

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

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			
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

<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>
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Matter D: Supervised 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

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

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

<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>
<p>To 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

<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>
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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

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)

<p>To develop the community play framework for open access play provision;</p>	<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)
<p>Identifying better links and integration with other programmes and partnerships through the Play Strategy Group</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>MCC & partners</p>

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