



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Children and Communities Grant
REQUEST FOR FUNDING 2021/22

**PLEASE NOTE ALL REQUESTS FOR FUNDING MUST BE CLEARED AND
ENDORSED BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE BEFORE SUBMISSION.**

Section 1 – Endorsement and Compliance

Local Authority Area: Swansea Council

Indicative Award (£): 11,239,296

Signature:

Date

1st March 2021

**Name in Block
Capitals:**

PHIL ROBERTS

Organisation and Position:

Chief Executive, Swansea Council

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Section 2 – Purpose and guidance to complete this form

Purpose:

The purpose of the Children and Communities grant is to address the support needs of the most vulnerable children and adults in our communities through a range of early intervention, prevention and support mechanisms. It will seek to mitigate or remove disadvantage to vulnerable people to enable them to have the same life chances as others, and therefore contribute to a more equal Wales.

Guidance:

Please refer to the 'Children and Communities Grant Guidance 2020-21 document' for more information.

Your delivery plan will need to include any adjustments to the way services will be delivered in light of the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic.

Please complete Sections 3 to 9 using the boxes below.

Section 10 explains which other programme specific delivery plans you are expected to complete.

There is no need to duplicate or repeat responses in different sections. If relevant, please cross-refer to other areas of the plan if you have already provided the information.

The money allocated for the Children and Communities grant for 2021-22 must only be spent on delivering against this grant (and the seven programmes within it).

Section 3 – Vision

Please set out your high level local authority vision for delivering the early intervention and prevention services funded through the CCG.

Please set out how the local authority intends aligning services and provisions across the range of programmes

Response:

(500 word limit)

Our high level vision has remained consistent throughout Covid, and we have utilised the lessons learned through our response throughout all programme areas

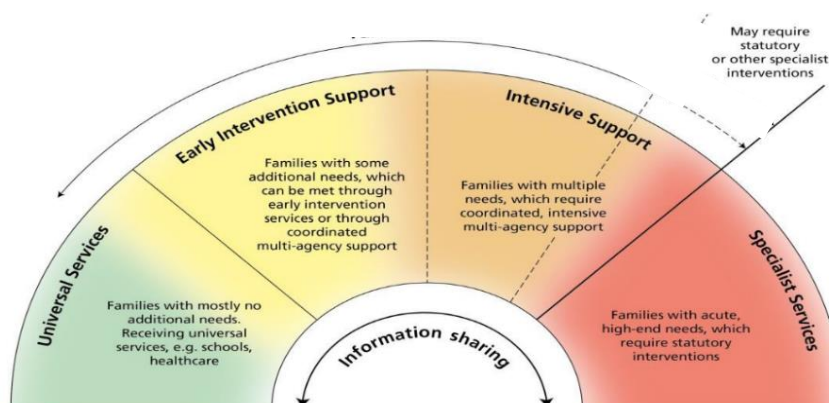
The purpose of the **Children and Communities Grant (CCG)** is to address the support needs of the most vulnerable children and adults in our communities through a range of early intervention, prevention and support mechanisms. It will seek to mitigate or remove disadvantage to vulnerable people to enable them to have the same life chances as others, and therefore contribute to a more equal Wales.

3.1 Vision

‘Swansea’s vision for the delivery of the Children and Communities Grant funded services is that through early identification of need and early intervention, targeted services working with a whole family approach will empower individuals and families to problem solve, build resilience and sustain change.

The services will be delivered through collaborative multi-service and multi-agency working, supported by co-location, in a proactive, timely way to prevent escalation of need and to de-escalate existing need.’

Services within the Children & Communities Grant will operate across the Continuum of Need as outlined in the figure below



3.2 Outcomes

The desired outcomes we are seeking by developing this approach are:

- ✓ Improved outcomes for children, young people and adults by working together effectively across the continuum of need
- ✓ Timely support to families and individuals that promotes resilience, independence and engagement with their local community
- ✓ Prevent or delay the need for more intensive interventions
- ✓ Ensure families and individuals move up the continuum to receive the co-ordinated support necessary to meet their needs, ('step-up' arrangements)
- ✓ Ensure appropriate 'step down' arrangements for families who are demonstrating an ability to meet their children's needs following more intensive support
- ✓ Make best use of resources by identifying and realising the efficiencies that can be made by coordinating existing support services
- ✓ Strengthen and realign early intervention and preventative services, to support the wellbeing of vulnerable children and families at a time of identified need
- ✓ Develop a commissioning strategy across C&CG and Housing Support Grant
- ✓ Provide a consistent approach across the authority that is understood by families, individuals and service providers across the continuum and includes a proportional joint assessment, performance management framework, and how the right response is provided at the right time.

3.3 Corporate Priorities

In Swansea the use of the Children & Communities Grant supports three of the six corporate priorities of Swansea Council:

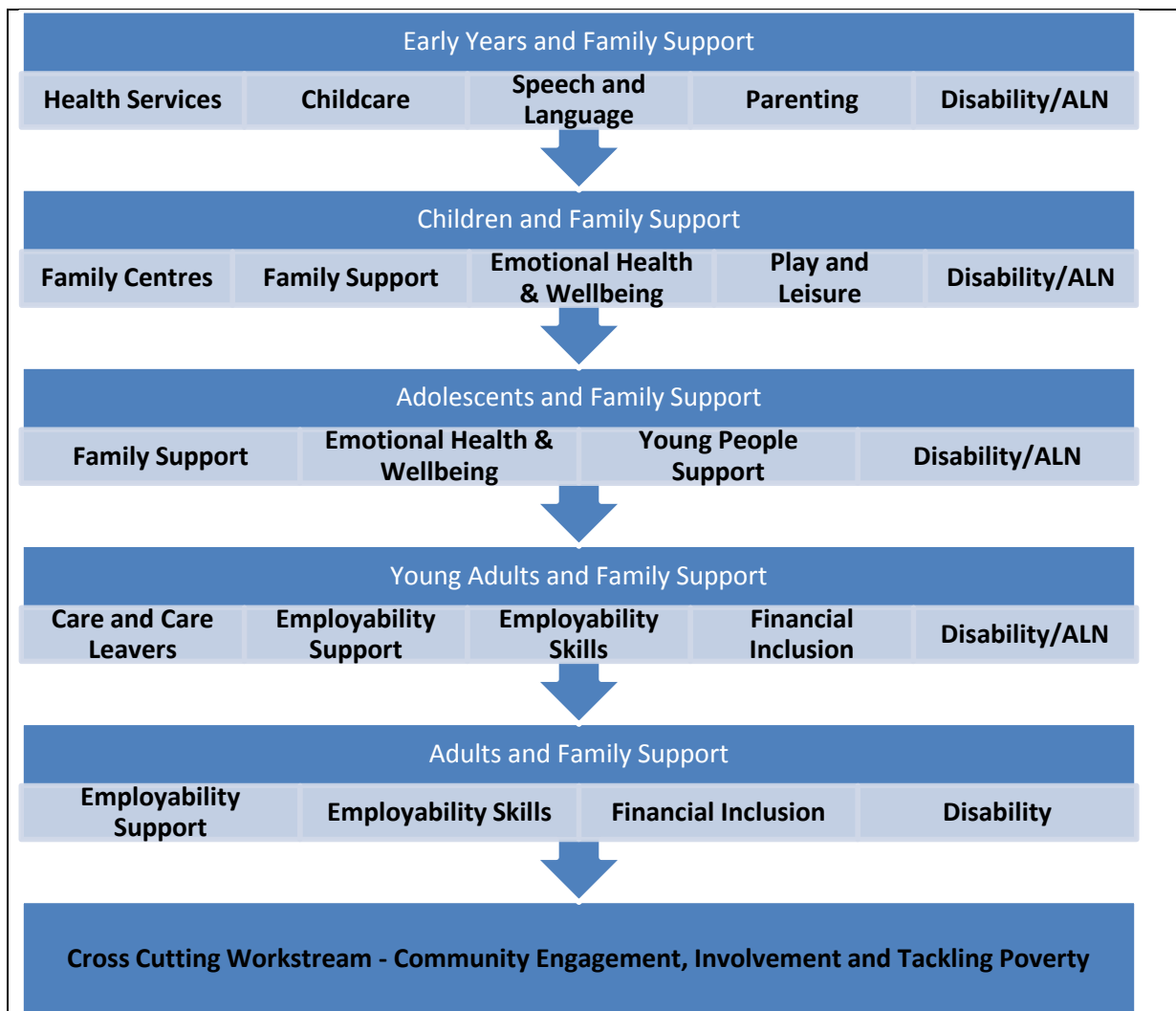
- Safeguarding people from harm
- Improving education and skills
- Tackling Poverty

The vision for the grant; identifying and implementing new approaches to improve service delivery, achieving better outcomes for citizens and achieving administrative efficiencies reinforces our corporate values of; People Focused, Working Together and Innovation.

3.4 Delivering the Vision

Flexibility has supported joint planning and commissioning to make more effective use of the funding in pursuit of the constituent programmes' aims and objectives

Five workstreams outlining preventative programme activity have been defined covering all ages and stages, including disability, involvement and community engagement as cross cutting workstreams, and including this year Tackling Poverty and the impact of the pandemic has highlighted a greater focus on this area. The diagram below outlines each workstream and the themes of activity and project delivery within.



Section 4 – New Approaches

A key objective of amalgamating these programmes into a single grant is to enable local authorities to respond with innovative approaches to improve service delivery and align services so they are easier for children, young people, individuals and families to access.

Better outcomes:

Please demonstrate how you plan to use the flexibilities to drive innovative ways of working to achieve better outcomes for people. Please show:

- which approaches are new and being tested
- which are already developed and
- how the learning is being transferred.

Achieving administrative efficiencies:

Please demonstrate your approach to minimising the administrative support required to support these grant programmes including what you are doing to achieve efficiencies through improved commissioning (where applicable).

If you have already achieved administrative efficiencies, please provide details on how this will be reviewed in the future?

Response:

(500 word limit)

4.1 Tackling Poverty – refreshed new approach

The programmes within the Children and Communities Grant have focused on tackling poverty. Due to Covid, we are seeing a profound far reaching impact on individuals and communities. Households have seen their incomes fall, living costs have increased, unemployment has increased and personal and household debt has increased (Bevan Foundation – 2020). In addition to an increased adverse impact on individual's health and well-being.

Within Swansea we have had a Tackling Poverty Strategy and associated actions over a number of years, but due to the significant impact of Covid this is being refreshed and refocused to address existing and emerging needs. This refreshed approach priorities and associated areas of focus will be co-produced with partners and those with lived experience.

Tackling Poverty refreshed priorities (will be finalised through a co-productive approach)

1. Enabling strong families and communities
2. Improving educational attainment, routes to further education, training or employment and opportunities for learning throughout life
3. Improving access to affordable and secure homes
4. Improving opportunities for participation for all including social, cultural, leisure activities and coproduced solutions
5. Maximising incomes and reducing costs
6. Promoting economic growth that is accessible, inclusive and benefits everyone
7. Supporting people to improve their employability, find work that pays fairly and progression in work
8. Reducing health inequalities and improving well-being
9. Supporting people in crisis or risk of crisis

Actions contributing to the tackling poverty priorities will be across all the CCG programmes and these will be coordinated through our Tackling Poverty Forum to ensure a coherent and aligned approach.

4.2 Early Years Integration – refreshed new approach

The 21/22 plan will have a particular focus on early year's integration as many reviews and reflective practice opportunities have led to enhanced partnership working and collaborative, solution focused approaches to ensure local needs are being met, with the adaptive recovery phase actively informing service delivery models.

4.2.1 Early Years – an integrated approach, enhancing and expanding.

- Consideration in respect of all early years projects and programmes – Pathfinder, Childcare Offer, Flying Start, Family Information Service, Childcare and Play Sufficiency etc.
- The Early Years Programme Team will include a mixture of roles who will work flexibly across the early years landscape and include Flying Start, private childcare

provision, primary schools and play provision with a view to achieving quality, equity and parity, this will be undertaken in a number of ways including;

- Workforce development and the scaffolding of knowledge, skills, experiences and understanding via sector support from the right individual or service at the right time.
- Enhancement of relationships and relationship building.
- Dovetailing early years grants and funding opportunities
- Calibration of outreach opportunities
- Alignment of roles to compliment, enhance and expand the reach of existing services, projects and programmes.
- Synergy of and within organisations, services, departments, projects and programmes in relation to early years.

Which in turn will enable perception and change in respect of quality, inclusion, Safeguarding, prevention and early intervention.

- Broad examples of areas of influence, as identified by the Pathfinder mapping exercise include;
 - Speech, language and communication, Physical literacy, Nutrition, Child development, Pedagogical approaches and ALN
- Regional working as well as collaboration in its broadest sense will be a pivotal factor in measuring success with key stakeholders including colleagues in Health, Education, Social Services as well as the Swansea's childcare and play sector.
- A clear goal by the end of the financial year is the ambition of achieving an Early Years Pathway to evidence the holistic approach undertaken.

4.2.2 Early Years Early Help

A team approach providing a Swansea wide service via the Children & Communities Grant (CCG), aligning to WG Early Years Systems Integration. The Team will:

- Contribute towards the achievement of improving outcomes across the Early Years landscape by delivering evidence based programmes, practice, opportunities and interventions as well as whole family approaches, via group and one to one opportunities.
- Support and scaffold learning, knowledge, skills and understanding of the early years and childcare sector as part of the early years pathway.
- Deliver integrated and inclusive services and opportunities for children aged 0 - 11 years of age.
- Support and deliver provision for children with emerging or diagnosed disabilities
- Support families to establish and enhance skills that better enable them to help their child meet their developmental milestones. Encouraging families to engage and promote their child's language, play and holistic developmental skills

4.2.3 Early Years Outreach Programme

Continued development of a full outreach model to include all core components. Eligibility will span;

- Those moving outside of a Flying Start area (within 1mile) with continued needs.
- Specific Communities of interest – concentrating on an exit strategy into additional Flying Start Outreach Health Visiting for those in receipt of the existing provision of additional midwifery support to young vulnerable parents, targeted at parents having their first baby.
- Those living outside of a Flying Start area (within 1mile) with support needs.

Refined detail on the policy to be developed in line with plans for Early Years integration.

4.2.4 Health

Health colleagues in the broadest sense are key stakeholders in the development of an integrated early years approach and pivotal in achieving change and transformation. Being an early adopter Pathfinder Authority we will be exploring opportunities to enable joined up systems and processes as much as possible, this will include:

- Maximisation of health visitor posts
- Workforce development in respect of Speech, Language and Communication, Nutrition topics etc.
- The ambition to achieve a whole service approach.

4.2.5 Child Development / Quality and Pedagogical Approaches.

The ambition of achieving quality, parity and equity extends to **all** children and early years provision and will be achieved by the “flexing” of support;

- Holistic and more specific targeted support e.g ALN workforce development.
- Exploration in respect of expanding the Sustained Shared Thinking and Emotional Well-being (SSTEWE) tool as a quality assurance tool for early years provision.
- Integrated meetings and networking opportunities – virtual and face to face.
- Improved transition arrangements across the sector. E.g Flying Start to 30 hour Childcare Offer, childcare to school.
- The delivery of evidence based programmes and interventions for families that sit across the social care continuum

4.2.6 Early Years ALN

We aim to develop a new approach by appointing an Educational Psychologist (1FTE) as well as an Early Years ALN Performance Specialist (0.6FTE). The new approach aims to consolidate the ALN Early Years offer within the wider Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion Team which includes the Educational Psychologist service.

Appointing an Educational Psychologist into the existing Educational Psychology Service will enable the development of a consistent approach of early identification and intervention supported by the Educational Psychology Service from 0-25 within the consultation model of service delivery. It will also enable the service to support settings to build their knowledge and understanding of ALN provision to meet a wide range of needs.

The introduction a new role of Performance Specialist for Early Years (0.6FTE) will support the existing Performance Specialist team to quality assure, train and support the development of setting provision for ALN learners. This will support the statutory role introduced with the ALNET Act (2018) of the EYALNLO which will provide a strategic overview of Early Years ALN provision across Swansea.

4.3 Better Outcomes

The aim of these changes would be to ensure a consistent offer of provision and support for all of the Early Years cohort regardless of whether they attend a Flying Start setting.

Greater links between Early Years and the wider Education, Child & Family Early Help Service, Health and private provision will ensure that transition will be improved and provide opportunities to identify and share good practice across age ranges.

With the support available across the early years cohort, and not just Flying Start, early identification and intervention will be improved across the local authority as a whole and will ensure equity of support and provision.

Early identification and intervention will ensure that support is provided at the earliest opportunity so that learners receive the support required at the right time to meet their full potential.

The new approach will provide greater opportunities for multiagency training for all settings and will develop a workforce that has a robust understanding of ALN and how learners with ALN can be supported effectively on their educational journey.

It is equally important to reflect on lessons learnt and that these be incorporated into new ways of working – including “blended” learning approaches in order to enhance delivery models, adding a layer of resilience to enable business continuity, whilst also being mindful of digital exclusion

4.4 Achieving administrative efficiencies

- Covid-19 put a lot of strain on our services and meant much of our delivery were not able to happen in a traditional way. This led to a number of innovative approaches being investigated including utilising different media formats such as WhatsApp, Facebook and Teams.
- In order to strengthen and develop this approach we are rolling out training to all staff across the Early Help Hubs, Early Years Early Help and offering it to organisations via our Family Support Network. The other element to this is that we are digitalising our family support resources to improve accessibility and functionality so more families are able to use those resources and they are greater outcomes and achieve efficiencies.
- Budget lines for travel, supplies and services, printing, venue hire for delivery and associated costs have been reduced because of the new way of working.

Section 5 – Community Engagement

How will you continue to engage with and involve local communities and use their responses to inform your long term vision and delivery plan?

Response:

(Up to 500 words)

Communities Engagement is a key focus across all CCG activity. This has been further improved over the last 12 months with programmes finding new effective ways of engaging and involving specific target groups. CCG programmes have also

continued to work together to ensure effective community engagement and involvement in local activity:

- We will continue to engage and involve local communities in shaping our delivery moving forwards, sometimes in new and different ways.
- We have used client feedback, involvement and co-production to inform our long term vision and delivery:

All delivery through the programme is carried out in line with the Swansea approach to co-production, 'a relationship where professionals and citizens share power to plan and deliver support together, recognising that both have vital contributions to make in order to improve the quality of life for people and communities.'

We have developed a Co-production Strategy with citizens which underpins our journey for implementation of all of this area of work



A Co-Production
Strategy for Social Ca

During the last year we have delivered some of our CCG activities differently, however we have maintained a focus on the Well-being of Future Generations for Wales Act 2015, with actions reflecting the Five Ways of Working approach:

- Long-Term – Plans around short term delivery are made taking into account long term implications. CCG activity included ensuring people and families were able to access wellbeing support, financial inclusion/welfare benefits advice and employability related training to enable them to develop their own pathways from poverty. We adopt a long term preventative approach which considers long term implications.
- Integration – During the period all CCG programme activity has linked directly into the Well Being of Future Generations Act (2015) goals. We continue to review our deliver to make sure we are engaging effectively and in a representative way. We will continue to target activity and make it accessible for people and families for whom Welsh is a first language.
- Involvement – CCG activity during the period has worked closely with communities and service users to design delivery, (co-production). Local communities and existing service users have been consulted in different and non-traditional ways. We have sought to redesign project delivery through direct feedback relating to delivery (for example to address digital exclusion) whilst also finding out and asking about other well-being community and individual issues, (social isolation). We will continue this approach moving forward to enable CCG activity to help with a wider range of issues.
- Collaboration – CCG programmes have collaborated with internal/external partners to ensure more effective programme delivery. During the period key work with the Local Authority, the Third Sector and Poverty Truth Commission

has continued to take place with a view to develop the programme further in Swansea. This work will continue next year and will help us shape our CCG delivery further.

As evident in our Third Sector and Partnership sections Community engagement is key to service delivery in Swansea across all sectors. Whether it's via public involvement or engaging with our partners if we want to deliver the most efficient services to people how and when they are needed this needs to be at the start of any project/service inception and we must strive to continuously improve this.

Section 6 – Equalities

Please outline how you are ensuring that there is equality of access to services for all, including addressing barriers facing particular groups of people, including, but not limited to those with protected characteristics.

Response:

(Up to 500 words)

The Council is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty (Wales) and must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

An EIA Screening Form has been completed with the agreed outcome is that a full EIA report was not required at this stage as these arrangements are around back office functions and there is no direct change to services provided to the public as a result. A copy of the EIA Screening Form can be found below, a full EIA report will be completed if services to client groups change as a result of needs, planning and commissioning decisions.



EIA Screening
21-22.doc

In planning and designing the areas within the Children & Communities Grant, we ensure we are meeting the needs of those with protected characteristic, for example we have a maintained a focus on disability throughout all of our workstreams.

All of the staff who work within the programmes undergo equality training as a mandatory. Within tender documents for externally commissioning projects there is a section on equalities in the Supplier Suitability Questionnaire, so we ensure these are also compliant with the Equality Act before contracting with them.

As projects change throughout the process as we develop the plan, EIA's are completed on that specific problem to ensure we are not making changes which are detrimental to those with protected characteristics.

Contained within the EIA process is a specific section for a Children's rights impact assessment, which means we will pay due regard to the UNCRC in relation to any decision which directly impacts children and young people.

Section 7 – Governance arrangements

Please outline the governance arrangements in place to ensure this plan is agreed/ delivered.

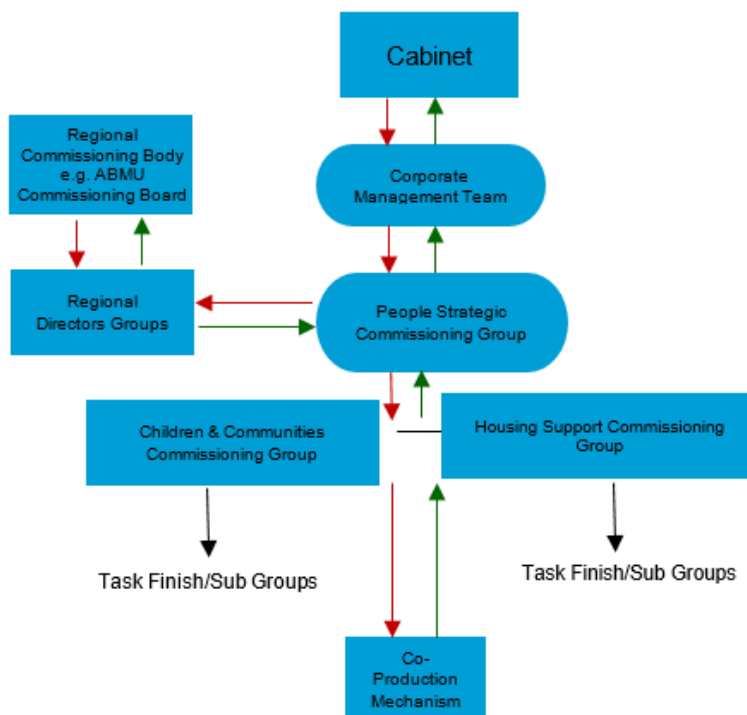
Please highlight any key risks to delivery for your local authority and describe any mitigating action to manage them.

Response:

(Up to 500 words)

The People Strategic Commissioning Group is well established to ensure of all Commissioning activity is coordinated and governed in order to support achievement of corporate objectives across Directorates. The Corporate Management Team and Cabinet are fully informed and involved in the transformation programme of this area and are fully supportive. The Governance Structure, which shows overall accountability for each commissioning group for the Children & Communities Grant and the Housing Support Grant. (Figure 1)

(Figure 1) People Strategic Commissioning Group Governance Structure



Staff communication will be planned as part of our transformation programme to ensure they are fully informed of the direction of travel and fully involved in shaping the future programme going forward.

Risk Register



CCG Risk Register
20-21.docx



high_level_audit_repo
rt - Corporate Risk Re

The risk register for the programme and the whole council risk register is embedded

Section 8 – Links with Housing Support Grant

Please outline how this CCG delivery plan links with your plans for the Housing Support Grant.

Response:

(Up to 500 words)

- Close working arrangements between CCG and HSG continue
- During 21/22 we will look to strengthen links with supported housing providers and raise awareness of our Swansea Working co-ordinated approach to employability support.
- We will continue to build on this work moving forward, especially around the tackling poverty agenda.
- We will also be exploring joint commissioning of care leavers through CCG and HSG as a workstream in the HSG
- Within our commissioning hub arrangements teams who are responsible for both the Children & Communities Grant and the Housing Support Grant, which makes sure we align both grant programmes to add value to each other and not duplicate.
- We have brought together together commissioning activities and delivery to strengthen our ability and our key partners ability to deliver preventative services for those in the greatest need.
- Planning, commissioning and delivering services which reflect the complexity of people's lives and the inter-relationships between their support needs must be the right approach.
- This approach enables us to explore opportunities to redesign services, drive sustainable long term preventative approaches and improve outcomes for vulnerable people.
- This approach has a number of advantages and has been a key driver for change for us to work collectively to ensure that crucial services are integrated as effectively as possible.
- Our Governance structure allows full links to be maintained and developed with the Housing Support Grant as we move forward, both grants will be included in our transformation programme.

**Section 9 – Plans for Legacy Fund, St David’s Day Fund,
Childcare & Play and Promoting Positive Engagement for Young
People**

Please confirm your plans for the programmes above and how you will integrate these with the other programmes in CCG. Please provide comments on COVID 19 impact for your programme specific plans

Response:

(No word limit)

Legacy Fund

The Legacy Fund will continue to work towards the priorities outlined below:

- Tackling child poverty and mitigating the impact of adverse childhood experiences.
- Enhancing employment support provision through the development of a single employability offer.
- Mitigating the impacts of Welfare Reform through provision of local specialist welfare benefits support.
- Enhancing digital inclusion to support Universal Credit claim management and the ability to seek and find work online.
- Improving financial inclusion and financial capability through income maximisation, reduction of household expenditure and mitigating the impact of the poverty premium.
- Development of sector specific employment training pathways linked to local employment growth sectors.

All work during the last 12 months has worked towards the priorities above however we have seen significant need develop for our financial inclusion and welfare rights priorities. This has been directly affected by the economic circumstances created by the CV-19 pandemic and demand for these activities has increased during the period. We will reflect this in our work to meet these priorities moving forwards and make sure this focus is linked to other CCG activity.

Research during the last year has shown us that many of the people the most affected by the CV-19 pandemic are also those in poverty. A number of people are digitally excluded from accessing these services and we will continue to support individuals develop digital skills directly and through all CCG programme provision. Over 20% of current Communities for Work/Communities for Work Plus clients did not have the internet or access to a digital device. This figure is reflected nationally and we will continue to work with other CCG activity, projects and services to address the issue locally. Additionally, we will closely align this work with our single employability offer moving forward to help people access employability support and employment. Digital skills and internet access have been (and will be moving

forwards) essential for unemployed people to update journals and apply for work opportunities. Our sector specific training opportunities continue to be essential to help people back into work. We will continue to deliver these with a degree of flexibility to recognise local economic trends and demand.

Families have been hit hard during the last 12 months. Those in poverty have been hit even harder. We plan to continue to focus on our work which tackles child poverty and mitigating the impact of adverse childhood experiences. We will continue to link these services up to our other offers through Legacy Fund provision and the wider CCG support.

St Davids Day Fund

As we emerge from the pandemic, local authorities will need to continue taking a flexible approach to allocations as care leavers are still highly likely to require support. Please set out your plans for supporting care leavers whose lives have been adversely affected because of coronavirus. For example, helping with income loss, food supplies, household bills and other essential living costs including ensuring tenancy arrangements are protected and so forth. Maintaining contact with friends, families and services has been and continues to be important for care leavers. Therefore, local authorities will also wish to ensure the digital and data needs of care leavers are identified and met. This includes access to devices such as laptops, tablets and phones, broadband connectivity and data and phone credit.

Whilst the pandemic continues to have an impact on the way our service operates, the service will continue to work on the basis of our Covid business continuity planning which is provided in the summary below. If circumstances change, we would review our existing arrangements accordingly.

- In Swansea, the St David's day application process has now moved to a virtual process and is signed and quality assured by the managers of the each service. This continues to ensure St David's day funds are managed effectively. The process continues to require Social workers and Personal Advisors make a referral to request grant funding for care leavers. The managers now meet with administrators as and when required to go through the referral's and consider each case to ensure the funds are distributed fairly and appropriately. We will continue to adopt this approach as this system ensures robust arrangements and fairness for all our Care Leavers. This process has been in effect since October 2020 and will continue as part of our plan for April 2021-2022.
- During Covid 19 – Swansea have adopted the approach of using the funds to provide all Care leavers who are living independently with an additional top of up £20 per week, per young person. This is provided on top of any maintenance or universal credit payments in place and enabled Swansea's Care Leavers with the additional funds to purchase mobile phone credit/tech or data when they require it, for the purposes of WhatsApp or FaceTime calling. The funds have been distributed in this way since April 2020. As part of our ongoing delivery plan we will continue to adopt this approach as it ensures fairness and promotes

choice and control for Care Leavers to determine how they would prefer to use the additional financial support in their lives. This will continue to enable our care leavers with the means to have some form of face to face conversations with whomever they need to have contact with during this time. We understand that our Care Leavers welcome this offer of support and have found the additional financial resource invaluable. We will continue to choose to adopt this approach as the fairest and most far reaching form of support during this time, as this has provided the maximum benefit for the majority of care leavers.

- The funds are also being used to provide Care Leavers with a range of different digital technological devices to enable them to stay in touch with professionals, family members and friends. In most cases, Care Leavers have chosen phones but there are exceptions and these were based on circumstance and their needs. Therefore, laptops, computers or tablets are also purchased for Care Leaver who request these and where the need is greatest. As part of our ongoing service delivery, we will continue to provide the same approach from April 2021-2022.

The funding has continued to support and nurture young people's aspirations to help them to work toward achieving their goals in order for them to flourish and achieve.

The funding has ensured and will continue to ensure that Care Leavers can maximise their opportunities and improve their personal outcomes. We will continue to engage young people and Care Leavers in a co-productive manner to ensure we are meeting their needs as part of our ongoing delivery plan for 2021/2022. We will also review this to ensure that we are continuing to use the grant for Care Leavers in the manner that they feel is most beneficial to them.

Last year we supported a small project in terms of setting up and providing financial support to Care Leavers to access the a traineeship program. Last year's project was a small pilot project which was designed to help those specifically who are Looked After or who are Care Leaver to access a traineeship with the view to offering a work based learning placement. This project was a success and we will be setting up another identical small scale project as part of April 2021-2022, by following the same principals of support for our LAC and Care Leavers to help them achieve success on this programme.

More recently in quarter 4, there has been an even stronger focus to use the grant to support Care Leavers around their overall well-being and this is something we will continue to adopt as our focus for 2021-2022. We will now be focusing on using the funds to support exercise based interventions including the purchase of bicycles for Care Leavers, but also providing internet connections for a minimum of year, to enable Care Leavers to access internet based well-being apps and well-being sites to help support their emotional and mental health.

The funds have previously been used to support Care Leavers who may have required accommodation which provided a much higher level of support for our most vulnerable Care Leavers post 18, particularly due to the impact of the pandemic on their emotional and mental health where they may be living more independently. This has resulted in providing additional funds to procure enhanced levels of staff support for the post 18 Care Leavers to ensure they have access to increased access to staff support by reducing the impact of isolation or during times where

they have needed ongoing emotional support during very difficult periods or where they have limited family or friendship networks.

Childcare & Play

There are 3 elements to this section of the overall funding;

- The Grants Officer has continued to administer grant funding, if anything seeing a significant increase in their remit and impact. In addition to administering traditional grants, they have liaised with funded projects to identify how their delivery and associated funding has been affected by Covid. Furthermore, they have administered a range of additional grant funding opportunities in response to Covid. They have specifically been key to the administration of mid-year funding via the CCG and ensuring it is used most effectively.
- The partner organisation Devt Officers have continued to support member settings. As above, if anything their role has become more impactful as they advise settings on closure, re-openings and social distancing considerations. They also play a key role as a conduit between the local authority and settings, ensuring concerns are raised, as well as assisting settings in accessing the additional funding opportunities available.
- The grant funding via the CYP (Children & Young People's) Fund was allocated pre-Covid and subsequently all funded settings and projects were asked to declare whether they were unaffected, revising delivery or utilising job retention scheme – the latter making them ineligible. Swansea's funded childcare settings and play projects performed a vital role in both supporting keyworkers and vulnerable families, as well as supporting the wellbeing and mental health of children during this difficult time. They were utilised extensively to deliver services arising from the additional mid-year grant funding received to support the response to Covid.

Training traditionally accessed was put on hold and virtual training opportunities, particularly relating to mandatory training is currently being developed in response. A Covid response grant was developed and implemented to support sustainability of those settings that have been affected by Covid-19. An additional temporary closures grant was developed to support settings forced to close due to a positive result. Implications for registration were relayed to projects and settings whenever updated.

- The childcare and play sector was a significant contributor in the response to the initial outbreak, particularly with children not accessing schools and unable to utilise friends and family. The steps put in place at the time could be replicated in the event of a further lockdown.

1. Grant / Training Support

Continuation of the Grant Officer post employed by the Local Authority to administer, monitor and evaluate grants as well as supporting sector specific training needs.

Outcomes

- Ensure childcare & play settings have access to a range of grant funding to support sustainability and compliance

- Ensure effective use and administration of additional grant funding in response to Covid
- Robust monitoring and evaluation of grants / expenditure supported by the Out of School Childcare Grant and as outlined in Objectives 2 and 3.
- Maintenance of effective monitoring systems.
- Support to settings in receipt of out of school grant funding.
- Out of School grant recipients will be aware of the importance of reporting procedures & accurate expenditure, with Quality Assurance visits undertaken.

2. Development Work

To support development officer hours –

- Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids Clubs (32 hours p/w)
- Early Years Wales (10 hours p/w)
- Mudiad Meithrin (6 hours p/w)

To provide business, development and sector specific support Out of School Childcare Clubs and Play projects in Swansea.

Outcomes

- Support existing provision – addressing sustainability issues and ensure growth in CSSIW registered provision to meet identified need.
- Support member childcare and play settings in their response to Covid, feeding back key issues or concerns to the local authority
- Concentrate developments in areas of high demand and low supply as evidenced via the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA).
- Maintain* the current baseline number of settings for Out of School Care and Holiday Care thus also increasing the number of childcare places available across the City.
- To maintain* the number of registered Play settings.
- Support provision (including Play projects) compliance to new and existing CSSIW regulations.
- Support the “health & wellbeing” agenda amongst provision with regards the benefit of nutrition, encouraging settings to recognise the benefits of providing healthy snacks, drinks and exercise.

3. Out of School Childcare Grants -

New places, Sustainability, Play

- a) Support the creation of up to 3 new Out of School childcare settings, offering up to 50 childcare places.
- b) To support the sustainability of up to 16 out of school childcare settings, offering up to 220+ childcare places.
- c) To support up to 14 Play Clubs in the community offering up to 340 children with play opportunities.

Outcomes

- Maintain* the number of Out of School childcare places available, the creation of which will support the needs of working parents.

- Ensure sufficient play and childcare places are available to support the response to Covid and use of any additional Covid-specific funding that Swansea receives.
- Maintenance to the current “stock” of Out of School settings and subsequently the number of childcare places being offered, which is critical to address in terms of childcare sufficiency.
- Play is essential to development because it contributes to the cognitive, physical, social, and emotional well-being of children and youth. Despite the benefits derived from play, time for free play has been markedly reduced for some children. Support for play projects has also been identified via the Play Sufficiency Assessment.

** In recognition of the likely impact of Covid, targets are to maintain existing levels through support for settings, rather than creation of additional places during 2021/22*

Promoting Positive Engagement for Young People –

Please provide the following:

- a brief description of the individual projects funded by PPE
- details of any staff funding provided by PPE.

(where Promoting Positive Engagement operates on a regional basis, please detail how you will maintain the working relationships regionally).

Whilst the pandemic continues to have a significant impact on the way our service operates, the service will continue to work on the basis of our Covid business continuity plan.

- Please refer to the business continuity plan for a breakdown of the existing services in place and how these services will continue to deliver going forward. This is a dynamic continuity plan and will respond to the ever changing circumstances should Covid require us to revert to a more restricted approach.
- Within the business continuity plan there is a breakdown of each area of the service in terms of its current delivery and ongoing service delivery
- The attached business continuity plan explores the impact on staffing and provides reference to how we have consulted both staff and CYP about the service going forward. Please see attached continuity plan



YJS Continuity Plan -
2021-22 Delivery Plan

Since the disaggregation of regional arrangements in 2019, Swansea Youth Justice service has continued on delivering the key objectives identified in the last years delivery and will continue with the same objectives in 2021-2022.

The promoting positive engagement grant is utilised for targeted diversion, prevention and early intervention services. This supports the principles set out within

the children and young people first strategy published the WG and aligns with other key national youth Justice board priorities included in the Youth Justice blue print, and the new Youth Justice National standards.

These principals are:

- **Well-designed partnership approach**
- **Early intervention, prevention and diversion**
- **Reducing re offending**
- **Effective use of custody**
- **Resettlement**
- **Reintegration at the end of sentence**

The projects have been aligned with the Swansea's Youth Justice Plan and supports the work being undertaken across the Child and Family support continuum and the development of early help hubs.

The use of resources which includes the PPE plays a key part in impacting the key performance indicators

These include:

- **Reducing number of first time entrants into the youth justice system**
- **Reducing the rate of re offending**
- **Reducing the rate of custody**
- **Access to suitable training and or education**
- **Access to suitable accommodation**
- **Access to suitable substance misuse assessment and treatment**
- **Access to CAMHS assessment and treatment**

To meet these performance indicators, there are four projects that have continued to be in place to achieve this. These four projects are

- **The Youth Bureau**
- **Prevention through Early intervention**
- **Restorative approaches**
- **Reintegration and resettlement**

The Youth Bureau - Objectives:

- Reduction in first time entrants
(Reduction of looked after children in the youth justice system)
- Reduction in re-Offending
- Reduction in the use of custody
- Increase in ETE hours accessed

To be achieved through the successful delivery and ongoing development of the Youth Bureau process in Partnership with South Wales Police. Focusing in restorative approaches and positive involvement of the victim.

Interventions offered include 1:1 and group support with the intention of diverting young people away from the youth justice system and to seek to reduce the numbers of children entering the youth justice system.

Prevention through early intervention - Objectives:

- Reduction in first time entrants
- Reduction in the use of custody
- Increased access to services with a focus on ETE
- Implementation of the trauma informed approach within early intervention

This is achieved through strong partnership working with schools, child and family services and the community safety partnership, to identify children and young people at risk of becoming involved in criminal or anti-social behaviour.

Resources are targeted in partnership with other agencies to avoid duplication and deliver targeted support. This results in an effective integrated approach to early intervention, prevention of offending and diversion from the Youth Justice System

Appropriate programmes of intervention are delivered on the basis of assessed need.

Restorative approaches - Objectives:

- Reduction in first time entrants
- Reduction in numbers of children and young people in the Youth Justice system
- Reduction in reoffending
- Reduction the use of custody
- Increasing in ETE hours accessed

To be achieved through victim liaison and engagement and to develop and deliver community reparation projects to enable young people to engage in meaningful reparation projects in their local communities

To encourage and facilitate face to face restorative justice meetings.

To offer parenting interventions/family interventions

Ongoing work to reduce the criminalisation of looked after children and young people with a particular focus on those living in residential care.

The ongoing development of multi-skilled restorative workforce

Continue to provide support to schools, where request are made for restorative approaches

Volunteer recruitment, training and support.

Reintegration / resettlement (transitions/exit strategies) - Objectives:

- Reduction in re offending
- Reduction in the use of custody and increase access to other services

To be achieved through effective multiagency working, to successfully re integrate children and young people into their community following their release from custody.

To support those young people moving on from statutory services within Swansea Youth Justice Service in accessing the appropriate universal and specialised services within the community.

To promote the Health and Wellbeing of children and young people through engagement of substance misuse services, health services and ETE provision.




In 2020-2021, additional funding was provided to help set up a regional Speech and language service SALT, this will help support those CYP who require an assessment of their speech and language skills/understanding, to enable the service to provide the rights interventions at the level that CYP need it. This service will assist in the improvement of the CYP's skills but also provide the quality of assessment to help inform the number of different partners around the right approaches to use with them. We will be reviewing this 6 monthly and determine the effectiveness of the new service to determine if we want to continue with this service as part of the delivery plan in April 2021-2022.

Furthermore, additional funding was also provided to support with training all prevention staff to carry out asset plus prevention assessments to support both the prevention agenda, and to support the delivery of a Youth Justice Early help offer to improve the level of prevention support the service can offer.

Section 10 – Programme specific plans

Please return the individual plans for each of the programmes included in the table below. We have attached the templates for completion.

Please note that for programmes with an overall spend (pan Wales) of less than £10m, you do not need to submit separate plans. Delivery actions relating to these should be built into this overarching delivery plan.

Programme	Application / Delivery Plan
Flying Start	 Flying Start Delivery Plan 21-22 (FINAL).doc
Families First	 Families First Delivery Plan 21-22 (FINAL).doc
Communities For Work Plus	 CfW+ Delivery Plan 21-22 (FINAL).doc

Section 11 – Partnership Working

Please demonstrate how your use of the grant aligns with the wellbeing objectives of the Public Services Board and the aims of other key partners and how evidence from the wellbeing plans and needs assessments have been incorporated. It is important to demonstrate that this grant is not

replacing something that should already be happening, but is providing additional support for the most disadvantaged. (please include partnership working with the third sector in the next section)

Response:
words)

(Up to 500

- Partnership working is an integral part of how we have respond to emerging needs and changing needs of our communities. It also enables services to be as effective as possible.
- We do not see the CCG funded projects/activities in isolation but as a part of the wider support and services in Swansea. This reduces duplication and increases efficiency.
- When looking at services coproduction is key. Taking time to gather partners and service users voice to reflect on and capture:
 - What has gone well and what has not,
 - What could we do differently,
 - What is possible and what's not
 - What matters to residents.

We also continue to link across to the West Glamorgan Partnership arrangements to make sure we are consistent, add value to each other and not duplicate.

The use of the Children and Communities Grant in Swansea aligns with the well-being objectives of the Swansea PSB, specifically;

- Children have the best start in life
- People live well and age well
- Build strong communities

Other partnerships involvement includes the following:

- Poverty Partnership
- Children & Young People Partnership
- Regional Early Years Pathfinder
- West Glamorgan Regional Partnership Board
- Early Action Together
- Youth Justice Service

Section 12 – Third Sector Involvement

The third sector plays a significant part in the delivery of a number of specialist services within early intervention and prevention agenda. **Describe how this overarching plan supports and involves (from an early stage) the third sector in the design and delivery of services within the local authority area.**

Response:
words)

(Up to 500

In Swansea we have a Compact Agreement which reflects joint working principles between Swansea Council, Swansea Council for Voluntary Services and the wider Third Sector to provide a robust and workable framework for ongoing dialogue between the Partners:

‘Swansea Council and The Third Sector share a fundamental aim to serve and represent the Citizens of Swansea, through working together to create an environment, which encourages Healthy Communities, community participation, self-reliance, local innovation, stronger local government and a viable, sustainable and flexible third sector’

We have established a Third Sector Liaison Group where topics for development will be discussed to ensure how overarching plans involve and support the third sector.

A number of Third Sector partners are currently commissioned through the C&CG, these include:

- Childcare and Play providers (Play and Childcare grants)
- Children’s Centres
- Ethnic Youth Support Team
- Action For Children – Stepping Stones
- SNAP
- Buddies
- Topic House
- Employment Skills Providers
- Swansea Council for Voluntary Services

A number of C&CG Projects are based in Third Sector buildings including;

- Phoenix Centre, Townhill
- Bonymaen Family Centre
- St. Teilo’s Family Centre
- Clase Family Centre
- EYST
- Topic House

A number of C&CG Projects are delivered in Third Sector projects including;

- Dyfatty Community Centre
- Seion Newydd, Morriston
- Various community centres as outreach throughout the County.

The CfW+ Engagement team work with Third Sector organisations to engage with citizens, these include community groups, interest groups and residents associations.

A number of Third Sector partners are engaged in the C&CG activity through strategic partnerships of the Poverty Partnership Forum, Financial Inclusion Steering Group, Swansea Working Partnership including: SCVS, YMCA, Pobl, Family Housing, Coastal Housing, Shelter, Men's Sheds, Faith Organisations, CAB, Crisis.

In Swansea we have the Family Support group which has over 50 members from services across the local authority and third sector. The aim of the group is for all services to communicate with each other and work together to improve services for children, young people and families in Swansea.

The Third Sector is represented on the Children & Young People Strategic Partnership Board, this will include smaller 3rd Sector organisations along with the larger providers such as NSPCC, Barnardos, Action for Children for example.

Throughout our commissioning process, stakeholders, including partners and residents are engaged in the reviews to inform and coproduce service delivery. We continue to strive to improve this and further embed co-production and the voice of the third sector and our communities.

We have a strong relationship with the Third Sector and ensure they are involved at the early stages of design and delivery. We do this through a variety of ways as outlined above, but also undertake joint training in co-production and social value, for examples to maintain and develop shared learning and practices.