

Document Pack



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TUESDAY 17TH MAY 2016

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

I HEREBY SUMMON YOU TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE **EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE **CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, CARMARTHEN** AT **2.30 PM** (OR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE JOINT MEETING OF THE EDUCATION & CHILDREN AND SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEES – WHICHEVER IS THE LATER) ON **MONDAY, 23RD MAY, 2016**, FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA.

Mark James

CHIEF EXECUTIVE



PLEASE RECYCLE

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EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13 COUNCIL MEMBERS, 2 NON-ELECTED VOTING MEMBERS AND 3
ELECTED VOTING PARENT GOVERNOR MEMBERS

PLAID CYMRU GROUP – 6 MEMBERS

- | | | |
|----|------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | Councillor | C.A. Campbell |
| 2. | Councillor | J.M. Charles |
| 3. | Councillor | W.G. Hopkins |
| 4. | Councillor | P. Hughes Griffiths |
| 5. | Councillor | M.J.A. Lewis |
| 6. | Councillor | J.E. Williams (Chair) |

INDEPENDENT GROUP – 3 MEMBERS

- | | | |
|----|------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Councillor | I.W. Davies |
| 2. | Councillor | D.W.H. Richards |
| 3. | Councillor | T. Theophilus |

LABOUR GROUP – 4 MEMBERS

- | | | |
|----|------------|------------------------------|
| 1. | Councillor | D.J.R. Bartlett (Vice-Chair) |
| 2. | Councillor | J.D. James |
| 3. | Councillor | P.E.M. Jones |
| 4. | Councillor | J. Williams |

NON ELECTED VOTING MEMBERS (2)

- | | | |
|----|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | Mrs. V. Kenny | Roman Catholic Church Representative |
| 2. | Canon B. Witt | Church in Wales Representative |

ELECTED VOTING PARENT GOVERNOR MEMBERS (3)

Term of office expires on the 31/03/2018

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. | Mrs. E. Heyes | Area 3 – Llanelli |
| 2. | Mrs. K. Hill | Area 1 – Dinefwr |
| 3. | Mrs. A. Pickles | Area 2 – Carmarthen |

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST
3. DECLARATIONS OF PROHIBITED PARTY WHIPS
4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

4.1 QUESTION BY DARREN SEWARD, DUAL STREAM COMMITTEE

Carmarthenshire County Council has produced a document describing its proposal to CLOSE/DISCONTINUE Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Juniors school and open a new Welsh Medium only Llangennech community primary school. why is ccc pushing the Welsh assembly directives on Welsh language so far when it is not happening in other counties like Swansea neath port talbot and Newport??

4.2 QUESTION BY NIKKI LLOYD, DUAL STREAM COMMITTEE

There are 121 pupils currently in the School who are not living in the village of Llangennech. However, there are 96 children living in the village travelling to other schools, out of area. Only 15 of those children are attending welsh medium so that leaves 81 attending alternative English medium. Why such a differentiation? Some of these could have had places in Llangennech but have been turned away making the English stream look as if it is declining.

4.3 QUESTION BY NIKKI LLOYD, DUAL STREAM COMMITTEE

We have already had one parent that we know of refused a place in Byn due to 54 requests for only 30 places. Hendy is full also, where are you going to provide provision for parents who want or NEED to educate their children in English medium?

4.4 QUESTION BY ROBERT WILLOCK, DUAL STREAM COMMITTEE

Out of the 121 children currently in the school 91 are attending Welsh medium. Why is this so? when the new furnace school is under capacity by 132 places and Brynserfiel under by 38.5 Pupils according to section 2.3 of the consultation document. There's surplus capacity at Welsh Mediums which is not in alignment with School Organisation Code 2013 which states no more than a 10% surplus. There are 1,710 as per Carmarthenshire Councils website surplus places in all welsh medium primary schools in carmarthenshire figures taken from ccc own website. So doesnt justify any further spaces being created. The School Organisation code

2013 states when developing proposals relevant bodies should have regard to Local plans for economic or housing development. Why has there been no regard given to the 91 houses being built in Hendy and 700 plus houses planned for Pontardulais? Surely, this would have a major impact on the surrounding schools. Hendy is one of the nearest schools for English medium if this proposal goes through. However, Llanedi school is facing closure and advised to relocate to hendy. Hendy school are already nearing full capacity and as a dual stream are earmarked for changing to Welsh Medium Only. The other nearest English medium is the Bryn School but the county have already been issuing reject letters as they have received 54 applications so far and only have 30 spaces. As well as the proposed new school being unfit for purpose as it does not serve the community it's meant to support, English speaking children appear to have no nearby alternatives?

4.5 QUESTION BY JACQUELINE SEWARD, DUAL STREAM COMMITTEE

Following the closure of a school and the consequential loss of a language stream, provision should be offered to at least equivalent standards to learners according to the School Organisation code 2013. However, Llangennech is currently Green. Hendy is yellow and the Bryn is Amber. How is this equivalent?

4.6 QUESTION BY DARREN SEWARD, DUAL STREAM COMMITTEE

Is there need for additional nursery places in the area when we already have two providers? Specific factors need to be taken into account for proposals to add or remove nursery classes as outline in the School Organisation Code 2013. Relevant bodies should take into account specific factors: the standard of nursery education and the sufficiency of accommodation and facilities offered both in the classroom and outdoors, and the viability of any school that wishes to add nursery places; whether there is a need for additional nursery places in the area; the levels of demand for certain types of nursery education e.g. Welsh medium or provision with a religious character; the effect of the proposals on other institutions, including private and third sector providers; and the extent to which proposals will integrate early years education with childcare services or are consistent with an integrated approach. Within the consultation document, there is no evidence that these have been taken into consideration and the effect of the proposals on other private sector providers?

4.7 QUESTION BY NIGEL HUGHES, DUAL STREAM COMMITTEE

The consultation document is a flawed document that does not recognise those disadvantaged by the proposals from within Llangennech village. To state that there is nobody affected by these proposed changes is naïve and ignorant and shows that the Authority has failed to show 'due regard' under the Public Duty Act to those affected by simply saying they don't exist. In doing so, they have not covered the Health and Safety aspects or capacity issues

at alternative schools. If walking to Hendy for example, crossing a dual carriageway, will put lives at risk. There is a CrashMap available online which shows along that particular route, one accident occurring every 2 months on average. Therefore, this consultation simply exposes a rush to a predetermined outcome irrespective of any views that were to be gathered throughout the process. We believe that we can evidence the fact that either the LEA or the governing body or both have failed to comply with The School Organisational Code 2013 and possibly the law. Do you think this is acceptable to put young children at risk daily?

4.8 QUESTION BY STEVE HATTO, DUAL STREAM COMMITTEE

Figures manipulated – From the information supplied by the LEA as the groups knowledge of the school it is clearly evident that the figures have been manipulated by individuals to bolster a particular scenario. We can evidence that the current English streams at the school make up over 30% of the total number of pupils. The consultation states Llangennech infant school total pupils in 2015 had 186 in Welsh stream. This is not a true figure as it includes all pupils in Derbyn 1 and 2 which totals 94 pupils, irrelevant of it they are registered to continue into the English stream they have been falsely identified for the purpose of the consultation document as Welsh stream pupils. Also if we factor in the 27% coming from outside areas, together with a potential loss of English Stream, current projections will show that Llangennech School will have over 50% of pupils coming from outside the area. Do you believe, that we then have 'the right school, in the right place and can you confirm if these figures are correct ?

4.9 QUESTION BY MICHAELA BEDDOWS, DUAL STREAM COMMITTEE

Special Educational Needs: No consideration has been given for children with special educational needs who are usually advised to only go in an English medium. Stream or the language of their home environment. Children with global delay struggle with one language let alone two, therefore by removing the dual stream it would exclude these children from attending the school. Children with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder really cant cope with change in routine, so if they were to start then struggle in a Welsh Medium school and then have to move to an English Medium school that change would have a massive impact on them. How has this been overlooked and why has it not been addressed?

4.10 QUESTION BY KAREN HUGHES, DUAL STREAM COMMITTEE

There are approximately 11 dual Stream Schools in Carmarthenshire which according to the Welsh Language Strategy, are being earmarked for Welsh Medium only. It must be recognised that not all these schools will be suitable based upon their logistics as they will be dual stream for a reason, so how and who is assessing the demand and suitability? Has an horizon scanning exercise been conducted for Llangennech community i.e to assess how the

village/population of Llangennech will look in 5, 10, 15 years time? With an increased number of new builds, an influx in migration, being close to the M4 corridor, can we confidently say that Welsh Medium Only will meet these demands when 80% of the population is already English speaking. After all, 27% of pupils are coming from outside areas and village figures do not show an increase in demand for Welsh. The Welsh Language Strategy Impact has also not been assessed properly if at all. There is no reference to English speakers having less of an appreciation of the cultural heritage of Wales if they attend English Medium only, more people are likely to try the Welsh stream if they know they can fallback to English within the same school. This will have the adverse effect. The use of Welsh within the community is minimal and does not support the linguistic demographics or the stats from the 2011 census. Why aren't these risks being factored in?

4.11 QUESTION BY ROBERT WILLOCK, DUAL STREAM COMMITTEE

The Community Impact Assessment is not actually an Impact Assessment at all. It has not recognised any risks or risk assessed them (given a positive, negative or neutral rating). One would expect consideration to be given to the impact on neighbouring schools, impact on parents and families, impact on pupils, travel implications, impact of community demographics, environmental impacts, impact upon community activities, impact on residents. These are the areas which are likely to be negatively assessed and have totally been overlooked! Why?

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| 5. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME (MEP) - PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE LLANGENNECH INFANT SCHOOL AND LLANGENNECH JUNIOR SCHOOL AND ESTABLISH LLANGENNECH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL | 7 - 182 |
| 6. PLAY SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT AND ACTION PLAN 2016 | 183 - 456 |
| 7. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME (MEP) BIENNIAL REVIEW | 457 - 478 |
| 8. EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2016/17 | 479 - 494 |

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23rd MAY 2016

Modernising Education Programme

Proposal to discontinue Llangennech Infant School and Llangennech Junior School and establish Llangennech Community Primary School

To consider and comment on the following issues:

1. The observations received and the Local Authority's responses following the consultation period (Consultation Report attached).
2. The publication of a statutory notice to implement the proposal.

Reasons:

- To comply with statutory procedures and guidance in relation to school re-organisation.
- To formulate views for submission to Executive Board/Council for consideration.

To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: YES – 20th June 2016

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Gareth Jones (Education & Children)

<p>Directorate: Education & Children</p> <p>Name of Head of Service: Gareth Morgans</p> <p>Report Author: Simon Davies</p>	<p>Designations:</p> <p>Head of Education Services</p> <p>School Modernisation Manager</p>	<p>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</p> <p>01267 246450 edgmorgans@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p> <p>01267 246471 sidavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 23rd MAY 2016

Modernising Education Programme

Proposal to discontinue Llangennech Infant School and Llangennech Junior School and establish Llangennech Community Primary School

Background

Since the inception of the Modernising Education Programme, it has been set out to create Community Primary Schools to replace Infants and Junior Schools.

Following the retirement of the Llangennech Infants school Headteacher at the end of the Summer term 2013 a soft federation has already taken place with the Headteacher of Llangennech Junior school. On 24th September 2014, the Governing Bodies of both Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools resolved to pursue a formal federation as from April 2015.

The Authority now wishes to proceed with a proposal to create a Community Primary school to replace Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools. The details of the proposal are outlined below and in the Consultation Document.

The Local Authority currently offers full time learning provision for 4-11 year olds through the medium of Welsh and English at the Federated Llangennech Infants and Junior Schools. As part of the new 3 – 11 primary school that will include nursery provision, it is proposed to change the current linguistic categories of Llangennech Infant school (Dual Stream – (DS) and Llangennech Junior school (Dual Stream – (DS) to a new Welsh Medium – (WM) language category school which will increase the provision of Welsh Medium education in Carmarthenshire and will ensure that bilingualism is increased in the Llangennech area. It will ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) (2014-2017).

Proposal

As a result of the small extension to the consultation period, the pre-election period and the high number of responses received during the consultation period; the dates for the proposal have changed below. This is to ensure that sufficient time is allowed for people to express their views and that the school holiday period does not impede on the process.

- To discontinue Llangennech Infant school on 31st August 2017
- To discontinue Llangennech Junior school on 31st August 2017
- As from 1st September 2017, to establish a new 3-11 Welsh Medium (WM) language category Community Primary School with nursery provision (hereinafter called 'Llangennech Community Primary School') on the existing sites and buildings of the current Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools. The current capacity of both schools will remain unchanged but will be reviewed and adjusted accordingly should the demands arise in the future.

In accordance with Executive Board's instructions, a formal consultation exercise was undertaken from 25th January 2016 to 18th March 2016. The results of the consultation exercise are contained in the attached report.

The Education & Children Scrutiny Committee are provided the opportunity to offer comment and a recommendation to the Executive Board whether or not publish a Statutory Notice. Should the Executive Board grant permission to proceed to Statutory Notice, the intention is to publish week beginning 5th September 2016.

If approved, following the end of the Statutory Notice period, an objection report which summarises any objections received by stakeholders, will be presented to the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee and Executive Board and ultimately County Council for determination.

Recommendation

That the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee endorses the proposal and recommends to the Executive Board the publication of a Statutory Notice.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	YES Appendix A – List of Respondents to the Consultation Period Appendix B – Executive Summary of Observations Received Appendix C – Summary of observations received following the publication of the Consultation Document and Local Authority related responses Appendix D – ESTYN response to the Consultation Document
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	<p>Appendix E – Consultation with the Pupils</p> <p>Appendix F – Revised Options for Change</p> <p>Appendix G – Why are we promoting a bilingual education?</p>
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IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Signed: Gareth Morgans Head of Education Services

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	YES	YES	NONE	YES	YES	YES

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Developments are consistent with the Authority's Corporate Strategy, Children and Young People's Plan and the Modernising Education Strategic Outline Programme.

Policy Implications

National Policy Considerations

Welsh Government Welsh-Medium Education Strategy (2010)

In 2010 the Welsh Government published its national policy for developing Welsh medium education across the nation. The following extracts from the national strategy set out the Welsh Government's views on the importance of Welsh medium education to outcomes for learners and to the ambition to develop bilingual citizens.

"Welsh medium education from the early years, with robust linguistic progression through every phase of education, offers the best conditions for developing future bilingual citizens.

A key focus is on supporting learners to achieve fluency in Welsh and English through Welsh medium education, from the early years onwards.

For children from non-Welsh speaking backgrounds, whose initial and main contact with Welsh is through school, this intensive Welsh medium provision is through a process of linguistic immersion.

Welsh medium education between the ages of three or four and approximately seven usually means delivering provision primarily through the medium of Welsh. At Key Stage 2 English language skills are also developed through appropriate use of the language as a subject and medium. A key consideration is the nature of the linguistic balance between Welsh and English and the intensity of Welsh required in order for learners to reach fluency in both Welsh and English over time. It is generally accepted that at least around 70% of curricular time should be through the medium of Welsh if learners are to acquire a sufficiently sound command of the language to enable them to use it across a broad range of contexts with confidence and fluency. The Welsh Assembly Government accepts this guiding principle for Welsh medium schools at primary and secondary level.

Learners in Welsh medium settings achieve comparable outcomes in both Welsh and English first language, which suggests the success of the sector in developing natural bilingualism.

The advantages that bilingualism can bring are well documented and include the promotion of cognitive skills, increasing mental agility and broadening speakers' range of cultural experiences. Research in Canada reveals that bilingualism enhances attention and cognitive control in children and older adults and in 2007 highlighted the impact of bilingualism on delaying the onset of dementia symptoms. Research findings published by the University of Edinburgh in 2009 revealed that speakers of two languages found it easier to focus on a range of tasks, blocking out potential distractions.

Welsh medium education from the early years, with robust linguistic progression through

every phase of education, offers the best conditions for developing young people who are truly bilingual.”

The Government’s Strategy sets targets for local authorities to increase the proportion of seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh.

There is a clear expectation that all local authorities incorporate the provisions and requirements of the national strategy in their own local Welsh in Education Strategic Plans, which are on a statutory footing.

Welsh Government Welsh Language Strategy 2012 to 2017 – A Living Language: A Language for Living

This national policy considers the conditions that are needed to promote a greater use of the Welsh language by children and young people in all aspects of their lives and proposes a set of high level actions to secure this goal.

The Strategy declares its aim as *“to increase the provision of Welsh medium activities for children and young people and to increase their awareness of the value of the language”* with the desired outcome being *“children and young people using more Welsh”*.

It includes the following statements related to education and schools:

“Over the last thirty years we have seen a considerable increase in the number of young people able to speak Welsh (from 14.9% of 3 to 14 year olds in 1971 to 37.2% in 2001). But these figures need to be treated with caution, since it is likely that over half of these are learning Welsh as a second language. As such, for many Welsh speaking children from homes without Welsh speaking parents/carers, the school provides one of the few opportunities for them to use the language.

Providing practical opportunities for children and young people to use Welsh ... the best way of developing a feeling of value towards using the language.

Among other factorsthe perceived value of the language as a skill for work ... important elements.

We ... face challenges within the education system to ensure that children and young people continue to choose Welsh medium education when making choices at key stages of the education – between the primary and secondary sectors, and between the secondary sector and further or higher education. While the Welsh Medium Education Strategy addresses these challenges, we believe that the success of those measures depends, to a great extent, on convincing children and young people of the value of Welsh, economically and culturally.”

Welsh Government – Increasing the Number of Communities where Welsh is the Main Language (December 2013)

In December 2013 the Welsh Government published the report of its Task and Finish Group that had been established to review the status of the Welsh language and advise on the actions required to regenerate the use of the language. The following brief statements from the report are relevant to the schools sector.

In his introduction the Group Chair declared *“we call on the education system to be progressive ... so that all young people can become fluent and confident in using Welsh and English.”*

Recommendations were made, with a particular focus upon Carmarthenshire and other targeted areas of Wales, for action to *“increase the number and percentage of pupils who are fluent in Welsh and English by the time they leave school.”*

Estyn

In November 2014 Estyn published a document entitled *“Linguistic Progression and Standards in Ten Bilingual Welsh Schools”* which reported the findings of its review into the linguistic progression of pupils in Key Stage 4 and identifying and sharing good practice in relation to bilingual education.

Included amongst the findings of the review are the following conclusions:

- *“In general, pupils who follow the most additional GCSE courses through the medium of Welsh have the best ability to discuss and write in Welsh”.*
- *“Pupils have the misconception that studying subjects through the medium of Welsh can hinder their academic success. In fact, pupils who follow their GCSE course through the medium of Welsh achieve as well as, if not better than, those who follow most of their GCSE course through the medium of English”.*

Local Policy Considerations

Carmarthenshire County Council Welsh Language Development Strategy

In 2013 Carmarthenshire County Council established a cross-party group of elected members to review the status of the Welsh language in the county following the outcome of the 2011 Census of the Population, which recorded a significant decline in the proportion of the population with Welsh language skills.

The group published a comprehensive report in early 2014 and at its meeting on the 15th April 2014 the County Council formally accepted the recommendations made by the group for the development of the Welsh language in the county.

The County Council adopted a total of 73 recommendations made by the group, including 21 that are directly related to the education service, including the following:

“The County Council works closely with the staff and governing bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh schools.”

All of the schools related recommendations were integrated within the Carmarthenshire Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (2014 – 2017)

Section 85(1) of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 requires the County Council to produce a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for its area, keep the Plan under review and, if necessary revise it. Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan has been adopted by the County Council and approved by the Welsh Government in accordance with Section 85(2) of the Act.

Section 2 of the Plan sets out a series of actions to realise the Council's objectives for the development of the Welsh language in its schools.

For Outcome 1, to increase the number of 7 year old learners who are educated through the medium of Welsh, the Plan includes a specific action to *"target 3 dual stream/transitional schools to transfer to being Welsh schools by 2017"*.

There are also targets to increase the percentage of learners achieving Level 4 Plus at the end of Key Stage 2, i.e. increasing fluency, and to increase the number and percentage of learners from Welsh/bilingual primary schools transferring to Welsh/bilingual secondary schools.

<p>2. Legal</p> <p>Appropriate consultation will need to be initiated in accordance with the relevant statutory procedures.</p>
<p>3. Finance</p> <p>Revenue implications will be catered for within the Local Management of Schools Fair Funding Scheme.</p>
<p>4. ICT</p> <p>NONE</p>
<p>5. Risk Management Issues</p> <p>The proposal to close Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools and open a new Llangennech Community Primary School and also change the language category from Dual Stream to Welsh Medium may impact on the demand for school places at the school and other schools in the Llanelli area. The situation will be monitored as part of the Schools Admission Process and ongoing data forecasting and analysis through the Authority's Modernising Education Programme.</p>
<p>6. Staffing Implications</p> <p>Staffing implications will be addressed in accordance with the County Council's Redeployment Policy and Procedures.</p>
<p>7. Physical Assets</p> <p>Arrangements are in place to install a Double Mobile classroom on the current Llangennech Infant school site. This will provide the school with additional accommodation but it will not increase the capacity of the new school. We will monitor the situation and will review the situation if the pupil figures continue to rise.</p>

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: **Gareth Morgans** **Head of Education Services**

1. Scrutiny Committee – Were consulted during the consultation period. The committee will be asked to consider and comment on the findings of the statutory consultation period on 23rd May.

2. Local Member(s) – Local members were formally consulted during the formal consultation period. Observations were received from Cllr. Gwyneth Thomas, Cllr. Gwyn Hopkins and Cllr. Theresa Bowen.

3. Community / Town Council – The community council were consulted during the formal consultation period. Observations were received from members of the community council.

4. Relevant Partners – Were consulted during the consultation period.

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – Teaching and non-teaching unions were consulted during the formal consultation period. Observations were received from UCAC and UNISON.

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017	http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/welshmededstrat/?lang=en
MEP Annual Report 2013/14 and Programme 2014/15	www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk County Council Agenda 14 th January 2015

CONSULTATION REPORT

Future Primary Education Provision for Children Residing in the Llangennech area

Appendix A

List of Respondents to the Consultation Document

Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior Schools
Observation Received List

Number	Name	Position/Category of Respondent
1	Karen Hughes	Parent
1.1	Nigel Hughes	Parent
1.2	Anna Edwards	Parent
1.3	Rachel King	Parent
1.4	Sallyann Thomas	Parent
1.5	Rebecca Davies	Parent
1.6	Jacqueline Seward	Parent
1.7	V. A. Willock	Grandparent
1.8	Robert Willock	Guardian
1.9	Michelle Gramann	Parent
1.10	Lucy Edwards	Parent
1.11	Nicola Charles	Parent
1.12	Julia Rees	Parent
1.13	Catrin Richards	Parent
1.14	Darren Seward	Community Member
1.15	Charlotte Charles	Parent
1.16	K. E. Thomas	Parent
1.17	C. Y. Thomas	Grandparent
1.18	Julia Rees	Parent
1.19	Lynda Morgan	Past Parent
1.20	Emma Webborn	Parent
1.21	Carys Williams	Community Member
1.22	Sarah Martin	Parent
1.23	Huw Thomas	Grandparent
1.24	Glen Graydon	Parent
1.25	Mr & Mrs Harvey	Parent
1.26	Lynne Graves	Teaching Assistant
1.27	Crystal Bolt	Teaching Assistant
1.28	Sally-Ann Sheen	Parent
1.29	Sue Broad	Parent
1.30	Robert and Vanessa Willock	
1.31	Samantha Thomas	Past Parent
1.32	Terry Lewis	Grandparent
1.33	Sheena Lewis	Grandparent
1.34	Robert Willock	
1.35	J Brodrick	Grandmother
1.36	Cllr. Theresa Bowen	
1.37	Angela Edwards	Teaching Assistant
1.38	R Hopkins	Past Parent
1.39	M Hopkins	Past Parent
1.40	Tracy Siddell	Teaching Assistant/School Governor
1.41	David and Arlene Thomas	Grandparents

1.42	T Hooper	Parent
1.43	Dr Marian Slader	Llangennech School Governor/ Community Councillor/ Past village GP
1.44	Richard Colman	Prospective Parent
1.45	Tammy Bryan	Past Parent
1.46	Kevin Sourbutts	Community Member
1.47	M M T Fuge	Grandmother
1.48	Jean Ring	Grandparent
1.49	H T Hughes	
1.50	Sam Oakley	Parent
1.51	Paula Williams	Parent
1.52	Phillip Lumley	Prospective Grandparent
1.53	Dave Jones	Past Parent
1.54	Kerry Matthews	Parent
1.55	Louise Perkins	Parent
1.56	Fiona Ring	Prospective Parent
1.57	Arron Ring	
1.58	Lynne Peet	
1.59	Barbara Brereton	Great Grandmother
1.60	Jonathan Lomas	Parent
1.61	Donna Williams	Past Parent
1.62	Anonymous	
1.63	Dave Williams	Past Parent
1.64	Karen Deacon	Parent
1.65	Orla Williams	Past Parent
1.66	Lauren Gill	Prospective Parent
1.67	Rebecca Grice	Prospective Parent
1.68	Donald Melrose	Parent
1.69	V Allen	Community Member
1.70	Delyth Humphreys	Community Member
1.71	S Hill	Community Member
1.72	Christopher Evans	Parent
1.73	M Beddows	Parent
1.74	Joshua Murphy	Pupil
1.75	Louise Davies	Parent
1.76	Richard Davies	Parent
1.77	Nicholas Sullivan	Parent
1.78	Supranee Sullivan	Parent
1.79	Zoe Evans	Past Pupil
1.80	Phillip Willock	Parent
1.81	D Prigmore	Grandparent
1.82	M Prigmore	Grandparent
1.83	Christian Evans	Parent
1.84	J Hancock	Grandparent
1.85	T Evans	Grandparent
1.86	Lindsey Evans	Parent
1.87	Denise Williams	Aunt

1.88	Nathan Lewis	Parent
1.89	Byron Williams	Grandparent
1.90	Paul Parry	Parent
1.91	Karen Green	Parent
1.92	Stephen Hughes	Student
1.93	Gaynor Hughes	Community Member
1.94	Nicola Lloyd	Parent
1.95	Lyndsey Andrews	Parent
1.96	Della Maides	
1.97	B Thomas	Community Member
1.98	M Beaton	Past Parent
1.99	S Kormylo	
1.100	Rita Maides	Grandparent
1.101	Stephanie Hughes	Past Parent
1.102	Alisha Maides	Past Pupil
1.103	Tammie-Jo Jones	
1.104	Julie Cahill	Grandparent
1.105	Michael Cahill	Grandparent
1.106	Leanne Edwards	Parent
1.107	Geraint Williams	
1.108	Jayne Lloyd	Past Parent
1.109	Elizabeth Chick	Grandparent
1.110	Philippa Davies	Parent
1.111	Mark Davies	Parent
1.112	Laura Davies	Potential Parent
1.113	Dafydd John	Past Pupil
1.114	D Thomas	Parent
1.115	Jordan Thomas	Past Pupil
1.116	Taylor Thomas	Pupil
1.117	Geraint Thomas	Parent
1.118	Ian MacDonald	Parent
1.119	Eddie Jones	Community Member
1.120	Linda Jones	Community Member
1.121	D Thomas	
1.122	Alex and Rachel James	Parents
1.123	C S Thomas	Past Pupil
1.124	Jacqueline Williams	Grandparent
1.125	Kimberley Williams	Parent
1.126	Gary Jones	Community Councillor
1.127	Sian Edwards-Schildt	Parent
1.128	Ellis Edwards	Grandparent
1.129	Rob Willock	Guardian
1.130	Stefan Ryszewski	Conservative Candidate
1.131	Danielle Carter	Prospective Parent
1.132	Luke Bolt	
1.133	A Colton	Grandmother
1.134	Peter Colton	Grandfather
1.135	David Colton	Past Pupil

1.136	C J Fletcher	
1.137	G Daniel	
1.138	Patricia Seward	Grandparent
1.139	Lindsey Evans	
1.140	Irene Edwards	Grandparent
1.141	K M Seward	Pupil
1.142	C L Thomas	Pupil
1.143	R Willock	Guardian
1.144	R Willock	Guardian
1.145	Jeanette Davies	Grandparent
1.146	A Williams	Parent
1.147	Stephen Davies	Community Member
1.148	Michael Schildt	Parent
1.149	Alyson White	Parent
1.150	Garry Tuckett	Grandparent
1.151	Kim Thomas	Parent
1.152	Karen Deacon	Parent
1.153	Christopher Slader	
1.154	Gary Jones	Llangennech Community Councillor
1.155	Petition by members of the community.	Members of Llangennech Community
2	Mr Steven Mears	Governing Body Bryngwyn/Glan-Y-Môr
3	S. Griffiths	Community Member
3.1	Anonymous	
3.2	Annona Thomas	Grandmother
3.3	Angharad Gealy	Teacher
3.4	Ian Williams	Community Member
3.5	Sian Lloyd	
3.6	Cllr. Gwyn Hopkins	County Councillor / Governor
3.7	C. A. Reynolds	Parent
3.8	Meilyr Bowen Hughes	Community Member
3.9	Anonymous	
3.10	Nerys Estelle Burton	Menter Cwm Gwendraeth Elli
3.11	Dr. Rhian Eleri Jones	Community Member
3.12	Keith Abbott	Community Member
3.13	Davinia Lewis	Parent
3.14	Heather Lewis	Headteacher, Ysgol Y Strade
3.15	Nicholas Daniels	Community Member
3.16	Colin Gwyn Jenkins	Community Member
3.17	P. Richards	Community Member
3.18	Glendon Davies	Past Parent and Governor
3.19	Anonymous	
3.20	Anonymous	
3.21	Anonymous	
3.22	Anonymous	
3.23	Anonymous	
3.24	Anonymous	

3.25	Anonymous	
3.26	Anonymous	
3.27	Anonymous	
3.28	Anonymous	
3.29	Anonymous	
3.30	Anonymous	
3.31	Anonymous	
3.32	Louise Parry	Assistant Head, Llangennech Infants
3.33	Anonymous	
3.34	Anonymous	
3.35	Anonymous	
3.36	Anonymous	
3.37	Anonymous	
3.38	Anonymous	
3.39	Anonymous	
3.40	Anonymous	
3.41	Desmond Jones	Community Member
3.42	W. D. Griffiths	Community Member
3.43	Patricia Jones	Grandmother
3.44	Veronica Davies	Past Teacher
3.45	Einir Smith	Community Member
3.46	Rita Jones	Community Member
3.47	Elen Mai Jones	Community Member
3.48	David Gerald Jones	Community Member
3.49	Mair Jones	Community Member
3.50	Alun Jones	Community Member
3.51	Arnold James	Past Pupil
3.52	Ann Evans	Grandparent
3.53	Tim Davies	Parent and Chair of Governors
3.54	Jennifer Clarke	Former Headteacher Llangennech Infants
3.55	Heledd Wyn Clarke	Community Member
3.56	Rhianedd Rhys	Aunt
3.57	Aimee Hopkin	Parent
3.58	Gary Anderson	Pennaeth Ffederasiwn Ysgolion Llangennech
3.59	Ffred Ffransis	
3.60	Anonymous	
3.61	Eireen Nelson	Past Pupil
3.62	Roger Fewster	Governor
3.63	Lynwen Williams	Parent
3.64	William Glyn Williams	Past Pupil
3.65	Craig Jones	Community Member
3.66	Lynn Davies	
3.67	Cllr. Gwyneth Thomas	Past Parent/Governor Llangennech Infants School/County Councillor
3.68	Miriam Thomas	Parent
3.69	Peter Dutton	Vice Chairman – Ysgol y Strade

3.70	Linda Sidgwick	Past Parent
3.71	Michael Rees	Grandfather
3.72	Alun Stephens	Governor Llangennech Junior School
3.73	S E Williams	Community Member
3.74	Lis Fidler	
3.75	Anonymous	
3.76	Wyn Davies	
3.77	Anne Loughran	Past Mentor – Cardiff University
3.78	Martin Davies	
3.79	Eiry Wyn Miles	
3.80	Anonymous	
3.81	Anonymous	
3.82	Anonymous	
3.83	Anonymous	
3.84	Alun Jones	
3.85	Owain Davies	Past Pupil
3.86	Jill Davies	Past Parent
3.87	Anonymous	
3.88	Clwb Gwawr y Sosban – Helen Mainwaring	
3.89	Anonymous	
3.90	Y Lle, Llanelli	
3.91	T. Gordon Lewis	Vice Chairman of Llangennech Schools Federation Governing Body and Vice Chairman of Llangennech Community Council
3.92	Manon Williams	Parent
3.93	Dylan Evans	Pennaeth Ysgol y Dderwen
3.94	Elaine Edwards	
3.95	Arwyn Thomas	
3.96	Hedd Tudur	
3.97	Gethin James	
3.98	Heledd Mathias	
3.99	Euros Evans	Former School Inspector
3.100	Martyn David Williams	Parent
3.101	Eleri Soanes	
3.102	Rhydwyn Ifan	Past Pupil
4	Linda Thomas	Past Parent
4.1	Bethan McDermot	Supply Teacher
5	Michelle David	Owner Bright Beginnings Preschool
6	Nia Griffith	Member of Parliament
7	UNISON	Union
7.1	UCAC	Union

Appendix B

Executive Summary of Observations Received

Executive Summary of Observations Received

The County Council's proposal to change primary school provision in the community of Llangennech has generated a considerable response from interested parties, with a total of 267 submissions received in response to the formal consultation.

The consultation period commenced on the 25th January 2016 and was due to close on the 11th March 2016 but in response to requests from some interested parties the Director of Education and Children's Services agreed to extend the period for responses by one week until the 18th March 2016. All consultees were formally notified of the extension of the consultation period.

The County Council's proposal is constituted of three elements as follows:

- to close the current Llangennech Infants School and Llangennech Junior School and create a new community primary school on the site and in the premises of the current schools;
- to extend the age range of the school from 4 to 11 years to 3 to 11 years, introducing new part-time education for three year olds; and
- to create the new school as a Welsh medium school in place of the present dual stream arrangement in both existing schools.

Very little comment has been made within the consultation responses to the element of the proposal that proposes creating a new primary school in place of the two current schools. Both schools have been operating under a formal federation since April 2015, with a single governing body and a shared head teacher and this progressive move appears to be acknowledged as a success and that the formal amalgamation of provision within a single primary school is a natural step forward.

Broadly speaking there is support for the introduction of part-time nursery provision within the school, but some respondents have expressed concern over the impact that this may have on existing independent sector childcare and nursery providers in the community who have hitherto been commissioned to provide part-time nursery education. These respondents are concerned that the removal of funding for part-time nursery education could undermine the financial viability of the settings for the future.

The element of the proposal that has generated the greatest response is the intention to change the medium of instruction for all pupils to Welsh in place of the current dual stream arrangement which has provision in either the Welsh or English language operating side by side. Opposing opinions have been submitted by respondents with some strongly opposed to the proposal whilst others are in favour of it. Those opposing the change have presented a number of reasons why they consider that it is not desirable whereas those in support of the change generally consider that it would be a natural progression for the school given the changes that have been taking place in the balance of language provision over recent years and that it will be advantageous for all children.

All of the submissions received to the consultation document within the (extended) consultation period are noted in Appendix C, together with the response of the County Council's professional officers. The following table presents an executive summary of the

main points raised in opposition to, or in support of the proposal, along with the response of officers to each one.

	Observation	Local Authority Response
1.	<p>In opposition</p> <p>The dual stream system works very well as it is and therefore there is no need to change a system that already works.</p>	<p>The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to <i>“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”</i></p> <p>In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that <i>“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”</i></p>
2.	<p>The removal of choice from the community. The community will no longer have an option to attend an English stream.</p>	<p>The Local Authority has a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believes that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of <i>ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”</i> The best way to create confident, bilingual individuals is through immersing pupils in the Welsh language.</p>
3.	<p>The proposal is inconsistent with community make-up.</p>	<p>It is noted that many members of the community do not speak the Welsh language and that many pupils come from non-Welsh homes; therefore it is important to increase the provision of Welsh medium education in order to ensure <i>“linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”</i></p>
4.	<p>Children who would</p>	<p>It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils</p>

	<p>prefer an English medium education or who struggle with the Welsh language will be forced to move to another school.</p>	<p>remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Some children may not be able to cope with learning through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>The ability of non-Welsh speaking parents to support their children with their school work and homework.</p>	<p>The school will continue to provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils and currently visit the school twice a week.</p> <p>Pupils and parents are currently supported by the school through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open door policy where teachers can translate the work for parents and provide an explanation of what is required at that time e.g. either before or after school • Parents can contact the school via telephone or e-mail. • Homework is provided bilingually when needed. • Welsh lessons are provided to parents at specific periods throughout the year. • In the Foundation Phase, special books are regularly sent home to parents in the home language which enables the parents to see what the pupils achieve in school. • A homework club is held for an hour after school once a week to provide support for pupils who require help with their homework. • Sports, choir and IPad club are held bilingually. • Urdd club – many children from the English stream currently attend.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilingual school website. • Bilingual staff members in both streams. • Bilingual school assemblies and singing sessions. Pupils learn a mixture of Welsh and English songs. • Bilingual school productions. • “Athrawon Bro” provide support help develop the Welsh skills of pupils. • “Athrawon Bro” hold a language centre for a full week during the summer term for groups of year 5 pupils. These are pupils who currently perform at level 3 but who can attain level 4 with professional input. • Older pupils have strong Welsh skills which enables them to explain the homework to their parents. • “Athrawon Bro” provide training to staff members who are less confident in using their Welsh skills. • The Welsh language is heard daily by English stream pupils. <p>The school are also intending to hold an evening for parents of all classes at the beginning of September detailing the themes of work for the year and the contents of the work.</p> <p>Parents could also access support by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asking the child to explain the homework – the pupil could translate the homework for non-Welsh speaking members of the family. • Using online translation tools. • Asking a Welsh speaking friend/family member/neighbour for help.
6.	Children with SEN/ALN may not be able to cope	All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their needs and the agreed

	with the Welsh language.	support is provided. This support will continue to be provided for each individual currently attending the school through the medium they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive this support mainly through the medium of Welsh. In the majority of cases an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages as there is much flexibility built into the delivery of the curriculum to enable pupils to succeed. It is our experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in all of our schools irrespective of the language of instruction. The school states that through the years; children with various additional learning needs have attended the school through both streams successfully.
7.	The standard of the pupils' English development will decline through receiving their education through the medium of Welsh.	It is important to note that English is a statutory curriculum subject and will continue to be taught to the highest of standards at the school.
8.	Welsh medium education may disadvantage children entering further or higher education.	There are many advantages to being bilingual as confirmed by national and international research and articulated in Carmarthenshire's " Why are we promoting a Bilingual education? " document. Bilingualism has positive effects on children's linguistic and educational development as well as having social advantages. Some new studies also suggest that bilingualism may offer some protection against the decline of cognitive abilities in old age, both in normal and pathological ageing.
9.	Transport difficulties and costs for families who opt for their children to attend other schools (especially for parents without private transport).	The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that " the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility. " This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.
10.	Capacity at other schools.	Should parents decide to place their children in an alternative school; parents should note that pupils are admitted to schools following the guidelines as stated in the Admission to School Information for Parents booklet – " Parents can state a preference for a school, which is not the designated catchment area school. Subject to

		<i>the limit on the number of pupils who can be admitted into the school not being exceeded and the correct procedures being followed, then admission will be granted.</i>
11.	Standards of education at other schools.	Parents should consider the educational standards of any alternative schools should they decide that their child needs to attend an alternative school.
12.	The impact of introducing a nursery class in the school on existing independent providers.	The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that <i>“all 3 year olds are entitled to 10 hours per week free placement at a registered setting from the beginning of the term following their third birthday.”</i> Part time is defined as either 5 morning or 5 afternoon sessions or a mixture of 5 morning/afternoon sessions. There will still be a need for nursery provision for all children under the age of 3 years old and for 3 year olds outside of the hours that the school provides nursery provision.
	In Support	
1.	The proposal supports the aim of Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan of increasing the provision of Welsh medium education.	The Local Authority welcomes the observations that understand that the proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to <i>“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”</i> In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that <i>“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”</i>
2.	The change will promote bilingualism in the Llangennech area.	The Local Authority notes the support. It is noted that many people in the area do not speak the language and that many pupils attending the school come from non-Welsh background. The Local Authority has a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believes that providing a

		Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2." The best way to create confident, bilingual individuals is through immersing pupils in the Welsh language.
3.	The change will be a natural step for the school.	The data presented in the consultation document shows the difference in pupil numbers attending the Welsh stream in comparison to the English stream. This data proves that there is a demand for Welsh medium education.
4.	There are many advantages to being bilingual.	The Local Authority welcomes the responses which realise that being bilingual has many advantages. There are many advantages to being bilingual as confirmed by national and international research and articulated in Carmarthenshire's " Why are we promoting a Bilingual education? " document. Bilingualism has positive effects on children's linguistic and educational development as well as having social advantages. Some new studies also suggest that bilingualism may offer some protection against the decline of cognitive abilities in old age, both in normal and pathological ageing.
5.	3 year old pupils will have access to a formal education from an earlier age.	The local authority has a responsibility to " increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages. " The Local Authority will be able to ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector by providing a formal education to 3 year olds.
6.	All pupils in Wales have a right to a Welsh medium education.	The Local Authority has a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believes that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of

		KS2. ” The best way to create confident, bilingual individuals is through immersing pupils in the Welsh language.
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It is to be noted that a number of representations have been made to the County Council after the closure of the formal consultation period, with exchange of correspondence and conversations continuing for several weeks thereafter. Submissions made after the end of the (extended) consultation period have not been included in this Report in order to maintain consistency in the treatment of respondents and to ensure compliance with the statutory School Organisation Code. Should the proposal proceed to the next stage of the statutory process all interested parties will have another formal opportunity to present their views prior to the County Council taking a final decision.

Appendix C

**Summary of observations received following publication of the Consultation Document and
Local Authority related responses**

OBSERVATION	RESPONSE
<p>Disagree with changes</p> <p>1. The consultee is concerned that the proposal does not cater for the community's needs. Federation would be a suitable option for the community regardless of language category. The school has been dual stream for years and worked well, catering for the whole community. This proposal does not cater for the socially diverse community of Llangennech. The consultee is also concerned that there is only one other dual stream school in the local area.</p> <p>1.1 The consultee is concerned that English speakers are no longer welcome at the school. The consultee supports the Welsh language and culture and feels that Llangennech School already provides a good understanding. The community is socially diverse and this proposal will destroy the community spirit of the area.</p> <p>1.2 The consultee is concerned that pupils who will struggle with the Welsh language will have to move school rather than change to the English stream. There are also concerns that families may then have children in two different schools if they no longer have the option of an English stream. This causes travel implications for families especially families with no</p>	<p>Disagree with changes</p> <p>The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to <i>"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."</i> In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that <i>"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."</i></p> <p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.</p> <p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide</p>

means of private transportation. The community should continue to have a choice of either stream. The consultee feels that this proposal will split the community. The consultee also opposes the need for nursery provision as there is already nursery provision in the area. The nursery is open from 9am-1pm and the consultee is concerned that the school will not provide care for the same length of time.

sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **"all 3 year olds are entitled to 10 hours per week free placement at a registered setting from the beginning of the term following their third birthday."** Part time is defined as either 5 morning or 5 afternoon sessions or a mixture of 5 morning/afternoon sessions. There will still be a need for nursery provision for all children under the age of 3 years old and for 3 year olds outside of the hours that the school provides nursery provision.

1.3 The consultee is concerned that pupils who struggle with the Welsh language will have to move school rather than move to the English stream. If families decide to place their children in other schools in order to receive English medium education, they may have children in two different schools. There are concerns on the travel implications if this happens. The school should be kept dual stream.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new

1.4 The consultee is concerned that pupils who struggle with the Welsh language will need to move school rather than change to the English stream. The community needs a bilingual school. Some parents who have younger children may have to place them in other schools if pupils require English medium education – therefore having children in different schools. This causes difficulties for parents without private transport and there are concerns that pupils will not receive the same standard of education as they would at Llangennech School. This is discrimination against English speakers when the community have been happy to have a school which provides education through both mediums.

pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. “Athrawon Bro” who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. “Athrawon Bro” who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. Should parents

1.5 The consultee opposes changing the language category to Welsh medium. Pupils with learning difficulties or pupils who struggle with the Welsh language will not be able to move to the English stream and will need to move to a different school, outside of their catchment area. Every pupil should have the right to attend their local school and to receive their education through the medium of Welsh or English. The consultee also opposes the need for nursery provision. Nursery provision is already available in the community and this proposal would be detrimental to this organisation, its staff and to children who attend the nursery. Should these organisations close, the community council would lose vital revenue from these businesses.

consider moving their children to other schools due to parental preference, then they should consider the educational standards of the schools when doing so.

All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their needs and the agreed support is provided. This support will continue to be provided for each individual currently attending the school through the medium they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive this support mainly through the medium of Welsh. In the majority of cases an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages as there is much flexibility built into the delivery of the curriculum to enable pupils to succeed. It is our experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in all of our schools irrespective of the language of instruction. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***"all 3 year olds are entitled to 10 hours per week free placement at a registered setting from the beginning of the term following their third birthday."*** Part time is defined as either 5 morning or 5 afternoon sessions or a mixture of 5 morning/afternoon sessions. There will still be a need for nursery provision for all children under the age of 3 years old and for 3 year olds outside of the hours that the school provides nursery provision.

1.6 The consultee feels that that choice should not be taken away

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire

from the community when the school has been dual stream for over 60 years. Pupils who require English medium education would have to attend schools outside their local area meaning that they could no longer walk to school and circles of friends will be split. The community is a very close community and this will mean that members will now not be able to attend the same activities. The school cannot be called a community school when it does not cater for English speaking children.

County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

1.7 The consultee is opposed to changing the language category to English medium as this takes the right of choice away from the pupil. This choice will be taken away from English speaking children. The consultee feels that this is racism against English speaking children. This will split the community in two and the consultee is concerned that English speaking families have not been consulted and how families who require English medium education will be able to travel to the proposed English medium schools if they have no means of

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that

private transport.

1.8 The consultee is concerned with the feasibility of pupils attending other schools if they require English medium education. Perhaps the education department could liaise with housing to relocate families near to their chosen school. This is racism against English speaking families. A large number of community members do not speak Welsh and this proposal does not cater for these people. The school should remain dual stream.

“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.” The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”** The consultation process has been carried out following the guidelines as stated in the School Organisation Code 2013 and all stakeholders were notified of the consultation following these guidelines. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important

1.9 The consultee is concerned with the consultation process and how the community has been consulted. The consultee states that there will be implications for travel time between schools for parents with children in separate schools whilst Llangennech School is in walking distance. There will also be implications on parents with children in two schools when it comes to different activities should they coincide. Also, pupils who require English medium education may not receive the same standard of education as they would in Llangennech School. Younger pupils should receive the same opportunities as their older siblings.

1.10 The consultee is concerned that non-Welsh parents will be unable to help their children with their schoolwork and therefore the pupil's education will suffer. There are also concerns for pupils who will struggle with the Welsh language – what provision is available? The consultee is concerned whether there is capacity at other schools should pupils require English medium education and what transport will be available. Also, will Llangennech School be accepting pupils from other areas if they require Welsh medium education and will English be taught to as high of a standard as Welsh? Community spirit will be lost as not all pupils will be attending

to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

The consultation process has been carried out following the guidelines as stated in the School Organisation Code 2013 and all stakeholders were notified of the consultation following these guidelines. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. However, should parents consider moving their children to other schools due to parental preference, then they should consider the educational standards of the schools when doing so.

The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. “Athrawon Bro” who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. It is the Local Authority's intention

the village school.

that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. However,
The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”*** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. English is a statutory curriculum subject and will be taught to the highest of standards. Pupils will be admitted to Llangennech School and the English medium schools following the guidelines as stated in the Admission to School Information for Parents booklet – ***“Parents can state a preference for a school, which is not the designated catchment area school. Subject to the limit on the number of pupils who can be admitted into the school not being exceeded and the correct procedures being followed, then admission will be granted.”***

1.11 The consultee feels that the school works well as it is. The consultee is concerned about what options are available if pupils struggle with the Welsh language. Transitions to starting school can be stressful enough without having to move school if they are not happy with learning through the medium of Welsh.

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on

1.12 The consultee is concerned that the community will no longer have a choice. At the moment parents can choose a stream based on the needs of their children. This proposal means that younger children will not get the same opportunities as their older siblings of attending an English medium stream. This causes problems for families who wish for their children to receive English medium education as they will have to take their children to two schools. Some pupils with learning difficulties have no option but to receive an English medium education – these pupils will need to move school. Parents who are non-Welsh speakers will not be able to help pupils with their homework which could be detrimental to the pupil's education. This is discrimination against many members of the community. It would be better to increase the number of Welsh lessons for pupils in the English stream.

the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their needs and the agreed support is provided. This support will continue to be provided for each individual currently attending the school through the medium they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be

1.13 The consultee is concerned that pupils who struggle with the Welsh language; especially pupils with parents who are non-Welsh speakers will have to move to an English medium school rather than move to the English stream. This would mean separating children from their friends and leaving their local community. This could be detrimental to a child's education. Pupils should be treated equally and should be able to be educated in the language of their choice.

1.14 The consultee is concerned that this will cause a divide in a diverse community where solidarity should be encouraged. Every pupil should have the right to be educated in the language of their choice and receive a good quality education.

implemented, all future pupils will receive this support mainly through the medium of Welsh. In the majority of cases an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages as there is much flexibility built into the delivery of the curriculum to enable pupils to succeed. It is our experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in all of our schools irrespective of the language of instruction. The school will provide sufficient support to parents who are non-Welsh speakers.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the

1.15 The consultee feels that this will cause a divide in the community and is unfair to pupils who wish to be educated through the medium of English. Children who will choose to attend English medium schools will be unfamiliar with other children in their local area and this will cause social exclusion. This will cause problems for families who already have pupils at Llangennech schools but have younger children requiring English medium education.

1.16 The consultee is concerned that pupils who wish to receive their education through the medium of English will not be able to be educated in their local area and therefore will not be fully part of the community. This proposal will cause a divide in the village and deprive some children of socialising in their own

medium of English will continue to do so. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."*** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the

community. The proposed schools are also not of the same standard as Llangennech School.

1.17 The consultee opposes to changing the language category to Welsh medium as they do not feel that the proposed English medium schools are satisfactory alternatives. Both schools are not easily accessible for parents who do not drive and neither are of the same educational standard as Llangennech School. The consultee is concerned that pupils who live in the same area will not be able to attend the same school – not all pupils will be able to adapt to the Welsh language.

medium of English will continue to do so. However, should parents consider moving their children to other schools due to parental preference, then they should consider the educational standards of the schools when doing so. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. Should parents consider moving their children to other schools due to parental preference, then they should consider the educational standards of the schools when doing so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."*** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs

1.18 The consultee has concerns that some families may not be able to have all of their children attending the same school if the English stream is no longer provided. Pupils with learning difficulties can often only grasp a single language – that being English, this will mean that these pupils will have to move to a different school. The school cannot be called a community school if it does not cater for the whole community. There are concerns for families who do not have means of private transport and families whose first language is neither Welsh nor English.

to attend another school.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their needs and the agreed support is provided. This support will continue to be provided for each individual currently attending the school through the medium they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive this support mainly through the medium of Welsh. In the majority of cases an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages as there is much flexibility built into the delivery of the curriculum to enable pupils to succeed. It is our experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in all of our schools irrespective of the language of instruction. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”*** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. The school will provide sufficient support for pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. “Athrawon Bro” who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. The school will also provide sufficient support to parents.

1.19 The consultee is concerned that the wellbeing of families will be affected if pupils cannot attend their local school. Pupils who require English medium education but have no means of private transport will be greatly affected. The community should continue to have a choice of both Welsh and English streams as the Welsh language should not be forced onto people. Many members of the community are English speaking and they should not be isolated. Pupils in the English stream have much more exposure to the Welsh language than what they would by attending an English medium stream. This promotes bilingualism and could help pupils feed the bilingual classes that are available in Bryngwyn School. Choice is available when choosing secondary schools so there is no need to take it away now. There are also concerns that changing the age range to 3-11 will have a detrimental effect on the nurseries in the village. Also, if Bryn and Hendy catchment areas are not extended to include Llangennech, are pupils guaranteed to be offered a place at these schools? The consultee is also concerned that pupils will not receive the same standard of education at Bryn and Hendy schools as they would in Llangennech.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."*** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** Pupils will be admitted to Bryn and Hendy schools following the guidelines as stated in the Admission to School Information for Parents booklet – ***"Parents can state a preference for a school, which is not the designated catchment area school. Subject to the limit on the number of pupils who can be admitted into the school not being exceeded and the correct procedures being followed, then admission will be granted."*** Should parents consider moving their children to other schools due to parental preference, then they should consider the educational standards of the schools when doing so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***"all 3 year olds are entitled to 10 hours per week free placement at a registered setting from the beginning of the term following their third birthday."*** Part time is

1.20 The consultee is concerned that pupils who wish to receive their education through the medium of English will need to move schools. Parents who do not speak Welsh will not be able to help their children with school work and moving schools could be detrimental to a pupil's wellbeing. It is fair to all residents to have a choice of both English and Welsh streams.

defined as either 5 morning or 5 afternoon sessions or a mixture of 5 morning/afternoon sessions. There will still be a need for nursery provision for all children under the age of 3 years old and for 3 year olds outside of the hours that the school provides nursery provision.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. Sufficient support will also be provided to parents. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

1.21 The consultee is concerned that if pupils choose to attend English medium schools, travelling times for families will be increased. Also, if the proposal is implemented, pupils will lose

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of

the opportunity to choose their local school and will be separated from their friends and possibly siblings.

1.22 The consultee feels that the school should be kept dual stream. Pupils who attend the English stream are able to receive their education through the medium of English but are also able to leave school as Welsh speakers. This proposal will cause a split in the community. Pupils should have a right to attend their local school but this proposal will cause many pupils to leave their community. The consultee is also concerned that there is no capacity at the proposed English medium schools to cater for pupils from Llangennech. If pupils wish to attend the English medium school, this causes travel implications for families, especially for families who will have children in two different schools. The local authority should be looking at why so many pupils are attending from outside of catchment and whether this is due to lack of Welsh medium education provision in those areas. The consultee is concerned that if pupils choose to attend the proposed English medium schools due to parental preference, then the cost of transportation is the parent's responsibility, yet the choice has been taken away from parents.

Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”*** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”***

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. Pupils will be admitted to Bryn and Hendy

1.23 The consultee feels that pupils should be able to attend their local school. The school has worked well as dual stream for many years. English speaking children should not have to receive their education outside of their local area. Pupils attending the English stream are able learn and use the Welsh language whereas they would not get this opportunity if they attended an English medium school. Some parents will not have a choice but to send their pupils to the Welsh medium Llangennech irrespective of whether they speak the Welsh language. The pupil's education could suffer due to not being able to be supported at home. Those children would not have the additional support at home, which is nearly as important as being taught in school. The consultee is concerned that some County Councillors who are also on the Community Council have extreme views on this proposal. The current situation works very well and the consultee does not feel that the data used for reception years does not really reflect the Welsh/English split.

schools following the guidelines as stated in the Admission to School Information for Parents booklet – ***“Parents can state a preference for a school, which is not the designated catchment area school. Subject to the limit on the number of pupils who can be admitted into the school not being exceeded and the correct procedures being followed, then admission will be granted.”*** The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”*** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the

1.24 The consultee is concerned that those wishing to attend the proposed English medium schools are not guaranteed to be accepted. Dual stream schools provide good community cohesion and meet the demand of the whole community. Other means should be used to promote the Welsh language other than restricting English medium education. Parents have a right to choose the education which is best for their children.

medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. County Councillors have a right to voice their own opinions.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. Pupils will be admitted to Bryn and Hendy schools following the guidelines as stated in the Admission to School Information for Parents booklet – ***"Parents can state a preference for a school, which is not the designated catchment area school. Subject to the limit on the number of pupils who can be admitted into the school not being exceeded and the correct procedures being followed, then admission will be granted."*** The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all

1.25 The consultee expresses that some parents choose for their children to attend Llangennech School in order for them to have an opportunity to learn the Welsh language although that they do not speak the language themselves. Dual stream schools are able to support the needs of these families. There is no need to change the school.

1.26 The consultee is concerned about their job security at Llangennech Infants School as they are not bilingual and are currently working in the English stream.

pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."***

The proposal will take 7 years to be fully implemented and for the school to become a completely Welsh medium school. This allows time for the school to amend their current arrangements in order to provide staff with opportunities to develop their Welsh skills in the school environment. The Local Authority will also provide training support for any staff members wishing to develop their Welsh skills. In addition, the Authority has staffing policies and procedures in respect of school reorganisation and these can be recommended for implementation if needed. The Authority will support school staff in securing suitable alternative employment if at all possible through redeployment processes.

<p>1.27 The consultee feels that children should be given opportunities to learn values, traditions and beliefs about themselves and others. Learning in diverse environments allows for all to feel valued. The consultee is concerned about their job security as they do not speak the Welsh language and they are currently working in the English stream.</p>	<p>The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of <i>ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."</i> The proposal will take 7 years to be fully implemented and for the school to become a completely Welsh medium school. This allows time for the school to amend their current arrangements in order to provide staff with opportunities to develop their Welsh skills in the school environment. The Local Authority will also provide training support for any staff members wishing to develop their Welsh skills. In addition, the Authority has staffing policies and procedures in respect of school reorganisation and these can be recommended for implementation if needed. The Authority will support school staff in securing suitable alternative employment if at all possible through redeployment processes.</p>
<p>1.28 The consultee feels that the school should cater for both Welsh and English speaking families.</p>	<p>The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of <i>ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."</i></p>
<p>1.29 The consultee feels that as this is the only school in the village, it is unacceptable for pupils wishing to receive their education through the medium of English to have to attend schools in neighbouring areas. This will destroy the community spirit.</p>	<p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.</p>

1.30 The consultee states that some years back a Welsh only clause was introduced into the reception class which was then extended to year 1. If parents wish for their children to be educated at Llangennech School they must agree to this. Every pupil has a right to practice their own cultures and the government has a responsibility to protect these rights. This proposal means that this right is being taken away from the pupils.

1.31 The consultee feels that pupils are able to have a full school life at Llangennech School. Although that some pupils attend the English stream, they are still able to attend many school activities including competing in the Eisteddfod. It has also been noted by secondary school teachers that pupils who have attended the English stream in Llangennech had a very high standard of Welsh. The community should continue to have a choice of both streams as this provides a good foundation for pupils in the English stream who would like to learn the Welsh language.

1.32 The consultee is concerned that choice is being taken away from the community. The school works well as it is and there is

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The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing

no need to change it. This is discrimination against English speaking pupils and causes segregation between pupils who will have been used to socialising with each other. The consultee is also concerned that both proposed English medium schools are not easily accessible and will cause congestion around peak times.

1.33 The consultee is concerned that choice is being taken away from the community. The school is working well and therefore there is no need to change it and option 4 should be the preferred option. Dual stream schools help pupils in the English stream school to grasp the Welsh language – this would not happen if pupils attended an English medium school. Dual stream also enables parents to choose the appropriate language medium for their children, depending on their needs. The proposal may lead to families having children attending different schools. Many members of the community are English speaking and therefore this proposal does not cater for these people's needs.

a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of **ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of **ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in**

1.34 The consultee would like to put the following option forward for consideration. The consultee feels that the status quo in regards to the language category should be maintained but with modifications. The English stream would receive a minimum of 30% Welsh lessons a week and would mimic the amount English lessons that the Welsh stream receive. This would ensure that pupils from both streams would be able to speak, read and write bilingually. This would also ensure an increase of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire. By following this proposal, pupils from both streams would be able to change stream if needed.

This proposal has been considered in detail in **Appendix F**.

Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.” It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** This proposal would mean that there would be an increase in the provision of Welsh second language; however this percentage of Welsh lessons would not be successful in creating bilingual individuals who are fluent and confident in both English and Welsh languages. This proposal won’t deliver Carmarthenshire’s targets of improving the provision of Welsh (first language) medium education. It is more important for non-Welsh pupils to be immersed in the Welsh language and this can be done successfully through a Welsh medium school.

Please see **Appendix F** for further analysis of this proposal.

1.35 The consultee is concerned how non-Welsh families can be included in a pupil's learning if they attend a Welsh medium school. These pupils may have to attend English medium schools outside of the local area and therefore divide the community. These pupils would then learn no Welsh at all whereas by attending a dual stream school they are able to pick up the language.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."***

1.36 The consultee expresses the concerns of several parents regarding changing the language category to Welsh medium. Some pupils who have learning difficulties will not be able to learn easily through the medium of Welsh. With this proposal

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current

there will be no option available for these pupils to move to the English stream. There are also concerns with new homes being built, neighbouring schools will be at their capacity. There will be a strain on teachers if pupils from Llangennech will also move to these schools. The local authority should consider not allowing pupils from other catchment areas attending other schools.

pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their needs and the agreed support is provided. This support will continue to be provided for each individual currently attending the school through the medium they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive this support mainly through the medium of Welsh. In the majority of cases an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages as there is much flexibility built into the delivery of the curriculum to enable pupils to succeed. It is our experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in all of our schools irrespective of the language of instruction. Pupils are admitted to schools following the guidelines as stated in the Admission to School Information for Parents booklet – ***“Parents can state a preference for a school, which is not the designated catchment area school. Subject to the limit on the number of pupils who can be admitted into the school not being exceeded and the correct procedures being followed, then admission will be granted.”***

1.37 The consultee feels that some pupils in year 6 will still transfer to English medium secondary schools if the language category of the school changes to Welsh medium. Also, if pupils are to receive their education through the medium of Welsh up until the age of 7, their English skills will suffer. Pupils should not have to move out of their village to receive their education. There is no need to change the school.

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. English is a statutory curriculum subject and will continue to be taught to the highest of standards. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives***

1.38 The consultee feels that there is no need to change the school as it has worked well as a dual stream school for a number of years. The school has an excellent reputation and the pupils are happy with the system. The community should continue to have a choice.

1.39 The consultee is supportive of the Welsh language but feels that the school should remain dual stream. Many people have placed their children in the school purely as it is a dual stream school and this choice should not be taken away from the community. Pupils from both streams interact well with each other and the school has an excellent reputation. It would not be possible for some parents to move their children to the proposed English medium school and they should not need to do this. There is no need to change a system that already works well.

education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

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1.40 The consultee states that as an employee at the school and a school governor they were firstly supportive of the proposal. However, the consultee states that they are now opposed to the idea. At the moment, staff who do not speak Welsh are able to practice their Welsh skills – this would not be able to happen at an English medium school. The school caters for all members of the community and creates a strong bond between children of different languages. Pupils should not have to travel outside of their local area to receive English medium education – this will cause segregation between pupils of different languages. This also causes problems for families without means of private transport and the local authority have a responsibility to cater for all families. This proposal will surely divide the community and the best way to promote the Welsh language would be to increase the amount of Welsh lessons per week, whilst keeping choice for the community.

Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.” The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”*** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”*** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

1.41 The consultee feels that the school should remain dual stream. Preference has been given to the Welsh language over the last few years – both languages should be treated equally. The majority of the families that have moved into the area are English speaking and these parents should be given a choice for their children.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”*** Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017 states that the Authority will work with other services to ***“ensure that non-Welsh speaking pupils who have just moved into the County are suitably supported in order that they can integrate naturally in their local school and community.”***

1.42 The consultee feels that the school should remain dual stream. Many parents do not speak the Welsh language and will be unable to help their children with their schoolwork. The Welsh language can only be used in Wales and cannot be used in 95% of universities. The consultee is concerned that the proposed English schools do not have enough capacity to

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary***

accept pupils from Llangennech who desire an English medium education. There would also be travel implications for families wishing to attend these schools.

sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”**

The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. “Athrawon Bro” who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. There are many advantages to being bilingual as confirmed by national and international research and articulated in Carmarthenshire’s **“Why are we promoting a Bilingual education?”** document. Bilingualism has positive effects on children’s linguistic and educational development as well as having social advantages. Some new studies also suggest that bilingualism may offer some protection against the decline of cognitive abilities in old age, both in normal and pathological ageing. Pupils are admitted to schools following the guidelines as stated in the Admission to School Information for Parents booklet – **“Parents can state a preference for a school, which is not the designated catchment area school. Subject to the limit on the number of pupils who can be admitted into the school not being exceeded and the correct procedures being followed, then admission will be granted.”** The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

1.43 The consultee supports the promotion of the Welsh language but feels that this proposal will be counterproductive. There is no need to force the Welsh language onto people. Llangennech School is working well and most parents are supportive of a bilingual education. This proposal does not cater for the many English speaking members of the community and these members should not have to move out of their local area to seek English medium education. There are other ways of promoting the Welsh language other than changing the language category of the school to Welsh medium. The community should continue to have a choice of both streams. The consultee has accepted that providing education for 3 year olds will standardise education for this year group – however this proposal will have a detrimental effect on other nursery providers in the area.

1.44 The consultee is concerned that pupil's choices will be reduced and that pupils will be forced to learn through the medium of Welsh or move school.

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of **ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **"all 3 year olds are entitled to 10 hours per week free placement at a registered setting from the beginning of the term following their third birthday."** Part time is defined as either 5 morning or 5 afternoon sessions or a mixture of 5 morning/afternoon sessions. There will still be a need for nursery provision for all children under the age of 3 years old and for 3 year olds outside of the hours that the school provides nursery provision.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of **ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium**

1.45 The consultee is concerned that pupils with learning difficulties/disabilities or pupils that find the Welsh language difficult will not be able to move into the English stream and will have to move to another school.

schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their needs and the agreed support is provided. This support will continue to be provided for each individual currently attending the school through the medium they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive this support mainly through the medium of Welsh. In the majority of cases an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages as there is much flexibility built into the delivery of the curriculum to enable pupils to succeed. It is our experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in all of our schools irrespective of the language of instruction.

<p>1.46 The consultee is concerned that changing the language category to Welsh medium will alienate non Welsh speaking children and parents by forcing them to seek English medium schools outside of the community.</p>	<p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.</p>
<p>1.47 The consultee expresses concerns regarding changing the language category to Welsh medium. The consultee is concerned that pupils wanting English medium education will have to attend other schools and some parents might have several siblings in different schools which will cause difficulties for parents.</p>	<p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that <i>"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."</i> This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. Parents should also consider any other issues which may arise.</p>
<p>1.48 The consultee is concerned that changing the language category to Welsh medium will mean that the family may have to take one of their children (who will start after proposal is implemented) to an English medium school outside of the village if they wish for the child to have a mainly English medium education. The consultee expresses concern that the pupil will not receive the high standard of education that Llangennech School would provide.</p>	<p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. However, should parents consider moving their children to other schools due to parental preference, then they should consider the educational standards of the schools when doing so.</p>
<p>1.49 The consultee is concerned with how the consultation process has been conducted and the lack of awareness by the</p>	<p>The consultation process has been carried out following the guidelines as stated in the School Organisation Code 2013 and all</p>

local community. The consultee feels that there are a number of inaccuracies within the proposal and appears to be centred on the opinion of a minority. The proposal has caused discontent in the local area. The consultee also feels that the proposal lacks an evidence based approach and fails to meet 21st Century School programme to have the “right school in the right place.”

stakeholders were notified of the consultation following these guidelines. The School Organisation Code 2013 states that **“from time to time proposers will have conducted an ‘informal’ consultation with particular stakeholders.”** However, this is not a legal requirement. The data presented in the consultation document shows the difference in the number of pupils attending both streams, with the majority of pupils attending through the Welsh stream. This shows that there is demand for a Welsh medium school. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”**

1.50 The consultee expresses concern that the change in language category would be detrimental to the community in Llangennech as parents who wish for their children to be educated in English will have to choose a school outside of the village. The consultee is also concerned that multiculturalism within the school will be reduced and that it will cause more difficulties for parents who are non- Welsh speakers when helping their children with their homework.

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. “Athrawon Bro” who provide support to schools

1.51 The consultee is concerned that changing the language category to Welsh medium will affect those pupils who will choose to move to an English medium school by limiting the amount of Welsh that these pupils will learn. By attending a dual stream school, non-Welsh pupils are able to learn more Welsh than what they would be able to at an English medium school. Pupils who also struggle with the Welsh language would also have to move school rather than moving into the English stream.

around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils.

1.52 The consultee is concerned with the how the consultation process has been conducted and the lack of effort made by the school, LA and community council to engage with parents and prospective parents. The consultee believes that the school have been trying to move to a Welsh medium language category for a number of years. If pupils were to choose to attend an English medium school this would mean having young children of 4/5 walking a great distance to school or if they were to qualify for transport, being bussed to another school. This proposal would seriously affect English speaking members in the community and will split the community from an early age. Brynsierfel and Ffwrnes provide Welsh medium education where those desiring Welsh medium education can attend.

The consultation process has been carried out following the guidelines as stated in the School Organisation Code 2013 and all stakeholders were notified of the consultation following these guidelines. The School Organisation Code 2013 states that **“from time to time proposers will have conducted an ‘informal’ consultation with particular stakeholders.”** However, this is not a legal requirement. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

1.53 The consultee expresses concern that changing the language category will force many parents to send their

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the

children to an English medium school – which will incur financial implications and the sense of detachment from the village. The consultee is also concerned that parents who do not speak Welsh may feel pressured to send their child to the school.

1.54 The consultee expresses concern that changing the language category will force parents who do not wish for their children to have a Welsh medium education to move them to an English medium school. The consultee is concerned that this would affect current traffic situations and also some parents would have to walk their children to school along busy roads. The consultee also expresses concern that pupils who would attend the English stream at a dual stream school but choose to attend an English medium school will be at a disadvantage as they will not be able to pick up the Welsh language as they would in a dual stream school. The consultee states that pupils from both streams currently mix through different school activities and this would not continue if the school became Welsh medium.

village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”** Sufficient support will be available to parents who do not speak Welsh.

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the**

1.55 The consultee is concerned that pupils who find learning through the medium of Welsh difficult will not have the option of moving to the English stream and will have to move to an English medium school. The consultee is also concerned about travelling implications for those parents wanting to place their children in an English medium school. The consultee states that pupils in the English stream are able to learn the Welsh language by attending a dual stream school whereas this would not be possible by attending an English medium school.

key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”**

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. “Athrawon Bro” who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide

1.56 The consultee is concerned that changing the language category will force parents to move their children to an English medium school, outside of the village and therefore causing a divide within the village. This will result in the pupils learning no Welsh at all whereas by attending a dual stream school they are able to pick up the language. The consultee is concerned that pupils who struggle with the Welsh language or who have learning difficulties will not be fully supported and will also, have to move to an English medium school, where they may not receive education of the same standard. The consultee expresses concern for traffic implications by changing the language category as parents who want their children to attend English medium schools will have to travel outside of the village whilst some pupils out of catchment may travel to Llangennech for Welsh medium education.

that their child needs to attend another school. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their needs and the

1.57 The consultee expresses concern regarding changing the language category of the school. The consultee is concerned that the proposal will force families to either choose a fully Welsh medium education or move to an English medium school which will then limit the pupils from learning Welsh. This will then mean additional transport costs for parents who decide to move their children to an English medium school. The consultee is also concerned about how the change will affect pupils with additional learning needs and disabilities and what support will be available to pupils.

agreed support is provided. This support will continue to be provided for each individual currently attending the school through the medium they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive this support mainly through the medium of Welsh. In the majority of cases an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages as there is much flexibility built into the delivery of the curriculum to enable pupils to succeed. It is our experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in all of our schools irrespective of the language of instruction. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”*** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. Should parents consider moving their children to other schools due to parental preference, then they should consider the educational standards of the schools when doing so.

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”*** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their needs and the agreed support is provided. This support will continue to be provided for each individual currently attending the school through the medium they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be

1.58 The consultee expresses concern regarding changing the language category to Welsh medium. It is the consultee's opinion that this will divide the community and lead to a breakdown in the community spirit of the village. It is also unfair to ask parents who wish for their children to be educated through the medium of English to move to school outside of the village. Dual stream schools enable children who learn through the medium of English to teach enough Welsh to get by.

1.59 The consultee is concerned that the children's education will suffer if the English language is treated as a second language. English is the language of the business world and therefore pupils will be at a disadvantage later on in life.

implemented, all future pupils will receive this support mainly through the medium of Welsh. In the majority of cases an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages as there is much flexibility built into the delivery of the curriculum to enable pupils to succeed. It is our experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in all of our schools irrespective of the language of instruction.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."***

English is a statutory curriculum subject and will continue to be taught to the highest of standards. There are many advantages to being bilingual as confirmed by national and international research and articulated in Carmarthenshire's ***"Why are we promoting a Bilingual education?"*** document. Bilingualism has positive effects on children's linguistic and educational development as well as having

1.60 The consultee is concerned that changing the language category to Welsh medium will disadvantage pupils later on in life when they enter further education through the English language.

1.61 The consultee expresses concern regarding changing the language category of the school to Welsh medium. Choice will be taken from the community and the consultee is concerned that pupils who struggle with the Welsh language will not be able to change stream and will have to move to a different school. The consultee also feels that this change will cause a divide in the community.

social advantages. Some new studies also suggest that bilingualism may offer some protection against the decline of cognitive abilities in old age, both in normal and pathological ageing.

English is a statutory curriculum subject and will continue to be taught to the highest of standards. There are many advantages to being bilingual as confirmed by national and international research and articulated in Carmarthenshire's "***Why are we promoting a Bilingual education?***" document. Bilingualism has positive effects on children's linguistic and educational development as well as having social advantages. Some new studies also suggest that bilingualism may offer some protection against the decline of cognitive abilities in old age, both in normal and pathological ageing.

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the

<p>1.62 The consultee is concerned that changing the language category to Welsh medium would cause segregation in the community and would limit pupils who are taught in different language mediums from interacting with each other. Pupils who want an English medium education will have to attend schools outside of their community and will have to provide their own transport. The consultee feels that learning through the Welsh language will disadvantage pupils later on in life and that pupils forced to learn through the Welsh medium will not achieve their full potential. The consultee is also concerned that the proposed changes will mean job losses for school staff and for staff members in other organisations in the community.</p>	<p>pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils.</p> <p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that "the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility." This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. There are many advantages to being bilingual as confirmed by national and international research and articulated in Carmarthenshire's "Why are we promoting a Bilingual education?" document. Bilingualism has positive effects on children's linguistic and educational development as well as having social advantages. Some new studies also suggest that bilingualism may offer some protection against the decline of cognitive abilities in old age, both in normal and pathological ageing.</p>
<p>1.63 The consultee expresses concern regarding changing the language category to Welsh medium. This would cause a divide in the community and mean that children wanting English medium education would have to leave their community and attend another school. The consultee feels that Llangennech School is unique because families can have children attending different streams depending on their needs and by changing the language category this choice will be taken away.</p>	<p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to</p>

1.64 The consultee is concerned with changing the language category of the school. The consultee is concerned that parents who already have children attending the school through the English stream and will have children starting after January 2017 may have to move pupils to another English medium school. This means that families will have children in two different which could cause difficulties and may result in having to move all children outside of the community. The consultee is also concerned that the change will alienate non-Welsh parents who have no choice but to send their children to a Welsh medium school and will also alienate pupils who are not able to practice the language at home.

1.65 The consultee expresses concern with regard to changing

“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”**

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”**

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”** Sufficient support will be provided to parents who are non-Welsh speaking.

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the

the language category to Welsh medium. Pupils should be able to attend their local school and not be forced out of the village if they want an English medium education. This change would cause a divide in the community rather than promoting inclusion. The consultee is also concerned that choice is being taken away from families and pupils who may struggle with the Welsh language will have to move school as the English stream will no longer be available.

school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of **ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."** The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils.

1.66 The consultee is concerned that changing the language category to Welsh medium will cause difficulties for families whose children require education through different mediums. This would cause even more difficulties for families without means of private transport. The consultee also states that pupils receiving education through the English medium have a very good understanding of the Welsh language whereas this would be limited by attending an English medium school. The consultee also has concerns regarding changing the age range to 3-11 as offering 2 hours a day of childcare is not suitable for working parents compared with other organisations

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. The Local Authority have a responsibility to

in the village.

provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of **ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."** The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **"all 3 year olds are entitled to 10 hours per week free placement at a registered setting from the beginning of the term following their third birthday."** Part time is defined as either 5 morning or 5 afternoon sessions or a mixture of 5 morning/afternoon sessions. There will still be a need for nursery provision for all children under the age of 3 years old and for 3 year olds outside of the hours that the school provides nursery provision.

1.67 The consultee is concerned that changing that language category will divide the community if pupils have to travel outside of the community to receive English medium education. Pupils should be able to attend the school in their own community and be a part of that community.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of **ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."**

1.68 The consultee is concerned that changing the language category to Welsh medium will force some people to seek English medium education outside of the village. The consultee is concerned that pupils who choose to move to

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current

English medium schools will not be exposed at all to the Welsh language, whereas by attending the English stream at Llangennech School they are able to pick up the language. The change would also cause a divide in the community and would segregate pupils attending different schools.

1.69 The consultee is concerned that changing the language category to Welsh medium will prevent pupils who have moved to the area from attending the village school. The consultee is also concerned that not all pupils will be able to achieve their full potential by learning through the medium of Welsh.

1.70 The consultee feels that the families will suffer if they are unable to take their children to the village school and this will also include additional travelling costs.

pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017 states that the Authority will work with other services to ***"ensure that non-Welsh speaking pupils who have just moved into the County are suitably supported in order that they can integrate naturally in their local school and community."*** There are many advantages to being bilingual as confirmed by national and international research and articulated in Carmarthenshire's ***"Why are we promoting a Bilingual education?"*** document. Bilingualism has positive effects on children's linguistic and educational development as well as having social advantages. Some new studies also suggest that bilingualism may offer some protection against the decline of cognitive abilities in old age, both in normal and pathological ageing.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."*** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs

1.71 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium would cause a divide in the community and would be detrimental rather than beneficial. The consultee is also concerned about the 'knock on' effects on the community centre, playgroups and nurseries and the effects on employees of these establishments.

to attend another school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”*** The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***“all 3 year olds are entitled to 10 hours per week free placement at a registered setting from the beginning of the term following their third birthday.”*** Part time is defined as either 5 morning or 5 afternoon sessions or a mixture of 5 morning/afternoon sessions. There will still be a need for nursery provision for all children under the age of 3 years old and for 3 year olds outside of the hours that the school provides nursery provision.

1.72 The consultee is concerned that changing the language category to Welsh medium will cause a divide in the community, by forcing children seeking English medium

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of

education out of the village. Pupils will no longer socialise both in and out of school.

1.73 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will be detrimental to the language. At the moment English stream pupils are able to learn more Welsh than they would be able to by attending an English medium school. The consultee is also concerned about travel implications to English medium schools.

Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."*** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

1.74 The consultee feels that pupils seeking English medium education should not have to attend schools outside of their village.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

1.75 The consultee feels that the only option for pupils seeking English medium education would be to attend a school outside of their village.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

1.76 The consultee feels that pupils should be able to attend their village school and not have to commute in order to receive an English medium education.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

1.77 The consultee feels that the parents should have a choice of both Welsh and English streams.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that

1.78 The consultee feels that choice is being taken away from the community and that the community should have a choice of both Welsh and English streams.

“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.” The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

1.79 The consultee feels that pupils attending the English stream have a very good understanding of the Welsh language and

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the

that there is no need for change.

1.80 The consultee is concerned that the proposal is not based on the needs of all children. As many pupils are from outside catchment the consultee is concerned how this will increase the use of the Welsh language in community of Llangennech.

Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

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1.81 The consultee feels that pupils should be able to attend their village school and should not have to attend schools outside of the village if they wish to receive an English medium education.

1.82 The consultee feels that the community should have a choice of both Welsh and English streams.

1.83 The consultee is concerned about the financial and physical

aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the

strain on families wishing to receive an English medium education. They also feel that bonds will be broken between pupils attending the same nurseries who will then attend different schools.

1.84 The consultee feels that there is no need for change. There is also concern for families who do not speak Welsh who will not be able to help their children with school work and also that choice is taken away from the community.

school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”** The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the

1.85 The consultee is concerned that choice is being taken away from the community as some families have children attending both streams and this will not be an option in the future.

medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

1.86 The consultee feels that there is no need to change the school as it has an excellent reputation as a bilingual school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both***

1.87 The consultee feels that parents should have a choice of sending their children to either stream.

Welsh and English languages.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”**

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1.88 The consultee is concerned with the number of pupils attending the school from outside the catchment area and feels that the village school should be for pupils within catchment.

Pupils are admitted to the school following the guidelines as stated in the Admission to School Information for Parents booklet – ***“Parents can state a preference for a school, which is not the designated catchment area school. Subject to the limit on the number of pupils who can be admitted into the school not being exceeded and the correct procedures being followed, then admission will be granted.”***

1.89 The consultee feels that parents should have a choice of both streams as everyone has a chance to learn the Welsh language. There would be travel implications on those wishing to receive an English medium education.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”***

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”*** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***“the arrangement and cost of transport***

1.90 The consultee is concerned that choice is being taken away from families especially from English speaking families who wish for their children to learn some of the Welsh language but without having an impact on their education. It is also felt that this would cause a divide in the community.

to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.” This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”**

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

1.91 The consultee is concerned that choice is being taken away from families, especially when the current situation has worked well for so long. This will cause a divide in the community.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a

1.92 The consultee is concerned that choice is taken away from families. There will be implications for families wishing to seek English medium education and this will mean that pupils will not have the opportunity to learn the Welsh language whereas in a dual stream school they would pick up the language.

responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”***

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”*** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for***

1.93 The consultee feels that there is no need to change the current situation as it is working very well. The community should have a choice of both Welsh and English streams.

them to become Welsh medium schools.” It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

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1.94 The consultee feels that the proposal has split the community and that parents should have a choice of both streams. There are concern for pupils with additional learning needs who may struggle with learning through the medium of Welsh. These pupils would have to move to an English medium school rather than changing stream. The change would also mean that pupils seeking English medium education would not be able to learn any Welsh at all. The consultee also has concerns regarding the consultation process.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their needs and the agreed support is provided. This support will continue to be provided for each individual currently attending the school through the medium they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive this support mainly through the medium of Welsh. In the majority of cases an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages as there is much flexibility built into the delivery of the curriculum to enable pupils to

1.95 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will remove choice from the community. It is unfair that younger pupils will not have the same choice as their older siblings have had.

1.96 The consultee is concerned that changing the language category to Welsh medium will cause segregation within the village. There is no need to change the school.

succeed. It is our experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in all of our schools irrespective of the language of instruction. The consultation process has been carried out following the guidelines as stated in the School Organisation Code 2013 and all stakeholders were notified of the consultation following these guidelines.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Local Authority have a

1.97 The consultee feels that the choice should be kept for families. There are concerns for people who move to the area will chose for their children to attend schools outside of the village.

responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017 states that the Authority will work with other services to ***"ensure that non-Welsh speaking pupils who have just moved into the County are suitably supported in order that they can integrate naturally in their local school and community."***

1.98 The consultee feels that the Welsh skills of pupils attending the English stream are enhanced by attending a dual stream school. There is no need to change the school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

1.99 The consultee feels that there is no need to change the school and that the community should have a choice of both streams.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh

1.100 The consultee feels that pupils shouldn't be forced to speak Welsh and that the school should remain as it is.

medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

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1.101 The consultee has concerns that changing the language category to Welsh medium will divide the community. Pupils wishing to receive English medium education will have to attend schools outside of the village and this will include travel implications for families.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both***

1.102 The consultee feels that the school is successful as it is and there is no need to change it.

Welsh and English languages.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

Since the inception of the Modernising Education Programme, it has been set out to create Community Primary Schools to replace Infants and Junior Schools. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”** In

1.103 The consultee feels that the school should be kept as dual stream.

order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”** The Local Authority have a responsibility to **“ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector”** and are able to achieve this by providing nursery provision at the school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write**

1.104 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium is unfair to families who do not speak the language.

Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”*** The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. “Athrawon Bro” who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. There will also be sufficient support for parents who do not speak the Welsh language.

1.105 The consultee feels that pupils are entitled to receive their education in their local area. Both English and Welsh speakers should be incorporated in order to develop the Welsh skills of non-Welsh speakers.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

1.106 The consultee is concerned that if pupils wish to receive their education through the medium of English, they will have to attend schools outside of their local area and will be separated from their friends already at the school. There are also concerns for the travel implications if pupils chose to attend an English medium school.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***"the arrangement and***

1.107 The consultee is supportive of a bilingual education but does not support a monolingual Welsh education system.

cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.” This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”*** English is a statutory curriculum subject and will continue to be taught at the school to the highest of standards.

1.108 The consultee feels that the community have a right to the choice of which language their children should receive their education in. This proposal could also have an effect on the local community.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity***

1.109 The consultee feels that the school should remain bilingual. The pupils attending the English stream have a good understanding of the Welsh language and culture.

from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

1.110 The consultee is concerned that pupils wanting an English medium education will have to attend schools outside of the village. The school works well as a dual stream and other schools should be made dual stream in order to promote the Welsh language.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."***

1.111 The consultee feels that pupils in the English stream are exposed to the Welsh language – this will not happen if pupils choose to attend English medium schools and therefore these pupils will not learn any Welsh. The school should be kept dual stream.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future

1.112 The consultee feels that the school should be kept dual stream. This proposal would segregate non-Welsh speakers who won't be able to attend their local school. Pupils shouldn't be forced to speak Welsh.

prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."***

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

1.113 The consultee feels that the school should remain as dual stream as many people in the area are not fluent Welsh

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the

speakers. Pupils should also be able to attend a school in their local area.

Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

1.114 The consultee is concerned that the pupils who wish to receive their education through the medium of English and move to the proposed schools will not receive the same standard of education as they would in Llangennech School as they do not have the same rating as Llangennech School.

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. Should parents consider moving their children to other schools due to parental preference, then they should consider the educational standards of the schools when doing so.

1.115 The consultee feels that the school should remain as it is as the presence of the English stream is beneficial to pupils with additional learning needs.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary**

1.116 The consultee is concerned that friends will leave Llangennech School in order to obtain English medium education and feels that the school should remain as dual stream.

sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”**

All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their needs and the agreed support is provided. This support will continue to be provided for each individual currently attending the school through the medium they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive this support mainly through the medium of Welsh. In the majority of cases an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages as there is much flexibility built into the delivery of the curriculum to enable pupils to succeed. It is our experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in all of our schools irrespective of the language of instruction.

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the**

1.117 The consultee feels that the school should remain as a dual stream school and is concerned that if the school changes to Welsh medium then not all pupils' needs will be met.

County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."**

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of **ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

1.118 The consultee supports the progression of education through the medium of Welsh but feels that a dual stream school can be used flexibly with the changing demand for

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a

English or Welsh education. Pupils at a young age should be able to start school with their friends.

responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

1.119 The consultee agrees that the Welsh language is an integral part of the Welsh education system but does not agree to changing the language category of the school to Welsh medium as not all pupils in the area speak Welsh.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”***

1.120 The consultee does not feel that there is need to change the school as it is working well as it is. The Welsh language is important but there is no need to change the school to be completely Welsh medium.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium***

1.121 The consultee opposes the changing of the language category to Welsh medium as the school is already working well as dual stream. There are a number of people living in the area who do not speak the Welsh language and would have to attend schools outside of their local area.

education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”**

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”**

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

1.122 The consultee feels that the community should have a choice of both English and Welsh streams as the current situation has worked well for many years. The consultee is concerned that pupils will be at a disadvantage if their parents are not able to help them with their school work because they are unable to speak the Welsh language. Pupils have a right to be educated in their first language and in their local area.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. There will also be sufficient support for parents who do not speak the Welsh language.

1.123 The consultee feels that all children have a right to be educated in their first language, whether it be Welsh or English. It is felt that this proposal will divide the community and parents should not be punished for deciding which education is best for their children.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

1.124 The consultee feels that the school should be kept as dual stream as the majority of the village are English speakers. This proposal will cause a divide in the community.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh

1.125 The consultee feels that choice is being taken away from the community. The pupils would not have a choice of changing to the English stream if they struggle to learn through the medium of Welsh. There would also be travel implications if pupils choose to change school to receive an English medium education and also pupils may find it difficult to settle in to a new school.

medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and

1.126 The consultee does not agree with changing the language category of the school to Welsh medium. There are concerns regarding how pupils will be educated if they choose to move to Bryn or Hendy Primary Schools as these are already at capacity. The consultee also has concerns as to how the consultation process has been managed.

sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."** Pupils are admitted to the school following the guidelines as stated in the Admission to School Information for Parents booklet – **"Parents can state a preference for a school, which is not the designated catchment area school. Subject to the limit on the number of pupils who can be admitted into the school not being exceeded and the correct procedures being followed, then admission will be granted."**

1.127 The consultee feels that the community should have the choice of attending an English or Welsh stream. This proposal discriminates against pupils wishing to receive their education through the medium of English. The majority of the community are English speaking and the local school should cater for all pupils.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

1.128 The consultee feels that the school should remain dual stream. This proposal discriminates against pupils wishing to receive their education through the medium of English and the school already provides an excellent education as it is.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh

1.129 The consultee is concerned that less privileged families will suffer as they will either have to accept a Welsh medium education or face the financial implications of traveling to English medium schools outside their local area. Pupils who struggle with the Welsh language will have to move school rather than move stream.

medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of **ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."**

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils.

1.130 The consultee feels that the school should remain dual stream and that the Welsh language should not be forced on people. The community should have the choice of whether to attend an English or Welsh stream. The consultee also feels that there has been a lack of consultation regarding the

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity**

proposal.

1.131 The consultee feels that the school should remain dual stream as it works as it is. The pupils should have the right to be educated in their local school through their first language. Pupils who are from non-Welsh backgrounds will suffer as parents will not be able to provide support and there will be travel implications for those who wish to attend an English medium school.

from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”*** The consultation process has been carried out following the guidelines as stated in the School Organisation Code 2013 and all stakeholders were notified of the consultation following these guidelines.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s

1.132 The consultee feels that the school should be kept as a dual stream school.

aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. “Athrawon Bro” who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. Sufficient support will also be provided to parents who do not speak the Welsh language. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”*** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both***

1.133 The consultee feels that the school should remain as dual stream as it has worked well for a number of years. Pupils should continue to have a choice of an English or Welsh education. There is no need to change something that works.

Welsh and English languages.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”**

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”**

1.134 The consultee feels that individuals should have a choice of whether to learn through the medium of English or Welsh. There are a number of non-Welsh speakers living in the area and this proposal would not cater for their needs.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both**

1.135 The consultee feels that this proposal would cause a split in the community. The school should remain as dual stream as it has worked well for many years.

Welsh and English languages.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”**

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1.136 The consultee feels that this proposal will divide the

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the

community. This will alienate English speakers who wish to receive their education through the medium of English who will have to attend English medium schools outside of their local area.

1.137 The consultee feels that the school is working well as it is; providing both Welsh and English medium education and therefore there is no need to change it. It is difficult for parents who do not speak Welsh to help their children with their school work and this may cause pupils' education to suffer.

1.138 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will cause English speakers to lose their local

school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. “Athrawon Bro” who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. Sufficient support will also be available to parents who do not speak the language.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the

school.

1.139 The consultee feels that the community should continue to have a choice of whether to attend an English or Welsh stream. The school has worked excellently as a dual stream and therefore there is no need to change it.

1.140 The consultee feels that the school should be kept as a dual stream school. This enables Welsh speaking pupils to develop their English skills and enables English speaking pupils to develop their Welsh skills. This proposal is unfair towards pupils attending the English stream.

village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

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1.141 The consultee feels that the school should remain as a dual stream school.

provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

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1.142 The consultee believes that the community should have a choice of both streams.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”*** In order to be able to increase the

1.143 The consultee believes that this political ideology will blight the community.

1.144 The consultee feels that there is no need for change as Carmarthenshire has got the highest turnover of Welsh medium schools in Wales. No thought has been given to the pupils.

provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

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1.145 The consultee is concerned how this proposal will affect pupils' education. Some members of the community do not drive and there are concerns regarding how they will be able to transport pupils to two schools if they have other children wishing to receive English medium education.

1.146 The consultee is concerned that pupils will lose the option of changing to the English stream if they struggle with the Welsh language, they will have to move to an English medium school. The current situation works and therefore there is no need to change it.

provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”*** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the

1.147 The consultee is concerned that this proposal does not cater for the whole community. A dual stream school caters for both Welsh and English speaking members of the community.

medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."***

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1.148 The consultee is concerned that choice is being taken away from the community. This causes transport issues for families requiring English medium education and will increase class sizes in other schools. This proposal will divide the community causing segregation and isolation.

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."*** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

1.149 The consultee feels that the school should be kept as a dual stream school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."***

1.150 The consultee is concerned that changing the language

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the

category to Welsh medium will affect pupils' education if they struggle with the Welsh language. This is not fair to the pupils.

school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils.

1.151 The consultee is concerned that this proposal will push English speaking pupils out of their own community.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

1.152 The consultee would like to ask the Local Authority whether there is any information available to explain the benefits of educating a child through the medium of their second language. Also, is there any evidence to prove that teaching a child through their second language is successful? The consultee states that Wales is a diverse community and that the local authority should be aiming to educate the whole community successfully. The best way for pupil's to learn Welsh and become bilingual would be for pupil's to attend a dual stream school or at an English medium school where

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Welsh is taught as a second language.

Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.” The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”** There are many advantages to being bilingual as confirmed by national and international research and articulated in Carmarthenshire’s **“Why are we promoting a Bilingual education?”** document. Bilingualism has positive effects on children’s linguistic and educational development as well as having social advantages. Some new studies also suggest that bilingualism may offer some protection against the decline of cognitive abilities in old age, both in normal and pathological ageing. Carmarthenshire Welsh medium schools already successfully educate pupils from non-Welsh backgrounds.

1.153 The consultee believes that all members of the community should have been notified of the consultation process. This is a significant change for the village and the consultee feels that every person in the village is a stakeholder, not just parents, teachers, and school governors. The consultee is concerned that the Community Council were not notified.

The consultation on this proposal followed guidelines established by the Welsh Government as stated in the School Organisation Code (2013). Page 30 of the consultation document states clearly which interested parties were notified of the consultation. Llangennech Community Council were made aware of the proposal.

1.154 The consultee feels that parents were given very little information about the process. The consultee also disagrees with the Community Council’s decision to not discuss the proposal and feels that the School/County Council should have held a meeting with community members. The consultee is also concerned with the methods of submitting responses to

The consultation on this proposal followed guidelines established by the Welsh Government as stated in the School Organisation Code (2013). It is the decision of the Community Council whether or not to discuss the proposal. The School Organisation Code (2013) states that from time to time proposers will have conducted ‘informal’ consultations with particular stakeholders – however this is not a legal

the consultation document.

1.155 A petition was signed by members of the community of Llangennech. The community is concerned that English speaking pupils will be pushed out of their own community to attend English medium schools. The community should continue to have a choice of both streams and all pupils should have the right to attend their local school. 505 people signed the petition.

requirement. Consultees were able to submit their responses either by e-mail or by post to the Director of Education and Children's Services.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

Impact on the Secondary School

Impact on Secondary School

2. The consultee supports the drive to increase the use of the Welsh language and Bryngwyn School is successful in this with the introduction of bilingual provision. However, the consultee is concerned that 10% of current pupils at Bryngwyn School have originated from Llangennech School. Any change in pupil numbers in feeder schools such as Llangennech would have an effect on the population base of Bryngwyn School and would therefore have an effect on the funding that the school receives. The school wonders whether a catchment review could be undertaken in order to minimise the effect on secondary schools as re categorization of feeder schools tends to have an effect on secondary schools. The school is also concerned that they were not informed of the change by the school or the local authority but instead found out through the local newspaper. The school works well with its family of schools and are happy with the existing structure where pupils have a choice at both primary and secondary level. The school supports the development of Welsh language provision but not where it would have a negative impact on secondary schools.

Support the Proposal

3. The consultee supports the change as this supports Carmarthenshire's goal of increasing the Welsh medium provision and to ensure that all pupils become completely bilingual. The number of pupils attending the English stream has declined over recent years and this is a golden opportunity for

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Support the Proposal

The Local Authority (LA) welcomes the large number of positive responses to the proposal to discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 WM language school in Llangennech with one Governing Body. The responses are very encouraging.

the area of Llangennech.

- 3.1 The consultee supports the change to Welsh medium and believes that all children should be educated through the medium of Welsh. This will ensure that all children will become bilingual and able to communicate through Welsh. This gives every child a fair chance to become fluent in the Welsh language.
- 3.2 The consultee feels that the future of the Welsh language depends on Welsh medium education.
- 3.3 The consultee feels that this proposal ensures that all pupils will leave primary school as bilingual and skilled in speaking, reading and writing through the medium of Welsh. It is the local authority's duty to provide pupils with the best opportunities that will benefit them in later life.
- 3.4 The consultee feels that it is imperative for immediate action to save the Welsh language. The consultee supports the proposal.
- 3.5 The consultee feels that Welsh medium education will ensure continuity from nursery through to secondary school and will increase bilingualism in Carmarthenshire.
- 3.6 The consultee supports the change as it will comply with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. The governing body and staff of the schools are supportive of the proposal and the decline in pupils attending the English stream show the need for a Welsh medium school. This is a natural change for the school and there are English medium schools available for pupils wishing to receive English medium education. This proposal will ensure that all pupils leave school bilingual.

Many of the responses focus on the changing of the language category to Welsh medium and how this will promote bilingualism and the Welsh language in the area.

In addition, many responses focus on the decline in pupil numbers attending the English stream and how changing the language category to Welsh medium will be a natural step for the school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."***

The Authority has also conducted a Welsh Language Impact Assessment, Community Impact Assessment and an Equality Impact Assessment.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.7 The consultee supports the proposal as being bilingual is an essential skill and will help preserve the Welsh language. The consultee is sure that support will be given to parents who are non-Welsh speaking.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.8 The consultee supports the proposal as there is a significant increase in the pupils attending the Welsh stream and therefore this will be a natural step for the school.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.9 The consultee supports the proposal as it will secure the future of the Welsh language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.10 The consultee supports that proposal as receiving a Welsh medium education will ensure that all pupils become bilingual in both Welsh and English. This is an important step in increasing the use of Welsh language in the Llangennech area and will nurture pupils who are only able to communicate through English. Assistance will need to be provided for parents who are not able to speak the language so that they are able to support their children with their education.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.11 The consultee states that they are surprised that there isn't a Welsh medium school already in Llangennech. This proposal will ensure that all pupils will become bilingual. Welsh medium education provides many opportunities for pupils and will open doors for them throughout their lives. The authority has a responsible to provide pupils with the best education and a Welsh medium education will be best for the pupils.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.12 The consultee supports the proposal as it will promote bilingualism and the Welsh language in the area. Being able to communicate through the medium of Welsh is an invaluable

Observation noted. Please see response above.

skill which provides many opportunities through life. The Welsh language is important to the successful future of the nation. The consultee is delighted to see the increase of Welsh medium education in the area.

3.13 The consultee feels that a Welsh medium education will provide the best education possible. A Welsh medium education provides many opportunities for pupils.

3.14 The consultee supports the proposal as the data shows that the number of pupils attending the Welsh streams has increased over recent years. This is a natural change for the school. The proposal will promote bilingualism in the area and answers Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

3.15 The consultee supports the proposal as it is becoming more and more important to be bilingual. Bilingualism is extremely important in Europe and we should be promoting this. The consultee feels that community members may be poorly informed about a bilingual education and what this entails and that the benefits of a bilingual education should be discussed. The area has always had a choice of dual stream school but the local authority must look at the demand for Welsh medium education. The consultee is also concerned with the negative responses of some consultees and the media.

3.16 The consultee supports the proposal as it responds to Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and the vision of the Welsh Government. The decline in pupil numbers attending the English stream show the demand for Welsh medium education. This proposal will also promote bilingualism as well as providing many opportunities and educational benefits.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

<p>3.17 The consultee feels that a bilingual education provides many advantages. Receiving Welsh medium education at primary school will assist in the preservation of the language which is facing massive pressures.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.18 The consultee feels that there is evidence to show that learning Welsh as a second language is not successful in creating bilingual individuals. Establishing a Welsh medium primary school will ensure that all pupils are bilingual by the time they leave primary school. This is a natural change for the school and the staff and governing bodies of both schools are supportive.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.19 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.20 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.21 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.22 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.23 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>

<p>medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	
<p>3.24 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.25 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.26 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.27 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.28 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.29 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.30 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>

<p>medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	
<p>3.31 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.32 The consultee feels that receiving a Welsh medium education provides pupils with many opportunities in the future including finding work. All children should have the opportunity to learn another language to help them with their future opportunities.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.33 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.34 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.35 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.36 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.37 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>

<p>nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	
<p>3.38 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.39 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.40 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.41 The consultee agrees with changing the language category of Llangennech School to Welsh medium.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.42 The consultee supports the proposal. The demand for Welsh medium education in the area is high and the majority of the pupils at the schools attend through the Welsh stream. The change would be a natural step for the school. There will be room for pupils wishing to receive their education through the medium of Welsh. The Council will need to address the limited spaces available at the school which includes other primary schools in Llanelli.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.43 The consultee supports the proposal as the data shows that the majority of pupils at the schools attend through the Welsh stream. The consultee feels that as we are in Wales, pupils should learn through the medium of Welsh. If pupils attended</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>

<p>schools in other countries, they would have no choice but to learn their language.</p>	
<p>3.44 The consultee agrees with the proposal to establish a new Welsh medium school.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.45 The consultee agrees with the proposal to establish a new Welsh medium school.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.46 The consultee agrees with the proposal to establish a new Welsh medium school.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.47 The consultee feels that there is need for a Welsh medium school in the village.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.48 The consultee feels that Llangennech is the perfect place to have a Welsh medium school.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.49 The consultee agrees with the proposal to establish a new Welsh medium school.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.50 The consultee supports the proposal to change the language category of the school to Welsh medium.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.51 The consultee agrees with the proposal to change the language category to Welsh medium.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.52 The consultee agrees with the proposal.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.53 The consultee supports the proposal. Some parents have to transport their children to ensure that they receive Welsh medium education. There are benefits Welsh medium education over dual stream.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.54 The consultee states that the growth in demand for Welsh</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>

medium education has been enormous. This change will be a natural step for the school. Establishing a nursery in the school is very beneficial to ensure that the foundations for Welsh education is completely sound and is actioned and presented under the leadership of the school. These changes will create bilingual individuals and promote the Welsh language in the area.

3.55 The consultee feels that, changing the language category to Welsh Medium would be beneficial to the local community and to the future of the Welsh Language in Carmarthenshire.

3.56 The consultee feels that the decline in pupil numbers attending the English stream show the need for a Welsh medium school. There has been a decline in the number of Welsh speakers in the village and this proposal will help to increase this. At the moment pupils desiring a full Welsh medium education have to travel to other schools and this proposal will help relieve this burden on other schools. It is important that parents are aware of the advantages of a Welsh medium education and the opportunities that are available in Carmarthenshire. It is only through a Welsh medium education that pupils can become completely bilingual.

3.57 The consultee supports changing the language category to Welsh medium. The consultee does not speak Welsh but feels strongly that children should have the opportunity to learn through the Welsh language.

3.58 The consultee feels that the next natural step for Llangennech Schools Federation is stepping towards joining the two schools to create on new school under one governing body. The proposal will ensure that every pupil develops to be fluent speakers, readers and writers in both Welsh and English. The proposal will ensure that Llangennech School moves along with

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Welsh language continuum and offers bilingualism to every pupil and not just pupils in the Welsh stream. Including a nursery provides pupils of the catchment equal opportunities to attend a three year old nursery classroom within the village of Llangennech. This proposal will enable pupils to think, play and work in English and Welsh which will open countless doors for them throughout their lives.

3.59 The consultee is happy that the Council are using this opportunity to change the language category to Welsh medium. Only Welsh medium education creates bilingual individuals.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.60 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.61 The consultee agrees with the proposal.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.62 The consultee agrees with the proposal.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.63 The consultee agrees with the proposal.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.64 The consultee agrees with the proposal.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.65 The consultee agrees with the developments at Llangennech.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.66 The consultee is supportive of the proposal. The Welsh language shouldn't be a barrier to non-Welsh speakers it should be seen as an advantage. Pupils are able to they learn a new language in a completely natural way by listening and practicing every day. This also encourages non Welsh parents to learn a little bit of the language. There should be no reason to move pupils to an English medium school. The Council should make

Observation noted. Please see response above.

every effort to reason with consultees who do not support the proposal in order to try and gain their support.

3.67 The consultee is fully supportive of the proposal. The consultee feels that a Welsh medium education enriches the learning experience for pupils and opens many doors throughout their careers. The demand for Welsh medium education has increased significantly over the last few years whilst the demand for English medium education has declined. It is important for all schools to follow the language continuum and offer more opportunities to their pupils to learn through the medium of Welsh.

3.68 The consultee feels that this change will be an excellent change for the community. The local area needs more Welsh medium schools and it would be a shame to miss this opportunity.

3.69 The consultee feels that this would be a natural and necessary change for Llangennech School. Llangennech is a traditional Welsh village and this needs to be protected along with developing the future of Welsh medium education. There is a choice available for pupils wishing to receive their education through the medium of English.

3.70 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium would promote bilingualism in the village of Llangennech and the surrounding areas. This is an excellent opportunity for all pupils residing in Llangennech to receive a bilingual education and to develop these necessary skills.

3.71 The consultee feels that a bilingual education can only be beneficial to a pupil, with cognitive, social and linguistic advantages. The consultee feels that dual stream schools only dilute the Welsh language skills of pupils whereas a full Welsh

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

medium education can provide opportunities for pupils to reach their full potential.

3.72 The consultee believes that a bilingual education is of great benefit to a pupil. A bilingual education improves a pupil's ability to learn a third language and increases job prospects within Wales. Changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that the school goes from strength to strength, but stakeholders need a clear understanding of the meaning bilingual –English will still be taught at the school.

3.73 The consultee believes that the area needs a Welsh medium school. This will ensure that pupils residing in the area will be completely bilingual.

3.74 The consultee feels that there are a number of advantages for being bilingual including educational, professional and social advantages. It is also easier for children to learn different languages at an earlier age rather than later on in life. Every pupil in Wales have a right to Welsh medium education and this is the only way to create confident, bilingual adults.

3.75 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will increase Welsh medium education provision in the area and promote bilingualism. Being bilingual greatly enriches a pupil's life by providing them with opportunities for varied cultural experiences. The standard of English taught in the Welsh stream is of a high standard and therefore pupils are not at a disadvantage later on in life.

3.76 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that all children in the catchment will receive a Welsh medium education of a standard that will ensure that all pupils are bilingual as offering Welsh as a second language does not develop these skills effectively. Also,

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

<p>by changing the age range to 3-11, pupils will have access to a formal education from an earlier age.</p>	
<p>3.77 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that all pupils in the Llangennech area can take advantage of a Welsh medium education and become completely bilingual. The school is already effective in promoting the Welsh language to pupils from non-Welsh background who attend through the Welsh stream. The consultee feels that the pupil's standard of English will not be affected by attending the Welsh stream.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.78 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that all children in the catchment will receive a Welsh medium education of a standard that will ensure that all pupils are bilingual as offering Welsh as a second language does not develop these skills effectively. Also, by changing the age range to 3-11, pupils will have access to a formal education from an earlier age.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.79 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that all children in the catchment will receive a Welsh medium education of a standard that will ensure that all pupils are bilingual as offering Welsh as a second language does not develop these skills effectively. Also, by changing the age range to 3-11, pupils will have access to a formal education from an earlier age.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.80 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium is a natural step whilst considering the history of the village and the statistics of pupils attending the Welsh and English streams.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.81 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will promote bilingualism and the Welsh</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>

language locally. There are more opportunities available to people who are bilingual and English medium education cannot produce Welsh speakers.

3.82 The consultee feels that all pupils in Wales should have the opportunity to be bilingual and changing the language category to Welsh medium will promote this. Being able to speak Welsh is a great advantage and it is important and people are able to speak the language of their country.

3.83 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium is the only way to promote bilingualism. The change would be a natural step for Llangennech School as the statistics show that much more pupils attend the Welsh stream than the English stream. Parents who do not wish for their child to receive a Welsh medium education will have the choice to send their child to an English medium school. Being bilingual is a skill that pupils will benefit from throughout their lives.

3.84 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will give pupils more opportunities to use the language outside of the classroom. It is important that pupils are fluent and confident in the Welsh language in order to be completely bilingual country.

3.85 The consultee feels that a Welsh medium education provides invaluable skills that are of benefit to every pupil. Changing the language category to Welsh medium will promote the language in the local area and will allow the whole school to engage in many more opportunities that are offered through the medium of Welsh.

3.86 The consultee is fully supportive of the proposal to change the language category to Welsh medium.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.87 The consultee is supportive of changing the language category to Welsh medium. There are only three Welsh medium schools on the area compared to around 15 English medium schools. Being educated through the medium of Welsh ensures that all pupils leave school as bilingual and this is an advantage to every individual educationally and socially. It is important that the council promote bilingualism and the Welsh language in order to ensure the future of the language.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.88 The consultee supports the changing of the language category to Welsh medium. Receiving education through the medium of Welsh is the best way to promote bilingualism. This will also ensure the development of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire. There are many advantages to being bilingual including developing processing skills and having a greater understanding of different topics.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.89 The consultee is fully supportive of changing the language category to Welsh medium. The statistics show that many more pupils attend the Welsh stream compared to the English stream and many of those pupils attending the Welsh stream come from non-Welsh homes which shows that they have faith in Welsh medium education.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.90 The consultee fully supports the changing of the language category to Welsh medium. This will ensure the protection of the Welsh language and the development of Welsh language education. The number of Welsh speakers in the Llangennech area has deteriorated over recent years and changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that this increases.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.91 The consultee supports the changing of the language category to Welsh medium and believes that every pupil should be given the opportunity to reach their full potential. However,

Observation noted. Please see response above.

the consultee feels that the consultation period should have been conducted in a more open and transparent manner.

3.92 The consultee fully supports the changing of the language category to Welsh medium. This will be of benefit to the pupils and the school and will promote bilingualism in the area. Receiving a Welsh medium education will ensure that pupils are fluent and confident in using the Welsh language. At the moment, parents who want a full Welsh medium education have to take their children out of the village.

3.93 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that all children in the catchment will receive a Welsh medium education of a standard that will ensure that all pupils are bilingual as offering Welsh as a second language does not develop these skills effectively. Also, by changing the age range to 3-11, pupils will have access to a formal education from an earlier age.

3.94 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that all children in the catchment will receive a Welsh medium education of a standard that will ensure that all pupils are bilingual as offering Welsh as a second language does not develop these skills effectively. Also, by changing the age range to 3-11, pupils will have access to a formal education from an earlier age.

3.95 The consultee supports the changing of the language category to Welsh medium.

3.96 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that all children in the catchment will receive a Welsh medium education of a standard that will ensure that all pupils are bilingual as offering Welsh as a second language does not develop these skills effectively. Also,

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

by changing the age range to 3-11, pupils will have access to a formal education from an earlier age.

3.97 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that all children in the catchment will receive a Welsh medium education of a standard that will ensure that all pupils are bilingual as offering Welsh as a second language does not develop these skills effectively. Also, by changing the age range to 3-11, pupils will have access to a formal education from an earlier age.

3.98 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that all children in the catchment will receive a Welsh medium education of a standard that will ensure that all pupils are bilingual as offering Welsh as a second language does not develop these skills effectively. Also, by changing the age range to 3-11, pupils will have access to a formal education from an earlier age.

3.99 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that all children in the catchment will receive a Welsh medium education of a standard that will ensure that all pupils are bilingual as offering Welsh as a second language does not develop these skills effectively. Also, by changing the age range to 3-11, pupils will have access to a formal education from an earlier age.

3.100 The consultee fully supports the changing of the language category to Welsh medium. The change will be a natural change for the school and is essential in maintaining Welsh as a community language.

3.101 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that all children in the catchment will receive a Welsh medium education of a standard that will

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

ensure that all pupils are bilingual as offering Welsh as a second language does not develop these skills effectively. Also, by changing the age range to 3-11, pupils will have access to a formal education from an earlier age.

3.102 The consultee fully supports changing the language category to Welsh medium. The only way to ensure the future of the Welsh language is to develop Welsh medium education. There is no reason why pupils leaving primary school should not be able to speak, read and write in Welsh. A bilingual education is of benefit to a pupil not a disadvantage.

Undecided

4.0 The consultee feels that the school are very supportive towards pupils attending the Welsh stream who do not have a Welsh background and believe that that receiving a bilingual education is advantageous. The consultee is supportive of a Welsh medium education if there is need in the village as long as it does not disadvantage anyone with regards to travelling to other schools.

4.1 The consultee feels that the school has naturally increased in size and has turned into a Welsh school. However, there are many English speaking pupils at the school and it is important for them to receive a bilingual or and English education if that is their wish.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Undecided

The difference in pupil numbers attending the Welsh and English streams shows that there is a demand for Welsh medium education. It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future

Impact on other organizations

5.0 The consultee is concerned for the future of their business and staff should the proposal be implemented. The consultee is also concerned about how this proposal will affect the community library and community center should it be implemented. The consultee is concerned that this proposal will divide the community, and force some children to attend other schools outside the village which contradicts the Foundation Phase framework which is based on inclusion, diversity and a sense of belonging.

Member of Parliament Response

6.0 The consultee feels that every child in Wales should have the opportunity to access school education through the medium of Welsh. Pupils in Llangennech currently have that opportunity through attending the Welsh stream. It would be counter-productive to the aim of increasing the number of pupils who can use the Welsh language if pupils chose to attend English medium schools because of this change.

prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

Impact on other organizations

The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***“all 3 year olds are entitled to 10 hours per week free placement at a registered setting from the beginning of the term following their third birthday.”*** Part time is defined as either 5 morning or 5 afternoon sessions or a mixture of 5 morning/afternoon sessions. There will still be a need for nursery provision for all children under the age of 3 years old and for 3 year olds outside of the hours that the school provides nursery provision. It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

Member of Parliament Response

Although pupils in Llangennech currently have access to education through the medium of Welsh, these proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the***

Union Response

7.0 UNISON advises that its members believe that dual stream provision should continue. The members are not opposed to creating a new school of age range 3-11 or federation but feel that dual stream provision should be maintained if the consultation is to consider the culture and views of parents and school support staff.

7.1 UCAC are supportive of the proposal as they believe that the proposal coincides with the objectives of Carmarthenshire’s Welsh

key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. It is also important to note that it will take 7 years for the proposal to be fully implemented and for the school to be completely Welsh medium.

Union Response

Observation noted. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”**

The observation and support was noted.

in Education Strategic Plan and with the Welsh Government's vision of developing Welsh medium education from the early years. UCAC are aware of the opposition towards the proposal and are fully committed to ensure the wellbeing of staff. UCAC will work with the local authority for the sake of the teaching staff they represent and the wider educational community within Llangennech.

Appendix D

ESTYN RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Estyn's response to the proposal to end the provision at Ysgol Babanod Llangennech and Ysgol Iau Llangennech and establish a new Welsh-medium school for pupils aged between 3 and 11 years in Llangennech, with one Governing Body

Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales have prepared this report.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body that is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer and other additional information such as data from Welsh Government and the views of the Regional Consortium, which deliver school improvement services to the schools within the proposal.

Introduction

The proposal is by Carmarthenshire County Council.

The proposal is to end the provision at Ysgol Babanod Llangennech and Ysgol Iau Llangennech and establish a new Welsh-medium school for pupils aged between 3 and 11 years in Llangennech, with one Governing Body.

The changes would be implemented in January 2017.

Summary/Conclusion

In Estyn's opinion, the proposal to merge the two schools is likely to maintain the current educational standards. However, the proposal does not provide sufficient detail about the alternative options and arrangements available to those pupils who may choose to follow their education through the medium of English should the English stream at Ysgol Llangennech close.

Description and benefits

The proposer has provided a detailed and clear rationale for the proposal to merge the two schools. It has given a good outline of the reasons for ending the provision at Ysgol Babanod Llangennech and Ysgol Iau Llangennech and establishing a new school for pupils aged between 3 and 11 years.

It notes that the authority has a duty to consider and act in line with the recommendations of Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-17, namely to ensure an increase in Welsh-medium education provision. As a result, the option that is favoured by the proposer means ending the English-medium stream at the school. However, the proposer does not give sufficient consideration to the effect of ending the English-medium stream on the pupils who may wish to follow their education through the medium of that language.

It notes that there will not be any transport implications for pupils at Ysgol Babanod Llangennech nor for Ysgol Iau Llangennech and that there will be no change in the catchment area of either school. It states clearly that if a child attends a school in the catchment area or the school nearest to the home address and this decision is based on parental choice, the responsibility is on the parents /carer to transport the pupil to and from the school and to pay the cost of that transport.

The proposer outlines clearly that both governing bodies have already federated formally, and that that is an important step towards merging the two schools and to create one primary school.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The proposer gives thorough consideration to the effect of the proposals on the quality of outcomes, provision and leadership at the school.

It makes valid reference to the outcomes of Estyn's most recent inspection reports on both schools and their categories and support bands.

It makes the reasonable assertion that there would be benefits in terms of sharing resources effectively, developing staff's skills for the whole primary age curriculum and locating all pupils on one site under the leadership of one headteacher.

It notes that the proposal would ensure specific nursery provision at the school. It has conducted an assessment of the effect of the change on equality and claims that the proposal should not have an adverse effect on any specific groups. It asserts reasonably that Welsh-medium provision for pupils who have special needs will be strengthened to provide a wide range of expertise in different areas.

The proposer has given appropriate consideration to possible disruption for current pupils. The proposer has given suitable consideration to the effect of the proposal on staff and the implications for them as a result of implementing this proposal.

The Local Government Response to Estyn

In Estyn's opinion, the proposal to merge the two schools is likely to maintain the current educational standards. However, the proposal does not provide sufficient detail about the alternative options and arrangements available to those pupils who may choose to follow their education through the medium of English should the English stream at Ysgol Llangennech close.

It is the Authority's intention that all pupils remain at Llangennech School and that future pupils will continue to attend the school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. However, should pupils decide to follow their education through the medium of English they will be able to apply for a place at Hendy Primary school which provides a dual stream education or Bryn Primary School which provides English medium education.

It notes that the authority has a duty to consider and act in line with the recommendations of Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-17, namely to ensure an increase in Welsh-medium education provision. As a result, the option that is favoured by the proposer means ending the English-medium stream at the school. However, the proposer does not give sufficient consideration to the effect of ending the English-medium stream on the pupils who may wish to follow their education through the medium of that language.

It is the Authority's intention that all pupils remain at Llangennech School and that future pupils will continue to attend the school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that this change will not affect current pupils at the school and they will continue to receive their education through the medium of English. However, should pupils decide to follow their education through the medium of English they will be able to apply for provision at Hendy Primary school which provides a dual stream education or Bryn Primary School which provides English medium education.

Appendix E

Consultation with the Pupils

Consultation undertaken on the 4th March 2016

By

Mrs Llinos Jones

Challenge Adviser

ERW

Carmarthenshire County Council

Listening to 'Learner Voice'

School – Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Juniors Schools

Date: - 4th March 2016

Session undertaken by Llinos Jones

Interviewed School Council / Pupils

1. What do you know about the proposed changes?

Comments

- Two schools becoming one with the same name.
- Maybe the school will change to become a Welsh school.

2. What are you most looking forward to?

Comments

- Getting to know new teachers.
- One school instead of two schools.
- Developing new activities.
- Using more of the top school. Perhaps doing a show together.

3. Are you worried about anything?

Comments

- If the school is big, some pupils might be nasty.

4. How would you feel if three year old children started in the school?

Comments

- It's a good thing. Pupils can see their siblings coming to the school.
- The children would learn Welsh from an earlier age.
- Pupils would make friends from an earlier age.
- It's a good thing. More teachers and staff might be needed.

Negatives:

- Difficult for staff because there will be more pupils.
- Perhaps some nurseries in the village will have to close because of the lack of children.

5. Would you like a new school uniform and badge for the new school?

Comments

- No. Everyone is happy with the uniform and it should be kept the same.

6. Would you like to be a part of a big school?

Comments

- Happy to be a part of a big school.
- Happy, there will be more classrooms and more children.
- Happy with the school building.

7. What would be your opinion be if the new pupils in the school had to have a Welsh medium education?

Comments

- Happy because they would be able to speak two languages.

- Not good because pupils that find Welsh hard would have to go to another school.
- Happy, because the pupils would be bilingual.
- The Welsh pupils would be able to help the English pupils.

8. How do you feel if the two schools became one?

Comments

- Everything would be ok because Mr Anderson will still be the head teacher.
- Infant pupils will be able to do more activities with the older pupils.

Appendix F

Revised Options for Change

5. Revised Options for Change

In developing a preferred option the County Council considered a range of alternative options. Each option was evaluated against key objectives and criteria to determine which option best suited the aspirations of Carmarthenshire.

5.1 Main Options Considered

Option 1	Status Quo – Maintain both schools in present format
Option 2	Federation
Option 3	Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 WM language school in Llangennech with one Governing Body.
Option 4	Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 DS language school in Llangennech.
Option 5	Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 WM language school in Llangennech and provide for pupils requiring EM at Bryn primary school.
Option 6	Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 WM language school in Llangennech and provide for pupils requiring DS at Hendy primary school.
Option 7	Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 WM language school in Llangennech and provide for pupils requiring EM education at either Bryn Primary school or Hendy primary school.
Option 8	Status Quo (language category) – with modifications English stream pupils to receive a minimum of 30% Welsh lessons a week and mimic the amount of English lessons in the Welsh stream. The school would remain Dual Stream with a Welsh Medium Stream and an English with significant Welsh stream.
Option 9	Gradually increase the percentage of Welsh medium provision until the school becomes a fully Welsh medium school.

Note:

Options 8 and 9 are additional to the options presented and evaluated in the County Council's published Consultation Document.

Option 8 was presented as an alternative option during the consultation period by a group of people including some parents of children in the English stream at the schools and members of the local community opposing the County Council’s preferred option as identified in the published Consultation Document. Council officers agreed to receive and evaluate this option alongside the options identified by the County Council.

Option 9 is a variation of Option 8 that could facilitate change over a longer period of time.

5.2 Advantages / Disadvantages of Each Option

Option 1 – Status Quo	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change for stakeholders. • No statutory procedures necessary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continues present arrangements with lack of coherence in provision. • Would not address the current demand in the schools. • Higher cost option. • Higher Staffing costs. • Opportunities for synergies will be lost. • Clearly expressed Council policies for school organisation and Welsh medium education development could not be met.

Option 2 – Federation	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federation has been an important step towards merging the two schools to become one primary school. • Opportunities to share resources. • Two schools would benefit from integrated governance and leadership. • No increased travelling times for pupils. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No designated WM language category school – Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools would remain DS language category. This would be contrary to established policies for the development of Welsh medium education and bilingual citizens. • There will be no increase in the provision of WM education in Carmarthenshire that ensures

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pupils would be located on one site under the leadership of one Headteacher, with opportunities to develop effective distributed leadership across the both schools. • Consistent, integrated governance across the new school. 	<p>linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not every pupil will become fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the WESP (2014 – 2017). • Doesn't align with MEP strategy to remove Infants and Junior schools. • Federations can be undone.
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Option 3 (Preferred Option)

Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 WM language school in Llangennech with one Governing Body.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes a designated WM language category school in line with established County Council policies. • Improved resource efficiency. • Two schools would become one primary school. • An increase in the provision of WM education in Carmarthenshire that ensures linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector. • No increased travelling times for pupils. • Secure long term Welsh education provision in the area with every pupil becoming fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the WESP (2014-2017). • All pupils would be located on one site under the leadership of one 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some stakeholders, especially some parents, will be dissatisfied by the removal of choice of language stream from the local school.

<p>Headteacher, with opportunities to develop effective distributed leadership across the new school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every pupil will become fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the WESP (2014 - 2017). • There will be a designated nursery provision at the school. • All pupils leaving primary school will benefit from having two languages with expanded choice and opportunity in their future lives and education. 	
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Option 4 Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 DS language school in Llangennech.	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a designated DS language category school following a period of federation. • Opportunities to share resources. • Two schools would become one primary school. • No increased travelling times for pupils. • Secure long term Welsh education provision in the area. • All pupils would be located on one site under the leadership of one Headteacher. • Having one school which will help keep and develop the sense of belonging, heritage and tradition that help to make up a community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No designated WM language category school – Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools would remain DS language category. • There will be no increase in the provision of WM education in Carmarthenshire that ensures linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector. • Not every pupil will become fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the WESP (2014-2017). • Key County Council policy objectives for the development of Welsh medium education and bilingual citizens will not be met.

Option 5

Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 WM language school in Llangennech and provide for pupils requiring EM education at Bryn primary school.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pupils would have the opportunity to be educated through the medium of Welsh and English. • Secure long term Welsh education provision in the Llangennech area • Having two schools in close proximity to another will help keep and develop the sense of belonging, heritage and tradition in the Bryn and Llangennech areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No designated DS language category school – Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools. • There will be no increase in the provision of WM education in Carmarthenshire that ensures linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector. • Not every pupil will become fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the WESP (2014-2017). • Key County Council policy objectives for the development of Welsh medium education and bilingual citizens will not be met. • Increased travel times for some pupils whose parents exercise parental choice. Bryn CP school being 2.04 miles away (5 mins) from Llangennech. • Parents who exercise parental choice and place their children in alternative schools will not benefit from free transport. • Not enough capacity at Bryn CP School to accommodate the EM pupils from Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools.

Option 6

Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 WM language school in Llangennech and provide for pupils requiring DS education at Hendy primary school.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pupils would have the opportunity to be educated through the medium of Welsh and English (DS). • Secure long term Welsh education provision in the Llangennech area. • Having two schools in close proximity to another will help keep and develop the sense of belonging, heritage and tradition in the Hendy and Llangennech areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be no increase in the provision of WM education in Carmarthenshire that ensures linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector. • Not every pupil will become fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the WESP (2014-2017). • Key County Council policy objectives for the development of Welsh medium education and bilingual citizens will not be met. • Not enough capacity at Hendy CP School to accommodate all EM pupils from Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools. • Increased travel times for some pupils whose parents exercise parental choice. Hendy CP school being 1.07 miles away (5 mins) from Llangennech. • Parents who exercise parental choice and place their children in alternative schools will not benefit from free transport.

Option 7

Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 WM language school in Llangennech and provide for pupils requiring EM education at either Bryn Primary school or Hendy primary school.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pupils would have the opportunity to be educated through the medium of Welsh and English (DS). • Secure long term Welsh education provision in the Llangennech area. • Secure long term English education provision in the Bryn area. • Secure long term Welsh and English education provision in the Hendy area. • Having three schools in close proximity to another will help keep and develop the sense of belonging, heritage and tradition in the Bryn, Hendy and Llangennech areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be no increase in the provision of WM education in Carmarthenshire that ensures linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector. • Not every pupil will become fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the WESP (2014-2017). • Key County Council policy objectives for the development of Welsh medium education and bilingual citizens will not be met. • Hendy CP School will not have the capacity to accommodate all EM pupils from Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools. • Bryn CP School will not have the capacity to accommodate all EM pupils from Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools. • Increased travel times for some pupils. Hendy CP school being 1.07 miles away (5 mins) from Llangennech. • Increased travel times for some pupils. Bryn CP school being 2.04 miles away (5 mins) from Llangennech. • Parents who exercise parental choice and place their children in alternative schools will not benefit from free transport.

Option 8 – as put forward by some members of the community:

This option was presented by a group of Llangennech schools stakeholders, including some parents of pupils in the English stream and some members of the local community, as an alternative option during the consultation period. The following is a verbatim reproduction of the option presented to officers:

“After a meeting with County Councillor G Thomas and Community Councillor Dr Marian Slader on Wednesday, 24th February what was proposed and accepted as a fair and just alternative to all the other proposals is that the status quo is to be upheld with some additions, i.e. the English stream would have a minimum of 30% Welsh lessons per week and mimic the amount of English lessons that the Welsh stream have. If this is the case these two streams should be a mirror image of each other in year 11. Both streams should be able to speak, read and write bilingually. This would be a wonderful opportunity and innovation to Llangennech School. There would be an increase in Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and continuity of Welsh medium provision. No child will be displaced, any child having difficulties with either language can be helped in situ. Brighter children could be fast tracked to higher levels whilst others could be nurtured along at a slower pace. There needs to be a bit of engineering to be done, putting into place the frame of work to assist parents, for example, help lines or homework lines. Monitoring for both streams, the possibilities are boundless. No more need for Welsh only schools, dual stream and 30% is the way forward.”

Option 8 – as interpreted by the Local Authority

Option 8 – Status Quo (Language Category) with modifications	
<p>English stream pupils to receive a minimum of 30% Welsh lessons a week and mimic the amount of English lessons in the Welsh stream.</p> <p>The school would remain Dual Stream with a Welsh Medium Stream and an English with significant Welsh stream.</p>	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to share resources. • Two schools would become one primary. • No increased travelling time for pupils. • All pupils would be located on one site under the leadership of one Headteacher. • Having one school which will help keep and develop the sense of belonging, heritage and tradition that help to make up a community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No designated WM language category school – Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools would remain DS language category. • Not every pupil will become fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the WESP (2014-2017). • Pupils could not develop sufficiently strong Welsh language skills through a curriculum time

	<p>commitment of 30%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for statutory procedures.
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Further analysis of Option 8

This option would mean that the language category of the school would remain as dual stream. However; the proposed percentage of Welsh being taught in the English stream would mean that the English stream would be officially categorized as an English with significant Welsh stream. This results in a dual stream school with a Welsh stream and an English with significant Welsh stream which differs to the classification of dual stream with a Welsh stream and an English stream as stated in “**Defining Schools as according to Welsh medium provision**” produced by the Welsh Government. This option would require statutory procedures to change the classification of dual stream for the school and a new consultation process will need to be started.

Although the stream would be known as an English with significant Welsh stream with an increase in Welsh (second language) medium provision, the option would still be biased towards an English medium education. This is not consistent with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan’s aim of increasing the provision of Welsh (first language) medium education.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to “**increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.**” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that “**the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.**” With this option, it is recommended that pupils in the English stream receive a minimum of 30% Welsh lessons a week, however these lessons would be Welsh second language as it is not possible to deliver Welsh first language through such limited curriculum time. It is not believed that this percentage of Welsh second language lessons would be successful in ensuring “**that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages**” as is Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan’s aim. WESP recommends that “**at least 70% of teaching and learning must be in the medium of Welsh in each year during KS2**” in order for pupils to be able completely bilingual by the end of KS2 and therefore receiving 30% Welsh lessons would not be sufficient. It is therefore unlikely that a pupil receiving 30% of Welsh (second language) lessons at primary school would be able to successfully undertake a GCSE exam in Welsh first language at secondary school level.

By promoting a bilingual education Carmarthenshire County Council are supporting the Welsh Government’s ambition for Wales to become a “*Bilingual plus 1*” nation and are Supporting Triple Literacy: Language learning in Key Stages 2 and 3. The Welsh Government’s document Supporting Triple Literacy: Language learning in Key Stage 2 and 3

document states that: ***“As a bilingual nation, we start from a positive position because we provide education through the medium of English and Welsh. Both languages are embedded in our education and training system. Our young people therefore have a head start by developing language and literacy skills that they can readily apply to other European and world languages. Conversely, the study of a foreign language can support learners’ literacy in English and Welsh.”*** Bilingualism provides children with early separation of two languages and an understanding of how language works. This makes it easier for pupils to then learn a third language. However, this option would not create individuals who are confidently bilingual in both English and Welsh languages, therefore depriving them of vital skills which make learning a third language easier. Bilingualism has positive effects on children’s linguistic and educational development as well as having social advantages. It is also believed that bilingualism may offer some protection against the decline of cognitive abilities in old age, both in normal and pathological ageing.

The consultee states that “pupils with learning difficulties with either language can be helped in situ and that brighter children could be fast tracked to higher levels whilst others could be nurtured along at a slower pace.” However; all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil at all times. It is also important to note that should option 4 be implemented there would be no change to current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so whilst in the school. All pupils with additional learning needs have a specific educational learning plan based on the needs of the individual and tailored support is provided for these individuals. This support will continue to be provided for each individual currently attending the school through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive this support through the medium of Welsh. Only on rare occasions will a child’s needs require a change of school due to language. In the vast majority of cases specific support ensures that every child is able to succeed in the home school, irrespective of language. The school will also provide sufficient support for parents who do not speak the language and will adjust the amount of support provided to pupils and parents as required. It is also worth noting that Carmarthenshire Welsh medium schools are already successfully educating pupils from non – Welsh backgrounds. It must not be forgotten that English is a statutory curriculum subject and will continue to be taught at the school to the highest of standards.

Carmarthenshire County Council have a target to increase the amount of Welsh (first language) medium provision available in Carmarthenshire. This option would not align with this target. The best way to ensure that all individuals become fluent in both Welsh and English languages is by immersing them in the Welsh language, this can be successfully done in a Welsh medium school. Option 4 provides children with opportunities to engage in extra-curricular activities through the medium Welsh enabling the pupils to develop their Welsh skills outside of the classroom.

Option 9 – as discussed during conversations with consultees.

Option 9 – Gradually increase the percentage of Welsh medium provision until the school becomes a fully Welsh medium school.	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to share resources. • Two schools would become one primary. • No increased travelling time for pupils. • All pupils would be located on one site under the leadership of one Headteacher. • Having one school which will help keep and develop the sense of belonging, heritage and tradition that help to make up a community. • Allows additional time for existing staff to develop their language skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No designated WM language category school – Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools would remain DS language category until much later on. • Delay in meeting WESP (2014-2017) objectives of increasing Welsh medium education by changing dual stream schools to Welsh medium schools. • Not every pupil will become fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the WESP (2014-2017). • Very complex for teachers to adjust proportion every year. • Changes from second language curriculum to first language curriculum. • Need for several statutory procedures.

Further analysis of Option 9

This proposal suggests that the provision of Welsh medium education could be increased year by year until the school finally becomes a Welsh medium school. The data presented in the consultation document shows that the number of pupils attending through the English stream is much less than for those attending through the Welsh stream, showing that there is a demand for Welsh medium education. This data suggest that this change will be natural change for the school however; this option of increasing the provision of Welsh medium education yearly would delay this change. The Council's proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary***

sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”**

This option would also be difficult for teachers to operate. Increasing the provision of Welsh medium education yearly would mean adjusting the curriculum that the teachers follow every year. It is also important to note that pupils who attend through the English stream follow a Welsh second language curriculum whereas the pupils attending through the Welsh stream follow a Welsh first language curriculum. The curriculum that the teachers are required to follow depends on the percentage of Welsh lessons provided and this would mean that the curriculum for pupils attending the English stream would change from Welsh second language to Welsh first language at some point during the transition. It is important to note that this would be a significant change for the pupils as it would not be possible to deliver a Welsh first language curriculum with a low percentage of Welsh lessons.

Changing the provision of Welsh medium education yearly would mean that several statutory procedures would need to be taken as changing the percentage of Welsh medium provision yearly would mean changing the language category of the English stream several times. Once the provision of Welsh medium education reaches 20%, the language category of the English stream would need to be changed to English with significant Welsh. However, once the provision of Welsh medium education reaches over 50% the language category of the English with significant Welsh stream would need to be changed to Transitional. It is only when the provision of Welsh medium education reaches 70% can the stream be changed to Welsh medium. These language categories are as defined in the Welsh Government’s **“Defining Schools according to Welsh medium provision”** document.

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”** A Welsh medium education provides pupils with opportunities to be immersed in the Welsh language through engaging in extra-curricular activities outside the classroom. WESP recommends that **“at least 70% of teaching and learning must be in the medium of Welsh in each year during KS2”** in order for pupils to be able completely bilingual by the end of KS2.

This option as it stands would not ensure that **“every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages”** as not all pupils will have received the appropriate amount of Welsh lessons during their primary school lifetime. Ensuring that all pupils become fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages is stated as an aim in Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and therefore this is not a viable option.

It is important to note that there will be no changes for pupils currently attending the school and all pupils currently receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will also provide sufficient support to both pupils and parents who are non-Welsh speakers and this support will be adjusted as required.

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Appendix G

Why are we promoting a bilingual education?

We live in a world of great linguistic diversity. More than half of the world's population **grows up with more than one language.**

“The limits of my language mean the limits of my world.”

Ludwig Wittgenstein

One brain...Two languages...many advantages.

‘The person who knows only one language does not truly know that language’

Goethe



Why are we promoting a bilingual education?

To achieve Carmarthenshire County Council's aspirations as set out in 'The Welsh Language in Carmarthenshire Report'

One of the most important principles in the report is that every pupil should have the opportunity to be fully bilingual by the time they leave school, so that they can use and develop their language skills in the community and in the workplace. Promoting the economic and community advantages of bilingualism to parents and pupils is central to this...

To achieve Carmarthenshire County Council's aspirations as set out in 'Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategy'.

Achieving the key aim as agreed by full Council-

- *Increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.*
- *Ensure that Welsh medium or bilingual education is an educational experience available to every child and that it should be within a reasonable travelling distance from children's homes. This refers to children of pre-school age and above.*

To support the Welsh Government's Welsh Language Strategy 2012–17

Our vision is to see the Welsh language thriving in Wales. To achieve that, the strategy aims to see an increase in the number of people who both speak and use the language. Our six aims are:

- *to encourage and support the use of the Welsh language within families*

- to increase the provision of Welsh-medium activities for children and young people and to increase their awareness of the value of the language
- to strengthen the position of the Welsh language in the community
- to increase opportunities for people to use Welsh in the workplace
- to improve Welsh language services to citizens
- to strengthen the infrastructure for the language, including digital technology.

A living language: a language for living Welsh Language Strategy 2012–17

To support the Welsh Government’s ambition as set out in the Welsh-medium Education Strategy

To have an education and training system that responds in a planned way to the growing demand for Welsh-medium education, reaches out to and reflects our diverse communities and enables an increase in the number of people of all ages and backgrounds who are fluent in Welsh and able to use the language with their families, in their communities and in the workplace.

Welsh-medium Education Strategy, April 2010

To support the Welsh Government’s ambition for Wales to become a ‘Bilingual plus 1’ nation AND Supporting triple literacy: Language learning in Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3

‘As a bilingual nation, we start from a positive position because we provide education through the medium of English and Welsh. Both languages are embedded in our education and training system. Our young people therefore have a head start by developing language and literacy skills that they can readily apply to other European and world languages. Conversely, the study of a foreign language can support learners’ literacy in English and Welsh.’

Supporting triple literacy: Language learning in Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3

National and international research- bilingualism is much more than two languages

Research shows that children who speak more than one language have advantages over their monolingual playmates – in communication, cognition and social interaction. These include-

- The child’s brain is not ‘*naturally monolingual*’; it can deal with two (or even more) languages. Children can acquire any language without any ‘effort’, just like learning to walk
- Early separation of the two languages
- Similar stages and milestones in bilingual and monolingual language development
- Spontaneous understanding of how language works ⇔ in all languages
- Competence and creativity in language mixing
- Bilingualism helps children’s learning because they can think about their ideas in both languages. Having two words for objects, ideas and processes helps understanding

- Smaller vocabulary in each language but wider vocabulary across languages
- Better metalinguistic abilities (*relation between language and other cultural factors in a society*)
- Transfer of aspects of reading skills from one language to the other
- Children acquiring two or more languages from birth are able to differentiate the grammatical systems of their languages from very early on and without apparent effort.
- Earlier awareness of other people's perspective
- Social advantages- access to two cultures, more tolerance towards and interest in other cultures, easier to travel, find a job
- Better control of attention and ability to handle conflicting information
- One aspect of research shows that bilingual children '*notice*' better how language works and outperform monolingual children in tasks linked to language awareness.
- Studies show that a bilingual child is better able to cope with tasks that involve attention, memory and concentration. The mental gymnastics needed to constantly manage two or more linguistic systems increases cognitive flexibility and makes learning easier.
- Bilingual children have an extra '*gear*' that can give them an advantage in some situations.
- Children will use words that they know rather than not say anything at all. For instance, if a child knows the word for 'ice cream' in one language and not the other he/she will use the word in the language he/she knows rather than not ask for ice cream at all. The child is not confused; he/she is simply making use of all the language he/she has.
- Some new studies suggest bilingualism may offer some protection against the decline of cognitive abilities in old age, both in normal and pathological ageing.
- **Bilingualism has positive effects on children's linguistic and educational development.** When children continue to develop their abilities in two or more languages throughout their primary school years, they gain a deeper understanding of language and how to use it effectively. They have more practice in processing language, especially when they develop literacy in both, and they are able to compare and contrast the ways in which their two languages organize reality.
- Research suggests that bilingual children may also develop more flexibility in their thinking as a result of processing information through two different languages.

No studies/research reports bilingualism as being a disadvantage

Based primarily on the work of Bangor University, University of Edinburgh (Antonella Sorace) and Jim Cummins (University of Toronto Ontario Institute for Studies in Education)

Websites/Further information

<https://www.bangor.ac.uk/bilingualism/>

<http://www.cam.ac.uk/research/news/bilingualism-is-good-for-learning>

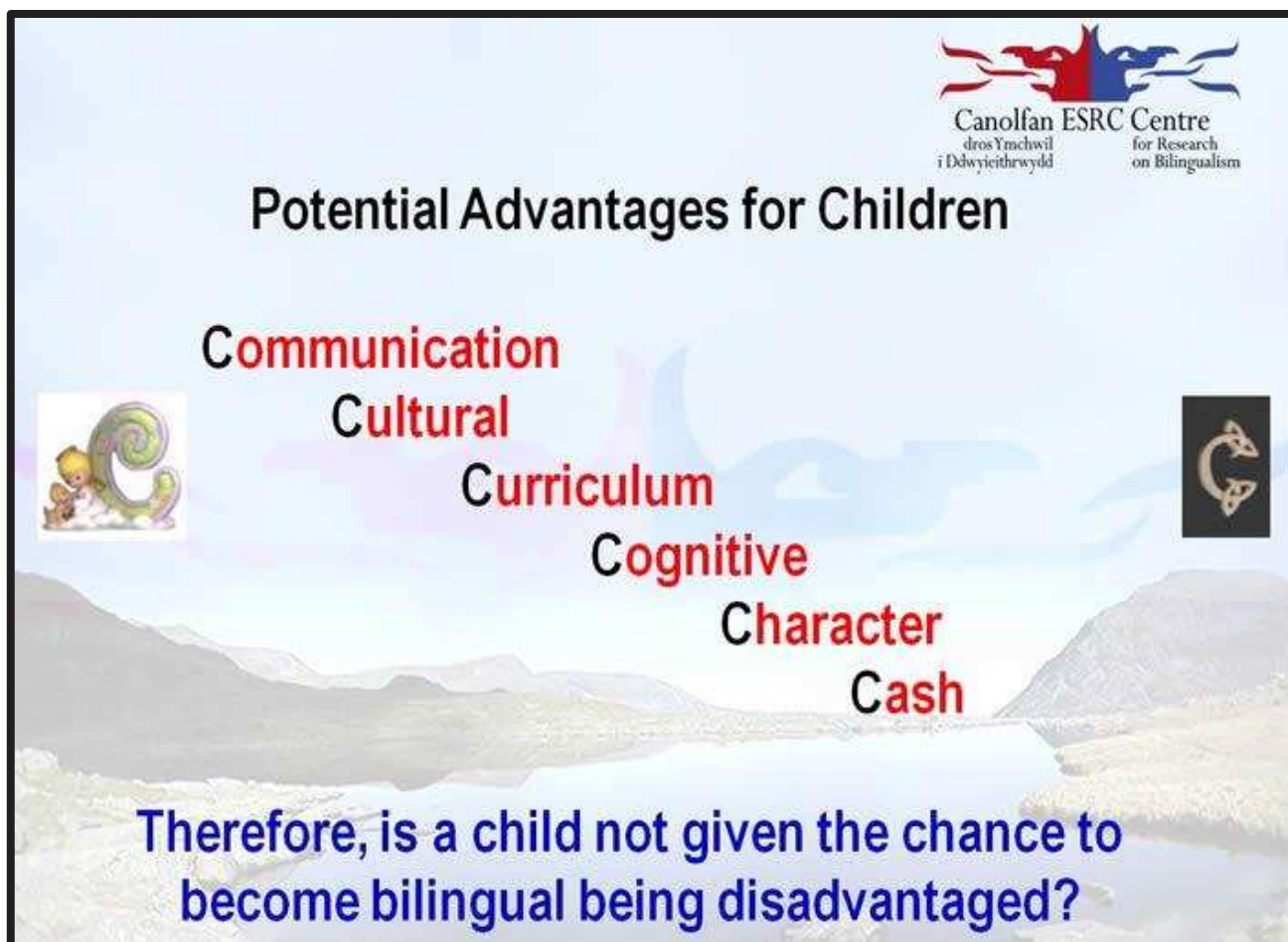
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cognitive_advantages_of_bilingualism


<https://www.britishcouncil.org/voices-magazine/does-being-bilingual-make-you-smarter>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-35170392>

<http://theconversation.com/speaking-in-tongues-the-many-benefits-of-bilingualism-49842>

<http://www.spring.org.uk/2013/09/10-superb-psychological-advantages-of-learning-another-language.php>




Canolfan ESRC Centre
dros Ymchwil
i Ddwyieithrydd
for Research
on Bilingualism

Potential Advantages for Children

- Communication
- Cultural
- Curriculum
- Cognitive
- Character
- Cash

Therefore, is a child not given the chance to become bilingual being disadvantaged?

**EDUCATION & CHILDREN
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
23rd MAY 2016**

**Play Sufficiency Assessment and
Action Plan 2016**

To consider and comment on the following issues:

- That the Committee considers and comments on the summary of the Play Sufficiency Assessment and accompanying Action Plan.

Reasons:

- To complete the second Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan 2016.
- Section 11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 places a duty on Local Authorities to assess, secure and publish information on sufficient play opportunities for children in their area. The Play Sufficiency Duty comes as part of the Welsh Government anti-poverty agenda which recognises that children can have a poverty of experience, opportunity and aspiration, and that this kind of poverty can affect children from all social, cultural and economic backgrounds across Wales.
- A draft copy of the assessment form and action plan was submitted to Welsh Government on 31st March 2016 and final documents will be submitted upon Executive Board approval.
- To enable members to formulate views for submission to Executive Board for consideration.

To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: YES

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Gareth Jones (Education & Children)

<p>Directorate: Education & Children</p> <p>Name of Head of Service: Stefan Smith</p> <p>Report Author: Caryl Alban</p>	<p>Designations:</p> <p>Head of Children's Services</p> <p>Play Sufficiency Officer</p>	<p>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</p> <p>01267246530 sjsmith@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p> <p>01267246561 calban@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 23rd MAY 2016

Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan 2016

Welsh Government placed a Statutory Duty on all Local Authorities across Wales to complete and submit a Play Sufficiency Assessment and accompanying Action Plan every three years. Where the assessment identifies an insufficiency in play opportunities for children in the Local Authority area, the Action Plan must set out what steps need to be taken to improve the opportunities for children.

This assessment makes the following recommendations to address the gaps identified across the Local Authority:

- To adhere to the Statutory Duty and Guidance for assessing, securing and publishing information on Play Opportunities within Carmarthenshire
- To ensure that up to date demographic information is available when planning for the development of play opportunities
- To address the play needs of children and young people living in rural areas
- To offer play opportunities that are inclusive
- To ensure that the play needs of the gypsy traveller children and young people are met
- The play requirements of Young Carers and LGBT children and young people are met
- Local Authority to recognise the importance of open spaces in contributing to children's play needs within the community and the negative effects that selling these spaces has on children and young people
- Local Authority to assess play spaces for play value and accessibility
- Unsupervised play spaces to be clean and healthy spaces for children and their families to experience

- Children are encouraged to play within their communities
- High quality rich play environments are provided and monitored for quality
- To consider the effects of charges for play provision on the accessibility of provision for children and their families
- Children and young people are able to access play opportunities safely and where appropriate independently from adults
- Ensure the play workforce is supported in achieving the qualifications required
- Children, families and communities are consulted with in relation to their views on play and recreational activities

Policies and agendas across the Local Authority Departments to reference play opportunities to enhance children's play opportunities.

<p>DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Carmarthenshire County Council Play Sufficiency Assessment 2016 Summary Document</p> <p>Briefing Paper 1: Play Sufficiency Duty</p> <p>Briefing Paper 2: Why Play is Important?</p> <p>Matters and Progress</p> <p>DRAFT Amended Play Sufficiency Assessment</p> <p>Toolkit</p> <p>Wales: A Play Friendly Country</p>
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IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Signed: Stefan Smith Head of Children’s Services

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The Play Sufficiency Assessment has highlighted the positive contribution that freely chosen play and recreational activities has in contributing to both children’s and their family’s physical, mental and social health. The Carmarthenshire Play Sufficiency Assessment is seen as the platform for promoting the benefits of play in contributing to children’s health and wellbeing. Increasing children’s opportunities for play will positively impact on their social, emotional and physical development.

The Assessment has highlighted that some of the barriers to accessing play opportunities are associated with not feeling safe due to factors such as traffic, fear of other people and dog fouling. The assessment identifies that closer partnership working is needed with communities in addressing these barriers.

The recommendations within the assessment focus on addressing the diverse needs of children living within the county. Particular focus is being given to increasing play opportunities for children with disabilities, and for children living within the most rural areas of the county. Furthermore, the assessment encourages the development of inclusive provision for children from economically deprived areas, and for children regardless of their ethnicity, cultural background and sexuality. The assessment also acknowledges the amount of Welsh Language that is spoken within the county and the need for children to be able to access play opportunities through the medium of Welsh.

3. Finance

In addressing the gaps identified within the assessment Local Authorities are required to produce an Action Plan. Within the guidance documents supplied by Welsh Government it is advised that Local Authorities develop a low cost/no cost Action Plan.

The main barrier to addressing the play needs of children and young people as identified within the assessment is the absence of any allocated funding stream for Play Sufficiency.

Where departments are providing play opportunities, it is through very limited financial capacity and are struggling to maintain the existing provision let alone developing new play opportunities.

At present, due to budget cuts and financial constraints, the main priority at present will be to maintain existing provision provided by the Local Authority and to support communities in taking over responsibility for their play opportunities.

7. Physical Assets

The Welsh Government Play Sufficiency Guidelines clearly state that the Local Authority should recognise the importance of playing fields as areas of community use for organised sporting activities and for play and informal recreational use. The Local Authority needs to recognise the importance of these playing fields to children's opportunities to play and include children, young people and their families in any consultations on such decisions.

Furthermore, Local Authority green spaces and open spaces are valuable play spaces for children and sometimes are the only available pieces of land for playing within a community, and therefore the impact of any disposal of green/open space on children's play and communities should be fully considered and alternative solutions explored so as to not impact negatively.

Consultations with children and young people have shown that the most popular areas for playing/hanging out are fixed play equipment areas, local grassy areas, sports fields/pitches. Therefore, consideration needs to be given to this in light of the Asset Transfer process.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: Stefan Smith Head of Children's Services

1. Local Member(s) – N/A

2. Community / Town Council – Town and Community Councils were sent consultation questionnaires with regards to the Play Sufficiency Assessment, the returned questionnaire have been used to inform the final assessment form.

3. Relevant Partners – A Play Sufficiency Stakeholder Group has been developed and membership consists of representatives from Local Authority Departments who are required to feed into the Play Sufficiency Assessment. These stakeholders have been consulted on throughout the assessment process with regards to the content of the assessment and action plans.

4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – N/A

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW:

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Wales – a Play Friendly Country: Welsh Government Statutory Guidance (July 2014)	<p>Cymraeg http://gov.wales/docs/dsjlg/publications/cyp/141007-wales-a-play-friendly-country-cy.pdf</p> <p>English http://gov.wales/docs/dsjlg/publications/cyp/141007-wales-a-play-friendly-country-en.pdf</p>

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Play Sufficiency Assessment

March 2016

Summary Document



DRAFT

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9. Matter E: Charges for play provision
10. Matter F: Access to space/provision
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12. Matter H: Community Engagement and Participation
13. Matter I: Play within all relevant policy and implementation agendas
14. Conclusion
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Foreword

Play Sufficiency Assessment

2016 Summary Document

Carmarthenshire County Council recognises the importance of play in the lives of children and young people across the county.

The Local Authority is committed to providing play opportunities and would like every child and young person to be happy, healthy and to enjoy their free time. We are committed to ensuring that every child and young person living in Carmarthenshire has access to exciting, stimulating and creative play experiences, by providing both supervised and unsupervised quality play provision that gives opportunity for challenge.

Carmarthenshire County Council recognises that play is an essential part of children and young people's lives, and appreciates that when playing children choose what they want to do themselves, how they want to do it and why they want to do it. Play is an integral part of healthy emotional and physical development, for society as well as children and young people themselves.

As a Local Authority and as decision makers we have a duty to address the play needs of the children and young people living within this county in order to ensure that they are not deprived of the essential experiences and opportunities which lay the crucial foundations for future learning, health and wellbeing.

This report is produced with the purpose of being an accessible summary document of the findings of the Carmarthenshire Play Sufficiency Assessment 2016 and includes:

- Why play is important
- Information regarding the Statutory Duty
- The methodology applied in conducting and completing the assessment
- The key findings of the assessment
- Ways forward



Stefan Smith

Head of Children's Services

1. Why play is important

Children's play should not be underestimated – through play children are developing crucial life skills, and preparing their brains for the challenges of adulthood. Play contributes to children's physical, mental, social and emotional health and wellbeing and their ability to learn and engage with education, and therefore contributes to the wellbeing of their families and to the community as a whole.

Playing has an impact on the physical and chemical development of the brain. The quality of children's play experiences has a direct impact on their brain development and their ability to learn. From age 2 to early adolescence, there is a rapid growth in the number of nerves and neural pathways within the brain, the extent of this growth depends on the quality of a child's experiences and environment and play contributes to this.

Play is an integral part of healthy emotional and physical development, for society as well as for children and young people themselves. High quality and accessible play opportunities help reduce the effects of poverty on the lives of children and young people and is also a means of reducing the inequalities between children living in families that can afford costly play activities and those that cannot and therefore reducing poverty of experience for all children. In its Child Poverty Strategy for Wales (2011), the Welsh Government recognises the right to play and its contribution to children's development and resilience. The strategy places emphasis on play as being essential element in children's development and can provide strong protective factor in children's lives. Play can shield children from the negative effects of poverty and allow children to develop their resilience to difficulties and uncertainties in their lives.

Play is a cherished part of childhood that offers children important developmental benefits and parents the opportunity to fully engage with their children. However multiple forces are interacting to effectively reduce many children's ability to reap the benefits of play. Consultations with parents of Carmarthenshire have shown us that fear of strangers and child abduction is having a very negative effect on their children's play experiences with many parents wanting to keep children safe indoors rather than allow them out to play.

However, research shows that good quality play experiences help improve children's mental health. The Mental Health Foundation reported that limited opportunities for children to play outside, or to attend supervised play projects, was a causative factor in the rise in mental ill health in children and young people. Over the last 4 years, the number of children referred to mental health services across Wales has more than doubled. Furthermore, children's sedentary lifestyle and lack of access to play opportunities is contributing to the alarming rise in childhood obesity, with 26.2% of 4-5 year olds in Carmarthenshire being overweight or obese.

2. The Play Sufficiency Assessment

The Welsh Government has a vision of creating an environment in Wales where children and young people have access to high quality play opportunities.

To support this vision, the Welsh Government has included a section “Play Opportunities” within its Children and Families (Wales) Measure, which received Royal assent in 2012.

As a result of this, Local Authorities across Wales are required to assess, secure and publish information on play opportunities.

Chapter 2, Section 11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure sets out the duty on Local Authorities as regards to Play Opportunities.

The duties are as followed:

- 1) A Local Authority must assess the sufficiency of play opportunities in its area for children and young people in accordance with the regulations
- 2) Secure sufficient play opportunities for children and young people, so far as reasonably practical
- 3) Publish information about play opportunities within its area for children and young people
- 4) Keep the information published up to date

Whilst carrying out these duties, a Local Authority must also have regard to the needs of:

- a) Children and Young People who are disabled
- b) Children and young people of different ages

Carmarthenshire County Council submitted the first Play Sufficiency Assessment in March 2013.

The second Play Sufficiency Assessment was submitted to Welsh Government on 31st March 2016.

Accompanying each Play Sufficiency Assessment is an Action Plan detailing how to secure sufficient play opportunities. Action Plans are submitted each year to Welsh Government and progress measured at mid-point and end of year.

A toolkit has been made available to Local Authorities to support them with the Play Sufficiency Assessment along with – “Wales – a Play Friendly Country: Statutory Guidance”. This guidance sets out how Local Authorities should conduct the assessments and the matters that need to be taken into account in assessing for sufficient play opportunities. The matters to be considered when completing the assessment are as follows:

Matter A: Population

Matter B: Providing for Diverse Needs

Matter C: Space available for children to play

Matter D: Supervised provision

Matter E: Charges for play provision

Matter F: Access to space/provision

Matter G: Securing and Developing the play workforce

Matter H: Community engagement and participation

Matter I: Play within all relevant policy and implementation agendas

3. Methodology

This section of the report summarises the method used in undertaking the play Sufficiency Assessment

➤ Desk top analysis

This analysis entailed reviewing the existing information held in relation to play opportunities via internet searches, Family Information Service database search and mapping of provision via i Local.

➤ Stakeholder Engagement

The Play Sufficiency Stakeholder Group consists of representatives from across departments within the Local Authority and some external partners. The group meets on a monthly basis and each member had responsibility for completing a section of the assessment that was relevant to their area of work.

➤ Consultations

For play opportunities to meet the requirements of children it is essential that they are consulted on what they want from play, recreation and leisure activities. The guidance notes from Welsh Government states that the assessments should obtain the views of children; parents and other stakeholders. Therefore, Carmarthenshire County Council decided to consult with the following:

- Children
- Young People
- Parents/Carers
- Schools
- Town and Community Councils

4. Consultation Findings

1,437 individuals took part in the consultations between August 2015 and January 2016.

Key findings from the children's consultations

90% of children stated that playing or hanging out makes them feel happy, followed by 60% feeling excited and 49% being active. Only 3% reported feeling bored.

45% of the children feel that they can do what they like the best when playing out, with only 12% feeling they hardly had anything to do.

Chatting and being with friends (63%), running and chasing games (61%), out with family (55%) and ball games (55%) and climbing (54%) were the most popular activities to participate in when out and about.

The most popular places to play or hang out for children are the fixed play areas (49%), local grassy areas or fields (35%) or beaches, seaside and river (33%).

The greatest barrier to playing out was the weather (49%), darkness (41%), too busy with homework (31%).

When asked how we could improve their opportunities to play or hang out 32% said make their roads safer, 31% ask people not to smoke and 27% ask owners to clear dog mess.

Key findings of the young people questionnaires

79% of the young people stated that hanging out made them feel happy, with 44% feeling active and 35% free. Only 5% reported feeling bored when hanging out.

42% felt that they could do the things they liked the best when they were hanging out.

When the young people had time to hang out 45% enjoyed chatting and being with friends; 38% played ball games and 32% spent time with family.

31% of the young people spent their time at the football field/sports pitch; 30% at the local grassy area/field; and 22% on the streets near their houses.

The biggest barriers to hanging out is the weather (35%), homework (27%), nothing to do (26%) and playing electronic devices (24%).

When questioned on how we could help them, 31% stated transport as an issue; 20% ask dog owners to pick up dog mess; 17% want us to find safer ways to cross roads/get around.

Key findings from the parent questionnaires

38% reported that their children played out a few days a week with 19% stating that their children don't play or hang out outside. 42% felt that children had just enough time to play, but 31% felt they needed more time.

The main places for playing or hanging out were the house, garden, fixed play area or indoor play centre.

47% of the parents stated that the children and young people accessed a play opportunity via car or walking with an adult. 44% worry about their child's safety with 32% worrying so much it affected their children's opportunity to play.

76% of parents reported road traffic as being the main barrier to playing, 42% dog mess/litter/glass; 41% other adults. Many questionnaires and the focus group sessions show that parents feared strangers or paedophiles abducting their children and therefore this affected how much freedom their children had to play. The parents within the focus group meeting stated strongly that they had a fear of strangers and paedophiles and that this fear would have an effect on their children's play opportunities. These fears would prohibit them from allowing their children to play outside of the home boundaries i.e on the street and also the parents were scared of taking their children to a local park for fear of strangers watching their children.

Key findings from the Town and Community Council questionnaires

The majority of the Town and Community Councils stated that children played at home, on the local playing fields, at the fixed play area or on the streets.

19% stated that play was prohibited or restricted i.e No Ball Games, kite flying due to high voltage cables.

59% reported that the main barriers to children playing were busy roads.

The barriers that the Town and Community Councils face in providing play opportunities within their areas are:

- No space available
- Cost
- Maintenance/Upkeep
- Lack of adults to supervise clubs

Most Town and Community Councils had no plans at present to increase children and young people's play opportunities in the areas.

Key findings from the school play survey

90% of the schools who responded had grassed areas for the children to play. Some reported having climbing walls. In 95% of the school's sports equipment was the available resource during break times, with fixed play equipment (80%), surface markings (78%) and Toys (68%) being the most popular. Schools also reported having bikes and scooters as resources.

Most of the staff were out on the yard at break times in a supervisory role, with some joining in and facilitating play. 74% of the schools reported that resources would make break times more playful along with training (66%). The majority of schools reported that they would welcome lunchtime supervisor training in order to up skill staff in their roles within children's play.

Most schools did not allow children access to the school grounds (apart from after school clubs). If the buildings are accessed the charges relate to the Local Authority approved letting charges.

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5. Matter A: Population

“The Play Sufficiency Assessment should present data about the number of children living in the Local Authority to enable an assessment of their potential play requirements. The data should provide information about the numbers of children in different categories that may affect their play requirements. The data should also show if the area is classified as one of disadvantage/deprivation and whether a 5 year population projection is available.”

What we found:

Population information at mid-year 2014 estimates are available at Ward level from Ward Population estimates for England and Wales, mid 2014 (experimental statistics).

Age Group	Number of children
0-3	7,973
4-7	8,458
8-12	9,911
13-15	6,294
16-17	4,433
TOTAL	37,069

By breaking the above demographic information into Ward level it is possible to map the population of children and young people across the County in order to depict where the children live and furthermore there is data available related to language, cultural background and disability.

ACTION

The data collected will be used when planning for play provision and also to ensure that events and activities are located within the most accessible and appropriate areas

6. 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.”

What we found:

In comparison to the previous assessment there is not much change in the quantity of play provision provided. Although the previous assessment has allowed for more effective partnership working, lack of funding for play development within the years following the initial assessment has resulted in no significant progress being made.

➤ **Rurality**

Rural communities within Carmarthenshire such as Llanegwad, Cil y Cwm and Mynydd y Garreg have received support from the Play Sufficiency Officer in relation to developing play opportunities.

There are many different types of provision available rurally such as Mentrau Iaith provisions, Young Farmers Clubs, Groundworks Wales, Youth Clubs and the Family Centres.

However, since the previous assessment some of the provision targeting rural areas has been lost due to significant funding cuts – Mobi Youth provision, Mobile Play Bus, Purple Routes Open Access Play Providers.

Some of the comments that children and young people made related to living rurally are shown below:

“I live in the countryside so I don’t have much to do”

“There’s not a lot of things to do in Whitland”

“I live far from anything”

“There is nothing in New Inn”

➤ **Language, Culture, Young Carers and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender children and young people**

There are a number of supervised clubs running across the county through the medium of Welsh. These are provided via the 35 Cylch Ti a Fi groups, 3 Menter Iaith

Schemes, Young Farmers Clubs and the URDD. Some of the parent's consultation responses stated:

"There needs to be more opportunities through the medium of Welsh i.e football sessions, Welsh language films in the cinema"

"There is a need for more opportunities through the medium of Welsh. My son enjoys playing football, but most coaches are non Welsh speaking"

There is a fixed play equipment area located on the Local Authority maintained Gypsy Traveller site within Carmarthenshire. However, residents feel that this is not adequate due to the varying ages of the children residing on the site.

The response rate for consultations with young carers and LGBT children and young people was poor and therefore more work needs to be done with these groups.

➤ **Disability**

There are clubs within the county that address the play needs of children and young people with disabilities. However, the location of these clubs mean that parents/carers are required to transport their children over a distance to access these clubs. Furthermore, parents/carers and professionals working with children with disabilities have expressed dissatisfaction with the fixed play equipment sites across the county. 11% of the parents/carers participating in the consultations stated having a child or children with additional needs.

"My child has additional medical and learning needs, there are no facilities"

"More disabled facilities"

"More disabled facilities in the local park"

"Make a disabled friendly play area"

The professionals stated that the fixed play equipment areas were not adequate in meeting the play needs of disabled children and young people. The sites are accessible, however once inside the parks the children and young people cannot participate in any form of play due to the unsuitability of the equipment.

ACTION

Continue to support rural areas in developing play opportunities for the children and young people via funding, letters of support, signposting and advice and guidance

Support the play needs of disabled children and young people in relation to fixed play equipment and supervised clubs

Undertake additional consultations with the Gypsy Traveller community, young cares and LGBT children and young people to ascertain their play, leisure and recreational needs and to address accordingly

Continue to support the Welsh Language Holiday Clubs via Menter Iaith and continue to work in partnership in delivering play sessions during the summer holidays

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7. Matter C: Space available for children to play

“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.”

What we found:

Open Spaces

A Green Space Assessment was conducted by Carmarthenshire County Council in 2010. This assessment was based on 2001 Census data. Although the green spaces have been assessed in relation to being accessible there is nothing detailing whether the spaces are used by children for playing. The assessment also focuses on green space that is more than 0.5 hectares; however children usually play on much smaller pockets of land and on streets outside of their homes or lanes behind their houses. The Planning Policy Wales does not make reference to children’s play on Brownfield sites; however the Local Development Plan encourages new developments on previously developed land.

Section 106 agreements are allocated when a development occurs of more than 5 dwellings. When housing developments are planned the developer is required to contribute via Section 106 to various community facilities, one of these being play, recreation and leisure.

Outdoor unstaffed designated play spaces

The authority is having to make significant cuts to its budget and is therefore encouraging community asset transfer of recreational facilities. The Local Authority is currently engaged in discussions with Town and Community Councils and various sports organisations in relation to the transfer of parks, playgrounds and amenity areas. The Local Authority is offering grant funding and advice to support the transfer of these facilities to local management and a number of transfers have already taken place. Many Town and Community Councils are currently providing play opportunities for children and young people within their areas in the form of fixed play areas, MUGAs

49% of the children who participated in the consultations stated that their favourite place to play or hang out was the local play area with swings, slides and other stuff to play on, with 35% favouring the local grassy area and 27% the football field or sports pitch.

31% of the young people stated that their favourite place to hang out was the football or sports pitch and 30% favouring the local grassy area or field.

Many Town and Community Councils are currently providing play opportunities for children and young people within their areas in the form of fixed play areas, MUGAs

etc and the consultations have highlighted the importance of these spaces within the community in addressing the play needs of children and young people. Therefore, it is extremely important that the Town and Community councils are supported in accessing funding to maintain these sites for securing play opportunities for the children and young people living in their areas.

➤ **Up to date register**

i Local within the public section of the Carmarthenshire County Council website plots on a map of Carmarthenshire the location of fixed play areas, skateparks, beaches, parks, open spaces, tennis courts and paddling pools. The Local Authority Parks Department has a comprehensive list of the locations of MUGAs, skateparks and shelters owned by the Local Authority.

➤ **Play Space Assessments**

At present a Play Space Assessment tool as detailed within the toolkit is not currently being used within Carmarthenshire. At present, the future ownership of the play spaces is under review. Expressions of Interest from communities for taking over ownership of assets are due in by 31st March 2016. As soon as the Assets have been transferred and ownership agreed, there is potential for communities to be supported in maintaining their play spaces, and therefore as part of this support, play space assessments should be included.

➤ **Smokefree Playgrounds**

All Local Authority owned playgrounds at present have had smokefree playgrounds signs installed. However, the consultation responses from children and parents is that adults smoking within play spaces and smoking related litter remains to be a problem within fixed play equipment sites. Therefore, more work needs to be done in promoting the smokefree initiative within Carmarthenshire potentially in partnership with Healthy Schools and Hywel Dda Public Health team.

➤ **Access Audits**

Access audits are completed in relation to spaces being DDA compliant, however the detail of the Access Audits within the toolkit is not applied within Carmarthenshire.

➤ **No Ball Games sign / Play Priority signs**

The Local Authority has removed all signs related to No Ball Games, however due to budget cuts and lack of funding there are no Play Priority Signs. However, the Housing Department continues to use No Ball Games signage to address issues within their housing estates. More work needs to be done between the housing officers and Play Sufficiency Officer to address the issues related to children's play within housing estates.

ACTION

Up-date and review the focus of the Green Space assessment

To ensure that information regarding the location of play facilities is kept up to date

The application of Play Space Assessments in the evaluation of play spaces

Section 106 agreement contributions to consider play opportunities other than fixed play equipment

Further promote smokefree areas and the dangers of passive smoking to children's health and wellbeing

Work in partnership with the Housing Department in reducing the use of No Ball Games signs across the county

Ensure that communities, children and young people are consulted with and supported in the asset transfer process and in the event of assets being transferred

DRAFT

8. Matter D: Supervised Provision

“The Local Authority should aim to offer a range of supervised play provision.”

What we found:

➤ **Supervised Provision**

The Play Sufficiency Assessment takes into account the following types of supervised play provision:

Holiday play schemes
Adventure playgrounds
Play rangers
Mobile provision
Clubs and youth groups
Organisations which provide resources to these settings

Supervised provision across the County is provided for a range of ages, through the medium of Welsh and English. There are a variety of holiday playschemes, after school clubs and youth clubs within the county. However, further work is needed in developing a Quality Assurance Scheme for play providers to be part of and adhere to.

Unfortunately, since the initial assessment due to significant cuts to budgets the mobile play bus, Mobi Youth bus, toy library and Purple Routes Open Access play provision have been lost in Carmarthenshire.

At present there is no allocated budget to develop more supervised play provision within the county.

➤ **Structured recreational activities for children**

Children and young people in Carmarthenshire have access to a variety of play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities to enhance their health and wellbeing.

Active Storytime has been funded via previous Play Sufficiency Grants in order for children to develop fundamental physical skills through play.

The Sports Plan for Carmarthenshire makes clear links with the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan in providing play opportunities for children and young people.

Action

To ensure quality supervised play provision via a Quality Assurance programme when developed. And provide advice and support to settings in how to provide a rich, high quality play environment

Funding allocated via sports and recreation to consider play opportunities as potential funding projects

DRAFT

9. 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.”

What we found:

There is play provision within the county that does not incur a charge. The Local Authority provides Open Access Play sessions from the Integrated Children’s Centres. Groundworks Wales also provides free Open Access Play within the county. Both of these types of provision are delivered within areas of high economic deprivation and/or within rural areas of the county.

There are also a number of holiday clubs and afterschool clubs running within the county, but these incur a cost to families. The clubs running for children and young people with additional needs incur a very nominal cost, and this money is used to purchase resources, and pay for activities and events.

Unfortunately, within the current economic climate it is extremely difficult to provide no cost provision, however there are concessions available for families.

Action

Continue to refer to the demographic information related to deprivation, rurality and disability when any new provision is planned across Carmarthenshire

Investigate the possibility of recording in more detail the cost of provision and ensure that information related to cost of premises and cost of provision is requested

Continue to support communities in accessing funding streams and signposting to services such as CAVS for information regarding available grants. Provide letters of support and advice and guidance to communities expressing an interest in setting up play provision within their areas

Support Groundworks Wales in identifying areas for delivery of no cost open Access Play provision (based on rurality and economic deprivation)

10. 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.”

What we found:

The Road Safety Unit facilitates a great deal of initiatives that allow children to move around their communities via walking or on bicycles. Records are kept of the 20mph zones, and school safety zones. However, at present access to play opportunities is not directly considered and measured. Where there are improvements to walking and cycle paths, there is currently no specific focus on access to play opportunities. Although a great deal of work is being completed to improve road safety, there isn’t specific consideration being given to play opportunities at present.

Welsh Government will be reducing budgets for transport within the coming financial year which will have an adverse effect on children and young people who rely on public transport for accessing play opportunities.

When the children were asked what would help them play/hang out more often 32% stated ‘Find safer ways to cross roads to go out/get around’ and 15% stated transport to get there. 31% of young people stated transport and 17% fins safer ways to cross the roads to go out. 76% of the parents stated that road traffic made it difficult for children to play/hang out.

➤ **Information; publicity; events**

The Local Authority ensures that all events are publicised as widely as possible to ensure that families are aware of what is going on across the county. A variety of avenues are used to publicise the information such as Twitter, Facebook, the FIS website, Carmarthenshire Youth Council website and press releases.

ACTIONS

Ensure that the Family Information Service website has a clearly defined play section on the website which is regularly reviewed and updated

Ensure that the Assistant Information Officer is updated via the Family Information Service and / the Play Sufficiency Officer of any Play and/or recreational activities within the county that are not already included on i Local

Continue to use avenues such as social media (Twitter and Facebook) to advertise and promote play opportunities and events

Continue to engage with the media to promote and publicise play related events

Produce a timetable for the year (April to March) for updating the play section of the FIS Website with monthly themes and helpful hints and tips for parents/carers

Promote play opportunities at planned events by partner agencies to highlight children's rights to play and the importance of play to children and young people

DRAFT

11. 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.”

What we found:

At present the Local Authority Family Information Service, Childcare and Play Team have ring fenced a budget for a termly training programmes. The training programmes include mandatory training such as First Aid, Food Hygiene etc for registered childcare settings. Two play training courses per term are included as part of the training programme for registered and non registered settings. Unfortunately there are limited spaces on the courses.

In light of the new national minimum standards for registered settings there will potentially be a need within the county to upskill the early years, childcare and play workforce. A scoping exercise will provide an indication of the existing qualification levels of the workforce and an estimate of the numbers needing to be up skilled via transitional qualifications.

ACTION

Annual workforce scoping exercise completed to keep an up to date register of information related to the play workforce.

Funding required to provide transitional qualification from Early Years to Playwork for playworkers across the county (i.e 6 playworkers would cost £5000)

Family Information, Childcare and Play Team to offer 2 play courses each term as part of the Training Programme

12. 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.”

What we found:

Various groups across the county consult with children, young people and families. Children are consulted with via school councils, Open Access Play sessions, Family Centres, Youth provision. Parents and Carers are consulted with via schools, Family Centres (Llais rhieni), and Snap Surveys online.

Furthermore community engagement work takes place as part of the Communities First Project, and a representative of this programme attends the Play Sufficiency Stakeholder Group Meetings.

Consultations with parents for the purposes of this assessment have shown that many parents have a genuine and very real fear of strangers and paedophiles and these fears are prohibiting parents from allowing their children the freedom to play independently without adult supervision. Furthermore, some parents have stated that they fear taking their children to local parks as they are scared that ‘strangers’ or ‘paedophiles’ are watching their children. Therefore, work needs to be done with parents/carers within the community in order to educate them in how to keep their children safe without impinging on their rights to play and freedom.

ACTIONS

Continue to engage further with parents and carers in addressing the fear they have in relation to stranger danger within Carmarthenshire

Distribute the Community Toolkit: Developing and Managing Play Spaces to identified areas within the County

13. 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 actions to enhance children’s play opportunities within all such policies and strategies.”

What we found:

The Play Sufficiency Stakeholder Group was developed in acknowledgement of the importance of cross departmental partnership working when assessing and securing children’s play opportunities. As a result of the initial Play Sufficiency Assessment partnership working has improved greatly and links are now being seen between differing policy areas and play sufficiency. However, there are a number of policies that do not specifically refer to play directly. Although there is an acknowledgment of the importance of play within these policy areas, it is extremely difficult and more often than not impossible to re align existing budgets across policy and agendas for the purpose of securing sufficient play opportunities as identified through the Play Sufficiency Assessment.

ACTIONS

To work in partnership with the schools in supporting them to open up school grounds out of teaching hours; and providing staff play training and support in play policy development

Continue to work in partnership with the Planning Department to ensure children’s opportunities for play are protected and considered within any new developments across the county

Continue to work in partnership with traffic and transport in ensuring accessible and safe ways of accessing play opportunities

Continue to liaise with Corporate Policy and Partnership Manager in ensuring that all relevant sections of the reviewed Integrated Community Strategy have a consideration to play opportunities

Work in partnership with the Hywel Dda Public Health Team to provide play as a means of contributing to the health and wellbeing of children, young people and their families

Family Support Initiatives to recognise the importance of play in children’s lives and the benefits to their emotional, mental and physical wellbeing whilst also mitigating the negative effects of poverty and deprivation

14.

Conclusion

The Play Sufficiency Assessment 2016 has highlighted many good practice examples of how children's play opportunities are being addressed across the county. Within each of the Matters, the Local Authority and partner organisations are striving to meet the criteria and are aware of the importance of these criteria in meeting the play needs of the children.

The main barrier to addressing the play needs of children and young people is the absence of any allocated funding stream to further secure sufficient play opportunities. Where departments are providing play opportunities, it is through very limited financial capacity and are struggling to maintain the existing provision let alone developing new play opportunities. The assessment has highlighted many priorities to take forward for 2016/2017 to address the play needs of children and young people, these priorities are detailed within the Action Plan 2016/2017.

The consultation results have shown common barriers for children/young people; parents and carers. These barriers have been detailed within the Action Plan:

- Smoking and smoking related litter
- Road Safety/Transport
- Dog fouling
- Fear of strangers / paedophiles

At present, due to budget cuts and financial constraints, the main priority at present will be to maintain existing provision provided by the Local Authority and to support communities in taking over responsibility for their play opportunities. Furthermore, in light of play opportunities diminishing within communities there are other facilities within the community, namely school grounds that have the potential to address children's play needs. The majority of the school consultation responses stated that they did not allow access to school grounds outside of teaching hours. Therefore, this is an area that needs to be further investigated with school representatives.

Therefore, the Play Sufficiency Assessment for 2016 has provided a platform from which evidence is available for the development of new play opportunities and the protection of existing opportunities.

15.

Way Forward

The Play Sufficiency Action Plan 2016/2017 has been developed based on the 'Identified Actions for the Action Plan' section of the assessment form. These actions were identified by the members of the Play Sufficiency Stakeholder Group and the final Action Plan was agreed by members of the group and through the political processes of the Local Authority.

In terms of funding for addressing the actions, partners need to work collaboratively in accessing funding for play and play related initiatives. Work has commenced on this via the financial contributions to play and leisure through Section 106 agreements. There is also opportunity to work closer with schools and communities in addressing play opportunities through low cost/no cost processes.

The Play Sufficiency Stakeholder Group will continue to meet on a termly basis to monitor the progress of the Action Plan. The Actions will be updated based on the progress made.

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Play Sufficiency Duty – Briefing Paper

What is the Local Authority required to do?

Assess

Section 11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2012, Play Opportunities for children came into force in November 2012. This part of the duty requires Local Authorities to assess the sufficiency of play opportunities for children in their areas. Local Authorities received statutory guidance to support them in completing the Sufficiency Assessments. The first Play Sufficiency Assessment was submitted to Welsh Government in March 2013 along with an Action Plan. A summary document of the assessment was placed on the Local Authority website. The assessment will be completed every 3 years, an Action Plan is to be submitted to Welsh Government each year along with a yearly progress report.

*****This is a statutory requirement under section 11 (1), 11 (2), 11 (5), 11 (6) of the measure*****

Secure

The second part of the duty places a duty on the Local Authority to secure sufficient play opportunities for children, having regard for the assessment. This part of the duty was commenced on 1st July 2014.

Under the duty to secure sufficient play opportunities for children, the Local Authority should use all practical means available to them to maintain provision and services, and to increase and improve play opportunities for all children.

*****This is a statutory requirement under section 11 (3) *****

Publish

The Welsh Government also expects each Local Authority to develop a clearly identified play section on its website giving comprehensive information about:

- Parks, play grounds and other outdoor spaces providing play opportunities to children; indoor play provision; play activities and clubs
- Holiday Play schemes
- Events for children and families; wider community events where children can play

There is a requirement to ensure that the Local Authority keeps the above published information up to date.

This part of the duty was also commenced on 1st July 2014.

*****This is a statutory requirement under section 11 (4) *****

Timetable for assessing and securing sufficient play opportunities for the next 10 years

Submission Dates	Requirements
<p>March 2016</p> <p>March 2019</p> <p>March 2022</p> <p>March 2025</p>	<p>Local Authorities are required to complete and submit a copy of their Play Sufficiency Assessments; the Executive Summary of the Play Sufficiency Assessments; and the Play Action Plan for the following year to the Welsh Ministers.</p> <p>The Executive Summaries of the Play Sufficiency Assessments should be published on the Local Authorities websites. The published summaries must include outcomes of the Play Sufficiency Assessments and highlight the actions that the Local Authorities intend to take to achieve sufficient play opportunities.</p> <p>Play Action plans must be developed and submitted to Welsh Government each year.</p> <p>Local Authorities were required to contribute the results of the Play Sufficiency Assessments to the Single Integrated Plan.</p>

Prepared by: Caryl Alban, Play Sufficiency Officer
 March 2016

Why play is important

At a time when significant efficiency savings are needing to be found across the Local Authority, all service areas are being challenged and questioned and are required to justify ongoing funding. This Briefing Paper gives rationale for why play is important to children and why continued investment is essential.

Children's play cannot be underestimated – through play children are developing crucial life skills, play contributes to children's social, physical, intellectual and emotional/mental health.

Social: Increases empathy, compassion, sharing; improves non-verbal skills and increases attention and attachment.

Physical: Increases a range of skills (agility, co-ordination, balance, flexibility, fine and gross motor skills). Children's sedentary lifestyle and lack of access to play opportunities is contributing to the alarming rise in childhood obesity, with 26.2% of 4-5 year olds in Carmarthenshire being overweight or obese. Disabled children in particular face barriers when trying to access play opportunities.

Intellectual: Play has positive effects on the brain and on a child's ability to learn. Contributes towards creativity, abstract thinking, imagination, problem solving, empathy, perspective taking and mastering new concepts

Emotional/Mental Health: Creates fun, enjoyment, love for life, release of energy, tension reduction. Research shows that good quality play experiences help improve children's mental health. The Mental Health Foundation reported that limited opportunities for children to play outside, or to attend supervised play projects, was a causative factor in the rise in mental ill health in children and young people. Over the last 4 years, the number of children referred to mental health services across Wales has more than doubled

Child Poverty: High quality and accessible play opportunities help reduce the effects of poverty on the lives of children and young people and is also a means of reducing the inequalities between children living in families that can afford costly play activities and those that cannot and therefore reducing poverty of experience for all children. In its Child Poverty Strategy for Wales (2011), the Welsh Government recognises the right to play and its contribution to children's development and resilience. The strategy places emphasis on play as being essential element in children's development and can provide strong protective factor in children's lives. Play can shield children from the negative effects of poverty and allow children to develop their resilience to difficulties and uncertainties in their lives.

Play for children is a fundamental right and an intrinsic part of their childhood. As decision makers we have a duty to address this fundamental right by ensuring the provision of accessible and inclusive play opportunities for all children within Carmarthenshire.

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Matters	Criteria	Priorities for 2016
A. Population	Population data related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age • Disability • Language • Culture 	Continue to use the demographic information when planning new play provision within the county Continue to use the information when planning play events within the county
B. Providing for diverse needs	Play Opportunities acknowledge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rurality • Language • Culture • Disability 	Continue to support rural areas in developing play opportunities for the children and young people via funding, letters of support, signposting and advice and guidance. Investigate the possibility of addressing the play needs of disabled children and young people in relation to fixed play equipment and supervised clubs. Further consultations with the Gypsy Traveller community, young carers and LGBT children and young people to ascertain their play, leisure and recreational needs and to address accordingly
C. Space available for children to play	Recognition that all open spaces are important areas where children can play	Up-date and review the focus of the Green Space assessment To ensure that information regarding the location of play facilities is kept up to date The application of Play Space Assessments in the evaluation of play spaces Section 106 agreement contributions to consider play opportunities other than fixed play equipment where appropriate Promote smokefree areas and the dangers of passive smoking to children's health and wellbeing Work in partnership with the Housing Department in reducing

		<p>the use of No Ball Games signs across the county</p> <p>Ensure that communities, children and young people are consulted with and supported in the asset transfer process</p>
D. Supervised provision	The Local Authority should aim to offer a range of supervised play provision.	<p>Promote quality supervised play provision via a Quality Assurance programme and offer advice and support to settings in providing rich, high quality play environments</p> <p>Funding associated with sports and recreation to consider play opportunities as potential funding projects</p>
E. Charges for play provision	Effects of charges on children living in low income families	<p>Investigate the possibility of recording in more detail the cost of provision and ensure that information related to cost of premises and cost of provision is recorded</p> <p>Continue to support communities in accessing funding streams and signposting to services such as CAVS for information regarding available grants.</p> <p>Provide letters of support and advice and guidance to communities expressing an interest in setting up play provision within their areas.</p> <p>Support Groundworks Wales in identifying areas for delivery of no cost open Access Play provision (based on rurality and economic deprivation)</p> <p>Continue to fund Open Access Play provision at the ICC's</p>
F. Access to space/provision	Access to play opportunities	<p>Continue to provide initiatives that support access to play opportunities and ensure that children's access to play is considered when delivering plans related to access.</p> <p>The Family Information Service website has a clearly defined play section on the website.</p>

		<p>Ensure that the websites are updated on a regular basis with new information and ideas</p> <p>Ensure that the Assistant Information Officer is updated via the Family Information Service and / the Play Sufficiency Officer of any Play and/or recreational activities within the county that are not already included on I Local.</p> <p>Continue to use avenues such as social media (Twitter and Facebook) to advertise and promote play</p> <p>Continue to engage with the media when events take place related to play</p> <p>Produce a timetable for the year (April to March) for updating the play section of the FIS Website with monthly themes and helpful hints and tips for parents/carers</p> <p>Promote play opportunities at planned events by partner agencies to promote children's rights to play and the importance of play to children and young people</p>
<p>G. Securing & Developing the play workforce</p>	<p>Support the Play workforce in achieving the qualification level required</p>	<p>Yearly workforce scoping exercise completed to keep an up to date register of information related to the play workforce.</p> <p>Funding required to provide transitional qualification from Early Years to Playwork for playworkers across the county (i.e 6 playworkers would cost £5000)</p> <p>Family Information, Childcare and Play Team to offer 2 play related training each term as part of the Training Programme</p>
<p>H. Community engagement and participation</p>	<p>Consult with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children • Families • Other stakeholders <p>on their views on play provision.</p>	<p>Continue to engage and consult with children, young people, families and communities in partnership with the LA Participation Team</p> <p>To engage further with parents and carers in addressing the</p>

	<p>Promote wide community engagement in providing play friendly communities.</p>	<p>fear they have in relation to stranger danger within Carmarthenshire.</p> <p>Distribute the Community Toolkit: Developing and Managing Play Spaces to identified areas within the County</p>
<p>I. Play within all relevant policy and implementation agendas</p>	<p>Potential impact of policies and agendas on children's opportunities to play</p>	<p>To work in partnership with the schools in supporting them to open up school grounds out of teaching hours; and providing staff play training and support in play policy development</p> <p>Continue to work in partnership with the Planning Department to ensure children's opportunities for play are protected and considered within any new developments across the county</p> <p>Continue to work in partnership with traffic and transport in ensuring accessible and safe ways of accessing play opportunities</p> <p>Continue to liaise with Corporate Policy and Partnership Manager in ensuring that all relevant sections of the reviewed Integrated Community Strategy have a consideration to play opportunities</p> <p>Work in partnership with the Hywel Dda Public Health Team to provide play as a means of contributing to the health and wellbeing of children, young people and their families.</p> <p>Family Support Initiatives to recognise the importance of play in children's lives and the benefits to their emotional, mental and physical wellbeing whilst also mitigating the negative effects of poverty and deprivation</p>

Play Sufficiency Assessment Form



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Name of Local Authority: Carmarthenshire County Council

Name of responsible officer: Caryl Alban

Job title: Play Sufficiency Officer

Date of completion: Submitted to Welsh Government in **DRAFT** on 24th March 2016

Please note that the Play Sufficiency Assessment must be received by the Welsh Government by 31st March 2016



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.

Carmarthenshire County Council is committed to ensuring that every child and young person living in the county has access to exciting, stimulating and creative play experiences, by providing both supervised and unsupervised quality play provision that gives opportunity for challenge. The Local Authority recognises that high quality play opportunities for all children contribute to mitigating the negative effects of poverty on the lives of children and young people and contribute towards building their resilience. Play is also a means of reducing inequalities between children living in families that can afford costly play activities and those that cannot and therefore reducing poverty of experience for all children.

The Local Authority produced its first local Play Strategy in 2008. This was a three year strategy accompanied by a detailed Action Plan. The Play Officer had responsibility for the monitoring and reviewing of the Action Plan at mid year and end of year intervals and reported progress to Welsh Government. The aim of the strategy was to raise the profile of play across the county, and to provide a platform from which play opportunities could be developed.

In recognition of the importance of play, the Local Authority has also adhered to the statutory duty placed on them to complete and submit a comprehensive Play Sufficiency Assessment at three year intervals in 2012 and 2016. A Play Sufficiency Stakeholder Group has been established and an annual Play Sufficiency Action Plan has been produced and worked towards in order to ensure that children's play opportunities are prioritised.

Carmarthenshire County Council recognises that play is an essential part of children and young people's lives, and appreciates that

when playing children choose what they want to do themselves, how they want to do it and why they want to do it. It is an integral part of healthy emotional and physical development, for society as well as children and young people themselves.

Play is the means by which children and young people explore their environment, their world, their roles and relationships. Play provides opportunities for problem solving, language development, creativity, communication, negotiation and listening skills. It provides an opportunity to learn about risk that is an essential element of confidence building.

A rich play environment is one where children and young people are able to make a wide range of choices, where there are many possibilities so that they can invent and extend their own play. This could be any space, or setting, either indoors or outdoors and may include local play areas, parks, play centres, staffed adventure playgrounds, out of school care, forest schools, mobile play provision, playgroups, day nurseries, schools and Cylchoedd Ti a Fi.

Quality play provision should offer children and young people a rich and stimulating environment free from inappropriate risks, and full of challenge, providing them with the opportunity to explore themselves and their world.

Providing appropriate play opportunities for children and young people of different ages and abilities and stages of development can be best achieved by developing as wide a range of inclusive play provision as possible.

We welcome the fact that the Children's Commissioner for Wales has identified play as one of the top priorities for children and young people across Wales as part of the consultations undertaken for the Beth Nesaf? What Next? Consultation. As a result of these priorities and the Statutory Duty placed on Local Authorities it is paramount that a designated funding stream is allocated to play development in order to achieve this vision for Wales.

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.

The lead officer with responsibility for co-ordinating the completion of the Play Sufficiency Assessment continues to be the Play Sufficiency Officer based within the Family Information, Childcare and Play Team, Children's Services, Carmarthenshire County Council. Prior to the first Play Sufficiency Assessment a Play Sufficiency Stakeholder Group was developed in September 2012 and membership consists of representatives from various Local Authority departments. The group officially meets on a termly basis and monitors the progress of the annual Play Sufficiency Action Plans. In order to complete the second Play Sufficiency Assessment the group has met on a monthly basis since September 2015 and will continue to do so until the final submission.

Each member of the Play Sufficiency Stakeholder Group had responsibility for completing their relevant section of the assessment form and were required to submit to the Play Sufficiency Officer by 31st January 2016. The Play Sufficiency Officer collated the information and along with the consultation responses completed the assessment form. A draft copy of the assessment was circulated to the group members prior to the meeting scheduled for 24th February 2016 and any required amendments would be completed and agreement was sought from group members on the 24th February during the meeting.

In order to have the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan approved, the following timescales and processes were followed:

Tuesday 10th March 2016 - Play Sufficiency Assessment discussed at Departmental Management Team

Tuesday 19th April 2016 - Corporate Management Team (CMT)

Monday 25th April 2016 - Preliminary Executive Board (PEB)

Monday 23rd May 2016 - Scrutiny

The following key partners / departments / organisations were involved in the process:

Mentrau Iaith

Groundworks Wales

Mencap

Hywel Dda Public Health Team
Communities First
Play Leader - Open Access Play Sessions at the Integrated Children's Centres
Healthy Schools Officer - School Effectiveness
Technical Assistant - Property Services
Family Support Co-ordinator - Corporate Parenting (Children with disabilities)
Asset Management Surveyor - Corporate Property
Sports Development - Disabled Sports Development Officer
Sports Development - Active Young People Officer
Leisure and Recreation - Business and Projects Manager
Road Safety Officer - Transport and Engineering
Forward Planning Officer - Planning Services
Contributions Officer - Planning Services
Senior Youth Officer - Improvement and Skills
Giant Steps Co-ordinator - Education and Children
Further Education College Support Youth Worker
Assistant Area Housing Manager - Property Services
Business and Projects Manager - Leisure and Recreation
Active Young Persons Officer - Leisure and Recreation

Method:

The Play Sufficiency Stakeholder Group meets on a monthly basis to monitor the progress of the assessment and ensure the assessment is completed within the timescale. Information was collected from the group members and from external partner agencies. Consultations were conducted with children, young people, parents/carers, schools and Town and Community Councils. A meeting with Cllr Gareth Jones (Lead member for Education and Children) in order to inform him of the assessment, the progress made and also to highlight the challenges we face as a Local Authority in securing sufficient play opportunities without an allocated funding stream. Approval was sought from the Departmental Management Team, Corporate Management Team, Preliminary Executive Board, Scrutiny and Executive Board prior to submitting the final copy of the Play Sufficiency Assessment to Welsh Government.

Challenges

There are many challenges associated with the duty placed on Local Authorities to assess for and secure sufficient play opportunities. There is a strong emphasis within the guidance notes to work collaboratively across Local Authority Departments in

order to complete the assessment and also to realign budgets to address the gaps within the Play Sufficiency Assessment; engaging departments has been easier during this assessment as relationships had been forged as a result of the initial assessment. However, since the last assessment significant changes have occurred within many departments affecting budgets and staffing levels which has resulted in members not being able to dedicate as much time to attending meetings. In relation to utilising various budgets for addressing the gaps identified within the assessment, various attempts have been made to explore this possibility however due to the extent of the efficiency savings required over the coming years this has not been viable.

Taking forward Actions

The gaps identified within the assessment have been included within the Action Plan for 2016/2017. The Action Plan will be reviewed at mid point in September 2016 and fully at the end of March 2017. The priorities identified within the Action Plan will be used when any funding becomes available for addressing these priorities.

DRAFT

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 regional play associations
- The private sector if appropriate
- Community groups
- Community First Partnerships

Each Town and Community Council were sent a questionnaire with regards to the assets they had within their community and with regards to play opportunities in general. Each Town and Community Council will receive a copy of the Summary Document of the findings when the assessment has been approved by the Executive Board.

Mentrau Iaith, Purple Routes Open Access Play Team, Carmarthenshire Youth Children's Association (CYCA) and Family Centres contributed to the consultation process related to the play provision available.

Community First Partnerships have a representative on the Play Sufficiency Stakeholder Group and have fed into the assessment form.

Consultation and participation

This section should describe how the Local Authority has:

- Obtained the views of children with regards to the play opportunities they currently access, how they would like the community to better support them to play and what barriers stop them from playing
- Obtained the views on play provision from parents, families and other stakeholders
- Analysed the information and have used it to inform future plans

In order for the play opportunities across Carmarthenshire to meet the needs of the children and young people it was essential that they were consulted with along with their parent/carers; communities and schools. The consultation period commenced August 2016 to 31st January 2016. The consultations consisted of the following:

1,437 individuals took part in the Play Sufficiency Assessment consultation process.

Children (total of 1,890 questionnaires distributed):

637 children participated (282 males and 355 females)

The age of the children ranged from 4 to 11 years old.

The children were from both Welsh and English medium schools.

Focus Groups took place within 8 Primary Schools (Penygaer, Stebonheath, Bigyn, Y Dderwen, Cae'r Felin, Furnace, Richmond Park and Llandeilo)

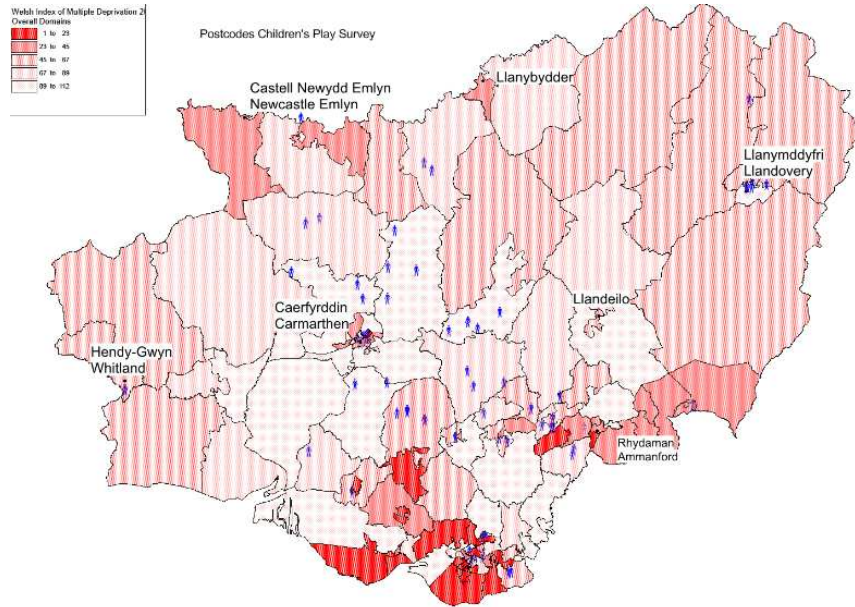
Questionnaires were distributed to 11 Summer Playschemes

7 Events were attended and questionnaires were distributed to children in attendance.

Young Carers, Disabled children and young people, Gypsy Traveller children were also consulted with via designated officers.

All primary school councils received consultation questionnaires to complete and return.

The below map depict the areas across the county that the children were from (not all children provided postcodes)



Youth: (total of 616 questionnaires distributed):

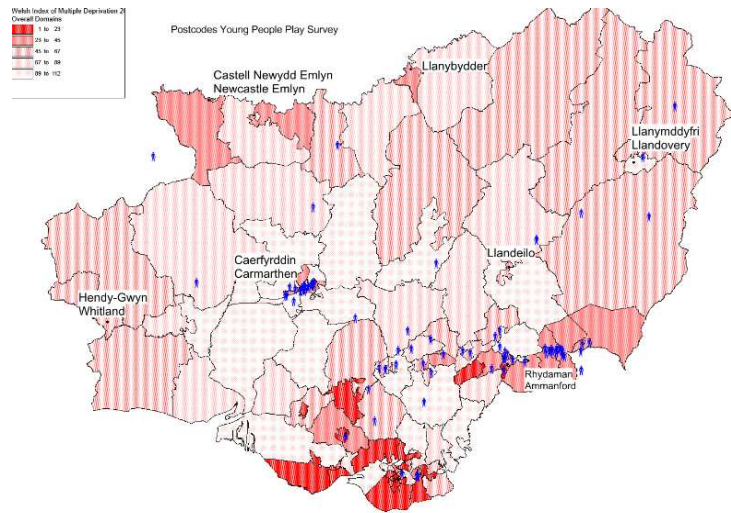
230 young people participated (124 males and 44 females - not all commented on their gender)

The age of the young people ranged from 12-25 years old.

The young people were from both Welsh and English medium schools

Questionnaires were distributed to Coleg Sir Gar, Youth Councils, Rhyd y Gors school, Youth Service, Dr Mz and disabled young people.

The below map depicts the distribution of young people who participated in the consultation (not all provided their postcodes)

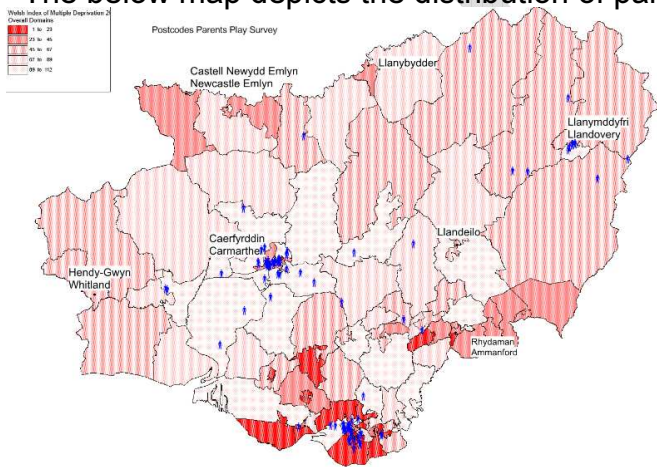


Parents: (2,354 questionnaires distributed):

490 parents/carers participated

Parents of children with additional needs, all council staff, parents attending the Trimsaran Family Centre participated in a focus group session, and a focus group took place on a Gypsy Traveller site.

The below map depicts the distribution of parents who participated in the consultations (not all parents provided postcodes)



Town and Community Councils (72 questionnaires distributed)

39 Town and Community councils responded

Schools (Questionnaires distributed to 102 Primary Schools and 14 Secondary schools)

41 schools participated

All questionnaires were placed on the Local Authority website, Facebook, and Twitter

The questionnaires used within the consultations were based on the ones provided within the Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit as advised by Play Wales in order for comparisons to be made across Wales.

Analysis:

The consultation findings have provided a great deal of valuable information and key messages.

Key findings from the children’s consultations

90% of children stated that playing or hanging out makes them feel happy, followed by 60% feeling excited and 49% being active. Only 3% reported feeling bored.

45% of the children feel that they can do what they like the best when playing out, with only 12% feeling they hardly had anything to do.

Chatting and being with friends (63%), running and chasing games (61%), out with family (55%) and ball games (55%) and climbing (54%) were the most popular activities to participate in when out and about.

The most popular places to play or hang out for children are the fixed play areas (49%), local grassy areas or fields (35%) or beaches, seaside and river (33%).

The greatest barrier to playing out was the weather (49%), darkness (41%), too busy with homework (31%).

When asked how we could improve their opportunities to play or hang out 32% said make their roads safer, 31% ask people not to smoke and 27% ask owners to clear dog mess.

Focus Group findings:

A total of 8 Primary Schools took part in the focus group sessions (a total of 150 pupils). The sessions consisted of a game called 'Guesstimates' where the children were given play related statements and asked to guess how many children in the room they applied to i.e Who plays outside without adult supervision, How many carry a mobile phone whilst out playing, How many play ball on the streets/lanes? The majority of the children questioned stated that they were allowed to play outside with their friends and without adult supervision. 69% of the children questioned were allowed to get dirty, with 95% stating that they were allowed to splash in puddles. Most of the children who took part in the focus groups reported having very positive play experiences and pupils from one school in particular relied heavily on a local grassy area for providing play opportunities. A few children reported not being allowed to play due to their commitments to sports clubs and not being allowed to play due to fear of injury which would impinge on their sporting capability. In order to find out what the children would benefit most from in terms of play opportunities the activity 'Two Stars and a Wish' was used in 7 of the 8 schools (94 children). The children were asked to think of the two activities they enjoyed doing the most at the moment and then to think of the one thing they would really enjoy doing in their free time but can't do at the moment. The most popular answer for their one wish was to see friends more (13), swimming (10), to have a pet (8), Go to town (7) and the park (6)

Key findings of the young people questionnaires

79% of the young people stated that hanging out made them feel happy, with 44% feeling active and 35% free. Only 5% reported feeling bored when hanging out.

42% felt that they could do the things they liked the best when they were hanging out.

When the young people had time to hang out 45% enjoyed chatting and being with friends; 38% played ball games and 32% spent time with family.

31% of the young people spent their time at the football field/sports pitch; 30% at the local grassy area/field; and 22% on the streets near their houses.

The biggest barriers to hanging out is the weather (35%), homework (27%), nothing to do (26%) and playing electronic devices (24%).

When questioned on how we could help them, 31% stated transport as an issue; 20% ask dog owners to pick up dog mess; 17% want us to find safer ways to cross roads/get around.

Key findings from the parent questionnaires

38% reported that their children played out a few days a week with 19% stating that their children don't play or hang out outside. 42% felt that children had just enough time to play, but 31% felt they needed more time.

The main places for playing or hanging out were the house, garden, fixed play area or indoor play centre.

47% of the parents stated that the children and young people accessed a play opportunity via car or walking with an adult. 44% worry about their child's safety with 32% worrying so much it affected their children's opportunity to play.

76% of parents reported road traffic as being the main barrier to playing, 42% dog mess/litter/glass; 41% other adults. Many questionnaires and the focus group sessions show that parents feared strangers or paedophiles abducting their children and therefore this affected how much freedom their children had to play. The parents within the focus group meeting stated strongly that they had a fear of strangers and paedophiles and that this fear would have an effect on their children's play opportunities. These fears would prohibit them from allowing their children to play outside of the home boundaries i.e on the street and also the parents were scared of taking their children to a local park for fear of strangers watching their children.

Key findings from the Town and Community Council questionnaires

The majority of the Town and Community Councils stated that children played at home, on the local playing fields, at the fixed play area or on the streets.

19% stated that play was prohibited or restricted i.e No Ball Games, kite flying due to high voltage cables.

59% reported that the main barriers to children playing were busy roads.

The barriers that the Town and Community Councils face in providing play opportunities within their areas are:

No space available

Cost

Maintenance/Upkeep

Lack of adults to supervise clubs

Most Town and Community Councils had no plans at present to increase children and young people's play opportunities in the areas.

Key findings from the school play survey

90% of the schools who responded had grassed areas for the children to play. Some reported having climbing walls. In 95% of the schools sports equipment was the available resource during break times, with fixed play equipment (80%), surface markings (78%) and Toys (68%) being the most popular. Schools also reported having bikes and scooters as resources.

Most of the staff were out on the yard at break times in a supervisory role, with some joining in and facilitating play. 74% of the schools reported that resources would make break times more playful along with training (66%). The majority of schools reported that they would welcome lunchtime supervisor training in order to up skill staff in their roles within children's play. Most schools did not allow children access to the school grounds (apart from after school clubs). If the buildings are accessed the charges relate to the Local Authority approved letting charges.

Maximising resources

This section should provide an overview as to how partners currently use their existing budgets to support children’s access to play opportunities. It should identify how budgets have been reprioritised as part of the 2013 Play Sufficiency Assessments and subsequent plans.

Please use this section to highlight what has changed since the 2013 Play Sufficiency Action Plan in terms of how resources are allocated.

Please also highlight how Welsh Government programmes have been used locally for the provision of play and how they have addressed priorities from your 2013 play sufficiency assessment:

Budgets have not been reprioritised as a result of the 2013 Play Sufficiency Assessment as budgets across departments have been reduced significantly and departments are struggling to achieve their own priorities with no margin to be able to reprioritise for play. Since the previous assessment the Local Authority Assets (fixed play equipment sites), and sports facilities are now on the Asset Transfer list for take over by the Town and Community Councils.

Groundwork Wales has delivered Sustainable Play, funded by Welsh Government’s Children and Families Delivery Grant in communities of Carmarthenshire during 2015. More support has been agreed for 2016 for Groundwork Wales.

Annual Play Sufficiency Welsh Government slippage funding (Play Opportunities Grant) has been received in January, 2013/2014, 2015 have enabled us to fund the following:

Amount of grant allocated	£ 79,004.00
Total amount of grant claimed	£79,004.00
Spend on increasing play opportunities under this award as set out by target/objective under proposal of use form:	
Target/objective 1 Meidrim Park: Installation of freestanding slide Supply and lay Safagrass 368 children under 18 yrs old live	£19,211.00

<p>within the Trelech Ward Llansteffan Inclusive Free Access Playground: 1xKompan DDA Supernova Roundabout 1xDDA Compliant access footpath into playground & connecting footpaths between play equipment and new DDA compliant access gate 264 children under 14 years old live in the Llansteffan Ward. Burry Port activities and enhancements: 1x Sensory Giraffe The playground is accessed by over 300 children and young people</p>	
<p>Target/objective 2 Blades Participation Day The young people attending were looked after by the Local Authority (LAC) and live in foster placement. Some placements are in very rural areas of the county. The young people have additional needs such as ADHD, low level mental health needs, and need 1:1 support. The two activities chosen for the day will allow the young people to take risks and challenge</p>	<p>£525.00</p>

<p>thus developing self esteem, support and team building. The participation session following the activities will involve the young people planning their timetable for the coming year. 20 young people aged 11-16</p>	
<p>Target/objective 3 Routine Inspectors Training for communities and a seminar on playground maintenance: Teen Zone and Kidz Zone clubs for children and young people with additional needs: Session delivery by Jugglestruck (Circus Skills). 30 children/ young people National Standards Cycle Training and 'Dr Bike' Cycle Maintenance Sessions Provided children with the skills required to undertake journeys on roads which encourage independent travel to play spaces. National Standards Cycle Training – 85 children - Dr Bike sessions 320 children Games Galore Training Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids Club to deliver bilingual Games Galore</p>	<p>£20,922.08</p>

workshops across 10 disadvantaged after school clubs across 160 direct beneficiaries.

Community Play – Llandybie

Open Access Play and Youth sessions during February half term offering a wide range of activities. 10 sessions of 4-16 children and young people.

Rural Play

Working with cluster schools offering play opportunities during lunch breaks to encourage more outdoor play for primary and secondary school pupils within the Taf, Tywi and Teifi Community Network areas.

Over 200 children and young people within rural areas of Carmarthenshire

St Clears Community Holiday Club

Bilingual Holiday Activity Club for 7-11 year olds ran in partnership with Menter Iaith Gorllewin Sir Gar, Urdd and Carmarthenshire County Council within the Taf Community Network area.

Cynllun Chwarae Cadog

The children within the club will be encouraged to play within the



<p>sessions and develop various skills to transfer to their free time.</p> <p>Delivery of Purple Routes sessions within 13 After School Clubs</p> <p>These clubs have previously received one session each from Purple Routes however a follow up support session is needed in order to consolidate the training and implement change within the delivery of play at the clubs</p> <p>200 children aged 5-11 years</p> <p>'Blue Dragonz' Peer mentoring Group</p> <p>Peer mentors and their young people meet on a weekly basis. The space within which they meet needs to be a vibrant and age appropriate play space designed to spark the imagination, promote non competitive interaction, facilitate outdoor play.</p> <p>13 mentees (10 – 25 years old).</p>	
<p>Target/objective 4</p> <p>Active Story time</p> <p>To provide Active Story Time session resources within accessible venues/settings across the county to develop the physical literacy of children. Each setting received training on the delivery of Active</p>	<p>£23,345.92</p>

Story Time and upon completion of the training the settings receive equipment and resources to deliver the sessions on an ongoing basis.

10 children per session between the ages of 0-7 years old.

1 session per week at 3 libraries, 3 Menter Iaith locations, 2 Communities first locations, 12 Family Centres, 3 Flying Start Settings and 3 Language and Play Settings.

After school club and holiday provision at Glanymor/Tysha Communities First Areas

Outside providers to deliver play sessions within the clubs during February Half Term

Afterschool club at Glanymor/Tyisha, Furnace and Bryn

Outside providers to deliver play sessions within the clubs during February Half Term

Cylch Meithrin Sancler

Pre school Welsh language nursery to enhance the opportunities for children to play through the medium of Welsh.

20 children aged between 2.5



and 4 years within a rural area of the county.

Teen Zone/Kidz Club Let's Grow Gardening Project

To provide an opportunity for messy play for children and young people with additional needs through gardening.

30 children and young people aged 8-18 years old

Teen Zone/Kidz Club

2 Go Karts for use by disabled children and young people to support inclusion with activities and to help develop fine motor skills and muscle strength.

Teen Zone/Kidz Club

Secure storage container for the resources for the clubs as they share space with mainstream clubs within the Integrated Children Centre

Dragon Bus

The mobile play bus visits very rural and disadvantaged areas throughout the county on a 9 month cycle and targets approximately 61 families with 81 children. The bus works with children from birth upwards and requires new resources to improve



the play environment for the children.

Smoke free Playgrounds

The smoke free playgrounds campaign will be introduced across all primary schools within Carmarthenshire through a specially developed lesson plan produced by the Play Sufficiency Officer. A competition will be launched within the schools to design a poster highlighting the importance of smoke free areas for children and the dangers of passive smoking. The winning school and child will receive a prize that will encourage play (den building kits and sessions) Number of children benefiting will be county wide.

Playful Walks Booklet

The Play Sufficiency Officer has worked in partnership with Public Health Wales to encourage families to become more active through walking and playing thus also contributing to the obesity prevention agenda.

Booklet Production: 4000 copies for

Cil y Cwm Youth Club



Cil y Cwm is a newly developed Youth Club. The children and young people living within the area have identified a need for an youth club and have been consulted with in relation to the resources/equipment they require Between 15 and 20 young people aged 10 – 15 years old.

Penygaer Primary school

Play Pod and paint for the school yard to provide a rich play environment to the children within the school.

The school also receive sessions from Purple Routes Play Providers to promote play opportunities during lunch breaks.

All children within the school will benefit from this service and resource.

Johnstown Primary School

Provision of an outdoor waterproof canopy to allow children to access the outdoor adventure play environment in all weathers. This promotes the health benefits of play through utilising the outdoor environment innovatively.



All attendees at the After School and Johnstown Holiday Care Club – Capacity 48, which includes 4/5 children with additional needs. And the children within the school (410)	
Target/objective 5 Carmarthenshire Integrated Children's Centres The centres are located within areas of high deprivation in relation to poverty and the families and children accessing the centres required a great deal of support and provision of safe and rich play environments for the children.	£15,000.00
Total spend	£79,0004.00

2014/2015

Amount of grant allocated	£94, 814.00
Spend on Securing Play Opportunities under this award as set out by target/objective under proposal of use form:	
Target/objective 1 - Purchase of publications from Play Wales	4747.00
Target/objective 2 - Roll out of 'Active Story time'	13,140.26

sessions in rural communities	
Target/objective 3 - Purchase of equipment to expand Bronze young ambassador play project	3055.69
Target/objective 4 - Training to promote challenging and stimulating play opportunities (CPCKC) – Mini Playworkers Toolbelt training for 12 learners	2190.00
Target/objective 5 - Purchase of resources/equipment for 3 Integrated Children’s Centres	21,548.45
Target/objective 6 - Purchase of resources/equipment for 13 family centres	25,659.38
Target/objective 7 - Purchase of equipment/resources for 10 registered after school and holiday clubs	18,097.23
Target/objective 8 - Purchase and installation of smoke free signage	1782.94
Target /Objective 9 - Purchase of 16 Busy Feet Explorers Toolkits and 1 bilingual training session for up to 40 attendees	1630.00
Target/Objective 10 - Funding to deliver 3 play days	2000.00
Target/Objective 11 - Purchase of sensory and play equipment for cafe facility at Llanelli Leisure Centre	1083.50
Total spend	94,935.45

Out of School Childcare Grant has enabled us to fund the following:

2015/2016

<p>3. Childcare Sufficiency - Menter Summer Play schemes shortfall</p> <p>To provide 'shortfall' funding to Menter groups to run Llangennech and Llandovery Summer Play Schemes in order to ensure that the schemes do not run at a loss, and to subsidise the cost to parents per day in order to ensure that cost is affordable.</p> <p>Llangennech Play Scheme registered for 24 children</p> <p>Llandovery Play Scheme registered for 18 children</p> <p><i>(This objective is linked to Recommendation 21 in Section 1 of our CSA (2014-17) / CSA Action Plan (2015-16))</i></p>	<p>£2,000</p>	<p>Up to 42 families able to access affordable holiday care in the above areas over the Summer holidays.</p>
<p>4. Childcare Sufficiency - Play schemes activity grants</p> <p>To provide small grants to registered settings to enable them to purchase age appropriate resources to ensure high quality provision that meets the needs of the children in attendance.</p> <p>Aim to support up to 25 Play schemes.</p> <p><i>(This objective is linked to Recommendation 21 in Section 1 of our CSA (2014-17) / CSA Action Plan (2015-16))</i></p>	<p>£2,500</p>	<p>Up to 25 Play Schemes able to offer varied age appropriate activities during summer holidays.</p> <p>If Play schemes offer varied activities/experiences the children are more likely to be engaged and want to continue to attend, thus making the schemes more financially sustainable.</p>

<p>6. Childcare Sufficiency - Dinefwr Play Scheme for children with disabilities</p> <p>To part fund the above scheme which offers up to 22 children bespoke activities for three weeks of the Summer holidays. This Scheme is specifically run for children who do not attend mainstream education and have profound disabilities. Staffing ratios within this scheme are high due to the nature of the children’s disabilities.</p> <p><i>This objective is linked to Recommendations 21 in Section 1 of our CSA (2014-17) / CSA Action Plan (2015-16)</i></p>	<p>£5,000</p>	<p>Up to 22 profoundly disabled children and their families will benefit from bespoke out of school holiday activities.</p>
<p>12. Play Sufficiency – Outdoor Play Days (Forest Schools, Brechfa) Children with Disabilities/Additional Needs</p> <p>To provide funding to enable Children and Young People with additional needs who attend Kidz Club and Teen Zone to visit Forest School in Brechfa. The children and young people will have opportunities for adventurous outdoor play sessions over two sites in an appropriately managed and safe context. The children will be able to choose from a variety of activities, including small hand tool use, fire skills, shelter building, woodland crafts, learning about woodland species and they will have the opportunity to play freely and imaginatively in the woods and on the ropes and nets provided.</p> <p>Up to 40 children/young people will benefit from these experiences/opportunities.</p> <p><i>(This objective is linked to Recommendation 1 and Outcome 1.6: in PSA Action Plan (2015-16)</i></p>	<p>£1,500</p>	<p>Up to 40 Children and Young People with additional needs who attend Kidz Club and Teen Zone able to access varied outdoor play opportunities.</p>
<p>13. Play Sufficiency – Planning , coordination and delivery</p>	<p>£13,044</p>	<p>Up to 130 children able to access and</p>

<p>of Open Access Play sessions within Morfa and Felinfoel Integrated Children’s Centres</p> <p>To fund part time /fixed term sessional Play Workers (employed and managed by Carmarthenshire County Council) to plan, coordinate and deliver Open Access Play sessions within Morfa and Felinfoel Children’s Centres. These are two of our most deprived areas within Carmarthenshire with significant numbers of children attending these sessions. 1 open access play session to be planned, coordinated and delivered per week in each of the two centres for 50 weeks of the year.</p> <p>100 Open access play sessions</p> <p>The decision to bring this post in house will enable us to provide additional sessions and provide continuity for children , families and staff at the centres. Last financial year £10,558 was utilised funding Purple Routes to deliver one session per week in two centres but for a six month period only. Sessional staff will be provided /funded by the two Children’s Centres (costs met in full by Carmarthenshire County Council) in order to ensure that there is a satisfactory child/adult ratio in order to provide high quality OAP provision.</p> <p>Up to 130 children and their families will benefit from these sessions across the two centres.</p> <p><i>(This objective is linked to Recommendation 4 and Outcome 4.1: in PSA Action Plan (2015-16)</i></p>		<p>benefit from open access play opportunities in Morfa and Felinfoel.</p> <p>Total of 100 open access play sessions delivered across the two centres during 2015-16.</p>
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2016/2017 (Subject to WG approval)

<p>3. Childcare Sufficiency - Menter Summer Play schemes shortfall funding to enable parents living in areas of rurality/greatest deprivation to access affordable holiday childcare</p> <p>To provide 'shortfall' funding to Menter groups to run Llandovery Summer Play Schemes and one play scheme in the Aman area of the County in order to ensure that the schemes do not run at a loss, and to subsidise the cost to parents per day in order to ensure that cost is affordable.</p> <p>Llandovery Play Scheme registered for 18 children</p> <p>Aman Play Scheme registered for 18 children</p> <p><i>(This objective is linked to Recommendation 30 in Section 1 of our CSA (2014-17))</i></p>	<p>£1,768.50</p>	<p>Up to 36 families able to access affordable holiday care in the above areas over the Summer holidays.</p>
<p>4. Childcare Sufficiency - Play schemes activity grants</p> <p>To provide small grants to registered settings to enable them to purchase age appropriate resources to ensure high quality provision that meets the needs of the children in attendance.</p> <p>Aim to support up to 25 Play schemes.</p> <p><i>(This objective is linked to Recommendation 21 in Section 1 of our CSA (2014-17) / CSA Action Plan (2015-16))</i></p>	<p>£2,000</p>	<p>Up to 25 Play Schemes able to offer varied age appropriate activities during summer holidays.</p> <p>If Play schemes offer varied activities/experiences the children are more likely to be engaged and want to continue to attend, thus making the schemes more financially sustainable.</p>

<p>6. Childcare Sufficiency - Dinefwr Play Scheme for children with disabilities</p> <p>To part fund the above scheme which offers up to 22 children bespoke activities for three weeks of the Summer holidays. This Scheme is specifically run for children who do not attend mainstream education and have profound disabilities. Staffing ratios within this scheme are high due to the nature of the children's disabilities.</p> <p><i>This objective is linked to Recommendations 21 in Section 1 of our CSA (2014-17)</i></p>	<p>£5,000</p>	<p>Up to 22 profoundly disabled children and their families will benefit from bespoke out of school holiday activities.</p>
<p>9. Play Sufficiency – Planning , coordination and delivery of Open Access Play sessions within Morfa and Felinfoel Integrated Children’s Centres</p> <p>To fund part time /fixed term sessional Play Workers (employed and managed by Carmarthenshire County Council) to plan, coordinate and deliver Open Access Play sessions within Morfa and Felinfoel Children’s Centres. These are two of our most deprived areas within Carmarthenshire with significant numbers of children attending these sessions. 1 open access play session to be planned, coordinated and delivered per week in each of the two centres for 50 weeks of the year.</p> <p>100 Open access play sessions to be delivered during 2016-17</p> <p>Up to 130 children and their families will benefit from these sessions across the two centres.</p> <p><i>(This objective is linked to Recommendation 4 and Outcome 4.1: in PSA Action Plan (2015-16)</i></p>	<p>£15,000</p>	<p>Up to 130 children able to access and benefit from open access play opportunities in Morfa and Felinfoel.</p> <p>Total of 100 open access play sessions delivered across the two centres during 2016-17.</p>

<p>10.Childcare and Play Sufficiency – Workforce Development Training opportunities</p> <p>From April 2016, the age range of registration of childcare in Wales will be extended from 8 years to 12 years, requiring more settings to register with CSSIW. There will be changes to the National Minimum Standards (NMS) for Regulated Child Care and the introduction of a new inspection framework.</p> <p>To comply with NMS, staff working within out of school childcare clubs need recognised qualifications appropriate to their post. A new Skills Active List of Required Qualifications to work within the Play work Sector in Wales (March 2015), lists specific Play work qualifications required for out of school childcare, holiday play schemes and others. (http://www.skillsactive.com/country/wales/list-of-required-qualifications-for-wales-playwork)</p> <p>Funding is required to support appropriate continuing professional development training opportunities for the local childcare and play workforce in Carmarthenshire. We will use the findings of our most recent CSA and second PSA to identify staff which will require training in order to meet National Minimum Standards. An up to date qualifications and training needs Audit is currently being undertaken as part of the second PSA. Data is not yet available. This will be complete in draft by 31.03.16 Some existing staff may need to complete for example the Managing a Holiday Play scheme (CPCKC) unit, others may need to complete the transitional module from Early Years in to play work if they are working in an after school play club.</p> <p>Unable to set specific targets until data from PSA has been analysed. The results of this will determine what training is</p>	<p>£5,000</p>	<p>Training needs of local childcare and play workforce able to be met in order to comply with National Minimum standards.</p> <p>Some settings are at risk of closure if funding is not available to support these staff to undertake necessary training. This will directly impact on the availability of childcare and play provision within the county.</p>
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<p>required and how many places are required.</p> <p>In the near future HMRC will be rolling out Tax Free Childcare – only clubs registered with CSSIW will be able to sign up to offer the scheme to their working parents.</p> <p>Clubs in Carmarthenshire may need to consider moving to become a registered provider if they are currently unregistered, as there is the possibility that parents will move to another registered provider able to offer the initiative, because it will make childcare cheaper for them. We may therefore need to run a number of CSSIW courses delivered by CPCKC to assist groups with the requirements of the registration process.</p> <p><u>Please note we are aware of ‘Progress for Success’. This new Programme is a work based learning up skilling programme and will not cover the costs of what is being proposed above.</u></p> <p><i>This objective is linked to Recommendation 34 and 43 in Section 1 of our CSA (2014-17)</i></p>		
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Families First:

Families First have previously funded open access play sessions at the Integrated Children’s Centres at Felinfoel and Morfa and also the Play Sufficiency Officer Post. However, Families First no longer funds Open Access Play Sessions or this post. As a result of Families First being unwilling to fund play, the Childcare Revenue Support Grant funds the full time Play Sufficiency Officer post and the Out Of School Childcare Grant supports play delivery sessions.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment and the Single Integrated Plan

This section should identify how the Play Sufficiency Assessments form part of the local needs assessment and to what extent the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan are integrated into the planning, implementation and review of the Single Integrated Plan.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment is fully integrated into the local needs assessment and Single Integrated Plan in Carmarthenshire. The evidence gathered and analysis undertaken as part of the Play Sufficiency Assessments process will be used to inform the broader needs assessment currently being undertaken and due to be published by no later than May 2017. The Play Sufficiency Assessment will continue to inform future revisions. As part of the requirements of the new Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act the findings of the broader needs assessment will inform the development of the new Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan which is due to be developed by no later than May 2018. This work is fed through the Children & Young Peoples Partnership and links to the Carmarthenshire Local Service Board (which is due to be replaced by the new Carmarthenshire Public Services Board and supporting structure from April 2016 onwards).

The current Integrated Community Strategy for Carmarthenshire 2011-16 (the Carmarthenshire version of the Single Integrated Plan) has been developed and implemented with full engagement of the Children & Young Peoples Partnership. The Partnership leads on a number of the goals identified in the Strategy. This arrangement will continue with the LSB taking the overall lead on the Single Integrated Plan.

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.

Lead Director: Robert Sully, Director of Education

Lead Member: Cllr Gareth Jones

Play Sufficiency Stakeholder Group was set up in 2012 as a result of the Play Sufficiency Duty. The group usually meets on a termly basis and monitors the progress of the yearly Play Sufficiency Assessment Action Plan. The Group met on a monthly basis from September 2015 – March 2016 in order to complete the second Play Sufficiency Assessment. The Play Sufficiency Officer is responsible for chairing the meetings and comprehensive minutes are circulated to all members along with a detailed agenda prior to each meeting. The benefits of such a group meeting is the ability to gain various perspectives and to understand the way in which each department and organisation works, their priorities and any new developments that take place are shared. Unfortunately, the challenges faced within the group are officers being able to dedicate time to attend meetings related to play sufficiency additional to their increasing workloads as a result of re structure and diminishing teams. It is also extremely difficult and frustrating to continue to monitor an Action Plan on a yearly basis when there is the absence of any regular funding to address the longer term actions.

Membership:

Mencap
Carmarthenshire Youth and Children's Association (CYCA)
Communities First
Integrated Children's Centre representative
Hywel Dda Public Health Team
Healthy Schools
Parks Department

Children's Disability Team
Corporate Property
Disability Sports
Sports Development
Road Safety
Forward Planning
Groundworks Wales

DRAFT

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.

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 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 General Comments: for each matter should 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.

The template should be monitored by the officer who is co-ordinating the Assessment and reviewed on a regular basis by the Play Sufficiency Working Group.

Matter A: Population

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should present data about the number of children living in the Local Authority to enable an assessment of their potential play requirements. The data should provide information about the numbers of children in different categories that may affect their play requirements. The data should also show if the area is classified as one of disadvantage/deprivation and whether a 5 year population projection is available.

RAG Status

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
There is data broken down by Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs)	GREEN	GREEN	2014 Ward Population estimates, mid 2014	NONE	Continue to use the Census information to inform the location of future play opportunities.
There is up to date data for ages:	GREEN	GREEN			
0-3	AMBER	AMBER	2014 Ward Population estimates, mid 2014 (experimental statistics)	They are population estimates and therefore are not completely accurate as the last Census was completed in 2011	Access PLASC data on a yearly basis to ensure that demographic details are up to date.
4-7	AMBER	AMBER	2014 Ward Population estimates, mid 2014 (experimental statistics)	They are population estimates and therefore are not completely accurate as the last Census was completed	When the development of new provision related to children and young people with disabilities is planned, ensure that

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
8-12	AMBER	AMBER	2014 Ward Population estimates, mid 2014 (experimental statistics)	in 2011 They are population estimates and therefore are not completely accurate as the last Census was completed in 2011	the most up to date demographic information is used
13-15	AMBER	AMBER	2014 Ward Population estimates, mid 2014 (experimental statistics)	They are population estimates and therefore are not completely accurate as the last Census was completed in 2011	
16-17	AMBER	AMBER	2014 Ward Population estimates, mid 2014 (experimental statistics)	They are population estimates and therefore are not completely accurate as the last Census was completed in 2011	
There is an up to date recorded number of disabled children in each age group	AMBER	AMBER	Childrens Disability Team will have information on the children who have been referred and accepted for support, they would have a severe and profound disability. PLASC has information related to the number of	Can not get full picture as there are many closed cases, some who are referred and do not meet criteria and some have not been referred. There is not one register that captures all children across the county with a disability.	

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
			pupils receiving support through the statementing process. Carmarthenshire Care First Data		
There is up to date information regarding the number of children for whom Welsh is their first language or attend Welsh medium schools	GREEN	GREEN	PLASC 2016	NONE	
There is up to date information regarding other recorded cultural factors, including other language, and gypsy traveller children	GREEN	GREEN	PLASC 2016	NONE	

General Comments: Population Measures

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

Demographic information

Population

Population information at mid-year 2014 estimates are available at Ward level. The table below shows the age breakdown for the

58 electoral wards in Carmarthenshire.

Ward	0-3	4-7	8-12	13-15	16-17	TOTAL
Abergwili	71	99	124	91	74	459
Ammanford	102	121	166	130	74	593
Betws	122	149	104	62	52	489
Bigyn	335	333	374	247	182	1471
Burry Port	142	162	211	147	77	739
Bynea	210	240	260	171	106	987
Carmarthen Town North	267	271	319	177	114	1148
Carmarthen Town South	132	139	136	93	76	576
Carmarthen Town West	262	341	328	185	125	1241
Cenarth	74	87	105	85	58	409
Cilycwm	51	38	80	56	34	259
Cynwyl Elfed	97	119	149	101	67	533
Cynwyl Gaeo	57	48	51	34	27	217
Dafen	169	184	216	127	91	787
Elli	117	130	173	94	89	603
Felinfoel	113	119	135	82	63	512
Garnant	106	106	140	79	62	493
Glanamman	96	119	118	77	68	478
Glanymor	420	347	300	182	135	1384
Glyn	88	95	115	67	52	417
Gorslas	169	169	199	128	93	758
Hendy	156	141	176	102	65	640
Hengoed	113	137	205	140	91	686
Kidwelly	166	172	218	136	105	797

Laugharne Township	117	113	139	84	54	507
Llanboidy	55	86	109	66	35	351
Llanddarog	80	82	98	52	37	349
Llandeilo	98	127	151	102	65	543
Llandovery	111	96	98	92	72	469
Llandybie	186	198	275	161	96	916
Llanegwad	77	90	131	96	50	444
Llanfihangel Aberbythych	58	79	103	67	47	354
Llanfihangel-ar-Arth	121	144	164	107	65	601
Llangadog	62	67	108	64	41	342
Llangeler	122	147	201	114	70	654
Llangennech	240	280	277	184	127	1108
Llangunnor	110	105	117	64	56	452
Llangyndeyrn	123	142	160	113	77	615
Llannon	238	274	271	171	122	1076
Llansteffan	45	58	79	62	46	290
Llanybydder	142	123	157	84	57	563
Lliedi	242	293	317	201	137	1190
Llwynhendy	302	276	276	181	121	1156
Manordeilo and Salem	63	80	112	81	49	385
Pembrey	150	208	244	172	124	898
Penygroes	141	132	164	90	69	596
Pontamman	119	89	134	90	65	497
Pontyberem	128	122	131	98	65	544
Quarter Bach	115	148	156	91	68	578
St. Clears	124	134	153	92	72	575
St. Ishmael	74	89	123	79	53	418
Saron	172	165	205	152	100	794
Swiss Valley	91	78	101	67	67	404

Trelech	57	67	111	55	49	339
Trimsaran	144	115	136	78	60	533
Tycroes	111	121	149	66	59	506
Tyisha	228	187	225	146	118	904
Whitland	92	77	134	79	60	442
TOTAL	7,973	8458	9911	6,294	4,433	37069

Source: Ward Population estimates for England and Wales, mid 2014 (experimental statistics).

Disability

It is possible to collect and collate information on children with disabilities from PLASC data. At present the available data is based on the 2016 cohort. The below tables do not specify areas, however this information is available upon request.

Number of Pupils in Carmarthenshire Schools with Statements - PLASC 2016

School_ID	School Type	Pupil's Age Ranges						Total
		0-3	4-7	8-12	13-15	16-17	18+	
	Primary Schools	4	120	180	0	0	0	304
	Secondary Schools	0	0	174	267	45	10	496
	Special Schools	1	13	39	42	8	17	110
Total number of pupils with Statements		5	133	393	309	53	17	910

Number of Pupils in Carmarthenshire Schools with Physical and Medical Difficulties - PLASC 2016

School_ID	School Type	Pupil's Age Ranges						Total
		0-3	4-7	8-12	13-15	16-17	18+	
	Primary Schools	18	105	74	0	0	0	197
	Secondary Schools	0	0	53	80	11	0	144
	Special Schools	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Number of Pupils with Physical and Medical Difficulties		18	106	128	80	11	0	343

Welsh Language

PLASC 2016 provides data related to the number of children for whom Welsh is their first language and attend a Welsh medium school.

School Type	Taught Welsh as a 1st Language
Number of children for whom Welsh is their first language or attend a Welsh Language school	13,637

Cultural Factors

PLASC 2016 provides data related to the number of children with another language and gypsy traveller children.

Description	British Gypsy / Gypsy Roma	Gypsy / Gypsy Roma	Other Gypsy / Gypsy Roma	Other Traveller	Traveller	Traveller of Irish Heritage	Total
Number of Gypsy Traveller children	42	15	2	2	12	37	110

Description	British	Welsh	English	Irish	Scottish	Other	Not Obtained	Total
Nationality of Pupils	8825	15735	1340	52	34	977	146	27,109

All of the above population data is and will be considered when any new play provision is planned. It is possible to plot the above demographic information onto maps in order to evaluate accurately where provision is needed in relation to highest population.




ACTIONS TO TAKE FORWARD:

- Continue to use the Census information to inform the location of future play opportunities.
- Access PLASC data on a yearly basis to ensure that demographic details are up to date.
- When the development of new provision related to children and young people with disabilities is planned, ensure that the most up to date demographic information is used

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.	

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
The play requirements of children living in isolated rural areas are understood and provided for	AMBER	AMBER	Cilycwm - Youth Club Llanegwad - community consultations Mynyddygarreg - community consultations Menter Iaith Provision: Menter Iaith Gorllewin Sir Gar YFC Groundwork Wales has delivered play sessions in identified rural communities There are 13 Family Centres within Carmarthenshire. Youth Club provision appears to be concentrated south of the county within the larger towns of Llanelli,	Lack of funding The community not wanting to take ownership on developing play within their communities. Lack of youth club provision north of the county Since the previous assessment we have lost the provision of the mobile playbus and the Mobi bus (youth provision).	Continue to support rural communities in developing play provision and in being able to access grants to become sustainable. Youth Club provision north and south west of the county needs to be considered. Continue to support the Welsh Language Holiday

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
			Ammanford and Carmarthen. There is no provision within the north of the county towards Newcastle Emlyn or South West towards St Clears and Whitland. Consultation Responses(see general comments)		Clubs via Menter laith and continue to work in partnership in delivering play sessions during the summer holidays
The play requirements of Welsh language speaking children are understood and provided for	AMBER	AMBER	Menter laith across Carmarthenshire Holiday Clubs Groundwork Wales' play sessions are offered bilingually, Young Farmers Clubs and the URDD	There are cost implications to accessing the Menter laith provision and Groundworks only deliver across three areas of the county	
The play requirements of children from different cultural background are understood and provided for	AMBER	AMBER	Groundwork Wales is supporting a community made up of traveller and non-traveller families	Further consultation is required to fully understand these needs	
The play requirements and support needs of disabled children are understood and provided for.	AMBER	AMBER	Consultation Responses indicate that parents of children with disabilities are not satisfied with the fixed play provision available within the county. Amanda Roberts from	At present the situation with the fixed play areas owned by the Local Authority are on a Asset Transfer list and therefore it is unsure at present who will have ownership of these parks which in	

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
			<p>MENCAP CYMRU is investigating the possibility of accessing funding to provide fixed play equipment within the playgrounds of Carmarthenshire.</p> <p>Kidzclub (Llwynhendy Children's Centre): Once a fortnight, 8-12 years old Teenzone (Llwynhendy Children's Centre): Once a fortnight, 13-18 years old Merlins (Carmarthen Town): weekly, 11-18 years old.</p> <p>There is an identified need for a club within the Ammanford town area as many of the children attending the Llanelli and Carmarthen clubs are from the Ammanford area. Early discussions are underway to consider the possibility of an integrated club with the young people attending the</p>	<p>turn will impact on the potential of them having disabled play equipment installed</p> <p>The provision is non statutory and therefore cannot provide the provision for free as the charges cover resources, days out etc. Children are charged £3 per session, and parents are responsible for transport</p> <p>The needs of disabled children are not always understood when trying to integrate them into mainstream provision. More work needs to be done in relation to preparing non disabled children and young people in accepting and understanding the needs of these children.</p>	<p>Mentoring Scheme or Buddy System within mainstream play provision / youth clubs to enable participation</p> <p>Support the development of a new club within the Ammanford area through funding applications and consider the club when any play sufficiency grants</p>

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
			<p>Giant Steps scheme in Carmarthenshire.</p> <p>Giant Steps offers activities for disabled young people aged 11-19 years old. The provision includes specific small groups on a weekly basis, individual support, family activity sessions to promote family cohesion and bonding, bespoke interventions based on assessed need and a range of activities developed in consultation with young people, their families and staff.</p> <p>There are Disability Groups that offer summer playschemes and after school clubs for disabled children and young people and provide a safe, stimulating and appropriate activities and offer an opportunity for socialising. The service is for children and young people aged 8-19 who have profound and</p>		<p>are allocated by Welsh Government.</p> <p>Support Mencap Cymru in developing fixed play areas for disabled children and young people within the county</p> <p>Continue to support the Dinefwr Playscheme via the Out of School Childcare Grant 2016/2017 £5000.00</p>

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
			<p>multiple learning difficulties, as well as socially and emotionally challenging behaviour. These clubs are located at Garreglwyd, Heol Goffa and Canolfan Elfed (Queen Elizabeth High School). Referrals to the service are accepted via TAF, CDT or the disability triage process.</p> <p>Sustainable Play is co-delivered with SNAP Cymru who have delivered inclusive play training to Groundwork Wales staff. This training is available to other organisations.</p> <p>The Out of School Childcare Grant funds the Dinefwr Playscheme (playscheme that is specific for children with additional needs) for 1:1 support whilst they attend the club</p>		
Play projects and providers have access to a range of resources which support inclusion	AMBER	AMBER	Disability Inclusion Training included within the Family Information, Childcare and Play termly training	Training needed for staff within play provision /youth club in relation to disability awareness	

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
			<p>programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Course for Children's Partnership 11/10/14 @ CLC 18 candidates. •Course for Children's Partnership 14/03/15 LLC 16 candidates Course for Children's Partnership 13/06/15 @ CLC 5 candidates. <p>Funding has been given to e Merlins, Kids Zone and Teen Zone Clubs for resources and Funding for Forest School trips.</p>	<p>training and how to educate the children and young people in being tolerant towards various disabilities of the needs associated with these disabilities.</p>	<p>Continue to offer inclusion training as part of the termly training programme and investigate the availability of training related to attitudes and acceptance for staff and children/young people within play and youth club settings.</p>
<p>There is a well known and agreed mechanism which is used to identify the need for separate provision for disabled children</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>There are clubs available for children with a disability within the county</p>	<p>Not aware of any other clubs apart from the ones previously mentioned that are available for children with learning disabilities. Usually, young people who have learning difficulties will access a mainstream club with a personal assistant.</p> <p>During consultations with</p>	<p>More support from Groundwork Wales in 2016</p>

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
				stakeholders they stated that more often than not children and young people with a physical disability wish to attend mainstream provision and that more provision is needed for children and young people with additional needs related to emotional, social and educational development.	<p>Groundwork Wales to share information with stakeholders who could promote play opportunities to any of these groups.</p> <p>Introduce the access audits as detailed within the toolkit to play providers across the county in a staggered approach</p> <p>Continue to consult with the Housing Officers and residents of the Gypsy Traveller site to</p>
Access audits for all play provision as described in the guidance are undertaken	AMBER	AMBER	Access audits are carried out on all Local Authority premises and buildings in line with the Disability Discrimination Act.	The access audits are not specifically the one described within the guidance	
Designated play space is provided and well maintained on gypsy traveller sites	RED	AMBER	New fixed play equipment area on the Penybryn Gypsy Traveller site, maintained by the Local Authority Housing department. Aled Williams and Steve Jarmin (needs analysis of Gypsy Traveller families within Carmarthenshire)	The fixed play area is suitable for all ages from toddlers to young people and therefore this is causing some problems at the site.	
The requirements of young carers are understood and provided for	GREEN	RED	There are young carers groups and adult young carers groups in	Unfortunately no questionnaires were returned by either group	

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
			Carmarthenshire. These groups were contacted in relation to conducting consultations and were given questionnaires to complete.		identify the play needs of the children and young people and resolve the problems relating to the shared play space.
The requirements of lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) children are understood and provided for	AMBER	AMBER	A LGBT youth group pilot project is in the process of being set up in Carmarthenshire. It is likely to take place in Llanelli due to the responses and feedback had so far.	This is a separate provision and therefore these children and young people are not integrated into mainstream inclusive provision.	Link with the Project Officer for the TRavelling Ahead Project to further consult with the Gypsy Traveller Community
The requirements of disabled children are understood and provided for within traffic and transport initiatives	AMBER	AMBER	All traffic and transport initiatives within the Local Authority are DDA compliant and subject to Equality Impact Assessments as stated within the Regional Transport Plans, for example dropped kerbs, cycle and walking routes. The specific requirements of disabled children and young people are taken into account when providing practical training e.g. Kerbcraft and Cycle Training. The courses are	NONE	Continue to liaise with the co-

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
			adapted where reasonably practical.		<p>ordinators of the young cares and adult young cares groups to ascertain the play needs of these children and young people.</p> <p>Continue to liaise with the co-ordinators of the LGBT youth group for Carmarthenshire to ascertain their play needs</p>

General Comments: 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 opportunities for playing?

In comparison to the previous assessment many criteria have had not change in relation to their RAG status. Although the previous

assessment has provided a platform from which more efficient and effective partnership working has developed, in particular in relation to children with disabilities, no substantial progress has been made in developing play opportunities that provide for diverse needs due to the lack of funding allocated to developing play provision within the years following the initial assessment. When funding has been made available, it has been on a very short timescale and therefore only enabling support to existing provision. In order to develop new provision to address the needs of these children and young people with diverse needs related to language, disability, culture or sexuality long term funding is required in order to ensure sustainability.

Rurality

It was acknowledged within the previous Play Sufficiency Assessment that the play requirements of children and young people living in isolated and rural areas of the county were not adequately met. As a result of the Play Sufficiency Assessment support has been given to the very rural area of Cil y Cwm to set up a youth club for the local children and young people. The youth club received funding from Play Sufficiency grants for resources and play delivery sessions.

The rural areas of Llanegwad and Mynyddygarreg have received advice and guidance on how to set up play / youth provision and consultations within the community have taken place in relation to ascertaining level of need and community ability to provide the play opportunities. Unfortunately members of the community are not prepared to take on the responsibility of developing as a community group in order to access funding for play development.

Menter Iaith Gorllewin Sir Gar is a Welsh language organisation covering the most rural areas of Carmarthenshire. The Menter puts on various events for pre school, primary age and secondary children on a regular basis in order to help address their play and / or hanging out opportunities.

The Young Farmers Club are a rural youth organisation dedicated to young people. It is led by young people for young people aged 10-26 years old. There are Young Farmers Clubs operating across the county.

Groundworks Wales has delivered open access play sessions within identified rural communities one of which being Parc Puw, Drefach Felindre. This is a large rural village with a local Cylch Meithrin and Primary School and hardly any access to play provision other than a fixed play equipment park.

The 13 Family Centres within the county have been developed to address issues related to deprivation and rurality. Two of these Family Centres are based at Pencader and Llanybydder which are classified as rural areas.

Unfortunately since the previous assessment the mobile play bus provision and Mobi youth bus have been lost due to funding cuts. These resources were addressing the play needs of the children and youth living within the most rural areas of the county.

Some of the children reported that they had to travel distances to access a fixed play area and various play or recreational activities. The village of New Inn was highlighted as an area with no provision that is rural and also Rhandirmwyn in the north of the County. However, the consultation questionnaire was not clear enough in specifying whether children lived in rural areas or not as only postcodes were requested. A more specific questionnaire related to rurality is need in order to ascertain the full play needs of the children living within these areas. Two of the Focus Group consultations with children took place in the villages of Pencader and Llandeilo, however the children living here reported positively with regards to the play opportunities available to them.

Language and culture

The Mentrau Iaith organisations operate across the county and offer various opportunities for children and young people to participate in leisure and recreational activities through the medium of Welsh. However, Mentrau Iaith do not offer Open Access play provision for children and young people as most of their activities take place within organised after school or holiday clubs.

Groundworks Wales offer bilingual open access play sessions within 3 areas of Carmarthenshire (Parc Puw, Drefach Felindre; Felinfoel, Llanelli and Maengwynne, Llanelli).

The Open Access Play sessions delivered by Groundworks Wales at Maengwynne Llanelli were accessible to the gypsy traveller community.

Urdd Gobaith Cymru provides the opportunity through the medium of Welsh for children and young people in Wales to develop personal and social skills. It also gives children the opportunity to socialise and access play and leisure opportunities through the medium of Welsh. The Urdd operates within Carmarthenshire and offers activities ranging from activities, trips and the Eisteddfod.

Several of the parents stated that there was a need for more provision through the medium of Welsh for the children and young people. In particular the sporting clubs accessed were mostly run through the medium of English.

Children and young people with disabilities

There are three clubs running within Carmarthenshire for children and young people with disabilities . These clubs are located within

the Llwynhendy Children's Centre and Dr Mz in Carmarthen town. Children and young people access these clubs through being transported by their parents/carers and pay a minimal fee to cover rental costs and running costs. The two clubs running from the Llwynhendy centre are oversubscribed and therefore it has been identified that a club is needed within the Ammanford area, which would free space within the Llanelli clubs.

There are some children and young people attending these clubs who could attend mainstream provision, however at present the mainstream clubs are not equipped with the knowledge and understanding of these additional needs to enable full inclusion and integration. This issue could be addressed through staff training and raising awareness amongst the children/young people of the mainstream clubs. However, there isn't much mainstream provision currently available across the county.

Parents and workers have stated that there is a deficit of fixed play equipment areas suitable for children with disabilities. And also, where there are playgrounds there are no facilities to cater for the children's needs i.e changing areas, toilets

Gypsy Travellers/Young Carers / LGBT/

The play needs of young carers and LGBT are not understood at present as no consultation responses were received from these groups, however, this will be followed up within the Action Plan for 2016/2017.

The Local Authority Gypsy Traveller site was visited by the Play Sufficiency Officer as part of the Play Sufficiency Assessment consultation process. Residents meetings are held every Tuesday afternoon with the Local Authority Housing Officers leading the meetings. Unfortunately only one resident attended the meeting, however she provided a valuable insight into the problems the residents face on a daily basis at the site. She reported that the fixed play area poses problems as the young people tend to hang out there and therefore the younger children keep away. She also reported that there were issues related to accessing play opportunities outside of the site due to lack of transport and people's negative perceptions of the gypsy traveller community. A residents meeting takes place every Tuesday (organised by the Housing Officer) with a purpose of discussing the needs of the residents, and providing support in becoming a constituted group in order to access funding streams such as Awards for All. The group also has input from Communities First who will provide taster sessions in hairdressing, flower arranging and some play sessions for the children. A strong message that was highlighted during discussions with the parent during the consultation was that they had no interest in participating in any course that were related to any qualification.

The Travelling Ahead project supports young Gypsies, Roma and Travellers to have a voice and therefore forums have been developed across Wales. Some young people from Carmarthenshire who are supported through the Education Service have attended the regional and national forums and two young women from Llanelli are on the Advisory Group. There is a South West regional forum event planned for after Easter 2016 where the Play Sufficiency Officer will be able to attend and consult with the young people

ACTIONS TO TAKE FORWARD:

- Continue to support rural communities in developing play provision and in being able to access grants to become sustainable.
- Youth Club provision north and south west of the county needs to be considered.
- Mentoring Scheme or Buddy System within mainstream play provision / youth clubs to enable participation
- Support the development of a new club within the Ammanford area through funding applications and consider the club when any play sufficiency grants are allocated by Welsh Government.
- Support Mencap Cymru in developing fixed play areas for disabled children and young people within the county
- Continue to support the Dinefwr Playscheme via the Out of School Childcare Grant 2016/2017
- Continue to offer inclusion training as part of the termly training programme and investigate the availability of training related to attitudes and acceptance for staff and children/young people within play and youth club settings.
- More support from Groundwork Wales in 2016 in delivering Open Access Play sessions within the county - consider the demographic information from Matter A when choosing locations for delivery.
- Introduce the access audits as detailed within the toolkit to play providers across the county in a staggered approach
- Continue to consult with the Housing Officers and residents of the Gypsy Traveller site to identify the play needs of the children and young people and resolve the problems relating to the shared play space.
- Continue to liaise with the co-ordinators of the young cares and adult young cares groups to ascertain the play needs of these children and young people.
- Continue to liaise with the co-ordinators of the LGBT youth group for Carmarthenshire to ascertain their play needs

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

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
The Local Authority has undertaken an Open Space Assessment (OSA) that maps areas that are used, or might be used for playing as listed	AMBER	AMBER	A green Space / Openspace assessment has been completed which seeks to establish the level of provision across a range of	The last Green Space / Open Space assessment was carried out in 2009 and was therefore based on the 2001 Census information. The	Update the Greenspace Assessment Review the

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
in the Statutory Guidance			recreational / open space facilities and assesses accessibility. It has been utilised to support and inform the land use policy provisions in the form of the LDP	assessment excluded beaches and rivers and focuses on Green space that is over 0.5 hectare in area and therefore does not include the small pockets of open / green space that children play on i.e th e lane behind the house, the street etc.	focus of the Greenspace Assessment to include Greenspace that is less than 0.5 hectare and thus giving a more accurate picture of the space available for children to play.
The Local Authority has undertaken an Accessible Greenspace Study that maps areas that are used for playing	AMBER	AMBER	A green Space / Openspace assessment has been completed which seeks to establish the level of provision across a range of recreational / open space facilities and assesses accessibility. It has been utilised to support and inform the land use policy provisions in the form of the LDP	The last Green Space / Open Space assessment was carried out in 2009 and was therefore based on the 2001 Census information. The assessment excluded beaches and rivers and focuses on Green space that is over 0.5 hectare in area and therefore does not include the small pockets of open / green space that children play on i.e th e lane behind the house, the street etc.	Internal liaison to ensure ongoing compatibility with planning policy at a local and national level. Requirement to consider position in terms of reviewing and updating the Greenspace Study – suggest
The Local Authority undertakes access audits at all open spaces and implements proposals to	GREEN	AMBER	The Green Space Assessment assessed a space in relation to the legitimate point of access.	Spaces are only assessed for their suitability for locating a fixed play equipment playground and if the area is	

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
improve access and safety			All Open Spaces are assessed for their suitability to become play spaces for children and are assessed in relation to accessibility, suitability and the type of provision they will provide. The spaces are also assessed in relation to the journeys children will take to access the space i.e busy roads, pavement etc. All audits will consider the DDA act	deemed unsuitable for this purpose the area will be left as a piece of green, open space.	that liaison be undertaken with County Council's Leisure Division. Liaise with Rachel Bowen (Contributions Officer) with regards to Section 106 allocations to use unallocated
The Local Authority has developed its own Open Space Standards in accordance with the advice and requirements of Planning Policy Wales	GREEN	AMBER	In taking forward the standards utilised by the Council's Leisure Department, the LDP sets out an accessibility standard of 2.4ha per 1,000 population of open space. Furthermore, it should be noted that the LDP provides a commitment to consider an increase in this standard to 2.8ha in accordance with the guidance issued with Planning Policy Wales Technical Advice Note 16.	Ongoing evidence in relation to the facilities that exist across the County – particularly in terms of building upon the initial Greenspace Study.	money for developing play spaces/provision within the specific development areas. Liaise with the local members within specific areas where there is unallocated section 106

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
The Local Authority undertakes and actions Play Space assessments which include actions to make public space clear from hazards	GREEN	GREEN	Section 106 funding allocate space for developing play provision. The space is assessed in relation to its suitability for providing for children's play needs. Matters such as location, surrounding provision, and decisions with regards to develop new provision or fund existing provision for improvement.	At present Section 106 allocations only consider the installation of fixed play areas to meet the play needs of the children and young people	funding and propose a programme of work to address the play needs of children and young people living within those specific areas. Contact the Local Member for Llwynhendy and develop a proposal of play development utilising the unallocated £5k from Section 106 funding. Work in partnership with the local community, Integrated Children Centre Manager and potentially the
Brownfield sites owned by the Local Authority are assessed for the potential for the site to be reclaimed to provide for children's play	AMBER	AMBER		Planning Policy Wales does not make reference to children's play on Brownfield sites. The Local Development Plan reflects National Planning Guidance in that it seeks to encourage new development on previously developed land.	

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
					local school.

Outdoor Unstaffed Designated Play Spaces

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
The Local Authority keeps an up to date record of all designated play space as described in the Statutory Guidance	AMBER	GREEN	120 Local Authority owned play areas. Corporate Property hold a list of parks and playgrounds for asset transfer. Community councils, clubs and local groups have a deadline for 31 st March 2016 if they wish to take these assets on. As part of the asset transfer process and under the Local Government Act 1972 all areas proposed for transfer to local management have been	NONE	To ensure that the lists are kept up to date on a regular basis to ensure that Local is kept up to date. Explore the potential of applying the Play Space

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
			<p>included in a public open space notice in the local paper with a 28 day consultation period for objections.</p> <p>I Local on the Local Authority website (http://local.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/) details information with regards to the location of parks and country parks.</p> <p>The Local Authority keeps a list of the fixed play equipment within schools in order to monitor that they comply with safety measures and to support the schools in installing appropriate and safe equipment. The Local Authority are working with the schools to develop fixed play equipment standards for schools.</p> <p>The authority's property database, assetmanager.net, contains information on all assets owned by the authority including information on asset type such as parks, playgrounds and amenity.</p> <p>Geodiscoverer maps council ownership and contains information on each asset.</p>		<p>Assesment tool as a way of assessing play spaces for their full play value.</p> <p>Ensure continued liaison with the Contributions Officer to ensure that children's play needs and access to play spaces is considered fully when decisions are made in relation to the 'Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 Agreements'.</p> <p>Action Plan developed to identify sites which are not in compliance in</p>
The Local Authority	AMBER	AMBER	The Local authority assess play	Play spaces are not	compliance in

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
assesses play spaces for play value and potential to increase in play use as set out in the Statutory Guidance			space for their suitability to children's needs in terms of location, accessibility and health and safety.	assessed in line with the Play Space Assessment as detailed within the Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit. Where a playspace is deemed unsuitable for fixed play equipment it is left as a green open space and not developed into a designated play space.	order that a programme of appropriate modifying work can be commenced. Explore the potential of applying the Play Space Assessment tool as a way of assessing play spaces for their full play value.
The Local Authority undertakes access audits at all designated play spaces and implements proposals to improve access and safety	AMBER	AMBER	The Local Authority assess spaces for their accessibility and the Open Space / Greenspace assessment assessed a space in relation to the legitimate point of access. Any issues related to access such as busy roads, lack of pedestrian crossings etc are passed to the Highways department for rectification. Access audits also ensure that play spaces are DDA compliant.	Funding for rectifying any issues related to access and safety are only likely to be rectified if the area in question falls under a Section 106 agreement where a sum of funding is allocated towards highways development. Any other play spaces needing improvement will depend on the budget available within the highways department.	Continue to promote the smokefree play grounds initiative and Hari, Heti and the Healthy Heart. And further publicise the introduction of smokefree playgrounds across
The Local Authority has developed and agreed a new fixed play provision	AMBER	AMBER	Previous design standards for playgrounds was formerly based on the "The Six Acre Standard" and the	Playgrounds installed on some Council owned sites prior to the new	

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
standard			<p>“National Playing Fields Association Standard”.</p> <p>The Fields in Trust (FIT) guidelines were introduced in August 2008 to update the “Six Acre Standard”.</p> <p>These new guidelines are entitled Planning and Design for Outdoor Play and Sport (PAD)</p> <p>Planning applications submitted are based on the FIT guidelines.</p> <p>All fixed play equipment installed now are fully compliant with the new standards.</p>	standards do not meet BS EN1176 & BS1177 therefore there is a need to identify these sites and develop an appropriate programme of work which will modify the provision accordingly.	Carmarthenshire.
The Local Authority undertakes and actions play space assessments in designated play spaces	AMBER	AMBER	The Local authority assess play space for their suitability to children's needs in terms of location, accessibility and health and safety.	Play spaces are not assessed in line with the Play Space Assessment as detailed within the Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit.	Work in partnership with the Housing Department Officer in reducing and eradicating the use of No Ball Games Signs and replace with Play Priority signage
The Local Authority has introduced smoke-free playgrounds	RED	AMBER	Smokefree Area signs have been installed within all LocalAuthority owned parks as a result of The Health Challenge Wellbeing Activity Grant 2014-15 and the Securing Play Sufficiency for children grant 2015.The Smoke Free Playground signs were officially launched at an event held on 11th March 2015 which coincided with National No	Consultation findings from the children, young people and parents have stated that smoking and smoking related litter remain to be a problem within their play spaces	Play Sufficiency Officer to be involved in the consultation process in the event of assets being disposed of by the Local Authority

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
			<p>Smoking Day. A Year 4 class of 32 pupils from Ysgol Penygaer, Llanelli showed their support for the campaign by attending the launch event at Parc Howard. Along with Ysgol Penygaer pupils, one of the winners who designed the sign from Richmond Park School in Carmarthen also attended the launch and got an opportunity to see her sign displayed outside the playground in Parc Howard. The pupils took part in educational activities such as learning about the importance of healthy lifestyles, the dangers of smoking, and the harmful chemicals which a cigarette contains. The Smoke free poster also features in the new 'Hari, Heti and the Healthy Heart' book which focuses on second hand smoke and the introduction of smokefree playgrounds. This book will be used as an educational tool for parents and settings.</p> <p>This piece of work was completed in partnership with Hywel Dda Public Health Team and Healthy Schools Co-ordinators.</p>		

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
The Local Authority has removed 'no ball games' signs to encourage more children playing in the community	AMBER	AMBER	The Local Authority Parks department has removed all No Ball Games signs across the Local Authority.	Housing Associations and LA HOusing Department erect No Ball Games signs within housing estates however there is no accessible list of the location of these signs.	
The Local Authority has erected signs, such as Play Priority Signs to encourage more children playing in the community	AMBER	RED	None	No signage is being erected within parks other than the smokefree signage which was grant funded.	
The Local Authority includes a recognition of the importance of playing fields to children's play when any disposal decisions are made	AMBER	AMBER	The authority is having to make significant cuts to its budget and is encouraging community asset transfer of recreational facilities. The authority is currently engaged in discussions with Town and Community councils and various sports organisations in relation to the transfer of parks, playgrounds and amenity areas. The authority is offering grant funding and advice to support the transfer of these facilities to local management and a number of transfers have already taken place.	Budgetary pressures imposed on the authority could result in the closure of some parks and playgrounds in the future, if there are no other organisations expressing an interest to take them over.	
The Local Authority	AMBER	AMBER	No playing fields have been	NONE	

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
includes children and their families in any consultations regarding decisions to dispose of playing fields			disposed by the authority for development to date. In the event of disposal of playing fields consultations would take place. Local Authorities must have regard to The Playing Fields (Wales) Regulations 2015. Under the Local Government Act 1972 section 123 (2a), Local Authorities must publish a notice in the local paper if they intend on disposing any open space and any objections must be considered. An Equality Impact Assessment must be carried out for loss of open space.		

General Comments: Open Spaces

How has the Local Authority ensured collaboration between Open Space Assessments (OSAs) and Play Sufficiency Assessments to improve spaces for play?

The Greenspace Assessment was conducted across Carmarthenshire in 2009 with the aim of identifying greenspaces and public spaces in Carmarthenshire and to assess the level of provision compared with the recommended standards for greenspace and play space. The results of the assessment can be used as a planning tool to identify gaps in provision and ensure open spaces are preserved for the

future. The assessment:

- Assesses the level of provision of accessible natural greenspace
- Assesses the level of provision of play space
- Assesses the level of provision of public open space including amenity greenspace, parks and gardens, and water bodies.

Major settlements were assessed for amenity greenspace, natural and semi natural space, play space and water bodies.

Unfortunately the greenspace assessment does not state whether these spaces are quality environments for play, 'hanging out' , in relation to being free from unacceptable harm, whether they are interesting and varied and there is no stipulation as to whether or not there is intention to make changes to these open spaces to ensure that they are accessible to children and enrich their play opportunities.

A Green Space Assessment was conducted by Carmarthenshire County Council in 2009. This assessment was based on 2001 Census data. Although the green spaces have been assessed in relation to being accessible there is nothing detailing whether the spaces are used by children for playing. The assessment also focuses on green space that is more than 0.5 hectares, however children usually play on much smaller pockets of land and on streets outside of their homes or lanes behind their houses.

The Local Development Plan was adopted by full council on 10th December 2014. Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) has been produced to elaborate and consolidate upon the provisions of the LDP in relation to Open Space and New Developments. Draft SPG was published for consultation in February 2016 with a view to adopting it as policy in due course. The Play Sufficiency Officer has worked alongside the Forward Planning Team in the production of this guidance. The Draft SPG is available here:

<http://ilocal.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/consultations/supplementary-planning-guidance-spg/>

Planning obligations are required towards the provision of open space in respect of developments of 5 or more dwellings. When housing developments are planned the developer is required to contribute via Section 106 agreements to various community facilities and services, with these largely comprising open space, play, recreation and leisure provision. Within Carmarthenshire, contributions related to the Section 106 for open space, play, leisure and recreation is allocated to the parks and Leisure sections who then identify what the local need is related to play and the money is spent accordingly. However, some funds remain unspent and unallocated and therefore there may be potential for this unspent allocation to be spent on play development that is not necessarily fixed play equipment, open space, leisure or recreation provision.

ACTIONS TO TAKE FORWARD:

- Update the Greenspace Assessment

- Review the focus of the Greenspace Assessment to include Greenspace that is less than 0.5 hectare and thus giving a more accurate picture of the space available for children to play.
- Internal liaison to ensure ongoing compatibility with planning policy at a local and national level.
- Requirement to consider position in terms of reviewing and updating the Greenspace Study – suggest that liaison be undertaken with County Council's Leisure Division.
- Liaise with Rachel Bowen (Contributions Officer) with regards to Section 106 allocations and the potential to use unallocated money for developing play spaces/provision within the specific development areas.
- Liaise with local members within specific areas where there is unallocated section 106 funding and propose a programme of work to address the play needs of the children and young people living within those specific areas.
- Contact the Local Member for Llwynhendy and develop a proposal of play development utilising the unallocated £5k from Section 106 funding. Work in partnership with the local community, Integrated Children Centre Manager and potentially the local school at Llwynhendy. Use this as a good practice example to encourage other Town and Community Councils to follow similar methods. Any proposals to be sent to the Contributions Officer and Head of Planning for approval

Other Comments on Outdoor unstaffed designated play spaces

Up to date register

I Local plots on a map of Carmarthenshire the location of fixed play areas, skateparks, beaches, parks, open spaces, tennis courts and paddling pools. The Local Authority Parks Department has a comprehensive list of the locations of MUGAs, skateparks and shelters owned by the Local Authority.

Play Space Assessments

At present a Play Space Assessment tool as detailed within the toolkit is not currently being used within Carmarthenshire. At present, the future ownership of the play spaces is under review. Expressions of Interest from communities for taking over ownership of assets are due in by 31st March 2016. As soon as the Assets have been transferred and ownership agreed, there is potential for communities to be supported in maintaining their plays paces, and therefore as part of this support, play space assessments should be included.

Smokefree Playgrounds: All Local Authority owned playgrounds at present have had smokefree playgrounds signs installed. However, the consultation responses from children and parents is that adults smoking within playspaces and smoking related litter remains to be a problem within fixed play equipment sites. Therefore, more work needs to be done in promoting the smokefree initiative within

Carmarthenshire potentially in partnership with Healthy Schools and Hywel Dda Public Health team.

Access Audits

Access audits are completed in relation to spaces being DDA compliant, however the detail of the Access Audits within the toolkit is not applied within Carmarthenshire.

No Ball Games sign / Play Priority signs

The Local Authority has removed all signs related to No Ball Games, however due to budget cuts and lack of funding there are no Play Priority Signs. However, the Housing Department remains to use No Ball Games signage to address issues within their housing estates. More work needs to be done between the housing officers and Play Sufficiency Officer to address the issues related to children's play within housing estates.




ACTIONS TO TAKE FORWARD:

- To ensure that the lists of fixed play provision are kept up to date on a regular basis to ensure that Local is kept up to date.
- Explore the potential of applying the Play Space Assessment tool as a way of assessing play spaces for their full play value.
- Ensure continued liaison with the Contributions Officer to ensure that children's play needs and access to play spaces is considered fully when decisions are made with relation to the 'Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 Agreements'.
- Action Plan developed to identify sites which are not in compliance in order that a programme of appropriate modifying work can be commenced.
- Explore the potential of applying the Play Space Assessment tool as a way of assessing play spaces for their full play value.
- Continue to promote the smokefree playgrounds initiative and the Hari, Heti and the Healthy Heart resource and further publicise the introduction of smokefree playgrounds across Carmarthenshire
- Work in partnership with the Housing Department Officer in reducing and eradicating the use of No Ball Games Signs and replace with Play Priority signage
- Play Sufficiency Officer to be involved in the consultation process in the event of assets being disposed of by the Local Authority

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.	

Play work provision

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
The Local Authority keeps an up to date record of all supervised play provision as described in the Statutory Guidance	AMBER	AMBER	A record is kept within the Family Information Service of all registered play provision. Youth Club provision within the county is kept on I Local.	Since the previous assessment we have now lost the mobile playbus, mobile youth bus and toy library. There is no adventure playground or play rangers within Carmarthenshire. It is a challenge to keep the database up to date as this is reliant on organisations informing of changes, updates etc.	Ensure the application of the Playwork Principles (Tool 10 within the toolkit) and Quality Assessment Tool (Tool 11 within the toolkit) are used within the Local Authority supervised play provision. Ensure that the above tools are used on a regular basis to ensure that the quality of the provision is consistent.
The Local Authority offers play provision which offers a rich play environment as described in the Statutory	AMBER	AMBER	Open Access Play at Morfa, Felinfoel and Llwynhendy run on a weekly basis and	NONE	Continue to fund the Open Access play sessions delivered via the ICC's through the Out of School

Guidance			provide rich play environments as described. The children have the opportunity to participate in a variety of play types offering play with all of the elements.		Childcare Grant 2016/2017 Work in partnership with the Childminder Development Officer and the Childcare Development Officer in introducing tools 9 and 10 of the toolkit to supervised/registered settings to ensure high quality rich play environments.
The Local Authority ensures that partners are supported to offer rich play environments as described in the Statutory Guidance	AMBER	AMBER	<p>Training opportunities related to play is offered as part of the Family Information, Childcare and Play termly training programme. All settings across the county are able to access this training.</p> <p>Advice and Support is available via the Play Sufficiency Officer in relation to providing rich play environments within settings. This advice and support is in the form of packs containing ideas for play, training sessions within settings. For example</p>	Unsure how many settings at present use tool 9 and 10 of the Toolkit.	<p>These Quality Assessment tools should be used as a means of assessing for quality within the Childcare Sufficiency Assessments.</p> <p>Continue to distribute the Playful Walks booklets as a means of providing varying play experiences for children whilst also addressing physical activity levels in children.</p> <p>To engage with any National initiative to address issues related to quality of play provision.</p> <p>Continue to fund the playschemes within Carmarthenshire via the Out</p>

			<p>Menter Iaith holiday clubs are visited each summer by the Play Sufficiency Officer where the staff are shown a variety of different ways in which play is offered to the children.</p> <p>Playful Walks booklet in partnership with Hywel Dda Public Health Team have been developed as a tool to encourage settings to take children out on walks and be active. These booklets are also available to families. Training sessions have been provided to setting staff in using the booklets and also various family events have been attended across the county to promote the use of the booklet when encouraging families to become more physically</p>	<p>There is very limited capacity in distributing the booklet county wide with accompanying training.</p> <p>There is currently no funding available to re print these booklets as soon as the current stock has diminished.</p> <p>There is no capacity to monitor the effects these booklets have had in increasing physical activity and play within the home or within settings.</p>	<p>of School Childcare Grant 2016/2017 to ensure the children are offered planned high quality play provision.</p>
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			active through play.	
Staffed play provision that the Local Authority provides meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards	STATUS	AMBER	The Play Leader responsible for the staff delivering play within the open access play at Morfa, Felinfoel and Llwynhendy Integrated Children's Centres ensures that National Minimum Standards are adhered to.	NONE
Staffed play provision that the Local Authority funds meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards	STATUS	STATUS	The Local Authority does not fund external staffed play provision.	NONE
Staffed play provision that the Local Authority's partners provide meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards	GREEN	GREEN	Mentrau Iaith CYCA	
Staffed play provision across the Local Authority works to a recognised quality assurance programme	RED	RED	NONE	There is currently no recognised Quality Assurance tool /programme being implemented within Carmarthenshire at present
The Local Authority priorities quality issues	GREEN	RED	At present due to	Limited capacity to deliver play sessions

when engaging with/ commissioning the private sector to deliver recreational activities for children.			funding constraints the Local Authority does not commission the private sector to deliver recreational activities.	internally and unable to fund external partners to deliver play sessions.	
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	RED	RED	NO - Buildings/premises are charged based on the Local Authority charging guidelines	LA buildings and premises currently charge for use.	

Structured recreational activities for children

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
The Local Authority is delivering on its responsibility to secure the services set out under Core Aim 4 for sport, leisure and culture	GREEN	GREEN	Sport, Leisure and Culture opportunities are detailed in Outcome 1 of the Integrated Community Strategy – People in Carmarthenshire are Healthier. 1.1 of the Strategy relates to ensuring each child has the	NONE	To widen the type of organisations that request funding through the LAPA.

			<p>best start in life and within this section, key areas of work are being undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •By ensuring all children are physically literate (have learnt core skills such as running, balancing, throwing and catching) by the age of 7. <p>By ensuring that all young people undertake 60 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity five times per week.</p> <p>In addition, 1.2 focuses on preventing ill health and encourages healthy and active living. One of several objectives is improving inclusive access to volunteering, employment, leisure</p>		
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			<p>and play opportunities.</p> <p>1.3 of the strategy - Improving the Emotional, Mental Health and Well-being of all people in the County Includes the objective of improving play opportunities and in particular play opportunities for disabled children</p>	
<p>The local “Creating an Active Wales” plan is increasing play and recreational activities for children</p>	<p>GREEN</p>	<p>GREEN</p>	<p>The following strategies and documents provide evidence to support the work being undertaken in this area: Leisure Vision Leisure Business Plan Individual Leisure Functions’ Business Plans</p> <p>The 3 key headline statements of the leisure Vision are: 1. Every person given</p>	

		<p>the opportunity to take part in activity and be as healthy as they possible can</p> <p>2.Where every person is an active participant at a 'community club'</p> <p>3.Where every child is hooked on physical activity for life</p> <p>Each of the leisure functions must provide actions to measure the three key statements above.</p> <p>In addition to the above documents, the LAPA and Play Strategy also contribute to the Creating an Active Wales Plan.</p> <p>A Sports Plan has been created for all Sport officers to coordinate their work</p>		
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			<p>by developing and deliveing Carmarthenshire Sports and Lesiure visions, link into the Play Sufficiency Action Plan and stragetic aims of Creating and Active Wales.</p> <p>The Sports plan includes a focus Sport Steering group which meets once a month to ensure the outcomes of the plans are achieved.</p>		
<p>Local Authority Partnership Agreements (LAPAs) are contributing to increasing free play and recreational activities</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>The LAPA details activities that are both free (no charge) and those more structured activities in which there is a cost to the participant. All the Sport Wales funded programmes within the LAPA provide progress updates every quarter via the internals PIMS reporting system.</p> <p>LAPA funding feeds</p>	<p>Traditionally, the LAPA has supported National Governing Bodies of Sport, Public Health Wales and FE and HE.</p>	

			<p>into Carmarthenhire Focsu Sport to develop the pathway of particiaption from gradle to grave.</p> <p>The LAPA provides a funding stream for those organisations that need some funding to further enhance structured recreational activities.</p>		
The sports agenda contributes to the provision of sufficient recreational activities for children	GREEN	GREEN	Through the statements above, this criteria is being addressed and met	NONE	
The cultural and arts agenda, is contributing to the provision of sufficient recreational activities for children	AMBER	AMBER	Carmarthenshire is home to a number of theatres and cinemas offering unique experiences. Many of the buildings are historic, recently renovated and brought up to date to accommodate all kinds of entertainment including orchestras, cabaret, full stage productions, and film screenings. In	These provisions are not available at no cost, however, there are concessions for children/young people	

		<p>addition, Carmarthenshire also offers a range of modern, new theatre and cinema experiences. There are a wide range of family friendly attractions in Carmarthenshire, with something to suit all ages. With such a varied landscape, Carmarthenshire offers a wide range of sports, outdoor and leisure activities. These include canoeing, horse riding, golf, fishing, cycling and extreme sports. They can be found across the mixture of rural parks, forests and coastline. Activity centres provide a high quality service with importance placed upon safety, value for money, and enjoyment</p>		
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<p>The Local Authority Youth Service provides for children’s opportunities for leisure and association</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>The Youth Service within Carmarthenshire works with young people aged 11-25. Young people can get involved in Duke of Edinburgh Awards, Youth Clubs, Holiday Activities, Residential opportunities, Multimedia, Film Making and Animation and Outdoor Education.</p>	<p>Most rural areas of the county may find these provisions inaccessible. There is no known youth club provision in very rural areas of the county.</p>	
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General Comments:

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?

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

At present the Quality Assessment Tool (Tool 11 within the Toolkit) has not been used within either settings assessed as part of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment or other settings outside of the remit of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment. However, this is a shortfall that is acknowledged as being extremely beneficial and essential to the sufficiency of quality play opportunities for children and young people. Therefore, this will be acknowledged as a priority area for work within the Childcare and Play Sufficiency Action Plans

for 2016/2017. Furthermore, there is no Quality Assurance initiative in place within Carmarthenshire for settings to work towards and therefore in the event of a national initiative being developed, Carmarthenshire County Council will engage fully with such an initiative.

Open Access Play Sessions at Morfa, Felinfoel and Llwynhendy Integrated Children's Centres

Llwynhendy OAP – Tuesday – 5:30-7:00pm – Ages 7-11 – no parents

Morfa OAP – Wednesday – 3:00-4:30pm – Ages 4-11 – 4-6 year olds have to be accompanied by parent

Felinfoel OAP – Thursday – 3:00-4:30pm – Ages 4-11 – 4-6 year olds have to be accompanied by parent

Sessions are planned termly as a team. Skills Active Guidelines as well as Play Wales guidelines are followed and the following elements are part of the planning of activities : self-directed play in a public space, risk-play, play with children of all ages so that they get the opportunity to play alone or with others, the natural world and elements, loose parts, role play, rough and tumble play and. There is always an activity outdoors even if the weather is poor so that the children have a choice of what they would like to do.

Within the Morfa and Felinfoel centers, the sessions take place immediately after School therefore a snack is provided to the children whether it is something made for them or part of an activity which they can make their own food. Parents enjoy this element of the session also as they take leadership in this and like to get involved and cook with their children. Therefore, the sessions are both teaching the children and the parents and helps build on their relationships with each other through a fun and relaxed environment. These sessions are a good way of gaining an understanding of how the parents are coping and therefore, introducing the parents to other courses that the centre may be running at that time including Parenting Courses and Language and Play groups. In addition, a Support Worker attends the sessions so that if the parents have any worries or concerns then they can speak to them and the Support Worker can try to help them. For example, a mother was recently having housing issues and under threat of eviction, the Support Worker phoned Council Housing and was able to communicate for the mother and solved the problem for her. Therefore the Open Access Play groups are helpful not only for the children but for the parents and family as a whole.

Each quarter attendance figures are increasing and staff have established a very good relationship with the neighbouring Schools resulting in more referrals.

CYCA are a registered children's charity that operates throughout the county of Carmarthenshire. They specialise in providing emotional health and wellbeing support for children, young people and families through a range of projects and services, all with the ultimate aim of improving the lives of people throughout the county.

As well as specialist wellbeing services, they also run a variety of play clubs through After School and Holiday sessions, as well as operate 3 Flying Start Nurseries.

1) After School Club: Children aged 3-11years old

Venue	Days and Times	Costings
Dewi Sant Play Centre	Tuesdays and Thursday's 3-5.30pm	£4.50 per session
Bryn	Monday -Thursday 3.10-5pm	£4.50 per session
Furnace	Monday – Thursdays 3.25-5.20pm	£4.50 per session

Please note Bryn and Furnace After school club are not CSSIW registered

2) CYCA Holiday Club: Children aged 3-11years old

Venue: Dewi Sant Play Centre	Days and Times	Costings
February	15 th -19 th Feb. 8am-6pm	Half Day 8am-1pm / 1pm-6pm £11 Full DAY 8am-6pm £18
Easter	29 th March-8 th April 8am-6pm	Half Day 8am-1pm / 1pm-6pm £11 Full DAY 8am-6pm £18
Whitsun	30 th May- 3 rd June 8am-6pm	Half Day 8am-1pm / 1pm-6pm £11 Full DAY 8am-6pm £18
Summer	21 st July-26 th August 8am-6pm	Half Day 8am-1pm / 1pm-6pm £11 Full DAY 8am-6pm £18

October	24 th -28 th October 8am-6pm	Half Day 8am-1pm / 1pm-6pm £11 Full DAY 8am-6pm £18
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Example of youth provision within Carmarthenshire over February half term

Monday 15th	Mountain biking. Venue: Brechfa	£10/HEAD
Tuesday 16th	5 a side football tournament. Venue: Bwlch Youth Centre, Llanelli	FREE
Tuesday 16th	Table Tennis tournament. Venue: Bwlch Youth Centre, Llanelli	FREE
Wednesday 17th	Animal Care workshop	£10/HEAD
Thursday 18th	Trip to St.Fagans National History Museum	£5/HEAD
Friday 19th	Motocross Venue: Ynysbwl Motocross Track	£10/OWN BIKE £20/YOUTH SERVICE BIKE

The IT, Film and Animation Project gives the opportunity to develop and learn new skills and experiences in film and stop motion animation. From attending a film/animation project from start to finish, young people will learn how to storyboard, learn camera techniques, model/plasticine building, music production and video editing.

All work completed by young people are OCN accredited.

There are a variety of drop-in sessions throughout Carmarthenshire where young people can pop in for a chat and a coffee!

Where?	Day(s)	Time
Streets Youth Centre, Ammanford	Wednesdays	2:30pm – 4pm
Carmarthen, Quay Centre	Tuesdays	1pm – 3pm
Bwlch Youth Centre, Llanelli	Various	Contact us

ACTIONS TO TAKE FORWARD:

- Ensure the application of the Playwork Principles (Tool 10 within the toolkit) and Quality Assessment Tool (Tool 11 within the toolkit) are used within the Local Authority supervised play provision. Job Descriptions and Person Specifications to include reference to Quality Assurance and the Playwork principles.
- Ensure that the above tools are used on a regular basis to ensure that the quality of the provision is consistent.
- Support playschemes in utilising the Playschemes activity grant (Out of School Childcare Grant 2016/2017) to plan for quality play provision.
- Continue to fund the Open Access Play sessions running from the Integrated Children’s Centre (via the Out of School Childcare Grant 2016/2017)
- Work in partnership with the Childminder Development Officer and the Childcare Development Officer in introducing tools 9 and 10 of the toolkit to supervised settings to ensure high quality rich play environments. These Quality Assessment tools should be used as a means of assessing for quality within the Childcare Sufficiency Assessments.
- Continue to distribute the Playful Walks booklets as a means of providing varying play experiences for children whilst also addressing physical activity levels in children.
- Continue to distribute the Playful Walks booklets as a means of providing varying play experiences for children whilst also addressing physical activity levels in children.

- To engage with any National initiative to address issues related to quality of play provision.

Structured Recreational activities for children

Actif Story Time

Funding was allocated via the Play Sufficiency Grant for 2014/2015 & 2015/2016 to develop fundamental skills in young children in settings such as in family centres, preschool and libraries. Funding included training, Play 2 Learn resource pack and equipment such as spots, parachute, fluff balls, bean bags.

The settings were encouraged to run weekly sessions and they have adopted Active Story time into their settings

Sessions have taken place in:

- Carmarthenshire main libraries Carmarthen, Llanelli, Ammanford
- Family centres x 8
- Pre School Settings x 15
- Additional partners Twf, Language and Play, Menter

The Sports Plan for Carmarthenshire makes clear links with the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan in providing play opportunities for children and their families.

ACTIONS TO TAKE FORWARD:

- To widen the type of organisations that request funding through the LAPA.

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.	

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
The Local Authority keeps records of the number of children living in low income families	GREEN	GREEN	National Statistics Data on Child Poverty - DWP shows the number of children living in low income families by LSOA (Children in families in receipt of CTC (<60% median income) or IS/JSA. Also CACI Paycheck Data by Postcode Level	NONE	Continue to refer to the demographic information related to deprivation, rurality and disability when any new provision is planned across Carmarthenshire. Investigate the possibility of recording in more detail the cost of provision and ensure that information related to cost of premises and cost of provision is requested.
The Local Authority keeps records of the number of children living in areas of deprivation	GREEN	GREEN	There are 14 Communities First Areas (which are the most deprived	NONE	Ensure that Julia Harries (Assistant Information Officer) is updated via the Family Information Service and / the Play Sufficiency Officer of

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
			<p>areas). Data is available broken into ages via community first area. The most deprived area within Carmarthenshire is Lliedi which has 520 0-19 year olds living there.</p> <p>Also WIMD Data 2015 Domain Ranking Table is available to detail deprivation in terms of a variety of factors.</p>		<p>any Play and/or recreational activities within the county that are not already included on I Local.</p> <p>Continue to support communities in accessing funding streams and signposting to services such as CAVS for information regarding available grants. Provide letters of support and advice and guidance to communities expressing an interest in setting up play provision within their areas.</p>
The Local Authority keeps records of the number of children living in rural areas	GREEN	GREEN	WIMD Access to Service Data shows that there are 3,316 0-19 year olds living across the 10 most deprived areas in relation to access to services deprivation.	NONE	<p>Out of School Childcare Grant to fund Menter Iaith Summer Playschemes for shortfall incurred in providing low cost provision</p> <p>Out of School Childcare Grant to fund OAP session at the ICC's to enable no cost provision for the children and their families</p>
The Local Authority keeps records of the number of disabled children and those with particular needs.	GREEN	GREEN	The Local Authority keeps records of the number of disabled children and those with particular need	NONE	Support Groundworks Wales

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
			as stated within Matter A and B of the assessment		in identifying areas for delivery of no cost open Access Play provision (based on rurality and economic deprivation
The Local Authority records the availability of no cost provision	AMBER	AMBER	The Family Information Service has information with regards to the Open Access Play sessions running free of charge from the three Integrated Children's Centres. The FIS receives updates from the Purple Routes play provider The Local shows the provision available throughout the county, however it does not directly record cost as this is a variable that can change and therefore by not recording it there is less of a risk of information being out of date.	NONE	

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
			The Local Authority keeps records of the number of disabled children and those with particular need'.		
The Local Authority records the provision of no cost / low cost premises used for play provision	RED	RED	The Family Information Service has information with regards to the Open Access Play sessions running free of charge from the three Integrated Children's Centres, there is no charge for the premises as the provision is run by the Centre itself. The FIS receives updates from the Purple Routes play provider. This play provision runs from local parks where charges do not apply. However, Purple Routes are currently running at	<p>Not all provision is currently mapped on I Local as this form of recording provision is in its infancy, however there are plans to develop the service further and extend the variety of information provided through consultations with the community which will feed the information provided by I Local</p> <p>Most schools who responded to the consultation questionnaire stated that the cost for accessing the premises was related to the Local Authority guidance for renting.</p>	

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
			<p>very limited capacity due to funding constraints.</p> <p>I Local shows the provision available throughout the county, however it does not directly record cost as this is a variable that can change and therefore by not recording it there is less of a risk of information being out of date.</p> <p>Consultation questionnaires were sent to all schools across Carmarthenshire. These questionnaires contained a question relating to the availability of the school premises outside of teaching hours and also the charges for using</p>		

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
<p>The Local Authority records the provisions where grants or subsidies are available for play providers</p>	<p>GREEN</p>	<p>GREEN</p>	<p>the premises if available.</p> <p>Regeneration Department supports communities in accessing various grants that are accessible for play providers and signposting to Carmarthenshire Association for Voluntary Services</p> <p>Out of School Childcare Grant provides grant to Menter laith playschemes in order for them to keep the costs incurred to families to a minimum (funding covers the shortfall)</p> <p>Out of School Childcare Grant funds OAP sessions</p>	<p>NONE</p>	

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
			<p>at the ICC's to ensure no cost play provision for the children and their families.</p> <p>Groundworks Wales delivers no cost Open Access Play Provision within rural and deprived areas of the county</p>		
<p>The Local Authority provides subsidised transport for children travelling to play opportunities</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>The Local Authority funds local bus services which would not otherwise be provided commercially, therefore maintaining a network of services even in rural areas. In addition to traditional bus services, the Authority has developed innovative flexible demand responsive services, such as</p>	<p>NONE</p>	

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
			<p>Dial-a-Ride services and the Bwcabus scheme which provides services in more rural areas where conventional bus services will not be possible. These supported services provide access from many communities to their nearest centres at which facilities such as schools, play areas, community activities etc. are located and without which there would be no public transport links.</p> <p>Under 16s have one third off the cost of an adult ticket.</p> <p>Under 5s (not occupying a seat) may travel for free if he/she is in the charge of a fare paying passenger.</p> <p>16-18 year olds</p>		

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
			have discounted fares.		

General Comments: Charge for play provision

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

When play opportunities are planned the demographic information of the county is considered along with deprivation levels related to financial deprivation and access to services deprivation and location of play provision is planned accordingly. When National Play Day events are organised by the Local Authority the location of the events will be decided related to the aforementioned factors. All Play Day events are at no cost to the children, young people and their families.

The **Open Access Play sessions** delivered within the Integrated Children’s Centres are free of charge and therefore the children and families within these areas have access to no cost provision and data shows that many families living in poverty / deprivation are living within the catchment areas of the centres. At present this is the only Local Authority Open Access Play provision that is delivered, and is delivered with no cost to the users.

Llwynhendy OAP – Tuesday – 5:30-7:00pm – Ages 7-11 – no parents

Morfa OAP – Wednesday – 3:00-4:30pm – Ages 4-11 – 4-6 year olds have to be accompanied by parent

Felinfoel OAP – Thursday – 3:00-4:30pm – Ages 4-11 – 4-6 year olds have to be accompanied by parent

Groundworks Wales offers play sessions within the rural area of Drefach Velindre at no cost to the children and families. They also deliver within the deprived areas of Maengwynne (Llanelli) and Felinfoel (Llanelli). These sessions are delivered free of charge and the locations are decided upon in relation to rurality and poverty.

Purple Routes: There are no regular weekly Open Access Play delivery within Carmarthenshire due to a lack of funding and the Local Authority not commissioning work to outside agencies.

Mentrau Iaith:

- **CwmGwendraeth a Elli**

Clwb Gofal Llangennch - 3.00 - 5.30, Llun - Gwener - £5.50

Clwb Gofal Llanddarog - 3.30 - 6.00, Nos Lun Nos Fawrth a Nos Iau £5.00

Clwb Gofal Gwenllian - 3.00 - 5.30 - Llun - Gwener £4.00

Clwb Gofal Llannon - 3.00 - 6.00 - Llun - Gwener - £6.00

Clwb Gofal Pontyberem - 3.20 - 5.10 Llun - Gwener - £3.75

Clwb Gofal Pum Heol - 3.15 - 5.30 - Llun - Gwener £6.00

Clwb Joio Drefach - 3.20 - 5.00, Dydd Llun, Mawrth a Iau

Clwb Joio Cefneithin - 3.00 - 4.50 - Dydd Mawrth a Mercher - £3.35

Clwb Joio Cross Hands - 3.30 - 5.00 Dydd Llun a Iau - £3.50

Clwb Joio Trimsaran - 3.15 - 4.45, Dydd Llun, Mawrth a Iau - £2.75

Clwb Joio Gorslas - 3.30 - 5.00 Dydd Llun - £3.75

Clwb Joio Llechyfedach - 3.30 - 5.00 Dydd Mercher £2.75

Clwb Joio Pontiets - 3.30 - 5.00 - Dydd Lun, Mercher a Iau £3.75

Clwb Joio Ponthenri - 3.30 - 5.00 - Dydd Mawrth a Mercher £3.50

Clwb Joio Gwynfryn 3.30 - 5.00 Dydd Iau £3.50

Clwb Joio Bancffosfelen - 3.30 - 5.10 - Dydd Mawrth £3.50

Clwb Drama Gwenllian - 3.10 - 4.30 Nos Iau £3.00

Theatr Plantos Bach - 4.15 - 5.30 Nos Fawrth - £30 per half term

Theatr Ieuenctid - 6.00 - 8.00 - Nos Fercher _ £40 per half term

- **Gorllewin Sir Gar**

Menter Iaith Gorllewin Sir Gar encourages and supports community, linguistic and economic development for public benefit and creates sustainable communities that are naturally bilingual and prosperous. They operate in an area that extends from Llanybydder to Newcastle Emlyn, to Carmarthen, St Clears and Whitland.

- Encourage more families to use the Welsh Language
- Get more young people to communicate through the medium of Welsh
- Encourage more people to use the Welsh Language in the community

Community development projects to:

- Introduce the latest technologies and computer equipment to local residents through purposeful demonstrations by integrating the older generation and nervous, less experienced individuals, into the modern world of communication
- Assist communities to implement projects that plug the gaps and have access to services and social inclusion in the rural areas of Carmarthenshire
- Increase the frequency of arts and cultural events and to improve the capacity of community groups to implement successful and sustainable events through the medium of Welsh in the rural areas of Carmarthenshire.

Play sessions are delivered for primary school aged children free of charge at Llanfihangel ar Arth (rural area) on Saturdays.

The **Family Centres** operating across the county are located within deprived areas and offer their services for free, this type of provision is for

preschool children and their families.

Other provision both rural and within areas of deprivation will incur a cost for families (albeit there are concessions) such as activities within Leisure Centres, clubs such as, scouts, and any sporting / recreational activities. Children are able to access free swimming on allocated days during school holidays.

Unfortunately, within the current economic climate it is extremely difficult to provide no cost provision, however, there are concessions available to families.




ACTIONS TO TAKE FORWARD:

- Continue to refer to the demographic information related to deprivation, rurality and disability when any new provision is planned across Carmarthenshire
- Investigate the possibility of recording in more detail the cost of provision and ensure that information related to cost of premises and cost of provision is requested.
- Ensure that Julia Harries (Assistant Information Officer) is updated via the Family Information Service and / the Play Sufficiency Officer of any Play and/or recreational activities within the county that are not already included on I Local.
- Continue to support communities in accessing funding streams and signposting to services such as CAVS for information regarding available grants. Provide letters of support and advice and guidance to communities expressing an interest in setting up play provision within their areas.
- Out of School Childcare Grant to fund Menter Iaith Summer Playschemes for shortfall incurred in providing low cost provision
- Out of School Childcare Grant to fund OAP session at the ICC's to enable no cost provision for the children and their families
- Support Groundworks Wales in identifying areas for delivery of no cost open Access Play provision (based on rurality and economic deprivation)

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.	

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
The Local Authority keeps an up to date record of the number of 20 mph zones/school safety zones in residential areas	GREEN	GREEN	Up to date list kept by the Traffic Management section	NONE	Maintain the list to reflect Carmarthenshire At present the department is reviewing the monitoring system currently used and are exploring the potential development of a monitoring team. When the new systems have been developed consideration is to be given to the impact of speed reduction and road safety measures on children's access to play opportunities.
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	AMBER	AMBER	Road Safety Statistics are gathered and the impact of initiatives is assessed	The impact in relation to children and young people accessing play opportunities is not recorded and measured	
The Local Authority has a plan(s) to reduce the negative effect of busy	AMBER	AMBER	When information is received regarding a 'busy road' the Traffic	There is no specific plan that directs this work as it is demand and priority led.	

<p>roads and junctions through the introduction of speed reduction measures and provision of safe crossing points/routes for pedestrians and cyclists</p>			<p>Management section will assess the road in accordance with the Road Safety and Footway Improvement Programme and make changes accordingly.</p>	<p>Areas are tackled in order of priority</p>	<p>Road Safety and Transport departments to have access to the mapping of various play provision across the county in order to facilitate the monitoring process</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>A great deal of this work is completed through various initiatives within the Transport Department, in particular Safe Routes in the Community. The Regional Transport Plan focuses on improving access to destination sites such as parks, employment and health centres.</p> <p>The Local Authority has a programme of Walking and Cycling linkages it is delivering subject to successful external funding applications, this includes the Amman Valley Cycleway, Urban Connections, Pembrey Canal, and The Towy Valley Cycleway all of which promotes healthy</p>	<p>There is no specific focus on access to play opportunities.</p>	<p>Play Sufficiency Officers to ensure that any issues relating to traffic prohibiting children from accessing play opportunities within their communities is communicated to Traffic Management Section.</p> <p>Continue to provide initiatives that support access to play opportunities and ensure that children's access to play is considered when delivering plans related to access</p> <p>Traffic Management Section to have access to up to date information with regards to the location of play opportunities across the county. Ensure that the Traffic Management Section has access to consultation responses that highlight road safety as a barrier to accessing play opportunities</p> <p>Investigate the barriers to road closures further</p>

			<p>active lifestyles as well as linking up communities and facilities (including areas of play) Further we continue to implement our Safe Routes in the Community programme which provides safe walking and cycling linkages targeting primarily children and young people to improve safe access to school and community facilities including parks, sports facilities and other areas of play</p> <p>The LDP, in association with other elements of an integrated transport strategy (RTP, ROWIP), makes provision for the promotion of alternative means of transport, including through design provisions within new developments.</p>		<p>Liaise with Swansea City Council for feedback on their road closure initiatives Investigate the 'Kids in the Streets' initiative in Edinburgh funded via Children in Need.</p> <p>Continue to use Manual for Streets in the planning of new developments within the county.</p> <p>When information is received with regards to a child pedestrian road accident casualty consideration to be given to the location of the accident and whether the child was 'playing' or accessing play when the accident occurred in order to implement positive change at the site of an accident and thus reducing future risks of child accidents.</p> <p>Knowledge of the available play opportunities within Carmarthenshire for children and young people in order to be able to assess the impact of providing or reducing bus services within an area.</p>
<p>There is potential for the Local Authority to take further action to reduce</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>NONE</p>	<p>Although a great deal of work is being completed to improve road safety, there</p>	<p>Closer partnership working with the Play Sufficiency Officers in relation to consultations with children and</p>

traffic speed and improve road safety to promote play opportunities				isn't specific consideration being given to play opportunities at present	young people with regards to transport barriers in accessing play opportunities.
The Local Authority uses road safety grants and/or other funding to support delivery of cycling training for children to national standards	GREEN	GREEN	There is a record available of schools across the Local Authority who have participated in cycle training for children.	NONE	
The Local Authority uses road safety grants and/or other funding to provide pedestrian safety training for children	GREEN	GREEN	Kerbcraft is offered to schools across the Local Authority	NONE	
The Local Authority has an accessible and well-known way of arranging temporary road closures, to support more children to play outside their homes	RED	RED	NONE	There are many Health and Safety implications for this piece of work in particular in relation to liability, and roads can never be fully closed as emergency services vehicles will always have access. However, Swansea City Council are piloting temporary road closures for children's play.	
The Local Authority refers to <i>Manual for Streets</i> when considering new developments and changes to the highway	GREEN	GREEN	The principles of Manual For streets 2 are firmly embedded in our Highways Planning Liaison Function		

network/urban realm			ensuring that all new development in particular residential sites wherever possible adopt the principles contained within MfS and in doing so encouraging a street environment that is safe and conducive to play		
The Local Authority works to nationally recognised good practice guidelines when developing walking and cycling facilities	GREEN	GREEN	CCC Have adopted the Design and Delivery Guidance linked to the WG Active Travel Legislation of 2013 in developing and delivering all new walking and cycling facilities	NONE	
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	AMBER	GREEN	CCC Have adopted the Design and Delivery Guidance linked to the WG Active Travel Legislation of 2013 in developing and delivering all new walking and cycling facilities Safe Routes in the Community looks at the numbers of accidents within the community as	The number of pedestrian road casualties are recorded but are not specific to child road accident casualties. However, the figure for pedestrian road casualties was only 11 for 2011 and therefore the actual number of child (if any) road casualties would be less.	

			a whole.		
The Local Authority considers children’s needs to access play opportunities when making decisions about public transport planning and expenditure	AMBER	AMBER	When developing services within the county the transport department take into account the destinations travelled to and the facilities within those destinations.	Particular consideration is not given to the accessibility of play opportunities of children and young people. Welsh Government will be reducing budgets for transport departments within the coming financial year which will have an adverse effect on children and young people who rely on public transport for accessing play opportunities.	

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.

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
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)	AMBER	AMBER	Family Information Service website has a clearly defined play section I Local website	I Local and the FIS website are separate and have different information and therefore there is not a single website that encapsulates all of the information I Local is not currently representative of all provision	Ensure that the websites are updated on a regular basis with new information, ideas. Ensure that Assistant Information Officer is updated via the Family Information Service and /

				across the county. However, there are plans to further develop the information contained on I Local which is available to the public	the Play Sufficiency Officer of any Play and/or recreational activities within the county that are not already included on I Local.
The Local Authority provides information on access to play opportunities and contact for support if required	AMBER	AMBER	<p>Family Information Service website and contact telephone number. The FIS also has contact information for provision as does I Local.</p> <p>There is information held on I Local with regards to transport i.e bus routes.</p>	NONE	<p>Continue to use avenues such as social media (Twitter and Facebook) to advertise and promote play.</p> <p>Continue to engage the media when events take place related to play.</p> <p>Produce a timetable for the year (April to March) for updating the play section of the FIS Website with monthly themes and helpful hints and tips for parents/carers</p>

The Local Authority supports and publicises events which encourage play opportunities and events for children and families	AMBER	AMBER	@playsirgar Twitter Local Authority Facebook page Family Information Service website Local newspapers	NONE	Promote play opportunities at planned events by partner agencies to promote children's rights to play
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<p>The Local Authority publicises information which contributes to positive community attitudes to play</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>Articles provided for local media with regards to play. @playsirgar Twitter Local Authority Facebook page Family Information Service website Local newspapers</p>	<p>Where events are published within local media these are usually done after the events and on an irregular basis..</p>	<p>and the importance of play to children and young people</p>
<p>The Local Authority publicises helpful hints and support for parents to help them encourage their children to play</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>The play section of the Family Information Service website contains information, advice and ideas in relation to play and the importance of play to children and young people Playful Walks Booklets distributed to parents and carers encouraging play through walking (completed in partnership with Hywel Dda Public Health Team).</p>	<p>The information is not updated on a regular basis</p>	
<p>The Local Authority widely uses on-site signposting to safeguard and promote play</p>	<p>RED</p>	<p>RED</p>			
<p>The Local Authority</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>The local media are</p>	<p>The media do not always attend</p>	

engages with the media to encourage the positive portrayal of children playing in the local area			contacted when events, playdays etc are planned.	and when they do attend they do not always print the stories/pictures.	
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DRAFT

General Comments: 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?

The Local Authority Transport and Engineering Department hold an up to date record of the 20mph/ school safety zones within the county. Currently, the Local Authority use Stat 19 DATA to assess the impact of initiatives, however the analysis of the statistics does not focus on the impact on children and young people specifically. However, these monitoring systems are being reviewed and it is intended that more consideration is to be given to children's play opportunities and the road safety issues related to accessing the provision. The Play Sufficiency Officer needs to ensure that up to date mapping of provision is available to the Transport and Engineering Department in order to facilitate the development of the monitoring systems.

The Transport and Engineering Department relies on receiving information from communities when there are issues relating to busy roads etc. Historically, during consultations with children, young people, parents/carers and communities the issue of busy roads and road safety has been highlighted and therefore any consultations responses related to these issues need to be communicated to the relevant officer within the Transport and Engineering Department in order for remedial action to be planned and actioned.

The Welsh Government will again be supporting various schemes and initiatives through the Local Transport Fund, Road Safety and Safe Routes in Communities Grant to local authorities in 2016-17.

All schemes receiving funding have to contribute to the achievement of the targets contained in the Road Safety Framework for Wales by 2020 against the 2004-8 baseline as follows:

- A 40% reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured;
- A 25% reduction in the number of motorcyclists killed and seriously injured;
- A 40% reduction in the number of young people (aged 16-24) killed and seriously injured.

Carmarthenshire County Council have applied for funding for 6 initiatives, including the four priority areas i.e. Pass Plus Cymru, Motorcyclist Safety Initiatives Programmes, Kerbcraft and National Standards Cycle Training.

The two additional revenue funding bids for the Welsh Governments' Road Safety Grant are required to be supported by appropriate evidence and specific plans for evaluation, therefore we are no longer able to bid and fund the Children's Traffic Club and the Gari Gosafe Gang initiatives due to a lack of available evidence and evaluation in achieving the targets set out in the above mentioned Framework.

The following initiatives are offered to schools across Carmarthenshire:

The Junior Road Safety Officers Scheme involves empowering children to highlight and promote road safety issues within their school. This is done through raising awareness among other pupils, teachers and the local community, while maintaining strong links with the Road Safety Unit.

Every school taking part is encouraged to elect two Junior Road Safety Officers from Year 6.

The Junior Road Safety Officers have four key areas of responsibility:

- putting up and maintaining a prominent notice board.
- running school competitions.
- giving class or assembly presentations on road safety topics.
- promoting road safety campaigns such as Walking to School and Conspicuity etc.

It is important that someone in the school supports the Junior Road Safety Officers on a regular basis, be it a class teacher, classroom assistant or parent. The Road Safety Officer will visit the helper and Junior Road Safety Officers a number of times during the school year.

The Kerbcraft scheme has been designed to teach children aged 5 to 7 how to be safer pedestrians.

The practical road-side training is undertaken by trained parent volunteers under the watchful eyes of a Child Pedestrian Training Coordinator. The training programme focuses on a set of clearly defined pedestrian skills:-

Choosing Safe Places and Routes to Cross the Road – Children are helped to recognise dangers and hazards and identify alternative crossing places.

Crossing Safely Between Parked Cars – Children are taught how to use a safe strategy for crossing by parked cars – when avoiding them is impossible.

Crossing Safely near Junctions – Children are introduced to the problems of simple and complex junctions, and taught a strategy for looking systematically in all directions.

Training is progressive and each phase building on the foundation laid by earlier phases which prepares children for future safety on the road.

Funded by the Welsh Government, the 'Kerbcraft' scheme supports the council's aims of improving child road safety.

The road safety unit offers cycle training schemes to all primary schools in the county.

At primary school level the training takes place either in the playground or, if suitable conditions exist on a road near the school.

Whilst on the training course the children are taught general road safety skills, and they become more aware of what is going on around them.

This will be the child's first road vehicle, and correct habits and attitudes created at this stage could set the standard for all future riding and driving.

At the end of the course the children should be able to:

- Understand the differences between riding and playing on a bike.
- Ride their bicycle under full control, when looking behind, manoeuvring, starting, stopping and signalling.
- Know how to identify faults on their bike that affect their safety, and understand the need for the bike to be well maintained.
- Understand the dangers involved in riding on the road, and how to cope with road and traffic situations.
- Recognise potential hazards and to take action to avoid them.
- Understand the benefits of lights, reflectors, high-visibility clothing and helmets.

The more comprehensive National Standards training course is offered to quite a number of schools that meet the criteria as set, and funded, by the Welsh Government.

Education in schools: A team of road safety professionals visit pre-school groups, primary and secondary schools and also colleges within the county to:

- Provide resource material for teachers.
- Encourage and assist schools to include road safety in their curriculum work.
- Talk directly to children and parents about particular aspects of road safety.
- Help and advise schools to include road safety matters in school policy documents.
- Help to resolve road safety problems relating to the school site.
- Promote local and national campaigns.

The consultations with children, young people and parents/carers have highlighted that one of the most common barriers to accessing play opportunities is road safety and transport. Parents feel that there is a need for more traffic calming measures to limit the speed of road traffic and safer places to cross roads. Children also feel that they are unable to access play opportunities safely. Young people stated that transport for arriving at play/leisure opportunities was an issue for them.

ACTIONS TO TAKE FORWARD:

age 339

- Maintain an up to date record of the number of 20 mph zones/school safety zones in residential areas list to reflect Carmarthenshire
- At present the department is reviewing the monitoring system currently used and are exploring the potential development of a monitoring team. When the new systems have been developed consideration is to be given to the impact of speed reduction and road

safety measures on children's access to play opportunities.

Road Safety and Transport departments to have access to the mapping of various play provision across the county in order to facilitate the monitoring process

• Play Sufficiency Officers to ensure that any issues relating to traffic prohibiting children from accessing play opportunities within their communities is communicated to Traffic Management Section.

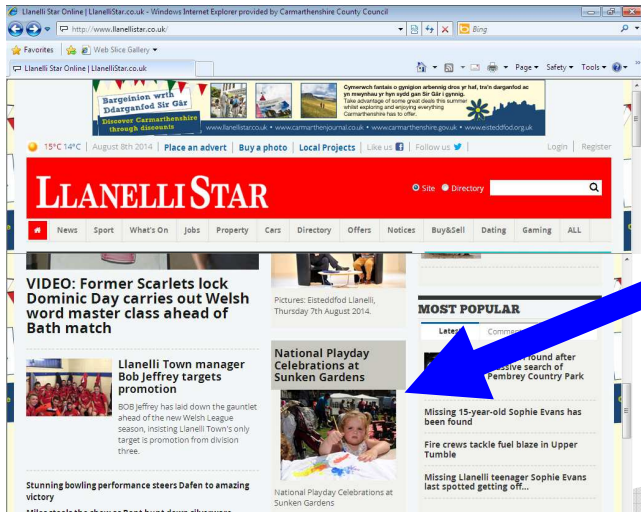
- Continue to provide initiatives that support access to play opportunities and ensure that children's access to play is considered when delivering plans related to access
- Traffic Management Section to have access to up to date information with regards to the location of play opportunities across the county.
- Ensure that the Traffic Management Section has access to consultation responses that highlight road safety as a barrier to accessing play opportunities
- Investigate the barriers to road closures further
- Liaise with Swansea City Council for feedback on their road closure initiatives
- Investigate the 'Kids in the Streets' initiative in Edinburgh funded via Children in Need.
- Continue to use Manual for Streets in the planning of new developments within the county.
- When information is received with regards to a child pedestrian road accident casualty consideration to be given to the location of the accident and whether the child was 'playing' or accessing play when the accident occurred in order to implement positive change at the site of an accident and thus reducing future risks of child accidents.
- Knowledge of the available play opportunities within Carmarthenshire for children and young people in order to be able to assess the impact of providing or reducing bus services within an area.
- Closer partnership working with the Play Sufficiency Officers in relation to consultations with children and young people with regards to transport barriers in accessing play opportunities.

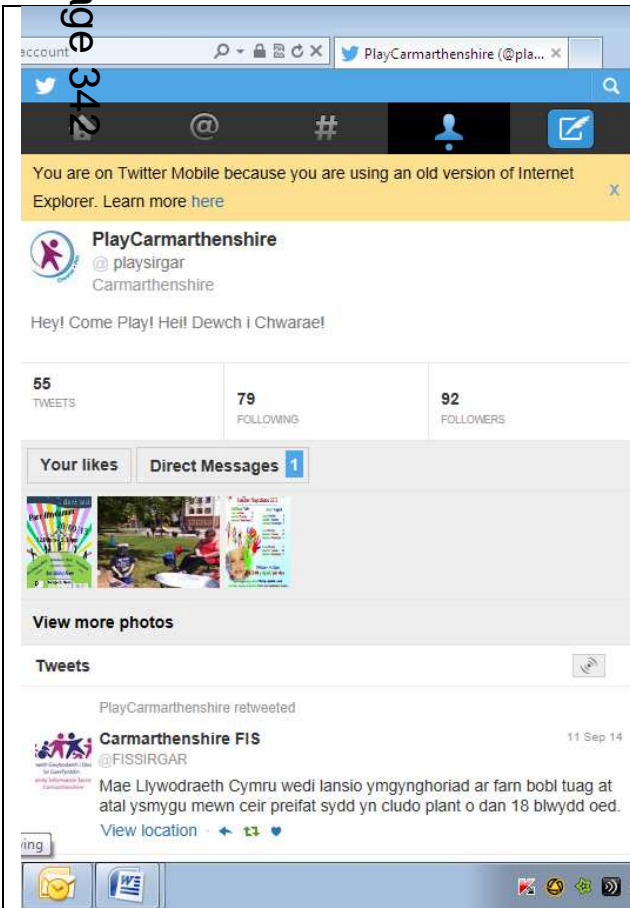
General Comments

Information, publicity, events

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

The Local Authority ensures that all events are publicised as widely as possible to ensure that families are aware of what is going on across the county. A variety of avenues are used to publicise the information such as Twitter, Facebook, the FIS website, Carmarthenshire Youth Council website and press releases.





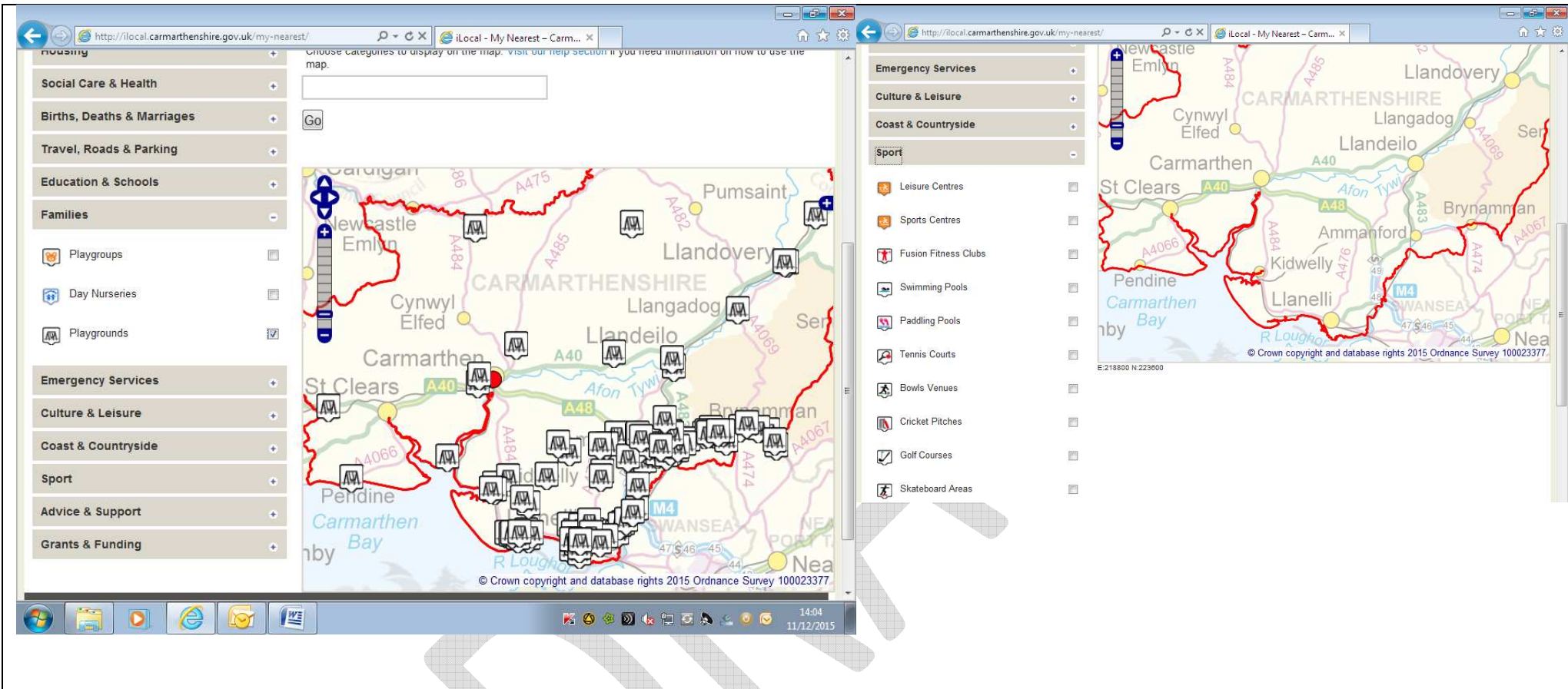
The Family Information Service website has a clearly defined play section on the website.

The image shows two browser windows side-by-side. The left window displays the main homepage of the Carmarthenshire Family Information Service. It features a navigation menu on the left with categories like Home, About Us, Childcare Search, Family Support Services, Child Development, Schools & Education, Play, Sport & Leisure, Health & Well-being, Money Matters, Staying Safe, Welsh language, Youth Zone, Additional Needs/Disability, Contact Us, and Latest Consultations. The main content area has a welcome message and a grid of service tiles including 'Family Information, Childcare and Play', 'Team Around the Family (TAF)', 'Families First', 'Flying Start', 'Integrated Children's Centre', and 'Communities First'. The right window shows a page titled 'Welcome to Carmarthenshire Family Information, Childcare and Play'. It contains a similar navigation menu and a main text block explaining the service's mission. Below the text are several service tiles: 'Funding for three year olds', 'Childcare Sufficiency Assessment', 'Play Carmarthenshire', 'Professionals', 'Language and Play', and 'Childcare'. At the bottom of the right window, there is a search facility for childcare services near the user.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Play Carmarthenshire website. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://fis.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/play/index.html>. The website has a purple sidebar navigation menu with the following items: Child Development, Education & Training, Play, Sport & Leisure, Health & Well-being, Financial & Legal, Staying Safe, Welsh language, Childcare Search, Funding for 3 year olds, Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, and Contact Us. Below the menu is a 'Positive parenting' banner. The main content area features a header with the Play Carmarthenshire logo and a quote: "The right to play is the child's first claim on the community. Play is nature's training for life. No community can infringe that right without doing deep and enduring harm to the minds and bodies of its citizens." - David Lloyd George, 1928. Below this is an 'About Us' section stating that the Play Team can support in various ways, including play training, sessions, creating playful environments, cost-effective resources, advice, and funding support. At the bottom of the main area is a grid of 12 colorful buttons: Play Sufficiency Assessment, Training/Playwork, Play in Schools, Play and Challenge, Play Spaces, Ideas and Games, Play Policy, Children's Right to Play, Health, Contacts/Links, Events, and Contact us. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 13:58 on 11/12/2015.

Here is an example of the information available on I Local:

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit – Part 2



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://ilocal.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/my-nearest/>. The page title is "iLocal - My Nearest - Carm...". Below the browser window is a search bar with a "Go" button. To the left of the map is a sidebar with a list of categories and their corresponding icons:

- Nursery Schools
- Primary Schools
- Secondary Schools
- Special Schools
- Coleg Sir Gar Campuses
- Education Centres
- Infants School Catchment Areas
- Primary School Catchment Areas
- Welsh Primary School Catchment Areas
- Church School Catchment Areas
- Secondary School Catchment Areas
- Welsh Secondary School Catchment Areas
- Saint John Lloyd Catholic Comprehensive School Catchment Area
- Youth Clubs

The map displays the Carmarthenshire region with various towns and roads. A red boundary outlines a specific area, and several red dots are scattered across the map, representing Youth Clubs. The map includes labels for towns such as Carmarthen, Llandeilo, Ammanford, and Brynamman. Roads shown include A40, A48, A474, A476, A483, A484, A485, A486, A487, A488, A489, A490, A491, A492, A493, A494, A495, A496, A497, A498, A499, and A500. The map also shows the Afon Tywi river and Carmarthen Bay. The copyright notice at the bottom of the map reads: "© Crown copyright and database rights 2016 Ordnance Survey 100023377".

ACTIONS TO TAKE FORWARD:

- Ensure that the websites are updated on a regular basis with new information, ideas.
- Ensure that Assistant Information Officer is updated via the Family Information Service and / the Play Sufficiency Officer of any Play and/or recreational activities within the county that are not already included on I Local.
- Continue to use avenues such as social media (Twitter and Facebook) to advertise and promote play.
- Continue to engage the media when events take place related to play.
- Produce a timetable for the year (April to March) for updating the play section of the FIS Website with monthly themes and helpful hints and tips for parents/carers
- Promote play opportunities at planned events by partner agencies to promote children’s rights to play and the importance of play to children and young people

DRAFT

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.	

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
The Local Authority keeps up to date information regarding the workforce across the Local Authority (this should include the number of playworkers, play management structure, qualification levels, training opportunities and volunteers)	AMBER	AMBER	The last workforce scoping exercise was completed in November 2014. Working towards completing another one in partnership with Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids Club (CPCKC). With the aim of finding out how many of the workforce need to complete a transition qualification in line with the new standards.	The last workforce scoping exercise was completed in 2014	Annual workforce scoping exercise completed to keep an up to date register of information related to the play workforce. Funding may be required to provide transitional qualification from Early Years to Playwork (i.e £5000 for 6 playworkers via CPCKC
The Local Authority supports all of the workforce to achieve the qualification level required by the Welsh Government's National minimum Standards	AMBER	AMBER	The LA is investigating the potential of funding to support the play workforce in achieving qualifications in order to comply with the new standards.		Family Information,

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
The Local Authority supports the workforce to achieve the accepted qualification levels set out by SkillsActive	AMBER	AMBER	The LA is investigating the potential of funding to support the play workforce in achieving qualifications in order to comply with the new standards.		Childcare and Play Team to offer 2 play related training each term as part of the Training Programme
The Local Authority includes playwork within its Workforce Development strategies	RED	AMBER	The Family Information, Childcare and Play team provide a termly training programme that includes an OCN Level 2 in play and also an Introduction to Play Level 1	There is no more funding to include more of a variety of play training as part of the training programme.	
The Local Authority supports partners to deliver appropriate training to community groups, parents and volunteers	AMBER	AMBER	The Family Information, Childcare and Play team provide a termly training programme that includes an OCN Level 2 in play and also and introduction to Play Level 1. This training is available to volunteers, community groups and parents.	There are limited spaces available on the training programme	
The Local Authority has undertaken a comprehensive training needs analysis for the play workforce as defined in the toolkit glossary	AMBER	AMBER	The last workforce scoping exercise was completed in November 2014. Working towards completing another one in partnership with Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids Club (CPCKC). With the aim of finding out how many		

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
			of the workforce need to complete a transition qualification in line with the new standards.		
The Local Authority has a staff development budget ring fenced for play, including playwork	AMBER	AMBER	£5000 has been allocated within the Out of School Childcare Grant 2016/2017 for training the play workforce	NONE	
The Local Authority takes action to expand the variety of learning and development opportunities that are offered to staff	AMBER	AMBER	The termly training programme provided by the Family Information, Childcare and Play Team considers the needs of the workforce when developing the training programme.	NONE	
There is a comprehensive range of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities available for playworkers in the area	AMBER	AMBER	Local colleges, Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids Club, Carmarthenshire Youth and Children Association and the Family Information, Childcare and Play Team offer an array of qualifications for playworkers to progress.	With the changing standards related to the childcare and playworkforce funding is needed for upskilling and transitional qualifications	
There is a comprehensive range of CPD opportunities for a range of professionals who work with children	GREEN	GREEN	The Family Information, Childcare and Play team provide a termly training programme that includes an OCN Level 2 in play and also and introduction to Play Level 1. This training is available to		

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
			volunteers, community groups and parents.		
Training is available for volunteers and parents to develop their knowledge on skills in play work	GREEN	GREEN	The Family Information, Childcare and Play team provide a termly training programme that includes an OCN Level 2 in play and also and introduction to Play Level 1. This training is available to volunteers, community groups and parents. (training delivered via CYCA)		
Training awareness sessions are available for professionals and decision makers whose work impacts on children's opportunities to play	GREEN	GREEN	The Family Information, Childcare and Play team provide a termly training programme that includes an OCN Level 2 in play and also and introduction to Play Level 1. This training is available to volunteers, community groups and parents. Play to Learn / Active Storytime sessions available to parents and carers within the county to increase physical activity and literacy through playing.		

General Comments 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?

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*)?

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

At present the Local Authority Family Information Service, Childcare and Play Team have ring fenced a budget for a termly training programmes. The training programme includes the statutory training such as First Aid, Food Hygiene etc for registered childcare and play settings. Minimum of two play trainings are included as part of the training programme for registered and non registered settings. Each term there will be one Introduction for Play unaccredited and either Level 1 accredited Play training or Level 2 accredited Play Training. Unfortunately there are limited spaces on these courses.

In light of the new standards for registered settings there will potentially be a need within the county to upskill the early years, childcare and play workforce. A scoping exercise will provide an indication of the existing qualification levels of the workforce and an estimate of the numbers needing to be up skilled via transitional qualifications.




ACTIONS TO TAKE FORWARD:

- Annual workforce scoping exercise completed to keep an up to date register of information related to the play workforce.
 - Funding will be required required to provide transitional qualification from Early Years to Playwork for playworkers
 - Family Information, Childcare and Play Team to offer minimum of 2 play related training each term as part of the Training Programme
 - Carmarthenshire is 1/14 Local Authorities across Wales able to access funding from the new Progress for Success 6.3 million upskilling programme led by DfES. Uncertain at present as to which qualifications will be eligible for funding and whether age restrictions will apply.

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.	

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
The Local Authority promotes initiatives to engage youth groups, school councils, school governing bodies, community groups and other relevant groups in enhancing play opportunities for children in its area.	AMBER	AMBER	Communities First – have linked organisations to the schools. This has included Ground Works Sustainable Play training sessions for the parents. They also run workshops named Play, Learn and Create which promotes the Foundation Phase to parents including the importance of play. These workshops have also taken place in community venues and events across the Communities First Cluster.		Continue to engage with children, young people, families and communities ***NEED INFO HERE RE TRAINING RELATED TO CONSULTATION***

			<p>Communities First have also worked in partnership with the youth services to provide a Summer Youth provision that included various workshops from arts/crafts to dance.</p> <p>The Family Information, Childcare and Play Training Programme will include training related to consulting with children and young people which will be available to staff from registered settings across the county.</p> <p>Children, young people and their families are consulted with when any new initiatives are planned that will affect them.</p> <p>Children, young people and their families are also consulted with as part of the Play Sufficiency Assessment.</p>		
<p>The Local Authority promotes community engagement in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - making space available and suitable for play - organising play events - positive attitudes towards children and play 	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>Communities First attend and organise various community events across the Cluster which includes play opportunities for families that attend.</p>	<p>Please see Matter E Information, publicity, events.</p>	<p>Please see Matter E Information, publicity, events.</p>

<p>- training on the importance of play.</p>			<p>Communities First provides play/childcare training for residents in the cluster.</p> <p>Town and Community Councils and any groups with responsibility for play provision within the community will have the Community Toolkit: Developing and Managing Play Spaces</p> <p>Please see Matter E Information, publicity, events in relation to promotion, attendance at events and National Playday celebrations</p>	<p>Distribute the Community Toolkit: Developing and Managing Play Spaces to identified areas within the County</p>	<p>NONE</p>
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General Comments 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?

Various groups across the county consult with children, young people and families. Children are consulted with via school councils, Open Access Play sessions, Family Centres, Youth provision. Parents and Carers are consulted with via schools, Family Centres (Llais rhieni), Snap Surveys online

Consultations with parents for the purposes of this assessment have shown that many parents have a genuine and very real fear of strangers and paedophiles and these fears are prohibiting parents from allowing their children the freedom to play independently without adult supervision. Furthermore, some parents have stated that they fear taking their children to local parks as they are scared that 'strangers' or 'paedophiles' are watching their children. Therefore, work needs to be done with parents/carers within the community in order to educate them in how to keep their children safe without impinging on their rights to play and freedom.

ACTIONS TO TAKE FORWARD:




- Continue to engage with children, young people, families and communities
- To engage further with parents and carers in addressing the fear they have in relation to stranger danger within Carmarthenshire.
- Distribute the Community Toolkit: Developing and Managing Play Spaces to identified areas within the County

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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.	

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
There is a named person on the Local Service Board who champions children’s play and ensures that the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan contribute to and are incorporated within the Single Integrated Plan	AMBER	AMBER	The Director of Education is a member of the Local Service Board. The director is aware of the duty placed on Local Authorities to assess for sufficient play opportunities and supports the work of the Play Sufficiency Officer.	NONE	LSB member ensures children's play is considered in all aspects of relevant public service planning

Education and schools

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
Schools ensure that children are provided with a rich play environment for breaks during the school day	AMBER	AMBER	Outdoor schools Project. Ysgol Y Bedol – Good Practice example... Consultation Responses – see general comments	Financial restraints. Health & Safety issues	Circulate Use of School Grounds for playing out of teaching Hours to all schools across Carmarthenshire
Schools provide play opportunities during out of teaching hours	AMBER	AMBER	Link with Dragon Sports and 5x60 initiatives – Provide Physical Activities during break, lunchtimes and after school hours. Healthy School Competitions - opportunity to win Physical Activity equipment to develop Physical Play during break and lunchtimes. Food & Fitness Criteria Outdoor Schools Consultation Responses – see general comments	Lack of Volunteers to deliver the sessions. Same member of staff expected to deliver	Training for lunchtime supervisors Resources for lunchtime supervisors i.e loose parts, play pods Play Policy to be introduced to schools in partnership with Healthy Schools and Leisure Departments Bronze Young Ambassadors
Schools provide access to school grounds for playing out of school times	AMBER	AMBER	Consultation Responses – see general comments Ysgol Y Bedol – Good	The majority of schools do not open the school grounds for playing outside of school hours. If the schools are offering their facilities it is for organised clubs.	

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
			Practice example... community access to the building and gardens outside of school hours (very minimal charges)		
Schools encourage children to walk and cycle to school	AMBER	AMBER	Kerb Kraft, Walking Bus, Road Safety Unit - Gary Gofal. Sustrans. Environmental links with walking and cycling to school. Food & Fitness Criteria Cycling Proficiency – Road Safety unit / Police Pedometer Challenge – Walk to Work and Walk to School Week. Walking initiatives – link with Public Health Wales. Healthy Schools Pedometer Challenge. Bike racks on school grounds.	Health & Safety issues. Location of the school, busy roads, rural areas, lack of volunteers to lead initiatives.	
The Local Authority offers guidance to ensure schools understand and ensure that regular outdoor play is not curtailed	AMBER	AMBER	Use of School Grounds for playing out of teaching Hours	This is only done via booklet distribution at present	

Town and Country Planning

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
<p>The Local Development Plan recognises and addresses the outdoor play needs of children of various age groups and abilities</p>	<p>GREEN</p>	<p>GREEN</p>	<p>The LDP (Adopted December 2014) sets out a land use planning policy framework which allows for the consideration of such matters, including protection of existing spaces and securing access to new spaces within new developments. Particular regard is given to the commitment to provide Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) will further elaborate upon such provisions. In taking forward the SPG, the LDP Team has undertaken liaison with the Play Sufficiency Officer and it should be noted the SPG will be subject to formal public consultation with a view to its adoption by the County Council in early 2016.</p>	<p>Ongoing evidence in relation to the facilities that exist across the County – particularly in terms of building upon the initial Greenspace Study.</p>	<p>Requirement to consider position in terms of reviewing and updating the Greenspace Study – suggest that liaison be undertaken with County Council’s Leisure Division.</p>

Traffic and Transport

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
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	AMBER	GREEN	Transport is a derived demand therefore it does not directly influence Land Use Planning however The LTP makes provision for improved Active Travel Linkages to schools and community facilities and Improved Road Safety particularly amongst younger road users/child pedestrians. Shared Use Spaces and home Zones are an important emerging area of development which is recognised by CCC	Transport Infrastructure development is directly influenced by the level of funding available, at present funding levels across Wales have been at a lower/static level than in previous years therefore strict prioritisation of measures implemented has to be adhered to	Continue to work in partnership in order to address issues related to road safety and play opportunities.
The local Transport Plan identifies ways of assessing and addressing the needs of all groups including those which are often marginalised.	AMBER	GREEN	The LTP was subject to a rigorous Equalities Impact Assessment as well as this a WeITAG appraisal was undertaken to ensure that it was a close fit with the Transport Planning Objectives which included improving access for all	Transport Infrastructure development is directly influenced by the level of funding available, at present funding levels across Wales have been at a lower/static level than in previous years therefore strict prioritisation of measures implemented has to be adhered to	

Health and Wellbeing					
Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
The Local Authority plans and agenda to promote health and well-being recognise the importance of play for children’s and families’ physical health and well-being	AMBER	AMBER	<p>The Health, Social Care and Well being strategy is incorporated into the Integrated Community Strategy 2011-2016. The Integrated Community Strategy includes reference to play.</p> <p>Public Health Wales are in the process of further developing the 10 steps to a healthy weight. These steps are to be implemented to prevent obesity. One of the identified steps to obtaining a healthy weight in childhood is playing outside everyday,</p>	NONE	<p>When the ICS is reviewed post 2016 children’s right to play needs to be included as a means of addressing issues related to health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Continue to work in partnership with Hywel Dda Public Health Team to ensure that play contributes to the obesity agenda and any other initiatives that impacts on children’s play both positively and negatively.</p> <p>Continue to support the smoke free / passive smoking campaign and promote the Playful Walks booklets across the county.</p>

Child Poverty

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
The Local Authority's tackling poverty agenda and plans recognise the importance of ensuring that play opportunities are available to all families regardless of their income.	AMBER	AMBER	Carmarthenshire County Council took the decision not to develop a separate Child Poverty Strategy, but to include this into relevant sections of 2011-2016 Integrated Community Strategy for Carmarthenshire. The Integrated Community Strategy includes reference to play in contributing to the Child Poverty Agenda.	NONE	When the ICS is reviewed post 2016 children's right to play needs to be included as a means to tackling the negative effects of poverty.

Early Years/Childcare

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
Early Years, and Flying Start plans and services recognise the importance of play and contribute to the provision of rich play opportunities for younger	GREEN	GREEN	Language and Play activities delivered in each of the 17 Flying Start areas, for parents with children aged 0-3 years, with the focus on	LAP delivered by a range of facilitators, no consistent approaches, no quality standards, therefore outcomes of early language input and stimulation with play activities not	Training offered to LAP facilitators. A framework model outlining key activities has been produced, with a standard

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
children			play and early language development. Utilising local Language and Play facilitators, termly timetable produced listing dates and times.	easily measured.	format; welcome song, rhymes, story, messy play and craft activity for children. Further training to be organised
The Childcare Strategy offers guidance to ensure local childcare providers understand the importance of and provide a rich play environment as a routine part of the care they provide	AMBER	AMBER	The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment is conducted every three lines in line with the toolkit provided by Welsh Government. The toolkit at present does not specifically state that settings are assessed in relation to the quality of the play environment.	There has not been a Childcare Strategy for a number of years. The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment is now used as a platform for guidance and information related to childcare.	Ensure that future Childcare Sufficiency Assessments have considered fully the quality of the play opportunities offered within the childcare settings.

Family policy and initiatives

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
Family support initiatives provide up to date information and support for parents to enable them to support their children to play	AMBER	AMBER	The Family Support Strategy is currently being updated to reflect national development and the child poverty agenda. The Strategy	NONE	Ensure that staff working within the family support initiatives have access to the play training programme available

			<p>focuses on the 3 tackling poverty programmes – Flying Start, Families First and Communities First. Some initiatives within Families First are required to address children and young people’s play needs.</p>		<p>via the Family Information, Childcare and Play Team.</p> <p>Ensure that Family Support Initiatives have access to a range of play materials for use with the families they are supporting.</p>
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Inter-generational policy and initiatives

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
There are a range of play based approaches to inter-generational activity	AMBER	AMBER	Children of all ages are invited to attend the play sessions facilitated by Groundwork Wales within Carmarthenshire. The Project Delivery staff welcome families and adults to attend play sessions in order to share information about play opportunities,	Limited to delivering within three areas within the county at present	To consider intergenerational work and a plan of action to complete intergenerational work

			<p>discuss barriers and address parental concerns.</p> <p>Ysgol Y Bedol is a community focused school and has delivered sessions within the school in partnership with the local community police officer with children and the older residents of the community. The children and older residents completed activities together and the community police officer was able to discuss issues with the residents encompassing tolerance of children playing within the community with the aim of bridging the gap between the two generations.</p> <p>Communities First</p>		
<p>There is a creative approach to inter-generational activity which encourages better interaction between children of different ages</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>RED</p>	<p>Children of all ages are invited to attend the play sessions facilitated by Groundwork Wales within Carmarthenshire. The Project Delivery staff welcome families and adults to attend play sessions in order to share information</p>	<p>Limited to delivering within three areas within the county at present</p>	

			about play opportunities, discuss barriers and address parental concerns. Communities First		
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Community Development

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
The Community Strategy makes a clear statement regarding the rights of children to play within their communities	AMBER	AMBER	Play is mentioned within the Integrated Community Strategy in relation to improving play opportunities.	No clear statement regarding the rights of children to play within their communities.	Ensure that future revisions of the Integrated Community Strategy have clear links between community development and play.
The Community Strategy supports communities to provide play opportunities for their children	AMBER	AMBER	The Integrated Community Strategy mentions the need to increase/improve play opportunities for children	No clear statement related to supporting communities in developing play opportunities	
The Community Strategy makes a clear statement regarding how providing play opportunities contributes to community cohesion	RED	RED	NONE	No statement within the Integrated Community Strategy	

Community Safety

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
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The Community Safety Strategy makes a clear statement which recognises the rights of children to play in their communities	RED	RED	The Community Safety Plan has been included within the Integrated Community Strategy 2011-2016.	No direct reference to children's play opportunities	When the ICS is reviewed post 2016 children's right to play needs to be included as a means to tackling the negative effects of poverty.
The Community Safety Strategy includes actions which provide a safe environment for children to play in their communities	AMBER	AMBER	The Community Safety Plan has been included within the Integrated Community Strategy 2011-016. The strategy details the outcome 'People who live, work and visit Carmarthenshire feel safer'	No direct reference to children's play opportunities	

Health and Safety

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
The Health and Safety policies explicitly recognise the value of children	AMBER	AMBER	OAP at the Integrated Children's Centres are aware of the risk benefit approach and apply within	Risk Benefit approach needs to be promoted to all settings across the county	Research the availability of Risk Benefit Guidance to be introduced to settings (

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
being able to experience risk and challenge			their settings		to include schools)
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)	AMBER	AMBER	OAP Play at the Integrated Children's Centres		
The Local Authority offers the provision of insurance through the Local Authority scheme to all third sector play providers and community councils	RED	RED		All departments within the Local Authority manage Health and Safety differently and there is no agreed standard for using risk benefit assessments across settings and departments. The Local Authority is only able to cover own business activities and is very unlikely to be able to deal with any third party liability. Community Councils have their own insurance and any third party organisation letting a	

Criteria	RAG Status 2013	RAG Status 2016	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
				Local Authority property would be expected to have the same.	

General Comments: Play within relevant policy and implementation agendas

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

The Play Sufficiency Stakeholder Group was developed in acknowledgement of the importance of cross departmental partnership working when assessing and securing children’s play opportunities. As a result of the initial Play Sufficiency Assessment partnership working has improved greatly and links are now being seen between differing policy areas and play sufficiency. Although there is an acknowledgment of the importance of play within these policy areas, it is extremely difficult and more often than not impossible to re align existing budgets across policy and agendas for the purpose of securing sufficient play opportunities as identified through the Play Sufficiency Assessment.

Over the past three years the partnership working between the Forward Planning Department and the Corporate Property Department has improved greatly with representatives from both departments within the Play Sufficiency Stakeholder Group. The Play Sufficiency Officer now attends the Asset Transfer meetings and the Forward Planning Officer and Play Sufficiency Officer liaise on a regular basis with matters related to new planning guidelines and the effects on children’s opportunities to play.

Furthermore, partnership working with Hywel Dda Public Health Team has developed and initiatives such as Playful Walks Booklets and Smokefree Playgrounds have developed as a result. Furthermore, one of the ten steps to a healthy weight is playing outside everyday.

The Healthy School Co-ordinator attends the Play Sufficiency Group Meetings. The Play Sufficiency Officer and the Healthy Schools Co-ordinator have worked collaboratively on issues related to passive smoking and obesity prevention. Further work needs to be planned now in order to address some of the consultation findings from the school survey, namely training for lunchtime supervisors and opening school grounds out of teaching hours, and potentially the introduction of play policies within each school.

ACTIONS TO TAKE FORWARD:

Education and schools

- Circulate Use of School Grounds for playing out of teaching Hours to all schools across Carmarthenshire
- Training for lunchtime supervisors
- Resources for lunchtime supervisors i.e loose parts, play pods
- Play Policy to be introduced to schools in partnership with Healthy Schools and Leisure Departments Bronze Young Ambassadors

Town and Country Planning

- Requirement to consider position in terms of reviewing and updating the Greenspace Study – suggest that liaison be undertaken with County Council's Leisure Division.

Traffic and Transport

- Continue to work in partnership in order to address issues related to road safety and play opportunities.

Health and Wellbeing

- When the ICS is reviewed post 2016 children's right to play needs to be included as a means of addressing issues related to health and wellbeing.
- Continue to work in partnership with Hywel Dda Public Health Team to ensure that play contributes to the obesity agenda and any other initiatives that impacts on children's play both positively and negatively.
- Continue to support the smoke free / passive smoking campaign and promote the Playful Walks booklets across the county.

Child Poverty

- When the ICS is reviewed post 2016 children's right to play needs to be included as a means to tackling the negative effects of poverty.

Early Years/Childcare

- Training offered to LAP facilitators. A framework model outlining key activities has been produced, with a standard format; welcome song, rhymes, story, messy play and craft activity for children.
- Further training to be organised
- Ensure that future Childcare Sufficiency Assessments have considered fully the quality of the play opportunities offered within the childcare settings.

Family policy and initiatives

- Ensure that staff working within the family support initiatives have access to the play training programme available via the Family Information, Childcare and Play Team.

- Ensure that Family Support Initiatives have access to a range of play materials for use with the families they are supporting.

Inter-generational policy and initiatives

- To consider intergenerational work and a plan of action to complete intergenerational work

Community Development

- Ensure that future revisions of the Integrated Community Strategy have clear links between community development and play

Community Safety

- When the ICS is reviewed post 2016 children's right to play needs to be included as a means to tackling the negative effects of poverty.

Health and Safety

- Research the availability of Risk Benefit Guidance to be introduced to settings (to include schools)

Conclusion

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

The Play Sufficiency Assessment 2016 has highlighted many good practice examples of how children's play opportunities are being addressed across the county. Within each of the Matters, the Local Authority and partner organisations are striving to meet the criteria and are aware of the importance of these criteria in meeting the play needs of the children.

The main barrier to addressing the play needs of children and young people is the absence of any allocated funding stream to support Play Sufficiency. Where departments are providing play opportunities, it is through very limited financial capacity and are struggling to maintain the existing provision let alone developing new play opportunities. The assessment has highlighted many priorities to take forward for 2016/2017 to address the play needs of children and young people, these priorities are detailed within the Action Plan 2016/2017.

The consultation results have shown common barriers for children/young people; parents and carers. These barriers have been detailed within the Action Plan:

Smoking and smoking related litter
Road Safety/Transport
Dog fouling
Fear of strangers / paedophiles

At present, due to budget cuts and financial constraints, the main priority at present will be to maintain existing provision provided by the Local Authority and to support communities in taking over responsibility for their play opportunities. Furthermore, in light of play opportunities diminishing within communities there are other facilities within the community, namely school grounds that have the potential to address children's play needs. The majority of the school consultation responses stated that they did not allow access to school grounds outside of teaching hours. Therefore, this is an area that needs to be further investigated with school representatives.

Therefore, the Play Sufficiency Assessment for 2016 has provided a platform from which evidence is available for the development of new play opportunities and the protection of existing opportunities.

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.

The Play Sufficiency Action Plan 2016/2017 has been developed based on the 'Identified Actions for the Action Plan' section of the assessment form. These actions were identified by the members of the Play Sufficiency Stakeholder Group and the final Action Plan was agreed by members of the group and through the political processes of the Local Authority.

In terms of funding for addressing the actions, partners need to work collaboratively in accessing funding for play and play related initiatives. Work has commenced on this via the financial contributions to play and leisure through Section 106 agreements. There is also opportunity to work closer with schools and communities in addressing play opportunities through low cost/no cost processes.

The Play Sufficiency Stakeholder Group will continue to meet on a termly basis to monitor the progress of the Action Plan. The Actions will be updated based on the progress made.

Signed:

Date:

Play Sufficiency Action Plan



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Name of local authority: Carmarthenshire County Council

Name of person responsible officer: Caryl Alban

Job title: Play Sufficiency Officer

Date of completion: DRAFT submitted to Welsh Government 31st March 2016

DRAFT



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

Proposed actions for the period of 1st April 2016 – 31st March 2017

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

Matter	Priorities	Targets	Milestones	Resources, including costs	Funding source (new or existing funding streams)
Statutory Guidance-policy framework	To adhere to the Statutory Duty and Guidance for assessing, securing and publishing information on Play Opportunities within Carmarthenshire	Develop, implement and monitor yearly Play Sufficiency Action Plans and submit yearly end of year reports to Welsh Government. Complete Play Sufficiency Assessments every 3 years	Yearly Play Sufficiency Action Plans completed and monitored Yearly end of year reviews submitted to Welsh Government Play Sufficiency Assessments submitted to Welsh Government by: March 31 st 2019 March 31 st 2021	Play Sufficiency Officer to lead on the work Play Sufficiency Stakeholder Group to implement and monitor the Play Sufficiency Action Plan	NONE
Matter A: Population	To ensure that up to date demographic information is available when planning for the development of play opportunities	Yearly revision of the demographic information held for the purposes of planning for play	PLASC information is collected each January Census updates SEN Register updates for planning	Family Information and Childcare Officer Play Sufficiency Officer	NONE

			for play opportunities for disabled children and young people		
Matter B: Providing for diverse needs	To address the play needs of children and young people living in rural areas of the county	Open Access Play Provision and Youth Provision within the rural areas of the county - Taf/ Myrddin, Teifi and Tywi community network areas	<p>Research availability of SEC 106 allocations within these areas.</p> <p>Initial meeting with the Youth Officers within these areas and community representatives</p> <p>Consultation with the children and young people within these areas to ascertain location and need.</p> <p>Set up a community group, become constituted enabling them to access funding via grants</p>	<p>Average cost for Open Access Play Provision, approx £15,000 per annum</p> <p>Average cost for Youth Club (staffing, rent and resources) £15,000 per annum</p>	<p>UNKNOWN</p> <p>UNKNOWN</p>
	To offer play opportunities that cater to the needs of disabled children and young	Continue to support the existing 3 clubs for children with additional needs	Provide resources/specialist sessions via grants when available	£1000	UNKNOWN

	<p>people living across the county</p>	<p>Support the development of a new club for children with additional needs within the Ammanford area</p>	<p>Work in partnership with the Giant Steps project</p>	<p>Average rental £10 based on existing clubs. And approximately £9.00 per hour for staffing (need at least 6 staff but this will depend on the needs of the children attending)</p>	<p>UNKNOWN</p>
		<p>Raise staff awareness / children and young people’s awareness of the needs of children with additional needs in order to allow integration of some into mainstream clubs</p>	<p>Training related to inclusion to be included as part of the Children’s Partnership Training Programme</p>	<p>Approx £1500 for two courses per year for professionals</p>	<p>UNKNOWN</p>
		<p>Ensure that access audits are undertaken within</p>	<p>Inclusion training for children and young people (either via School Councils or Youth Clubs)</p>	<p>UNKNOWN</p>	
			<p>Develop ‘Access Audit’ pack for play providers within</p>	<p>Play Sufficiency Officer</p>	

		<p>all play provision to ensure accessibility and inclusion</p> <p>Address the concerns of parents related to unsuitability of fixed play equipment across the county for children with disabilities</p>	<p>Carmarthenshire and distribute</p> <p>Work in collaboration with MENCAP</p> <p>Installation of fixed play equipment within a sample of parks across the county (base location on disability demographic information within Matter A)</p> <p>Consider matters related to Asset Transfer and work with Town and Community Councils within the identified areas</p>	<p>Wheelchair Swing £3,700 + VAT</p> <p>Wheelchair Roundabout £5,200+VAT</p> <p>Sensory Garden £290 +VAT</p>	<p>UNKNOWN</p> <p>UNKNOWN</p>
	<p>To ensure that the play needs of the gypsy traveller children and young people living on the Local Authority</p>	<p>Attend Tuesday meetings at the Local Authority maintained Gypsy Traveller site @ Penybryn to</p>			

	<p>maintained Gypsy Traveller site are addressed.</p> <p>The requirements of Young carers and Lesbian, Gay or bisexual children are understood and provided for</p>	<p>further consult with the families there.</p> <p>Liaise with Communities First in relation to the programme of activities to be developed for the site residents</p> <p>Increase awareness and knowledge of working with Gypsy Traveller children and their families</p> <p>Liaise with the co-ordinators of the young carers groups to ascertain the play needs</p>	<p>Attend Carmarthenshire Young Carers event to promote children's rights to play</p> <p>Consult fully with young cares to ascertain their play needs and the barriers they have to playing</p>	<p>NONE</p> <p>Amount of funding required is dependant on what the children</p>	<p>UNKNOWN</p>
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		<p>Liaise with the co-ordinators of the LGBT youth group for Carmarthenshire’s</p>	<p>Attend the newly formed LGBT Group to consult fully with them in relation to their play needs and the barriers they experience to playing and hanging out.</p>	<p>and young people tell us that they need</p> <p>Amount of funding required is dependant on what the children and young people tell us that they need</p>	<p>UNKNOWN</p>
<p>Matter C: Space available for children to play</p>	<p>Local Authority to recognise the importance of open spaces in contributing to children’s play needs within the community and the potential negative effects that getting rid of these spaces has on children and communities</p>	<p>Review the focus of the Green Space Assessment to include Greenspace that is less than 0.5 hectare.</p> <p>Realign the focus of Section 106 agreements in relation to play and leisure to consider</p>	<p>Greenspace Assessment to focus on land that is less than 0.5 hectare.</p> <p>Liaise with Local Authority Contributions Officer with regards to unallocated section 106 contributions.</p>	<p>UNKNOWN</p> <p>Section 106 Agreement contributions vary depending on the size of the development</p>	<p>UNKNOWN</p> <p>Section 106 Agreement contributions</p>

		<p>allocations to play opportunities other than installation of fixed play equipment</p> <p>Communities are supported in the Asset Transfer process within the coming year</p>	<p>Develop proposals for unallocated 106 contributions in partnership with the local community, elected member, and the local school.</p> <p>Liaise with the local member, ICC manager, local school and Contributions Officer to explore the possibility of using Section 106 Agreement contributions</p> <p>Play Sufficiency Officer to attend Asset Transfer Meetings</p> <p>Communities are supported in the Asset Transfer Process via letters of support, advice and guidance in developing play spaces to address the needs of the</p>	<p>NONE</p>	
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	<p>Local Authority assesses play spaces for play value and accessibility</p>	<p>Introduction of the Play Space Assessment and Access audits as detailed within the Play Sufficiency Toolkit</p>	<p>children and young people, funding applications and grant allocations</p> <p>Play Sufficiency Officer to be involved in the consultation process in the event of assets such as playing fields being disposed of.</p> <p>Toolkits for developing and managing play spaces distributed to schools, ICC's and Town and Community Councils. To include Access Audit and Play Space Assessment templates and guidance notes as detailed within the Play Sufficiency Toolkit.</p>	<p>NONE</p> <p>Purchased as part of previous Play Sufficiency Grant</p>	
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	<p>Unsupervised Play Spaces to be clean and healthy spaces for children and their families to experience</p>	<p>All playgrounds to be smokefree areas</p>	<p>Launch the resource Hari, Heti and the Healthy Heart to highlight the introduction of Smokefree play areas in partnership with Hywel Dda Public Health Team and Healthy Schools.</p> <p>Letters to be distributed to schools for distribution to families across the county to reiterating the introduction of smokefree play areas</p> <p>Family Centres and ICC's to promote to families the introduction of smokefree playgrounds</p> <p>Promotion of Smokefree playgrounds county wide via Twitter, Facebook and other promotional avenues.</p>		
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	Children are encouraged to play within their communities	<p>Eradication of 'No Ball Games' signs across the county</p> <p>Introduction of Play Priority Signs</p>	<p>Address issues related to dog fouling within local play areas</p> <p>Work in partnership with the Housing Officers in reducing and eradicating the use of 'No Ball Games' signs and replace with Play Priority signs</p>		
Matter D: Supervised provision	High quality rich play environments are provided and monitored	Play provision that the Local Authority offers is of high quality and meets the National Minimum Standards	Introduce the Playwork Principles (Tool 10 within the toolkit) and Quality Assessment Tool (Tool 11 within the Toolkit) are used within the Open Access Play Provision provided within the Integrated	NONE	UNKNOWN

		<p>Play Provision that the Local Authority partners provides are of high quality and meet the National Minimum Standards</p>	<p>Children’s Centres</p> <p>Work in partnership with the Childminder Development Officer and Childcare Development Officer in introducing tools 9 and 10 of the toolkit to supervised/registered settings across the county</p> <p>Work in partnership with external play providers in introducing tools 9 and 10 of the toolkit to supervised/registered settings across the county</p> <p>Use the above tools in order to assess for quality when completing the Childcare Sufficiency for Carmarthenshire.</p>	<p>NONE</p> <p>NONE</p> <p>UNKNOWN</p> <p>NONE</p>	
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		Encourage and increase physical literacy through play	<p>To engage with any National initiative to address issues related to quality of play provision</p> <p>Representation from the Leisure Department to attend the Play Sufficiency Stakeholder Group Meetings</p> <p>Support initiatives that encourage learning through play such as Active Story Time, Young Ambassador schemes</p>	<p>£15,783 (Active Storytime)</p> <p>£8,046 (Young Ambassadors)</p>	
Matter E: Charges for play provision	To consider the effects of charges for play provision on the accessibility of that provision for children and their families	No Cost or low cost play provision to be delivered within the most deprived areas of the county (based on deprivation demographic information)	<p>Continue to fund OAP sessions at the ICC's to ensure no cost provision for children and their families</p> <p>Continue to fund Menter laith Summer Playschemes in rural areas to enable low</p>	<p>£15,000</p> <p>£1,268.50</p>	Out of School Childcare Grant 2016/2017

			<p>cost provision for families</p> <p>Liaise with Groundworks Wales in order to identify deprived areas of the county in relation to financial and access to services to plan locations for free Open Access Play Sessions</p> <p>Investigate the possibility of recording in more detail the cost of provision and ensure that information related to cost of premises and cost of provision is requested when updating the FIS database.</p> <p>Ensure that the Assistant Information Officer is updated via the Family Information Service and / the Play</p>	<p>NONE</p> <p>NONE</p> <p>NONE</p>	
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			<p>Sufficiency Officer of any Play and/or recreational activities within the county that are not already included on I Local.</p> <p>Continue to support communities in accessing funding streams and signposting to services such as CAVS for information regarding available grants. Provide letters of support and advice and guidance to communities expressing an interest in setting up play provision within their areas.</p>	NONE	
Matter F: Access to space/provision	Children and young people are able to access play opportunities safely and where appropriate independently from adults	Monitor road safety measures and their impact on children and young people	<p>Maintain an up to date list of road safety measures</p> <p>Measure the impact via development of new systems and monitoring team when developed</p>		

	<p>Deliver initiatives that contribute to children's ability to access play opportunities safely</p>	<p>Monitor child accident casualty data for Carmarthenshire</p> <p>Children's locations for playing are considered when road safety measures are planned</p>	<p>When information is received with regards to child pedestrian road accidents consideration to be given to the location of the accident and whether the child was 'playing' or accessing play opportunities when the accident occurred and implement positive change at the site of the accident where possible</p> <p>Traffic Management Section to have access to the locations of children and young people's play opportunities</p> <p>Traffic Management Section to have access to the consultation responses to be aware of any issues</p>		
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	<p>Children and their families to access information related</p>	<p>Children and young people to be aware of pedestrian safety and cycle safety when accessing play opportunities</p> <p>Access good practice examples of Play Streets from other Local Authorities</p> <p>Clearly identified section on the Local Authority</p>	<p>highlighted related to road safety and transport</p> <p>Play Sufficiency Officer to be involved in consultation with children and young people when new initiatives and / or developments are planned and with regards to transport barriers</p> <p>Continue to offer cycling training for children and pedestrian safety training (to include pre school children)</p> <p>Play Sufficiency Officer to work in partnership with the Traffic Management Section in introducing Play Streets.</p> <p>Play Section on the Family Information Service website to be</p>		
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			<p>Facebook to advertise and promote.</p> <p>Continue to promote play events and good news stories related to children playing via the local media</p> <p>Promote National Playday 2016 via events across Carmarthenshire</p>	<p>targetted areas – all day playday celebrations with various activities</p>	
<p>Matter G: Securing and developing the workforce</p>	<p>The play workforce is supported in achieving the qualifications required.</p>	<p>The Local Authority is aware of the qualifications of the play workforce across the county</p> <p>The play workforce is supported in achieving the required qualification level in light of any new standards introduced</p> <p>Variety of play training offered to</p>	<p>Yearly workforce scoping exercise completed to keep an up to date register of information</p> <p>Transitional qualification from Early Years to Playwork is funded for the workers needing to be upskilled</p> <p>Carmarthenshire is 1/14 Local Authorities across Wales able to access</p>	<p>NONE</p> <p>Minimum of £5000 for funding Playworkers i.e x6 at £5000</p> <p>COST INDICATION</p>	

		staff, volunteers and parents	<p>funding from the new Progress for Success 6.3 million upskilling programme led by DfES. Uncertain at present as to which qualifications will be eligible for funding and whether age restrictions will apply.</p> <p>Family Information, Childcare and Play Team to offer 2 play related training each term as part of the Training Programme</p>	NEEDED	
Matter H: Community engagement and participation	Children, families and communities are consulted with in relation to their views on play and recreational activities	<p>SEE MATTER C re consultations on Asset Transfer</p> <p>SEE MATTER D re consultation with regards to OAP sessions</p> <p>SEE MATTER F re consultations on road safety initiatives</p>	Continue to consult with all stakeholders, to include children, young people and the community when any decisions are made in relation to their play, recreational and leisure opportunities.		

	<p>Local Authority promotes community engagement in :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Making space available and suitable for play - Organising play events - Positive attitudes to children's play - Training on the importance of play 	<p>Carmarthenshire County Council adheres to the guidance related to consultation and participation and therefore all work with children, young people and communities is based on varying degrees of consultation and participation</p> <p>SEE MATTER F Access to space/provision</p>	<p>Distribute the Community Toolkit: Developing and Managing Play Spaces to identified areas within the County</p> <p>To engage further with parents and carers in addressing the fear they have in relation to stranger danger within Carmarthenshire.</p>	<p>Postage Cots £2.50 per Toolkit</p>	
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		<p>Traffic and Transport</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing</p>	<p>suggest that liaison be undertaken with County Council's Leisure Division.</p> <p>Continue to work in partnership in order to address issues related to road safety and play opportunities.</p> <p>When the ICS is reviewed post 2016 children's right to play needs to be included as a means of addressing issues related to health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Continue to work in partnership with Hywel Dda Public Health Team to ensure that play contributes to the obesity agenda and any other initiatives that impacts on children's play both positively and negatively.</p>		
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		<p>Child Poverty</p> <p>Early Years/Childcare</p>	<p>Continue to support the smoke free / passive smoking campaign and promote the Playful Walks booklets across the county.</p> <p>When the ICS is reviewed post 2016 children’s right to play needs to be included as a means to tackling the negative effects of poverty.</p> <p>Training offered to LAP facilitators. A framework model outlining key activities has been produced, with a standard format; welcome song, rhymes, story, messy play and craft activity for children.</p> <p>Further training to be organised</p>		
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		<p>Family policy and initiatives</p>	<p>Ensure that future Childcare Sufficiency Assessments have considered fully the quality of the play opportunities offered within the childcare settings.</p> <p>Ensure that staff working within the family support initiatives have access to the play training programme available via the Family Information, Childcare and Play Team.</p> <p>Ensure that Family Support Initiatives have access to a range of play materials for use with the families they are supporting.</p>		
		<p>Inter-generational policy and</p>	<p>To consider intergenerational work and a plan of</p>		

		<p>initiatives</p> <p>Community Development</p> <p>Community Safety</p> <p>Health and Safety</p>	<p>action to complete intergenerational work</p> <p>Ensure that future revisions of the Integrated Community Strategy have clear links between community development and play</p> <p>When the ICS is reviewed post 2016 children’s right to play needs to be included as a means to tackling the negative effects of poverty.</p> <p>Research the availability of Risk Benefit Guidance to be introduced to settings (to include schools)</p>		
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Play Sufficiency Assessment

Toolkit

PART ONE

How to use the Play Sufficiency Toolkit
and prepare for the Assessment



PART ONE

How to use the Play Sufficiency Toolkit and prepare for the Assessment

Contents

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1. Introduction

1.1 The Purpose of the Toolkit

This toolkit has been prepared by Play Wales and the Welsh Government in conjunction with play providers across Wales to provide support to all Local Authorities in fulfilling their duties, as set out in the Play Sufficiency Assessment (Wales) Regulations 2012. The development of the toolkit was approved by the Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services, one of the Welsh Ministers, as a means of supporting the implementation of this duty.

The toolkit should be used with reference to the Play Sufficiency Assessment (Wales) Regulations 2012 and associated Statutory Guidance, *Wales a Play Friendly Country*. These set out the details of the assessment and action plan that each Local Authority needs to undertake, every three years under the Children and Families (Wales) Measure (2010).

This duty forms part of the Welsh Government's commitment to promote play opportunities for all children in Wales. It also forms part of the tackling poverty agenda, which recognises that children can have a poverty of experience, opportunity and aspiration, and that this kind of poverty can affect children from all social, cultural and economic backgrounds across Wales. The duty has the potential to make real and meaningful changes that support children's right to play as well as providing them with a wealth of opportunity and experience.

The tools provided are tried and tested templates based on the matters that need to be taken into account within the Statutory Guidance. The templates provided may be used as they are or as a guide to inform the development of more specific resources.

A proforma has been provided for the Play Sufficiency Assessment and for the Play Sufficiency Action Plan, which needs to be submitted to the Welsh Government by 31 March 2016. The other tools provided are to support local authorities in completing the assessment and action plan and should be used according to local requirements.

1.2 What we want to achieve: time, space and permission to play

We want Wales to be a country where children are increasingly seen outside enjoying the benefits of play. We want to create a play friendly environment which provides time, space and permission for children to play. This will need parents, families and everyone in the community to recognise that play is of great importance in children's present lives and for their future development. We wish to promote positive attitudes towards children's right to play freely in their communities. This will need all these groups, together with Local Authority elected Members and Officers; and other decision makers and providers across many policy areas, to work together to remove barriers to children's play and make a real difference for children in their own streets and communities.

It is important that Local Authority elected Members understand the broad range of policy areas that affect play and the matters that need to be taken into account in the assessment. They need to be fully engaged from the start of the assessment process and have ownership of the results.

The toolkit has been developed to provide practical approaches that might help us to assess and address barriers and create a better Wales where children can live and play. In order to grasp the opportunity this legislation gives us, and make it work for children, it is clear we need to use our existing resources either more effectively or differently.

2. How to use the toolkit

This toolkit has been prepared to support Local Authorities in conducting and completing the Play Sufficiency Assessment. It has been divided into four sections to enable ease of use.

2.1 Section of the Toolkit

Part One: How to use the Play Sufficiency Toolkit and prepare for the Assessment

Provides an introduction to the purpose of the toolkit and suggestions on how a Local Authority can prepare for conducting the assessment. Some tools are provided for the preparation process and these are included in Part Four which contains all of the tools referred to in the toolkit.

Part Two: Undertaking the Play Sufficiency Assessment

Contains:

2a. The Play Sufficiency Assessment Proforma and

2b. The Play Sufficiency Action Plan Proformas.

Local Authorities should use both of these proformas as this will enable the Welsh Government to compare the assessments and action plans of Local Authorities to develop a clear national pan-Wales picture of play opportunities.

2a. The Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA) Proforma covers all of the matters that need to be taken into account in the Assessment, as set out in the Statutory Guidance. The proforma should enable each Local Authority to clearly set out its analysis of how well it is achieving sufficiency for each criterion and provide brief evidence for that judgement. The PSA proforma should not include raw data, but should indicate whether data is available, where it is held and links as appropriate. The full data should be used by the Local Authority for the purposes of improving play opportunities and be available to the Welsh Government on request. The Play Sufficiency Assessment also includes sections on shortfalls in sufficiency and identified action for the action plan.

2b. The Play Sufficiency Action Plan Proforma should be used to plan the actions that the Local Authority intends to take during 2016-17 regarding the actions identified in the Play Sufficiency Assessment.

It is expected that some of these actions will be incorporated within each Local Authority's Single Integrated Plan.

Part Three: Additional Information and Tools

The toolkit provides additional information which may be useful for Local Authorities in considering the issues relating to play and methods for conducting the Play Sufficiency Assessment.

Part Four: Tools

Contains the tools which are referred to in the other sections and are intended to support the assessment process.

2.2 How the toolkit was developed

A number of existing tools; quality assessment and assurance systems; and policy documents and strategies have been reviewed to inform the development of the toolkit.

The Welsh Government together with Play Wales has aimed to ensure that the development of this toolkit has been an inclusive process. It has been developed in collaboration with a wide range of partners including:

- All Wales Strategic Play Network (Local Authority and voluntary sector play officers).
- South East Wales Chief Leisure Officers Group.
- Delegates at Welsh Government consultation events in Llandudno, Merthyr Tydfil and Swansea.
- Flintshire Lifelong Learning and Environment and Regeneration officers.
- Welsh Local Government Association.
- Conwy Principal Play Officer (seconded from Play Wales).
- End Child Poverty Network.
- Participation Unit, based at Save the Children Fund.
- Cardiff Council Transport Policy Team.
- Rhondda Cynon Taf Play Sufficiency Workshop event.
- Di Murray, Playworks UK Consultancy and Training.
- Theresa Casey, President, International Play Association.

3. Preparing for the Play Sufficiency Assessment

A well-conducted Play Sufficiency Assessment will provide the evidence needed to identify gaps in provision and support the development of action plans to address these shortcomings.

Conducting the Play Sufficiency Assessments against the criteria of the Statutory Guidance will require skills and a partnership approach.

Many Local Authorities in Wales have set up Play Monitoring Groups, which were established to contribute to the first Play Sufficiency Assessments and Action Plans. The current Statutory Guidance Wales a Play Friendly Country states that:

“This group should support the lead director, the lead member for children and young people’s services (point 4.2) and the designated lead for the managerial and delivery functions (matter G) to fulfil the duty under the Measure and thereby secure sufficient play opportunities for children in its area. It should also invite the active involvement of Play Champions to promote engagement and support in achieving sufficient opportunities for children to play” (page 8).

As a result, many areas already have the foundation for creating local policy and strategy which develops cross-departmental working practices, policy development and implementation procedures to enhance children’s opportunities to play

The Play Sufficiency Assessment will need to demonstrate consideration of the range of factors that affect children’s opportunities to play.

It will include:

- Demographic profiles of the area
- An assessment of:
 - open space and existing and potential play space;
 - dedicated play provision;
 - recreational provision
- Other factors that promote play opportunities including planning; traffic; transport; information and publicity, as well as workforce development.

3.1 Engaging with elected members

An important first step is to identify the lead elected cabinet member who is responsible for Play Sufficiency in an area. Providing a briefing for elected members will help to raise the profile of the Play Sufficiency Assessment process among Councillors. The briefing will provide an opportunity to identify the range of other factors and decisions that impact on children’s opportunities to play in their communities.

3.2 Play Sufficiency Assessment Stages

Stage 1: Preparation

- Liaise with the Lead Member for Children and Young People/Cabinet
- Agree the Assessment methodology
- Decide who will lead the Assessment
- Identify contributors

- Identify membership and establish a Play Sufficiency Working Group
- Establish partnership roles and responsibilities and timeline
- Identify and recruit key partners
- Agree principles
- Identify financial resources/support

Stage 2: Conducting the Play Sufficiency Assessment

- Undertake assessment and identifying options of actions, using the Play Sufficiency Assessment Form
- Audit and map existing spaces and provision for playing
- Survey children and parents
- Identify and agree strengths and shortfalls in provision

Stage 3: Producing the Play Sufficiency Assessment

- Write the assessment
- Review and sign-off of the Play Sufficiency Assessment Form by the Play Sufficiency Working Group
- Play Sufficiency Assessment agreed by elected members

Stage 4: Producing the Action Plan

- Analyse and prioritise future actions
- Review and sign-off of the Play Sufficiency Action Plan Form by the Play Sufficiency Working Group
- Play Sufficiency Action Plan agreed by elected members

Stage 5: Submit the Play Sufficiency Assessment Form, and Play Sufficiency Action Plan form to Welsh Government

Stage 6: Submit the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Play Sufficiency Action Plan to the Local Service Board for inclusion in the Single Integrated Plan

Stage 7: Publish Play Sufficiency summary on local authority website

3.3 Conducting the Play Sufficiency Assessment

Options Analysis

An options analysis will enable the measurement of an organisation's ability to conduct the Play Sufficiency Assessment and identify the most appropriate approach to take.

Please refer to Tool 1 – Options Analysis

Lead Officer

The next step is to identify an officer of appropriate seniority to lead the process and to ensure that the wide range of partners are involved and engaged. Being clear about the expected level of involvement will be critical. Broadly, these are the roles that partners may be asked to take:

- Provide information that the partners already collect
- Provide information that is currently outside their normal day-to-day responsibility
- Be consulted about key issues
- Be part of the assessment process, for instance, as a steering group member

In order to conduct and produce a good Play Sufficiency Assessment there is a range of skills and in depth understanding required, which includes:

- Local people, policies, plans and delivery mechanisms, child and family population and needs, play and play provision, spatial planning, transport planning, open space planning, community safety, public health.
- Technical procedures such as survey research, sampling and analysis, geographical mapping systems, performance measurement and management.

In order that the role of the officer responsible for co-ordinating the Play Sufficiency Assessment is clearly understood it may be usefully outlined by a job description.

Please refer to Tool 2 – Lead Officer Model Job Description

3.4 Working in partnership

While it is essential that one department and a dedicated officer take overall responsibility for managing the Play Sufficiency Assessment, the data collection and analysis will require input from a range of partners with specific functions including:

- Local Authority staff
 - Play Services
 - Children with disability support
 - Geographical information Systems (GIS)/mapping
 - Planning
 - Research
 - Marketing
 - Transport
 - Environmental services/parks
 - Leisure Services
 - Youth Services
 - Family Information Service
 - Participation workers
 - Early years, childcare and family support
 - Community development/partnership officers
 - Education Estates
- Regional Voluntary Play Association
- Voluntary and community sector play providers
- Town and Community Councils

Establishing a Play Sufficiency Working Group will ensure that up to date information and data contribute to a comprehensive Play Sufficiency Assessment. It will also ensure that a realistic action plan is developed.

Terms of Reference will help describe the purpose and structure of a Play Sufficiency Working Group.

Please refer to Tool 3 – Play Sufficiency Working Group Model Terms of Reference

Skills Audit

It is important that the Local Authority identifies the most appropriate officer in each department or partner organisation to contribute to the task of the Play Sufficiency Working Group. A Skills Audit table breaking down the assessment process for each Matter is provided to suggest the knowledge and skills required for each section.

Please refer to Tool 4 – Model Skills Audit Template

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Wales – a Play Friendly Country

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Statutory Guidance

July 2014



Page 411

Foreword

“Wales: A Play Friendly Country” is Statutory Guidance to Local Authorities on assessing for and securing sufficient play opportunities for children in their areas. It is published by Welsh Ministers to give detail to the duty on Local Authorities under section 11, Play Opportunities, Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010. This section of the Measure fully came into effect on 1st July 2014.

This Statutory Guidance combines **“Creating a Play Friendly Wales”**, the Statutory Guidance to Local Authorities on assessing for sufficient play opportunities (2012), along with new guidance to Local Authorities to support in securing sufficient play opportunities for children in their areas, 2014.

The detail on assessment and the matters that need to be taken into account in the Play Sufficiency Assessments, as set out under “Creating a Play Friendly Wales” Statutory Guidance, have not been changed. They have been taken forward into the new Statutory Guidance “Wales: a Play Friendly Country”. This Guidance also sets out the detail under the duty to secure sufficient play opportunities following the consultation on draft Statutory Guidance “Wales: A Place Where Children Can Play”.

“Wales: A Play Friendly Country” is the Statutory Guidance that Local Authorities must follow to comply with the duty to assess for and secure sufficient play opportunities.

Ministerial Foreword



I am very proud that the Welsh Government is the first Government in the world to legislate for children's play and I am committed to taking this agenda forward through fully commencing the duty on Local Authorities to assess for and secure sufficient play opportunities for all children.

We are acting on the Welsh Government commitment to continue to improve opportunities for all children and young people to play in safety and, in particular, to support improved access to play for children with disabilities.

We strongly believe in the importance of play in children's lives and the benefits it gives to their health, happiness and well-being. It is also important in laying the foundation for each child in reaching their full potential during their adult life.

Through this legislation we are continuing to make Wales a country where every child has a wide range of challenging and interesting opportunities to play and to enjoy their leisure time. This is a task that will involve working with our partners to consider the many aspects of community life that affect play opportunities. These include use of the environment, traffic and transport; play and leisure provision, and parental and community involvement with play.

I should like to thank the many individuals, organisations and other stakeholders who have contributed to making sure that this document is fit for purpose, particularly Play Wales and the Welsh Government Association. I am sure that we will continue to work together on taking this important agenda forward and making the necessary changes to ensure that Wales truly is a play friendly country that meets the needs and rights of all our children.

Vaughan Gething AM, Deputy Minister for Tackling Poverty

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1. Introduction

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. There is much evidence to support this belief and an increasing understanding of play’s contribution not only to children’s lives, but also to the well-being of their families and the wider community¹.

Children’s right to play is enshrined in Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The Welsh Government formally adopted the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2004, and we are committed to making the principles of the UNCRC a reality for all children and young people. There are three articles which particularly relate to this duty:

- **Article 31 (Leisure, play and culture):** Children have the right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of cultural, artistic and other recreational activities.², which must be read in combination with the **General Comment No17 on the right of the child to rest, leisure, play, recreational activities, cultural life and the arts (art. 31):** “ The general comment seeks to enhance the understanding of the importance of article 31 for children’s well-being and development; to ensure respect for and strengthen the application of the rights under article 31”
- **Article 15 (Freedom of association):** Children have the right to meet together and to join groups and organisations.
- **Article 12 (Respect for the views of the child):** When adults are making decisions that affect children, children have the right to say what they think should happen and have their opinions taken into account.

In Wales play is established as one of children’s rights under Core Aim 4 - Play, Sport, Leisure and Culture, of the Welsh Government’s 7 Core Aims for Children, set out in *Children & Young People: Rights to Action, 2004*.³

The Welsh Government also believes that high quality play opportunities for all children may contribute to mitigating the negative effects of poverty on children’s lives and help to build their resilience.⁴ Play can also be a means of reducing

1 Lester, S. and Russell, W. (2008) Play for a Change – Play, Policy and Practice: A review of contemporary perspectives. National Children’s Bureau for Play England: London.

2 A General Comment is currently being developed by the UNCRC to further explain the right of children to play, within Article 31

3 <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/publications/rightstoaction/?lang=en>

4 Child Poverty Strategy for Wales - <http://wales.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/child-poverty-strategy/?lang=en>

inequalities between children living in families that can afford costly recreational provision and those that cannot so reducing poverty of experience for all children.

The Welsh Government wishes to create an environment in Wales where children have excellent opportunities to play and enjoy their recreation time. Our Play Policy⁵ states that:

“Play is so critically important to all children in the development of their physical, social, mental, emotional and creative skills that society should seek every opportunity to support it and create an environment that fosters it. Decision making at all levels of government should include a consideration of the impact of those decisions, on children’s opportunities to play.”

To achieve this purpose the Welsh Government commenced the first part of the duty under section 11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010, Play Opportunities for Children in November 2012. That part of the duty requires Local Authorities to assess the sufficiency of play opportunities for children in their areas, in accordance with regulations. The Play Sufficiency Assessment (Wales) Regulations published in November 2012 set out the requirements of the assessments and the matters they need to take in to account.

On 01 July 2014 Welsh Ministers commenced the second part of this legislation, which places a duty on Local Authorities to secure sufficient play opportunities for children in their areas, so far as reasonably practicable, having regard to their assessments. The duty also requires Local Authorities to publish and keep up to date information about play opportunities for children in their areas.

Wales is the first country in the world to establish such a duty within its legislative framework, so there are no precedents for this work. We wish to work with all stakeholders to make this legislation fit for the purpose of making Wales a play friendly country with all the benefits that this will offer to our children. We welcome your endorsement, and implementation of this Statutory Guidance and ongoing positive engagement and support for the play agenda in Wales.

2. Play Policy development in Wales

To achieve the outcomes for children that play provides, the Welsh Government worked with stakeholder organisations to create the **Play Policy** in 2002 and the **Play Policy Implementation Plan** in 2006 (see Appendix A, Associated Policy documents). These documents set out the Welsh Government’s vision for Play for children in Wales and the actions that it intended to take to realise this vision. The

1. ⁵ Play Policy (2002). www.nwwplayforum.org.uk/documents/play-policy-e.pdf

Welsh Government recognises that to achieve the aim of creating a play friendly Wales and to provide excellent opportunities for our children to play; it is necessary for Local Authorities, their partners and other stakeholders to also work towards this purpose. Therefore a section on “Play Opportunities” was included in the **Children and Families (Wales) Measure**, which received royal assent in 2010.

3. Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 (Legal Basis)

Chapter 2, Section 11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure sets out the duty on Local Authorities as regards Play Opportunities.

Section 11 -

Local authority duties in respect of play opportunities for children

- (1) A local authority must assess the sufficiency of play opportunities in its area for children in accordance with regulations.
- (2) Regulations may include provision about—
 - a. The matters to be taken into account in assessing sufficiency.
 - b. The date by which a first assessment is to be carried out.
 - c. Frequency of assessments.
 - d. Review of assessments.
 - e. Publication of assessments.

Commenced 01 July 2014(3) *A local authority must secure sufficient play opportunities in its area for children, so far as reasonably practicable, having regard to its assessment under subsection (1).*

Commenced 01 July 2014(4) *A local authority must—*

- a. publish information about play opportunities in the authority’s area for children, and*
- b. keep the information published up to date.*

- (5) In performing its duties under this section, a local authority must have regard (among other things)—
 - a. to the needs of children who are disabled persons (within the meaning of section 1 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (c. 50).
 - b. to the needs of children of different ages.

- (6) In this section—

“play” includes any recreational activity;
“sufficient”, in relation to play opportunities, means sufficient having regard to quantity and quality.

Welsh Ministers decided to commence the duty in two parts. The first part covered the duty on Local Authorities to assess for sufficient play opportunities, sections 11(1); 11(2); 11(5); 11(6) and commenced in 2012.

The second part of the duty placed a duty on Local Authorities to secure sufficient play opportunities in their areas for children, so far as reasonably practicable, having regard to the assessments 11(3); and the duty to publish information about play opportunities for children in their areas and keep the information up to date 11(4). This duty was commenced on 01 July 2014, after full consideration of the Play Sufficiency Assessments and the Local Authorities’ Action Plans for improving play opportunities.

This Statutory Guidance is intended to:-

- support Local Authorities in completing their Play Sufficiency Assessments and Play Action Plans for achieving sufficiency. It sets out the purpose of the duty and the matters to be taken into account in assessing sufficiency as set out under section 10. A toolkit has also been made available to support the production of the assessments.⁶
- support Local Authorities in securing sufficient play opportunities. This will be through the implementation of the Play Action Plans which they are required to develop to maintain the strengths and improve on the shortcomings identified in their Play Sufficiency Assessments.

Under Section 71 of the measure, “child” (“plentyn”) means a person who has not attained the age of 18.

This guidance is issued in accordance with Section 17(3) of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure, which states that:

*In exercising its functions under **sections 11** (Local authority duties in respect of play opportunities for children) **and 12** (Participation of children in local authority decision making), a local authority **must** have regard to any guidance given from time to time by the Welsh Ministers.*

And in accordance with Section 70 (guidance) of the Measure, which states:

- (1) This section has effect in relation to any guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers under this Measure to bodies that must have regard to it.
- (2) The Welsh Ministers —

⁶ <http://www.playwales.org.uk/sufficiency>

- (a) may give guidance to bodies generally or to one or more particular bodies;
- (b) may issue different guidance to or in respect of different bodies;
- (c) must, before they issue guidance, consult the bodies that must have regard to the guidance;
- (d) must publish the guidance.

4. Policy Framework

4.1 Assessing for and Securing Sufficient Play Opportunities through Partnership working and collaboration

To achieve a play friendly society that offers a wide range of play and recreational opportunities it is necessary for all partners within the community to work together for this purpose.

The Welsh Government encourages Local Authorities to acknowledge the importance of play in children's lives and make a firm commitment to work strenuously within their own structures; with partner organisations; with children and their families and communities to ensure that children have access to the play opportunities that they want and have a right to expect.

The relevant partnerships are likely to include:

- Town and Community Councils.
- Third sector organisations, particularly regional play associations.
- The private sector if appropriate.
- Community groups.
- Communities First partnerships.
- Health Boards;
- Housing Associations Police and Fire Services as appropriate.

As well as working with relevant organisations within its area, the planning and delivery of play provision can take place on a regional and cross Local Authority basis where appropriate, and with national organisations that support the development of play. Each area should be proactive in developing play opportunities for children in its own area, as well as being supportive and sharing good practice with other authorities/organisations to promote play for all children in Wales. The Assessments and implementation of the Action Plans should take account of provision that may be used by children beyond Local Authority boundaries.

To ensure a sufficient contribution from a range of partners, and across Local Authority policy and delivery areas and to meet the duty for assessment, planning and securing of sufficient play opportunities, the Local Authority should establish a

Play Monitoring Group or equivalent. This group should support the **lead director**, the **lead member for children and young people's services** (point 4.2) and the **designated lead for the managerial and delivery functions** (matter G) to fulfil the duty under the Measure and thereby secure sufficient play opportunities for children in its area. It should also invite the active involvement of Play Champions to promote engagement and support in achieving sufficient opportunities for children to play.

To support Local Authorities in sharing information about their progress in securing sufficient play opportunities, the Welsh Government will work collaboratively with the authorities and other stakeholders to provide information on case studies under its section on Play Opportunities on the Welsh Government website.

4.2 Completion of the Assessments

The Local Authority has the duty to assess for, and with regard to the assessment, develop an action plan for securing sufficient play opportunities.

- Where an assessment identifies an insufficiency in play opportunities for children in the Local Authority area, the action plan must set out what steps need to be taken to improve the opportunities for children to play within that Local Authority area.
- Where an assessment identifies that opportunities for children to play in the Local Authority area are sufficient, the action plan must set out what steps need to be taken to maintain opportunities for children to play within that Local Authority area.

Local Authorities and key partner agencies are required in law to cooperate to improve the wellbeing of children and young people in the local area. The Children Act 2004 placed a duty on every Local Authority in Wales to appoint a **lead director** and **lead member for children and young people's services**. It is expected that these lead directors and members will be responsible for the completion of the Play Sufficiency Assessment and the development and implementation of the Play Action Plan.

Single Integrated Plan or subsequent high level plan

The Single Integrated Plan is the mechanism through which action on local priorities is planned and delivered, and outcomes monitored and evaluated, based on an assessment of local needs. Action to develop, monitor and scrutinise the Single Integrated plan is coordinated by the Local Service Board, bringing together leaders of local government, the NHS, the police, third sector and the Welsh Government itself.

Local Authority representatives on the Local Service Board should ensure that the Play Sufficiency Assessments form part of the local needs assessment. Progress made to improve the opportunities for children to play, as set out in the Single

Integrated Plan should follow the planning cycle in the Guidance on Shared Purpose – Shared Delivery: Integrating Partnerships and Plans⁷. The assessment and the proposals for securing sufficient play opportunities should be integrated into the planning, implementation and review of the Single Integrated Plan at every stage of the planning cycle.

Action plans are the essential building blocks of the Single Integrated Plan. They set out in detail what actions each of the Local Service Board partners will undertake over 3–5 years to achieve outcomes which contribute towards identified long-term goals.

Legal duties on local partners in respect of play remain. Participation of children in planning for play and the monitoring of play provision should become part of developing citizen engagement and scrutiny procedures.

At the time of publication of this Guidance, the Local Authority Single Integrated Plan is the high level plan to which the Play Action Plan should contribute. In future years this may be changed, and the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Play Action Plan should contribute to any subsequent high level plan.

4.3 Providing and maximising resources

Play covers a wide range of provision; facilities; services and community organisation, therefore it is essential that budgets that cover all these areas contribute towards the purpose of achieving sufficient opportunities for children to play

It is anticipated that with a slight shift in emphasis in how a budget is utilised a significant improvement in the availability of play opportunities can be achieved.

Local partners should identify and consider use of these budgets in developing the Action Plans for improving play opportunities, including reprioritisation if necessary. Review of budgets of relevant policy areas that affect children’s play opportunities and maximise their benefit for play should contribute to the Single Integrated Plans.

4.4 Securing sufficient play opportunities

Under the duty to secure sufficient play opportunities for children in their areas Local Authorities should use all practical means available to them to maintain provision and services, and to increase and improve play opportunities for all children in their areas. They should have regard to the strengths and shortcomings identified in their Play Sufficiency Assessments and to the requirements of assessment as set out in the Regulations and this guidance.

⁷ <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/improvingservices/publicationevents/publications/sharedpurpdel/?lang=en>

Sufficient play opportunities must particularly be secured through implementation of the actions set out in the Local Authorities' **Play Action Plans** developed to maintain the strengths and address the shortcomings identified in the assessment. The Play Action Plans must be developed and reviewed each year to record progress and identify and set out actions that need to be taken during the following year; how these will be achieved; and timescales for completion. Further information is given under point 6.

4.5 Publishing information

The Welsh Government expects each Local Authority to develop a clearly identified play section on its website giving comprehensive information about:

- parks, play grounds and other outdoor spaces affording opportunities for children to play; Indoor play provision; play activities and clubs providing play opportunities;
- Holiday play schemes;
- Events for children and families; and wider community events where children can play.

This information should also be made available via the Local Authority's other main methods of publicising its provision, services and events, including the Family Information Service and CLIC if appropriate.

All information provided should be kept up to date.

This is a statutory requirement under section 11(4) of the Measure.

5. Consultation, Participation & Engagement

For play opportunities to meet the requirements of children it is essential that they are consulted on what they want from play and recreational activities.

The Local Authority should consult with children as to what play opportunities; play provision; activities and events they want in their area. The participation and consultation methods should comply with the Welsh Government's Children and Young People's Participation Standards⁸ and Section 12 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 on Participation⁹. The Authority should also consult with parents; the local community and any other interested stakeholder on the development of play opportunities and developing child and play friendly communities. The National Principles for Public Engagement in Wales¹⁰ can be used to support this process. Further guidance on consulting on play is available in

⁸ <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/publications/participationstandards/?lang=en>

⁹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2010/1/section/12>

¹⁰ <http://www.participationcymru.org.uk/national-principles>

the **toolkit**¹¹ which was developed to support Local Authorities in conducting the assessment.

The assessment should take into account:

- The views of children, obtained through consultations, on what play and recreation provision they want in their areas; how they would like their neighbourhood to be organised to provide the play opportunities they want; and what barriers stop them from playing. The consultation should include the views of children who do and do not use the existing play opportunities.
- An analysis of the results of these consultations and how these have or will be used to inform future plans.
- The views of parents, families and other stakeholders, obtained through consultation, on play provision/opportunities and how this has or will inform future plans.

As the Play Action Plans are developed, implemented and reviewed each year, children and families who have been, or will be, affected by the actions should be consulted as to their views on what has been achieved; the benefit in increasing their opportunities to play; and actions for future improvements.

6. Timetable for the completion of the Play Sufficiency Assessments, Play Action Plans, securing sufficient play opportunities and reporting to Welsh Ministers

The duty to assess for sufficient play opportunities commenced on **2 November 2012**.

The duty to secure sufficient play opportunities commenced on **1 July 2014**.

Assessing for sufficient play opportunities

Under these duties Local Authorities must complete assessments of play opportunities for children in their areas every three years as set out in the Regulations.

Local Authorities are required to complete and submit a copy of their Play Sufficiency Assessments and Play Action Plans to the Welsh Government. The first assessments and action plans were completed and submitted to the Welsh Government in March 2013.

The documents required to be submitted to Welsh Ministers are:

¹¹ <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/publications/toolkit/?lang=en>

- 1. The Play Sufficiency Assessment** – This must be a full assessment of the play opportunities in the Local Authority area, set out on the Play Sufficiency Assessment template provided under the Welsh Government toolkit
- 2. An Executive Summary of the Play Sufficiency Assessment** which must include a summary of the main outcomes from the Play Sufficiency Assessment and highlight the actions that the Local Authority proposes to take to achieve sufficiency. This summary must be published on the Local Authority web site.
- 3. An Annual Play Action Plan** detailing the actions, priorities and milestones to maintain strengths and address shortcomings identified in the Play Sufficiency Assessment. An updated Play Action Plan is required each year.

Securing sufficient play opportunities

Under the duty to secure sufficient play opportunities, Local Authorities should work with partners to develop and implement the Play Action Plans that remove shortcomings and maintain the strengths identified in the Play Sufficiency Assessments. The Play Action Plans should be developed and implemented each year. Each year Local Authorities should show continuous improvement in securing play opportunities.

Both Play Sufficiency Assessments and Play Action Plans must contribute to the Single Integrated Plans or future high level Local Authority as detailed in point 4.2.

Report to Welsh Minister on assessing and securing sufficient play opportunities

Local Authorities must submit the Play Sufficiency Assessments, Play Action Plans and other reports to Welsh Government officials as set out below. The Welsh Government wishes to develop a strong working relationship with Local Authorities in taking the play agenda forward through, information sharing and monitoring of the Play Action Plans.

Timetable for assessing and securing sufficient play opportunities for the next 10 years.

October 2014	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Progress Report on the Play Action Plan 2013-2014 2. Annual Play Action Plan 2014-2015 3. Timetable for Cabinet to sign off the Annual Play Action Plan 2014-2015
March 2015	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Progress Report on the Play Action Plan 2014-2015 2. Annual Play Action Plan 2015-2016 3. Timetable for Cabinet to sign off the Annual Play Action Plan 2015-2016
March 2016 March 2019 March 2022 March 2025	<p>Local Authorities are required to complete and submit a copy of their Play Sufficiency Assessments; the Executive Summary of the Play Sufficiency Assessments; and the Play Action Plan for the following year to the Welsh Ministers.</p> <p>The Executive Summaries of the Play Sufficiency Assessments should be published on the Local Authorities' websites. The published summaries must include the outcomes of the Play Sufficiency Assessments and highlight the actions that the Local Authorities intends to take to achieve sufficient play opportunities.</p> <p>Play Action Plans must be developed and submitted to the Welsh Government each year.</p> <p>Local Authorities were required to contribute the results of the Play Sufficiency Assessments to the Single Integrated Plan (please see the Guidance on Shared Purpose, Shared Delivery: Integrating Partnerships and Plans¹²).</p>

A toolkit¹³ has been developed, in conjunction with Play Wales, to assist Local Authorities in preparing for and conducting the Play Sufficiency Assessments and developing the Play Action Plans. The toolkit includes templates that will support these processes.

¹² <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/improvingservices/publicationevents/publications/sharedpurpdel/?lang=en>

¹³ <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/publications/toolkit/?lang=en>

7. Definition of Play

The definition of play as used in the Play Policy and Implementation Plan is the one that had been developed by the play sector and is recognised internationally. This states that:

“Play encompasses children’s behaviour which is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated. It is performed for no external goal or reward, and is a fundamental and integral part of healthy development - not only for individual children, but also for the society in which they live”.

The Welsh Government wishes to emphasise this definition of play. It also recognises that play can include a wide range of recreational activities.

The Welsh Government sees creating an environment where children can freely play as central to the aim of this section of the Measure. We recognise that our society has changed significantly in recent years in the extent to which it is accepted as the norm for children to go out to play and organise where they go and what they do in their own time. This has come about for various reasons including increased concerns about risks to children from increased traffic density; perceived danger from adults who may pose a threat to children; lack of safe places to play; increased television and computer use and sometimes a negative view of playing children by other sections of the community. For these reasons we aim to make communities more play friendly by valuing and increasing quality opportunities for play throughout the community. The intended outcome will be more children playing both inside and outside and so enjoying the health, social, cognitive and emotional benefits that play provides.

Play is defined for the purposes of the measure as including “any recreational activity” (Section 11(6) Measure). The definition of play includes but is not limited to “any recreational activity”. This recognises that children enjoy and benefit from taking part in a wide range of activities that are, in the main, organised by adults for children. These can include junior and youth clubs; leisure centre and sporting activities; cultural and arts activities; indoor play centres, play buses and events organised for children and their families. These recreational activities may offer a combination of adult led organised activities, and opportunities for freely chosen and child led play. In any of these situations children should have the choice of taking part and a voice in what opportunities are offered and how they are organised.

We see the range of play opportunities for children that are covered under the Measure as being:-

- **Freely chosen Play** - With or without adult supervision / facilitation.
- **Structured recreational activities** - in the main led by adults, with predefined rules.

These opportunities can be available in a range of spaces and settings and any setting may afford both opportunities for freely chosen play and structured recreational activities.

Examples within these categories and a glossary of terms is provided in Appendix B

8. Priorities for assessing and securing freely chosen play and recreational activities

The Play Sufficiency Assessments to be carried out by each Local Authority under this duty should give a comprehensive assessment of freely chosen play opportunities as described in the Play Policy.

The assessment should also cover voluntarily chosen structured recreational activities for children covering opportunities for leisure, sporting and cultural activities. These areas are covered, together with play, under the Welsh Government's Core Aim 4 for children and young people. It should identify whether access to provision is free to use or paid for at the point of entry. We recognise that much work has and is being carried out in these areas and do not wish to require duplication with other assessments. We therefore require clear and concise statements on these areas of provision, with cross reference to other relevant assessments of delivery so allowing Local Authorities to utilise existing information.

In securing sufficient play opportunities the Local Authority should give emphasis to the actions required as identified through the play sufficiency assessment and planning process. It should also give consideration to children's opportunities to take part in leisure, sporting and cultural activities and the extent to which these policy and delivery areas support freely chosen opportunities for children to play.

8.1 Play as a tool within other policy agendas

Play is important in its own right. It is also seen as an important tool or method in achieving other agendas relating to children's well-being and development. These include:

- Childcare and early years development.
- Education, particularly the Foundation Phase.
- Healthy living and wellbeing.

The Welsh Government fully recognises the importance of play in its own right and also its being seen as experiential learning; a source of physical activity; and in some contexts a form of therapy, by professionals and others working in service areas for children. Child led play can also contribute to the desired outcomes in these areas. It is important that service providers and practitioners in all relevant areas are aware of the balance between play for its own sake and play as contributing to other agendas.

The provision of quality play opportunities can also significantly contribute to agendas for the whole community, including:

- Community safety – by providing safe environments for children and all other citizens.

Sustainable development – by providing environments that attract families to work and live in areas that meet the needs of the whole family over a period of time.

9. What are sufficient play opportunities?

Section 11(6) sets out that “sufficient” in relation to play opportunities means sufficient having regard to **quantity** and **quality**.

The Welsh Government recognises that clearly setting out a required quantity and quality of play opportunities for a particular area is not a straightforward task as it depends on many variables including:

- The natural environment and geography of the area.
- The built environment and characteristics of the communities.
- The demography of the area.
- Existing play opportunities and provision.
- Existing organisational structures.

These will all affect what is:

- The present situation.
- What changes are needed to create a play friendly environment.
- How these can be achieved.

We acknowledge that what is considered as sufficient and achievable will depend on these variables and should be determined locally, in accordance with the intentions and matters to be taken into account as covered in the Regulations and this Statutory Guidance. This includes consultation with children, their families and communities.

9.1 Quantity

The quantity of play opportunities should be such that any child should be able to play freely and take part in a range of recreational activities in their communities at times and in places that meet their needs.

9.2 Quality of provision

The Local Authority should assess for, and secure, opportunities for children to play of a quality that meets the enjoyment; social and developmental needs of the children in its area. Many documents have been produced by specialist play organisations giving advice on the criteria associated with good quality and successful play spaces. A rich play environment¹⁴ is one which is flexible, adaptable, varied and interesting. It maximises the potential for socialising, creativity, resourcefulness, challenge, and choice. It is a trusted public space where children feel free to play in their own way, in their own time, on their own terms.

Quality play provision offers all children the opportunity to freely interact with or experience the following:

- **Other children** - of different ages and abilities with a choice to play alone or with others, to negotiate, co-operate, fall out, and resolve conflict.
- **The natural world** - weather, trees, plants, insects, animals, mud.
- **Loose parts** - natural and man made materials that can be manipulated, moved and adapted, built and demolished.
- **The four elements** - earth, air, fire and water.
- **Challenge and uncertainty** - graduated opportunities for risk taking; both on a physical and emotional level.
- **Changing identity** - role play and dressing up.
- **Movement** - running, jumping, climbing, balancing, rolling, swinging, siding and spinning.
- **Rough and tumble** - play fighting.
- **The senses** - sounds, tastes, textures, smells and sights.

Under the different sections of the Play Sufficiency Assessment the Local Authority should take account of the extent to which children have access to play spaces with high play value; and to a range of recreational activities that meet their needs.

In securing sufficient play opportunities Local Authorities should ensure that their Play Action Plans are developed and implemented to achieve high quality opportunities for all children to play.

9.3 Time, Space and Permission

For children to have sufficient play opportunities, they need time to play, space to play and the recognition by adults that this is every child's right so that all children are allowed this time and space.

¹⁴ Play Wales <http://www.playwales.org.uk/landing.asp?id=6>

10. Play Sufficiency Assessments: Matters that need to be taken into account in assessing for and securing sufficient play opportunities.

This section sets out the matters that need to be taken into account in assessing for sufficient play opportunities. The assessments will show the strengths and shortcomings for each matter and the actions to be taken to maintain strengths and address shortcomings.

To secure sufficient play opportunities Local Authorities must develop and implement Play Action Plans as set out under point 6 covering all of the matters to be taken into account in the assessments.

Matter A: Population

The assessment should present data about the number of children living in the Local Authority area at the present time with a projection of 5 years forward, to enable an assessment of their potential play requirements. The data should provide information about the numbers of children in different categories that may affect their play requirements. The data should also show if the areas are classified as being areas of disadvantage or deprivation.

This should cover the number of children in each, ward, broken down into Lower Super Output Areas, or areas that the local authority has identified as appropriate for sufficiency planning purposes, by:

- Age groups for 0-3 year olds; 4–7 year olds; 8–12 year olds; 13-15 year olds; 16–17 year olds.
- Recorded number of disabled children in each age group.
- Welsh as a first language and those educated through the medium of Welsh.
- Children for whom English or Welsh is not their first language.
- Other recorded cultural factors including ethnicity (including gypsy traveller children, refugees and asylum seekers).
-

Matter B: Providing for diverse needs

The Local Authority should aim to offer play opportunities that are inclusive and encourage all children to play and meet together if they wish to. It should recognise that there may be barriers for some children in taking part in the range of play opportunities in their area. This could be due to disability/impairment; children's own communities' cultural values or other environmental or attitudinal factors. The play assessment should cover the extent to which:

- Play opportunities are appropriate to the requirements of children from diverse communities and cultures, including those in isolated rural areas.
- Play opportunities are appropriate to the requirements of Welsh language speaking children.
- Play opportunities are accessible to and inclusive of disabled children and may include support to access play opportunities.
- Specialised provision is available for disabled children if there is a clearly identified need for this.
- Community planning; traffic and transport initiatives cover the requirements of disabled children to access play opportunities.

Matter C: Space available for children to play

Open Spaces

The Local Authority should recognise that all open spaces, including those which whilst not owned by them, are accessible to the public within their area, are potentially important areas where children can play or pass through to reach other playable areas or places where they go. The Play Sufficiency Assessment should take into account:

- Grassland/scrubland.
- Woodlands and amenity green space.
-
- Beaches and river and lake sides.
- Public parks and gardens (in addition to dedicated play areas within the parks).
- Residential streets.
- School grounds.
- Brownfield sites.
- Village greens, town squares, plazas and other open urban public spaces.
- Incidental pockets of land, for example alongside roads and paths

As part of the Play Sufficiency Assessments Local Authorities should draw upon existing Open Space Assessments and other local sources of information to map areas that are used for play or could potentially be used for play. The open spaces considered should include those set out in the Welsh Government Planning Policy Wales and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 16 “Sport, Recreation and Open Space”; Technical Advice Note (TAN) 12 “Design” * and Creating an Active Wales (2009)* as well as brown field sites; residential streets; and school grounds.

A space should be assessed for:

- Its play value.

- Distance to travel from where children live without any significant physical barriers.
- Its accessibility.
- Its freedom from inappropriate hazards.
- Acceptable levels of opportunities for beneficial risk taking.
- Its existing use for play.
- Its potential for play use.

Any change of use for open spaces, or areas that become disused, will come under the guidelines and regulations set out as part of the planning system in *Planning Policy Wales* and the associated Technical Advice Notes¹⁵.

It is expected that any assessment relating to planning of open space and leisure and recreation, will be undertaken with close collaboration with the Local Authority Play Officer and that Open Space Assessments (OSAs) will inform the Play Sufficiency Assessment and vice-versa, to avoid duplication of effort.

Securing sufficient play opportunities

In securing sufficient play opportunities through the Play Action Plan, Local Authorities should ensure that the collaboration that was established in undertaking the assessment is continued in developing and undertaking actions to improve open spaces for play. The Play Implementation Group should include representation from the Local Authority Planning Department to ensure a strong contribution from this policy area in the Play Action Plans.

Outdoor unstaffed designated play spaces

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should take into account:

- Playgrounds and play areas.
- Doorstep.
- Local.
- Neighbourhood.
- Destination.
- Recreation (sports) fields – natural and artificial.
- Multi use games areas (MUGAs).
- Wheeled play areas – BMX bike and skate parks.
- Youth shelters.

¹⁵ <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/policy/guidanceandleaflets/policyindex/?lang=en>

A space should be assessed for:

- Play value.
- Distance to travel from where children live without any significant physical barriers.
- Quantity of provision in relation to number of children.
- Accessibility and suitability in relation to different ages; abilities; dry and wet weather use.
- Acceptable levels of opportunities for beneficial risk taking.
- Its existing use for play.
- Potential for increasing use for play

Playing Fields

The Local Authority should recognise the importance of playing fields as areas of community use for organised sporting activities and for play and informal recreational use. The Playing Fields (Community Involvement in Disposal Decisions) (Wales) Measure 2010¹⁶ empowers the Welsh Ministers to make provision by way of regulations for the involvement of communities in decisions by local authorities about proposed disposals of fields. A “Local Authority” in this context is a county/county borough council, community council and a national park authority.

The Welsh Ministers have consulted on draft regulations (and the related statutory guidance) to be made under the Measure. The draft regulations require a local authority to publish information on the impact of a proposed disposal of a playing field on the health and well-being of the community, by reference to key strategies and plans for the area (including the play sufficiency assessment). The regulations will also strengthen arrangements for meaningful consultation by local authorities with the local community and appropriate national and local sports and other organisations prior to a decision to dispose of a playing field.

It is currently anticipated that the regulations will come into force in late 2014.

Any impact assessment should recognise the importance of playing fields to children’s opportunities to play and include children, young people and their families in any consultations on such decisions.

¹⁶ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2010/6/contents>

Matter D: Supervised provision

Play work provision

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should take into account play provision including:

- Holiday play schemes (Registered and unregistered).
- Adventure playgrounds.
- Play opportunities supported by peripatetic playworkers (play rangers).
- Mobile provision, such as play buses.
- Clubs and youth groups.
- Organisations which provide resources for these settings (such as toy libraries or scrap stores).

This provision should be assessed for the extent to which:

- There is sufficient provision to meet the needs of children and their families.
- The provision meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards for that setting, as set out by the Welsh Government; Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) or other inspection body.
- The provision works to achieve high standards in offering play opportunities for children as developed by the Sector Skills Council for Play (SkillsActive) and the play sector.

Where out of school childcare and open access play is already assessed by Local Authorities through the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, the Play Sufficiency Assessment should also assess these settings in respect of the quality of the play opportunities that they provide and offer.

Structured recreational activities

Under the Measure recreational activities form a part of Play Opportunities.

The Welsh Government wishes to avoid duplication of assessments of provision and service delivery within the range of youth support services and other areas providing for Sport, Leisure and Culture, so requires less information on this provision within the Play Sufficiency Assessment. (See point 8: Priorities for assessing freely chosen play and recreational activities). A statement should be provided of sufficiency in these areas with cross reference to the relevant sections in each policy/delivery area's assessments of provision.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should take into account the extent to which:

- The Local Authority is delivering on its responsibility to secure the services set out under Core Aim 4 for sport, leisure and culture.

- Local “Creating an Active Wales” Plans are increasing play and recreational activities for children.
- Local Authority Partnership Agreements (LAPA) are contributing to increasing free play and recreational activities.
- The sports agenda is contributing to the provision of sufficient recreational activities for children.
- Leisure centre provision of free play opportunities – free swimming; play sessions.
- The cultural and arts agenda, is contributing to the provision of sufficient recreational activities for children.
- The Local Authority Youth Service is providing for children’s opportunities for leisure and association.

As set out in Shared Planning for Better Outcomes (2007),¹⁷ Youth Support services and the Youth Service should provide children with their entitlement to accessible recreational and social opportunities, sports, culture, music and arts.

Matter E: Charges for play provision

Play opportunities in open spaces and outdoor unstaffed designated play spaces (Matter C) will, other than in exceptional circumstances, be free of charge to children and any accompanying adults. Supervised provision both for playwork provision and structured recreational activities (Matter D) may incur a cost to children and their families. This could be through voluntary contributions, entry charges and payment or subscriptions for activities. A further cost could be for transport to these opportunities (Matter F). Any charges will clearly affect whether a wide range of play opportunities are available for all children and therefore the sufficiency of provision for a particular area. It should be appreciated that even relatively small costs for low income families with several children can mean that opportunities are not available to these children.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should show which play opportunities involve a charge and the amount of that charge. It should take into account the extent to which any charges affect the sufficiency of play opportunities for:-

- Children living in low income families.
- Children living in areas of deprivation.
- Children living in rural areas.
- Disabled children or children with particular needs.

¹⁷ <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/publications/sharedplanning/?lang=en>

The Play Sufficiency Assessment and Play Action Plans should show the extent to which Local Authorities take charges into account for these children and their families and the measures used to mitigate these circumstances including:

- Provision of no cost opportunities for children to play.
- No or low charges for Local Authority premises used for play provision.
- Grants or subsidies for play providers.
- Subsidised transport costs for children travelling to play opportunities.

Information of no or low cost play provision will be accessible via the Family Information Service available in each local authority area.

Matter F: Access to space/provision

In assessing for and creating play friendly communities Local Authorities should work to ensure that children are able to move around their communities to play; to walk or cycle to open spaces, play or leisure provision; to visit family and friends or to attend school, without risk of harm.

The Welsh Government is committed to reducing road traffic collisions and injuries, and developing a safer environment for all. The goal is a safer country - for our children and for all the people of Wales.

Local Authorities have powers to introduce 20mph limits where appropriate – for example in residential areas where children could play. The number of 20 mph schemes in Wales has risen steadily in recent years, largely due to Welsh Government funding through our Local Road Safety Grant and Safe Routes programmes.

For many children the pavements and roads outside their front doors represent not only access to play provision, but also a space in its own right, where they can play; sometimes the only public open space in a community. We also recognise that when children travel somewhere they don't just walk or cycle but they play their way through their community.

Under the Welsh Government's Local Transport Services Grant, Local Authorities are allocated annual funding to help them boost the number and range of subsidised local bus and community transport services. While the majority of local bus services are provided commercially, Local Authorities have powers to subsidise services that they believe are required to meet a social need. To achieve this they use their own budgets but also the annual allocations that they receive under the Local Transport Services Grant Scheme.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should take into account all factors that contribute to children's access to play or moving around their communities including:

- Traffic calming.

- Play streets / temporary road closures.
- Safe walking, cycling routes.
- Public transport provision.
- Shared spaces.
- Parking.
- Opening hours of play provision.

These factors should be assessed for:

- The number of 20 mph limits in residential areas.
- The effectiveness of these limits in allowing for children to safely move around their communities and playing outside.
- The potential for increasing the number of 20 mph limit areas to promote play opportunities.
- The Local Authority's provision of safe walking and cycle routes and potential for increasing these. This should align with the proposals that are set out in the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013.¹⁸
- Confirmation that their public transport planning and decisions about expenditure on bus and community transport services reflect their assessment of children's needs to access play.
- Processes for arranging temporary road closures being straightforward and information on these being readily available.
- The impact that parked cars in residential streets have on children's use of space.
- Whether play opportunities are available at times when children want them.

Information; publicity; 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.

The Welsh Government expects each Local Authority to develop a clearly identified play section on its website. This should give comprehensive information about all play opportunities; play areas and areas not necessarily designated as such that provide a range of play opportunities; activities; clubs and events for children in its area. It would also be useful to provide information and relevant links for parents, to promote support for, and involvement with play opportunities within the wider community. This information could also be provided through the Local Authority's other publicity methods.

¹⁸ <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/transport/integrated/walkingcycling/activetravelact/?lang=en>

Events which encourage play and which promote the normalisation/acceptance of play activities in community spaces will contribute to play being accepted at other times, as will publicity of events and providing positive information and news stories to develop positive community attitudes to children and their right to play.

The Local Authority could use physical on site signposting of areas within the community which are available for children to play, to provide a clear message to both children and adults that children are welcome to play in this area. This could take the form of play equipment or more symbolic indication of permission to play. It should be clear that this does not limit children's play just to these areas.

The assessment should cover the extent to which:

- Information about play areas; play and recreation activities; clubs and events for children is readily available through the Local Authority website and other sources.
- Information about the accessibility of provision and contact for support if required.
- Information about events for the whole family is available.
- Information of how parents; school governors community groups; volunteers can become involved in providing play opportunities.
- The Local Authority publicises positive attitudes towards children and their presence outside, playing in their communities.

Note: that there is now the legal requirement on Local Authorities under section 11(4) of the Measure to publish information about play opportunities and keep the information up to date.

Matter G: Securing & Developing the Play Workforce

Local Authorities and partners are required to undertake or secure the managerial and delivery functions necessary to achieve sufficient play opportunities. This will include the co-ordination of the required assessment of the cross cutting policy areas; the integration of the assessment results into the single strategic plan and the delivery of the play agenda by a sufficiently resourced, sized and qualified workforce

The play workforce should have, or be supported in achieving, the qualifications required by the Welsh Government's National Minimum Standards for Regulated Settings; the accepted qualification levels set out by SkillsActive, the Sector Skills Council covering Play; and other requirements set out by other associated inspection and regulatory bodies including CSSIW. The Local Authority should support the development of the play workforce including the involvement and training of other professionals within the children's workforce; volunteers and community members, in line with the National Occupational Standards for the sector.

The assessment should provide information on the organisational structure of the policy area which manages the Play agenda and the play workforce.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should take into account the extent to which:

- The structure and size of the Play workforce (policy and delivery) is able to achieve sufficient play opportunities for children in the area.
- The level of qualifications of the play workforce is sufficient and appropriate for their roles.
- Training is available for the play workforce to achieve the necessary qualifications.
- Training is available for volunteers and parents to develop their knowledge and skills in play work.
- Training is available for professionals working in the children's workforce in relation to play.
- Training or awareness sessions are available for professionals and decisions makers whose work impacts on children's opportunities to play for instance town planners.

Welsh Government recognises that this is a cross cutting agenda and many professionals whose primary purpose at work is not necessarily to support children's play, undertake roles which impact directly and indirectly on children's access to play opportunities. The Play Sufficiency Assessment should take into account the extent to which training is available to enable this broad group to develop their knowledge and understanding of how they may contribute to ensuring sufficiency of play opportunities.

The Welsh Government is developing, with partners, a 10 Year Early Years, Childcare and Workforce Plan which will contribute to ensuring an appropriately trained and qualified play workforce.

Matter H: Community engagement and participation

The Local Authority should consult widely on children's; their families' and other stakeholder's views on play and recreational provision as set out in Section 5. It should also aim to promote wide community engagement in providing play friendly communities.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should take into account the extent to which the following groups are engaged in initiatives to enhance play opportunities:

- Youth groups.
- School Councils.
- School governing bodies.
- Community Groups.
- Any other relevant groups.

Such initiatives could include:

- Making space available and suitable for play.
- Organising play events.
- Promoting positive attitudes of children and play.

As securing sufficient play opportunities is achieved through the development and implementation of the Play Action Plans each year, the children and families affected by the actions should be consulted as to their views of what has been achieved, the benefit in increasing their opportunities to play, and actions for future improvements. It is expected that Local Authorities will use existing mechanisms for children's participation and family consultation processes to achieve this.

Matter I: Play within all relevant policy and implementation agendas

To achieve the outcomes we desire for children and to create a child friendly society that offers a wide range of opportunities for freely chosen play and recreation, it is necessary for policy and implementation across many policy areas to contribute to this purpose.

The Local Authority should examine all its policy agendas for their potential impact on playing children and embed targets and actions to enhance children's play opportunities into all such strategies and policies.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should take into account the extent to which the policy areas set out below include consideration of, and actions to enhance, children's play opportunities. This should also cover any other Local Authority agendas that affect children. The Play Sufficiency Assessment should show that it has taken account of these policy areas either through the provision of related information or by cross-referencing to the related plan with reference to the detail on play.

In securing sufficient play opportunities the Local Authority must give full regard to its Play Sufficiency Assessment and the Play Action Plan showing the actions it is taking each year to improve play opportunities within each of these policy areas. As set out under section 4.1, the Play Monitoring Group should form the basis whereby all policy and delivery areas report progress against actions and targets in the plan, The Play Monitoring Group should be the mechanism for ensuring collaboration across all policy areas. As set out in section 4.3, the Local Authority should examine budgets in the policy areas listed below, to identify how they can be used to meet the actions in the Play Action Plan for improving play within that policy area.

Policy areas to be considered in the assessment:

Education/schools

Schools provide an important opportunity for children to play during the school day and for periods before and after classes. They can also provide valuable play space at weekends and during holiday periods if the school is organised to allow for this. The Welsh Government recommends that Local Authorities advise schools to provide high quality play space and sufficient time for children to play during the school day and give full consideration to opening this provision during out of teaching hours.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should assess the extent to which:

- children are provided with an interesting play environment for breaks during the school day.
- schools provide play opportunities during out of school times, including before school, in the evenings, at weekends and during holiday periods, as well as open access to school grounds and use of premises for activities.
- schools encourage children to walk or cycle to school.
- children are provided morning, lunchtime and afternoon play breaks.

Town and Country Planning

Town and country planning is an important factor in providing spaces where children can play. The assessment of open space provision should be undertaken as part of the preparation of the local development plan. This should assess the suitability of streets and open spaces for play, including the mapping of formal and informal play provision and opportunities. The development plan should show how the Local Authority intends to provide play space in residential, neighbourhood and town or city centre environments where provision has been assessed as inadequate.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should assess the extent to which:

- Planning of the built environment including housing and use of public and open spaces provides for children's opportunities to play.
- The Local Development Plan recognises and addresses the outdoor play needs of children of various ages

Traffic and transport

Traffic control and transport services are important in enabling children to walk, cycle or use public transport in reaching places where they play or take part in leisure provision.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should assess the extent to which:

- Children can play within community areas and there are safe routes for walking, cycling or using public transport to access play; leisure provision and school.
- The Local Transport Plan recognises the importance of local streets, roads and walking and cycling routes in offering play opportunities for children of different ages and abilities.
- The Local Transport Plan identifies ways of assessing the needs of all groups including those which are often marginalised.

Health and Wellbeing

Evidence shows that active play contributes strongly to children's health and well-being. It is shown as contributing to both children's physical and mental health and a means of reducing childhood obesity. Local Authorities should work to ensure that play is taken into full account in providing for a healthy community. The Play Sufficiency Assessment should assess the extent to which:

- the Local Authority's plans and agenda to promote health and well being recognising the importance of freely chosen play and recreational activities in contributing to both children's and their family's physical, mental and social health.
- Such plans support actions to enhance play opportunities for children to promote their health and well being.

Child Poverty

Play has been shown to mitigate the negative effects of poverty on children's lives by providing enjoyment and helping to build their resilience to difficult situations. Play can also be a means of reducing inequalities between children living in families that can afford costly recreational provision and those that cannot so reducing poverty of experience for all children. The Play Sufficiency Assessment should assess the extent to which:

- the Local Authority's tackling poverty agenda and plans recognise the potential of play to increase children's resilience and mental well-being in difficult situations.
- Play opportunities are available to all children regardless of family income.

Early years/Childcare and Family policy and initiatives

Play is central to children's early years and vital for their health, learning and development. Building a Brighter Future, the Welsh Government Early Years and Childcare Plan 2013, recognises the importance of play for all 0 – 7 year olds. The Local Authority in its provision of services for early year's children and their families should recognise the importance of high quality play opportunities in their lives.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should assess the extent to which:

- The Local Authority recognises the importance of play within this policy area, and the benefit to parents and families as a whole, through access to a wide range of play opportunities.

Early Years, Flying Start and family support plans and services recognising the importance of play and contribute to the provision of rich play opportunities for children.

Inter-generational policy and initiatives

The Welsh Governments believes that intergenerational activities and programmes can benefit both children and older people. Play provision can help to promote this interaction.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should assess the extent to which:

- The Local Authority values an inter-generational approach to play and recreation opportunities for the benefit of children and people from older age groups.
- Policies allow for different age ranges – children, teenagers and adults to
 - Use the same space separately at different times of the day.
 - Share the same space at the same time.

Community Development

Welsh Government values community development to build up equal and fair societies where community's needs are understood and fulfilled. Opportunities for children to play form an important part in meeting the communities needs.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should assess the extent to which:

- The Local Authority recognises the rights of children to play within their communities.

- Promotes communities that support and provide for play opportunities for their children.
- Promotes communities that value the benefits which play provides for both children and the community as a whole and in promotes community cohesion.

Community Safety

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should assess the extent to which:

- The Play Sufficiency Assessment should assess the extent to which:
- The Local Authority recognises the rights of children to play within their communities and provides a safe environment for this to happen.
- The Community Safety Strategy has a clear statement which recognises the right of children to play in their communities.
- The Community Safety Strategy includes actions to provide a safe environment for children to play in their communities.

Health and Safety

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should assess the extent to which:

- The Local Authority's Health and Safety policies and procedures embracing the principle of Risk Benefit Assessment as illustrated in the Health and safety Executive's (HSE) High Level Statement on managing risk in play.

11. Future Developments

From 01 July 2014 the full duty on Local Authorities under section 11, Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 came into effect. The detail on assessing for and securing sufficient play opportunities is set out in this Statutory Guidance. This includes detail on undertaking the Play Sufficiency Assessments, development and implementation of the Play Action Plans, monitoring processes and reporting to Welsh Ministers.

Case studies and examples of how Local Authorities are securing sufficient play opportunities for children in their areas will be available on the Welsh Government website. Welsh Government officials will liaise with Local Authority Play Co-ordinators and other representatives on the development of and updating this material and on monitoring of progress and further initiatives for collaboration and partnership working.

Other materials to support Local Authorities and promote the play agenda will appear from time to time on the Welsh Government website.

Appendix A

Welsh Government policy and legislation

POLICY

Play Policy (2002)

In October 2002 the Welsh Government published its Play Policy, which was founded on Article 31 of the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child. The Play Policy was produced to demonstrate the importance that the Welsh Government places on the value of play in childhood and the importance of children in our society. It stated that:

The Welsh Assembly Government is committed to ensuring that all children have access to rich stimulating environments, free from inappropriate risk, and full of challenge, thereby offering them the opportunity to explore through freely chosen play both themselves and the world.

It made clear the Welsh Government's commitment to children, and policymaking and provision designed to meet their needs. The Play Policy was a broad statement of principles rather than a detailed prescription of how provision should be implemented.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/3291781/?lang=en>

Health, Social Care and Well-being Strategy (2003)

From April 2003, local authorities and local health boards will be required to formulate and implement a Health, Social Care and Wellbeing strategy for their local area.

Local authorities and local health boards will be under a duty to formulate and implement a local Strategy. In doing this, they will be required to co-operate with a range of local partners. The named partners are:

- NHS Trusts
- Health Commission Wales (Specialised Services)
- Community Health Councils (CHCs)
- County Voluntary Councils (CVCs)
- Any other voluntary, business or private body with an interest in health and well-being.

A range of other organisations will come under the heading of 'other voluntary, business or private body'. It is for the partners at a local level to determine this wider stakeholder group.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/health/publications/health/strategies/strategies/?lang=en>

‘Children and Young People: Rights to Action’ (2004)

This set out the Welsh Government’s seven core aims for children and young people. The Play Policy Implementation Plan made a significant contribution to achieving the core aim 4: that all children and young people should have access to a range of play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/publications/rightstoaction/?lang=en>

Wales: A Better Country (2005)

Sets out a long-term vision of Wales as a place which values its children and young people. It included amongst its core values the statement that ‘children and young people should be treated as valued members of the community whose voices are heard and needs considered across the range of policy making’.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/wales-a-better-country?lang=en>

Play Policy Implementation Plan (2006)

To further the commitment of the Play Policy, the Welsh Government worked with partners to develop an implementation plan, which was published in February 2006. This reaffirmed the Welsh Government’s commitment to play and how it related to and contributed towards other UK and Welsh Government policies and strategic plans. It set out actions that the Welsh Government would take including:

- Creating a duty of co-operation in addressing the play needs of children and, regardless of issues such as levels of ability, language, race or gender.
- Working with stakeholders, including children, to produce Standards for a wide range of high quality play provision.
- Checking its own policies that impact on children’s opportunities to play, including planning and transport, for consideration of and promotion of play.
- Providing information and training materials for schools and parents on facilitating play.
- Supporting the development of the Play workforce.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/playpolicy?lang=en>

Creating an Active Wales (2009)

- The Welsh Government recognises the importance of creating an environment that makes it easier and safer for people to choose to be more physically active, and that active play contributes to children's physical health and fitness, both during childhood and into later life. Creating an Active Wales includes a section on access to quality play and on woodlands and green spaces.

In Creating an Active Wales (2009), the Welsh Government sets out a vision where all children would frequently play outdoors in safe environments and that people would use their local environment for active recreation. One of the actions in the document was to improve access to woodlands and green space especially those near disadvantaged communities. For this action the Welsh Government undertook to work with the National Trust. We recognise the importance of woodlands and green spaces for children to play and develop an understanding of and respect for the environment. The play sufficiency assessment should include an assessment of children and young people's access to woodlands and green spaces as an opportunity to play, particularly in disadvantaged communities and work with relevant partners in addressing issues of access and removal of hazards.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/cultureandsport/sportandactivererecreation/active/?lang=en>

Good Practice Guide in Designing Gypsy Traveller Sites in Wales (2009)

This Good Practice Guide is intended as a guide to local authorities in providing appropriate services at reasonable cost to Gypsies and Travellers living on residential sites in Wales. It contains advice and examples of good practice and should be used as a basis to facilitate authorities in making decisions specific to their own particular local circumstances. It is not the intention of the Welsh Government to impose uniform solutions since situations may vary considerably across regions in Wales.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/people-and-communities/communitycohesion/publications/goodpractice/?lang=en>

Child Poverty Strategy (2011)

The Child Poverty Strategy, which sets out the Welsh Government's ambition to eradicate child poverty, recognises the importance of making poverty less damaging for children. It emphasises children's right to play and states that "the Welsh Government sees play as being a vital element in children's development and something that can provide a strong protective factor in children's lives. It can, to an extent, shield children from the negative aspects of poverty and allow them to develop their inner resources and build resilience to difficulties and uncertainties in their home and other parts of their lives."

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/child-poverty/?lang=en>

Gypsy and Traveller strategy (2012)

The aim of 'Travelling to a Better Future' is to realise our commitment to the Gypsy and Traveller community; to ensure equality of opportunity for Gypsies and Travellers in Wales and to think about new ways in which we can enable Gypsy and Traveller communities to access resources not always available to them by ensuring our services are flexible enough to respond to their needs.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/people-and-communities/communitycohesion/gypsytravellers/?lang=en>

Vibrant and Viable Places : New Regeneration Framework (2013)

Vibrant and Viable Places is the result of a review of approaches to regeneration in Wales and further afield and extensive consultation with partners.

It has the backing of the whole Cabinet and promotes a well-evidenced approach combining support for people and places. It also encourages partnership working with the public, private and third sectors.

The framework seeks to get the best out of every pound spent by the Welsh Government in terms of mainstream funding like health and education.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/housing-and-regeneration/regeneration/vibrant-and-viable-places/?lang=en>

Road Safety Strategy (2013)

Road traffic injuries happen every day on Welsh roads. They can potentially have tragic consequences for those involved and their families, but are almost entirely avoidable.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/transport/roads/safety/?lang=en>

Early years/Childcare and Play Workforce Development (2013)

"Building a Brighter Future: the Early Years and Childcare Plan", sets out the Welsh Governments intentions for policy development and implementation for children, pre-birth to seven years of age, for the next 10 years.

Part of Building a Brighter Future covers the development of a 10 year workforce plan for early years, childcare and play work practitioners. This aims to raise the profile of these sectors and increase the skills of the workforce. A proposal for future European Funding is being developed to support this programme.

This strategic plan will be looking to ensure that play workers in Wales are able to offer high-quality play opportunities which support children's development.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/building-a-brighter-future/?lang=en>

Planning Policy Wales (2014)

Planning Policy Wales (PPW) sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. It is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TANs, listed in the Annex). Procedural advice is given in circulars and policy clarification letters. It translates our commitment to sustainable development into the planning system so that it can play an appropriate role in moving towards sustainability

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/policy/ppw/?lang=en>

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment/publications/manualforstreets/?lang=en>

LEGISLATION

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) (Came into force in UK in 1992).

The right to engage in play and recreational activities is enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Article 31.1 of the Convention states that “State Parties recognise the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts”.

<http://www.unicef.org.uk/UNICEFs-Work/Our-mission/UN-Convention/>

The Children Act (2004)

This imposed a duty of co-operation between each Local Authority in Wales and their partners as set out within section 25 of the Children Act 2004 to make arrangements to promote the well being of children. It specified that one of the purposes of this co operation was to improve the well being of children relating to education, training and recreation and therefore play.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/31/contents>

The Childcare Act (2006)

The Childcare Act placed a duty on Local Authorities to assess childcare provision in its area. It also places a duty on Local Authorities to provide information on services or facilities for children and young people, including play, sports and other

recreational facilities. This information can be used to contribute to the Play Sufficiency Assessments.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/21/contents>

Shared Planning for Better Outcomes (2007)

The document provided Regulations and Guidance for Local Authorities and their Partners on producing Children and Young People's Plans. Core Aim 4 requires that all children and have access to play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities.

Section (7.3) states that Local Authorities should plan with their partners to provide or secure play opportunities for children and young people. Youth Support services should provide young people with their entitlement to accessible recreational and social opportunities, sports, culture, music and arts.

This includes:

- Play strategies, including plans for staffed adventure play.
- Leisure and sporting opportunities.
- Out of school hours childcare and holiday play-schemes.
- Action to promote other out of school hours activity.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/sharedplanningforbetteroutcomes?lang=en>

Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure (2011)

The Welsh Government put before the National Assembly for Wales a proposal for a new 'Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure related to the United Nations convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The Measure was unanimously accepted and received royal assent in 2011. The Welsh Government believes that the new Measure will be an effective way of ensuring that, in doing its work; it will place greater emphasis on helping children in Wales to access the rights which are set out in the UNCRC, as a step towards them all achieving well being. This increased emphasis will apply to all the Articles, including Article 31.1 relating to a child's right to play.

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's Concluding Observations in 2008 stated that the UK should:-

95.Do more to make sure all children can enjoy their right to rest and play, and to take part in leisure and cultural activities. These activities should be appropriate for all different age groups (ranging from little children to teenagers).

96. Make sure all playgrounds are of good quality and accessible to all children, including disabled children.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2011/2/contents>

Shared Purpose – Shared Delivery (2012)

The statutory guidance on single plans “Shared Purpose – Shared Delivery” sets out the role of local government and their partners, through Local Service Boards (LSBs), in helping to bring together public service leaders to plan, work, deliver and improve. The date for the first plans is set for April 2013. The intention is that each area will develop a single integrated plan, based on a single needs assessment and owned by the Local Service Board. It will be built on the separate statutory plans now in place. The plan should cover the whole range of outcomes for the locality and discharge duties arising from legislation including the Children Act 2004 and NHS Wales Act 2006. The local Play Sufficiency Assessment should contribute to the overall needs assessment that will inform the single plan. Legal duties on local partners in respect of play remain.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/improvingservices/publicationevents/publications/sharedpurpdel/?lang=en>

Active Travel (Wales) Act (2013)

The Act requires local authorities to continuously improve facilities and routes for pedestrians and cyclists and to prepare maps identifying current and potential future routes for their use. The Act also requires new road schemes (including road improvement schemes) to consider the needs of pedestrians and cyclists at design stage.

<http://wales.gov.uk/legislation/programme/assemblybills/active-travel-act/?lang=en>

Funding

The Welsh Government has various funding streams which may be available to Local Authorities to increase play opportunities for children in their areas. The funding programme is decided by Welsh Ministers to achieve the required outcomes under their portfolios to deliver on the Programme for Government and meet the needs of people in Wales. Proposals for increasing play opportunities may be eligible for funding under these programmes, but would need to comply with the funding criteria and be identified as an area of locally identified need by that Local Authority

Appendix B

Glossary of Terms

- **Provision for children's play:** play provision offers a place, in a range of settings which are unsupervised and supervised where children can invent and extend their own play.
- **Open space:** Land laid out and used for the purposes of public recreation or has public value. Open spaces can be as diverse as informal amenity space, sitting areas, public parkland, landscaped areas, incidental open space such as tree belts and screening. A Typology of Open Space is included in Technical Advice Note (TAN) 16: Sport, Recreation and Open Space.
- **Designated play space:** A place that has been designated specifically for children's play as its principal function
 - **Door-step:** A play space, within sight of home, where children, especially young children can play within view of known adults.
 - **Local:** A larger space which can be reached safely by children beginning to travel independently and with friends, without accompanying adults and for adults with young children to walk to with ease.
 - **Neighbourhood:** A larger space or facility which children and young people, used to travelling longer distances independently, can get to safely and spend time in play and informal recreation with their peers and have a wider range of play experiences.
 - **Playable space or shared public space:** A place where children can play that is not specifically designated for play and which does not have play as its principal or only function.
 - **Inclusive play space:** A play provision that is accessible and welcoming to disabled and non-disabled children.
 - **Destination play areas:** A play space within a key site, such as a park. It is aimed at attracting families and similar groups for longer visits and tend to be the same size or larger than neighbourhood sites.
 - **Multi-use games areas:** An enclosed area, using a synthetic grass or hard surface for playing sports formally and informally.
 - **Youth shelters:** An area dedicated to local children as a place to hang out.
 - **Out of School Childcare Clubs:** Provide childcare and positive play opportunities for school children aged 3-16 years directly before and/or

after school and during school holidays. Qualified Play workers facilitate sessions. Clubs are based in community hubs such as schools, community centres, church halls and also within day nurseries. Childcare clubs are registered with CSSIW unless care is being provided for children over 7 years only or the care being provided does not exceed 2 hours daily e.g. a breakfast club running for an hour before school every morning. Childcare clubs enable parents/carers to enter work, training or education and provide respite for vulnerable families. Because of this, they aim to be sustainable, charging fees that are affordable for the local community.

- **Wheel park/wheeled play:** An area for activities on wheels such as skateboarding, rollerblading and BMX biking.
- **Staffed open access play sessions:** Open Access play provision can be permanent or short-term provision, located in a variety of settings with or without premises. Whilst the term Open Access applies to registered provision for children under 8 years, such provision usually caters for a wide age range of children, including those over 8 years and older. Open access provision for children 8 years and older is un-regulated. The purpose of the provision is to provide staffed play opportunities for children in the absence of their parents. Children are not restricted in their movements, other than where related to safety matters and are not prevented from coming and going as and when they wish. Children have the freedom of choice as to what range of play activity they wish to undertake and with whom they play.
- **Adventure playgrounds:** an open access setting staffed by trained play workers, where children can find materials and support so that they can build and adapt their own play space to suit their own needs. It is a rich play environment that compensates for today's lack of accessible natural space where children can play independently of adults.
- **Peripatetic play work (play rangers) project:** An open access, often short term project staffed by a small team of trained playworkers, visiting a different place, a park, estate play area or other public space, once or twice a week for a couple of hours. They will be equipped with ideas and equipment, and will work to help children places to play in their local area, and to reassure parents that it is safe for children to play out.
- **Playwork:** Playwork is a highly skilled profession that enriches and enhances children's play. It takes place where adults support children's play but it is not driven by prescribed education or care outcomes. (SkillsActive).
- **Play workforce:** 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.

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23rd MAY 2016

Modernising Education Programme (MEP) Biennial Review

To consider and comment on the following issues:

- That the Committee considers the Biennial Review of the MEP and an updated prioritised programme for school rationalisation and investment.

Reasons:

- To endorse the Modernising Education Programme and the revision of a clear strategy for bids for capital funding to the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Programme.
- To enable members to formulate views for submission to Executive Board for consideration.

To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: YES

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Gareth Jones (Education & Children)

<p>Directorate: Education & Children</p> <p>Name of Director: Robert Sully</p> <p>Report Author: Robert Sully</p>	<p>Designation:</p> <p>Director of Education & Children's Services</p>	<p>Tel No. / E-Mail Address:</p> <p>01267 224888 rasully@cardarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 23rd MAY 2016

Modernising Education Programme (MEP) Biennial Review

Introduction

The Executive Board most recently approved an updated Modernising Education Programme (MEP) on the 1st December 2014 as part of an annual review of progress.

The County Council resolved in 2010 that the MEP “be reviewed and revised in the future every two years or otherwise as required to ensure consistency with the timeframe of the national 21st Century Schools Programme”. Furthermore, it has been a central feature of the MEP since its inception that it needs to retain flexibility at its core to ensure that the programme remains current and responsive to changes in the education policy framework and the needs of constantly developing society and communities.

This report provides a further update on the status of the MEP and an opportunity to review the forward programme in line with the decision to do this strategically every two years or so.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

Report

Appendix 1 – Summary of the Viability Assessment

Appendix 2 – Refreshed future investment programme

Appendix 3 – Revised five year capital programme

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Signed: **Robert Sully** **Director of Education & Children's Services**

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The proposals set within the report are in line with published policy and strategic direction of the authority.

2. Legal

The County Council's constitution provides that responsibility for the Modernising Education Programme is an executive function.

Statutory procedures will need to be completed to institute constitutional change in the structure of schools where the rationalisation of provision is proposed.

Planning permission will need to be secured for the development of the infrastructure projects proposed.

Building regulations approval will need to be secured for premises developments and modernisation.

3. Finance

The 21st Century Schools Programme has major financial implications for the County Council. The current estimate of the cost of the remaining investment to make all schools in Carmarthenshire to be retained for the long-term fit for purpose for the 21st Century is £290 million (from 2016/17). This is a planning figure and is certain to change over time as the detailed requirements of individual projects are developed. The planning figures do not include any allowance for inflation.

The delivery of the MEP to date has been made possible by the establishment of an innovative funding strategy for capital investment which has drawn upon and integrated a variety of funding sources:

- Welsh Government Grants.
- Capital Receipts – generated through the disposal of operationally redundant school assets. County Council has resolved that all receipts generated through the sale of former school premises are ring-fenced for reinvestment in the school modernisation programme.
- Prudential Borrowing – serviced by contributions from revenue generated through efficiency gains arising from the rationalisation of the schools network and through an adjustment in the delegated schools budget.
- General Capital – contributions from the Council's general capital allocation.
- S106 Agreements – contributions from developers of residential properties.

The Council has effectively exhausted its capacity to generate any further prudential borrowing from the operational schools budget as it has already done much in this area and there is now little scope for further revenue contributions. For example, education spend is by now slightly below the Indicative Budget Assessment (IBA) and with the prognosis for revenue budgets in future years there is unlikely to be further potential in this area. Further revenue gain to be secured by the continuing rationalisation of the schools network may be required to offset the effects of expected budget reductions in future years.

The overall expenditure for the 21st Century Schools programme Band A has been agreed at £86.7m with 50% of the funding provided by WG. WG has extended the Local Government Borrowing Initiative to the programme, allowing it to bring forward additional funding for its element of the programme and bringing forward the timeframe for completion of Band A to 2019.

The County Council's capital programme spans a period of five years, from 2016/2017 to 2020/2021. The programme, therefore, already makes provision for the delivery of the early stages of the Band B of the national 21st Century School programme within a continuous strategic investment plan. At this time the future expenditure profile assumes similar funding conditions for Band B as for Band A, i.e. projects joint funded equally by the Welsh Government and the County Council.

The level of County Council funding will need to be formalised each year through the annual budget setting process. It is inevitable that estimate of capital need will change in the future as the detailed requirements for individual projects are progressed through the stages of development.

4. ICT

The use of ICT is of critical importance to the management and delivery of education in order to facilitate and implement the breadth of curricular choice necessary for all learners. The provision of new, adapted, or refurbished buildings will provide the opportunity for ICT to be integrated into modern infrastructure which is extremely reliable and easy to use. The aspirations are to develop real and virtual workspaces which help to make effective, personalised learning a reality for all students; enable teachers and other professionals to focus on their core tasks and be more effective; and provide parents and carers with easy access to information about learners' achievements and progress. Also it will facilitate access to high quality learning materials in a wide range of settings through as wide a range of end-user devices as possible.

5. Risk Management Issues

Risk management will be fundamental to the effective delivery of the school modernisation programme and its individual projects. Projects will be managed in line with recognised best practice for the construction sector, including the use of risk registers at all stages of planning and delivery.

6. Staffing Implications

Proposals for the transformation of school structures will inevitably have significant staffing implications requiring workforce re-modelling. Specific issues cannot be forecast with accuracy at this early stage and issues will be dealt with and reported as individual projects or groups of projects develop in accordance with established human resource policies.

7. Physical Assets

Proposals for the transformation and modernisation of the schools network will have significant implications for the schools estate. This will involve the creation of new school premises and the refurbishment of some existing school premises. It will also result in some existing operational assets becoming redundant. When this situation arises assets will be managed in accordance with established policies and in the context of the Council's match funding for the programme being partly met from anticipated capital receipts from the sale of surplus assets.

Investment in new facilities will have regard to partnership working and will foster the co-location of services, including those managed by partner organisations, where practical and beneficial.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: Robert Sully Director of Education & Children's Services

1. Local Member(s)

A seminar on provisional proposals for the MEP Biennial Review was held for elected members on the 5th October 2015.

Local Members will be consulted on individual school reorganisation proposals as they are taken forward.

2. Community / Town Council

Town and Community Councils have not been consulted at this stage as this is a strategic matter for the County Council.

Town and Community Councils will be consulted on individual school reorganisation proposals as they are taken forward.

3. Relevant Partners

Key partner organisations, including the Church in Wales, Roman Catholic Church and Coleg Sir Gar, are consulted on proposals that affect them.

Head Teachers and Chairs of school governing bodies have been consulted through regional briefing sessions and seminars.

Schools affected will be fully consulted on individual school reorganisation proposals as they are taken forward.

4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

Not applicable at this stage as this is a strategic matter.

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW:

Title of Document	File Ref No	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
21 st Century Schools Website		www.21stcenturyschools.org
21 st Century Schools: Information Document (May 2010)	MEP	www.wales.gsi.gov.uk
21 st Century Schools: Information Document (May 2010) – Summary	MEP	www.wales.gsi.gov.uk
21 st Century Schools Strategic Outline Programme Template	MEP	www.wales.gsi.gov.uk
Modernising Education Programme (May 2005)	MEP	Department for Education and Children Building 2, Parc Dewi, Carmarthen.

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MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME (MEP) BIENNIAL REVIEW

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Executive Board most recently approved an updated Modernising Education Programme (MEP) on the 1st December 2014 as part of an annual review of progress.
- 1.2 The County Council resolved in 2010 that the MEP *“be reviewed and revised in the future every two years or otherwise as required to ensure consistency with the timeframe of the national 21st Century Schools Programme”*. Furthermore, it has been a central feature of the MEP since its inception that it needs to retain flexibility at its core to ensure that the programme remains current and responsive to changes in the education policy framework and the needs of constantly developing society and communities.
- 1.3 This report provides a further update on the status of the MEP and an opportunity to review the forward programme in line with the decision to do this strategically every two years or so.

2. Progress to Date in the Delivery of the MEP

- 2.1 The MEP is by now well-established and widely acknowledged for its strategic vision and direction and the considerable progress that has been achieved to date.
- 2.2 By the end of the March 2016 the following investment successes have been delivered:
 - £234 million (approximately) of investment in the modernisation of school premises.
 - New secondary school premises for Queen Elizabeth High School and Ysgol Bro Dinefwr and significant investment in the extension and modernisation of the premises of Ysgol Dyffryn Aman.
 - Substantial completion of major investment at Ysgol Maes y Gwendraeth, with final completion due by September 2016.
 - Completion of a major extension and the refurbishment of existing accommodation at Ysgol y Strade as part of the strategy to meet increasing demand for Welsh medium education in the Llanelli area.
 - Completion of elements of the Llanelli Vocational Village network through investment at a number of secondary schools.
 - New primary school premises for Ysgol Y Bedol, Ysgol Bro Brynach, Ysgol Y Bryn, Ysgol Bryn Teg, Ysgol Brynsierfel, Ysgol Peniel, Ysgol y Felin, Ysgol Gymraeg Ffwrnes, Burry Port Primary School and Ysgol Carreg Hirfaen.
 - Major refurbishment and extension projects completed at Johnstown School, Model School, Ysgol Brynsaron, Ysgol Llannon, Ysgol Nantgaredig, Ysgol Maes Y Morfa, Halfway, Swiss Valley, Tycroes and Ysgol Y Dderwen;

- Integrated children's centres created at Llwynhendy and within Ysgol Maes Y Morfa and Ysgol Y Felin (Felinfoel);
- Accommodation extensions and improvements at 13 other primary schools;

2.3 Furthermore, significant progress has been achieved in the rationalisation of the schools network, improving its educational and resource efficiency, including the following notable achievements:

- The removal of 5301 surplus places (3149 primary and 2152 secondary) through the proactive reconfiguration of provision.
- The formal federation of Bryngwyn and Glan-y-Môr schools under a single governing body and with one executive head teacher. This is the first federation of secondary schools in this way in Wales and is proving to be a considerable success, drawing notional recognition.

3. National 21st Century Schools Programme

3.1 Preparations for the national 21st Century Schools Programme commenced in 2010 through an invitation by the Welsh Government to local authorities to submit strategic outline plans for the modernisation of their whole schools estate, placed within four bands for investment, in order of priority according to most urgent need.

3.2 WG set out three key aims for the national programme, which have subsequently been revised, being to achieve:

- improved learning environments for children with better educational outcomes;
- greater economy through better use of resources to improve the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the education estate;
- a more sustainable education system reducing the recurrent cost and carbon footprint.

3.3 The Welsh Government required local authorities to prioritise projects that would remove the greatest number of surplus places and address school buildings in the poorest condition.

3.4 School development projects under the 21st Century Schools Programme are funded equally by the Welsh Government and the County Council, subject to proposals being approved by the Welsh Government through a rigorous business case process.

3.5 The Band A programme was initially established to commence in April 2014 and extend for 6 years to 2020 but the Welsh Government subsequently announced its intention to bring forward the target date for the completion of Band A to 2019.

3.6 Through the initial submission process Carmarthenshire County Council's Band A programme was approved at a value of £86.7 million (funded 50% by grant from WG and 50% from the Council's own resources). Welsh Government requires this funding to be spent by 2019.

4. Mission of the MEP

- 4.1 The mission of the Modernising Education Programme (MEP) is to transform the network of nursery, primary, secondary and special schools serving the county into a strategically and operationally effective resource that meets current and future need for school education, at all times pursuing improvements in educational outcomes and the well-being of our children and young people.
- 4.2 This will require the rationalisation of the schools network and investment in the development and improvement of school buildings, infrastructure and spaces, so that schools are appropriately located, designed, constructed or adapted to foster the sustainable development of the people and communities of Carmarthenshire.

5 Strategic Objectives of the MEP

- 5.1 The following strategic objectives have been established for the MEP and will continue to direct its future delivery:
- To develop a schools network that is educationally effective, resource efficient and sustainable for the long term.
 - To develop a pattern of provision within which every learning setting is capable of facilitating a high quality education to all of its learners, either as an individual institution or as part of a federation or collaboration with other settings or providers.
 - To create school environments that allow every child within every school to access a curriculum and experience teaching that motivates them to achieve their full potential, whilst also facilitating a programme of extra-curricular activities that stimulate their physical and emotional well-being.
 - To develop infrastructure at all schools that is equipped for learning in the 21st century, facilitating the realisation of core objectives for raising educational standards and sustaining them at high levels of performance.
 - To deliver a strategic approach to capital investment, integrated with a programme for the rationalisation of provision across the schools network to effectively match supply with demand.
 - To rebuild, remodel, refurbish or modernise all school settings that are to be retained for the long-term, so that they conform as closely as practicable with adopted design standards.
 - To contribute to the achievement of wider policy objectives, for example, community regeneration and renewal, healthy lifestyles, etc, through the development of appropriate enabling infrastructure.
 - To improve the efficiency and educational viability of the schools sector by reducing the number of empty places to a reasonable level, whilst facilitating wherever practicable the expression of parental preference, responding effectively to demographic change.

- To develop infrastructure at schools that is fully accessible to all persons and enables all learners to access a high quality education, irrespective of individual needs.
- To develop individual and collaborative school solutions that contribute to a county-wide single comprehensive education system.

6 Educational Guiding Principles

6.1 The transformation of the schools network will be founded upon the principles, that every school will as a minimum:

- Have sustainable leadership, with leaders who are free to lead and manage, with no head teacher having a permanent teaching commitment.
- Have no more than 2 year groups per teaching class.
- Not have teaching classes that span the key stages of the curriculum, e.g. the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2.
- Have sufficient pupil numbers to sustain the above structural arrangements.
- Be financially viable under the Local Management of Schools (LMS) funding framework and able to operate for the long-term without a budget deficit.
- Have outdoor teaching facilities as required for the Foundation Phase and to support other areas of learning and physical well-being.
- Be fully inclusive and accessible for all.
- Be equipped with modern facilities to support digital learning.

7 Criteria for Investment and Prioritisation

7.1 Every school in Carmarthenshire has been evaluated against a set of evidence based criteria, which allow an assessment of the school's operational viability to be made and decisions taken on the relative investment need at all schools. This allows the Authority to **objectively** determine a programme for the strategic review of the schools network and investment in the modernisation of the schools estate in a manner that is transparent and demonstrably fair.

7.2 Long-established criteria, developed and adopted locally through consultation with representative head teachers, have been agreed and adopted as appropriate indicators of viability and investment need. They were formally adopted in 2008 and have directed the structure of the MEP since that time.

Viability Assessment

7.3 The criteria for assessing the viability of a school are:

- **Pupil Numbers:** the number of pupils attending the school, with the least numbers of pupils being a key indicator for review.
- **Pupil Numbers Trends:** the pattern of pupil numbers at the school over previous years, with a significantly changing roll being a key indicator for review.

- **Pupil Numbers Forecasts:** an assessment of estimated pupil numbers expected to attend the school from within the designated catchment area over the coming five years, with a forecast decline or increase being a key indicator for review.
- **Spare Places:** the number of empty places at the school and the prognosis for the future, informed by the factors above, with more than 25% of places unfilled being a key indicator for review.
- **Financial Viability:** the present and predicted financial position of the school under the Local Management of Schools (LMS) funding regime.
- **School Buildings Condition:** the state of the school's physical assets and the cost of bringing their condition up to an acceptable standard.
- **School Premises Suitability:** the appropriateness of the school's buildings and campus to support the effective delivery of the modern curriculum (e.g. the Foundation Phase).

7.4 Having been assessed against each of the criteria above each school is placed in one of seven categories, along a continuum of viability, to confirm the prognosis for that school looking forward:

- retain the school - investment to modernise the school's facilities is complete (or is in progress or is committed);
- retain the school and invest to provide new premises;
- retain the school and invest to modernise the school's existing buildings and facilities (this may involve some element of expansion of the facilities);
- create a new primary school to replace existing separate junior and infants schools – invest to provide new premises or to modernise existing premises as appropriate to local circumstances;
- continue to maintain the school subject to pupil numbers not declining significantly from their present levels and the school remaining viable – invest to modernise the school's existing premises where appropriate;
- review the future provision of education in the area served by the present school in the context of a possible strategic reconfiguration across a wider area to promote the more sustainable delivery of education for the long term – invest to deliver the chosen solution;
- review the future provision of education in the area served by the current school, which is not considered to be viable in its present form.

7.5 A copy of a summary of the viability assessment is attached at Appendix 1. This forms the basis for the identification of modernisation projects and rationalisation proposals within the overall programme.

Investment Prioritisation

7.6 The prioritisation of capital investment in the modernisation of school premises is founded upon consideration of a combination of the following criteria:

- **Strategic Need - Access to Education:** investment will be prioritised towards improving the sufficiency of the schools estate, at locations where the provision of additional space or the refurbishment of existing space is essential in order to accommodate pupil needs generated by the rationalisation of other schools or where demand for places is increasing naturally through demographic change or linguistic preference, and is consistent with the established schools admissions policy and legislation.
- **Improving Educational Outcomes:** investment will be prioritised towards projects where infrastructure improvements or developments are critical to creating opportunities for improvement in educational outcomes, e.g. to facilitate the rationalisation of provision to create viable and sustainable schools.
- **Efficiency:** investment will be prioritised towards projects that enhance the overall resource efficiency of the schools estate, especially projects that achieve the greatest reduction in the number of surplus places.
- **Welsh Language Development:** investment will be prioritised towards projects that promote the expansion of Welsh medium education or the development of bilingual education, in support of the objectives set out in the County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.
- **Infrastructure:** investment will be prioritised to projects that can secure the greatest progress towards the objective of having high quality premises for the greatest number of learners, addressing deficiencies in the suitability of school premises, supporting the effective delivery of the curriculum, resolving concerns regarding premises condition and eliminating health and safety risks.
- **Opportunity:** investment will be prioritised to maximise opportunities to attract additional funding; to take advantage of school leadership changes where this is consistent with the vision of the MEP; or to deal with any extraordinary circumstances that may arise, e.g. the catastrophic loss or damage of school premises.

7.7 Officers have maintained a close dialogue with officials at the Welsh Government in connection with the structure of the programme and in particular the level of flexibility available to amend the programme to meet changing demands. WG officials have confirmed that it is possible to amend the projects within the Band A programme within the overall allocated funding envelope of £86.7 million.

7.8 Following a reassessment of projects in line with the criteria above a refreshed future investment programme has been drawn up, shown in Appendix 2.

7.9 The order for the delivery of projects reflects the outcome of the strategic re-assessment and has regard to the practicalities of delivery. The forward programme continues the general approach of the past but with some significant changes in the short to medium term. As work considering the feasibility and options appraisal of projects has progressed it has become apparent that a couple of the major school rationalisation and investment projects have experienced challenges that could not previously have been foreseen. This is particularly true of the schemes in

Ammanford and Llandeilo. These projects have to varying degrees experienced challenges relating to their scale and complexity, involving factors such as demographic pressures (related to changing pupil numbers), the availability of suitably located land of sufficient scale, aspirations to support wider regeneration objectives, etc. Furthermore, challenges such as the complexity and timescale of school reorganisation statutory procedures, the demands of Welsh Government business case approval processes have increased burdens on limited professional capacity. As a consequence of these mostly external factors it is not now possible to deliver these two major projects according to the timeline planned a couple of years ago and it is now necessary to re-profile their delivery programme.

7.10 As noted earlier there is a requirement from the Welsh Government that the funding approved for the delivery of the Band A programme be expended within the designated timeframe, which has been accelerated to 2019. For this to be achieved it is necessary to review the structure of the remainder of the programme and bring forward alternative projects for earlier delivery.

7.11 The reassessment of projects has identified that it is possible to accelerate investment in:

- a major strategic project to provide new premises for Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant along with extended and modernised premises for Penygaer Primary School within a single integrated strategic scheme;
- a project to provide a new school for the Gorslas area in response to a dramatic increase in the demand for places at Ysgol Gorslas predominantly as a result of housing developments in the area;
- extension and modernisation of Laugharne Primary School, which will support rationalisation across a wider geographic area.

7.12 Also, urgent space pressures have arisen at Ysgol y Ddwylan and a modest project to address these has been introduced into the programme. Various other adjustments have been made to reflect amended timings for the delivery of other projects according to the prevailing and predicted circumstances. These include the need to accelerate investment to improve accommodation for the PRU (which was recently criticised by Estyn during inspection) and at Ysgol Rhydygors to address shortcomings in the residential accommodation in particular.

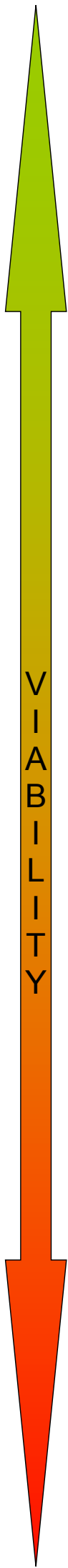
7.13 It is important to emphasise that given the complex nature of the investment programme it is inevitable that the detail of the programme will change as time passes as it is impossible to predict several years ahead with any certainty, noting that society and communities continue to change and develop. The MEP remains a successful and robust strategic investment and transformation programme and with the amendments noted above this success is set to continue for many years to come.

7.14 A revised five year capital programme is attached at Appendix 3.

8 Recommendation

8.1 That the Scrutiny Committee endorses the updated Modernising Education Programme and capital programme.

**Modernising Education Programme
Schools Programme - Executive Summary
Viability Assessment and Strategic Programme - 2016**



Retain the school. Investment to modernise the school's facilities is complete. <i>Further investment will be required at some of these schools to deliver the range of facilities required for the foundation phase.</i>	Bigyn	Model VA
	Bro Brynach	Nantgaredig
	Bryn	Peniel
	Brynsierfel	Stebonheath
	Bryn Teg	Swiss Valley
	Brynaman	Tycroes
	Brynsaron	Y Bedol
	Burry Port Primary	Y Dderwen
	Cae'r Felin	Y Ddwylan
	Carreg Hirfaen	Y Felin
	Ffwrnes	Coedcae
	Johnstown	Dyffryn Aman
	Laugharne VC	Bro Dinefwr
Llannon	Maes Y Gwendraeth	
Maes Y Morfa	Queen Elizabeth High	
Retain the school and invest to modernise the school's existing buildings and facilities or new building	Bynea	Pembrey
	Dafen	Pentip VA
	Dewi Sant	Penygroes
	Five Roads	Trimsaran
	Griffith Jones	Saron
	Halfway	St Mary's R.C. VA Llanelli
	Hendy	Y Castell
	Llandybie	Bro Myrddin
	Llangunor	Bryngwyn
	Old Road	Dyffryn Taf
	Parcyrhun	Emlyn
	Penboyr VA	Glanymor
	Penygaer	St John Lloyd RC
	Pontyberem	Strade
	Rhys Pritchard	Heol Goffa
	Llandeilo	Rhyd Y Gors
Parc Y Tywyn		
Review with a view to formal federation. Investment may be required depending on local circumstances	Abernant	Llechyfedach
	Cynwyl Elfed	Tumble
	Llanpumsaint	
Create a new primary school to replace the existing separate junior and infants schools - invest to provide new premises or to modernise the present buildings and facilities as appropriate to local circumstances.	Copperworks	Lakefield
	Llangennech Infants	Llangennech Juniors
Continue to maintain the school, subject to pupil numbers not declining significantly from their present levels and the school remaining viable - invest to modernise the school's buildings and facilities where appropriate.	Abergwili VC	Ferryside VC
	Beca	Llys Hywel
	Blaenau	Llansteffan
	Cwrt Henri	
Review the future provision of education in the area served by the present school in the context of a possible strategic reconfiguration across a wider area to promote the more sustainable delivery of education for the long term. Invest to deliver the chosen solution.	Bancyfelin	Llanmiloe
	Meidrim	Tremoilet VC
	Hafodwenog	Carway
	Ammanford Nursery	Gwynfryn
	Betws	Ponthenri
	Bro Banw	Pontiets
	Gymraeg Rhydaman	Llanybydder
	Llangadog	Gwenllian
	Llansadwrn	Mynyddygarreg
	Llanwrda	Richmond Park
	Talley	Myrddin
	Teilo Sant	Crosshands
	Fairfach	Pwll
	Cefneithin	Llangain
	Drefach	St Mary's R.C VA Carmarthen
	Y Fro	
Review the future provision of education in the area served by the current school, which is not considered to be viable in its present form.	Bancffosfelen	Llanllwni VC
	Llanedi	

Key - Project Names	Schools
Ammanford Area	Bro Banw / Gymraeg Rhydaman / Ammanford Nursery / Betws
Abernant / Cynwyl Elfed / Llanpumsaint	Abernant / Cynwyl Elfed / Llanpumsaint
Bancyfelin / Meidrim / Hafodwenog	Bancyfelin / Meidrim / Hafodwenog
Llanybydder / Llanllwni	Llanybydder / Llanllwni
Kidwelly	Gwenllian / Mynyddygarreg
Llangennech	Llangennech Infants / Llangennech Juniors
Gwendraeth Valley North	Cefneithin / Drefach / Llanddarog VC
Gorslas Area	Gorslas / Maesybont
Cwm Tywi East	Llangadog / Llansadwrn / Llanwrda
Llandeilo Area	Talley / Teilo Sant / Llandeilo
Gwendraeth Valley Central	Carway / Gwynfryn / Pontiets / Ponthenri
Pendine	Llanmiloe / Tremoilet / Laugharne
Seaside	Copperworks Infants / Lakefield
Myrddin / Richmond Park	Myrddin / Richmond Park
Llechyfedach / Tumble	Llechyfedach / Tumble

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Band	Prosiectau / Projects	Implications (Estimated)			
		Capital £ '000	Land Required ?	Statutory Proposals ?	Cumulative Investment
Completed Schemes	Strade Phase 1	8,245	N	N	£234m investment on MEP Schemes by end of March 2016
	Carreg Hirfaen	5,800	Y	N	
	Burry Port	3,800	N	Y	
Committed Schemes	Seaside	10,228	Y	Y	£258m investment including committed MEP Schemes
	Llanelli Vocational Village	1,257	N	N	
	Trimsaran	6,800	N	N	
	Coedcae	6,700	N	N	
Future Programme	Parc Y Tywyn	9,600	Y	Y	£290m required for future programme
	Cwm Tywi East	4,000	N	Y	
	Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)	5,000	N	N	
	Rhyd Y Gors	2,000	N	N	
	Llandeilo Area	14,000	Y	Y	
	Ammanford Area	19,000	Y	Y	
	Dewi Sant & Penyaer	15,000	Y	N	
	Laugharne VC	2,000	N	Y	
	St John Lloyd - Phase 1	3,200	N	N	
	Gorslas Area	8,000	Y	Y	
	Pontyberem	2,000	N	Y	
	Carmarthen West - Phase 1	5,000	N	N	
	Kidwelly	9,000	Y	Y	
	Pembrey	7,500	N	N	
	Five Roads	2,500	N	N	
	Hendy	5,000	N	Y	
	Llanybydder / Llanllwni	1,000	N	Y	
	Gwendraeth Valley North	5,000	Y	Y	
	Cross Hands	5,000	Y	Y	
	Gwendraeth Valley Central	8,000	Y	Y	
	Llandybie	5,000	N	N	
	Heol Goffa	10,000	N	N	
	Bro Myrddin	6,000	N	N	
	Myrddin	5,000	N	N	
	Carmarthen West - Phase 2	4,000	N	N	
	Bryngwyn	6,000	N	N	
	Glan Y Mor	6,000	N	N	
	Llangunnor	7,000	N	N	
	Llys Hywel	7,000	Y	N	
	Dyffryn Taf	6,000	N	N	
	Llangennech	12,000	N	Y	
	Saron	3,000	N	N	
	Emlyn	10,000	N	N	
	Penygroes	6,000	Y	N	
	Ferryside VC	2,000	N	N	
	Beca	2,000	N	N	
	Cwrt Henri	1,000	N	N	
	Llansteffan / Llangain	2,000	N	Y	
	Dafen	4,000	N	N	
	Bynea	2,000	N	N	
Parcyrhun	5,000	N	N		
Llechfedach / Tumble	3,000	N	Y		
Penboyr VA	1,000	N	N		
Griffith Jones	3,000	N	N		
St. Mary's RC Llanelli	6,000	N	N		
St. Mary's RC Carmarthen	6,000	N	N		
Pwll	3,000	N	N		
Abergwili VC	3,000	N	N		
Pentip VA	6,000	Y	N		
Richmond Park	3,000	N	N		
Old Road	3,000	N	N		
Strade - Phase 2	6,000	N	N		
St John Lloyd - Phase 2	5,000	N	N		

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MEP 5 Year Capital Investment Plan 2016/17 - 2020/21

	2016/17 Estimate £'000	2017/18 Estimate £'000	2018/19 Estimate £'000	2019/20 Estimate £'000	2020/21 Estimate £'000
Tranche 2 & 3					
Ysgol Ffwrnes - New Two Form Entry Primary School	874				
- Ysgol Dyffryn Aman - Major Redevelopment	55				
- Ysgol Maes y Gwendraeth - Major Redevelopment	517				
- Ysgol Bro Dinefwr - New Secondary School Building	633				
Dinefwr	1,205				
Total Tranche 2 and 3 Funding	2,079	0	0	0	0
Complete					
Ysgol y Strade - Major Redevelopment	207				
Ysgol Carreg Hirfaen - New Primary School Building	272				
Burry Port Primary Community School - Major Redevelopment	146				
Committed					
Seaside - New Two Form Entry Primary School Building	3,500	3,557	150		
Llanelli Secondary - Vocational Village	554	87			
Ysgol Trimsaran - New Primary School Building	3,944	2,321	100		
Ysgol Coedcae - Major Redevelopment	3,220	100			
Future Programme					
Ysgol Parc y Tywyn - New Primary School Building	3,500	4,300	992	150	
Cwm Tywi East - Major Redevelopment	2,000	1,736	100		
Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)	115	15	40	120	800
Rhydygors	200	800	800	200	
Llandeilo Primary Schools - Phase 1	100	200	2,700	3,500	430
Llandeilo Primary Schools - Phase 2	10	10	20	20	280
Ammanford Primary Schools	75	75	75	775	7,329
Ysgol Dewi Sant & Penygaer	210	3,510	4,510	760	460
Laugharne VCP	100	200	1,300	400	
St. John Lloyd School - Major Redevelopment	350	1,300	1,096	350	
Gorslas Area	100	2,450	4,000	1,400	
Pontyberem	400	1,400	200		
Carmarthen West Phase 1	70	500	1,500	2,000	
Kidwelly	10	10	10	10	10
Pembrey	10	10	10	10	10
Five Roads	10	10	10	10	10
Hendy	10	10	10	10	10
Llanybydder / Llanllwni	10	10	10	10	10
Gwendraeth Valley North	10	10	10	10	10
Cross Hands	10	10	10	10	10
Gwendraeth Valley Central	10	10	10	10	10
Llandybie	10	10	10	10	10
Heol Goffa	10	10	10	10	10
Total 21C Schools Programme	19,173	22,661	17,683	9,775	9,399
Other Works					
Ysgol Llangennech Infants - Transfer of Double Mobile Classroom	110				
Laugharne - Transfer of Double Mobile Classroom	140				
Ysgol Y Ddwylan	85				
Brynamman Car Park	100				
Others	435	0	0	0	0
Provisions Expenditure	465	0	0	380	0
Total MEP Capital Programme	22,152	22,661	17,683	10,155	9,399

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EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23rd MAY 2016

Education & Children Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme for 2016/17

To consider and comment on the following issues:

- That the Committee confirm its Forward Work Programme for 2016/17.

Reasons:

- The County Council's Constitution requires scrutiny committees to develop and publish annual forward work programmes that identify issues and reports to be considered during the course of the municipal year.

To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: NO

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder: NOT APPLICABLE

<p>Directorate: Chief Executive's</p> <p>Name of Head of Service: Linda Rees-Jones</p> <p>Report Author: Matthew Hughes</p>	<p>Designations:</p> <p>Head of Administration & Law</p> <p>Democratic Services Officer</p>	<p>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</p> <p>01267 224010 lrjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p> <p>01267 224029 mahughes@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 23rd MAY 2016

Education & Children Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme for 2016/17

Purpose of the briefing paper

The purpose of this paper is to inform the development of the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee forward work programme for 2016/17.

The purpose of the Forward Work Programme

Article 6.2 of the County Council's Constitution states that: *"Each scrutiny committee is required to develop and publish an annual forward work programme, identifying issues and reports to be considered during the course of a municipal year"*.

The development of a work programme:

- Provides an opportunity for members to determine the priority issues to be considered by their scrutiny committee over the course of the next year.
-
- Provides a focus for both officers and members, and is a vehicle for communicating the work of the Committee to the public. The programme (see attached report) will be published on the council's website and will be updated on a quarterly basis – www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/scrutiny – and sent to key stakeholders for information. It will also be updated on a quarterly basis.
- Ensures agreement of provisional agendas for scheduled scrutiny meetings within the council diary. The Programme is a flexible document that can be amended to reflect additional meetings and agenda items during the course of the year.

Members will recall that the Committee held an informal planning session on the 25th April 2016 to consider the draft briefing paper and begin the process of formulating the forward work programme for 2016/17. The outcome of this meeting is now presented to the Committee in this briefing paper for formal approval.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Signed: Linda Rees-Jones Head of Administration & Law

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

1. **Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities** – In line with requirements of the County Council’s Constitution.
2. **Legal** – In line with requirements of the County Council’s Constitution.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: Linda Rees-Jones Head of Administration & Law

1. **Local Member(s)** – N/A
2. **Community / Town Council** – N/A
3. **Relevant Partners** – N/A
4. **Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** – N/A

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:
THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW:

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Education & Children Scrutiny Committee Reports and Minutes	<p>Meetings held up to July 2015: http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/committees-meetings/agendas-minutes-(archive)/</p> <p>Meetings from September 2015 onwards: http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=153</p>

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Education & Children Scrutiny Committee

Forward Work Programme 2016/17 Briefing Paper

23rd May 2016

1. Purpose of the briefing paper

The purpose of this paper is to inform the development of the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee forward work programme for 2016/17.

2. The purpose of the Forward Work Programme

Article 6.2 of the County Council's Constitution states that: "Each scrutiny committee is required to develop and publish an annual forward work programme, identifying issues and reports to be considered during the course of a municipal year".

The development of a work programme:

- Provides an opportunity for members to determine the priority issues to be considered by their scrutiny committee over the course of the next year.
- Provides a focus for both officers and members, and is a vehicle for communicating the work of the Committee to the public. The programme (see end of report) will be published on the council's website and will be updated on a quarterly basis – www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/scrutiny – and sent to key stakeholders for information. It will also be updated on a quarterly basis.
- Ensures agreement of provisional agendas for scheduled scrutiny meetings within the council diary. The programme is a flexible document that can be amended to reflect additional meetings and agenda items during the course of the year.

This briefing paper makes reference to issues emerging from the Executive Board's Forward Work Programme, a review of key issues to emerge from the Committee's work over the past year, together with any uncompleted scrutiny business from the Committee. This information, together with standard scrutiny items (e.g. budget consultation reports and performance monitoring reports) has informed the development of the briefing paper which provides a broad outline of suggested areas for the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee to consider.

Members will recall that the Committee held an informal planning session on the 25th of April 2016 to consider the draft briefing paper and begin the process of formulating

the forward work programme for 2016/17. The outcome of this meeting is now presented to the Committee in this briefing paper for formal approval.

3. Membership and remit of the Committee

The Education & Children Scrutiny Committee has 18 members including 13 elected Council Members and 5 co-opted members with voting rights on educational matters (2 church representatives and 3 parent governors). The Committee covers the following service areas:

- Schools and Educational Standards
- Inclusion / Special Education Needs
- Community Education
- Children's Services
- Youth Services
- Welsh language (in the community)
- Catering

4. Education & Children Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme

4.1 Performance & Progress Monitoring

Items within this section have been included to reflect the monitoring role of scrutiny and particularly to enable the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee to hold the Executive Board to account in key areas.

Included are standard scrutiny monitoring reports and monitoring of other key priority/risk areas that have been identified by the former scrutiny committees during last/previous years' work programmes.

Item	Rationale	Frequency / Date
Performance Monitoring Reports	<p>This is a standard 6-monthly report which allows members to undertake their monitoring role in relation to the relevant departments' services. The report also includes details of the compliments and complaints received by the relevant departments.</p> <p>Following agreement by the Scrutiny Chairs & Vice-Chairs Forum, all the scrutiny committees will now receive performance monitoring reports for quarters 1 and 3 from 2016/17 onwards.</p> <p>The end of year position will be captured as part of the Council's Annual Report and Improvement Plan document.</p>	<p>Every 6 months – 17th June 2016, 22nd September 2016 and 15th March 2017</p>

Item	Rationale	Frequency / Date
Revenue / Capital Budget Monitoring Reports	This is a standard item which allows members to undertake their monitoring role of the departmental budget.	Quarterly – 17th June 2016 onwards
Actions & Referrals Updates	These quarterly updates provide details on progress made in relation to actions and requests from previous meetings.	Quarterly – 17th June 2016 onwards
Education & Children Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme 2016/17	The County Council's Constitution requires scrutiny committees to develop and publish annual forward work programmes that identify issues and reports to be considered during the course of the municipal year. Following the informal planning session held on 25th April 2016, this report will enable the Committee to confirm its Forward Work Programme for 2016/17.	23rd May 2016
Education & Children Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2015/16	In accordance with Article 6.2 of the Authority's Constitution, each Scrutiny committee "must report annually to full Council on their workings and make recommendations for future work programmes taking account of resources available and amended working methods." This report will provide members with an overview of the Committee's work during 2015/16	17th June 2016
Annual report of the Director of Social Services 2015/16	The Director has a statutory requirement to make a report about Children's Services and this is presented to the Committee each year. The report will be considered at a joint-meeting with the Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee.	23rd May 2016
11-19 Learning Network Update	The Committee has received regular updates on this service area during recent years and it is proposed that an update be included again in this year's work programme.	17th June 2016
Teacher Assessments and External Examination Results 2016	Performance in teacher assessments and external exams are some of the measures used to gauge the effectiveness of the county's schools. This report will enable the Committee to exercise its role in relation to performance of the Local Authority's schools. The Committee will also be able to consider the performance of the Local Authority in relation to regional and national performance.	Annually – 22nd September 2016

Item	Rationale	Frequency / Date
School Improvement Panel Annual Report 2015/16	<p>This Executive Board Member led Panel including ten non-Executive Members was introduced during 2014/15. A key activity of the Panel is to receive copies of every ESTYN school inspection report following their publication and to summon the Chair of Governors and Head Teacher of every school to appear before the Panel in order to hold the senior school leaders to account for the outcome of the inspection and any further action required, in response to it.</p> <p>Part of the Panel's Terms of Reference also requires it to produce an annual report on its activity for consideration by the Executive Board and the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee, to include any proposals or recommendations that the Panel considers could improve provision or performance.</p>	Annually – 22nd September 2016
School and Children's Settings Visits Activity Report 2015/16	This is an annual update report regarding the Committee's school and children's settings visits programme during the previous academic year.	Annually – 22nd September 2016
Education through Regional Working (ERW) Business Plan 2016/17 an Review of 2015/16	The Committee will have the opportunity to monitor the progress made by ERW during 2015/16 and its Business Plan objectives for 2016/17. The Committee has also requested details regarding the role of Challenge Advisors and examples of the types of interventions, their effectiveness and outcomes in terms of supporting schools improving standards and pupil attainments.	Autumn – Date to be confirmed
CSSIW Inspection, Evaluation and Review of Local Authority Social Services 2015/16	Care & Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) annually reviews the Local Authority's performance in relation to Children's Services. This provides an opportunity for the Committee to scrutinise the Services' performance and consider the Authority's response to the report. As in recent years, this will be considered as part of a joint-meeting with the Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee.	21st November 2016
ERW Inspection 2016 – ESTYN Report	The Education through Regional Working (ERW) Region is to be inspected by ESTYN in the summer of 2016. This item will provide the Committee with an opportunity to consider the	21st November 2016

Item	Rationale	Frequency / Date
	findings and recommendations of the ESTYN inspection report, once it is published.	
Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2014 – 2017	The Committee will have the opportunity to consider the WESP and progress towards achieving its aims and objectives in an annual update report.	22nd December 2016
National Literacy Tests Outcomes	This item will provide the Committee with an opportunity to consider and comment on the outcomes of the National Literacy Tests in Carmarthenshire.	22nd December 2016
School Performance & Achievement 2016	<p>The Committee will consider an analysis of quantitative and qualitative data in relation to the performance of schools during the 2015/16 academic year. The report will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Report on Standards & Outcomes (Teacher Assessments and Examinations, Attendance and Pupil Exclusions) • Outcomes of School Inspections • Developing values and skills for lifelong learning. <p>The report will also include how performance and standards in the county's schools compare with best performing schools across the ERW region.</p>	26th January 2017
Welsh Government Categorisation of Schools 2017	This information provides the Committee with an opportunity to consider the current position of the County's schools and areas for improvement. The categorisation information can be used by the Committee to scrutinise the performance of Carmarthenshire schools and the impact of the ERW Consortium, as well as challenge any under-performance.	Annually – 15th March 2017
Corporate Parenting & Safeguarding Panel Annual Report	The remit of this Panel was extended to include Safeguarding during 2014. Part of the Panel's terms of reference states that it must produce an annual report on its activity for consideration by the Executive Board and the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee, to include any proposals or recommendations that the Panel considers could improve provision or performance.	Annually – 24th April 2017

4.2 Policy Development / Policy Review

Scrutiny committees can play a key role in contributing to the development of new policies by having early input into the shaping of a policy and providing evidence based proposals for the Executive Board to consider. The Committee itself may also request to undertake a review of a particular policy or strategy. The Committee can also decide to undertake a review or develop a policy via a Task & Finish Group or as a Committee (over the course of 2-3 meetings).

Item	Rationale	Frequency / Date
MEP Biennial Review	This report will provide members an opportunity to comment on the review of the MEP Programme which is required every two years.	23rd May 2016
Draft Play Sufficiency Assessment	This item will provide the Committee with an opportunity to comment and make recommendations, as part of the consultation in relation to the Council's second Play Sufficiency Assessment.	23rd May 2016
Behaviour Services Review	This item will provide the Committee with an opportunity to comment and make recommendations in relation to the review of Behaviour Services.	21st November 2016
Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Reform – A Carmarthenshire response	This item will provide the Committee with an opportunity to comment and make recommendations in relation to Carmarthenshire's response to the reform of Additional Learning Needs provision. New legislation is expected during 2016/17.	21st November 2016
Draft Carmarthenshire Curriculum Declaration	At its meeting in January 2016, the Committee received a report relating to 'Paving the Way: A Strategic Review of 3 – 19 Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements in Carmarthenshire'. The proposals had been developed in order to implement the Donaldson (Successful Futures) recommendations, the Furlong Review and the New Deal in all the County's schools and special settings. Since this time, work has been on-going on the new curriculum and this further item will provide the Committee with an opportunity to comment and make recommendations in relation to the new (draft) Carmarthenshire Curriculum Declaration.	22nd December 2016

4.3 Pre-Decision Scrutiny

This section provides an opportunity for members to contribute to future decisions of the Executive Board and / or Council.

Item	Rationale	Frequency / Date
CCC Annual Report 2015/16 / Draft Improvement Plan 2016/17	The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 requires the Authority to publish an annual plan of its key improvement objectives and an assessment of how it has performed in the previous year. The Committee will consider the elements of the annual report and plan that are relevant to its remit to ensure that a balanced view is given regarding to the Authority's performance in relation to its key priorities.	23rd May 2016
MEP Proposal – Llangennech Infant & Junior Schools	This item will provide the Committee with an opportunity to consider and comment on the responses received in relation to the public consultation on the proposals for the Llangennech Infant and Junior schools.	23rd May 2016
MEP Proposal – Language Category of Bro Myrddin School	This report will outline the proposal to implement the change of language category at Bro Myrddin School to Welsh-medium. This item will provide the Committee with an opportunity to comment on and make recommendations in relation to the proposal.	17th June 2016
Youth Support Service Business Plan 2016/17	There is a statutory requirement for the Local Authority to submit a business plan to the Youth Justice Board on an annual basis outlining the delivery of the youth justice services.	Annually – 22nd September 2016
MEP Proposals for School Age Categories	This report will outline the proposal to seek permission to implement the amendment of the age categories of Pwll, Pembrey, Bynea and Betws CP Schools, as part of the next stage of this process. The Committee received the post-consultation reports on these proposals at its meeting in March 2016.	Autumn – Date to be confirmed
MEP Proposal – Llanedi School	At its meeting on the 9th March 2016, the Committee decided to defer making recommendations on this proposal until it had visited the school. A proposal to consult on the future of the school is scheduled to be presented to the Committee again in the Autumn.	Autumn – Date to be confirmed

Item	Rationale	Frequency / Date
MEP Proposal – Bancffosfelen School	At its meeting on the 9th March 2016, the Committee decided to defer making recommendations on this proposal until it had visited the school. A proposal to consult on the future of the school is scheduled to be presented to the Committee again in the Autumn.	Autumn – Date to be confirmed
MEP Proposal – Laugharne, Llanmiloe and Tremoilet	<p>At its meeting on the 9th March 2016, the Committee agreed to recommend to the Executive Board that a formal consultation process on the proposal be initiated during the summer term of 2016. However, at its meeting on the 21st March 2016, the Executive Board decided that consideration of initiating formal consultation on the proposal to discontinue Llanmiloe CP, Tremoilet VCP and Laugharne VCP Schools and to create a new area school, be deferred, to allow further information to be gathered and evaluated, and for officers to bring a subsequent report to the Education & Children’s Services Scrutiny Committee and Executive Board as soon as practicable thereafter.</p> <p>At its forward work programme planning session, the Committee requested that it also visit these schools, before considering the proposal to consult on the future of the schools once more in the Autumn.</p>	Autumn – Date to be confirmed
Revenue Budget Setting 2017/18 to 2019/20	To provide members with an opportunity to consider and comment on the budget settlement, departmental service budgets and efficiency savings proposals.	Annually – 22nd December 2016
Capital Programme Budget Setting 2017/18 to 2021/22	To provide members with an opportunity to consider and comment on the draft five-year capital programme.	Annually – 22nd December 2016

4.4 Investigative Scrutiny

This section reflects scrutiny's role in undertaking 'light-touch' or 'in-depth' reviews of particular service areas or themes. There are a number of reasons why scrutiny committees may want to undertake a review of this nature. These include:

- Concerns about performance evidenced by previous scrutiny reports, or concerns expressed by members of the public about a particular issue.
- The need to explore opportunities for further development of a service offered by better and improved working with partners etc.
- To assist in assessing the impact of new legislation or guidance.

Investigations may be carried out via Committee meetings or through an in-depth review conducted by a task and finish sub-group of the Committee.

Item	Rationale	Date
Task & Finish Group Final Report – Attainment Gap and eFSM Learners	The Committee established a task and finish group in 2015 in order to investigate the attainment gap between those learners who are eligible for free school meals and those who are not. This item will provide the Committee with an opportunity to consider the Group's findings and recommendations as part of the final report.	22nd September 2016
Elective Home Education	The Committee has raised concerns about Elective Home Education on many occasions during recent years. It had previously requested that this topic be considered during the past municipal year but this was deferred as officers were awaiting further guidance from the Welsh Government on the matter. Once a response is received from the Welsh Government, a report will be prepared for the Committee to consider in more detail.	To be confirmed

5.0 Development / Briefing Sessions

5.1 School and Children's Services Visits

The Committee has been undertaking a structured programme of visits to schools across the county for a number of years. These have allowed the Committee to gather information and develop greater understanding about issues in our schools.

The following dates have been arranged for school visits during the forthcoming municipal year:

Date	Time
Tuesday 24th May 2016	9:30am – 4:00pm
Tuesday 14th June 2016	9:30am – 4:00pm
Friday 1st July 2016	9:30am – 4:00pm
Tuesday 18th October 2016	9:30am – 4:00pm
Thursday 24th November 2016	9:30am – 4:00pm
Tuesday 14th February 2017	9:30am – 4:00pm
Friday 10th March 2017	9:30am – 4:00pm

During the past few years, the focus of these visits has gradually changed to the standards and performance of schools and members are provided with relevant information in advance of the visits. It is also intended to link the visits with the work of the School Improvement Panel to provide an additional ‘reality check’.

Visit feedback meetings are also arranged, allowing members to discuss issues raised during the visits and these are shared as appropriate with the Executive Board Member, Director and Head of Education Services at regular meetings with the Chair and Vice-Chair.

5.2 Development Sessions

Development sessions will be arranged for the scrutiny committees during 2016/17, as and when they are requested. To date, a session on ‘Fostering’ has been suggested for all members during the forthcoming year.

6. Committee Meeting Dates 2016/17

Date	Venue	Time
Monday 23rd May 2016 <i>Joint meeting with Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee</i>	County Hall Chamber	2:00pm
Monday 23rd May 2016	County Hall Chamber	2:30pm
Friday 17th June 2016	County Hall Chamber	10:00am
Thursday 22nd September 2016	Spilman Street Chamber	10:00am
Monday 21st November 2016 <i>Joint meeting with Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee</i>	Spilman Street Chamber	2:00pm
Monday 21st November 2016	Spilman Street Chamber	2:30pm
Thursday 22nd December 2016	Spilman Street Chamber	10:00am
Thursday 26th January 2017	Spilman Street Chamber	10:00am
Wednesday 15th March 2017	County Hall Chamber	10:00am
Monday 24th April 2017	County Hall Chamber	10:00am

** Please note that dates and locations of meetings are subject to change. It is also likely that an additional Committee meeting will be arranged for the Autumn.*

Education & Children Scrutiny Committee – DRAFT Forward Work Programme 2016/17

23 May 16	17 June 16	22 Sept 16	<i>Autumn 16 (TBC)</i>	21 Nov 16	22 Dec 16	26 Jan 17	15 March 17	24 April 17
Annual Report of Director of Social Services 2015/16 Joint with SC&H	Draft CCC Annual Report 15/16 and Imp. Plan 16/17	Unverified Results 2016 Teacher Assessments and External Examinations	<i>MEP Proposals for Age Categories – Pwll, Bynea, Pembrey & Betws</i>	CSSIW Inspection, Evaluation and Review of LA Social Services 2015/16 Joint with SC&H	3-year Revenue Budget Consultation	School Performance and Achievements 2015/16	Q3 Performance Monitoring Report 2016/17	Corporate Parenting & Safeguarding Panel Annual Report 2016
CCC Draft Play Sufficiency Assessment	EOY Budget Monitoring 2015/16	School Improvement Panel Annual Report 2015/16	<i>MEP Proposal – Llanedi</i>	Behaviour Services Review	5-year Capital Budget Consultation		Budget Monitoring 2016/17	
MEP Proposal – Llangennech	11-19 Learning Network Update	Task & Finish Report – Attainment Gap and eFSM Learners	<i>MEP Proposal – Bancffosfelen</i>	ALN Reform – A Carmarthenshire response	Draft Carmarthenshire Curriculum Declaration		WG Categorisation of Schools 2017	
MEP Biennial Review	MEP Proposal – Bro Myrddin	Q1 Performance Monitoring Report 2016/17	<i>MEP Proposal – Laugharne, Llanmiloe & Tremoilet</i>	ERW Inspection 2016 – ESTYN Report	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)		Actions & Referrals Update	
E&C Forward Work Programme 2016/17	E&C Scrutiny Annual Report 2015/16	Budget Monitoring 2016/17	<i>ERW Business Plan 2016/17 & Review of 2015/16</i>	Actions & Referrals Update	National Literacy Tests Outcomes			
	Actions & Referrals Update	E&C School Visit Activity Report 2015/16						