



Dinas a Sir Abertawe

Hysbysiad o Gyfarfod

Fe'ch gwahoddir i gyfarfod

## Panel Perfformiad Craffu - Gwasanaethau Plant a Theuluoedd

**Lleoliad:** Ystafell Bwyllgor 5, Neuadd y Ddinas, Abertawe

**Dyddiad:** Dydd Mawrth, 14 Tachwedd 2017

**Amser:** 10.00 am

**Cynullydd:** Y Cynghorydd Paxton Hood-Williams

**Aelodaeth:**

Cynghorwyr: C Anderson, M Durke, K M Griffiths, Y V Jardine, S M Jones, P Jones, I E Mann, A Pugh a/ac D W W Thomas

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### Agenda

Rhif y Dudalen.

- 1 Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb.
- 2 Datgeliadau o fuddiannau personol a rhagfarnol.  
[www.abertawe.gov.uk/DatgeliadauBuddiannau](http://www.abertawe.gov.uk/DatgeliadauBuddiannau)
- 3 **Adolygiad Comisiynu'r Gwasanaethau Cymorth i Deuluoedd - Yn Canolbwyntio ar Blant ag Anghenion Ychwanegol ac Anabledau** 1 - 64  
*Julie Thomas, Pennaeth y Gwasanaethau i Blant a Theuluoedd*  
*Chris Francis, Prif Arweinydd Datblygu a Chomisiynu Busnes*  
*Y Cynghorydd Mark Child, Aelod y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Lles*
- 4 **Trafodaeth a Chwestiynau**
  - a) Ystyried Adroddiad y Cabinet a Chwestiynau
  - b) Barn y Panel i'r Cabinet

**Cyfarfod nesaf:** Dydd Llun, 18 Rhagfyr 2017 ar 4.00 pm

Huw Evans

Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Democrataidd

Dydd Mawrth, 7 Tachwedd 2017

Cyswllt: Liz Jordan, Craffu 01792 637314



## Report of the Convener

### Child & Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel – 14 November 2017

#### PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF CABINET REPORT – FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES COMMISSIONING REVIEW – FOCUSING ON CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

<b>Purpose</b>	This report provides guidance on pre-decision scrutiny ahead of consideration of the Cabinet report on 'Family Support Services Commissioning Review – Focusing on Children with Additional Needs and Disabilities'
<b>Content</b>	This covering report is focussed on the role of the Panel in undertaking pre-decision scrutiny.  The actual Cabinet report which is being considered by Cabinet on 16 November 2017 is <b>appended</b> .
<b>Councillors are being asked to</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note the pre-decision scrutiny process and role of the Panel</li> <li>• Consider the Cabinet report and proposals (agenda item 3)</li> <li>• Agree any views on the proposed decision that are to be raised with Cabinet</li> </ul>
<b>Lead Cabinet Member / Officer(s)</b>	Councillor Mark Child, Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing Councillor Jennifer Raynor, Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Lifelong Learning Julie Thomas, Head of Child & Family Services
<b>Report Author</b>	Liz Jordan, Scrutiny Officer Telephone: 01792 637314 <a href="mailto:liz.jordan@swansea.gov.uk">liz.jordan@swansea.gov.uk</a>

#### 1. Introduction

1.1 It has been agreed that all commissioning review final reports to Cabinet should undergo pre-decision scrutiny. The Scrutiny Programme Committee will carry out pre-decision scrutiny or delegate reports to be considered to relevant Scrutiny Panels.

1.2 The Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing and the Cabinet

Member for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning are presenting a joint report on 'Family Support Services Commissioning Review – Focusing on Children with Additional Needs and Disabilities' to Cabinet on 16 November 2017. This Cabinet report is **appended**.

## **2. Role of the Panel**

### **2.1 The purpose of pre-decision scrutiny:**

- It entitles scrutiny to discuss proposed Cabinet reports, where a clear recommendation(s) exists, before decisions are taken by the Executive.
- Acting as a 'critical friend', it enables scrutiny to ask questions about a report to develop understanding and inform and influence decision-making, for example asking about:
  - the rationale for the report
  - robustness of the proposed decision and decision-making process
  - potential impact and implications (including policy/budget issues) and risks
  - how different options have been considered
  - the extent of consultation undertaken etc.
- It enables scrutiny to report its views and any issues to Cabinet. The convener, on behalf of the Panel, can attend the Cabinet meeting to share the views of scrutiny on the report prior to Cabinet decision. This may include giving support, providing other suggestions on the way forward, or flagging up any concerns.
- The views of scrutiny are required to be formally considered by Cabinet before it makes the decision and feedback should be given including explanation for any rejection of views expressed.

**2.2** Councillor Mark Child, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing will attend the meeting to respond to questions and issues raised. Also invited is Councillor Jennifer Raynor, Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning. Relevant officer(s) involved in the development of the report will also be present to assist the Panel and provide appropriate advice.

**2.3** The Panel (through the convener) will write to the relevant Cabinet Members with its views following pre-decision scrutiny. The convener will have the opportunity to attend the cabinet meeting on 16 November to verbally feedback the Panel's views, conclusions and recommendations about the report.

## **3. Cabinet Response**

3.1 Cabinet must formally consider scrutiny views at its meeting. It may decide that any issues raised by scrutiny can be dealt with at the meeting and decision taken. It may decide that more time is needed to consider the views of scrutiny and defer decision to the next (or a special) meeting of Cabinet.

3.2 The relevant Cabinet Members are expected to write back to the Panel with feedback from Cabinet, and should include explanation of any rejection of scrutiny views.

#### **4. Legal Implications**

4.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution "pre-decision scrutiny gives scrutiny the opportunity to influence Cabinet decision making as a critical friend". "The views of the scrutiny panel are formally presented (either in a written report or verbally by the scrutiny convener) to the Cabinet meeting for the Cabinet to consider and inform its decision making".

#### **5. Financial Implications**

5.1 There are no specific financial implications raised by this report. Financial implications of the actual cabinet report(s) are contained within that report which is appended.

Background Papers: None



**Joint Report of the Cabinet Members for Health & Wellbeing and  
Children, Education & Life Long Learning**

**Cabinet – 19 October 2017**

**Family Support Services Commissioning Review –  
Focusing on Children with Additional Needs and  
Disabilities**

<b>Purpose:</b>	The report presents the proposed options for changes to services available to Children with Additional Needs and Disabilities which have been identified through the wider commissioning process of the Family Support Services Commissioning Review.
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	Sustainable Swansea: Fit for the Future, Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWBA), United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1992 (UNCRC)
<b>Consultation:</b>	Corporate Management Team Cabinet Members Legal, Finance and Access to Services. Child and Family Services, Poverty and Prevention and Education. Public.
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It is recommended that:  1) Following consultation, Cabinet gives approval to the recommendations presented in the report as outlined in Section 2 below.
<b>Report Authors:</b>	Chris Francis / Julie Thomas / Jane Whitmore
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Chris Davies
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Pamela Milford
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	Ann Williams

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 In July 2016, Members and the Corporate Management Team agreed Swansea's vision for the delivery of Family Support Services across the continuum of need and the outcomes we should seek for our families. Agreement was also given to split the Family Support Services Commissioning Review into four (related) strands: support for families with children under the age of 11 years, support for families with children over the age of 11; domestic abuse; and support for children and young people with additional needs and disabilities.
- 1.2 This report concerns the last strand: family support services for children with additional needs and disabilities. Initially the services within the scope of the review included overnight short breaks and holistic family support by way of an Early Help Team. However, by February 2017, the scope of the Review was narrowed to concentrate on; (i) parent carer participation and engagement, (ii) play and leisure opportunities, and (iii) home care.
- 1.3 In February 2017, Members and the Corporate Management Teams gave approval to proceed with a public consultation exercise on the options presented for each of these three service areas. With the consultation period now closed, this paper seeks permission to implement the recommendations set out in summary below.
- 1.4 This report also seeks approval to proceed with plans for overnight short breaks and the creation of a designated Early Help Team supporting children with additional needs and disabilities. The former was previously taken out of scope as it was recognised that reaching any conclusions required further collaborative work with Education. Similarly, proposals for an Early Help Team were delayed pending the outcome of the other strands of the commissioning review, in particular, how they proposed to develop such services more generally in Swansea. Since February the outstanding work has been completed and it is now possible to put forward clear proposals.
- 1.4 Finally, this report seeks approval to move forward with plans to improve the arrangements for young carers.
- 1.5 The services provided and commissioned by the Council have not been systematically and thoroughly reviewed for many years. It is not therefore surprising to learn that they are no longer ideally placed to meet the needs of the Council or the families it serves.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 Recommendation for Parent / Carer Participation and Engagement -** The Council commissions an independent service provider to develop and run a parent carer forum. The forum to be jointly commissioned by Child and Family Services, Education and Poverty and Prevention. The proposal would be for this to be in place from April 2018.
- 2.2 Recommendation for Play and Leisure Opportunities -** Child and Family Services and Poverty and Prevention pool financial resources to jointly commission targeted and specialist child disability play and leisure services. The plan would be for these new service arrangements to be in place from 2018/19.
- 2.3** (Please note: During the course of 2018/19 further work will be undertaken, in partnership with the newly established parent carer forum (see 2.1), to explore the possibility of introducing a grant (voucher) scheme. This will allow families the opportunity to exercise greater choice and control over the services they access but poses additional risks and challenges in implementation. If it is evidenced as being a beneficial step then the plan would be to return to Cabinet for consideration and approval. Any grant (voucher) scheme would not commence prior to April 2019, at the earliest.)
- 2.4 Recommendation for Home Care -** Child and Family Services slightly expand the capacity of the in-house Flexible Home Support Team to meet the needs of the relatively small number of children with very complex needs who require this form of support.
- 2.5 Recommendation for Overnight Breaks –**Child and Family Services undertake a procurement exercise for a third sector or private organisation to provide overnight residential breaks.
- 2.6 Recommendation for an Early Help Team –**Child and Family Services and Poverty and Prevention lead the development of a dedicated Early Help Team that supports families with children with additional needs and disabilities. It is thought that a specialist resource will offer families a better response to their needs and reduce the pressure on statutory services.
- 2.7 Recommendation for Young Carers –** Child and Family Services and Poverty and Prevention jointly commission specialist support for young carers. It is recognised that significant additional resources are required to meet the needs of this particular cohort. The plan would be for these new service arrangements to be in place from 2018/19.
- 2.8** There have been no budget savings attached to this Review and the recommendations above are intended to be cost neutral. Nevertheless, as the general direction is towards greater use of effective early intervention services, it is anticipated that, in the medium- to long-term,

they will enable the Council to avoid the greater costs associated with late interventions.

- 2.9 This paper has been jointly developed by Child and Family Services and Poverty and Prevention. As there are so many interdependencies, there has been considerable dialogue to ensure the recommendations are consistent with the needs and developments by Education. To ensure these proposals are implemented (if agreed) in a collaborative manner, it is intended that the work will be overseen by the People Directorate Commissioning Group and Family Support Steering Group.
- 2.10 Should Cabinet agree the above Recommendations then the timescale for implementation is the 1 May 2018. This is on the basis that the Contracts will not return to Cabinet for the purposes of contract award. Further detail is available via the timeline at Appendix 1.

### **3.0 Background**

- 3.1 As a group, disabled children, and their families, can be among the most vulnerable people in our community. Their needs can be particularly complex, and they, along with their parents and siblings, can be at a higher risk of poor outcomes (social isolation, economic disadvantage etc.). Secure, loving family units are often key to achieving positive outcomes, but caring for a disabled child can be a stressful experience that could place considerable pressure on a family. It is for this reason that we need to ensure we have an effective range of family support services in place.
- 3.2 **Parent Carer Participation** - At the heart of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014 is the requirement for every Council to truly participate with the individuals it supports. Effective parent carer participation requires; (a) good information, (b) honest consultation, and (c) a genuine willingness to have them involved in service planning and decision making.
- 3.3 In addition to improving outcomes for families, it is thought that enabling parent carers to be a true part of service planning will mean financial resources are less likely to be wasted on services which families do not take up or value.
- 3.4 There are many professionals within the Council who are very skilled at working with parent carers on an individual level. Where we trail behind the best performing areas is in terms of ensuring the concepts of participation and engagement are properly embedded at a strategic level. Some of the other authorities visited during the Review have established a formal parent carer forum that they use to facilitate effective consultation. The forum is also used to provide parent carers with information and to provide steering groups or parent representatives for strategic decision making within the Council.



- 3.5 **Play and Leisure Opportunities** - In this context, play and leisure opportunities cover a range of activities, e.g. a sports activity, a summer play scheme, a cinema trip, a trip to the museum, a fun day for the whole family, or something else entirely.
- 3.6 Article 31 of the UNCRC makes it clear that children and young people have the right to play and have fun in the way they want to. Play is defined in the Welsh Government Play Policy as freely chosen and personally directed. While the vast majority of children play in this way, some children with additional needs require specialist support to be able to make choices and access play opportunities. As a Council we have a responsibility to promote the right to play for children with a disability.
- 3.7 As well as fulfilling an important role in enabling children and young people to have fun, play and leisure opportunities allow children and young people the scope to try new experiences, both with and away from their parent carers. This gives them the opportunity to learn new skills and develop their confidence.
- 3.8 Some play opportunities also directly support parent carers by providing them with a short break (or respite) from their normal caring responsibilities. There is growing evidence that such breaks support the well-being of the carers (including young carers, e.g. siblings) by offering them a chance to rest, catch up on day-to-day activities and spend time with other family members. Play and leisure opportunities must therefore be recognised as an important preventative service that helps promote family resilience and reduce dependency on more intensive services.
- 3.9 **Home Care** - Home care involves a paid carer coming into the home of the service user to provide support because of their special needs. The tasks performed by the paid carer may include personal care – e.g. help with bathing, getting dressed etc.
- 3.10 By comparison to Adult Services, the numbers of children receiving home care are very limited. Nevertheless, where it is identified, typically for those with complex medical needs, it is often a critical support service for families and key to preventing family breakdown.
- 3.11 **Overnight Short Breaks** – Overnight short breaks involve the child going to a specialist children’s home or foster placement overnight. Families in receipt of the service are provided a certain number of nights based on a social work assessment of need, which are then spread across the year, e.g. one night every fortnight.
- 3.12 For some of our families, an overnight break is a key component of their care and support package. They give carers an extended break and give children the opportunity to meet friends, develop independence and have fun. While overnight breaks are an expensive option, they can prevent families moving into crisis where they may need to access even more

expensive support and interventions. These benefits should not be underestimated.

3.13 However, it is important to realise that for some families the overnight break is simply putting a 'sticking plaster' on the real issue. The most common reasons for requesting an overnight break are challenging behaviour, incontinence and poor sleep. While the break offers the parents a break from these issues, it does not necessarily help to address them. If we are to work on the underlying issues then we must seemingly:

- change how we commission overnight short break services so they become more outcome focused; and
- develop a range of alternative support services that are better placed to meet the real need.

3.14 **Early Help Team** - Early Help Teams are typically multi-disciplinary teams that work with families requiring intensive support. Members of the team perform a keyworker role in partnership with other practitioners and the family to build resilience and develop solutions to problems the family may be experiencing. Early Help Teams receive referrals directly from universal services - schools, G.P.s and health visitors etc.

3.15 Early Help Teams are an established service in many parts of the Country and an emerging service model in Swansea, e.g. the Family Wellbeing Team. The Domestic Abuse Hub is a specialist form of Early Help Team which responds to a particular need. At present there is a clear gap in terms of there being no such resource with the expertise to support children with additional needs and disabilities.

3.16 **Young Carers** - Young carers help look after a member of the family (usually a parent or sibling) who is sick, disabled, has mental health problems, or is misusing substances. With so many caring tasks, some young carers miss out on opportunities that other children enjoy, struggle in school and become socially isolated.

3.17 Identifying young carers is notoriously challenging. Many are worried that they will be perceived to have let their family down if they ask for help, while others fear being taken into care. However, new duties upon the Council to proactively identify young carers means it is reasonable to anticipate much greater demand for specialist young carer services in the future.

#### **4.0 Options identified by the Commissioning Review**

4.1 On 10th October 2016, a stakeholder workshop was convened to critique the options and assess the best models of delivery for each of the three service areas subject to the Review. The Options considered are outlined in the table below, along with the overall scores:-

<b>Parent Carer Participation</b>	
<b>Option 1</b>	<b>Option 2</b>
Continue As Is – The Council includes participation as one element of various different service and job descriptions.	Commission an independent organisation to provide a discrete service promoting Parent Carer Participation.
Score: 10.2 out of 25	Score: 20 out of 25

<b>Play And Leisure Opportunities (including Community Short Breaks)</b>		
<b>Option 1</b>	<b>Option 2</b>	<b>Option 3</b>
Continue As Is – C&FS and Poverty and Prevention separately commission a range of services from external organisations.	C&FS and Poverty and Prevention pool financial resources to jointly commission a range of targeted services which ensure we are (i) consistently receiving value for money, (ii) that there is greater capacity; and (iii) services are more sustainable.	Develop a voucher scheme whereby eligible families receive a set amount of vouchers which they can spend with participating service providers.
Score: 10.9 out of 25	Score: 16.5 out of 25	Score: 16 .9 out of 25

<b>Home Care / Domiciliary Care</b>		
<b>Option 1</b>	<b>Option 2</b>	<b>Option 3</b>
Continue As Is – The in-house Flexible Home Support provides short-term interventions (up to 12 weeks) to support families at risk of breakdown.  Those requiring medium- and long-term support are supported via an externally commissioned service.	Change the statement of purpose of the Flexible Home Support Service so it can support families for up to 12 months.  External providers would then only be required for those with a long-term need for Home Care.	Continue to run the Flexible Home Support Team as it is currently but facilitate the independent Home Care market to increase their capacity to work with children.
Score: 17 out of 25	Score: 22.4 out of 25	Score: 11.5 out of 25

4.2 Thus, to clarify, the preferred Options identified in the Options Appraisal Workshop were:-

**Parent and Carer Participation** - To commission an independent parent carer forum (Option 2).

**Play and Leisure Opportunities** - To develop a grant (voucher) scheme similar to that run by a number of English authorities, e.g. Wiltshire Council (Option 3).

**Home Care** - To increase the capacity of the in-house Flexible Home Support Team (Option 2).

4.3 Feedback from this workshop was presented to Cabinet in February 2017 with approval granted to go out to formal consultation.

## 5.0 Consultation Process

5.1 **Methodology** - Prior to the commencement of the consultation period, stakeholders (including parent carers) were involved in formal and informal conversations regarding the services areas subject to this Review. This gave them the opportunity to comment on the existing arrangements and the required direction of travel. At the Options Appraisal Workshop stakeholders they were then involved in finalising and scoring the various Options.

5.2 The formal consultation period commenced on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017. Initially due to conclude on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2017, the window of consultation was subsequently extended to 9<sup>th</sup> June 2017 to allow for greater feedback.

5.3 An online survey was designed for adult stakeholders (parent carers, staff working with children with a disability etc.). A copy of the survey and information sheet is available at Appendix A. Details of the survey were distributed amongst the various service users and provider networks known to the Council.

5.4 During the consultation process a series of (formal and informal) engagement activities and events with stakeholders were run to promote the completion of the survey by adult stakeholders:-

- Facilitate workshops with parent carer representatives and wider adult stakeholders around the County.
- A family fun day at the National Waterfront Museum where attending parent carers were asked to participate in the survey.
- Attendance at a short breaks parent carer group.
- Discussions with service providers in the County.
- Discussion during liaison meetings with colleagues in Education, Adult Services, Health and other stakeholders.

- 5.5 Although children and young people were free to participate by completing the online survey, it was recognised at the outset of the consultation that obtaining their views would require additional engagement expertise, e.g. to support those with communication difficulties. As the Council lacked sufficient capacity to properly undertake this activity, we commissioned a local third sector organisation, Interplay, to provide support.
- 5.6 With the input of Interplay, we have undertaken the following engagement activities with children and young people.
- Run the aforementioned family fun day at the Waterfront Museum.
  - Held feedback events at seven different children's services commissioned by the Council.
  - Run two half-day sessions at Gorseinon Evolve Youth Hub specifically for children with additional needs or a disability.

Staff at Ysgol Pen-Y-Bryn Special School sought the views of a number of children with learning disabilities, autism and communication disabilities.

A thorough breakdown on the types of questions asked, activities undertaken and level of response can be found in Appendix B

- 5.7 In summary the preferred Options identified in through consultation were similar to those identified in the Options Appraisal workshop. A full report can be found under Appendix C.

## **6. Proposals Developed**

- 6.1 Drawing together the result of the consultation process, the options appraisal workshop with stakeholders and findings of other strands of the Family Support Commissioning review, the following proposals have been developed:
- 6.2 **Parent Carer Participation** - There is a definite need to improve the two way communication between the Council and parent carers. The scale of the problem is highlighted by the level and quality of feedback during the formal consultation period. Furthermore, Officers responsible for the separate Commissioning Review of Additional Learning Needs have confirmed that pressures to improve parent carer participation apply equally for Education.
- 6.3 The option of committing extra resources to commission an independent parent carer forum was popular amongst those responding to the Review. It is consistent with best practice and it is recommended that this Option should proceed with the aim of the new service being in place from 1 April 2018. This would be a service jointly commissioned by Child and Family Services, Poverty and Prevention and Education.

- 6.4 **Play and leisure opportunities** - The Options Appraisal Workshop narrowly found in favour of developing a grant scheme for the provision of vouchers. The other Option that scored positively and finished a close runner-up was for Child and Family Services and Poverty and Prevention to rationalise arrangements by pooling resources and jointly commissioning a range of targeted and specialist services. For the reasons summarised below, it is proposed that we proceed with this Option for 2018/19 (but further work should be undertaken to scope the possibility of moving to a grant scheme at a future date):-
- Currently, 51% of adult respondents were either against or unsure about the grant scheme.
  - Re-commissioning services will provide additional opportunity to further understand the risks and benefits associated with a grant scheme, including how we best mitigate any adverse impacts.
  - It affords further time to consult with a larger number of stakeholders before making a final decision; consultation which could be potentially facilitated by the introduction of a Parent Carer Forum.
- 6.5 **Home Care** - At the time of the Cabinet report in February 2017 there were only 2 small registered providers in Swansea. While the level of demand is admittedly low, it was noted that the available providers lacked the capacity to deliver some of the care packages we require. For this reason it was suggested that the Council commits additional resources to expand the capacity of the in-house registered service, the Flexible Home Support Team.
- 6.5 The urgency of the situation over the intervening months has to some extent abated as a further 2 Adult Service providers have amended their registration to support children as well. While this development addresses our immediate needs, there remains a risk that these new services will not prove economic or sustainable. It is therefore proposed that we proceed with a modest expansion to the Flexible Home Support Team.
- 6.6 **Overnight Breaks** – Child and Family Services to lead a re-procurement exercise for a third sector or private organisation to provide overnight residential breaks. The new contract will need to be in place by April 2018. This course of action is required to ensure compliance with the Contract Procedural Rules and procurement legislation but, even more importantly, to prevent any gap in service for families. Some of the families accessing the service are amongst the most vulnerable in Swansea and are heavily dependent on the service.
- 6.7 **Early Help Team** – Poverty and Prevention leads a commissioning exercise to secure a partner organisation for the development of a designated Team to support families with children with additional needs and disabilities. It is thought that a specialist resource, practicing

evidence-based interventions, will offer families a better response to their needs and reduce the pressure on statutory services.

- 6.8 **Young Carers** - Child and Family Services and Poverty and Prevention to pool resources and jointly commission a specialist service for young carers. Additional funding would be made available to bolster the capacity of the future service.

## 7. **HR Implications**

- 7.1 The only internal service in the scope of this report is the Flexible Home Support Service. The intention is to slightly expand the staff resource in the Team, therefore there is no reduction in current staffing arrangements anticipated

## 8. **Equality and Engagement Implications**

- 8.1 A full Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) report has been drafted. A copy of the EIA is available at Appendix D. The EIA remains in draft form as it will continue to be developed alongside the implementation plan and future activities. It is also still undergoing internal quality assurance.
- 8.2 The EIA found that this report is particularly pertinent to children, adults, those with a disability and carers. The EIA process also identified the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) as a key consideration.
- 8.3 Further, it is noted that feedback from stakeholders - including disabled children and carers - has been generally positive. Where there have been greater concerns raised (i.e. play and leisure opportunities) then this has led to changes in the final recommendations put forward.
- 8.4 Furthermore, the recommendations include increased resources to support parent carer participation. This should help ensure the voice of parents and carers is more effectively heard going forward.

## 9. **Financial Implications**

- 9.1 Welsh Government has provided some additional Grant funding to support modernisation and improvement of services in these areas. This additional money coupled with the existing base core budgets and ring fenced WG Grant budgets are sufficient to deliver the recommendations contained herein, which would enhance provision and meet identified need.
- 9.2 As so much of the funding in this area is Grant money (e.g. Families First), any future tenders will have to be clear that the precise level of funding available will be prone to fluctuate. Notwithstanding this issue, the following tables summarises how expenditure is currently aligned and how it would look under the proposed arrangements:-

<b>Current Arrangements</b>				
<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>In-house or external</b>	<b>Number of Contracts / Grants</b>	<b>Funding level</b>
Parent Carer Participation	C&FS	External	1	£10,000
Play and Leisure Opportunities	C&FS and P&P	External	10	£397,000
Home Care	C&FS	In-house	-	£176,000
Overnight Short Breaks	C&FS	External	1	£805,000
Early Help	C&FS and P&P	External	3	£146,000
Young Carers	C&FS and P&P	External	2	£52,800
<b>TOTAL:</b>			<b>17</b>	<b>£1,586,800</b>

Additional Money:

Grant money for carers and children on the edge of care : £200,000  
 Contribution from Education towards Parent Carer Participation: £25,000

**Total budget envelope available : £1,811,800**

**The table below outlines the funding for the proposed arrangements, demonstrating the recommendations can be met by aligning the resource more effectively and without additional pressure on core budgets.**

<b>Proposed Arrangements</b>				
<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>In-house or external</b>	<b>Number of Contracts / Grants</b>	<b>Funding level</b>
Parent Carer Participation	C&FS / P&P / Education	External	1	£75,000
Play and Leisure Opportunities	C&FS and P&P	External	1	£350,000
Home Care	C&FS	In-house	-	£215,000
Overnight Short Breaks	C&FS	External	1	£755,000
Early Help	C&FS and P&P	External	1	£305,000
Young Carers	C&FS and P&P	External	1	£100,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>			<b>5</b>	<b>£1,800,000</b>



9.3 Where a budget saving is identified for a particular area (e.g. play and leisure) this will be met via a combination of approaches:-

- De-commissioning services which no longer meet the needs of families or do not represent value for money.
- Pursuing economies of scale.
- Negotiating down costs for providers where possible, e.g. greatly reducing the number of individual contracts and grants that each provider has to manage (which will also save the Council resources).
- Greater focus on new ways of working which achieve the same outcome but more cost effectively, e.g. (where appropriate) small group activities as opposed to 1:1; this is also in line with the feedback from children and young people about the need to have more contact with their friends/peers.

9.4 As the move is towards a more early intervention approach, it is intended that the proposed services will deliver cost avoidance and/or savings in the medium- to long-term. Two obvious budgets which would be influenced by this area of work are (i) the looked after children accommodation budget; and (ii) the education budget for children educated out of area.

9.5 Any externally commissioned providers will be expected to demonstrate clear value for money and contribution to social capital in their tenders.

## **10. Recommendations – Legal Implications**

10.1 The commissioning of the services referred to in Section 2 will need to be undertaken in compliance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, the provisions of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and any relevant grant funding requirements.

**Background Papers:** None.

### **Appendices:**

Appendix A – Implementation Timeline

Appendix B – Survey and Information Sheet

Appendix C – Report by Interplay

Appendix D – Consultation Finding Summary

Appendix E – EIA Report



## HAVE YOUR SAY...

### Review of Child Disability Services

We are inviting you to have your say on our proposals for Child Disability Services

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- My job involves working with children in Swansea
- I do voluntary work with children in Swansea
- I am interested in child disability Services in Swansea for other reasons

Other reasons - please write in

**If you are replying on behalf of an organisation, please provide:-**

Name of the Organisation:

Contact Name:

Your position in the organisation:

Email Address:

Telephone Number:

Type of organisation\*: e.g. Domiciliary care agency / advice / advocacy

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## **Our proposals**

**Please read the document entitled 'Have your say - Review of Child Disability Services for more detail about the proposals  
Category 1: Play and Leisure Opportunities including Community Short-breaks**

Preferred Option 3 - The Council develops a grant scheme to give money or vouchers to eligible families which they can then use to help the disabled child to access the play/leisure activities/ a community short break of their choice.

**Do you agree that the City & County of Swansea should proceed with option 3?**

- Yes  
 No  
 Don't know

**If we did proceed with option 3 how would this impact you?**

**Is there anything else that we should take into consideration regarding our decision to redesign our Play and Leisure Opportunities including Community Short-breaks?**

**You may use this space to provide any concerns or suggestions that you may have in relation to our existing Play and Leisure Opportunities including Community Short-breaks services.**

## **Category 2: Parent/Carer Participation**

Preferred Option 2 - Fund an independent Parent Carer Council to perform two key roles:

- 1) Provide a single information, advice and assistance service for families with a child / young person with a disability.
- 2) Energising and managing the development of a more active parent / carer forum. The Parent Carer Council would be expected to capture the views of greater numbers of parent/carers in turn for a greater voice in decision-making. This new Council would need to have good working relations with the local authority and other partners.

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**Do you agree that the City & County of Swansea proceed with option 2?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**If we did proceed with option 3, how would this impact you?**

**Is there anything else that we should take into consideration regarding our decision to proceed with option 2?**

**You may use this space to provide any concerns or suggestions that you may have in relation to how we review the ways parent/carers can get information, advice and support and have a say in services**

**Do you have any other comments about any of the proposed options?**

### **Category 3: Home Care**

Preferred Option 2 - Expand the Flexible Home Support Service and change their criteria so it can support more families and potentially for a longer period of time. We know that by doing this it will address the issues of reliability and consistency of carer.

**Do you agree that the City & County of Swansea proceed with option 2?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

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**Do you have any other comments about any of the proposed options?**

**Are you ...**

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say

**Is your gender identity the same as you were assigned at birth (i.e. born male and currently living as a man or born female and currently living as a woman)?**

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

**How old are you ...**

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 16 | <input type="checkbox"/> 56 - 65           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16 - 25  | <input type="checkbox"/> 66 - 75           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 26 - 35  | <input type="checkbox"/> 76 - 85           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 36 - 45  | <input type="checkbox"/> Over 85           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 46 - 55  | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |

**What is your sexual orientation?**

- Bisexual
- Gay/Lesbian
- Heterosexual/Straight
- Other
- Prefer not to say

**Would you describe yourself as... (Please cross all that apply or write in)**

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> British  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other British (please write in)                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Welsh    | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-British (please write in)                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> English  | <input type="checkbox"/> Refugee (please write in current/last nationality below)       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Irish    | <input type="checkbox"/> Asylum Seeker (please write in current/last nationality below) |
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**What is your ethnic group? (Please cross one box)**

- White - British, any other White background
- Mixed - White & Black Caribbean, White and Black African, White & Asian, any other Mixed background
- Asian or Asian British - Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Chinese any other Asian background
- Black or Black British - Caribbean, African, any other Black
- Other ethnic group - Gypsy or traveller, Arab, any other
- Prefer not to say

**What is your religion or (non) belief, even if you are not currently practising?**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No religion/belief  | <input type="checkbox"/> Jewish            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations) | <input type="checkbox"/> Muslim            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buddhist  | <input type="checkbox"/> Sikh              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hindu   | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |

**Do you consider that you are actively practising your religion or belief?**

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No  |  |

**Can you understand, speak, read or write Welsh?**

Please mark all that apply

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Understand spoken Welsh | <input type="checkbox"/> Learning Welsh    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Speak Welsh             | <input type="checkbox"/> None of these     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Read Welsh              | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
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**Which languages do you use from day-to-day**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Welsh                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say       |
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**Do you have any long-standing illness, disability or infirmity?**

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This could also be defined Under the Equality Act 2010 as: "Having a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on your ability to carry out normal day to day activities."

- |  |
|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |

**Does this illness or disability limit your normal day-to-day activities in any way?**

- |  |
|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes               |
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## HAVE YOUR SAY...

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Interplay (Integrated Play and Leisure)

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**'Have your say' - Review of Child Disability Services – Child and Young Person Engagement**



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## Locations of engagement

1 x Open Session at the National Waterfront Museum

7 x On Site at Service engagement events at the following services

- Action for Children POP sessions under 12
- Action for Children POP Session over 12
- Diversity
- Buddies
- TY Laura x 2
- Interplay IYCG – this also included the chair of Mixtup
- Enabled 12-25 x 2

2 x sessions at Gorseinon Evolve Youth Hub. These were open to children with disabilities. Invitation to the sessions were sent out by post and email. Out of the 16 children and young people that attended these events 9 took part in the engagement process, 4 had done so at previous events and 3 opted not to take part in the engagement.

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## Who has attended the events and sessions

Total number of children and young people engaged in the consultation and engagement -

- 82 age between 21 months and 27 (The older members of IYCG, Enabled and Mixtup gave their anecdotal views)

Of which

- 56 have a disability
- 37 were female
- 45 were male
- 8 were under school age
- 34 were of primary school age
- 25 were of secondary school age
- 15 were of college age or older





### Children and Young People who attended the Open Session

Name	Age	Their favourite thing
Sasha	5	playing with dolls
Sofia	8	I like riding horses
Nicole	16	cooking
Ruby	4	drawing cars
George	21months	climbing
Khadeeja	7	I like playing tag
Anja	10	pizza
Ted	2	jumping in muddy puddles
Zuzanna	9	I like swimming in the LC
Julia	7	I like riding horses
Evie may	3	playing with my friends
Tomasz	2	I like to play with Godzilla
Zara	18	I like going to the cinema
Cauley	5	Playing in the park
Maddie	11	like food
Daisy	6	going on holiday
Sophia	3	
Issac	No age given	Playing with Lego
Ellis	10	Yoshi
Cameron	6	Minecraft
Issac	2	to play in the water
Lily	9	playing computer games
Carys	5	egg painting
Soffia	4	likes climbing
Mahrooh	No age given	I love this
Noah	4	likes dancing
Lex	13	games
Lois	3	messy play
Seren	5	butterflies
Graet	6	reading

### Children and Young People who attended On Site Service Sessions

Name	Age	Their favourite thing
Byron	16	Going to the Beach
Jordan	16	Swimming Pool
Tom	12	Jigsaws and Magnetic toys
John	12	Planning, running and playing ball
Jac	16	Football
Dylan	14	Space and a place to make noise
Shane	17	Music
Jacob	13	Music/Playing with balls
Saad	11	Playing - in the garden, the park, football / family
Elliot	12	



Tyler	12	ball in the park and dancing
Keira	11	Gymnastics
Susan	10	Games (and Her friends)
Jack	10	Playing Super Heroes
Ruby	5	Trampoline
Leejoy	6	Limitless Trampoline
Nikita	14	Chocolate
Amy	6	My friend
Jac	13	X Box
Carl	13	Dinosaurs and family
Caitlin	14	Performing
Robert	9	Films
Ethan	10	Fun
Jack	7	Folly farm - rides
James	5	X Box
Kieran	15	
Chance	15	Music
Georgia	17	Music
Cody	6	
Leyland	7	Swimming
Aurora	6	Eating ginger bread men
Robert	25	Swimming, Cinema, bowling
Rachel	25	My dog and my friends
Ashley	27	Cooking
Nicole	16	Cooking and parties
Tomos	20	Rugby / football
Steven	25	Enabled
Rhys	19	Enabled
Robert	20	Enabled
Ruairi	19	Mixtup
Carys	19	Enabled
Robert	18	Enabled

### Children and Young People who attended Gorseinon Evolve Play Sessions

Name	Age	Their favourite thing
Abbi	10	Unicorns
Bronnie	9	Dancing, Singing, Drama and unicorns
Ellie May	4	Dancing
Aaron	6	Pokemon
Thomas	8	Writing and Colouring
Amber	7	Fishing, rugby, karate, dance and swimming
Corey	16	Gym, Games
Zak	17	Playing Pool
Lucy	16	Playing soft play
Zara	19 (with siblings)	Interplay



## The information gathered through engagement on pages 3-10 relates to Category 1: Play and Leisure Opportunities including Community Short-breaks

**Preferred Option 3 - The Council develops a grant scheme to give money or vouchers to eligible families which they can then use to help the disabled child to access the play/leisure activities/ a community short break of their choice.**

### “How will this impact you?”

Although the children and young people found it difficult to answer this question, they were able to tell us what services/activities they access at the present time and therefore how changes to the present system could affect them.

#### What these children and young people currently accessing

<b>Name of Disability Service</b>	<b>Number of C&amp;YP</b>
Ty Laura / Action for Children Short Breaks	6
POPS	8
Crug Glas	4
Diversity	15
PA or Direct payment	11
Corpal	1
TA	1
Deaf Club	1
Roots	1
Family Link	3
Interplay/Enabled	14
Mixtup	2
Buddies	8
Horizon Lodge	1
Gladiators	1
Bravehearts	3
Friendship House	4
Circus Eruption	1
Stepping Stones	2
ASDES	1
Surfability	1
OT/Physio/Speech Therapy	1
<b>Other activities they currently access</b>	<b>Number of C&amp;YP</b>
Guitar Club	1
Liberty football	1
Gymnastics	2



Walk the Dog	1
The Park	3
Play Zone	1
Church Group	1
Swimming	5
Out for food	2
Girl Guides/Brownies/Rainbows	1
Kick boxing	1
Volunteering	2
Dance Classes	1
Drama Classes	1
Gym	2
Bowling	1

To broaden this question, we also asked them what they enjoy most about the things they do now or have done in the past. We used the “Sunshine” engagement tool to gather this information. 72 children and young people took part in this activity.

- Go to the park
- Brownies
- I like riding horses
- Mixt up
- Go Pokemon hunting and go on my electric scooter
- Swings
- Enabled
- Interplay
- I like drawing
- Jumping
- Play
- Cooking
- Going out on the bus
- The garden swing
- Out on the bus
- Cooking
- Children to play
- POPS
- Family Link
- Swimming
- Being with people – outside
- Space to be me
- Buddies
- My friends
- Being with people
- Buddies – Space and activities
- Bikeability
- Playing with everyone
- Trampolining games
- Friends
- Playing with Spiderman
- Making stuff
- Playing Games
- Meeting people like me
- Buddies, its friendly
- Not being the only one
- Reading
- Playing
- Meeting new friends
- Fun
- Playing
- Having free time
- Chilling out
- Bed and food
- McDonalds
- Park
- Outdoor pool
- Playing ball
- Water pistol
- Chatting with friends
- Having fun with friends
- Helping others
- Talking with everyone
- Playing pool
- Video Games



- Pool at Friendship House
- Looking after my unicorns
- Drama lessons
- Disco at Enabled
- Club with friends – make up and fashion
- Ballet Lessons
- Swimming Lessons
- Dance Classes
- Colouring
- Swimming
- Single life
- Mixtup
- Surfability
- The Enabled Project
- Kickboxing
- Football
- Going to the park
- Swimming

## Summary

We have broken down the “Sunshine” responses into different categories

<b>Types of Activity</b>	<b>No. of answers</b>
Play / Imaginative play	11
Going to the park	5
Sports based activities including swimming	9
Being able to spend time with friends/other people	15
Attending regular supported activities	14
Attending regular mainstream activities	5
Being out and about (independence)	5
Relaxed activities/quiet time	10
Cooking	2

Out of the list of services that the children and young people currently attend, the services providing specialist support are mentioned the most by those taking part in the engagement. It should be noted that children and young people that access these groups find it easier to express themselves and take part in these types of survey. It also shows that less of the children with a disability presently access mainstream leisure activities.

We can see from the information gathered through the “Sunshine” engagement tool, that many of these activities show that children enjoy the social side of the groups that they access, spending time with friends and making new friends. For children with disabilities this can often be difficult outside of a supported setting, due to issues in their ability to communicate and socialise with others; which often leads to bullying. This is reflected by the percentage of children and young people that stated their regular support activity as their favourite thing. The other areas that score quite highly are sports, play and quieter activities. Two statements that stand out are “Not being the only one” and “Space to be me”; both statements were made by children with a disability, highlighting the need to not only be able to be themselves, but to have a safe space to do this.



## “Is there anything else that we should take into consideration regarding our decision to redesign our Play and Leisure Opportunities including Community Short-breaks?”

Once again this is a question children and young people find difficult to answer. The information gathered under the previous question offers insight into how important having access to activities that keep children and young people active is; and that they have access to activities where they get to spend time with their friends/make new friends.

To gather further information, we asked the children and young people where they would spend their “money” when it came to a choice of activity or service. To make this easier we broke the it down into four categories, each with a different value depending on costs of service –

- Leisure – This included mainstream activities that could be accessed with friends and family - i.e. LC2, Vue cinema, etc. – 1 voucher
- Play – Supported play or activity sessions – this would include clubs such as Buddies, Diversity, POPS, Enabled, etc. – 2 Vouchers
- Personal Assistant – 1:1 support – 3 vouchers
- Overnight Stay – Any place where a child or young person spends a night away from home that would need to be paid for – This included Ty Laura, Family Link etc. – 4 vouchers

Each child/ young person was given 8 vouchers and asked where would they spend them?

### Have your say- voucher exercise boxes

What can you buy	How many vouchers does it use?	Total number of vouchers	Total votes	Weighting position
Local leisure activities	1	182	182	1
Overnight stays	4	88	22	4
PAs	3	90	30	3
Supported play/ clubs/ schemes	2	126	63	2

The idea of being able to access mainstream activities with friends and family was very important to the children and young people that took part in this activity. This reflects the difference between a parent’s understandable need for respite and the child’s wish to spend time doing things their peers do. A large percentage of the children and young people taking part currently access some form of supported club, their need for these to continue was highlighted by its popularity. Interestingly the “Overnight Stay” option received a low score, however in later information gathered there are a number of requests for residential





and holidays, this may reflect either, children wanting less formal provision, or there being a misconception that this is to benefit parents and carers and not the children and young people themselves.

NB: not all the children and young people were able to take part in the activity, 61 children and young people took part.

**“You may use this space to provide any concerns or suggestions that you may have in relation to our existing Play and Leisure Opportunities including Community Short-breaks services.”**

It is difficult for children and young people to express what concerns they may have about how changes may affect them due to this being an unknown concept/quantity. However, by using the “Cloud” engagement tool and asking them what their “Dream future” would be for services in the future, we were able to make them think about what they would like to in the future and share their suggestions –

- Bw potri yn blens
- Residentials
- Parties
- When I go out I like to go to limitless
- I would like to go to the LC
- To have a dog now
- I would like to go to the park
- To go to the gym so I can get strong
- To be in a football team but I can't cope with the pace but would benefit from the activity
- Disney land
- Dancing Club
- Football
- A Choir
- Playing football
- Going to football matches
- More clubs like Buddies
- Sensory play sessions
- Places I can run.
- Waterplay – a building suitable for everything
- Safe outdoor play space – a place to hold outdoor sessions
- Swimming Club
- More sports
- Special / additional needs music sessions
- Swimming Club
- Football Club
- Gymnastics Club
- Swimming Club
- Games
- A New House!!
- More clubs for children
- X Box Club
- Drawing, Playing, being outside, playing Duck Duck Goose
- Boxing Club
- An X Box Club
- Sports Education
- Shooting range
- For the council to make a park for people with disabilities and sensory things for blind people etc...
- To go to a football club
- Holidays
- Residentials
- Sony film Club
- More Clubs
- Fun and Sport



- Having peace and quiet!
- To chill out more!
- To go to the beach and play in the sand
- Folly Farm
- Going on a plane
- To give more training to people on how to deal with mental health, ASD and other disabilities e.g. Capita PIP assessments.
- Anger management classes
- Go to watch the Swans
- Sing and perform
- Summer Ball
- X factor Audition
- Holiday in France
- Singing Lessons
- Take friends on holiday somewhere hot
- To be invincible!
- To be a fashion designer
- Going on holiday
- University
- To get a house and earn a living
- Media Project
- To get married
- Paid work
- Gay youth club
- Inventing
- Working with animals

### Summary

The information gathered with the “Clouds” engagement tool showed us which of the current Play and Leisure Opportunities children and young people would like more of; and also, what types Play and Leisure Opportunities they would like to access in the future.

We have looked at the list and summarised the statements/ responses in to nine different areas, for the breakdown of this see the Appendix 1 on page 12.

Most statements showed that the same types of play and leisure opportunities were important within all age groups. They cover a wide range of activities including sport, play, the arts and holidays. However, statements gathered that relate to computer clubs in section 4 were all under 12, statements gathered that relate to section 5 and 7, around the future and a central service, were all 14 or over and the comment made in section 9 was made by a young person over the age of 20.

### Category 3: Home Care

**Preferred Option 2 - Expand the Flexible Home Support Service and change their criteria so it can support more families and potentially for a longer period of time. We know that by doing this it will address the issues of reliability and consistency of carer.**

We had hoped to gather information regarding children and young people’s thoughts on Home Care during this engagements process. However out of the 82 children spoken to only 1 child received Home Care. Others did not understand the difference between Home Care and a Personal Assistant. The 1 child felt that they were happy with what the currently received, and did not have / could not give an opinion regarding how this change would affect them.



## Conclusions and Recommendations

Although only 82 Children and Young People took part in the engagement process we feel, due to the diversity of the group, that it is a fair reflection of the thoughts and wishes of Children and Young People throughout Swansea.

All children are different and the option for them, as individuals, having access to more choice of service and activities through a money/voucher scheme would definitely be beneficial in achieving the kinds of activities highlighted in this report.

It also highlights the need for current service providers to re-evaluate their current services - the activities provided, the proposed outcomes, how they are funded, how and where they are publicised and whether current criteria are still relevant.

## Future Consultation and engagement

Consultation and engagement with Children and Young People with disabilities has not been hugely successful in the past. Consultation that has been achieved has been with small pockets of Children and Young People and has not always gathered the information needed. However as shown in this report the additional information can be as important as the information being gathered.

It has been highlighted through the engagement process that many of our children and young people have not been involved in consultation and the experience of “having a voice” has been a new experience, sometimes received with excitement, sometimes with fear. Although many parents and carers understood the need for their children to have a voice, they did not always feel their child would be able to participate or that their thoughts and opinions would be relevant to the consultation.

The visual stimuli and physical interaction that this type of engagement uses worked well with children of all ages with or without a disability. Children and Young People, of all ages, that had previously had the chance to share their thoughts and opinions found the process

much easier. Whether this had been through school, clubs that they belonged to or just as a part of family life. The low attendance of disabled children at both the sessions at the National Waterfront Museum and Gorseinon Evolve Centre raises a questions; was this due families not understanding that these types of events include their child or because they are not getting the information being shared with them. Out of the 16 children that attended the Gorseinon Evolve play sessions, only 1 was not previously known to Interplay, they had seen the information at their local family centre.

### For future Consultation recommendations and suggestions

- Children and young people with disabilities are given the opportunity to engage and “have a voice” from as early as possible, the earlier children are engaged with in Swansea, the more able they will be to make the much needed and relevant contributions to decisions being made about services and changes that affect them.
- Presently, for Swansea to be able to engage with the different disability groups that run throughout Swansea, each service needs to be visited individually, sometimes on several occasions to ensure that enough children and young people get to “have their say”. This is costly, time consuming and does not always give a true reflection of all the thoughts and wishes of the children and young people. By providing fun consultation events once or twice a year and encouraging children and young people to speak on numerous topics would establish a more vocal and approachable young disabled community within Swansea.
- Third Sector disability organisations to work together and provide opportunities for the children and young people they support to come together, integrate and be involved in joined up sessions. This will help children and young people learn the bigger picture and be the voice of others less able and vocal than themselves.
- When organising future consultations and engagements with Children and Young People it is important to ensure that accessible methods of consultation are available for all those involved. For the more hard to reach groups, such as those with disabilities, it is important to involve all specialist organisations that support them; having their input when developing tools and methods to gather information will ensure a successful engagement, many of these groups need the opportunity to be communicated differently.





**Appendix 1: Breakdown of the nine different themes/areas highlighted by the statements gathered during the “Cloud” engagement.**

	<b>Themes</b>	<b>No. of requests</b>	
1	<b>The opportunity to go on holidays/ residentials – as previously mentioned “Overnight stay” in the voucher box exercise did not score very highly, some of this may be due to children and young people’s attitude or understanding towards overnight short break respite not being about them.</b>	<b>8</b>	“Take friends on holiday somewhere hot”
2	<b>To be supported/able to access supporting activities or sport events – many highlighted a need for mainstream clubs to have a better understanding of the needs of children and young people with a disability or to be provided with more opportunities to attend sporting activities delivered with their needs as the focus.</b>	<b>19</b> Of which 5 - Play football 2 - Watch football 4 – Swimming 7 – Other	“To be in a football team, but I can’t cope with the pace, but would benefit from the activity.”
3	<b>To provide accessible activities focusing on the arts, - singing, dancing and drama.</b> <b>NB: Rising Stars drama group that runs in Swansea specifically for young people with disabilities, has a very long waiting list and is therefore not available as a supported activity to children and young people wanting to join</b>	<b>6</b>	
4	<b>Computer and gaming activities/clubs – these statements were made by younger children and may be due to wanting spend time with friends playing computers games together.</b>	<b>3</b>	
5	<b>Some of the statements were around the children and young people’s aspirations for the future – The opportunities to learn new skills and for self-improvement.</b>	<b>10</b>	“To get a house and earn a living” “To be a fashion designer” “Anger management classes.” “To be invincible!”



<b>6</b>	<b>Requests for more supported clubs and/or opportunities to socialise/ have new experiences</b>	<b>7</b>	<p>“Summer ball”                  “More clubs for children.”</p>
<b>7</b>	<b>Several of the children and young people’s statements refer to a space or building with safe disability specific facilities, a familiar place that they have “ownership” of; central place where services are delivered as opposed to having to go to different places depending on your services provider or disability.</b>	<b>7</b>	<p>“Waterplay – a building suitable for everything.”                  “Safe outdoor play space – a place to hold outdoor sessions.”                  “For the council to make a park for people with disabilities and sensory things for blind people etc...”</p>
<b>8</b>	<b>Some statements we very simple and showed that children and young people with disabilities want to be able to do the same everyday things as their non-disabled peers.</b>	<b>6</b>	<p>“I would like to able to go to the park.”                  “To go to the beach and play in the sand”</p>
<b>9</b>	<b>For people in local community/ service providers to have better training and more understanding – this statement was made by one of the older young people.</b>	<b>1</b>	<p>“To give more training to people on how to deal with mental health, ASD and other disabilities e.g. Capita PIP assessments.”</p>




## Appendix 2: Plan for consultation events and sessions

**This section shows how Interplay gathered the information shared in this report, showing what tools were used and why.**




'Have your say - Review of Child Disability Services

Category 1: Play and Leisure Opportunities including Community Short-breaks

Preferred Option 3 - The Council develops a grant scheme to give money or vouchers to eligible families which they can then use to help the disabled child to access the play/leisure activities/ a community short break of their choice.


Section of Adult Survey	Collect point	Format	Outcome
"About You"	On Arrival	All family attending the event will be asked to fill out a brief questionnaire. This will be done anonymously and will enable us to gather information as follows: How many children at the event. How many have a disability Do you use a service currently? If yes, which service. Do you have a social Worker? What is their name? (This will enable us to know which team they come under)	This will show how many children attended the event. How many of those children currently access a service? Where possible which Social Work team they come under.
Information to be shared with families to explain why the event is taking place and why it is important for children to have their say	Displays at the event	Posters displaying Rights of a child  - Articles 12 and 13 - Articles 23 and 31	By sharing this information with families, it helps them to understand that there are legal reasons why their child must have their own say – Swansea is signed to UNCRC.
"How will this impact you?"	Consultation activity	Ginger Bread man. – Children get to say who they are independently from their families. – Ginger bread man with information about the children filled out by Interplay staff that the child can decorate and add to the Ginger Bread House  	This will gather information about the children from their point of view and in some way, answer the "impact"



<p>Is there anything else that we should take into consideration regarding our decision to redesign our Play and Leisure Opportunities including Community Short-breaks?</p>	<p>Consultation activity</p>	<p>What service do you have now? Using a roll of wallpaper Children can put the hand print for each service they use now plus their name and age. OR build service “tree” with the children present if space is limited.</p> 	<p>This enabled us to see what services people are using now, and covers things that should be considered.</p>
	<p>Consultation activity</p>	<p>Voucher Boxes – How would you spend your vouchers Each child is given 8 vouchers and asked where would they spend them?</p> <p>Four Boxes, each with a different value depending on costs of service – Play – supported play – 2 Vouchers PA – 1:1 support – 3 vouchers Leisure – LC2, Vue cinema, etc. – 1 voucher Overnight – Any place where a child spends a night away from home. – 5 vouchers</p> 	<p>Gather information on what children want to do.</p> <p>This highlights that Children cannot have it all and will help them think about what is most important to them, and covers things that should be considered.</p>
	<p>Consultation activity</p>	<p>“Sunshine” engagement tool Sun – what do you enjoy the most</p> 	<p>Helps us to gather information on what Children enjoy about the current services, and covers things that should be considered.</p>





<p>You may use this space to provide any concerns or suggestions that you may have in relation to our existing Play and Leisure Opportunities including Community Short-breaks services.</p>		<p>“Cloud” engagement tool Cloud – what would you like to do in Your “Dream Future”</p>		<p>Helps us to gather information on what Children would like them to look like in the future, and covers suggestions</p>
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Category 3: Home Care

Preferred Option 2 - Expand the Flexible Home Support Service and change their criteria so it can support more families and potentially for a longer period of time. We know that by doing this it will address the issues of reliability and consistency of carer.

Section of Adult Survey	Collect point	Format	Outcome
<p>“How would this impact you?” “Is there anything else that we should take into consideration regarding our decision to proceed with option 2?”</p>	<p>Consultation activity</p>	<p>Do you get support at home? YES or NO How often? Is this enough? What would you like? Put answer on brick and build the wall</p>	<p>Are people happy with the support they have at present. How much do they think they need?</p>



## Summary of Consultation Process

**Methodology** - Prior to the commencement of the consultation period, stakeholders (including parent carers) were involved in formal and informal conversations regarding the services areas subject to this Review. This gave them the opportunity to comment on the existing arrangements and the required direction of travel. At the Options Appraisal Workshop stakeholders they were then involved in finalising and scoring the various Options.

The formal consultation period commenced on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017. Initially due to conclude on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2017, the window of consultation was subsequently extended to 9<sup>th</sup> June 2017 to allow for greater feedback.

An online survey was designed for adult stakeholders (parent carers, staff working with children with a disability etc.). A copy of the survey and information sheet is available at Appendix A. Details of the survey were distributed amongst the various service users and provider networks known to the Council.

During the consultation process a series of (formal and informal) engagement activities and events with stakeholders were run to promote the completion of the survey by adult stakeholders:-

- Facilitate workshops with parent carer representatives and wider adult stakeholders around the County.
- A family fun day at the National Waterfront Museum where attending parent carers were asked to participate in the survey.
- Attendance at a short breaks parent carer group.
- Discussions with service providers in the County.
- Discussion during liaison meetings with colleagues in Education, Adult Services, Health and other stakeholders.

Although children and young people were free to participate by completing the online survey, it was recognised at the outset of the consultation that obtaining their views would require additional engagement expertise, e.g. to support those with communication difficulties. As the Council lacked sufficient capacity to properly undertake this activity, we commissioned a local third sector organisation, Interplay, to provide support.

With the input of Interplay, we have undertaken the following engagement activities with children and young people.

- Run the aforementioned family fun day at the Waterfront Museum.
- Held feedback events at seven different children's services commissioned by the Council.
- Run two half-day sessions at Gorseinon Evolve Youth Hub specifically for children with additional needs or a disability.

Staff at Ysgol Pen-Y-Bryn Special School sought the views of a number of children with learning disabilities, autism and communication disabilities. A

thorough breakdown on the types of questions asked, activities undertaken and level of response can be found in Appendix B

**Level of response** - One of the earliest findings of the Review was the need to improve the level and depth of information captured to assist service planning and strategic decision-making for this particular cohort of children and young people. One of the challenges is the presence of different information management systems between the various departments and agencies.

The situation is complicated further by virtue of a wide range of definitions in use to describe children with additional needs and/or a disability. Estimating the number of children in Swansea with an additional need or disability therefore depends on how broadly you choose to define the terms.

At the upper level, according to self-reported figures within the Census 2011, the number of children and young people (0-19 years) with a disability or impairment that limits their day-to-day activities is approximately 2500. This represents about 4.7% of the population. Alternatively, reference could be made to figures based on some form of independently assessment of need: for example, the numbers with an SEN statement, those in receipt of Disability Living Allowance or those open to social services. Each of these definitions will produce a very different figure.

What is clear is that no single figure is definitive and that we need to improve our information systems for the future. However, in terms of the numbers of children and young people currently accessing the targeted and specialist services subject to this review, it is thought that the total figure is around 620 children and young people.

Understanding how many families these 620 children and young people belong to is unclear as many families have more than one child with an additional need or disability.

The consultation exercise captured a total of 133 different views: 42 adults and 91 children.

Thus, in terms of children and young people we received feedback from just under 15% of the population (620). It is submitted that this is a reasonable response in these circumstances:-

- This is a particularly difficult cohort to reach. Engaging with children and young people, particularly those with a disability, requires time and resource to develop tools and methods to gather information to let them know that their voices have been heard. It is clear that Interplay have proven to be a valuable resource in this area and supported the Council in ensuring that feedback from children and young people is prioritised. The feedback from children and young people is valuable in helping to develop the service and moving the preferred options forward.

- The Council has relatively little experience of undertaking such an exercise at a County wide level. Many children and young people claimed they had not been involved in consultation prior to this opportunity. The experience of 'having a voice' was received with excitement by some with others experiencing anxiety because this engagement was something new.

By comparison to children and young people, the numbers of adults responding to the survey was poor. Information gleaned during the consultation exercise, some of it anecdotal, provides a number of potential reasons.

- We lack the capacity required to reach out and effectively communicate with a large portion of the affected population.
- Not all adults feel able to access digital surveys or may need support in fully understanding the information that is presented to them. While great care was taken to make the consultation survey and associated documents user friendly, it is a subject area that would benefit from a more dynamic means of engagement (as demonstrated through the events arranged for children and young people). The language used may not always be familiar to some and more engagement alongside the formal consultation would help with this. It would also be useful if it was facilitated by someone with an existing relationship with the respondent. In addition to the low response rate, the relatively high number of 'don't know' responses is potentially a further indicator of the difficulties with traditional surveys.
- There is a feeling of anxiety reported around services, changes, and potential loss of services. This may impact upon an individual's ability to fully focus on the questions being asked.
- The benefits and disadvantages of parent carer participation services might be perceived as fairly abstract.
- Parents are not necessarily familiar with some of the services and therefore may find it difficult to comment, e.g. home care is accessed by a very small number of children across Swansea.
- Many parents do not believe their contributions will have any material impact. This is a view potentially based on relatively little changing over a long period of time and a lack of change following previous consultation exercises.

The Council's Consultation Coordinator described the methodology and the feedback received as meeting the Gunning principles for consultation. Furthermore, in terms of the three recommendations put forward for approval:

- one actually proposes we invest more resources to ensure there is improved consultation in the future (Parent Care Participation);
- the second (Play and Leisure Opportunities) proposes to delay the introduction of the grant scheme, in part, to allow further consultation; and

- the third (home care) entails a small expansion of an in-house service which should not detriment any family.

**Feedback regarding Parent Carer Participation** – It is submitted that the level of feedback from adults is further evidence of the urgent need to improve local arrangements.

Even amongst those adults who were engaged and chose to respond to the survey, the overwhelming majority supported the creation of an independent parent carer forum (see Figure 1).

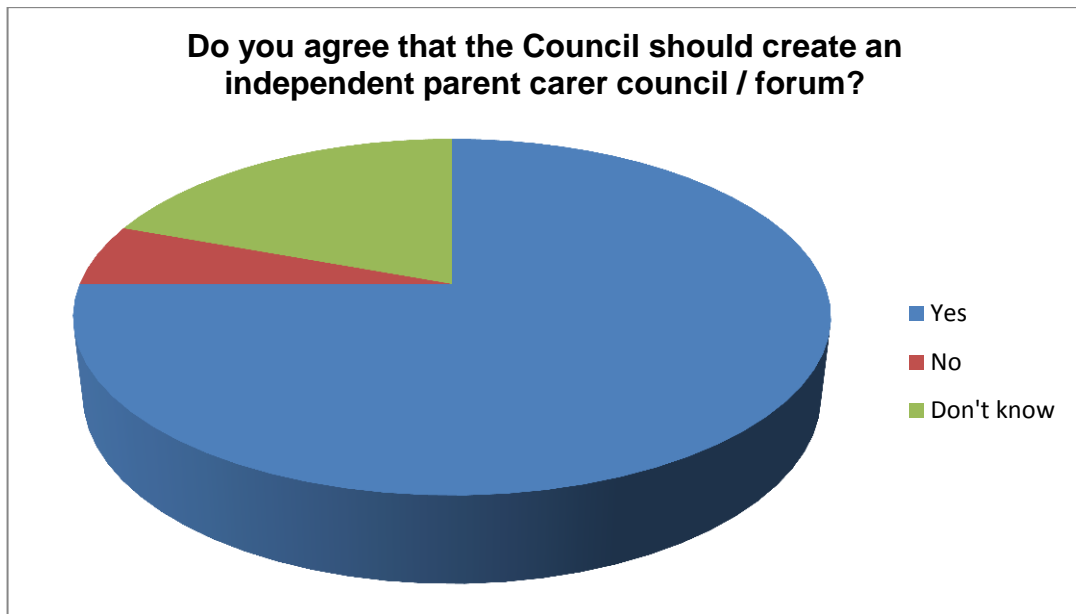


Figure 1

Given the nature and complexity of this area, it was not discussed during the children and young people engagement events.

**Feedback regarding Play and leisure opportunities** - A sizeable proportion (49%) of the adult respondents were in favour of the Council's proposal to develop a grant scheme for the payment of vouchers in place of directly commissioned services (see Figure 2). While this is a significant proportion, it has to be noted that the majority either opposed the proposal or didn't know enough to make an informed decision.

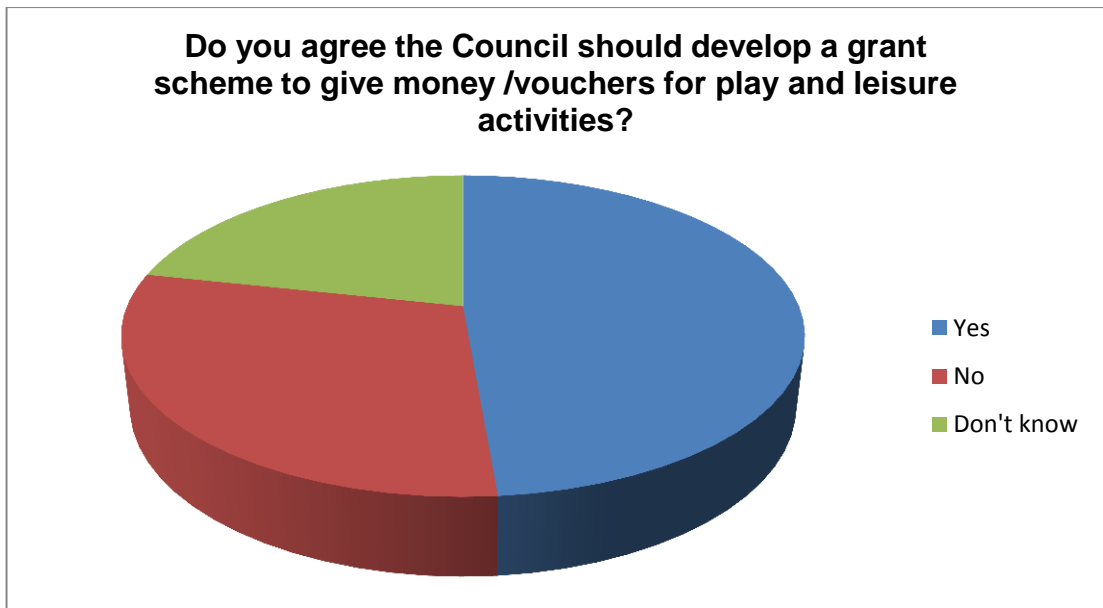


Figure 2

Many children and young people found it difficult to answer the survey questions but were happy to describe the sorts of activities that they currently accessed and what they would like to do in the future. One of the activities devised for these purposes involved giving them each a certain number of vouchers which they could spend on the activities they wished. Each of the different activities had an associated price based on the cost of delivery, e.g. an overnight break might be priced as 4 vouchers whereas attending a designated child disability group would cost 2, and accessing general leisure activities (e.g, the cinema or LC2) would cost them 1.

A summary of the work led by Interplay would suggest that:

- children and young people with additional needs and disabilities have a huge variety of interests and would generally welcome the greater choice and freedom that the voucher scheme would provide;
- the most popular form of play and leisure opportunities are those available to all children (LC2, cinema etc.);
- many would value greater opportunities to take part in fun activities with family members and peer groups (including those without additional needs or a disability).

**Feedback regarding Home care** - As Figure 3 shows, the vast majority of adult respondents were in support of the preferred Option for developing Home Care services.

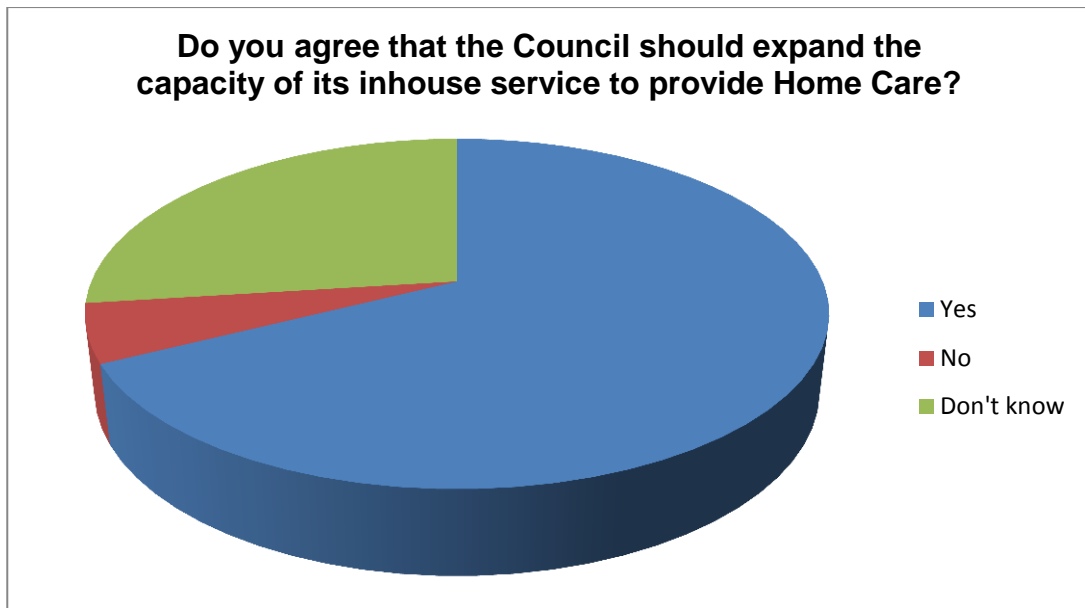


Figure 3

Only 1 of the children spoken to recognised that they were in receipt of home care. The others (understandably) typically found the service difficult to conceptualise. The 1 child in receipt of a service was said to be happy with the existing service but they did not have a firm view about the proposed changes.

## Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Report

This form should be completed for each Equality Impact Assessment on a new or existing function, a reduction or closure of service, any policy, procedure, strategy, plan or project which has been screened and found relevant to equality.

**Please refer to the 'EIA Report Form Guidance' while completing this form. If you need further support please contact [acesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:acesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk).**

<b>Where do you work?</b>
Service Area: Cuts across Child & Family Services, Education and Poverty and Prevention
Directorate: People

**(a) This EIA is being completed for a...**

Service/ Function  <input type="checkbox"/>	Policy/ Procedure  <input type="checkbox"/>	Project  <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy  <b>X</b>	Plan  <input type="checkbox"/>	Proposal  <input type="checkbox"/>
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**(b) Please name and describe below...**

Commissioning Review of the Family support continuum – child disability strand

***This EIA was originally opened prior to consultation and has now been updated to reflect feedback received as a result of the consultation exercise and changes made to the options as a result.***

To provide some context, the Commissioning Review is essentially exploring the range of family support services delivered by the People Directorate with the aim of ensuring we are delivering effective, economical and efficient family support services for children with a disability and their families. These family support services must collectively ensure people's wellbeing outcomes are being met by providing the right support, at the right time, in order to prevent and de-escalate need at every opportunity.

**(c) It was initially screened for relevance to Equality and Diversity in October 2016**

There are approximately 2500 children and young people residing in Swansea who have a disability or impairment that limits their day-to-day activities (Census 2011). It is therefore thought that an Equality Impact Report is necessary to ensure future commissioning arrangements do not have an adverse effect.

**(d) It was found to be relevant to...**

Children/young people (0-18) .....	x	Religion or (non-)belief.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group (18+).....	x	Sex.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability .....	x	Sexual orientation .....	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Welsh language .....	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poverty/social exclusion.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Carers (inc. young carers) .....	x
Race .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Community cohesion .....	<input type="checkbox"/>

**(e) Lead Officer**

**Name:** Christopher Francis

**(f) Approved by Head of Service**

**Name:** Julie Thomas



**Date:** 25/10/2016

## **Section 1 – Aims (See guidance):**

### **Briefly describe the aims of the initiative:**

#### **What are the aims?**

The Review has been tasked with identifying potential options for services in order to efficiently and effectively meet demand and deliver the following identified outcomes:

- Improved outcomes for children and young people by working together effectively across the continuum of need, a requirement of the SS & Wellbeing Act 2014.
- Provide timely support to families that promotes resilience, independence and engagement with their local community.
- Prevent or delay the need for more intensive interventions.
- Where it is clear needs are escalating, we will ensure that families move up the continuum to receive the co-ordinated support necessary to meet their needs, (a 'step-up' arrangement). For those families who are demonstrating an ability to meet their children's needs following more intensive support, a 'step down' arrangement, to an appropriate level (and eventually to universal services if possible) would be followed. By maintaining a focus on the child we want to make sure that there will always be someone who is able to identify when things are not going well for them and know what to do and where to get help or advice about possible next steps.
- Make best use of resources by identifying and realising the efficiencies that can be made by coordinating existing support services (e.g. duplication, overlaps).
- Prioritise and roll out new models of service delivery.
- Strengthen the early intervention and preventative services that already exist within the City and County of Swansea, and where necessary realign them, to support the prevention /wellbeing of vulnerable children and families at a time of identified need.
- Develop a commissioning strategy across the continuum of need.
- Provide a consistent approach across the authority that is understood by families, and service providers across the continuum and includes a proportional joint assessment, performance management framework, threshold document.
- Consistent I.T. and performance management arrangements.

#### **Who has responsibility?**

The Family Support Project Team. The project leads are Julie Thomas (Child & Family Services) and Jane Whitmore (Poverty & Prevention).

#### **Who are the stakeholders?**

- Carers of children with disabilities i.e. parent carers, informal or unpaid carers not staff.
- Disabled children
- Social Services (including Adult Services)
- Poverty and Prevention
- Education and schools
- ABMUHB
- External service providers including those from the voluntary/third sector

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## Section 2 - Information about Service Users (See guidance):

Please tick what information you know about your service users and provide details/evidence of how this information is collected.

Children/young people (0-18) .....	X	Carers (inc. young carers) .....	X
Any other age group (18+).....	X	Race.....	X
Disability .....	X	Religion or (non-)belief.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sex.....	X
Marriage & civil partnership .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sexual orientation .....	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	Welsh language .....	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Any Actions Required?

None

### What information do you know about your service users and how is this information collected?

The commissioning review has undertaken a needs analysis to gather information from a variety of sources. Sources of information include:

- PARIS (the information management service used by social services);
- Members of the social services Child Disability Team
- The Child Disability Index
- Information from current service providers
- Additional Learning Needs (ALN) statistics held by Education
- 2011 Census
- Daffodil care needs projection data
- National research and policy guidance e.g. Children's Commissioner for Wales
- Local consultation exercises with parent carers and children.

## Section 3 - Impact on Protected Characteristics (See guidance):

Please consider the possible impact on the different protected characteristics. This could be based on service user information, data, consultation and research or professional experience (e.g. comments and complaints).

	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Needs further investigation
Children/young people (0-18)	➡ X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group (18+)	➡ X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	➡ X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	➡ <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	➡ <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>

Pregnancy and maternity	➔	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race	➔	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	➔	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	➔	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation	➔	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welsh language	➔	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carers (inc. young carers)	➔	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

**Thinking about your answers above, please explain in detail why this is the case.**

That being said, given the nature and aim of the Commissioning Review, it is possible to put forward the following comments:-

**Neutral**

It is anticipated that there will only be a positive impact for people in terms of sex, sexual orientation, religion, race, pregnancy and maternity, marriage, gender reassignment, Welsh language or religious beliefs. Future service arrangements will continue to protect these characteristics, value difference and ensure that the diverse needs of the community are acknowledged and addressed.

**Positive**

It is anticipated that the review will have a positive impact as the essential aim of the Commissioning Review is to ensure our future services and arrangements are best placed to meet current and future needs amongst those service users with the said protected characteristics.

The three options for consideration include committing extra resources to commission an independent parent carer forum, for Child and Family Services and Poverty and Prevention to pool resources in order to jointly re-commission a range of targeted and specialist services with a view to creating a grant scheme for the provision of vouchers in the future and to expand the capacity of the in-house registered service, the Flexible Home Support Team.

Feedback from consultation is that stakeholders, including adults and young people agree that these will better meet the needs of those accessing our disability services. This is evidenced in appendix B and C of the report.

**What consultation and engagement has been undertaken (e.g. with the public and/or members of protected groups) to support your view? Please provide details below**

***The following information has been copied from the Cabinet report and outlines the types of activities and engagement that was undertaken as part of the formal consultation period.***

Prior to the commencement of the consultation period, stakeholders (including parent carers) were involved in formal and informal conversations regarding the services areas subject to this Review. This gave them the opportunity to comment on the existing arrangements and the required direction of travel. At the Options Appraisal Workshop stakeholders they were then involved in finalising and scoring the various Options. This is evidenced in appendix B and C of the report.

The formal consultation period commenced on 27th February 2017. Initially due to conclude on 21st May 2017, the window of consultation was subsequently extended to 9th June 2017 to allow for greater feedback.

An online survey was designed for adult stakeholders (parent carers, staff working with children with a disability etc.). A copy of the survey and information sheet is available at Appendix A Details of the survey were distributed amongst the various service users and provider networks known to the Council.

During the consultation process a series of (formal and informal) engagement activities and events with stakeholders were run to promote the completion of the survey by adult stakeholders:-

- Facilitated workshops with parent carer representatives and wider adult stakeholders around the County.
- A family fun day at the National Waterfront Museum where attending parent carers were asked to participate in the survey.
- Attendance at a short breaks parent carer group.
- Discussions with service providers in the County.
- Discussion during liaison meetings with colleagues in Education, Adult Services, Health and other stakeholders.

Although children and young people were free to participate by completing the online survey, it was recognised at the outset of the consultation that obtaining their views would require additional engagement expertise, e.g. to support those with communication difficulties. As the Council lacked sufficient capacity to properly undertake this activity, we commissioned a local third sector organisation, Interplay, to provide support.

With the input of Interplay, we have undertaken the following engagement activities with children and young people. A thorough breakdown on the types of questions asked, activities undertaken and level of response can be found in Appendix B:-

- Run the aforementioned family fun day at the Waterfront Museum.
- Held feedback events at seven different children's services commissioned by the Council.
- Run two half-day sessions at Gorseinon Evolve Youth Hub specifically for children with additional needs or a disability.
- Staff at Ysgol Pen-Y-Bryn Special School sought the views of a number of children with learning disabilities, autism and communication disabilities.

A summary report of the findings and the learning as a result of the consultation exercise can be found in Appendix C.

**Any actions required (to mitigate adverse impact or to address identified gaps in knowledge).**

All options will be developed and implemented with our stakeholders. For example, we hope to enable parents / carers to support the specification for the commissioning of a parent / carer forum.

This will ensure that stakeholders views are impacting the direction of travel throughout the change process leading to services that have been designed in collaboration with stakeholders.

An implementation plan will be developed following Cabinet approval in line with

procurement timelines for co-productively commissioning new services.

## Section 4 - Other Impacts:

Please consider how the initiative might address the following issues.

You could base this on service user information, data, consultation and research or professional experience (e.g. comments and complaints).

<b>Foster good relations between different groups</b>	<b>Advance equality of opportunity between different groups</b>
<b>Elimination of discrimination, harassment and victimisation</b>	<b>Reduction of social exclusion and poverty</b>

(Please see the specific Section 4 Guidance for definitions on the above)

Please explain any possible impact on each of the above.

Following the consultation period, and subject to Cabinet decision-making, an implementation plan will be devised to deliver the final, preferred options.

Consultation has confirmed that the preferred options are consistent with the aims of the Commissioning Review and it is suggested that they should have the following consequences:-

### Foster good relations between different groups

All of the families who use these services will have more than one protected characteristic. One of the key objectives of the remodelled continuum will be to promote family resilience and allow families with disabled children to become active and equal members of their local community by having an increased community presence which enhances their social interaction and encourages them to be active citizens within the wider society.

### Advance equality of opportunity between different groups

Future services should improve opportunities for disabled children and their families to have increased social opportunities in their community and to be treated as equal citizens through the breaking down of barriers to accessing services.

### Elimination of discrimination, harassment and victimisation

Future services should place a greater emphasis on more and more children being supported in their local communities to access universal services where they can have the same opportunities to undertake everyday tasks as their non-disabled counterparts. This proposal supports and encourages citizenship and social inclusion in local communities for children and young people with disabilities. Despite the increased emphasis, it is recognised that, for some of the most complex needs, it will be necessary to commission highly specialist support.

### Reduction of social exclusion and poverty

Services should be accessible based on need and not the ability to pay. The promotion of more integrated, local services will make it increasingly easy for families of all economic backgrounds to access.

**What work have you already done to improve any of the above?**

Contract management arrangements are already in place to review and develop the services within the parameters of their specifications.

**Is the initiative likely to impact on Community Cohesion? Please provide details.**

A greater emphasis on inclusion should mean increased opportunities for disabled children and families to take part and be engaged with their local community. Working within their community aims to give the families a sense of value and recognition in the community enabling them to feel they belong. Raising awareness of disabled children and their needs is thought to lead to greater acceptance and support from the community.

**How will the initiative meet the needs of Welsh speakers and learners?**

Remodelled services will follow the local authority's policies and procedures relating to Welsh speakers.

**Actions (to mitigate adverse impact or to address identified gaps in knowledge).**

Following the consultation the services will work with stakeholders to co-produce tender specifications for all services.

**Section 5 - United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC):**

**In this section, we need to consider whether the initiative has any direct or indirect impact on children. Many initiatives have an indirect impact on children and you will need to consider whether the impact is positive or negative in relation to both children's rights and their best interests**

Please visit <http://staffnet/eia> to read the UNCRC guidance before completing this section.

**Will the initiative have any impact (direct or indirect) on children and young people? If not, please briefly explain your answer and proceed to Section 6.**

Yes – these options aim to improve outcomes for disabled children, young people and their families. Therefore, these options have a direct impact on children and young people.

The three options are detailed below –

***This information has been copied from the Cabinet report and details the options being considered for approval.***

**Parent Carer Participation** - There is a definite need to improve the two way communication between the Council and parent carers. The scale of the problem is highlighted by the level and quality of feedback during the formal consultation period. Feedback from Officers responsible for the separate (but linked) Commissioning Review

of Additional Learning Needs have confirmed that pressures to improve parent carer participation apply equally for Education.

The option of committing extra resources to commission an independent parent carer forum was popular amongst those responding to the Review. It is consistent with best practice and it is recommended that this Option should proceed with the aim of the new service being in place from 1 April 2018. This would be a service jointly commissioned by Child and Family Services, Poverty and Prevention and Education.

**Play and leisure opportunities** - The Options Appraisal Workshop found in favour of developing a grant scheme for the provision of vouchers. The other Option that scored positively and finished a close runner-up was for Child and Family Services and Poverty and Prevention to pool resources in order to jointly re-commission a range of targeted and specialist services. For the reasons summarised below, it is proposed that we proceed with this Option for 2018/19 (but further work should be undertaken to scope the possibility of moving to a grant scheme at a future date):-

- Currently, 51% of adult respondents were either against or unsure about the grant scheme.
- Re-commissioning services will provide additional opportunity to further understand the risks and benefits associated with a grant scheme, including how we best mitigate any adverse impacts. – this EIA will either need to continue to take account of this work – or a new, separate EIA will be required.
- It affords further time to consult with a larger number of stakeholders before making a final decision; consultation which could be potentially facilitated by the introduction of a Parent Carer Forum.

**Home Care** - At the time of the Cabinet report in February 2017 there were only 2 small registered providers in Swansea. While the level of demand is admittedly low, it was noted that the available providers lacked the capacity to deliver some of the care packages we require. For this reason it was suggested that the Council commits additional resources to expand the capacity of the in-house registered service, the Flexible Home Support Team.

The urgency of the situation over the intervening months has to some extent abated as a further 2 Adult Service providers have amended their registration to support children as well. While this development addresses our immediate needs, there remains a risk that these new services will not prove economic or sustainable. It is therefore proposed that we proceed with a modest expansion to the Flexible Home Support Team.

**Is the initiative designed / planned in the best interests of children and young people? Please explain your answer.**

*Best interests of the child (Article 3): The best interests of children must be the primary concern in making decisions that may affect them. All adults should do what is best for children. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children. This particularly applies to budget, policy and law makers.*

The options will directly affect the disabled child and young person so the future arrangements (continuum) will have the express aim of helping children and young people to achieve the best possible outcomes.

**Actions (to mitigate adverse impact or to address identified gaps in knowledge).**  
Gaps identified from the work undertaken through the commissioning review have

resulted in additional recommendations going forward to enhance service provision for this group.

These include:

***(This information has been lifted from the Cabinet report and details the options being considered for approval.)***

**Overnight Breaks** – Overnight short breaks involve the child going to a specialist children’s home or foster placement overnight. Families in receipt of the service are provided a certain number of nights based on a social work assessment of need, which are then spread across the year, e.g. one night every fortnight. With the current contract concluding, it is recommended that Child and Family Services undertake a procurement exercise to secure a third sector or private organisation to provide overnight residential breaks.

**Early Help Team** – Early Help Teams are typically multi-disciplinary teams that work with families requiring intensive support. Members of the team perform a keyworker role in partnership with other practitioners and the family to build resilience and develop solutions to problems the family may be experiencing. Early Help Teams are an established service in many parts of the Country and an emerging service model in Swansea, e.g. the Family Wellbeing Team. At present there is a clear gap in terms of there being no such resource with the expertise to support children with additional needs and disabilities It is recommended that Child and Family Services and Poverty and Prevention lead the development of a dedicated Early Help Team for these needs. It is thought that a specialist resource will offer families a better response to their needs and reduce the pressure on statutory services.

**Young Carers** – Young carers help look after a member of the family (usually a parent or sibling) who is sick, disabled, has mental health problems, or is misusing substances. With so many caring tasks, some young carers miss out on opportunities that other children enjoy, struggle in school and become socially isolated. It is recommended that Child and Family Services and Poverty and Prevention jointly commission specialist support for young carers. It is recognised that additional resources are required to meet the needs of this particular cohort.

## **Section 6 - Monitoring arrangements:**

**Please explain the arrangements in place (or those which will be put in place) to monitor this initiative:**

### **Monitoring arrangements:**

The Family Support Continuum Steering Group and Family Support Commissioning Sub-Group will be responsible for monitoring the progress of the implementation.

### **Actions:**

This EIA will continue to be updated as required following a decision made at Cabinet.



## Section 7 – Outcomes:

Having completed sections 1-5, please indicate which of the outcomes listed below applies to your initiative (refer to the guidance for further information on this section).

Outcome 1: Continue the initiative – no concern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Outcome 2: Adjust the initiative – low level of concern	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outcome 3: Justify the initiative – moderate level of concern	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outcome 4: Stop and refer the initiative – high level of concern.	<input type="checkbox"/>

**For outcome 3**, please provide the justification below:

**For outcome 4**, detail the next steps / areas of concern below and refer to your Head of Service / Director for further advice:

## Section 8 - Publication arrangements:

On completion, please follow this 3-step procedure:

1. Send this EIA report and action plan to the Access to Services Team for feedback and approval – [accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk)
2. Make any necessary amendments/additions.
3. Provide the final version of this report to the team for publication, including email approval of the EIA from your Head of Service. The EIA will be published on the Council's website - this is a legal requirement.