



Report of the Director of Social Services

External Funding Panel – 6 February 2019

All Wales Play Opportunities Grant 2018-19

Purpose:	To detail considerations in relation to the funding received to support compliance with the Play Sufficiency Duty
Policy Framework:	Child & Families (Wales) Measure 2010, specifically the Play Sufficiency Duty on LA's
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal. Services, partner agencies and service recipients included within consultation and engagement for the Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA)
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) The proposed funding of £140,000 from Welsh Govt. to support play sufficiency within 2018/19 be accepted.
Report Author:	Stephen Cable
Finance Officer:	Annick Wilks
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar

1. Introduction

- 1.1 As part of the Child & Families (Wales) Measure 2010, there is a Duty on all local authorities to 'secure sufficient play opportunities as far as is reasonably practicable'.
- 1.2 Accordingly, each Local Authority is required to undertake a Play Sufficiency Assessment every 3 years, with the last assessment conducted in 2016 and the next due for submission in March 2019.

1.3 To support implementation of identified actions, Welsh Govt. have looked to provide funding where possible from end of year funding, via the All Wales Play Opportunities Grant. This grant traditionally comes with a tight turnaround for spend.

2. 2018/19 Grant

2.1 For 2018/19, Local Authorities were asked to submit a 'wish list' (see appendix *).

2.2 Following this, Welsh Govt. confirmed an offer of £140,000, with a requirement that spend is based upon the wish list sent.

2.3 This revised figure includes £58,000 towards purchasing play equipment for parks and play areas. As such, this requires invitations to tender for all or some of the proposed items.

2.4 This process was undertaken at the end of 2017/18, and the proposal is to replicate this.

3. Process & Considerations

3.1 It is a requirement to adhere to the grant offer letter (see appendix *), however, the main consideration is to meet the authority's own accounting procedures.

3.2 The key consideration is that all processes and procedures must be completed within the financial year, including receipt of goods. This point will be explicitly stated within the tender process.

3.3 Additionally, Welsh Govt. has confirmed that should any company be unable to meet these requirements, the local authority does not claim this element of spend, i.e. would not be liable.

3.4 As the grant is for revenue purchases, no individual items may come to more than £5,000.

3.5 It is proposed to offer the contract in 'lots' focussing on;

- DDA Accessibility
- Safety surfacing
- Spares & Repairs
- Play Equipment

3.6 Additional elements of the grant relate to allocating grants to community projects and schools. This will be subject to a full application process with a dedicated grant allocation panel.

3.7 As the grant will be put to the External Funding Panel for approval, therefore no allocations can be made prior to that point.

4. Equality and Engagement Implications

4.1 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.

Our Equality Impact Assessment process ensures that we have paid due regard to the above.

4.2 The Play Sufficiency Assessment is subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment (Appendix C), as well as having a range of specific measures that relate to access and equalities issues.

4.3 As such, this process will not require an additional EIA as by necessity it reflects equalities issues.

4.4 Additionally, it should be noted that two of the four 'lots' are specifically to support access to play for children & young people with disabilities.

4.5 In terms of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), involvement of young people is paramount in the work of the Children's Play Team and purchases will be in response to identified need.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report in that this is the result of external grant funding specifically for this purpose.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 The Council must comply with the terms and conditions attached to any offer of grant funding and must also comply with its Contract Procedure Rules when procuring any goods or equipment utilising the grant.

Background Papers: EFP1

Appendices:

Appendix A	AWPOG 2018/19 Proposal for Spend
Appendix B	Grant Offer Letter – All Wales Play Opportunities Grant
Appendix C	EIA Screening Form