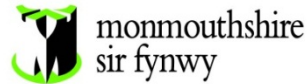


Public Document Pack



County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Wednesday, 21 November 2018

Notice of meeting

Children and Young People Select Committee

Thursday, 29th November, 2018 at 10.00 am,
Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA

Please note that a pre meeting will be held 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting for members of the committee.

NB Members of Strong Communities are invited to attend in respect of Item 4: Support for Refugee Children

AGENDA

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Apologies for Absence	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
3.	Public Forum	
4.	Support for Refugee Children	
5.	Play Action Plan and Play Sufficiency Assessment	1 - 30
6.	Confirmation of minutes	31 - 40
7.	Actions arising from the previous meeting	41 - 42
8.	Children and Young People Select Forward Work Plan	43 - 46
9.	Council and Cabinet Forward Work Planner	47 - 52
10.	To confirm the date and time of the next meeting as 24th January 2019 at 10.00am	

Paul Matthews

Chief Executive

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillors:

M.Groucutt
L.Jones
L.Brown
D. Jones
M.Lane
M. Powell
T.Thomas
J.Watkins
S. Woodhouse

**Added Members
Members voting on Education Issues
Only**

Annette Daly
Vacant Seat (Roman Catholic Church)
Michael Fowler (Co-opted Member)
Vacant Seat (Co-optee)

**Added Members
Non Voting**

Peter Strong (NEU) NUT
Leanne Wakerley
Fay Middleton (Trade Union)

Public Information

Access to paper copies of agendas and reports

A copy of this agenda and relevant reports can be made available to members of the public attending a meeting by requesting a copy from Democratic Services on 01633 644219. Please note that we must receive 24 hours notice prior to the meeting in order to provide you with a hard copy of this agenda.

Watch this meeting online

This meeting can be viewed online either live or following the meeting by visiting www.monmouthshire.gov.uk or by visiting our Youtube page by searching MonmouthshireCC.

Welsh Language

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public through the medium of Welsh or English. We respectfully ask that you provide us with adequate notice to accommodate your needs.

Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

Our purpose

Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Objectives we are working towards

- Giving people the best possible start in life
- A thriving and connected county
- Maximise the Potential of the natural and built environment
- Lifelong well-being
- A future focused council

Our Values

Openness. We are open and honest. People have the chance to get involved in decisions that affect them, tell us what matters and do things for themselves/their communities. If we cannot do something to help, we'll say so; if it will take a while to get the answer we'll explain why; if we can't answer immediately we'll try to connect you to the people who can help – building trust and engagement is a key foundation.

Fairness. We provide fair chances, to help people and communities thrive. If something does not seem fair, we will listen and help explain why. We will always try to treat everyone fairly and consistently. We cannot always make everyone happy, but will commit to listening and explaining why we did what we did.

Flexibility. We will continue to change and be flexible to enable delivery of the most effective and efficient services. This means a genuine commitment to working with everyone to embrace new ways of working.

Teamwork. We will work with you and our partners to support and inspire everyone to get involved so we can achieve great things together. We don't see ourselves as the 'fixers' or problem-solvers, but we will make the best of the ideas, assets and resources available to make sure we do the things that most positively impact our people and places.

Monmouthshire Scrutiny Committee Guide

Role of the Pre-meeting

1. Why is the Committee scrutinising this? (background, key issues)
2. What is the Committee's role and what outcome do Members want to achieve?
3. Is there sufficient information to achieve this? If not, who could provide this?
 - Agree the order of questioning and which Members will lead
 - Agree questions for officers and questions for the Cabinet Member

Questions for the Meeting

Scrutinising Performance

1. How does performance compare with previous years? Is it better/worse? Why?
2. How does performance compare with other councils/other service providers? Is it better/worse? Why?
3. How does performance compare with set targets? Is it better/worse? Why?
4. How were performance targets set? Are they challenging enough/realistic?
5. How do service users/the public/partners view the performance of the service?
6. Have there been any recent audit and inspections? What were the findings?
7. How does the service contribute to the achievement of corporate objectives?
8. Is improvement/decline in performance linked to an increase/reduction in resource? What capacity is there to improve?

Scrutinising Policy

1. Who does the policy affect ~ directly and indirectly? Who will benefit most/least?
2. What is the view of service users/stakeholders? Do they believe it will achieve the desired outcome?
3. What is the view of the community as a whole - the 'taxpayer' perspective?
4. What methods were used to consult with stakeholders? Did the process enable all those with a stake to have their say?
5. What practice and options have been considered in developing/reviewing this policy? What evidence is there to inform what works?
6. Does this policy align to our corporate objectives, as defined in our corporate plan?
7. Have all relevant sustainable development, equalities and safeguarding implications been taken into consideration? For example, what are *the procedures that need to be in place to protect children*?
8. How much will this cost to implement and what funding source has been identified?
9. How will performance of the policy be measured and the impact evaluated.

Questions for the Committee to conclude...

Do we have the necessary information to form conclusions/make recommendations to the executive, council, other partners? If not, do we need to:

- (i) Investigate the issue in more detail?
- (ii) Obtain further information from other witnesses – Executive Member, independent expert, members of the local community, service users, regulatory bodies...
- (iii) Agree further actions to be undertaken within a timescale/future monitoring report...

General Questions....

Empowering Communities

- How are we involving local communities and empowering them to design and deliver services to suit local need?
- Do we have regular discussions with communities about service priorities and what level of service the council can afford to provide in the future?

Service Demands

- How will policy and legislative change affect how the council operates?
- Have we considered the demographics of our council and how this will impact on service delivery and funding in the future?

Financial Planning

- Do we have robust medium and long-term financial plans in place?
- Are we linking budgets to plans and outcomes and reporting effectively on these?

Making savings and generating income

- Do we have the right structures in place to ensure that our efficiency, improvement and transformational approaches are working together to maximise savings?
- How are we maximising income? Have we compared other council's policies to maximise income and fully considered the implications on service users?
- Do we have a workforce plan that takes into account capacity, costs, and skills of the actual versus desired workforce?

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SUBJECT:	PLAY ACTION PLAN AND PLAY SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT
MEETING:	Children and Young People Select
DATE:	29 November 2018
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	All

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To present progress on delivery of the current plan (including the summer play schemes) and preparations for the new Play Action Plan and Play Sufficiency Assessment for completion by March 2019.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To receive and scrutinise an update of progress on the delivery of the current Play Action Plan and the emerging issues for the review of the Play Sufficiency Assessment
- 2.2 To agree to receive a draft of the revised Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan at a future meeting prior to its consideration by Cabinet and submission to Welsh Government on 31 March 2019.

3. KEY ISSUES:

Background

- 3.1 The Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA) and Play Action Plan was first completed in 2013, reviewed in 2016 and now requires further review after three years. The new PSA must be submitted to Welsh Government by 31 March 2019, having either been approved by cabinet or in a final version timetabled to be so approved.
- 3.2 “Wales: A Play Friendly Country” is Statutory Guidance to Local Authorities (See **Appendix 1**) on assessing and securing sufficient play opportunities for children in their areas to give detail to the duty on Local Authorities under Section 11, Play Opportunities, Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010.

In summary the statutory requirements are:

- A local authority must assess the sufficiency of play opportunities in its area
- A local authority must secure sufficient play opportunities in its area for children, so far as reasonably practicable, having regard to its assessment

- 3.3 The following internationally recognised definition of play is noted in the guidance:

“Play encompasses children’s behaviour which is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated. It is performed for no external goal or reward, and is a fundamental and integral part of healthy development – not only for individual children, but also for the society in which they live”.

- 3.4 As part of the 2016 PSA review and following consideration by this committee Cabinet approved a new model for managed play provision (the summer play scheme) to deliver open access playschemes during the school summer holidays in partnership with Town and Community Councils. Since 2016 Torfaen Play Service has been commissioned to deliver this provision.

Progress

- 3.5 As agreed at the last review the Play Action Plan was streamlined to provide a better strategic context and five key action areas were identified:

Space for play - The overall approach to fixed play provision and the opportunities for play within open spaces; including fully assessing the condition of and demand for existing provision and identifying new opportunities; the application of play space standards / developer contributions; the potential for multi-use spaces / natural play etc. through integration of a wider “green infrastructure” approach.

Supervised provision – Working with partners to develop the community play framework for open access play provision; including assessing the impact of the changes; seeking to develop the model and engage new partner and exploring the potential for further inclusive community based provision including at other times of the year.

Providing for diverse needs – Adopting a more integrated approach across the authority to join up provision and ensure the needs of children with disabilities and/or families with diverse needs are better supported to access play opportunities.

Policy Integration – Supporting the Play Strategy Group, to develop into the implementation group for the play action plan, involving a wide range of internal and external partners; including identifying better links and integration with other programmes and partnerships e.g. the Creating an Active and Healthy Monmouthshire strategy.

Engagement and Information – Recognising that the existing information base is not adequate to fully understand the demand for, and sufficiency of, play opportunities and that the level of work required to remedy this had proved beyond the current PSA process. Tasking the Play Strategy Group to identify a practical and economic way forward to remedy this; including working with Town and Community Councils; sharing existing data, building a fuller picture of existing provision; and utilising existing mechanisms to engage with children and young people.

- 3.6 Inevitably with pressure on resources and no dedicated budget or play coordinator progress has been mixed, but nevertheless through partnership working and support across the authority good progress has been made in some areas. The latest progress

report and action plans are appended (**Appendix 2**). Also appended is the latest evaluation report on the Summer Play Scheme (**Appendix 3**)

Emerging Issues

Play Sufficiency Assessment

- 3.7 The key area to progress is gathering more local intelligence and children's views. Recently completed is child led research on play in the Bulwark and Thornwell neighbourhoods of Chepstow. This project was led by the Community and Partnership team with participation from Thornwell Primary School, Pembroke Primary School and Chepstow Comprehensive. This project, a first for Monmouthshire (and possibly Wales), has produced rich information on play including views from children, parents and community. Subject to the availability of funding we hope to prepare a toolkit so this project can be rolled out further. The results of a Year 5 Play survey completed by Monmouthshire primary schools using all Wales "Play Wales" approach are being analysed and will also feed into the PSA.

Open Access Play

- 3.8 We plan to continue to provide free, open access playschemes at eight community venues in the county in 2019 with Torfaen Play Service delivering playschemes on our behalf. The operational dates for next year will be two sessions every weekday between Monday 29th July through to Thursday 22nd August. Without the financial support of local Town and Community Councils it would not be possible to offer this provision in Monmouthshire.
- 3.9 Following discussions with Menter Iaith we are planning to run two bilingual playschemes in 2019. Subject to funding the plan is to run 19 afternoon bilingual sessions in Caldicot and 19 morning bilingual sessions in Abergavenny. This is seen as sensible first step to providing Welsh language play opportunities in the county.
- 3.10 Building on voluntary food schemes in 2018 we propose a pilot of the School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP). This is a Welsh Government funded school-based programme that provides healthy meals, food and nutrition education, physical activity and enrichment sessions to children in areas of social deprivation during the school summer holidays. "Food and Fun" is the branded identity used at local level to promote the scheme to children and families. This is the Welsh Government's response to the concept of "holiday hunger" – i.e. the concerns that some children, particularly from low income families, can go without a proper meal during the summer holidays when they are not benefitting from a school dinner, which they can access during school term time. We are seeking to implement SHEP at one Monmouthshire site in 2019, subject to a successful funding application.
- 3.11 Finally building on the wider outcomes for the young people we propose to enhance links with the wider youth offer including Sports Development's Leadership Academy re volunteering / employment opportunities;

Disabled Children

- 3.12 We will continue to provide inclusive provision at the open access playschemes for children with disabilities, but there are a number of children with more complex needs where an inclusive setting is not appropriate. Until now we have been allocated five spaces for more complex needs children in Pontypool as part of the Torfaen provision, but MCC Social Services are currently investigating the possibility of running three schemes for children with more complex needs in Monmouthshire, each with a capacity of twelve children – which would represent a significant increase in provision.

Monmouthshire Games

- 3.13 We will be running the games again at the four leisure centres next year but we will also be working with colleagues in education and social services to further develop our wrap around provision and to improve our engagement with parents and schools to ensure that we can offer a more bespoke package to those children most in need. This will be done by providing those children with participation opportunities in sport and wider physical activities. Subject to funding, we will also be offering free places at the Monmouthshire Games in Abergavenny next year to children from low income families.

Play Sufficiency Assessment

- 3.14 A slightly revised Play Sufficiency Assessment toolkit prepared by Play Wales on behalf of Welsh Government is now available and this will be utilised in the next few months to complete a draft assessment and review the action plan, prior to a further report to this committee and cabinet when the analysis is completed.

4. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

- 4.1 The statutory matters meant that the PSA will include an assessment of the extent that play opportunities are inclusive and recognises the positive impact that securing sufficient and accessible play opportunities can have on children, families and communities. The provision of free open access play contributes to the Social Justice Strategy.
- 4.2 The safeguarding responsibilities of the Authority and partners for children and young people are fully integrated into the identification of appropriate actions and reflected in the PSA and guidance.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Option	Benefits	Risks	Comments
Do nothing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">None identified	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lack of direction and vision in deliveryNo access to play opportunity grant	Not fulfilling statutory requirements to have a Play Sufficiency Assessment and a Play Action Plan

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of existing relationships 	
Review Play Sufficiency Assessment and prepare new action plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides direction and vision in delivery • Allows access to play opportunity grant • Supports existing relationships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of buy in from partners 	Meets statutory requirements to have a Play Sufficiency Assessment and a Play Action Plan

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

6.1 Assessment criteria for the PSA measures are set out in Statutory Guidance / the PSA Toolkit prepared by Play Wales on behalf of Welsh Government.

7. REASONS:

7.1 “Wales: A Play Friendly Country” is Statutory Guidance to Local Authorities on assessing for and securing, as far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient play opportunities for children in their area by addressing the defined measures set out in legislation.

7.2 The provision of sufficient play opportunities for children contributes to wellbeing objectives and the corporate plan: Providing children and young people with the best possible start in life –enabling children to be active and participate in play, particularly outside is important, not just to obesity but also for broader child development

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

8.1 There is no dedicated play budget so provision depends on partnership working. The substantial financial support from Town and Community Councils, from the Welsh Government Families First Fund and when available Play Opportunity Grant with support from voluntary sources has enabled the successful delivery of the summer play schemes. Play Opportunities Grant has been made available on occasions by Welsh Government but not consistently and usually as underspend towards the year end. Whilst the grant is welcome and has been well used to improve play opportunities its timing and uncertainty mitigates against fully strategic spend.

8.2 Welsh Government has very recently indicated that Play Opportunities Grant of £10K will be available towards the PSA review process in the remainder of 18/19 and that there may be additional allocations from underspend.

8.3 There are no other direct resource implications associated with the PSA. Having an up to date PSA and Action Plan is a pre-requisite for accessing any Play Opportunities Grant, and positions the authority and its partners to seek external funding for specific initiatives / actions in the plan.

9. CONSULTEES:

Enterprise DMT

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Appendix 1: "Wales: A Play Friendly Country" Statutory Guidance

Appendix 2: Report on Progress 2017-18 / Play Sufficiency Action Plan 2018-19

Appendix 3: Monmouthshire Open Access Summer Playschemes 2018

Appendix 4: Future Generations Evaluation

11. AUTHOR:

Matthew Lewis, Green Infrastructure and Countryside Officer

12. CONTACT DETAILS:

Tel: 01633 644855 E-mail: matthewlewis@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Appendix 1 “Wales: A Play Friendly Country” Statutory Guidance

1. Definition of Play

The following internationally recognised definition of play is noted in the guidance:

“Play encompasses children’s behaviour which is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated. It is performed for no external goal or reward, and is a fundamental and integral part of healthy development – not only for individual children, but also for the society in which they live”.

Play is defined for the purposes of the measure as including (but not limited to) “any recreational activity”. This recognises that children enjoy and benefit from taking part in a wide range of activities that are, in the main, organised by adults for children. These can include junior and youth clubs; leisure centre and sporting activities; cultural and arts activities; indoor play centres and events organised for children and their families. These recreational activities may offer a combination of adult led organised activities, and opportunities for freely chosen and child led play.

Welsh Government see the range of play opportunities for children that are covered under the measure as being:

- Freely chosen Play – With or without adult supervision/facilitation.
- Structured recreational activities – in the main led by adults, with predefined rules.

These opportunities can be available in a range of spaces and settings and any setting may afford both opportunities for freely chosen play and structured recreational activities.

2. Scope of the Measure

The matters needing to be taken into account in the PSA are set out in the guidance and are broad in their scope, impacting widely across the authority’s activities:

Matter A: Population

Matter B: Providing for diverse needs

Matter C: Space Available for Children to Play

- Open Spaces; Outdoor unstaffed designated play spaces; Playing fields

Matter D: Supervised provision

- Play work provision; Structured recreational activities

Matter E: Charges for play provision

Matter F: Access to space/provision & Information; publicity; events

Matter G: Securing & Developing the Play Workforce

Matter H: Community engagement and participation

Matter I: Play within all relevant policy and implementation agendas

- Education/schools; Town & country planning; Traffic & transport; Health & wellbeing; Child poverty; Early years/childcare and family policy and initiatives; Inter-generational policy and initiatives; Community development; Community Safety; Health and safety

Criteria for each measure are identified in the [PSA Toolkit](#) developed by Play Wales.

Appendix 2



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Name of local authority:	Monmouthshire County Council
Name of responsible officer:	Matthew Lewis
Job title:	Green Infrastructure & Countryside Manager
Date of completion:	June 2018

Report on Progress of the Play Sufficiency Action Plan 2017-18

Forward planning priorities:

RAG Status:

- **Red**—no progress made
- **Amber**—some progress made
- **Green**-Action achieved

Matter: Policy Framework				
Page 9	Priority (from 17/18 Action Plan)	Targets 2017/18	Objectives achieved / Progress during 2017/18	Red/Amber/Green rating with explanation if red or amber
	Maintain and review the Play Action Plan	Maintain and review including Play Action Plan reports to CYP Select / Cabinet as necessary	2016/17 plan approved by Cabinet 13 April 2016 to form the basis of a 3 year action plan which will be fully reviewed during 18/19. An update of the action plan for 17/18 completed.	Green
Matter A: Population				
	Priority (from 17/18 Action Plan)	Targets 2017/18	Objectives achieved / Progress during 2017/18	Red/Amber/Green rating with explanation if red or amber

Using available data to contribute to better understanding the local demand for, and sufficiency of, play opportunities	To maintain progress; including working with Town and Community Councils; sharing existing data, building a fuller picture of existing provision; and utilising existing mechanisms to engage with children and young people.	Some progress achieved: liaison with Town & Community Council's to reflect local demand and specifically to encourage take up of the summer play schemes and free access to complementary sports activities in the leisure centres by children receiving free school meals; commenced the Bulwark and Thornwell (Chepstow) play research pilot with local schools to gather children and community views (see matter F)	Amber still further progress to be achieved to understand local demand
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Matter B: Providing for diverse needs

Priority (from 17/18 Action Plan)	Targets 2017/18	Objectives achieved / Progress during 2017/18	Red/Amber/Green rating with explanation if red or amber
Seek to gain a better understanding of the local demand for and sufficiency of play opportunities	Continue to adopt a more integrated approach across the authority to join up provision and ensure the needs of children with disabilities and/or families with diverse needs are better supported to access play opportunities	Continued to work with the Children with Disabilities and Looked After Children Teams in Social Services to understand better the needs of children and families with diverse needs and to respond to these needs.	Amber work in progress

Matter C: Space available for children to play

Priority (from 17/18 Action Plan)	Targets 2017/18	Objectives achieved / Progress during 2017/18	Red/Amber/Green rating with explanation if red or amber

DfE 10

<p>Reviewing our overall approach to fixed play provision and the opportunities for play within open spaces</p>	<p>To maintain progress; including fully assessing the condition of and demand for existing provision and identifying new opportunities; the application of play space standards / developer contributions; the potential for multi-use spaces / natural play etc. through integration of the wider “green infrastructure” approach (as set out in our Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Guidance).</p> <p>Progress the pilot project looking to rationalise the fixed play provision in specific areas in Monmouth.</p> <p>Continue to support Playing Out (encouraging street play in communities)</p>	<p>A new co-ordinated approach to providing “green infrastructure” comments to planning proposals incorporating play needs is now being delivered for larger developments and is allowing a more integrated approach and developing new approaches to multi-use spaces / natural play etc. We continue to seek section 106 contributions where appropriate to secure delivery.</p> <p>No substantive progress on the proposed pilot project looking to rationalise the fixed play provision in specific areas in Monmouth as considerable time and efforts have been concentrated in consultations to agree the location and refurbishment of the destination play area at Chippenham Mead, Monmouth, but it is still intended to return to this project when staff capacity allows.</p> <p>We utilised Play Opportunity Grant to support the provision of enhanced play facilities at Monmouth Leisure Centre.</p> <p>Conducted four ‘playing out’ sessions in two locations. Evaluated successes and learning experiences from this work and have sought to streamline the process in time for the spring/summer of 2018. Promoted playing out through social media, Monmouthshire Families Information Service, at local play groups, with elected members and in printed publications. Several communities have expressed an interest in new sites for summer 2018.</p>	<p>Amber work in progress</p>
<p>Matter D: Supervised provision</p>			
<p>Priority (from 17/18 Action Plan)</p>	<p>Targets 2017/18</p>	<p>Objectives achieved / Progress during 2017/18</p>	<p>Red/Amber/Green rating with explanation if red or amber</p>

To develop the community play framework for open access play provision;	To deliver open access summer play schemes (including sports camps and community play schemes) and to explore opportunities to extend the community play framework, including improved co-ordination and promotion across all partners' provision.	The second year of the open access community play model successfully delivered by Torfaen Play Service at 6 venues across Monmouthshire, and access to the Torfaen run facility for children with greater needs, funded by Town & Community Councils, Families First Funding and MCC. Utilising Play Opportunity Grant purchased additional equipment to support the open access community play model.	Green
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Matter E: Charges for play provision

Priority (from 17/18 Action Plan)	Targets 2017/18	Objectives achieved / Progress during 2017/18	Red/Amber/Green rating with explanation if red or amber
<p>To enhance our information base, including building a fuller picture of existing provision;</p> <p>To develop the community play framework for open access play provision</p>	<p>As Matter A above</p> <p>As Matter D above</p>	<p>As Matter A above</p> <p>As Matter D above</p>	

Matter F: Access to space / provision

Priority (from 17/18 Action Plan)	Targets 2017/18	Objectives achieved / Progress during 2017/18	Red/Amber/Green rating with explanation if red or amber

<p>To improve our information base to fully integrate these measures and to better understand the local barriers to play for children and young people so we can increase access to opportunities to play.</p>	<p>To continue to engage with children and young people and parents to better identify the limiting factors / barriers to access play opportunities and use this information to help inform our future approach to information and publicity</p> <p>(to form part of the approach proposed to Matter A above)</p>	<p>Conducted four 'playing out' sessions in two locations, and evaluated the successes and learning experiences from these locations with participants and other local residents. Simple but important learning points have been identified in terms of the need for a network of support for event organisers and opportunities for ongoing dialogue with other residents.</p> <p>Commenced the Bulwark and Thornwell play research pilot with two local primary schools and Chepstow Comprehensive to gather children and community views, via pupil engagement who have developed parent, community and pupil surveys.</p>	<p>Amber work in progress</p>
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Matter G: Securing and developing the workforce

Priority (from 17/18 Action Plan)	Targets 2017/18	Objectives achieved / Progress during 2017/18	Red/Amber/Green rating with explanation if red or amber
<p>enhance our information base, including building a fuller picture of existing provision and the play workforce;</p> <p>To develop the community play framework for open access play provision;</p>	<p>To form part of the approach proposed to Matter A above</p> <p>As Matter D above</p>	<p>As Matter A above.</p> <p>Youth Service staff achieved a play work level 3 qualification including participating in the 2017 open access scheme.</p>	<p>Amber work in progress</p>

Matter H: Community Engagement and participation

Priority (from 17/18 Action Plan)	Targets 2017/18	Objectives achieved / Progress during 2017/18	Red/Amber/Green rating with explanation if red or amber

To develop the community play framework for open access play provision;	As Matter D Continuing to support communities to engage in Playing Out	As Matters D and F above	
Matter I: Play within all relevant policy and implementation agendas			
Priority (from 17/18 Action Plan)	Targets 2017/18	Objectives achieved / Progress during 2017/18	Red/Amber/Green rating with explanation if red or amber
Identifying better links and integration with other programmes and partnerships through the Play Strategy Group	<p>Supporting the Play Strategy Group to develop into the implementation group for the play action plan, involving a wide range of internal and external partners; including improving links and integration with other programmes and partnerships;</p> <p>Maintaining integration with the developing Well-being Plan through the Play Strategy Group and reporting via the PSB's Performance Board;</p> <p>To improve our information base to better understand if the barriers to play include health & safety & insurance issues (to form part of the approach proposed to Matter A above)</p>	<p>Following completion of the PSB's wellbeing plan and after a review of partnerships the Play Strategy Group involving a wide range of internal and external partners has merged with the Active Children & Young People group of the Creating an Active & Healthy Monmouthshire Partnership. This avoids duplication of effort and form a single group with all relevant partners represented which can take forward an integrated approach to active recreation and play opportunities.</p> <p>The Monmouthshire PSB Well-being plan includes providing children and young people with the best possible start in life – it identifies that enabling children to be active and participate in play, particularly outside is important, not just to obesity but also for broader child development</p>	Amber work in progress



**Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government**

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Name of local authority:	Monmouthshire County Council
Name of responsible officer:	Matthew Lewis
Job title:	Green Infrastructure & Countryside Manager
Date of completion:	June 2018

Play Sufficiency Action Plan 2018-19

Priority	Actions 2018/19	Funding source (new or existing funding streams)
Maintain and review the Play Action Plan	Review the Play Sufficiency Assessment and the Play Action Plan (including a review of the 3 year action plan set by Cabinet in 2016) by 31 March 2019 with reports to CYP Select / Cabinet as necessary	MCC

Matter A: Population		
Priority	Actions 2018/19	Funding source (new or existing funding streams)
Using available data to contribute to better understanding the local demand for, and sufficiency of, play opportunities	To maintain progress; including working with Town and Community Councils; sharing existing data, building a fuller picture of existing provision; and engage with children and young people, including completing the Bulwark and Thornwell (Chepstow) play research pilot.	MCC & Town & Community Councils & partners

Matter B: Providing for diverse needs		
Priority	Actions 2018/19	Funding source (new or existing funding streams)
Seek to gain a better understanding of the local demand for and sufficiency of play opportunities	Continue to adopt a more integrated approach across the authority to join up provision and ensure the needs of children with disabilities and/or families with diverse needs are better supported to access play opportunities	MCC & partners

Matter C: Space available for children to play		
Priority	Actions 2018/19	Funding source (new or existing funding streams)

<p>Reviewing our overall approach to fixed play provision and the opportunities for play within open spaces</p>	<p>To maintain progress; including fully assessing the condition of and demand for existing provision and identifying new opportunities; the application of play space standards / developer contributions; the potential for multi-use spaces / natural play etc. through integration via the wider “green infrastructure” approach (as set out in our Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Guidance).</p> <p>To make further progress on the relocation and refurbishment of the destination play area at Chippenham Mead, Monmouth (due to the statutory processes involving the village green this will not be completed in 18/19) and if possible progress the pilot project looking to rationalise the fixed play provision in specific areas in Monmouth.</p> <p>Continue to support Playing Out (encouraging street play in communities) with interested communities.</p>	<p>MCC</p>
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Matter D: Supervised provision		
Priority	Actions 2018/19	Funding source (new or existing funding streams)
<p>To develop the community play framework for open access play provision;</p>	<p>To deliver open access summer play schemes (including sports camps and community play schemes) and to explore opportunities to extend the community play framework, including improved co-ordination and promotion across all partners’ provision.</p>	<p>Town & Community Councils, MCC, Families First Funding (WG) & partners</p>

Matter E: Charges for play provision		
Priority	Actions 2018/19	Funding source (new or existing funding streams)

To enhance our information base, including building a fuller picture of existing provision;	As Matter A above	
To develop the community play framework for open access play provision	As Matter D above	

Matter F: Access to space / provision		
Priority	Actions 2018/19	Funding source (new or existing funding streams)
To improve our information base to fully integrate these measures and to better understand the local barriers to play for children and young people so we can increase access to opportunities to play	To continue to engage with children and young people and parents to better identify the limiting factors / barriers to access play opportunities, including completing and assessing the Bulwark and Thornwell (Chepstow) play research pilot and use this information to help inform our future approach. (to form part of the approach proposed to Matter A above)	MCC & partners

Matter G: Securing and developing the workforce		
Priority	Actions 2018/19	Funding source (new or existing funding streams)
To enhance our information base, including building a fuller picture of existing provision and the play workforce;	To form part of the approach proposed to Matter A above	
To develop the community play framework for open access play provision;	As Matter D above	

Matter H: Community Engagement and participation		
Priority	Actions 2018/19	Funding source (new or existing funding streams)

To develop the community play framework for open access play provision;	<p>As Matter D</p> <p>Continuing to support communities to engage in Playing Out and consider the opportunities to follow on from the Bulwark and Thornwell (Chepstow) play research pilot.</p>	
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Matter I: Play within all relevant policy and implementation agendas		
Priority	Actions 2018/19	Funding source (new or existing funding streams)
Identifying better links and integration with other programmes and partnerships through the Play Strategy Group	Supporting the newly merged Play Strategy Group / Active Children & Young People group of the Creating an Active & Healthy Monmouthshire Partnership as the implementation group for the play action plan. Involving a wide range of internal and external partners. Inputting into the development of action plans to deliver the PSB's Well-being Plan and improving links and integration with other programmes and partnerships.	MCC & partners

Appendix 3

MONMOUTHSHIRE OPEN ACCESS SUMMER PLAYSCHEMES 2018

For the third summer in a row, Monmouthshire County Council commissioned the Torfaen Play Service to deliver inclusive open access playschemes in community venues across the county for primary aged children (aged 5 – 11 years of age).

In 2017 playschemes operated at six community venues but this year there were inclusive schemes held at eight/nine community venues, as follows:

Locations

ABERGAVENNY	
Deri View Primary School	10.00am – 12.00noon
Abergavenny Community Centre – Park Street	1.00pm – 3.00pm
MONMOUTH	
Overmonnow Primary School	10.00am – 12.00noon
Kymin View Primary School	1.00pm – 3.00pm
CHEPSTOW	
Bulwark Community Centre	10.00am – 12.00noon
Thornwell Primary School	1.00pm – 3.00pm
MAGOR	
Magor CV Primary School	10.00am – 12.00noon
CALDICOT	
Caldicot Rugby Club (not Wednesdays)	1.30pm – 3.30pm
Caldicot Castle (Wednesdays only)	1.30pm – 3.30pm

Dates

The playschemes operated over a period of 19 days (weekdays only) between Monday 30th July and Thursday 23rd August 2018.

Food Provision

This summer children attending the Overmonnow playscheme were provided with a free healthy packed lunch, prepared by a group of volunteers from Ty Price Community Centre, Transition Monmouth Food Sense and Monmouth Methodist Church. The group used the services of 30 volunteers (trained to relevant food hygiene standards) working on a rota basis – over the summer period they prepared more than 1,000 free packed lunch bags without the use of any plastic packaging, using local produce wherever possible.

In Abergavenny, the Abergavenny Community Centre provided a free hot lunchtime meal for children at the afternoon play sessions in Abergavenny on each Wednesday of the scheme, which was served in an intergenerational setting.

These food provisions were a local community response to concerns about holiday hunger, where children (particularly from low income families) can often go without a proper lunchtime meal during the school summer holiday period.



Attendances

The following attendances were recorded for each of the community venues:

Venue	Number Registered	Lowest Attendance	Highest Attendance	Average Attendance	Total Attendance
Deri View	81	9	63	23	435
Aber Comm	83	11	29	20	374
Overmonnow	159	40	92	56	1,073
Kymin View	130	26	55	41	784
Bulwark Comm	83	20	39	31	597
Thornwell	113	29	54	41	785
Magor School	113	13	46	25	480
Caldicot RFC	165	14	69	29	563
Caldicot Castle	83	14	69	31	123
Totals	1,010	176	516	297	5,214

Inclusion

To ensure that the open access provisions were inclusive, we worked closely with partners to ensure that 1:2:1 support was provided to children and young people who required it. Additional training was put in place for the workers to meet the individual needs of the children and young people that they were supporting.

Parents/carers and Social Services were contacted in April to identify children with disabilities and behavioural support needs to attend the playschemes. A robust referral form was completed by the parents/carers detailing the individual needs of the children.

Workers/volunteers were identified to support specific children and additional training was put in place for staff where required. Individual communication passports were put in place for the children who required them, along with behavioural support plans for all children.

Two pre-playscheme parents/carers forums were provided to allow parents/carers to ask any questions and address any concerns. In addition to this, a pre-playscheme visit was held to enable the children to familiarise themselves with the worker and the venue. We also provided an “*All About My Worker*” pen portrait to enable the child to familiarise themselves with their worker(s). This proved very popular, especially with children and young people who were on the autistic spectrum.

We also implemented a *daily diary* system where the worker would provide an update of the day at the playscheme for parents/carers. This proved very successful in particular for those children who are non-verbal.

Overall, there were 1,349 inclusive play sessions provided over the summer. The children with higher complex needs were supported at a separate specialist provision at the Pontypool Active Living Centre. The decision on which children went to the Pontypool provision was made by Monmouthshire Social Services.

Parent/Carer Disabilities Feedback

- 96% of the parents/carers who provided feedback were happy with the playscheme venues;
- 100% of the parents/carers questioned felt that any issues/concerns raised were dealt with in an effective manner;
- 87% of the parents/carers stated that the playschemes had increased family resilience

We have extensive individual feedback from parents/carers of children with disabilities and from “general needs” parents and children should any member wish to read these.

Employment

To run the open access playschemes in the summer we employ staff recruited from the local area. These are quite often young people that are away at university studying for a degree, and we also employ some staff already working in the education sector, for example as teachers or support staff in local schools.

The paid staff complete over 40 different training modules linked to working with children and young people. At least one member of paid staff on each site is trained in accredited first aid and food hygiene.

All volunteers complete a level 1 in play work along with another 25 different sessions linked to working with children and young people. All staff are trained in an accredited safeguarding training and received the full PREvent training. Volunteers are not paid a wage as such, but they do receive a daily expenses allowance and many of the volunteers choose to return the following or in later years to work as paid play workers.

The play helper project has been running successfully in Torfaen for the last ten years. It is the pre-volunteering stage of the summer initiative. Young People aged 13 - 15 years have to apply via an application form and they also have to complete an induction and attend an interview. Their role is to work as part of a team and learn new skills. This year was the first year we had a play helper based in Monmouthshire. It is anticipated that those who are a play helper will then go on to volunteer and then achieve play worker status when they are old enough. For the summer of 2019 we will be trying to support all the play helpers to achieve an accreditation too.



Celebrating National Play Day at Abergavenny Community Centre on 1st August 2018

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Future Generations

Name of the Officer completing the evaluation Matthew Lewis Green Infrastructure & Countryside Manager Phone no: 01633 644855 E-mail: matthewlewis@monmouthshire.gov.uk	Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal Play Action Plan and Play Sufficiency Assessment
Name of Service Tourism, Leisure, Culture & Youth	Date Future Generations Evaluation form completed 19 November 2018

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Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below? Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal.






Well Being Goal	How does the proposal contribute to this goal? (positive and negative)	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs	Positive – Access to good quality play opportunities contributes to education, particularly the foundation phase	The actions proposed to review the PSA and deliver the Play Action Plan are intended to support the delivery of good quality play opportunities
A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)	Positive – play opportunities extend across all open spaces and include those for environmentally focused play.	The actions proposed to review the PSA and deliver the Play Action Plan will help identify such opportunities and potential for partnership delivery

Appendix 4

Well Being Goal	How does the proposal contribute to this goal? (positive and negative)	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p>A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood</p>	<p>Positive – Play is essential for the growth of children's cognitive, physical, social and emotional development</p>	<p>The actions proposed to review the PSA and to deliver the Play Action Plan are intended to support the delivery of good quality play opportunities</p>
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected</p>	<p>Positive – Play contributes not only to children's lives but to the well-being of their families and communities and looking at a community based delivery model for staffed play provision would further contribute to this.</p>	<p>The actions proposed are intended to support the delivery of good quality play opportunities and the delivery of the community open access play model</p>
<p>A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing</p>	<p>Positive - Children's right of play is enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Welsh Government has formally adopted.</p>	
<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation</p>	<p>Positive – recreational activities form part of play opportunities. Negative- insufficient overall information base on Welsh Language play provision / demand</p>	<p>The proposed pilot Welsh Language play schemes in Abergavenny and Caldicot will help better understand demand and opportunities for Welsh Language provision</p>
<p>A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances</p>	<p>Play is established as one of children's rights, internationally and by Welsh Government. Access to good quality play provision can be a way of reducing inequalities between children and so reducing poverty of experience for all children.</p>	<p>The review of the PSA and the Play Action Plan helps ensure a more integrated approach across the authority to provide for diverse needs and to seek to better understand demand, existing provision and opportunities</p>

2. How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable governance principles in its development?

Appendix 4

Sustainable Development Principle	How does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle?	What has been done to better to meet this principle?
 <p>Long-term</p> <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p>	<p>Access to good quality play opportunities is a long term investment in children, families and communities. However short term pressures e.g. changes in the operating environment requiring changes in the delivery model require different approaches.</p>	<p>The delivery of the PSA actions are intended to provide a clearer and longer term focus and an attempt has been made to make these actions more strategic and integrated to support this.</p> <p>Progress against these long term ambitions will now be reviewed as part of the review of the PSA.</p>
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	<p>Partnership working is central to the delivery of play opportunities.</p>	<p>The proposed actions include partnership delivery such as with the Chepstow cluster schools on the Chepstow play project</p>
 <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>Children's views are central to the proposed Thornwell and Bulwark play assessment which will has been pupil led and designed</p>	<p>We hope subject to funding to produce a toolkit to enable this approach to be more easily replicated</p>
 <p>Prevention</p> <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>Actions are intended to support the longer term focus set out in the PSA/play action plan.</p>	
 <p>Integration</p> <p>Positively impacting on people, economy and environment and trying to benefit all three</p>	<p>As securing play opportunities contributes positively to children, families and communities it is inherently impacting on people, economy and environment as reflected in the breadth of the statutory measures to be addressed in the PSA.</p>	

3. Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics? Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below.

Appendix 4

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age	The target ages for play opportunities are under 18 year olds and for staffed play provision principally aged 5 to 12		
Disability	The community play delivery model provides inclusive play opportunities and the PSA will review the accessibility/inclusivity of play provision to inform future improvements		
Gender reassignment			
Marriage or civil partnership			
Race			
Religion or Belief			
Sex			
Sexual Orientation			
Welsh Language	The proposed pilot Welsh Language play schemes in Abergavenny and Caldicot will help better understand demand and opportunities for Welsh Language provision		

4. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on the following important responsibilities: Social Justice, Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect any of these responsibilities?

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?

Appendix 4

Social Justice	The provision of free open access play opportunities including the proposed School Holiday Enhancement Programme pilot all address reducing inequalities in access to play, and economic		
Safeguarding	Safeguarding requirements are a fundamental component of staffed play provision.		The safeguarding responsibilities of the Authority and partners for children and young people are fully integrated into the identification of appropriate actions and reflected in the play action plan.
Corporate Parenting	Looked after children have been supported to access the open access play provision		Supporting looked after children to access the volunteering / employment opportunities through eh open access play scheme

5. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

<p>The Monmouthshire Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan 2016 and subsequent reviews The Welsh Government / Play Wales Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit 2018 Welsh Government offer of Play Opportunity Grant 2018/19 Evaluation of Open Access Play Scheme</p>

6. SUMMARY: As a result of completing this form, what are the main positive and negative impacts of your proposal, how have they informed/changed the development of the proposal so far and what will you be doing in future?

<p>The positive impact that securing sufficient and accessible play opportunities can have on children, families and communities. The positive impact in providing for diverse needs. The challenges of better understand demand, existing provision and opportunities including for disabled children. Developing mechanisms to engage with children and young people. .</p>
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7. Actions. As a result of completing this form are there any further actions you will be undertaking? Please detail them below, if applicable.

What are you going to do	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible	Progress
Future review of PSA / Play Action	By March 2019	Matthew Lewis / Mike Moran / Play	In progress

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Appendix 4

Plan		Strategy Group (Children & Young People's sub group of the CAAHM partnership)	
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8. Monitoring: The impacts of this proposal will need to be monitored and reviewed. Please specify the date at which you will evaluate the impact, and where you will report the results of the review.

The impacts of this proposal will be evaluated on:	Impacts will be re-evaluated when presenting the completed review of the PSA /play action plan
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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 6

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Children and Young People Select Committee held at The Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on Thursday, 18th October, 2018 at 10.00 am

PRESENT: County Councillor M. Groucutt (Chairman)
County Councillor L. Jones (Vice Chairman)

County Councillors: L. Brown, D. Jones, M. Lane, M. Powell, T. Thomas, J. Watkins, and S. Woodhouse

M Fowler (Parent Governor Representative)
L. Wakerley
P. Strong (NEU) NUT

County Councillors P. Jones and V. Smith attended the meeting by invitation of the Chair.

Mr. P White, Chair of Audit Committee, attended the meeting by invitation of the Chair.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Will McLean	Chief Officer for Children and Young People
Julie Boothroyd	Chief Officer Social Care, Safeguarding and Health
Charlotte Drury	Service Manager - Well-being Family Support & Safeguarding
Diane Corrister	Safeguarding & Quality Assurance Service Manager
Richard Jones	Performance Manager
Non Jenkins	Wales Audit Office
Hazel Ilett	Scrutiny Manager
Richard Williams	Democratic Services Officer

APOLOGIES:

None.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

2. Public Open Forum

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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3. Wales Audit Office Whole Authority Review of Children's Safeguarding report and the Council's Management Response

Context:

To scrutinise the Wales Audit Whole Authority Review of Children's Safeguarding report and the Council's Management response.

Key Issues:

The Wales Audit Office had concluded that the children's safeguarding policy and procedures have recently improved, but there are shortcomings in some critical areas of policy and operation.

Proposals for improvement were identified as follows:

Proposal 1

Integrate safeguarding across the Council's policy framework. In particular:

- a. Produce a 'project plan' identifying the underpinning work required and associated timescales to fully incorporate the Council's approach to integrating child and adult safeguarding.
- b. Re-frame the strategic risk register, to enable a smarter approach to measuring impact of actions taken in mitigation of identified risk.
- c. Strengthen safeguarding policy and guidance in the areas identified in the report. Including:
 - data protection arrangements and guidance linked to safeguarding.
 - embed whistleblowing policy arrangements through training and awareness raising.
 - revise taxi licensing arrangements strengthening health and safety requirements.

Proposal 2

Embed all aspects of safe recruitment, induction and training consistently. In particular:

- a. Improve training records on safeguarding to show why the person received that particular level of training, when the training was received, and when it needs to be reviewed.
- b. Ensure all people who have a specific role in safeguarding undertake appropriate training.

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- c. Clarify when enhanced DBS checks are required and ensure these are obtained in line with guidance.

Proposal 3

Ensure control arrangements are consistently applied and improve performance monitoring arrangements around safeguarding to include all areas of service operation to address all gaps in accountability. This should include issuing clear guidance to managers on information on safeguarding that should be included in reports to Members.

Proposal 4

Improve the Council's commissioning and contracting arrangements in relation to safeguarding children by finalising guidance on commissioning, contracting and volunteering from a safeguarding perspective.

The Management response to the Wales Audit Office report was outlined.

Member Scrutiny:

- There is a need for further scrutiny in respect of safeguarding / wellbeing issues of children regarding home to school transport provision with a view to identifying where responsibilities lie and that this matter be added to the Select Committee's forward work programme. Taxi services that transport children to school should also be included to address any potential safeguarding issues.
- There are two areas that could assist in addressing safeguarding issues around home to school transport provision. Firstly, when services are being procured and secondly, the Head of Public Protection can pick up this area of potential risk.
- With reference to the Service Improvement Plans (SIPs), there is going to be a much stronger emphasis in the newer iteration around the safeguarding element of service areas. To enhance this, a system called a 'safe' has been established which is an audit of each of the service areas, carried out with safeguarding in mind. As a safeguarding unit, the lead has been taken to support all directorates in managing their safes.
- As part of the Whole Authority Safeguarding route, the issues around bed and breakfast and the appropriateness of that provision for supporting families with young children and young adults is an area that has been looked at and some of the responsibility for scrutiny around this issue has been tightened.
- It is fundamentally important how the Authority arranges its home to school transport policy and ensures that the children are safely taken to school and are accompanied by appropriate people. It is acknowledged that there are significant

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challenges being faced due to the rural nature of the County. Further information on this matter could be presented to future meetings of the Select Committee via the Whole Authority Safeguarding Group. It was noted that a parent had written to the Authority stating that her 11 year old child had to take two separate bus journeys to school with a 20 minute wait between the two bus services. This matter needed to be investigated further as a part of the safeguarding issues being looked at in respect of home to school transport provision.

- The Chair of the Audit Committee considered that the Audit Committee should look at the implementation of the recommendations of the Wales Audit Officer Whole Authority Review of Children's Safeguarding report with an invitation being extended to the Chief Officer for Social Care Safeguarding and Health being invited to attend the Audit Committee when this matter is scrutinised.
- The Performance Manager stated that the report was sent to the Children and Young People Select Committee due to the report relating to the remit of the Committee to scrutinise children's safeguarding. The Audit Committee has a role in tracking implementation of proposals for improvement from the Wales Audit Office (WAO) and the implementation of the management response to the proposals will form part of the six monthly progress report on all proposals for improvement from the WAO performance audit work that is reported to Audit Committee.
- There are many arrangements for reporting Council performance to select committee scrutiny of Council performance, for example, from arrangements being established to monitor performance against the Council's Corporate Plan to the range of performance reports from services. The Audit Committee has a specific role in assurance on the effectiveness of the Council's performance management arrangements, which clearly support the Council's performance. The Authority can think about how to ensure Audit Committee feels sufficiently sighted on the Council's actual performance in addition to the Council's performance arrangements.

Committee's Conclusion:

- A report outlining a specific examination of Home to School Transport should be presented to a future meeting of the Select Committee.
- On behalf of the Chair of the Audit Committee, we ask that the Wales Audit Office Whole Authority Review of Children's Safeguarding report be referred to a future meeting of the Audit Committee for consideration.

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4. Project 5: Proposal to develop a joint multi-disciplinary intensive therapeutic fostering service for Looked After Children and young people

Context:

To scrutinise the proposal to develop PROJECT 5: A Multi-disciplinary Intensive Therapeutic Fostering Service for Looked After Children and Young People. The project is proposed as a partnership with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, under the governance of the Regional Children and Families Partnership Board and initially funded by the Integrated Care Fund (ICF).

Key Issues:

In April 2016, Children's Services established Delivering Excellence a three year improvement plan. Workstream 3 of this programme concerned the development of services to ensure the right service offer is in place for all children and families needing support. A key element of workstream 3 is to increase the number of Monmouthshire foster carers available to provide high quality foster placements for Monmouthshire children. Project 5 supports the delivery of Workstream 3 to support in-house carers to meet the needs of the most complex and troubled children.

Now in year 3 of the overall improvement programme, Children's Services has achieved a stronger position regarding attracting in-house carers and retaining a stable, permanent workforce within children's services. This means that there is a firmer foundation on which to build further, more specialised services including an intensive therapeutic fostering service through Project 5.

Member Scrutiny:

- In response to a Select Committee Member's question, it was noted that this proposal was not a cost cutting exercise. The proposal is about quality outcomes for Monmouthshire's Looked After Children. Evidence suggests that the outcomes that are being achieved for people in high cost situations, often located outside of Monmouthshire, are not good, is not value for money and are not good outcomes for individuals. The proposal is a method of reducing the pressures that exist but also adding significant value and ensuring that there are better outcomes for our Looked After Children.
- The Looked After Children with very specific needs are few in number. However, the Authority will work with schools and other partners to identify how these children are going to be integrated into an appropriate educational setting.
- The type of therapies that Project 5 (MyST: My Support Team) uses are creative and play therapies which is a psychologically informed service. It is about upskilling and supporting therapeutic foster placement. Foster carers are provided with additional training and support so that they understand the impact of trauma and how to provide appropriate support. A key area is the provision of wrap around care to ensure that foster carers never feel that they are

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unsupported and are also able to access appropriate support at any time of the day.

- There is a psychologist and therapists that are a part of this model as well social workers and family support workers.
- The Select Committee agreed to receive a report regarding Team around the family at a future meeting.
- Wrap around care is important as it can help to reduce the number of Looked After Children placements.
- Monmouthshire's special school for children with social and emotional behaviour difficulties is only for boys of secondary school age. This was a part of the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) review. Currently, most girls who present with those needs become located within the independent setting, often located within County. It is necessary to work more closely with schools to ensure that the appropriate provision is identified for these children.
- Torfaen and Caerphilly County Borough Councils have had this service in their care model of delivery for some time. Monmouthshire County Council is in a position where it can learn from these authorities. Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, like Monmouthshire County Council, did not have this model and are therefore partnering up to deliver such a model. Monmouthshire County Council has a good relationship with other authorities in the Greater Gwent area and regional working is very strong.
- With regard to support to foster carers, sufficient support and respite is essential in order to ensure that this model will work. The model includes built in respite care provision.
- The strategic 'fit' is identified at the regional level whereby, the Authority works in partnership with each of those local authorities. The Authority partners with other local authorities regularly. The evidence for undertaking partnering with regard to this model is sound and an opportunity to tap into the integrated care fund to help take the proposal forward was available. The model is being undertaken via a regional approach but being locally delivered. There is a need for the Authority to bring forward its own foster carers that have the capacity and skill set to support children within the County.

Committee's Conclusion:

- A further report regarding the current work of the Team around the Family be scrutinised by the Select Committee at a future meeting.

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- Going forward, a further report regarding progress in respect of the proposal to develop a joint multi-disciplinary intensive therapeutic fostering service for Looked After Children and young people be presented to a future meeting of the Select Committee which will include details of the support being provided for foster carers.
- The Scrutiny Manager to ensure that officers preparing future Select Committee reports should refrain from putting forward recommendations within the reports. This should fall within the remit of Select Committees to identify appropriate recommendations following sound scrutiny process.

The Select Committee outlined its support for the proposal of developing a multi-disciplinary intensive therapeutic fostering service for Looked After children and young people between Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and Monmouthshire County Council, including establishing the posts required for the operational delivery of the project.

5. 2018 End of Key Stage Teacher Assessment Outcomes and National Test results - Monmouthshire

Context:

To scrutinise the 2018 end of Key Stage Teacher Assessment Outcomes and National Test results for Monmouthshire.

Key Issues:

All schools are subject to rigorous reporting and monitoring of standards each year, with the principal focus in Key Stages 2 and 3 being on English / Welsh first language, mathematics and science, and the percentage of pupils achieving the expected level in all three core subjects – the core subject indicator (CSI).

In the Foundation Phase schools report on the performance of 7 year olds in language, literacy and communication (English or Welsh language) (LLC), mathematical development (MD), and personal and social development, wellbeing and cultural development (PSDWCD). The foundation phase indicator (FPI) measures the percentage achieving the expected outcome in all three areas of learning.

Member Scrutiny:

- The Foundation Phase, Key Stages 2 and 3 are teacher assessed. Key Stages 4 and 5 are assessed via external examinations.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Children and Young People Select Committee held at The Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on Thursday, 18th October, 2018 at 10.00 am

- With regard to the Donaldson report and reference to curriculum changes, this is still a work in progress. The Education Achievement Services (EAS) is working on its six areas of learning and experience. Within those six areas there are a number of what matters statements and in these statements there are a number of progress steps. It is not yet known how the Authority will be reported on in respect of these areas. However, for the next two years, we will continue to receive updates in the current format.
- The report indicates that one in two children are more able. The key issues are that if we are placing reliance on teachers' assessments there is a need to ensure that these figures at the end of Key Stage 2 translate much better to the end of Key Stage 4.
- Analysis of the Fischer Family Trust data, which maps children's progress from the end of Key Stage 2 to the end of Key Stage 4, will be presented to a future meeting of the Select Committee.
- Primary school children also sit nationally marked reading, numeracy and procedural tests. These are scored on a standardised basis and the Authority has this data for all of its schools. Historically, the Authority would be able to use this as a guide to correlate schools' performance in national tests. However, from this year onwards, the national reading and writing tests are now adaptive, whereby, children undertake these tests on a computer and the test changes for that individual child as the child answers the questions. Therefore, there is no longer a standardised score that the Authority can work from.
- Welsh Government considers that an upward trend in our PISA outcomes would be highly valued.
- In October 2014 the Foundation Phase Areas of Learning were revised to align them with the National Literacy and Numeracy Framework, as well as making them more demanding. They were introduced on a statutory basis from September 2015. This means that the cohort of children that started Reception in September 2015 were the first children to be formally assessed against the revised outcomes at the end of the Foundation Phase in the summer of 2018.
- In response to a question raised regarding support for children at the Foundation Phase who had not achieved the expected level, it was noted that all of Monmouthshire's schools work across the whole class and support mechanisms are put in place to provide the required support.
- A report outlining vulnerable groups' data will be presented to the Select Committee in the New Year.
- Categorisation has changed. The removal of the data driven element means that the Authority is more focussed around standards of teaching and learning, leadership and schools' capacity to improve. It is hoped that following significant

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intervention in a school, that there is progress being made and therefore change its categorisation colour in a positive way.

Committee's Conclusion:

- The Select Committee to receive a further report at a future meeting.
- Select Committee Members to note the Seminar in respect of outcomes at Key Stages 4 and 5 being held on 23rd October 2018.
- The Select Committee to receive a report at a future meeting regarding Fischer Family Trust data which maps children's progress from the end of Key Stage 2 to the end of Key Stage 4.

6. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the Children and Young People Select Committee meeting dated 6th September 2018 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

7. Children and Young People Select Committee Forward Work Programme

The Children and Young People Select Committee Work Programme was noted.

In doing so, the following items would be added to the Work Programme:

- Key Stage 4 update.report (29th November 2018 meeting).

Special Meeting in January 2019 to scrutinise:

- Safeguarding arrangements in terms of Home to School Transport.
- Family Support Services.
- Future options for Mounton House.
- In response to a Select Committee Member's question regarding Pioneer schools, it was noted that this matter was in the Work Programme and would be reported to the Select Committee in due course.
- In response to a Select Committee Member's question regarding the draft new curriculum, it was noted that a draft is anticipated to be available in the spring 2019 school term. The whole process has been led through schools with expertise from universities being drawn upon. It is unsure whether there will be a full public consultation on this matter.

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8. Council and Cabinet Business Forward Work Programme

The Cabinet and Council Forward Planner was noted.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 29th November 2018 at 10.00am.

The meeting ended at 12.13 pm.

Children and Young People Select Committee

Action List

18th October 2018

Minute Item:	Subject	Officer / Member	Outcome
3.	Wales Audit Office Whole Authority Review of Children's Safeguarding report and the Council's Management Response	Hazel Ilett	A report outlining a specific examination of Home to School Transport to be presented to a future meeting of the Select Committee.
		Hazel Ilett	The Wales Audit Office Whole Authority Review of Children's Safeguarding report be referred to a future meeting of the Audit Committee for consideration.
4.	Project 5: Proposal to develop a joint multi-disciplinary intensive therapeutic fostering service for Looked After Children and young people	Hazel Ilett / Julie Boothroyd	A further report regarding the current work of the Team around the Family be scrutinised by the Select Committee at a future meeting.
		Hazel Ilett / Julie Boothroyd	A further report re: Project 5 be presented to a future meeting of the Select Committee which will include details of the support being provided for foster carers.

5.	2018 End of Key Stage Teacher Assessment Outcomes and National Test results - Monmouthshire	Hazel Ilett	The Scrutiny Manager to ensure that officers preparing future Select Committee reports refrain from putting forward recommendations within the reports.
		Hazel Ilett / Will McLean	The Select Committee to receive a further report at a future meeting.
		Hazel Ilett / Will McLean	The Select Committee to receive a report at a future meeting regarding Fischer Family Trust data which maps children's progress from the end of Key Stage 2 to the end of Key Stage 4.

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2018

Children and Young People's Select Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
29 th November 2018	Support for Refugee Children	Presentation: An evaluation of the support and provided by schools for refugee children.	Will Mclean	Performance Monitoring
	(Invite to Strong Communities Members)	King Henry Comprehensive, Deri View Primary and Gwent Ethnic Minority Service invited.		
	Play Action Plan and Play Sufficiency Assessment	Progress on delivery of the current plan (including the summer play schemes etc.) and proposals for the new Play Action Plan and Play Sufficiency Assessment for completion by March 2019.	Matthew Lewis	Pre-decision Scrutiny
Special Select Committee Meeting	Partnership Agreements with Schools	Scrutiny of the partnership agreement required under the Education Act between the Local Authority and the governing body of schools which agrees their respective functions.	Cath Saunders	Pre-decision Scrutiny
	South East Wales Adoption Service *TBC*	Report on performance 17/18 and briefing on regional financial policy.	Susan Radford, Blaenau Gwent CBC	Performance Monitoring
	School Attainment	To receive the final school results at key stage 4 (include Fisher Family Trust data).	Will Mclean	Performance Monitoring
	Performance Report	Scrutiny of the six month performance reports on Adults Services.	Sian Schofield Richard Jones	Performance Monitoring
Special Select Committee Meeting early-Mid January 2019 ~ Date TBC	School Transport	To scrutinise the safeguarding arrangements of home to school transport.	Julie Boothroyd Roger Hoggins Will Mclean	Performance Monitoring

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2018

Children and Young People's Select Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
	Family Support Services	Discussion on Family Support Services and the recently implemented Edge of Care Team and BASE. Support for Foster Carers	Julie Boothroyd	Performance Monitoring
24th January 2019	Budget Scrutiny	Pre-decision Scrutiny of the draft budget proposals for 2019-20.	Mark Howcroft Peter Davies	Budget Scrutiny
24th January 2019 Will need to move	Future options for Mounton House School		Cath Saunders	

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Future Agreed Work Programme Items: Dates to be determined

- **2nd Phase Family Support Review**
- **School Placement Capacity** ~ numbers in the south of the county considering the new housing developments planned.
- **Nursery provision** - the plans for welsh government to give 30 hours free childcare for nursery age - report back when the remit of delivery has been finalised by Welsh Government.
- **Verbal update report on Free School Meal assessment (via the Benefits Team).**
- **Additional Learning Needs** - Review and provision/ALN Bill/Readiness and training
- **Schools in terms of outcomes** - quality indicators from new inspection framework/how categorisation works and actions taken to support improvement/EIB and Intervention Monitoring/ Donaldson Report on Successful Futures. Review of 21st Century Schools. Vulnerable Pupil report expected New Year.
- **Service Pressures** for the council and schools.
- **Inclusion updates** - wellbeing/attitudes to learning/supporting the pupil voice
- **Non-maintained/Early Years** - provision/outcomes/childcare offer

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2018

- **National Categorisation/Estyn outcomes** -Progress towards addressing recommendations
- **Post 16 education provision/Apprenticeships/Engagement and progression**
- **Welsh Education Strategic Plan** - annual update
- **Childcare sufficiency** - annual update
- **Children's Mental Health and Counselling Services**
- **Well-being reporting (obesity, eating disorders etc)**
- **Young Carers Strategy** ~ Implementation of the first year
- **Flying Start** ~ presentation for information

Joint Scrutiny with Children and Young People's Select Committee:

- ✓ **"Information, Advice and Assistance Service** ~ responsibility of the Social Services and Well-being Act 2014 ~ (January/February 2018)
- ✓ **The implementation of the Social Services and Well-being Act 2014** ~ (October 2017)
- ✓ **Mental Health and Learning Disabilities** ~ linked to implications of the DOLS (Deprivation Liberty Safeguards) Grant
- ✓ **Well-being** ~ responsibilities of the Social Services and Well-being Act 2014 around connected communities and meeting needs

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Cabinet, Council and Individual Cabinet Member Decisions (ICMD) Forward Plan

Monmouthshire County Council is required to publish a forward plan of all key decisions to be taken. Council and Cabinet items will only be considered for decision if they have been included on the planner no later than the month preceding the meeting, unless the item is considered urgent.

Committee / Decision Maker	Meeting date / Decision due	Subject	Purpose	Author	Date item added to the planner	Date item originally scheduled for decision
Cabinet	06/06/2019	Budget Monitoring report - month 12 (period 3) - outturn	The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information on the forecast outturn position of the Authority at end of month reporting for 2018/19 financial year.	Joy Robson/Mark Howcroft	17/04/2018	
Cabinet	03/04/2019	Play Action Plan/Play Sufficiency Assessments		Mike Moran	31/10/2018	
Cabinet	03/04/2019	Welsh Church Fund Working Group	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications 2018/19, meeting 9 held on the 7th March 2019.	Dave Jarrett	17/04/2018	
Council	07/03/2019	Final Budget Proposals		Joy Robson	11/09/2018	
Council	07/03/2019	Treasury Management Strategy 2019/20	To accept the annual treasury Management	Joy Robson	11/09/2018	
Council	07/03/2019	Council Tax Resolution 2019/20	To set budget and Council tax for 2019/20	Ruth Donovan	11/09/2018	
Cabinet	06/03/2019	2019/20 Education and Welsh Church Trust Funds Investment and Fund Strategies	The purpose of this report is to present to Cabinet for approval the 2019/20 Investment and Fund Strategy for Trust Funds for which the Authority acts as sole or custodian trustee for adoption and to approve the 2018/19 grant allocation to Local Authority beneficiaries of the Welsh Church Fund.	Dave Jarrett	17/04/2018	

Cabinet - Special	20/02/2019	Final Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals		Peter Davies	20/09/2018	
Cabinet	06/02/2019	Welsh Church Fund Working Group	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications 2018/19, meeting 8 held on the 17th January 2019.	Dave Jarrett	17/04/2018	
Council	17/01/2019	Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2018/19		Ruth Donovan	11/09/2018	
Cabinet	09/01/2019	Final Draft Budget Proposals or recommendation to Council.		Joy Robson	17/04/2018	
Cabinet	09/01/2019	Welsh Church Fund Working Group	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications 2018/19, meeting 7 held on the 13th December 2018.	Dave Jarrett	17/04/2018	
Cabinet	09/01/2019	Budget Monitoring report - month 7 (period 2)	The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information on the forecast outturn position of the Authority at end of month reporting for 2018/19 financial year.	Joy Robson/Mark Howcroft	17/04/2018	
Cabinet	19/12/2018	Draft Revenue Capital Budget Proposals	To outline the proposed capital budget for 2019/20 and indicative capital budgets for the 3 years 2020/21 to 2022/23	Joy Robson/Peter Davies	19/09/2018	
Council	13/12/2018	Capital Budget Report on 3rd Lane on Wye Bridge	Defer to December	Paul Keeble	20/09/2018	
Council	13/12/2018	Final approval of MonLife and MonLife Plus		Tracey Thomas	09/08/2018	

Council	13/12/2018	21st Century Schools - Band B project Team		Will Mclean	12/10/2018	
Cabinet	05/12/2018	Welsh Football League Pyramid - Monmouthshire Clubs		Mike Moran	05/11/2018	
Cabinet	05/12/2018	LA and Schools Partnership Agreement		Cath Saunders	26/09/2018	
Cabinet	05/12/2018	Reorganisation of ALN and Inclusion Services update	Cabinet consider objections received on the Reorganis	Debbie Morgan	25/05/2018	
Cabinet	05/12/2018	Welsh Church Fund Working Group	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications 2018/19, meeting 6 held on the 25th October 2018.	Dave Jarrett	17/04/2018	
Cabinet	05/12/2018	Council Tax Base 2019/20 and associated matters	To agree the Council Tax Base figure for submission to the Welsh Government, together with the collection rate to be applied for 2019/20 and to make other necessary related statutory decisions	Sue Deacy/Ruth Donovan	17/04/2018	
Cabinet	05/12/2018	Corporate Plan: Progress Report		Matthew Gatehouse	10/07/2018	
Cabinet	05/12/2018	Reviews of Fees and Charges	To review all fees and charges made for services across the Council and identify proposals for increasing them in 2019/20	Mark Howcroft	17/04/2018	
Cabinet	05/12/2018	Implementation of NJC revised payspine April 2019			09/10/2018	
ICMD	28/11/2018	Skills at Work		Cath Fallon	06/11/2018	

ICMD	28/11/2018	Panel Fees for Foster Carers		Jane Rodgers	17/10/2018	
ICMD	14/11/2018	Social Housing Grant Programme		Shirley Wiggam	25/10/2018	
ICMD	14/11/2018	Rural Allocations Policy		Shirley Wiggam	25/10/2018	
ICMD	14/11/2018	Family Support within 'Statutory' Children's Services - Re-design of the Contact Service		Jane Rodgers	17/10/2018	
ICMD	14/11/2018	Review of Mardy Local Lettings Policy		Ian Bakewell	23/10/2018	
ICMD	14/11/2018	Proposal to extend supporting people contracts in 2019/20		Chris Robinson	10/09/2018	
Cabinet	07/11/2018	Targeted Regeneration Investment Programme, The Cross, Caldicot		Cath Fallon	12/10.18	
Cabinet	07/11/2018	Cadetship Programme		Tracey Harry	20/09/2018	
Cabinet	07/11/2018	Structure Report		Roger Hoggins	20/09/2018	
Cabinet	07/11/2018	Project 5: Development of a Therapeutic Foster Care Service for Complex Young People		Jane Rodgers	30/08/2018	

Cabinet	07/11/2018	MTFP and Budget Process for 2019/20 to 2022/23	To outline the context and process within which the MTFP over the next 4 years and the budget for 2019/20 will be developed.	Joy Robson	17/04/2018	
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