

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee Task & Finish Group 2018/19

Early Years Education and Play in Carmarthenshire

Draft Planning & Scoping Document

Task & Finish Objective(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To review the current provision for early years education and play opportunities and if appropriate make recommendations for service change.
Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee has a key role to play in monitoring services, development of key policies and strategies, as well as identifying areas for improvement or development within their remit. • The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee agreed in principal to undertake a review into the current provision for early years education and play. • Many Elected Members and School Governors have raised this as a concern. • The following will be included:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Admissions Policy for Schools ➤ Foundation Phase Provision for 3 year olds ➤ Standard of provision ➤ Play ➤ Childcare ➤ The New 30 Hour Education/Childcare Offer
Membership	<p><u>Elected Members</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be agreed at the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee scheduled to take place on 14th March 2018 • Up to 6 Elected Members appointed to reflect the political balance of the Council as whole. <p><u>Advisors / Support Officers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andi Morgan, Interim Head of Education Services • Aeron Rees, Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing • Stefan Smith, Head of Children's Services • Elin Forsythe, Head of School Effectiveness • Simon Davies, Modernisation Services Manager

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susannah Nolan, Group Accountant • Dylan Jones. School Finance Manager • Angharad Jones, Challenge Adviser • Rose Jones, Foundation Phase Training and Support Officer • Noeline Thomas, Service Manager Children’s Services • Lisa Grice, Childcare & Play Sufficiency Manager • Caryl Alban, Play Sufficiency Officer • Michelle Evans Thomas (Democratic Services Officer)
<p>The main aims of the review</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review Foundation Phase education provision including- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The statutory requirements b. 3-11 and 4-11 Schools c. Non-maintained settings d. Gaps in provision 2. Review the Standard of provision to include- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Outcomes of ESTYN / CSSIW inspections b. Themes of success and improvement 3. Review the provision of play opportunities to include- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The statutory requirements b. The Play Sufficiency Assessment and Strategy. e. Play opportunities across the County f. Gaps in provision g. Impact of Asset Transfer 4. Review the provision of Childcare to include- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Availability across the county b. Availability of Welsh language provision c. Gaps in provision 5. Consider the 30 Hour Education/Childcare Offer <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The requirements b. The Carmarthenshire Scheme 6. Consider Carmarthenshire’s Admissions Policy including- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The statutory requirements b. The current Policy c. Adjoining Council policies d. School start age research and impact on partnerships e. The effect of any change to policy 7. To formulate recommendations for consideration by the Executive Board.

<p>Scope of the review</p>	<p>This review will focus on the provision of Carmarthenshire’s early years education and play opportunities.</p>
<p>How it will contribute to achieving corporate / community objectives and well-being objectives</p>	<p>Contributes to the following outcomes from the County Council’s Corporate Strategy 2015-20:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing services as efficiently as possible, ensuring value for money... • Investigating and developing new ways of working and providing services • Working in collaboration with other organisations to identify areas for shared services and economies of scale to reduce running costs • Increasing collaboration with our partners and communities in order support the delivery of services • Strengthening the position of the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire by implementing the recommendations of the ‘Welsh Language in Carmarthenshire’ report • Supporting disadvantaged children and families to build their resilience with early intervention through targeted intervention programmes such as Flying Start, Families First and Communities First and embedding this practice within our core services • Ensuring continuous improvement in education outcomes for all children and young people across all learning phases • Protecting and safeguarding children and adults from harm • Supporting children, young people and families at times when they are facing challenging circumstances and enabling them to build their resilience to cope in the future • Being good corporate parents to children and young people who come into the care of the Authority <p>This project will link directly to the following Carmarthenshire County Council Well-being objectives:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences • Help children live healthy lifestyles • Continue to improve learner attainment for all • Reduce the number of young adults that are Not in Education, Employment or Training • Support good connections with friends, family and safer communities • Promote Welsh Language and Culture <p>Delivering the Carmarthenshire County Council Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire: the next 5-years specifically objectives-</p> <p>28. Continue to improve outcomes for all pupils with a particular emphasis on raising the achievements of pupils entitled to free school meals and looked after children.</p> <p>36. Review all school pupil admission dates and age-ranges across the County.</p>

	41. Ensure the Council fully responds and delivers key childcare and play requirements moving towards delivering 30 hours of free education and care for working parents.
List of key stakeholders [not exhaustive]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and Children’s Services Officers • School Strategy and Budget Forum • School Staff • Non-maintained Sector and Private providers • School Governors • Democratic Services (information on how often reported from Elected Members) • Other as identified
What information / documents are required to inform the work of the study? [not exhaustive]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Statutory Guidance • Foundation Phase Outcomes • School Organisation Code
Timescale for completion of the review	