

The Vale of Glamorgan

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

2010-2011

Summary Report

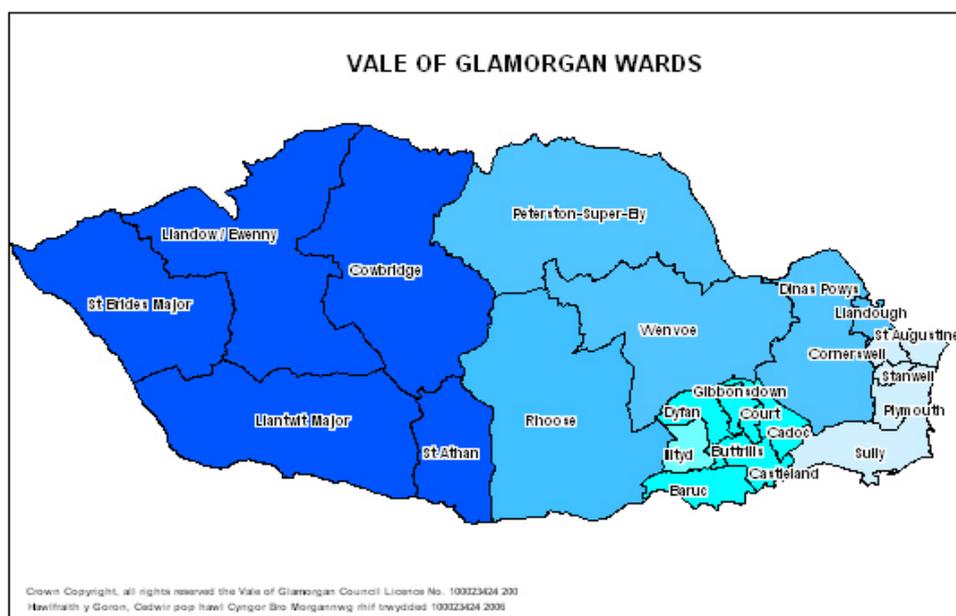


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Section 1: Context of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA)

1 Introduction - The Vale of Glamorgan

There are 23 electoral wards in the Vale of Glamorgan but of these the eight considered to be rural cover approximately 80% of the area. (We have chosen to use electoral wards to analyse the sufficiency of childcare). The main settlements are Barry, Penarth, Llantwit Major, Dinas Powys, Cowbridge and Rhoose. Barry, the largest town with a population of nearly 50,000, is the Vale's administrative centre, a seaside resort and port. Four miles to the west of the town centre, at Rhoose is Cardiff International Airport.



1.1 Context of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

The Childcare Act 2006 requires all Local Authorities in Wales to carry out a childcare sufficiency assessment. The intention of this report is to provide an assessment of the current levels of childcare within the Vale and the gaps identified via consultation. This will inform an action plan to secure sufficient childcare.

When discussing 'sufficient' we mean having the right type and quantity of good, high quality childcare to meet the needs of parents/carers in the Vale of Glamorgan concentrating on meeting the needs of families for:

- the provision of childcare in respect of which the childcare element of working tax credit is payable
- the provision of childcare which is suitable for disabled children
- the provision of childcare involving the use of Welsh language.

The assessment identifies gaps in childcare in relation to:

- geographical gaps
- income gaps
- specific Needs gaps
- time gaps
- age gaps
- type gaps

In order to carry out this assessment and gather the information required to achieve and produce a successful childcare sufficiency assessment and action plan, it has been crucial to look at many different areas including:

- consultation with parents/carers
- consultation with employers
- consultation with providers
- consultation with children & young people
- consultation with wider stakeholders (e.g. Local Safeguarding Children's Board, Children with Disabilities Team, Cyfle Cyntaf/First Opportunities, Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin, Wales Pre-School Providers Association, Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs, National Childminding Association etc).

Links to the Children and Young People's Partnership

The Vale of Glamorgan Children and Young People's Partnership is made up of multi-agency partners including those from Health, Local Authority and voluntary sector. The aim of the partnership is to ensure that children and young people in the Vale are well informed and supported and have access to a broad range of quality services that enable them to take full advantage of the life opportunities available in their local communities and beyond.

1.2 Summary of key findings

▪ Welsh Language Profile

The demand for Welsh medium schools has increased substantially in the past three years to the extent that current demand now exceeds capacity; this is especially the case in Barry and the rural Vale.

There are **four** registered Cylch Meithin within the Vale of Glamorgan which has been highlighted as insufficient by both parents and providers. A further Cylch Meithrin is in the process of opening in Llantwit Major to meet the demands of parents. More information on Welsh language can be found under the childcare section.

▪ Numbers of disabled children

Estimates for the number of children and young people who should be registered on the Disability Index in the Vale ranges from **237 to 711**, depending on which calculation is used. Locally in the Vale the numbers of children and young people who are currently registered on the Disability Index register is **205**. More information on children with disabilities can be found under the childcare section.

▪ Economic Factors

The Vale of Glamorgan Council is the largest employer with approximately **5,878** full-time, part-time and casual employees (as at March 2009) and an annual gross revenue expenditure of £295 million in 2008/09. The Council

works in partnership with many different agencies in the public, voluntary and business sectors to deliver a wide range of services.

In the Vale the areas with the highest proportion of children living in families on benefits are Gibbonsdown, Court, Castleland and Cadoc; these also have the highest percentage of teenage pregnancies.

▪ Childcare

There are **4,116** registered childcare places in the Vale of Glamorgan, of which the largest proportion is with childminders (27%). There are total of 297 registered providers in the Vale – 202 (68%) childminders, 24 (8%) playgroups, 20 (7%) after school clubs, 16 (5%) day nurseries, 15 (5%) holiday care schemes, 10 (3%) breakfast clubs, 6 (2%) crèches and 4 (1%) Cylch Meithrin.

A number of unregistered settings (those not registered with Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales - CSSIW) also operate in the Vale – 8 after school clubs, 3 Cylch Meithrin's, 1 Crèche, 3 breakfast clubs, 1 crèche, 1 holiday club and 1 playgroup – total childcare places **495**.

Number of children per place

Figure 1 shows the number of places available during term time and school holidays with the total number of children age 0-14 years in each ward (*). It also shows the average number of children per place during term time and holidays. When referring to a childcare place, this could be with any form of registered childcare including a childminder, a day nursery, a playgroup or Cylch Meithrin, a crèche or an out of school club. It is also noted that not every child age 0-14 years would need childcare. However, this gives an overview and this is broken down into smaller age groups of 0-4 years and 5-9 years in the full report.

During term time, the average number of children per place is **6.3** for the Vale as a whole. This increases to **9.3** children per place during school holidays.

There is variation between wards. Some have a higher number of children per place than others, which possibly suggests a shortfall in supply in that ward. The wards with the highest number of children per place during term times are:

- Dyfan (**21.5** children per place)
- Castleland (**20**)
- Court (**16.2**)
- Cadoc (**15.3**)
- Llandow/Ewenny (**12.5**)
- St Athan (**12.4**)

The four wards with the highest number of children per place are all in Barry.

All of the wards above, apart from Llandow/Ewenny, also have the highest number of children per place during school holidays, plus St Bride's Major and Dinas Powys (as below):

- St Bride's Major (**56.7**)
- Court (**43.3**)
- St Athan (**26.8**)
- Cadoc (**25.2**)
- Dyfan (**21.5**)
- Dinas Powys (**21.2**)
- Castleland (**20**)

Figure 1 Number of children per place for children age 0-14 years

Ward	Term Time	School Holidays	Number of children	Children per place during term time	Children per place during holidays
Penarth	655	576	3608	5.5	6.3
Cornerswell	117	115	932	8.0	8.1
St. Augustine's	148	106	862	5.8	8.1
Stanwell	147	127	912	6.2	7.2
Plymouth	267	228	902	3.4	4.0
Barry	1,261	809	10188	8.1	12.6
Baruc	304	151	1071	3.5	7.1
Buttrills	223	171	1156	5.2	6.8
Cadoc	137	83	2094	15.3	25.2
Castleland	45	45	901	20.0	20.0
Court	64	24	1039	16.2	43.3
Dyfan	43	43	923	21.5	21.5
Gibbonsdown	175	111	1411	8.1	12.7
Illtyd	270	181	1593	5.9	8.8
Cowbridge	154	106	905	5.9	8.5
Llandow/Ewenny	37	49	461	12.5	9.4
Llantwit Major	234	160	1853	7.9	11.6
St. Athan	78	36	964	12.4	26.8
St. Bride's Major	140	6	340	2.4	56.7
Rhose	244	159	1326	5.4	8.3
Dinas Powys	200	58	1229	6.1	21.2
Llandough	73	49	305	4.2	6.2
Peterston-super-Ely	183	180	393	2.1	2.2
Sully	223	167	691	3.1	4.1
Wenvoe	116	86	425	3.7	4.9
Total	3622	2441	22,688	6.3	9.3

Notes *Source: ONS 2009 ward population estimates, mid-2007

Comparison in fees

The average hourly rate for all types of childcare in the Vale is above the national average – see table below.

Area	Out of School club	Nursery	Childminder	Sessional care
Vale of Glamorgan	£2.96	£4.00	£4.20	£2.45
Wales	£2.60	£3.12	£3.16	unknown

Open access playschemes

The Vale of Glamorgan Play Development Team run a number of open access playschemes and play ranger playschemes during the school holidays and after school. These are run on an open access basis and are not registered with the CSSIW. They cater for children age 5-11 years.

Community Focused Schools

Community focused schools administer a childcare grant that has helped to set up, or continue, out of school clubs in the Vale. Most of them are unregistered and take place for under 2 hours. This funding has helped set up after school activities, such as homework clubs and open access playschemes, which are free. It also funded a disability sports holiday provision, which took place during October half term 2010.

Flying Start

Flying Start provides targeted support for children pre birth to their fourth birthday. Children are entitled to free childcare of two and a half hours per day, five days per week, 42 weeks per annum. Because some schools are starting children at 3 years, rather than the term after their third birthday, where possible Flying Start are offering those children to start the free childcare at two years to ensure they get one full year of childcare in preparation for school.

Welsh Medium childcare

Welsh medium childcare placements are limited, as only **4%** of registered settings offer a significant amount of Welsh. There are no Welsh medium nurseries in the Vale but there is one Welsh medium holiday care scheme, providing 50 childcare places.

There are **36** childcare places in unregistered bilingual settings and **24** places in unregistered Welsh medium settings.

Children with disabilities

There are only **two** registered childcare settings solely for children with disabilities and these are holiday care schemes for children with autism. **Fifty-one** settings currently look after a child with a disability (17%) and over half of all registered settings (57%) say they are able to care for a child with a disability. **Thirty-eight** children with a disability are currently cared for. However, many providers left this information blank and said that the number they currently care for varies.

Consultation

Children & young people

Through consultation with children & young people, **61%** of children gave a positive report about the provisions that they attend and wouldn't prefer to be anywhere else, with **39%** of children stating that they would prefer to either be at home, somewhere else, playing football or at their friends' house

Some quotes from the children who were consulted

'At my club I like to meet up with my friends'

'It could be better by making the food bigger!'

'Sometimes I prefer be at home'



Professionals

Many professionals state that they find there is sufficient childcare in the Vale to meet the needs of working parents and those attending training/education and for those on lower income much of the cost may be met with tax credit. However, it can be extremely costly if you do not meet the criteria and have more than one child in childcare. In many cases where the cost is too high, children are often cared for by grandparents or friends.

Childcare providers

Childcare providers feel generally positively about the provision of childcare in the Vale of Glamorgan. These results suggest that the areas where providers feel there is the most potential for improvement are in the provision for disabled and Welsh speaking children.

The vast majority of childcare providers intend to continue to offer the form of care that they currently provide and for the same number of children.

Parents

Consultation with parents highlighted the need for more affordable childcare in the Vale as many felt they were excluded from using many forms of care due to the high cost. It also highlighted the need to improve the provision of childcare during school holidays as this is when the demand for childcare is at its peak.

Many parents also felt that more could be done to promote the availability of free childcare and state benefits that can be used to meet the cost of childcare as significant numbers of parents are unaware of these.

What Parent's say



'Reasonably priced mother and toddler groups are crucial not just in terms of childcare but in terms of developing and improving their social skills'

'Provision on a Saturday for those parents with weekend jobs and more childcare spaces for those needing cover for just a few days'

Training for childcare providers

- The Early Years Workforce Development group is responsible for providing sufficient, relevant and requested training where reasonably practicable. A sample of training provided during April 2010 and March 2011 are:
- Paediatric First Aid,
- Food Safety,
- Health & safety,
- Child Protection level 1,
- Blas ar Iaith,
- Cwrs Iaith Meithrin,
- Disability Awareness Training,

During April 2010 and March 2011 a total number of 476 training places were taken up by staff in registered and unregistered settings in the Vale of Glamorgan.

1.3 Gap analysis

This section compares the demand for childcare within the Vale of Glamorgan, as identified in the section Understanding the Needs of Parents and Carers, with the care available, as identified in the Analysis of Supply section, so as to identify any gaps in provision within the area.

The gaps analysis in this report has been extracted from the following sections in the full report.

Factors affecting demand and ability to pay

Analysis of the supply of childcare

Consultation with childcare providers

Consultation with parents/carers

Consultation with key stakeholders

1.3.1. Geographical Gaps

The Analysis of the Supply of Childcare carried out for this report shows that the provision of care is not evenly distributed across the Vale of Glamorgan. The wards of St Bride's Major, Llandow / Ewenny and Llandough all have five providers or less while there are **121** childcare providers spread across Barry.

The poor spread of providers means that the same is true of the number of childcare places available. While Barry has **1439** childcare places, Llandow / Ewenny have only **69**, Llandough **73** and St. Athan **78**. Barry has more childcare places than all of the childcare settings the rural Vale combined.

Within Barry, certain areas are saturated while others have very few childcare places. For example the Baruc ward has **342** places while Dyfan has only **43**. The number of reported vacancies for each ward shows that it is not the case that there is no demand for childcare in the areas that have the fewest places as those wards identified as having a limited number of places also have the fewest vacancies.

1.3.2. Income Gaps

- The cost of childcare is a major issue for many families and the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment shows that there is a significant gap in the

availability of affordable childcare in the Vale of Glamorgan. The lack of affordable care was the most common complaint raised by parents in the Vale of Glamorgan. **Seventy-seven percent** of parents feel that childcare is too expensive. The supply analysis shows that the average cost of all forms of childcare in the region is significantly higher than the national average. The average cost of a year's full time childcare at a Nursery in the Vale of Glamorgan is £7,696. This figure is just under a third of the average gross income in the area.

- Cost, not availability, is the key barrier for those parents who do not use childcare but wish to. **Twenty-seven percent** of those who used no childcare at all stated that this was because they could not afford it.
- Further to this parents often do not know if they are eligible for or how to access support towards the cost of care such as the childcare element of Working Tax Credit.

1.3.3. Specific Needs Gaps

- There are **51** registered and **2** unregistered childcare settings in the Vale of Glamorgan that currently provide care for a child with a disability or special need. This is from a total of **129** childcare settings that have wheelchair access and are able to cater for children with specific needs. The majority of the parents of children with a disability or special need that were surveyed chose to care for their children themselves or use informal care offered by friends and relatives. However, **21%** of parents of children with a disability or special need who did not use childcare said that they did not do so because they could not access the care that they required which suggests that there is a gap not in the number of places but rather in the types of special care on offer.

1.3.4. Time Gaps

- Parents' survey results show that **12%** would like term time care available between 7.00 am-8.00 am. The supply study shows that there are only **167** places available before 7.30 am compared to **2191** places available

between 7.30 and 9.00 am and that while **41%** of these are in Barry, there are no places available at this time in the wards of:

- Cornerswell
- Plymouth (Penarth),
- Baruc
- Gibbonsdown (Barry),
- Cowbridge,
- Llandow/Ewenny,
- Dinas Powys,
- Peterston Super-Ely,
- Sully or Wenvoe.

Seventy-one percent of respondents who desired care between 7.00 am and 8.00 am lived in one of these areas. The lack of access to provision during this time for residents living in these wards, considering the demand for the service, represents a significant gap.

- The parents' survey showed that **13%** would like care available after 6.00 pm. The supply study shows that there are only **233** places available after 6.00 pm. Again there are a number of wards where there is no care available at this time. These are:
 - Plymouth (Penarth),
 - Baruc,
 - Buttrills,
 - Cadoc,
 - Castleland,
 - Gibbonsdown (all in Barry),
 - Llandow/Ewenny,
 - St Bride's Major,
 - Dinas Powys
 - Llandough
 - Wenvoe. In light of the significant demand for access to childcare during these times the lack of it across all of these wards is another notable gap.

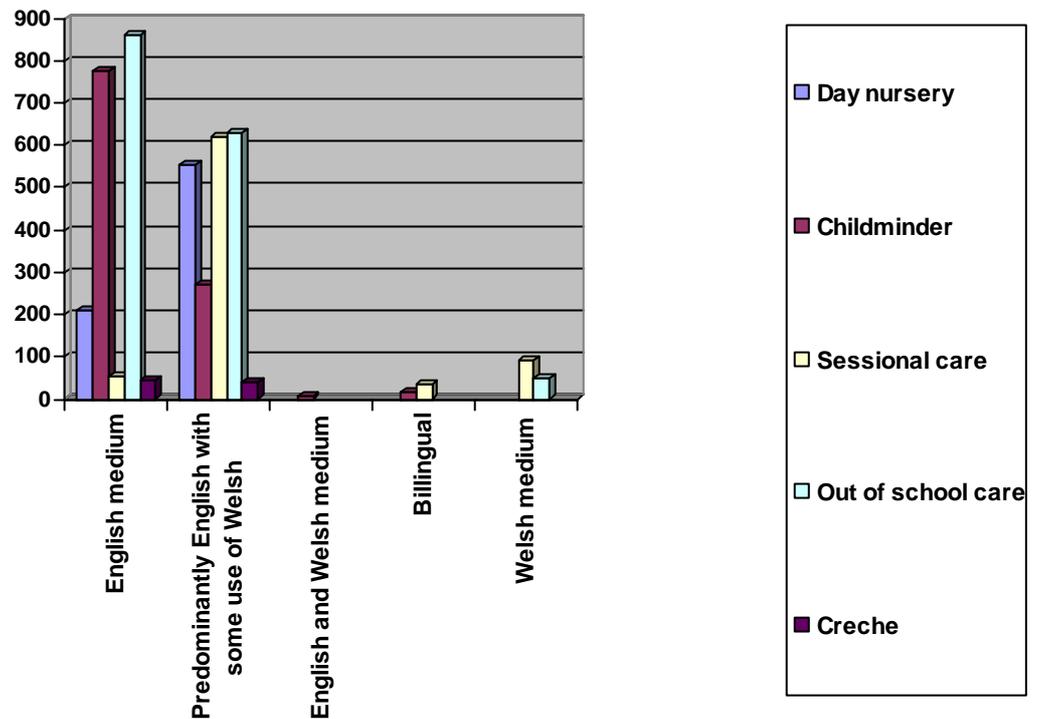
1.3.5. Age Gaps

- Within the Vale of Glamorgan there is a fairly even split between the childcare offered for children aged 0-4 years and those aged 5-11 years.
- Parents were most satisfied with the care on offer for younger children. As with all the childcare on offer within the Vale there is a gap in the availability of affordable care.

1.3.6. Type Gaps

- Both parents and childcare providers feel that there is not enough Welsh language provision within the Vale of Glamorgan. This is evident when looking at the childcare available through the medium of Welsh. Although there are a large number of settings where a small amount of Welsh is used there are very few Welsh medium or bilingual childcare settings. There are three Welsh medium and one bilingual Cylch Meithrin within the Vale, only five bilingual or Welsh medium childminders and no Welsh speaking day nurseries. The number of places in each form of setting is shown below.

Number of registered childcare places by language used in setting and childcare type



Through consultation with parents, professionals and childcare providers for this report, it is clear that under-provision of Welsh language care is, regardless of demand, a serious gap in the provision of childcare in the Vale of Glamorgan.

1.4 Conclusions/Next steps

Introduction

In order to respond to the gaps highlighted within this assessment, an action plan for 2011 – 2014 will be developed.

Affordability

The action plan should address affordability of childcare to meet the needs of individual parents who are unable to pay for all or part of it.

Children with disabilities

Further work with childcare providers will be carried out in order to support its sustainability and improve settings and to investigate how access for children with disabilities can be improved. A need has also been identified through consultation with professionals for this report for the development and support for crèche facilities for children with disabilities for their parents attend support groups.

Training for childcare providers

Feedback collated from childcare providers (which can be found in the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment full report), reinforces the need to increase the levels of training offered through the Early Years Workforce Development Group, along with the range of training courses available regarding disability awareness.

In order to provide training for childcare providers, which provides essential training like paediatric first aid, a data base of staff's qualifications and training undertaken will be put into place.

Welsh language

The partnership will develop work with Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin to increase the numbers of Welsh Medium and bi-lingual childcare settings to meet the demand of parents and to promote use of the Welsh language by offering the childcare workforce suitable Welsh language courses.

Childcare

In order to address the childcare needs for parents with varying shift patterns, the Partnership will work with providers to extend the hours in which they currently operate.

Family Information Service

The Partnership will promote the Family Information Service (FIS) to parents to ensure accessible information on childcare, tax credits and information on children and young people's services and in the family services directory. They will also engage with providers, to ensure that they provide full details of their service to the FIS.

The Family Information Service will promote the Childcare Approval Scheme, which is a voluntary scheme for carers who are not required to be registered with Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales (CSSIW). It aims to raise the standards of home based care and allow greater numbers of parents to access financial help.

The Partnership will work with employers to raise the importance of childcare and how this affects them as employers and working parents. We will aim to raise their awareness of a work life balance, working tax credits and childcare vouchers that from which their employees could benefit.

Consideration will take into account the suggestions made by childcare providers on a range of areas including:

- Improvements in the childcare market
- Enhancing provision for children with disabilities
- Improving the provision of childcare for working families
- Improving provision for families seeking work