

## **Childcare Sufficiency Assessment**

### **Annual report March 2018**

In order to complete an annual report for the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) it has been necessary to review the Areas for Improvement section within the report. There have not been any significant developments and/or changes since the CSA was produced in March 2017.

Progress to date will also be recorded within the Action Plan and submitted as part of the report.

### **Areas for Improvement**

#### ***Further exploration of atypical hours childcare – look into out of hours childcare for parents working atypical hours***

In order to explore out of hours childcare for parents working atypical hours, it was essential to make it a priority within the action plan. Within the action, it was decided to look at developing a childminding scheme that offered flexible childcare to parents/carers. In order to accomplish this, it was decided to promote the Home approval scheme at the pre-childminder briefing session to encourage further take up and also that a minimum of 10 existing Childminders would be recruited to the scheme which would be achieved by working with existing childminders to gauge their initial interest. To date, it has not been feasible to achieve this due to unavoidable staffing issues.

#### ***Welsh medium provision – work with Menter Bro Morgannwg, Schools, Mudiad Meithrin & Ti a Fi groups to look at the local need for further childcare through the medium of Welsh***

Menter Bro Morgannwg is exploring the potential for a Welsh day nursery in the existing Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg School in the Barry, which is in its very early stages and will be dependent on a number of factors. Menter Bro Morgannwg have recently completed an online questionnaire aimed at parents/parents to be, regarding the need for childcare for 0 – 5yr olds through the medium of Welsh in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The questionnaire asked a series of questions including whether expectant or prospective parents would use a Welsh day nursery, how often they would use the service, the importance of having a Welsh day nursery in the Vale, etc. A total of **317** responses were collated with comments including 'great idea, natural start to a Welsh education', 'as a Welsh speaking family it is disappointing that there is currently no Welsh nursery available'. 'It is much needed in the Vale' etc.

A meeting between Council colleagues and Menter Bro Morgannwg to discuss the results from the consultation document and the next steps are in the planning. There have been

attempts by childcare providers to offer childcare through the medium of Welsh in the past which unfortunately weren't successful and therefore now offer a bi-lingual nursery service instead. Therefore, it will be imperative for Council officers and external organisations i.e. Menter Bro Morgannwg, Mudiad Meithrin to explore options, taking into consideration existing childcare in the area to ensure that there is no displacement of current childcare. It will also be beneficial to obtain feedback from those childcare providers who have attempted to set up childcare through the medium of Welsh in the past.

***Out of school childcare/activity clubs for 10 – 14yr olds. Explore with comprehensive school councils to establish the type of childcare/holiday activity club students would attend during school holidays***

Due to time limitations and unavoidable staff shortage, it has been difficult to carry out this area for improvement this year. However, discussions are underway with colleagues and partners as to putting this into action in readiness for summer holidays.

***Recruit approved nannies by offering the Home Approval Scheme to prospective childminders, as a possible alternative and explore other ways of promoting the scheme.***

It has been possible to recruit 7 pre-registered childminders onto a CYPOP5 course and essentially to sign them up to offering out of hours childcare and/or an interest in registering on the home approval scheme. The course is due to complete middle of March

***Explore the number of children attending childcare who have special needs and whether it is due to lack of demand or that settings are unable to offer childcare***

As specified in the Action Plan update, consultation was undertaken with families in Sunshine Club, Families First Holiday Schemes, Cwtch Barry and via The Index. A full report has been compiled and out of the **20** parents that took part in the focus groups, **12** parents (**60%**) said that they had struggled to find childcare to cater for their child's requirements, the other **8** hadn't needed / tried to find childcare: **2** didn't discuss their situation, **3** decided not to work, **1** was a foster carer, **1** was new to the area so hadn't started looking and **1** was a teacher.

In conclusion, 100% of parents who had actively looked for childcare had struggled, due to their child having additional needs. Parents either hadn't felt comfortable leaving their child in a setting, or the setting couldn't cope with their child's requirements. Only 4 parents (20%) currently use childcare and they all struggled to find childcare: 1 uses a school breakfast club, 1 uses a childminder who she knows personally; 1 uses a day nursery and 1 uses a holiday care scheme through the Assisted Places Scheme. 3 use childcare because they work. The other 3 working parents work around their children as they either work shifts, are self-employed or are a teacher. 4 parents reported that they had to give up work to look after their child.

With regards to the information that is provided to parents about childcare settings, all felt that more detailed information needs to be provided to give more of a profile of the setting and the experience that the staff has, giving examples.

It is evident that further work needs to be done with childcare providers and wider partners to support parents/carers with children with disabilities and/or additional learning needs who require childcare. Some suggestions were made including, look at a 'quality mark' that childcare providers could work towards, work with childcare providers to improve the information they provide for parents/carers, etc. A small working group will look at the findings in more detail and provide a way forward.

***Encouraging childcare settings to complete the SASS data and work with CIW (formally CSSIW) to provide guidance on how to complete it correctly***

Family Information Service provided regular newsletters which included SASS support provided by Umbrella Organisations. FIS were also able to give advice over the phone and/or signpost to the relevant organisation to those who were unable to attend any workshops provided by Umbrella Organisations.

Support was also offered by the Childminding network co-ordinator and EY & Childcare monitoring officer for the Vale of Glamorgan. Very few requests for assistance were received.

***Work with CIW to improve and condense the parental questionnaire to encourage responses***

Welsh Government officials attended the last AWARE meeting in January 2018 where feedback on the full CSA's was provided. Individual feedback to Local Authority will be sent in February 2018.

A discussion took place around the parent questionnaire and how this could be revised to reflect the ideas and thoughts that were debated. It was agreed that there were many aspects to the questionnaire that were unimportant for completion of the CSA and will therefore be looked at in readiness for Local Authorities to complete their next full CSA.

***With the Welsh Government Childcare Offer being rolled out to local authorities in 2020, further exploration is needed with childcare providers regarding availability and sustainability within their provision. Also consultation with schools will need to be investigated with regards to whether they have capacity to offer childcare provision***

An event was organised and took place in February 2018 in the Vale of Glamorgan for Head teachers and childcare providers to attend to gather information about the 30 hour childcare offer.

89 attended with the majority of these being childcare providers. Welsh Government provided a presentation on what the offer looks like, who it is aimed at etc., as early

implementers of the offer both Rhondda Cynon Taff and Caerphilly gave presentations on how they had set it up in their authorities. There was an opportunity for delegates to ask questions and view concerns.

Following the event, the Vale has drawn up a plan with regards to the next steps with arrangements in place to visit other local authority early implementers, visit some childcare settings where they are involved, putting a steering group together amongst other things. Further consultation sessions will be arranged for childcare providers to gain their interest in being a provider and focus groups for parents to gain an indication of interest.

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**Vale of Glamorgan Council**