

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2016/17

**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

7TH SEPTEMBER 2016

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF LEGAL &
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

Agenda Item No.3
PLAY SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT AND ACTION PLAN

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform the Committee of the Rhondda Cynon Taf three yearly Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA).

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting on the 23rd June 2016 Cabinet was presented with the Council's Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan 2016 (Attached as Appendices 1 and 2). Cabinet subsequently endorsed the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan 2016 and agreed that both are to be submitted to Welsh Government.
- 2.2 The information has been brought to Committee to ensure Members are appraised of the key challenges identified through the PSA and of the actions identified in the PSA Action Plan.
- 2.3 The Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan are attached for information purposes and as such there are no proposed recommendations, however, the Play Commissioning and Family Information Service Manager will be in attendance at the meeting should Members have any queries.

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Appendix 1

Play Sufficiency Assessment Form



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Name of Local Authority: Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Name of responsible officer: Gail Beynon

Job title: Play and Family Information Service Manager

Date of completion: March 2016

Please note that the Play Sufficiency Assessment must be received by the Welsh Government by 01 March 2013.



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 that 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.

Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is the most universally recognised human rights treaty and recognises that every child has the right to play. This right has been recognised and promoted for many years in Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) Council and within the many organisations working in partnership with the Council.

Our vision is that all children and young people should be able to: have fun; enjoy their childhood and youth; pursue learning; and pursue the development of life skills through access and opportunities to participate in high quality, wide ranging play, leisure, sporting and cultural opportunities, which celebrate diversity of interest and need. The Council will achieve this by focussing on the quantity and quality of play opportunities available through both Welsh and English.

In recent years, there has been an increase in the demand for play for disabled children throughout the school holidays via the Council's Holiday Fun Time Programme. The Programme aims to provide play and family engagement opportunities as part of the early intervention and prevention programme. The Programme will continue to be delivered in partnership with the Play Service, Disabled Children's Social Services Team, the Families First grant and third and private sector organisations.

By March 2017 the County Borough Council will have made a capital investment of over £1.5m in children's play over a two year period. This capital investment programme will see improvements to 50 playgrounds which is over a quarter the CBC's play facilities.

The investment will have been used in a number of different ways; In some facilities it will be used to add new and interesting equipment that better meets the play needs of users, where as in other areas the investment will be used to target maintenance or safety issues with the focus being on improving access. This will include the provision of tarmac footpaths to the play areas;

improvements to the entrance ways, or creating and renewing surfaces within the play area to link the play equipment.

Whilst the focus of the investment is on improving opportunities for all children, greater consideration has been given to the general principles of inclusivity, by ensuring that as many children and young people as possible have the opportunity to meet and play in a safe well maintained environment.

The Council is also very proud of its recently completed flagship facility in the heart of Pontypridd, which is the largest play area in RCT, providing many bespoke play opportunities for children of all ages and ability. Whilst it has the usual rotating, climbing, rocking and swinging activities, the play experience is further enhanced by its provision of sensory features, which include audiovisual play and tactile play. The facility also caters well for children with mobility issues and wheel chair users as well as has having the Councils only wheelchair accessible swing.

The provision of play, culture, leisure and sporting opportunities cannot be considered in isolation from formal childcare services, provided throughout the County. A range of CSSIW registered holiday care schemes provide supervised full time play and leisure opportunities for the children of working parents and have been given due regard in the PSA

The Council will strive to develop and deliver efficient, effective and high quality play, cultural, leisure and sporting opportunities for children and young people and ensure that the Council and its partner organisations continue to build on the strong foundations that already exist and continue to work collaboratively in the future to plan, co-ordinate and deliver local services effectively.

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.

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

As part of this PSA, the 12 Community Councils (CC) were asked about the level of funding they contribute to the delivery of play opportunities in their area. Five CC responded with Llantrisant Community Council confirming that they continue to financially contribute towards the direct delivery of play provision in their area.

There are a number of third sector organisations commissioned to deliver play, cultural and leisure provision across the County Borough. 'Interlink' is the organisation supporting voluntary sector organisation and representatives from this organisation and the play sector are active members of the PSA working group. Private sector businesses, such as after school clubs, childminders, and education providers have contributed to the PSA regarding consultation and workforce development. The lead officer with responsibility for the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) sits on the PSA Group.

The Communities First Management Team has contributed to the PSA Working Group and the content of the audit.

A range of sector specific providers have completed a Workforce Development questionnaire. The responses to the questionnaire have been collated and the 'RCT Workforce Report can be found at Appendix 2.

RCT Arts Service is committed to "All people in Wales being creatively active" as part of the Simpson Compact. The Service uses its core budget to employ staff with responsibility for ensuring that children and young people access the arts, with additional resources from Families First as the commissioner for delivering the Youth Arts and SONIG Youth industry programmes.

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

Any Consultation you have

In RCT, the Early Years and Family Support Service are the lead department for the completion of the PSA. To ensure the local authority is meeting its statutory duty in regards to the consultation part of the PSA, a number of specific consultations have been undertaken. Using the questions provided in the PSA Toolkit, 7 schools and 8 playschemes have been visited and in total 332 children took part in the sessions. The full report can be found at Appendix 1

In addition to this, evaluation questionnaires are completed annually by service users and providers of the Holiday Fun Time Programme. In total, 468 questionnaires were sent out to parents/carers and children who accessed the service over the summer holiday period in 2015. The total number of questionnaires returned was 98, this equates to a 20.98% response rate.

RCT commissioned Children in Wales to develop a Soft Outcomes Toolkit for RCT commissioned play providers. The toolkit will provide statistical information for the local authority to ensure it is commissioning provision in the right area and enable the Council to monitor the quality of Play. The toolkit also requires play providers to evaluate and reflect on their own practice.

The Council continues to work in partnership with colleagues from organisations such as Community Council and Community First who are delivering additional play opportunities and community engagement sessions. As part of the PSA we have carried out an Activity Audit to find out where specific activities are being delivered. It is envisaged that this piece of work will continue to support and develop more partnership working, with the aim of reducing any duplication of provision.

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 whether or not there is an intention to reprioritise budgets as part of the Securing Play Sufficiency Action Plan.

Do you use any of your budgets to support your services users to access any play provision. Play meaning- play leisure culture or sport.

In June 2015 the Council confirmed a core play budget of £95,000 with an additional £30,000 from the Out of School Childcare Grant (OSCG) for the direct delivery of Open Access Play. For the Holiday Fun Time Programme, there was £70,000 core funding and £40,000 from the OSCG.

The HFT programme provides 1-1 support, and in certain circumstances, transport for specific cohorts of children and young people to access a range of playschemes, playcare, and childminders over school holiday periods. The HFT programme also supports children identified through a Team Around The Family (TAF) assessment. TAF is part of the Families First Grant and has a separate budget, therefore when children receive Play provision via a TAF referral, funding is drawn down separate to the core and OSCG.

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.

For the year 2016/17 links are made between the PSA and the SIP in a number of ways. Our duty of assessing sufficient play opportunities will be reviewed as part of the annual review of both documents. The RCT Partnerships Manager is leading on collating the SIP review for 2014 - 16 and is a member of the PSA Working Group.

The data collection and findings of the PSA will feed into the requirements of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act implementation,

including assessing the state of wellbeing for the area by April 2017. This, in turn, will form the basis for not only reviewing the actions of the PSA but the priorities of the Cwm Taf Public Service Board. The establishment of this Board is a statutory requirement of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and the Board will need to set out a Wellbeing Plan, taking into account the assessment of wellbeing, by April 2018. This will state how the Cwm Taf Public Service Board intends to contribute to the seven national wellbeing goals and take steps towards achieving their local priorities.

The SIP remains in place until the publication of the Wellbeing Plan and is based on three outcomes: safety, health and prosperity, which are underpinned by a number of priorities. An underpinning theme of the plan is a focus on early intervention and prevention, which links to play, leisure, sport and culture.

Priorities within the plan include

- Reducing Obesity
- Emotional Wellbeing
- Mental Health
- Vulnerable Children & Families,
- Vulnerable Adults
- Education and Employability

All of the above priorities are seen as having a clear link within the actions of the PSA. For example

- Physical activity through play within the priority of tackling obesity
- Improving emotional wellbeing and mental health through involvement and building skills in confidence and self-esteem;
- Providing services that encourage children and young people to play and communicate more effectively, which assist in early intervention and prevention, linked to the priority of vulnerable children and families.
- Building soft skills, such as self-confidence and aspiration through culture, the arts and sports within 'Education and Employability'

It is also envisaged that the information gathered for the PSA will support implementing the Social Service and Well-being Act 2014, with the focus on intervention and prevention.

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 how the Local Authority plans to meet these criteria, including its priority for the Action Plan and identifying a lead officer for the work.

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	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
There is data broken down by Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs)	GREEN	This information has been mapped from the WIMD 2011 http://www.wales.gov.uk/statistics		To maintain status, ongoing validation is required.
	AMBER	The Sport Wales School Sport Survey was carried out in the Summer term 2015. 12 Secondary Schools and 36 Primary Schools have qualified for a report. Schools will receive these reports in October 2015.	48 schools completed the survey which is an increase from 16 schools the last survey in 2011. However there is still scope to increase this when the next survey is rolled out in 2 years time.	An action plan will be agreed with Sport Wales, YEPS and Sport RCT, along with an individual action plan for each school stating how they plan to use the School Sport Survey results

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
There is up to date data for ages:	GREEN	This information has been mapped from the WIMD 2011 http://www.wales.gov.uk/statistics		To maintain status, ongoing validation is required.
0-3	GREEN	This information has been mapped from the WIMD 2011 http://www.wales.gov.uk/statistics		To maintain status, ongoing validation is required.
4-7	GREEN	This information has been mapped from the WIMD 2011 http://www.wales.gov.uk/statistics		To maintain status, ongoing validation is required.
8-12	GREEN	This information has been mapped from the WIMD 2011 http://www.wales.gov.uk/statistics		To maintain status, ongoing validation is required.
13-15	GREEN	This information has been mapped from the WIMD 2011 http://www.wales.gov.uk/statistics		To maintain status, ongoing validation is required.
16-17	GREEN	This information has been mapped from the WIMD 2011 http://www.wales.gov.uk/statistics		To maintain status, ongoing validation is required.
There is an up to date recorded number of disabled children in each age group	RED	Full and comprehensive records of all children known to the Disabled Children’s Service are kept.	The Index is opt-in, so misses lots of children. DCT criteria mean that only children with	SSWB Act requires LAs to keep a register of disabled children. Need to develop system for

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
		The disabled children’s index is another log of disabled children open to all parents to upload their details.	substantial needs are known. There is no comprehensive register at this time.	doing this, and keep it updated, by April 2016.
There is up to date information regarding the number of children for whom Welsh is their first language or attend Welsh medium schools	GREEN	This information has been mapped from the WIMD 2011 http://www.wales.gov.uk/statistics		To maintain status, ongoing validation required.
There is up to date information regarding other recorded cultural factors, including other language, and gypsy traveller children				

General Comments: Population Measures

All population figures have been extracted from the WIMD 2011. However validity of this information is time limited and can only be used as a guide. All additional population data has been supplied by the Disabled Childrens Team and schools admissions department.

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	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.	GREEN	YEPS sector leading Extending Entitlement Viewpoint Questionnaire consults with more than 9,000 young people in a robust range of settings, ensuring young people aged 11-15 years have the opportunity to express their views and shape service improvement. This information is used at a local level to indentify gaps, needs and to inform the planning of youth provision. The viewpoint survey is currently being rolled out across all secondary schools and colleges; this will close in October 2015 with data reports complete by January 2016.		

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
	<p>AMBER</p> <p>GREEN</p> <p>GREEN</p>	<p>working with the Urdd and Menter Iaith to provide further provision, including accredited courses/training for young people in the Welsh language.</p> <p>Using the population data collected as part of the PSA the local authority commissions open access play provision in areas of identified need.</p> <p>The Arts Service provides arts and cultural opportunities for children with diverse needs within the professional theatre programme (including bilingual productions and relaxed screenings/performances) and as targeted arts workshops</p> <p>Library Dept works in partnership with Menter Iaith to provide Welsh language story/craft sessions in libraries</p> <p>Past events - Book celebration involving pupils from 3 schools</p>	<p>Limited budgets available to develop additional Welsh play provision</p> <p>The service is limited in terms of Welsh language delivery due to a lack of Welsh speaking experienced arts practitioners.</p> <p>Funding is short term Menter Iaith have not delivered any sessions in 2015, however they are currently in the process of co-ordinating some workshops with</p>	

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
	GREEN	<p>meeting Welsh speaking author, poet & illustrator. Bookstart events always include promotion of dual language English/ Welsh books.</p> <p>Sport RCT and 5x60 in partnership with the Urdd provide after-school and community club provision through the medium of Welsh. All Urdd clubs are led by a Welsh speaking coach/volunteer</p>	<p>the Bardd Plant Cymru in selected libraries. It is anticipated that the sessions will be delivered in February half term 2016.</p> <p>Twf have delivered weekly Welsh language pre-school sessions for parents & toddlers in Llantrisant Library from Sept 2014 to July 2015. They have also started weekly sessions for babies up to 12 months & their parents in Pontypridd and Church Village Libraries from Sept. 2015.</p>	
The play requirements of children	GREEN	The YEPS Extending Entitlement		

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
from different cultural background are understood and provided for	<p>GREEN</p> <p>GREEN</p>	<p>Viewpoint Questionnaire is rolled out across all 17 secondary schools, the 4 special schools and colleges to ensure the requirements of all young people regardless of background are understood and the feedback is used to inform service development and delivery.</p> <p>The local authority will continue to commissions open access play provision in areas of identified need.</p> <p>Chwarae Plant operates with UNCRC article 31 embedded within their delivery, acting on the assumption that all children have the right to play. Their ethos is to provide inclusive playwork practice using a wide range of loose parts, methods and approaches led by the children and young people to actively reduce cultural barriers to play.</p>	<p>This is subject to the continuation of current funding.</p>	
The play requirements and	GREEN	Full time special schools 5x60		

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
<p>support needs of disabled children are understood and provided for.</p>	GREEN	<p>Officer (physical activity out of schools hours programme) is based across the 4 special schools. Their role is to coordinate and deliver provision for young people who are disabled and/or have additional learning needs.</p> <p>Using the population data collected as part of the PSA the local authority will commissions open access play provision in areas of identified need.</p>	<p>Limited venues suitable for such provision</p> <p>The post is temporary dependant on funding</p>	<p>Therefore the local authority will continue to recruit approved childcare, playcare and childminders in areas where referrals have been received.</p> <p>Continue to evidence good practice and effective outcomes to justify year on year investment.</p>
	AMBER	<p>The aim of the HFT programme is to provide access to play opportunities for children and young people in their local community.</p>		
	GREEN	<p>A full time Arts and Culture Development Officer for special schools has been recruited and provides a recognised programme of education during school hours entitled 'CAST Academy'. The Academy works</p>		

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
	GREEN	<p>with (changed from “oversees”) the arts disability holiday programme on behalf of Arts Development, Cultural Services, RCTCBC. The Officer works closely with E3 PLUS Co-ordinators to develop the after school provision.</p>	<p>Made possible via the Families First commission and other external funding secured, therefore, short-term.</p>	
GREEN	<p>The Arts Service provides arts and cultural opportunities for children, young people and their families with diverse needs, ranging from professional theatre programme (including bilingual product and relaxed screenings/performances) through to targeted arts workshops. The service is a member of the Arts Council of Wales.</p>			
GREEN	<p>The Arts Service provides specialist arts and culture provision for children with diverse needs e.g. young carers, looked after children, and disabled</p>			

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
	AMBER	The Arts Service provides specialist arts and culture provision for children with diverse needs e.g. young carers, looked after children, and disabled children, utilising the theatres and community venues.	The majority of the provision is delivered as part of the Families First Grant and other external funding streams. However funding is short-term.	Ensure a spectrum of arts and cultural provision is available and accessible. This can be linked to the development of Team Around the Family Framework. (Arts Services)
	Green	The Art Service also commissions the provision of a community dance pathways programme, accessible to all. Signed performances take place in RCT Theatres. These are made possible through our revenue funding received from ACW.	RCT Arts Service have provisionally secured ACW RFO, and if secured will be for a 3 year period.	Continue to evidence good practice and effective outcomes to justify year on year investment from Families First.
	GREEN	Library staff have worked with children from a special school delivering a story/craft sessions on request.	A group of children from Park Lane Special School have visited and participated in a story session in Aberdare Library on World Book Day.	
	AMBER	Chwarae Plant has delivered workshops in partnership with	There is limited funding to roll these workshops out to more specific	

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
	AMBER	<p>teachers at a special educational needs focussed school. These were particularly successful due to the sensory/experiential nature of the materials used.</p> <p>Sport RCT through support from Disability Sport Wales are able to categorise disabilities and appropriately provide exclusive and inclusive sporting opportunities for all children.</p>	<p>schools and groups.</p> <p>Demand for provision may not be great enough within one local authority to sustain provision</p>	<p>Exploring the possibility of working regionally to support the development of disability sports clubs and community sessions. (Sport RCT)</p>
Access audits for all play provision as described in the guidance are undertaken	<p>GREEN</p> <p>AMBER</p>	<p>All commissioned play provision using new venues must complete and submit a full access audit as part of their requirement to become an approved supplier.</p> <p>Some venues have historically been used to deliver play provision, however this is currently under review. In instances where there is no or limited disabled access more suitable community buildings are now being utilised to deliver play provision (i.e. schools, and leisure centres).</p>	<p>Some HFT children many have to be placed out of their community because the venue their playscheme is being delivered from is not accessible for the individual.</p>	<p>Ensure all commissioned play provision is being delivered from venues that are accessible to all children and young people.</p>

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
Designated play space is provided and well maintained on gypsy traveller sites	AMBER	The inclusion of vulnerable and marginalised groups is catered for through non-stigmatised targeted engagement, these young people have been identified through Vulnerability profiling. Specific engagement work with Gypsy Travellers is currently being delivered jointly by the Attendance and Wellbeing Service and YEPS. This provision is based at Bryncelynnog and proving very successful.		
The requirements of young carers are understood and provided for	GREEN AMBER	The inclusion of vulnerable and marginalised groups is catered for through non-stigmatised targeted engagement, these young people have been identified through Vulnerability profiling. The Arts Service provides specialist arts and culture provision for children with diverse needs e.g. young carers, looked after children, and disabled children, utilising the theatres and community venues.	The majority of this provision is possible via the Families First commissioning process.	Fees for arts workshops, where possible, are free of charge or kept to a minimum, made possible via the Families First commission and subsidy from other sources, such as the Arts Council of Wales. RCT

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
	GREEN	Leisure centres provide a subsidised Leisure for Life leisure pass for young carers.		Theatres provision also aims to ensure value for money, ensuring that the service provision is available for all, regardless of income e.g. Kids Club Screenings
The requirements of lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) children are understood and provided for	GREEN	YEPS support the 'Bridges' Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) Project and have a designated member of staff who raises awareness of this.		
The requirements of disabled children are understood and provided for within traffic and transport initiatives	GREEN	As part of HFT programme where the child or young person meets the criteria transport will be provided.	Limited budgets, which has an implication on the number of placements allocated per holiday.	

General Comments: Providing for Diverse Needs

In RCT we are fortunate that since the last PSA in 2012 a number of positive changes have happened in regards to the redirection of play funding. Although some term-time play provision has been cut, core budget has been secured to continue to deliver the HFT programme. The programme enables children and young people to access local holiday play provision, that without support they would not be able to do.

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	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 in the Statutory Guidance	GREEN	The Council has undertaken an Open Space Assessment. This forms an up to date assessment of accessible open space in the County Borough.	Only a snapshot in time	Keep the Open Space Assessment up to date (Planning)
The Local Authority has undertaken an Accessible Green space Study that maps areas that are used for playing.	GREEN	The Council has a Green Space assessment, which was conducted in 2007. The Open Space Assessment also builds on the 2007 report.		
The Local Authority undertakes access audits at all open spaces	AMBER	The Open Space Assessment looks at elements of accessibility	The assessment can not look at each individual	Keep the Open Space Assessment up to date

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
and implements proposals to improve access and safety		as part of its remit.	open space site in the Borough by site visit and is only a snapshot in time.	
The Local Authority has developed its own Open Space Standards in accordance with the advice and requirements of Planning Policy Wales	GREEN	The Council has an open space study which sets standards for provision.		
The Local Authority undertakes and actions Play Space assessments which include actions to make public space clear from hazards	GREEN	The Local Authority commissions an annual independent inspection of all Council owned fixed equipped play spaces; The Council also undertakes in-house operational inspections in line with the European Standard BSEN 1176. These inspections ensure that play facilities are appropriately maintained and free from significant hazards.	The annual inspection is currently only commissioned to look at fixed equipped play spaces and it would be too costly to broaden this remit without specific reason to do so	
Brownfield sites owned by the Local Authority are assessed for the potential for the site to be reclaimed for children's play	GREEN	Through Corporate Estates, officers based within Leisure, Parks and Countryside are given the opportunity to comment on any planned disposals	Not all brown field sites are suitable locations for play and other sites may be designated as SINC's (site of important nature conservation) and for that reason requires	

Outdoor Unstaffed Designated Play Spaces

Criteria	RAG Status	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	The Play and Recreation Facilities Manager has an up to date record of all designated play spaces that fall within the ownership of the Local Authority	There is limited information held on non-council owned facilities	Work with partners to develop a fuller picture of existing designated play spaces not in Council ownership.
The Local Authority assesses play spaces for play value and potential to increase in play use as set out in the Statutory Guidance	GREEN	The Local Authority has an annual inspection undertaken on all fixed equipped play spaces, which takes into consideration and measures play value. Any identified shortfalls in provision are added to the Play Facilities development plan. Furthermore the Council is in year two of a 3 year investment programme, which has allocated over a million pounds worth of funding for improvements to fixed equipped play spaces.	Additional capital funding only runs to 2017-18	Continue with the use of the development plan to influence capital spend in future years

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
	<p>GREEN</p> <p>GREEN</p>	<p>A number of RCT commissioned Play Providers are using some designated play spaces as venues for supervised outdoor play provision.</p> <p>Chwarae Plant has the experience and expertise to work in partnership with communities to identify and make wasted and 'in-between' spaces more playable for children and young people in very cost effective and easily manageable ways.</p>	<p>There is little or no funding available to do this on more than a very small scale.</p>	<p>Continue to support the use of designated fixed equipped play spaces, as venues for supervised outdoor play provision.</p> <p>Matching up of interested community groups with Chwarae Plant</p>
<p>The Local Authority undertakes access audits at all designated play spaces and implements proposals to improve access and safety</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>The Local Authority has undertaken an access audit on all fixed equipped play spaces following the implementation of the Disability Discrimination Act now Equality Act.</p>	<p>This information is in need of review.</p> <p>The study only considered access limitations in terms of disability, further studies are also required to</p>	<p>Limited revenue funding prevent oa review taking place in 2016-17</p> <p>Work with partners in Planning and Highways so that safe routes to play spaces are taken into</p>

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
			identify physical limitations like busy roads, the proximity of safe crossing points etc..	consideration at the point of application.
The Local Authority has developed and agreed a new fixed play provision standard	GREEN	RCTCBC uses the supplementary planning guidance note (TAN 16) and a play space design brief to ensure that all new provisions are in line with the standards required.	.	
The Local Authority undertakes and actions play space assessments in designated play spaces	AMBER	The Local Authority currently has an informal process for assessing play space which utilises local knowledge, maintenance records and observational techniques.	The process would benefit from standardised matrix	Develop a standard play space assessment
The Local Authority has introduced smoke-free playgrounds	AMBER	All new signage within Children's Play Spaces makes reference to the prohibition of smoking.	Some play spaces/parks have old signage which does not state that smoking is prohibited. The act of not smoking in particular places in the outdoors is currently not enforceable	Continue to renew signage
The Local Authority has removed 'no ball games' signs to encourage more children playing in the community	GREEN	In suitable play spaces – all signage prohibiting ball games has been removed.	Some spaces may not be suitable for playing ball games due to the limited space available	

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
			or for safety reasons	
The Local Authority has erected signs, such as Play Priority Signs to encourage more children to play in the community	GREEN	The Local Authority currently has two non equipped designated play spaces, and signage has been erected to identify these sites as play spaces		
The Local Authority includes a recognition of the importance of playing fields to children’s play when any disposal decisions are made	GREEN	Through the planning process officers based within Leisure, Parks and Countryside (LP&C) are given the opportunity to comment on any planned disposals.		Officers from LP&C will discuss the disposal of playing fields with the PSA working group before any decisions are made.
The Local Authority includes children and their families in any consultations regarding decisions to dispose of playing fields	RED	There is no evidence to suggest that this is currently happening.	Lack of understanding, skills and capacity of relevant officers to carry out consultation with children and families.	PSA working group to meet with Chief Planning Officer to forge better links between servie areas and to facilitate links between appropriate children and / or parent forums.

General Comments: Open Spaces

Since 2012 Open Space Assessment has been completed.

Resource limitations prevent any physical undertakings to create or improve accessible routes to any newly identified "playable" spaces. However potential new funding streams maybe available to support development in this area, which will be addressed within the next PSA group.

General Comments: Outdoor unstaffed designated play spaces

The Council has over 200 designated fixed play spaces and to ensure that these play facilities better meet the play needs of the children and young people in the communities, over £1 million is being invested over the next two years

Since 2012 over half the designated play spaces have been fitted with signage which prohibits smoking and the campaign led by Ash Wales continues to grow in strength.

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	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	GREEN	YEPS keep accurate and detailed records of all provision through our Quality Education Systems (QES) management information system. However the service will be changing to the Capita One system in 16/17.		
	AMBER	The local authority provides a wide range of information and publication on all aspects of play and play-care opportunities. This information can currently be accessed via the RCT website, Part 2 of the Social Service and Well-being (SSW) Act	The information held is accurate for a short period of time.	All leads for the following anti poverty agendas, Flying Start, Families First and Communities First have a duty to ensure that all up-to-date information is gathered collated and promoted accordingly via a central information point.

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
	AMBER	2014, requires local authorities to ensure information is available across Adult and Children and Community Services. Work is ongoing with a range of partners to ensure that appropriate channels are being developed for the collation and dissemination of information. A new National database called DEWIS is being developed to support local authorities with implementation of part 5 Information, Advice and Assistance of the SSW Act, It is envisaged that the DEWIS database will enable service users to search across neighbouring local authorities for information.	Lack of investment from local authorities on the development of the Family Information Service element of the database.	FIS Manger to continue to contribute to the development of the FIS element of the National DEWIS database through local and national network meetings
The Local Authority offers play provision which offers a rich play environment as described in the Statutory Guidance	AMBER	Chwarae Plant has delivered and is available to deliver training workshops to support play settings to work within the Playwork Principles and current best practice methodology. This is aimed at	Across the sector, there is a wide disparity of practice and understanding of the role of the playworker.	CPD activities and workshops and more robust quality assurance to ensure that knowledge is being translated into opportunities for children and young people

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
		increasing the health and wellbeing of children across RCT through activities that will allow for holistic development and increased resilience.		
The Local Authority ensures that partners are supported to offer rich play environments as described in the Statutory Guidance	AMBER	The local authority has recently developed a Play Outcomes Toolkit. (POT). The toolkit gathers a range of information from the child / young person, parent / carer and the play worker. It requires that the play team carry out a number of evaluation activities with service users and use the gathered information to make any relevant changes to their play practice/space.	Due to current play staff being on secondment there is a lack of staff to undertake this work.	Staff to be identified to pick up the additional work that will be generated as part of the implementation of the Play Outcomes Toolkit
AMBER	RCT Arts Service and the third sector community arts organisations provide arts and cultural opportunities for children and young people within RCT Theatres and on an outreach basis in the community with targeted and universal arts workshops.	Not all libraries have holiday activities. In 2015, the Council was only able to deliver sessions in 3 libraries during the Easter holidays due to high volume of project requests for		

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
	<p>AMBER</p> <p>RED</p>	<p>There is a holiday activity programme held in RCT libraries. 13 libraries have delivered story/craft sessions for 5-11s during Summer holidays, October and February half term holidays. Holiday activities for young people aged 11+ have taken place in Treorchy, Aberdare, Pontypridd & Hirwaun</p> <p>In 2015 a Childcare Business Development Officer was commissioned to provide ongoing support to Out of School clubs through visits, phone calls and emails, as part of the OSCCG</p>	<p>School library service.</p> <p>To date, no confirmation of programme spend</p>	<p>Work with partners to deliver integrated holiday activities. (Libraries)</p> <p>Seek confirmation of funding</p>
<p>Staffed play provision that the Local Authority provides meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards</p>	<p>GREEN</p>	<p>All YEPS staff have qualifications relevant for the roles that they are employed to do. All staff have Disclosure and barring (DBS) checks which are renewed every 3 years. Please see staff qualifications audit for further information</p>		

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
	GREEN	All Sport RCT and Leisure Services staff have qualifications relevant for the roles that they are employed to do. Coaches have qualifications relevant to their specific activity e.g swimming teachers, sports specific course or if coaching football a qualification from the relevant national governing body. All staff and volunteers have Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checks.		
Staffed play provision that the Local Authority funds meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards	RED	The local authority is in its ninth year of commissioning third sector organisations to deliver open access play (OAP) provision. In previous years for providers to become an RCT approved supplier the organisation must have been either registered with the Care Social Service Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) to deliver OAP or they must have been working towards CSSIW National Minimum Standards (NMS). However, a	A workforce audit has been undertaken of the needs of the play sector in RCT. The full report can be found at Appendix 2. The audit has identified a shortfall in the number of qualified staff to meet the requirements of the NMS in order to meet the registration deadline of July 2016	<p>Develop a realistic timeline for play providers to register with CSSIW. Invest in the up skilling of the Playwork Workforce to ensure that existing and new staff meet the required qualification levels to meet CSSIW National Minimum Standards.</p> <p>Decommissioning date to be postponed from July 2016 to July 2017.</p> <p>Funding Identified to up-skill the Play Workforce to meet the qualification requirements to meet the NMS and obtain registration.</p>

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
	RED	<p>decision was made to decommission any play provision not registered by July 2016</p> <p>It has recently been announced by Welsh Government that as of the 1st of April 2016 registration will be required for service to 8 to 12 year olds. This new registration will have a direct impact on the number of play</p>	<p>Not all play providers will be registered with CSSIW by April 2016.</p> <p>Lack of play provision across the local authority for children and young people to access, which could impact on anti social behaviour, lack of respite for families etc.</p> <p>Limited knowledge and understanding on what the implications will be for CSSIW registered and non-registered play providers. Also lack of clarity about the</p>	<p>Only commission approved suppliers for 1 session per day until they meet CSSIW National Minimum Standards.</p> <p>Decommission the playschemes who have no intention of becoming registered with CSSIW.</p> <p>As of the 1st of April 2017, any future commissioning of partner organisations to deliver play provision will need to meet the regulatory National Minimum Standards ensuring all necessary quality assurance processes are in place and be added to the list of approved suppliers.</p> <p>Play Officer and lead Youth Officer to gain a greater knowledge and understanding of the implications of new legislation.</p>

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
	RED	<p>sessions unregistered providers will be able to deliver across the local authority.</p> <p>CF currently commissions CSSIW unregistered play providers.</p>	<p>impact this will have on youth provision for children aged 11 years</p> <p>No staff at present within the CF team have been identified to undertake this work</p>	<p>CF to ensure that all future commissioned play providers meet the local authority's commissioned approved play provider requirements.</p>
Staffed play provision that the Local Authority's partners provide meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards	GREEN	<p>For the childcare element of the HFT programme, the local authority only uses approved suppliers who are registered with CSSIW.</p>		
Staffed play provision across the Local Authority works to a recognised quality assurance programme	GREEN	<p>Each YEPS team/provision has clear quality assurance processes in place</p> <p>The Early Years and Family Support Services have developed a RCT quality assurance scheme as a way of measuring the quality of provision offered by childcare providers. The Scheme demonstrates they are working and achieving above the</p>	<p>Since the staff member responsible for this scheme left the authority the planned roll out has been scaled down. In order to complete the scheme, observation of practice and written evidence</p>	<p>Additional staff needed to ensure this scheme is fully supported and widely available to all settings.</p>

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
	GREEN	<p>requirements of the National Minimum Standards as set by the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW). In order to achieve the award, childcare providers need to evaluate the quality of care, learning and play they provide.</p>	<p>needs to be carried out by assessors to ensure compliance with the standards.</p>	
	RED	<p>Chwarae Plant uses The First Claim and Desirable Processes' Basic, Intermediate and Advanced self evaluation tools for playworkers, which is based on structured reflective practice and clear actions for continuous self improvement. It is based on the Playwork Principles and current best practice.</p>	<p>Across the sector, there is a wide disparity of practice and understanding of the role of the playworker as per the Playwork Principles. Although time to reflect and improve on the service being provided for children is clearly expected within the Playwork Principles, it is often overlooked rather than being seen as an integral part of a playworker's role.</p>	<p>Evidence of effective reflection on all aspects of delivery required by any quality assurance scheme introduced. Any quality assurance scheme needs to be based on the Playwork Principles, understanding of which needs to be clearly verified. Chwarae Plant could be available to undertake the rolling out of a quality assurance scheme across the county.</p>
		All commissioned play	There is no	Continue to develop and implement an

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
	AMBER	<p>providers carry out a range of activities to enhance and improve the play provision they deliver.</p> <p>All sports clubs in Rhondda Cynon Taf are encouraged to either gain a NGB club accreditation of Sport RCT Safe Sport accreditation. This aims to ensure all sports clubs operate with correct DBS, qualifications, ratios and policies.</p>	<p>consistency across the local authority as to what information is recorded or reported on how play contributes to children’s resilience, health and well-being.</p> <p>Launched in November 2012, ongoing roll out.</p>	<p>Outcome Tool for play provision across all commissioned play provision.</p> <p>Deliver workshops to share good practice amongst other partners delivering play provision across the county borough.</p> <p>Gather information to collate and distribute to parent / carers, senior management and potential external funders on the positive impact play has on children and young peoples lives.</p> <p>Roll-out plan in place. Marketing strategies in place.</p>
The Local Authority priorities quality issues when engaging with/ commissioning the private sector to deliver recreational activities for children.	GREEN	YEPS quality assures provision through a robust quality assurance and procurement frameworks to ensure all commissioned third sector providers offer excellent support in response to local identified needs.		

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
	GREEN	<p>The procurement framework consists of numerous providers that have tendered to deliver provision to young people through YEPS. The tenders were evaluated on the basis of price and quality. The ratio applied was 40/60 Price/Quality. Providers have to have a DBS dated within the last 3 years, insurance and specific qualifications and experiences to deliver the activity. The Framework is due to end and therefore a new Framework (DPS) will be in place for April 2016 and will be able to be accessed Council wide.</p>	<p>Lack of continuity of staff to carry out this work throughout the holidays</p>	
	GREEN	<p>In RCT a minimum of one monitoring visit is carried out at all venues across RCT. Feedback reports are compiled and where the organisation does not fully meet the requirement recommendations are made for improvement. A follow up</p>		

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
		<p>visit is then undertaken to ensure that all recommendations have either been implemented or the organisation has addressed the issue accordingly.</p> <p>RCT Arts Service completes DBS checks across its staff team and works with the Council's Safeguarding Board to access training for its staff and artists on safeguarding</p>		
<p>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</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>At present we are working with colleagues in Leisure and Education Services to use schools and leisure centres to deliver OAP. Previously we have had some community organisation charge us £25 per hour to hire the hall in a community centre. It is in these instances that we have relocated the playscheme to community buildings; There is an agreement with Leisure Services that we will pay a maximum cost of £10 per hour for the use of the halls/ function rooms etc.</p>	<p>Council departments are unable to hire out their premises free of charge as they are increasingly asked to find ways to generate income to make themselves sustainable.</p>	<p>Continue to use council premises' where appropriate.</p>

Structured recreational activities for children

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
<p>The Local Authority is delivering on its responsibility to secure the services set out under Core Aim 4 for sport, leisure and culture</p>	GREEN	<p>YEPS contributes to the aims for play, education, Culture and Leisure by offering young people the opportunity to participate in numerous activities such as Football and Drama taking place out of school; hours on school site, Leisure Centres etc..</p>		
	GREEN	<p>The Early Years and Family Support Service is the department that has the lead responsibility to undertake the PSA every 3 years produce an annual refresh report on the delivery of the PSA action plan. However as Core Aim 4 no longer operates in RCT, it has been agreed that the PSA working group will continue to meet quarterly post the submission of the PSA 2016 to monitor the implementation</p>		

		<p>of the PSA action plan.</p> <p>CF continues to contribute to the aims for sport, leisure and culture through working with partners developing on the ground initiatives. These include walking groups, football initiatives, taking youth groups to local authority gyms etc.</p>		
	GREEN	<p>Street games initiative commissioned by WG to work with CF clusters. Good partnership working has seen more funding and resources allocated in order to further develop of this initiative. In 2014 – 15 CF reported that 1241 people had increased physical activity, with 447 meeting physical activity guidelines. In terms of culture, the Local Authority has an Arts Service, consisting of two theatres and an Arts & Creative Industries Development Team. The Youth Arts and SONIG Youth</p>	<p>Young people cannot always access Arts Service and Leisure Provision due to the expense and also travel access. Street Games is something that will be picked up in the Communities First programme but this has yet to be organised. Funding has and will continue to be an issue due to further cuts to the Communities First budget.</p>	<p>CF to be reviewed in 2015 to inform future delivery and anticipating future cuts to funding. Also, there is a need to better align the three programmes of CF, FF and</p>

		Music Industry programmes delivered by the Arts Service are commissioned by Families First and the service has RFO status with ACW. The local authority also has a Libraries Services, Heritage Service, and Leisure Services, consisting of leisure centres and Sports Development		FS. Potentially a single delivery plan for CF to be developed and submitted to WG for approval. To continue to develop Street Games and work in partnership with Communities First in order to utilise resources.
The local “Creating an Active Wales” plan is increasing play and recreational activities for children	GREEN	The Healthy and Sustainable Pre-school scheme encourages and promotes settings and schools to utilise community based play, culture and leisure activities		
	AMBER	New structure being planned through the development of the Community Sport Plan 2016/17. Delivery groups that engage with partners from all sectors to implement interventions will be established in January 2016.	Delivery Groups will be established in January 2016.	Delivery Groups will set clear projects with performance measures.
Local Authority Partnership Agreements (LAPAs) are contributing to increasing free play and recreational activities	GREEN	In partnership with Sport Wales and Welsh Government's Free Swimming Initiative RCT provide a range of structured and unstructured free activities for children on	Ensuring investment from Sport Wales is contributing to both local and national priorities.	To maintain green status improved partnership working between Sport, Leisure and Play. Continue to discuss and agree plans with Sport Wales through the local authority's sports partnership board.

		and off school sites		(Sport RCT)
The sports agenda contributes to the provision of sufficient recreational activities for children	GREEN	YEPS have 8 5x60 Officers who coordinate and deliver sport and physical activity for young people aged 11-25 years across the 17 Secondary Schools in RCT and the 4 Special Schools. These sessions take place during lunchtimes and after school hours. Some Youth Participation Officers have sports qualifications and also deliver sports and physical activities across the schools. The focus on these sessions for them to be fun and safe.		
	AMBER	Sport RCT in partnership with other council departments and external agencies continue to provide, support and strengthen existing opportunities focusing on ensuring sustainable opportunities are available for all.	Resource limitations to engage with the under 17 year old population.	Continue partnership working with a collection of agencies to assess the needs of children and young people to improve provision
The cultural and arts agenda, is contributing to the provision of sufficient recreational activities for children	GREEN	YEPS provides arts and culture activities for young people aged 11-25 years across the 17 Secondary Schools in RCT and the 4	There are insufficient funds to ensure sufficient recreational activities for all children in RCT.	

	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>Special Schools. These sessions take place during after school hours. For specialised Art projects external providers are sourced from the YEPS Framework such as animation.</p> <p>The local authority has an Arts Service with an Arts & Creative Industries Development Team that provides and supports communities to provide recreational activities for children (for example through its joint partnerships with Communities 1st).</p> <p>Arts and cultural activities are provided through the Arts Services outreach programme and that within the RCT Theatres, including commissioning of third sector community arts organisations.</p> <p>The third sector community arts organisations– Spectacle Theatre, Artis Community, Valley Kids Artworks, - deliver cultural programmes through</p>	<p>Communities First funding for Youth Arts/Arts Council of Wales needs to be continued to Cultural Services and 3rd sector and include Arts Connect with Bridgend, Merthyr and The Vale.</p> <p>Although art will be picked up in Youth and Play activities there will be little resource to develop community projects in the future, so additional funding and working in partnership will be needed</p>	<p>CF to be reviewed in 2015 to inform future delivery and anticipating future cuts to funding. A more consistent approach and closer working and commissioning arrangements to be put in place to avoid duplication</p> <p>Incorporate the arts within the tackling poverty plans input from ArtsI Services advice and expertise (Communities First)</p>
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	<p>the year.</p> <p>The Arts Service provides arts and culture focused structured recreational activities for children and young people through its Families First commissioned programmes – Youth Arts and SONIG Youth Music Industry, ranging from weekly arts activities such as Rock and Pop workshops and weekly community dance workshops (via our contract with Artis Community),</p> <p>The service also has a participatory arts and culture programme linked to the RCT Theatres – called Take Part – which provides weekly structured recreational activities for children and young people</p> <p>The Library service offers a range of arts and cultural opportunities for children and young people throughout the year including storytelling and arts and craft sessions, and</p>		
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		also works in partnership with the Arts Service to deliver provision e.g. The Big Wild Rumpus.		
The Local Authority Youth Service provides for children’s opportunities for leisure and association	GREEN	YEPS provision is based in the 17 Secondary Schools and 4 Special Schools across RCT. Each provision provides a range of activities for young people aged 11 – 25. The activities are delivered during lunchtimes and after school hours up until 8.00pm. Activities offered to the young people have been coordinated and organised through consultation with young people. Young people also have the opportunity to gain advice and guidance from YEPS Staff		
	AMBER	CF continues to provide youth drop in facilities in most areas. There is some joint delivery with YEPs staff locally Detached youth workers for CF areas come under the CF programme and are now Youth Engagement Officers	Lack of consistency in delivery across all CF areas	CF to be reviewed in 2015 to inform future delivery and anticipating future cuts to funding. A more consistent approach and closer working and commissioning arrangements to be put in place to avoid duplication

		working in three cluster areas.		
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General Comments: Supervised play provision

All holiday OAP provision is commissioned out to 3rd sector organisations. To ensure we maximise funding there is a need for all play provision to become registered with CSSIW. With the age for CSSIW registration increasing to 12 year olds in April 2016, it is anticipated that this will have a significant impact if approved play providers do not become registered with CSSIW.

Current CF arrangements are under review. There will be better alignment across the three programmes of CF, FF and FS with one shared outcomes framework being introduced for monitoring and measuring impact.

General Comments: Structured recreational activities for children

RCT Arts Service (RCT Theatres and the Arts & Creative Industries Development Team) are committed to the outcome 'All people in Wales being creatively active' as set out within the Chief Culture and Leisure Officers of Wales RBA Report Card as part of the commitment to the Welsh Government Compact. The Arts Service is also working closely with the Arts Council of Wales (ACW) to evidence how, as an ACW revenue funded organisation, RCT Theatres contributes to the Culture & Poverty Agenda. RCT Arts Service also leads on Arts Connect, the collaboration between the local authority arts services within Caerphilly, Rhondda Cynon Taff and Vale of Glamorgan, and the Awen Trust (Bridgend), and the Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Trust, in order to have a stronger voice for the arts within the region.

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	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	YEPS use Vulnerability Profiling to target young people identified as Amber/Red and ensure they are offered support from YEPS staff. One of the indicators for this is young people in receipt of free school meals		
The Local Authority keeps records of the number of children living in areas of deprivation	GREEN	YEPS use Vulnerability Profiling to target young people identified as Amber/Red and ensure they are offered support from YEPS staff. One of the indicators for this is young people in receipt of free school meals		
The Local Authority keeps records of the number of children living in rural areas				
The Local Authority keeps records of the	GREEN	YEPS use Vulnerability Profiling to target young people identified as		

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
number of disabled children and those with particular needs.	RED	<p>Amber/Red and ensure they are offered support from YEPS staff. One of the indicators for this is young people with Additional Learning Needs. QES data will also reflect how many young people have engaged with the service who have Additional Learning Needs</p> <p>Full and comprehensive records of all children known to the Disabled Children’s Service are kept. The disabled children’s index is another log of disabled children open to all parents to upload their details.</p>	<p>The Index is opt in so misses lots of children. DCT criteria mean that only children with substantial needs are known. There is no comprehensive register at this time.</p>	<p>SSWB Act requires LA’s to keep a register of disabled children. We need to devise a system for doing this, and keeping it updated, by April 2016.</p>
The Local Authority records the availability of no cost provision	GREEN GREEN	<p>All YEPS activities are free to young people and the number of activities and sessions are recorded on QES.</p> <p>There is no charge for any child or young person aged 5 to 14 years attending OAP it is a universal service.</p> <p>The Family Information Service records and provides information on a range of play care and childcare provision operating throughout the holiday</p>		

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
	RED	periods. In some instances where play care runs alongside commissioned play provision the cost of childcare offsets the free hours of play provision. Thus making the playcare service affordable for working parents.	Very limited number of play care provisions	Work with commissioned play providers in area of identified need to meet and extend their CSSIW registration to deliver play care services
	GREEN	Leisure Centres record participation in free provision available during weekends (Free Swimming) and during the holidays (Free Swimming)		
The Local Authority records the provision of no cost / low cost premises used for play provision	GREEN	Due to financial constraints and maximising of the play budget for direct delivery of service; the local authority has capped the cost it will pay to hire premises. In instances where hire costs cannot be agreed, an alternative venue has been hired.		
The Local Authority records the provisions where grants or subsidies are available for play provider	RED	Due to limited budgets available for the direct delivery of play provision. The only time that the local authority has been able to offer play providers the opportunity to apply for grants has been when the local authority has received additional funding late in the financial year from Welsh Government.	No budget available for providers to access on an annual basis.	Prioritise the OAP grant scheme as and when additional funding is identified or made available.
	GREEN	Investment in arts/cultural activity from		

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
		external grant funding such as Families First and Arts Council of Wales is available.		
The Local Authority provides subsidised transport for children travelling to play opportunities	GREEN	As part of the HFT programme, where transport has been deemed necessary by the referrer for the child to attend play provision it will be provided.	Limited funds available	

General Comments: Charge for play provision

All commissioned Open Access Play provision across the local authority is free of charge. However, there are some play care projects running which enables the provider to offer low cost childcare whilst running along side playscheme. It is envisaged that this will be a priority area for development over the coming year to support the outcomes of the local Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Refresh 2015 and a number of new Welsh Government initiatives such as Parents Childcare and Employment (PaCE)

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	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	Traffic Management hold information on all 20mph zone locations which is regularly updated		
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	Before and after speed surveys are made at sites where traffic calming / 20 mph zones are introduced. This provides evidence of the effectiveness of the measures in reducing speeds.	This does not relate to opportunities for play.	Consider how opportunities for play can be included in the assessment. (Transport)

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
The Local Authority has a plan(s) to reduce the negative effect of busy roads and junctions through the introduction of speed reduction measures and provision of safe crossing points/routes for pedestrians and cyclists	AMBER	Bids for schemes are submitted to Welsh Government for funding via the Road Safety grant.	Schemes are subject to funding, which is allocated towards road safety measures across Wales to reduce the incidence of personal injuries	Continue to bid for schemes and seek other opportunities of funding. (Transport)
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	AMBER	Bids for Active Travel and Safe Routes in Communities schemes are submitted to Welsh Government via the Local Transport Fund (LTF) and Safe Routes in Communities funding (SRIC).	The plan promotes active travel connectivity and health and well being, access to leisure facilities is an associated benefit and not a key outcome.	Continue to bid for LTF and SRIC funding to enable further walking and cycling schemes to be implemented. (Transport)
There is potential for the Local Authority to take further action to reduce traffic speed and improve road safety to promote play	AMBER	The Council can continues to introduce traffic calming measures at locations where there is identified need. The necessary legislation is in place.	Traffic calming is subject to funding, which is allocated towards road safety measures across the region to reduce the incidence of personal	Agree traffic calming policies and procedures to introduce traffic calming measures. (Transport)

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
opportunities			injuries	
The Local Authority uses road safety grants and/or other funding to support delivery of cycling training for children to national standards	AMBER	National Standards cycle training delivered to approximately 800 pupils in 2014.	Only a minority of children can be accommodated by the training	Continue to bid for WG Road Safety grant funding to enable continuation of National Standards cycle training. (Transport)
The Local Authority uses road safety grants and/or other funding to provide pedestrian safety training for children	AMBER	Kerbcraft delivered to approximately 750 pupils in 2014.	Only a minority of children can be accommodated by the training	Continue to bid for WG Road Safety grant funding to enable continuation of Kerbcraft.
The Local Authority has an accessible and well-known way of arranging temporary road closures, to support more children to play outside their homes	AMBER	Traffic Management have a Temporary Road Closure procedure in place	This procedure is not necessarily aimed at supporting children to play outside their homes. Cost of arranging closures may be prohibitive.	Consider how the road closure procedure can include play considerations. (Transport)
The Local Authority refers to <i>Manual for Streets</i> when considering new developments and	GREEN	RCT Residential Design Guides based on Manual for Streets		

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
changes to the highway network/urban realm				
The Local Authority works to nationally recognised good practice guidelines when developing walking and cycling facilities	GREEN	RCT designers and consultants currently work to the latest guidelines such as Shared Use Routes for Pedestrians and Cyclists Local Transport Note (LTN 1/12) All transport schemes which include walking and cycling infrastructure must now comply with the Design Guidance: Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013		
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				
The Local Authority considers children's needs to access play opportunities	AMBER	This is currently not considered. Welsh Government has cut public transport funding by average, 26% for 2015/16. Available funding will be focussed on	Limited access to play opportunities	Further consideration will be given based on Welsh Government imperative to do so. (Transport)

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
when making decisions about public transport planning and expenditure		social inclusion; this will have some benefits for accessing leisure 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	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)	GREEN	<p>YEPS has a local website, www.WICID.tv, which has been designed by young people for young people. The site was developed as a result of young people stating that they currently look for information they want on the internet, YEPS has invested to develop www.wicid.tv as needs led information portal for young people in RCT. The site is managed by a Wicid Editor and has on average 3,000 young people accessing it each month. The website is linked to a network of youth websites across Wales</p> <p>The website aims to give young people opportunities in new media and offers help, advice and information on a vast</p>		

		<p>range of topics, ranging from the latest local gig information to what provision, is offered to young people in RCT. The site is also linked to the RCT Council Website and the Family Information Service Website</p> <p>AMBER OAP has a page on the Family Information Service webpage, which is hosted on the local authority's website.</p> <p>GREEN The council's website has a dedicated leisure section which includes free activities for families and details of concessionary rates to enable access to as many to leisure services. It also has the Lido Ponty website which showcases the Lido Play provision and the separate pages on each of the parks.</p> <p>GREEN Family information service and council have Facebook accounts to promote play and there is also a Council twitter account to promote play. Sport RCT also have dedicated web pages and social media accounts to inspire access to sport and clubs for young people.</p> <p>Flying Start childcare settings operate 'Language and Play/Number and Play</p>		<p>PSA group should consider an action to ensure this information, which sits on separate pages, is pulled together and presented in a way that better meets the aims and statutory obligations of the PSA at SSWA</p>
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		and Flying Start play sessions across the academic year. These sessions are aimed at Parents and children working together on a number of different activities within the setting environment. This provides an opportunity for parents to receive important information on how young children learn and develop through play and provide practical helpful tips for parents on play based activities they can do in the home to support their child's development.		
The Local Authority provides information on access to play opportunities and contact for support if required	GREEN AMBER	YEPS provide information on all activity timetables on www.wicid.tv , which all young people can access. Information is also shared on individual secondary school websites and the local authorities Family Information Service website. Information is also displayed in the secondary schools via display boards and plasma screens. OAP provision is commissioned on an annual basis, which means that all delivery dates are available for the year. In some instances where sessions have to be cancelled. Prior to the commencement of the holiday period the time table for provision is uploaded onto the Family Information Service (FIS) website. In	Awaiting the development and launch of the FIS Facebook page	Work with colleagues in PR and Tourism to finalise the launch of the new website and Facebook page

	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>some instances where sessions may need to be cancelled the information is amended accordingly. When enquiries are received from parents//carers and professionals requesting information on play provision local to them. The FIS officer would firstly direct them to the FIS website or alternatively email or print and send the enquirer a copy of the timetable.</p> <p>In instances were parents/carers or professionals looking for support for children and young people to access OAP or more specialised play provision, information on other service such as the Disabled Childrens Team , HFT programme or Team Around The Family., will be shared according to the child or families need.</p>	<p>Changers in eligibility criteria, and information not being shared with the FIS workers.</p> <p>Implication of the new Information , Assistance and Advice (IAA) service to be established as part of implementation of the Social Service and Wellbeing Act 2014 and the impact this will have on the FIS</p>	<p>Continue to ensure that all lead colleagues for the anti poverty programmes, Flying Start, Families First and Communities\ First are committed to sharing all updated information to the FIS.</p> <p>All partners commissioned by the three anti-poverty programmes to incorporate in the Service Level Agreement that all planned activities/ sessions being delivered as part of their programme MUST be shared with the Family Information Service.</p> <p>In the process of establishing social media usage as a Corporate ICT pilot.</p>
	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>The Arts Service produces a seasonal brochure and has a website which includes provision in the theatre</p>		

	GREEN	<p>programme for children and young people and information on the Take Part participatory programme, and the Arts & Creative Industries Teams work. Activities are also promoted through websites and social media networks.</p> <p>Information on CF activities is included on the FIS website and local advertising is done prior to activities being run. Sport RCT has a dedicated website (www.sportrct.co.uk) that provides information on local sports clubs and recreational community sessions. This website is hosted on the main corporate RCT website.</p> <p>Leisure Services has dedicated web [pages on the RCT corporate website allowing users to browse information and book classes.</p>	<p>Many deliverers are members of the community and it is difficult to provide direct club contacts (data protection) and therefore use social media information as form of communication..</p>	
	GREEN	<p>Sport RCT (www.sportrct.co.uk) has a designated tab / hyperlink 'Find a Club' which showcases over 380 sports clubs available in RCT. Leisure Centres also provide detailed timetables for each centre on the clubs, classes and sessions available</p>		<p>Work with ICT department in finding ways to make is easier for users to access information. Agree permissions to continue to have a Sport RCT twitter and facebook account that will provide information on events / sessions</p>
The Local Authority supports and	GREEN	<p>All YEPS programmes are advertised extensively on the WICID and RCT corporate website.</p>		

	Green	<p>press. We enable other services such as the Music Service and YEPS as well as the community arts sector and schools to perform in the professional setting of the RCT Theatres with specialist technical support.</p> <p>The Talk and Play Team devise and distribute easy to read leaflets on how parents / carers can support their child's holistic development through play.</p>		
The Local Authority publicises helpful hints and support for parents to help them encourage their children to play	<p>Green</p> <p>AMBER</p>	<p>Play and the importance of play is an important part of all the parenting programmes delivered by the parenting team. The aim is to give parents the confidence to try playing games at home and to see how fun playing with their children can be. Staff are also been involved in “make time for me” this ensures that there is a consistent message being passed on by all parenting and FS setting staff.</p> <p>The council organises an annual event – Teddy Bear’s Picnic. This event combines services throughout the authority that provide provisions for young children and their families (Family Information Service, Fframwaith, Flying Start, Play Services, CF etc) The event is a fun informal day where the children play and learn through interactive</p>	<p>As with many of our events the Teddy Bear’s Picnic is an outdoor event and so its success is dependent on weather conditions which are out of our control. The amount</p>	<p>Confirmation needed as to whether this event is going to continue to be delivered.</p>

		<p>sessions, and the parents are educated in a hands-on manner and given information on services available to them. The event is publicised through schools, nurseries, playgroup, Flying Start groups and Health Visitors.</p>	<p>of work and coordination that goes into this event and the huge impact it has on family lives can sometimes become diluted if weather conditions mean the event is poorly attended or has to be cancelled.</p>	
<p>The Local Authority widely uses on-site signposting to safeguard and promote play</p>	<p>RED</p>	<p>All commissioned play providers ensure that staff are regularly trained in Safeguarding. The organisation MUST have Safeguarding policies and procedures in place and implement them as and when necessary.</p>	<p>No record is kept by the local authority of how often staff access the training.</p> <p>The local authority has no identified budget to provide training for play staff.</p>	<p>Budget identified for commissioned play staff to access mandatory training as required by CSSIW.</p>
<p>The Local Authority engages with the media to encourage the positive portrayal of children playing in the local area</p>	<p>GREEN</p>	<p>YEPS produces press releases to showcase and celebrate young people's achievement gained from attending YEPS provision. This information is also put on Wicid</p> <p>The YEPS Annual Duke of Edinburgh Award ceremony celebrates the achievements of young people</p> <p>The local authority produces regular press releases before the start of the</p>		

		school holiday period.		
	GREEN	The Arts Service promotes the creativity and arts achievements of children and young people on websites and via the press. We enable other services such as the Music Service and YEPS as well as the community arts sector and schools to perform in the professional setting of the RCT Theatres with specialist technical support.		
	GREEN	Cultural events run by the Arts Service and by the 3 rd sector arts organisations in RCT - such as the Singer Songwriter boot-camp and SONIG Young Promoters Network music nights, promote the creativity of young people.		

General Comments: Access to space/provision

The FIS website holds a range of information for parents/carers and professionals on holiday time play activities and what support is available to access the activities. .

All events within CF areas are advertised within the communities and wider. CF also advertises and acts as a conduit for sharing information between partners and the community.

General Comments Information, publicity, events

PR and Tourism department continues to support all other council departments to advertise and disseminate a range of information, publications and up and coming events in line with council policy.

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	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)	GREEN	YEPS have a skills audit for all staff which is currently being updated. Relative training is organised for staff to attend throughout the year covering areas such as child protection/safeguarding, Restorative training.		
	RED	Local information is kept about volunteers and workers within CF.	Disparity of information. Management and retention of information across all CF partnerships is problematic	CF to be reviewed in 2015 to inform future delivery and anticipating future cuts to funding. A more consistent approach and closer working and commissioning arrangements to be put in place to avoid duplication and ensure adhering to required standards for delivery.
	AMBER	All sport and fitness coaches are quality assured and their training	Common standards, policies and procedures	Ensure all activities are run to the standards set out by the LA ensuring

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
<p>The Local Authority supports the workforce to achieve the accepted qualification levels set out by SkillsActive</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>The Early Years and Family Support Services Training Centre offers QCF Level 2, 3 and 5 in Children’s Care, Learning and Development but at present we are not in a position to offer the playwork training.</p>	<p>Potential lack of training providers across RCT to deliver playwork qualifications</p>	<p>Closer alignment of the three programmes CF, FF and FS to assess need and inform delivery going forward.</p>
	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>CF continues to identify relevant training for staff as required</p>	<p>Inconsistency of commissioned services across the programme, joint assessment of need to be done with partners to inform future delivery.</p>	
	<p>GREEN</p>	<p>Sport RCT operate a minimum standard of qualification (that is also the required standard as set by Sports Coach UK and Skills Active) that all casual coaches must meet participants prior to delivering sessions</p>		
<p>The Local Authority includes playwork within its Workforce Development strategies</p>				

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
The Local Authority supports partners to deliver appropriate training to community groups, parents and volunteers	AMBER	The Arts Service supports training for the community arts sector and for freelance artists working with young people	Funding for this has now finished.	To maintain green status continue to support training opportunities including through ArtsDevUK seminars.
	AMBER	Chwarae Plant has delivered a wide range of workshops to community groups, parents and volunteers as part of the Quality in Play Project and until December 2015		Chwarae Plant is looking for further funding to subsidise the delivery of skills, knowledge and awareness workshops across the sector, but these are unlikely to be free.
	GREEN	Sport RCT have agreed a quality assurance programme called 'Safe Sport' that recommends minimum standards of operation for all voluntary/paid coaches working in clubs/voluntary organisations.		
The Local Authority has undertaken a comprehensive training needs analysis for the play workforce as defined in the toolkit glossary	GREEN	YEPS conducts regular workforce surveys and training need assessments. Annual training programmes are developed and delivered to staff across the services		Ongoing monitoring of the training needs of play workers and staff, to ensure they have opportunities for continued professional development. (CPD)
	AMBER	As part of the PSA the local authority has undertaken an extensive workforce audit.		

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
opportunities available for playworkers in the area	AMBER	take place every 6 -8 weeks with staff. Chwarae Plant has delivered a diverse range of half and one day CPD skills and knowledge training workshops, developed in partnership with some of the leading child sector practitioners in the UK.	Funding for this finished in July 2015. Chwarae Plant are available to deliver training as long as full costs can be recovered.	Chwarae Plant is looking for further funding to subsidise the delivery of skills, knowledge and awareness workshops across the sector, but these are unlikely to be free.
There is a comprehensive range of CPD opportunities for a range of professionals who work with children	GREEN	The Arts service supports its workforce to undertake a range of CPD opportunities		
Training is available for volunteers and parents to develop their knowledge on skills in play work	AMBER	Chwarae Plant has delivered training courses, taster sessions to parents and volunteers in play and play work.	Funding for this finished in July 2015. Chwarae Plant are available to deliver training as long as full costs can be recovered.	Chwarae Plant is looking for further funding to subsidise the delivery of skills, knowledge and awareness workshops, particularly to parents, volunteers and community members, but these are unlikely to be free.
Training awareness sessions are available for professionals and decision makers whose work impacts on children's opportunities to play	GREEN	All YEPS staff must undertake child protection and safeguarding training as mandatory requirement. As part of staff inductions all staff sign to state that they have received and understand the LA's policies and procedures.		

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
	GREEN	The Healthy and Sustainable Pre-school scheme offers training to support setting staff through Physical Activity topics. We endeavour to provide resources in Welsh and English for staff to use within the settings. At present we are working with 36 Pre-school settings across RCT.		

General Comments Securing and developing the play workforce

As part of the PSA 2016, a comprehensive workforce audit has been carried out and has highlighted the significant training needs of the play sector. Therefore funding will need to be identified and ring fenced to up-skill current staff to meet the staffing qualification set by the National Minimum Standards for Open Access Play, and to meet the RCTCBC commissioning deadline for registration with CSSIW.

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	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
<p>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.</p>	AMBER	<p>The Arts Service engages with groups to enhance the arts activities on offer, including through activity evaluation and feedback from audiences. The service has also contributed to the development of YEPS Viewpoint Consultation.</p>	<p>Consultation with disabled children has</p>	<p>Lack of capacity to undertake regular consultation with children and young people.</p> <p>Review current service provision in light of recommendations the children have made</p>
	GREEN	<p>As part of the PSA 2016 a number of consultation sessions have taken place with children 5 - 14 years in schools and playschemes.</p> <p>Children and young people accessing commissioned play provision are regularly consulted with on the range of play activates and resources they would like to be made available for them to access.</p>		
	AMBER	<p>Disabled Children’s Service access 1:1 support via mainstream play services in the LA to ensure disabled children have the same play opportunities</p>		

		<p>as any other child in RCT. Disabled Children’s Service is working closely with SEN schools in the LA to determine how afterschool groups could meet the needs of some disabled children and are sourcing funding for this.</p> <p>Community Support Team within DCT work closely with leisure services to give disabled children opportunities such as trampolining, 1:1 swimming lessons, group swimming and boccia. In addition the team provides 1:1 support for children to access both integrated and mainstream sports clubs.</p>	<p>identified that they are lacking opportunities to access provision at weekends.</p>	<p>in the consultation.</p> <p>Source weekend play opportunities.</p>
	GREEN	<p>Sport RCT organise a series of workshops each year to support and educate community organisations in providing high quality sport and physical activity services</p>	<p>Approximately 25% of sports clubs pro-actively participate</p>	<p>Continue to work with all sports clubs and community groups and provide them with support that will enable them to deliver high quality services to children and young people. (Sport RCT)</p>
<p>The Local Authority promotes community engagement in: - making space</p>				

available and suitable for play - organising play events - positive attitudes towards children and play - training on the importance of play.				
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General Comments Community engagement and participation

Throughout this section there is a clear indication that a range of community engagement activities are taking place; from formal consultations to customer satisfaction. There have been a number events held to capture the views of specific cohorts of children and young people service users and community members in the development and delivery of specific projects and programmes.

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	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	GREEN	The 5x60 programme is delivered in all 21 Secondary Schools where physical activity lunchtime provision is offered to all young people aged 11 – 19.		

Education and schools

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
<p>Schools ensure that children are provided with a rich play environment for breaks during the school day</p>	<p>GREEN</p>	<p>The YEPS programme has been successfully developed in 21 secondary schools and provides activities for young people aged 11 – 25 years every day, including 2 evenings per week. Activities are arranged according to young peoples needs and include homework support, art and craft, sports and leisure, adventurous activities, etc.</p> <p>Sport RCT has a Junior Sport Team that work with Primary Schools to grow provision of sport and physical recreation in extra-curricular hours. The team target children 3-11 years.</p>		

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
		<p>opportunities throughout the school day particularly focusing on lunch time. Chwarae Plant continued to support several schools with lunchtime play sessions, resources and training. Chwarae Plant also delivers lunchtime play sessions in schools where they are also delivering commissioned holiday provision. This is aimed at increasing awareness and understanding about play and its benefits for parents and school staff, and also building relationships with the children who will be attending during the holidays.</p>		
Schools encourage children to walk and cycle to school				
The Local Authority offers guidance to ensure schools understand and ensure that regular outdoor play is not				

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
curtailed				

Town and Country Planning

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
The Local Development Plan recognises and addresses the outdoor play needs of children of various age groups and abilities				

Traffic and Transport

Criteria	RAG Status	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				

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
route in offering play opportunities for children of different ages and abilities				
The local Transport Plan identifies ways of assessing and addressing the needs of all groups including those which are often marginalised.				

Health and Wellbeing

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
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<p>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</p>	GREEN	<p>Sport Wales' 'School Sport Survey,' will provide a school with a well-being report. Schools can you use this as evidence to shape future delivery and evidence in Estyn Inspections.</p>		
	GREEN	<p>YEPS promotes physical activity across the service, through activities such as the 5x60 programme, Duke of Edinburgh scheme; outdoor and adventurous activity and cookery sessions.</p>		
	AMBER	<p>CF continue to work with the Local Health Board Cwm Taf to look at both strategic and local priorities for health and have worked towards the development of projects that meet and address those priorities</p>	<p>Anticipated cuts to CF funding and possible changes to the focus of the programme in the future could impact on delivery</p>	<p>In addition to continuing with the Cwm Taf Health Development Network meetings, a Health themed group has been set up for RCT CF, Public Health and LHB staff to better plan activities, share good practice etc.</p>

Child Poverty

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
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<p>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.</p>	GREEN	<p>YEPS provision is free to young people aged 11-25 years.</p>		
	AMBER	<p>CF continues to offer a limited number of play opportunities within the local communities.</p>	<p>Not consistent across cluster areas as currently plans are developed locally.</p>	<p>CF to be reviewed in 2015 to inform future delivery and anticipating future cuts to funding. A more consistent approach and closer working and commissioning arrangements to be put in place to avoid duplication and ensure adhering to required standards for delivery.</p>
	GREEN	<p>Fees for arts workshops, where possible, are free of charge or kept to a minimum, made possible via the Families First commission and subsidy from other sources, such as the Arts Council of Wales. RCT Theatres provision also aims to ensure value for money, ensuring that the service provision is available for all, regardless of income e.g. Kids Club Screenings</p>		
	AMBER	<p>Entrance to the Teddy bear's Picnic is a nominal charge of £2.50 per child (adults are free)</p> <p>All Flying Start Children have free entry to the event and transport is provided</p>	<p>Due to cuts in funding no decision had been made as to whether the event will continue to be delivered at its current level.</p>	<p>To consider making the event a bi-annual event</p>

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
environment as a routine part of the care they provide	GREEN	<p>RCT has developed a Quality Assurance (QAS) Scheme for childcare providers to mark the quality of provision. This has been completed by a multi agency group of Education, Childcare and play professionals.</p> <p>The QAS takes into consideration the benefits of play and encourages settings to complete risk verses benefit risk assessments.</p> <p>Flying Start observational assessments are being carried out on all FS commissioned childcare providers. Play and continuous provision both indoor and outdoor is assessed and also the quality of the play opportunities. All setting have recently received training in a bespoke tool kit 'Make time for Me!' which focuses on supporting</p>		

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
		childcare providers to provide rich and varied learning opportunities through play.		

Family policy and initiatives

Criteria	RAG Status	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		Flying Start + NNEBs offer play opportunities at home between parent and child promoting positive play interactions. Incredible Years Baby Programme promotes positive interactions for parents and their babies (under 9mts) through play		

Inter-generational policy and initiatives

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan

community cohesion				
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Community Safety

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
The Community Safety Strategy makes a clear statement which recognises the rights of children to play in their communities				
The Community Safety Strategy includes actions which provide a safe environment for children to play in their communities				

Health and Safety

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
The Health and Safety policies	GREEN	YEPS offer young people the opportunity to participate in		

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
explicitly recognise the value of children being able to experience risk and challenge		numerous activities such as climbing and canoeing along with the DoE programme. All off site activities have to comply with EVC and AALS licences protocol and all staff taking young people on 'risky' activities are experienced, have up to date DBS checks and are aware of Safeguarding procedures.		
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)	RED	Chwarae Plant has delivered several specific Risk/ Benefit workshops across the county as well as incorporating it into many of our experiential workshops. We use the current HSE approved Risk Management System for children's play settings, and learners go away with a clear understanding about their duties around risky play and managing different types of risk.	Funding ended in July 2015. We have identified, through delivering our workshops that there is widespread misunderstanding of current duties around risk management in children's play. This has lead to people dramatically and unnecessarily restricting play opportunities that are vital to children's development.	Chwarae Plant is available to deliver Risky Play/Risk Management Systems workshops across RCT if costs can be recovered.
The Local Authority offers the provision of insurance through the Local Authority scheme to				

Criteria	RAG Status	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified Actions for action Plan
all third sector play providers and community councils				

General Comments: Play within relevant policy and implementation agendas

The importance and need for play opportunities are emphasised throughout a range of RCT Policies and implementation agendas, the Single Integrated Plan, Communities First, Flying Start and Families First Plans.

Conclusion

This section should summarise the key findings of each Matter that was assessed in accordance with the Regulations and described in the Statutory Guidance.

Whilst undertaking the PSA 2016, it has become evident that there is significantly less provision across the authority than in 2012. This is largely due to service cuts and discontinuation of external funding, e.g. Big Lottery etc. However the PSA has identified areas of good practice and partnership working, where most of the provision currently being delivered in being done so using a more streamlined and coordinated approach. Council departments and voluntary organisations are now working more closely together to ensure there is no duplication of provision and working together to co-deliver services.

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, once part two of the duty is commenced.

Membership of the PSA working group 2016 has consisted of partners from a range of councils departments and voluntary sector organisations. The function of the group has been to ensure that all service areas had an opportunity to contribute to the completion the PSA Report and Action Plan. The working group will continue to meet on a quarterly basis to monitor the delivery of the PSA Action Plan 2016.

Signed:

Date:

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Play Sufficiency Action Plan

Appendix 2



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Name of local authority: Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Name of person responsible officer: Gail Beynon

Job title: Play and Family Information Service Manager (P& FISM)

Date of completion: February 2016



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

Proposed actions for the period of 2015 - 16

(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					
Matter A: Population					
Matter B: Providing for diverse needs	The local authority's HFT programme is for disabled, looked after and children and young people with identified high needs. The HFT service uses commissioned play providers and approved childcare	Identify additional sources of funding for ALL children referred to the HFT programme to receive a service. Additional funding to be identified to deliver a rolling	100% of children referred to the HFT programme receive a service. Funding is committed to the HFT programme for training and a rolling programme of specialist training is	Ring fenced funding for training, Funding available to enable staff to be released to attend training.	Propose to use the OSCCG to deliver a programme of training for 2016/17.

	providers to provide 1-1 support for the referred children to access provision in their local community.	programme of training for play providers and 1-1 support workers on specific medical conditions and illnesses.	developed to meet the individual needs of children referred.		
Matter C: Space available for children to play	The Local Authority does not have a robust system for consulting with children and their families on the disposal of playing fields	PSA working group to engage with Corporate Estates and the Planning Department to develop a process for information sharing	Allocated officers to be notified of disposal intentions and have access to suitable consultation forums by the March 2017	Staff time	No additional funding required
Matter D: Supervised provision	Staffed play provision that the Local Authority funds, meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards	As part of the OSCCG, Childcare Business Development Officer has been commissioned to provide ongoing support to Out of School	Seek confirmation of funding. of the OSCG for 2016/17 All aspects of the budget proposal have been agreed by Welsh Government.	Welsh Government has confirmed that RCTCBC will be receiving the OSCCG in 2016/17. They have indicated that it will be the same level of funding as 15/16 (£165,000)	Continuation of funding from Welsh Government

		clubs through visits, phone calls and emails.		however no written confirmation has been received to date.	
		<p>To develop a realistic timeline for play providers to register with CSSIW.</p> <p>From April 2016 only commission approved suppliers for 1 session per day until they meet CSSIW National Minimum Standards.</p>	<p>Developed and agreed timeline .</p> <p>Decommissioning date to be postponed from July 2016 to July 2017</p> <p>Decommission the play schemes that have no intention of becoming registered with CSSIW.</p>	<p>Timeline and implementation submitted to Senior Management and agreed by April 2016</p>	<p>Utilise existing funding of £125,000 budget for open access play as 2015.</p>
		<p>Funding Identified to invest in the up-skilling of the Play Workforce to ensure staff have the qualifications to meet the requirements to meet the National Minimum</p>	<p>All approved play providers have qualified staff to enable them to register with CSSIW</p>	<p>£30,000 to be allocated for play training from the OSCCG 2016.</p>	<p>Funding to be included in the 2016 OSCGG proposal.</p>

		Standards and obtain registration with CSSIW.			
		Continue to develop and implement a Outcome Tool for play provision across all commissioned play provision.	<p>Deliver workshops to share good practice amongst other partners delivering play provision across the county borough.</p> <p>All commissioned play providers implement and return the required paper work of the Play Outcomes Toolkit</p> <p>All commissioned play provision meets the local authority's quality mark.</p>		P&FISM to undertake this work to achieve the identified priority
	Staffed play provision across the Local Authority works to a recognised quality	CF to be reviewed in 2015 to inform future delivery and anticipating future cuts to funding. A	All information gathered will be collate and distribute to parent / carers and potential		P&FISM to work with CF staff to achieve the identified priority.

	assurance programme	more consistent approach and closer working and commissioning arrangements to be put in place to avoid duplication	funders on the positive impact play has on children and young peoples lives From Play providers who will continue to be commissioned by other council departments		
Matter E: Charges for play provision	The Local Authority keeps records of the number of disabled children and those with particular needs	SSWB Act requires LA's to keep a register of disabled children. We need to devise a system for doing this, and keeping it updated, by April 2016.	RCT will have up to date information of the number of children living in Rhondda Cynon Taf.	Service identified to undertake this work.	Realignment of FIS staff and workload.
	The Local Authority records the availability of no cost provision	Work with commissioned play providers in area of identified need to meet and extend their CSSIW registration to deliver play care		The OSCCG has paid for a series of workshops to support unregistered out of school settings (afterschool clubs) with their CSSIW registration. Apart	

		services		from Gartholwg no playcare models are currently running. The playcare model will be looked at again in 2016/17 to encourage play providers to offer playcare in areas of identified need.	
	The Local Authority records the provisions where grants or subsidies are available for play provider	Priorities the OAP grant scheme as and when additional funding has been identified or made available.	Play providers have an opportunity to apply for funding to replenish play resources as and when funding becomes available.		Between £2,000 and £5,000 of new funding to be identified for a grant scheme as and when additional funds are available.
Matter F: Access to space/provision	All staff have access to the appropriate level of training needed to comply with CSSIW National Minimum Standards.	Budget identified for commissioned play staff to access mandatory training as required by CSSIW.	Access to mandatory safeguarding and optional play training.	Budget ring fenced to up skill the Play Workforce.	Propose to use the OSCCG to deliver a bespoke training programme for the play workforce across RCT.

	The Local Authority widely uses on-site signposting to safeguard and promote play	To raise the number of children and young people attending provision as a result of gaining information	.All information on the FIS website is up to date and relevant for the service user.	Record and report on the number of hits to the play page on the FIS website. Named key people from the three anti-poverty programmes to share relevant information with the FIS Database Officer.	Existing FIS staff to provide and record statistical information. Existing FIS staff to undertake this work
Matter G: Securing and developing the workforce	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)	All play providers are requested to complete an annual workforce audit of staff.	To ensure the workforce information is kept up to date to inform the future training needs of the play sector.	In previous years £30,000 has been allocated to support the direct delivery of play provision, not specifically play training. The amount of grant received for 2016/17 will determine if the OSCCG can fund playwork training, however no	Funding to be identified and ring fenced from the OSCCG to meet the identified needs of the play workforce

				decision has been agreed yet.	
	The Local Authority has a staff development budget ring fenced for play, including playwork	No cost or low of Playwork level 2 / 3 and statutory training to be made available for playwork staff to attend to ensure they continue to meet CSSIW registration.	Current and new play staff have an opportunity to undertake training.	£30,000 from the OSCCG	Funding to be identified and ring fenced from the OSCCG to meet the identified needs of the play workforce
Matter H: Community engagement and participation	CF Detached Youth Workers, now Youth Engagement Officers continue to advocate for young people to ensure vulnerable young people are not restricted from playing within their own communities	At present CF are only delivering in 3 out of the 8 clusters. A more consistent approach and closer working and commissioning arrangements to be put in place to	Consistency of the delivery of service across all CF clusters.	Realignment of existing budgets	CF to be reviewed in 2015 to inform future delivery and anticipating future cuts to funding address identified need.
Matter I: Play within all relevant policy and implementation agendas	The Health and Safety policies and procedures	Chwarae Plant is available to deliver Risky	Chwarae Plant will deliver 6 Risk Management in Play		

	<p>incorporate the risk-benefit approach to health and safety assessments as recommended by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE)</p>	<p>Play/Risk Management Systems workshops across RCT so long as costs can be recovered.</p>	<p>Workshops per year (2 sessions each in Rhondda Cynon and Taf)</p>		
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