



## **Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Progress Report March 2018**

**Name of Local Authority: Monmouthshire County Council**

**Name of Responsible Officer: Sue Hall, Early Years Manager**

**Date of Completion: 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

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## **PROGRESS MADE AGAINST ACTIONS**

Monmouthshire County Council is required to “secure as far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient childcare to meet the requirements of parents in their area who require childcare in order to work or to undertake training or education or to prepare for work” (Childcare Act 2006).

The last full Childcare Sufficiency Assessment covered the period 2017-22. An Action Plan was produced and the progress made against each action has been recorded below:

<b>Target</b>	<b>Why is it Required?</b>	<b>How will it be Achieved?</b>	<b>How will it be Monitored?</b>	<b>Progress 2017-18</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Develop a Welsh medium childcare setting in the south of the county and increase the number of Welsh medium childcare places in the north of the county by 20%.	There is not sufficient Welsh medium childcare provision, in particular full day care, to meet the needs of working parents. We are required to actively promote Welsh medium education.	Monmouthshire Early Years will work closely with Mudiad Meithrin and the existing providers to expand the provision of Welsh medium childcare provision.	The number of Welsh medium childcare places is included in the Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and this is reviewed termly.	A Welsh medium setting has been established in the south of the county. They are situated on the site of the Welsh medium primary school and provide wrap around childcare for the LA nursery.  The Cylch Meithrin in the north of the county has relocated and is now able to provide morning and afternoon sessions, as well as breakfast club and lunch club, so the number of Welsh medium childcare places in the north has doubled.	September 2017
Increase the opening hours of at least 1 existing childcare	There is a lack of childcare available to meet the needs of	Offer financial incentives to encourage existing	FIS will send update forms to childcare providers and the	As mentioned above, Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni in Abergavenny increased their	March 2018

provider in each of the 5 areas to include atypical hours.	parents who work atypical hours such as shift workers and those that work at weekends.	childcare providers to extend their opening hours and to provide childcare during atypical hours.	childcare supply will be updated accordingly and compared with the previous year.	opening hours to include wrap around childcare. In addition, a day nursery in Monmouth opened on a Saturday and a day nursery in the Usk/Raglan area offered overnight care on a Friday night once a month.	
Register 5 new childminders across Monmouthshire and at least maintain the current level of provision.	There is a high turnover of childminders due to the transient nature of the job. Childminders are best placed to provide childcare during atypical hours.	Provide childminder briefing sessions and support through the registration process. Continue to offer financial support for CYPOP5 training and start-up grants.	Number of newly registered childminders as per CSSIW monthly reports will be monitored termly, along with the number of start-up grants awarded.	Numerous childminder briefing sessions have taken place this year and 13 CYPOP5 courses have been funded. There have been 12 new childminders registered across Monmouthshire during this financial year and only 4 have de-registered; therefore, the total number of childminders has increased by 8.	March 2018 and ongoing
Develop an additional 3 holiday childcare settings in different areas of Monmouthshire	There is a need to increase the range of childcare available during school holidays to meet the needs of working parents.	Childcare Development Officer to work closely with existing providers to expand their provision. Offer development grants to cover start-up costs.	This will be included as a target for the Out of School Childcare Grant and monitored quarterly.	The open access play provision has continued to operate this year and the Monmouthshire Games has operated in all school holidays, replacing the traditional play scheme with supervised sports sessions. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to develop additional holiday childcare in other areas of Monmouthshire.	July 2017

Develop 2 registered crèches or encourage existing providers to offer crèche facilities.	There are no crèche facilities in most areas of Monmouthshire and there is a demand for this type of childcare.	Contact leisure facilities and existing providers to discuss the possibility of developing crèche facilities on site and offer financial support.	This will be included as a target for the Service Improvement Plan (SIP) and monitored quarterly.	A day nursery based near the town centre trialled opening on Saturdays to offer crèche facilities but take up was poor so this provision is no longer being offered.	March 2018
Increase the opening times of open access play provision to include half terms and Easter holidays.	Open access play is currently only available during the summer holidays and there is a demand for more of this type of childcare.	Work closely with the Play Monitoring Group to extend the provision of open access play across the authority.	This will be reviewed and monitored as part of the Play Sufficiency Assessment.	The open access play provision in Monmouthshire is currently being run by a neighbouring local authority and it has not been possible to extend this to include other school holidays due to insufficient funding.	October 2017
Register 3 out of school clubs with CIW.	A significant number of out of school clubs are not registered with CIW so there is a limit to the number of hours they can operate each session and parents cannot claim Working Tax Credits.	Childcare Development Officer to work closely with existing out of school childcare settings to provide business advice and support them through the registration process.	This will be included as a target for the Out of School Childcare Grant and monitored quarterly.	One existing out of school club has registered with CIW during this year and a second club is currently working on their CIW application form.	March 2018
To provide Welsh training for 12	To develop the Welsh language skills of	Identify a suitable Welsh course,	Attendance lists will be kept and follow	27 childcare workers from 9 different settings and 6	March 2018

childcare workers.	childcare workers and to increase the number of childcare settings offering some bilingual elements.	cover the cost of the training and promote with childcare providers	up will be carried out to assess the impact this has had on their setting.	childminders attended Fun with Welsh training during the summer term. A further 22 childcare workers from 14 settings and 2 childminders attended Ffa-la-la training in the spring term.	
Continue to promote the Family Information Service and advertise the availability of financial support to assist with the cost of childcare.	Affordability is the main barrier to accessing childcare. Take up of the childcare element of Working Tax Credits and Employer Supported Schemes is poor and some parents reported they didn't know where to find this financial information.	Monmouthshire Family Information Service will use the FIS website and social media such as facebook and twitter to promote tax credits and to provide information relating to financial assistance for childcare	The Family Information Officer produces monthly reports including details of promotional activities. Users of the FIS website complete evaluation forms.	A new fully bilingual and mobile friendly FIS website has been developed and went live at the end of September 2017. There is a page on the FIS website providing information on the availability of financial support to assist with the cost of childcare.  Social media has been used extensively to promote events and activities.	December 2017 and ongoing
To include details of nannies on FIS website.	Monmouthshire Family Information Service currently holds no information relating to nannies.	Contact nanny organisations and use the FIS website and social media to enquire about nannies.	A review of childcare supply will take place on an annual basis and this will include nannies.	There are several agencies for nannies and au pairs advertised on the FIS website, there is also information on the voluntary approval scheme for nannies but there are no individual nannies advertising on the FIS website.	March 2018

## **CHILDCARE SUPPLY**

The table below shows the supply of childcare provision in Monmouthshire in March 2018, compared with March 2017; it includes both registered and unregistered provision:

<b>Type of Childcare</b>	<b>Child-minders</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	<b>Sessional Care</b>	<b>Out of School Care</b>	<b>Open Access Play</b>	<b>Crèches</b>	<b>Nannies</b>	<b>Total</b>
March 2017	46	23	18	18	8	1	0	114
March 2018	54	24	19	20	8	0	0	125
Difference	+8	+1	+1	+2	0	-1	0	+11

There has been an increase of almost 10% in the number of childcare providers within Monmouthshire during this year and the main change has been the increase in the number of registered childminders. This is a result of the significant efforts that have been put in to recruiting new childminders, whilst also providing support and training to existing childminders to improve retention rates. There has been very little change in the other childcare types.

## **CHILDCARE DEMAND**

Requests for childcare received by the Family Information Service have been similar to previous years, with the majority of enquiries relating to childminders and holiday care. Most enquirers are able to find suitable childcare as a result of the information they receive.

Although the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment suggested there was an unmet demand for crèche facilities and childcare during atypical hours such as overnight and at weekends, take up of these services when they were offered was very low and was insufficient to extend this further.

The Childcare Offer is not due to be rolled out in Monmouthshire until January 2018. It is expected that this will result in a slight increase in demand for childcare, particularly during school holidays. This will be considered and planned for during the next 9 months.

## **SUMMARY**

There are currently 125 childcare providers in Monmouthshire; these are spread throughout Monmouthshire and the childcare places are spread across different types of childcare. Almost every primary school in Monmouthshire has access to both Before School Care and After School Care, either on the premises or at a nearby location. There are no particular areas of Monmouthshire lacking childcare and most parents report they are satisfied with the provision and quality of the childcare available.

The main areas for improvement highlighted through the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment published in March 2017 were:

- *More Welsh medium childcare of all types is required in all areas of Monmouthshire, particularly those providing full day care during term time and school holidays*
- *There needs to be an increase in the number of holiday clubs and the range of childcare available during school holidays.*
- *More provision is required during atypical hours such as before 8am, after 6pm, overnight and at weekends.*
- *Open access play provision is required during all school holidays.*

Although steps have been taken to increase the amount of Welsh medium childcare in Monmouthshire, there is still a way to go to ensure that this provision is available in all areas of Monmouthshire and is sufficient to meet the needs of working parents.

It has been difficult to increase the provision of childcare during school holidays and this continues to be a priority, particularly with the imminent rollout of the Childcare Offer in Monmouthshire from January 2019.

Several attempts have been made to provide childcare during atypical hours but none of these have had sufficient demand to be sustainable in the long term. There is unlikely to be sufficient demand for atypical hours in any one area to offer sustainable provision through any childcare type other than childminders. We have been successful at increasing the total number of childminders this year; however, we will continue to recruit new childminders and to provide ongoing support to existing childminders going forward to ensure we at least maintain this level of provision.

There has been insufficient funding to increase the provision of open access play provision to cover all school holidays, not just the summer holidays.



## REVISED ACTION PLAN

Target	Why is it Required?	How will it be Achieved?	How will it be Monitored?	Timescale
<p><b>Increase the provision of Welsh medium childcare places by registering the setting in the south of the county so they are able to extend their opening hours and developing an additional setting in another area of Monmouthshire.</b></p>	<p>There is not sufficient Welsh medium childcare provision, in particular full day care, to meet the needs of working parents and to actively promote Welsh medium education.</p>	<p>Monmouthshire Early Years will work closely with Mudiad Meithrin to register the existing provision and to raise demand for Welsh medium through Cylch Ti a Fi and other initiatives.</p>	<p>The number of Welsh medium childcare places is included in the Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and this is reviewed termly.</p> <p>Transition from Welsh medium early education to Welsh medium primary schools will also be monitored annually.</p>	<p>September 2020</p>
<p><b>Develop holiday provision in the four main towns of Monmouthshire to run alongside Mon Games, which has replaced the play schemes and operates in all school holidays.</b></p>	<p>There is a lack of childcare during school holidays. Although the Mon Games is not registered as childcare, it is a supervised provision that meets the needs of many families, particularly for children aged 8-12 years; however, there is still a need for registered childcare.</p>	<p>Childcare Development Officer will work closely with existing childcare providers, leisure services, play, community councils and housing to develop holiday provision.</p>	<p>This will be included as a target for the Out of School Childcare Grant and monitored quarterly.</p> <p>Attendance figures for Mon Games and the childcare provision will be monitored to assess need.</p>	<p>April 2019</p>
<p><b>Extend provision at 3 existing childcare settings to offer childcare in school holidays in preparation for the Childcare Offer.</b></p>	<p>The rollout of the Childcare Offer is likely to increase demand for childcare during school holidays for children aged 3-4 years.</p>	<p>Offer incentives to encourage existing childcare providers to change their statement of purpose to provide childcare during school holidays.</p>	<p>This will be included as a target for the Out of School Childcare Grant and monitored quarterly.</p>	<p>April 2019</p>

<p><b>Register 10 new childminders and at least maintain the existing number of childminders across Monmouthshire.</b></p>	<p>Childminders tend to be the most flexible in terms of the hours they can offer so they are best placed to provide childcare during atypical hours that is sustainable with low numbers.</p> <p>There is a high turnover of childminders due to the transient nature of the job so there is a constant need to recruit new childminders.</p>	<p>Childminding will be promoted through the Family Information Service as a career opportunity. Childminder briefing sessions will be held as required and CYPOP5 training will be funded, along with a start up grant and business pack.</p> <p>Support and training will also be provided to existing childminders in relation to business skills, improving quality and advertising.</p>	<p>This will be included as a target for the Out of School Childcare Grant and monitored quarterly.</p> <p>CSSIW monthly reports will also be used to monitor the number of newly registered childminders and the number of existing childminders who de-register.</p>	<p>April 2020</p>
<p><b>Extend the opening times of open access play provision to include half terms and Easter holidays.</b></p>	<p>Open access play is currently only available during the summer holidays and there is a demand for more of this type of childcare.</p>	<p>Work closely with the Play Monitoring Group to extend the provision of open access play across the authority.</p>	<p>This will be reviewed and monitored as part of the Play Sufficiency Assessment.</p>	<p>April 2020</p>
<p><b>Provide at least 15 training opportunities for existing childcare and play workers.</b></p>	<p>Providing training for existing childcare providers is required to improve the quality of childcare provision in Monmouthshire and ensure providers continue to meet the National Minimum Standards, as well as allowing staff to continue their professional development.</p>	<p>A training needs analysis will be carried out and relevant training will be provided either free or at a reduced cost.</p> <p>Existing childcare and play workers will be encouraged to further their professional development.</p>	<p>Further training should improve the quality of childcare provision. In addition, more clubs will be able to register with CSSIW so parents can access Tax Credits.</p>	<p>April 2019</p>

<p><b>Continue to promote the Family Information Service and advertise the Childcare Offer, alongside the availability of financial support to assist with the cost of childcare.</b></p>	<p>Affordability is the main barrier to accessing childcare. Take up of the childcare element of Working Tax Credits and Employer Supported Schemes is poor and some parents reported they didn't know where to find financial information.</p> <p>The Childcare Offer is due to be implemented in January 2019 in Monmouthshire and this will need to be advertised extensively with both parents and providers.</p>	<p>Monmouthshire Family Information Service will be promoted through the local press, social media, posters, leaflets and outreach.</p>	<p>Families will be aware of their childcare options and career opportunities in childcare.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
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