



Interplay (Integrated Play and Leisure)

**'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.

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

Name of Disability Service	Number of C&YP
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
Other activities they currently access	Number of C&YP
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

Types of Activity	No. of answers
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 residentials



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.

	Themes	No. of requests	
1	The opportunity to go on holidays/ residential – 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.	8	“Take friends on holiday somewhere hot”
2	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.	19 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	To provide accessible activities focusing on the arts, - singing, dancing and drama. 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	6	
4	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.	3	
5	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.	10	“To get a house and earn a living” “To be a fashion designer” “Anger management classes.” “To be invincible!”



6	Requests for more supported clubs and/or opportunities to socialise/ have new experiences	7	<p>“Summer ball” “More clubs for children.”</p>
7	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.	7	<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>
8	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.	6	<p>“I would like to able to go to the park.” “To go to the beach and play in the sand”</p>
9	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.	1	<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>

