbot We Want (Well-being Plan 2018-2023) sets out an objective to "support children in their early years, especially children at risk of adverse childhood experiences." As shown in table 1 this objective will support change across all seven of the national well-being goals.

**Table 1: Support children in their early years, especially children at risk of adverse childhood experiences**

| <b>The 7 National Well-Being Goals</b>                 | <b>The contribution this Objective will make to each goal</b>   |
|--|---|
| A prosperous Wales                                     | Ensure that all children and young people are supported to become enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work.                          |
| A resilient Wales                                      | Ensure that all children and young people are supported to become ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives.                                       |
| A healthier Wales                                      | Ensure that all children and young people are supported to become healthy, confident individuals.   |
| A more equal Wales                                     | Ensure that all children and young people learn in safe, nurturing and fulfilling environments, where there is respect and due regard to equality, diversity and inclusion. |
| A Wales of cohesive communities                        | Ensure that all children and young people are supported to understand the value of belonging to a community and how communities can support each other to thrive.           |
| A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language | Ensure that all children and young people are supported to learn, appreciate and understand their lives, their history and heritage through the medium of Welsh.            |
| A globally responsible Wales                           | Ensure that all children and young people are supported to become ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world.  |

Play can and will contribute to the achievement of this key objective. From being a tool to support learning

and understanding, to helping children “become healthy, confident individuals”, play will shape the future and well-being of children and young people across Neath Port Talbot. In the context of the Well-being objectives within the Corporate Plan (2018-2022) play is a valuable key performance indicator “% of schools report that children are better prepared to engage in play and learning.”

The Authority has illustrated its commitment to play by recruiting a Play Development Officer to support the delivery of the Play Sufficiency Action Plan. The plan will form the basis of how positive change is implemented across the County Borough. A wealth of people, teams and departments from across the Local Authority impact on children and young people’s experiences of play, from the teams maintaining our parks and greenspaces, to planning, road safety, youth services and beyond, a wide variety of people can effect how children and young people access and feel about play. We have a Play Strategy Implementation Group which brings together key stakeholders not just from across the Authority but also key partners from across third sector. Only by working together can we find a way to respond to the issues highlighted by this assessment.

The Authority is currently in the process of developing our Children and Young People’s Plan which will embed the role play will have in transforming the lives of our children and young people. The Play Sufficiency Assessment process has highlighted the need to do better in ensuring play and it’s benefits are part of wider Local Authority policies and more people buy into the positive outcomes play can deliver. This issue is considered in more detail throughout this report and the assessment toolkit responses.

We believe that play is key to changing the lives of our children and young people. This report and supporting information sets out how we understand the play needs of our community and plan to work together to maintain and improve play provision across the County Borough.





## 4.0 How we approached the assessment

### 4.1 Methodology

Our approach to the 2019 Play Sufficiency Assessment was based on previous assessments and designed to ensure meaningful community and stakeholder engagement, a robust analysis of current play provision and a deliverable action plan for the future. In summary, we undertook the following stages to deliver the assessment.

#### 4.1.1 Desktop Analysis

The baseline review is the foundation of the Play Sufficiency Assessment and was critical to ensuring the process is based on a comprehensive understanding of existing provision and existing and future need. This process commenced with a review of the previous Neath Port Talbot Council Play Sufficiency Assessments in order to identify gaps in data and develop a plan for obtaining the required data from a range of sources, the implementation of this data collation and review process. The previous assessments were also reviewed against the updated Toolkit and feedback to highlight areas for improvement and development. In addition the baseline review process was used to research and identify all relevant national, regional and local policies and strategies that impact on play in Neath Port Talbot.

#### 4.1.2 Model and Data Update

As part of the previous Play Sufficiency Assessments we created a number of tools to enable us to understand how and where play is delivered. These include tools to analyse demographic data and GIS mapping of existing indoor and outdoor play provision. We have reviewed, tested and updated all these data sets and tools to ensure a robust SWOT analysis and action planning process.

### 4.1.3 Stakeholder Interviews

Understanding the current situation and the potential for change in the future is fundamental to the play sufficiency assessment process, and requires a wider understanding of the work being delivered by direct stakeholders. We met with a range of key stakeholders from across the Local Authority and the third sector to discuss the impact they have on play and what contributions they could realistically make to maintaining and improving play across the county borough.

### 4.1.4 Provision Audit

Included within the tools outlined in 4.1.2 is a GIS system that includes details of all indoor and outdoor play provision, which provides data on each sites:

- Play value.
- Distance to travel from where children live without any significant physical barriers.
- Accessibility.
- Freedom from inappropriate hazards.
- Acceptable levels of opportunities for beneficial risk taking.
- Existing use for play.
- Potential for play use in the future.

Keeping this information up to date is key to having a useful and valuable tool to support decision making around the provision of play. As part of this assessment we have visited outdoor play spaces across the County Borough to review the quality and value of each space and update the strategic tool.

Figure 2. Key Engagement Groups



#### 4.1.5 Community Engagement Plan

Meaningful engagement with children, young people, parents, residents and stakeholders is a fundamental part of the Play Sufficiency Assessment. As part of the Play Sufficiency Assessment we delivered a programme of community engagement that included:

- Focus Groups / Discussion Sessions
  - Children and Young People
  - Parents and Carers
  - Play Workers
- Questionnaires
  - Children and Young People
  - Parents and Carers

The design of the focus groups and questionnaire drew on the Play Wales guidance to ensure that the information both support the Play Sufficiency Assessment and enabled strategic thinking about play. The results of the process are summarised in section 6.0.

#### 4.1.6 Consulting Children and Young People with Disabilities

This phase was concerned with ensuring an understanding of the needs of children with disabilities to ensure that they are met within the play provision of Neath Port Talbot. It included desk top research to identify provision, alongside qualitative and quantitative research to understand the needs and perceptions of children and young people with disabilities and their families.

#### 4.1.7 SWOT and Gap Analysis

Using the information gathered in the previous phases we undertook a preliminary SWOT analysis of all the matters associated with the Play Sufficiency Assessment, this formed the basis of the workshop with stakeholders (4.1.8) and resulting action plan. It will enable us to clearly identify realistic and achievable aspirations for the future that will benefit the children and young people in Neath Port Talbot.

Key to the Play Sufficiency Assessment process is identifying and understanding gaps in provision, so the action plan can explore how these can be realistically addressed. To support and enhance the SWOT analysis process we brought together the qualitative and quantitative data resulting from the implementation of the engagement plan, with key data sets including the provision audit and demographic information and a wealth of secondary research.

**Table 2: Understanding Gaps in Play Provision**

| <b>Type of Gap</b> | <b>Example</b>  |
|--------------------|---|
| Geographical Gaps  | Where a geographical area has a general shortage of supply  |
| Diverse Needs Gaps | Where there is a shortage of suitable places for disabled children, or children with other specific needs or requirements, including those from particular faiths or community groups |
| Access Gaps        | Where there is a shortage of accessible play provision  |
| Age Gaps           | Where there is a shortage of play provision suitable to the needs and requirements of a certain age group (for example, school-aged children up to 18 years, if they are disabled).   |
| Type Gaps          | Where there is a shortage in the type of play for which children, young people and parents may be expressing a preference   |
| Workforce Gaps     | Where there are gaps / shortages in the play workforce  |

#### 4.1.8 Action Plan Workshop

The success of the Play Sufficiency Assessment process and the ultimate implementation and delivery of the Action Plan will be dependent on a number of Council Departments, organisations and stakeholders working together. To support that process we held a stakeholder workshop session. The aim of this session was to share the results of the Play Sufficiency Assessment process and resulting gap analysis and to work in partnership to create a robust and deliverable action plan. Building on the guidance in the Welsh Assembly Government, Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit this session encouraged attendees to discuss:

- Exploring the SWOT analysis of current play provision and how we can realistically build on strengths and address weakness and threats by developing opportunities.
- The contribution of stakeholders to the assessment process
- The challenges facing the provision of play in Neath Port Talbot
- Priority positive change, what will have the biggest impact
- Quick wins and long term change

From previous project experience we have learnt that a session such as this is an invaluable and that bringing together the stakeholders to shape the action plan, encourages meaningful involvement which will support delivery in the future.

## 4.2 Challenges

As we have previously discussed there are numerous people and organisations that shape children and young people's play experiences. Whilst undertaking this assessment we have identified these people and invited them to participate in the assessment. This has included, but is not limited to, Town and Community Councils, Third Sector organisations, Childcare Providers, Schools and Community Groups. We worked hard to ensure a range of different mechanisms of engagement to make it as easy as possible for people to get involved. However participation levels have been low. The discussions and research that we have undertaken as part of the assessment suggest that play is not on the wider agenda in Neath Port Talbot, which may explain low levels of participation and meaningful engagement. Moving forward the Play Strategy Implementation Group and its partners will work hard to build relationships to both promote the benefits of play and enable strategic decision making to protect and improve play for the benefit of the community.

## 4.3 Delivering Change

The Play Strategy Implementation Group is the mechanism for delivering meaningful change and seeks to bring together key partners from across the Local Authority, private and third sectors. The Play Sufficiency Assessment process has highlighted the need to review and consider the membership of this group alongside its terms or reference. Ensuring the Play Strategy Implementation Group is fit for purpose is among the objectives of the first year of the action plan. We have to be open and honest about resource and capacity limitations that effect how we can deliver play. Meaningful partnership working through the Play Strategy Implementation Group is fundamental to achieving and monitoring the action plan.



## 5.0 Working Together

Based on the toolkit guidance we identified just over 100 people who have an effect on play across Neath Port Talbot. This included council officers, councillors, community councils, schools, childcare providers, third sector organisations and community groups. We need to acknowledge the challenges that play in Neath Port Talbot faces, which are summarised in section 11.0. These are barriers to change but can potentially be overcome by partnership working and best use of available resources.

There are people and organisations who are passionate about play, but we need to expand partnership working to beyond “preaching to the converted” to engage key decision makers across the variety of departments and organisations that effect the nine matters which make up the Play Sufficiency Assessment. The process has highlighted a need to work hard to support an increased understanding of the benefits of play and the need for partners to be meaningfully involved. Our assessment and action plan outlines how the Play Strategy Implementation Group will be revitalised and relaunched to support the delivery of change. It also acknowledges the need to engage key decision makers to recognise the importance of play and the benefits it can deliver, to ensure that, as a minimum, existing resources are protected and to explore options for strategically improving play provision for the benefit of the community and to support the aspirations of the The Neath Port Talbot We Want (Well-being Plan 2018-2023).

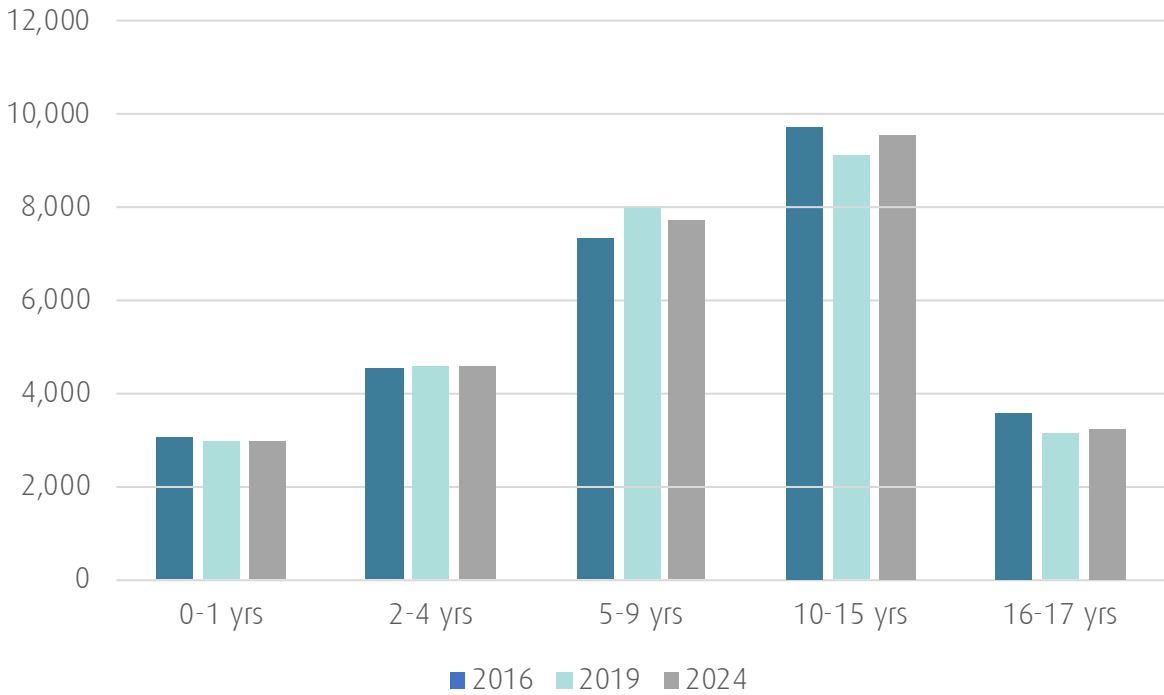


# 6.0 Conversations About Play

## 6.1 The Play Population

The Statutory Guidance that shapes the Play Sufficiency Assessment asks us to understand the population of children living in Neath Port Talbot using specific age ranges. The figure 3 below shows the current population based on mid year populations estimates and the projected population in 2024.

Figure 3. The Play Population



Neath Port Talbot has a population of 27,891 children aged 17 and under, over the next five years this is projected to increase by 0.8%. As part of the Play Sufficiency Assessment process we have mapped the population to understand where children are living on a ward by ward basis and to support strategic decision making about which types of play are needed to support specific communities. We have also explored other key data sets which will help us understand the needs of children, young people, their families and communities, these are summarised on the infographic overleaf.

# What we know about children and young people in Neath Port Talbot

# 27,891

children age 17 and under living in Neath Port Talbot

# 1.1%

of children in Neath Port Talbot are looked after children.

# 22%

of children & young people live in rural areas.

# 67%

Leave school with Skills and Qualifications (level 2)



# 25%

of pupils are receiving support for a special educational need.

# 11%

fluent in Welsh, 17% can speak but are not fluent.



# 11%

of pupils (years 1 to 11) on free school meals.

# 3.7%

have a first language which isn't Welsh or English.

# 79%

KS 2 achieving CSI.

# 4,188

Children aged 17 and under with a visual, hearing or physical disability

# 26%

of children living in poverty

# 591

Children attending counselling.

# 31

young carers known to Social Services



# 12

of Neath Port Talbot's LSOA's rank in the most deprived in Wales.

# 76%

Children age 4-5 of healthy weight or underweight.

# 52%

achieving L2 (5 GCSE's at grade C or above or equivalent including English/Welsh and Maths).





## 6.2 Engaging Children and Young People

Although we play our whole lives, the Play Sufficiency Assessment process specifically focuses on how children and young people access and enjoy play. It was therefore important to talk with and listen to children from across the County Borough. To do this we worked in partnership with schools, youth services and organisations to ask children and young people to complete a short questionnaire. The infographic overleaf summarises the survey responses from 312 children and young people.

We also went out and about and had 284 conversations about play with children and young people between 5 and 17 years of age. This included structured focus groups in partnership with schools and groups as well as informal discussions at events and activities.

These conversations focused on four key themes:

- What do children think are the benefits of play?
- Where and how do they play?
- What can stop them playing?
- How can we improve opportunities for play across Neath Port Talbot.

The post it notes below were written by children when we asked them to choose a word that describes how they feel when they play. Our discussions with children showed that play is valued, they understand they have a right to play and believe it is important to their health and well-being.





## How do children play?




38% of children hang out with their friends a few times a week.

Chatting with friends is the favourite activity (42%), followed by riding bikes (27%) and hanging out (23%).

23% feel happy when they play, 22% are happy to be with their friends.

Half of children think they can do some of their favourite things where they live.

13% of children's favourite place to play is a fixed play area... but the same proportion also like a local grassy area or field.



75% of children are only allowed out to play with their friends.

The biggest barrier to play is the weather 39% don't like to play if it's raining or cold.

27% are too busy with other things and clubs.

ng people think about play?

## Supporting play

**A quarter of children are too busy on their consoles to go out and play.**



**11% don't have someone to play with.**

**27% want us to help parents and adults understand that it is okay to play and hang out.**



**23% want cleaner and tidier parks and for owners to pick up dog mess.**

**21% want safer ways to cross the roads and get to play.**



**16% want help dealing with bullies, 13% of children have been stopped from playing by bullies.**

Alongside the results of the questionnaire, our conversations with children and young people around play highlighted the following key themes. Quotes are taken directly from focus groups, meeting notes and questionnaire responses.



**“Stop my addiction to the indoors and loathing of the outdoors”**

**Survey respondent, aged 7**

Whilst most of the feedback from children and young people has remained relatively consistent across Play Sufficiency Assessments (which are undertaken every 3 years), this time technology has been seen as both an enhancement and barrier to play. While some children don't consider playing on a console to be play “if you're sat down, you're not active, you're not playing” others have embraced it as another form of play. It is consistently seen as barrier to playing outdoors and it is interesting to note that some children would like to see technology based play experiences in the outdoors.



**“Our neighbour is always telling us we can't kick a ball, but there's no sign to say we can't.”**

**Focus group participant, aged 9**

Whilst some children don't think anything stops them from playing, for others there are a number of barriers, but particularly the weather or an adult. This may be a family member “my mum is over protective, she'll always say it's not safe to go out and play” or an adult telling them they can't play there, in that way, or a lunchtime supervisor who “takes the fun out of playtime.” As shown in the questionnaire results children think we need to do a better job of supporting them to play and educating adults, particularly those who make decisions that affect children's lives, to understand the benefits of play.



**“I love the park, but I can't get there without someone to take me... If I had a park on my street I could play whenever I like.”**

**Survey respondent, aged 11**

Parks are a valued provider of outdoor play. Children and young people enjoy them as places to spend time and hang out with friends. However, children's experience of parks is usually determined by the park / play space nearest to them, and the quality of these spaces can vary considerably. It is interesting to note that this is the first assessment in which the beach has been identified as a popular play location, this may be as a result of better weather during summer 2018. There is still a belief that “you can only play in play areas, where there's things to do and you know you can play there” which suggests that children, young people and families aren't getting the maximum benefit from Neath Port Talbot's wide range of green and open spaces. Discussions suggest a preferences for defined outdoor play spaces because they are safe and / or they won't be told of for playing there. In addition teenagers spoke of “being moved on, told we can't hang out in public spaces because people assume we're all the same.”



**“I don’t like it when there’s older children there laughing and making fun of us.”**

**Focus group participant, aged 11**

Primary school age children, saw older children / young people as a barrier to play. This could be because they feel they “take over” play space or session. Some children spoke of feeling “judged by older children who don’t think it’s cool to play.” Children think play should “be about risk and trying new things” but they want to feel safe and welcome in a play space, on occasion older children / young people can be a barrier to accessing play.



**“As you get older it becomes harder to find stuff to do and when you’re not old enough to drive how to get there. “**

**Focus group participant, aged 15**

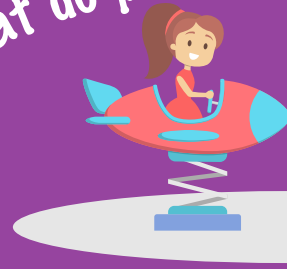
Children and young people spoke of a belief that as you get older there is “less stuff to do”. Most parks provide play for younger children who are also able to play in school and childcare settings. Teenagers believe their options are limited despite hanging out with friends being an example of play. Consistently there is a belief there is not enough to do, specifically for young people.

### **6.3 Engaging Parents and Carers**

As we’ve already discussed, parents, carers and other adults effect how, where and when children and young people play. As with children and young people we asked parents, carers and adults to complete a short questionnaire. We also had conversations about play with 103 parents and carers, these conversations focused on:

- What do adults think are the benefits of play to children and the wider community?
- What effects how they children and young people play?
- What do they think are the barriers to play?
- How can we overcome these barriers?

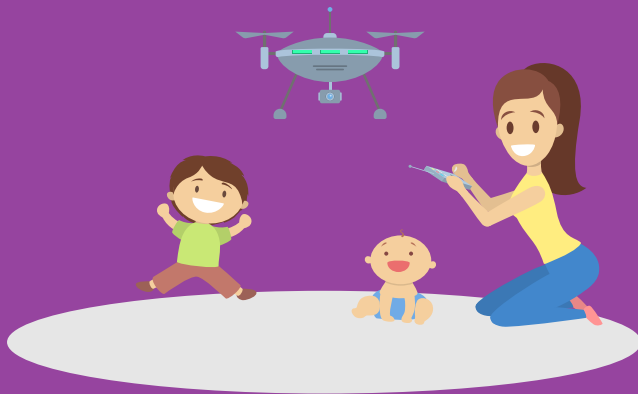
The infographic overleaf summarises the results of the questionnaire completed by 184 adults. They show how parents, carers and other adults perceive and feel about the benefits of play. It also highlights the issues they think need to be addressed.



## Is play important?

**96% strongly agree that play is an important part of every child's life.**

**94% agree every child should have access to play.**



**94% strongly agree that every child should have access to a variety of quality play provision.**

**74% strongly agree schools have an important role to play in the provision of play.**

**69% strongly agree children and young people should be involved in decisions that affect them.**



**Why do you think children and young people should have access to play?**

- **To learn and experience new things (69%)**
- **To keep fit and active (57%)**
- **TO spend time with other children (54%)**
- **To have fun (39%)**



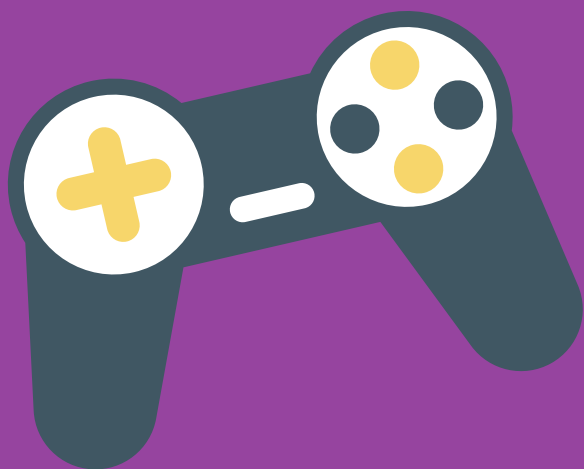
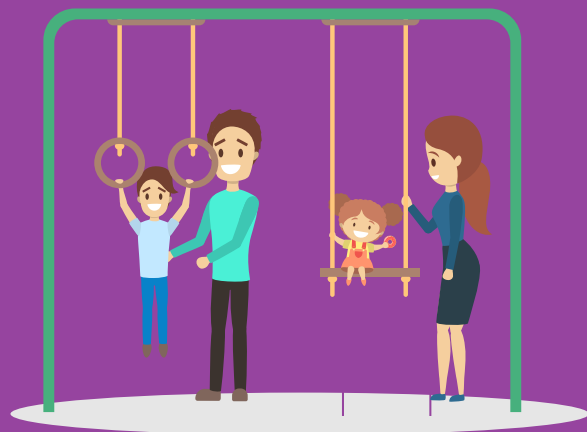
and carers think?



## Playing

They think children and young people like to hang out...

- At play areas (62%)
- In gardens or friends gardens (38%)
- Local grassy areas or fields (35%)



46% think computer consoles are stopping children and young people from playing.

43% think stranger danger is a barrier.

42% think there is nothing for kids to do.

85% think children and young people would play more if they had more interesting places to play.

61% think their family would benefit if it was easier to find out how and where to play.



A programme of focus groups enabled us to build on the findings of the questionnaire, these discussions highlighted the following key themes. Quotes are taken directly from focus groups, meeting notes and questionnaire responses.



**“It soon adds up. It’s not just the activity it’s the snack, the parking... it’s too expensive for my family.”**

**Parents focus group participant**

The definition of play is to “engage in activity for enjoyment and recreation rather than a serious or practical purpose.”<sup>1</sup> Play can be free and there are plenty of free opportunities across the County Borough, but there is a perception that play is expensive. In part because parents and carers include activities such as membership of sports and theatre clubs. But also destination parks such as The Gnoll and Margam are considered to be “an expensive day out, with the parking and the cafe is pretty pricey.”



**“Parents need to understand children should be allowed to play outside not stuck in front of a tablet 24/7”**

**Questionnaire response**

The questionnaire results showed that parents think technology is the number one barrier to play for their children and young people. There is concern that reliance on consoles, phones and other devices are stopping children and young people from experiencing play, specifically outdoors. Additionally, some parents admitted to technology being “the easier option, it does keep them entertained”, others felt that parents and carers needed to do more “prise children off those machines, for their own benefit.”



**“Do your job as a council by providing and maintaining after school recreation provision.”**

**Questionnaire response**

The main source of supervised play provision in Neath Port Talbot is arguably the childcare sector. Aside from Youth Clubs the Council does not directly provide supervised play provision. The parent and carer survey responses suggest they believe the Council is not meeting the need of it’s children and young people. This can in part be attributed to a perception that this provision should be free or very low cost. In addition Council run play schemes have not operated for a considerable period of time in Neath Port Talbot, but there is still a belief that they should be provided as one parent explained “when I was young the summer play scheme meant we were doing something, trying new things. I need help to keep my children occupied all summer for their benefit and mine. I can’t create that level of fun for them everyday.”

1 <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/play>





**“I have a young baby but when he’s older what should I do with him? How should I play with him?”**

**Focus group participant**

61% of parents and carers want to be able to easily find out how and where to play. Some parents and carers also expressed a desire to learn more about how to play with their children, particularly when they are small. Discussions with parents and carers also suggested a need to better connect families and communities with accessible and safe spaces that aren’t defined as being for play but can be used for play. As well as connecting them with these spaces we need to work with them to show them how they can be used.

#### **6.4 Understanding Diverse Needs**

Children, young people and their families may have different needs for a range of reasons including disability, poverty, ethnicity, culture and language. To support the Play Sufficiency Assessment process we have worked hard to ensure these voices are heard from. Alongside the questionnaire we undertook a focus group with 9 children with disabilities aged between 8 and 12 years of age, spoke with young people at the Neath Youth Troop for young people with speech and language needs and meet with parents at the Bryncoch SAN support group.



**“There is very little for abled children but nothing at all for disabled children, disabled children need to experience play as well.”**

**Questionnaire response**

Neath Port Talbot’s approach to play for children with diverse needs has traditionally been to identify and promote inclusive opportunities that enable meaningful engagement with play. Whilst some families and children appreciate and value this approach, “I don’t want to be taken from my friends, I want to hang out with them” others feel their level of need requires a more specialist approach. There was praise for developments including Rhianna’s Swing at the Gnoll and autism friendly sessions at local play centres, but there was feeling that play provision “doesn’t take our kids needs into account.”

The full Play Sufficiency Assessment (appendix 1) explores and highlights the provision available for children with diverse needs in more detail.

#### **6.5 Stakeholder Interviews**

In order to complete the Play Sufficiency Assessment toolkit (please see appendix 1) and develop a realistic and achievable action plan we needed to engage with stakeholders from across the Local Authority, key partners and the third sector. The information obtained enabled a robust completion of the assessment and highlighted strengths, opportunities, weaknesses and threats. The key issue that emerged from the process is that play isn’t ‘on the agenda’ and therefore doesn’t receive the wider support needed to make strategic change.



**“To put it simply play is not on the policy agenda.”**

## 6.6 Engaging Play Providers

Section 7.0 of this report outlines the play provision both supervised and unsupervised available in Neath Port Talbot. Childcare providers and schools are among the key providers of supervised provision across the County Borough. As part of the engagement process we contacted all schools and childcare providers and asked them to complete a short questionnaire, however, the response rate was poor despite working in partnership with LLAN, NASH and other key stakeholders. Moving forward the action plan to support the Play Sufficiency Assessment seeks to outline how we can use the teams across Play, Early Years and Childcare to building relationships with providers and work with them for the benefit of those organisations and to enable strategic planning around play.



### **“Do we have a play workforce?”**

We also carried out a small discussion group with 5 workers who deliver play, three from childcare settings and two from schools. This process highlighted confusion around the Welsh Government’s Childcare, Play and Early Years Workforce Plan specifically in relation to training / qualifications requirements and timescales. There is also a feeling that play is undervalued and under resourced in comparison to the early years and childcare, as one participant explained “play helps learning, play is part of learning but play is forgotten despite it’s benefits.”

## 6.7 Action Plan Workshop

The Action Plan Workshop was attended by 15 people from across the Local Authority, community groups and third sector all of those who attended were passionate about play and working to achieve change that will benefit children, young people, families and communities. The discussions in this workshop provide the basis of the action plan (appendix 2) this group has suggested prioritising:

- Reviewing and refreshing the membership and terms of reference of the Play Strategy Implementation Group.
- Raising awareness of the benefits of play among key stakeholders.
- Creating and supporting wider play networks.
- Encouraging children, young people and families to use the County Borough’s wide network of green and open spaces for play.
- Supporting and developing the play workforce.
- Retaining existing provision.
- Ensuring community engagement supports and shapes decisions around play.

# 7.0 Places to Play

## 7.1 Introduction

You can't play without a place to do it. Children and young people play at home, at schools, in the County Borough Council's parks and open spaces. This section outlines the places where children and young people can enjoy play. To support this assessment the team have visited and assessed 119 designated outdoor play spaces, details of these sites can be found in appendix 3.

## 7.2 Space available for children to play: Open Spaces and Outdoor unstaffed designated play spaces

Children and young people couldn't decide if they prefer playing outdoors or indoors, but open spaces were seen as important to play. With 13% of the votes children's favourite places to play were a "play area with swings, slides and other stuff to play on" and playing in a "local grassy area or field." 62% of parents and carers believed equipped play areas are children's preferred place to play. During focus groups children and young people spoke of playing on streets or hanging out in public places such as High Streets.

GIS mapping to support the Neath Port Talbot Open Space and Greenspace Supplementary Planning Guidance (July 2017) enables us to understand what space is available for play both designated and undesignated. In addition assessment visits of all fixed equipment play spaces has been undertaken. The infographic overleaf provides a summary of available provision.



# Outdoor places to play in Neath Port Talbot

There are 123 play areas across Neath Port Talbot.

80 play areas are LEAP (local areas for play) and must be at least 100msq in area.

12 play areas are LAP's (local areas for play) small play areas. These might not have equipment and have to be at least 100msq in size.

20 play areas are NEAP (neighbourhood equipped areas for play) and must be at least 1,000 msq in area.

There are 15 skate parks in Neath Port Talbot with potential for more.



There is 5296 hectares of green and open space in Neath Port Talbot.

15.76 hectares of land is available for play,

th

s (local equipped  
st be at least 400msq

's (neighbourhood  
) These have an  
nsq.

e 8 other areas including MUGA's,  
ks and sports zones with play

ctares of open space is designated  
0.3% of all open space.

3 sites are destination play spaces, which can attract children and young people from across the County Borough and beyond. Skewen Park, The Gnoll and Margam Park.

Play value is how we assess if a playspace is a rich and engaging space for children and young people. The highest score can achieve is 28.6.

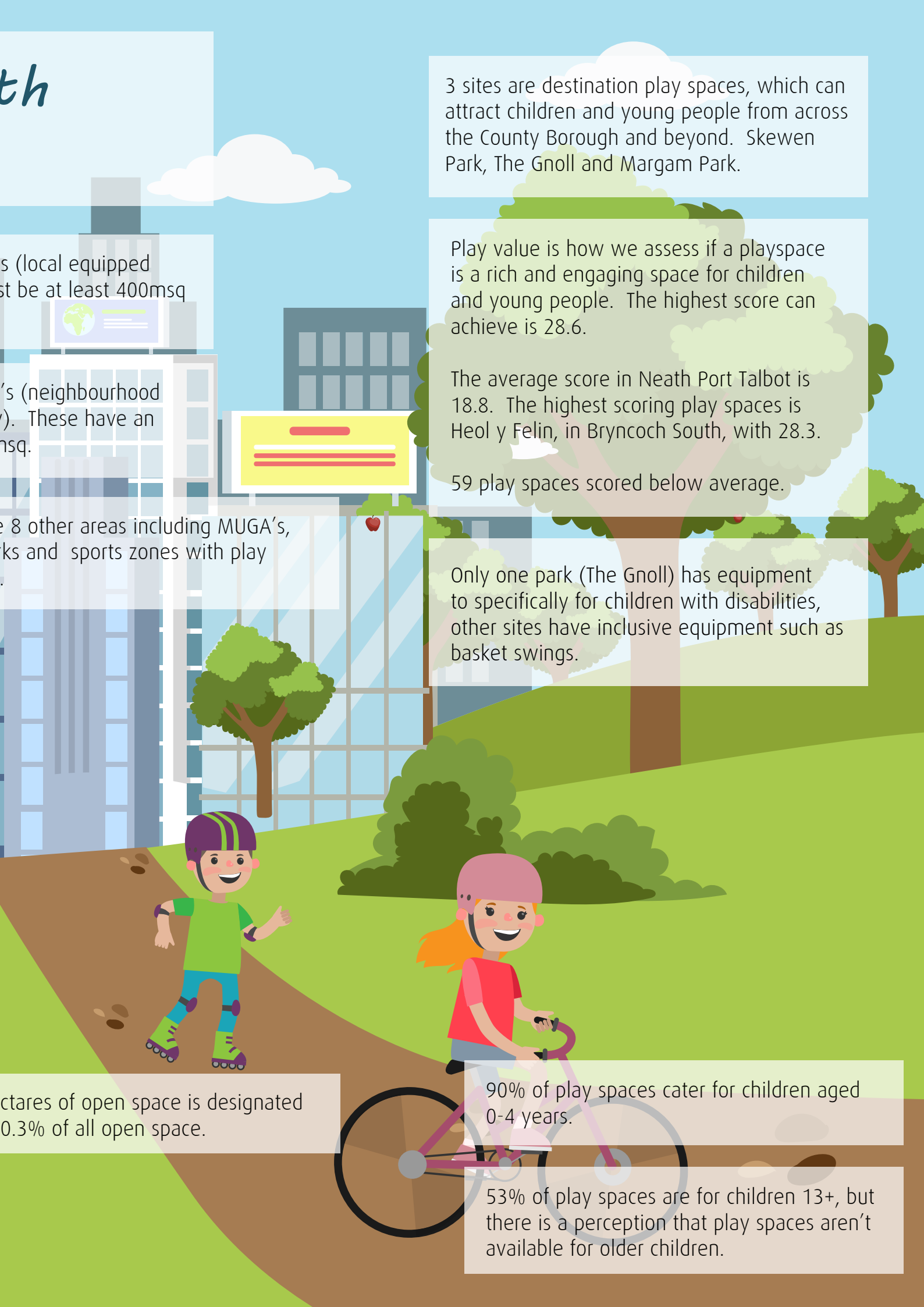
The average score in Neath Port Talbot is 18.8. The highest scoring play spaces is Heol y Felin, in Bryncoch South, with 28.3.

59 play spaces scored below average.

Only one park (The Gnoll) has equipment to specifically for children with disabilities, other sites have inclusive equipment such as basket swings.

90% of play spaces cater for children aged 0-4 years.

53% of play spaces are for children 13+, but there is a perception that play spaces aren't available for older children.



| Type of Play Space                        |                |
|---|----------------|
| <span style="color: red;">■</span>        | LAP            |
| <span style="color: purple;">■</span>     | LEAP           |
| <span style="color: blue;">■</span>       | NEAP           |
| <span style="color: green;">■</span>      | Other          |
| <span style="color: yellow;">■</span>     | Destination    |
|   |                |
| Catchment                                 |                |
| <span style="color: lightpink;">●</span>  | 1 minute walk  |
| <span style="color: purple;">●</span>     | 5 minute walk  |
| <span style="color: blue;">●</span>       | 12 minute walk |
| <span style="color: yellow;">●</span>     | 15 minute walk |
|   |                |
| N° of children per LSOA                   |                |
| <span style="color: lightgrey;">■</span>  | less than 150  |
| <span style="color: lightgreen;">■</span> | 151 - 300      |
| <span style="color: lightblue;">■</span>  | 301 - 450      |
| <span style="color: blue;">■</span>       | 451 - 600      |
| <span style="color: darkblue;">■</span>   | 601 - 753      |

**Figure 4. Distribution of play space and play population**

It is important to acknowledge and be realistic about the challenges facing fixed play provision and parks. Since the last assessment in 2016 we are aware of 3 sites that have been removed (Cae Glas, Tal Y Wern and Wood Street). This is for a variety of reasons, including rationalisation of fixed play equipment sites with a focus on ensuring play value and safety. In the time since the last assessment last assessment the Environment Directorate, who are responsible for the Local Authority's designated play spaces have been subject to budget cuts. However, a number of parks / play spaces have benefited from funding, including the All Wales Play Opportunities Grant, secured by Community Council's and Friends Groups with support from the Council. But this approach is driven by the availability of funds and does not support strategic thinking around parks / play space to respond to wider community need. Section 7 summarises how the All Wales Play Opportunities Grant has supported play projects across Neath Port Talbot. The Funding and Development team have made a significant contribution to play including 17 MUGA's (multi-use games areas) and 5 skate parks some of which are located within parks and play spaces others are stand along provision. .

Figure 4 shows the distribution of designated fixed play spaces and applies the Fields in Trust Guidance for Sport and Play Beyond the Six Acre Standard (Wales)<sup>1</sup> to illustrate a catchment area for each site. It shows the relationship between provision and population and suggests that designated play spaces have been located to respond to community need. Green and open space mapping carried out to support the Local Development Plan shown in table 3 suggests there are 4086.81 hectares open space across the County Borough (please see appendix 5) which may be suitable for play and has the potential to address gaps. To do this work needs to be done to encourage the community to use these places for natural adventurous play.



**Table 3: Spaces Available for Play\***

| <b>Primary Typology</b>                                   | <b>Secondary Typology</b>         | <b>N°</b>   | <b>Hectares</b> | <b>Children &amp; Young People Population</b> | <b>Ha per 1000 head of population</b> |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Allotments / Community Gardens / City Farms               | Allotments                        | 14          | 8.17            | 27,891  | 0.29                                  |
|   | Community Gardens                 | 6           | 1.09            | 27,891  | 0.04                                  |
| Amenity Greenspace  | Informal                          | 504         | 156.82          | 27,891  | 5.62                                  |
|   | Informal Recreation               | 1           | 0.11            | 27,891  | 0.00                                  |
|   | Other Sports                      | 1           | 0.10            | 27,891  | 0.00                                  |
|   | Village Green                     | 3           | 1.14            | 27,891  | 0.04                                  |
| Civic Spaces  | Civic / Market Square             | 2           | 0.06            | 27,891  | 0.00                                  |
| Green Corridors   | Cycleways                         | 2           | 0.57            | 27,891  | 0.02                                  |
|   | PROW                              | 5           | 1.54            | 27,891  | 0.06                                  |
|   | River / Canal Paths               | 10          | 4.63            | 27,891  | 0.17                                  |
|   | Tree Belts                        | 63          | 15.99           | 27,891  | 0.57                                  |
| Natural & Semi Natural Greenspaces                        | Common / Open Access Land         | 47          | 1147.72         | 27,891  | 41.15                                 |
|   | Grassland / Scrub                 | 1310        | 1755.22         | 27,891  | 62.93                                 |
|   | Waste / Derelict Land             | 22          | 59.86           | 27,891  | 2.15                                  |
|   | Woodland                          | 673         | 931.69          | 27,891  | 33.40                                 |
| Unclassified  |                                   | 4           | 2.10            | 27,891  | 0.08                                  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  |                                   | <b>2667</b> | <b>4086.81</b>  |   | <b>146.53</b>                         |
| <b>Designated Provision for Children and Young People</b> |                                   |             |                 |   |                                       |
| Provision for Children & Young People                     | MUGA, Basketball, Skateboards etc | 44          | 4.03            | 27,891  | 0.14                                  |
|   | Play Areas                        | 124         | 11.5            | 27,891  | 0.41                                  |
|   | Paddling Pool                     | 1           | 0.21            | 27,891  | 0.01                                  |
|   | Teen Shelters                     | 11          | 0.03            | 27,891  | 0.00                                  |
| Parks   | Country Parks                     | 2           | 418.43          | 27,891  | 15.00                                 |
|   | Urban / Formal Parks              | 18          | 33.49           | 27,891  | 1.20                                  |
| Outdoor Sports Facilities                                 | School Sports Facilities          | 69          | 109.72          | 27,891  | 3.93                                  |
|   | Playing Fields                    | 1           | 2.62            | 27,891  | 0.09                                  |
| <b>Total</b>  |                                   | <b>270</b>  | <b>580.03</b>   |   | <b>20.80</b>                          |

\*Please note this table is based on the open space assessment, which has not yet been updated to reflect the play space assessment carried out to support this project, hence the variation in data.

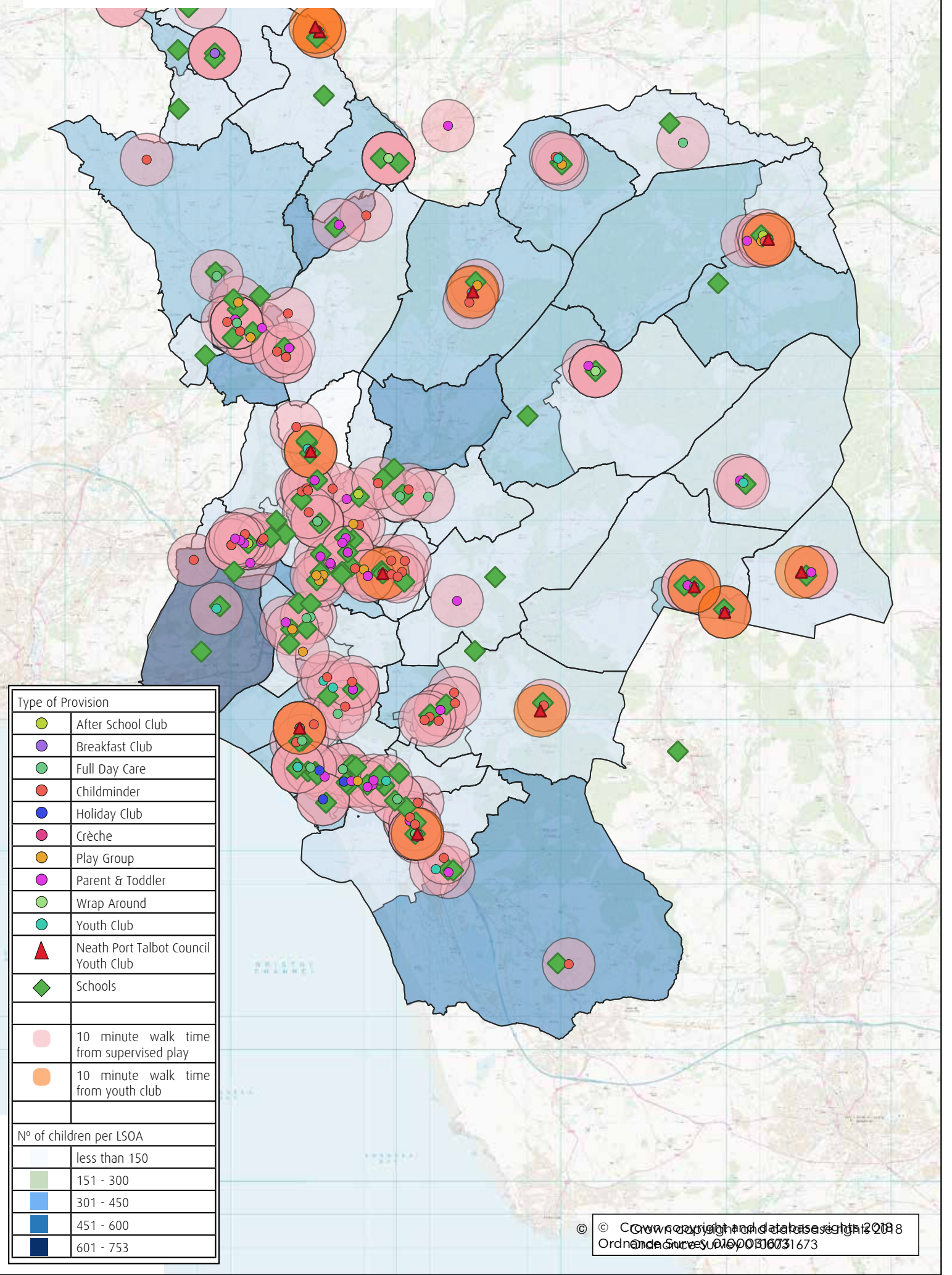


Each designated equipped play space has been visited and assessed as part of the Play Sufficiency Assessment process. This has enabled us to understand the play value of each site taking into account a range of factors including the accessibility, provision of equipment and design. Table 4 summarise the play provision available in each spatial area.

**Table 4: Availability of Equipped Play Provision by Type and Spatial Area**

| <b>Spatial Area</b> | <b>LAP</b> | <b>LEAP</b> | <b>NEAP</b> | <b>DESTINATION</b> | <b>OTHER</b> | <b>AV. VALUE</b> | <b>PLAY</b> |
|---------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------|------------------|-------------|
| Afan Valley         | 1          | 5           | 1           | 0                  | 1            | 16.19            |             |
| Amman Valley        | 0          | 6           | 0           | 0                  | 0            | 17.84            |             |
| Dulais Valley       | 3          | 4           | 5           | 0                  | 2            | 16.26            |             |
| Neath               | 3          | 27          | 4           | 2                  | 3            | 19.68            |             |
| Neath Valley        | 1          | 10          | 0           | 0                  | 0            | 19.32            |             |
| Pontardawe          | 0          | 5           | 3           | 0                  | 0            | 21.05            |             |
| Port Talbot         | 3          | 13          | 7           | 1                  | 0            | 19.99            |             |
| Swansea Valley      | 1          | 10          | 0           | 0                  | 2            | 16.95            |             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>        | <b>12</b>  | <b>80</b>   | <b>20</b>   | <b>3</b>           | <b>8</b>     | <b>18.83</b>     |             |

**Figure 5. Distribution of supervised play provision**



| Type of Provision       |  |
|-------------------------|--|
|                         | After School Club                        |
|                         | Breakfast Club                           |
|                         | Full Day Care                            |
|                         | Childminder                              |
|                         | Holiday Club                             |
|                         | Crèche                                   |
|                         | Play Group                               |
|                         | Parent & Toddler                         |
|                         | Wrap Around                              |
|                         | Youth Club                               |
|                         | Neath Port Talbot Council Youth Club     |
|                         | Schools                                  |
|                         | 10 minute walk time from supervised play |
|                         | 10 minute walk time from youth club      |
| N° of children per LSOA |  |
|                         | less than 150                            |
|                         | 151 - 300                                |
|                         | 301 - 450                                |
|                         | 451 - 600                                |
|                         | 601 - 753                                |

### 7.3 Supervised Play Provision

With the exception of youth clubs, the Local Authority does not directly provide supervised play for the wider community. Teams such as the Families First funded Children and Parenting Team can provide one to one support for families around using play, as part of their parenting interventions. The Local Authority does provide support, training and funding for key supervised play providers in the area specifically childcare and schools. For example the Flying Start & Early Years Team's joint training programme ensures childcare providers met their mandatory training requirements for example first aid and food hygiene. There is also additional training that supports providers to development their deliver of play, previous training has included messy play and loose parts. Funding support is available for resources and creation of play spaces. The Flying Start programme has clear guidance around the delivery of play, including a requirement for outdoor playspace, and as a result support can be provided around training and resources. Appendix 4 provides a list of the 214 supervised play activities we have identified during the course of undertaking this assessment.

Figure 5 shows the distribution of supervised play provision where a child doesn't require a parent / adult to stay and attend with them, therefore it doesn't include play centres and other play facilities. A 10 minute walk buffer zone has been used to understand the geographical distribution of provision across the County Borough.

It should be noted that information on supervised play provision, on the advice of stakeholders and partners, has primarily been taken from the Dewis Cymru community directory. The directory is built on information provided by providers who have opted into sharing their information.

The O Gam I Gam programme supports children with disabilities and additional needs to access childcare provision, which will also ensure access to quality play. Funded by Families First Play2gether is a service which aims to enable children with disabilities and additional needs to have better opportunities, to enhance development milestones and to engage with their peers. The programme includes play group sessions, parent and sibling play sessions and disabled children parenting workshops. In addition 10 other projects provide play provision for disabled children including after school activity clubs, parent and toddler groups and play projects.

# Supervised places to play in New Port Talbot

Childcare settings included:

56 childminders

26 full day care centres

12 holiday clubs

13 after school clubs

5 breakfast clubs

4 wraparounds providers

2 crèches

45 providers / activities promote that they provide support for disabled children to play.

Neath



12 local Authority Youth Clubs and 9 other clubs run by the third sector.



22 of Neath Port Talbot's 42 wards have no youth club provision.

7 projects / providers offer bilingual play provision.

Neath Port Talbot has 27 playgroups..

There are 47 Parent and Toddler Groups

## 8.0 Maximising Resources for Play

Neath Port Talbot Council does not have a specific ring fenced budget that supports the delivery of play. Resources and capacity from a range of budgets are used to deliver and maintain play across the County Borough. For example with regard to designated play spaces the Council pays for inspections and repairs as part of its funding to support Parks & Cemeteries, the focus is on keeping these places safe and usable. Improvements to designated play provision usually requires grant funding from sources such as the All Wales Play Opportunities Grant, Section 106 monies, Wind Farm Funds and the discretionary pots that each Councillor has to distribute. One of the challenges in investing in play is the Council budget does not support the sustainability of new provision, therefore the focus has been on supporting Community Council's and groups such as Friends Groups to secure funding and maintain new play provision. The Council's green and open spaces are maintained by the Countryside Service in partnership with the third sector and key organisations.

In 2018/19 a £79,942.10 All Wales Play Opportunities Grant was used to support 22 play projects across Neath Port Talbot. These projects are summarised in table 5 overleaf.

Table 5: All Wales Play Opportunities Grant 2018/19

| Objective / Target   | Proposed Outcomes  |
|--|--|
| To supplement the existing play provision being developed at Clwb Plant Tiddlywinks by providing a storage container to hold various outdoor play equipment and scrap resources for children and the community to use. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancement of play opportunities in an area where options are limited.</li> <li>• Greater range of play experiences.</li> <li>• Increased community engagement.</li> <li>• Increase child participation.</li> <li>• It is estimated that over 100 children would benefit from this.</li> </ul>   |
| Enhancement of Playground at Cross Street, Velindre to include the purchase of 2 Safety gates and enhancement of existing play provision to include safety flooring.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make play space more visually appealing and increase use</li> <li>• Create a sense of cohesion with old and new equipment within the play space</li> </ul>  |
| Installation of CCTV at Rhianna's Swing Playground at the Gnoll County Park.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make play space more visually appealing and increase use by means of providing security to the users.</li> <li>• Create a sense of cohesion within the play space</li> </ul>  |
| Refurbishment of Play Equipment at Jersey Park, Briton Ferry.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make play space more visually appealing and increase use</li> <li>• Create a sense of cohesion with old and new equipment within the play space</li> <li>• Old equipment that is structurally sound and doesn't need replacing but look tired and worn given a makeover to look more appealing to the community and attempt to change attitudes and perceptions that the park is no good.</li> </ul>  |
| Purchase of additional play equipment to enhance the Play Value within Jersey Park, Briton Ferry   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop an existing playground within a location of limited play opportunity.</li> </ul>   |
| Enhancement of Playground at Vivian Park, Sandfields.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make play space more visually appealing and increase use.</li> <li>• Create a sense of cohesion with old and new equipment within the play space.</li> <li>• Giving the equipment a makeover to make them look more appealing to the community, will help to change attitudes and perceptions that the park is no good.</li> <li>• Additional play equipment will make the park more interesting and children within the ward would benefit.</li> <li>• To create a safe environment for users to enjoy.</li> </ul> |

| Objective / Target   | Proposed Outcomes   |
|--|---|
| Enhancement of Playground at Margaret Terrace, Bleangwynfi   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make play space more visually appealing and increase use</li> <li>• Create a sense of cohesion with old and new equipment within the play space</li> <li>• The enhancement of the playground will allow a sense of provide to those that live in this community.</li> </ul>  |
| To refurbish the picnic area within the children's play park at Jersey Park  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved play area facilities for families to enjoy with a target of 1,000 picnic opportunities between May to October per year.</li> <li>• Increased opportunity for days out to facilitate outdoor activities/play within Jersey Park with a target of 20,000 plus, play opportunities per year.</li> </ul>  |
| To facilitate children's play during community events in the park through purchasing outdoor games equipment.                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frequent play opportunities for a total of approximately 500 children throughout the Spring and Summer months.</li> </ul>  |
| Cyfieilion Parc Coffa Talbot/Friends of Talbot Memorial Park Nature/History  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouraging active lifestyles in the outdoors for the whole family.</li> <li>• Children actively participating in the planning and implementation of the scheme.</li> <li>• Children enjoying and exploring the natural world around them, by playing and learning in an active way in the outdoors.</li> </ul>  |
| Delivery of 8 x 3 hour Play Street or Pirate Ship sessions to be held in different locations throughout Neath Port Talbot.                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver provision within communities providing supervised opportunities to play and engage in leisure activities.</li> <li>• Increased awareness for children, young people, families and communities to understand children can play in places other than defined play areas.</li> <li>• Raised awareness of existing provision among children, young people and families – strategy to promote and raise awareness.</li> </ul> |
| The purchase of play equipment to encourage balance.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The equipment will be used by the service to deliver play/bike sessions during holiday times at different locations in Neath Port Talbot communities. We will engage 200 children and families over the course of 1 year.</li> </ul>   |
| To develop Active family play sessions within deprived areas of the community within Neath Port Talbot                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experienced coaches to provide safe and enjoyable Play sessions</li> </ul>   |
| To set up new inclusive play- for children with disabilities and leisure activities in partnership with Celtic community Leisure Centre's. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New inclusive play club</li> </ul>   |



| Objective / Target   | Proposed Outcomes  |
|--|--|
| To install a partition in the hall half used by Tiddlywinks After School Club and installing a window to overlook the outdoor play area thereby enhancing the fabric of the play area and allowing greater social and play opportunities to children and young people. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 67 children use the out of school service on a regular basis.</li> </ul>  |
| Create a play friendly space for young carers and young people with speech, language and communication needs, to encourage their social opportunities.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a safe space for young people to meet, socialize, gain support from their peers and professionals, take part in a range of social, play and recreational activities that promote positive mental health and prevent isolation.</li> </ul>   |
| To Develop the use of the outdoor space at Croeserw to encourage pupils to play together and develop their gross motor skills throughout the school through the use of traversing walls at heights suitable for FP and KS2   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils spend time with each other in a positive manner and get a different type of exercise, making full use of the space available on the yard.</li> <li>• Many of our children come into school at an extremely low level. By providing a variety of outdoor role play activities for the children to enjoy, there will be opportunities for children to develop their oracy skills and social interaction with their peers. Target Children -Younger F Ph children/ Guided Talk Intervention Groups</li> <li>• To provide opportunities for physical play, balance and socializing. It will also increase the available space for children to play during school hours.</li> </ul> |
| To develop play opportunities at Cymmer Primary School through the purchase  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To relaunch the 'Play heroes' with new equipment.</li> <li>• To encourage team games and team skills.</li> <li>• To encourage social interaction, peer mentoring and friendship</li> <li>• To encourage turn taking, improved social interaction, team skills and patience.</li> <li>• 65 children attend the school and would benefit from the improvements.</li> </ul>  |
| Project to improve understanding of scientific concepts through play.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved opportunities for outdoor activities.</li> <li>• Improved dexterity.</li> <li>• Improved team building and ball skills</li> <li>• Improved team building and ball skills</li> <li>• Improved gross motor skills and social interactive skills</li> <li>• Opportunities for improved gross motor skills</li> <li>• Opportunities to improve fine motor skills through play</li> </ul>   |

| Objective / Target   | Proposed Outcomes   |
|--|---|
| To develop play opportunities at Penafan Primary school:   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many of our children currently have poor gross motor skills due to lack of development in this area. Purchasing balance kits will provide the opportunity to develop in this.</li> </ul>                                     |
| Improved provision and accessibility of outdoor play for 13 disabled children aged 3 – 5 years at Abbey Primary Assessment Centre. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safer play area which meets NPT health and safety regulations.</li> </ul>  |
| Purchase resources to promote inclusion.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New resources to develop gross motor skills and core stability and further engage children with ASD, Multi-sensory, SEBD, Global Delay, Speech and Language, severe medical, hearing and visually impaired needs.</li> </ul> |

The All Wales Play Opportunities Grant is a valuable and valued funding stream that promotes and supports play across wide variety of projects and services. It is used strategically to maximise it's benefit and the Council's funding team has helped add value and outcomes by securing match funding and enhance projects.

The Families First budget is used to support targeted social and recreational activities as part of the youth, domestic abuse and disability streams, as well as holiday activities for parents and children within parenting. In accordance with the Guidance our approach to "Families First is designed to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. It places an emphasis on early intervention, prevention, and providing support for whole families, rather than individuals.<sup>1</sup>" A needs assessment has driven our localised approach to Families First and play is used as a tool and intervention for addressing the ACE's (Adverse Childhood Experiences) agenda with a focus on the role can of play in early intervention and prevention.

The Childcare and Play Grant can be accessed by childcare providers, and the Flying Start & Early Years Team have funding to support and develop this sector including the provision of training and resources. NPT PASS (Physical Activity and Sport Service) enables children, young people and families to benefit from access to sport and recreation, the All Wales Play Opportunities Grant has been used to enhance this service. Other Council programmes and projects such as Road Safety and Planning contribute to people's access to play without making a direct contribution to funding.

The current nature of the funding programmes and streams means that change is reactive rather than strategic, driven by the availability of funding pots and mechanisms as opposed to responding to the findings of the Play Sufficiency Assessment. This is a reality of the current situation and moving forward the Play Sufficiency Implementation Group will explore opportunities for ensure that all resources are used to their maximum potential and targeted to respond to identified need.

# 9.0 Play and The Well-being Agenda

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 seeks to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales with a focus on 7 key outcomes.

On a local level, the Public Services Board is responsible for driving and delivering the aspirations of the Act. In Neath Port Talbot this process is shaped by 'The Neath Port Talbot We Want (Well-being Plan 2018-2023)'. This plan was based on a comprehensive needs assessment, that included a review of the 2016 Play Sufficiency Assessment. This process resulted in a plan based around 6 key objectives:

**Objective 1:**

Support children in their early years, especially children at risk of adverse childhood experiences

**Objective 2:**

Create safe, confident and resilient communities, focusing on vulnerable people

**Objective 3:**

Put more life into our later years - Ageing Well

**Objective 4:**

Promote well-being through work and in the workplace

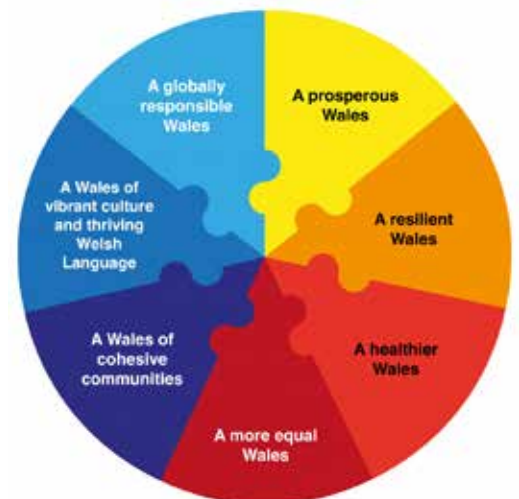
**Objective 5:**

Value our green infrastructure and the contribution it makes to our Well-being

**Objective 6:**

Tackle digital exclusion

**Figure 6. Well-being Outcomes**



It could be argued that play, and supporting access to play can make a meaningful contribution to all these objectives. For example it is already supporting children in early years, but can also play a role in encouraging people to access the County Borough's wealth of Green Infrastructure. Intergenerational play and activity can build links between generations and help people to age well. However, play is not embedded into the Local Well-Being plan and this is a missed opportunity. This puts play at risk and means that the beneficial contribution it can make the well-being agenda is not being acknowledged and supported.

# 10.0 Accountability for Play

The Play Sufficiency Assessment process requires the Council to explain who will be accountable for monitoring the Play Sufficiency Assessment and action plan.

**Table 6: Monitoring Roles**

| Remit                              | Role   |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Lead Director                      | Aled Evans<br>Education, Leisure & Lifelong Learning   |
| Lead Member                        | Peter Rees<br>Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Culture   |
| Play Strategy Implementation Group | Waste & Neighbourhood<br>Community Safety<br>Planning Policy<br>Road Safety<br>Voluntary Sector Representative<br>Environmental Policy<br>Llan (Primary Schools)<br>PASS<br>Think Family<br>Participation Co-Ordinator<br>Participation & Engagement Officer<br>Flying Start & Early Years<br>Employability<br>Youth Service |

The Play Strategy Implementation Group is responsible for delivering and monitoring the action plan resulting from the assessment. The group includes representation from key Local Authority departments and the third sector. The role and remit of this group is currently being reviewed as part of the wider work to support the Well-being agenda through the development of the Children and Young People's plan. It is envisaged that the group will be retained as part of the statutory duties associated with the Play Sufficiency Assessment. However, engagement with stakeholder has shown a need to refresh and reconsider the groups membership and terms of reference. In particular there is a desire to see young people represented directly on the group from the youth council, as well as a need to reinforce and explain the benefits of play to wider decision makers, including Councillors.

# 11.0 What have we learnt?

## 11.1 Introduction

A copy of the assessment can be found in appendix 1 and details the Local Authority's current approach, to the outlined criteria. This process has provided a valuable opportunity to work in partnership with stakeholders, providers and the community to gain a comprehensive overview of existing provision and identification of strengths, weaknesses and threats across the existing provision. This section of the report uses this as a basis of proposals for the future and forms the basis of the action plan (appendix 2). The action plan seeks to be aspirational, but is all balanced by the need to be achievable and realistic.

## 11.2 SWOT Analysis

Table 7: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

| Strengths   | Weaknesses   | Opportunities   | Threats   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <b>Population</b>   |  |   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play provision is based around areas of high population density.</li> <li>• The data science unit will enable better sharing of information about the population.</li> <li>• The population of children and young people has been mapped.</li> <li>• Population data is available to support decision making in relation to play.</li> <li>• Projected population data is also available to support proactive decision making.</li> <li>• PLASC data supports understanding of pupils and their needs.</li> <li>•</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is limited data in relation to children from diverse cultural backgrounds e.g., gypsy traveller children and also refugees and asylum seekers.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To use the demographic data collated within this process to inform decisions in relation to future provision.</li> <li>• To work with the Council's data science unit to ensure information is kept up to date.</li> <li>• Medium to long term planning based around population needs.</li> <li>• Train and support wider Play Strategy Implementation Group (PSIG) to make use of available tools and information.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision fails to respond to changing demographics.</li> <li>• Capacity of data collation and analyst support to maintain data sets.</li> </ul> |

| Strengths   | Weaknesses  | Opportunities   | Threats  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <b>Providing for Diverse Needs</b>  |   |   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects and initiatives encourage integration through both supervised and free play provision. These initiatives are highly valued by children, young people and families.</li> <li>• There are range of third sector organisations working specifically to provide and / or improve play provision for children and young people with diverse needs.</li> <li>• Provision is provided in rural areas.</li> <li>• Rhianna’s Swing at the Gnoll Park.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited bilingual and no supervised play provision in just Welsh.</li> <li>• Play providers who work with children with diverse needs, including SNAC and Interplay are heavily reliant on grant funding. It is important to consider the potential impact should they fail to obtain future funding.</li> <li>• Lack of a co-ordinated approach between organisations that work with similar groups can lead to duplication.</li> <li>• Accessibility is seen as a major barrier among a range of diverse need groups.</li> <li>• Conflict between preferences for inclusive and specialist provision.</li> <li>• No Play Association for Neath Port Talbot.</li> <li>• Public transport is available but doesn’t specifically address connecting children, young people and families without access to a vehicle to play.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage with children and young people with diverse needs and develop play spaces and activities with them.</li> <li>• Build on best practise by seeking, where possible, to expand on projects and initiatives that are making a positive difference.</li> <li>• Incorporate supporting access to play through signposting and engagement into the disability coordinator role.</li> <li>• Themed events / training around play for diverse needs.</li> <li>• Improve information around play opportunities on Dewis and FIS.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased competition for funding.</li> <li>• Duplication of provision rather than a strategic approach.</li> <li>• Families feel “left out” and become disengaged.</li> <li>• Lack of a Play Association to support coordination and partnership working.</li> </ul> |

| Strengths   | Weaknesses  | Opportunities  | Threats   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <b>Space Available for Children to Play</b>   |   |  |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and young people like playing in and value outdoor spaces.</li> <li>• There are a variety of typologies of accessible open space across the Borough.</li> <li>• Green and open spaces are accessible in all communities.</li> <li>• The Well-Being Plan includes targets to encourage people to use Green Infrastructure for activities including creative play.</li> <li>• Planning policy protects playing fields and supports the development and enhancement of play spaces.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and young people focus on designated places for play and need connecting to wider open space.</li> <li>• Children, young people and families judge provision on the fixed play space and parks in their area.</li> <li>• Limited availability of designated provision for over 13's when compared to the population.</li> <li>• Decline in the number of fixed play spaces.</li> <li>• Reduced resources has resulted in a focus on maintenance and safety as opposed to enhancement.</li> <li>• Growing perception that technology is a barrier to children exploring places to play.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work in partnership to deliver the aspirations of the Well-Being plan and connect communities with open spaces to play.</li> <li>• Reconnect communities with parks and green spaces.</li> <li>• Work in partnership with community groups and leaders to deliver opportunities to explore undesignated places for play including green spaces, open spaces and streets.</li> <li>• Work in partnership with the Countryside and Wildlife Team to explore potential for natural play at designated play spaces and in open spaces suitable for play.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and young people fear they will be moved on from un-designated play spaces.</li> <li>• Concerns about risk and health and safety.</li> <li>• Continued budget reductions and the resulting impact.</li> </ul> |



| Strengths  | Weaknesses  | Opportunities   | Threats  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Supervised Provision</b>  |   |   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Service, NPT Pass, Schools and childcare sector provide supervised play opportunities.</li> <li>• Programmes such as Families First provide target support for families.</li> <li>• Local Authority provides grant funding and training to support supervised provision.</li> <li>• Childcare and Play grant scheme.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The community still believes supervised holiday play schemes are a gap.</li> <li>• Supervised provision is less accessible in rural areas.</li> <li>• Considerable variation in approaches depending on school and setting.</li> <li>• Supervised provision is not currently assessed for quality.</li> <li>• Limited engagement with providers beyond training.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve links with providers and schools through outreach network including Flying Start, Childcare and Play.</li> <li>• Liaise with Play Wales regarding proposals for a quality standard.</li> <li>• Explore how support for providers associated with Flying Start and the 30 hours childcare can be used to benefit play.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dependent on participation and engagement with providers.</li> <li>• Market demand drives provision, this may not reflect need.</li> <li>• Reduction in budget / funding for programmes such as Families First and Flying Start.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Charges for Play Provision</b>  |   |   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Range of low and no cost opportunities available to families across Neath Port Talbot.</li> <li>• Data is available to support an understanding of low income and deprived families, to support decision making.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perception that play is expensive particularly supervised provision and private holiday play schemes.</li> <li>• The cost of play can include travel and parking.</li> <li>• Activities such as sport and dance clubs are perceived as play. Parents have expressed concern about the cost of such groups and the challenge of paying in advance / block booking.</li> <li>• The prevalence of technology as a method of play and the associated costs are considered a burden by some families.</li> <li>• Childcare providers are the main source of supervised play and have an associated cost.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signpost families to low cost / no cost play opportunities.</li> <li>• Retain existing low cost provision.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neath Port Talbot has high levels of deprivation and poverty.</li> <li>• Further cuts to play provision / initiatives.</li> <li>• Belief that play is expensive can disengage families.</li> </ul>  |



| Strengths   | Weaknesses   | Opportunities   | Threats   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <b>Access to Play Provision</b>   |  |   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play spaces are located in low speed areas.</li> <li>• Network of pathways and cycle routes connects children and young people to play.</li> <li>• The Children and Families team provided free transport to and from their holiday play sessions when they run them.</li> <li>• Road safety programmes.</li> <li>• Play is located within reasonable walking distances in communities across the County Borough.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perception that play is hard to reach unless it's on the doorstep.</li> <li>• Traffic, road safety and lack of street lighting are seen as barriers to play.</li> <li>• The Council does not have a specific formula for closing roads for play events/ activities</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrated Network Map sets out the Council's aspirations for improving routes around the County Borough.</li> <li>• Continued partnership working with Road Safety and Active Travel as part of PSIG.</li> <li>• Connect families with local play opportunities.</li> <li>• How to get to play map - showing links between cycle route and designated play spaces and suitable green spaces.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In some areas children and young people are actively discouraged from playing on the street.</li> <li>• High levels of on road parking.</li> <li>• Communities a barrier to road closures for play.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Securing and Developing the Play Workforce</b>   |  |   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free training available to parents, volunteers and providers</li> <li>• Flying Start &amp; Early Years Training programme.</li> <li>• Play Development Officer in post.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited understanding of the current play workforce.</li> <li>• Limited take up of training programmes outside of childcare.</li> <li>• Barriers to training and professional development highlighted by workforce and providers.</li> <li>• Sessional, part time and casual work force profile.</li> <li>• All Wales Play Opportunities Grant funding for Playwork is currently only open to people working 16 hours per week in a childcare setting.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a NPT Early Year, Childcare and Play Workforce Development Plan.</li> <li>• Develop and enhance existing training programmes by incorporating play.</li> <li>• Lunchtime supervisors pilot scheme to embed play workers in schools.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confusion around requirements of WG Early Year, Childcare and Play Workforce Development Plan.</li> <li>• Limited opportunities for work experience in play settings.</li> </ul>                               |

| Strengths   | Weaknesses  | Opportunities   | Threats  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <b>Community Engagement and Participation</b>   |   |   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neath Port Talbot Youth Council.</li> <li>• The majority of parents believe children and young people should have a voice in decisions that affect them.</li> <li>• Outreach workers across Early Years, Childcare and Play.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community engagement can sometime be seen as a box ticking exercise.</li> <li>• Children, young people, parents and carers don't know where to find out about play.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve links and partnership working with Council's communications team.</li> <li>• Explore opportunities for engagement through social media.</li> <li>• Create key information sharing networks e.g. Friends of and Community Groups.</li> <li>• Give children and voice on the PSIG.</li> </ul>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low levels of meaningful community engagement.</li> <li>• Engagement perceived to be tokenistic.</li> </ul>                 |
| <b>Play Within All Relevant Policy and Agendas</b>  |   |   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Children and Young People's Plan is currently being updated and will incorporate what would previously would have been covered in a play strategy.</li> <li>• 2016 Play Sufficiency Assessment was used as an evidence base for the Well-Being Plan.</li> <li>• Planning policy supports development and enhancement of play provision.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beyond the proposed Children and Young People's Plan play is not embedded in key policies and agendas.</li> <li>• The lack of inclusion of play in the Well-being Plan.</li> <li>• As a result wider decision makers do not understand and appreciate the impact of play.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Role of play in delivering and supporting the well-being agenda.</li> <li>• Creating new partnerships to address specific issues and opportunities. For example working with Countryside and Biodiversity teams to address the challenge of encouraging people to use green and open spaces for play.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the value of play is not effectively communicated to decision makers then a reduction in services may result.</li> </ul> |

### 11.3 Gap Analysis

Following the assessment process we have identified the following gaps in provision, which can be summarised as follows:

**Table 8: Identified Gaps in Provision**

| Type of Gap        | Identified Gaps in Provision   |
|--------------------|--|
| Geographical Gaps  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perception that rural areas are under served.</li> <li>• 2 wards (Cwmllynfell and Aberdulais) have no registered childcare provision.</li> <li>• 22 wards have no youth service provision.</li> <li>• The average play score in Afan Valley, Amman Valley, Dulais Valley and Swansea Valley is lower than the average across the County Borough. This suggest quality outdoor provision is harder to find in rural areas.</li> </ul>  |
| Diverse Needs Gaps | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only one designated play space has equipment for children with disabilities.</li> <li>• Limited availability of supervised play opportunities for children with diverse needs.</li> </ul>   |
| Access Gaps        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not all children, young people and families are aware of local play opportunities.</li> <li>• Perception that play areas and facilities are hard to access.</li> <li>• The toolkit suggests that public transport doesn't support access to play.</li> <li>• Only a limited number of designated play spaces are lit, which reduces the time they are available to play.</li> </ul>   |
| Age Gaps           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Level of provision for children aged over 13 years of age does not reflect the proportion of the population. Young people of this age "may not want to go the park but we do need things to do."</li> </ul>   |
| Type Gaps          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affordable summer play schemes.</li> <li>• Supervised play provision specifically for children with additional needs and disabilities.</li> <li>• Overall play value and average play value has reduced since the last assessment.</li> <li>• The Council is not achieving it's aspirations to provide 0.25 hectares of children's play per 1,000 population<sup>1</sup>. Current provision is at 0.11 hectares.</li> </ul>   |
| Workforce Gaps     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholders are concerned about lack of clarity around the requirements of the WG Early Years, Childcare and Play Workforce Development Plan including when they will come into affect and which providers will be required to meet them. This issue has been raised with CIW and we are awaiting a response.</li> <li>• Childcare providers, schools and youth services are key to the play workforce but don't think of themselves as such.</li> <li>• Providers focus on mandatory training and development, and take up of wider programmes is limited.</li> </ul> |

#### 11.4 Recommendations for the Future

The Play Sufficiency Assessment process provides a robust overview of play provision across Neath Port Talbot. Based on the findings outlined in this report and the supporting assessment (appendix 1) we are proposing the three year action plan (appendix 2) focuses on the following themes. These themes have been developed in partnership with key stakeholders and seek to focus on what is achievable and realistic within existing budgets and resources.

- Bringing together people who effect children and young people's experiences of play
- Connecting communities with all the places they can play
- Work with communities to support them to respond to their identified play needs
- Retain existing play provision of all types and take a strategic approach to enhancement and where achievable development of new provision.
- Create a play workforce and deliver the aspirations of the WG's Early Years, Childcare and Play Workforce Development Programme
- Get play on the agenda in Neath Port Talbot!

The Play Strategy Action Plan (appendix 2) explains how we are proposing to deliver change against these six key themes.

# Appendix 1.

---

## Play Sufficiency Assessment

## Play Sufficiency Assessment Form



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

**Name of Local Authority: Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council**

**Name of responsible officer: Allison Harris**

**Job title: Think Family Partnership Manager**

**Date of completion: March 2019**

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



## Conducting the Assessment – Play Sufficiency Assessment

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Principle Statement**

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

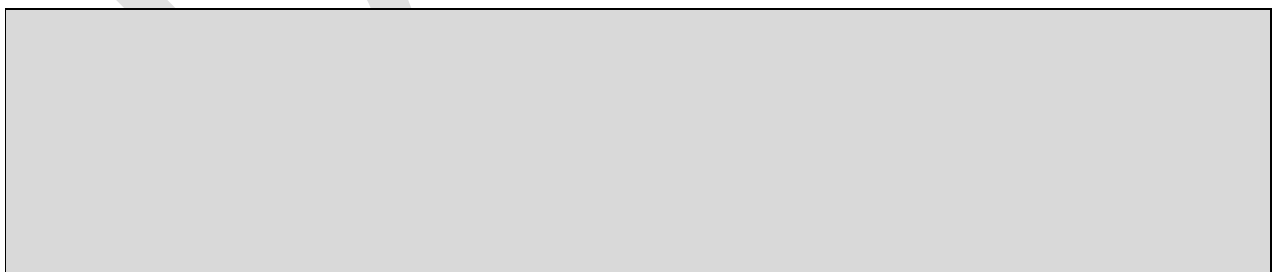
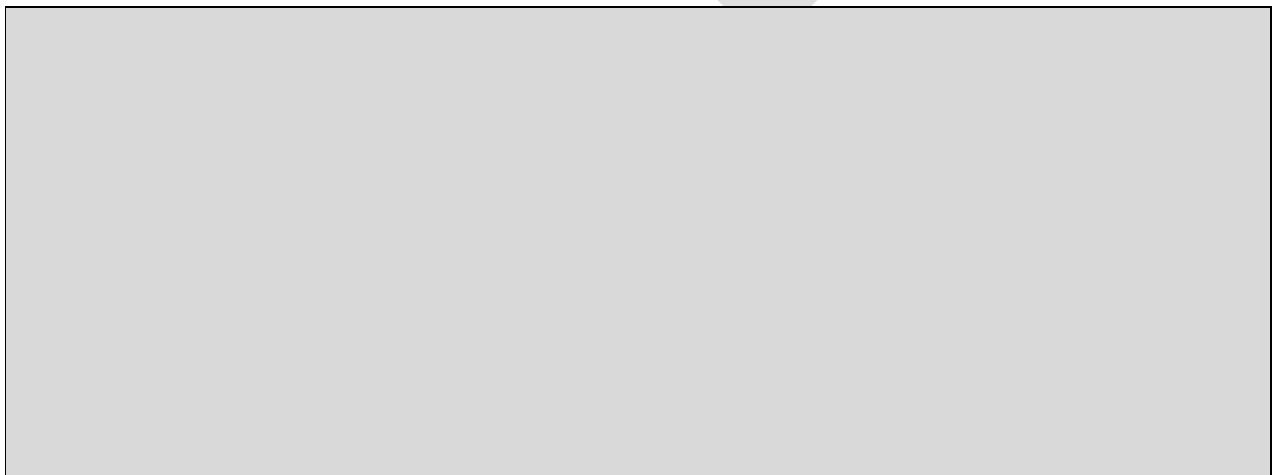
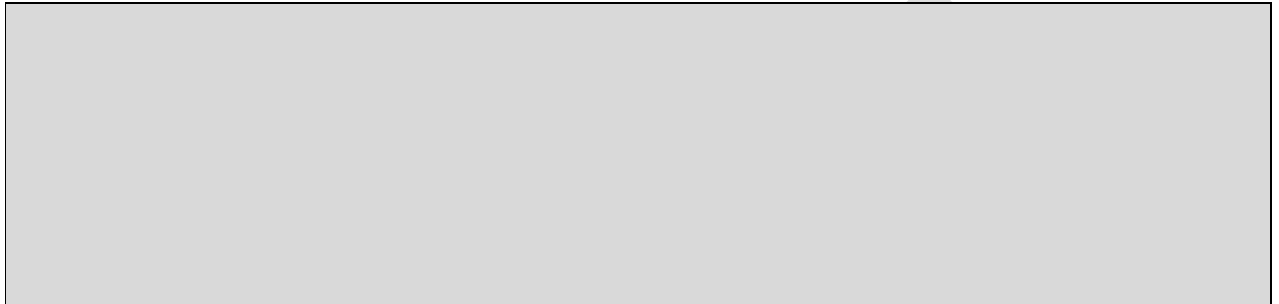
### **Context**

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.

**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



**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.

### Criteria

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

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

**The RAG status column:** provides a drop down box, whereby the Local Authority can show its assessment of whether that criterion is fully met; partially met; or not met. These have been given Red, Amber Green markers, which appear as words in the drop down boxes. *(In the “RAG status column”, Double click on the word STATUS – this will bring up drop-down form fields options, use the arrow down key until the status required RED, AMBER or GREEN- is at the top then press ok)*

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

### RAG status

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

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

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

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

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

**The Comments section:** asks some specific questions for each matter that should enable you to give a clear overview of how the Local Authority complies with the intention and implementation of this matter as set out fully in the Statutory Guidance. It also provides the opportunity to identify challenges and how they might be overcome.

### **Matter A: Population**

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

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

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

The summary report that forms the basis of this assessment provides an overview of the current population. Since the last assessment in 2016 the play population (children 17 years of age and under) has decreased by 1.2% and over the next five years, it is projected to increase 0.8%. In the period since the last assessment:

- The number of children aged 5-9 years of age have increased by 9.6%, where as the number of children over 10 year of age has decreased by 8%.
- The number of pupils taught Welsh as a first language in primary, middle and secondary schools has increased by 4.8%. The draft from the Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) for 2019 reports that 11% of pupils are fluent in Welsh, with a further 17% able to speak Welsh but are not fluent.
- The number of pupils for whom Welsh or English is a second language has increased by 79% to 794 pupils, which equates to 3.7% of pupils across Neath Port Talbot.
- The number of looked after children has decreased by 17%. At the time of this assessment 1% of children in Neath Port Talbot are defined as looked after children.
- The proportion of children receiving free school meals has been reduced from 23% in 2016 to 12% in 2019.

- Daffodil Cymru the Institute of Public Care's web-based system for projecting the need for care services projected that 2,070 children aged 0-17 in Neath Port Talbot had a disability in 2017 and this is predicted to increase to 2,102 by 2020. The number of children and young people with a severe disability is projected to increase from 28 in 2017 to 29 by 2020. The data suggests 1,400 children (0-15) are affected by a limiting long term illness and this will increase to 1,437 by 2020.
- There has been a small increase (0.2%) in children with special educational needs (SEN) since the last assessment.
- The 2018 PLASC data records 46 children from gypsy traveller families are attending school in Neath Port Talbot.
- PLASC data has been more readily available for this assessment and has enabled us to understand the school population, this does leave gaps around home educated children and young people aged under 18 who are not in education or training.

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

Population data has been used to an extent to make decisions in relation to play opportunities. For example the 30 hour childcare offer has the potential to increase access to supervised play provision for children whose families are eligible for the offer. Planning for this offer and the provision was based around demographic data. The data sets have been used to identify gaps in provision and updated when play provision has been enhanced, developed or commenced. The Local Authority Open Space and Greenspace Supplementary Planning Guidance uses hectares of play space per 1,000 population as a measure of delivering sufficient play provision and reflect the needs of communities based on their population. As an Authority we have also sought to use demographic data in combination with community engagement. Data is only the part of the picture since the first Play Sufficiency Assessment we have learnt that perception of the availability of play can have as much of an impact as the reality in terms of access and take up.

However, because funding is the driving factor it can be challenging to use the data to deliver strategic changes in response to demographic information, as responding to funding and its outcomes and aspirations becomes the driver of change as opposed to strategic need.

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

It is important to note that in terms of data around cultural factors and gypsy traveller children, we still only have access to limited information / data. The Local Authority has invested in a data science unit and moving forward this information will be more readily available and accessible for analysis. As previously discussed funding and resources are the key drivers in relation to maintaining and enhancing play. The demographic data collated to support the Play Sufficiency Assessment is a valuable resource to identify need, but its use is minimal outside the play team. We should work with the wider Authority and other key partners, such as the third sector to support informed decision making driven by need.

**How can these be overcome?**

The Play Strategy Implementation Group is the working mechanism for delivering the Play Sufficiency Assessment action plan, which includes objectives around improving partnership working and encouraging all people, teams and organisations who make decisions that impact on play to use the population data as a tool to identify and respond to need. As previously discussed community engagement will continue to be a key factor, for example, there is a clear gap around provision for children aged 13 years and over. However, this is in part because they have different needs and wants around play which cannot be met by traditional approaches such as fixed play areas.

**Comments**

Our SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis of this matter has highlighted the following areas for consideration.

**Strengths**

- Play provision is based around areas of high population density.
- The data science unit will enable better sharing of information about the population.
- The population of children and young people has been mapped.
- Population data is available to support decision making in relation to play.
- Projected population data is also available to support proactive decision making.
- PLASC data supports understanding of pupils and their needs.

**Weaknesses**

- There is limited data in relation to children from diverse cultural backgrounds e.g., gypsy traveller children and also refugees and asylum seekers.

**Opportunities**

- To use the demographic data collated within this process to inform decisions in relation to future provision.
- To work with the Council's data science unit to ensure information is kept up to date.
- Medium to long term planning based around population needs.
- Train and support wider Play Strategy Implementation Group (PSIG) to make use of available tools and information.

**Threats**

- Provision fails to respond to changing demographics.
- Capacity of data collation and analyst support to maintain data sets.

**RAG Status for Matter A: Fully Met**

|                         |        |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Criteria fully met.     | Green  |
| Criteria partially met. | Orange |
| Criteria not met.       | Red    |

**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 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths   | Shortfalls  | Identified actions for Action Plan   |
|-----------|--|-----------------|-----------------|---|---|--|
| B1.       | The play requirements of children living in isolated rural areas are understood and provided for | Partially Met   | Partially Met   | 21% of children living in Neath Port Talbot live in a rural area. GIS mapping of play provision and suitable catchment times has shown that there is a range of outdoor and indoor play opportunities available in these areas. | Quality outdoor play provision is less available in rural areas. This suggests these rural areas would benefit from increased quality of designated play provision. | Explore opportunities for improving play value in key rural areas.<br><br>Representation from Welsh Language community on Play Strategy Implementation Group (PSIG). |
| B2.       | The play requirements of Welsh language speaking children are understood and provided for        | Partially Met   | Partially Met   | There is limited Welsh medium provision. The Dewis Community database suggest there has been a noticeable reduction in provision from Menter Iaith who have been a key provider in this sector.                                 | There is no representation from the Welsh Language community of the Play Strategy implementation group.   | Work with Dewis Community Play Group to make it easier for families to find out about play opportunities to support their diverse needs.                             |

| LA Ref No | Criteria  | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths   | Shortfalls   | Identified actions for Action Plan  |
|-----------|---|-----------------|-----------------|---|--|---|
|           |   |                 |                 |   | <p>There is limited play provision in the Welsh medium but qualitative and quantitative engagement has shown little demand for more.</p>   | <p>Work in partnership with community and special need groups to support them to deliver and develop improved play for their community.</p>   |
| B3.       | <p>The play requirements of children from different cultural background are understood and provided for</p> | Partially Met   | Partially Met   | <p>These communities have been identified and to an extent engaged with. No clear need has been identified as part of this engagement process and building links with and talking to these communities needs to continue between now and the next assessment.</p> | <p>The Gypsies and Travellers Topic Paper (2013) acknowledges play areas should be part of a quality traveller site. However, neither site currently has play provision.</p> <p>Provision is limited, at a time of austerity working in partnership with these communities may be a more achievable and sustainable way to deliver change.</p> | <p>PSIG to review and consider integrated approach to play advocated in previous Play Strategy.</p> <p>Explore the possibility of a supervised provision assessment process undertaken in partnership with the Flying Start &amp; Early Years Team.</p> |

| LA Ref No | Criteria  | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths   | Shortfalls  | Identified actions for Action Plan |
|-----------|---|-----------------|-----------------|---|---|------------------------------------|
| B4.       | The play requirements and support needs of disabled children are understood and provided for. | Partially Met   | Partially Met   | <p>Since the last Play Sufficiency Assessment the Rhianna's Swing charity appeal has resulted in disability play provision being available at the Gnoll Park.</p> <p>A number of projects and programmes support play for children who are disabled including Interplay which provides integrated sport and recreation opportunities for children with special needs.</p> <p>SNAC (special needs activity club) in Taibach provides leisure facilities for children with special needs.</p> <p>Programmes such as the Council's O Gam I Gam provide funding to support children to access childcare and therefore play opportunities.</p> | <p>There is a strong perception that this community is underserved.</p> <p>Engagement with the SAN Parents Group showed a clear need for a simple way to find out what provision is accessible and available.</p> |                                    |



| LA Ref No | Criteria  | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths  | Shortfalls   | Identified actions for Action Plan |
|-----------|---|-----------------|-----------------|--|--|------------------------------------|
|           |   |                 |                 | <p>Commercial play providers / centres are also meeting needs with sessions for example specifically for children with autism.</p> <p>Engagement with children, young people and their parents showed the challenge of meeting and understanding need. Whilst some families prefer an integrated approach, others want specialist provision. In the past the Neath Port Talbot Play Strategy has advocated an integrated approach.</p> |  |                                    |
| B5.       | Play projects and providers have access to a range of resources which support inclusion | Fully Met       | Partially Met   | <p>The Council's Early Years and Childcare Training programme provides training and support around integrated approaches to play.</p> <p>The PSIG includes Interplay which is an organisation that is focused on integrated approaches to play.</p>  | NPT Play Works which had previously provided support and training around this area has come to an end. |                                    |

| LA Ref No | Criteria   | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths   | Shortfalls   | Identified actions for Action Plan |
|-----------|--|-----------------|-----------------|---|--|------------------------------------|
| B6.       | There is a well known and agreed mechanism which is used to identify the need for separate provision for disabled children | Not Met         | Not Met         | There is not currently an agreed mechanism in place.  | Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council has traditionally taken an integrated approach to play. Community engagement and partnership working should be used to identify if an agreed mechanism is a priority and would benefit disabled children. |                                    |
| B7.       | Access audits for all play provision as described in the guidance are undertaken   | Partially Met   | Partially Met   | Designated outdoor play provision has been assessed for a range of factors including access.  | Supervised play provision has not been assessed.   |                                    |
| B8.       | Designated play space is provided and well maintained on gypsy traveller sites   | Not Met         | Not Met         |   | There is currently no designated play space at either of the Council's gypsy traveller sites.  |                                    |
| B9.       | The requirements of young carers are understood and provided for   | Partially Met   | Fully Met       | Neath Port Talbot has a Young Carers Strategy (2016-19). Based on engagement with you carers the strategy outlines the needs of this group. Youth |  |                                    |

| LA Ref No | Criteria  | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths   | Shortfalls   | Identified actions for Action Plan |
|-----------|---|-----------------|-----------------|---|--|------------------------------------|
|           |   |                 |                 | Services work in partnership with young carers to provide them with opportunities for leisure and recreation. There is also a youth club specifically for young carers. |  |                                    |
| B10.      | The requirements of lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) children are understood and provided for | Not Met         | Partially Met   | The Youth Council has advocated for the needs of LGBTQ children and young people. As a result there is now LGBTQ youth club.  | Further engagement is needed with LGBTQ children and young people to continue understanding and responding to their needs. |                                    |

**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?**

Decisions around play are ideally based on need. Engagement and data analysis has been used to develop an understanding of the needs of a diverse range of groups. Where funding and decision making allows strategic decisions are made using this data. From example the Families First funding stream has been used to provide additional support for Young Carers. O Gam I Gam funding enables children with disabilities and additional needs to enable childcare provision, including supervised play.

**Have there been challenges?**

It is important to acknowledge the restrictions of the budget available for play and the capacity of the individuals and teams who impact on the delivery of play provision. The Play Strategy Group and wider partners have sought to maximise available resources for the benefit of children with diverse needs. For example Neath Port Talbot now has a disability play area, thanks to the aspirations of a local charity. The challenge is to prioritise need and best serve these children and young people with the funding available.

**How can these be overcome?**

The Play Strategy Implementation Group and wider networks can make informed decisions based on the findings of this process. The Council may not have the funding to develop and sustain provision to meet need, but we can work better with the third sector and community groups to support and enable them to secure funding to benefit their communities. There is also a need to build better links with partners such as health, education and social services who have links with these families and understand their needs beyond play and the role play can have in providing support.

**Comments:**

Our SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis of this matter has highlighted the following areas for consideration.

**Strengths**

- Projects and initiatives encourage integration through both supervised and free play provision. These initiatives are highly valued by children, young people and families.
- There are range of third sector organisations working specifically to provide and / or improve play provision for children and young people with diverse needs.
- Provision is provided in rural areas.
- Rhianna’s Swing at the Gnoll Park.

**Weaknesses**

- Limited bilingual and no supervised play provision in just Welsh.
- Play providers who work with children with diverse needs, including SNAC and Interplay are heavily reliant on grant funding. It is important to consider the potential impact should they fail to obtain future funding.
- Lack of a co-ordinated approach between organisations that work with similar groups can lead to duplication.

- Accessibility is seen as a major barrier among a range of diverse need groups.
- Conflict between preferences for inclusive and specialist provision.
- No Play Association for Neath Port Talbot.
- Public transport is available but doesn't specifically address connecting children, young people and families without access to a vehicle to play.

### ***Opportunities***

- Engage with children and young people with diverse needs and develop play spaces and activities with them.
- Build on best practise by seeking, where possible, to expand on projects and initiatives that are making a positive difference.
- Incorporate supporting access to play through signposting and engagement into the disability coordinator role.
- Themed events / training around play for diverse needs.
- Improve information around play opportunities on Dewis and FIS.

### ***Threats***

- Increased competition for funding.
- Duplication of provision rather than a strategic approach.
- Families feel "left out" and become disengaged.
- Lack of a Play Association to support coordination and partnership working.

**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 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths  | Shortfalls | Identified actions for Action Plan   |
|-----------|---|-----------------|-----------------|--|------------|--|
| C1.       | 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 | Fully Met       | Fully Met       | An open space assessment has been undertaken and all open spaces have been mapped.                           |            | Work with Countryside & Wildlife Team, Natural Resources Wales and partners delivering the Green Infrastructure objectives of the Well-Being Plan to consider options for access audits. Prioritising open space most likely to be suitable for play.<br><br>Develop a criteria to identify play friendly open spaces. |
| C2.       | The Local Authority has undertaken an Accessible Greenspace Study that maps areas that are used for playing   | Partially Met   | Fully Met       | The open space assessment mapped all designated play spaces and all open spaces that could be used for play. |            |  |

| LA Ref No | Criteria   | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths   | Shortfalls  | Identified actions for Action Plan |
|-----------|--|-----------------|-----------------|---|---|------------------------------------|
| C3.       | The Local Authority undertakes access audits at all open spaces and implements proposals to improve access and safety                  | Partially Met   | Partially Met   | <p>All open space is mapped. Designated play spaces are assessed in relation to access as part of the Play Strategy Assessment process.</p> <p>The Well-Being Plan has a focus on Green Infrastructure and to achieve the aims and objectives of this plan more mapping work and analysis is planned.</p> | Neath Port Talbot has a vast amount of open space. It should be acknowledged that it is a challenge to assess it all. |                                    |
| C4.       | The Local Authority has developed its own Open Space Standards in accordance with the advice and requirements of Planning Policy Wales | Fully Met       | Fully Met       | The Local Development Plan (2011-2016) which includes Open Space and Greenspace Supplementary Planning Guidance to protect and enhance provision for sport, recreation and play to meet the needs of the community.   |   |                                    |
| C5.       | The Local Authority undertakes and actions play value assessments in public open space   | Partially Met   | Partially Met   | The designated play sufficiency assessments consider play value of these sites. In addition the Waste & Neighbourhood Team has  | Wider public spaces are not subject to a regular assessment regime. Hazards are removed if reported.                  |                                    |

| LA Ref No | Criteria   | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths                      | Shortfalls   | Identified actions for Action Plan |
|-----------|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|--|------------------------------------|
|           |  |                 |                 | an inspection regime for all parks and play areas. |  |                                    |
| C6.       | Brownfield sites owned by the Local Authority are assessed for the potential for the site to be reclaimed to provide for children's play | Not Met         | Not Met         |  | There is no specific policy or process that meets this criteria. |                                    |

### Outdoor Unstaffed Designated Play Spaces

| LA Ref No | Criteria  | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths  | Shortfalls   | Identified actions for Action Plan  |
|-----------|---|-----------------|-----------------|--|--|---|
| C7.       | The Local Authority has undertaken an Accessible Greenspace Study that maps areas that are used for playing | Fully Met       | Fully Met       | A regular process of play space assessment was implemented at the first Play Sufficiency Assessment (2013) and have continued since then. Data collated from this process is mapped to understand play provision in the context of the community they serve. | This process only assesses designated play spaces. | Review and update assessment model and approach. Work in partnership with road safety, planning etc to insure the data obtained from the assessment process maximises it's potential. |
| C8.       | The Local Authority keeps an up to date record of all designated play space as                              | Fully Met       | Fully Met       | All designated play spaces are mapped at the time of each Play Sufficiency   | The assessment only includes play areas owned and  | Train play area inspectors to assess designated play areas as part of their regular inspection regime.  |



| LA Ref No | Criteria   | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths  | Shortfalls   | Identified actions for Action Plan  |
|-----------|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|--|---|
|           | described in the Statutory Guidance  |                 |                 | <p>Assessment. A partnership with Waste &amp; Neighbourhoods is being established to increase the regularity of these inspections.</p> <p>The process enables the Local Authority to have a complete picture of current play space in terms of play value and accessibility. This process highlights shortfalls and areas for consideration.</p> | manage by the Local Authority and Community Councils.  | Re-establish and develop links with Housing Associations to explore opportunities for partnership working around play with a focus on designated play space and events. |
| C9.       | The Local Authority assesses play spaces for play value and potential to increase in play use as set out in the Statutory Guidance | Fully Met       | Fully Met       | The Play Sufficiency Assessment play space assessments score the play value for each space and identifies opportunities for improvement.   | Potential enhancements have been identified but implementation will always be dependent on funding.                    |   |
| C10.      | The Local Authority undertakes access audits at all designated play spaces and implements proposals to improve access and safety   | Partially Met   | Partially Met   | Access is consider as part of the play space assessment process.   | The assessment is carried out by a member of the play team. Issues around access and safety are likely to require more |   |

| LA Ref No | Criteria  | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths   | Shortfalls   | Identified actions for Action Plan |
|-----------|---|-----------------|-----------------|---|--|------------------------------------|
|           |   |                 |                 |   | specialist advice and support.   |                                    |
| C11.      | The Local Authority has developed and agreed a new fixed play provision standard            | Fully Met       | Fully Met       | The LDP Policy OS1 – Open Space Provision is the agreed standard.<br>Policy OS 1<br>Open Space Provision<br>Where there is a quantitative deficiency in outdoor sport, children’s play, informal space or allotments, provision will be sought, including the requirement for maintenance in conjunction with all new residential developments of 3 or more dwellings, based on an agreed spatial standard. |  |                                    |
| C12.      | The Local Authority undertakes and actions play space assessments in designated play spaces | Fully Met       | Fully Met       | As previously discussed there is an assessment process in play, which includes all designated play spaces. This process includes identification of actions for positive change.   | Unless actions are health & safety related, delivery will be dependent on funding. |                                    |

| LA Ref No | Criteria   | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths   | Shortfalls  | Identified actions for Action Plan |
|-----------|--|-----------------|-----------------|---|---|------------------------------------|
| C13.      | The Local Authority has introduced smoke-free playgrounds  | Partially Met   | Partially Met   | A partnership with ABMU has resulted in no smoking signs at a number of play areas.   | Not all play spaces have signage and there is not a consistent policy.  |                                    |
| C14.      | The Local Authority has removed 'no ball games' signs to encourage more children playing in the community                              | Fully Met       | Fully Met       | Local Authority designated play spaces do not have no ball games signs.   | There are still signs at locations not controlled by the Local Authority such as Housing Association estates. |                                    |
| C15.      | The Local Authority has erected signs, such as Play Priority Signs to encourage more children playing in the community                 | Not Met         | Not Met         | Engagement with children and young people suggests an anecdotal increase in the number of children playing in the street.   | There is no policy and approach to support Play Priority Signs.   |                                    |
| C16.      | The Local Authority includes a recognition of the importance of playing fields to children's play when any disposal decisions are made | Fully Met       | Fully Met       | LDP OS2 – Protection of existing open space states:<br><i>“Any proposals which would result in the loss of an existing area of open space will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that:</i><br>1. <i>The open space is no longer needed; and</i><br>2. <i>There is no shortfall of provision of that category of open space in the ward, before or as a</i> |   |                                    |

| LA Ref No | Criteria   | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths   | Shortfalls | Identified actions for Action Plan |
|-----------|--|-----------------|-----------------|---|------------|------------------------------------|
|           |  |                 |                 | <p><i>result of the development; and</i></p> <p>3. <i>The site would not be suitable to provide an alternative type of open space for which there is a shortfall.</i></p> <p><i>Or:</i></p> <p><i>It can be demonstrated that equivalent or enhanced facilities can be provided on a suitable and accessible replacement site which would serve the local community equally well."</i></p> <p>In addition Planning Policy Wales (Para 11.1.12) protects all playing fields.</p> |            |                                    |
| C17.      | The Local Authority includes children and their families in any consultations regarding decisions to dispose of playing fields | Fully Met       | Fully Met       | As illustrated above play fields can only be disposed of <i>"it can be demonstrated that they are surplus to long term requirements or satisfactory alternative provision can be made."</i> In order to make that case consultation with children   |            |                                    |

| LA Ref No | Criteria   | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths   | Shortfalls | Identified actions for Action Plan |
|-----------|--|-----------------|-----------------|---|------------|------------------------------------|
|           |  |                 |                 | and families would be required.   |            |                                    |
| C18.      | The Local Authority refers to guidance around creating accessible play space when refurbishing or developing new playgrounds | NEW             | Fully Met       | The Open Space and Greenspace Supplementary Planning Guidance includes guidance on “Creating a Quality Play Environment” which is based on “Wales – A Play Friendly Country.” |            |                                    |

### 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?

This collaboration has not been happening as well as it could have been but the Play Sufficiency Assessment has begun the process of -building links between the teams which undertake these assessment and strategies. Planning Policy which supports the Open Space Assessment is represented on the Play Strategy Implementation Group. The Countryside and Wildlife Team, who are leading the Council’s approach to the Green Infrastructure elements of the Well-Being Plan, have now joined the group. These links will support partnership working around improving designated play spaces and encourage children, young people and families to access a wider variety of open spaces for play.

#### Have there been challenges?

The assessment process are being undertaken and actions identified. However, the implementation of change is reliant on funding / budget and resources which is limited within the Local Authority. It has also been challenging to encourage people and organisations who impact on play, but don’t see it as their day job to engage.

**How can these be overcome?**

Use the Green Infrastructure theme as way to support and evidence the role of play in encouraging and enabling access to open space and delivering the well-being agenda. Diversify the Play Strategy Implementation Group. Work in partnership with community groups to support them to deliver and sustain the strategic change that is needed.

**Outdoor unstaffed designated play spaces**

It must be acknowledge that 3 number designated equipped play spaces have been removed since the 2016 Play Sufficiency Assessment. Budget pressures have resulted in a focus on health & safety and maintenance of play spaces as opposed to strategic development and increasing play value. The Local Authority has supported community groups and community council's to secure funding to enhance existing and create new play spaces. This process is driven by local groups being available to apply for funding and sustain the project into the future, as opposed to identifying and responded to need. This has resulted in a range of great play space include Rhianna's Swing which provides play opportunities for children with disabilities.

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

The Open Space and Greenspace Strategy sets out the requirements of a quality play space, based on the Play Friendly Wales statutory guidance. As a result issues of accessibility in play space development are considered.

**Have there been challenges?**

As previously discussed funding for designated play provision is limited. The Council is no longer able to take on the maintenance of new play spaces, therefore there is a reliance on community groups and community council's to sustain and maintain new provision. Planning policy supports the development of new play spaces in relation to residential developments, but again the Local Authority can not provide maintenance support and so it rests with the developer which can be a barrier.

**How can these be overcome?**

It is challenging to overcome these issues without additional funding. The Play Strategy Implementation Group uses the All Wales Play Opportunities Grant funding and other monies to support change in response to the findings of the assessment process. We can seek to find ways to better maximise available resources, however, further budget cuts may put designated play spaces at risk. This will particularly impact areas of the County Borough where there at not Community Councils and other suitable groups, such as Port Talbot and the Afan Valley.

**Comments:**

Our SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis of this matter has highlighted the following areas for consideration.

**Strengths**

- Children and young people like playing in and value outdoor spaces.
- There are a variety of typologies of accessible open space across the Borough.
- Green and open spaces are accessible in all communities.
- The Well-Being Plan includes targets to encourage people to use Green Infrastructure for activities including creative play.
- Planning policy protects playing fields and supports the development and enhancement of play spaces.

**Weaknesses**

- Children and young people focus on designated places for play and need connecting to wider open space.
- Children, young people and families judge provision on the fixed play space and parks in their area.
- Limited availability of designated provision for over 13's when compared to the population.
- Decline in the number of fixed play spaces.
- Reduced resources has resulted in a focus on maintenance and safety as opposed to enhancement.
- Growing perception that technology is a barrier to children exploring places to play.

**Opportunities**

- Work in partnership to deliver the aspirations of the Well-Being plan and connect communities with open spaces to play.
- Reconnect communities with parks and green spaces.

- Work in partnership with community groups and leaders to deliver opportunities to explore undesignated places for play including green spaces, open spaces and streets.
- Work in partnership with the Countryside and Wildlife Team to explore potential for natural play at designated play spaces and in open spaces suitable for play.

**Threats**

- Children and young people fear they will be moved on from un-designated play spaces.
- Concerns about risk and health and safety.
- Continued budget reductions and the resulting impact.

DRAFT



**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 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths   | Shortfalls  | Identified actions for Action Plan  |
|-----------|--|-----------------|-----------------|---|---|---|
| D1.       | The Local Authority keeps an up to date record of all supervised play provision as described in the Statutory Guidance | Fully Met       | Partially Met   | The Local Authority has an up to date register of all registered childcare provision. | As a result of the switch to Dewis the Community Directory providers now have a choice whether to provide information to the Local Authority. As a result information is limited. | Work with Dewis and the Family Information Service to map supervised play provision within existing team capacity.<br><br>Discuss with Play Wales proposals for a supervised play provision standard. |

| LA Ref No | Criteria   | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths  | Shortfalls  | Identified actions for Action Plan  |
|-----------|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|---|---|
| D2.       | The Local Authority offers play provision which offers a rich play environment as described in the Statutory Guidance          | Partially Met   | Partially Met   | <p>“Play Wales propose that a rich play environment is a varied and interesting physical environment that maximises the potential for socialising, creativity, resourcefulness and challenge. It is a place where children feel free to play in their own way, on their own terms.”</p> <p>The Council’s aims to ensure that all children have access to quality play provision. To achieve this aspirations it provides quality providers with funding, training and wider support.</p> | The Local Authority only directly provides limited play opportunities. The focus is on providing funding, support and training to enable delivery by other providers. | Develop an Early Years, Childcare and Play Workforce Development Plan for Neath Port Talbot based around the WG Guidance. |
| D3.       | The Local Authority ensures that partners are supported to offer rich play environments as described in the Statutory Guidance | Fully Met       | Fully Met       | <p>The Local Authority has recruited a Play Development Officer whose role will encompass this criteria.</p> <p>The Flying Start &amp; Early Years Joint training plan provides support for workers</p>  |   |   |

| LA Ref No | Criteria  | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths   | Shortfalls   | Identified actions for Action Plan |
|-----------|---|-----------------|-----------------|---|--|------------------------------------|
|           |   |                 |                 | and organisations with this sectors.  |  |                                    |
| D4.       | Staffed play provision that the Local Authority provides meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards           | Not Met         | Not Met         |   | The Local Authority does not currently provide staffed supervised play provision.  |                                    |
| D5.       | Staffed play provision that the Local Authority funds meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards              | Partially Met   | Fully Met       | Funding associated specifically with supervised play and childcare requires National Minimum Standards to be met. |  |                                    |
| D6.       | Staffed play provision that the Local Authority's partners provide meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards | Partially Met   | Partially Met   | Projects delivered by partners and funded by the Local Authority must meet the National Minimum standards.        | National Minimum Standards are only required by registered and or funded settings.   |                                    |
| D5.       | Staffed play provision across the Local Authority works to a recognised quality assurance programme                                 | Partially Met   | Not Met         |   | The Local Authority had believed a Play Wales Quality Assurance programme was being developed and was hoping to implement this approach. |                                    |

| LA Ref No | Criteria  | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths  | Shortfalls  | Identified actions for Action Plan |
|-----------|---|-----------------|-----------------|--|---|------------------------------------|
| D6.       | The Local Authority prioritises quality issues when engaging with/ commissioning the private sector to deliver recreational activities for children.            | Partially Met   | Fully Met       | The Local Authority works hard to ensure quality of provision across play and associated activities such as recreation and leisure. Quality is part of the procurement assessment process. | There is limited use of the private sector in relation to the delivery of play.   |                                    |
| D7.       | The Local Authority provides council premises and space free of charge to organisations which provide free (at the point of access) play provision for children | Not Met         | Partially Met   | Currently Local Authority designated open spaces such as parks and play spaces can be freely used by organisations to provide play provision.  | Community Centres and other premises need to charge in order to be sustainable. There is no exception made for play. Third sector organisations may receive a discount. |                                    |

**Structured recreational activities for children**

| LA Ref No | Criteria   | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths   | Shortfalls  | Identified actions for Action Plan |
|-----------|--|-----------------|-----------------|---|---|------------------------------------|
| D10.      | Local authority sport, physical activity, and active recreation plans are contributing to increasing free play and recreational activities | Fully Met       | Fully Met       | NPT PASS (Physical Activity & Sport Service) connects children, young people and families to sport and physical activity. They are also helping to connect families with open spaces and parks.   | Some activities do have a small charge for example £1 for Family Fun.           |                                    |
| D11.      | The sports agenda contributes to the provision of sufficient recreational activities for children  | Fully Met       | Fully Met       | NPT PASS leads the sports agenda in Neath Port Talbot. There is also a wider range of sports clubs across the County Borough. Engagement with children, young people and families has shown that sport is seen as key form of recreation and play.<br><br>NPT PASS is represented in the Play Strategy Implementation Group and has received All Wales Play Funding to support it's approach. |   |                                    |
| D12.      | The cultural and arts agenda, is contributing to the provision of sufficient recreational activities for children                          | Partially Met   | Partially Met   | The Neath Port Talbot We Want (Well-Being) Plan builds on a core objective of the Future Generations and  | There is not a clear strategic approach which connects play and recreation with |                                    |

| LA Ref No | Criteria  | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths  | Shortfalls                    | Identified actions for Action Plan |
|-----------|---|-----------------|-----------------|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|           |   |                 |                 | <p>Well-Being Plan objective of A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.</p> <p>The Well-Being plan puts forward an objective to ensure that all children and young people are supported to learn, appreciate and understand their lives, their history and heritage through the medium of Welsh. Play can contribute to the delivery of this outcome.</p> <p>Arts and culture facilities within Neath Port Talbot support the provision of play providing facilities for play activities. As well as offering activities and events that provide recreational opportunities for children and young people.</p> | the cultural and arts agenda. |                                    |
| D13.      | The Local Authority Youth Service provides for children's opportunities for leisure and association | Fully Met       | Fully Met       | The Council's Youth Service work with children and young people aged 11 to 25. The services provides   |                               |                                    |

| LA Ref No | Criteria | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths  | Shortfalls | Identified actions for Action Plan |
|-----------|----------|-----------------|-----------------|--|------------|------------------------------------|
|           |          |                 |                 | <p>opportunities for leisure and association both on a group and one to one level, depending on the needs and engagement of the young person. For example engagement around leisure is often used to build trust between youth workers and young people, as well as to address issues such as social isolation and anxiety.</p> <p>Youth Services has a bus that provides play opportunities at a range of schools and events.</p> |            |                                    |

**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?**

The previous Childcare Sufficiency Assessment in accordance with guidance from CIW asked Childcare Settings to assess themselves using the SASS questionnaire. This was an unsuccessful process resulting in a incomplete data set. The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment has identified

an aspiration for a quality assessment framework. Flying Start and funded Childcare Settings are assessed / visited on a regular a basis, but there is not a clear quality assessment approach across all childcare settings which would include play.

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

Schools and youth clubs have been visited and engaged, but there is not clear established mechanism for assessing the quality of these play opportunities. There is the need to consider an approach in partnership with Early Years, Childcare, Play, Education and Youth Services which enables sharing of information and workload around the assessments.

**Have there been challenges?**

Providers are reluctant to engage and participate in assessment etc unless they are mandatory. None registered settings don't have the requirement to be assessed and as previously discussed there is no clear mechanism for this process.

**How can these be overcome?**

A shared approach to quality assessments that is undertaken by and benefits Early Years, Childcare, Play, Education and Youth Services and the providers themselves.

**Comments:**

Our SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis of this matter has highlighted the following areas for consideration.

**Strengths**

- Youth Service, NPT Pass, Schools and childcare sector provide supervised play opportunities.
- Programmes such as Families First provide target support for families.
- Local Authority provides grant funding and training to support supervised provision.
- Childcare and Play grant scheme.

**Weaknesses**

- The community still believes supervised holiday play schemes are a gap.



- Supervised provision is less accessible in rural areas.
- Considerable variation in approaches depending on school and setting.
- Supervised provision is not currently assessed for quality.
- Limited engagement with providers beyond training.

**Opportunities**

- Improve links with providers and schools through outreach network including Flying Start, Childcare and Play.
- Liaise with Play Wales regarding proposals for a quality standard.
- Explore how support for providers associated with Flying Start and the 30 hours childcare can be used to benefit play.

**Threats**

- Dependent on participation and engagement with providers.
- Market demand drives provision, this may not reflect need.
- Reduction in budget / funding for programmes such as Families First and Flying Start.

**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 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths   | Shortfalls | Identified actions for Action Plan  |
|-----------|--|-----------------|-----------------|---|------------|---|
| E1.       | The Local Authority keeps records of the number of children living in low income families  | Fully Met       | Fully Met       | Data in relation to low income families, families living in poverty (before and after housing costs) and families claiming benefits has been collated and mapped. |            | Work with the Neath Port Talbot Data Science Unit to ensure data is kept update to date and supports decision making. |
| E2.       | The Local Authority keeps records of the number of children living in areas of deprivation | Fully Met       | Fully Met       | The WIMD 2014 has been mapped on a LSOA basis, alongside the play population (children under 18 years of age) for each LSOA.                                      |            | Outreach with providers to encourage them to sign up to Dewis Community Directory and keep their records up to date.  |
| E3.       | The Local Authority keeps records of the number of children living in rural areas          | Fully Met       | Fully Met       | The Ordnance Survey Rural Urban Classification System has been used to map rural areas and identify the   |            |   |

| LA Ref No | Criteria  | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths   | Shortfalls  | Identified actions for Action Plan |
|-----------|---|-----------------|-----------------|---|---|------------------------------------|
|           |   |                 |                 | number of children living in them.  |   |                                    |
| E4.       | The Local Authority keeps records of the number of disabled children and those with particular needs. | Partially Met   | Partially Met   | As part of the Play Sufficiency Assessment 2013 process we calculated the number of disabled children and those with particular needs living in the County Borough. This information is stored on a database, which has been reviewed and updated during this assessment. | The data has been derived from a number of sources, as outlined in Matter A. However, it can be argued that it is not definitive.                               |                                    |
| E5.       | The Local Authority records the availability of no cost provision                                     | Fully Met       | Partially Met   | The Family Information Service and Community Directory Dewis provide information on play provision including costs.   | Providers have to opt into providing information for the database therefore it is not comprehensive.<br><br>You can not specifically search for free provision. |                                    |
| E6.       | The Local Authority records the provision of no cost / low cost premises used for play provision      | Fully Met       | Partially Met   | Premises owned and managed by the Local Authority including halls, libraries and community buildings are mapped.  | This does not include provision available through the third sector and other organisations.   |                                    |

| LA Ref No | Criteria  | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths  | Shortfalls   | Identified actions for Action Plan |
|-----------|---|-----------------|-----------------|--|--|------------------------------------|
| E7.       | The Local Authority records the provisions where grants or subsidies are available for play providers | Partially Met   | Fully Met       | <p>Information on grants provided by the Local Authority is available.</p> <p>Signposting is also provided to other sources of funding.</p> <p>The Local Authority has a Project Development and Funding Manager who can assist Community Councils and other groups to secure funding and deliver projects to enhance play provision in their community.</p> |  |                                    |
| E8.       | The Local Authority provides subsidised transport for children travelling to play opportunities       | Not Met         | Partially Met   | <p>Teams such as Youth Services and the Children and Families Team will provide transport to help the children, young people and families they are working with to engage.</p>   | <p>Following the 2013 Play Sufficiency Assessment a programme to transport young people to play opportunities was piloted but take up was low.</p> |                                    |

## Charge for play provision

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

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council is working with partners to ensure that no or low-cost provision is available to families. For example grant funding enables providers to keep costs low and provision sustainable. Youth clubs are still low cost and are in easy to reach locations. Parks and plays spaces are still free at the point of access. The play provision that Council provides and funds is no or low cost to ensure all families are able to participate. The third sector and education also provide a variety of low-cost opportunities for play including play groups, parent and toddler groups and youth clubs.

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

Families still perceive some elements of play to be expensive, specifically play centres, attractions and membership of sports and arts clubs which parents and carers consider as part of play. These perceptions can be a barrier to play. There is an aspiration for play provision to be low cost, but to benefit communities it needs to be sustainable. We need to better communicate to families that play provision charges are not about profit, but about sustaining quality provision.

The Dewis Community Directory is a valuable resource that provides information on play provision, however, it is not comprehensive and requires providers to sign up and provide up to date information. It also does not enable families to look specifically for free play opportunities.

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

The Play Strategy Implementation Group needs to work with a wider variety of partners to ensure available resources are maximised. There needs to be clear and simple way to connect parents and carers with free and low-cost play provision.

**Comments:**

Our SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis of this matter has highlighted the following areas for consideration.

**Strengths**

- Range of low and no cost opportunities available to families across Neath Port Talbot.
- Data is available to support an understanding of low income and deprived families, to support decision making.

**Weaknesses**

- Perception that play is expensive particularly supervised provision and private holiday play schemes.
- The cost of play can include travel and parking.
- Activities such as sport and dance clubs are perceived as play. Parents have expressed concern about the cost of such groups and the challenge of paying in advance / block booking.
- The prevalence of technology as a method of play and the associated costs are considered a burden by some families.
- Childcare providers are the main source of supervised play and have an associated cost.

**Opportunities**

- Signpost families to low cost / no cost play opportunities.
- Retain existing low cost provision.

**Threats**

- Neath Port Talbot has high levels of deprivation and poverty.
- Further cuts to play provision / initiatives.
- Belief that play is expensive can disengage families.

**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 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths  | Shortfalls | Identified actions for Action Plan   |
|-----------|---|-----------------|-----------------|--|------------|--|
| F1.       | The Local Authority keeps an up to date record of the number of 20 mph zones/school safety zones in residential areas   | Partially Met   | Fully Met       | An up to date record is kept, which can be mapped against play provision.  |            | Places to play and how to get there map / online tool – linking play spaces to cycle and pathway networks. |
| F2.       | 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 | Not Met         | Fully Met       | The Road Safety Team has an identified mechanisms and is part of the Play Strategy Implementation Group.             |            |  |
| F3.       | The Local Authority has a plan(s) to reduce the negative effect of busy roads and junctions through the introduction of speed reduction measures and provision of                               | Partially Met   | Fully Met       | The Local Authority currently has a big emphasis on zones. Safe crossing points can be drop curb on an open stretch, |            |  |

| LA Ref No | Criteria   | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths  | Shortfalls | Identified actions for Action Plan |
|-----------|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|------------|------------------------------------|
|           | safe crossing points/routes for pedestrians and cyclists   |                 |                 | with good visibility, not just pelican crossings.  |            |                                    |
| F4.       | 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 | Partially Met   | Fully Met       | The Integrated Network Map (INM) has been developed to look at active travel routes in NPT identifying routes that need to be improved to meet the requirements of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013. |            |                                    |
| F5.       | There is potential for the Local Authority to take further action to reduce traffic speed and improve road safety to promote play opportunities          | Partially Met   | Fully Met       | The Road Safety team is represented on the Play Strategy Implementation Group . They work a range of groups on a local level to find opportunities to support access to and promotion of play.         |            |                                    |
| F6.       | The Local Authority uses road safety grants and/or other funding to support delivery of cycling training for children to national standards              | Partially Met   | Fully Met       | The Local Authority Road Safety Team uses both internal and external grants to train both adults and children.   |            |                                    |
| F7.       | The Local Authority uses road safety grants and/or other funding to provide pedestrian safety training for children                                      | Fully Met       | Fully Met       | Curb Craft has been running for well over 18 years. Both external and internal funding is used to support this project.  |            |                                    |



| LA Ref No | Criteria  | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths  | Shortfalls  | Identified actions for Action Plan |
|-----------|---|-----------------|-----------------|--|---|------------------------------------|
| F8.       | The Local Authority has an accessible and well-known way of arranging temporary road closures, to support more children to play outside their homes | Partially Met   | Not Met         |  | <p>The Authority does not have a specific formula for closing roads for play events/ activities.</p> <p>Highways raised concerns of residents being unhappy with not being able to access their homes etc. As well as the impact on flow of traffic. They will take an application for a road closure seriously but not lightly. Highways believe that with all the parks available they do not feel that the LA would look favourably on closing roads for play.</p> |                                    |
| F9.       | The Local Authority refers to <i>Manual for Streets</i> when considering new developments   | Not Met         | Fully Met       | The Manual for Streets is used by the Local Authority as tool for planning |   |                                    |

| LA Ref No | Criteria   | RAG Status 2016     | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths  | Shortfalls  | Identified actions for Action Plan |
|-----------|--|---------------------|-----------------|--|---|------------------------------------|
|           | and changes to the highway network/urban realm   |                     |                 | developments and change to the highways network.   |   |                                    |
| F10.      | The Local Authority works to nationally recognised good practice guidelines when developing walking and cycling facilities   | Partially Met       | Fully Met       | The Highway Design Guidance and Active Travel Act Design Guidance are among the examples of recognised good practice used when developing walking and cycling provision. |   |                                    |
| F11.      | The Local Authority uses child pedestrian road accident casualty data to inform the location and design of interventions which help children get around independently in their communities | Not Met             | Fully Met       | Data is used to inform decision making around the location and design of traffic implementations.  |   |                                    |
| F12.      | The Local Authority considers children's needs to access play opportunities when making decisions about public transport planning and expenditure  | Not Met             | Partially Met   | The needs of children are a consideration when making decisions around public transport planning and expenditure.  | There is not a clear focus on access to play opportunities.     |                                    |
| F13.      | The requirements of disabled children are understood and provided for within traffic and transport initiatives   | Moved from Matter B | Partially Met   | The need of disabled people within the community are considered in traffic and transport planning.   | There is no evidence that children specifically are considered. |                                    |

**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.**

|      |   |           |           |   |  |  |
|------|---|-----------|-----------|---|--|--|
| F14. | The Local Authority has a clearly identified section on its website which gives information about play opportunities as described in the Statutory Guidance (play areas, play provision, clubs and their accessibility) | Fully Met | Fully Met | <p>The Family Information Service Website is currently under development, but it will provide information / signposting to enable families to find out about play areas, play provision, clubs and their accessibility.</p> <p>The Community Directory (Dewis) also enables families to search for the information / facilities / programmes.</p> |  | <p>Work with Dewis to improve search functionality.</p> <p>Invite NPTCBC Communications team to join the Play Strategy Implementation Group.</p> <p>Deliver National Play Day in partnership with community councils and groups.</p> <p>Shared outreach strategy across Flying Start &amp; Early Years and Play.</p> |
| F15. | The Local Authority provides information on access to play opportunities and contact for support if required  | Fully Met | Fully Met | The Family Information Service is the point of contact for families. They can provide information on access to play opportunities and signpost to additional support.   |  | Engage with parent / community run social media, that has a wider outreach. Develop play influencers to share and promote key messages.  |
| F16. | The Local Authority supports and publicises events which encourage play opportunities and events for children and families  | Fully Met | Fully Met | The Family Information Service website and Social Media supports and promotes play events and activities. Where possible  | Limited capacity to participate in events. |  |

|      |  |               |               |   |  |  |
|------|--|---------------|---------------|---|--|--|
|      |  |               |               | team members will participate in an events as a mechanism for engagement and outreach.  |  |  |
| F17. | The Local Authority publicises information which contributes to positive community attitudes to play             | Fully Met     | Partially Met | The Family Information Service website and social media provide and signpost information to promote positive community attitudes to play.   | Need a strategy to reach beyond people in communities that have children / are interested in play to reach those who are most likely to have negative attitudes. |  |
| F18. | The Local Authority publicises information and support for parents to help them encourage their children to play | Fully Met     | Partially Met | The Play Development Officer Role alongside key partners such as the Family Information Service, Flying Start and Children & Families Team can connect families with information and support.   | The closure of the Play Works Team has reduced the capacity for this role.   |  |
| F19. | The Local Authority widely uses on-site signposting to safeguard and promote play                                | Partially Met | Partially Met | Our audit of space provision has shown that at some locations there is information on the safe guarding and promotion of play. For example a selection of outdoor unsupervised sites have noticeboards which provides information, promoting play services. | There is no evidence of strategic approach to on-site signposting to safeguard and promote play.   |  |

|      |  |               |               |   |   |  |
|------|--|---------------|---------------|---|---|--|
| F20. | The Local Authority engages with the media to encourage the positive portrayal of children playing in the local area | Partially Met | Partially Met | The Local Authority, where appropriate and possible, makes use of both local and social media to promote a positive portrayal of children playing in the local area. This is usually project driven, for example to promote a new / enhanced play area. | There is scope for doing better in this area, for example working with media that is for children and young people.<br><br>Families tend to prefer social media that isn't "from the Council" there is scope for building links with suitable popular platforms to increase engagement. |  |
|------|--|---------------|---------------|---|---|--|

**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?**

Road Safety, Active Travel and Highways have been engaged in the Play Sufficiency Assessment process and have representation on the Play Strategy Implementation Group. GIS mapping enables us to understand the relationship between road safety and transport initiatives and the majority of the criteria within this matter have been met. But there is still work to be done 21% of children and young people who took part in our survey want safer ways to get to cross roads and get to play.

**Have there been challenges?**

Highways have expressed concern about closing streets / roads for play citing community frustrations and traffic flow as barriers to this approach. Also it should be noted that the community is not explicitly asking for closed streets. The Play Strategy Implementation Group needs to consider if this is a priority and if so work with Highways in the future to consider opportunities to address it.

**How can these be overcome?**

Currently outside of the Play Strategy Implementation Group there is limited perception of how access routes etc impact on how children and young people engage with play. This is in an area in which the Play Strategy Implementation Group should explore opportunities for wider partnership for working.

**Information, publicity, events**

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

The Family Information Service, Dewis Community Directory, Children & Parenting Teams as well as other key partners such as Waste & Neighbourhoods (Parks) provide accessible information to promote opportunities to play. There are outreach workers across Flying Start & Early Years, the Childcare Offer and Play Development who will be working together to raise awareness of play across all the communities of Neath Port Talbot.

**Have there been challenges?**

Levels of engagement vary considerably. For example some childcare providers and schools will play an active role in promoting play, others don't want to participate. The Local Authority is working hard to promote play but 61% of parents and carers think they would benefit it was easier to find out how and where to play. During focus groups families of children with diverse needs highlighted that this was particularly challenging. Parents and carers also have a preference for information provided by other sources for example parent run Facebook Groups and social media networks.

**How can these be overcome?**

There are communication experts within the Local Authority who can provide advice and support to improve the impact of the messages we are putting out around play, we are therefore proposing to invite communications to add a representative to the Play Strategy Implementation Group. In addition we need to explore options to use the community leaders and voice the community trust – to essentially create play influencers.

**Comments:**

Our SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis of this matter has highlighted the following areas for consideration.

**Strengths**

- Play spaces are located in low speed areas.
- Network of pathways and cycle routes connects children and young people to play.
- The Children and Families team provided free transport to and from their holiday play sessions when they run them.
- Road safety programmes.
- Play is located within reasonable walking distances in communities across the County Borough.

**Weaknesses**

- Perception that play is hard to reach unless it's on the doorstep.
- Traffic, road safety and lack of street lighting are seen as barriers to play.
- The Council does not have a specific formula for closing roads for play events/ activities

**Opportunities**

- Integrated Network Map sets out the Council's aspirations for improving routes around the County Borough.
- Continued partnership working with Road Safety and Active Travel as part of PSIG.
- Connect families with local play opportunities.
- How to get to play map - showing links between cycle route and designated play spaces and suitable green spaces.

**Threats**

- In some areas children and young people are actively discouraged from playing on the street.
- High levels of on road parking.
- Communities a barrier to road closures for play.

**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.       |  |

| LA Ref No   | Criteria   | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths                                | Shortfalls  | Identified actions for Action Plan   |
|---|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|---|--|
| <b>Note – These criteria are specifically about Playwork: Playwork is a highly skilled profession that enriches and enhances play. It takes place where adults support children’s play but it is not driven by prescribed education or care outcomes. This includes both open access and out of school childcare settings</b> |  |                 |                 |  |   |  |
| G1.   | 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) | Partially Met   | Partially Met   | Information on childcare providers is recorded and reviewed. | Does Neath Port Talbot have a play workforce? There are people who work to deliver play in childcare, education and youth club settings. However, they do not see themselves as | Neath Port Talbot Workforce Development Plan for Early Years, Childcare and Play based on WG guidance.<br><br>Joined up focus with Early Years, Childcare and Play to increase engagement and respond to providers |



| LA Ref No | Criteria  | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths   | Shortfalls   | Identified actions for Action Plan                   |
|-----------|---|-----------------|-----------------|---|--|--|
|           |   |                 |                 |   | <p>directly part of the play workforce.</p> <p>All childcare providers were asked to provide information to support this Play Sufficiency Assessment but response rates were very low.</p> | <p>concerns about multiple emails / surveys etc.</p> |
| G2.       | <p>The Local Authority supports all of the workforce to achieve the qualification level required by the Welsh Government's National Minimum Standards</p> | Partially Met   | Fully Met       | <p>A joint training plan for Flying Start &amp; Early Years provides a comprehensive programme that is accessible by all play providers and play workers.</p>                               | <p>Take up outside of childcare provision is low.</p>  |  |
| G3.       | <p>The Local Authority supports the workforce to achieve the accepted qualification levels set out by SkillsActive</p>                                    | Partially Met   | Fully Met       | <p>The Local Authority's Skills and Training Network and it's wider network of training providers offer the qualifications set out by Skills Active. Play settings can be signposted to</p> |  |  |

| LA Ref No | Criteria  | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths   | Shortfalls  | Identified actions for Action Plan |
|-----------|---|-----------------|-----------------|---|---|------------------------------------|
|           |   |                 |                 | qualification providers and supported to understand the qualifications they need and would benefit from.  |   |                                    |
| G4.       | The Local Authority has a staff development budget ring fenced for play, including playwork                                     | Fully Met       | Partially Met   | Funding from Families First, the childcare budget and Flying Start can be used for staff development.   | This funding is not ringfenced.   |                                    |
| G5.       | There is a comprehensive range of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities available for playworkers in the area | Partially Met   | Partially Met   | The joint training plan for Flying Start & Early Years is comprehensive.  | The focus of CPD is on childcare. Engagement in CPD is driven by providers and varies considerable from setting to setting. |                                    |
| G6.       | Training is available for volunteers and parents to develop their knowledge on skills in playwork                               | Fully Met       | Fully Met       | The Play Development Officer, Children & Families Team and wider Early Years and Childcare Teams provide opportunities for volunteers and parents to develop playwork skills through formal training alongside events and community engagement. |   |                                    |

| LA Ref No  | Criteria  | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths  | Shortfalls   | Identified actions for Action Plan  |
|--|---|-----------------|-----------------|--|--|---|
|  |   |                 |                 |  |  |   |
| G7.  | The Local Authority includes playwork within its Workforce Development strategies                                 | Partially Met   | Not Met         |  | There is an Authority Wide Workforce Development Plan that is focused on social care and doesn't include playwork. |   |
| G8.  | The Local Authority supports partners to deliver appropriate training to community groups, parents and volunteers | Fully Met       | Fully Met       | The Play Development Officer, Children & Families Team and wider Early Years and Childcare Teams are available to provide support for partners to enable and support them to provide appropriate training. |  | Ensure the best use of resource and capacity to support strategic workforce development.<br><br>Lunchtime playworker pilot project. |
| <b>Note – these criteria are about the Play workforce: This encompasses anyone employed whose role has an impact on children playing – those who may either directly facilitate their play, design for playing, or those with the power to give permission for children to play, or not.</b> |   |                 |                 |  |  |   |
| G9.  | The Local Authority has undertaken a comprehensive training needs analysis for the play                           | Partially Met   | Partially Met   | A training needs analysis has been undertaken for the childcare sector.  | This doesn't consider the wider playwork force for example schools,  | Play Strategy Implementation Group to define the Play Workforce in Neath Port Talbot and develop a                                  |

| LA Ref No | Criteria   | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths  | Shortfalls   | Identified actions for Action Plan   |
|-----------|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|--|--|
|           | workforce as defined in the toolkit glossary and above   |                 |                 |  | youth services and the third sector.   | mechanism for identify training levels and needs.  |
| G10.      | The Local Authority takes action to expand the variety of learning and development opportunities that are offered to staff             | Fully Met       | Partially Met   | Training is available to all members of staff. The Play Development Officer can connect staff to play training.  | Since the last assessment Play Works has gone and there is less capacity to engage and encourage participation.                  |  |
| G11.      | There is a comprehensive range of CPD opportunities for a range of professionals who work with children                                | Partially Met   | Partially Met   | There are CPD opportunities accessible to all professionals who work with children. Other departments such as social services, youth services and Sport, Culture and Active Living also provide training for their teams which include professionals who work with children. | Whilst training is readily available participation does not reflect the number of people and organisations which impact on play. |  |
| G12.      | Training awareness sessions are available for professionals and decision makers whose work impacts on children's opportunities to play | Fully Met       | Partially Met   | In theory any professional or decision maker can take part in the available training.  | There is not specific training awareness sessions.   | Develop an approach for engaging and informing a wider network of professionals and decision makers. |

## **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?**

The Play Strategy Implementation Group and wider teams are committed to workforce development, and the action plan developed in support of this assessment advocates further research and understanding of the play workforce. It must be acknowledged that the play workforce is primarily made up of people who don't consider themselves to be playworkers, for example, childcare providers and youth workers. As a result there is not a clearly defined play workforce in Neath Port Talbot which limits workforce development and the delivery of sufficient play opportunities. Workers in childcare, education and youth work are more focused on the direct requirements of those sectors and there is concern among stakeholders that settings are not prepared for the changes in qualification requirements that will result from the Early Years, Childcare and Play Work force Development Plan for Wales. Through partnership working with Early Years, Childcare, Flying Start, Youth Services and other partners the Authority is working to upskill the play workforce, but more consideration needs to be given how this managed, resulting in a clear hierarchy and structure.

### **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*)?**

There is a need to ensure the workforce development needs of *Wales: A Play Friendly Country and above* are understood and provided for outside of those people who have 'play' in their job title. Funding is used to provide a wealth of training opportunities and the Play Development Officer role will connect providers / the workforce with development opportunities. We are seeking to develop a specific Workforce Development Plan for Neath Port Talbot that responds to the nuances and challenges of our area. The Council benefits from a Skills and Training Unit that can provide training and ensure access to development opportunities, but improved joined up thinking is need to connect the workforce with the play focused CPD.

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

Training needs analysis has been undertaken around the childcare sector, but this didn't take play specifically into consideration. We have reached out to childcare providers, schools and other organisations that contribute to the play workforce to help us understand their needs, but

participation has been low. Moving forward we need to develop a comprehensive strategy based around a defined play workforce to deliver Early Years, Childcare and Play Work force Development Plan for Wales.

**Have there been challenges?**

Engagement has shown that a number of people within the play workforce, don't think they're part of the play workforce and are therefore not motivated to engage and provide data to support understanding of training needs. Data collated as part of the previous Childcare Sufficiency Assessment was flawed and incomplete. A childcare training needs analysis has recently been undertaken but didn't specifically consider training needs around play.

**How can these be overcome?**

A specific Workforce Development Plan for Neath Port Talbot with clear leadership and outcomes.

**Comments**

Our SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis of this matter has highlighted the following areas for consideration.

**Strengths**

- Free training available to parents, volunteers and providers
- Flying Start & Early Years Training programme.
- Play Development Officer in post.

**Weaknesses**

- Limited understanding of the current play workforce.
- Limited take up of training programmes outside of childcare.
- Barriers to training and professional development highlighted by workforce and providers.
- Sessional, part time and casual work force profile.
- All Wales Play Opportunities Grant funding for Playwork is currently only open to people working 16 hours per week in a childcare setting.

**Opportunities**

- Create a NPT Early Year, Childcare and Play Workforce Development Plan.
- Develop and enhance existing training programmes by incorporating play.
- Lunchtime supervisors pilot scheme to embed play workers in schools.

**Threats**

- Confusion around requirements of WG Early Year, Childcare and Play Workforce Development Plan.
- Limited opportunities for work experience in play settings.

DRAFT

**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 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths   | Shortfalls | Identified actions for Action Plan   |
|-----------|--|-----------------|-----------------|---|------------|--|
| H1.       | The Local Authority promotes initiatives to engage relevant groups in enhancing play opportunities for children in its area. | Fully Met       | Fully Met       | <p>The Youth Council is a tool for actively engaging children and young people between 11 and 25 years of age and enabling them to have their voices heard.</p> <p>In addition the Play Heroes programme actively supports primary age children to promote and shape play in their school.</p> <p>Community engagement is part of the Local Authority's approach to securing grant funding for play projects.</p> |            | <p>Participation in National Play Day in partnership with community groups that deliver spaces and opportunities for play.</p> <p>Park Play pilot project.</p> |



| LA Ref No | Criteria  | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths   | Shortfalls                            | Identified actions for Action Plan |
|-----------|---|-----------------|-----------------|---|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| H2.       | The Local Authority promotes community engagement in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- making space available and suitable for play</li> <li>- organising play events</li> <li>- positive attitudes towards children and play</li> <li>- training on the importance of play.</li> </ul> | Fully Met       | Fully Met       | The Local Authority promotes community engagement in play by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing designated plays spaces.</li> <li>• Supporting community groups and organisations to host play events.</li> <li>• Participating in National Play Day.</li> <li>• Promoting positive attitudes toward children and play through outreach and online.</li> <li>• Offers training for communities around play.</li> </ul> | Capacity for this support is limited. |                                    |

### **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?**

The Local Authority appreciates the role community engagement can play in decision making. The Youth Council and Play Heroes' are important and effect mechanisms for children and young people to tell us about their experiences of play. Partnership working with community projects and organisations enables us to have "conversations with play" with parent and carers, mechanisms range from focus groups to questionnaires. The Council is committed to:

1. Promoting the value of involving children and young people and families in decisions that affect them.
2. Encouraging and supporting others to carry out meaningful engagement with children, young people and families in the course of their work.

Moving forward there is an aspiration to include direct representation from the community, specifically young people on the Play Strategy Implementation Group.

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

It is a challenge to engage with hard to reach groups, and go beyond preaching to the converted. Some parents, carers and communities are disengaged with the local authority.

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

Continue to build links and partnerships, find community leaders and networks that can engage directly with people around play.

S

**Comments**

Our SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis of this matter has highlighted the following areas for consideration.

**Strengths**

- Neath Port Talbot Youth Council.
- The majority of parents believe children and young people should have a voice in decisions that affect them.
- Outreach workers across Early Years, Childcare and Play.

**Weaknesses**

- Community engagement can sometime be seen as a box ticking exercise.
- Children, young people, parents and carers don't know where to find out about play.

**Opportunities**

- Improve links and partnership working with Council's communications team.
- Explore opportunities for engagement through social media.
- Create key information sharing networks e.g. Friends of and Community Groups.
- Give children and voice on the PSIG.

**Threats**

- Low levels of meaningful community engagement.
- Engagement perceived to be tokenistic.

**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 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths  | Shortfalls   | Identified actions for Action Plan  |
|-----------|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|--|---|
| 11.       | 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 | Fully Met       | Fully Met       | The named person is Aled Evans the Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning and play, children and young people’s services fall within his remit |  | Raise awareness of play and its benefits among decision makers.<br><br>Get play on the Well-Being agenda. |
| 12        | The Well-Being Plan recognises the importance of play and contributes to the provision of rich play opportunities  | NEW             | Partially Met   | Target outcomes outlined within the Well-Being plan can be delivered through play.<br><br>The previous Play Sufficiency Assessment was part of the needs     | Play is not meaningfully embedded in the Well-Being plan and it does not recognise the importance of play or contribute directly to the provision of |   |

| LA Ref No | Criteria | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths              | Shortfalls               | Identified actions for Action Plan |
|-----------|----------|-----------------|-----------------|--|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
|           |          |                 |                 | assessment to support the Well-Being Plan. | rich play opportunities. |                                    |

**Education and schools**

| LA Ref No | Criteria  | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths  | Shortfalls  | Identified actions for Action Plan   |
|-----------|---|-----------------|-----------------|--|---|--|
| 13.       | Schools ensure that children are provided with a rich play environment for breaks during the school day | Partially Met   | Partially Met   | A proportion of schools have participated in play through schemes such as Play Heroes' and / or taken on board opportunities such as loose parts play. | We contacted every school in the County Borough to ask about their play environments. Only 7 schools completed the short questionnaire. There is no Local Authority policy around school based play, so each school takes their own approach. | Lunchtime playworkers pilot programme.<br><br>Improved engagement with schools through LLAN and NAASH.<br><br>Schools engagement strategy. |
| 14.       | Schools provide play opportunities during out of teaching hours   | Partially Met   | Partially Met   | A number of schools provide after school clubs and / or organised sports and recreation activities after school. Ygsol Bae                             | We contacted every school in the County Borough to ask about their play environments. Only  |  |

| LA Ref No | Criteria   | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths  | Shortfalls   | Identified actions for Action Plan |
|-----------|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|--|------------------------------------|
|           |  |                 |                 | <p>Bagaln hosts the youth club for it's local area.</p>  | <p>7 schools completed the short questionnaire.</p> <p>There is not a Local Authority wide policy on school based play, each school can decide on the after school play opportunities they will provide.</p>   |                                    |
| 15.       | Schools provide access to school grounds for playing out of school times | Partially Met   | Partially Met   | <p>A small number of community schools provide access to school grounds. For example Tonnau Primary School's MUGA is accessible.</p> | <p>We contacted every school in the County Borough to ask about their play environments. Only 7 schools completed the short questionnaire.</p> <p>There is no Local Authority wider approach, so each school takes their own approach.</p> <p>During discussion with stakeholders it</p> |                                    |

| LA Ref No | Criteria   | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths   | Shortfalls  | Identified actions for Action Plan |
|-----------|--|-----------------|-----------------|---|---|------------------------------------|
|           |  |                 |                 |   | <p>became clear there is a conflict as to whether the decision to provide out of hours access lies with the school or the Local Authority's Estates Team.</p> <p>It should also be acknowledged that the amount and variety of designated play space and public open space in Neath Port Talbot suggests there is no need for schools to allow access to school grounds out of hours.</p> |                                    |
| 16.       | Schools encourage children to walk and cycle to school | Partially Met   | Partially Met   | The Council aims to promote walking and cycling in schools and has a number of proposals including "encourage schools to adopt travel plans | Not all schools participate in available programmes.  |                                    |

| LA Ref No | Criteria   | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths   | Shortfalls   | Identified actions for Action Plan |
|-----------|--|-----------------|-----------------|---|--|------------------------------------|
|           |  |                 |                 | <p>which include “walking bus” schemes, provision of secure cycle parking and schools adopt a flexible and positive approach to cycling at school.”</p> <p>Road safety training is delivered in partnership with schools.</p>   |  |                                    |
| 17.       | The Local Authority offers guidance to ensure schools understand and ensure that regular outdoor play is not curtailed | Partially Met   | Partially Met   | <p>Play training is also available to schools and including programmes / workshops to illustrate the importance of outdoor play to schools. The Play Development Officer will be working to develop links with schools and provide support and training around play.</p> <p>The Play Heroes initiative encourages school children to promote regular outdoor play to their fellow pupils.</p> | Participation and engagement is not consistent across all schools. |                                    |



**Town and Country Planning**

| LA Ref No | Criteria   | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths   | Shortfalls   | Identified actions for Action Plan |
|-----------|--|-----------------|-----------------|---|--|------------------------------------|
| 18.       | The Local Development Plan recognises and addresses the outdoor play needs of children of various age groups and abilities | Partially Met   | Partially Met   | The Local Development Plan covers 2011 – 2026 and has therefore not changed since the last assessment. It includes a commitment to protecting, enhancing and developing play facilities. This includes a standard for fixed play provision. Planning policy is represented on the Play Strategy Implementation Group. | It doesn't directly consider the needs of children of various age groups and abilities. However, the planning team has made use of the data from the previous Play Sufficiency Assessment when considering play provision. Planning policy supports the development of play provision in relation to development but there have been issues in relation to maintenance / sustaining of provision as the Council's Waste & Neighbourhoods Team does not |                                    |

| LA Ref No | Criteria | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths | Shortfalls   | Identified actions for Action Plan |
|-----------|----------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
|           |          |                 |                 |                               | have the budget to maintain any additional play areas. |                                    |

DRAFT

**Traffic and Transport**

| LA Ref No | Criteria   | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths  | Shortfalls  | Identified actions for Action Plan   |
|-----------|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|---|--|
| 19.       | The local Transport Plan recognises the importance of local streets, roads and walking and cycling route in offering play opportunities for children of different ages and abilities | Not Met         | Partially Met   | <p>The LTP recognises the importance of improving walking and cycling routes (active travel routes) for all users but is not specifically aimed at children.</p> <p>The Integrated Network Map (INM) has been developed to look at active travel routes in NPT identifying routes that need to be improved to meet the requirements of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013. A consultation exercise was undertaken in the process of developing the INM, the consultation exercise included consultation with school pupils, seldom heard groups and members of the community. The INM and consultation documents can be found by following the link <a href="https://www.npt.gov.uk/6489">https://www.npt.gov.uk/6489</a> Laura Pack was involved in this process and would be able to</p> | The focus of the work is aimed at improving routes for commuters to reduce congestion and improve air quality these improvements would also benefit other users such as children. There is no specific consideration of play. | Explore opportunities for linking the Integrated Network Map (INM) proposal with existing and proposed play provision. |

| LA Ref No | Criteria   | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths  | Shortfalls | Identified actions for Action Plan |
|-----------|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|------------|------------------------------------|
|           |  |                 |                 | <p>provide additional information if required.</p> <p>The Welsh Government have committed £60 million between 2018/19 – 2020/21 to improving active travel routes in Wales, the funding is allocated through a bid process, only routes identified on the INM can be proposed for funding.</p> |            |                                    |
| 110.      | The local Transport Plan identifies ways of assessing and addressing the needs of all groups including those which are often marginalised. | Partially Met   | Fully Met       | The Plan is based around both Highway Design Guidance and Active Travel Act Design Guidance which take into account the needs for all groups including those that are often marginalised.  |            |                                    |

**Early Years Plans**

| LA Ref No | Criteria   | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths  | Shortfalls  | Identified actions for Action Plan   |
|-----------|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|---|--|
| I11.      | Early Years and Flying Start plans and services recognise the importance of play and contribute to the provision of rich play opportunities for younger children | Fully Met       | Fully Met       | <p>They Flying Start &amp; Early Years Team understand and support the importance of play. They provide training, support and funding to ensure rich play opportunities for children. Early Years grants are used to ensure sustainability of provision and development of new provision to meet identified need.</p> <p>Play is incorporated in to all aspects of the Flying Start &amp; Early Years approach, for example it is a key element of parenting support.</p> <p>The Council does not currently have any foundation phase childcare settings. Therefore Early Years childcare is able to focus primarily on play and its benefits. There are</p> | <p>There is not currently a Flying Start &amp; Early Years Plan. There is one team which supports improved strategic planning across Flying Start, Early Years and Childcare. These programmes are encompassed in the Children and Young People’s Plan which is currently in development.</p> | <p>Continued representation of Early Years / Childcare on the Play Strategy Implementation Group.</p> <p>Enhanced partnership working with Flying Start &amp; Early Years Team around engagement with settings.</p> <p>Address gaps around local availability of training with Skills and Training Unit.</p> |

| LA Ref No | Criteria | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths   | Shortfalls | Identified actions for Action Plan |
|-----------|----------|-----------------|-----------------|---|------------|------------------------------------|
|           |          |                 |                 | standards and requirements around play for example Flying Start provision is required to have outdoor play space, however this is not required across all generic settings. |            |                                    |

**Family policy and initiatives**

| LA Ref No | Criteria   | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths  | Shortfalls | Identified actions for Action Plan |
|-----------|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|------------|------------------------------------|
| 112.      | Family support initiatives provide up to date information and support for parents to enable them to support their children to play | Fully Met       | Fully Met       | <p>The Children and Families team delivers play programmes to families in their homes. After being referred, support will be specifically designed around the aims agreed upon by the family. These identified needs will be addressed through 1 hour play sessions, over 6 weeks.</p> <p>Alongside this they provide events and activities during</p> |            |                                    |

| LA Ref No | Criteria   | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths  | Shortfalls | Identified actions for Action Plan |
|-----------|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|------------|------------------------------------|
|           |  |                 |                 | <p>school holidays to engage children and their families with play.</p> <p>The Team Around the Family work directly with families, and this is a key element of the Families First programme.</p>  |            |                                    |
| 113.      | The local implementation of the Families First programme recognises the importance of play and contributes to the provision of rich play opportunities | NEW             | Fully Met       | <p>Families First is lead by the Families First and Play Manager, which ensures that play is embedded in our approach to targeted intervention and prevention around the ACE's agenda. Families First.</p> <p>The Families First programmes engage children and young people with play and recreation both individual and in groups. It is a key source of funding for Youth Services and the Children &amp; Families Team. It also funds the Council's Play Development Officer post(?)</p> |            |                                    |

| LA Ref No | Criteria   | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths  | Shortfalls  | Identified actions for Action Plan |
|-----------|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|---|------------------------------------|
|           |  |                 |                 | <p>Families First is an important contributor to play provision in Neath Port Talbot which supports play as tool for positive change in the lives of children and young people. However, the change to Families First from Cymorth has made it more difficult to apply the funding for play, and more difficult again from the revision last year.</p> |   |                                    |
| 113.      | <p>Plans to reduce the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) recognises the importance of play and contributes to the provision of rich play opportunities</p> | NEW             | Partially Met   | <p>Currently in development the Children and Young People's Plan will recognise and celebrate the contribution play can play in in reducing the impact of ACE's.</p> <p>Families First is key to this agenda and as previously discussed has embedded play in its approaches and programmes.</p>   | <p>The Neath Port Talbot we want the Well-Being plan for Neath Port Talbot is the key policy in relation to reducing the impact of ACE's. The plan explores objectives around support for children and young people but doesn't specifically consider the importance of play.</p> |                                    |



**Inter-generational policy and initiatives**

| LA Ref No | Criteria   | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths   | Shortfalls  | Identified actions for Action Plan   |
|-----------|--|-----------------|-----------------|---|---|--|
| I14.      | There are a range of play based approaches to inter-generational activity  | Not Met         | Partially Met   | The Well-Being Plan highlights the potential for greater intergenerational interaction to benefit both young and old people. It proposes to look at how collaborative intergenerational opportunities can be delivered. | There are no current play based approaches and it is not clear which organisation is leading intergenerational activity in relation to the Well Being Plan. | Connect with PSB to understand opportunities for play to support and deliver intergenerational activity. |
| I15.      | There is a creative approach to inter-generational activity which encourages better interaction between children of different ages | Not Met         | Not Met         | Inter-generational activity is an aspirational of the Well-Being Plan.  | There is not currently an approach in place.  |  |

| Health and Safety |  |                 |                 |   |  |   |
|-------------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|---|--|---|
| LA Ref No         | Criteria   | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths   | Shortfalls   | Identified actions for Action Plan  |
| 116.              | The Health and Safety policies explicitly recognise the value of children being able to experience risk and challenge  | Partially Met   | Not Met         | <p>The Local Authority has clear Health and Safety policies which are relevant to play e.g. First Aid.</p> <p>Specific play providers such as childcare settings and schools have their own policies and approaches around risk and challenge.</p>  | There is no evidence that Health & Safety policies explicitly recognise the value of children being able to experience risk and challenge.   | Create an outline Health & Safety guidance for play providers and settings which explores enabling children to experience risk and challenge. |
| 117.              | 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) | Partially Met   | Partially Met   | <p>A risk assessment system is in place for play based events and activities.</p> <p>The Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council: Risk Management Policy (June 2018) which “promote an open, consistent and proactive risk management attitude which encourages the taking of opportunities to better serve our communities within the</p> | Risk assessments ensure that risk is monitored and considered in relation to play. However, this approach is not a risk-benefit driven and doesn’t allow the scope to consider the benefits or risk to children and young people’s play experiences. |   |

| LA Ref No | Criteria   | RAG Status 2016 | RAG Status 2019 | Evidence to support strengths  | Shortfalls   | Identified actions for Action Plan |
|-----------|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|--|------------------------------------|
|           |  |                 |                 | resources available to the Council.”   |  |                                    |
| I18.      | The Local Authority offers the provision of insurance through the Local Authority scheme to all third sector play providers and community councils | Partially Met   | Partially Met   | Information and signposting is available to help play providers understand what insurances they require and where it is available. | The Local Authority does not currently offer this service.<br><br>Representatives from Friend’s of Groups (from Park sites) have expressed concerns that insurance is a barrier to play space development and other play projects. |                                    |

**Play within relevant policy and implementation agendas**

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

Planning policy has ensured that play spaces are developed and enhanced as a result of development. It also protects open spaces for children, young people and families to play in and enjoy. The approach to Flying Start & Early Years supports play opportunities and engagement through training and funding. Flying Start also requires all settings to provide outdoor and indoor play spaces. The Local Transport Plan is improving connectivity across the County Borough, this may not be focused on play but will benefit children and young people helping them to access play spaces. The Families First programmes use play as a means of working with families, for their benefit and to address the wider ACE’s agenda.

**Have there been challenges?**

As one stakeholder put it in an interview “play is not on the agenda” and therefore in a time of austerity arguably at risk. The Neath Port Talbot We Want Well-Being Plan is fundamental to the Local Authority and wider Public Service Boards approach. The previous Play Sufficiency Assessment contributed to the needs assessment for the plan and the need to support children and young people is identified, but play is not embedded as a force for delivering change and outcomes.

**How can these be overcome?**

The Action Plan Workshop highlighted a need and desire to position play in the context of the Well-Being agenda, to work with the Public Services Board to show how play can contribute to across all the well-being outcomes and objectives. The group also wants to ensure decision makers understand the benefits of play and its role in achieving well-being. Throughout the assessment process children and young people have told us play makes them happy and active, they want play to support their well-being and we need to ensure this is reflected in wider approaches.

**Comments:**

Our SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis of this matter has highlighted the following areas for consideration.

**Strengths**

- The Children and Young People’s Plan is currently being updated and will incorporate what would previously would have been covered in a play strategy.
- 2016 Play Sufficiency Assessment was used as an evidence base for the Well-Being Plan.
- Planning policy supports development and enhancement of play provision.

**Weaknesses**

- Beyond the proposed Children and Young People’s Plan play is not embedded in key policies and agendas.
- The lack of inclusion of play in the Well-being Plan.
- As a result wider decision makers do not understand and appreciate the impact of play.

**Opportunities**

- Role of play in delivering and supporting the well-being agenda.
- Creating new partnerships to address specific issues and opportunities. For example working with Countryside and Biodiversity teams to address the challenge of encouraging people to use green and open spaces for play.

**Threats**

- If the value of play is not effectively communicated to decision makers then a reduction in services may result.

DRAFT

**Conclusion**

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

*Please refer to sections 11.3 and 11.4 of the attached report.*

DRAFT

# Appendix 2.

---

## Play Sufficiency Assessment Action Plan

**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 part of the 2019 Play Sufficiency Assessment we held an Action Plan Workshop and invited key stakeholders to participate. The workshop shared the results of the assessment including identified gaps and key themes from community engagement. Using this evidence basis actions were put forward, discussed and developed. Priorities were identified using an implementation matrix to highlight actions with high impact and a realistic chance of implementation. Whilst the action plan is aspirational it has to acknowledged the realities of funding and resources. It seeks to address the key themes outlined in the summary report and most importantly benefit children, young people, families and communities across Neath Port Talbot. It addresses the statutory requirements of the assessment but also looks at wider opportunities.

The Play Strategy Implementation Group (PSIG) is the mechanism for partnership working and securing sufficient play opportunities. The Action Plan Workshop and assessment highlighted the need to review and re-evaluate the membership and terms of reference. This included an aspiration to have representation from young people on the group, potentially form the Youth Council. This group is being re-evaluated in the context of the Children and Young People’s Plan and in addition stakeholder engagement has highlighted the need to get play on the agenda and decision makers including Councillors actively engaged in strategic change around play.

We acknowledge that we can’t change everything but we have taken a programmatic approach that we belief will result in positive change between now the next assessment.

**Signed:** .....

**Date:** .....





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

**Proposed actions for the period of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020**

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

| Matter                              | Priorities  | Targets  | Links to other Matters | Resources, including costs  | Funding source (new or existing funding streams)     |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|------------------------|---|--|
| Statutory Guidance-policy framework | Bringing together people who effect children and young people’s experiences of play | Update membership and terms of reference for the Play Strategy Implementation Group (PSIG).<br>PSIG relaunch in summer 2019. | All                    | Staffing capacity.<br>Administration support.                       | Existing funding to support PSIG.                    |
| Matter A: Population                | Ensure data is kept up to date and used as a key tool in decision making.           | Create links with new data science unit.   | B                      | NPTCBC Data Science Team<br><br>Training for key play stakeholders. | Existing funding                                     |
|                                     | Responding to limited provision for older children.                                 | Working in partnership with youth services to engage with young people and to identify potential project/s.                  | C, F                   | Officer Capacity<br><br>Funding support                             | Delivery of project/s will require external funding. |

| Matter                                       | Priorities   | Targets   | Links to other Matters | Resources, including costs  | Funding source (new or existing funding streams)                   |
|--|--|---|------------------------|---|--|
|  |  | <p>Explore options for meeting unmet need in partnership with third sector and community organisations.</p> <p>Develop strategic targeted project/s and work in partnership to secure funding.</p>  |                        |   |  |
| <p>Matter B: Providing for diverse needs</p> | <p>Improving play value in rural areas</p>   | <p>Target improvements to play value score in each area through strategic development of play and / or enhancement of existing provision.</p> <p>Deliver in partnership with the communities through meaningful engagement.</p>   | <p>C</p>               | <p>Staff time and capacity.</p> <p>Partnership with Project Delivery and Funding Team.</p> <p>Costs dependent on proposals.</p> | <p>Will require external funding support.</p>                      |
|  | <p>Work with communities to support them to respond to their identified play needs</p> | <p>Identify support groups that work with specific communities for example children with disabilities / traveller children.</p> <p>Provide support, training and help to enable them to deliver play in response to need. This could include access to support around funding, help to promote provision etc.</p> | <p>All</p>             | <p>Staff time and capacity.</p>   | <p>Delivery of projects will require external funding support.</p> |
|  | <p>Review previous Play Strategy and advocated inclusive approach to play.</p>         | <p>Clarify policy and approach around inclusive play.</p>   | <p>All</p>             | <p>Staff time and capacity.</p>   | <p>Existing funding.</p>   |

| Matter   | Priorities  | Targets  | Links to other Matters | Resources, including costs   | Funding source (new or existing funding streams)  |
|--|---|--|------------------------|--|---|
| Matter C: Space available for children to play | Connecting communities with all the places they can play  | <p>Partnership working with Countryside and Wildlife Team and key partners such as Natural Resource Wales.</p> <p>Contribute to the Green Infrastructure objectives of the Well-Being Plan.</p> <p>Develop a simple criteria to help communities identify play friendly open spaces.</p>         | B, F, H                | Will be based on proposed approach which is likely to include events and activities.   | External funding will be required to deliver events and activities. Funding is available around the Green Infrastructure objectives of the Well-Being Plan. |
|  | Retain existing play provision of all types and take a strategic approach to enhancement and where achievable development of new provision. | <p>Link up existing resources and funding to support play.</p> <p>Clarify ownership and maintenance responsibilities for all sites.</p> <p>Share resources across wider teams for example link play with Countryside and Wildlife with a focus on accessing open space through and for play.</p> | B, F, H                | Existing staff capacity and resources.   | Ensure existing funding levels are retained as a minimum.   |
|  | Play Space Audits   | <p>Review and update play space assessment model.</p> <p>Updated in partnership with wider PSIG membership.</p> <p>Train play area inspectors to carry out annual play space audits based on new criteria.</p>   | F                      | <p>Play Development Officer</p> <p>PSIG</p> <p>Waste &amp; Neighbourhood Teams</p> <p>Data / assessment collation devices e.g. smart phones approx. £200</p> | Existing funding.   |

| Matter | Priorities            | Targets   | Links to other Matters | Resources, including costs   | Funding source (new or existing funding streams)   |
|--------|-----------------------|---|------------------------|--|--|
|        | Natural Play          | Natural Play project developed in partnership with Countryside & Wildlife and Waste & Neighbourhoods. Explore how natural play engages communities and lowers maintenance costs.  |                        | Play Development Officer<br>PSIG<br>Countryside & Wildlife Team<br>Waste & Neighbourhood Teams | External funding for play space.   |
|        | Friends of Play Forum | <p>Identify groups that impact on the maintenance and enhancement such as Friends of and Community Council.</p> <p>Re-establish links with Housing Association and other providers of designated play spaces.</p> <p>Create a forum that brings these groups together to share ideas and good practise and link to PSIG.</p> <p>Develop groups in parks and play spaces that would benefit from community participation.</p> <p>Park Play pilot: learn from Park Run and develop play taster programmes run by communities for communities in their local parks on a regular (for example monthly) basis.</p> | F                      | Play Development Officer<br>PSIG<br>Waste & Neighbourhood Teams<br>Forum Administration        | <p>External funding may be available to support development and administration of the forum.</p> <p>External funding to support Park Play pilot.</p> |

| Matter                               | Priorities                                       | Targets  | Links to other Matters | Resources, including costs                  | Funding source (new or existing funding streams)                                     |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|------------------------|---|--|
| Matter D: Supervised provision       | Evaluate supervised provision.                   | <p>Work with the Flying Start &amp; Early Years Team to create an assessment criteria. Carry out visits in partnership.</p> <p>Obtain an update from Play Wales on their proposals for quality assessment model.</p> | B                      | Existing staff capacity.                    | Use of existing capacity / funding across Flying Start & Early Years and Play.       |
|                                      | Connect families with supervised play provision. | <p>Improve search function of Dewis Community Directory.</p> <p>Improve data sharing of information such as registered childcare providers.</p>  | B, E, F and G          | Existing staff capacity.                    | Existing funding.  |
| Matter E: Charges for play provision | Retain existing low cost provision.              | Continue to use available grants to support and sustain affordable provision across Youth Service, Childcare etc.  | B, E, F and G          | Existing staff capacity.                    | Existing funding.  |
|                                      | Up to date information.                          | <p>Outreach with providers to encourage them to keep their information up to date on the Community Directory.</p> <p>Enable a search for free things to do / play opportunities.</p>                                 | B, E, F and G          | Existing staff capacity.                    | Existing funding.  |
| Matter F: Access to space/provision  | Link people to play.                             | Places to play and how to get there map / online tool developed in partnership with Countryside & Wildlife and Transport Teams.  | D                      | Development of an online tool and / or app. | New Funding obtained in partnership with Countryside & Wildlife and Transport Teams. |

| Matter  | Priorities   | Targets  | Links to other Matters | Resources, including costs   | Funding source (new or existing funding streams) |
|---|--|--|------------------------|--|--|
| Matter G: Securing and developing the workforce | Create a play workforce and deliver the aspirations of the WG's Early Years, Childcare and Play Workforce Development Plan | <p>Engage with CIW to clarify requirements of national workforce development plan. Define the play workforce.</p> <p>An Early Years, Childcare and Play Workforce Development Plan for Neath Port Talbot.</p> <p>Training needs analysis.</p> <p>Explore opportunities for playwork training outside of the funding requirement that participants work 16 hours per week in a childcare setting.</p> | All                    | Commission development of a training needs analysis and workforce development plan: £15,000  | New external funding.                            |
|   | Increase participation among providers.  | Establish networks and / or toolkits to share best practise.   | All                    | Play Development Officer in partnership with Training & Transition Officer.  | Exiting funding.                                 |
|   | Playworkers in school settings.  | <p>Develop a pilot scheme for playworkers as lunchtime supervisor programme.</p> <p>Ensure pilot has clear outcomes to evaluate and understand success.</p>  | All                    | <p>Play Development Officer in partnership with schools.</p> <p>Funding for training and playworker salary – dependent on model.</p> | New funding source.                              |
|   | Play network.  | Engage and inform decision makers on a regular basis using a range of mechanisms including online and face to face engagement.   | All                    | <p>PSIG</p> <p>Events and workshops. Link with other relevant strategies and objectives. .</p>                                       | Exiting funding.                                 |

| Matter   | Priorities   | Targets   | Links to other Matters | Resources, including costs   | Funding source (new or existing funding streams)   |
|--|--|---|------------------------|--|--|
|  |  | <p>Link with PSIG and use this as a mechanism for promoting play as tool for change.</p> <p>Work with the Youth Council so that young people can explain the benefits of play to decision makers including Councillors.</p>   |                        |  |  |
|  | Address gaps in play training.   | Based on the Workforce Development Plan for Neath Port Talbot develop proposals to address gaps around local training developed with Skills and Training Unit.  | All                    | Pay Development Officer Skills & Training                                  | If require seek to secure additional funding to deliver training.                                    |
| Matter H: Community engagement and participation | Making it easy for families to find out about play in Neath Port Talbot. | <p>Invite Council's Communications Team to join the PSIG.</p> <p>Deliver National Play Day every year in partnership with community groups and other key partners.</p> <p>Engage with parent and community run social media and develop a network play influencers.</p> | All                    | PSIG and partners.   | <p>Existing funding.</p> <p>New funding may be required depending on approaches as they develop.</p> |
|  | Engage providers in promoting play.                                      | Shared outreach strategy across Flying Start & Early Years, Childcare Offer and Play.   | All                    | Flying Start & Early Years, Childcare Offer and Play Outreach work / team. | Existing funding.  |
|  | Promote positive play.   | In partnership with communications share smart positive play messages and work  | All                    | PSIG   | Additional funding for integrational play pilot.   |

| Matter   | Priorities  | Targets  | Links to other Matters | Resources, including costs  | Funding source (new or existing funding streams)                        |
|--|---|--|------------------------|---|---|
|  |   | <p>to go beyond “preaching to the converted.”</p> <p>Promote healthy active play as an alternative to technology, help children get off their iPads.</p> <p>Work with partners and the PSB to develop a pilot for intergradational play that responds to the target outcomes of the Well-Being Plan.</p> |                        |   |   |
| Matter I: Play within all relevant policy and implementation agendas | Get play on the agenda in Neath Port Talbot!                          | Connect with PSB to understand opportunities for play to support and deliver intergenerational activity.   | All                    | PSIG  | Existing.   |
|  | Schools engagement strategy.  | <p>Show schools the benefits of engaging with play.</p> <p>Improved partnership working with LLAN and NAASH.</p> <p>Retain and develop Play Heroes scheme.</p>   | All                    | Play Development Officer in partnership with Flying Start & Early Years Team. | New funding may be required to support activities, training and events. |
|  | Link play with the Integrate Network Map (INM) for Neath Port Talbot. | <p>Promote cycle routes for play.</p> <p>Link to places to play and how to get there map</p>   | F                      | Transport Team, Road Safety and Play Development<br>Develop mapping app.      | New funding for proposed map app.                                       |
|  | Secure existing funding for play.                                     | Retain existing play related funding as a minimum.   | All                    | PSIG  | N/A   |



| Matter | Priorities                     | Targets   | Links to other Matters | Resources, including costs  | Funding source (new or existing funding streams) |
|--------|--------------------------------|---|------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
|        | Encourage risky but safe play. | Outline H&S guidance for play providers and settings which explores enabling children to experience risk and challenge. | C, F                   | External H&S advice: £3,000 | New funding if available.                        |

DRAFT

# Appendix 3.

---

## Outdoor Designated Equipped Play Spaces





| LDPGID | Name  | Ward            | Spatial Area   | Type  | Primary Typology     | Secondary Typology   | Other | Playground | Overall Site | Accessibility | Score | Ages             | Abilities                    | Cost | Owner   |
|--------|---|-----------------|----------------|-------|----------------------|--|-------|------------|--------------|---------------|-------|------------------|------------------------------|------|---|
| 247    | Aberavon Seafront Young Children's, Port Talbot | Sandfields East | Port Talbot    | LEAP  | Fixed Play Equipment | seafront   |       | 13.20      | 3.65         | 5.94          | 22.79 | 0-4 5-8          | all                          | free | NPTCBC  |
| 3456   | Western Avenue                                  | Sandfields West | Port Talbot    | LEAP  | Fixed Play Equipment | Zip wire   |       | 16.50      | 3.99         | 5.94          | 26.43 | 0-4 5-8 9-12     | all                          | free | NPTCBC  |
| 2399   | Heol Heddwch                                    | Seven Sister    | Dulais Valley  | LAP   | Fixed Play Equipment |  |       | 16.50      | 2.95         | 5.28          | 24.73 | 0-4 5-8          | all                          | free | Tai Tarian  |
| 3372   | Ysticlau Road BMX track                         | Seven Sisters   | Dulais Valley  | LEAP  | Wheeled Sports Space | Green Space - L  |       | 4.93       | 4.34         | 3.30          | 12.57 | 5-8 9-12 13+     | Not suitable for wheelchairs | free | Seven Sisters Community Council                   |
| 86     | Brynhyfryd Terrace                              | Seven Sisters   | Dulais Valley  | NEAP  | Fixed Play Equipment | MUGA, Teen Shelter, Greenspace - M                             |       | 9.90       | 4.17         | 3.30          | 17.37 | 0-4 5-8 9-12 13+ | all                          | free | seven sisters community council                   |
| 769    | Seven sisters                                   | Seven Sisters   | Dulais Valley  | LEAP  | Fixed Play Equipment | Sports facilities / pitches, band stand and amenity greenspace |       | 9.90       | 4.17         | 3.30          | 17.37 | 0-4 5-8 9-12     | all                          | free | NPTCBC  |
| 37     | Parc Ynysdawley                                 | Seven Sisters   | Dulais Valley  | NEAP  | Fixed Play Equipment | Green Space - M, MUGA, sports pitches                          | 45.97 | 9.90       | 5.03         | 4.62          | 19.55 | 0-4 5-8 9-12 13+ | all                          | free | Ynysdawley Playing Field Association/Welfare Club |
| 640    | Goytre Close, Goytre                            | Taibach         | Port Talbot    | LEAP  | Fixed Play Equipment | Kickabout area   |       | 8.25       | 2.60         | 5.28          | 16.13 | 0-4 5-8 9-12     | all                          | free | NPTCBC  |
| 265    | Tonna school                                    | Tonna           | Neath          | LEAP  | Fixed Play Equipment | open space   |       | 8.25       | 3.82         | 4.62          | 16.69 | 0-4 5-8 9-12     | all                          | free | Tonnau Primary Community School                   |
| 241    | Dan y bryn                                      | Tonna           | Neath          | NEAP  | Fixed Play Equipment | Kick about area  |       | 13.20      | 4.34         | 3.96          | 21.50 | 0-4 5-8 9-12 13+ | all                          | free | NPTCBC  |
| 196    | Hunters Ridge, Tonna                            | Tonna           | Neath          | LEAP  | Fixed Play Equipment | Greenspace S   |       | 16.50      | 4.52         | 4.62          | 25.64 | 0-4 5-8 9-12     | all                          | free | Managed By Others                                 |
| 3509   | Tonnau Primary MUGA                             | Tonna           | Neath          | Other | MUGA                 | Awaiting Assessment  |       |            |              |               |       |                  |                              |      |   |
| 259    | Trebanos park                                   | Trebanos        | Pontardawe     | LEAP  | Fixed Play Equipment | Sports Pitch, Teen Shelter                                     |       | 9.90       | 4.86         | 5.28          | 20.04 | 0-4 5-8 9-12 13+ | all                          | free | Pontardawe Town Council                           |
| 274    | Varteg park                                     | Ystalyfera      | Swansea Valley | LEAP  | Fixed Play Equipment | green space  |       | 9.90       | 4.34         | 3.30          | 17.54 | 0-4 5-8 9-12     | all                          | free | Ystalyfera Community Council                      |

# Appendix 4.

---

## Supervised Play Provision

| Service Name  | Service Type | Postcode | Min Age | Max Age | Opening Times   | Price per Session        | Disability Support | Bilingual |
|---|--------------|----------|---------|---------|---|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| 8th Port Talbot Beaver Scout Group - Baglan                     | LEYC         | SA12 8PL | 5yrs    | 8yrs    | Wednesdays 6pm - 7.15pm (Term Time)                   | £25/term                 |                    |           |
| Aberavon Integrated Childrens Centre - After School Club        | CASC         | SA12 6AX | 4yrs    | 11yrs   | Monday - Friday, 3.15pm - 6.00pm                      | £5.90                    |                    |           |
| Aberavon Integrated Children's Centre - Playgroup sessions      | CPG          | SA12 6AX | 2yrs    | 5yrs    | Mon - Fri 9.00am-11.30am 1.00pm-3.30pm                | £9.50                    |                    |           |
| Aberavon Integrated Children's Centre - Welsh Medium Playgroup  | CPG          | SA12 6AX | 2yrs    | 3yrs    | Monday to Friday 9.00am to 11.30am                    | £9.50                    |                    | Yes       |
| Aberavon Integrated Children's Centre - Wrap Around Care        | CWA          | SA12 6AX | 2mnths  | 11yrs   | Monday - Friday 8.00am - 6.00pm                       | £3.80 / hour             |                    |           |
| Aberavon Intergrated Children's Centre - Flying Start Playgroup | CPG          | SA12 6AX | 2yrs    | 3yrs    | Mon - Fri 8.50am - 11.20am, 12.50pm - 3.20pm          |                          |                    |           |
| Aberavon Intergrated Children's Centre - Full Time Day Care     | CFD          | SA12 6AX | 2yrs    | 5yrs    | Monday - Friday 8.00am - 6.00pm                       |                          |                    |           |
| Aberavon Intergrated Children's Centre - Holiday Club           | CHP          | SA12 6AX | 4yrs    | 11yrs   | Monday - Friday 8.00am - 5.00pm (school holidays)     | £6.50/hour               |                    |           |
| Action for Children Pre-School Project Playgroup                | CPG          | SA12 7BX | 1yr     | 3yrs    |   |                          | Yes                |           |
| Adrienne Hendy - Childminder                                    | CHM          | SA11 3BJ | 0yrs    | 15yrs   | Mon-Thurs 7.30am-6.00pm, Fri 7.30am-4.00pm            | £28/day                  |                    |           |
| Afan Playgroup  | CPG          | SA13 3EE |         |         | Monday - Friday - 9am - 3.30pm                        |                          |                    |           |
| Aime Crocombe   | CHM          |          |         |         | Monday- Friday 7.00am-6.00pm                          |                          |                    |           |
| Alderman Davies Parent and Toddler Group                        | CPT          | SA11 3AA |         |         | Friday 9.15am-11.00am                                 |                          |                    |           |
| Alison Bradshaw - Childminder                                   | CHM          | SA8 3EL  | 0yrs    | 18yrs   | Monday - Friday, 7.00am - 6.00pm                      | £28/day                  |                    |           |
| Alltwen Parent & Toddler Group                                  | CPT          | SA8 3BY  | 0yrs    | 5yrs    | Thursdays 9:15am - 11:15am                            | £2.50                    |                    |           |
| Amanda Rees - Childminder                                       | CHM          | SA12 9BY | 2yrs    | 11yrs   | Monday - Friday, 7:30am - 6:00pm                      | £4.10/hour               |                    |           |
| Amser Twf   | CPT          | SA11 3BA |         |         | Thursdays 10am  |                          |                    | Yes       |
| Baglan Buddies - After School Club                              | CASC         | SA12 8YF | 3yrs    | 11yrs   | Monday - Friday 3:20pm - 17:45pm                      | £6.00                    |                    |           |
| Baglan Buddies- Holiday Club                                    | CHP          | SA12 8YF | 3yrs    | 12yrs   | Monday - Friday 8:30am - 5:30pm                       | £22.00/day               |                    |           |
| Baglan Youth Forum  | LEYC         | SA12 8PA | 9yrs    | 25yrs   | Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 6pm - 9pm          |                          |                    |           |
| Bettys Childcare - Childminder                                  | CHM          |          | 0yrs    | 12yrs   | Tuesday-Thursday 8.00am-5.30pm                        | £4.20                    |                    |           |
| Bizzy Kids Parent & Toddler Group - Parent & Toddler            | CPT          | SA10 6YU | 0yrs    | 2yrs    | Wednesday AM & PM                                     | £1.50                    |                    |           |
| Blaenbaglan Tiddlywinks Parent and Toddler Group                | CPT          | SA12 8YF |         |         | Friday 9.15am - 11.15am                               | £1.00                    |                    |           |
| Blaengwynfi Youth Club  | LEYC         | SA12 7NN | 11yrs   | 18yrs   |   |                          | Yes                | Yes       |
| Blaenhonddan Parent & Toddler Group - Parent & Toddler          | CPT          | SA10 7PE | 1mth    | 4yrs    | Friday 9.00am - 11.00am                               | £1.50                    |                    |           |
| Bright Stars  | CPG          | SA10 8NR | 2yrs    | 11yrs   | Mon - Thurs - 8.50am-5.30pm Friday - 3.20pm-5.30pm    | £7-£10 Time Slots        |                    |           |
| Briton Ferry Childcare  | CFD          | SA11 2HA | 0yrs    | 8yrs    | Monday - Friday 8am - 6pm                             | £36.00 / day             | Yes                | Yes       |
| Bryn Youth Club   | LEYC         | SA12 7NN | 9yrs    | 18yrs   | Friday 6.00pm-7.30pm & Friday 8.00pm-10.00pm          |                          |                    |           |
| Bryncoch Youth Club   | LEYC         | SA10 7TT | 11yrs   | 25yrs   | Thursday 7pm - 9pm                                    |                          |                    | Yes       |
| Busy Bees Parent and Toddler Group                              | CPT          | SA10 6AW |         |         |   |                          |                    |           |
| Cadoxton Parent and Toddler Group                               | CPT          | SA10 8AR | 0yrs    | 4yrs    | Tuesday & Friday 9.15am - 11.15am                     | £2.50                    |                    |           |
| Canolfan Maerdy - Full Day Care 0 - 2 years                     | CFD          | SA18 1UP | 3mths   | 2yrs    | Monday - Friday 7.30am - 6pm                          | £34/day                  |                    |           |
| Canolfan Maerdy - Full Day Care 2 - 3 years                     | CFD          | SA18 1UP | 2yrs    | 3yrs    | Monday - Friday 7:30am - 6pm                          | £34/day                  |                    |           |
| Canolfan Maerdy - Full Day Care 3 - 8 years                     | CFD          | SA18 1UP | 3yrs    | 8yrs    | Monday - Friday 7.30am - 6pm                          | £34/day                  |                    |           |
| Canolfan Maerdy - Holiday Club                                  | CHP          | SA18 1UP | 3yrs    | 11yrs   | Monday - Friday 7.45am - 6pm                          | £25 / day                |                    |           |
| Canolfan Maerdy - Lots of Tots After School Club                | CASC         | SA18 1UP | 3yrs    | 11yrs   | Monday - Friday 3.00pm- 6pm                           | £8-12                    |                    |           |
| Canolfan Maerdy - Lots of Tots Breakfast Club                   | CBC          | SA18 1UP | 3yrs    | 11yrs   | Monday - Friday 7.45am - 9am                          | £6-10                    |                    |           |
| Canolfan Maerdy - Meithrin Playgroup                            | CPG          | SA18 1UP | 2yrs    | 3yrs    | Monday - Friday 9.15am - 11.45am 1pm - 3pm            | £8.25                    |                    |           |
| Carole Bartlett - Carole's Childminding                         | CHM          | SA11 3HL | 0mth    | 14yrs   | Monday - Friday 7.30am - 6pm                          | £35.00 / day             | Yes                |           |
| Carrie Phillips - Childminder                                   | CHM          | SA11 3XE |         |         |   |                          |                    |           |
| Catwg After School Club   | CASC         | SA10 8BL | 3yrs    | 10yrs   | Monday-Sat - 8.30am-5.30pm Monday-Friday - 15:15-17:3 | £6.00                    | Yes                |           |
| Charlotte Cucuz - Charlotte's Childminding                      | CHM          | SA10 7RF | 0mths   | 8yrs    | Monday - Friday 7.30am-5.30pm                         | £18/Half Day £30/FullDay |                    | Yes       |
| Christopher Thomas - Childminder                                | CHM          | SA10 6SJ | 0yrs    | 14yrs   | Monday - Friday 7am-6pm                               | £32.50 / day             |                    |           |
| Cimla Parent and Toddler Group                                  | CPT          | SA11 3AZ |         |         | Monday 9am - 11am                                     | £1.50                    |                    |           |
| Cimla Youth Club  | LEYC         | SA11 3AZ | 11yrs   | 25yrs   | Monday 6pm - 8pm                                      |                          | Yes                | Yes       |
| Claire Kneath - Childminder                                     | CHM          | SA9 2EY  |         |         | Monday-Friday 7am-6pm                                 |                          |                    |           |
| Claire Nash - Claire's Little Sunshine's                        | CHM          | SA12 9ER | 0yrs    | 8yrs    | Monday - Friday 7.30am - 6.00pm                       | £32.00 / day             | Yes                | Yes       |
| Claire Nicholls-De Freitas - Munchkinos Childminding            | CHM          | SA10 6YA | 0yrs    | 16yrs   | Monday-Friday - 7.00am-6.00pm                         |                          |                    | Yes       |
| Coedffranc After-School Care Club                               | CASC         | SA10 6LP | 4yrs    | 11yrs   | Monday - Friday 3.00pm- 6pm                           |                          |                    |           |
| Coedffranc Parent & Child Group                                 | CASC         | SA10 6LP | 0yrs    | 3yrs    | Tuesday 9-30am-11.30pm Thursday - 1.30pm-3pm          |                          |                    |           |
| Croeserw Youth Club   | LEYC         | SA13 3PL | 11yrs   | 25yrs   | Monday 6pm - 8pm                                      |                          | Yes                | Yes       |
| Crynallt Parent and Toddler Group                               | CPT          | SA11 3AZ |         |         | Thursday 1pm - 3pm                                    |                          |                    |           |
| Crynallt Primary - Breakfast Club                               | CBC          | SA11 3AZ | 3yrs    | 11yrs   |   |                          |                    |           |
| Crynant Youth Club  | LEYC         | SA10 8RG | 11yrs   | 18yrs   | Tuesday 6pm - 8pm Friday 6pm - 8pm                    |                          | Yes                | Yes       |
| Cwmllynfell Youth Club  | LEYC         | SA9 2GH  | 11yrs   | 18yrs   | Tuesday & Wednesday 6.30pm - 8.30pm                   |                          |                    | Yes       |
| Cylch Chwarae Castell-Nedd - Meithrin Playgroup                 | CPG          | SA11 3HG | 2yrs    | 3yrs    | Monday-Friday 9:30am-12pm                             | £8.00                    |                    | Yes       |
| Cylch Chwarae Pontardawe - Playgroup                            | CPG          | SA8 4HU  | 2yrs    | 4yrs    | Mon, Tues, Thurs 9am - 12pm Wed , Fri 12pm-3pm        | £12.50                   | Yes                | Yes       |
| Cylch Meithrin Cwmnedd - Playgroup                              | CPG          | SA11 5DL | 2yrs    | 3yrs    | Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9am - 12pm (term time only)     | £8.00                    |                    | Yes       |

| Service Name   | Service Type | Postcode | Min Age | Max Age | Opening Times                                   | Price per Session | Disability Support | Bilingual |
|--|--------------|----------|---------|---------|---|-------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Cylch Meithrin Mwy Blaendulais                       | CPG          | SA10 9AA | 2yrs    | 4yrs    | Monday - Friday 11.50am-15.10pm                 |                   |                    | Yes       |
| Cylch Meithrin Pontardawe                            | CPG          | SA8 4JX  |         |         | Friday 8.45am-3.15pm                            |                   |                    | Yes       |
| Cylch Ti a Fi Sgiwen Welsh parent & Toddler Group    | CPT          | SA10 6LH | 0yrs    | 3yrs    | Wednesdays 9.30am-11.30pm (Term Time)           |                   |                    |           |
| Cymer Afan Tots Parent and Toddlers                  | CPT          | SA13 3EE | 0yrs    | 3yrs    | Wednesday 1pm-3pm                               | £1.00             |                    |           |
| Cymmer Youth Club                                    | LEYC         | SA13 3EL | 11yrs   | 18yrs   | Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 6-8pm, Friday 5-7pm  |                   |                    | Yes       |
| Deborah Francis - Childminder                        | CHM          | SA8 3EL  | 0yrs    | 14yrs   |   |                   |                    |           |
| Debra Maddocks - Childminder                         | CHM          | SA13 2RS | 3mths   | 14yrs   | Monday - Friday 7.00am - 5pm                    | £30.00 / day      | Yes                |           |
| Dovecote Day Nursery                                 | CFD          | SA10 9LW | 0yrs    | 5yrs    | Monday - Friday 8.00am - 5.30pm                 | £3.60 / hour      |                    |           |
| Elizabeth & Andrew Dye - Childminder                 | CHM          | SA10 7SU | 0yrs    | 8yrs    | Monday - Friday 7.00am - 6.00pm                 | £32.50/day        |                    |           |
| Emma Terry -Twinkle Toes                             | CHM          | SA13 2TY |         |         | Monday - Friday 8am - 6pm                       | 4.5 / hour        |                    |           |
| Eve Piles - Childminder                              | CHM          | SA11 1JS | 0yrs    | 8yrs    | Monday - Friday 8am - 5.30pm                    | £35.00 per day    | Yes                | Yes       |
| Flying Start Baby Babbling Unders 1's Activity Group | CPT          | SA12 6LR | 0yrs    | 1yr     | Monday 1.30pm - 2.30pm                          |                   |                    |           |
| Flying Start Baby Club - Cwmavon                     | CPT          | SA12 9DF |         |         | Tuesday 2pm - 3.15pm and Friday 10.30am - 12pm  |                   |                    |           |
| Flying Start Baby Club - Taibach                     | CPT          | SA13 1LN |         |         | Thursdays 11am - 12.15pm                        |                   |                    |           |
| Flying Start Baby Massage - Cwmavon                  | CPT          | SA12 9DF |         |         | Friday 9.30am - 10.30am                         |                   |                    |           |
| Flying Start Baby Massage - Taibach                  | CPT          | SA13 1LN |         |         | Thursday 10am - 11am                            |                   |                    |           |
| Flying Start Parent & Toddler - Glynneath            | CPT          | SA11 5DU | 0yrs    | 2yrs    | Thursday 9.15am - 11.15am                       |                   |                    |           |
| Flying Start Parent and Toddler Group - Taibach      | CPT          | SA13 1NA |         |         | Fridays 1pm-3pm                                 |                   |                    |           |
| Flying Start Parent and Toddler Group - Aberavon     | CPT          | SA12 6HU |         |         | Thursdays 9am - 11am                            |                   |                    |           |
| Flying Start Parent and Toddler Group - Briton Ferry | CPT          | SA11 2LN |         |         | Wednesdays 1pm - 3pm                            |                   |                    |           |
| Flying Start Parent and Toddler Group - Croeserw     | CPT          | SA13 3PL |         |         | Monday and Fridays 12.30pm - 2.30pm             |                   |                    |           |
| Flying Start Parent and Toddler Group - Glynccorwg   | CPT          | SA13 3BN |         |         | Mondays 1pm - 3pm                               |                   |                    |           |
| Flying Start Parent and Toddler Group - Melyn        | CPT          | SA11 1SS |         |         | Mondays 1pm - 3pm                               |                   |                    |           |
| Flying Start Parent and Toddler Group - Sandfields   | CPT          | SA12 6SF |         |         | Wednesdays 9.15am - 11.15am                     |                   |                    |           |
| Flying Start Parent and Toddler Group Pontardawe     | CPT          | SA8 4HU  |         |         | Mondays 1pm - 3pm                               |                   |                    |           |
| Funky Footsteps Cylch Meithrin                       | CPG          | SA12 6UQ | 2yrs    | 3yrs    | Monday-Friday 7.00am-5.00pm                     |                   |                    | Yes       |
| Gayle McDonald - Childminder                         | CHM          | SA12 7BE | 3mths   | 12yrs   | Monday - Friday 7am - 6pm                       | £30.00 / day      |                    |           |
| Gemma Chapple - Bambinos Childcare                   | CHM          | SA10 8EF | 0yrs    | 12yrs   | Monday - Friday 7am - 6pm                       | £32.00 / day      |                    |           |
| Gemma's Childminding - Child minder                  | CHM          | SA10 6TF | 0yrs    | 12yrs   | Monday - Friday 7.30am - 6.00pm                 | £30.00/day        | Yes                | Yes       |
| Gemma Thomas - Aunty Gems Childminding               | CHM          | SA10 7FG | 0yrs    | 11yrs   | Monday - Friday 7.00am -5:30pm                  | £30.00 / day      |                    |           |
| Georgie Porgie's - Pontardawe                        | CFD          | SA8 3BB  | 2yrs    | 11yrs   | Monday - Friday 11:30am - 5:30pm                |                   |                    |           |
| Georgie Porgie's - Sandfields                        | CFD          | SA12 7NN | 2yrs    | 4yrs    | Monday-Friday 8.00am-6.00pm                     |                   |                    |           |
| Georgie Porgie's Babycare - Briton Ferry             | CFD          | SA11 2SL |         |         |   |                   |                    |           |
| Georgie Porgie's Playgroup - Melin                   | CPG          | SA11 2DA | 2yrs    | 8yrs    | Monday - Friday 10.00am-12.00am                 | £7.85             |                    |           |
| Glynccorwg Youth Club                                | LEYC         | SA13 3AH | 11yrs   | 18yrs   | Monday & Wednesday 6pm - 8pm                    |                   |                    | Yes       |
| Glynneath Youth Club                                 | LEYC         | SA11 5DB | 11yrs   | 18yrs   | Thursday 6pm - 8.30pm                           |                   | Yes                | Yes       |
| Godrer Graig Parent and Toddler Group                | CPT          | SA9 2NY  | 0yrs    | 3yrs    | Thursday 9.15am - 11.15am                       | £1.00             |                    |           |
| Goes Toddlers - Parent & Toddler Group               | CPT          | SA13 2AW | 0yrs    | 3yrs    | Tuesday 9am - 11am                              | £1.00             |                    |           |
| Gwen James - Gwen's Childminding                     | CHM          | SA10 6EF | 0yrs    | 12yrs   | Monday - Friday 8am - 5.30pm                    |                   |                    |           |
| Gwynfi Childcare Club - After School Club            | CASC         | SA13 3YE | 4yrs    | 11yrs   | Monday - Friday 3.20pm - 5.15pm                 | £2.50             |                    |           |
| Gwynfi Childcare Club - Gwynfi Tiny Tots             | CPT          | SA13 3YE | 0yrs    | 4yrs    | Wednesday 9-11am                                | £1.50             |                    |           |
| Heavens Little Treasures Flying Start Playgroup      | CPG          | SA11 2ND |         |         | Monday- Friday 9.00am-3.30pm                    |                   | Yes                | Yes       |
| Helen Jenkins - Helen's House Childcare              | CHM          | SA10 7FH | 0yrs    | 8yrs    | Monday - Friday 8am - 6pm                       | £30.00 / day      |                    |           |
| Helping Hands Childcare Centre - After School Club   | CASC         | SA11 5AA | 4yrs    | 11yrs   | Monday - Friday 3pm - 5pm                       | £6.00 / session   |                    |           |
| Hoots Childcare Centre- Afterschool Club             | CASC         | SA8 3AB  | 3yrs    | 11yrs   | Monday- Friday 3.25pm-5.15pm                    |                   |                    |           |
| Hoots Childcare Centre- Wraparound                   | CWA          | SA8 3AB  | 3yrs    | 11yrs   | Monday-Friday 11.45am-3.20pm                    |                   |                    |           |
| Hoots Childcare Centre-Playgroup.                    | CPG          | SA8 3AB  | 2yrs    | 3yrs    | Monday-Friday 12.50am-3.20pm                    | £7.50             |                    |           |
| Interplay - Holiday Clubs                            | CHP          | SA12 7BL |         |         |   |                   | Yes                |           |
| Interplay - over 12s                                 | LEYC         | SA12 7BL | 12yrs   | 19yrs   |   |                   | Yes                |           |
| Interplay - under 12s                                | CPG          | SA12 7BL | 5yrs    | 11yrs   |   |                   | Yes                |           |
| Joanne Jones - Childminder                           | CHM          | SA13 2TE |         |         | Monday-Thursday 8.00am-5.30pm                   | £4.85/hour        |                    |           |
| Joanne Thomas - Wellington - Childminder             | CHM          | SA12 7DE |         |         | Monday - Friday 7:00am-6:00pm                   | £4.00/hour        |                    |           |
| John Long - Childminder                              | CHM          | SA12 8BA |         |         |   |                   |                    |           |
| Julie Ellis - Happy Days Julie's Childminding        | CHM          | SA11 3AZ | 2.5yrs  | 16yrs   | Monday - Friday 8am - 8pm (weekends considered) |                   |                    |           |
| Julie Weaver - Childminder                           | CHM          | SA12 9EJ | 0yrs    | 12yrs   | Monday - Friday 7.30am-6.00pm                   | £4.00/hour        |                    |           |
| Karen Reed - Childminder                             | CHM          | SA12 8PP |         |         | Monday - Friday + Sunday 7.30am-6.30pm          | £45.00/day        | Yes                | Yes       |
| Kathryn Hamm - Kath's Childminding                   | CHM          | SA8 4EG  |         |         | Monday - Friday 7.00am - 6pm                    |                   |                    |           |
| Kelly Matthews - Kelly's Childminding Service        | CHM          | SA13 1TH | 3mths   | 11yrs   | Monday - Friday 7.30am - 6pm                    | £30.00 / day      |                    |           |



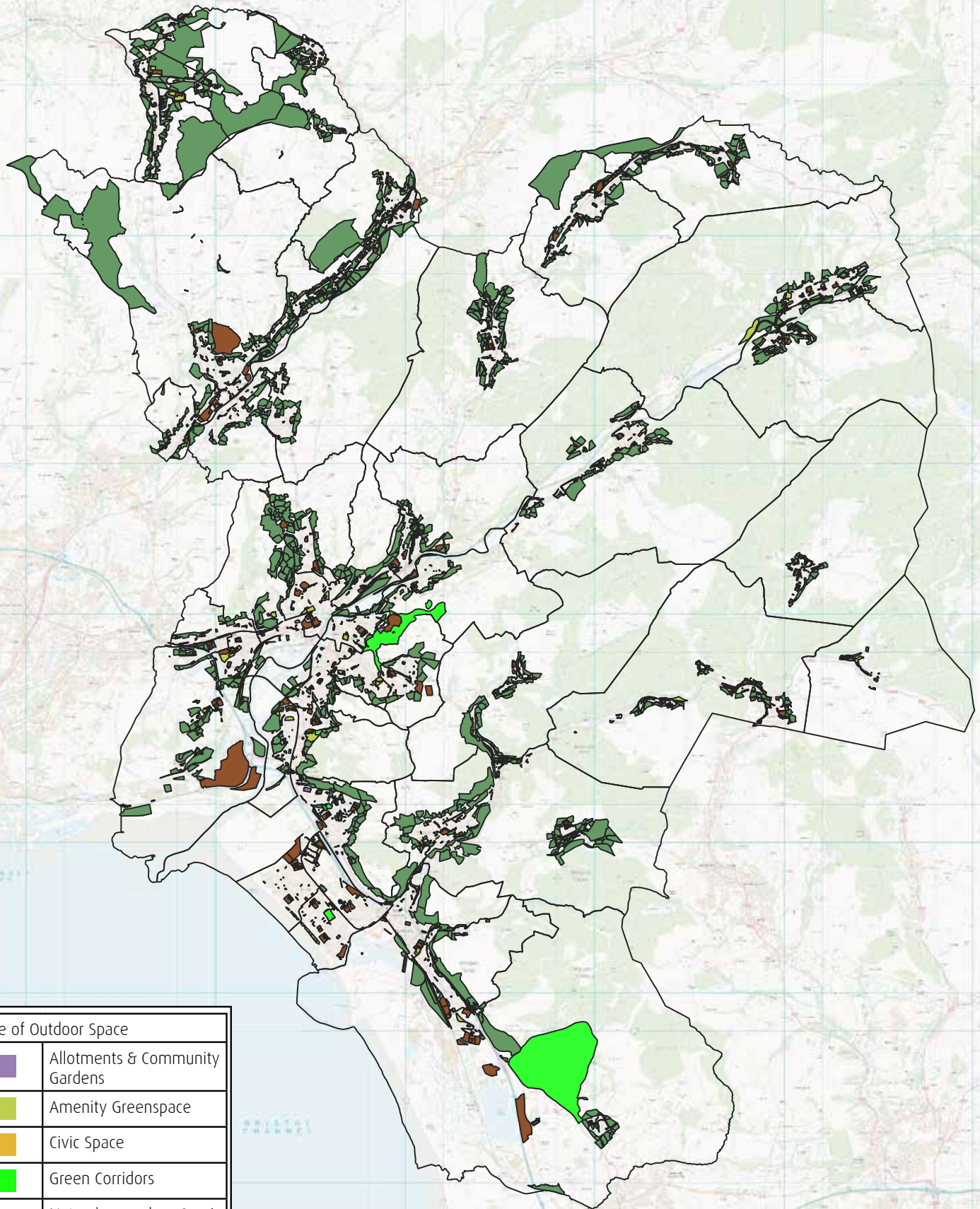
| Service Name   | Service Type | Postcode | Min Age | Max Age | Opening Times  | Price per Session | Disability Support | Bilingual |
|--|--------------|----------|---------|---------|--|-------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Kelly Parsons - Kelly's Tots                             | CHM          | SA18 1SW | 1mth    | 12yrs   | Monday - Friday 7.00am - 5pm                                 | £2.80 / hour      |                    |           |
| Kidz Cottage LTD T/A Toots & Bounce - Children Activites | CPT          | SA11 1NJ |         |         | Mon-Thurs 9.30am-4pm Fri 9.30am-6pm Sat & Sun - 10am-6pm/4pm | £4.50             | Yes                |           |
| Kool Kidz - After School Club                            | CASC         | SA10 7UG | 3yrs    | 12yrs   | Monday - Friday 3.10pm - 5.30pm                              | £3.50             |                    |           |
| La Leche League of Swansea Valley                        | CPT          | SA9 1BJ  |         |         | Friday 10.30am-12.30pm (1st and 3rd Friday of Month)         |                   |                    |           |
| Lego Club - Sandifelds Library                           | CHP          | SA12 6TG | 7yrs    | 11yrs   | Every two weeks Tuesday 3.45pm                               |                   |                    |           |
| Lilliput Day Nursery - Neath                             | CFD          | SA10 7RF | 3mths   | 8yrs    | Mon-Fri 7.00am-6.00pm  |                   |                    |           |
| Lindy Lewis - Aunt Ruby's Childminding - Child minder    | CHM          | SA8 4AH  |         |         | 7.00am - 6.00pm  |                   |                    |           |
| Lisa Hughes - Little Buds Childminding                   | CHM          | SA11 3AJ | 0yrs    | 12yrs   | Monday - Friday 7.00am-6.00pm                                | £32.00 / day      | Yes                | Yes       |
| Little Acorns Nursery                                    | CPG          | SA11 3UD |         |         | Monday - Thursday 9.00am-12.00pm                             |                   |                    |           |
| Little People Day Nursery                                | CFD          | SA12 7AH | 3mnths  | 8yrs    | Monday - Friday 7.30am - 6.00pm                              |                   |                    |           |
| Little Stars Day Nursery                                 | CFD          | SA10 7RF | 0yrs    | 5yrs    | Tuesday-Thursday 9.00am-3.30pm                               |                   |                    |           |
| Little Stars Parent & Toddler Group - Parent & Toddler   | CPT          | SA11 1AR | 0yrs    | 5yrs    | Monday and Thursday 9am - 11am                               | £1.00             |                    | Yes       |
| Little Steps Childcare - After School Club               | CASC         | SA8 4EB  | 3yrs    | 11yrs   | Monday - Friday 7.30am - 6pm                                 | £10.00 / day      |                    | Yes       |
| Little Steps Childcare - Breakfast Club                  | CBC          | SA8 4EB  | 3yrs    | 11yrs   | Monday-Friday 7:30am   | £5.25 / day       |                    | Yes       |
| Little Steps Childcare - Holiday Club - Clwb Joio        | CHP          | SA8 4EB  | 5yrs    | 11yrs   |  | £25.00 / day      |                    | Yes       |
| Little Steps Childcare - Club Hwyl! - Pontardawe         | CHP          | SA8 4EB  | 5yrs    |         | Monday - Friday 3.15pm-5.15pm                                |                   |                    | Yes       |
| Little Steps Childcare Centre - Day Nursery              | CFD          | SA8 4EB  | 0yrs    | 11yrs   | Monday - Friday 7.30am - 6pm                                 | £47.00/day        | Yes                | Yes       |
| Little Tinkers Playgroup                                 | CPG          | SA11 2YR | 0yrs    | 3yrs    | Tuesday 10am - 12pm  | £1.50 per session |                    |           |
| Lots of Tots Day Nursery                                 | CPG          | SA13 1EW | 0yrs    | 5yrs    | Monday - Friday 9.00am-5.00pm                                |                   |                    |           |
| Lots of Tots - Breakfast Club                            | CBC          | SA18 1UP | 0yrs    | 12yrs   | Monday - Friday 7.30am - 6.00pm                              | £7.00/hour        |                    |           |
| Lots of Tots Childcare                                   | CFD          | SA13 1EW | 0yrs    | 11yrs   | Monday - Friday 7.30am - 6pm                                 | £35.00/day        | Yes                | Yes       |
| Lydia Ryan - Lydia's Childminding                        | CHM          | SA8 4RX  | 6mths   |         | Monday - Friday 7.30 - 6pm                                   | £31.50 / day      |                    |           |
| Lynette Gethin - Childminder                             | CHM          | SA8 3EZ  | 0yrs    | 12yrs   | Monday - Friday 7.00am-6.00pm                                | £4.00/hour        | Yes                | Yes       |
| Mandy Bowen - Childminder                                | CHM          | SA10 7YG | 0mths   | 13yrs   | Monday - Thursday 7.30am - 5.30pm                            | £30.00 / day      |                    |           |
| Margam Youth Centre - Sports                             | LEYC         | SA13 2DY |         |         | Monday - Friday 4pm - 9pm                                    |                   |                    |           |
| Margaret Jacobs - Childminder                            | CHM          | SA10 8SD | 0yrs    | 12yrs   | Monday - Friday 7am - 6pm                                    | £30.00 / day      |                    |           |
| Maria Webley - Childminder                               | CHM          | SA12 9BB |         |         | Monday - Friday 7.15am - 5.30pm                              | £4.00/hour        |                    |           |
| Marilyn Gibson - Childminder                             | CHM          | SA11 3XF |         |         | Monday-Friday 7.00am-6.00pm                                  |                   |                    |           |
| Martina Thomas - Childminder                             | CHM          | SA10 6SJ |         |         | Mon - Thurs 8am - 5.30pm Fri 8am - 4pm                       | £25.00            |                    |           |
| Meithrinfa Ddydd Ser Bach / Little Stars Day Nursery     | CFD          | SA10 7RF | 2yrs    | 5yrs    | Tuesday - Thursday 9.00am-3.30am                             |                   |                    | Yes       |
| Meithrinfa Ddydd Y Waun                                  | CFD          | SA18 2EP | 8yrs    | 6yrs    | Monday - Friday 8.00am-6.00pm                                | £30.00 / day      |                    | Yes       |
| Meithrinfa Ddydd Y Waun - Parent and Toddler             | CPT          | SA18 2EP |         |         | Monday-Friday 9.15am-11.10pm                                 | £5.00             |                    | Yes       |
| Melin Infants Flying Start Playgroup - Playgroup         | CPG          | SA11 2DD | 2yrs    | 3yrs    | Monday - Friday 9am - 11.30am 12.30pm - 3pm                  | £7.00             | Yes                | Yes       |
| Melin Flying Start All Day Care - Day Nursery            | CFD          | SA11     | 2yrs    | 11yrs   | Monday-Friday 8.00am-5.00pm                                  |                   | Yes                | Yes       |
| Melin Juniors Flying Start                               | CPG          | SA11 2ED | 2yrs    | 11yrs   | Monday - Friday 8.30am-5.45pm                                | £7.00             | Yes                | Yes       |
| Miles of Smiles Day Nursery                              | CFD          | SA12 8EB | 3mths   | 8yrs    | Monday - Friday 7.00am - 6pm                                 |                   |                    |           |
| Neath Port Talbot Day Nursery                            | CFD          | SA12 7BX | 1mth    | 4yrs    | Monday - Friday 7am - 6pm                                    | £41.50 / day      | Yes                | Yes       |
| Neath Town Centre Youth Club                             | LEYC         | SA12 7NN | 11yrs   | 18yrs   |  |                   | Yes                | Yes       |
| Nicola Grandon - Childminder                             | CHM          | SA13 2AS | 0yrs    | 10yrs   | Mon,Wed,Friday 7.00am-6.00pm                                 | £35.00/day        | Yes                | Yes       |
| Niketa Thomas - Niketa's Childminding Service            | CHM          | SA10 7UG | 0yrs    | 16yrs   | Monday - Friday 7am - 6pm                                    | £4.00/hour        |                    |           |
| Once Upon A Time Childcare                               | CFD          | SA11 3EJ | 2yrs    | 11yrs   | 8.30am - 6pm Monday - Friday                                 | £30.00            | Yes                | Yes       |
| PALS - Daycare   | CFD          | SA11 1AQ | 2yrs    | 12yrs   | Monday - Friday 8am - 6pm                                    | £11.50            | Yes                | Yes       |
| PALS - Holiday Club                                      | CPT          | SA11 1AQ | 0yrs    | 5yrs    |  | £20.00/day        | Yes                | Yes       |
| PALS- Playgroup  | CPG          | SA11 3UG | 2yrs    | 5yrs    | Monday - Friday 9am - 12pm                                   | £7.00             | Yes                | Yes       |
| PAT'S Parent and Toddler Group                           | CPT          | SA12 6DZ |         |         | Mondays and Thursdays 1pm - 2.30pm                           | £1.50             |                    |           |
| Renee Phillips-Gall - Childminder                        | CHM          | SA10 6SJ | 2mths   | 13yrs   | Monday - Friday 7.00am - 5.00pm                              | £4.00/hour        |                    |           |
| Resloven Toddler Time                                    | CPT          | SA11 4HH | 0yrs    | 4yrs    | 9.30am - 11am Wednesdays (Term Time)                         | £1.00             |                    |           |
| Resolven Building Blocks - Day Nursery                   | CFD          | SA11 4AB | 0mths   | 2yrs    | Monday - Friday 8am - 6pm                                    |                   | Yes                | Yes       |
| Resolven Building Blocks - Holiday Club                  | CHP          | SA11 4AB | 4yrs    | 12yrs   | Monday - Friday 8am - 6pm                                    | £8.75             |                    | Yes       |
| Resolven Building Blocks - After School Club             | CASC         | SA11 4AB | 3yrs    | 12yrs   | Monday - Friday 3.20pm - 6pm                                 | £12.60            |                    | Yes       |
| Resolven Building Blocks - Playgroup Session- Over 2's   | CPG          | SA11 4AB | 2yrs    | 4yrs    | Monday - Friday 9am-11am                                     | £10.50            |                    | Yes       |
| Resolven Building Blocks - Wraparound                    | CWA          | SA11 4AB | 2yrs    | 4yrs    | Monday - Friday 11.30am-6.00pm                               |                   |                    | Yes       |
| Rhian Doyle - Little Green Buds Childminding             | CHM          | SA10 6YD |         |         | Monday - Sunday 7am - 6pm                                    | £4.50/hour        |                    | Yes       |
| Rhiannon Jones - Rhiannon's Childminding                 | CHM          | SA10 9DY | 0yrs    | 14yrs   | Monday - Friday 7.30am - 6pm                                 |                   |                    |           |
| Rhos Wrigglers - Parent and Toddler Group                | CPT          | SA8 3EB  | 0yrs    | 3yrs    | Wednesday 2pm - 3.15pm                                       |                   |                    |           |
| Rolling Zone Mobile Youth Provision                      | LEYC         | SA10 6HZ | 11yrs   | 18yrs   |  |                   |                    | Yes       |
| Rompers Day Nursery                                      | CFD          | SA11 5DB | 0yrs    | 11yrs   | Monday - Friday 8am - 6pm                                    | £3.50 / hour      |                    | Yes       |
| Ruth Howard - Childminder                                | CHM          | SA11 3SN |         |         | Monday - Friday 7.00am-6.00pm                                |                   |                    |           |

| Service Name  | Service Type | Postcode | Min Age | Max Age | Opening Times                                     | Price per Session | Disability Support | Bilingual |
|---|--------------|----------|---------|---------|---|-------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Samantha Mellens - Childminder                        | CHM          | SA10 8BT | 0yrs    | 8yrs    | Monday - Friday 8am - 6pm                         |                   |                    |           |
| Sandfields Toddlers                                   | CPT          | SA12 7BL | 0yrs    | 5yrs    | Mon, Thurs, Fri 1.30pm - 3pm Wed 9.30am - 11.30am | £1.50             |                    |           |
| Sandfields Youth Club                                 | LEYC         | SA12 7BL | 11yrs   | 18yrs   | Mon - Thurs 6.45pm - 8.45pm Friday 6.00-8.00pm    |                   |                    | Yes       |
| Sandy Feet Day Nursery                                | CFD          | SA12 7HE | 2mths   | 12yrs   | Monday - Friday 7.30am - 6pm                      | £37.00/day        | Yes                |           |
| Seven Sisters Youth Club                              | LEYC         | SA10 9DN | 11yrs   | 15yrs   | Tuesday and Thursday 6:30pm – 8:30pm              |                   | Yes                | Yes       |
| Sharon Williams - Childminder                         | CHM          | SA8 3HL  | 0mths   | 8yrs    | Monday - Friday 7.30am - 6pm                      | £32.00 / day      |                    | Yes       |
| Skewen Methodist Parent & Toddler Group               | CPT          | SA10 6HG | 0yrs    | 3yrs    | Friday 9.30am - 11.30am                           | £1.50             |                    |           |
| SNAC - Cutie Corner                                   | CPT          | SA13 2BL | 0yrs    | 4yrs    | Thursday 9.30am - 12.30pm                         | £4.00             | Yes                |           |
| SNAC - Open Sessions                                  | CPG          | SA13 2BL | 5yrs    | 28yrs   | Thursday 4pm - 8pm Saturday 1.00pm - 5pm          | £5.00             | Yes                |           |
| SNAC - School Holiday Activites                       | CHP          | SA13 2BL |         |         | Monday - Friday 9.30am - 3.30pm                   | £22.50            | Yes                |           |
| SNAC - Youth Club                                     | LEYC         | SA13 2BL | 9yrs    | 28yrs   | Tues & Fri 5pm - 8pm or 4.30pm - 8.30pm           | £10.00            | Yes                |           |
| St Josephs Infant Language & Play                     | CPT          | SA12 6LF | 0yrs    | 4yrs    | Tuesday 9am-10am                                  |                   |                    |           |
| St Peters Church Parent and Toddler Group             | CPT          | SA11 3UG |         |         | Thursday 12.30pm - 2.30pm                         | £1.00             |                    |           |
| Stephanie Jones - Childminder                         | CHM          |          | 0yrs    | 12yrs   | Monday - Friday 7:00am-6.00pm                     |                   |                    |           |
| Streetwise Childrens Club                             | LEYC         | SA13 1US | 7yrs    | 11yrs   | Thursday 6pm-7pm                                  | £1.00             |                    |           |
| Susan Helen Wood - Childminder                        | CHM          | SA12 8UF | 0yrs    | 11yrs   | Wednesday - Friday 8am - 4.30pm                   | £35.00 / day      |                    |           |
| Taibach Youth Club                                    | LEYC         | SA13 2BN | 11yrs   | 18yrs   |   |                   | Yes                | Yes       |
| Tara Roche - Childminder                              | CHM          | SA13 1TT | 0yrs    | 8yrs    | Mon - Fri 8am - 5.30pm                            |                   |                    |           |
| Tiddlywinks Port Talbot - Creche                      | CMC          | SA13 2BL | 2yrs    | 7yrs    | Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm                         | £7.00             |                    | Yes       |
| Tiddlywinks Port Talbot - Day Care                    | CFD          | SA13 2BL | 0yrs    | 8yrs    | Monday - Friday - 8.30am - 3.30pm                 | £25               |                    | Yes       |
| Tiddlywinks Ystalyfera - After School Club            | CASC         | SA9 2HR  | 4yrs    | 13yrs   | Monday - Friday 3.30pm - 5.30pm                   | £6.50             |                    | Yes       |
| Tiddlywinks Ystalyfera - Breakfast Club               | CBC          | SA9 2HR  | 3yrs    | 11yrs   | Monday - Friday 8am - 9am                         | £3.90             |                    | Yes       |
| Tiddlywinks Ystalyfera - Cylch Meithrin               | CPG          | SA9 2HR  | 2yrs    | 3yrs    | Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm                   |                   |                    | Yes       |
| Tiddlywinks Ystalyfera - Cylch Ti a Fi Neuadd Gymuned | CPT          | SA9 2HR  | 0yrs    | 2yrs    | Wednesday 1:00pm-3.00pm                           |                   |                    | Yes       |
| Tiddlywinks Ystalyfera - Cylch Ti a Fi Ystalyfera     | CPT          | SA9 2HR  | 2mths   | 2yrs    | Wednesday 1pm - 2.50pm                            | £2.00             |                    | Yes       |
| Tiddlywinks Ystalyfera - Day Nursery                  | CFD          | SA9 2HR  | 0mths   | 2yrs    | Monday - Thursday 7am-7pm                         | £4.50             |                    | Yes       |
| Tiddlywinks Ystalyfera - Holiday Play Care            | CHP          | SA9 2HR  | 4yrs    | 13yrs   | Monday - Friday 7am - 7pm                         | £22.60 / day      |                    | Yes       |
| Tiddlywinks Ystalyfera - Mobile Creche                | CMC          | SA9 2HR  | 2mths   | 13yrs   |   |                   |                    | Yes       |
| Tiddlywinks Ystalyfera - Mums Matter and Natter Group | CPT          | SA9 2HR  | 0yrs    | 2yrs    | Tuesday 1.15pm - 2.45pm                           |                   |                    | Yes       |
| Tiddlywinks Ystalyfera - Open Access Play             | CPG          | SA9 2HR  | 5yrs    | 15yrs   |   |                   |                    | Yes       |
| Tiddlywinks Ystalyfera - Wrap Around Care             | CWA          | SA9 2HR  | 3yrs    | 4yrs    | Monday - Friday 11am - 5pm                        | £18.40            |                    | Yes       |
| Tonmawr Tots - Parent & Toddler                       | CPT          | SA12 9UB | 0yrs    | 4mths   | Tuesday 1pm - 3pm                                 | £2.00             |                    |           |
| Tracey Morris - Childminder                           | CHM          | SA12 9AZ | 0yrs    | 12yrs   | Monday - Friday 7am - 6pm                         | £4.00             |                    | Yes       |
| Tracey Pritchard - Childminder                        | CHM          | SA11 3JB |         |         | Monday-Friday 7.00am - 6.00pm                     |                   |                    |           |
| Tywyn Kids Club - After School Club                   | CHP          | SA12 6JF | 3yrs    | 11yrs   | Monday - Friday 3.15am - 5:30pm                   | £6.00             |                    |           |
| Tywyn Kids Club - Holiday Club                        | CHP          | SA12 6JF | 3yrs    | 11yrs   | Monday - Friday 9.00am-3.30pm                     |                   |                    |           |
| Vivienne Morgan - Childminder                         | CHM          | SA10 7PU | 0yrs    | 12yrs   | Monday - Friday 7.30am - 6pm                      | £30.00 / day      | Yes                | Yes       |
| Wendy McQuillan - Wendys Childminding                 | CHM          | SA11 5DH | 0yrs    | 16yrs   | Monday - Sunday 7am - 5.30pm                      | £4.50 / hour      | Yes                | Yes       |
| Who Let The Dads Out                                  | CPT          | SA10 6SR | 0yrs    | 6yrs    | First Saturday of month 10am -12pm                | £2.00             |                    |           |
| Ystalyfera Youth Club                                 | LEYC         | SA12 7NN | 11yrs   | 18yrs   | Monday 6.00pm-8.00pm                              |                   | Yes                | Yes       |

# Appendix 5.

---

## Spaces with Potential for Play



| Type of Outdoor Space  |   |
|--|---|
|  | Allotments & Community Gardens          |
|  | Amenity Greenspace                      |
|  | Civic Space                             |
|  | Green Corridors                         |
|  | Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace     |
|  | Outdoor Sports                          |
|  | Parks and Gardens                       |
|  | Provision for Children and Young People |
|  | Unclassified                            |
|  | Woodland                                |