

Monmouthshire Play Review

A Critical Assessment of Staffed Play Provision

Torfaen Play Service October 2015

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1. Introduction

The following review looks at the current state of play within Monmouthshire. This will entail critically analysing existing delivery and identifying future proposals to continue and extend staffed play provision across the county.

Play is an essential and integral part of every child's life regardless of age, ability, gender or social background. Staffed play provision can provide many benefits both to children and young people as well as the community as a whole.

Monmouthshire Play Sufficiency Assessment (2013) recognised the importance of play in children's lives, not only for its recreational value but for the important part that it plays in children's physical and emotional health and well being and in their personal development.

Play provides a platform for children to learn, to have fun and to develop friendships with other children in a variety of settings from the school playground to formal open spaces and the wider physical environment. Play is a common denominator that should be capable of being enjoyed by all children irrespective of their social or cultural background or the ability of their parents to pay for the opportunity to participate (Monmouthshire Play Sufficiency Assessment 2013 – Full Findings Document).

2. Consultation with Partners

This review has been carried out through consultation with the following partners to gage a cohesive view of the current state of play in Monmouthshire:-

- *Monmouthshire Housing
- *Leisure Services
- *Community Infrastructure
- *Early Years
- *Clybiau Plant Cymru
- *Sports Development
- * Sure Start
- *Youth Service
- *The Magic Project
- *Action for Children
- *Children with Disabilities Team
- *Community Nursing Team
- *Green Infrastructure
- *Inclusive Youth Worker
- *Families First
- *Disability Sports
- *Parks and Open Spaces
- *Town and Community Council

3. Population Breakdown

Monmouthshire is geographically diverse with over 18,000 children and young people living within the county

Breakdown of Monmouthshire population 2011 Census

Age	Amount
0-3	3,644 children aged 0-3
4-7	3,845 children aged 4-7
8-12	5,106 children aged 8-12
13-15	3,648 children aged 13-15
16-17	2,628 children aged 16-17

Current numbers of children who require support (May 2015)

	Amount
Children with Disabilities	117
Looked After Children	81
Children on Child Protection Register	39



4. Play Sufficiency - Meeting Welsh Government Standards

Welsh Government placed a duty on every local authority in Wales to critically review and assess its commitment to children's play (Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010) .

With this in mind, each local authority completed a Play Sufficiency Assessment within 2012/13 which placed a focus on assessing the following areas:-

Matter A = Population

Matter B = Providing for a Diverse Need

Matter C = Space Available from Children to Play

Matter D = Staffed Provision

Matter E = Charges for Provision

Matter F = Access to Space / Provision

Matter G = Securing and Developing the Play Workforce

Matter H = Community Engagement and Participation

Matter I = Play within all relevant Policy and Implementation Agendas

Each local authority then developed an Action Plan for 2013 / 2014 which contributed to the local authorities Single Integrated Plan.

Welsh Government requests that feedback be provided annually on the yearly Action Plan and a new Action Plan be submitted for the following year.

The Action Plans are monitored locally by the Play Sufficiency Action Group / Play Planning Group.

In 2014, Welsh Government placed a statutory duty on every local authority in Wales to provide sufficient play opportunities.

The next full Play Sufficiency Assessment needs to be completed over the next couple of months in line with the time-scale specified by Welsh Government.

March 1 st 2016	Local Authorities are required to complete and submit a copy of their Play Sufficiency Assessments, the Results of the Play Sufficiency Assessments and the Action Plan (with associated costs) to the Welsh Ministers.
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(Creating A Play Friendly Wales 2012)

5. Current Play Provision in Monmouthshire

(NB. All figures in this section refer to the 2014 playschemes)

5.1 Closed Access Summer Playschemes

Monmouthshire County Council currently delivers summer playschemes for children aged five to eleven years on a closed access basis. This means that children and young people are not permitted to leave site during playscheme hours. A free bus service is provided for those attending the Caldicot playscheme.

Name	Age	Time
Abergavenny Leisure Centre	5-11 years	9.00-3.30
Caldicot Leisure Centre	5-11 years	9.00-3.30
Chepstow Leisure Centre	5-11 years	9.00-3.30
Monmouth Leisure Centre	5-11 years	9.00-3.30
Bulwark Community Centre	5- 11 years	9.00-3.30

5.2 Charges for provision

There is a daily charge for playscheme per child. The details of this our provided within the chart below

Cost for Playschemes run from Leisure Centres

£8.50 per day	Per child
£7.50 per day	For siblings
£4.25 per day	for children on free school meals
£3.50 per day	Breakfast Club (per child)

Cost for Bulwark Playscheme

£3.00 per day	Per child
£2.50 per day	For siblings
Free	For children on free school meals

5.3 Comparative Childcare Costs

Whilst a whole day's session can add up to £12 per day, per child, this is significantly cost effective in comparison to other local childcare providers. (This is based on average cost of local childcare providers).

Comparative costs to childcare

Playscheme	Amount	Childcare	Amount
One week , 1 child	£60	One week , 1 child	£100
Four weeks ,1 child	£240	Four Weeks, 1 child	£400

Due to the high volume of children attending the Playschemes, it has had a significant effect on childcare providers in the area. In the current economic climate it demonstrates a clear demand for cost effective childcare to meet the needs of families.

5.4 Attendance on schemes

A large volume of children attend the Playschemes in Monmouthshire each year. The chart below details the registered attendance for each site and the average weekly attendance figures.

Name	Total number of children registered	Average daily attendance figures
Abergavenny Leisure Centre	310	72
Caldicot Leisure Centre	216	52
Chepstow Leisure Centre	318	80
Monmouth Leisure Centre	319	90
Bulwark Community Centre	70	50

5.5 Out of County Attendance

The following charts provide an insight into the number of sessions attended by children out of county.

Abergavenny Leisure Centre

Town/Village	No	Town/Community Council	Total
Llangattock	27	Llangattock Community Council	27
Crickhowell	25	Vale of Grwyney	25
Other	138	New Inn 10, Tredegar 41, Grifithstown 1, Cwmdu 5, Italy 7, Hereford 6, Blaenavon 10, Ebbw Vale 3, Pontypool 26, Brynmawr 3, Birmingham 4, Ireland 4, Pandy 15, Bettws Newydd 3	138
Sub Total		From outside Monmouthshire	190

Total Number sessions attended by children within county	1247
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13.2% attending from out of county

Caldicot Leisure Centre

Town/Village	No	Town/Community Council	Total
Bristol	2	Bristol City	2
Ringland	8	Newport City	22
Corpa	9		
Underwood	5		
Pontypool	20	Pontypool Community Council	20
Redwick	15	Redwick Community Council	15
Sub Total	59	From outside Monmouthshire	59

Total Number sessions attended by children within county	991
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5.7% attending from out of county

Chepstow Leisure Centre

Town	No	Town/ Community Council	Total
Beachley	15	Tidenham Community Council	15
Sedbury	19		19
Tutshill	54		54
Woodcroft	0		0
St Briavels	5	St Briavels Parish Council	5
Other	207		207
Sub Total	300	From outside Monmouthshire	300

Total Number sessions attended by children within county	1295
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18.8% attending from out of county

Monmouth Leisure Centre

Town	No	Town/ Community Council	Total
Ross on Wye H	53	Ross on Wye Town Council	53
Coleford FOD	35	Coleford Town Council	35
Symonds Yat H	31	Whitchurch & Ganarew Parish Council	31
Goodrich H	22	Goodrich & Welsh Bicknor Parish Council	22
Redbrook FOD	21	Newland Parish Council	21
Caerphilly	15	Caerphilly CBC	15
Sub Total		From outside Monmouthshire	177

Total Number sessions attended by children within county	1613
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9.9% attending from out of county

Whilst these figures demonstrate a large proportion of children and young people attending out of county, it should be noted that certain factors should be considered such as the location of where parents/carers work.

5.6 Inclusive Practice

A number of children and young people with disabilities are supported to attend the closed access Playschemes each year averaging five to six children per site.

However, a number of recommendations were raised in relation to improving inclusive practice. This included specialist training being delivered to staff as well as stronger links with parents and carers and the use of alternative venues.

Through consultation with partners it was noted that children with disabilities were not able to access the same amount of provision as their non-disabled peers. This was linked to issues such as staffing and training of staff. In addition to this, costing implications is also a significant factor in relation to delivering inclusive practice.

5.7 Financial Breakdown

The Summer Playschemes Report 2014 provided the following information in relation to income received to deliver Playschemes:-

Name of Site	Total Amount of income contributed to Playschemes
Abergavenny	Town and Community Council = £8,000 Families First = £ 4790.49 MCC Development Grant = £250 Total Amount = £13,040.49
Caldicot	Town and Community Council = £9,850 Families First = £ 3,880.23 MCC Development Grant = £250 Total Amount = £13,900.23
Chepstow	Town and Community Council = £8,540 Families First = £ 4695.99 MCC Development Grant = £250 Total Amount = £13,485.99
Monmouth	Town and Community Council = £2,600 Families First = £ 4544.97 MCC Development Grant = £250 Total Amount = £7,394.97
Bulwark	Town and Community Council = £10,575.88 Total Amount = £10, 575.88

Total amount of monies received to deliver Playschemes in Monmouthshire

= £58,397.56

The report also detailed the amount of monies received from daily charges and how this was utilised. Please see the following in relation to individual site breakdown/costs

Income & Expenditure 2014

Abergavenny Leisure Centre

Income		
Area	Description	Amount £
Admission Charges	5-11 years	£11,437.30
	Breakfast Club	£366.36
	Kiddievouchers	£249.40
Town Council Funding	Abergavenny	£8,000.00
Families First Funding	Grant to employ support staff	£4,790.49
	MCC Development Grant	£250.00
Total Income		£25,093.55
Expenditure		
Area	Description	Amount £
Staffing Costs	Includes training, employment and associated costs, Breakfast Club, Fitness, Leisure Assistants	£13,515.31
Payroll and Administration	Covers all Starter Form and Timesheet Processing	£1,000.00
Management Costs	Includes interviews, planning and liaison with CSSIW and Coordinators	£1,000.00
Inclusion Coordination	Covers time spent organising Support Staff, Diary Sheets Leisure Passports	£1,000.00
Support Staff for Children with Disabilities	Internal (through payroll)	£4,790.49
Staff Training Catering (Chepstow Leisure Centre)	Refreshments	£25.00
Facility Hire	Sports Hall, Community Rooms & Outside Areas	£2,000.00
Staff Uniforms	Playscheme & Support Staff	£239.49
19 CRBs @ (£44.00)	Playscheme Staff	£836.00
Transport	Advance Van (diesel)	£25.00
Equipment	ESPO	£200.00
Marketing	Banners, Focus, Voice, Primary Times etc	£467.80
Photocopying	Marketing material & paperwork	£25.00
Petty Cash	General	£23.35
Total Expenditure		£25,147.44
Income v Expenditure Total		-£53.89

Caldicot Leisure Centre

Income		
Area	Description	Amount £
Admission Charges	5-11 years	£7,504.20
	Breakfast Club	£114.70
Town Council Funding	Caldicot Town Council	£5,000.00
Community Council Funding	Magor with Undy	£3,500.00
	Rogiet	£550.00
	Portskewett	£800.00
Families First Funding	Grant to employ support staff	£3,880.23
	MCC Development Grant	£250.00
Total Income		£21,599.13
Income		
Area	Description	Amount £
Staffing Costs	Includes training, employment and associated costs for Playscheme, Breakfast Club, Leisure Assistants and Sports Development	£13,414.17
Payroll and Administration	Covers all Starter Form and Timesheet Processing	£1,000.00
Management Costs	Includes interviews, planning and liaison with CSSIW and Coordinators	£1,000.00
Inclusion Coordination	Covers time spent organising Support Staff, Diary Sheets Leisure Passports	£1,000.00
Support Staff for Children with Disabilities	Internal (through payroll)	£3,344.03
	Direct Payments	£536.20
Staff Training Catering (Chepstow Leisure Centre)	Refreshments	£25.00
Facility Hire	Sports Hall, Community Rooms & Outside Areas	£2,000.00
Staff Uniforms	Playscheme & Support Staff	£245.75
14 DBS @ (£44.00)	Playscheme Staff	£616.00
Transport	Advance Van (diesel)	£25.00
	Bus Service (29 seats - 20 days x £80)	£1,600.00
Equipment	ESPO, Consortium, Eureka	£287.83
Marketing	Banners, Focus, Voice, Primary Times etc	£467.80
Photocopying	Marketing material & paperwork	£25.00
Petty Cash	General	£17.98
Total Expenditure		£25,604.76
Income v Expenditure Total		-£4,005.63

Chepstow Leisure Centre

Income		
Area	Description	Amount £
Admission Charges	5-11 years Breakfast Club Kiddievouchers	£12,958.30 £970.30 £816.10
Town Council Funding Community Council Funding	Chepstow Town Council Caerwent	£8,000.00 £540.00
Families First Funding	Grant to employ support staff MCC Development Grant	£4,695.95 £250.00
Total Income		£28,230.65
Income		
Area	Description	Amount £
Staffing Costs	Includes training, employment and associated costs for Playscheme, Breakfast Club, Leisure Assistants and Sports Development	£12,766.22
Payroll and Administration	Covers all Starter Form and Timesheet Processing	£1,000.00
Management Costs	Includes interviews, planning and liaison with CSSIW and Coordinators	£1,000.00
Inclusion Coordination	Covers time spent organising Support Staff, Diary Sheets Leisure Passports	£1,000.00
Support Staff for Children with Disabilities	Internal (through payroll) Direct Payments	£4,320.61 £375.34
Staff Training Catering (Chepstow Leisure Centre)	Refreshments	£25.00
Facility Hire	Sports Hall, Community Rooms & Outside Areas	£2,000.00
Staff Uniforms	Playscheme & Support Staff	£264.57
15 DBS @ (£44.00)	Playscheme Staff	£660.00
Transport	Advance Van (diesel)	£25.00
Equipment	ESPO, Eureka, Thirsty Cups	£252.30
Marketing	Banners, Focus, Voice, Primary Times etc	£467.80
Photocopying	Marketing material & paperwork	£25.00
Petty Cash	General	£49.06
Total Expenditure		£24,230.90
Income v Expenditure Total		+£3,999.75

Monmouth Leisure Centre

Income		
Area	Description	Amount £
Admission Charges	5-11 years Breakfast Club Kiddievouchers	£12,789.90 £558.00 £2,657.30
Town Council Funding Community Council Funding	Monmouth Town Council Trellech United Community Council Mitchel Troy Community Council	£2,000.00 £350.00 £250.00
Families First Funding	Grant to employ support staff MCC Development Grant	£4,544.97 £250.00
Total Income		£23,400.17
Income		
Area	Description	Amount £
Staffing Costs	Includes training, employment and associated costs for Playscheme, Breakfast Club, Leisure Assistants and Sports Development	£15,072.98
Payroll and Administration	Covers all Starter Form and Timesheet Processing	£1,000.00
Management Costs	Includes interviews, planning and liaison with CSSIW and Coordinators	£1,000.00
Inclusion Coordination	Covers time spent organising Support Staff, Diary Sheets Leisure Passports	£1,000.00
Support Staff for Children with Disabilities	Internal (through payroll)	£4,544.97
Staff Training Catering (Chepstow Leisure Centre)	Refreshments	£25.00
Facility Hire	Sports Hall, Community Rooms & Outside Areas	£2,000.00
Staff Uniforms	Playscheme & Support Staff	£218.07
18 CRBs @ (£44.00)	Playscheme Staff	£792.00
Transport	Advance Van (diesel)	£25.00
Equipment	ESPO	£189.95
Marketing	Banners, Focus, Voice, Primary Times etc	£467.80
Photocopying	Marketing material & paperwork	£20.00
Petty Cash	General	£86.58
Total Expenditure		£26,442.35
Income v Expenditure Total		-£3,042.18

Bulwark Community Centre

Income		
Area	Description	Amount
Admission Charges	5-11 years (through Chepstow LC)	£1,257.40
Town Council Funding	Chepstow Town Council	See * below
Total Income		£1,257.40
Income		
Area	Description	Amount
Staffing Costs	Includes training, employment and associated costs for Playscheme, Leisure Assistants and Sports Development	£5,020.93
Payroll and Administration	Covers all Starter Form and Timesheet Processing	£1,000.00
Management Costs	Includes interviews, planning and liaison with CSSIW and Coordinators	£1,000.00
Inclusion Coordination	Covers time spent organising Support Staff, Diary Sheets Leisure Passports	£1,000.00
Support Staff for Children with Disabilities	Internal (through payroll)	£2,642.56
Staff Training Catering (Chepstow Leisure Centre)	Tea/coffee/water/biscuits	£25.00
Staff Uniforms	Playscheme & Support Staff	£89.31
5 DBS @ (£44.00)	Playscheme Staff	£220.00
Transport	Advance Van (diesel)	£100.00
Equipment	ESPO	£242.88
Marketing	Banners, Focus, Voice, Primary Times etc	£467.60
Photocopying	Marketing material & paperwork	£25.00
Total Expenditure		£11,833.28
Income v Expenditure Total	£	-£10,575.88
*Town Council Subsidy	Chepstow Town Council	£10,575.88
	Scheme balances back to zero	£0.00

5.8 Meeting Standards

Recent changes in standards by CSSIW have stated the following recommendations on closed access Playscheme providers

Circular Letter WGC 004/2015 – Temporary amendment to Standard 13.6(DC) of the National Minimum Standards for Regulated Child Care 2012, in relation to holiday play schemes.

Present Legal Position

The Child Minding and Day Care (Wales) Regulations 2010 made under Part 2 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 set out the requirements for the range of registered child minding and day care provision, including open access and holiday play provision.

Schedule 1 paragraph 28 of the Child Minding and Day Care (Wales) Regulations 2010 requires “the person in charge has the qualifications, skills and experience necessary for the role they perform in relation to the looking after of children under the age of eight”.

Regulation 14(1) requires “the registered person must have regard to the national minimum standards which relate to the type of care provided by the registered person”.

The National Minimum Standards for Regulated Child Care, 2012 (NMS) in Standard 13.6(DC) states “The person in charge has at least a level 3 qualification recognised on the Care Council for Wales’ current list of Accepted Qualifications for the Early Years and Childcare Workforce in Wales or Skills Active’s Integrated Qualification Framework for Playwork (or any lists which supercede them), which is appropriate to the post”.

2. Amendment to Standard 13.6(DC) of the National Minimum Standards for Regulated Child Care 2012

Stage 1 – to come into effect from June 2015 – September 2016

For the period stated, **Standard 13.6(DC)** will read:-

“The person in charge is required to hold at least a level 3 qualification recognised by the Care Council for Wales List of Required Qualifications to work within the Early Years and Childcare Sector in Wales or the SkillsActive list of Required Qualifications to work within the Playwork Sector in Wales (or any lists which supercede them), which is appropriate to the post.

For a holiday play scheme

The person in charge of a holiday play scheme should have the appropriate qualifications, skills and experience to undertake this role. The accepted qualifications will include a level 3 qualification recognised on the Care Council for Wales’ current List of Required Qualifications to work within the Early Years and Childcare Sector in Wales or SkillsActive’s List of Required Qualifications to work within the Playwork Sector in Wales (or any lists which supersede them), which is

appropriate to the post, or a teaching, youth work, or other relevant qualifications at level 3 or above. The post holder should also have the relevant managerial skills and experience to effectively manage a holiday play scheme.”

Stage 2 – to come into effect from September 2016 – September 2018

For the period stated **Standard 13.6(DC)** will read:-

“The person in charge is required to hold at least a level 3 qualification recognised by the Care Council for Wales List of Required Qualifications to work within the Early Years and Childcare Sector in Wales or the SkillsActive List of Required Qualifications to work within the Playwork Sector in Wales (or any lists which supercede them)”, which is appropriate to the post.

For a holiday play scheme

The person in charge of a holiday play scheme should have the appropriate qualifications, skills and experience to undertake this role. The accepted qualifications will include a level 3 qualification recognised on the Care Council for Wales’ current List of Required Qualifications to work within the Early Years and Childcare Sector in Wales or SkillsActive’s List of Required Qualifications to work within the Playwork Sector in Wales (or any lists which supercede them), which is appropriate to the post, or a teaching, youth work, or other relevant qualifications at level 3 or above. The post holder should also have the relevant managerial skills and experience to effectively manage a holiday play scheme.

Where the person in charge of a holiday play scheme does not hold a level 3 Playwork qualification, they should also hold the level 3 unit in “Managing a Holiday Play Scheme.” *

*During the summer of 2015, an Award in Managing a Holiday Play Scheme will be developed. This will provide an interim qualification which will be added to the SkillsActive List of Required Qualifications to work within the Playwork Sector in Wales, specifically for persons in charge of a holiday play scheme.

Stage 3 – to be in effect from September 2018

From September 2018, **Standard 13.6(DC)** will read:-

“The person in charge is required to hold at least a level 3 qualification recognised by the Care Council for Wales List of Required Qualifications to work within the Early Years and Childcare Sector in Wales or the SkillsActive List of Required Qualifications to work within the Playwork Sector in Wales (or any lists which supercede them), which is appropriate to the post.

For a holiday play scheme

Standard 13.6(DC) applies to holiday play schemes as to other provision under The National Minimum Standards for Regulated Child Care, 2012.”

3. Reason for the Amendment

A proportion of holiday play providers are experiencing difficulties in meeting the qualification requirements set out in the NMS. This is particularly the case for the

Person in Charge holding a level 3 Playwork qualification. This has already led to a reduction in registered holiday play provision and raises concerns about the further loss of provision

The Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty recognises the importance of holiday play provision for children and their parents. To avoid further loss of this valued provision, whilst ensuring the ongoing achievement of level 3 playwork qualifications for persons in charge of holiday play schemes, the Minister is issuing Circular Letter WGC 004/2015.

From recent consultation with service providers it was highlighted that to achieve recommendations would provide unrealistic with the ethos of recruiting for seasonal staff.

There would also be a potential cost in ensuring that workers hold the relevant qualifications to carry out their role when looking at the level 3 unit –Managing a Playscheme.

6. Open Access Play Provision

Recent legislation and guidance from Welsh Government recommends that a wide program of rich and varied play provision be delivered to children and young people within each authority (Creating a Play Friendly Wales 2012). This includes both closed and open access play provision as well as parks and open spaces.

In 2013, Monmouthshire County Council carried out a full Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA) on play and play provision in line with the recommendations set out by Welsh government.

It was highlighted within the findings that “Play forms an important part of the Council’s early years and pre -school provision and it is also an important element of the foundation phase once children enter the formal education structure”

However, whilst play was recognised within education and early years it also highlights the distinct lack of open access play provision delivered, mainly due to the absence of a Play Officer being in post.

With this in mind, the delivery of open access play has relied heavily on 3rd sector partners.

6.1 3 Counties Community Play Project

Torfaen Voluntary Alliance (TVA) in partnership with Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC), Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) and Newport City Council (NCC) successfully secured funding from BIG Lottery (BIG) in August 2010 under the Child's Play Programme to deliver the 3CCP Programme.

A total of £999,092 was awarded for Round 2 of the programme, with the initial aim to set up play opportunities for children aged 5-15 years, predominately 8-12 years by using community buildings, open spaces, parks and wooded areas across the three counties of Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen. In addition;

- * providing opportunities to involve volunteers and equip them with the skills they need to sustain the provision by offering play work courses, soft skills and accredited qualifications.

- *to work with community members to establish management groups, which at the end of the funding would take on the delivery of play provision with support from key partners.

The programmes original proposal set to deliver three outcomes and in January 2014, BIG agreed for the scope of the 3CCP programme to be extended, with two additional outcomes. Outcomes are as followed:

Outcome 1: More play opportunities. By the end of the project a minimum of 500 children aged 8 – 12 years across the region will have accessed 24 new, quality, open access, play opportunities, identified within the regional play audit.

Outcome 2: Sustainable Communities. By the end of the project there will be an increase in the level of community based play provision within the target areas across the region. 96 community volunteers will have become positively engaged in the planning and delivery of provision.

Outcome 3: Attitudinal Changes. By the end of the project research carried out will have shown a change in adult attitudes within communities which will enable children and young people to access their right to play.

Outcome 4: Community Engagement. By the end of the project 21 'Play in the Community' events will be delivered across the 3 Counties.

Outcome 5: Community Schools. By the end of the project, 39 schools will be committed to the Play Partnership Agreement and 60 School Staff & 6th Form Pupils will be trained across the three counties.

6.2 Play Provisions supported by Three Counties Community Play in Monmouthshire

Frequency	Location	Age Range	Time
Monday	Woodland View, Wyesham	5 - 12 years	3:45 - 4:45
Tuesday	Llanishen Village Hall	5 - 12 years	6:00 - 8:00
Wednesday	Dewstow Primary School	5 - 15 years	4.00 - 5.00
Wednesday	Gilwern Play Club – Community Education Centre	5 - 9 years	5.00 -6.30
Thursday	Pandy Red Kites Club - Pandy Village Hall	5 - 12 years	4.30 - 6:00
Friday	Pandy Junior Youth Club	5 - 12 years	6:00 - 7:00

The project ended in March 2015. Feedback from 3 Counties Play Project Evaluative Report (April 2015) stated the following [*with commentary added*]:-

- Overall, the project has had a positive impact within all areas, exceeding the targets set in the primary outcomes. Great progress was made towards the additional outcomes agreed in 2014, which focused on school & community engagement & it was actions outside of the control of the project that delayed progress; early indicators show that the outcomes were achievable had there been more time.
- The importance of play has been advocated throughout each county by engaging with local communities through the medium of play. Training sessions, interactive workshops, community events are some of the methods used to engage, raising the awareness of the benefits of play.
- Each County has a differing level of need with regards to play & therefore the projects level of involvement within each county varied; Monmouthshire received the highest level of support, being attributed to the absence of a dedicated play team/officer.
- Of those who accessed the project it is evident that there is a wider understanding of the importance of play & the role that it has on the development of children; 42% increase in a belief that 'play is important for children' & 35% increase in them believing 'children directly benefit from play'.
- Parents confidence in their children attending a volunteer led provision was low, although there was a significant improvement of child attendance once project staff were more visible in the establishment of the clubs. This provided volunteers the opportunity to engage with parents building trust.
- Monmouthshire: 103 volunteers have accessed training. Currently 18 are actively supporting the delivery of clubs.
- Monmouthshire: 1,076 children registered have accessed all play opportunities provided within the area.
- 11 provisions were established & supported [*3 of these were existing provision of the Monmouthshire Youth Service*], with 5 sustained through the recruitment and training of community members.

Through consultation with partners concern was placed on whether these provisions were still running due to the project finishing.

Concern was also put forward in relation to supporting the community volunteers who were previously involved in the project.

Through the consultation process many partners were unaware that the project had ceased delivery due to a lack of correspondence with project management. Additionally, it was highlighted that some of the provisions listed above were already in place prior to the project starting.

6.3 Outreach Open Access Play Sessions

Groundworks Sustainability Play is a relatively new project funded by Welsh Government to deliver outreach open access play settings within the heart of the community.

The project will only be within Monmouthshire for a limited amount of time as the project covers a large part of Wales. With this in mind, specific project time is allocated to each local authority.

Monmouthshire Youth Service also offered open access play provision over 5 weeks during Summer 2015.

Lead	Location	How often	Age	Cost
Groundwork South East Sustainable Play	Green space at Hillside Estate Abergavenny	Every Wednesday	5 – 12 years	Free
Monmouthshire Youth Service	Various locations	60 sessions over the summer period	5-12 years	Free

7. Closed Access Play Provision

A number of closed access play sessions (childcare) run on a weekly basis

School	<u>Out of School Clubs on School Premises</u>	BC	AS		
			C	HC	
Archbishop Rowan Williams Primary	ARW ASC		1		
Deri View Primary	Deri View Dragons		1	1	
Ysgol Y Ffin Primary	Dragon Club		1	1	HC -Inset days only
Gilwern Primary	Hopscotch		1	1	
Llanfoist Fawr Primary	Llanfoist ASC		1		
Llanvihangel Crucorney Primary	Time Out @ Pandy		1		Tues / Weds
Magor CIW Primary	Magor HC			1	
Overmonnow Primary	OK Club		1		
Cantref Primary	Playworks		1		Mon / Thurs
Trellech Primary	Playworks		1		
Osbaston CIW Primary	Playworks		1		Mon/ Thurs
Usk CIW Primary	Playworks		1		
Raglan Primary	Rascals	1	1	1	HC -Inset days only
Dell Primary	Schools out at the Dell		1		
Shire newton Primary	Shire newton		1	1	
St Mary's RC Primary	SMASH Care		1	1	HC - Over 8s
Llandogo Primary	Starlights		1	1	ASC -Tues - Thurs
Rogiet Primary	Tigers		1	1	
Llantilio Pertholey Primary	Teilos Fun Club		1		
Ysgol Gymraeg Y Ffeni	Clwb Carco		1		Mon - Thurs
Thornwell Primary	Thornwell ASC		1		New Development opened April 2015
	Totals	1	20	9	

Non School Based Clubs

Goytre	1	1	1	ASC - also offer places for children 11 plus
Two Tribes		1		Pick up from Magor CIW & Undy Primary
Abacus	1	1	1	Pick up for schools in Abergavenny
Sunnybank	1	1	1	Pick up service for schools in Chepstow

8. Play provision for Children with Disabilities

The provision for children with disabilities linked to play is limited within Monmouthshire.

*The Monmouthshire Parent Network (MAGIC) runs weekly sessions. In addition to this, sessions are also delivered through Action for Children.

*During holiday periods Monmouthshire Youth Service 3 sessions a week during holiday times for young people with disabilities.

*The “*Building Bridges*” Project funded by Big Lottery supports young people with additional needs.

*A number of children are supported each year to attend the closed access Playschemes run by the local authority however, as stated above, not all children are able to attend every day due to issues such as staffing and training.

*Extra Hands funding (Early Years) can be utilised within the county to provide support for children with disabilities to attend closed access play settings.

*There is also a specialist provision run for children and young people with Down Syndrome and a voluntary group named Bebes run from the Chepstow area.

However, from speaking to partners it was stated that a joined up, collaborative approach to delivering provision for children with disabilities would prove beneficial. This could include discussing currently delivery as well as sharing training and resources etc.

Further discussions highlighted the possibility of utilising SEN (Special Educational Needs) bases within local schools as potential venues for summer playschemes for children with disabilities.

The main SEN Units are located at Pembroke Primary School in Chepstow, Durand Primary School in Caldicot, Overmonnow Primary in Monmouth and Deri View Primary School in Abergavenny

9. Training the Workforce

A number of play related training sessions and qualifications have been available in Monmouthshire. This has included Level 2 and Level 3 Playwork qualifications which are funded through the Early Years Sector.

Further Playwork training such as P3 has been delivered previously through the 3 Counties Play Project which entailed a number of Youth Service staff obtaining play training.

Soft skills and Play Awareness sessions have also been delivered through the 3 Counties Play Project to community groups and parents.

Play Awareness and Inclusive Play Sessions have also been delivered by Torfaen Play Service as part of the Level 2 Youthwork qualification based with Monmouthshire Youth Service.

10. The Way Forward

A full Play Sufficiency Assessment will be carried out for Monmouthshire over the following months. This will include a full assessment with findings as well as a future action plan complete with costs for service delivery.

It is required that the documents be signed off and submitted to Welsh Government by 31 March 2016.

It is intended that the Green Infrastructure & Countryside Manager for Monmouthshire County Council will lead on this piece of work.

The key concerns / issues put forward through consultation with partners were as follows:-

- Leisure Services are under great strain to continue to deliver the closed access playschemes specifically with the new onset of standards proposed by CSSIW. In addition to this, there is also lost cost opportunity which impacts adversely on their management and staffing capacity. As a result, this then hampers Leisure Services in achieving their wider service targets, including trading targets.
- Leisure Services are unable to continue to support children with disabilities with challenging needs due to the specialist support that is required to meet standards. The extensive work and protocols that are required to be put in place in relation to inclusive practice (training, care plans etc.) are unachievable with current staffing, resources and timescales
- Whilst partners are keen and enthusiastic to champion play from their service areas and recognise their role in supporting children's play, without a designated Play Officer co-ordinating and pushing the development of play forward in Monmouthshire it will prove extremely challenging.
- Play provision for children with disabilities is far more limited than that of mainstream children.

The appendices include the options for the way forward.

Resources

Creating A Play Friendly Wales, Welsh Government (2010)

Monmouthshire's Play Sufficiency Full Findings Document (2013)

Monmouthshire's End of Summer Closed Access Playscheme Report (2014)

Torfaen Voluntary Alliance – 3 Counties Play – End of Project Report (2015)

