

Play Sufficiency Assessment Form



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

FINAL DRAFT (SUBJECT TO CABINET CONSIDERATION 1 MAY 2019)

Name of Local Authority: Monmouthshire

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Monmouthshire County Council - Play Sufficiency Assessment and Play Action Plan

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1. Principle Statement

The Council's purpose is to help build sustainable and resilient communities that support the well-being of current and future generations. This purpose is at the heart of everything we do to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Monmouthshire and we share this with our public service partners as part of the Public Service Board. The Council and the Public Service Board share the objective to provide children and young people with the best possible start in life. Play contributes to children's lives and to the well-being of their families and communities.

The Council has identified the importance of inclusive play opportunities to help deliver its social justice strategy to address inequalities in our county by contributing to developing child friendly communities.

The Council recognises the value and importance of play in the lives of children as enshrined in Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children and in Wales as one of the identified children's rights set out in Children and Young People: Rights to Action 2004.

The Council recognises the importance of play in children's lives, for both its recreational value and 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.

2. Context

Since 2015 responsibility for the lead on play policy rests with the Council's Tourism Leisure, Culture & Youth Service and within that service the Green Infrastructure and Countryside Manager and the Community Infrastructure Coordinator. The Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan has engaged the members of the Council's Play Strategy Group which now comprises the Children and Young People's Sub Group of the Creating an Active and Healthy Monmouthshire Partnership supplemented by additional input from specialist officers across the Authority. The Children and Young Peoples Select Committee has inputted into its development prior to consideration by the Council's Cabinet.

The Play Strategy Group existed as a free standing group since 2014 but following a review of partnership arrangements has now been merged with the Children and Young People's Sub Group of the Creating an Active and Healthy Monmouthshire Partnership to reduce duplication. The group comprises the following membership: Charter Housing Association, Melin Homes, Monmouthshire Housing Association, Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids Club, GAVO, Play Wales, Wales Pre-school Providers Association, Monmouthshire County Council Officers - Children's Services; Community Focussed Schools; Early Years; Families First; Operations (Grounds and Highways); Planning Policy; Community and Partnerships; Tourism, Leisure, Culture & Youth (Sports Development; Leisure Services; Green Infrastructure and Countryside; Youth Service).

The Council used contact with children through the 2018 summer play schemes, a Year 5 primary school survey co-ordinated with Play Wales and a young people-led play pilot carried out in Chepstow in 2018 to obtain young people's input. We also used existing data to inform certain parts of the audit and action plan, including open space surveys, feedback from community engagement, and data available as part of the Council's ongoing maintenance regime for parks, play areas and open spaces.

The main challenges in undertaking the assessment were the lack of a dedicated Play Officer within the County Council's staffing structure.

The Authority proposes to use the Play Strategy Group / Children and Young People's Sub Group as the main means of coordinating action to take forward the identified actions for the action plan. The Play Strategy Group's revised terms of reference (as reviewed in 2015) are:

To undertake the statutory responsibility for providing play provision in Monmouthshire.

- All members of the Monmouthshire Play Strategy Group have a responsibility to be aware of, informed and guided by the statutory requirements for play.
- The Play Strategy Group will develop a range of quality play provisions for all children and young people in Monmouthshire.
- The Play Strategy Group will hold responsibility for the development of a Play Action Plan, which will highlight the group's contribution to the Monmouthshire Single Integrated Plan.
- The Play Strategy Group will also have the responsibility for monitoring the Play Sufficiency Audit.

3. Partnership working

Since the 2016 assessment, we have developed a close working relationship with the Town and larger Community Councils specifically to deliver open access play scheme play provision in the county and in each of their areas. Since 2016 the Council has worked in partnership with Torfaen County Borough Council's Play Service to deliver its summer play schemes with additional involvement and support from voluntary organisations.

The Play Strategy Group includes wider representation of active organisations, including registered social landlords operating in the County and the Council has continued to participate in the Play Wales led Regional Play Sufficiency Assessment Network.

The review of the play sufficiency assessment and action plan has also been scrutinised by the Children and Young People Select Committee in November 2018 and February 2019.

4. Consultation and participation

Given the wide engagement around play delivery this plan has been informed by ongoing participation and consultations, such as around the proposed destination play area in Monmouth.

We used a child questionnaire based on the standard questions suggested by Play Wales, completed by Year 5 pupils, and the views of children and feedback from parents obtained at play sessions held in summer 2018, which particularly focussed on

barriers to play. This reinforced the messages received from consultations in 2016 regarding the barriers to greater play including opportunities for play, time for play (including competing demands on children's time) and attitudes to play (of parents and others). We also have available the results of the wider consultations undertaken for the 2013 play assessment which included parents as well as children and young people (and found 78% of respondents said that they did make use of existing play areas/activities in the local community but 73% felt that there were insufficient play opportunities available in their local community).

As we had previously identified the need to gather more local intelligence and children's views priority was given to supporting young people led research on play in the Bulwark and Thornwell neighbourhoods of Chepstow, 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 the wider community.



What would make Bulwark and Thornwell even better for playing?



We see this as a model for future participation and engagement to support young people's voices in play. A toolkit is under preparation to support rolling out this approach to other communities.

5. Maximising resources

The financial climate remain challenging and there is no dedicated play budget within the Council, but there are revenue resources used by the Council in a number of its budgets to support children's access to play opportunities. 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.

The Youth Service also provides inclusive play opportunities. The Sports Development and Leisure services promote recreational and sport involvement, including new indoor play provision at Monmouth Leisure Centre, the "Monmouthshire Games" holiday provision in leisure centres, supporting provision for children with disabilities and the Playmakers school based young leadership programme. Children's Services use their budget to support families with children with disabilities to access suitable play provision. Operations manage 110 fixed play areas across the county.

Since 2016 the new model of free, inclusive, community based open access play provision outlined in the 2016 Play Sufficiency Assessment / Action Plan has been delivered by Torfaen Play Service on behalf of the Council and its partners. These play schemes are largely funded by contributions from Town and Community Councils in Monmouthshire with additional contributions from voluntary sources. This provision is supported by Families First Funding from Welsh Government to fund the inclusive provision for children with disabilities and has also been supported by Play Opportunity Grant from Welsh Government.



The Council has continued to deliver its 2013 action plan priority of developing one good quality “destination” play area with a range of accessible play equipment in each of the five towns plus one in the Magor/Undy area. Although this target has yet to be reached the Council has secured, and continues to work to secure, developer contributions (through Section 106 agreements) to this end. The application of the Council’s green infrastructure and planning policies have supported increasing integration of a variety of play opportunities as a benefit and a key design consideration.

Play Opportunity Grant has been successfully received in 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19. In 2016/17, the grant supported open access play sessions in six community venues across Monmouthshire, facilitated Monmouthshire Youth Service to provide inclusive open access play opportunities, expanded “playing out” provisions and supported targeted play opportunities for children in most financial need. In 2017/18, the grant included support for open access play provision, the Bulwark & Thornwell (Chepstow) Play Assessment Project and the provision of new indoor play provision at Monmouth Leisure Centre. In 2018/19 the grant includes continuing support for open access play provision; street play, play and road closure training; a pilot extending the Playmaker programme into secondary schools, support for disabled access play equipment and fixed play site assessments and the PSA process.

Whilst the Play Opportunities Grant is very welcome, its late delivery within the financial year has significantly restricted the opportunity to support longer-term activities / programmes. Following consideration by the Children and Young People Select Committee the Council has written to Welsh Government asking that the Play Opportunity Grant be embedded into a formal grant programme so it can be used in a more planned and strategic way over the course of the year.

6. The Play Sufficiency Assessment and local Well-being Plans

The Well-being Assessment and the Population Needs Assessment undertaken by the Monmouthshire Public Service Board in 2017 both highlighted the strengths and opportunities within our communities and used an extensive evidence base to draw out some of the challenges individuals and communities will face in the future. In July 2017, the Public Service Board agreed their purpose of building sustainable and resilient communities, three cross cutting aspirations that will apply to all objectives and steps, and four well-being objectives – two about people and two about place, as shown in Table 1 below.

The objective to provide children and young people with the best possible start on life provides a broad focus across the start of people’s lives from conception to early adulthood. Part of the response includes the Public Service Board and partner agencies having an important role to play to join up responses and resources to focus on proactive interventions and enable children and families to access fully integrated support across agencies/departments and benefit from seamless information sharing.

Enabling and empowering children and young people to take greater control of their own health is also important to reduce reliance on statutory services unless necessary. This links to the “demographic change” action.

Purpose	<i>Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities</i>	
Our aspiration is to:	Reduce inequalities between communities and within communities Support and protect vulnerable people Realise the benefits that the natural environment has to offer	
Our Well-being Objectives are:	<i>People / Citizens</i>	<i>Place / Communities</i>
	Provide children and young people with the best possible start on life	Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change
	Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change	Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.

Table 1. Monmouthshire Well-Being Plan

Promoting healthy behaviours that support children and young people’s physical health and mental well-being is an important focus for the well-being of future generations, particularly as childhood obesity is a growing problem. There is already a childhood obesity action plan for Monmouthshire, endorsed by the Public Service Board. Linked to the “natural environment and climate change objective” enabling children to be active and participate in play, particularly outside will be important. Access to green space has been identified as needing improvement and it may also require behaviour change (including adult behaviour) to support this.

The Play Strategy Group is recognised as one of the key partnerships feeding in to the Well-being Plan, so that that progress on the Play Action Plan can be reported to the Local Service Board’s Programme Board annually and on an exception basis.

7. Monitoring Play Sufficiency

The Lead Director and Lead Member for children and young people’s services are Will McLean and Councillor Richard John respectively. As noted above the Play Monitoring Group role is taken by the Play Strategy Group which has merged with the Children and Young People’s Sub Group of the Creating an Active and Healthy Monmouthshire Partnership (see above for terms of reference) which has a wide membership (see above). The Community and Partnerships team facilitate the group. The merging of the two partnership groups avoids duplication and improves coordination. There is much goodwill amongst the group to improve play opportunities in Monmouthshire but the restricted resources and competing demands, both for group members and organisationally, make delivering this a challenge. The Group also has links with other

Single Integrated Plan partnerships, notably the Environment Partnership and is keen to explore integrated solutions with shared outcomes where possible.

8. Assessment against the Matters / Criteria

This section contains the “matters that need to be taken into account” as set out under section 10 of the Statutory Guidance.

The Criteria column: sets out the data that needs to be available and the extent to which Local Authorities meet the stated criteria.

The RAG status column: provides a drop down box, whereby the Local Authority can show its assessment of whether that criterion is fully met; partially met; or not met. These have been given Red, Amber Green markers, which appear as words in the drop down boxes.

Red, Amber Green (RAG) status is a tool to communicate status quickly and effectively.

RAG status

Criteria fully met.	Fully met
Criteria partially met.	Partially met
Criteria not met.	Not met

The 2019 column enables the local authority to indicate the direction of travel with the insertion of arrows.

The Evidence to support strengths column: should be used to provide the reason for the chosen criteria status and how the evidence is held.

The Shortfall column: should be used to explain the areas in which the Local Authority does not fully meet the criteria.

The Identified Action for Action Plan column: should be used to show the Local Authority action planning priorities for that Matter.

Matter A: Population

Populations estimates by age (Mid-year population estimates (1991 onwards), by Welsh local authorities, English regions and UK countries, for single year of age and gender June 2018)

	Aged 0 to 15		Aged 0 to 15	Aged 16-24
	Aged 0 to 4	Aged 5 to 15		
Monmouthshire	4,249	11,101	15,350	8,500

These represent a small reduction (approximately 0.5%) in all age ranges from the mid 2016 figures. The well-being assessment highlights that the population of Monmouthshire is forecast to increase by less than one percent over the next twenty years. Of greater significance is changes in the age profile with the number of over 85 year olds will more than double by 2039 and number of people under 18 will decline by 14%

Free School Meal Entitlement (Source Monmouthshire County Council)

		Primary	Secondary	Special	Total
Jan-18	FSM	697	424	32	1153
	Cohort	6823	4795	32	11650
		10.2%	8.8%	100.0%	9.9%
Jan-17	FSM	675	413	33	1121
	Cohort	6787	4797	33	11617
		9.9%	8.6%	100.0%	9.6%
Jan-16	FSM	730	447	40	1217
	Cohort	6709	4803	40	11552
		10.9%	9.3%	100.0%	10.5%
Jan-15	FSM	721	454	42	1217
	Cohort	6667	4836	42	11545
		10.8%	9.4%	100.0%	10.5%

'Ability to Speak Welsh' & 'Speaking Welsh at Home', as assessed by parents, of pupils aged 5 and over in primary schools by local authority (Source: Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC), Welsh Government October 2018)

	Fluent in Welsh			Can speak Welsh but not fluently			Cannot speak Welsh			Information not obtained		
	Speaks Welsh at home	Does not speak Welsh at home	Not applicable / cannot speak Welsh	Speaks Welsh at home	Does not speak Welsh at home	Not applicable / cannot speak Welsh	Speaks Welsh at home	Does not speak Welsh at home	Not applicable / cannot speak Welsh	Speaks Welsh at home	Does not speak Welsh at home	Not applicable / cannot speak Welsh
Monmouthshire	50	150	*	75	3,165	360	.	.	1,625	.	.	40

'Ability to Speak Welsh' & 'Speaking Welsh at Home', as assessed by parents, of pupils aged 11-15 in secondary schools by local authority (Source: Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC), Welsh Government October 2018)

	Fluent in Welsh			Can speak Welsh but not fluently			Cannot speak Welsh			Information not obtained		
	Speaks Welsh at home	Does not speak Welsh at home	Not applicable / cannot speak Welsh	Speaks Welsh at home	Does not speak Welsh at home	Not applicable / cannot speak Welsh	Speaks Welsh at home	Does not speak Welsh at home	Not applicable / cannot speak Welsh	Speaks Welsh at home	Does not speak Welsh at home	Not applicable / cannot speak Welsh
Monmouthshire	*	10	*	30	2,630	715	.	.	525	.	.	5

The well-being assessment highlighted Monmouthshire was one of only 2 local authorities in Wales to see a rise in Welsh language speakers between the 2001 and 2011 Census from 9.7% to 9.9%. A major contributing factor to this rise can be assigned to the growth of the 2 Welsh medium primary schools, based at either end of the County. Ysgol Gymraeg y Fenni, located in Abergavenny has 221 pupils on roll (out of a possible 235), having recently increased their capacity in recognition of increasing demand for places. Ysgol Y Ffin, Caldicot, having opened in 2001 currently has 143 pupils on roll (out of a possible 180).

Other data

- The School Sport Survey, undertaken by Sport Wales has captured a detailed picture of frequency of participation, in Monmouthshire in 2018, 74% of pupils across Years 3 to 11 pupils took part in sport at a club outside of school in the last year, 61% of pupils are members of a sports club. 45% of pupils are hooked on Sport (3 times or more physical activity a week).

- The Council holds information of children from families who identify as Gypsy Travellers, the majority now live in fixed accommodation of those the vast majority child are educated in mainstream schools.
- The Council holds information on children with disabilities who qualify for local authority support but we are aware of a number of children who may not meet that threshold but whom we have supported at our inclusive open access play provision

How has/will the Local Authority use its population data to plan for sufficient play opportunities locally?

Whilst we hold population data we recognise that this is only one component of better understanding the local demand for, and sufficiency of. Play opportunities in our towns and rural areas. We continue to be challenged by the task of improving our overall information base and the way forward includes 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. We are prioritising gathering more local intelligence and children’s views through the proposed roll out of the Young People’s Voices in Play programme as based on the rich information provided by the pilot project we believe that this is the most practical method of improving our local understanding and identifying new opportunities.

RAG Status for Matter A

Criteria partially met.	AMBER
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Matter B: Providing for Diverse Needs

The Play Sufficiency Assessment should present data about how the Local Authority and partners aim to offer play opportunities that are inclusive and encourage all children to play and meet together.

RAG Status:

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The play requirements of children living in isolated rural areas are understood and provided for	AMBER	AMBER	The Council maintains some play areas in isolated rural areas and has provided MUGAs in some village locations. Since the 2016 PSA a new play area has been developed in Llantilio Crucorney.	There are still known gaps in provision where some communities have limited access to play provision.	Continue to seek to gain a better understanding of the demand for and sufficiency of play opportunities for children living in isolated rural areas, Welsh language speaking children and children from different cultural backgrounds.
	The play requirements of Welsh language speaking children are understood and provided for	AMBER	AMBER	There is one supervised Welsh language play provision in Abergavenny and an After School Club based at Ysgol y Ffin but this is not a Welsh medium provision. Groundwork Wales play sessions are offered bilingually and there will be two bilingual play sessions held in Abergavenny and Caldicot over the school summer holidays this year (2019).	No data exists on the play requirements of Welsh language children	
	The play requirements of children from different cultural background are understood and provided for	RED	RED	There is some play provision at the Abergavenny Community Centre that includes a number of refugee families living in that area.	No specific provision exists to fulfil the play requirements of children from different cultural backgrounds.	

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The play requirements and support needs of disabled children are understood and provided for.	AMBER	AMBER	<p>The Extra Hands Scheme provides 1:1 support for disabled children to attend After School Clubs and Holiday Clubs. The Councils open access play model (delivered since 2016) is fully inclusive through the employment of support workers to ensure access by children with disabilities and other support needs.</p> <p>The Council's fixed play provision has, and any new play areas will, increased the proportion of accessible items of play equipment for children with support needs.</p>	<p>There is still limited play provision for children with disabilities, although the play requirements are understood and we are generally moving in the right direction.</p> <p>The majority of the supervised play provision for disabled children takes place during school summer the holidays. This could be extended to other periods if there were sufficient resources to facilitate this.</p>	Continue to ensure that the needs of children with disabilities and families with diverse needs are better supported to enable them to access play opportunities.
	Play projects and providers have access to a range of resources which support inclusion	AMBER	AMBER	Play projects run by the Council do have access to resources that support inclusion. Inclusion packs have been loaned to voluntary groups for specific events.	Detailed information about the availability of resources is not widely shared with voluntary sector groups	
	There is a well-known and agreed mechanism which is used to identify the need for separate provision for disabled children	AMBER	AMBER	The Council's policy/practice is to support inclusive provision rather than separate provision for disabled children. However, in response to a number of requests from families with diverse needs, the CWDT (Children with Disabilities Team) is consulting on the possibility of introducing disabled-only play sessions in three different settings in the		

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				county, aimed at two age groups (5-11 and 12-18).		
	Access audits for all play provision as described in the guidance are undertaken	AMBER	AMBER	Access audits for provision run by the council have been and are undertaken – evidenced documentation is available	Information on this is not held about all projects provided by other agencies and/or the voluntary sector.	
	Designated play space is provided and well maintained on gypsy traveller sites	RED	RED	<p>The adopted LDP Policy H8 is a criteria based policy for the assessment of proposals for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople.</p> <p>There are 20 children in the county whose families identify as gypsy travellers but most live in fixed accommodation. Of these all but one attend mainstream education and engage with “universal services” and one child is home-educated by the family.</p>	We are not aware of how many traveller children live in non-fixed accommodation but we suspect that this number varies throughout the year, so it would be difficult to assess the needs of and provide designated play space for these children.	
	The requirements of young carers are understood and provided for	AMBER	AMBER	Monmouthshire has a Carers Strategy and there is a young carers provision operating in the county delivered by Crossroads Care South East Wales.	Young carers are often difficult to identify, especially those living in isolated rural areas or those caring for a family member with substance misuse or mental health issues.	
	The requirements of lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) children are understood and provided for	AMBER	AMBER	The Youth Service (MYS) staff are trained in aspects of LGBT+ and they ensure that young people from this community have access to provision and support where required.	Although the Council promotes a positive attitude towards equality and inclusivity, and an ongoing engagement with the LGBT+	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				In 2018 a one day Pride Festival was held at Caldicot Castle with over 750 attendances. As a follow up, plans are now underway for a two day Diversity Festival to be held in the Castle in summer 2019, with the first day based on a second Pride event and the second day designed as a family fun day aimed at promoting equality and inclusivity.	community, there is no separate database that identifies specific requirements.	

Providing for Diverse Needs

How has data been used (or how will the data be used) to address the barriers that children with diverse needs face in accessing inclusive and accessible opportunities for playing?

We have adopted 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, however we recognise that there are still gaps in our data as outlined above

Have there been challenges?

The challenges relate to identifying and sharing data, joining up provision and addressing the deficit of provision.

How can these be overcome?

Closer working within the authority is starting to address these challenges; however, there is still limited play provision for children with disabilities, although the play requirements are better understood and we are generally moving in the right direction.

Comments:

The successful delivery of the inclusive open access community model has increased inclusion for children with disabilities. We recognise that the provision for children needing the higher levels of support can be improved and the council is consulting on the possibility of introducing disabled-only play sessions.

Matter C: Space available for children to play: Open Spaces and Outdoor unstaffed designated play spaces

The Local Authority should recognise that all open spaces within their area are potentially important areas where children can play or pass through to reach other play areas or places where they go.

RAG Status

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

Open Spaces

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority has undertaken an Open Space Assessment (OSA) that maps areas that are used, or might be used for playing as listed in the Statutory Guidance	GREEN	GREEN	The Monmouthshire Open Spaces Study 2008 (OSS 2008) identifies standards of public recreation and open spaces, including fixed play, designated play space and casual play space. The information from that study is mapped.	The OSS 2008 did not map that part of the county where the Brecon Beacons National Park is the local planning authority.	Continue to promote the importance of open spaces in local communities and to protect open spaces in perpetuity for future generations to enjoy.
	The Local Authority has undertaken an Accessible Greenspace Study that maps areas that are used for playing	GREEN	GREEN	The OSS 2008 also identified amenity greenspace and semi-natural green space within all of the county's main towns, urban areas & larger rural settlements. The Monmouthshire Greenspace Study 2010 extends the work of the OSS 2008 to provide a full		

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				survey of the adequacy of greenspace provision in the county following, as far as possible, the methodology developed by CCW. An analysis of greenspace provision within each settlement area is provided in the study, which includes areas used for informal play.		
	The Local Authority undertakes access audits at all open spaces and implements proposals to improve access and safety	AMBER	AMBER	Access audits have been undertaken at many open spaces and improvements have been made at a number of sites where resources permit.	These audits do not extend to all sites	
	The Local Authority has developed its own Open Space Standards in accordance with the advice and requirements of Planning Policy Wales	AMBER	AMBER	We rely currently on the NPFA six acre standards that are considered to be appropriate and these represent the council's minimum standards sought across the county.	The Council has not yet developed its own open spaces standard but we will seek to do this as part of the preparations for the next LDP.	
	The Local Authority undertakes and actions play value assessments in public open space	AMBER	AMBER	We undertake ad hoc inspections and remove hazards wherever these are identified in order to maintain a safe environment for use by children	There is no formal assessment process in place across all sites.	
	Brownfield sites owned by the Local Authority are assessed for the potential for the site to be reclaimed to provide for children's play	RED	RED		Currently we do not carry out assessments of brownfield sites for their play potential, however the number of such sites is limited.	

Outdoor Unstaffed Designated Play Spaces

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority has undertaken an Accessible Greenspace Study that maps areas that are used for playing	GREEN	GREEN	Monmouthshire OSS 2008 and the Greenspace Study 2010 maps areas that are used for playing.		Review the council's overall approach to fixed play provision and the opportunities for play within open spaces in the community.
	The Local Authority keeps an up to date record of all designated play space as described in the Statutory Guidance	AMBER	AMBER	The council keeps an up to date record of all designated play spaces in its ownership and is aware of those that are not in its ownership. We also maintain a number of sites not in council ownership	Some sites used as designated play spaces are in the ownership of other parties	
	The Local Authority assesses play spaces for play value and the potential to increase in play use as set out in the Statutory Guidance	AMBER	AMBER	The council is in the process of carrying out play value assessments at 110 fixed play sites in the county – anticipated completion date is June 2019		
	The Local Authority undertakes access audits at all designated play spaces and implements proposals to improve access and safety	AMBER	AMBER	Audits have been carried out at many but not all sites. Location and access issues will form part of the play value assessments.		
	The Local Authority has developed and agreed a new fixed play provision standard	GREEN	GREEN	The council designs and installs play areas for new developments to comply with British & European standards		

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority undertakes and actions play space assessments in designated play spaces	GREEN	GREEN	Play space assessments have been assessed for usage and improvements have been made at some sites	Not all of the sites in Council ownership have been assessed.	
	The Local Authority has introduced smoke-free playgrounds	GREEN	GREEN	Smoke free signage, designed by school pupils has been installed on all fixed play sites in council ownership.		
	The Local Authority has removed 'no ball games' signs to encourage more children playing in the community	AMBER	AMBER	The council has removed the majority of "no ball games" signs but a small number still exist	A small number of such signs exist but these are mainly on sites not in council ownership	
	The Local Authority has erected signs, such as Play Priority Signs to encourage more children playing in the community	RED	RED	The lack of priority given to children's play (through the presence of "no ball game" signs) has been identified by children and older people in Chepstow.	No play priority or similar signs have been erected	
	The Local Authority includes a recognition of the importance of playing fields to children's play when any disposal decisions are made	GREEN	GREEN	The council recognises the importance of children's play where disposal decisions are made – this is also picked up in Future Generations Evaluations		
	The Local Authority includes children and their families in any consultations regarding decisions to dispose of playing fields	AMBER	AMBER	There have been very few cases of the council disposing of playing fields. When this took place in Caldicot and Govilon, the views of families were sought as part of the consultation process.		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority refers to guidance around creating accessible play space when refurbishing or developing new playgrounds	NEW	GREEN	The council does take into account guidance on accessibility when refurbishing or developing new playgrounds		

Open Spaces

How has the Local Authority ensured collaboration between Open Space Assessments/Green Infrastructure Strategies and Play Sufficiency Assessments to improve spaces for play?

The council has adopted a collaborative approach so that all relevant teams (green infrastructure, biodiversity, countryside, play & recreation, landscape and community & partnerships) are involved in decisions on proposed new areas of open space and improving connectivity and accessibility between existing play and open spaces.

Have there been challenges?

Lack of play staff and a dedicated budget are major challenges to finding the resources necessary to carry out a planned programme of improvements. There is also significant pressure from developers for new residential development in Monmouthshire, so the existing open spaces are critically important to local communities as spaces for play and active recreation.

How can these be overcome?

Collaborative working is the main approach used to overcome these challenges and the use of off-site open space/recreation contributions obtained as part of Section 106 agreements relating to new developments are used to improve spaces for play and access to these areas. There are also a number of Friends Groups in different settlements who work to raise funds from external sources to contribute towards improvements.

Comments:

Both the Open Spaces Study (2008) and the Greenspace Study (2010) identified amenity and natural/semi-natural greenspace in the main settlements. The council has adopted a wider green infrastructure approach (as set out in our GI Supplementary Planning Guidance) and, in partnership with Fields in Trust, has designated 22 sites in the county that are protected in perpetuity for local communities to enjoy.

Outdoor unstaffed designated play spaces

How has the local authority considered all issues of accessibility in play space development?

Accessibility is a major factor which is taken into account when new developments in the county are being planned. The view taken is that in urban areas there are, in the majority of cases, sufficient fixed play provisions so the main issues to be addressed are connectivity and accessibility. In fact in some cases fixed play equipment will be relocated to neighbourhood sites and replaced by informal natural play spaces. In rural areas a similar approach is adopted where possible and new fixed play provision is proposed only where there is an overriding reason to justify such provision, e.g. rural isolation or lack of connectivity.

Have there been challenges?

One of the main challenges is the fact that the council has an ageing stock of fixed play equipment in many urban settings that is functional but does not offer much play value.

How can these be overcome?

We are addressing these issues on an “area by area” basis as and when opportunities present themselves to enable us to rationalise the provision in the main settlements and in some rural areas – and we are also working with a number of town & community councils and local Friends Groups to improve provision.

Comments

Our overall approach is to rationalise fixed play provision in the county to ensure that there is a balance between well-equipped and accessible neighbourhood play areas and a number of “doorstep” play areas where these can be justified, e.g. in socially deprived areas or in isolated settings.

Matter D: Supervised provision

The Local Authority should aim to offer a range of supervised play provision.

RAG Status

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

Play work provision

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority keeps an up to date record of all supervised play provision as described in the Statutory Guidance	AMBER	AMBER	An up to date record of supervised play settings is kept by the Family Information Service which provides the initial access portal to this information for families and their children	The information from different databases is not shared on a routine basis.	Continue to build on the community play framework for open access play provision. Seek opportunities to offer more provision at periods outside the school summer holidays.
	The Local Authority offers play provision which offers a rich play environment as described in the Statutory Guidance	AMBER	AMBER	The council operates eight inclusive play schemes and these provide rich play environments for the children that attend. There is evidenced feedback from children and families with high satisfaction ratings.	These playschemes are only held over a four week period during the school summer holidays in the four main settlements in the county	Work more proactively to share information between internal council services and with partners in the voluntary sector.
	The Local Authority ensures that partners are supported to offer rich play environments as described in the Statutory Guidance	AMBER	AMBER	The Three Counties Community Play Partnership supported the creation of a community led open access play provision in identified wards deprived of play opportunities mainly in rural areas	Three Counties Play no longer exists and most of the provisions which it helped to set up have been discontinued.	

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	Staffed play provision that the Local Authority provides meets the regulatory requirements & National Minimum Standards	GREEN	GREEN	The open access playschemes are not required to be registered with the CSIW but they do meet the regulatory requirements and the national minimum standards.		
	Staffed play provision that the Local Authority funds meets the regulatory requirements & National Minimum Standards	GREEN	GREEN	The open access playschemes are not required to be registered with the CSIW but they do meet the regulatory requirements and the national minimum standards.		
	Staffed play provision that the Local Authority's partners provide meets the regulatory requirements and National Minimum Standards	AMBER	AMBER	The Groundwork Wales sessions delivered in the county are delivered by qualified play workers in line with the regulatory requirements		
	Staffed play provision across the Local Authority works to a recognised quality assurance programme	RED	RED		Not working to a recognised quality assurance programme.	
	The Local Authority prioritises quality issues when engaging with/ commissioning the private sector to deliver recreational activities for children.	AMBER	AMBER	The council rarely commissions the private sector to deliver activities for children but in those cases where it does (e.g. sports courses, etc.) quality issues are prioritised.		
	The Local Authority provides council premises and space free of charge to organisations which provide free (at the point of access) play provision for children	AMBER	AMBER	The council does not provide premises free of charge but it does provide outdoor space free of charge for play provision.		

Structured recreational activities for children

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	Local authority sport, physical activity, and active recreation plans are contributing to increasing free play and recreational activities	AMBER	AMBER	<p>The council continues to work closely with communities, partners and schools to deliver opportunities identified through the Sport Wales School Sports Survey.</p> <p>We continue to invest in young leadership programmes (such as the Playmakers programme) and training to give young people the opportunity to create sustainable play, sport and physical activities.</p> <p>We continue to work with our pre-school and after school providers to identify training and support to be able to offer physical literacy opportunities for young people.</p>	The continued lack of an arts development role inhibits opportunities for involvement by children and young people. It is hoped to address this in the longer term through a new model for the delivery of a range of council services, including cultural activities.	Continue to promote the importance of participation in play and active sports and continue to develop young people as sports ambassadors through schools and local voluntary sports clubs.
	The sports agenda contributes to the provision of sufficient recreational activities for children	GREEN	GREEN	Through Dragon, multi skills and sport programmes we are focussing on the physical competency of children so that they can develop the appropriate skills at the appropriate stage of their physical development, which can then be transferred across to active sport.	These programmes are delivered predominantly to children aged 7-11 through schools' programmes. We feel there is further scope to develop programmes & engagement through community sports clubs	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The cultural and arts agenda, is contributing to the provision of sufficient recreational activities for children	AMBER	AMBER	The council's Museums Service (Monmouth & Chepstow Museums and Abergavenny Castle) and its cultural attractions (Caldicot Castle, Monmouth Shire Hall and Tintern Old Station) all provide a variety of recreational activities and opportunities for children. There are also a number of community arts events, e.g. the Wye Valley River Festival that make provision.	The previously mentioned lack of an arts development role inhibits opportunities for involvement of children and young people. These activities could be better coordinated and facilitated by an arts development officer.	
	The Local Authority Youth Service provides for children's opportunities for leisure and association	GREEN	GREEN	Monmouthshire Youth Service (MYS) and its voluntary sector partners provide opportunities on a regular basis for young people aged 11 years+ to engage in leisure and recreational activities in youth drop in centres, more traditional youth club settings, village halls and outreach sessions.		

Supervised play provision

Where the Local Authority has assessed settings as part of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessments (CSAs), how have these settings been assessed in respect of the quality of play opportunities they provide and offer?

A Development Worker is employed to work with out of school childcare settings to provide support and raise standards, and to monitor the quality of the play provision provided – also to provide training where required to enhance this provision.

How has provision that is not part of the CSA been assessed in respect of the quality of play opportunities they provide and offer?

The council reviewed and assessed its model of summer play provision in 2016 and has subsequently moved to a model of free open access play, delivered in eight community settings using funding from a number of different partners. The quality of these provisions is assessed mainly on the basis of feedback from parents, children and families with children that have particular support needs.

Have there been challenges?

The main challenges again are the lack of a dedicated budget and any permanent play staff. Another major challenge is the rural nature of the county, where we have four main settlements (Abergavenny, Monmouth, Chepstow and Caldicot) and a large rural area in the centre of the county with only one or two large villages (Usk and Raglan). The rest of the population is dispersed over a large rural area that contains many small villages and hamlets and in many areas there is a lack of regular, scheduled public transport - making accessibility for people living in rural areas much more difficult.

How can these be overcome?

It is, perhaps, easier to address some of these issues by making provision on school sites but to do this on a widespread basis would be very expensive and difficult to support. We have tried providing free transport to the summer playschemes but there has been a distinct lack of take up to such an extent that the cost benefit of providing free transport is not a realistic option. The Youth Service has provided some play opportunities in rural parts of the county using some “pop-up” items of play provision.

Comments:

During the consultation on the 2019 PSA, the Children and Young People’s Select Committee has tasked officers to consider how the issue of providing access to play opportunities can be addressed and this is contained as an action in the Play Action Plan arising from this Assessment.

Matter E: Charges for play provision

The Local Authority should consider which play opportunities involve a charge and the extent to which the Local Authority takes these charges into account in assessing for sufficient play opportunities for children living in low income families as set out in the Statutory Guidance.

RAG status

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority keeps records of the number of children living in low income families	AMBER	AMBER	This information is recorded in the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment completed annually by the Family Information Service (FIS). Another barometer used to as an indicator of low income families is the number of free school meal recipients held on record	Relies on the information being readily accessible via the various sources and different levels at which it is held.	Enhance our information base, including building a fuller and more accurate picture of existing provision and the play workforce. Continue to develop the community play framework for free open access play provision.
	The Local Authority keeps records of the number of children living in areas of deprivation	AMBER	AMBER	This information is recorded in the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment completed annually by the FIS.	Relies on the information being readily accessible via the various sources and different levels at which it is held.	Where possible seek to extend open access play opportunities in rural parts of the county and at times of the year other than during the school summer holiday period.
	The Local Authority keeps records of the number of children living in rural areas	AMBER	AMBER	This information is accessible via the 2011 Census statistics and the mid-year population estimates, with age breakdowns	The information is not readily available or used as an effective tool to plan play opportunities	
	The Local Authority keeps records of the number of disabled children and those	AMBER	AMBER	Databases are kept in separate service areas, e.g. Social Services, Education, Leisure, in relation to play provision		

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	with particular needs.					
	The Local Authority records the availability of no cost provision	AMBER	AMBER	The open access playschemes provide the main no-cost provision in the summer holidays and the FIS keeps information on all other activities being run – whether or not there is a cost for participation.	Other than the open access playschemes, the quality of the information available depends on play providers returning annual update forms & choosing to promote the activities on the FIS website.	
	The Local Authority records the provision of no cost / low cost premises used for play provision	AMBER	AMBER	Information on premises that can be used for play are available in the “Children’s Entertainment” section of the FIS website.	The information is only updated annually and may not represent a full list of what is available in the county as it depends on providers submitting the relevant details.	
	The Local Authority records the provisions where grants or subsidies are available for play providers	AMBER	AMBER	Monmouthshire Early Years provides an out of school childcare grant for additional support at holiday clubs and after school clubs in the county.	There is a limited budget available for this and it is only available to children with additional needs. Also, the grant funds a 1:1 worker but does not subsidise the place for the child.	
	The Local Authority provides subsidised transport for children travelling to play opportunities	AMBER	AMBER	We provided free transport to some of the leisure centre-based playschemes in the past, but this does not form part of the community play model introduced in 2016 and currently operating in the county.	Subsidised or free transport to play opportunities in certain areas was trialed but this was discontinued due to lack of take up.	

Charges for play provision

How is the Local Authority ensuring that children have access to no or low-cost provision?

The council's new model of open access play provision is free of charge at the point of delivery and we have also obtained funding through town and community councils and the All Wales Play Opportunities Grant to offer free spaces from low income families to the Monmouthshire Games Scheme that operates at the four leisure centre in the county over five weeks of the school summer holidays and over the half term periods. These sessions run from 8.00am to 5.00pm and offer a range of structured sporting activities.

The Family Information Service (FIS) website also provides easily accessible information on play opportunities within the county.

Have there been challenges?

The main challenges are obtaining sufficient funds to operate the open access playschemes and to pay for the cost of free access spaces at the Monmouthshire Games. The other main challenge is the rural nature of the county, making it difficult for children and families to access the opportunities that take in the four main settlements.

How can these be overcome?

We have obtained grants to support the continuance of our community open access playschemes and we have commissioned another provider (the Torfaen Play Service) to deliver these provisions based on a Service Level Agreement. We also work with schools and housing associations to promote the availability of these provisions

Comments:

Working with partners and accessing grants from town & community councils, other local sources, Families First and AWPOG funding has enabled us to provide access to no cost or low cost provision but it is not possible to plan on a long term basis, due to the fact that this funding has to be renewed and/or applied for on an annual basis.

Matter F: Access to space/provision

The Local Authority should consider all the factors that contribute to children’s access to play or moving around their community.

RAG Status

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority keeps an up to date record of the number of 20 mph zones/school safety zones in residential areas	AMBER	AMBER	MCC records, School Travel Plans and community travel/transport strategies	Not all of the county is mapped	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 and improve access to opportunities for play and recreational activities.
	The Local Authority has an identified mechanism for assessing the impact of speed reduction and other road safety measures on the opportunity for children to play outside in their communities	AMBER	AMBER	Completed school travel plans that inform Safe Routes in Communities projects have monitoring requirements to assess the impact of such interventions. Also, over the years the MCC road safety programme has contributed to regional and national data collection.	Safe Routes in Communities and road safety schemes produce benefits & impacts much wider than allowing children to play, so it is difficult to attribute these benefits specifically to children’s play. Not all communities have benefitted from these funding streams, so the benefits have not occurred in some parts of the county.	

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority has a plan(s) to reduce the negative effect of busy roads and junctions through the introduction of speed reduction measures and provision of safe crossing points/routes for pedestrians and cyclists	AMBER	AMBER	As above, with Safe Routes in Communities and general road safety schemes. The Integrated Network Maps set out the council's plans for improving active travel routes in and around key settlements over the next 15 years. Also, there is a coordinated approach to proposed new residential developments in the county that consider the impact of existing and proposed roads and junctions and that give high priority to safe routes and crossing points for pedestrians and cyclists.	Not all of the county is covered by these measures and some routes require the involvement of the Welsh Government (WG) and other agencies such as the South Wales Trunk Road Agency. WG route monitoring guidance also plays a part.	
	The Local Authority has a plan(s) to improve walking and cycle access to parks, outdoor play facilities and local leisure centres from residential areas	AMBER	AMBER	The Integrated Network Maps set out the council's plans for improving active travel routes in and around key settlements over the next 15 years and there are a number of specific projects for improvement that the Council is working on with local groups, Sustrans and other partners, e.g. Caldicot Greenways and the UTAG (Usk Trail Access Group) projects. The council has also commissioned a cycling strategy for the county, funded from the Active Travel Fund.	A lot of the focus in the past for this work has been in relation to key generators of traffic such as schools, shops and employment sites but there is now a greater emphasis being given to leisure based activities.	
	There is potential for the Local Authority to take further action	AMBER	AMBER	Although there is no fixed programme to do so, the council does take action on a "case by	There is a lack of a dedicated budget to achieve significant	

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	to reduce traffic speed and improve road safety to promote play opportunities			case” basis to improve access and connectivity in local communities to provide safe access to play and recreational opportunities. This is a particular priority when considering applications for new development.	improvements “across the board” and we often rely on improvements funded by external grants and/or by Section 106 funding.	
	The Local Authority uses road safety grants and/or other funding to support delivery of cycling training for children to national standards	GREEN	GREEN	Cycle Proficiency Training and Bike-It training is provided at many schools in the county. Through AWPOG funding in 2019 the council is introducing a scooter safe scheme for younger children in the primary sector as a “pre-cursor” to cycle proficiency training.	Additional funding would be required to continue to provide training at all primary schools in the county.	
	The Local Authority uses road safety grants and/or other funding to provide pedestrian safety training for children	GREEN	GREEN	Kerbcraft training is provided across the county.	Additional funding would be required to continue to provide training at all primary schools in the county.	
	The Local Authority has an accessible and well-known way of arranging temporary road closures, to support more children to play outside their homes	GREEN	GREEN	There are well-defined procedures for Street Closures that are well known and used in some local communities. The Council also provides street closure training in local areas to encourage more take up of Street Play opportunities		
	The Local Authority refers to <i>Manual for Streets</i> when considering new developments and changes to the highway	GREEN	GREEN	All new developments are considered under the Manual for Streets and with reference to regional parking standards and guidelines.		

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	network/urban realm			Some highways within the county are the responsibility of the South Wales Trunk Road Agency (SWTA), which tends to refer to the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges and more detailed standards.		
	The Local Authority works to nationally recognised good practice guidelines when developing walking and cycling facilities	GREEN	GREEN	All new developments are considered under the Manual for Streets, Active Travel Design Guidance, adopted MCC LDP guidelines, Sustrans Greenway and DfT Local Transport Notes. Some highways within the county are the responsibility of the South Wales Trunk Road Agency (SWTA), which tends to refer to the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges and more detailed standards.		
	The Local Authority uses child pedestrian road accident casualty data to inform the location and design of interventions which help children get around independently in their communities	GREEN	GREEN	Accident data looks at all age groups and road user types. The council works jointly with Gwent Police and neighbouring councils to identify and to look to address known accident sites.		
	The Local Authority considers children's needs to access play opportunities when making	AMBER	AMBER	Safe Routes in Communities Scheme and Active Travel	Some decisions on public transport planning & expenditure are made at regional level and	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	decisions about public transport planning and expenditure				prioritisation methodology focuses on spatial benefits around economic and social issues and less towards play & leisure activities.	
	The requirements of disabled children are understood and provided for within traffic and transport initiatives	Moved from Matter B	AMBER	<p>The council runs DDA compliant buses on school and inter school transport and provides public service vehicles and community transport through its Grass Routes scheme – these vehicles are also offered to community groups on a private hire basis. Public service vehicles also provide DDA compliant vehicles on most routes. All bus stops in the county have DDA compliant boarding platforms. Some buses also have audio announcements and escorts are provided on SEN contracts to education establishments.</p> <p>We have safe routes in the community schemes that encourage walking and cycling for all and all paths are constructed to include compliance with DDA standards, including road crossings.</p>	<p>All buses on service routes are DDA compliant, however capacity is not high for wheelchairs on public service vehicles.</p> <p>Some rural areas have poor accessibility and may not be suitable for accessible transport.</p> <p>Safe routes in the community schemes need to be expanded when funding becomes available.</p> <p>Funding is a real issue for all of these outcomes to be met – reductions in funding streams from Welsh Govt and withdrawal of some commercial routes by private operators means that this is an ongoing challenge.</p>	

Information, publicity and events:
For children and families to take part in play opportunities, recreational activities and events it is necessary for them to know what is available in their area.

<p>The Local Authority has a clearly identified section on its website which gives information about play opportunities as described in the Statutory Guidance (play areas, play provision, clubs and their accessibility)</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>Information about play opportunities is included on the MCC website, the FIS website and the Visit Monmouthshire website – this provides comprehensive information on play provision, clubs and participation opportunities but does not include information on fixed play sites or open spaces.</p>	<p>No single “One Stop Shop” website for families to access the full range of information about play opportunities in the county – although the FIS website is particularly popular with local families that have young children.</p>	<p>Improve our information base to fully integrate these measures and better understand the local barriers to play for children and young people so that we can increase awareness of and access to opportunities for play and other recreational activities.</p>
<p>The Local Authority provides information on access to play opportunities and contact for support if required</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>This information is available on a “service by service” basis and some limited joint publicity is produced for the summer holiday activities.</p>	<p>Despite attempts to bring this together, the information is not easy to find for parents looking for information on play not linked to a specific service.</p>	
<p>The Local Authority supports and publicises events which encourage play opportunities and events for children and families</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>Events are publicised and supported on an ad hoc basis. The FIS produces termly flyers advertising play opportunities and events for families. They also advertise specific events on the FIS website and through social media throughout the year. The Council has supported and helped publicise events delivered by other parties such as Groundwork Wales for children and families.</p>	<p>There is no protocol currently available to produce a comprehensive range of information on children’s play. The FIS and other service flyers publicise activities individually or for a given time period and this often relies on services producing the information when events are planned.</p>	
<p>The Local Authority publicises information which contributes</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>AMBER</p>	<p>The council has supported and helped publicise information</p>	<p>This work is done on an ad hoc basis and there</p>	

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	to positive community attitudes to play			<p>about workshops and activities delivered by other parties such as the housing associations, the Gwent Wildlife Trust and Groundwork Wales which all contribute to positive community attitudes to play.</p> <p>The Council undertook a community consultation exercise recently in partnership with a group of primary/secondary children in the Bulwark/Thornwell area of Chepstow which produced a very positive attitude from local residents, particularly a group of elderly people, towards children playing in their local community.</p>	is no systematic process for publishing or promoting the information.	
	The Local Authority publicises information and support for parents to help them encourage their children to play	AMBER	AMBER	Information about the importance of play is included in the Parenting Tips section of the FIS website.	The information available and its promotion is limited, although there are opportunities to do this as part of the organised activities held during the school holiday periods.	
	The Local Authority widely uses on-site signposting to safeguard and promote play	AMBER	AMBER	There is some on-site signposting at the five skateparks in the county to promote safe play.	There is no consistent or regular process or programme for onsite signposting to promote play	
	The Local Authority engages with the media to encourage the positive portrayal of children playing in the local area	AMBER	AMBER	The council has an effective engagement with the media and we promote positive portrayals as and when there is an opportunity to do so.	This work is not done on as a part of a planned process.	

Access to space/provision

How has the Local Authority ensured collaboration to ensure children can move around their communities to increase access to opportunities for playing?

We have a collaborative approach to delivering improved safety and new opportunities for active travel (walking and cycling), including Safe Routes to School, Safe Routes in Communities, general road safety measures and the provision of training and the assessment of proposals for new development.

Have there been challenges?

There is a need to improve our information base to fully integrate these measures and to better understand the local barriers to children and young people in order to improve access to play opportunities.

How can these be overcome?

Following a local initiative involving children and young people in the Bulwark & Thornwell area of Chepstow, we have commissioned a toolkit that can roll out similar initiatives across the county. This will give us a rich and valuable source of information about how children access play opportunities and how they move around their communities to access spaces to play.

Comments

We will continue with our collaborative approach to delivering improved access and safety and to developing active travel solutions wherever possible.

Information, publicity, events

How has the Local Authority positively used information to support access to play provision?

The FIS website contains detailed information on how to access play opportunities in local communities and there is also information available on other websites and platforms. This is supplemented in the lead up to holiday periods by information provided through schools (pupil mail), flyers and general information at various outlets such as leisure centres, libraries & museums and community hubs.

Have there been challenges?

The ongoing challenge is the timely supply of information on events and play opportunities to the appropriate website controllers and there is no information currently available about play areas in local communities

How can these be overcome?

The challenges can be overcome by improved and timely sharing of information to publicise play opportunities and events and collaborative working to coordinate these activities.

Comments:

We believe that better engagement with children, young people and families to identify the limiting factors and barriers to play opportunities will help to inform our future approach to information and publicity.

Matter G: Securing and developing the play workforce

The Local Authority should provide information on the organisational structure of the policy area which manages the play agenda and the play workforce.

RAG status

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
Note – These criteria are specifically about Playwork: Playwork is a highly skilled profession that enriches and enhances play. It takes place where adults support children’s play but it is not driven by prescribed education or care outcomes. This includes both open access and out of school childcare settings						
	The Local Authority keeps up to date information regarding the playwork workforce across the Local Authority (this should include the number of playworkers, playwork management structure, qualification levels, training opportunities and volunteers)	AMBER	AMBER	Currently, the council commissions the Torfaen Play Service to deliver the open access playschemes in the county and these use staff employed on a temporary basis. All the staff undergo a course of intensive training, with over 40 different modules delivered. This includes training for staff employed to deliver support for children with disabilities. The council also supports training for staff that work in the pre and after school clubs operating in the county.	There is no play management structure as such within the authority – play sits in the Green Infrastructure & Countryside Section and staff from a number of different services – education, youth, partnership and engagement, social services & landscape all contribute towards play provision. In addition, many play opportunities in the	Enhance our information base, including building a fuller picture of existing provision and the play workforce. Develop the community play framework for open access play provision. Identify any opportunities that might exist for transferable skills amongst the play workforce. Provide awareness training for elected members and senior officers to raise the profile of play within the council

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LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
					county are delivered by other agencies.	
	The Local Authority supports all of the workforce to achieve the qualification level required by the Welsh Government's National Minimum Standards	AMBER	AMBER	The Youth Service (MYS) provides core and mandatory training for all the provisions with which it is involved, this includes clubs that are run by paid workers and by volunteers.		
	The Local Authority supports the workforce to achieve the accepted qualification levels set out by SkillsActive	RED	RED		There is no provision or resources within the council to do this	
	The Local Authority has a staff development budget ring fenced for play, including playwork	RED	RED	There is no ring-fenced budget for play or for playwork	The council does not have a Play Development Officer or any other full time play staff within its workforce.	
	There is a comprehensive range of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities available for playworkers in the area	AMBER	AMBER	The council promotes CPD to play workers, also providing underpinning knowledge courses – for example food hygiene, child protection and health & safety.	The provision, whilst valuable, does not cover all play workers in the area and it cannot be classed as comprehensive.	
	Training is available for volunteers and parents to develop their knowledge on skills in playwork	AMBER	AMBER	The council has organised a number of training courses for volunteers and parents to deliver Street Play sessions in different parts of the county.	There is no comprehensive provision in place	
	The Local Authority includes playwork within its	RED	RED		This is not the case at the moment.	

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	Workforce Development strategies					
	The Local Authority supports partners to deliver appropriate training to community groups, parents and volunteers	AMBER	AMBER	The open access play provision in the summer (delivered by the Torfaen Play Service) does deliver appropriate and accredited training to volunteers.	This provision, whilst valuable, only covers a proportion of community groups, community groups and volunteers.	
Note – these criteria are about the Play workforce: This encompasses anyone employed whose role has an impact on children playing – those who may either directly facilitate their play, design for playing, or those with the power to give permission for children to play, or not.						
	The Local Authority has undertaken a comprehensive training needs analysis for the play workforce as defined in the toolkit glossary and above	RED	RED		The council has not undertaken such an analysis.	
	The Local Authority takes action to expand the variety of learning and development opportunities that are offered to staff	AMBER	AMBER	Training needs are assessed as part of the Employee Review and Development Scheme	The council does not have a Play Development Officer or any other full time play staff within its workforce.	
	There is a comprehensive range of CPD opportunities for a range of professionals who work with children	AMBER	AMBER	The council promotes CPD to staff that work with children, as well as providing underpinning knowledge courses, e.g. food hygiene, health & safety, safeguarding, child protection.	This provision, whilst valuable, does not cover all play workers and cannot be classed as comprehensive.	
	Training awareness sessions are available for professionals and decision	AMBER	AMBER	Limited awareness raising on the importance of play and the need to provide for improved play opportunities has been	A more focussed and comprehensive approach is required.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	makers whose work impacts on children’s opportunities to play			provided. The review of the summer play schemes and the review of the PSA provides an opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of children’s play with the council’s cabinet and select committees and with town and community councils.		

Securing and developing the play workforce

How has the Local Authority met the requirement to undertake or secure the managerial and delivery functions necessary to achieve sufficient play opportunities?

The council has identified a lead service and an officer for play (Tourism Leisure Culture and Youth and the Green Infrastructure and Countryside Manager) and has implemented arrangements to coordinate delivery via the Children and Young People’s Sub Group of the Creating a Healthy and Active Monmouthshire (CHAAM) Partnership – which in turn reports to and is monitored by the Local Public Service Board

How has the Local Authority ensured it understands and provides for the workforce development needs of the play workforce (as defined in *Wales: A Play Friendly Country and above*)?

As indicated in the challenges below we recognise that our understanding of the wider play workforce is not comprehensive and we have identified actions to address this shortfall.

How has the Local Authority ensured it understands and provides the playwork workforce (as defined in *Wales: A Play Friendly Country and above*)?

As indicated in the challenges below we recognise that our understanding of the wider play workforce is not comprehensive and we have identified actions to address this shortfall.

Have there been challenges?

We do not have a Play Development Officer or any other full time play staff within our workforce, although we have staff who are trained as play workers. We have so far delivered out open access community play model through procurement of services. Many of the other play opportunities in the county are delivered by the voluntary sector and by the voluntary sector

How can these be overcome?

We recognise that our understanding of the wider play workforce is not comprehensive and we have identified the need to work in a more proactive way with the voluntary sector and other partners to build a fuller picture.

Comments

We are committed in this plan to reviewing progress and considering future delivery models for the open access community play model and a better understanding of the overall play workforce will form part of this assessment.

Matter H: Community engagement and participation.

The Local Authority should consult widely with children, their families and other stakeholders on their views on play provision. It should also promote wide community engagement in providing play friendly communities.

RAG Status

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Authority promotes initiatives to engage relevant groups in enhancing play opportunities for children in its area.	RED	AMBER	A pupil-led research initiative took place in the Bulwark and Thornwell neighbourhoods that involved pupils from two primary schools & the secondary school, and this engaged a number of different groups in the local area. Based on this the Council has commissioned a consultant to prepare a toolkit to enable this approach to be extended to other communities in the county. The Council is also working closely with seven "Friends Groups" in different parts of the county to enhance the quality of play opportunities in their areas. Continue to support Playing Out (encouraging street play in communities) with interested parties; supporting and enabling wider community action,	Whilst these represent innovative & extremely useful ways of involving children, young people and local groups in enhancing play opportunities in their respective local communities, there is a need for a coordinated approach across all parts of the county.	Develop the community play framework for open access community play provision Support and enable wider community action to enhance play opportunities within the county.

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	<p>The Local Authority promotes community engagement in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - making space available and suitable for play - organising play events - positive attitudes towards children and play - training on the importance of play. 	RED	AMBER	<p>There is a strong emphasis via the planning process on making space available and suitable for play and for the provision of play and recreational opportunities for children and young people. This helps to create positive attitudes towards children's play.</p>	<p>There is some community engagement in these processes but this does not necessarily take place at an early enough stage. There is a lack of training on the importance of play at most levels.</p>	

Community engagement and participation.

How has the Local Authority effectively used existing mechanisms for children's participation and family consultation processes with regards to play?

The Council has been informed by ongoing participation and consultations, including around the creation of the open access community play model and specific proposals such as around the proposed destination play area in Monmouth.

We used a child questionnaire based on the standard questions suggested by Play Wales, completed by Year 5 pupils, and the views of children and feedback from parents obtained at play sessions, including those from parents of children with disabilities.

Harnessing the existing school cluster relationships the council has initiated young people led research on play in the Bulwark and Thornwell neighbourhoods of Chepstow, which has produced rich information on play including views from children, parents and community and we now intend to develop this as the Young Peoples Voices in Play programme.

Have there been challenges?

Notwithstanding this, as noted elsewhere, we have recognised that our 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 has proved beyond the previous PSA process

How can these be overcome?

We intend to rollout the Young People's Voices in Play Toolkit to other schools and communities in Monmouthshire to gain more local intelligence. We also intend to utilise the existing year 5 pupil "Playmakers" annual conference and direct feedback from play schemes to gain young people's input.

Comments

We will continue to gain direct feedback from users of the play schemes and use our engagement in the wider youth and family offer to gain additional input.

Matter I: Play within all relevant policy and implementation agendas

The Local Authority should examine all its policy agendas for their potential impact on children’s opportunities to play and embed targets and action to enhance children’s play opportunities within all such policies and strategies.

RAG Status

Criteria fully met.	
Criteria partially met.	
Criteria not met.	

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	There is a named person on the Local Public Service Board who champions children’s play and ensures that the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan contribute to and are incorporated within the Well-being Plan	AMBER	AMBER	The Well-Being Plan includes action to ensure children and young people have access to flexible and appropriate play opportunities.	There is no named person on the Local Public Service Board to champion children’s play specifically.	Continue to support the Play Strategy Group – now part of the Creating a Healthy and Active Monmouthshire (CHAM) Group – to develop into the main implementation group for the play action plan, involving a range of internal and external partners.
	The Well-Being Plan recognises the importance of play and contributes to the provision of rich play opportunities	NEW	AMBER	During the consultation phase of the Well-Being Plan there was significant public feedback on the need for children and young people to use the outdoors for play and recreation. This helped to contribute to the establishment of “Providing children and young people with the best possible start in life” as one of the Council’s four main well-being objectives in its Well-Being Plan	There is no specific reference contained in the Plan to the provision of rich play opportunities The overall purpose of the local Public Service Board (PSB) is to Help build sustainable and resilient communities that support the well-being of current & future generations	Identify better links and integration with other programmes and partnerships.

Education and schools

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	Schools ensure that children are provided with a rich play environment for breaks during the school day	AMBER	AMBER	Schools' outdoor areas, especially those built as part of the primary review, offer excellent environments with rich and varied provision for children's play		
	Schools provide play opportunities during out of teaching hours	AMBER	AMBER	All schools provide access to play during breaks and lunchtimes, using a range of equipment and playground markings.		
	Schools provide access to school grounds for playing out of school times	AMBER	AMBER	A number of schools and school grounds are used during the school holiday playschemes and some schools do allow access to their grounds for playing out of school times. The four secondary sites are dual use, so these enjoy extensive use outside of school hours.	The use of primary school grounds for playing out of school times is not widespread. This lack of access was identified as an issue by children & young people in the pupil-led research in Bulwark & Thornwell.	
	Schools encourage children to walk and cycle to school	AMBER	AMBER	Schools do encourage children to walk and cycle to school and they also participate in the annual "Walk to School" week.	This is not a practical option with some of the more rural schools in the county.	
	The Local Authority offers guidance to ensure schools understand and ensure that regular outdoor play is not curtailed	AMBER	AMBER	The council's Food and Fitness Policy has been adopted by 32 out of 33 schools in the county. This policy has also been ratified by individual school Governing Bodies.		

Town and Country Planning

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Local Development Plan recognises and addresses the outdoor play needs of children of various age groups and abilities	GREEN	GREEN	<p>The adopted LDP contains a policy requiring the provision of open space and play provision in accordance with the Council's adopted standards.</p> <p>The adopted Green Infrastructure (GI) <i>Supplementary Planning Guidance</i> (SPG) recognises the need to increase both formal and informal play opportunities as a distinct benefit and a key design consideration.</p> <p>In the last 12-18 months we have developed a more coordinated approach in responding to pre-application enquiries and to submitted planning applications. This encapsulates comments relating to green infrastructure, biodiversity, play & recreation, trees, landscape & street services.</p>		

Traffic and Transport

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The local Transport Plan recognises the importance of local streets, roads and walking and cycling route in offering play opportunities for children of different ages and abilities	AMBER	AMBER	The council's Local Development Plan (LTP) includes Active Travel Networks in seven designated settlements, all of which consider the implications of the play sufficiency assessment & play action plans. In operational terms the importance of local streets, roads and walking & cycling routes are recognised for their importance in facilitating play opportunities.		Improve our information base, fully integrate these measures and continue to work with all council services to better understand the barriers to play for children and to increase and improve access to safe opportunities for children's play.
	The local Transport Plan identifies ways of assessing and addressing the needs of all groups including those which are often marginalised.	AMBER	AMBER	The council's LTP was assessed against equality impact. Active Travel Network Plans have been designed and developed in accordance with relevant guidance, including Equality Impact Assessments.		

Early Years Plans

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	Early Years and Flying Start plans and services recognise the importance of play and contribute to the provision of rich play opportunities for younger children	AMBER	AMBER	The council's Early Years Policy deals mainly with early education and promotes the importance of play as an important educational tool. The fundamental principle of the Foundation Phase Framework is that learning should be		Maintain integration with other programmes and partnerships through the Play Strategy Group.

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
				active/play based and should take place both indoors and outdoors. The council's service specification agreement with approved early education providers states that all children must have access to a stimulating, safe & secure outdoor learning environment during every session.		

Family policy and initiatives

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	Family support initiatives provide up to date information and support for parents to enable them to support their children to play	AMBER	AMBER	There is a concentration of family support initiatives based in the former Families First (FF) area in Abergavenny and in other areas to stress the importance of play & to encourage children's play.		Continue to support initiatives that provide information and support for parents to enable them to support children to play.
	The local implementation of the Families First programme recognises the importance of play and contributes to the provision of rich play opportunities	NEW	AMBER	There is no FF area in the county, but the importance of play and providing rich play opportunities is recognised in all areas of the county identified as socially deprived (including the former North Abergavenny FF area).		
	Plans to reduce the impact of Adverse Childhood	NEW	AMBER	The council has identified play as an important contributor to promote positive childhood		

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	Experiences recognises the importance of play and contributes to the provision of rich play opportunities			experiences and to make provision for children in socially deprived areas to have better access to rich play opportunities.		

Inter-generational policy and initiatives

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	There are a range of play based approaches to inter-generational activity	AMBER	AMBER	Family Learning activities within the county include a range of intergenerational activities		Maintain integration with other programmes and partnerships through the CHAM Group.
	There is a creative approach to inter-generational activity which encourages better interaction between children of different ages	AMBER	AMBER	Family Learning programmes include activities for children of different ages. Groundwork Wales has also engaged with parents, family members and community groups.		

Health and Safety

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	The Health and Safety policies explicitly recognise the value	AMBER	AMBER	This is not recognised in the main health and safety policy but is covered in the Trips and Visits		Improve our information base to better understand if the barriers to play opportunities include health

LA Ref No	Criteria	RAG Status 2016	RAG Status 2019	Evidence to support strengths	Shortfalls	Identified actions for Action Plan
	of children being able to experience risk and challenge			policy under “hazardous pursuits” and “adventurous activities”.		and safety and insurance issues.
	The Health and Safety policies and procedures incorporate the risk-benefit approach to health and safety assessments as recommended by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE)	AMBER	AMBER	The council works operates in line with the All Wales Guidance for Educational Visits - a safety guide for learning outside the classroom, which embraces the HSE principles of sensible risk management.		
	The Local Authority offers the provision of insurance through the Local Authority scheme to all third sector play providers and community councils	RED	RED		The council does not offer the provision of insurance through its own scheme and can see difficulties in doing so, particularly the transfer of legal liabilities.	

Play within relevant policy and implementation agendas

Please use this section to highlight successes of collaboration across policy areas to improve play opportunities.

As noted under Matter C the council has adopted a collaborative approach so that all relevant teams (green infrastructure, biodiversity, countryside, play & recreation, landscape and community & partnerships) are involved in decisions on proposed new areas of open space and improving connectivity and accessibility between existing play and open spaces, and this is delivering new benefits.

The young people led research on play in the Bulwark and Thornwell neighbourhoods of Chepstow has been a successful collaborative process both in carrying out the study, and looking at how to address the identified issues, between the council, the schools involved and the community council.

The successful delivery of the open access community model to date has involved collaboration between the council, town and community councils and the voluntary sector, delivering high quality play opportunities, and valuable volunteering and training opportunities for young people.

Have there been challenges?

The challenges relate to lack of a dedicated play officer and therefore limits on the resource available to coordinate and encourage integration and obtaining, and sustaining, sufficient funding for specific initiatives.

How can these be overcome?

These have been overcome by close interdepartmental working and engagement with partners, supported in some instances by the availability of play opportunity grant (AWPOG)

Comments:

Longer term and more strategic planning would be supported by a longer-term commitment to AWPOG funding and it being made available at the start of the financial year.

9. Actions to be taken to address the issues / shortcomings recorded in the Play Sufficiency Assessment

Based on a review of the 2013 Play Sufficiency Assessment and advice shared across the Regional Play Sufficiency Assessment Network, supported by Play Wales, the approach adopted for the 2016 Play Sufficiency Assessment was to identify fewer, better-focused and more integrated themes/actions to sustain over the three-year period to the next assessment. This approach, founded on a view that a strategic approach was more likely to support partnership progress, has proved sound and so the 2019 review takes the same approach, to refine and reflect progress and ambition against the core actions set in 2016 rather than fundamentally change direction. Overall, the intent is that the Play Action Plan should continue to prioritise freely chosen play rather than attempt to duplicate wider leisure and recreational planning processes.

Space for play

Identified in 2016 as, 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.

Progress includes:

- a more integrated and innovative approach to multi-use spaces / natural play etc. in new development;
- a new destination play area at Caldicot Castle County Park;
- extensive consultations to agree the location of a new destination play area in Monmouth; and,
- supporting the provision of enhanced indoor play facilities at Monmouth Leisure Centre.

Previous consultations identified the limiting factors for outdoor play as including local environmental quality, traffic and perceived safety and the Bulwark and Thornwell play research pilot has also highlighted the need to adopt a broad community based approach in the next PSA period to secure increased play opportunities.

The proposed action areas are:

- **Local environment quality / wider green infrastructure** approach
- **Community development** – supporting and enabling community action
- **Street Play**
 - Training, road closures, play value

- Potential for **school grounds** use
- **Fixed play**
 - Play value, inclusivity and natural play potential – guidance required (shorter term commissioned assessment of play sites)
 - Rationalisation / improvement of existing fixed play, based on the assessment and guidance – links to green infrastructure, community access, community growing etc.
 - Planning guidance (links to Local Development Plan process) review and amendment of play standards
 - progress Monmouth Chippenham Fields to delivery of new enhanced play area (planning permission and village green consent)
 - Supporting and enabling community driven play proposals
 - Consideration of play opportunities in rural areas
- **Indoor Play Provision** – future aspirations beyond Monmouth
- **Recreation and sport** - Continue to promote the importance of participation in play and active sports and continue to develop young people as sports ambassadors through schools and local voluntary sports clubs and coordinating potential for play delivery through the Active Gwent Delivery Plan (via Sports Development)

Supervised provision

Identified in 2016 as, 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 partners and exploring the potential for further inclusive community based provision including at other times of the year.

Progress includes:

- the open access community play model to provide free inclusive summer play opportunities successfully developed and delivered since 2016 through partnership working and funding from Town & Community Councils, Families First Funding and Play Opportunity Grant;
- the Partnership & Engagement Team supporting community led 'playing out' sessions; and,
- Youth Service staff achieved a play work level 3 qualification

The proposed action areas are:

- Building on **open access community play** model – reviewing progress and considering future delivery options
- **Bilingual play** schemes – piloting in 2019

- **Holiday Hunger /Food Offer** (School Holiday Enhancement Programme pilots in 2019)
- **Widening community provision** – including identifying new partners and coordinating with other community provision and providers; working more proactively to share information between internal council services and with partners in the voluntary sector; including seeking to extend open access play opportunities in more rural parts of the county.
- **Provision beyond summer holidays** – seeking to extend open access play opportunities at other times of the year.
- **Structured play provision** – continue to coordinate with Monmouthshire Games, Playmakers, Positive Futures and the wider youth offer

Providing for diverse needs

Identified in 2016 as, 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.

Progress includes inclusive provision at the open access playschemes for children with disabilities and working with colleagues in leisure, education and social services to further develop our wrap around provision, such as access to the Monmouthshire Games.

The proposed action areas are:

- **Inclusivity of supervised provision** – open access play, Monmouthshire Games etc. (as above)
- **Inclusivity of fixed play** – assessment, improvement etc. (as above)
- Specific provision for **children with greater needs**

Engagement and Information

Identified in 2016 as, 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.

This action has proved a harder one to address. The key area to progress is gathering more local intelligence and children's views. The young people led research on play in the Bulwark and Thornwell neighbourhoods of Chepstow has produced rich information on play including views from children, parents and community.

This area from the 2016 assessment is refocused as:

Young People's Voices in Play

The proposed action areas are:

- **Young People's Voices In Play Toolkit** development (based on Chepstow play pilot) and roll out
- **Young People's engagement** – utilising Playmakers Conference and direct feedback from play schemes

Information and Promotion

The proposed action areas are:

- **Youth offer journey** – coordinated approach as part of wider youth offer, primary schools newsletters (via Sports Development)
- **Family Information Service** – improving the play information available on line

Policy Integration

Identified in 2016 as, 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.

Progress includes the integration of the Play Strategy Group with the Children and Young Peoples Sub Group of the Creating an Active and Healthy Monmouthshire partnership. Future actions include maintaining close engagement with internal and external partners and enhancing links with the wider youth offer.

This area from the 2016 assessment is refocused as:

Partnerships

The proposed action areas are:

- **Town and Community Councils** – maintaining and developing partnership working on identifying and delivering play opportunities
- **Community groups; Friends Groups** – supporting and enabling community action

- **CHAAM partnership and Children and Young People sub group** – maintaining the groups role as the Play Strategy Group

10. Way forward

The foregoing section has identified the proposed way forward across the six action areas of:

- **Space for Play**
- **Supervised Provision**
- **Providing for Diverse Need**
- **Young People's Voices in Play**
- **Information and Promotion**
- **Partnerships**

Also as indicated above the intent is that these action areas remain the focus for action over the next 3-year period of the Play Sufficiency Assessment (2019 - 2022).

In addition to support the plan's implementation we intend to provide awareness training for elected members and senior officers to raise the profile of play within the council.

As required by guidance the proposed actions for 2019/20 are highlighted against the statutory matters below.

11. Proposed actions for the period of 1st April 2019 – 31st March 2020

Matter	Priorities	Targets	Links to other Matters	Resources, including costs	Funding source (new or existing funding streams)
Statutory Guidance- Policy framework	Maintain and review the Play Action Plan	Review the Play Action Plan by 31 st March 2020 with reports to Children & Young People’s Select / Cabinet as necessary	All matters	Core	Existing
Matter A: Population	Using available data to contribute to a better understanding of the demand for, and sufficiency of play opportunities	Maintain progress, including working with schools, town and community councils; sharing existing data, building a fuller picture of existing provision and the play workforce; and engage with children & young people, including completing the Young People’s Voices in Play Toolkit and supporting its rollout to other schools and communities in Monmouthshire	Matters E and F	Core External grants	Existing and applications for new external grants
Matter B: Providing for diverse needs	Seek to gain a better understanding of the local demand for, and sufficiency of play opportunities for diverse needs groups	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 Supporting the rollout of the Young People’s Voices in Play Toolkit and supporting its rollout to other schools and communities in Monmouthshire Utilising the Playmakers annual conference and direct feedback from play schemes	Matters C, D, E and F	Core External grants	Existing
Matter C: Space available for children to play	Review our overall approach to fixed play provision and the opportunities for play within open spaces	Maintain progress assessing the condition of and demand for existing provision by: play value and inclusivity assessments; and progressing rationalisation and improvement of existing fixed play.	Matter B	Core S106 contributions Grants	

		<p>Ongoing application of play space standards and developer contributions; further developing the potential for multi-use spaces and natural play via the wider “green infrastructure” approach.</p> <p>Make further progress on the relocation and refurbishment of the destination play area at Chippenham Fields, Monmouth (due to the statutory processes involving planning and village green consent unlikely to be completed in 2019/20).</p> <p>Continue to support Playing Out (encouraging street play in communities) with interested parties; supporting and enabling wider community action, including exploring the potential for the use of school grounds and working with partners to address local environmental issues.</p>			
Matter D: Supervised provision	Continue to build on the community play framework for open access play provision	<p>Deliver open access playscheme and explore opportunities to extend the community play framework (both widening community provision, including in rural parts of the county, and beyond the summer) including improved coordination and reviewing future delivery options.</p> <p>Working more proactively to share information between internal council services and with partners in the voluntary sector.</p> <p>Pilot bilingual playschemes as part of the 2019 summer offer.</p> <p>Pilot a food offer as part of the summer 2019 play offer, subject to securing funding from the School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP)</p> <p>Continue to promote the importance of participation in play and active sports and continue to develop young people as sports ambassadors through schools and local voluntary clubs (Including links to the Monmouthshire Games, Playmakers and</p>	Matters E,G and H	Grants Partner contributions	Existing, partner contributions and applications for new external funds

Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit

		Positive Futures programmes and the wider youth offer).			
Matter E: Charges for play provision	Enhance our information base, including building a fuller picture of existing provision. Develop the community play framework for free open access play provision	As Matter A above As Matter D above	Matters A and D		
Matter F: Access to space/provision	Improve our information base and fully integrate these measures and to better understand the local barriers to play for children and young people so we can increase access to play opportunities Information, publicity and events	Continue to engage with children, young people and parents to better identify the limiting factors & barriers to accessing play opportunities, including completing the Young People's Voices in Play Toolkit Coordinating with promotion of the wider youth offer and the Family Information Service	Matter A	Core External grants	Existing and applications for new external funds
Matter G: Securing and developing the workforce	Enhance our information base, including building a fuller picture of existing provision and the play workforce Develop the community play framework for open access play	To form part of the approach to Matter A above As Matter D above	Matters A and D		
Matter H: Community engagement and participation	Develop the community play framework for open access play provision Support and enable wider community action to enhance play opportunities	As Matter D above Continue to support Playing Out (encouraging street play in communities) with interested communities; support and enable wider community action to enhance play opportunities, including exploring the potential for use of school grounds and working with partners to address local environmental issues.	Matter D	Core External grants	Existing and applications for new external funds

<p>Matter 1: Play within all relevant policy and implementation agendas</p>	<p>Identify better links and integration with other programmes and partnerships through the Play Strategy Group</p>	<p>Support the newly merged Play Strategy Group / Active Children and Young People group of the Creating a Healthy & Active Monmouthshire Partnership as the implementation group for the play action plan, involving a wide range of internal and external partners.</p> <p>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>All Matters</p>	<p>Core</p>	<p>Existing</p>
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