

**AGENDA ITEM 8****RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL****CABINET****16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2014****REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES****PLAY SUFFICIENCY AUDIT****1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise Members of the current status of play provision across Rhondda Cynon Taf and the new statutory duties placed on Local Authorities since July 2014 relating to play.
- 1.2 To agree the Rhondda Cynon Taf Play Sufficiency Assessment – Refresh Report – September 2014 and the 2014 – 2015 Play Sufficiency Assessment Action Plan.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members:-

- 2.1 Note the contents of the report;
- 2.2 note that as from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014 the Council must secure sufficient play opportunities in its area for children, so far as reasonably practicable, having regard to its Play Sufficiency Assessment and Play Action Plan; and
- 2.3 agree the Rhondda Cynon Taf Play Sufficiency Assessment – Refresh Report – September 2014 and the implementation of the 2014 – 2015 Play Action Plan as annexed at Appendix 1 to the report.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Welsh Government want every child to have a wide range of challenging and interesting opportunities to play and enjoy their leisure time. This aim is being implemented through the use of legislation.
- 3.2 Rhondda Cynon Taf and the former Mid Glamorgan County Council has supported the provision of open access play services for over thirty years, in recognition of the positive and preventative impact such services have on children, young people and their development. In this respect, the Council was way ahead of its time in recognising the intrinsic value of play provision.
- 3.3 In recent years the Council has developed more sophisticated knowledge and understanding of the critical role that play (open access play in particular), has in the development of children and young people, together with the

development of critical life skills in preparation for adult life and active citizenship.

- 3.4 More recently, preventative Public Health Wales services talk about open access and other play activities as being key to the fight to overcome childhood obesity and to support the development of healthier lifestyles.

### **New Statutory Functions**

- 3.5 Welsh Government is the first in the world to introduce legislation to ensure play sufficiency is assessed and considered by all Local Authorities in Wales.

- 3.6 Welsh Government 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. Play can also be a means of reducing inequalities between children living in families that can afford to pay for costly recreational activities and those that cannot, so thereby reducing poverty of experience for all children.

- 3.7 The Welsh Government Play Policy 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.”***

- 3.8 In November 2012 Welsh Government placed a duty on all Local Authorities to assess the sufficiency of play opportunities for children in their areas. Sufficient in relation to play opportunities, means “sufficient having regard to quantity and quality”.

- 3.9 In July 2014 the Welsh Government commenced an additional duty on Local Authorities to secure sufficient play opportunities, so far as reasonably practicable, having regard to their assessments. This puts into effect the complete Section 11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 that relates to play opportunities. There is also a duty to publish information about play opportunities for children within the County Borough and keep that information up to date.

- 3.10 "Wales - a Play Friendly Country" is the updated statutory guidance for local authorities on assessing for and securing sufficient play opportunities for children in their areas. This replaces the previous "Creating a play friendly Wales" statutory guidance.

- 3.11 The 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.

- Support Local Authorities in securing sufficient play opportunities. This will be through the implementation of the Play Action Plans which the Council is required to develop to maintain the strengths and improve on the shortcomings Welsh Government have identified in Local Authority Play Sufficiency Assessments.

**3.12** 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 Local Authority 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.

#### **4. THE RHONDDA CYNON TAF PLAY SUFFICIENCY ASSESSEMENT - (the 'PSA')**

**4.1** An inter-agency working group was established in 2012 to develop and oversee the completion of the PSA. RCT Cultural Services, Sport RCT and Leisure Services were engaged early in the assessment process to ensure sport and the provision of physical activity for children and young people was captured accurately. The PSA culminated in the development of an action plan, which offers broad, overarching strategic actions required to meet the needs identified by the Assessment. Below is a brief overview of successes and challenges identified by the PSA and PSA annual refresh for 2014 (as annexed at Appendix 1 to this report):

- **Matter A Population** – Diverse location (databases) of population data and the need to ensure cross referencing and validation of the information.
- **Matter B Providing for Diverse Needs** - demand for settings that support children with specific requirements (physical, behavioural, communication, language preference) exceeds available resources.
- **Matter C Spaces for Children to Play** – positive opportunities identified for a range of departments to work together to deliver better play opportunities.
- **Matter D Supervised Provision** – need to secure the resources needed to sustain current provision and where possible develop additional support for disabled children and others with diverse needs.
- **Matter E Charges for Play Provision** – no proposals to introduce charges for open access play at point of delivery due to the high levels of deprivation in our local communities, which is where most open access play is delivered.
- **Matter F Access to Space and Provision** –a range of access assessments that need to be carried out, which will undoubtedly lead to further actions to improve access for all service users.
- **Matter G Securing and Developing the Workforce** – qualification status and CSSIW registration of provision requires investment and support.
- **Matter H Community Engagement and Participation** –children and parents identified that parks (play facilities) are amongst the most popular areas where children like to play. Building dens and riding their bikes are

what they most like to do and 34.9% said that the weather was the biggest barrier to playing outside.

- ***Matter I Play Within All Relevant Policy and Implementation Agendas*** –Inclusion of Play in the Single Integrated Plan demonstrates a positive approach to play provision, in its widest sense.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The Rhondda Cynon Taf PSA annual refresh for 2014 as annexed at Appendix 1 to this report demonstrates that the Council has a good range of activities, including cultural and sporting activities for children and young people, covering all ‘matters’ listed above We know that we have one of the most well developed play services in Wales and we have developed an effective delivery model utilising third sector organisations, which provides best value.
- 5.2 Recent Welsh Government feedback concerning an update on the previous Play Action Plan suggests satisfaction with the quality and detail of reports submitted – although the feedback is slight in comparison to the volume of work involved in carrying out the duty.
- 5.3 At present, the majority of children are able to access a diverse range of leisure, cultural and play opportunities; this includes provision for disabled children and those from minority ethnic groups. Welsh Language Play provision is particularly well developed through effective partnership work with Menter Iaith and Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin.
- 5.4 Open access play facilities provide critical preventative services to children and their families, which includes;
- Preventing family breakdown by providing care for vulnerable children, including those who are disabled and those on the child protection register.
  - Providing services that support the physical and emotional well being of children thus supporting the health agenda and a reduction in obesity in children.
  - Enables children from poor family backgrounds to experience stimulating activities often in place of a family holiday.
  - Helping children and young people to develop many of the life skills required for active citizenship including work.
  - Reducing the risk of public nuisance activities and community angst.
  - Providing an effective preventative service in terms of youth offending.
  - Enabling the integration of disabled children (many with high level complex needs) in ordinary community based activities.
  - Providing an affordable form of childcare for working parents when combined with ‘wrap around’ care, which they fund themselves.
- 5.5 The services the Council offers provide excellent value for money in terms of the number of children and young people it supports. The cost of delivering open access play equates to 76p per child per hour, or alternatively - £1.52 per session.

- 5.6** The Council regularly consults with children and young people and their families and without doubt, this is a highly valued service appreciated by all socio economic groups in its communities.
- 5.7** To date the feedback from Welsh Government regarding the quality of the Council's reports and the actions planned to support the play agenda has been positive.
- 5.8** The PSA together with the 2014 – 2015 Play Action Plan (attached to Appendix 1) and the implementation of the measures set out therein will continue to deliver a proactive and measured approach to the new statutory duties and the delivery of services. Delivery of the Play Action Plan will help ensure the Council complies with its statutory duty to secure, so far as reasonable practicable, sufficient play opportunities in the County Borough for children. However Members should note that the level of development that can be achieved is limited by a lack of Welsh Government funding to support the new duties and the loss of Cymorth / Families First funding. Front line delivery of open access play provision during school holidays will continue to be prioritised.

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**APPENDIX 1**

**Rhondda Cynon Taf  
Play Sufficiency Assessment**

**Refresh Report**

**September 2014**



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## **Supporting Documents**

Appendix 1 PSA Updated Action Plan 2013 / 14

Appendix 2 Welsh Government Grant Expenditure 2014

Appendix 3 PSA Action Plan 2014 / 15



## 1. Introduction

***Our vision is that all children and young people in Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) enjoy and have fun, throughout their childhood and youth. They will be given every opportunity to pursue learning and life skills whilst having access to and participating in high quality play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities. We will celebrate children's diversity of interests and needs.***

Children and young people need a range of opportunities to grow and fulfil their potential and the provision of play opportunities is an essential ingredient in their all-round development. Extensive research shows the importance of play in developing the social, physical, intellectual, creative and emotional skills of children and young people, as a pre-cursor to the skills needed in adult life.

Play has been described as 'scaffolding' for children's development and provides the ideal natural medium for children and young people to explore and understand the world around them, together with their own inner world.

Play is of intrinsic worth and good quality play experiences undoubtedly have a significant, positive impact on the development of children and young people. There are often unrecognised benefits of supporting the development and delivery of play services; those of improving community cohesion.

Community involvement in the delivery of play provision can and does create rich opportunities for adults to access training, make new social connections and build the social capital of a neighbourhood.

Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the most universally recognised human rights treaty in the world, recognises that every child has the right to play. This right has been recognised and promoted for many years by RCT Council and by the many organisations working in partnership with the Council. This commitment is reflected in the RCT Children and Young People Plan 2011 – 2014, the RCT Play Strategy and the RCT Single Plan. For well over twenty five years RCT has been funding and providing open access play, cultural and leisure services.

Chapter 2, Section 11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure sets out a duty on Local Authorities regarding play opportunities in two parts. The first part of the Measure was enacted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November 2012; this included the duty for local authorities to assess for sufficient play opportunities:

- Full assessment to be completed by the 1st of March 2013
- Refresh and updated Action Plan by 31st of October 2014
- Refresh and updated Action Plan by 31st of October 2015
- Full Assessment to be completed by 1st of March 2017

The second part of the duty was enacted on the 1st of July 2014. This stipulated that...

A local authority must secure sufficient play opportunities in its area for children, so far as reasonably practicable, having regard to its assessment under section (1).

The Local Authority must -

Publish information about play opportunities in the authority's area for children and keep the information up to date.

In performing these duties, a local authority must have regard for -

The needs of children who are disabled persons and the needs of children of different ages

In RCT, the lead for the implementation of Chapter 2, Section 11 of the Children and Family (Wales) Measure lies with the Head of Early Years and Family Support Services. The monitoring of the Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA) will be one of the core functions of the Early Years, Childcare and Play Partnership. This Group also has the legal responsibility to oversee the monitoring of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment.

Geraint E. Hopkins is the Cabinet Member for Children's Social Services and Equalities; Play sits within his portfolio.

It will be vitally important for the Council and its partner organisations to build on the strong foundations that already exist, and work even more collaboratively in the future to plan and deliver local services, if we want to continue to develop and deliver efficient and effective play opportunities for CYP.

## **2. Action Plan 2013 / 14 Summary**

The 2013 / 14 Action Plan highlighted a number of broad, overarching actions required to meet the needs identified within the Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA). ***A comprehensive update of the 13 / 14 PSA Action Plan can be found at Appendix 1.***

In January 2014 RCT were allocated a one off grant of £95,000 by the Welsh Government (WG) to meet some of the actions in the RCT PSA Plan. The grant was used for the following:

## 2.1 Achievements

**2.1.1 Holiday Fun Time Programme** - Guiding Positive Behaviour training sessions were delivered to practitioners supporting children with additional needs. This was to increase the number of disabled children being able to access holiday play provision by increasing staff capacity.

**2.1.2 Playwork Qualification** - A 'Level 2' Playwork course was commissioned. A total of 20 participants were registered for a full qualification with the Scottish Qualification Association (SQA).

Agored Cymru Level 2 'Introduction to Playwork' training was also delivered to lunchtime staff, school staff and volunteers from 6 primary schools.

- Miskin Primary
- Ton - Pentre Infants
- Dolau Primary
- Treorchy Primary
- St Michaels
- Abercynon Primary (On hold at present)

**2.1.3 Siediau Chwarae (SC)** - 8 briefing sessions were delivered to school teaching staff, support staff, parents and governors on the aim of Siediau Chwarae. 4 consultation sessions were delivered to pupils in years 2, 4 and 6 of the 4 primary schools, with 1 due to take place in Autumn 2014 term. The consultation found that children, if given the choice, would prefer to take part in a wide range of activities during lunchtime using a range of equipment such as; hula hoops, skipping ropes, climbing frames, dressing up clothes, art activities / junk modelling.

5 new SC opened in Summer 2014; 1 SC aims to open in Autumn 2014 and approximately 1,500 children in 6 schools will have the opportunity to access the SC project during the school day.

**2.1.4 Open Access Play** - The holiday programme delivered open access play provision for children and young people throughout the February half-term period. All provision was free and targeted at children and young people (CYP) 5 – 14 years old. The sessions were delivered from a range of venues across the local authority and a total number of 4,519 CYP attended.

***A full report of the expenditure of the Welsh Government Grant can be found at Appendix 2.***

### **3. Challenges**

Funding beyond March 31st, 2015 is more restricted due to budgetary constraints but careful budgeting and planning for future programmes has been carried out and we will do our best to retain as many services as possible, including:

- Open Access Play provision
- The Holiday Fun Time Programme
- Toy / Play Resource Libraries
- Siediau Chwarae

### **4. Action Plan 2014 / 15**

The PSA Action Plan priorities for 2014 /15 have been taken from the red, amber, green (RAG) status of the main body the PSA Report 2013 - 17. The Early Years, Childcare and Play Partnership has agreed the priorities for 2014 /15. The Group will thereafter monitor the progress of the delivery of the actions on a quarterly basis.

***The PSA Action Plan for 2014 / 15 can be found at Appendix 3***

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## Appendix 1

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

**Proposed actions for 01st April 2013** Increased support and provision available to children and young people with diverse needs - **31st March 2014**

**At commencement of the second part of section 11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 (Funding source: to included budget requirements for implementing the full action plan once the second part of the duty, to secure sufficient play opportunities, is commenced).**

Matter	Priorities	Targets	Milestones	Resources, including costs	Funding source (new or existing funding streams)	Update
Statutory Guidance-policy framework						
Matter A: Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agree data to be used and updates required annually to support the review of the Play Sufficiency Assessment</li> </ul>	2013/14 Ongoing for 2014 – 15.	<p>Member of the PSAWG nominated to attend DATA review group.</p> <p>PSAWG agree on what information needs to be gathered for the annual review and 3 yearly full Play</p>	It is unclear what resources are required until the review is completed.	Unclear at this time. However it is envisaged that there will be financial implications.	<a href="#">This is currently being addressed as part of the RCT Strategic Information Review, PSA data collected in</a>

			Sufficiency Assessment. Sharing relevant data through this exercise with the SIP and vice versa.			2013 on all sporting activities has been used to populate the Go4IT Database with RCT homes.(GB)
Matter B: Providing for diverse needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the support available to providers in order that they can better meet the diverse needs of local children and young people. This is resource dependent as integration of children with disabilities and complex needs can require additional support and equipment.</li> <li>Audit all known areas of play</li> </ul>	March 2014	Practitioners have access to free training that equips them with the relevant skills knowledge and better understanding of how they can meet the diverse needs of local children and young people.	£15000 estimated cost.	New funding stream to be identified to support the implementation of this action.	Achieved as part of the PSA Grant January 2014. (GB)
		2013 / 14	A database of all inclusive venues / activities for disabled	To be confirmed on completion of audit / need, in	New funding to be identified	Achieved September 2013 (GB)

	<p>(outdoor, leisure facilities) in relation to access / egress and inclusive play opportunities / activities in mainstream settings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the Sport Wales school sport survey throughout the network of school support services and provide hands-on support to schools with limited IT facilities to increase the number of schools that completed the survey.</li> </ul>	24% response in 2013 and increase this year on year	<p>children established.</p> <p>More accessible and inclusive Play opportunities for disabled children and young people.</p> <p>April – July 2013 survey open. October 2014 survey results available.</p>	<p>relation to current provision</p> <p>No resource provided by Sport Wales. Worked into existing staff work programmes for Summer Term.</p>		<p>50 primary schools and 13 secondary schools qualified for individual school reports. This means, for the first time, RCT has local robust data on pupil views on sport and PE.</p>
Matter C: Space available for children to play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Authority has 250 designated play spaces. To introduce these environments as</li> </ul>	2014 / 2016	To implement smoke-free play spaces across the authority a plan will need to be costed for the supply	Work with RCT'S Enforcement Team and Ash Cymru to	Identify source of funding to the sum of £37,500 to implement	30 signs installed across RCT. Task and finish group has

	<p>smoke free spaces - appropriate signage and an awareness campaign is required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify sources of funding to sustain outdoor play spaces not owned by local authority.</li> <li>Sport RCT to work with community groups to agree on new all-weather surface areas that will assist in creating more play spaces available</li> </ul>	<p>2014 - 16</p>	<p>and installation of appropriate signage and develop a phased approach to site installations – priority will be given to play spaces in main parks.</p> <p>Communities First will support and work in partnership with the Local Authority and other possible funders to maintain such facilities. Agreement from key stakeholders.</p> <p>Strategically located 3G and ATP surfaces.</p>	<p>develop an awareness campaign</p> <p>Staff support to develop partnerships and to maintain partnership working and develop funding applications where necessary</p> <p>External grant funding.</p>	<p>changes to the play spaces.</p> <p>Existing staffing and identified funding as and when required.</p>	<p>been set up with Cwm Taf UHB. Funding available through UHB to implement a small campaign. Work ongoing</p> <p>RCT has produced a strategic facility improvement plan that aims to influence grant providers and National</p>
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	<p>throughout the year.</p>				<p>Governing Bodies of sport to create inspiring facilities of the right time and in the right location. The following facilities have received funding for development in the past 24 months;                  Tylorstown 3G,                  Brynna Football 3G,                  Cambrian 3G,                  Burberry Factory SportsYard Indoor 3G,                  Abercwmboi RFC 3G.                  There are ongoing discussions in Mountain Ash, Martime,</p>
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						<p>Hirwaun, Porth and Wattstown.</p> <p>Com 1<sup>st</sup> in Porth have supported a Wattstown Rugby Club to take on the Old Pavilion in Wattstown Park, securing £10,000 from Coalfields to upgrade the facilities. Will look to secure further funding in 2015/16 to expand and become a multi surface playing area for all ages as well as rugby training.</p>
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Matter D: Supervised provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Strategic Leads will ensure information is gathered collated and promoted appropriately via the Family Information Service.</li> </ul>	March 2014	Strategic Information and Data review completed.			Work is currently being undertaken on this action and is ongoing. (GB)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support and encourage providers who can meet CSSIW registration requirements to become registered.</li> </ul>	2014 and beyond	All commissioned Play providers meet National Minimum Standards by March 2014.	Support workshops to be delivered by the Early Years and Family Support service.	This will be addressed as a priority for the Play Service delivery plan 2013/14 If resources are available	Part achieved - A number of sessions have been delivered and work is still ongoing in order to complete the action. (GB)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No identified funding for Open Access Play beyond 2011. Was previously funded by Cymorth but Play is not included in the new</li> </ul>	2013 / 2017	To secure funding to continue commissioning third sector organisations to deliver open access play provision across the local authority at its current	£360,000	Alternative funding source needed.	On-going (GB)

	<p>Families First criteria.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to improve assessment processes to identify the needs of children and young people to inform service planning.</li> <li>Expand the delivery of cultural activities with additional funding</li> <li>Leisure Centres and Sport RCT to continue to provide an extensive programme of free</li> </ul>	<p>2014 / 17</p> <p>Holiday periods across the county borough.</p>	<p>level.</p> <p>To work in partnership to identify similar aims and objectives to pull in extra resources and funding to deliver on those initiatives</p> <p>To carry out annual consultation with cohorts of children and young people and harness expertise of partners for analysis of the data.</p> <p>Consultation with young people. Agreement of what facilities and what type of activities.</p>	<p>Staff time to develop partnerships and investigate additional funding sources.</p> <p>Commitment of support from PSAWG partners in the undertaking task</p> <p>Arts Council of Wales support for additional cultural activities</p> <p>£20,000 to provide more opportunities and increase the provision to be available</p>	<p>As and when identified</p> <p>Arts council of Wales</p> <p>High 5 Free Swimming Initiative – Welsh Government</p>	<p>This has been achieved through the streamlining of 3 projects DCT under 4's, DCT over 5's and Holiday Care Programme. (GB)</p> <p>An extensive programme of structured and unstructured wet and dry activities were</p>
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	holiday provision.			from an earlier age.		organised during the school holidays engaging with 5-16 year olds across all Council leisure facilities.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider CF plans and work in collaboration and partnership to ensure best use of resources and minimise risk of duplicated activity.</li> </ul>	2014 / 15	To work with partners to identify similar aims and objectives to identify all available resources and funding.	Staff time to develop partnership and look for additional funding.	As and when identified.	Communities First worked closely with partners to further develop delivery plans for 2013/14. Com 1 <sup>st</sup> staff supporting voluntary groups across clusters to access funding through Fframwaith for delivery of Open Access playschemes during holiday periods. In 2014/15 will

						be working more closely with Flying Start and Families First.
Matter E: Charges for play provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To continue to provide free holiday play provision through Leisure Services High 5 programme and the Free Swimming Initiative. Extend entitlement to 'free family'.</li> </ul>	School holidays and weekends.	Agree a roll-out of family sessions across leisure facilities and 'play to learn' sessions for 3-7 years.	Budget needed to extend provision - £20,000	Free Swimming Initiative and High 5.	As part of RCT's Free Swimming programme, guardians of under 16s are entitled to also swim for free. This is part of our social inclusion work to enable more residents to access sport / physical activity at low or no cost and contributes to our vision of 'every child a swimmer'.

<p>Matter F: Access to space/provision</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a marketing strategy for the areas; ensure the most effective forms of advertising are being used within cluster area. Utilise existing advertising where appropriate with other departments in the Local Authority.</li> </ul>	<p>2013 / 14</p>	<p>The PSAWG to work with corporate tourism and marketing department to develop and cost a marketing strategy for play leisure, sport and culture.</p> <p>Funding identified to implement completed marketing strategy</p>	<p>Staff time to lead the work.</p> <p>Potential for service wide collaboration regarding current advertising budgets</p>		<p>On-going</p>
<p>Matter G: Securing and developing the workforce</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Embed play monitoring and evaluation processes across CF areas in line with the new programme.</li> <li>Identify access to training for qualifications level</li> </ul>	<p>2013 / 14</p>	<p>Strategic Information and Data review completed.</p>			<p>New monitoring process developed and adopted in line with WG changes to the Com 1st programme of delivery in 2013/14.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify access to training for qualifications level</li> </ul>	<p>2013 / 14</p>	<p>Ring fenced budget is identified for a Play Workforce delivery</p>	<p>Ability to deliver free level 2 and 3 playwork</p>	<p>It is anticipated that this will be implemented if</p>	<p>This has been achieved as part of the</p>

	<p>2, 3 and above for the Play workforce in order to improve the supply of qualified English and Welsh medium staff across all departments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver training to council staff and voluntary groups that will increase number and variety of opportunities for children and families. Such as; play to learn, multi-skills, active young people, aquatics etc</li> </ul>	<p>Training to be provided each Winter.</p>	<p>plan in response to the Play Sufficiency Assessment Workforce audit.</p> <p>Commitment of funding to develop the skills of people who deliver sessions to children.</p>	<p>qualifications on an annual basis. £50,000</p> <p>£5,000 per annum</p>	<p>new funding is made available as part of the new measure</p> <p>Could be implemented immediately if funding is available.</p>	<p>PSA Grant 2013. (GB)</p> <p>EY&amp;FSS and Leisure Services have worked together to identify 3 pilot areas for the multi skills programme to be delivered. There are 2 training sessions planned for early March with the roll out of provision alongside playscheme in the summer 2014. (GB)</p>
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Matter H: Community engagement and participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify resources to deliver Shediau Chwarae to all primary schools across RCT. Shediau Chwarae will also be a community facility accessible to community groups delivering any out of school play opportunities.</li> </ul>	2014 / 2017	The roll out of the Shediau Chwarae project to the 32 schools across RCT by 2017	A unit cost has been collated based on the purchase of a shed, training and continuation of the replenishing of stock. £5,000 per school x by 32 schools = £175,000	This will be implemented if funding is available as part of the new measure	Through the allocation of the PSA Grant for RCT the project has been delivered to three schools in RCT. (GB)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If possible, support further roll out of the Save the Children FAST Programme with schools and community partners.</li> </ul>	2013	Additional funding identified to build on the existing programme and roll out to an additional 3 areas.	A unit cost has been estimated based on existing projects.	Save the Children are able to fund 3 new schemes from April 2013 but the cost of an additional 3 projects will be £20k	On-going (GB)
		2014 / 17				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To deliver more community consultation events to ensure Sport</li> </ul>	2014	Identify funding available to increase staffing resource to complete this.		Unidentified	In partnership with Merthyr Sports Development a

	<p>RCT development work is meeting need.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To explore leisure centre fitness provision for children under 14 years and review access arrangements.</li> </ul>		<p>Review fitness suite age limits and appropriateness of activities available for children under 14.</p>		<p>joint Women &amp; Girls consultation group has been established to better learn how we can engage more females into regular sport and exercise.</p> <p>Leisure Services have started to roll-out 'activate' which will permit children from the age of 11 to access fitness suites. Sport RCT in partnership with leisure centres are rolling out a series of Play to Learn (3-5yrs) and</p>
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						Multi-skills (5-7yrs) community pay and play sessions which are also to be included within the junior morecard range.
Matter I: Play within all relevant policy and implementation agendas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage schools to share their resources and actively contribute to community based play activities..</li> <li>To continue to promote walking buses within community areas and the benefits of doing this and to work with partners</li> </ul>	2014 – beyond  Ongoing	Community focused schools agenda  Part of the road safety team - Safe routes in Communities link.			<p>Achieved - 3 schools have received the project. Our aim is to deliver the project to an additional 3 schools in 2014 – 15. (GB)</p> <p>On-going (GB)</p>

	to enhance this in areas where it is a priority in the new programme.					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Ensure that the provision of play, leisure, sports and culture opportunities contribute to the overall outcomes and priorities of the Single Integrated Plan; these include, "Safety", "Health" and "Prosperity" and a cross-cutting theme of early intervention and prevention" and the priorities of the Public Service Board when it replaces the SIP and the LSB.</li> <li>• See earlier section outlining activities relating to Building</li> </ul>	<p>2014</p> <p>2014 / 15</p>	PSA priorities recognised and referenced throughout the Single Integrated Plan.			

	Safe Relationships (Primary & Comprehensive School Programmes). emotions and STAR (Safety, Trust and Respect) (14-19 olds).					
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**Appendix 2**

**Increasing Play Opportunities for Children  
Grant to Local Authorities 2013 - 2014  
Report on use of funding**

**Name of Local Authority: Rhondda Cynon Taf**

**Reporting Officer: Gail Beynon**

Please provide in the table below a short summary of each activity that your Local Authority has undertaken or the equipment/resources you have purchased to increase play opportunities for children, as set out in the Proposal for Use of Funding Form submitted as part of the funding requirements.

Please report how many play opportunities were developed or supported etc. Where possible, please also indicate how many children/families have or will benefit). If the funding was used for training purposes please state number of learners and brief details of training course/qualification/level.

If you used the funding for local authority staff costs, please provide: details of the time and costs relevant to the specific post funded; and work undertaken. the details of any other sources of funding contributing to the cost of the post and the relevant proportion covered; and the job description.

Objective/Target	Cost	Outcome(s) achieved
<p><b>1.Siediau Chwarae</b> In January of 2011 the EYFSS and Services for Young People (SFYP) came together to deliver the 'Siediau Chwarae' project (SC). The aim of the project was to enable Children and</p>	<p><b>£14,832.26</b></p>	<p>Agored Cymru Level 2 Introduction to Playwork training was delivered to 55 adults from 6 primary schools.</p>

<p>Young People (CYP) to experience richer play opportunities within the school day. SC provided a storage container which was filled with a wide range of 'loose parts' (materials and equipment such as guttering, foam, old telephones, netting and fabric, old tyres, cardboard tubes and much more) for children to access throughout the lunchtime period.</p> <p>In total thirty schools throughout RCT expressed an interest in participating in the trail period. However due to funding constraints only three of the thirty schools received a service. Some key findings from the SC evaluation report was; lunchtime supervisors noticed significant changes in the behavior of some children who traditionally did not engage with their peers at lunchtimes They reported that children were more likely to play with other children with items out of SC and they were less likely to stay close to the supervisors.</p>		<p>8 briefing sessions were delivered to school teaching staff, support staff, parents and governors</p> <p>4 consultation sessions were delivered to pupils in years 2, 4 and 6 of 4 primary schools, with 1 due to take place in Autumn 2014 term.</p> <p>5 new SC have/due to open in Summer 2014 term. 1 SC to open in Autumn 2014 term.</p> <p>Approximately 1500 children in 6 schools will have the opportunity to access the SC</p>
<p><b>2. Disabled Children's Accessible Play Equipment</b></p> <p>Throughout the RCT PSA in 2012, it was identified that no park area across RCT had bespoke accessible play equipment for disabled children to access. No funding has been found in 2013 to purchase this equipment. Therefore it is proposed that accessible play equipment be purchased for three parks to give one play area in Rhondda, Cynon and Taf for disabled children to engage in play opportunities with their siblings, peers and family members. Budget for the ongoing maintenance and upkeep for the life of these pieces of equipment has been identified. The cost of the purchase and installation of the equipment is £15,000</p>	<p><b>£15,000</b></p>	<p>Disabled children's accessible play equipment was installed in 3 parks throughout RCT.</p> <p>The population figures from the 2012 Disability and Additional Needs Audit Report in the named areas are:</p> <p>Treherbert Park 13 CYP between the ages of 0 – 17 registered on the Disabled Children's Index and 143 CYP who have been identified with additional needs live in the vicinity of the park and will have access to this equipment.</p>

		<p>Aberdare Park 17 children between the ages of 0 – 17 registered on the Disabled Children’s Index and 95 CYP who have been identified with additional needs live in the vicinity of the park and will have access to the equipment.</p> <p>Tyn Y Bryn Park 26 children between the ages of 0 – 17 registered on the Disabled Children’s Index and 144 CYP who have been identified with additional needs live in the vicinity of the park and will have access to the equipment.</p>
<p><b>3. Family Fun Days (FFD)</b> The service would like to propose the delivery of three FFDs across Rhondda, Cynon and Taf. The cost of delivery of these events from previous years has been £6,000 with attendance in excess of 2,500 participants. These events have been used to engage with the hard to reach families with positive outcomes such as parents / carers accessing local services after such events.</p>	<p><b>£4,827.20</b></p>	<p>3 Family Fun Days were held during February 2014 half term holiday, one in each area of RCT.</p> <p>Over 2500 CYP and families attended the events. A range of activities were on offer, such as face painting, circus skills, football skills, archery, wall climbing, mosaic making, junk modelling, sport taster, planting, messy activities , clown show and much more.</p> <p>A number of LA departments such as the Early Years and Family Support Service, Leisure, Parks and Countryside, Services for Young People, Communities First and</p>



		<p>Voluntary Organisations came together to jointly plan and deliver the events.</p> <p>Feedback from the events showed that 100% of attendees thought the events were 'good' or 'very good' commenting that there were enough activities for all ages and abilities.</p>
<p><b>4. Holiday Programme -</b> The holiday programme provides access for all CYP free closed and open activities during February half term for (5 – 14 year olds.) The programme includes activities that appeal to as many young people as possible, for example, football skills, pop art, music and drama, risky play opportunities, craft / story telling sessions etc. A programme offering approximately 500 spaces will cost £12,000. It is proposed to deliver this programme throughout February half-term.</p>	<b>£18,971.99</b>	<p>The holiday programme commissioned open access play provision for children and young people throughout the February half-term period. All provision was free and targeted at CYP 5 – 14 years old. The sessions were delivered from a range of venues across the local authority. A total number of 4519 CYP attended open access play provision.</p>
<p><b>5. Level 2 Playwork Course -</b> In RCT all play provision is commissioned from the voluntary sector. To ensure we have a quality workforce delivering quality play opportunities across the sector we deliver a range of play courses. This issue has recently been identified as a workforce need across the Rhondda wide Canopi Partnership. Therefore we would like to deliver a level 2 play work course to our Play workforce.</p>	<b>£23, 700</b>	<p>A Level 2 Playwork course has been commissioned.</p> <p>A total of 20 participants have been registered for a full qualification with the Scottish Qualification Association (SQA).</p>
<p><b>6.Sensory equipment -</b> Recent development within the Cynon area of RCT has identified the need for a sensory room to be developed. It is</p>	<b>£16,350.49</b>	<p>A sensory room was created in the Aman Centre in the Cynon Valley area of RCT.</p>

<p>proposed that some pieces of equipment be purchased to support this development. The development of such a provision will provide opportunities for disabled children and young people to engage in sensory stimulation and play sessions. It will also reduce the travelling time to other provisions across RCT.</p>		<p>5 individual play sessions will be delivered on a weekly basis, which will increase with the launch of the centre.</p> <p>The Disabled Children's Team will use the sensory room on a weekly basis to deliver Touch Trust Sessions</p>
<p><b>7. Small Grants Scheme</b>          To ensure maximum spend of the allocated grant from Welsh Government, RCT PSA group would like to provide a small grant scheme to any organisation delivering play provision across the county borough. There will be set criteria for eligibility and a grant panel set up to oversee the awarding of the grants. Membership of the grant panel will be made up of local authority and voluntary sector members of the PSA group.</p>	<p><b>£5,768.09</b></p>	<p>We received 15 applications for our small grants scheme. We were able to fund 100% of applications.</p> <p>Grants were made for items such as larger pieces of play equipment and consumables.</p> <p>The grants awarded will benefit 4,500+ CYP who accessed play provisions during February half-term.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Total</b></p>	<p><b>£99,450.03</b></p>	

## Appendix 3

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

**Proposed actions for 01st April 2014 - 31st March 2015** Increased support and provision available to children and young people with diverse needs -

**At commencement of the second part of section 11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 (Funding source: to included budget requirements for implementing the full action plan once the second part of the duty, to secure sufficient play opportunities, is commenced).**

Matter	Priorities	Targets	Milestones	Resources, including costs	Funding source (new or existing funding streams)
Matter A: Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agree data to be used and updates required annually to support the review of the Play Sufficiency Assessment</li> </ul>	On-going for 2014 – 15.	<p>Member of the PSAWG nominated to attend DATA review group.</p> <p>PSAWG agree on what information needs to be gathered for the annual review and 3 yearly full Play Sufficiency Assessment. Sharing relevant</p>	Due to budgetary constraints going forward the resourcing of play provision will be very challenging.	<p>There will be a reduction in budget available from the local authority.</p> <p>Restructured service will be provided in line with available funding.</p>

			data through this exercise with the SIP and vice versa.		
Matter B: Providing for diverse needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the support available to providers to meet the diverse needs of local children and young people. (This is resource dependent as integration of children with disabilities and complex needs can require additional support and equipment.)</li> </ul>	On-going for 2014 – 15.	Practitioners have access to free training that equips them with the relevant skills knowledge and better understanding of how they can meet the diverse needs of local children and young people.	£1500 estimated cost.  This is a continuous training need for staff of new and existing Holiday Fun Time approved suppliers.	Funding stream to be identified to support the implementation of this action.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure Play projects such as the toy library to ensure play providers have the resources and</li> </ul>	2014 - 15	Increase in the quality of play experiences and opportunities for children with additional needs.	£80,000	Restructured service will be provided in line with available funding.

	equipment, which support the inclusion of children and young people with additional needs.				
Matter C: Space available for children to play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Authority has 250 designated play spaces. To introduce these environments as smoke free spaces - appropriate signage and an awareness campaign is required.</li> <li>Identify sources of funding to sustain outdoor play spaces not owned by local authority.</li> </ul>	On-going 2014 / 2016  2014 -15	<p>To implement smoke-free play spaces across the authority a plan will need to be costed for the supply and installation of appropriate signage and develop a phased approach to site installations – priority will be given to play spaces in main parks.</p> <p>Communities First will support and work in partnership with the Local Authority and other possible funders to maintain such</p>	<p>Work with RCT'S Enforcement Team and Ash Cymru to develop an awareness campaign</p> <p>Staff support to develop partnerships and to maintain partnership working and develop funding</p>	<p>Funding identified by the Local Health Board to support and implement smoke-free play spaces across RCT.</p> <p>Existing staffing and identified funding as and when required.</p>

			facilities. Agreement from key stakeholders.	applications where necessary	
Matter D: Supervised provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Strategic Leads will ensure information is gathered collated and promoted appropriately via the Family Information Service.</li> </ul>	On-going for 2014 - 15	Strategic Information and Data review completed.	Nominated member of staff within each department with a responsibility for inputting and maintaining all relevant information onto the central FIS database. Support workshops to be delivered by the Early Years and Family Support Service.	Staff time
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support and encourage providers who can meet CSSIW registration requirements to become registered.</li> </ul>	On - going for 2014 - 15	All commissioned Play providers meet National Minimum Standards by March 2014.	£295,000	Due to the a lack of resources for Open Access Play, no long term goals can be met in regards to CSSIW registration.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No funding beyond March 2015 has been secured for Open Access Play.</li> <li>Expand the delivery of cultural activities with additional funding</li> </ul>	<p>On- going for 2014 - 2017</p> <p>Holiday periods across the county borough.</p>	<p>To secure funding to continue commissioning third sector organisations to deliver open access play provision across the local authority at its current level.</p> <p>To carry out annual consultation with cohorts of children and young people and harness expertise of partners for analysis of the data.</p>	<p>Commitment of support from PSAWG partners in the undertaking task</p> <p>Arts Council of Wales support for additional cultural activities</p>	<p>Alternative funding source needed.</p> <p>Arts council of Wales</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider CF plans and work in collaboration and partnership to ensure best use of resources and minimise risk of duplicated activity.</li> </ul>	2014 / 15	To work with partners to identify similar aims and objectives to identify all available resources and funding.	Staff time to develop partnership and look for additional funding.	As and when identified.
Matter E: Charges for play provision	<p><b>No Actions At This Time.</b></p> <p><i>There will be no charge for Open Access Play Provision at the point of delivery.</i></p>				
Matter F: Access to space/provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a marketing strategy for the area ensuring the most effective forms of advertising are being used within cluster area. Utilise existing advertising where appropriate with other departments in the Local Authority.</li> </ul>	On going for 2014 - 15	<p>The PSAWG to work with corporate tourism and marketing department to develop and cost a marketing strategy for play leisure, sport and culture.</p> <p>Funding identified to implement completed marketing strategy</p>	<p>Staff time to lead the work.</p> <p>Potential for service wide collaboration regarding current advertising budgets</p>	This is being addressed as part of the Strategic Information Review. Cost implications are unknown
Matter G:	<p><b>No Actions At This Time.</b></p>				



Securing and developing the workforce					
Matter H: Community engagement and participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify resources to deliver Shediau Chwarae to all primary schools across RCT. Shediau Chwarae will also be a community facility accessible to community groups delivering any out of school play opportunities.</li> <li>If possible, support further roll out of the Save the Children FAST Programme with schools and community partners.</li> </ul>	On - going for 2014 / 2017	The roll out of the Shediau Chwarae project to the 32 schools across RCT by 2017	A unit cost has been collated based on the purchase of a shed, training and continuation of the replenishing of stock. £5,000 per school x by 29 schools = £160,000	Only to be implemented if funding is available in support of the new measure.  Dependant on funding resources.  Funding bids to be submitted to external funding streams on behalf of schools.
		On - going for 2014 / 17	Additional funding identified to build on the existing programme and roll out to an additional 3 areas.	A unit cost has been estimated based on existing projects.	Save the Children are able to fund 3 new schemes from April 2013 but the cost of an additional 3 projects will be £20k
Matter I: Play within all relevant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage schools to share their resources and</li> </ul>	On - going for 2014 - 17	Community focused schools agenda	No cost / low cost venues for play provision.	

<p>policy and implementation agendas</p>	<p>actively contribute to community based play activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To continue to promote walking buses within community areas and the benefits of doing this and to work with partners to enhance this in areas where it is a priority in the new programme.</li> </ul>	<p>On-going for 2014 - 17</p>	<p>Part of the road safety team - Safe routes in Communities link.</p>	<p>Additional funding needs to be sourced to extend walking bus activities.</p> <p>All developed Play care provision will be encourage to develop a walking bus.</p>	<p>Staff time</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>”Ensure that the provision of play, leisure, sports and culture opportunities contribute to the overall outcomes and priorities of the Single integrated Plan; these include, “Safety”, “Health” and “Prosperity” and a cross-cutting</li> </ul>	<p>2014 - 17</p>	<p>PSA priorities recognised and referenced throughout the Single Integrated Plan.</p>		<p>PSAWG time</p>

	<p>theme of early intervention and prevention.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See earlier section outlining activities relating to Building Safe Relationships (Primary &amp; Comprehensive School Programmes). emotions and <b>STAR (Safety, Trust and Respect)</b> (14-19 olds).</li> </ul>				
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