

**SUBJECT: PLAY ACTION PLAN 2021-2022**  
**MEETING: Individual Cabinet Member Report**  
**DATE: 12 May 2021**  
**DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All**

**1. PURPOSE:**

1.1 To report on progress on the Play Action Plan 2020/21 and seek approval for the Play Action Plan for 2021/22

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

2.1 To note the progress in 2020/21 despite the impact of Covid restrictions and to approve the Play Action Plan for 2021/22.

**3. KEY ISSUES:**

3.1 Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) recognises that every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities. In Wales play is a statutory duty of local authorities set out in Section 11 of the Play Opportunities, Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010.

3.2 This requires local authorities to assess and secure sufficient play opportunities for children in their areas by undertaking a full play sufficiency assessment every three years and to produce an annual play action plan.

3.3 The 2021/22 action plan covers the last year of the three year actions set out in the current Play Sufficiency Assessment and Plan, approved by Cabinet in May 2019. That plan identified actions in six thematic areas:

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

3.4 A new Play Sufficiency Assessment and Plan will be required for the next three year period from April 2022; for submission to Welsh Government by June 2022.

3.4 During the last year the impact of Covid and the associated restrictions has clearly had a substantial influence on aspects of play provision in particular the planned extension of the summer open access play schemes. However despite a very limited lead-in time successful summer provision for Monmouthshire children took place in three main strands:

- The delivery of four activity hubs, one at each of the four leisure centres in the county;
- The delivery of disability hubs at three community venues, specifically for children with more complex needs;
- The creation and delivery of 1,500 play packs designed for children of primary school age.

Further provision was planned in February 2021 but this had to be delayed due to the reintroduction of restrictions and instead was delivered successfully at each leisure centre over the Easter holiday.

3.5 Currently the intention is to seek to utilise additional School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP) funding and a continued partnership with Town and Community Councils to deliver an enhanced version of the 2019 open access programme. This will be facilitated directly by MonLife as the previous arrangement with Torfaen Play Service has naturally run its course. Delivery will depend on any changes to the funding streams and any current restrictions.

3.6 In other matters considerable progress has been achieved in developing the community fixed play pilot in Monmouth, as approved by Cabinet in January 2021. The pilot builds on the play value assessments of existing fixed play provision to develop proposals to re-provide playable environments, including local places for nature, alongside a programme of enhancement of fixed play provision on core sites. Community consultation was undertaken in early 2021 and grant is available to support implementation in 2021/22.

3.7 In anticipation of the new Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA) required for 2022, the play strategy group will be re-established (not having met due to Covid pressures and changes to the previous partnership arrangements) as a sub group of the Children and Young Peoples Partnership, and its membership reviewed. This will also provide an opportunity to consider the recommendations of the Play Wales play sufficiency research project "Making it possible to secure play sufficiency" in which the authority participated. The workshop and plenary sessions helped build common purpose around play delivery, which can now be considered as part of the PSA review.

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

4.1 The EQIA is attached to this report at Appendix 1. This highlights the positive impacts that securing sufficient and accessible play opportunities can have on children, families and communities.

#### **5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL**

<b>Option</b>	<b>Benefits</b>	<b>Risks</b>
Not to approve the Play Action Plan 2021-2022	None	Preparing an annual play action plan is a statutory requirement under the Play Opportunities, Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010. No Play Opportunity grant and other support would be available from Welsh Government as its availability is linked to actions within an action plan.
Approve the Play Action Plan 2021-2022	Meets the statutory requirements under the Play Opportunities, Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010.  Maximises the availability of Play Opportunity grant and other support	None

#### **6. EVALUATION CRITERIA**

6.1 Progress will be monitored against the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Plan 2019 and the annual plan for 2021-22. An annual progress submission is required by Welsh Government.

#### **7. REASONS:**

7.1 The preparation of annual play action plan is a statutory requirement as set out on the main report. Implementation of the play action plan contributes to the delivery of the corporate plan and the social justice strategy.

#### **8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

8.1 There are no additional resource implications. External grant including Play Opportunity, Local Places for Nature and SHEP grant, related funding such as Section 106 contributions and support from Town and Community Councils all contribute to individual actions (as identified in the action plan)

**9. CONSULTEES:**

Chief Operating Officer MonLife  
Cabinet  
SLT

**10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

Appendix 1: Equality and Future Generations Evaluation  
Appendix 2: Progress Report on Play Action Plan 2020-21  
Appendix 3: Play Action Plan 2021-22

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