Report of the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing and Healthy City

Cabinet – 21 July 2016

2016 PLAY SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT

Purpose: To approve the 2016 Play Sufficiency Assessment

including its key findings and associated Action

Plan

Policy Framework: Healthy City Strategy.

Welsh Government Tackling Poverty Action plan

Marmot - Fair society, healthy lives

Consultation: Finance, Legal, Access to Services, Third Sector,

Parent/Carers, General Public, Children & Young

People

Recommendation: It is recommended that:

1) The 2016 Play Sufficiency Assessment for Swansea and its associated Action Plan for implementation be approved.

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 The 2010 Children & Families (Wales) Measure recognised play's contribution to addressing poverty. Welsh Government recognises that opportunities to play within their local area can support the wellbeing of children in areas of deprivation. This placed a duty on each local authority to;

'secure sufficient play opportunities as far as is reasonably practicable'

1.2 In its Statutory guidance 'Wales – A Play Friendly Country', a clear recognition of the importance of play is made, stating 'The Welsh Government places great value on play and its importance in the lives of children in our society. As articulated in the articles of the UNCRC Rights of the Child we believe that children have a fundamental right to be able

- to play, and that play is central to their enjoyment of life and contributes to their wellbeing.
- 1.3 We also believe that play is essential for the growth in children's cognitive; physical; social and emotional development. There is much evidence to support this belief and an increasing understanding of play's contribution not only to children's lives, but also to the well-being of their families and the wider community'.
- 1.4 Compliance with the Duty is demonstrated through completion of a Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA) every three years. The first was submitted in March 2013, with this being the second. A Welsh Government assessment of the PSA is provided in response to the LA submission. Annual progress reports are required by Welsh Government as a means to monitor progress.

2.0 Methodology

- 2.1 The Children's Play Officer within Poverty & Prevention led on completion. In 2013, Swansea University had been commissioned to undertake the Assessment.
- 2.2 From mid-2015, relevant officers were sent details of the matters that impacted upon them. Each was asked to comment and, where appropriate, identify shortfalls and potential actions.
- 2.3 Stakeholder consultation events were held and children & young people, parent/carers, professionals and the general public were able to complete questionnaires.
- 2.4 A comprehensive Action Plan (attached) was completed which is intended to show how the Authority plans to reach full compliance. Each authority is therefore not required to achieve all actions, although clearly this would be desirable.
- 2.5 Each authority receives feedback on their Assessment from Welsh Government. Whilst it is likely that the response will be favourable, if it is felt that an area is not sufficiently meeting its requirements, there is potential for Welsh Government to insist that corrective measures are put in place.

3.0 Analysis of the data

- 3.1 Overall, the Assessment shows Swansea to be an area that can demonstrate its commitment to supporting every child's right to play. It reflects how, despite a reduced capacity, play is increasing its links with other services for mutual gain.
- 3.2 Of the 116 matters, Swansea Fully Met 60, Partially Met 54 and 2 were unmet. This is a significant improvement on the 2013 Assessment (48 Fully, 55 Partially, 13 Unmet).

3.3 As a comparison to other areas, 7 LA's were asked for their findings (Cardiff, Ceredigion, Vale, Carms. Pembs, NPT, Torfaen) with only two providing a response;

2016 2013

41 Full, 51 Partial, 20 Unmet 85 Full, 29 Partial, 2 Unmet 67 Full, 29 Partial. 11 Unmet Ceredigion Torfaen

- 3.4 It reflects how effectively play in Swansea is impacting on a range of policy and agenda areas and is testament to extensive partnership and collaborative working.
- 3.5 The major successes for Play within the local authority over the past three years showed the benefits to this joint working across services, with clear evidence of contributions to policy and practice within planning, highways, schools and Culture & Tourism.
- 3.6 It was recognised that the workforce capacity has significantly reduced over the past three years, as funding for play has been cut back. Perhaps more noteworthy, the third sector is due to reduce considerably with Play Right due to close and Interplay scaling back its staffing.
- 3.7 The third sector has played a vital role in the development of play across Swansea over the past 40 years for example in relation to inclusive play opportunities such as for children with disabilities and from BME groups.
- 3.8 Generally children & young people would like to see more play opportunities in their local area. Parks came out as their favourite place to play.
- 3.9 They listed 'drug users' as the primary reason for not accessing play opportunities. While there were no reported incidents, they felt uncomfortable sharing space or passing them on the way to play.
- 3.10 It is evident that Swansea's status as embedding the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into its practice has helped spread awareness of play's importance.

4.0 Findings

- 4.1 The work with parent/carers and other family members was seen as a real success.
- 4.2 The work on inclusion for disabled and other marginalised has seen considerable results.
- 4.3 Overall, it appears that play has been effectively responding to the reduction in budget faced by all services through utilising existing services and policies. By advocating for the benefits of providing for play, it has placed it on the agenda of many other council services.

4.4 Rather than operating to the belief that children cannot get out and play in their local areas and therefore need compensatory play opportunities, officers in Swansea have looked to challenge this by addressing barriers such as preserving green space, making access safer and ensuring parent/carers, school staff and others can help children to play.

5.0 Responding to the Assessment

- 5.1 Following the completion of the Assessment, contributors were forwarded a copy of the findings to be given an opportunity to identify gaps, issues and potential actions to address them.
- 5.2 After this process, a comprehensive Action Plan was put together and submitted alongside the Assessment on 31st March 2016.
- 5.3 The Action Plan is intended to include requirements to ensure full compliance. As a result, it is likely that some actions will come with a resource requirement outside of that which is currently available whereby alternative funding opportunities would be explored.
- 5.4 Therefore, it is as much about recognising the shortfall and seeking either compensatory opportunities or additional funding to rectify any gaps.
- 5.5 The Assessment is used to advise future delivery of services and allocation of grant funding. Where a gap is identified either geographically or with a need group, e.g. Travellers or Young Carers, the work of the Children's Play Team will be planned to reflect the need to address this.

6.0 Our 2016-19 Action Plan

- 6.1 A summary of the main recommendations is as follows;
- 6.2 Support the ongoing capacity of third sector play
- 6.3 Provide additional access to play for children requiring medication, siblings and young carers, as well as home schooled children
- 6.4 Continue the successful work on making play areas inclusive for disabled children & young people
- 6.5 Pilot a project looking at reclamation of brownfield space for play
- 6.6 Improve accessibility of information on play opportunities
- 6.7 Work with Road Safety on identifying where 'play footfall' is compromised by traffic / road layouts

- 6.8 Further embed the benefits of shared space / Home Zone principles in planning policy and design
- 6.9 Identify how best to respond to the revised National Minimum Standards for Open Access Play including support for community projects
- 6.10 Further develop 'Playful Schools' and work with schools on making their grounds available for play.

7.0 Oversight

- 7.1 Responsibility for implementing the recommended actions from the 2016 PSA will remain with the Children's Play Team within the Poverty & Prevention Service.
- 7.2 The Healthy Cities Board and Children & Young People's Board will receive regular progress reports with Swansea's cross-sector Play Network ensuring that the local authority and third sector work in partnership to continue the successes to date.
- 7.3 The 2016 PSA will form the basis of Swansea's 2016-19 Play Strategy and work plans for the Children's Play Team.

8.0 Stakeholders

- 8.1 Stakeholders within the Assessment stage are largely based in the Local Authority given that the Duty relates to the City & County of Swansea specifically. The Children's Play Officer liaised with relevant lead officers on each of the PSA's 116 matters.
- 8.2 However, given Swansea's strong cross-sector partnership working across play, third sector organisations were well represented. Swansea's Play Network was involved in the completion and will have a key role in implementation of the Action Plan.
- 8.3 Consultation Events were held throughout the assessment period which allowed for contribution by parent/carers, professionals and, most importantly, children & young people themselves.
- 8.4 Two formal consultation events and 7 focus group events were held, as well as 2 young people specific consultation events, while several existing workgroups and forums included consultation on the PSA within their agenda.
- 8.5 Questionnaires were completed by 324 children & young people, 45 parent/carers and 16 members of the general public.
- 8.6 There is a requirement to produce a Public Summary, which needs to be produced bilingually.

9.0 Risks and challenges

- 9.1 A significant message taken from the 2016 PSA is that play in Swansea is effectively accessing existing resources and policy to spread the message of its importance, i.e. is operating in a sustainable way.
- 9.2 It is however highly likely that any reduction in the capacity of core Play development / co-ordination will impact on the authority's ability to implement this Action Plan.
- 9.3 Additionally, whilst the Duty is placed on the authority, the significant reduction in third sector play capacity will have an impact.
- 9.4 Furthermore, whilst the Assessment appears to reflect Swansea very favourably in terms of its level and inclusivity of practice, any significant reduction in capacity may well result in an increase in unmet outcomes, which could result in Welsh Govt. insisting that corrective measures are introduced.

10.0 Equality and Engagement Implications

- 10.1 The PSA itself has been subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA). This Assessment identified that the PSA, as well as the general work of the Children's Play Team, ensures due regard to all relevant equality areas on an ongoing basis.
- 10.2 A full EIA report has been completed and is attached as an appendix.
- 10.3 The PSA highlighted major progress and outcomes in relation to addressing gender stereotyping, access for disabled CYP, BME inclusion, among others. Where opportunities for development existed, a plan for addressing these had been set, e.g. access to play for home educated children or young carers.
- 10.4 It is recognised that Swansea's Play Network and practice within the Local Authority is at the forefront of inclusion. Specific Play Access (Disability) and BME Family & Play workstream groups have been pivotal in completion of the assessment.
- 10.5 The Assessment makes reference to the many consultation and engagement events that took place, as well as the use of parent/carer, professional and general public questionnaires.
- 10.6 Our EIA process takes into account the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) which the Council has embedded into the Authority's Policy Framework. As part of the EIA process, the Authority's Children's Rights Officer noted that 'children's rights are embedded throughout the work of the Children's Play Team'.

- 10.7 Play within Swansea has been delivered in direct partnership with the authority's Children's Rights and Participation section and the need to ensure that the assessment and its findings reflects the views of children & young people was paramount.
- 10.8 Children & young people had the opportunity to feed into questionnaire responses, as well as contributing to a range of CYP specific engagement events.
- 10.9 All public information in relation to the strategy will be bilingual.
- 10.10 As specific operational developments are planned they will need to take into account the active promotion of the Welsh language and access to Welsh medium services. This is also part of our corporate EIA process.

11.0 Financial Implications

- 11.1 Implementation of the PSA Action Plan involves some resource implications. Where these are deemed manageable within existing budgets, this is stated, as is the case where it will be necessary to obtain additional external funding.
- 11.2 However, there are no actions requiring additional funding for which noncompletion will lead to a failure to comply with a statutory Duty.

12. Legal Implications

- 12.1 Section 11 of the Children & Families (Wales) Measure 2010 places a statutory duty on local authorities to assess and secure sufficient play opportunities for children in the area.
- 12.2 There are no legal implications associated with this report at this stage.. However specific legal advice should be obtained as necessary as the Action Plan is implemented.

Background Papers:

2016 City & County of Swansea Play Sufficiency Assessment

Appendices:

Appendix 1 2016 PSA Action Plan

Appendix 2 Equality Impact Assessment

Swansea Play Sufficiency Assessment 2016 Implementation Plan 2016-17

	Statutory Guidance / Policy Framework									
Priority	Target	Milestones	Resources	Funding	Progress	Status	Comment			
SG1 Address CYP concerns over presence of undesirable adults / drug users in play areas	SG1a Work with Community Safety / Police / City Centre Partnership respond appropriately to areas of concern that are identified, with a view to fewer CYP reporting this as a deterrent during the 2019 PSA	- Issue raised within PARG (Parks Action Review Group) - Potential to increase observations or include play spaces on patrol routes	 Officer time, CCS and external Potential to increase partner's operational costs 	- CCS / partner existing - TBC						

SG2 Respond to loss of third sector play representation due to reduced capacity	SG2a To ensure that the Third Sector Play organisations have a voice and can contribute to the development of Play in Swansea.	- Review current arrangements and identify a preferred future model.	- Officer / partner time - Potential for administrative/ managerial costs	- CCS / partner existing - Likely grant funding TBC		
SG3 Increased co-ordination with pre-school providers	SG3a Increase links between Play sector and pre-school providers	- Evidence of pre- school representation and contribution within Network and Strategy	Officer / partner time	- CCS / partner existing		

Matter A – Population									
Priority Target Milestones Resources Funding Progress Status Comment									
No Actions									

	Matter B – Providing for Diverse Needs										
Priority	Target	Milestones	Resources	Funding	Progress	Status	Comment				
B1 Provide play through Welsh medium	B1a Increased welsh medium sessions	Number of sessions of Welsh medium provision has increased	- Existing grant funding - Secure additional funding - approx. £2.5k	- CCS - TBC (new)							
	B1b Increased bi- lingual LA deliver	% of LA sessions with welsh speaking staff has increased	- New or existing staff. No additional costs	- CCS existing							

B2 Meet play needs of home schooled children	B2a Engage home schooled children	- Evidence of engagement	- Existing staff / small venue cost	- CCS existing		
S. III G. I	B2b Run sessions / support to meet need	- Delivery of sessions to support home schooled children	- Existing delivery staff & resources	- CCS existing		
B3 Ensure children requiring medication can attend play settings	B3a Address issue of medicine administration	Most efficient method identifiedImplemented as appropriate	- Partner engagement - Potential costs for medical staff	- CCS & external existing - TBC (additional)		

B4 Ensure access to play for children with profound needs	B4a Implement recommendations of Sense enquiry as good practice	- Mapping of Swansea provision & policy against Sense recommendations - Scoping of identified remedial action	- Dependent upon findings	- CCS Existing - Potential grant funding		
B5 Address play for siblings and other young carers	B5a Look to develop additional play opportunities to meet needs of siblings and young carers	- Identification of need - Response as appropriate, e.g. session delivery	Officer time CCS & external partner Within existing delivery	- CCS / partner existing - CCS / partner existing		

B6 Ensure provision for disabled CYP provides appropriate age separation	B6a Support projects to differentiate ages where deemed beneficial	- Projects identify potential for age separation - Pilot delivery of sessions with age separation	Partners existing budget.Partner session delivery costs. Likely to increase	- Partner existing - Likely requirement for additional grant funding new / existing		
B7 Better educate providers and others about benefits of inclusive play	B7a Provide information on inclusion and benefits of play to providers & others	- Information produced and distributed	- Officer time, potential for leaflet printing costs	- CCS Existing		

B8 Ensure play areas are inclusive	B8a Increase amount of inclusive equipment in play spaces	- Reduction in CCS play areas deemed deficient on inclusivity	- Cost of supply and installation of inclusive equipment. £3k-£10k per piece	- External funding TBC		
	B8b Re-visit key considerations document	- Key considerations document updated as appropriate	- Officer / partner time	- CCS / Partner existing		
	- B8c Trial the introduction of high-backed swings with strap loan scheme	- Identification of appropriate site	- Officer / partner time	- CCS / Partner existing		
	B8d - Trial artificial grass in play areas	- Supply and installation of equipment	- Approx. £2,000. Likely CCS internal budget	- CCS existing		

B9 Ensure play needs of siblings & young carers are met	- B9a Engage young carers to identify needs - B9b Respond to identified need	- Consultation and engagement session held - Provision of identified play sessions/opportunity	- Officer / partner time - Officer / partner time. Likely staff delivery & equipment costs	- CCS / partner existing - CCS / partner existing	
B10 Ensure those requiring taxi's are able to access after school clubs	B10a Engage relevant officers in Access Group B10b Seek funding to trial extension to current arrangements	- Representation on Play Access Group - Disabled CYP requiring taxi's are able to access after school play	- Officer time - Officer time / use of contracted taxi's	- CCS Existing - Likely requirement for external grant funding	

	Matter C – Space Available for Children to Play										
Priority	Target	Milestones	Resources	Funding	Progress	Status	Comment				
C1 Obtain clarity on appropriate measure for play spaces	- C1a LA to identify measure that will allow all play areas to be assessed in terms of play value	- Play Space measure that is fit for purpose identified	- Officer Time	- CCS existing							
C2 Further reduce dog fouling in parks & play areas	C2a Additional roll-out of the park anti-dog foul campaign	Additional signage in parksFurther publicity drive	Officer time / cost of signage incl. installationOfficer / partner time	- CCS Existing - CCS Existing							
C3 Identify appropriate brownfield sites for play use	C3a Seek a site for a pilot reclamation project	- Site and potential partners identified - Agreement for use in place	- Officer / partner time - Officer / partner time	- CCS / Parter Existing - CCS / Partner Existing							

C4 All LA play areas to have received a Play Value assessment	C4a All to have an assessment and rating	- Assessment and rating of all play spaces	Officer time / cost of PSS inspection aid	- CCS Existing		
C5 Increase on- site awareness of accessible entrances	C5a Investigate appropriate means for highlighting accessible entrances	Identification of most effective method	- Officer / partner time	- Officer / Partner Existing		
C6 No Ball Games Signs only introduced where necessary	- C6a Increased engagement between Play and Housing as good practice	- Formalise arrangements for consultation prior to introduction of signage	- Officer Time	- CCS Existing		

	Matter D – Supervised Provision										
Priority	Target	Milestones	Resources	Funding	Progress	Status	Comment				
D1 Ensure information on all play opportunities is in one place	D1a Introduce a comprehensive database and place on LA website	- Produce list, including links, and on site	- Officer Time	- CCS existing							
D2 Play provision from the authority meets registration requirements	D2a Play on Wheels to achieve registration	- Play on Wheels registered with CSSIW	- Officer Time / likelihood of costs associated with any remedial action	- CCS Existing							

	Matter E – Charges for Play Provision									
Priority	Target	Milestones	Resources	Funding	Progr ess	Stat	Comm ent			
E1 Ensure no child is unable to access play due to additional costs for 1:1 support	E1a Authority to withhold an element of grant funding for projects to access in support of 1:1	Proportion of grant funding withheld and accessible for projects that evidence need	- Officer / partner time. Cost of additional staff hours	- CCS existing (note for 16/17 will need to be sought from other sources as funding is pre- allocated)						
E2 Support CYP to access play through subsidise d public transport	E2a Complete cost/benefi t analysis of subsidised transport in priority areas for play	- Analysis completed with recommend ations	- Officer / partner existing	- CCS / partner existing						

		Matter F – Ad	ccess to Space / Prov	ision			
Priority	Target	Milestones	Resources	Funding	Progress	Status	Comment
F1 Traffic / safety issues affecting access to play are reduced	F1a Play and Road Safety scope conflict between road traffic and 'play traffic' F1b Seek funding to introduce measures to increase safety	- Scoping undertaken in pilot area plotting play traffic and identifying issues - Identify funding source to fund corrective work	- Officer / partner time - Dependent upon measure - approx. £10,000- £20,000 per area.	- CCS existing / external grant funding / Safe Routes Funding			

F2 Design communities to support children's play	F2a New housing developments and other relevant urban residential design work to give due consideration to Home Zone principles	- Map developments and updates to evidence consideration to Home Zone principles	- Dependent upon measures used	- CCS Existing / potential external grant funding	
	F2b Support communities with Play Streets to ensure their continuation	- Established Play Streets continue to operate	Officer / partner time. Potential for staff & equipment costs	- CCS existing. External grant funding.	

F3 Ensure accessibility of information on play for all service users	- F3a Scope potential for a site that has all information on play in one place	- Assess existing and proposed pages, i.e. Family Information Service and the new Early Years sites - Identification of appropriate site location	- Officer / partner time	- CCS / partner existing		
F4 Encourage fathers of disabled CYP to engage in play with their children	F4a Promotional campaign / drive to encourage this.	- Campaign delivered - Evidence of increased engagement	- Officer / partner time - Officer / partner time	- CCS / partner existing - CCS / partner existing		

recognition of play in parks	F5a Develop the St Thomas pilot with a view to replicating elsewhere	- Signage in place on site following collaboration with school	- Officer / partner time - Costs of signage. £250-£300.	- CCS existing				
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	Matter G – Securing & Developing the Workforce										
Priority	Target	Milestones	Resources	Funding	Progress	Status	Comment				
G1 Ensure a thorough and current picture of workforce is obtained	G1a Undertake comprehensive workforce survey	- Survey undertaken - Evaluation of findings	- Officer / Partner time - Officer / partner time	- CCS / partner existing - CCS / partner existing							

G2 Recognise the role of	G2a Develop pilot play training	- Training produced	- Officer time	- CCS Existing		
parents / grandparents and provide support	for grandparents	- Pilot delivered	- Officer time / some venue & delivery costs. £200 approx.	- CCS Existing		

G3 Ensure workers & projects comply with registration requirements	G3a Advise projects on most appropriate delivery and associated requirements	- LA staff fully aware of requirements	- Officer time	- CCS existing		
	G3b Support projects to achieve registration where appropriate	- All projects advised to make decision on whether to register	- Officer / Partner time. Likely costs for remedial action.	- CCS existing. Potential for projects to access external grant funding.		
	G3c Identify need for Managing Play provision qualification	Need identified with play workforcePlan delivery as appropriate	- Officer / partner time - Costs for delivery and accreditation approx. £3,000	- CCS / partner existing - TBC. Likely need for external grant funding		

G4 Ensure the importance of play is	- G4a Produce an overview of the importance	- Overview produced	- Officer time / some small printing costs £100	- CCS existing		
understood by key decision makers	of play for key officers / members	- Disseminated to identified officers & members	- Officer time	- CCS existing		

	Matter H – Community Engagement & Participation									
Priority	Target	Milestones	Resources	Funding	Progress	Status	Comment			

H1 Give due regard to the UNCRC in all developments	H1a Ensure that all policies and developments relating to play allow for CYP contribution	- Evidence of opportunity for comment on play developments by CYP	- Officer / partner time	- CCS existing		
		- CYP friendly version of the PSA Public Summary produced and sent to all schools	- Officer Time / Printing cost. £200 approx.	- CCS existing		

	Matter I – Play Within all Relevant Policy & Implementation Agenda									
Priority	Target	Milestones	Resources	Funding	Progress	Status	Comment			
I1 Ensure play reporting structure is clear	I1a - Map the reporting structure for play related decisions	- Mapping produced and disseminated	- Officer time	- CCS existing						

I2 Support children's opportunity to play in school and within	I2a Pilot 'Play Time Is a Right' campaign in schools	- Work with Education to agree content - Disseminate to	- Officer Time - Officer Time	- CCS Existing - CCS Existing	
school grounds		schools			
	I2b Further roll- out of Groundwork schools project	- Groundwork supporting additional schools	- Partner time. Delivery & equipment costs	- External	
	I2c Support a pilot project to allow school	- Identification of appropriate school/s	- Officer / school time	- CCS Existing	
	grounds to be used for play	- Support schools to plan for use	- Officer / school time	- CCS existing	

I3 Support opportunity for inter-	I3a Seek funding to re-establish Play Streets	- Identification of potential location	- Officer / partner time	- CCS / partner existing		
generational work through play		- Identification of funding source	- Set-up, enabling costs £1,000 approx. Delivery costs, incl.	- CCS / partner existing - External grant funding		
	I3b Support projects to engage with young volunteers	- Ensure policies are in place & disseminate to projects	equipment - Officer / partner time - Some volunteer expenses (£400 max)	funding - CCS / partner existing		

I4 Support play settings to recognise and	I4a Play and H&S section to produce joint	- Joint statement produced	- Officer time	- CCS existing		
provide for challenge and risk-taking in play	statement on benefit of risk in play for schools and play projects	- Disseminated to schools	- Officer time	- CCS existing		
	I4b Scope potential to provide community projects umbrella cover under the authority's insurance policy	- Further exploration with CCS insurance section	- Officer time	- CCS existing		