

SUBJECT: EARLY YEARS & CHILDCARE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

MEETING: Single Member Decision

DATE: WEDNESDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2016

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All Monmouthshire

NON-PUBLICATION

(Insert appropriate non publication paragraph if necessary)

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To employ an Early Years & Childcare Development Officer to provide support and guidance to further improve the quality of childcare provision and support the implementation of the Healthy and Sustainable Pre-School Scheme in childcare settings across Monmouthshire.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To approve the post of Early Years & Childcare Development Officer.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 The Childcare Act 2006 places a statutory duty on local authorities to secure sufficient childcare for working parents and a duty to carry out childcare sufficiency assessments.
- 3.2 There are national targets around the Healthy & Sustainable Pre-School Scheme and currently there is not sufficient capacity to meet these targets.

4. REASONS:

- 4.1 The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2014-17 and subsequent Refresh have highlighted gaps in the childcare market but there are currently no staff with the capacity to develop additional childcare provision.
- 4.2 Welsh Government has a 10 year plan for the Early Years, Childcare and Play Workforce so there are a lot of changes taking place; this includes changes to the

National Minimum Standards and extension of the age at which children require registration. This post holder would be able to keep settings informed of these changes and organise training to ensure they comply with National Minimum Standards.

- 4.3 The post holder will provide business support to childcare providers to improve sustainability.
- 4.4 There are currently settings on a waiting list to take part in the Healthy & Sustainable Pre-School Scheme but, without this post, there is not the capacity to take on any more settings.
- 4.5 In Monmouthshire, 23.3% of children aged 4-5 years are overweight or obese; this is lower than the all Wales figure of 26.5% but there are still targets we need to meet around childhood obesity.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 The post will initially be offered on a one year contract and will be fully grant funded.
- 5.2 Public Health Wales have allocated Monmouthshire a grant of £15,000 from April 2016 – March 2017 in order to tackle childhood obesity. They have agreed that this funding can be utilised towards an Early Years & Childcare Development Officer, with specific targets around preventing obesity.
- 5.3 Welsh Government have allocated an Out of School Childcare Grant of £70,785 from April 2016 – March 2017 in order to meet any gaps highlighted by the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and to raise the quality of childcare provision; £15,000 of this grant has been allocated towards this post.

6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 The Equality Impact Assessment and Sustainable Development Checklist is attached.
- 6.2 The main positive impact of this proposal is around meeting our statutory duty to ensure there is sufficient childcare provision in Monmouthshire to meet the needs of working parents; this will contribute to the wellbeing goals of creating a more equal and prosperous Wales. Childcare workers will be well trained and better informed, hence raising the quality of childcare provision.
- 6.3 The proposal also contributes towards the wellbeing goal of creating a healthier Wales where health impacts are understood, as all settings will have the opportunity to join the Healthy & Sustainable Pre-School Scheme and interventions

will be put in place to prevent childhood obesity and develop a holistic approach to Health and Wellbeing.

6.4 The only negative impact is around discontinuing the financial support given to Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs (CPCKC).

7. CONSULTEES:

7.1 The Early Years Development & Childcare Partnership (EYDCP) have discussed and approved the post.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

8.1 Job description and person specification

9. AUTHOR:

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10. CONTACT DETAILS:

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